Hewitt&CarrArchitects

Heritage Statement

Endon Well Dressing,
Endon, Staffordshire.

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Heritage Statement in support of

The proposed widening of the Well Dressing Field Access Gate in Endon, Staffordshire.

"Good design can help to create lively spaces with distinctive character, streets and public spaces that are safe, accessible, pleasant to use and human in scale; and places that inspire because of imagination and sensitivity of their designers."

- *By Design, Urban Design in the Planning System; Towards Better Practice (DETR & CABE, 2000).*

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This proposal is for the widening of the Well Dressing Field Access Gate at The Village, Endon.

1.2. The production of this Appraisal has been considered as a necessary part of the design development process to ensure that the detailed design actively seeks to respond positively to its specific context.

2.0 Description of the Asset

2.1. Endon is a village within the Staffordshire Moorlands district of Staffordshire. It is four miles southwest of Leek and six miles north-northeast of Stoke-on-Trent. The original settlement is located on a flat-topped sandstone hill.

2.2. Endon lies within the Endon Conservation Area which was created in 1972. The boundaries of the Conservation Area include areas of Special Landscape Interest which help to preserve the rural setting and protect views across the landscape.

2.3. The Conservation Area is located north west of the A53, the upper part of which contains the medieval settlement of Endon and the lower part contains a later hamlet referred to as 'the Village', which is located around the ford over Endon Brook.

2.4. Developing Endon

'the Village' had developed by the 16th century.

Endon's early economy depended on pastoral farming with subsistence arable. The 1851 census showed that forty percent of the population was employed in farming. Other occupations included five grocers, four butchers and skilled workers including eight shoemakers, two blacksmiths, a general smith and four wheelwrights. The Caldon Canal and coal measures also provided employment.

In 1666 Endon had forty households and two to three hundred people. In 1816, there were three farms and by 1821 the population was 445. This rose steadily through the 19th century and reached 1884 by 1901.

Endon was linked with Longsdon and Stanley in the 19th century for administrative purposes due to its small size. This gave the area a total of 5,453 acres.

2.5. Later Developments in Endon

There were at least six farms in Endon in the early 19th century, this was reduced to one by the end of the 20th century. By this time, most of the population looked for work outside of the village.

The southwestern slopes of the hill on which the medieval settlement of Endon sits was once arable land, it is now covered by 20th century housing. The hilltop location of the original settlement allows views across the Conservation Area.

The population had risen to 4759 in 2001, this recognises the inclusion of Brown Edge and expansion to the west and south of the major settlements in the 20th century.

Key features of 'the Village' include the ford and the bridge which are complemented by drystone walling and small open gardens. By 1600 stone was in general use and it remained a common building material into the 19th century.

2.6. Endon Well Dressing

The Endon Well Dressing Festival Charity is registered with the Charity Commission. An annual Well Dressing Festival which was founded in May 1868, raises funds to support the upkeep of the well and help local youth and education organisations. Endon Well Dressing takes place over the May Bank Holiday weekend in the village.

3.0 ASSESSMENT OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE

3.1. The hilltop location of the original settlement results in the importance of views in and out of the Conservation Area, which help to define and protect the early development. Consequently, few parts of the Conservation Area are without impact on others, and ill-considered developments can have a major impact.

3.2. It is particularly important that existing contrasts are maintained. Each is the result of its historical development, and defines a period in the history of the area resulting in a key characteristic of the Conservation Area

3.3. The development of each area can be defined through materials and scale. Both provide a significant understanding of the historical development of the area.

3.4. Endon Well Dressing is a historical festival and charity that helps the local community.

4.0 THE DESIGN CONCEPT

4.1. The concept for the design is the widening of the Well Dressing Field Access Gate in The Village, Endon.

4.2. The existing opening is to be widened by 1200mm. The right hand gate and stone post are to be relocated 1200mm. The existing wall is to be made good.

4.3. A new left hand gate is to be made to match the existing.

5.0 THE IMPACT

5.1. Externally, the proposed alterations will not impact on the significance of the conservation area. The new gate will match the existing gate so that it seamlessly fits into the existing arrangement. The existing gate and stone post will be relocated to minimise the appearance of the alteration. The existing wall will be made good to minimise the impact of the proposal.

5.2. In conclusion, this proposal will provide a more functional access to the Well Dressing Field whilst ensuring that the impact of such alterations remain minimal.