

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT
WHITEHAVEN WEST PIER LIGHTHOUSE
WHITEHAVEN HARBOUR & MARINA

The West Pier Lighthouse standing proudly at 14 metres high is at the end of the West Pier at Whitehaven Harbour & Marina. In recent years it has unfortunately fallen into a state of disrepair through lack of ongoing maintenance. Built in 1839, it is much loved and enjoyed by Whitehaven communities and visiting tourists alike acting as a beacon for the town literally and figuratively. It is an important feature for the town standing as centre-piece and focal point for Whitehaven.

Access to the Lighthouse is straightforward being at the end of the Harbour walls and is a popular spot for fishing and a destination point for visiting and viewing the town and harbour. The Harbour itself has acted as a source of exercise during the pandemic and has been a focus for wellbeing and health during these challenging times. Access is permitted to pedestrians only (no vehicles unless by permission from the Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners).

The Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners exist for the good of the Harbour and its assets. The WHC mission is to conserve and promote the safe use of the Harbour for everyone for generations to come. Whitehaven Harbour has been in situ since the 17th Century.

Given the strong public feeling (monitored via the press, social media and a public forum) surrounding the condition (lack of) and “look” (disrepair) of the West Pier Lighthouse, it has been decided to address the issue and renovate the Lighthouse back to looking as it has done in the past. This is not to seek to do anything new to the Lighthouse, nor is it to add anything to it. The scheme is to simply put it back to how it was, so that from the outside it looks painted as was (mainly white with borders of red), that the glazing is replaced as was and that the ironwork is restored to as was (around the parapet).

Accordingly, there are no design elements as such other than to replace like for like and restore to the original. The decision not to do anything new with it, or alter anything, was to acknowledge and be proud that they have been a prominent and important feature of the town and harbour and that their history should be celebrated by keeping it as is. Giving it this TLC will make a significant difference to the communities and the tourists and encourage engagement with the rich history of Whitehaven.

During the works there will be scaffolding in place and there will be restricted access to the public with 24/7 security in place for the site compound that will be in place around the Lighthouse. Post-Project, access will be unchanged from pre-Project with the Harbour West Pier open to all. Consideration however will be given to looking at the possibility of giving the public access into the Lighthouse itself (currently access inside the Lighthouse is strictly controlled by WHC) and onto the parapet to further encourage engagement and also generate revenues to be reinvested into Lighthouse ongoing upkeep.