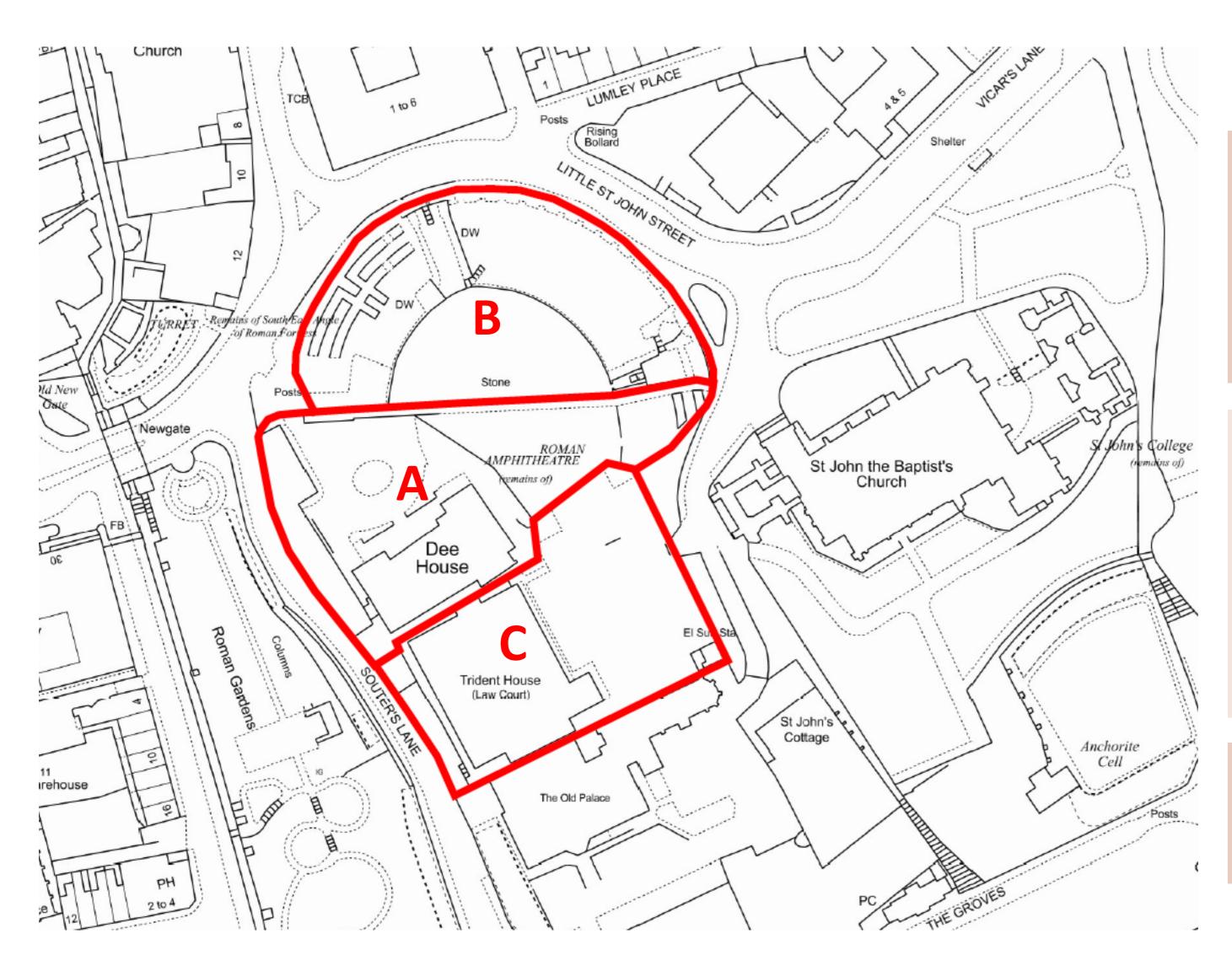


Dee House - Grade II Listed Building



Chester Amphitheatre – Scheduled Ancient Monument



- A Dee House and the adjacent public realm are owned by Cheshire West and Chester Council
- B Excavated area of the Amphitheatre is owned by government and in the guardianship of English Heritage
- C Trident House is privately owned

chestergrowth partnership





Congregation

Education

Recreation







1730 Town House



1867 Kirby Chapel

1730 Town House

1900 Wing

# First Floor Plan Second Floor Plan KEY 1867 Kirkby Chapel



Up to 1870 - 90

20th Century

Visit: chestergrowth.co.uk

#### Amphitheatre and Dee House Site - 8000 years of history

#### c 6,800-4000 BC

Mesolithic hunter gatherers settle on the cliff above the River Dee.

