

Design and Access Statement

Teaching Space+ Additional Classrooms at Wentworth Castle for the Northern College

1.0 Introduction

The statement relates to the proposed alterations to remove modern partitions to restore rooms within Cutler House at Wentworth Castle for the Northern College. The proposed development is detailed in drawings and schedules prepared by Storah Architecture Ltd.

The statement has been prepared to address the requirements of the The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) (Amendment) Order 2013 and considers the proposals in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local plan policies. It should not be used for any other purpose.

2.0 Site Context

Northern College is an adult residential college based at Wentworth Castle a grade I listed country house in parkland at Stainborough near Barnsley.

Wentworth Castle is the former seat of the Earls of Strafford. It is sited in a landscaped parkland at Stainborough, near Barnsley. It is a large building built in four distinct phases between 1670 and 1900.

3.0 Requirements of the Brief

The College have a need for mid-sized teaching spaces which are currently under provided for, the proposal will provide these within Cutler House. The office space within Cutler house will then relocate to underutilised space elsewhere in upper floors of the building.

The new classrooms are part of a strategy to concentrate teaching spaces in the core of the building to improve access for students.

4.0 Design

It is proposed remove the later partitions and a server cabinet from the two spaces. The rooms will be restored to their original volumes and finishes made good.

A surface mounted service trunking will be provided immediately above the wooden panelled dado. This will take services for power and communications. Lighting will be renewed, ceiling mounted with service ducting to avoid any damage to plaster ceilings.

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Floors have been checked for adequacy and to ensure that the partitions may be removed without impacting on the structure elsewhere.

The server cabinet will be relocated to the connecting corridor between the two teaching spaces. A second (matching) door will be added to the opposite end of the corridor to allow use as a cupboard.

4.1 Accessibility

The first floor of Cutler house is directly accessible from the lift within the core of the building. Concentrating teaching spaces, within the core of the Castle reduces travel distances and improves accessibility.

4.2 Crime Prevention

The proposals will have no impact on security.

5.0 Appearance

The works will restore the rooms to their original volumes and retain all surviving original features, including decorated plasterwork, timber panelling and joinery.

6.0 The Context and Impact of the Proposals

Returning rooms to their original volumes will enhance the significance of the spaces by allowing the full volumes and detailing to be viewed as originally intended.

A matching door will be fitted to the link corridor. This is a discrete alteration which will not impact on the significance of the spaces.

7.0 Conclusion.

The proposals respect the significance of the existing building, its detailing, and its historic features.

There is benefit in restoring the rooms to their original volumes. The additional door to form the server cupboard within the link is a fully reversible alteration, which will not impact on significance. The improved understanding of the rooms by the removal of the partitions offsets this minor harm.

The proposals should be considered in the context of national guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Paragraph 203 of the NPPF states that 'In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

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The impact on the heritage asset (the listed building and curtilage) is minimal as has been demonstrated. There are benefits in the proposal in terms of improved aesthetics and improved understanding of the rooms.

The proposal is considered acceptable in terms of the NPPF, as there is only minor harm is the fully reversible fitting of a cupboard door. There is no long term impact on the significance of the heritage assets (listed building and its curtilage).

The proposals improve the viability of the College providing additional teaching spaces in the main building and improving accessibility.

The proposals are considered the proposals meet the requirements of the NPPF and Local Plan Policies.

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