

21 February 2025

Design and Access Statement

Proposed Greenhouse at The Northern College, Wentworth Castle, Stainborough.

1.0 Introduction

The assessment relates to the proposed erection of a greenhouse on a prepared base within the former Annex of The Northern College, Wentworth Castle, Stainborough at detailed in drawings 23-023G-001 and 23-023G-200, 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. It should not be used for any other purpose.

The proposal is within the listed parkland of Wentworth Castle and the grounds of the Northern College. The statement considers the proposals in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local plan policies.

2.0 Site Context

Wentworth Castle Gardens, are formal gardens laid out in the period of around 1713 to 1730 by Thomas Wentworth, first Earl of Strafford (2nd creation) with mid-C18 additions by William Wentworth, second Earl of Strafford, and parkland of early to mid-C18. The gardens surrounded Wentworth Castle. The Castle was formed by the extension of an earlier house Stainborough initially built in 1670, and extended in 1715 and 1768.

Barnsley Corporation purchased the site in 1948 , converting it into Wentworth Castle College of Education, a teacher training college initially for women. As part of the college the Annex, a series of post-war prefabricated concrete blocks were constructed. The majority of these remain, currently disused. The college moved to Sheffield Polytechnic in 1978, when Wentworth Castle became home to the Northern College.

The proposed site of the greenhouse is on the concrete base of a former post-war concrete pre-fabricated classroom, built c.1948.

The site is enclosed between surviving pre-fab blocks which are currently disused and Wentworth Court, a two storey block of student accommodation constructed in the late C20.

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The site is outside the main area of the gardens, which are bounded by Lady Lucy's Walk to the south. It is screened from the formal gardens by fencing and a group of lime trees replanted in the early C20.

3.0 Requirements of the Brief

The greenhouse is required for adult learning courses at the college. It is to be used alongside raised beds in the nearby area.

4.0 Design

The proposal is for a 3.8 x 7m plain aluminium greenhouse on the site of a much larger building. It is agricultural/domestic in character and of typical glass house design. It is within an area of raised beds and vegetable plots used by students and the college for teaching.

Siting the greenhouse on the existing slab provides level access for wheelchair users and the mobility impaired.

The glass house is small in scale within the context of other buildings on site and fits discretely into the domestic style garden area west of Wentworth Court.

5.0 Ecology

The greenhouse sits on an existing slab and does not impact on vegetation or wildlife routes.

No trees or potential nest sites or bat roosts are affected by the proposals.

6.0 Conclusion

The proposal is for a modest, large domestic scale greenhouse on the site of a much larger building.

It is for the use of the students at the college for teaching within an area of garden used for this purpose. The greenhouse is screened and remote from listed buildings and does not affect the significance of the listed gardens. There are no wider ecological impacts.

Prepared by

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