

DAS (Incorporating Heritage Assessment)

Retention of Satellite Dish on Galatea Cottage, Whitby Lighthouse

NYM/PA
13 APR 2018

BACKGROUND AND PROPOSAL

The application site comprises two former lighthouse keepers cottages associated with Whitby Lighthouse that are now let as holiday cottages. They are named Galatea Cottage and Vanguard Cottage.

In October 2007 the transmitter mast which served the surrounding area was relocated by the broadcaster. The result was that the two lighthouse cottages were left without a television signal. The cottages are let commercially as holiday cottages and the paying guests expect to be able to watch television when they want to. The only solution was to install a satellite dish.

Listed Building consent was applied for and granted (reference NYM/2008/0012/LB) and the dish was installed in 2008. The dish is of a standard size 39cm high x 53cm wide x 50 cm deep. It faces 28.2 degrees east and is fixed to the existing chimney stack of Galatea Cottage. The single dish serves both cottages.

Although permanent consent had been applied for, when Listed Building Consent was granted, it was granted only on a temporary basis, with a conditional requirement to remove the dish after 5 years. The Local Planning Authority evidently hoped that digital television signal would improve significantly enough to negate the 'need' for the satellite dish.

Upon the expiration of the 2008 Listed Building Consent in 2013, a fresh application for permanent consent was made. A fresh consent (reference NYM/2013/0251/LB) was granted, but again a condition made it into a temporary consent, with the term of the temporary consent due to expire on 25th June 2018.

This application is made – again seeking permanent consent - to continue to retain the satellite dish. Circumstances are unchanged with regard to reception of television signal in the locality and due to the remote location, there would seem to be little prospect of change.



HERRITAGE ASSESSMENT.

The cottages were Grade II Listed as part of a single listing with the lighthouse itself in 1989 (List entry number 1316184). The listing description reads as follows;

Whitby High Light - II Lighthouse and attached keepers' cottages. 1857-58; cottages extended in C20. By James Walker for Trinity House. Red brick, rendered and painted white; green-painted chamfered plinth and dressings. Painted corrugated iron lantern with painted iron gallery. Brass fittings. Slate roofs to cottages. Landward front: 1-stage octagonal tower with basement and lantern, flanked by linking bays to 1-storey, 2-window cottage fronts. Tower has 2-light window recessed in deeply splayed opening in lower stage. Above, a relief moulding of Trinity House arms. Gallery of horizontal railings and square-section standards with bulb and mushroom finials, on shaped corbels, encircles tower at lantern level. Lantern surmounted by conical cap, finial and weathervane. Linking bays have 4-panel doors beneath bracketed flat hoods. Cottage fronts have 4-pane sashes with painted sills. Cottage roofs are pyramidal with conjoined stacks at apex. Interior of tower. Basement (formerly oilroom) fitted with curved staging and furniture. Ground floor (formerly service room) has fitted furniture and contains encased clock weights for occulting mechanism in lantern. Lantern retains gallery and stairs with foliate brackets and standards respectively. Outer-door handle is traditional grasping hand. Replacement catadioptric lens of 1890 still in use, and the occulting mechanism of same date survives as back-up system to present light. Cottage extensions and peripheral buildings not of special interest. D.B.Hague and R.Christie, Lighthouses: Their Architecture, History and Archaeology. D.Jackson, Lighthouses of England and Wales. Trinity House leaflet, Whitby.

The listing description gives no indication as to any particular sensitivity of the listed building to the specific proposal.

The following factors contribute towards ensuring minimal impact on the historic character of the listed building

1. The small size of the dish – especially in context of the large chimney it is fixed to
2. The dark colour which so blends with the black chimney on which it is fixed as well as the slate roof tiles below it.
3. The gauzed material of the dish allowing a semi opaqueness
4. The small degree of fixing and removable character.

