

COTAC Insight 2c: The Need to be Aware of the Built Heritage

Exploring ICOMOS Education and Training Guideline
(c): Understand the setting of a monument,
ensemble or site, their contents and surroundings,
in relation to other buildings, gardens or landscapes

Whilst the value of some individual structures or sites may not warrant formal attention, their existence as part of a group of buildings, or in a wider location, can greatly increase their standing through the integration of harmonious features of value and significance. This might include:

- Similar buildings of age, design and construction
- An essential functional relationship with the immediate landscape
- Being part of a designed landscape
- Being part of an industrial complex

But, if significant elements are disfigured or lost the unity of the setting could be compromised.

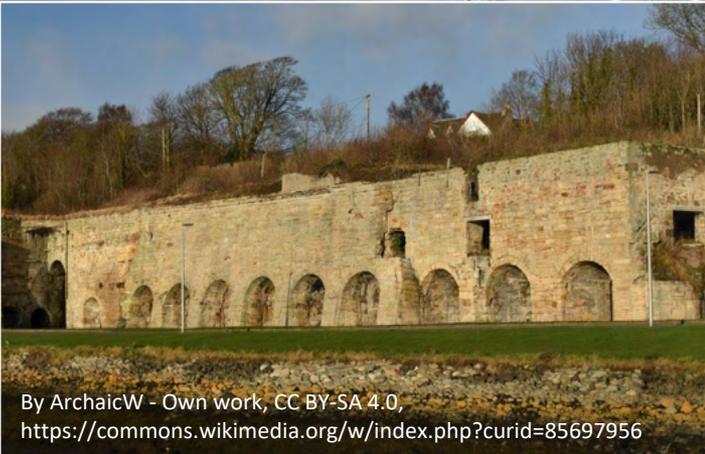
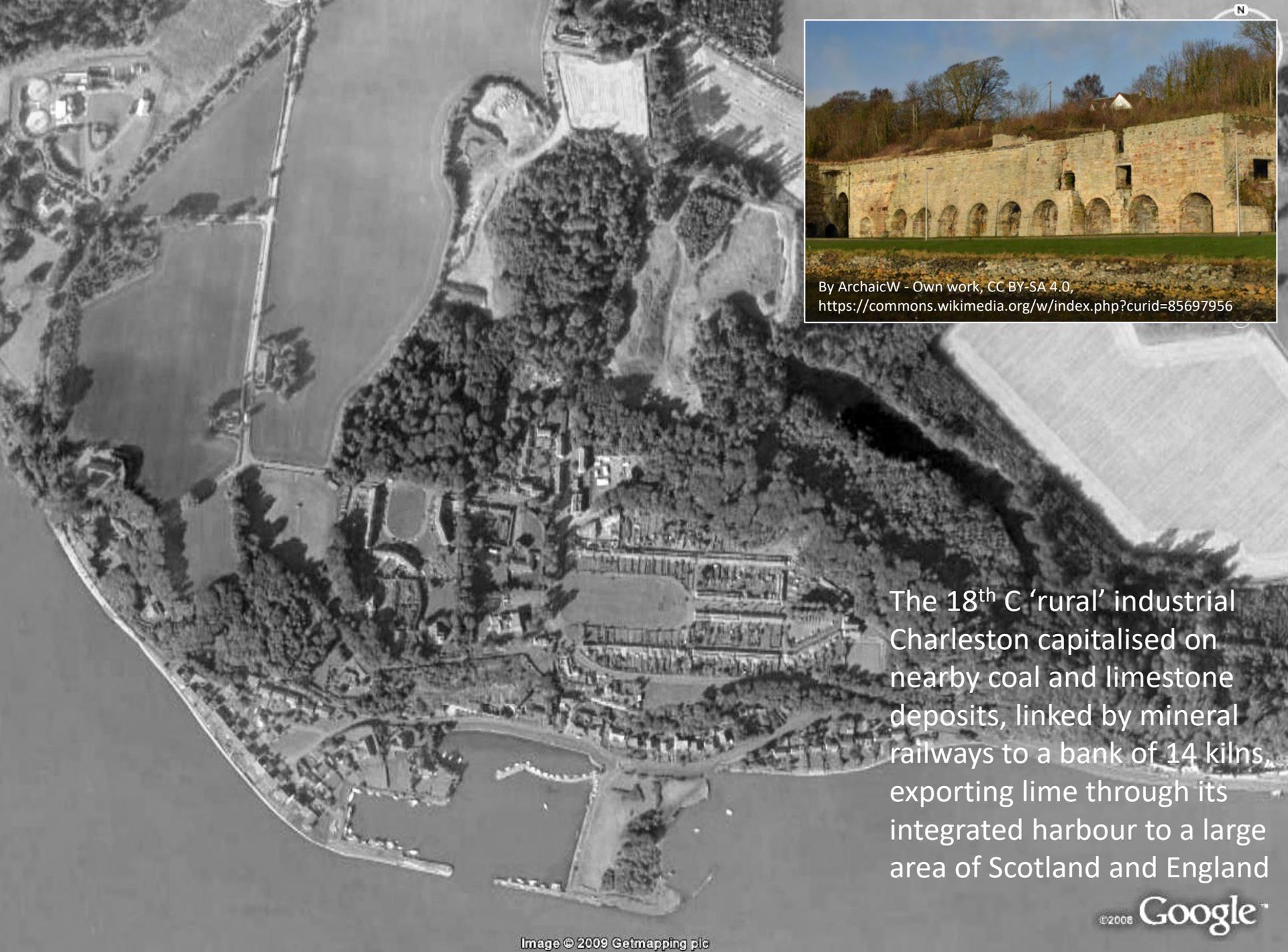




