

Northumberland National Park

15NP0036 - Westnewton Bridge, Kirknewton, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6XF Provision of permanent scour protection to highway bridge. Associated soft engineering works to minimise scour and gravel deposition. Removal of old railway abutment, raising crest of flood embankment to improve risk to flooding to adjoining land

To: Chris Stanworth - Planning Officer

Thank you for consulting Building Conservation on this application. I have now had the opportunity to review the planning application and the comments and discussions which were held at the pre-application stage.

Planning Policy Context

The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states at s.66 that in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

The relevant sections of the NNPA Core Strategy, NPPF, NPPG and guidance are all relevant in considering the merits of this application.

Heritage Asset

Westnewton Bridge is a Grade II listed structure with seven vaulted ashlar arches dating to around 1820, located west of Kirknewton. It carries the B6351 over the College Burn and has Triangular cutwaters are fitted to the two central piers. Its significance lies in it being purpose built to link Westnewton and beyond with Kirknewton and Wooler. Previous repairs have been carried out to the bridge in concrete.

Comments

The submitted proposal is to create an apron around the bridge piers and abutments as a measure to prevent scouring and retain stability of the bridge. Following discussions with the highways engineers and the amendments to the proposal to ensure that there is no physical intervention into the fabric of the bridge by preventing any bonding with the masonry of the bridge using polythene protection between the concrete slab and the bridge. I consider that this proposal will not affect significance and will help to protect the bridge in the long term and that the proposal accords with planning policy in respect of the historic environment. I also note from the peer review that this measure maybe subject to change and would encourage monitoring to ensure the structural capabilities of the bridge are not compromised following a flood event.

Sarah Dyer IHBC (on behalf of both NNPA and NCC)

Building Conservation Officer

8th July 2015