

3.10 Works to a heritage asset to address climate change

LOCATION:	Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire
POLICY:	Cambridge: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy 63: Works to a heritage asset to address climate change South Cambridgeshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy NH/15: Heritage assets and adapting to climate change
SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT:	Any application involving works to heritage assets to enhance their environmental performance
TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:	Residential and non-residential
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:	Information can be included in the Design and Access Statement or Heritage Statement
LINK TO THE SUSTAINABILITY CHECKLIST:	Ha.1, Ha.2, Ha.3, Ha.4

Policy context

- 3.10.1 Both the 2018 Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans include policies that are supportive of works to heritage assets to enhance their environmental performance where those works safeguard the heritage significance of those assets. Historic buildings and settlements often have sustainable forms of construction and design, and they can inform and inspire the best modern, sustainable development. Their survival reflects their success and adaptability. The Councils aim, therefore, is to ensure that a heritage asset's significance and its continued potential for adaptability is maintained by ensuring that alterations to address climate change or reduction of carbon emissions are sensitive.
- 3.10.2 Due to the nature of construction of historic buildings, it would be difficult to match the performance of modern structures. However, vernacular design and traditional construction have evolved over time and deal with local conditions. Adaptive re-use of a building gives significant carbon savings in terms of embodied energy in the fabric of the building, so the focus will be on enhancing the performance of traditional buildings as much as practicable without damaging their significance. Acceptable levels of intervention will vary dependent upon the impact on the significance of the heritage asset in question. Works should avoid harm to a building's integrity or significance.

Submission requirements

- 3.10.3 When considering ways to reduce a building's carbon footprint, it is important that the energy hierarchy (see Section Four, figure 3) is adopted. Prior to looking at alternative means of generating energy, it is important to investigate and put into practice all possible means of conserving energy. The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers' (CIBSE) guidance on building services in historic buildings sets out four principal aims when seeking to enhance the sustainability of heritage assets:

- Aim 1 – preserve historic fabric;
- Aim 2 – extend the beneficial use of older buildings;
- Aim 3 – reduce carbon emissions, using the hierarchical approach; and
- Aim 4 – specify environmentally conscious materials.

3.10.4 Applications for works to heritage assets will need to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the building in question via the submission of the following information:

- surveys of existing construction, to include walls, floors, ceilings and roofs;
- submission of baseline energy consumption data before and after improvements have taken place (submission of data post improvement would be secured via a planning condition);
- measured data of existing environmental performance of the building's fabric;
- an indication of any national performance standards being targeted as a result of works; and
- recommendations on the environmental performance measures to be implemented in order to achieve the standard.

This information can be submitted as part of the Design and Access Statement for the proposal or as part of the Heritage Statement.

Further guidance

3.10.5 The Historic England website has a range of guidance on how to approach environmental improvement projects in heritage assets. For further detail, please see: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/energy-efficiency-and-historic-buildings/>

3.10.6 If your home is a heritage asset, further guidance from English Heritage is available via: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/your-home/saving-energy/>

3.10.7 Further guidance is also available from CIBSE:

- CIBSE (2002). HIST Guide to Building Services for Historic Buildings. Available online (for a fee) at: <https://www.cibse.org/Knowledge/knowledge-items/detail?id=a0q2000000817ocAAC>