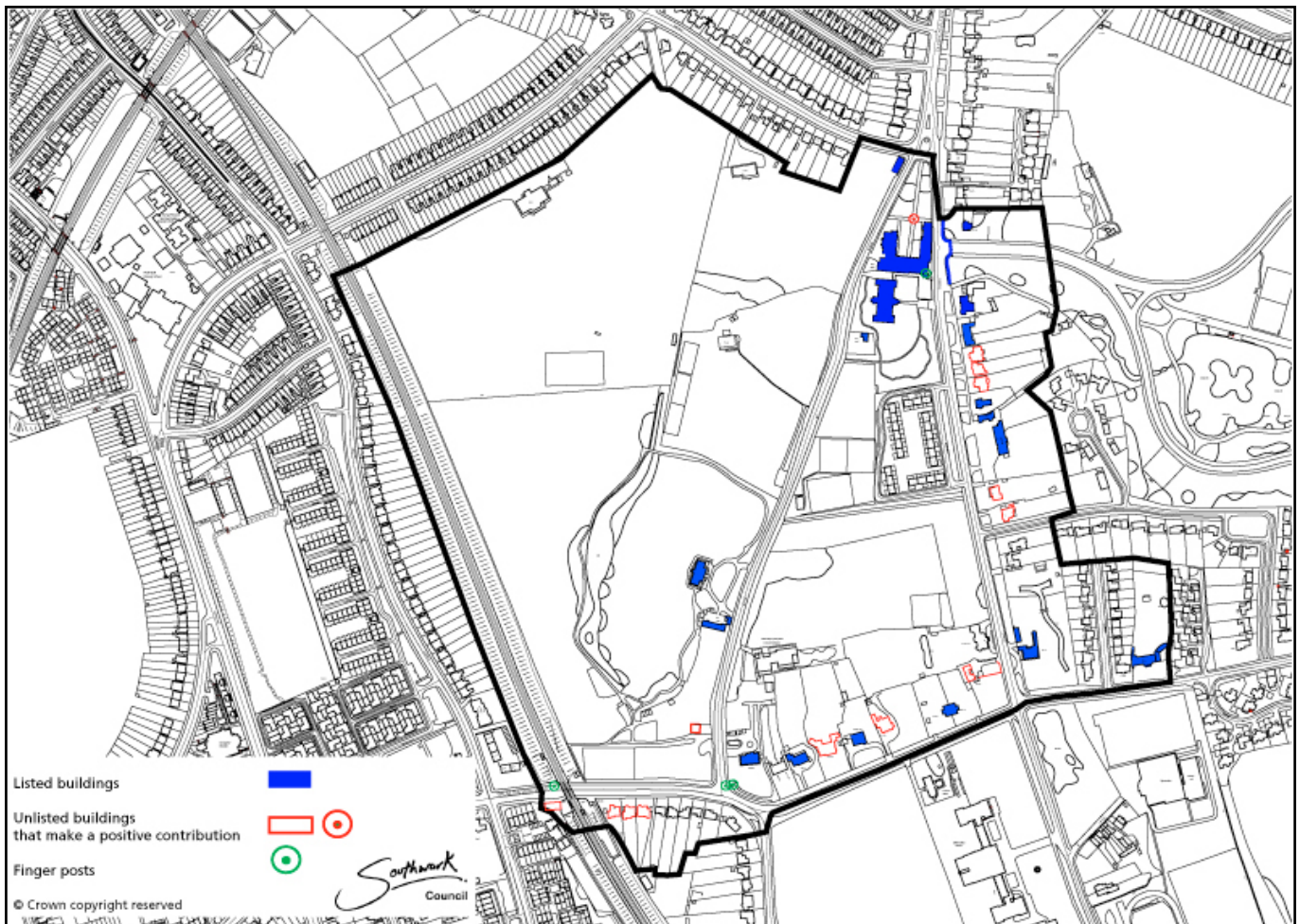


3.3 Sub Area 2 The Dulwich Picture Gallery, College Road and Gallery Road

Detailed Character



3.3.1 This area, which is shown on the plan which is figure 8, covers much of the open land in the heart of Dulwich Village. A footpath, called Lovers Path or Pensioners' Walk, connects the two principal roads, College Road and Gallery Road that run through it. At the apex of these roads is a small roundabout with a drinking fountain at its centre. The fountain was designed by Charles Barry the younger and was erected in 1875 by public subscription to mark the sixty years of service by the village doctor, George Webster. Beside the fountain is a restored milestone, stating the distance to The Treasury, Whitehall, and The Standard, Cornhill as being 5 miles. The setting of this interesting group of street furniture could be noticeably enhanced by rationalising the existing clutter of traffic signage. To the right of the fountain is



Figure 9: The Old Grammar School, Gallery Road.

the Grammar School of the College of God's Gift, built in 1842 by Sir Charles Barry, the father of Charles Barry the younger, the architect of the 1866-70 Dulwich College buildings (figure 9). The field beside it was the school's playground.

