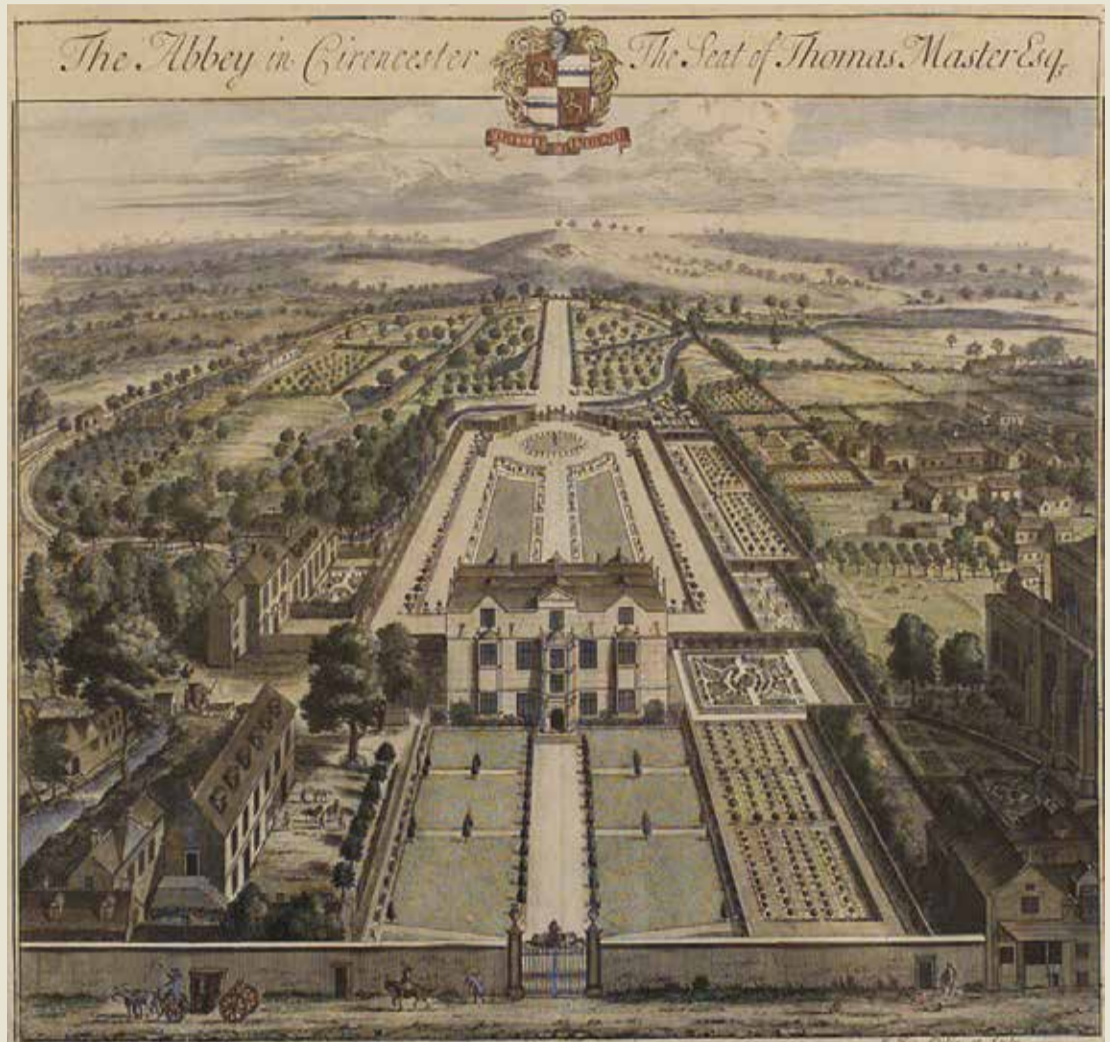


Green spaces

With the growth of towns in the 19th century and 20th century green spaces became important, especially as places of recreation. Cirencester was still relatively small with a population of around 8,000 by 1900. It was fortunate to have access to privately owned parkland such as Cirencester Park, which was open to the public from the 19th century. Other public spaces developed from the 1960s with the Abbey Grounds acquired by the Urban District Council in 1965. In the 1980s St Michael's Park in Watermoor was created.

In Cirencester the graveyard of the parish Church has long been a public space for mourning and quiet contemplation. In recent years town centre graveyards have become places for anti-social behaviour. Cirencester Town Council have recently taken over responsibility for maintaining the Parish



The Abbey in Cirencester, the seat of Thomas Master Esq., 1712 by Johannes Kip. This shows the layout of the gardens of Abbey House (now the Abbey Grounds).



Church graveyard and are working to reclaim this as a safe public space. Green spaces, such as the Abbey Grounds and St Michael's Park, are also increasingly being used for health and fitness activities.