The imprint of previous history can be seen on the landscape as archaeological remains, although later landscape forms and functional needs might be imposed upon that evidence (blurring or destroying the surface). However, below the surface there remains archaeological evidence of the original setting and its surroundings.



A Scheduled Monument in State Care the late 14th C Crichton Castle occupies a defensive and commanding setting overlooking its southern approaches.



By ArchaicW - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=85697956>

The 18th C 'rural' industrial Charleston capitalised on nearby coal and limestone deposits, linked by mineral railways to a bank of 14 kilns, exporting lime through its integrated harbour to a large area of Scotland and England



A model example of how a functional set of 19th C farm buildings and farm workers accommodation should be centrally positioned and located within the extent of land being worked

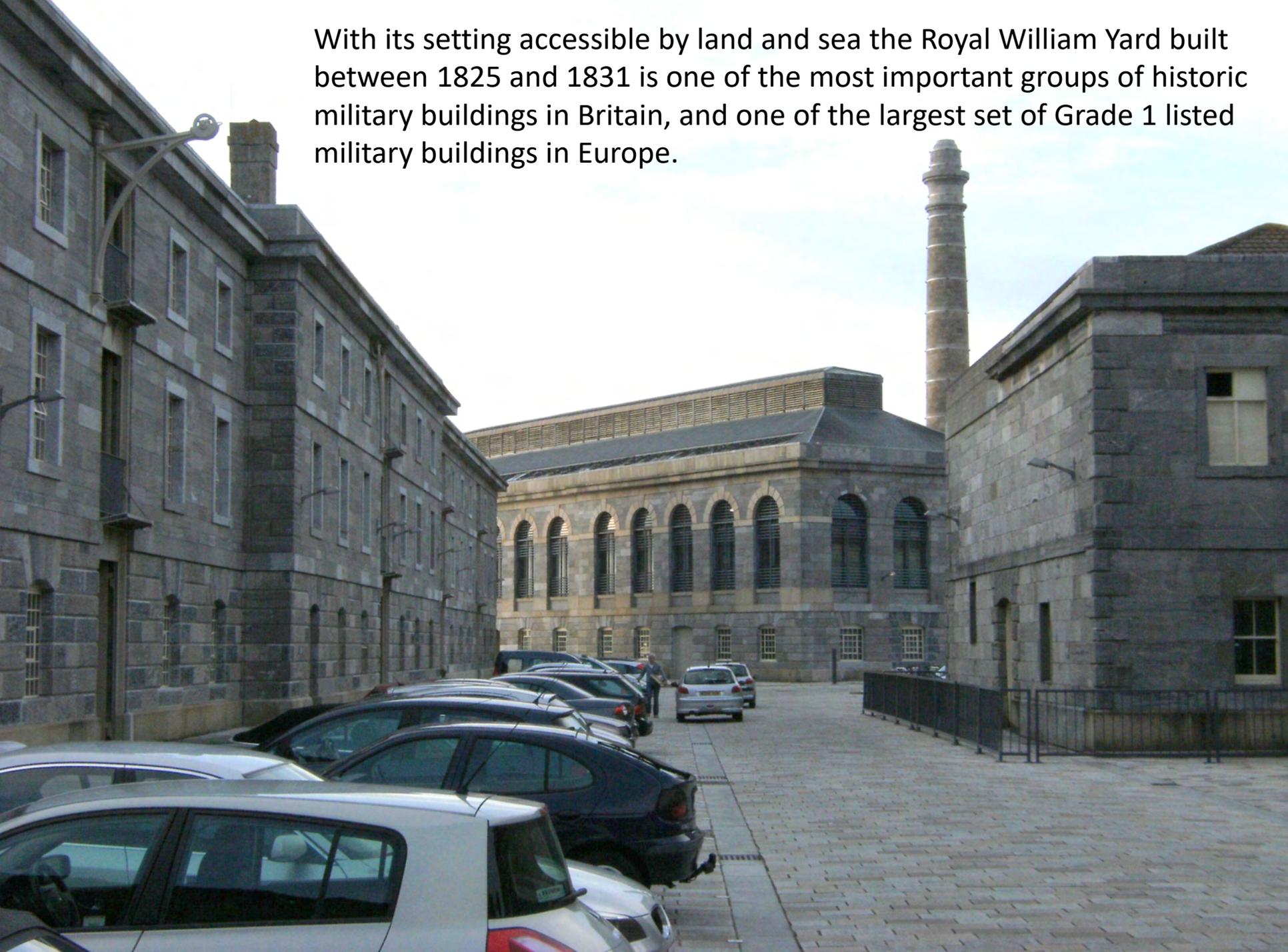
Much has to be considered in locating the setting of a functional water powered mill. Here the geography of the landscape plays a key part in how the powering water is reliably collected, delivered and discharged.

