

Design and Access Statement

New switch room at Wentworth Castle for the Northern College

1.0 Introduction

The statement relates to the proposed alterations to form a new switchroom, including fire resisting partitions and ceiling lining within the basement store rooms within the lower ground floor of 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 are renewing the main electrical supply and switch room. To avoid a considerable period of closure, the new switch room is to be constructed alongside the existing allowing a more rapid switch over to reduce time without power. To accommodate this a new fire resisting enclosure is required to house the new switchgear.

4.0 Design

It is proposed to build new demountable partitions within a kitchen store, to fireproof below the existing ceiling and block a doorway with a fire resisting partition. The existing door will be retained in position within the partition.

4.1 Accessibility

Access to the building is not affected.

4.2 Crime Prevention

The proposals will have no impact on security.

Storah Architecture Ltd
Chartered Architects : Historic Building Consultants

46 Halifax Road
Todmorden
OL14 5QG

T 01706 813214
mail@storah.com
www.storah.com

Directors:
J. David Storah Arch. Tech. Cert
Richard A. Storah Dip. Arch. MA Cons. RIBA AABC SCA IHBC



Company Registered in
England. No: 9547619

Design and Access Statement: New switch room, The Northern College.

5.0 Appearance

The works will have minimal impact on a service zone within the building.

6.0 The Context and Impact of the Proposals

The works will renew electrical installations and reduce the risk of power failures or fires. This will help to retain the hall in use.

As the new switch room is immediately alongside the existing service penetrations are kept to a minimum. The incoming mains are within an existing duct.

7.0 Conclusion.

The proposals respect the significance of the existing building.

There benefit in improving services to reduce risk of damage or harm to the building and its users.

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

Paragraph 210 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.

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 safety both for the building and its users.

The proposal is considered acceptable in terms of the NPPF, as there is only minor harm is the fully reversible installation of partitions, ceiling linings and a fire door. There is no long term impact on the significance of the listed building.

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

Prepared by

Richard Storah