Middlesbrough Listed Buildings Survey 2006

A rapid assessment for the enhancement of the Historic Environment Record

TA07/14

OASIS ID 29977

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Front Cover Images:

Top – Telephone boxes rear of Middlesbrough Town Hall.

Middle (Left to right) – Temple Folly, Stewart Park; Church of the Sacred Heart, Linthorpe Road; Sundial in Albert Park.

Bottom – Frieze detail from Cleveland Club, Cleveland Street, showing Britannia flanked by a miner and an engineer.

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1. Summary

This project is intended to ensure that details of all of the Listed Buildings in Middlesbrough were held within the Tees Archaeology Historic Environment Record (HER). Information on each building was added to the HER database and complementary Geographic Information System (GIS). Existing records were checked and enhanced. To assist in identifying the buildings a series of site visits were made to identify the exact location and to create a basic photographic record.

Listing was found to have been successful in preserving the majority of the buildings although there had been three demolitions with a further five identified as at risk.

During the site visits other buildings of local note were photographed and their details added to the HER.   A number of these are put forward as potential listing or local list candidates.

2. Introduction

The Tees Archaeology Historic Environment Record (HER) has developed from the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) established in the early 1970s as a paper index of archaeological sites within the former County of Cleveland. The SMR incidentally included details of many of the Listed Buildings within the area particularly those with a medieval or industrial past such as parish churches and railway stations respectively.

In the early 1990s all Grade I and II* Listed Buildings were added to the SMR. However the majority of listings (at least 90%), mainly at Grade II, were not. The SMR continued to focus on documenting archaeological sites and finds and creating new archaeological datasets to assist in conservation and development control. The Grade II listings missing from the SMR represent domestic residences, commercial properties, schools, memorials and even telephone boxes and mainly date from the late 19th century or the 20th century and archaeologically speaking had a low priority for inclusion on the record.

Plate 1: Left – Acklam Hall, Middlesbrough's only Grade I listed building;
Right – Grey Towers, Nunthorpe, recently upgraded to Grade II*.

In October 2002 English Heritage (EH) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) published a document setting out 'Benchmarks for Good Practice' for 'Historic Environment Records' (EH/ALGAO, 2002). This document was produced to define levels of performance for local authorities and other bodies maintaining Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs), the traditional management tool for archaeological records.

The document recognised that the term SMR no longer properly reflected the content of today's heritage information systems which are often much broader in scope than archaeology alone. For some years the term 'Historic Environment Record' (HER) had been recognised as more appropriate for developed local

environmental management systems.

In 2004 Tees Archaeology produced an action plan for the development of the SMR into a HER (Rowe, 2004). This was followed in 2006 by a proposal to formally implement the change in title (Rowe, 2006). A key part of the development lies in the enhancement of the information content of the HER to reflect the wider historic environment. The addition of the remaining listed buildings is seen as a key component of this task.

In 2006 Middlesbrough was chosen as a pilot area to establish a methodology for the addition of the missing Listed Buildings to the HER. Prior to the start of the project 57 HER entries for Middlesbrough were covered by a listing. The total following completion of the project is now 131*.

*note the number of listed entries on the HER does not match the number of listings. For example the listing for Middlesbrough Station covers the adjacent Albert Bridge and subway bridges which have individual entries on the HER.

3. Methodology

The project was given the site code MLB06 (<u>M</u>iddlesbrough <u>L</u>isted <u>B</u>uildings Survey 20<u>06</u>).

An Excel spreadsheet was compiled setting basic details out for each listed building from the Department of the Environment 'Greenback' (Doe, 1988) list published in 1988. This was cross referenced with the HER and existing record numbers noted. Listings without a HER entry were assigned a new HER id number. The English Heritage website, Listed buildings online (English Heritage, 2006-7), was visited and the current listed building numbers added to the spreadsheet.

Several sample records were added to the HER. This demonstrated that it was not always possible to accurately locate the buildings or their exact extent from the information in the 'Greenback' or Listed Buildings Online, particularly when a building lay in the middle of a terrace. A series of site visits were planned in order to solve this problem and to enhance the record by providing a photographic survey.

