

= Montpelier , Brighton =

Montpelier is an inner suburban area of Brighton , part of the English city and seaside resort of Brighton and Hove . Developed together with the adjacent Clifton Hill area in the mid 19th century , it forms a high class , architecturally cohesive residential district with " an exceptionally complete character " . Stucco clad terraced housing and villas predominate , but two of the city 's most significant Victorian churches and a landmark hospital building are also in the area , which lies immediately northwest of Brighton city centre and spreads as far as the ancient parish boundary with Hove .

Development was initially stimulated when one of the main roads out of Brighton was turnpiked in the late 18th century , but the hilly land was condemned as " hideous masses of unfledged earth " by John Constable , who painted it nevertheless . The area was mostly devoted to agriculture until the 1820s . The ascent of Brighton from provincial fishing town to fashionable resort prompted a building boom in the next quarter century , and Montpelier and Clifton Hill were transformed into districts of architecturally homogeneous streets with carefully designed , intricately detailed housing . Little demolition , infilling or redevelopment has occurred since , and hundreds of buildings have been granted listed status . The whole suburb is also one of 34 conservation areas in the city of Brighton and Hove .

Historic buildings include The Temple , local landowner Thomas Read Kemp 's house , now a private school ; the former Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children , currently being redeveloped , and large mid 19th century houses such as Montpelier Hall . The area also has several set piece residential squares and crescents such as Clifton Terrace , Powis Square , Vernon Terrace , Montpelier Crescent and Montpelier Villas . The architectural partnership of Amon Wilds , his son Amon Henry Wilds and Charles Busby were the most important architects in Regency era Brighton and Hove ; designed many of these . Montpelier 's range of churches includes some of the city 's finest , but others have been demolished in the postwar period .

= = Location and character = =

Montpelier is a centrally located inner suburb of the city of Brighton and Hove . The Lanes , the ancient centre of Brighton , is about 0.7 miles (1.1 km) to the southeast , and central Hove is about 1.1 miles (1.8 km) to the west . London is 50.2 miles (81.3 km) to the north . There is no single official definition of the area covered by Montpelier and Clifton Hill , but most authorities (including Brighton and Hove City Council) define it as the area west of West Hill and east of the ancient parish boundary between Brighton and Hove . The Seven Dials area and the road junction of that name are to the north , forming the apex of the roughly triangular area , and the major city centre shopping street Western Road lies to the south . Two roads form important through routes for cross city traffic : Montpelier Road runs south to north from the city centre to Seven Dials , and the west to east Upper North Street links the city centre to Hove . Both are busy , but traffic is limited in the smaller residential streets .

Dyke Road forms the ancient route from Brighton to Devil 's Dyke and Steyning and eventually on to London ; forms the conservation area 's eastern boundary except at the southern end , where it extends east of the road to include St Nicholas ' Church (Brighton 's original parish church) , Wykeham Terrace and other small parts of West Hill . The land rises gently from the southwest to a summit at Clifton Hill . Writing in 1833 , J.D. Parry said that the hill " commands a magnificent view , and has very fine air " . John Constable , who stayed in Brighton several times during the 1820s , was less impressed : he described it as " hideous masses of unfledged earth called the country " . Nevertheless , he produced several paintings of the area , which provide a record of its appearance just before it became suburbanised .

Geologically , Montpelier is built on grassy downland and sheep pasture , beneath which is chalk . This pattern is repeated across the rest of the city , most of the Sussex coast and for several miles inland . The chalk , " one of the most complete and accessible strata anywhere in Europe " , was formed about 100 million years ago . As in other areas where chalk is prevalent , the soil above

it is rendzina . Found in thin layers and with a high calcium content , it has a poor agricultural value .

In common with the rest of Brighton , the area has a temperate climate : its Köppen climate classification is Cfb . It is characterised by mild , calm weather with high levels of sunshine , sea breezes and a " healthy , bracing air " attributed to the low level of tree cover . Average rainfall levels increase as the land rises : the 1958 ? 1990 mean was 740 millimetres (29 in) on the seafront and about 1 @, @ 000 millimetres (39 in) at the top of the South Downs above Brighton .

Locally , a distinction is made between the northern part of the area towards the top of the hill ? this area is known as Clifton or Clifton Hill ? and the lower land to the south and west , as far as the Hove boundary and Western Road , known as Montpelier . The names are also used interchangeably , and some sources make further distinctions : the area around Powis Grove , Powis Villas , Powis Road and St Michael and All Angels Church is called Powis in one study of the area . Although Montpelier first appears as the name of the area on a map of 1824 , this still makes it the earliest Montpelier in England ? predating those in Bristol , Cheltenham and elsewhere in taking and adapting the name of the French spa resort Montpellier . The town was popular with rich English people in the 18th century for convalescence : it had an excellent climate and good medical facilities . The term " Montpelier Estate " is sometimes used for the area as a whole .

