



National  
Trust

### **Castlefield Spirit of Place statement**

Castlefield is where subtle rubs shoulders with striking, from watery reflections and wisteria to red brick warehouses and vast iron railway bridges. Castlefield is quietly boastful: beautiful canals, grand warehouses and the incredible Grade I listed railway station. Castlefield radiates history and charm.

People, pathways, barges, trains and trams all criss-cross the space, creating dynamic movement in the landscape. It's where Roman roads meet the transport networks that powered the industrial revolution. Vertical and horizontals meet in layers that mark a visual timeline of the city's progression. Layer upon layer of Manchester and the world's past unravels before you. Stand in one place and see 2,000 years of history.

Leaving the city centre buzz behind and walking over the cobbles into Castlefield, there is a sense of arrival. Castlefield feels separate from the rest of the city: the basin itself provides a feeling of enclosure yet at the same time is more open, more relaxed and more tranquil. It is a place to linger longer.

The large brick warehouses that made Manchester's fortune, and remade it as a modern, desirable city, now provide a home for businesses and communities, creating a sense of stability. People today bring a new kind of energy. Modern commerce, innovation and the arts live side by side with bars, restaurants, apartments and industrial landmarks.

Once a place of noise, industry and commerce Castlefield is now a place of community, culture and recreation.

Castlefield is authentic and it doesn't stand still. It showcases what has gone before whilst opening its arms to the future.

**Themes:** Contrast, cohesion, community

## Towards an action plan

Challenges and opportunities arising following the audit

<b>Challenge</b>	Fragmented ownership and lack of consistent commitment from landowners
<b>Challenge</b>	A confusing landscape and orientation with uninviting routes and vistas
<b>Challenge</b>	Dead or underused spaces
<b>Challenge</b>	Lack of documentation needed for Conservation Area and site of heritage value in order to protect and enhance place.
<b>Opportunity</b>	Tell the story of Castlefield
<b>Opportunity</b>	Benefits from residential and commercial development are directed back to the neighbourhood
<b>Opportunity</b>	Create an identity for Castlefield