

HERITAGE STATEMENT

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For

Batley Grammar School

HERITAGE STATEMENT

for

ENTRANCE REMODEL STEPS & RAMP
at
BATLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BATLEY

Apr 2026

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Introduction

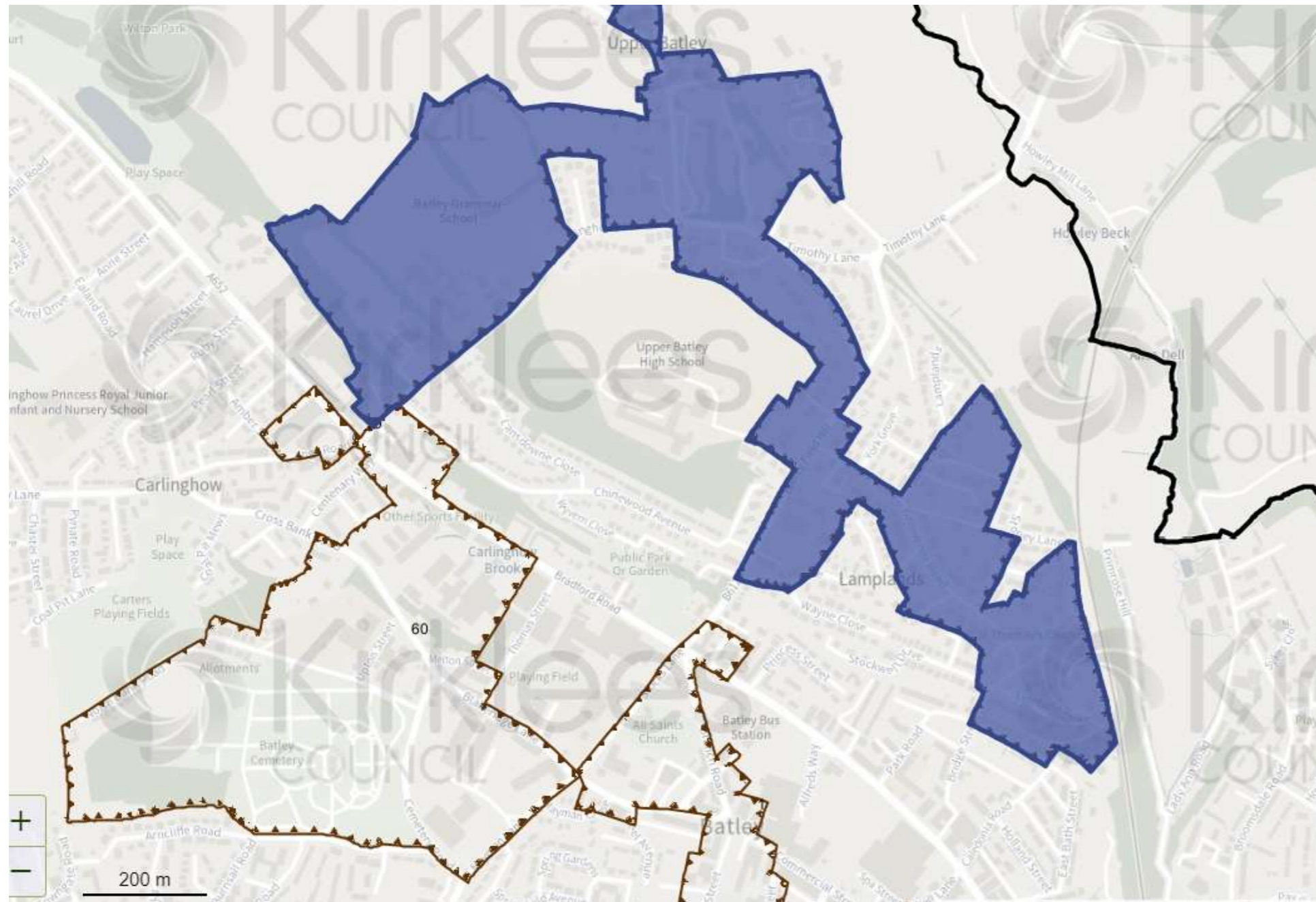
This Heritage Statement) has been prepared in support of a planning and application for the new entrance steps at Batley Grammar School

BATLEY CONSERVATION AREA

INTRO –

A conservation area is an 'area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance' (Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990).