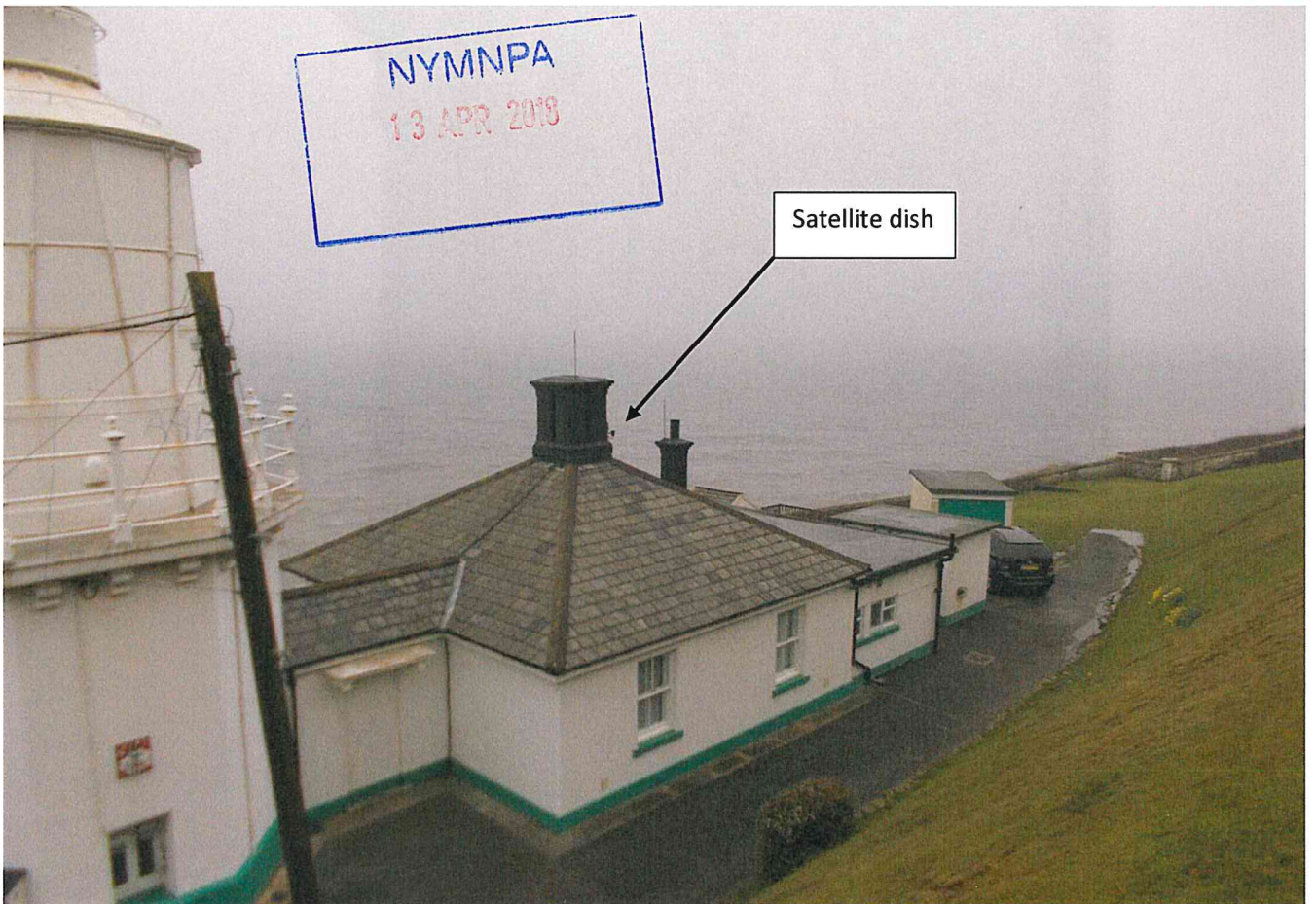
Together, these factors make it questionable whether there is any material impact on the historic character of the listed building requiring Listed Building Consent.

In any case, the necessity of television reception to modern living justifies this proposal. No more sensitive positioning could be achieved – especially factoring in the functional requirements of the dish that to a large part dictate its position. Impacts have been further kept to a minimum by sharing the single dish between the two holiday cottages – something that is only possible because the cottages are holiday homes in single ownership and control.





Satellite dish



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