The project area was split into five sections to provide manageable units for the site visit programme. The areas comprise: -

1. St. Hilda's, Middlesbrough Town Centre and Linthorpe
2. Stainton and Thornton villages
3. Marton and Stewart Park
4. Nunthorpe & south Middlesbrough
5. Ormesby and North Ormesby

Field visits began in July 2006 with Areas 1 and 2 photographed by Peter Rowe and Rosy Phillipson (English Heritage) and Area 3 by Peter Rowe. There was a hiatus in the project until May 2007 with Area 4 photographed by Peter Rowe and Alice Bird (Work Experience) and Area 5 by Peter Rowe.

All of the visits were speculative with the aim of photographing the principal elevation from a public highway or thoroughfare. As the majority of the buildings are in urban areas or villages this did not prove particularly problematic. The only buildings where public viewing was not possible were Stainton Grange Farm, Stainton Vale Farm and Newham Hall. Stainton Vale and Newham Hall were visited with permission from the owners whilst the owner of Stainton Grange could not be traced.

A compact Sony DSC 5.1 megapixel digital camera was used for the photographic recording. Photographic index sheets were maintained for each area and are reproduced as Appendix 1. The full photographic archive is included on the CD-ROM (Appendix 2) which accompanies this report.

Plate 2: Left – shoppers pass by the Masham Hotel (now JD Sports) on Linthorpe Road; Right – Mosaic and tile detail above entrance.

Once photographed details of the buildings were added to the HER database. This includes basic indexing information such as the site name, type, period, condition and designation details. A fuller written description of the building was also compiled which describes the location of the building, its historical significance, relationship to other HER entries and also the full listing description taken from Listed Buildings Online.

To complement the data record an entry was created for each building in the HER polygon layer in the Tees Archaeology Geographic Information System (GIS). This allows the outline of each building to be digitized. Attribute data can then be

linked to each polygon to give basic information on the feature it represents including Site Name, Period and Designation Type. This allows rapid searching and display of information according to the requirements of the user. Figure 1 shows the Station area of Central Middlesbrough with HER entries shown according to level of designation. A copy of the final dataset is included on the CD-ROM accompanying this report (Appendix 2).
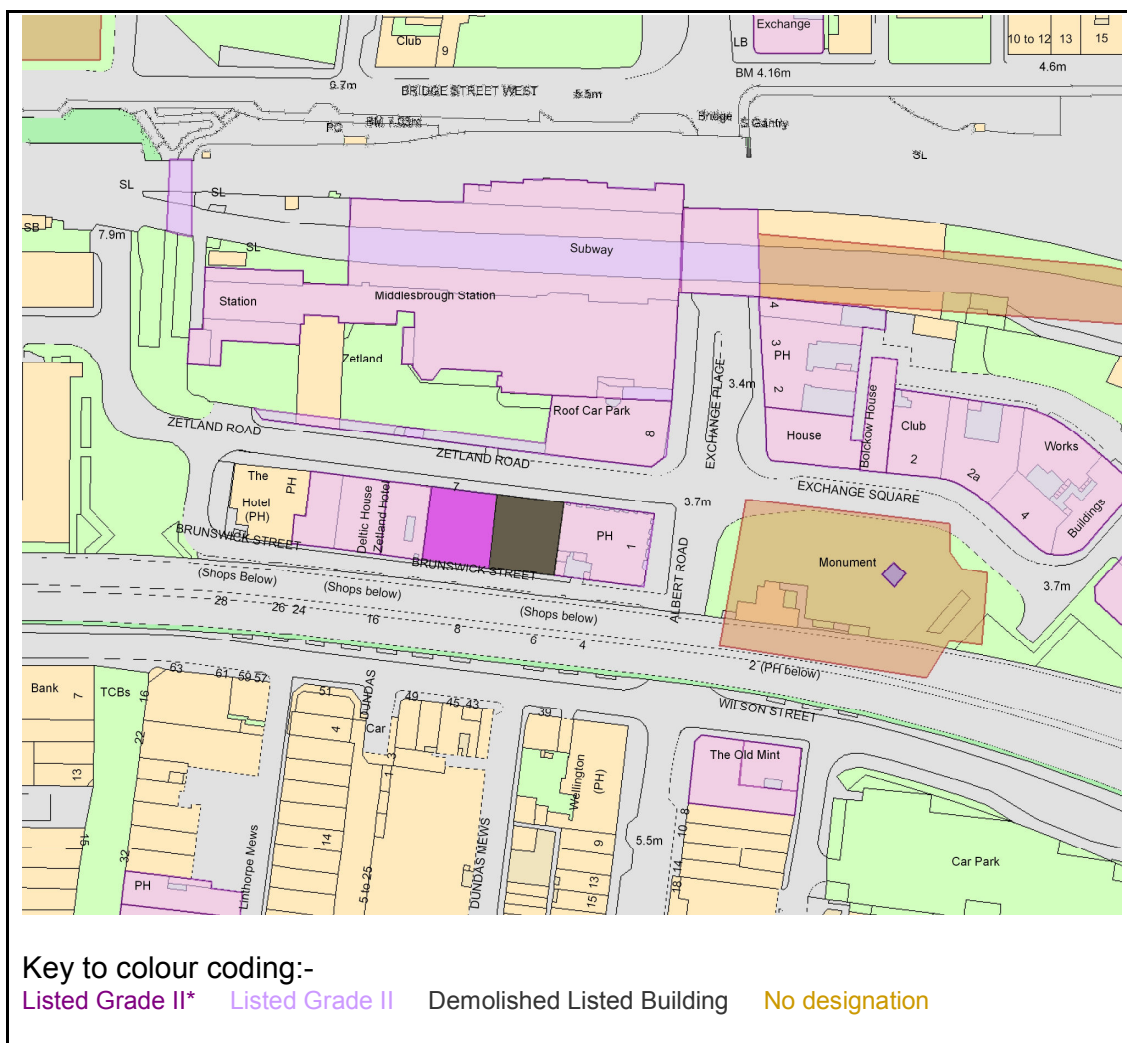

