

Introduction

This Heritage Statement is written in support of a planning application for a Change of use of rear of 143 North Road to form additional external seating area for cafe/bar at 141 North Road and placing of planters to front (within a Conservation Area). The application reference is 2022/92944.

In March 2015, the Government released a series of documents as replacements for PPS 5, namely:

Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 1
Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2
Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3
Making Changes to Heritage Assets Advice Note 2

These documents set out information to help planning authorities make well informed local plans, provide useful information on repairing, restoring, and altering heritage assets and guidance on managing change to implement historic environment policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The site is in the Kirkburton Conservation Area but more than 200m from the nearest Listed Building or Scheduled Monument. Kirklees Council have not published a Conservation Area Appraisal.

The aim of the statement is to demonstrate that the applicant has a clear understanding of the Conservation Area and to confirm the likely impact of the proposals on the building. A conservation area is 'an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Conservation area status provides the opportunity to promote the protection and enhancement of the special character of the defined area. Designation confers a general control over development that could damage the area's character. The details are complex but can be summarised as:

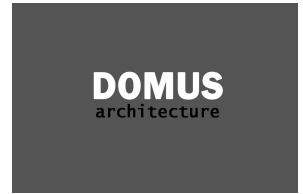
- Most demolition requires permission and will be resisted if the building makes a positive contribution to the area.
- Some minor works to houses is no longer "permitted development" and will require planning permission. Examples are rear dormer windows, external cladding and most satellite dishes on front elevations.
- Advertisement controls are tighter
- Most work to trees must be notified to the Council which has six weeks in which to decide to impose restrictions.
- Generally, higher standards of design apply for new buildings and alterations to existing ones.

Change is inevitable in most conservation areas, and it is not the intention of the designation to prevent the continued evolution of places. The challenge within conservation areas is to manage change in a way that maintains, reinforces and enhances the special qualities of the area.

Identification

Kirkburton is a village, civil parish and ward in Kirklees in West Yorkshire, England. It is 5 miles (8 km) south-east of Huddersfield. Historically part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, the township comprises the villages of Kirkburton and Highburton and several hamlets, including Thunder Bridge, Thorncliffe, Storthes Hall, Burton Royd, Riley, Dogley, Common Side, Causeway Foot, Lane Head and Linfit.

Nature of Significance



The area was populated in the Iron Age when a settlement was believed to have been built on the site of the church. A Saxon fort is also believed[by whom?] to have stood on that site. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book as Bertone in Wachefeld. The entry reads (translated):

"In Wakefield, with 9 Berewicks... are 60 carucates of land 3 bovates and the third part of 1 bovate to the geld. 30 ploughs could plough this land. This manor was in the demesne of King Edward; now, in the king's hand, there are 4 villans, and 3 priests and 2 churches, and 7 sokemen and 16 bordars. Together, they have 7 ploughs. [There is] woodland pasture 6 leagues long and 4 leagues broad. The whole [is] 6 leagues long and 6 leagues broad... To this manor belongs the soke of these lands... Kirkburton, 3 carucates... in all, there are 30 carucates to the geld, which 20 ploughs could plough. Now they are waste"

After the Norman Conquest the village grew from the waste recorded in 1086. Kirkburton was named after the church was built in 1190 and Highburton was built on the hill. In the Middle Ages the township was part of the Manor of Wakefield and Kirkburton church was at the head of a 16,000-acre (60 km²) parish, that extended to the Holme Valley. During the First English Civil War the villagers supported the Parliamentary cause. The priest, Gamaliel Whitaker, angered his parishioners by supporting the Royalists. He was denounced to the government forces who went to arrest him in 1644. During the struggle the soldiers shot his wife, Hester, in the ensuing confusion. Legend has it that her ghost haunts the old vicarage.

The population of the township increased with the growth of the textile trades. By 1800 the population was about 1,400; 60 years later, it was approaching 3,700. After this, there was a general decline and for nearly a century the figure was around 3,000. In 1971 there were 2,800 inhabitants but following housing developments at Highburton the population is nearer 5,000. The Huddersfield–Kirkburton Branch Line opened in 1867, serving two terminal railway stations as well as Deighton, Kirkheaton, Fenay Bridge and Lepton. It was unusual in that it was operated by the London and North Western Railway company in an area where the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway company had a virtual monopoly. Plans to extend the line to Barnsley never materialised and Kirkburton remained at the end of the line which was primarily used for goods traffic, although passenger services ran until 1930. The line continued as a transport goods until the 1960s, when a combination of road haulage and a decline in industry led to closure of the railway station in 1965. Evidence of the railway remains in the area around Northwood Park, a housing development built on the old route. Parts of the railway station remain, albeit in ruined state, and the bricked-up tunnel can be seen when travelling into the village centre from the Penistone Road.

