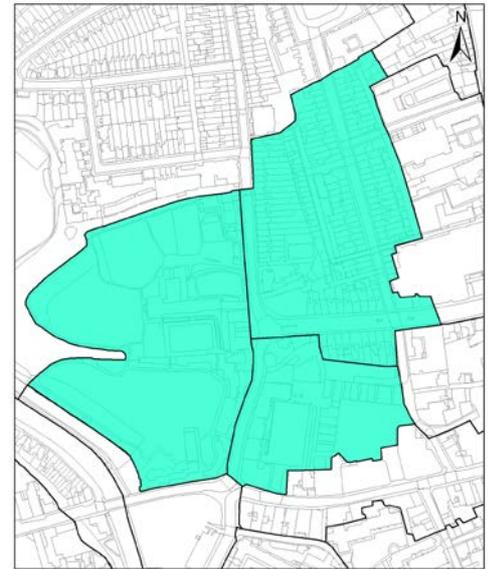


**HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER AREA 24:
WORCESTER COLLEGE AND GLOUCESTER GREEN - GLOUCESTER GREEN**

The HUCA is located within broad character Zone F: Worcester Street and Broken Hayes.

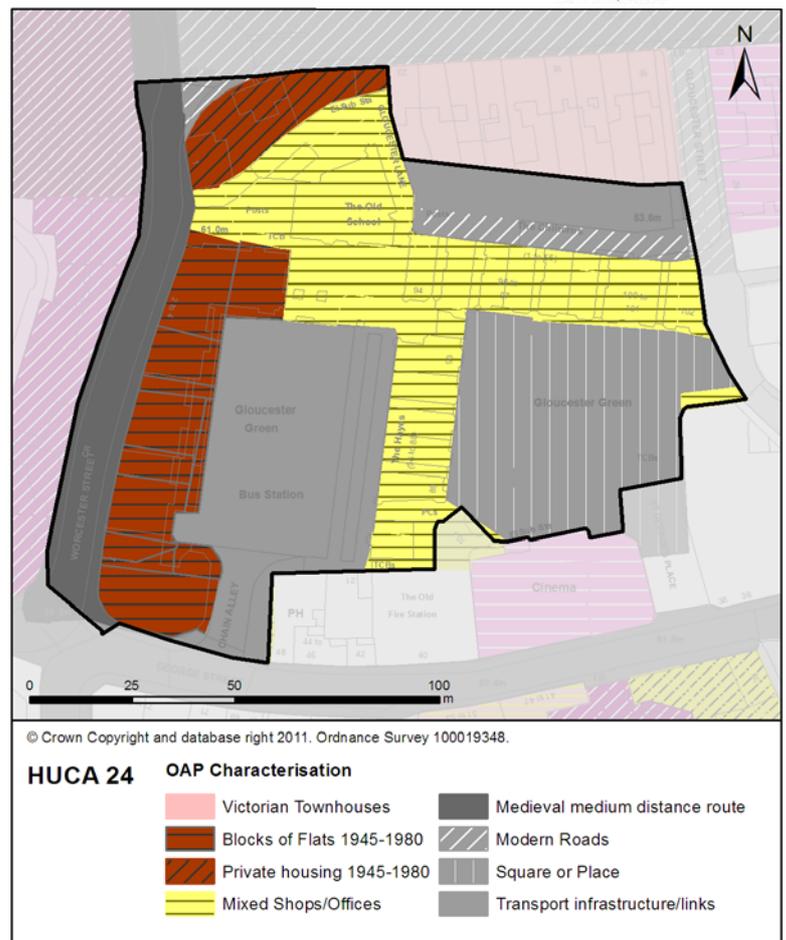
The broad character zone comprises of the north-western suburb located around the former medieval open space of Broken Hayes, the route to Walton Village along Worcester Street, the site of the 12th century Royal Beaumont Palace and former monastic Gloucester College. Now comprised of the bus station, market space and shops at Gloucester Green, early modern development on Beaumont Street and Worcester College.



Worcester College and Gloucester Green (Zone F)

Summary characteristics

- Dominant period: 20th century.
- Designations: One Grade II listings. Central Conservation Area.
- Archaeological Potential: Potential for medieval occupation along Worcester Street and post-medieval remains relating to Gloucester Green Goal, although considerable disturbance will have been caused by the construction of the underground car park in Gloucester Green.
- Character: Modern residential and commercial buildings, transport infrastructure.
- Spaces: The bus garage and Gloucester green are large areas of open space. The area contains a limited amount of ornamental tree planting.
- Road morphology: Sinuous medieval Worcester Street and sub-rectangular 20th century bus terminal and public square. Comprises tarmac and paved areas with vehicular access.
- Plot morphology: Large regular and irregular modern plots.
- The natural topography is primarily Summertown-Radley Second Terrace rising from a height of 60m OD in the south west corner to 63m OD in the north east.
- Survival of townscape elements:
 - Former Central School for Boys- built 1901.
 - Worcester Street follows line of



Historic urban character area showing modern urban landscape character types.

