Southampton City Council

City Characterisation Project

PA06 The Avenue

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Context

- This character area continues northwards from the edge of the study area to the motorway and is a major traffic route to and from the City Centre.
- It is strongly defined by the trees which line the road either side of the central grass strip.
- To the east is PA8: Newtown and Queensland, and to the west is PA5 (in part): Polygon and Bedford Place suburb. To the south is CA5: London Road.

Grain

- Fine to medium grain.
- Houses are set in their own plots to a consistent building line set back from the road.
- Roofs are pitched low to the road.
- There is very little gap between houses, creating the impression of an almost complete frontage in oblique views.

Scale

- Predominently a traditional grand two storey.
- Some higher buildings further north, often utilising attic storeys.

Uses

Residential, some office and some commercial (car showroom).

Public Realm

High quality, lifted by the presence of mature wellmanaged trees.

Connectivity

- Connectivity is good with a series of roads in a grid format accessing The Avenue both sides at regular intervals.
- The Avenue is a popular cycling and walking route to and from the City and connects the City with the main Southampton University Campus.

Views

- Views along The Avenue are limited due to the extensive tree cover for most of its length.
- At the southern tip of The Avenue there is a strategic view along London Road to the campanile at the Civic Centre.



A series of detached and semi detached villas line The Avenue and make for distinctive townscape to this part of the city

Building types

Detached and semi-detached Victorian villas.

Architectural qualities

- The Victorian villas which line The Avenue are of a high material finish and display a number of decorative features of special interest.
- They form a group of some considerable quality when seen in their tree-lined setting.

Heritage Assets

The Victorian villas are important listed/locally listed buildings.

Materials

Buff brick with natural slate roofs.

Condition

Good.

Ownership

Private and small corporate firms.

Intervention

Improved shared surfaces at key traffic interchanges to encourage pedestrians to use The Avenue.

Key design principles

The villas should maintain their architectural integrity as individual buildings and avoid being linked.