

Heritage Statement

We are looking to replace a worn out cast iron gutter on the front elevation of numbers 62 and 64 Hague Street with a suitable alternative which will preserve the character of the building, located in Whitfield conservation area.

The conservation area appraisal for Whitfield talks of properties in the area having “eaves generally finished with traditional moulded timber “trows” fixed on metal brackets or stone or timber corbels, and occasional cast-iron gutters fixed to gutter brackets with long metal straps.” There is no further mention of guttering in the report and a mix of cast iron, aluminium and wood guttering can be seen on properties in the area.

Following an email exchange with Emily Holland, Principal Conservation Officer for High Peak Borough Council, it was determined that the most appropriate replacement for the existing gutter would be aluminium. This is in order to retain the look of the existing guttering whilst preserving the structure of the building by avoiding additional weight bearing, which might be an issue if replaced with new cast iron guttering. Wood guttering was also not recommended.

The conservation area appraisal also mentions the general condition of buildings within the area as being good, and talks of the need to prevent deterioration; attempting to retain the existing guttering on numbers 62 and 64 Hague Street presents substantial risk of deterioration to the front elevations – numerous attempts at repairs have been unsuccessful and the leak is already visibly impacting the stonework and detracting from the look of the building. The intention is to prevent further ingress by replacing the guttering as soon as possible, allowing the stonework to dry out and return to its previous state.

Note that the report does not recommend our property or number 64 for inclusion in a local list of heritage assets.