Upper Batley is one of 59 existing conservation areas in Kirklees. Upper Batley conservation area was first designated by Kirklees Council in 1979 and was redesignated in 2006. It is located approximately 1 km north-west of Batley town centre



Upper Batley is recognised as a conservation area due to its special architectural and historic interest. It has a unique Victorian suburban quality which contrasts with the predominant industrial character of main Batley.

Batley lies on the middle coal measure. Historically surface outcropping of the coal seam was common and contributed to the early development of Batley. However, coal mining in the area has long since ceased. Sandstone was also relatively abundant. The sandstone in the area comprise good building stone, and over time quantities of sandstone have been used locally to construct buildings.

Prior to the 1700s little is known of the history of Upper Batley, and in particular Upper Batley. Probably starting with a few small settlements, around 1813 with cloth manufacture from reclaimed rags. As members of Batley gained in wealth, Upper Batley began to develop as a favoured suburban location for wealthy mill owners resulted in larger Victorian properties being built in Upper Batley. The wealthy business people invested in the Church of St Thomas at Grosvenor Road and also helped fund the construction of the schools and hospital. A hospital was erected at the southwest of Carlinghow Hill in 1881 and Batley Free School was first erected in 1613 by Rev. Lee. The building was subsequently rebuilt and enlarged in 1818 and 1877.

Upper Batley conservation area has 2 listed buildings, The Church of St. Thomas and the Banqueting House, Batley Hall. The area also encompasses many buildings which are not listed such as Batley Hall. The Victorian era saw wealth of Upper Batley being used to help those less fortunate. There was the construction of two schools in Upper Batley, Batley Free School and Batley Boys Grammar School. Batley Free School was first erected in 1613 by Rev. Lee. The building was subsequently rebuilt and enlarged in 1818 and 1877. A hospital was erected at the south-west of Carlinghow Hill in 1881.



Postcard collection of Maggie Land Blanck

Posted 1909

The Batley Grammar School located in Carlinghow Hill was a free school founded in 1612.

Batley Grammar School

The school was founded in 1612 by the Rev. William Lee. In 1878, the school moved to its current site at Carlinghow Hill, Upper Batley. In 1978 became an independent school for boys who's parents could afford the fees.

The school introduced girls into the sixth form in 1988 and became co-educational in 1996. In 2011, it became a state-funded. A junior school, Priestley House (after [Joseph Priestley](#), an old Batelian) is set in the grounds.



Batley Grammar School Buildings

None of the building on the school grounds are registered as listed. The buildings range from Victorian stone to modern stone, red brick, metal fabricated panels and rainscreen cladding. The main entrance is Victorian with the most detailing on the site. Progressing from the front facade the buildings have limited detailing. Later additions range from natural stone which change to red brick expansions in the early 20th century. Later dated construction changed to construction methods with gym, hall and science accommodations utilising metal panels, concrete with cladding and timber. Temporary accommodation portacabin type structures are located around the site.





Victorian Stone original Building



Early Hall Addition



Early 20 century Brick Addition



Brick Addition



Brick and Stone to Gym



Metal Cladding to Sports Hall late 20 Century



Rainscreen Cladding Modern Refurbishment



Prefabricated Building



Prefabricated Buildings

Heritage Impact Assessment

The entrance steps, ramp and doors is deemed to enhance the original Victorian building and the conservation site for the following reasons:

- The proposals allow wheelchair access to the main entrance.
- The proposed structure is in natural stone materials to complement the existing building
- The new proposal is sympathetic to the existing.
- The existing steps do not comply with DDA requirements. No handrails, ramp, nosings. Treads are worn and suitable.

Justification for the Building

The new steps and ramp:

- The proposal makes the entrance accessible for all.
- The proposal provides new steps and a ramp with handrails, visible nosing's to ensure DDA compliance.
- Proposals improve accessibility
- The new proposal improves the main entrance making it more attractive welcoming and inclusive approach.