= = = Demography and politics = = =

Montpelier and Clifton Hill are predominantly residential : about 20 % of buildings have other uses , primarily commercial and retail . Some areas have clusters of small shops , and there are many pubs and restaurants . The southern part of Montpelier is very close to Brighton 's main retail area , Western Road and the Churchill Square shopping centre . Many streets provide long southward views towards the sea .

The area forms part of Brighton and Hove City Council 's Regency ward , one of 21 wards in the city . This is part of the Brighton Pavilion parliamentary constituency , which elected Caroline Lucas of the Green Party at the 2010 General Election . She held the seat with an increased majority at the 2015 General Election .

Regency is classified as a " Prospering Metropolitan B " ward by the Office for National Statistics . 0 @. @ 91 % of the United Kingdom population live in such a ward , whose characteristics include much lower proportions of children , manufacturing sector workers , detached houses and households with more than one car than the national average , and much higher proportions of single @- @ person households , people qualified to degree level and privately rented accommodation than the average . Population density is also much higher in Prospering Metropolitan B wards than in the United Kingdom as a whole .

The Regency ward covers 235 @. @ 5 acres (95 @. @ 3 ha) of central Brighton , bounded by Seven Dials to the north , the ancient Brighton / Hove parish boundary to the west , the English Channel to the south and Dyke Road , North Street and Old Steine to the east . It therefore includes territory that is not part of Montpelier , whose southern boundary at Western Road runs through the middle of the ward . At the time of the United Kingdom Census 2001 , for which the size of the ward was measured at 88 acres (36 ha) , Regency had a population of 8 @, @ 510 . Its population density of 96 @. @ 25 persons per hectare was much higher than that of the city Brighton and Hove (29 @. @ 98) and of South East England as a whole (4 @. @ 2) . The ethnic mix is similar to that of the wider city and of South East England as a whole : in the Census , 93 @. @ 3 % of people in Regency classified themselves as White , 2 @. @ 1 % as Mixed , 1 @. @ 88 % as Asian or Asian British , 1 @. @ 79 % as Chinese or Other , and 0 @. @ 93 % as Black British . The largest differences in comparison to Brighton and Hove overall were the lower proportion of White people and the higher proportion belonging to Chinese or other ethnic groups . The gender balance is significantly different from that of the city as a whole : while 48 @. @ 38 % of Brighton and Hove 's residents were male (as recorded by the 2001 Census) , the proportion rose to 54 @. @ 49 % of people in Regency ward .

= = History = =

The South Downs , a range of chalk hills , surrounded the ancient fishing and farming village of Brighton (formerly Brighthelmston) . The downland pasture sloped down to the English Channel coast and was farmed in one of two ways : some parts were divided into strips according to a local system of " laines " , furlongs " and " paul @-@ pieces " , and other areas were left for the grazing of sheep . The area now covered by Montpelier was an example of the latter . The five laines around Brighton were based on land with a relatively gentle slope ; when the gradient or height made the land too difficult to work , no more strips were marked out and the rest of the land was given over to grazing . A map of Brighton from the 1740s shows that a large section in the northwest of the parish ? north of West Laine , west of North Laine and bisected by the road to Steyning ? was marked as " sheep down " . It had no official name at the time , but by 1792 it had become known as Church Hill in reference to St Nicholas ' Church , the parish church of Brighton which stood on a hillock near the road . The part west of the road was sometimes described as " Church Hill ? West Side " ; the corresponding " East Side " later became known as West Hill during Brighton 's 19th @-@ century growth . The road became a turnpike in 1777 , increasing its importance , and became known as Dyke Road . Vine 's Mill , one of several windmills built on the Downs around Brighton , was erected in 1810 .

The sheep down was not common land : its ownership has been traced back to the 11th century (to Canute , Earl Godwin and his son King Harold) , and by the late 18th century it was held by two influential local landowners . Thomas Kemp held about 41 acres (17 ha) , and John Sackville , 3rd Duke of Dorset owned over 5 acres (2 @. @ 0 ha) . When Kemp died in 1811 , his landholding transferred to his son Thomas Read Kemp . The Kemp family first acquired the land in 1770 , when it was sold to them by the Friend family ? whose history of large @-@ scale land acquisition around Brighton goes back to the late 16th century and the purchase of the former St Bartholomew 's Priory and its grounds .

