Plans

What do I submit with my Planning Application?
Introduction
It is important that planning applications include clear, scale plans, which have been drawn to a good standard. We will not validate your application unless it has enough plans to show the existing site, and the site as proposed. What plans we require will vary from scheme to scheme. Examples of different types of plans are detailed below.

Can I draw the plans myself?
Plans do not necessarily need to be professionally drawn, however they must meet certain minimum standards. All plans must be drawn to metric scale. If your plans do not meet our minimum standards we will not validate your application. We will not validate an application submission containing plans marked “do not scale” or similar.

How many copies do I need to provide?
If you are submitting your application on paper, by law we require a total of four copies of all plans. This means the original and three copies.

Plan types: Site layout plan
The site layout plan (also known as a block plan) should be drawn at a metric scale and should accurately show:
• the direction of North
• the proposed development in relation to the site boundaries and other existing buildings on the site
• all the buildings, roads and footpaths on land adjoining the site including access arrangements
• all public rights of way crossing or adjoining the site
• the position of all trees on the site, and those on adjacent land that could influence or be affected by the development (see our tree guidance note for more details)
• the extent and type of any hard surfacing
• boundary treatment including walls or fencing where this is proposed

Fig.1: A simple example of a site layout. The drawing shows the property to scale, all the boundaries, and buildings beyond the boundary as necessary.
Plan types: Existing and proposed elevations

Elevation drawings should be drawn to a scale of 1:50 or 1:100 and must clearly show the proposed works in relation to what is already there. All sides of the proposal must be shown. They should indicate, where possible, the proposed building materials and the style, materials and finish of windows and doors. Blank elevations must also be included, if only to show that this is in fact the case.

Where a proposed elevation adjoins another building or is in close proximity, the drawings should clearly show the relationship between the buildings, and detail the positions of the openings on each property.

Fig.2: An example of an elevation for a Victorian house. The elevation drawing shows the property to scale, showing all windows and doors. There is no perspective in an elevation drawing.

Plan types: Existing and proposed roof plans

A roof plan is used to show the shape of the roof. These should be drawn to a scale of 1:50 or 1:100 and show clearly the proposed works in relation to what is already there. Details such as the roofing materials and their location are typically specified on the roof plan.

Fig.3: An example of a roof plan. The roof plan shows all the roof slopes, any dormers, flat roofs etc.
Plan types: Existing and proposed floor plans

Floor plans should be drawn to a scale of 1:50 or 1:100 and should explain the proposal in detail. Where existing buildings or walls are to be demolished these should be clearly shown. The drawings submitted should show details of the existing building(s) as well as those for the proposed development. New buildings should also be shown in context with adjacent buildings, including property numbers if necessary.

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Fig.4: An example of a floor plan. The floor plan shows all the external and internal walls, and labels the rooms and spaces in the house.

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Plan types: Existing and proposed site sections and finished floor levels

Sections should be drawn at a scale of 1:50 or 1:100 should show a cross section(s) through the proposed building(s). Where a proposal involves a change in ground levels, illustrative drawings should be submitted to show both existing and finished levels they should include details of foundations and eaves and how encroachment onto adjoining land is to be avoided.

Full information should also be submitted to demonstrate how proposed buildings relate to existing site levels and neighbouring development. Such plans should show existing site levels and finished floor levels with levels related to a fixed datum point off site. They should show the proposals in relation to adjoining buildings. This will be required for all applications involving new buildings.

In the case of householder development, the levels may be evident from floor plans and elevations, but in the case of sloping sites it will be necessary to show how proposals relate to existing ground levels or where ground levels outside the extension would be modified. Levels should also be taken into account in the producing design and access statements.
A duty planning officer is available Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm to talk to either by phone or in person at our Kendal offices. We also run planning surgeries in Keswick, Glenridding and Gosforth where you can meet an officer in person. Please see our website or call us for details of surgery times and locations.