

# ROSS-ON-WYE TOWN CENTRE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT SURVEY FORM

These are the stages to this survey:

1. Print off the overall guidance note, the form and map.
2. To complete a survey you will need to be ready with the form, a map, a camera and a pen/pencil. Some sort of clipboard is also useful.
3. Once you know which street you will be surveying, we recommend walking up and down with form in hand to familiarise yourself with both street and form.
4. Complete the survey on site, filling in the form and noting/numbering photo locations and directions on the map with a small dot and arrow. Add any other notes on the map if relevant.
5. If at all possible, please type-up your form notes in the original digital version and check that photos are numbered as per the map notations.
6. Send the digital form and photos to [jeff@placestudio.com](mailto:jeff@placestudio.com). Please pass the map (and any handwritten/non-digital form) to Melvin Reynolds.

There are three parts to the survey form:

- Part 1 is mainly **Description and Analysis**.
- Part 2 asks you to produce an overall **Summary**.
- Part 3 asks you to highlight key **Design Guidance**.

There is no right answer to any questions; please use your own judgement and do not get stuck just with our terms and prompts. Try to use ours as much as possible because they are based on nationally proven methods, but feel free to add your own. Do not feel you have to add notes to fill every box; keep it short and sharp.

We generally ask people to stick to around 10 photos.

**THE FORM STARTS OVERLEAF**

# TOWN CENTRE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Street surveyed: Wilton Road**

**Surveyor(s): JB**

**Date: 02/03/17**

*(Please be sure to add the above information to your map!)*

## **PART ONE: DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS**

There might look to be a lot here, but much of it only needs a very quick response. On each aspect below, ring, underline, or highlight (eg. in bold) any term or terms that apply (it can be more than one term, eg. if building heights vary), add any others in the box and any other notes as suggested or as you think are needed.

<p><b>1. Type of Street</b></p> <p><b>main traffic route</b>    traffic cut-through    local route    cul-de-sac</p> <p><b>two-way</b>    one-way</p>
<p><b>2. Pavements</b></p> <p>over-narrow    over-wide    <b>decent width</b>    varying width    dropped kerbs</p> <p>Note surface material(s):</p> <p><b>Tarmac</b></p> <p>Note condition:</p> <p><b>Good</b></p>
<p><b>3. Lighting</b></p> <p><b>street lamps</b>    wall lamps</p> <p>Note quality/effectiveness:</p> <p>All seem perfectly good</p>
<p><b>4. Signs</b></p> <p>Note public signs (eg. traffic or pedestrians):</p> <p><b>One only for junction at top</b></p> <p>Note shopfront signs/hanging signs (if relevant):</p> <p><b>None</b></p> <p>Note visual impact (eg. intrusive, low key, out of context):</p> <p><b>No impact</b></p>

**5. Street Furniture**

seats    planters    noticeboards    bollards    bins    other (note)

**None**

*Note condition/value:*

**6. Safety**

safe to cross    **safe to walk along**    **safe in daytime**    **safe at night**

**Care needed when crossing because of amount/speed of traffic and because of awkward bend in road**

**7. Parking**

on-street throughout    **on street in parts only**    none on-street

off-street for residents, businesses etc.    car park

**One side parking starts halfway down hill**

**8. Proportion:** *(This is about, in general, how wide the street is compared to its height, ie. the height of buildings along it. If very varied, add notes.)*

lot wider than high    wider than high    (roughly) same width as height

higher than wide    lot higher than wide

**Not really applicable. Very high wall one side, varied heights of buildings other side, and some open stretches**

**9. Views**

*Take photos and annotate on the map for any interesting/significant views (a) out of the street at either end and (b) from anywhere along the street. Add any notes.*

**Great views out across Wye valley from a few spots down the hill**

**10. Building Heights**

**one storey**    **two storey**    **three storey**    four storey    other (add notes)

**Some that appear to be 1 or 2 storey are more because the other floors are down the hill, below road level.**

**11: Building Frontages**

flat/parapet front    gable facing street    hipped (sloping back)

**Very mixed and unusual**

**12. Building Line** *(This is about whether the buildings are right on pavement edge, set back, with front gardens etc.)*

<p>on back of pavement    set back from pavement with small open front</p> <p>set back from pavement with enclosed front garden/space</p> <p>set back from pavement with parking space in front</p> <p><b>Not really applicable but most are at back of pavement</b></p>
<p><b>13. Variety</b></p> <p>very consistent style/character    consistent style/character</p> <p>a few variations in style/character    <b>very varied style/character</b></p>
<p><b>14. Uses</b></p> <p><b>residential</b>    shop    office    workshop    store    uncertain</p> <p>car park    green space</p>
<p><b>15: Buildings</b></p> <p><i>Note range of wall, roof and window/door materials used:</i></p> <p><b>Brick, render, tiled roofs, timber windows and doors</b></p> <p><i>Note condition, quality, how well kept etc.:</i></p> <p><b>Mostly good</b></p>
<p><b>16. Other spaces/features</b> <i>(This is about any other features that do not fit above, eg. street trees, plaques, oddities ..... over to you.)</i></p>
<p><b>17: Ages</b> <i>(It is difficult to be precise on this – not least because many current facades hide older main buildings. Do your best with the terms below, add if necessary. For shops, this is about the main building, not the shop or shopfront.)</i></p> <p>Medieval    <b>Georgian/regency</b>    <b>Victorian</b>    Pre 1<sup>st</sup> World War</p> <p>Inter-war    1950s-1970s    <b>1970s-1990s</b>    1990s-now</p> <p><b>Real mix!</b></p>
<p><b>18: Distinctive Features Positive</b></p> <p><i>Note any distinctive features that help to give a <b>positive</b> character to the street. These can be large (a major building) or tiny (a sculpted feature on a wall).</i></p> <p><b>The high flank wall is a key feature, plus views up to the tower r=then occasional views out across the valley</b></p>
<p><b>19. Distinctive Features Negative:</b></p> <p><i>Note any features that <b>deduct from</b> the character to the street. These can be large (a poorly designed building) or small (a poor shop sign).</i></p>

**Some of the facades down the hill on the right near the top create a very blank and not very attractive appearance.**

**20. And .....?** *Over to you – what else would you wish to comment on .....*

### **PART TWO: SUMMARY**

*Try to write 3 or 4 sentences that sum up the key qualities and character of the street, both positive and negative. Although you have been asked in earlier sections to give your opinion on things, this is where we really need to know what the street 'feels' like and what you think about its overall character.*

**This is barely a street in the usual meaning of the word but that does not mean it is generally unattractive. It creates a clear arrival to the town for those coming across the Wye and into town and a clear departure on the way out. The wall and the tower are very distinctive as is the stretch of blank rendered walls on the left on the way up**

### **PART THREE: DESIGN GUIDANCE**

*Make some brief notes here about what you believe to be the key things that any future designer should be aware of and respond to in order to ensure that their design respects and enhances the street's character. (NB. Avoid saying 'make it look just like the others'!)*

**There is almost nothing to refer to if something new was to come or something be changed. Important to keep the sense of arrival/departure as above.**