

WEST PIER LIGHTHOUSE, WHITEHAVEN
HERITAGE STATEMENT

National Grid Reference:

NX 96707 18683

West Pier Lighthouse 1. 1814

NX 91 NE 2/7

Il 2. Simple stone lighthouse with glazed lantern and ogival cupola, probably circa 1839.

Listing NGR: NX9670718683

As above, the Lighthouse is a very simple stone structure built in 1839 and standing proud as a beacon for Whitehaven, alongside its counterpart, the North Pier Lighthouse. It has stood in various states of repair and disrepair for 182 years acting as an aid to navigation for countless mariners through those years. It has, through pandemic times, become a symbol of the town, engaged with by even more people than before. Almost as if it has become a beacon not just for Mariners but for the whole town. Given the nature of that importance attached to it and the clear strong feeling amongst the community it was decided to renovate the West Pier Lighthouse.

Consideration was given to the age of the building, its structural soundness and its importance to Mariners and to the community, as well as it being part of Whitehaven's tourism offer. The aim therefore was to, as with the structure itself, keep it very simple and aim to replicate what was already there and perform maintenance on it so that it presented as a well maintained, cared and looked after structure. In terms of the painting colours the aim was to replicate what was there before mainly white with red trimmings. The whiteness being in line with the requirements of Trinity House and the fact that it is an aid to navigation.

The glazing in the roof area was severely in disrepair and largely missing, various patched jobs had taken place previously. Again, the intention was to replicate where possible what was there previously in every aspect. There was disrepair in the roof structure and the intention here was to use what materials could be recovered and replicate with new to complete the maintenance therein.

The Lighthouse had clearly suffered from years of lacking a full maintenance programme and the Project is intended to address that condition of the building so that it is back to a position of being well maintained.

There is nothing to be added to the Lighthouse, nothing to be taken away. The Plan is to simply maintain it back to where it was in its prime.

The impact this will have on the town and its communities as well as to visitors from afar will be very significant in a positive way. It will act as a symbol of regeneration in Whitehaven, alongside the new developments at the Bus Station and The Edge Coastal Activity Centre which will be built just a few hundred yards away. As a structure that has stood so long against the forces of nature that Whitehaven Harbour has thrown at it, it is only appropriate that it should be maintained to a high standard. That is what these works seek to do.