Heritage Statement – Horsham
Site Address: Units 42–43 Carfax, Swan Walk, Horsham RH12 1HQ
Client: FatFace Ltd
Date: 01.10.2025

Units 42–43 Carfax, Swan Walk, Horsham RH12 1HQ are located within the **Horsham Conservation Area**, which encompasses the historic heart of this West Sussex market town. The conservation area reflects the town's growth from a medieval settlement to a thriving commercial centre during the Georgian and Victorian periods, and later its evolution into a modern market town with a strong historic identity.

Horsham's central core, including the Carfax and Swan Walk, is notable for its blend of architectural styles, with surviving timber-framed buildings, Victorian brick commercial blocks, and sympathetic post-war additions. The Carfax, in particular, forms the focal point of the town.

The premises at Units 42–43 occupy a visually prominent position at the edge of the Swan Walk shopping precinct, which was developed in the 1970s and integrated into the historic townscape. While the building itself is **not listed**, it lies within the **conservation area** and contributes to the broader townscape through its scale, active frontage, and role in supporting local economic vitality.

FatFace Ltd has proposed a carefully considered refurbishment of the retail frontage, including updated fascia signage and redecoration works. These proposed changes are modest and have been sensitively designed to sit harmoniously within the setting of the Horsham Conservation Area, while reflecting the brand's contemporary identity in a heritage-appropriate manner.

Significance of the historic fabric/area that will be affected:
The proposed works are restricted to the shopfront and fascia zone. While the building itself is of modern construction, it plays a contributory role in the wider conservation area, particularly through its visual relationship with the Carfax and adjacent buildings. The retained shopfront features will be enhanced through careful redecoration, with all existing materials refurbished rather than replaced.

The impact of the proposed works on the historic fabric/area:
New fascia signage will be fabricated using high-quality, durable materials in a clean and understated design. The fascia will be repainted in a deep navy (equivalent to Farrow and Ball's Hague Blue), which is considered an appropriate heritage tone that complements the conservation area's established palette. Any timber detailing will be repaired using like-for-like materials and joinery methods to ensure continuity with the existing fabric. No original or historic features will be removed or obscured.

The Box Design team has been appointed by FatFace Ltd to oversee these light-touch works and to manage the planning and conservation area consent process as required. A site inspection and photographic record have been carried out to inform the proposals and to ensure that all changes are sympathetic to the site's character and the wider conservation area context.

These proposals are minimal, heritage-led, and fully reversible. They are intended to preserve and enhance the building's contribution to the town centre while ensuring it remains a viable and vibrant part of Horsham's retail landscape.

If you have any queries, please contact:
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