Figure 1: Middlesbrough Station and Exchange Square (note the large undesignated feature to the south-east of the Station is the site of the former Royal Exchange demolished in the early 1980s).

The addition of the details to the HER database and GIS was a time consuming process with each building taking an experienced operator approximately 20-30 minutes to complete.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

Delisting
The rapid survey highlighted that three buildings had been demolished since the publication of the 1988 D.o.E. Greenback. These are:-

1. 1, 3 & 5 Zetland Road – New building in place with 1989 date stone.
2. Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Mary, Sussex Street - Demolished following fire in 2000.
3. Cathedral House, Sussex Street - Demolished following fire in 2000.

Whilst the Roman Catholic Cathedral is shown as officially delisted on Listed Buildings On-line, the formerly adjacent Cathedral House (LBS no. 59797) remains officially listed as does the former terrace of 1, 3 & 5 Zetland Road (LBS no. 59813) which was demolished by 1989.

Buildings at Risk
A number of Grade II buildings are out of use and currently at risk these are: -

Old Town Hall, Market Place, St. Hilda's (LBS no. 59753)
Old Town Hall Clock Tower, Market Place, St. Hilda's (LBS no. 59754)
Customs House, North Street, St. Hilda's (LBS no. 59764)
34 Albert Road, Middlesbrough (LBS no. 59679)
38-40 Albert Road, Middlesbrough (LBS no. 59680)

Plate 3: Left – The Old Town Hall and Clock Tower;
Right – 34 & 38-40 Albert Road.

Possible New Listings

There is one town centre building which stands out as worthy of listing based on its external appearance and group value with neighbouring buildings as below: -

Sir Isaac Wilson Public House, Wilson Street (see Plate 4). Former County Court building and next door to Listed Grade II 'Showboat Social Club' (LBS no. 59811). It is presumed that this had Crown exemption at the time of the 1988 resurvey and was not listed for that reason. It has been in use as a Public House since 1991.

Plate 4: The Isaac Wilson, Wilson Street

Review of existing listing

The principal sources of information consulted during the survey were the Greenback document (DoE, 1988) and Listed Buildings online (English Heritage, 2006-07). In both cases the listing description for Lloyds Bank Chambers, 2 Albert Road is ambiguous. The description details the two storey building with dormers fronting Wilson Street (see Plate 4 – left). However the adjoining 2-4 Albert Road (see Plate 4 - right) is not covered by the description and may even be excluded as a 'Former bank premises… not of special interest' (DoE, 1988, p. 3). Approaches have been made to the Regional English Heritage Team at Newcastle and the National Monuments Record who believe the complete block to be listed but the description is open to interpretation. The listing should be reviewed to confirm the situation. For the purposes of the HER the building is presumed to be listed.

