

WALMER CRESCENT

INTRODUCTION

The Walmer Crescent Conservation Area is located in the Cessnock area of the city. The Crescent (a category 'A' listed building) is its centrepiece fronted by a parade of shops looking onto Paisley Road West. The conservation area was designated on the 16 July 1975.



HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Walmer Crescent was constructed in the mid 19th Century and is one of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson's first Glasgow tenement blocks. The Underground Station, located beneath the tenement in Cessnock Street, opened in 1896. The single storey shops date from 1907/08 and the Gospel Hall was erected during the 1970's

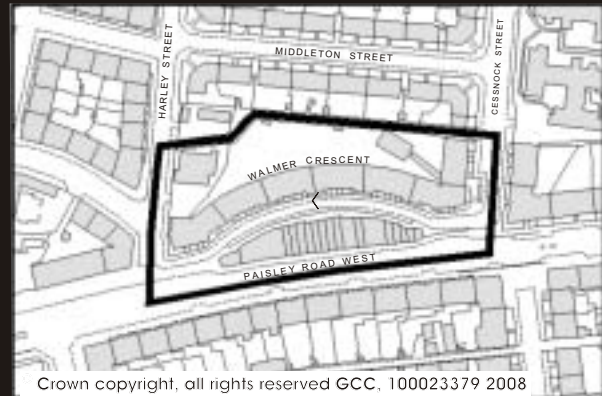
TOWNSCAPE APPRAISAL

Walmer Crescent provides a key focal point along Paisley Road West with its curved building line deviating from the traditional tenement street pattern.

Public open space consists of the last surviving remnant of the Crescent's front garden. It is dominated by mature trees which restrict views to and from the Crescent when in full leaf.

Many of the original building features remain in place. The decorative stone discs above the doorways, the recessed hoods above the windows and the rectangular bay windows all give the buildings a dramatic visual effect.

Unfortunately the decorative balustrading above the shopping parade has been removed and the original shopfronts have disappeared under modern signage



CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

The Key Features which define the special character of the Conservation Area are:-

- The architectural quality of the area reflected in the category 'A' listing of Walmer Crescent.
- The uniformity of the buildings in terms of scale, design, style and materials
- The use of traditional materials such as sandstone, slate, timber, cast iron and granite setts
- Original details such as the storm doors, sash and case windows, cast iron railings and decorative stone discs
- The original building line of the Crescent which creates a strong continuous curved frontage
- The rhythm of the tenement roofline punctuated at regular intervals with substantial chimneystacks.
- The full occupation of shop units along Paisley Road West

Listed below are Key Challenges which need to be addressed in order to protect the character and appearance of the area:-

- The quality and maintenance of the public realm.
- Anti-social behaviour
- The design and location of street furniture
- The design of shopfronts, and location of signs and adverts
- The loss of architectural detail especially alterations and inappropriate replacement of doors, windows and roof coverings.
- The use of inappropriate materials for repair works, e.g. using plastic substitutes to replace windows and doors harms the appearance of the area.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESERVATION & ENHANCEMENT

- Walmer Crescent gardens, the area behind the shops, are neglected and the trees obscure views to and from the crescent. Effective tree management, control of illegal parking and anti-social behaviour would significantly improve the character of this area.
- The parade of shops has the potential to add to the character of the conservation area. The City Council's Shopfront Design Policy needs to be applied to encourage more sympathetic designs.
- Car parking is a problem along the Crescent as many of the cars mount the pavement to park. Effective traffic management could resolve this issue.
- The use of appropriate signage, lighting fixtures and street furniture could reinforce the character of the area.



conservation area appraisal



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INFORMATION

The Walmer Crescent Conservation Area Appraisal is available to view at www.glasgow.gov.uk click *Land and Property*, click *Heritage & Design*, and click *Conservation Areas*.

If you require any further information and advice relating to conservation areas or heritage issues generally, contact:

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