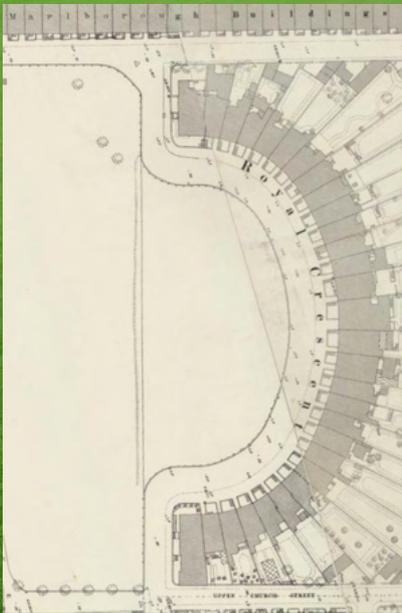
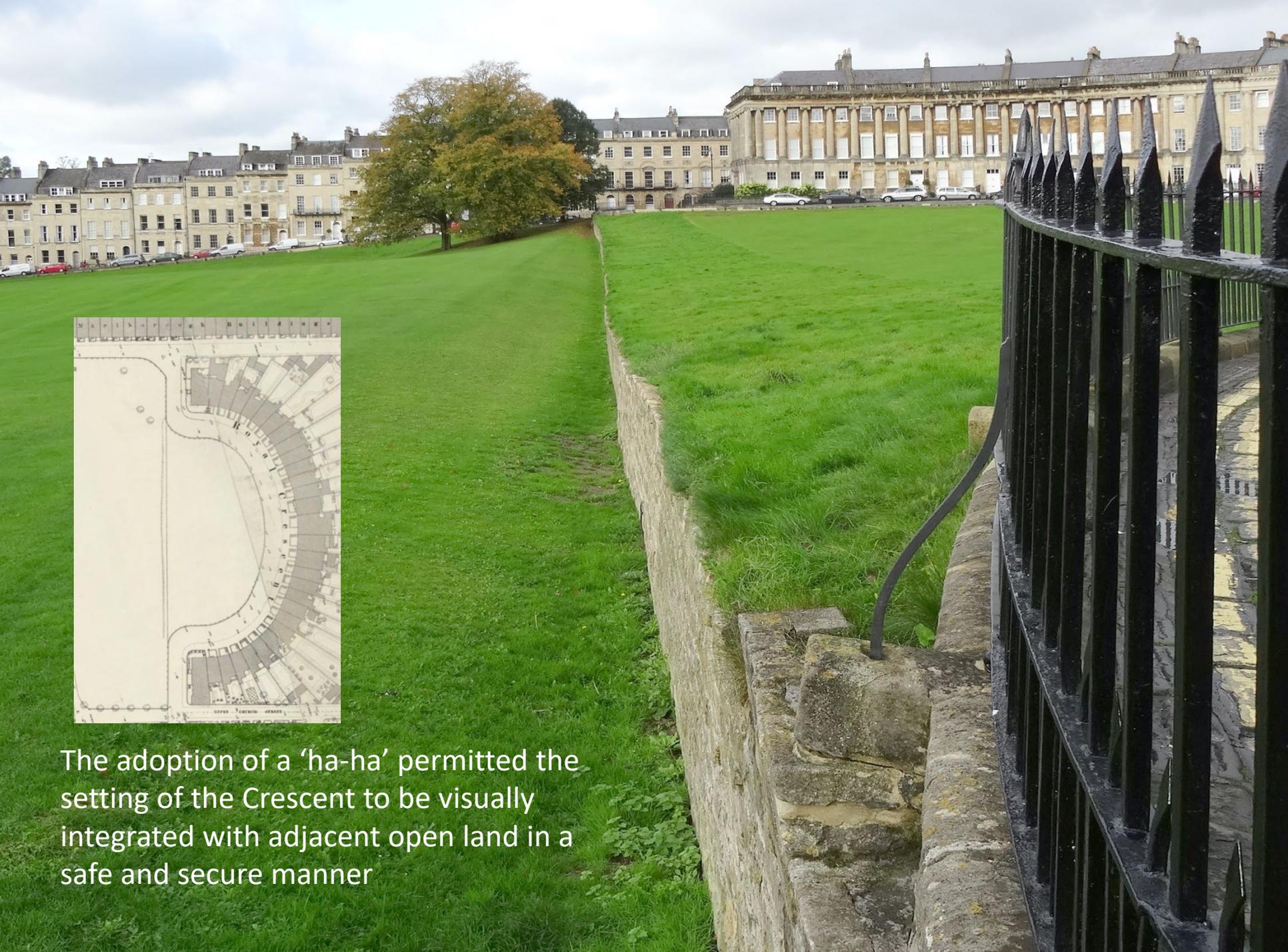


