

HERITAGE STATEMENTS

When is a Heritage Statement needed?

A Heritage Statement is needed when a proposed development affects a heritage asset which is a conservation area, listed building, locally listed building or archaeological site. The scope and detail necessary will vary according to the particular circumstances of each application.

Is this the same as a Design and Access Statement?

A Design and Access Statement is a short statement on how the proposal would affect access to the property and the reasons behind the chosen design. These are required for major applications, sites in conservation areas where one or more dwellings are proposed, or where a building or buildings are proposed with a floor space of 100 square metres or more. Further guidance on the content of Design and Access Statements can be found in 'The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) (Amendment) Order 2013'.

What information should be included in a Heritage Statement?

The level of detail in the statement will vary depending on the extent of the proposals and the importance of the building. For example larger development proposals that include demolition and new build in a conservation area will require a more in-depth approach than the replacement of a boundary wall or a front door. For most applications the heritage statement will include the following information, under each one are some points for you to consider including:

A description of the heritage asset and its setting

- What type of heritage asset is it, for example is it a listed building or located next to a scheduled monument?
- What age is the building?
- What are the main building materials used and does it have any significant architectural features, for example it might have a porch over the door or arched windows which make it stand out?
- What is the surrounding area like, for example is it part of a conservation area or next to a scheduled ancient monument?
- What are the main uses of the buildings in the street for example are they houses, shops or offices?

An assessment of the significance

- How does the building contribute to the historic character of the area?
- Is it the only building of its kind or is it part of a group of similar buildings?
- Are there any distinctive architectural features for example unusual dormer windows or brickwork?
- Is there anything in the setting of the building that contributes to the appearance?

An explanation of the design for the proposed development

- For small scale alterations describe the design and proposed materials e.g. replacement windows or doors.
- For extensions to buildings or proposals for new development describe the layout, scale and appearance e.g. building materials and architectural detail.

Describing the impact of the proposed development

- Would the proposed development be visible from any public viewpoint?
- Would the proposed development involve the loss or change to any original features?
- What would the impact of new development be on the appearance, character and setting of the building?

The statement should show that you have considered all of the relevant issues and sought to preserve the special appearance and character of the building or area affected.

Where can I find the information to put in my heritage statement?

Listed below are some documents to assist with your research and useful points of contact.

Conservation areas

Conservation area plans for the eight conservation areas in the Borough can be found on our website or at Civic Centre. You can look at these to see if your building is in a conservation area. There are character appraisals for all of the conservation areas. These provide information on the area and might help when you are describing the character of the area.

Listed buildings

There is a list of all of the buildings that are listed on our website or a paper copy of the document can be viewed at the Civic Centre. Each entry provides a short description of the building, this is not a list of what is and isn't listed, but it may provide assistance identifying architectural features and the age of the building.

Locally listed buildings

The local list is available on our website or at the Civic Centre. It provides a short description for each entry on the list and in some cases relevant history.

Hartlepool heritage at risk register

This document provides information on heritage assets across Hartlepool that are derelict or vulnerable because they are not in use. It is available on our website and at the Civic Centre. Each entry provides basic background information on the asset at risk.

Policy and guidance documents

The Hartlepool Local Plan provides general background information on the character of the borough and might be a useful starting point if you are not familiar with the town. It also has current policy guidance that's useful to consider when thinking about new development.

Guidance on replacement windows and doors is also available. This will give an indication of the type of materials and design that may be appropriate to consider when carrying out minor works.

Further research

Tees Archaeology holds the Historic Environment Record for Hartlepool. This is a database of information on historic assets across the borough. It can be viewed by appointment on contacting Tees Archaeology.

The Reference Library on York Road holds local information including books on the history and development of Hartlepool and historic photographs that could be used as sources of information. Additionally, Teesside Archives holds information from both public and private sources across Teesside and it is a useful place for researching local history.

The website 'Hartlepool History Then and Now' holds a wealth of information about the heritage of the town, including historic photographs.

Useful addresses and contact details:

Heritage and Countryside

Level 1, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY
Tel: (01429) 523275
E-mail: heritageandcountryside@hartlepool.gov.uk
www.hartlepool.gov.uk/builtheritage

Tees Archaeology

Sir William Gray House,
Clarence Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8BT
Tel: (01429) 523455.
E-mail: tees.archaeology@hartlepool.gov.uk
www.teesarchaeology.com

Hartlepool Reference Library

Central Library, 124 York Road,
Hartlepool, TS24 9DE
Tel: (01429) 242909.
E-mail: infodesk@hartlepool.gov.uk
www.prism.talis.com/hartlepool/

Teesside Archives

Exchange House, 6 Marton Road,
Middlesbrough, TS1 1DB
Tel: (01642) 248321
E-mail: Teesside_archives@middlesbrough.gov.uk