21-23 School Hill, Kirkburton - Heritage Statement July 2026

1.0 Introduction

This Heritage Statement supports a planning application to subdivide the single dwelling at 21-23 School Hill, Kirkburton, back into two dwellings — 21 School Hill and 23 School Hill — as originally built. The property lies within the Kirkburton Conservation Area, so the Council must pay special attention to preserving or enhancing its character under Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

2.0 The Building and Its History

21-23 School Hill is an unlisted, traditionally stone-built property forming part of the historic core of Kirkburton village. Erected in 1859 of coursed stone under a stone-slate roof.

The building was not originally constructed as one house but as two separate dwellings, 21 and 23 School Hill. At some later point the two were knocked through internally to form a single dwelling, externally the front door of 23 school hill was blocked-up to cill level to create a window opening

3.0 The Proposal

The application simply reverses that internal knock-through, reinstating the two original dwellings. The works comprise:

- No extension or change to the building's footprint.
- Reinstatement of the front door to 23 School Hill.
- Enlargement of the existing openings to the north-west elevation to create access to the amenity/garden area.
- Each dwelling gets its own kitchen and bathroom facilities via internal division.

4.0 Impact on the Conservation Area

Because the building already looks like a pair of houses externally, and none of the proposed works, other than the reinstatement of the original front door, will be visible from School Hill, and there will be no changes to the roofline. The proposal restores the building's historic form rather than altering it, so it preserves, and arguably better reveals, the character of the Conservation Area.

5.0 Conclusion

21-23 School Hill was originally two dwellings later combined into one. This application only reverses that change, restoring 21 and 23 School Hill with minimal external alteration. The proposal preserves the character and appearance of the Kirkburton Conservation Area and accords with the NPPF and Kirklees Council's heritage policies.