3.3.2 Set behind the drinking fountain and small garden is the entrance to Christ's Chapel and the Old College, built by Edward Alleyn and opened in 1619. Originally, it was a hospital for six poor brothers and six poor sisters, a college for 12 poor orphans and a chapel. Accommodation is still provided for elderly people but the College was moved south to its present location in 1866-70. The buildings are arranged around three sides of a quadrangle. The east wing dates from 1739 and was enlarged in 1821. The north side of the Chapel is original but the south side was enlarged in 1823. In 1944 a V1 flying bomb damaged the Chapel and Picture Gallery and the former hall, parlour and treasury of the Old College. Today, the gardens offer a quiet sanctuary in the heart of the Village, with the clock tower behind forming an important local landmark.

3.3.3 A key feature of this area is the Dulwich Picture Gallery, which can be viewed from both Gallery Road and College Road (figure 10). The Gallery was built in 1811-14 to designs of Sir John Soane to house pictures originally acquired by Noel Desenfans for King Stanisław August of Poland but sold instead to Sir Francis Bourgeois, who, in turn, left his collection to the College. It was also intended to house a small mausoleum to Desenfans and almshouse cottages for six poor women. It is one of Soane's most original compositions and notable as one of the first public art galleries in England. The Gallery, which attracts visitors from all over the world, had its original colour scheme restored in 1980-1, after detailed research, by Ian Bristow. It was separated from the Foundation in 1995 and shortly afterwards was awarded a substantial National Lottery Fund grant to build lecture, educational and catering facilities, connected by a glass cloister, designed by the architect Rick Mather. The architectural quality of the Picture Gallery and its new extension serves the community well. It too is set within finely maintained gardens, which serve to enhance the character of the conservation area.



Figure 10: The Dulwich Picture Gallery from Gallery Road.

3.3.4 Along College Road there are many fine villas, which were originally built by affluent businessmen who wanted to enjoy a gentleman's country life style that was still convenient to their place of work in the City. 'Bell House' built in 1767 by Thomas Wright (who later became the Lord Mayor of London) is a good example. Sir Robert Taylor has been suggested as the architect, and there are later additions by Sir Edwin Lutyens. 'Oakfield' (No. 41) is another example. Many of the houses fronting College Road are listed. They are all set within large private gardens, set well back from the road. It is important that this characteristic is retained as it contributes to the rural feeling of the area.

3.3.5 'Belair' on Gallery Road was originally built in 1785 and is regarded as a good example of a Neo-Classical Georgian villa (figure11). The Lodge at the front entrance housed the under-gardener who looked after the greenhouses, and the coach house provided accommodation for the coachmen. The house was lived in until the late 1930s and after a brief period of being used for military purposes Southwark Metropolitan Borough Council leased the land in 1945 from the Governors of Dulwich College. The estate was opened as a public park in 1947. The house was largely rebuilt in 1964, but again fell into a state of disrepair due to repeated vandal attacks. In 1997 it was restored and is now a restaurant.



3.3.6 Belair Park is also grade II listed in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. The winding, serpentine lake is the only substantial stretch of the ancient River Effra remaining above ground. The car park area and boundary treatment has suffered greatly from a lack of maintenance.

3.3.7 Dulwich Common, which passes through what was once the common land of the manor of Dulwich, now forms part of the South Circular road and unfortunately heavy traffic dominates. Large villas line the north side and form a distinguished relationship with the College itself. Set behind deep front gardens are noted examples of Georgian architecture such as 'The Old Blew House' that dates from the earlier 18th century and the 'The Willows' and 'Northcroft' that date from circa 1810. 'Brightlands' 1862-1884, by Charles Barry the younger, is now part of the Dulwich College Preparatory School. 'Tappen House', formerly known as 'Glenlea', dates from 1803 and was designed by George Tappen, the College Surveyor. These buildings are all listed grade II. Their very generous gardens make an important contribution to their architectural setting as well as to the character and appearance of the conservation area, so pressure for new development within them will be firmly resisted.

3.3.8 A clear boundary to the western edge of the area is provided by the well-treed railway embankment constructed 1860-63 for the London Chatham and Dover Railway, whose West Dulwich Station beside the bridge over Thurlow Park Road, opened in 1865, marks the entrance to the Village.