#### c 200 BC - AD 75

Iron Age ploughing over earlier settlement produces cord-rig earthworks.

c AD 200

Construction of Amphitheatre 2.

#### 1075 - 13th Century

St John's becomes first Cathedral of Chester. Amphitheatre robbed of stone.

1547

Dissolution of the monastery of St John's.

Medieval buildings over Amphitheatre site remain.

#### 19th Century

Dee House becomes convent. Edmund Kirby era. Number of extensions added.

#### 20th Century

Amphitheatre rediscovered. St John's House demolished. Archaeological excavations. Dee House school closed. Acquired by Post Office Telephones. Dee House acquired by Chester City Council.

#### c 400-200 BC

Iron Age farming settlement including round-house and store.

#### c AD 75

Arrival of Roman legions.

Construction of Amphitheatre 1a.

#### c AD 275-80

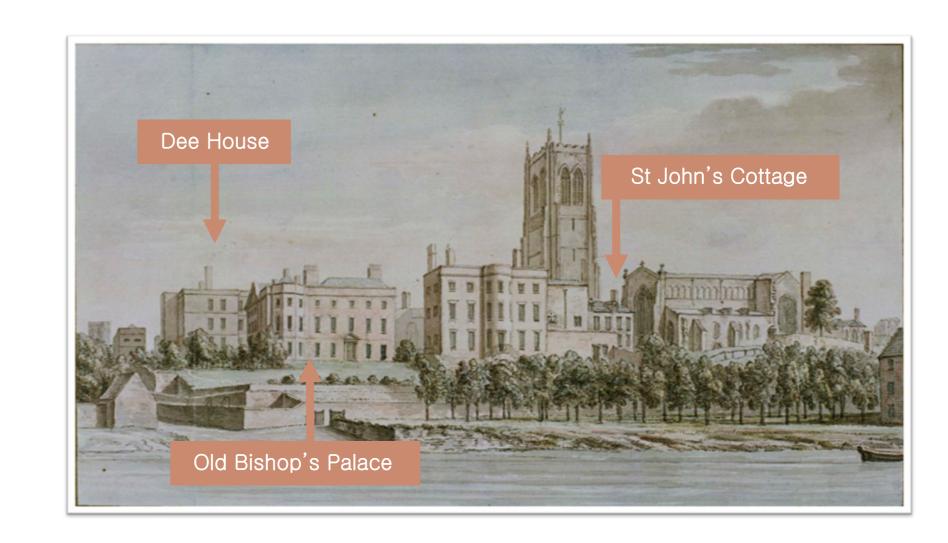
Desertion and abandonment of Amphitheatre.

#### 13th - 16th Century

Amphitheatre site is overbuilt with housing on the north side.

#### 17th-18th Century

Dee House, St John's House and other mansions built in newly fashionable area outside the walls.