Thomas Read Kemp had moved out of Brighton in 1807 , but decided to return in 1819 . By this time he was enjoying " a rich social life " and his considerable inherited wealth . As he owned so much land around Brighton , there were many sites he could choose for his new home ; he selected a remote site near the track (running from the seafront to the Ditchling Road) which later became Montpelier Road . At the time there were only three people living on the farmland of " Church Hill ? West Side " , including an eccentric former marine corporal who occupied a cave in a former chalk pit . He had been invalided out of the Navy after fighting in the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801 , but retained his military interest : he made chalk models to sell , and rigged up four pistols to form a miniature battery which he would fire to celebrate military anniversaries . Read Kemp 's house , probably designed by Amon Wilds or his son Amon Henry Wilds , was called The Temple (and was popularly nicknamed " Kemp 's Folly " or " the Brighton Mansion ") . He may have chosen the secluded site because it was close to the chalybeate spring at St Ann 's Well in the neighbouring parish of Hove , popularised by Dr Richard Russell in the 1750s but known to generations of shepherds before that for the health @-@ giving effect it had on their sheep . The iron @-@ rich water was used in " a primitive little spa " for about 100 years , and the associated Pump Room and gardens were popular with visitors long after that .

The increasing popularity of Brighton as a resort resulted in an " exponential growth in housing " . In 1783 , just after the first expansion outside the ancient four @-@ street village , there were 600 houses ; in 1801 there were 1 @, @ 282 , by 1811 another 1 @, @ 096 had been completed , and in 1821 there were 4 @, @ 299 . The land of Church Hill was ideal for development ? land ownership was not complex , unlike in many of the laines , and the sheltered southwest @-@ facing slopes were close to both St Ann 's Well and the centre of Brighton 's fashionable social scene around Old Steine . The area developed rapidly as a residential district from the 1820s , and was one of the earliest of Brighton 's many 19th @-@ century suburbs . From 1823 , Read Kemp became heavily involved in his speculative Kemp Town estate on the edge of Brighton , and he moved to a house there in 1827 (after which The Temple became a boys ' school) . He began selling plots of land throughout the area , and streets and areas of housing took shape . Montpelier Road was one of the first to develop , on the site of the long track which had given Read Kemp access to the seafront

from his house ; it is not named before 1820 , but it appears on a map of 1822 . Houses such as numbers 53 ? 56 , by Amon Henry Wilds , and the semi @-@ detached villas of numbers 91 ? 96 , date from about 1830 . Hampton Place , a sloping terrace of " especially pretty houses " , was an 1820s development by speculator William Hallett , who occupied one of the houses himself . Around the same time , Amon Henry Wilds and Charles Busby built several houses on a former track which became Clifton Road , and work started at Montpelier Terrace with the construction of a pair of villas in 1823 . Montpelier Lodge (c . 1830) on Montpelier Terrace stood out from the surrounding stuccoed buildings due to its red @-@ brick walls ; it also had an elaborate entrance with Doric columns and a delicately patterned fanlight .

Development accelerated after Thomas Read Kemp was declared bankrupt in 1837 , forcing him to sell all his land and move to France . Parcels of land were rapidly developed with terraced streets (especially to the south , leading up from Western Road) and set @-@ piece squares and crescents . The Temple was still isolated until 1834 ? 35 , when the firm of George Cheesman & Son built a new vicarage for the Vicar of Brighton Henry Michell Wagner . The " austere Neo @-@ Tudor " house stood back from the nearest road . In about 1840 , Wagner 's sister moved to the newly built Belvedere House nearby , and encouraged development of the adjacent road which became Montpelier Place . (The four @-@ storey houses of Belvedere Terrace were built on her behalf in the grounds of Belvedere House in about 1852 .)

Brighton was connected to the railway network in 1840 when a line to Shoreham @-@ by @-@ Sea opened , followed in 1841 by the completion of the link to London . This stimulated growth even further , and the 1840s were a boom period for Montpelier . (Brighton as a whole grew rapidly in the 1840s ? between 1841 and 1851 , 2 @,@ 806 new houses were built compared to 437 for the preceding decade ? but the effect was greater in Montpelier because the station was close by at the foot of West Hill .) During the 1840s , Montpelier Villas and Montpelier Crescent were laid out , several houses were built in Clifton Road , Montpelier Road and Montpelier Terrace were fully built up , Upper North Street became an important route lined with " modest yet grandly treated " houses , the " very attractive composition " of Clifton Terrace was built (it was finished in 1847) , Victoria Street was laid out with bay @-@ fronted terraced houses , and Windlesham House was constructed near The Temple . This became the New Sussex Hospital in 1921 after alterations by the Clayton & Black architecture firm , but is now flats called Temple Heights .

