

PC 352-21

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING – 16 February 2021

HERITAGE ASSETS - PLANNING BRIEFING NOTE

Report by: Sally Knott - Senior Building Design and Conservation Officer
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Summary:

The Building Design and Conservation officers have compiled a list of non-designated heritage assets identified to date within the New Forest National Park from the existing records on the Authority's mapping systems and planning history. They have also produced a planning briefing note on heritage assets in accordance with the programme of work endorsed by Members at the February 2020 Planning Committee.

The list provides the National Park Authority with a consistent and accountable means of identifying non-designated heritage assets and giving them the appropriate degree of consideration in planning decisions. The list will be updated as and when additional assets are identified through the Authority's planning work. The accompanying briefing note clarifies the difference between designated and non-designated heritage assets, and explains the existing national and local policy and guidance on how they are both to be treated within the planning system. The note also introduces the New Forest National Park's 'local list', and explains how non-designated heritage assets can be added to and removed from the list.

The intention of these two documents is to assist liaison with applicants, agents, consultees and others in the planning process and to help foster a greater knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritage of the National Park and ensure new development is high quality, sympathetic, and in keeping with the National Park.

- 1. Recommendations: Members endorse the list of non-designated heritage assets to be published on the New Forest National Park Authority website (Annex 1).**
- 2. Members endorse the use of the Heritage Assets - Planning Briefing Note (Annex 2) for use in the delivery of the Authority's statutory planning functions.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. At the February 2020 Planning Committee, Members endorsed a programme of works for three key Building Design and Conservation projects scheduled in the 2018-2021 Business Plan. One of the projects was to publish a list of non-designated heritage assets in order to foster greater knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritage of the National Park. The work programme for this project also included publishing an accompanying briefing note on heritage assets to help explain the identification process and appropriate treatment of non-designated heritage assets in the National Park.
- 1.2. Publishing a list of non-designated heritage assets with an accompanying guidance note has become an increasingly pressing issue for the National Park Authority. Numerous informal queries and comments from local residents, parish councils and

planning agents, and several planning applications and appeals, demonstrate the need for greater clarity over what a non-designated heritage asset is and how they are treated in the planning process. The correspondence also demonstrates a considerable demand for a list of all the non-designated heritage assets identified in the National Park to be publicly accessible for reference.

- 1.3. Consequently, compiling a list of the non-designated heritage assets identified to date in the National Park, and preparing an accompanying guidance document on heritage assets has been prioritised in the Building Design and Conservation team's work programme. The work is consistent with Historic England and NPPF guidance on non-designated heritage assets.

2. The New Forest National Park Local List of non-designated heritage assets

- 2.1. The New Forest National Park Authority has identified assets that are considered to have heritage significance, derived from a wide range of characteristics of value and interest, that merits a degree of consideration in planning decisions. At present, the Authority has mostly identified non-designated heritage assets within Conservation Areas, as part of the program of appraisals conducted in 2008-09 in consultation with the local communities. Outside Conservation Areas, non-designated heritage assets have only been identified in response to planning applications.
- 2.2. The assets that have been identified have been compiled into a local list of non-designated heritage assets, by parish (Annex 1). This list provides the National Park Authority with a consistent and accountable means of identifying non-designated heritage assets and giving them the appropriate degree of consideration in planning decisions.
- 2.3. The list published as an annex to this report is based on the information in the published Conservation Area Character Appraisals and assets identified through the planning process (including the determination of planning applications and pre-application advice). It therefore covers assets both within and outside the designated Conservation Areas of the National Park. As outlined below, the list will be a living document that will be reviewed and updated in accordance with up-to-date data, and added to as more heritage assets are identified.
- 2.4. The accompanying Heritage Asset – Planning Briefing Note explains more fully the National Park Authority's criteria and processes for identifying and removing non-designated heritage assets from the local list.

3. The Heritage Assets – Planning Briefing Note

- 3.1. The Building Design and Conservation Officers have prepared the accompanying briefing note (Annex 2) in collaboration with the wider Planning Team.
- 3.2. The briefing note explains the national planning policy heritage terminology, clarifying the difference between designated and non-designated heritage assets. Then the national and local policy and guidance on how both designated and non-designated heritage assets are to be treated within the planning system is explained. A checklist of considerations is provided to aid the assessment of planning applications that impact non-designated heritage assets. The note goes on to explain how the Authority has gone about identifying non-designated heritage assets within the National Park, the criteria used, and the processes for adding an asset to the 'local list' or requesting an asset's removal from the list. This section also signposts where the list of non-designated heritage assets currently identified in the New Forest National Park is

published. The document concludes with a section highlighting the New Forest Cottage, a type non-designated heritage asset, which is under particular pressure from neglect, unsympathetic extension, and redevelopment, and explains the importance of their continued conservation.

- 3.3. The briefing note has been prepared to foster greater knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritage of the National Park. It is intended to assist National Park Authority Officers, members and communities in identifying non-designated heritage assets and affording them the appropriate consideration in the planning process. The note will aid planning officers in discussions with applicants and agents, to facilitate the development of sensitive and appropriate planning proposals. Parish Councils, officers and other consultees involved in the decision-making process, can also use the briefing note to assess the acceptability of planning applications.
- 3.4. Over the next few months, the Building Design and Conservation officers will work to engage and collaborate with communities to update and enhance the list of non-designated heritage assets covering areas both within and outside the Conservation Areas. They will also be collaborating with the IT team to ensure the online 'search my property map' data is kept up to date with the local list.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The Building Design and Conservation officers have progressed the work program agreed at the February 2020 Planning Committee by producing a list of non-designated heritage assets, by parish, identified so far in the National Park, and preparing an accompanying explanatory planning briefing note on heritage assets. The list and note have been prepared to meet growing need and demand for clarity as to what constitutes a non-designated heritage asset and how they should be treated in the planning process, and to provide a publicly accessible record of the non-designated heritage assets in the New Forest. The note can be used in the preparation and assessment of planning applications affecting non-designated heritage assets and should foster greater knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritage of the National Park to help ensure new development is high quality, sympathetic, and in keeping with the National Park.
- 4.2. Members are asked to endorse list of non-designated heritage assets (Annex 1) and the briefing note (Annex 2) for use in the delivery of the Authority's statutory planning functions. Subject to member approval, the documents will be published on the Authority's website and circulated to planning agents, surveyors, architects, and parish councils for reference and use.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Members endorse the list of non-designated heritage assets to be published on the New Forest National Park Authority website (Annex 1).**
- 2. Members endorse the use of the Heritage Assets - Planning Briefing Note (Annex 2) for use in the delivery of the Authority's statutory planning functions.**

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Papers:

PC 352-21 – Cover Report

Annex 1 – Local List of non-designated heritage assets

Annex 2 – Heritage Assets – Planning Briefing Note

Equality Impact Assessment:

No impacts have been identified.