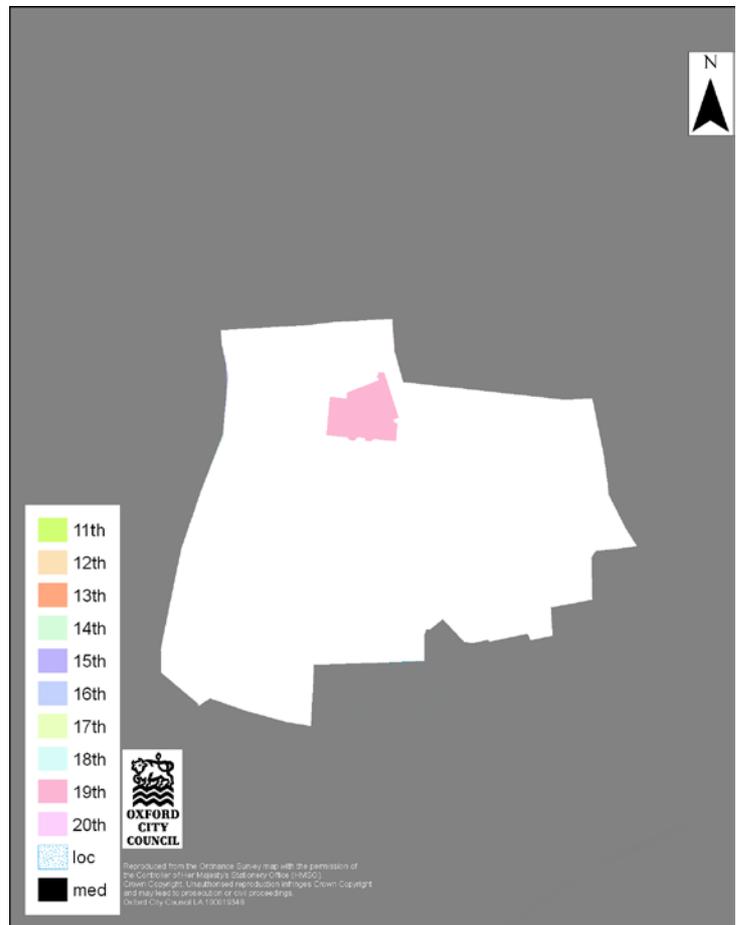
medieval Stockwell.

- A plaque commemorating Levellers executed during the mutiny of the Oxford Parliamentary garrison in 1649 is located on the east frontage of Gloucester Green.

Description

The Gloucester Green character area is formed by a coherent group of modern commercial and residential blocks located around the central bus station and the paved open market space at Gloucester Green. The mostly four to five storey brick and stone fronted blocks are a mixture of offices and residential units with ground floor retail, cafes and restaurant units. The 20th century built character on the Worcester Street frontage reflects the Victorian architecture on George Street whilst the blocks surrounding the Gloucester Green market are in a 1980s commercial style, in red brick with stone dressings. The south west corner of the complex fronting onto Worcester Street car park is notable for its fairytale domed turrets.

The bus station includes parking bays and an open paved forecourt in-front of the early 20th century former Central School for Boys. Gloucester Green has been planted with an arrangement of semi-mature trees and retains its post-medieval character as a regular street market venue. An underground car park is accessed from Gloucester Street.



Historical value- means of connecting with the past

A defended burh was established at Oxford by the early 10th century. The town subsequently expanded after the Norman Conquest, supported by the economic success of the cloth and leather trades. Subsequently the economy declined in the late 13th and 14th century. Suburban tenements had been established along the north side of George Street by the 13th century but the area subsequently reverted to waste in the 14th-15th century when it was used for gravel digging.

The character area lies on the eastern edge of a route-way leading from the western part of the town towards the settlement at Walton to the north. The bulk of this area formed part of Broken Hayes (broken hedges), an area of open space and waste ground north-west of the medieval town. Agas' map of 1578 shows that at this time Broken Hays remained unenclosed. The open space subsequently became known as Gloucester Green after the adjacent medieval religious Gloucester College (later becoming Worcester College). By the late 17th century Gloucester Green had seen some enclosure and parts of the space was occupied by a bowling green. In the 18th century a city Gaol was built in the centre of the green, this survived 1878. From 1783 to 1915 a fair was held on the green and between 1835 and 1932 it was also the site of the cattle market. In 1935, after the cattle market had been moved, the western half of Gloucester Green became a bus station and the eastern half a car park. The area was subsequently redeveloped in the late 1980s.

Listed buildings by date of earliest identified fabric (based on listing description)

The character area includes the former Central School for Boys (built 1901), illustrative of Victorian education improvements.