Developments in the 1850s included Powis Square , Villas and Road , Norfolk Terrace and Vernon Terrace . The Powis area took its name from property developer John Yearsley , who was from Welshpool in Powys . Yearsley bought several acres of land on a leasehold basis from the Kemp family in 1846 ; he acquired the freehold soon after . (Thomas Read Kemp died in France in 1844 , seven years after leaving Brighton to escape his debts .) Land was also acquired and developed by the prominent Hallett , Wisden , Baring and Faithfull families . (The Baring baronets were related to Thomas Read Kemp by marriage ; Henry Faithfull , who worked with Yearsley to develop the Powis area , was the brother of MP George Faithfull ; and Thomas and John Wisden were prolific builders .)

Denmark Terrace , a continuation of Vernon Terrace , was erected in the 1860s ; at its south end it met Temple Gardens , the road on which The Temple stood . Also of the 1860s were parts of Norfolk Road (where development had started 30 years before) , St Michael 's Place (1868 ? 69) with terraced houses " impressive in their length and height " , and some infill development in Montpelier Terrace , Clifton Place , Powis Road and Vernon Terrace . Montpelier 's residential development was nearly complete by the 1870s , as suggested by an Ordnance Survey map of that time which shows undeveloped fields only in the area beyond Vernon Terrace . In 1870 or 1871 , Brighton Children 's Hospital ? established three years earlier in Western Road ? moved to a new building on the site of the former Church Road School in West Hill . In 1880 ? 81 , Thomas Lainson built the new Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children nearby at the junction of Dyke Road and Clifton Hill . It was extended and altered in 1904 , 1906 and 1927 ? 28 .

Some more houses were built in the Edwardian era , mostly in the characteristic Edwardian style with bright red brick " standing out amongst the stucco " . Examples include some in Temple Gardens and Vernon Gardens in the 1890s , a row on one side of Denmark Terrace , Windlesham

Road (where numbers 14 and 16 , built in 1903 , are especially elaborate) and 18 ? 25 Clifton Road (1903 ? 04 , with ornate gables and turreted corners) . In 1902 , the London & Brighton Express Electric Railway Company sought permission to build a new surface railway line from Westminster to a terminus near the junction of Montpelier Road and Western Road , passing Clifton Hill . Hove Council supported the parliamentary Bill , but nothing came of it ; when the promoters proposed it again in 1903 , the council were no longer interested .

Additions and alterations to the streetscape have been minimal since the early 20th century . Windlesham House became the New Sussex Hospital for Women in 1921 following alterations by Clayton & Black , who similarly rebuilt a 19th @-@ century house on Montpelier Road as a chapel for Brighton 's Christian Scientist community in the same year . The hospital was extended to the rear in the 1930s (but new flats called York Mansions were built on the site in 2001) , and the Royal Alexandra Hospital absorbed a neighbouring villa . Additions to the Brighton & Hove High School , which had taken over The Temple , included a " drab " set of classrooms in the 1960s , a later administration block and a glazed sports hall in 2001 ? 02 (the last two were designed by architects Morgan Carn Partnership) . Demolitions included the former Emanuel Reformed Episcopal Church on Norfolk Terrace (replaced by a Baptist church) in 1965 , The Dials Congregational Church in 1972 (built in 1871 ; replaced by sheltered accommodation) and Belvedere House (replaced in the 1970s by the Park Royal flats) . Other blocks of flats were built in that decade on spare land on Montpelier Terrace and Clifton Terrace .

= = Buildings = =

= = = Churches = = =

The Montpelier and Clifton Hill areas have four extant churches and one former church building which is now in secular use . Three of these buildings have listed status . Another three churches were demolished in the postwar period .

The Anglican St Michael and All Angels Church has been a centre of Anglo @-@ Catholicism and High church worship since it opened in 1861 . It was one of several daughter churches planted out of St Paul 's Church in the early Victorian era . George Frederick Bodley designed the original building on behalf of his friend Rev. Charles Beanlands , a curate at St Paul 's , and work started in 1858 . William Burges then supplied plans for an extension in 1865 , but these were not executed until 1893 ? 95 by J.S. Chapple , an architect from the recently deceased Burges ' office . The two parts are connected by a four @-@ bay arcade inside , and Bodley 's original nave has become an aisle . The building is a tall red @-@ brick and stone Gothic Revival structure with traceried lancet windows . The internal fittings combine " grandeur and artistry in a most satisfying way " , and the 19th @-@ century stained glass has been called the best in Sussex . The church is Grade I @-@ listed .

