

Dronfield Town Character Buildings and Structures of Local Heritage Interest - Supporting Evidence

DRONFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Context

This supporting paper explains the background designation of the proposed Dronfield Local Buildings and Structures of Local Heritage Interest in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out the background to the proposed Character Buildings and Structures of Local Heritage Interest and explains the methodology used.

Policy Context

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Section 12 (paragraphs 126-141) of the NPPF covers all aspects of the historic environment. Paragraph 126 states that "*Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment*".

The definition of heritage asset in the Framework 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 NPPF also introduces the concept of non-designated heritage assets. A non-designated heritage asset is described as a, "*building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance but which is not afforded statutory protection through Listed Building, Scheduled Monument etc*".

Paragraph 135 of the Framework states that non-designated heritage assets can merit consideration in planning matters, "*taking a balanced judgement having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset*".

The following report identifies assets in the Parish that have been identified of special local heritage interest to meriting consideration in planning decisions but which are not formally designated heritage assets.

The Plan has taken the opportunity, using published good practice guidance from Historic England², to identify a schedule of assets that are considered to have significant local heritage interest. To ensure that these assets are considered appropriately in planning proposals, the Plan designates them as Dronfield Character Buildings and Structures of Local Heritage Interest.

An approach which is supported by local planning policies. The Draft North East Derbyshire Local Plan³ includes a specific section headed Non Designated Local Assets (paras 8.40 to 8.42), which states, "*In addition to the above designated historic assets the district contains a number of buildings, structures and facades that, whilst not nationally considered suitable for statutory listing or having the protection conferred by being situated with a conservation area, nonetheless have local historic or architectural importance to warrant retention and protection.*" Adding, "*the Council will aim to identify and establish a list of locally important buildings and structures.*"

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

² <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/local-designations/>

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Criteria and Justification for the identification of Dronfield Character Buildings and Structures of Local Heritage Interest

The potential assets were identified through three main sources:

- Firstly, local knowledge; and
- Secondly, historic environmental records, for example, that contained on the HeritageGateway database⁴.
- Thirdly, specialised knowledge and advice especially through bodies such as Dronfield Civic Society.

Through this process, a list of potential buildings and structures were developed.

The proposed assets were then assessed for their appropriateness for designation as Dronfield character buildings and structures using the process and criterion developed by Historic England in its publication 'Local Heritage Listing'⁵, and set out below. This was purposefully chosen to ensure a consistent approach, and that it was based on good practice.

Satisfied that they met, in principle, the criteria for going forward as Dronfield character buildings and structures of local heritage interest, they were then "tested" through the Plan process. In particular, the proposed buildings and structures were set out for comment during the consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan undertaken in the summer 2018.

⁴ <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx>

⁵ <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7/>