

RIPON CITY PLAN

Supporting Document: Environment & Heritage

Appendix H.e: Temporary site screening

A building site is rarely a thing of beauty. Sites under construction are often visually intrusive and can be unwelcome neighbours. This is particularly so where development has stalled and sites become derelict. The impact can be significantly reduced by the use of imaginative hoardings which not only screen the site but can provide information about the proposed construction and add interest to the street scene while sites are awaiting development.

Sites are better screened with solid fencing or hoardings rather than with safety fencing which provides almost no visual barrier. The hoarding should be painted.



The hoarding above at Allhallowgate provides both information on the proposed development and space for a temporary display of historic street photographs as part of the Ripon Re-Viewed Project. Below is an example of well-designed screening to a small housing development on Harrogate Road which again serves to promote the site. The two-tone colouring helps to reduce the apparent bulk of the screen.



Contrast these examples of good practice with the visual intrusion of poorly-screened sites:



Even when sites are given adequate temporary screening this will need regular checking to ensure it remains in place. Collapsed screening merely adds to the eyesore as here on Water Skellgate:



The Considerate Constructors Scheme seeks to improve the image of the construction industry by seeking to promote good practice under the Code of Considerate Practice. This includes recommendations for ensuring that the external appearance of construction sites is acceptable. An example of a site managed in this way is the large development north of King's Cross Station in London. The site is well-screened with continuous hoardings which have been imaginatively decorated to enliven the area and promote civic pride.

For more information, please see www.ccscheme.org.uk



Particularly where landmark buildings are under repair or reconstruction there can be significant benefits to the appearance of the street if scaffolding screens are printed with a replica of the building. Here is an example from the Victoria Quarter in Leeds. The second photograph from North Street in Ripon shows how empty retail properties can be provided with temporary vinyl prints either behind or in front of the shop windows. These both maintain an appearance of activity while acting as advertisements to encourage new users.

