

8.6 Heritage Statement

Background

The first purpose of National Park designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of Exmoor. The National Park is rich in history and important cultural heritage.

Conservation Area applications will need to assess the importance of the Heritage asset and the wider impact on the Conservation Area of the proposed changes.

Paragraph 128 of the National Planning policy Framework explains:

In determining applications, Local Planning Authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

Requirements

The Heritage Statement will need to explain the approach to ensuring that the historic and special architectural important of the listed building is preserved or enhanced. Where an aspect of the design has the potential to affect this adversely, the statement should explain why it is necessary, and what measures have been taken to minimise its impact.

The scope and degree of detail necessary in a Heritage Statement will vary according to particular circumstances of each application. Applicants are advised to discuss proposals with either a planning officer or a conservation officer before any application is made. The following is a guide to the sort of information that may be required for different types of application.

For applications for listed building consent, a written statement that includes:

- ◆ an analysis of the significance of archaeology, history and character of the building/structure,
- ◆ a schedule of works to the listed building(s),
- ◆ the principles of and justification for the proposed works and their impact on the special character of the listed building or structure,
- ◆ an analysis of its setting and the setting of adjacent listed buildings may be required.
- ◆ A structural survey may be required to support the application.

As the Listing Description is only a method to identify a listed building, and is unlikely to form a list of the key historic features, commenting only on the listing description is unlikely to meet the requirements of a Heritage Statement.

For applications for planning permission for relevant demolition in a conservation area written statement that includes:

- ◆ a structural survey,
- ◆ an analysis of the character and appearance of the building/structure,
- ◆ the principles of and justification for the proposed demolition, and
- ◆ its impact on the special character of the area may be required.

On many occasions this will be simple because of the poor quality of the element to be removed, on others, there will need to be more detailed justification.



ENPA: Dunster Tithe Barn