Views and Townscape

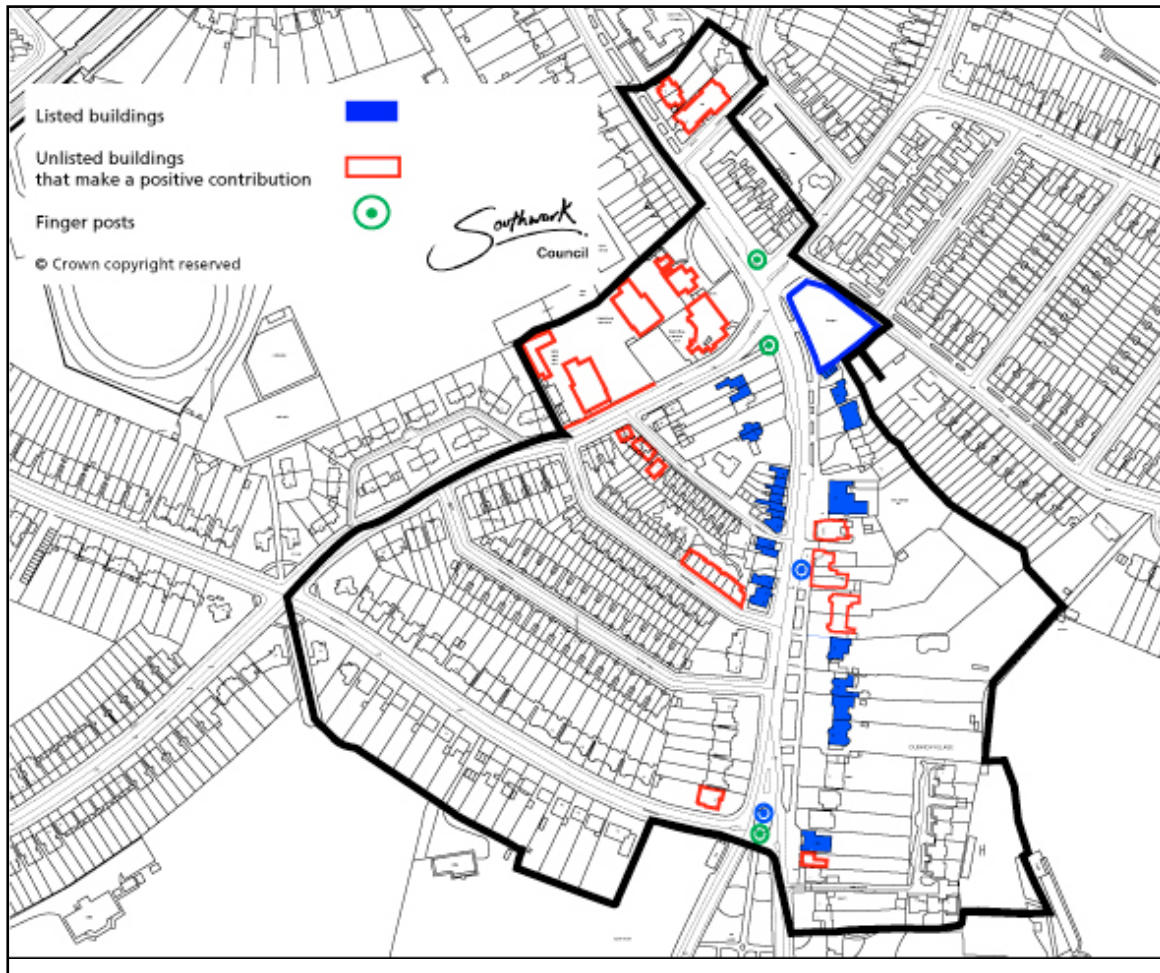
3.3.9 The view from the Village looking south towards the Fountain and Christ's Chapel and the Old College, focusing on the Old College's clock tower, is particularly fine. The tree lined verges and absence of modern buildings in the backdrop allows one to lose oneself in the rural atmosphere.

Key spaces and Landscape Elements

3.3.10 The very large gardens give residents an unprecedented level of peace and tranquility, as well as providing a haven for wildlife. It is this open character, reinforced by Belair Park and the playing fields bounded by the tree-lined railway embankment, that is so important to this unique part of Southwark.

