

# ALNWICK YOUTH HOSTEL

## HERITAGE STATEMENT

### The Nature of the Asset

34 – 38 Green Batt is the former Alnwick House of Correction and former courthouse and police station, in use as such from 1807 until the new police station was built in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Three buildings/areas on the site are specifically listed.

The listing is in three parts, all Grade II

*List Entry Number 1371356 - Former Correction House Yard at Rear of No. 34 Green Batt*

*List Entry Number 1156934 - 34 Green Batt*

*List Entry Number 1156959 - 36 and 38 Green Batt*

### The Extent of the Asset

The building can be seen from a public right of way that is part of the property.

### The Significance of the Asset

The site is a former House of Correction for prisoners serving short terms of confinement and from 1856 included a Magistrates' court and police station. Historical records are scarce and incomplete. It is built of stone; rough dressed in places and ashlar to the front. Before 2011 the entire site was used by the Urban and then County Councils for administrative purposes, but it was not well maintained.

### The Proposed Works

Window surrounds - sills, jams and heads on all 5 upper front windows of the main building to be replaced like for like.

### Relevant Planning History

In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century a new police station rendered the buildings redundant and the site was taken over by the then Urban Council for administrative purposes, followed by Northumberland County Council until 2008. In 2010 Alnwick Community Development Trust purchased the buildings from Northumberland County Council and converted them into a Youth Hostel, with major internal structural changes that were given full planning permission and listed building consent in 2010.

In 2011 the Development Trust went into liquidation and the building was re-purchased from the liquidator by Northumberland County Council and transferred to ARCH. The Alnwick Development Trust trading arm continued to operate the Hostel as a tenant of ARCH (now Advance

Northumberland) changing its title to Alnwick Youth Hostel. The property is now owned by Northumberland County Council

### **The Impact on the Asset**

The proposals will improve the appearance of and make safe the window surrounds on the front of the building. The surrounds will be restored like for like. The sympathetic restoration fits in with the desire of the directors of the hostel to retain the original features and character of the buildings and the boundary walls. The history and character of the building is a unique selling point for the hostel.

### **Preserve, Enhance and Mitigate**

The proposal will promote increased use and appreciation of the whole site. It will also have the appearance of a heritage asset in suitable modern use with sensitive restoration using appropriate materials.