St Mary Magdalen 's Church , another brick and stone Gothic Revival building , was designed for the area 's Roman Catholics in 1861 ? 64 by Gilbert Blount . Frederick Walters added a complementary school and presbytery in 1871 and 1891 respectively , and the complex takes up a large site on Upper North Street . A tall tower with a landmark broach spire stands almost separated from the Decorated Gothic nave and chancel . The interior has contrasting stone (intricately carved to Blount 's designs) and marble , and Joseph Cribb carved the effigies of Saint Joseph and Saint George which flank the entrance . St Mary Magdalen 's has Grade II @-@ listed status .

The First Church of Christ , Scientist , serving the city 's Christian Scientists , is a " notable " former house on Montpelier Road . It was built in the early 1850s and was converted into a church by local architects Clayton & Black in 1921 . The exterior is rusticated and has an elaborate pediment and large pilasters flanking the tiered windows . A panelled gallery survives inside .

E. Joseph Wood 's Montpelier Place Baptist Church of 1966 replaced the former Emanuel Reformed Episcopal Church . The low brown @-@ brick building stands on a corner site at the top of Norfolk Terrace . There are echoes of Coventry Cathedral in the treatment of the façade , which

has two gabled bays linked by an arcaded wall with a sawtooth @-@ style roof . Each bay has vertical rows of recessed bricks . A flat @-@ roofed church hall adjoins .

The Grade II * -listed former St Stephen 's Church on Montpelier Place closed in 1939 and is now used as a day centre for homeless people . George Cheesman designed the plain stuccoed Classical façade , with Doric pilasters and an octagonal lantern , in 1851 . Behind it lies the opulent former ballroom of the Castle Inn , built by John Crunden in 1776 and later transported to Montpelier Place . Arthur Blomfield made additions to the church in 1889 . It was refurbished after a fire in 1988 .

Christ Church stood on Montpelier Road south of Western Road between 1837 and 1982 . George Cheesman designed it and Edmund Scott undertook restoration in 1886 ; both architects worked on other local churches as well . The Gothic Revival building had a galleried interior and a spire matching that at Chichester Cathedral . It was gutted in an arson attack in 1978 ; the exterior survived , but it was demolished in 1982 in favour of the International / Modern @-@ style Christ Church House flats . The congregation of the church moved to nearby St Patrick 's Church .

The Dials Congregational Church stood at the junction of Clifton Road and Dyke Road (the site of the present Homelees House) between 1870 and 1972 , although it closed in 1969 . Its 150 @-@ foot (46 m) " Rhenish helm " -topped clock tower was prominent on the skyline , and behind was a large horseshoe @-@ shaped auditorium . The Romanesque Revival building , described as " uncouth " by Nikolaus Pevsner , was designed by Thomas Simpson . Work on Homelees House , a sheltered housing scheme , began in 1985 .

Norfolk Road Methodist Church , designed by C.O. Ellison , stood on Norfolk Road from 1868 until 1965 . It was a large Early English / Decorated Gothic Revival flint and stone building with a tower and spire , and it had an extensive array of stained glass . Externally and internally ? where the main aisle led the eye to the central altar , and the lectern and pulpit stood to one side ? there was little to distinguish it from an Anglican church , and it was known as the " Methodist Cathedral of the South " . Demographic changes meant the congregation dwindled , and the church closed in 1964 and was demolished the following year to be replaced by Braemar House , a large block of flats with a " bland red @-@ brick façade " .

= = = Other public buildings = = =

The Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children , " an important part of Brighton life and a well known local landmark " , was officially opened on 21 July 1881 and was used until 22 June 2007 , when a new children 's hospital opened on the Royal Sussex County Hospital campus elsewhere in the city . Designed by Thomas Lainson , it was a three @-@ storey Queen Anne @-@ style building of red brick with terracotta dressings and mouldings , enlivened by Dutch gables , cupolas and a moulded cartouche . Extensions included a colonnade of balconies (later enclosed) by the Clayton & Black firm in 1906 and a Vernacular @-@ style recessed wing of two storeys in 1927 ? 28 , partly tile @-@ hung and with timber decoration to the gables . The first mention of its potential closure came in 2001 , when the Government allocated £ 28 million towards new facilities at the Royal Sussex County Hospital on Eastern Road in Kemptown . By 2004 , it seemed likely that the building would be demolished and the site redeveloped with luxury flats . Montpelier residents were unsuccessful in their attempt to get the former hospital listed by English Heritage , who stated that Lainson 's original design had been altered so much that much of its character had been lost . Taylor Wimpey , a housebuilding company , bought the hospital in December 2006 , but their proposals to clear the site and build a combined residential development and GP surgery were refused twice by the city council , in 2007 and 2008 . In 2009 Taylor Wimpey appealed against the latest refusal to grant planning permission for 149 flats and a four @-@ day public inquiry was held at Brighton Town Hall in May 2009 . The local conservation group , the Montpelier and Clifton Hill Association , led the opposition to Taylor Wimpey 's plans to demolish the hospital . The planning inspector , John Papworth , turned down Taylor Wimpey 's appeal , praising the architectural quality of Thomas Lainson 's main building . " I consider that the main block and particularly its southern façade and the southern end of the Dyke Road frontage contribute positively to the character and

