

The Settle~Carlisle Railway Conservation Area

The buildings of the Settle~Carlisle Railway are of national significance and have been given statutory protection through designation as a Conservation Area. This publication is one of a series intended to provide a better understanding of the special character of these buildings and to assist those entrusted with their care in appropriate conservation and repairs.

The series has been prepared by the North East Civic Trust for English Heritage, The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Craven District Council, Eden District Council and Carlisle City Council. The series consists of:

1. Buildings of the Settle~Carlisle Railway: An Introductory Guide to their Conservation
2. Station Buildings of the Settle~Carlisle Railway
3. Station Masters' Houses of the Settle~Carlisle Railway
4. Railway Workers' Cottages of the Settle~Carlisle Railway

Other Publications

Stations & Structures of the Settle & Carlisle Railway, V R Anderson and G K Fox
Rails In The Fells, D Jenkinson

Advice On Conservation & Other Planning Matters

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BUILDINGS of the SETTLE~CARLISLE RAILWAY



Station Masters' Houses

Funded by English Heritage, Craven District Council, The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Eden District Council and Carlisle City Council

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Station Masters' Houses of the Settle~Carlisle Railway

Much attention given to the Settle~Carlisle Railway is focused on the dramatic engineering structures set against the high moors. This might sometimes be seen in a nostalgic photograph of a steam train waiting at a station. Yet just off the picture will be a building as much a part of the heritage of the line as any other - the Station Master's house.



Conservation Area has been designated, and why the preservation and enhancement of its buildings is so important. However, this task is made more challenging as all of these houses are now in private hands, whilst the line still operates as a main-line railway.

This leaflet illustrates elements which give these houses their character, and shows

how suitable upkeep and reinstatement where elements have been lost, can conserve these unique buildings for future generations.

Conservation, Maintenance, Repair & Replacement

Regular maintenance and repairs help ensure the continued life of any building by preventing decay, especially of joinery. But in buildings like those in this Conservation Area, additional care must be taken to do such work without altering the features which give them their architectural character and historic importance.

It is therefore vital that maintenance and repairs are carried out to appropriate specifications, using traditional techniques, suitable materials (such as only seasoned, matching timber), and usually only by specialist contractors who are sympathetic to the principles of good building conservation. As much original fabric as possible should be retained during repair works (including elements like glass and metalwork), as their unnecessary replacement not only damages the appearance of the building, but also diminishes its authenticity and historic value. Replacement should be kept to the minimum necessary to ensure the building's



long term survival, but where this does become necessary, it must be seen as restoration rather than modernisation. No two buildings are exactly the same and local variation must be respected during any work.



Character of the Station Master's Houses

The standard Station Master's house adopted in nearly all locations is a dignified detached two-storey property, with a distinctive gabled design, echoing the nearby stations. Crested ridge tiles top the slate roofs, and the walls are in a variety of local stone or brick. A dormer, a porch, and tall chimneys complete the composition.

Distinctive features include the joinery elements: window openings have segmental arched heads, and a specific design of

casement window with glazing bars. The doors have four panels of varying dimensions at different locations. Some of the building's most obvious elements are the broad overhanging eaves, the tabled verges, and the three special types of bargeboard which variously adorn them, complementing the station. A few Station Masters' houses along the line adopt a non-standard design, but still have several standard elements to highlight their place in the family of buildings.

Unfortunately over the years, many of these consistent elements have suffered through removal, lack of maintenance, inappropriate modern replacements, or, sometimes with

even worse results, replacement with inferior replicas. For example, many bargeboards have been replaced with alien designs or poor copies, ridge tiles have been lost, and tabled eaves removed. Some of the windows have been replaced in inappropriate style or materials, and some window openings have been altered in shape and size. Several houses have also had their porch or outhouses demolished, or have had extensions or

conservatories added which further destroy their original design.

However, these unique houses are integral to the architectural heritage of the railway both in their form and detail. All the Station Masters' houses could be effectively restored, and with authoritative advice and a wider appreciation for the legacy of the fine buildings of the Settle~Carlisle Railway, those which have suffered a loss of character could once again be restored for generations of owners and occupiers to come.

