

Policy HEN5

Responding to Climate Change in the Historic Environment

Development should secure the conservation and continued beneficial use of heritage assets through their retention and sensitive adaptation which will avoid harm to their significance.

The conversion and change of use of heritage assets should conserve the significance of heritage assets and without significant alteration or change to character and appearance, or loss of historic fabric.

Development for the change of use or conversion of a heritage asset should demonstrate that the proposed use is considered to be compatible with the fabric, interior and setting of the building, taking into account the optimum viable use that is likely to conserve, or where clearly justified, cause the least harm to, the significance of the asset.

Applications to improve the energy efficiency of historic buildings and mitigate and adapt to climate change will only be supported where they consider a whole building approach, informed by an understanding of the building and how it performs; understanding the building's significance; prioritising interventions that are proportionate, effective and sustainable; and avoiding and minimising harm and the risk of maladaptation.

Proposals will need to demonstrate that they are sensitively designed to avoid harm to the significance of heritage assets and their setting, having regard to other less harmful options that would achieve a similar result. Consideration should be given to the reversibility of any proposals, although reversibility alone will not justify alterations that harm significance.