appearance of the conservation area , ? said Papworth . In 2010 Taylor Wimpey abandoned its plans to clear the site and put forward a compromise plan , which kept the main Lainson building but demolished the later ancillary buildings on the site . This plan , which was supported by the Montpelier and Clifton Hill Association was approved by the council in 2011 . Flats on the site went on sale (marketed as Royal Alexandra Quarter) in 2012 . The iconic main hospital building , to be called the Lainson building , is currently being restored and converted to provide 20 flats .

The Temple , now the main part of Brighton and Hove High School , was built in 1818 ? 19 by Amon Wilds or his son Amon Henry Wilds , and has been described as " certainly exotic enough for their tastes " . The Wilds , along with Charles Busby , were the three architects most closely associated with the development of Brighton and Hove in the Regency era and the exuberant , confident and strongly planned architecture which still characterises the city . The Temple was an early commission : they only moved to Brighton in 1814 . The north and east walls retain their original appearance : long colonnades are formed by a series of arches on top of paired vertical features of " bizarre form " . These have unusual capitals and have been described as resembling Egyptian @-@ style pilasters or engaged columns . The west and south façades also had these , but the building was drastically altered in 1911 ? 12 : the domed roof was replaced by a mansard , a curious central spiral staircase housed in a cylindrical structure was removed , and chimneys were taken away . The dimensions of the building match those of Solomon 's Temple in Jerusalem . The Temple is a Grade II listed building , and the large flint and brick wall surrounding the building is also listed at Grade II ; it is decorated with stone lion heads . An extension was also built at the southwest corner in 1891 .

Junior pupils shared the building with the senior school until 1904 , after which they moved several times : to Norfolk Terrace , Montpelier Crescent , the former vicarage (in 1922) and finally to new facilities in Hove . The former vicarage is now the school 's sixth @-@ form . George Cheesman & Son designed it on behalf of Vicar of Brighton Henry Michell Wagner in 1834 ? 35 ; it is a stuccoed building with prominent gables and windows with mullions and transoms . An ornate staircase survives inside .

= = = Residential squares and terraces = = =

= = = = Clifton Terrace = = = =

This runs east ? west across the slope of the hill , and has private gardens on the site of the former windmill which moved to Albion Hill in 1837 . Most construction work took place in 1846 ? 47 , but the 23 @-@ house terrace and its gardens were not finished until 1851 . The houses combine the Regency @-@ style " gaiety and exuberance " with the " charm and vigour " of Victorian architecture , and the use of angled bay windows set below tented canopies is a late example of this distinctive local practice . Each house is built as a villa , mostly with a three @-@ window range shared across two neighbouring houses (the middle window is blank) . Numbers 12 ? 14 project slightly and are taller . The houses are raised above the roadway , giving views into the private gardens on the south side and " a commanding view of the sea " . Number 25 , which stands separately and was also listed , was originally the Clifton Arms pub .

= = = = Denmark Terrace = = = =

The " heavy Italianate detailing " of the large four @-@ storey bay @-@ fronted houses on the east side identifies them as 1860s buildings . There are prominent cornices and pairs of porches whose style is reminiscent of the work of 18th @-@ century architect James Gibbs , and some houses are also linked by iron balconies on the top floor (a balcony runs along the whole length of the terrace at first @-@ floor level) . " Cheery " red @-@ brick Edwardian houses face the terrace .

= = = = Montpelier Crescent = = = =

Described as " the one great showpiece of the area " and " the grandest of [Amon Henry Wilds '] many works " , this crescent was developed over about 12 years from 1843 . The main section , numbers 7 ? 31 , was built between 1843 and 1847 and is Grade II * -listed . A further 13 houses (listed at Grade II) were added in four blocks , two at each end , in about 1855 . The houses are arranged as linked villas , alternating between triplets and pairs : this layout is unique , and the placement of the crescent to face inland towards the South Downs rather than the sea is also unusual . Most houses are of five bays with a central pediment . Recessed entrances , Corinthian pilasters topped by ammonite capitals and decorative mouldings characterise the houses . The gardens in front of the crescent are an important area of open space within the conservation area .

