



Design, Access, and Heritage Impact Assessment

Parton Milestone

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amey consulting

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of works

- 1.1.1 Amey have been commissioned by National Highways to assess and design improvements to the Grade II Listed Milestone East of Parton Police Station (hereinafter referred to as 'the Milestone') (National Heritage List entry reference 1312397) and secure the relevant permissions to carry out the works (Ref 1).
- 1.1.2 In line with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) guidance HA 117/08 (Ref 2), in 2016 Highways England (now National Highways) commissioned a Cultural Heritage Asset Management Plan (CHAMP) to be prepared, which highlighted various local heritage assets located within the highways boundary that should be subjected to improvement plans (Ref 3). Among these assets, the Milestone at Parton was highlighted as a possible option for improvement through the restoration of the missing plaque and additional work to improve the Milestone setting.

1.2. Description of asset

- 1.2.1 This Milestone is one of four listed along the southern portion of the A595, sitting to the western side between the road and the village of Parton. The paint has fallen off the milestone with only one plaque remaining.



Plate 1: Milestone taken from north east

1.3. Planning history

- 1.3.1 No previous planning applications or listed building consents could be found relating to the Milestone.

1.4. Nature of proposal

- 1.4.1 The proposed works will restore the Milestone by recasting the missing plaque and repainting the feature in the original black and white style, as shown in Appendix A.
- 1.4.2 As well as the proposed restoration to the stone, an area of gravel measuring approximately 1.2m by 2m will be installed surrounding the milestone to discourage weed growth. The existing vegetation will be cut back, with the area replanted using grass and native bulbs to improve the setting.
- 1.4.3 At the request of Copeland Borough Council's (CBC) Conservation Officer, this application retrospectively covers the creation of the concrete plinth, on which the Milestone is currently situated, though the date for the installation of this is unknown.

1.5. Consultation

- 1.5.1 A consultation exercise was carried out on 15th September 2021 with CBC, who highlighted that the works would require planning permission and Listed building Consent.
- 1.5.2 The Milestone Society were consulted on 15th September 2021 and were supportive of the project and highlighted their guidance documents (Ref 4).
- 1.5.3 Historic England were consulted on 15th September 2021 with no response received to date, however works to Grade II monuments are handled by local authorities.

2. Asset significance

2.1. Description

- 2.1.1 The Milestone is a mid-Nineteenth century, sandstone block square. The Milestone measures approximately 600mm in height, 350mm along each edge with a broadly flat top. A small portion has been knocked off at the south-western corner, which measures approximately 260mm in diameter.
- 2.1.2 The plaque covering the south eastern face is of the milestone is still fixed to the stone. The plaque is made of cast iron, with a raised border and lettering, which reads "TO WHITEHAVEN 2 MILES". The stone is mounted on a concrete platform measuring 600mm square, and approximately 155mm in height.



Plate 2: Milestone taken from east



Plate 3: Milestone taken from south west



Plate 4: Milestone plaque

2.1.3 The second edition Ordnance Survey Map shows the Milestone sitting at its current position south of the junction to Parton with the plaque's directions stated (Figure 1).



Figure 1: 1926 Second Edition OS Map

2.2. Interest

2.2.1 The milestone highlights the historic land use of the road as part of the toll roads in Cumbria, with the roads in this portion of the county being the first to be designated turnpike roads. The roads were placed in control

of a trust as part of the Whitehaven Harbour Act of 1739 (Ref 5). This was done to ensure the roads to Whitehaven harbour were kept in good condition and eventually extended to cover the surrounding road to Whitehaven.

- 2.2.2 The milestone, having retained its original plate, is of note as many plates have been removed or fallen off over time.
- 2.2.3 The four milestones along this section of the A595 have a group value associated with them.

2.3. Significance

- 2.3.1 The Milestone is considered of moderate archaeological significance, as it is Grade II Listed and has a group value with the other Milestones located along the A595.

3. Impact on significance

3.1. Negative impacts

- 3.1.1 The process of carrying out work will present an element of risk to the Milestone with works having the potential to cause damage to the existing stone.

3.2. Positive impacts

- 3.2.1 By restoring the milestone with a recast plaque and painting it would provide a direct improvement to the listed feature.
- 3.2.2 Planting around the Milestone would improve the setting by increasing the visibility from the road and protecting the plinth and Milestone from weed and vegetation growth.

4. Summary

- 4.1.1 Repainting of the Milestone to the original colours will improve the visibility from the road and increase public awareness of this location, thereby raising to profile of all Milestones along the route.
- 4.1.2 Work will be carried out by suitably qualified, trained, and experienced operators with the condition of the Milestone monitored throughout the duration of the works. Work will stop if potential for further damage is noted.

5. References

Ref 1 - Historic England <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1312397>, accessed 12/10/2021

Ref 2 - Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (2008) HA 117/08 Environmental design and management. Archaeology. Cultural heritage asset management plans

Ref 3 - Mouchel, (2016). Highways England Area 13, Cultural Heritage Asset Management Plan

Ref 4 - Milestone Society <https://www.milestonesociety.co.uk/caring-for-or-repairing-milestones/> accessed 12/10/2021

Ref 5 - Whitehaven Harbour Act (1739) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukla/2007/1/enacted> accessed 12/10/2021