Job Title	Senior Heritage & Townscape Consultant
Department	Smith Jenkins Planning & Heritage
Location	Primarily based in London, with an opportunity to work from our Milton Keynes Office. We would expect travel throughout the South East.
Closing Date	25th September 2026
Salary	£38,000 to £51,000 (Depending on experience)

About Smith Jenkins

Smith Jenkins is an independent planning and heritage consultancy with offices in London and Milton Keynes.

Since our formation in 2012, we have built a reputation for providing straightforward, commercially aware planning advice and helping clients navigate the development process. Our Heritage & Townscape team was established in 2021 and has developed into an established consultancy practice working on projects across the UK.

We advise on historic buildings, conservation areas, heritage assets and new development, helping clients understand the opportunities and constraints associated with heritage and townscape and, importantly, how these issues can be addressed as part of a wider development strategy.

Our work ranges from individual listed buildings and sensitive sites to major development proposals, tall buildings and strategic planning projects.

The opportunity

We are looking for a Senior Heritage & Townscape Consultant to join our established team.

This is a varied consultancy role, offering the opportunity to work across a range of project types and to develop both technical and client-facing experience. Depending on experience, you will take responsibility for individual projects and workstreams, while working closely with senior colleagues and the wider planning team.

The role will involve providing advice on the development and detailed planning of works to historic buildings and new development within historic areas. It will also include larger development proposals, including tall buildings and other schemes where contextual analysis, townscape and visual impact are important considerations.

We are looking for someone who can combine strong research and analytical skills with practical judgement — someone who understands heritage issues but can also explain what they mean for a real development project.

Key responsibilities

Heritage and townscape

- Researching the history and development of buildings, sites and areas, and assessing the significance of heritage assets and their settings.

- Providing heritage and townscape advice on development proposals and development strategies.
- Preparing Heritage Statements, Heritage Impact Assessments and related technical reports.
- Contributing to Townscape and Visual Impact Assessments.
- Advising on proposals affecting listed buildings, conservation areas and other heritage assets.
- Reviewing and commenting on design proposals and architectural information from a heritage and townscape perspective.

Planning and development

- Contributing to planning and listed building consent applications.
- Providing heritage and townscape input into Environmental Statements and other EIA documentation.
- Assisting with planning appeals and, where appropriate, the preparation of evidence.
- Undertaking heritage and planning due diligence for development sites and acquisitions.
- Contributing to local plan representations and strategic planning work.

Project and client management

- Managing agreed projects and individual workstreams, subject to experience.
- Working to agreed budgets, programmes and deadlines.
- Liaising with clients, architects, planners, local authorities and other consultants.
- Attending meetings, site visits and consultations.
- Presenting findings and recommendations clearly to clients and project teams.
- Developing effective working relationships with existing and new clients.

Team contribution

- Working collaboratively with colleagues across the Heritage & Townscape and wider Smith Jenkins teams.
- Sharing knowledge and contributing to the development of the team's technical approach.
- Supporting and, where appropriate, delegating work to more junior members of the team.
- Contributing to the continued development and growth of the Heritage & Townscape service.

Skills and experience

We are looking for someone with a good understanding of the historic environment and its relationship with planning and development.

Essential

- Relevant professional experience in heritage, conservation, townscape, planning or a related consultancy environment.
- Strong research, analytical and report-writing skills.
- The ability to assess and explain the significance of historic buildings and places.
- An understanding of the UK planning and heritage framework.
- An understanding of how heritage and townscape considerations affect development proposals and the planning process.
- The ability to manage workloads, prioritise tasks and work to deadlines.
- The ability to work independently and as part of a wider project team.
- A practical, constructive and solutions-focused approach to problem solving.

The role would suit someone with around 3–8 years' relevant post-qualification experience, although we are more interested in the quality and relevance of your experience than a particular number of years.

Desirable

Experience in one or more of the following would be advantageous:

- Heritage Statements and Heritage Impact Assessments.
- Listed building consent applications.
- Conservation areas and historic urban environments.
- Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
- Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Planning appeals and/or expert evidence.
- Local plan representations.
- Development and site appraisal.
- Working within a consultancy environment.
- Client and project management.

A relevant degree or professional qualification is desirable.

IHBC membership is desirable but not essential. Membership of the RTPI, or a willingness to work towards professional membership, would also be welcomed.

The person

We are looking for someone who:

- Takes pride in producing accurate, well-considered work.
- Is curious about buildings, places and how they have developed.
- Can identify the important issues and communicate them clearly.
- Is comfortable asking questions and challenging ideas constructively.
- Takes responsibility for their work and follows things through.
- Can work under pressure without losing sight of quality.
- Enjoys working as part of a team but is also comfortable working independently.
- Has an interest in the commercial realities of consultancy and wants to understand what clients are trying to achieve.

What we offer

- £38,000–£51,000 salary depending on experience.
- 28 days' annual leave.
- Flexible and hybrid working.
- Structured CPD and professional development.
- Payment of relevant professional membership fees.
- Wellbeing support.
- Access to both London and Milton Keynes offices.
- A varied portfolio of heritage, townscape and planning projects across the UK.
- The opportunity to take responsibility for projects and develop client relationships.
- A supportive team environment with direct access to experienced colleagues.

What success looks like

In the first year, we would expect the successful candidate to become a valued member of the Heritage & Townscape team, contributing confidently to projects and taking increasing responsibility for their own work.

As your experience develops, this would include taking greater ownership of projects and client relationships, supporting and delegating to colleagues where appropriate, and contributing to the continued development of the team's work and profile.

The role provides a clear opportunity to broaden your technical experience, develop your client and project-management skills, and take increasing responsibility within the team.