= = = = Montpelier Villas = = = =

Ten pairs of " delightful " semi @-@ detached villas , five on each side of the road , make up this mid @-@ 1840s development by Amon Henry Wilds . They are in the Italianate style with influences of Regency architecture , and have two bow windows with bonnet @-@ style canopies above , stuccoed walls with extensive rustication , prominently bracketed eaves and cast iron balconies . The " charming " houses are set in spacious plots in a former bluebell wood . The street was completed over the course of three years from about 1845 . All of the villas are listed buildings .

= = = = Norfolk Terrace , Norfolk Road and Belvedere Terrace = = = =

Norfolk Terrace is an 1850s development . On the west side , the first (northernmost) 13 houses are a tall terrace by Thomas Lainson , arranged as four pairs of flat @-@ fronted houses with a wider central elevation whose windows are large and round @-@ arched . The building is in the Italianate style . South of that , the next six houses (with segmental bay windows and cast iron balconies) have become the Abbey Hotel . Belvedere Terrace , built in 1852 for Mary Wagner , forms part of the east side of the road . It has four storeys , bow windows and balconies at first @-@ floor level . Two blocks of flats now occupy the site of Belvedere House , demolished in 1965 , but its cobbled flint garden wall survives . Various smaller @-@ scale houses , some of which are listed , line Norfolk Road , which developed between the 1830s and the 1860s ; canted bay windows and cast iron balconies are characteristic features . The street used to be called Chalybeate Street .

= = = = Powis Grove , Road , Square and Villas = = = =

Powis Square is a rare example in Brighton of a fully enclosed inland square : most such developments are on the seafront , and its architectural details and scale are similar to these . It is horseshoe @-@ shaped , and one side is formed by Powis Road . The square was developed by John Yearsley over a few years around 1850 : the leasehold to the land was granted on 17 September 1846 , and in 1852 seven people had moved in and another 14 houses were built but unoccupied . In some cases façades were built first and the structure of the house came later . A builder called Stephen Davey was responsible for many of the houses , which were originally planned to be flat @-@ fronted but which were given bow fronts when built . They rise to three storeys and have features of Georgian , Victorian and Palladian design . A small garden in the centre of the square , taken over by Brighton Corporation in 1887 , enhances its intimate scale . Powis Road 's houses are not listed , unlike those of Powis Square , and were built a decade later . They also have three storeys , and their façades have canted bay windows and cast iron balconies . St Michael and All Angels Church stands at the southern end . Powis Grove leads through to the east side of Powis Square and has various buildings of the mid 19th @-@ century , and Powis Villas has some listed detached and semi @-@ detached houses of the 1850s and a short terrace with a long canopied veranda .

= = = = Vernon Terrace = = = =

This long , tall terrace of houses blocked the view of the South Downs that Montpelier Crescent had when it was first built . Along with the crescent , it forms " a townscape of outstanding quality " . Only the west side of the road has houses , as the open space outside Montpelier Crescent fronts the east side . The terrace is in two parts : that to the south dates from the 1850s and is Grade II *-@ listed in two parts . Numbers 1 ? 6 have been dated to about 1860 and rise to three storeys (except numbers 1 and 6 , which have an extra storey) . Their individual detailing is slightly different , but pilastered doorcases , architraves , first *-@ floor cast iron balconies and small pediments above the windows are common themes . Numbers 7 ? 16 date from 1856 ? 57 and are each of four storeys with a three *-@ window range ; there is a mixture of bow windows and canted bays . Many windows have architraves and cornices , and there are bow *-@ fronted cast iron balconies at first *-@ floor level (and to the second and third floors at number 8) .

= = = Windmills = = =

Vine 's Mill , a post mill , only took that name in 1818 . William Vine moved to the area from Patcham , where he had previously been a miller , in August 1818 , having bought the mill at a recent auction . A house came with the windmill ; it survives under the name " Rose Cottage " on Vine Place , which also took its name from him (it was previously called Mill Place) . A storm in 1828 damaged the mill , but it was repaired . It was the subject of two paintings by Constable in the 1820s and a locally famous watercolour by Henry Bodle , who married into the Vine family , in 1843 . By this time Vine had died and the mill had been bought by Edward Cuttress of Round Hill . It was demolished in 1849 or 1850 , and the gardens at 6 and 7 Powis Villas now occupy the site .