3.4 Sub Area 3 The Old Village of Dulwich

Detailed Character



3.4.1 Figure 12 is a plan of this Sub-Area. Dulwich remained a small village until the 18th century, when Alleyn's College and the nearby spa at Dulwich Wells began to attract affluent visitors and residents. Dulwich Village and Calton Avenue meet at the heart of the historic Village. A redundant blacksmith's forge was redeveloped here circa 1929 with a row of shops, which is a dignified neo-Georgian composition. At the time of construction an inscribed stone tablet was discovered, which was part of the Village lock-up that stood close to the junction in the mid 18th century. This stone can be seen at the end of the parade. It reads:

1760

It is a Sport to a Fool to do

Mischief to Thine own

Wickedness shall correct thee.



Figure 13: Monuments in the old Burial Ground.

3.4.2 The Burial Ground, on the opposite corner, was consecrated in 1616. It has particularly fine decorative wrought iron gates, which are listed Grade II. Burials include 35 plague victims, as well as Old Bridget, Queen of the Norwood Gypsies (1768) and Samuel Matthews, a hermit murdered in Dulwich Wood in 1802. No less than 12 of the tombs and monuments located within are listed (figure 13).

3.4.3 The majority of buildings along Dulwich Village between the Burial Ground and the Old College are listed. On the west side the listed group starts on the south corner of Turney Road with Nos. 50-52, a refined, early 19th century stuccoed, semi-detached pair. Further south, at Nos. 60-62, is another, earlier, brick-faced pair with prominent bay windows. Smaller in scale and more informal in character is the terrace of brick-faced 18th and early 19th century cottages and shops at Nos. 70-82; an irregular grouping that materially contributes to the village character and continues south of Boxall Road with Nos. 84-6 and 94-8. The canopied shop, No. 94, currently occupied by Pizza Express, was largely rebuilt in 1936, but as a replica of the early 18th century butcher's shop which formerly stood on the site. Rebuilt with No. 94 were Nos. 96 & 98, which contribute a Greek Doric porch and an elegant shaped gable to create a successful and scholarly ensemble (figure 14).



Figure 14: Nos. 94 – 98 Dulwich Village

3.4.4 The famous Greyhound Inn once stood where Pickwick and Aysgarth Roads are now. It is believed to have been built in the mid 18th century and its patrons included Dickens, Paxton, Browning and Ruskin. The idea behind 'Punch' magazine may have developed here, as its creators all lived locally. The inn was demolished in 1898 and soon afterwards Aysgarth and Pickwick Roads were built. By the turn of the century the existing urban street pattern was established.

3.4.5 The east side of Dulwich Village is also graced by elegant Georgian townhouses. Right next to the Burial Ground is No. 57, a particularly handsome detached house dating from 1797, whose setting is enhanced by its relationship to its coach house. It could be still further enhanced by the reinstatement of its missing front garden railings. Further south, Nos. 97 and 101-105 form another group of elegant 18th century houses. They are all set in very generous gardens, extending back to Dulwich Park. The gardens make a strong contribution the character of the area, so any new development in them will be firmly resisted.

3.4.6 Between these two groups is the listed Crown & Greyhound public house (figure 15), which replaced the 18th century Crown public house in the late 1890s. Its urban scale and its exuberant architectural treatment make it stand out as a landmark at the centre of the Village.



Figure 15: The Crown and Greyhound public house, Dulwich Village.

3.4.7 On the north west corner of Turney Road and Dulwich Village are the Dulwich Village Infants School and Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, which date from the 1860s. They are not listed but are key buildings in the conservation area. Together with the St. Barnabas Parish Hall on the opposite side of the road they form a real focal point for the local community and architecturally they are good examples of the Victorian Gothick village school style. The Parish Hall is another unlisted building that makes a positive contribution to the appearance of the conservation area. It dates from 1910 and adopts the Arts & Crafts style, with a large and prominent sweeping tiled roof with leaded dormers.

Views and Townscape

3.4.8 The aspect throughout the old village area is exceptionally pleasant. There is a marked hierarchy to this part of the conservation area. The tight grain of Pickwick Road, Aysgarth Road and Boxall Road contrasts with the more open character of Dulwich Village and the spacious Edwardian and Arts and Crafts style houses in Burbage Road. The Boxall Road houses are the humblest with the smallest gardens, followed by Aysgarth Road (figure 16), Pickwick and Burbage Roads. These all have a gentle curve, which limits any long vistas but allows one to pick up the unique rhythm of each street.

Figure 16: Aysgarth Road



Key spaces and landscape Elements

3.4.9 Dulwich Village forms the spine of this part of the conservation area, with the tight, informal grouping of shops at the centre, dominated by the Crown & Greyhound public house, and a more open character beyond. Key spaces at the northern end are the Burial Ground, the playgrounds to the group of school buildings at the junction with Turney Road, and the front gardens to Nos. 50 – 62 and 57 – 67. To the south, again the front gardens are important, together with the wide, grass verges and the widening out of the street at the roundabout. The drinking fountain on the roundabout, with the gates and clock tower of the Old College behind it, terminate the vista from the north.

