

**CUMBERLAND COUNCIL
CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Proposal: Artwork

Address: Old Water Tower, Gosforth Road, Seascale

Reference: 4/23/2233/OL1

Date: 4/9/23

Description: A grade II listed Victorian water tower formerly associated with the railway infrastructure, now out of use.

Conclusion: No objection (condition suggested)

Assessment:

- I am supportive of the principle of this proposal, which will increase the cultural offering in Seascale and give an additional dimension to the use of the water tower.
- The location and detailing of the artwork and its interpretation board do not appear to entail any harm to the significance of the tower or the settings of any nearby heritage assets.
- I would suggest the addition of a condition to any consent requiring that the mounting holes for the bracket be inserted into mortar joints where possible to minimise drilling into masonry, and that the holes be made good with a colour-matched mortar when the artwork is removed following a twelve month period.

Relevant Policies and Guidance:

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 establishes a need “in considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works [for the Local Planning Authority to] have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest” [Section 16(2)]. This requirement also applies to the granting of planning permission affecting a listing building or its setting [Section 66(1)].

Paragraph 134 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) asserts that “Development that is not well designed should be refused”.

NPPF para. 197 states that “In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation...”

NPPF para. 199 states, in the case of designated heritage assets, “great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation”, irrespective of whether potential harm is substantial, less-than-substantial, or total loss. Where harm to a designated heritage asset is less-than-substantial, it should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal (para. 202).

The former Copeland Borough Council’s Local Plan contains a number of relevant policies:

- Local Plan Policy ST1C(ii) highlights the importance of protecting, enhancing and restoring the Borough's cultural and heritage features and their settings.
- ST1D emphasizes the council's commitment to creating and retaining quality places.
- ENV4A stresses the importance of protecting listed buildings, conservation areas and other features considered to be of historic, archaeological or cultural value.
- ENV4B outlines support for heritage-led regeneration, ensuring assets are put to appropriate, viable and sustainable uses.
- DM27A outlines support in principle for developments that "protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic, cultural and architectural character of the borough's historic sites and their settings".
- DM27D highlights the necessity of avoiding disrespectful alterations, substantial demolition, adverse effects on setting or views, or changes of use that harm the conservation or economic viability of a listed building.

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