

The Edge – Whitehaven

Heritage Statement



Document ref: 2452_HS_13_03_2023

Prepared by:

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Date:

13 March 2023

Document Revision Sheet

Project Description

Project Reference

Client

The Edge, West Strand, Whitehaven

2452

Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners

	Description	Date	By	Reviewed
-	First Issue	13.03.23	JLW	IG

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1 Introduction

This document provides a Heritage Statement for the proposed car park that is to be used in conjunction with the Cumbria Coastal Activities Centre to be based on West Strand, Whitehaven Harbour in the Borough of Copeland.

The client for the development is the Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners and instruction in relation to matters here have been given by North Mill Associates (retained Architects).

The document should be read in conjunction with the plans and information prepared by NorthMill Associates and submitted as part of the planning application for the proposed works.

The scheme proposal comprises:

- Refurbishment works to existing car park.
- Formation of cycle parking area
- Soft landscaping works
- Formation of pavement areas
- Installation of storage containers for storage of kayaking and canoeing equipment.
- Erection of bin and LPG storage compounds.

The proposal seeks to provide the necessary amenities and infer structure in relation to the development of the Cumbria Coastal Activities Centre – “The Edge”.

2 Heritage Statement

A Heritage Statement is an assessment of the significance of heritage assets and/ or their settings affected by a development, and of the impacts of that development upon them.

A Heritage Asset is a “building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest.” The term “heritage asset” includes designated heritage assets and non-designated assets identified by the LPA (including local listing).

The site of this proposal is within the Whitehaven Town Centre Conservation Area and abuts the Listed structure of the harbour and that designation coincides with the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the harbour. The designated structures are not directly affected by the provision in the proposal for the works to the exiting car park.

The West pier (Old and New) were developed in the early 19th century and certainly by the mid-Victorian period there were buildings on the site associated with Wellington Pit (to the immediate south). There is no trace of those structures now.

Whitehaven as a commercial port effectively died from the mid 1980s with the ceasing of importing phosphate rock to the Albright and Wilson works at Woodhouse. At the same time the last coal mine closed and coal exports ceased (coal exports being the basis for the development of the port from the 1630’s onwards). With no retained water at low tide the Port effectively was dying on its feet. A local regeneration initiative with local, regional and national partners and the private sector created a development company to drive forward regeneration. English Heritage were part of that initiative, as saving the heritage assets was seen as a high priority. The economic basis for the harbour operations now relate principally to leisure (Marina) and fishing.

Over the last 25 years significant developments have taken place, many on harbour frontages like this site and some actually on the harbour itself.

These include:

- The Beacon
- Lock gates to give 22 hour access to the Irish Sea
- Resurfacing all the piers
- Erection of the Crows Nest structure and the Wave
- Development of a new fish dock and market on Bulwark Quay
- Marina development, again on Bulwark Quay
- Removal of old fishing infrastructure on Sugar and Lime Tongues
- Development of Blencathra House
- Redevelopment of Pears House for residential use

Whilst being successful a key requirement is to provide sustainability to the harbour from a financial perspective. The Harbour Commissioners have a major responsibility to see the harbour being a success. Income provides the resource to sustain the heritage asset.

The refurbishment and improvement works to the car park are to allow this with the car park to be used in association with the proposed Cumbria Coastal Activity Centre – “The Edge” which is located adjacent to the proposed works.

The area in question has currently been used as a car park. Although this car park has been well maintained it has become tired with some of the elements within the car park are reaching the end of their serviceable life.

No historic fabric is to be removed as part of the proposed works, although there will be the provision for reinstating surface finishes to match existing to the car park and realignment of the existing road to accord with the revised car park layout.

The details of the design and materials to be used are provided in plans accompanying the Planning Application. These drawings show the use of materials that that are proposed for the car park and comprise of the following:

- The existing car parking surface is to be retained and repaired/repaired as necessary with pavers to match existing.
- Timber close boarding fencing is to be used to form a bin enclosure and fencing to the existing arch structures.
- Black coloured haras type fencing to form a compound to an LPG tank
- Storage containers with painted finish to provide storage for the facilities in the Coast Activities Centre, The storage containers as well are to be fitted with Solar panels to provide a source of energy for the Coastal Activities Centre.
- Remove and replacement of existing signage and lampposts
- Provision for 16 Nr Cycle parking bays
- Provision for 19 Nr parking Bays
- Reinstatement of soft landscaped areas
- Associated hard landscaped areas/paths in materials to match existing hard landscaped areas

The materials chosen are to reflect the existing area and are to allow the car park works to be in context with what is currently present on the site and its future use.

As such it is felt that it is felt that the proposal will enhance this area and will reflect the proposed building that it is intended to service as well as providing day to day car parking for those using/visiting the harbour.

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