Dependent upon harnessing water power, the setting of the entire New Lanark site was determined by the flow levels of the River Clyde.

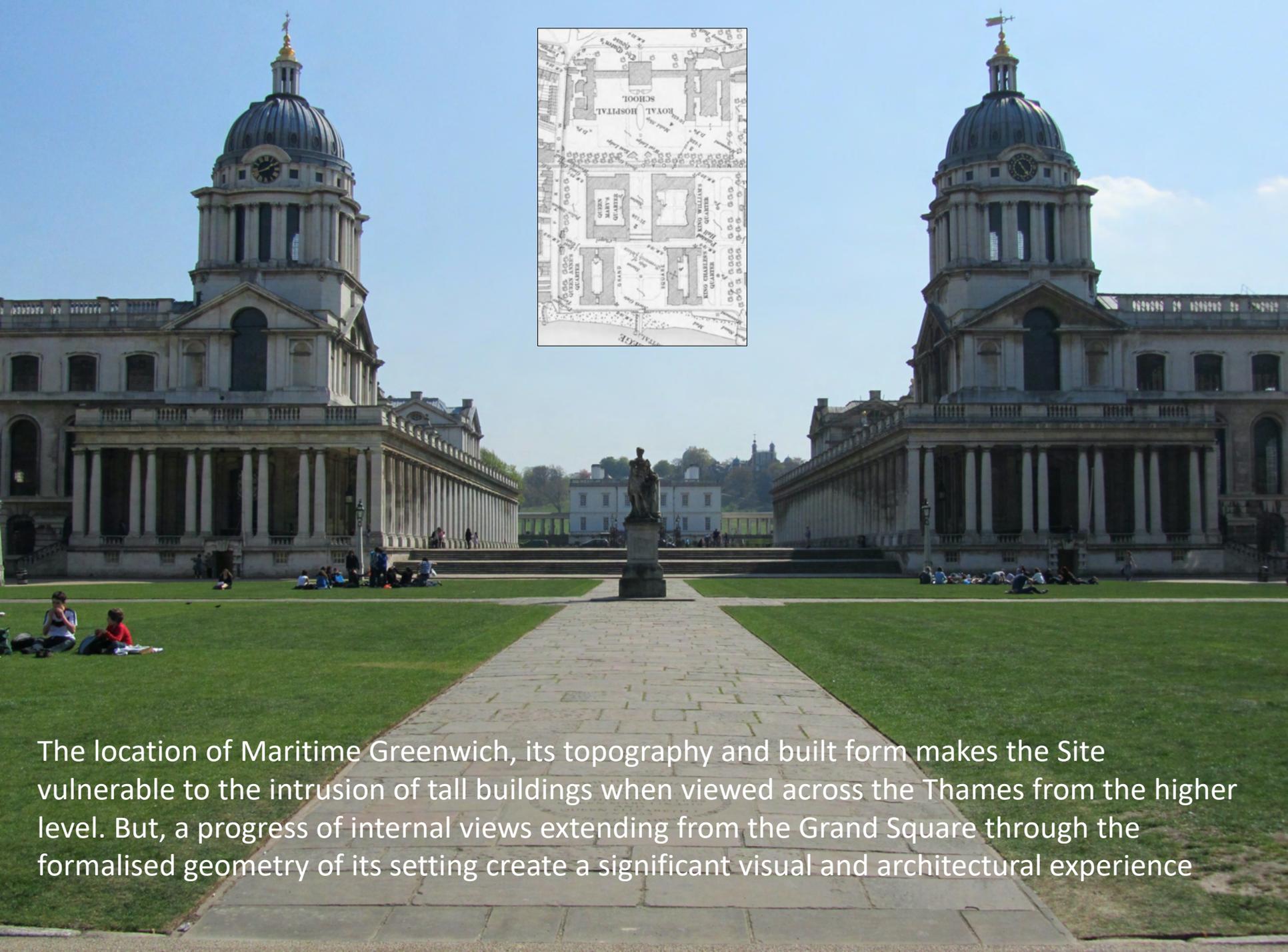


With its setting accessible by land and sea the Royal William Yard built between 1825 and 1831 is one of the most important groups of historic military buildings in Britain, and one of the largest set of Grade 1 listed military buildings in Europe.





The adoption of a 'ha-ha' permitted the setting of the Crescent to be visually integrated with adjacent open land in a safe and secure manner



The location of Maritime Greenwich, its topography and built form makes the Site vulnerable to the intrusion of tall buildings when viewed across the Thames from the higher level. But, a progress of internal views extending from the Grand Square through the formalised geometry of its setting create a significant visual and architectural experience

