



THE ACRE, MARCH HERITAGE STATEMENT

March sits in the Fenland area of Cambridgeshire approximately 90 miles north of London and to the east of Peterborough. The town, which developed around an ancient crossing of the River Nene on the land route between Wisbech and Ely, is now a commercial centre for the surrounding rural farmland.

The Town Bridge, which now crosses the River Nene (old course) is in the centre of the conservation area and connects the north and south sides of the town, the main thoroughfare being Broad Street and High Street. Streets also run East/West alongside the river, with mainly private gardens on the north bank and open public spaces on the south.

The tightly built up core of the town dates from the 17th century and provides shopping and commercial facilities. The buildings on Broad Street and High Street are mainly two or three storey and built between the late 18th century and early 20th century and display many vernacular features – decorative and patterned brickwork, steep pan tiled roofs and iron railings. Nene Parade which runs adjacent to the river has a more rural feel with a mixture of two storey houses and shops, some of which date from before the end of the 18th century.

West End is a residential area with low buildings and terraced cottages and opposite on the south bank of the river is open space, set out as a park with the library and sports facilities. This is valuable green space with play areas, tree lined avenues and a riverside footpath. The river itself is important as it provides a diverse habitat for wildlife.

The Acre public house sits close to the south bank of the river and its garden areas overlook this green space. The building is typical of the area, brick built with timber sash windows and tiled roof, as is its boundary treatment of brick walls and iron railings to the rear, giving the enclosed patio a more open feel.



Riverside Elevation



Rear Elevation

The proposal is to remove the now disused framework for an old awning and install 2No metal pergolas with louvred roofs, which when closed are water tight. These will provide valuable external trade space which can be used year round for this relatively small pub. The proposed pergolas are constructed of a lightweight aluminium frame painted in dark grey, fixed to the existing patio paving. The rear of the public house is a mixture of extensions and outbuildings so the structures will not detract from any notable features of the building.

The conservation planning policy is to use traditional materials in keeping with the historic area. However, the rear patio of The Acre is directly opposite the new library which, although has a timber frame, is very contemporary in appearance. As a result, the proposed pergolas will not harm the street scene of the area or green space.