A second windmill stood nearby and has been confused with Vine 's Mill in some sources . It is missed off most maps and has been called " something of an enigma " . It was a fan *-@ tailed post mill , larger than Vine 's Mill and of a more modern design ? although one historian stated that it existed in 1780 . It did not receive an official name until the mid *-@ 19th century , by which time it had been moved to Windmill Street on Albion Hill in the Carlton Hill area of Brighton : because it had stood where the private gardens of Clifton Terrace were later built , it became known as the Clifton Gardens Mill . The Windmill Inn on Upper North Street , licensed in 1828 , is close to the site of both mills ; sources disagree on which one it was named after .

= = = The Coach House = = =

Now a Grade II listed building , The Coach House stands on Clifton Hill . It was built as the coach house of Aberdeen Lodge (now 5 Powis Villas) . Statue *-@ maker Joseph Rogers Browne built this house for himself , along with the neighbouring villas at numbers 6 and 7 . He later wanted accommodation for his carriages , so in 1852 he erected the brick , flint and stucco building with space for two coaches and three horses . There was also a hay loft and a separate room for the coachman , and the exterior had Coade stone decoration . By the 1920s it had become a garage ; in 1937 , after this closed , the Royal Alexandra Children 's Hospital bought it and used it to store their ambulances . Local conservationists set up a limited company , which bought the building in 2006 , intending to turn it into a community centre and museum ; but it was repossessed in 2008 and was thereafter used for storage by a clothes shop . In its assessment of the building 's architectural importance when granting listed status in 2005 , English Heritage described it as a " substantially intact and rare survival " with " polite architectural and sculptural features " .

= = Heritage and conservation area = =

A building or structure is defined as " listed " when it is placed on a statutory register of buildings of " special architectural or historic interest " by the Secretary of State for Culture , Media and Sport , a Government department , in accordance with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 . English Heritage , a non *-@ departmental public body , acts as an agency of

this department to administer the process and advise the department on relevant issues . As of February 2001 , there were 24 listed buildings with Grade I status , 70 Grade II * -listed and 1 @, @ 124 Grade II @-@ listed buildings in Brighton and Hove . Grade I @-@ listed buildings are defined as being of " exceptional interest " and greater than national importance ; Grade II * , the next highest status , is used for " particularly important buildings of more than special interest " ; and the lowest grade , Grade II , is used for " nationally important buildings of special interest " . Many of Montpelier 's buildings are listed : in 1981 , 320 individual buildings were covered by an English Heritage listing , and the figure in 2010 was 351 .

In the United Kingdom , a conservation area is a principally urban area " of special architectural or historic interest , the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance " . Such areas are identified by local authorities according to criteria defined by Sections 69 and 70 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 . The Montpelier & Clifton Hill conservation area , one of 34 in the city of Brighton and Hove , was created in 1973 . Its boundaries were extended in 1977 , and it now covers 75 @.@ 4 acres (30 @.@ 5 ha) .

= = Notable residents = =

Many famous people have lived in Montpelier . Sara Forbes Bonetta , an African princess who became a favourite of Queen Victoria , lived at 17 Clifton Hill prior to her marriage at St Nicholas ' Church in 1862 to a merchant who lived at Victoria Road ; she was unhappy in Brighton , describing the house as a " desolate little pigsty " . Frederick William Robertson , a preacher , theologian and divine whose ministry at Brighton 's Holy Trinity Church was nationally famous , lived at 9 Montpelier Terrace from 1847 until 1850 , then at 60 Montpelier Road until his death in 1853 . Another resident of Montpelier Road was Dr William King , an important figure in the British cooperative movement , who owned number 23 . Eleanor Marx lived at 6 Vernon Terrace for a time in the late 19th century . Screenwriter Edward Knoblock 's home was at 20 Clifton Terrace , and another resident of that street was playwright and author Alan Melville : he lived at number 17 from 1951 until 1973 and then at 28 Victoria Street until his death in 1983 . Author Francis King lived at 17 Montpelier Villas , close to the 5 Powis Grove home of former MP Thomas Skeffington @-@ Lodge . He took legal action after noticing an " unflattering " resemblance to himself in King 's 1970 novel *A Domestic Animal* ; King had to sell his house to pay the legal costs after losing the case . Journalist and television personality Gilbert Harding ? " the most @-@ watched man on British television " during the 1950s ? lived at 20 Montpelier Villas until his death in 1960 . Bandleader Ray Noble 's birthplace , 1 Montpelier Terrace , has a blue plaque commemorating his time in Brighton .