

PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS:

Assessing Grade 2 listed or non-listed buildings

Heritage @ Risk, York 12th January

Stage 3

The following points are simple suggestions taken from our meeting on the 12th Jan. We look forward to hearing about your tips, tricks or solutions to issues in future meetings.

Taking the photographs:

Q5 section on “Initial assessment”:

Maximum of 4 photographs per survey—if you take more, aim for 4 ‘standard’ images which can be submitted to EH. Some suggestions are;

- 1) Front exterior: stand in (safe) position to get a full exterior view which fills frame of image, try and get the street number or number visible if possible. Avoid having people/cars in view.
- 2) More than one building? Take a shot giving full extent of terraces and then individual buildings too.
- 3) If semi- /detached or other structure take full image of sides and back view.
- 4) Going with what film suggests, we’re interested in getting “specific conservation problems”, such as moss, cracks, buddleias, degrading window-sashes etc. Take as many as is necessary to indicate separate problems, but in uploading to EH, you may only be able to choose one or two.

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- Photographs seem really helpful in working out what's wrong with buildings—you may be able to use them to fill in your survey in a more comfortable environment—i.e. coffee shop.
- They are also useful for providing EXTRA historical details that English Heritage might not be able to take. They may be useful to the Council in the future so hold on to them.
- Do not use a flash as this will distort the colours of your image.
- Light and dark are going to be influential factors to the quality of your images so bear this in mind.

Good examples of survey images:



Slightly 'iffy' examples of survey images:



Slanted angle (bit disorientating!)



Obscured exterior, closer look would be better

Other considerations:

- Digital photographs—highest resolution possible please (must be 3MEGABYTES (mb) when opened in file).
- Landscape/portrait—either are fine.
- People may enquire about your actions—so be ready with your badge and explain clearly about the project.
- Organise sharing cameras within group if you do not wish to use mobile phone/do not have access to a suitable camera. Talk to coordinator if any issues.

After the photographs have been taken:

- When taking digital images: you might want the first picture of house to be of a number/name or other symbolic feature to help remind you which photos relate to which buildings.
- Organise your image files into labelled folders clearly, first by Character Area (i.e. Area 22 (Railway Area)) and then by address.
- Each photo should be given a descriptive name (e.g. 'front elevation', 'view from street') within your folder.
- If it was not taken on the same day as the survey was undertaken, the date of the photograph should be added to the EH survey.

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Currently, we can manage all the image folders within dropbox accounts shared by groups or simply organise them as individuals (whichever is easiest).

Once we are up and running online, you can submit your four images to EH.

You will also be able to send your extras to Claire—we may need to discuss how this might work at a later date.

Good Luck!

Please email/chat to coordinator if you have any issues