Heritage Statement

Repairs to Overton Road Troughs

Overton Road, Biddulph

Repair Works

For

Biddulph Town Council

Architect:
bpArchitecture
93 High Street
Biddulph
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ST8 6AB

Ref: 19-010 Overton Road Troughs
September 2019



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Heritage Statement

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1.0 Purpose of Statement

This Heritage Statement has been prepared for the submission of a Listed Building Consent application to undertake repair works; which involves repointing, replacement and reinstatement of missing finials and a new trough.

This Heritage Statement has therefore been prepared in response to the National Planning Policy Framework, published in July 2018. Section 189.

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.

2.0 Introduction

Address: Overton Road, Biddulph, Staffordshire
Map Reference: SJ86SESJ896604
Listing: Grade II

Biddulph Town Council have received an Environmental Enhancement Grant from the Moorlands Partnership Board for restoration works to the Overton Road Drinking Troughs. An application was submitted to the Board for a new stone trough and a concrete base for the trough to sit on. Bollards to match those adjacent will be sited to protect the troughs from traffic.

The Overton Road Drinking Troughs are a Grade II Listed heritage asset, presumably dating from the early C19. [See Appendix A for Listing Description]. The trough is built within the stone walls which line Overton Road and which bound land belonging to Moor House Farm.



Figure 1. Example of proposed bollards that will protect the troughs from traffic (Biddulph Town Council).

3.0 Historical Description

Overton Road is a former Turnpike Road from Tunstall to Biddulph, Bosley and onto Macclesfield.

Turnpike Roads were toll roads that were maintained by a Turnpike Trust. The troughs would provide water for the travellers' horses and quite possibly the travellers. There is a water source to the north of the site, in which water was supplied to the troughs from this. The stone troughs sit directly across from Shepherds Cross, a possible medieval wayside cross also known locally as Butter Cross. Having spoken to the owner of Moor House Farm, he believes there was a market in this location where butter was sold hence Butter Cross.

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The earliest photograph of the trough was found in The Biddulph Chronicle in 1962. In the article there is a photograph of the trough, the second trough is missing. There is an interview recorded with the owner of Moor House *'Col. W.M. Lees of the Moor House, confirmed that the stone troughs and wall at the back were in his estate, and that at one time there were two such troughs. Where the other had gone, he had no idea'.*

4.0 Physical Evidence

Troughs

Having inspected the troughs, the remaining D shaped trough sits approx. 100mm into a recess in the stone wall. A lead pipe can be seen protruding through the wall behind and into the back of the trough (Fig. 2). The remaining trough has a flat edge on its outer left-hand side (Fig 3), allowing for an abutment of a second trough.



Figure 2. Showing the right and niche, trough and lead water pipe to the rear of the trough.

The stone walling below the left-hand niche does not have a recess for a second trough. The stones in the wall are bedded to the full depth of the wall, suggesting that the second trough was not bedded within the wall. It possibly sat in front of the wall, abutting the wall and the right-hand trough. There is some interference within the back face of the left-hand niche, this could suggest there may have been a spout above. The missing trough may have provided travellers with drinking water and the right-hand trough providing water for horses.

The stone that sits above the abutment of the two troughs curves out beyond the face of the wall, which also suggests the left-hand trough sat beneath this stone (Fig 3).

Central Finial

There is a base for a centre crest/finial that is now missing. Having spoken to the owner of Moor House Farm he vaguely remembers there being a stone cross above. If the area to the rear of the site is cleared and the crest/finial found, the Biddulph Town Council would like to reinstate it.



Figure 3. Showing the flat face of the right-hand trough, suggesting there was a second trough abutting it.

Right Hand Finial

The finial with a pyramidal capping to the right-hand side is now missing. The owner of Moor House Farm was alerted by a neighbour who had seen thieves removing the pyramidal capping some years ago. The owner is currently storing the square finial base. Biddulph Town Council are proposing to replicate and reinstate the pyramidal capping.

5.0 Significance

The stone troughs are of historical significance. They are a physical feature that exhibits a necessity required by Victorian travellers using Turnpike Roads in the C19. The siting of the troughs, sited opposite Shepherds Cross also has some historical significance, this may narrate the historical development of the area. If Shepherds Cross was a Wayside cross for Medieval Drovers, this provides evidence of a developmental conversion to a Turnpike Road.

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6.0 Impact Assessment

Finials/Crest

Biddulph Town Council are applying for LBC to preserve the historic interest of the troughs. They are proposing to reinstate the missing right-hand finial and pyramidal capping, using the original finial being stored by the owner and providing a new replicated stone pyramidal capping.

Biddulph Town Council would like to obtain permission to reinstate the centre crest/finial if it is found in the undergrowth to the rear of the wall.

The impact upon the heritage asset will be negligible, the reinstatement of the stones will improve the condition of the heritage asset and preserve its historic interest.

Troughs

Biddulph Town Council are applying for LBC to provide a new stone trough adjacent to the existing trough. The proposed trough will be a D shaped stone trough, that will be tooled to replicate the existing trough. The new stone trough will be a standalone trough. The proposed trough will reinstate an historic local feature and enhance the local environment. As there is no photographic evidence of the missing trough. Biddulph Town Council are proposing to tool the current year onto the proposed trough. This will ensure there is no misinterpretation into the historical significance of the troughs. Biddulph Town Council are also applying for LBC to fix a plaque to the wall providing an historical narrative of the troughs which will explain that this is an interpretation of the missing trough.

There will be a minimal impact upon the troughs, the proposed trough is in-keeping with the heritage asset, however it will be clearly legible that it is not original with a date stamp being added. There will be no fixing back to the existing asset and therefore it will be fully reversible. The proposed plaque will provide a narrative and ensure there is no misinterpretation of the proposal to the heritage asset.

Repair Works

The stone wall and troughs retain a banked piece of land to its rear, that is overgrown with vegetation. This has caused parts of the wall and coping to become dislodged. Stones will be carefully removed, the issue remedied and re-bedded with an appropriate NHL mortar.

There are areas of the wall [shown on the submitted drawing] that require repointing with an appropriate NHL mortar that will match the colour and appearance of the existing mortar. The repointing will be pointed flush with the brick and stippled with a bristle brush.

Localised repointing will have a negligible impact upon the heritage asset and instead will prolong its longevity.

7.0 Appendix A

Biddulph C.P. Overton Road (east side) SJ 86 SE SJ 896 604 3/6 Drinking Trough 4m east – of Shepherds Cross 13.4.51 GV 11

1374748

GV II

Drinking Trough. Possibly early C19. Stone. Twin-headed niches made up of 3 voussoir blocks and projecting keystones over trough (one now missing) and built into wall whose coping is ramped up over side to a pair of corbelled dwarf finials with pyramidal capping's; crested block set between pinnacles.

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