Evidential value- potential to yield primary evidence

There is moderate potential for significant archaeological remains, relating medieval extra-mural activity and settlement along Worcester Street and for remains of the early modern prison or gaol at Gloucester Green. However there has been extensive truncation from Victorian cellars and modern development including the underground car park. The Urban Archaeological Database records six events in this character area including three 19th century excavations and three modern archaeological investigations. Previous investigations have recorded traces of 17th century buildings and remains of the early modern octagonal prison and its perimeter wall.

Aesthetic value- sensory and intellectual stimulation

This area has limited aesthetic appeal being comprised of a modern Bus Station and tall modern accommodation blocks with ground level shop fronts. The aesthetic qualities of the area are notably improved by the regular street market and tree planting.

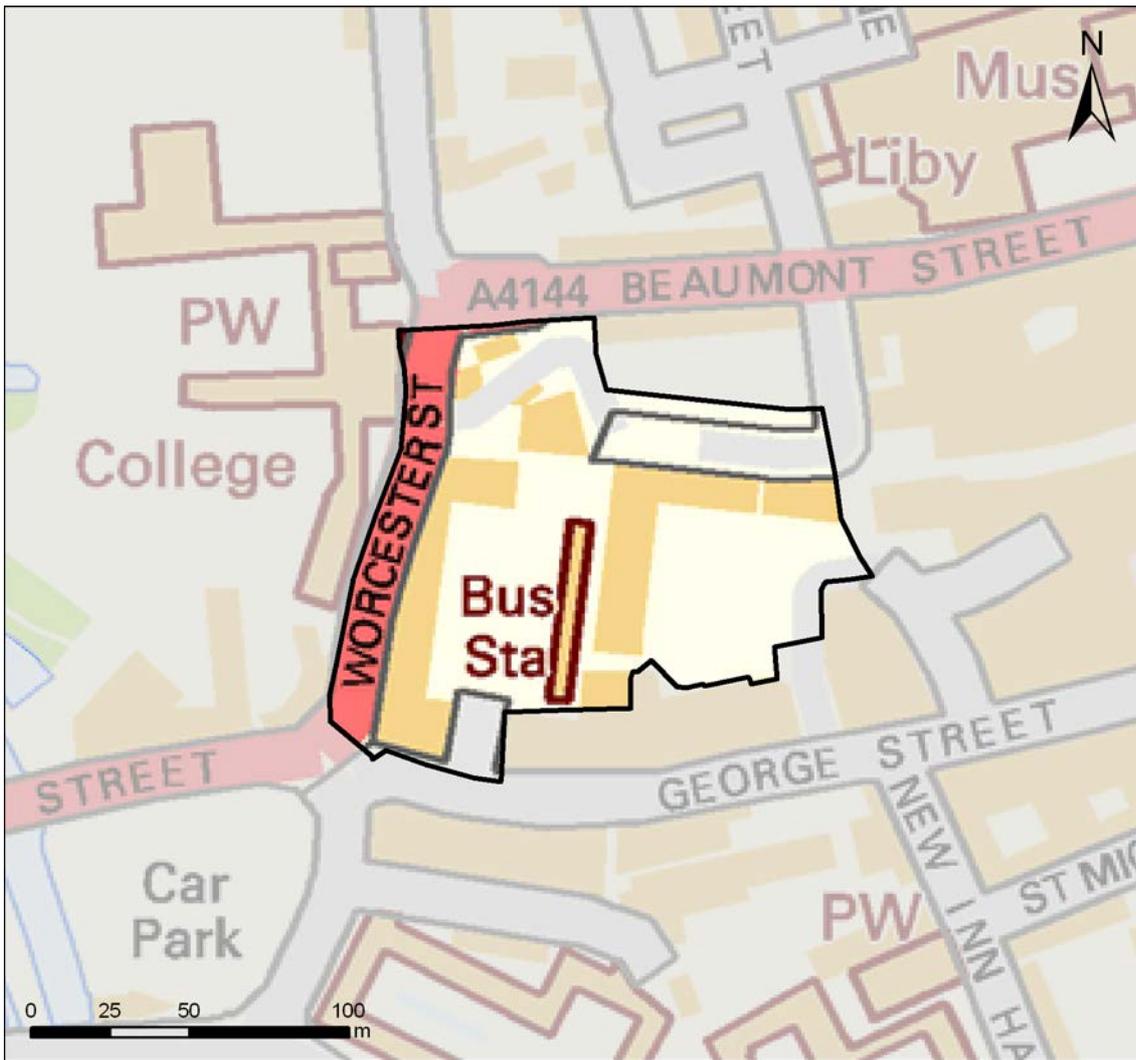
Communal value- meaning for collective experience and memory

The character area has strong communal value as the location of bus station and underground car park. Gloucester Green is the venue for weekly open markets which continue a market tradition going back at least until the 1830s. Gloucester Green provides an important area of publicly owned open space in the centre of the city.



Gloucester Green looking north

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HUCA 24 Orientation map