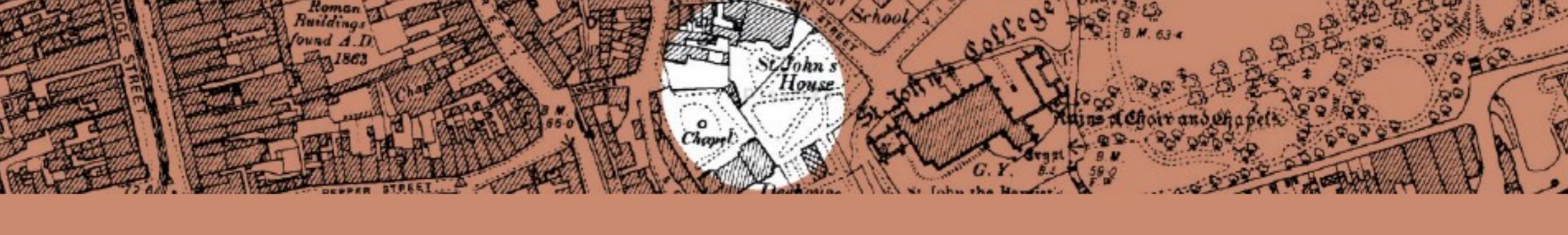




#### 21st Century

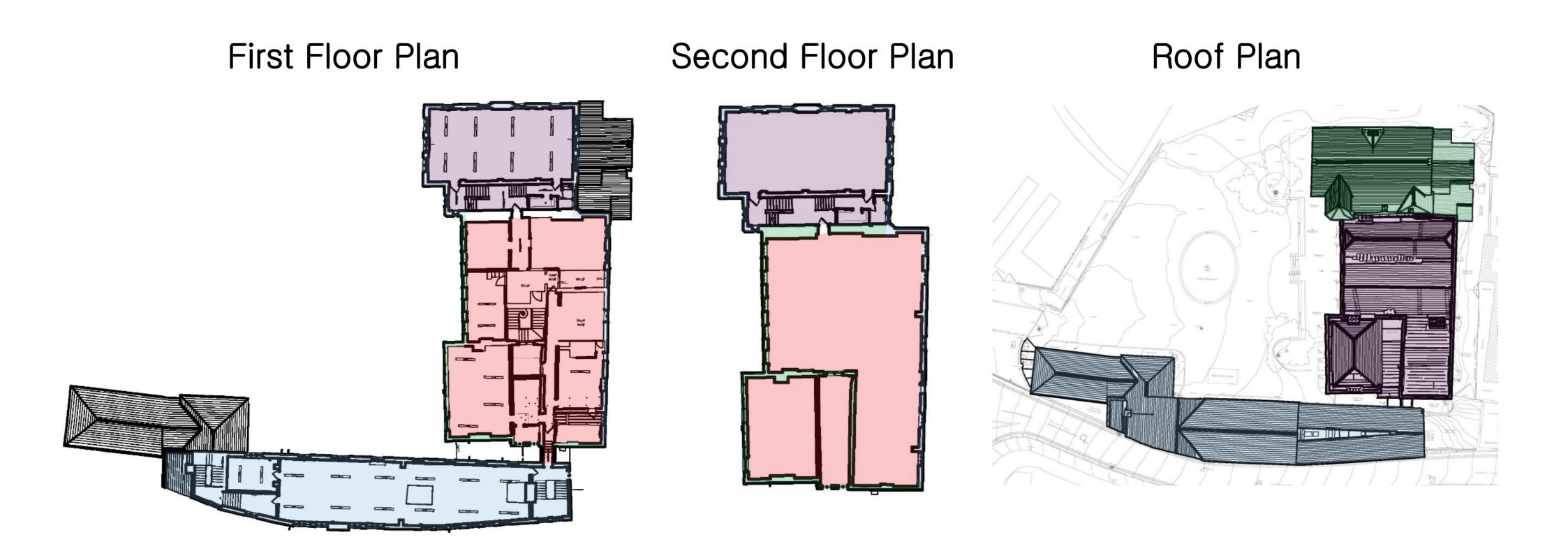
Finding a sustainable future use for Dee House.





Cheshire Historic Buildings Preservation Trust – Recommendations in relation to building condition

