

Heritage statement

1. Identify and describe the heritage asset(s) affected by the development

The Stables, Harbottle has a Grade II listing, which according to Sarah Dyer, the National Park Historical Building Officer, is due to its historic, communal and aesthetic values. The listing notes it as a "fine ashlar stone and slate L shaped former stable", and was built somewhere between 1830-1870 (depending what you read) as the stable block for the new Harbottle castle, nearby in the village. It was converted in the seventies/eighties from an unused, derelict building (told used as village dump), pre-listing, into a home.

Late 19th century OS maps indicate the presence of additional buildings which were fixed to the west elevation of The Stables (indentations to wall indicate where long-since demolished buildings linked in).

The village main road originally ran along what is now known as Richardson Lane, with front and back door, plus car access to the property via Richardson Lane.

2. Assessment of the impact of the development upon the heritage asset

Our request is for the placement of a traditional styled, wooden, 6'x6', pent roofed, brown stained, dark green felt roofed potting shed within the vegetable patch of the garden. We had viewed and visited many styles, wanting something traditional, wooden, small, of quality and decent sized windows for light.

We are keen gardeners, my husband is retired and had money for this as a retirement gift, and we wished for a storage facility in the garden that freed up space in the garage, tidies the garden but mainly makes life easier for accessing tools (currently have to take them around the outside of the property or through the house). The growing season in Northumberland is sadly very short, and the potting shed style with its growing shelf and windows will allow us to start plants off much earlier.

This location is screened from Richardson Lane by an evergreen escallonia hedge, then the drystone wall, plus two apple trees (one mature, the other younger and an espalier in training). The base of the shed is also sited lower than the road due to the slope of the garden and steps).

This location also means that the shed is

- not placed alongside the main village road, and for much of the year out of sight from this view due to garden planting.
- Not placed in "the front garden", ie front door access and again does not impact on the view both in and out of the house.
- Placed in the position consistent with a country garden ie in vegetable patch
- Not impinging on the look of the listed building as it is placed well away from the main views of our home.

We believe that the style, colour, design of the potting shed is in keeping with the natural environment of a National Park, does not stand out amongst the many other sheds in the area, is positioned to have least impact if any on the Listed building (our home) and will be very useful to both us and any future homeowners.