3.5 Sub Area 4 Court Lane, Calton Avenue, Woodward Road and Alleyn's School

Detailed Character

3.5.1 This area is shown on the plan which is figure 17. It takes in the areas of the Village's late 19th and early 20th century growth towards Lordship Lane and Townley Road, including Dulwich Library, St. Barnabas' Church, Alleyn's School and James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS).

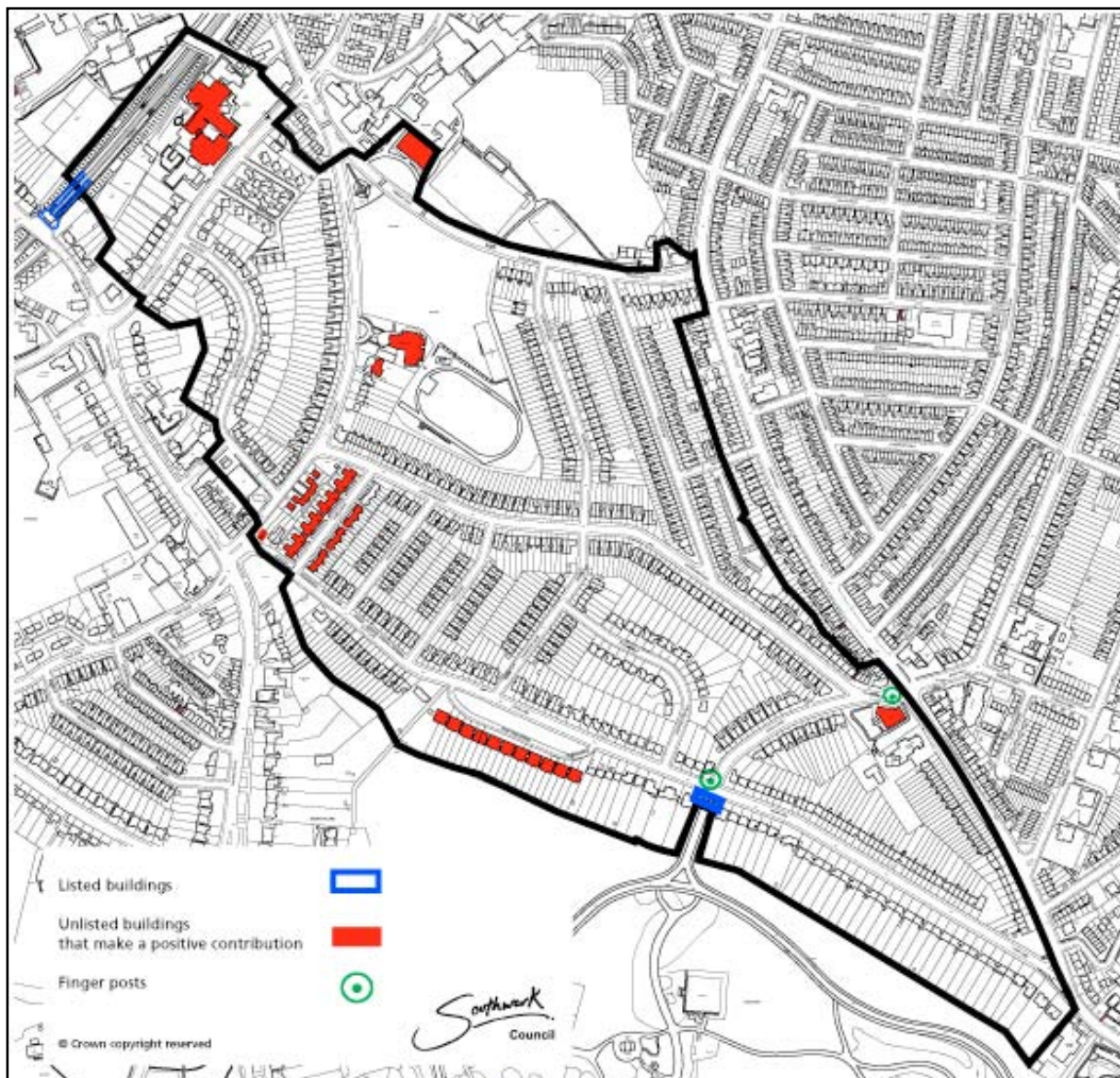


Figure 17: Plan of Sub-Area 4 – Court Lane, Calton Avenue, Woodward Road and Alleyn's School.