

PREFACE

An awareness of the qualities of the local environment has always been general among the residents of the Edinburgh suburb known today as The Grange. Nonetheless it was only in 1973, when the East Grange Association was formed, that the views of concerned individuals were given more tangible expression. Growing public interest in its objectives led, in 1979, to the organisation extending its physical boundaries and changing its name to The Grange Association.

The report now placed before the public may be said to have had its origin in a lecture given to members of the then East Grange Association by Mrs. Sofia Leonard in Mayfield Church Hall on 29th May 1978. With the active encouragement of Dr. William Hale and Mrs. Angela Clarke, successive chairmen of the Association, Mrs. Leonard then began to prepare a conservation study for The Grange. The Association formed a Conservation Group of residents to assist Mrs. Leonard in making the case for Conservation Area designation; to seek the views of local residents and the planning authorities; and to compile a report.

The Conservation Group held its first meeting in September, 1980, chaired by Mr. William Rae, and in the course of 1981 arranged a Conservation Exhibition in Newington Public Library, conducted household and other surveys, and traced the history and development of the area, particularly during the Victorian period. The members of the Group brought to their task interest and enthusiasm as well as professional and amateur expertise in various fields of study. They have given up both time and resources entirely voluntarily, and they approached the project in a spirit of disinterested altruism.

The report is addressed to two distinctly different audiences. Primarily it offers evidence of a technical nature to the professional planners who must be persuaded that The Grange is worthy of designation as a Conservation Area under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967. At the same time, however, the report is also offered to the general reader: it is the hope of the authors that those residents of The Grange who are not professional planners, but who love the neighbourhood, will find the report informative, entertaining and satisfying. We hope that the report will stimulate further the local awareness that in The Grange the community in general possesses something of value, not only to Edinburgh, but also to Scotland.

Andrew Kerr

Chairman,
The Grange Association

Location of The Grange