A psychiatric hospital operated at Storthes Hall from 1904–1991. It was founded as an asylum, the Storthes Hall Mental Hospital (1929–1938), the West Riding Mental Hospital (1939–1948) and Storthes Hall Hospital (1949–1991). After the hospital closed the land was sold to the University of Huddersfield and halls of residence were built. Most of the site is the Storthes Hall Park Student Village, and the remaining area due for further development as a retirement village. Kirkburton's major industries were the woollen industry and coal. The village has a small shopping centre in Kirkburton but Highburton has become the residential centre

Extent of the Fabric that holds significance.

Settlement Form

Kirkburton's settlement form is largely the result of its medieval village origins and 19th century transformation to an industrial mill town and proud Borough

Activity and Grain.

The regular grid-form layout of the 19th century urban expansion surrounding the town centre, creates a townscape with a high degree of order. Within this strict framework the ranks of terraces add to the planned character. Their continuous, strong build lines flanking the streets, regular fine grain of uniform plot widths, two storey heights, patterns of standard elevation rhythms and architectural form all add to the ordered nature of the townscape. Often set hard on the pavement edge or behind small front gardens or yards this built form creates a distinctly urban streetscape dominated by hard landscaping.

Architectural Characteristics

Kirkburton's built environment is dominated by 19th century buildings that reflect the industrial activity, commercial prosperity and civic pride of that period. Earlier buildings survive that provide glimpses of the pre-industrial settlement including 17th century gentry houses and 18th century weaver's cottages. Generally good levels of historic survival produce a coherent townscape with a high degree of completeness and integrity.

Materials

The predominant material of Kirkburton is local sandstone, commonly used in coursed, regular, shaped and faced blocks. Thinner, rough-faced pieces and rock-faced, shaped blocks are also present. Dressings, lintels, jambs and sills are generally of monolithic stone.

Level of importance of the interest

Key Characteristics of Area:

- Intermixing of residential and commercial uses.
- Common material of local sandstone
- Limited greenspace

Opportunities for management and enhancement

- Recognise the historic importance of the surviving 18th century buildings by encouraging their sensitive repair and appropriate use.
- Streetscape enhancements to their setting should reflect their importance.
- Secure the sensitive repair and reuse of the important industrial structures that are defining features of the character of the area.

Impact on the Heritage Asset

The proposals actively seek to enhance the character of the conservation area by making a significant streetscape enhancement that improves the setting of the remaining 18th Century buildings. New development in historic areas must:

- Relate well to the geography and history of the place and the lie of the land
- Sit happily in the pattern of existing development and routes through and around it
- Respect important views
- Respect the scale of neighbouring buildings
- Use materials and building methods which are as high in quality as those used in existing buildings
- Create new views and juxtapositions which add to the variety and texture of their setting.



The development will also seek to bring back into use a small parcel of land to the rear of 143 North Road but combining it with the approved garden area of the café bar at 141 North Road. Additionally, the installation of half barrel planters to the front elevation will continue an emerging trend that is apparent from other, local commercial buildings.

Opportunities to enhance the Heritage Asset

To be successful, any future development within the conservation area needs to be mindful of the local character of the town, while at the same time being distinctly of the 21st century and addressing contemporary issues such as sustainability. Successful new development in historic areas should:

- Relate well to the geography and history of the place and the lie of the land
- fit happily in the pattern of existing development and routes through and around it
- Respect important views
- Respect the scale of neighbouring buildings
- Respect historic boundary walls and retain historic garden plots
- Use materials and building methods which are as high in quality as those used in existing buildings
- Create new views and juxtapositions which add to the variety and texture of their setting.

Conclusions

The application represents an opportunity to bring a redundant yard space back into use, whilst simultaneously improving the setting of the existing buildings.

The design uses the dominant materials found in the area and creatively responds to the historic environment in terms of layout, density and spatial separation.

The scale, and form of the development respects the historic environment, whilst creating new vistas to add to its setting.