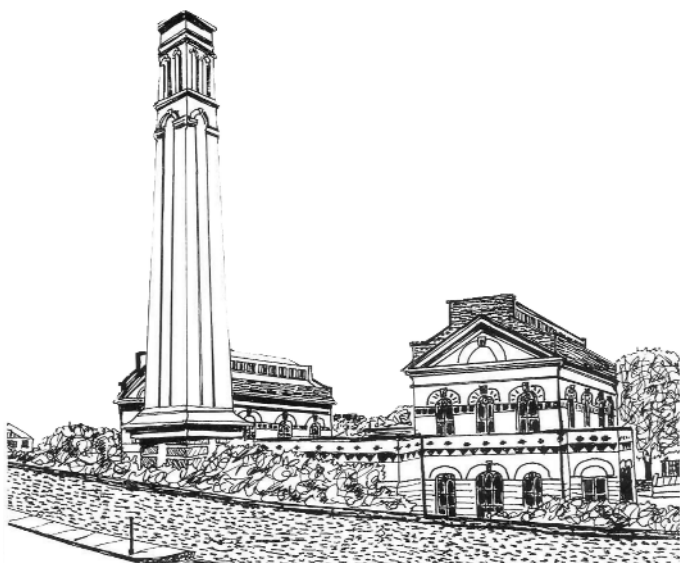


The Engineerium Conservation Area Character Statement



Designated: 1982

**Area: 3.5986 Hectares
8.8921 Acres**

**Article 4 Direction:
None as at October 2006**

Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to describe the history and character of this conservation area in order to provide a context for policies contained in the Development Plan, which will guide future development and enhancements in the area. This statement was approved as Supplementary Planning Advice on 18th February 1997.

Historic Development of the Area:

The rapid growth of Brighton and Hove in the mid-19th century outstripped the capacity of the existing water supply, and it was decided to build a pumping station on the north-western outskirts of Hove. Goldstone Bottom, a natural basin on the southern face of the Downs, was selected as the site for the station.

By 1876 two steam-driven beam engines were drawing millions of gallons of water from deep wells to supply the towns. Both engines, with their huge flywheels, remained in use for more than 75 years. In 1971 there were proposals to demolish the pumping station and scrap the equipment, but the Department of the Environment listed the Victorian buildings.

In 1974 a lease was granted to Jonathan Minns, enabling him with the co-operation of the Southern Water Authority, to found the now famous British Engineerium. However, by that time, 21 years of neglect had taken their toll and restoration work began as soon as possible.

The large coal store on the site was converted into an exhibition hall, with the Corliss engine, winner of the Paris International Exhibition of 1889, installed as its working centre piece.

The Engineerium opened in October 1976, and since then has been used as a base to demonstrate how the skills of the nation's industrial heritage have relevance to today's problems, for education and training.

The Character of the Area:

The character and appearance of the Conservation Area which it is important to preserve or enhance, is provided by the bold decorative polychromatic brickwork of the large listed Victorian industrial buildings. The Engineerium is set in open grounds next to Hove Park and surrounded by a high pebble and brick wall. The tall separate chimney stack has a square section and, together with the two boiler houses is a local landmark. The terracotta and brick cooling pond and leat are also listed and complete the grouping within the listed boundary wall.

The grounds and open land which make up the former water works extends across Woodland Drive to the north west where the small scale of existing cottages is important to the character of this part of the area.

The following area is included in the Engineerium Conservation Area:

Land situated: to the north-west of Woodland Drive, bounded on three sides by the rear boundary of residential property in Nevill Road, Nevill Way and Chartfield.

Land situated: to the south-east of Woodland Drive, bounded on the north by Hove Park and on the south by The Droveway.