Aerial view of the Abbey Grounds. (© Abbey Studios)

Streetscapes

The architecture of the street, whether it is high-rise or low rise, of new buildings or those of mixed ages, and how it is looked after and maintained has an impact on how we feel about a place. Cirencester has one of Gloucestershire's most iconic streetscapes in the long row of historic buildings fronting the Market Place. There are several streets of historic buildings which have changed little since the time they were built, such as Coxwell Street. The large estates owned by the Bathurst family and the Chester-Master family have also had an impact on the development and look of the town with their distinctive high walls which can still be seen in Gosditch Street, Park Street and Park Lane. As the painting by John Beecham suggests streets can feel different at different times of the day and especially after dark.



The walls of Cirencester Park Estate, Park Lane.



Market Place buildings, used as a logo image by Cirencester Town Council.

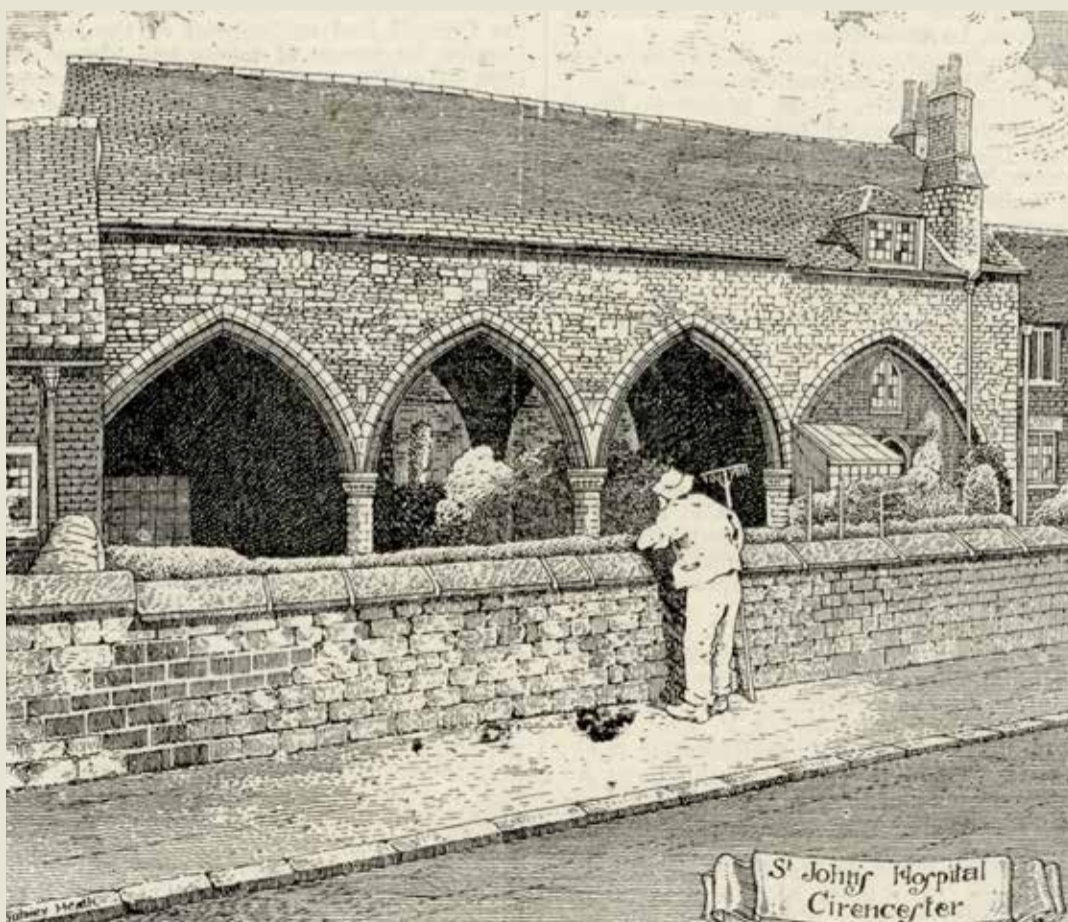
Historic places

It is lovely to live in a historic town but it can create problems for the authorities that have to maintain it. How do you make provision for an important mosaic discovered in the middle of a busy road? In a town with many historic buildings how do you preserve or find uses for them all?



DISCOVERY OF A ROMAN TESSELLATED PAVEMENT, IN CIRENCESTER.

Discovery of a Roman tessellated pavement in Cirencester, Illustrated London News, 1849.



St John's Hospital by Sidney Heath, for 'The Builder' magazine.

The hospital of St John the Evangelist was founded in 1133 in the reign of Henry I and completed during the reign of Henry II with the King allocating funding for it from the tithes to pay 'for the care of the destitute and sick'. Part of the hospital building (the arcade of the hall) remains at Spitalgate.