

ENV10 – The Historic Environment

The Council will attach great weight to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting which make Eden distinctive.

Key elements include:

- Castles, houses and their parks and gardens including Appleby, Brough, Brougham, Dacre, Dalemain, Kirkoswald, Lowther and Penrith;
- Roman sites such as Voreda, and associated archaeology;
- Prehistoric heritage including Long Meg and her Daughters, the henges of Mayburgh and King Arthur's Round Table, and also the numerous megalithic sites, burial cairns and rock arts;
- Conservation areas across the district in particular Penrith and the Settle to Carlisle Railway;
- Remains of historic industrial activity such as sites on Alston Moor including Nenthead and Whitesyke;
- Historic market towns and settlements such as Penrith, Alston, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen; and
- Upland farming landscapes and their buildings.

The Council will require that all proposals for development should conserve and where appropriate, enhance the significance of Eden's heritage assets and their setting. The Council will support proposals that would better reveal the significance of the asset in particular those heritage assets identified as being most at risk. Opportunities for promotion, interpretation and increasing understanding should also be explored.

Development proposals that would result in harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset or its setting will only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the public benefits of the proposal would outweigh the harm, and that the harm is necessary to achieve those benefits.

The Council will require proposals to protect and where appropriate, enhance the significance and setting of Eden's non-designated heritage assets of local interest including buildings, archaeological sites, parks, landscapes and gardens. Where the harm is outweighed by the public benefits of the proposals, the Council will require an appropriate level of survey and recording, the results of which should be deposited with the Historic Environment Record.

Where a development proposal affecting archaeological sites is acceptable in principle, the Council will ensure preservation of the remains in situ as a preferred solution. Where in situ preservation is not justified, the development will be required to make adequate provision for excavation and recording before or during development.

All development proposals affecting the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings (including where there is the potential of unknown archaeological assets) will need to be accompanied by an assessment of the significance of the asset and its setting and how it will be affected by the proposed development. The level of information required will be proportionate to the significance of the asset and to the scale of impact of the proposal. For archaeological assets, this may where necessary include archaeological desk based assessment and field evaluation.