The following properties are listed buildings:

Woodland Drive: Boiler & Engine House

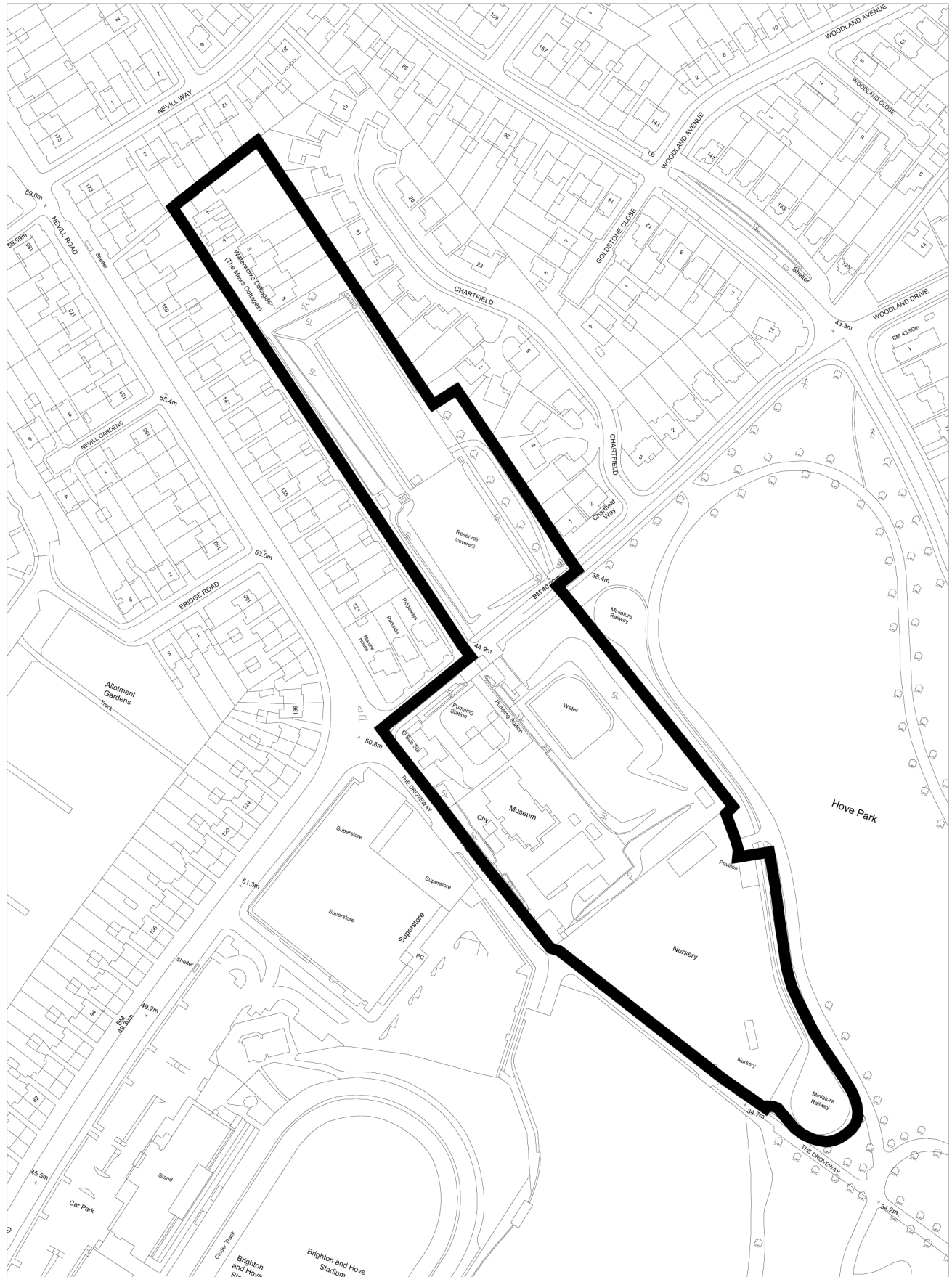
Chimney

Cooling pond & leat

Coal shed

Boundary wall

Engineerium Conservation Area



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City Council**

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