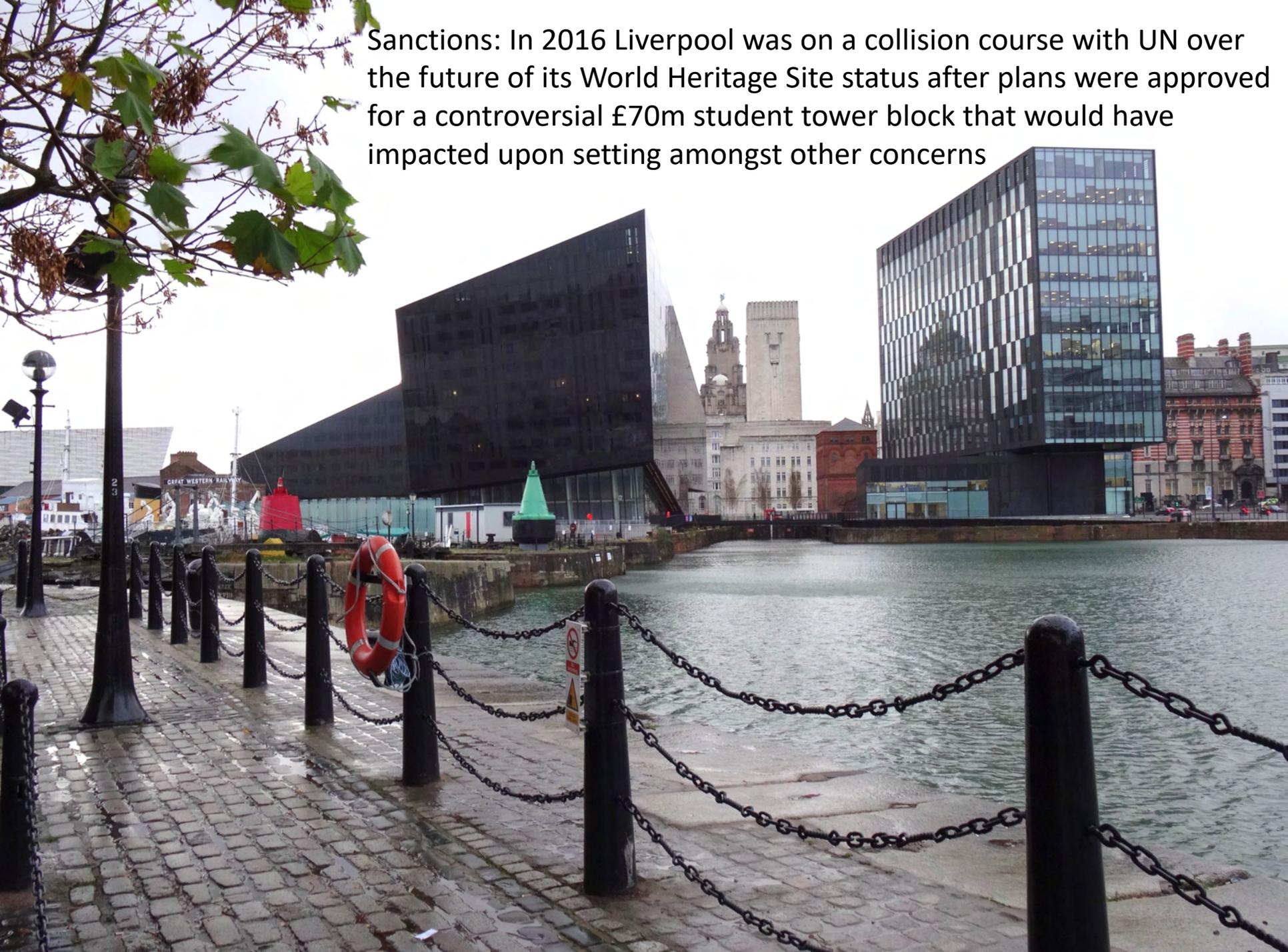
In a progression of views extending the setting between Queen Mary and King Williams Quarters along the centreline of the formalised layout towards the Queen's House, the 'framing' of the architecture continues



Approaching the Queen's House the setting is interrupted by the ornate gates safely separating the formal vista and approach from vehicular traffic on Romney Road



Sanctions: In 2016 Liverpool was on a collision course with UN over the future of its World Heritage Site status after plans were approved for a controversial £70m student tower block that would have impacted upon setting amongst other concerns



In pursuing the need to appreciate ‘*Guideline (c) Understand the setting of a monument, ensemble or site, their contents and surroundings, in relation to other buildings, gardens or landscapes*’ amongst other sources, accessing a number of National publications can be revealing as to the diversity of what might be considered and taken into account.

See:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/current/conservation-research/research/created-landscapes/>

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/gardens-and-designed-landscapes/>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/>

In addition a number of Guideline-specific URL links are offered on the COTAC Global website under the Menu tab ‘*Digital Bibliography*’ at ‘*c. Understand settings*’. See: http://www.cotac.global/digital_bib/



Built in 1830, Category B Dawick House and grounds operate as a regional garden of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. In 1987, the grounds were added to the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland

Gardens and designed landscapes

These green spaces play a big role in our heritage, national identity, nature conservation and well-being.



What is the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes?

Our role in gardens and designed landscapes and the characteristics of designed landscapes.



Inventory status and development: gardens and designed landscapes

Find out what Inventory status means in the planning process.



Search for a garden or landscape

Browse a map of Inventory gardens and designed landscapes in Scotland or search all site names and records by keyword.



Designation process: Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

How we assess Inventory applications and requests for removal from the Inventory or for a review of an existing Inventory entry.



Propose a garden or landscape for the Inventory

How to propose a garden or landscape for the Inventory or request the review or removal of an existing site.



Effects of Inventory status on owners

Find out what Inventory status means for owners of Scotland's nationally important gardens and designed landscapes.



Caring for gardens and designed landscapes

Gardens and designed landscapes are a fragile and finite resource that can be easily damaged or lost.