Plate 5: Left - Lloyds Bank Chambers;
Right - 2-4 Albert Road, Middlesbrough (the eastern end of Lloyds Bank Chambers
can just be seen at the left of the picture).

Possible Local List Buildings
In 2002 the Conservation Officer for Middlesbrough Borough Council produced a Draft Schedule of Local List Buildings (Middlesbrough Borough Council. 2002). This is currently being revised for Cabinet consideration (Middlesbrough Borough Council, *forthcoming*).   During the site visits a number of non-listed adjacent buildings were photographed and their details added to the HER. Many of these were on the revised draft list but others were absent.

The following are recommended for inclusion on the Local List:-

Area 1: St. Hilda's, Town Centre and Linthorpe

Plate 6: Left – Britannia Steel Test House;
Right – Coal Depot, School Croft.

HER 3919. Britannia Steel Testing House, Romaldkirk Road (see Plate 5). Early 20th century brick building housing testing machinery used on steel sections for the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

HER 4008 – Coal depot, School Croft (see Plate 5). An unusual survivor. This complete example of a railway coal depots stands against the boundary wall of the Middlesbrough to Redcar line.

HER 4012. William Lane's Brass Foundry, Forty Foot Road. A late 19th century industrial building remaining in its original use.

Plate 7: War Department Boundary Stone at Bright Street.

HER 4379. War Department Boundary Stone at Bright Street. Possibly from the turn of the 20th century. This was presumably one of a series marking a military depot.

HER 4939. Broomlands Lodge, Cambridge Road, Linthorpe. The former lodge to Broomlands Children's Hospital. Like many similar lodges it has a lot of detail for a small building including coat of arms and elaborate chimney stack.

Area 2: Stainton and Thornton

Plate 8: Left – Stainton Methodist Chapel;
Right – Thornton Water Pump

HER 6070. Stainton Methodist Chapel, Meldyke Lane (se Plate 6) – Built in 1840. An example of a local non-conformist facility still in use for worship.

HER 6071. Former village water pump, Thornton Road (see Plate 6). Presumably 19th century with an intact maker's plate. A rare example of a once common feature of village life.

Area 4: Nunthorpe & South Middlesbrough

Plate 9: Left – 84 Gunnergate Lane;
Right – The Old School, Nunthorpe

HER 3900. Nunthorpe Train Station, Guisborough Road. An original building contemporary with the Middlesbrough to Guisborough line of 1853.

HER 5574. 84 Gunnergate Lane, Marton (see Plate 7) – lodge building to the former Gunnergate Hall built in 1857 for Charles Leatham (Banker) and sold shortly after to John Vaughan (Ironmaster).

HER 6081. Grey Towers Coach House. Forms part of the setting for the Listed II* Grey Towers House. Recently converted to apartments.

HER 6082. The Old School (now in use as Omega Health Club), Church Lane, Nunthorpe (see Plate 7). Built in 1903 by Sir Arthur Dorman of Grey Towers. Adjacent to the Grade II listed Vicarage of the Church of St. Mary (LBS no. 59819).

5. Bibliography

Department of the Environment. 1988. List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest: Borough of Middlesbrough, Cleveland (Parishes of Nunthorpe, Stainton and Thornton). Department of the Environment.

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Middlesbrough Borough Council. *Forthcoming*. Schedule of Local List Buildings. Middlesbrough Borough Council.

Rowe, P. 2004. SMR Action Plan to achieve the first stage benchmarks for Historic Environment Records. Tees Archaeology Report TA04/07.

Rowe, P. 2006. SMR to HER: Proposal to develop the Tees Archaeology Sites and Monuments Record as a Historic Environment Record. Tees Archaeology Report TA06/05.

6. Archive

The project is archived with Tees Archaeology. The site code is MLB06 (Middlesbrough Listed Buildings Survey 2006). The archive is digital and its contents are reproduced on the CD-ROM which accompanies this report as Appendix 2. Its contents are: -

- Project report (.pdf)
- Digital photographic registers (.pdf)
- Digital images (.jpg)
- ArcView GIS Layer (.shp)
- MS Access database extract (.mdb)
- MS Excel progress sheet (.xls)

Copies of the report and CD-ROM will be deposited with the following publicly accessible repositories: -

- Teesside Archives
- Middlesbrough Reference Library
- National Monuments Record, Swindon

Appendix 1

Digital Photograph registers