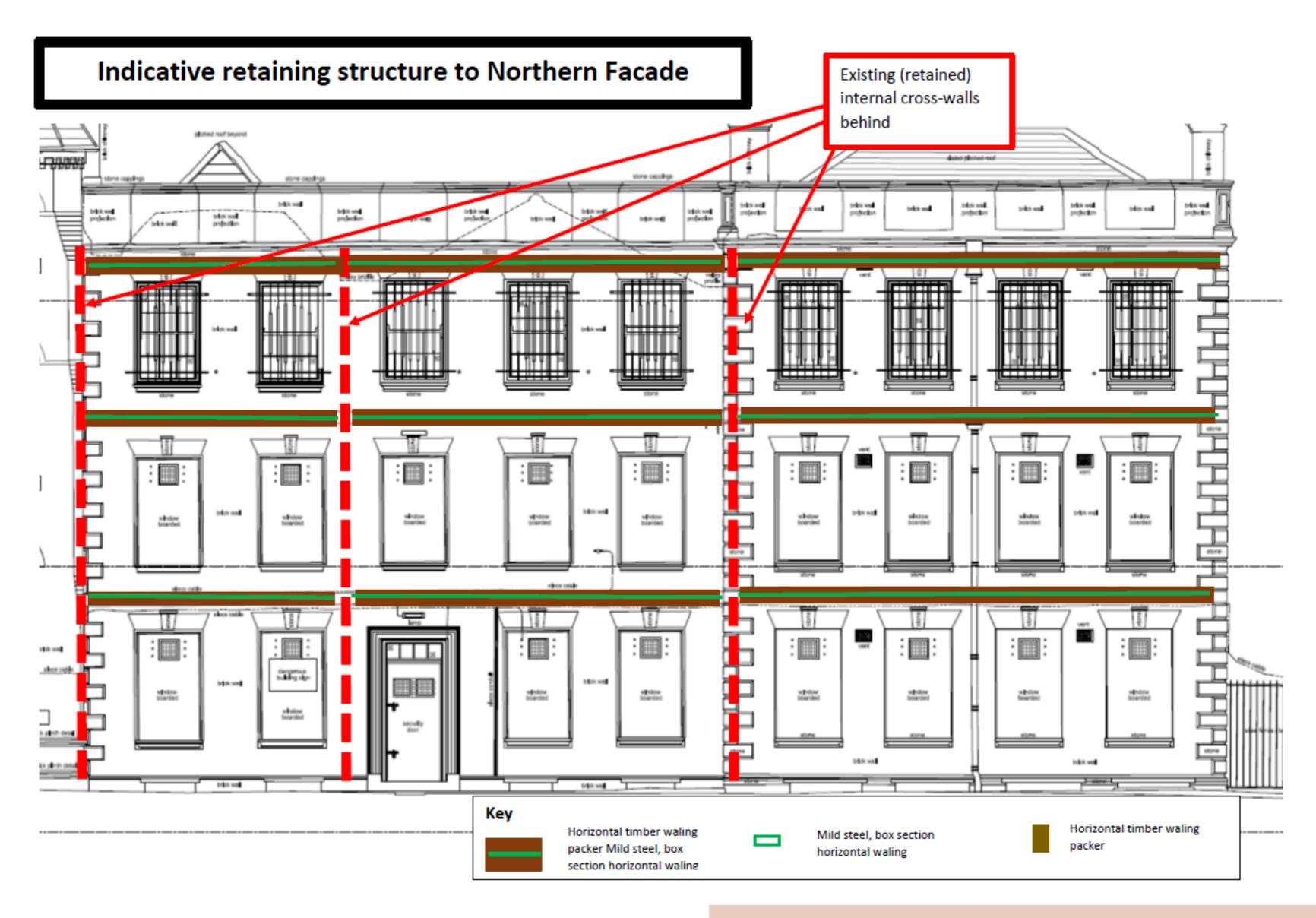








# Cheshire Historic Buildings Preservation Trust - Proposals to safeguard Dee House





The approach would involve the stripping out of the damaged and dangerous structural elements from the 1730s Town House and 1900 wing of the building.

Retaining all external walls and principal internal cross walls for viable reuse.

Temporary shoring installed without disturbance to buried archaeology.

Installation of a lightweight replacement roof structure with additional floorspace that can be accommodated by the retained structure.

Access from the roof via a crane operative.





#### Key Heritage Advice

- . The nationally important archaeology of the site is safely preserved in the southern half of the site, though little survives beneath Dee House. The advice of Historic England is that this remains undisturbed in situ.
- . Little of the Roman amphitheatre survives and further excavation is of limited value.
- The architecture and history of the amphitheatre is very well understood, and little more information can be gained from further work. The most important field for future research should any excavations take place is the middle Saxon period and not necessarily within the amphitheatre.
- The Roman amphitheatre and Dee House are part of a unique urban landscape which encapsulates over 8,000 years of Chester's history. Although the amphitheatre is arguably its most high profile component, excavations have shown that this was only used for 80 years or more of the site's 8,000 year old heritage.
- As an area, St John's, with its outstanding Norman cathedral architecture surrounded by its precincts, which included the amphitheatre, Dee House and the Bishop's should be celebrated as part of Chester's long heritage.
- . The area has had an enduring and ongoing role in the city as a place of congregation, recreation and education.

