# Heritage Statement
## REF: PP-06517690

**To support Proposed External ATM at:** **Leek Post Office**
The Magistrate Court, 9, Old Court House, High Street, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 5DZ

**Existing usage. Post Office**

The township of Leek and Lowe included the town of Leek and a rural area to the east, south and west. There were also three detached areas, one adjoining the Poolend area of Leekfirth, another on the east side of Buxton road at Blackshaw Moor, and a small area on the south bank of the river Chumet. The area is part of the Staffordshire Moorlands, known as the Moorland as early as 1329. The town of Leek is built on Sherwood Sandstone, which is also found at Endon Bank. Settlers point to Saxon and Norse origins. Trade in the area in the 13th century would have been dominated by cattle and sheep rearing, the monks themselves having significant wool flocks. This brought a livestock market to the town, primarily dealing in cattle.
The agricultural sector remained important as it still does today, but in the industrial revolution Leek became a major textile centre. Indeed it was a pioneering town in that age, its silk industry established in domestic workshops in the late 17th century mechanising in the second half of the 18th and through the 19th centuries.

The Post Office sits within the Leek Conservation Area, which was designated in 1970. The town of Leek has several spacious and well built streets, and is nearly all comprised in the township of Leek and Lowe. The Earl of Macclesfield is lord of the manor of Leek, which includes the townships of Leek & Lowe and Leekfrith, and owner of most of the soil. In the town are many well-stocked shops, several good inns, and upwards of 40 public houses. The Caldon Canal approaches within half a mile SW of the town, and opens a communication with the Trent & Mersey navigation, and with the coal and limestone districts.

Proposal at 9 Old Court House, High Street, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 5DZ

Use: There is a change of use proposed.

Amount: There are no proposed changes to the footprint of the building.

Layout: There are no proposed changes to the layout of the building.

Scale: There are no proposed changes to the scale of the building.

Appearance: The appearance of the building will be slightly altered with the proposed ATM and signage reflecting the Post Office branding. The ATM has a collar surround that aids to the installation and weather proofing of the ATM externally. It is made from 19mm Foamcore PVC and is non illuminated. The ATM

is considered as a ‘Fitting’ provided by the Post office for its Customers and is a removable item depending on further circumstances. It is considered to have little or no negative effect to the conservation area or existing building and is in keeping with the current branding of the property.

Landscaping:  There are no proposed changes to landscaping.

Access proposals:  There are no changes to access.

Although the ATM is modern innovation, It is considered an additional service offered by the Post office for the convenience of the local community.  The proposed ATM will be installed through glazing at the far RHS of the Post Office.