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Our Ref: WS/TA/23012/26

23rd January 2026

FAO Mr M Barrett
Northern College for Adults
Wentworth Castle
Stainborough
Barnsley
S75 3ET

by email only

Dear Sirs

Re: Wentworth Castle Stainborough Barnsley

As requested, we visited the above building on Wednesday 7th January 2026 to carry out a timber inspection of the roof timbers and the exposed floor timbers to the Queen Ann 3 Room. We have pleasure in submitting the following report with our observation and recommendations.

Note: -

- i) All directions are taken facing the front elevation and looking through the building towards the rear. The front elevation is taken as that nearest the lawned gardens.
- ii) No exposure works were carried out at they time of inspection. We have commented on visible areas of decay and areas of concern within the report.
- iii) Access was restricted from the central boarded walkway. Observations were made of the accessible surfaces for the walkway.

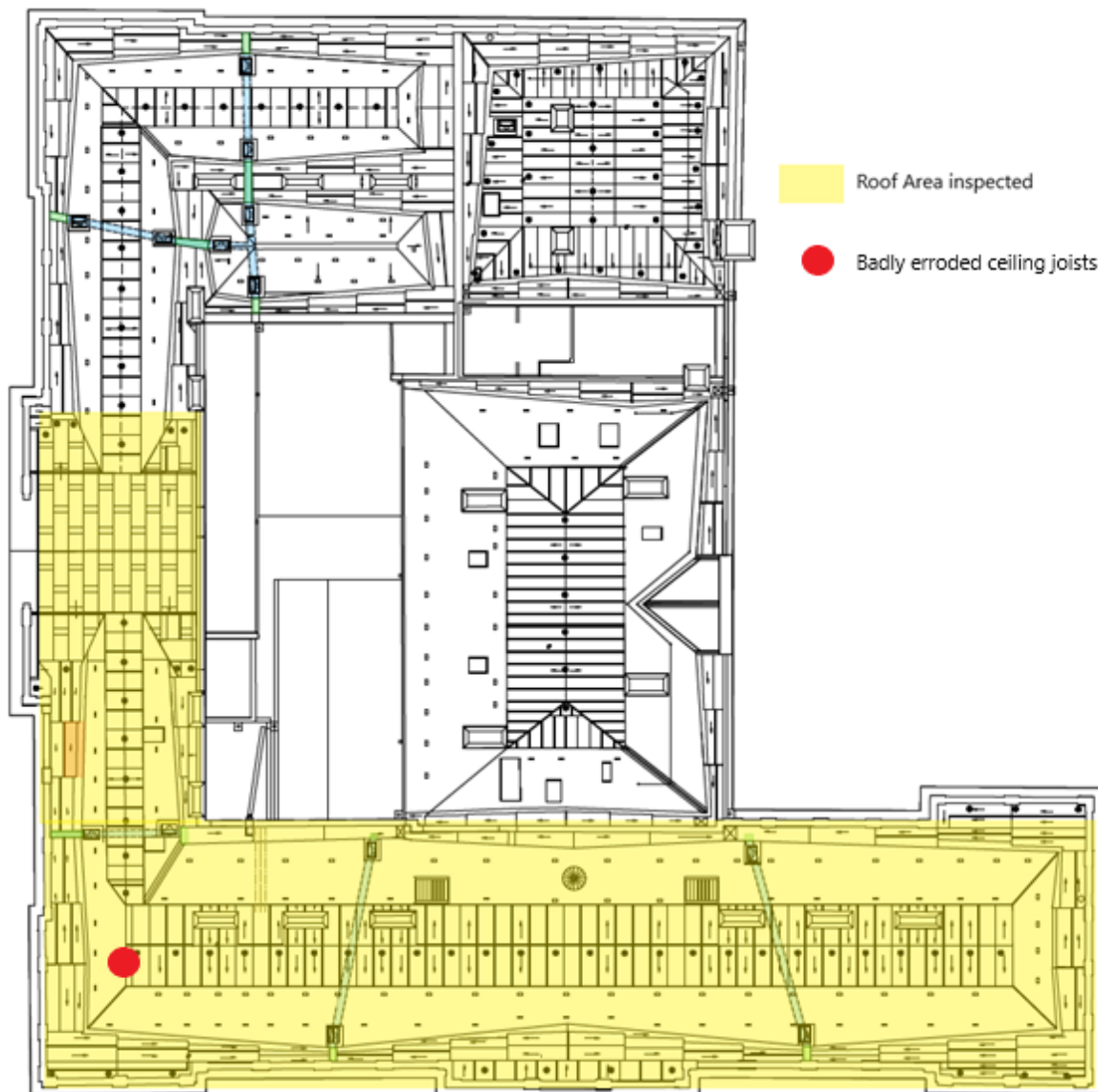
OBSERVATIONS

1. General

The roof is a traditional construction for the period ,with large Oak Queen Post trusses, supporting purlins, hips rafters and under boarding, covered with a slate covering. The central part of the roof is flat supported.

The majority of the timbers are Oak with some replacement carried to several rafters and ceiling joists. The original roof timbers have generally suffered from signs of woodworm

attack in the past. Comments have been provided on timbers affected by the old infestations and areas of roof repairs.



2.0 Roof timbers

Inspection was carried out to the queen post trusses, purlins, hips and rafters. Previous infestation of woodworm from the common furniture beetle to varying degrees was noted to the majority of the original timbers. The outbreaks appeared old in nature with no sign's recent activity i.e. new wood boring dust or fresh flight holes.

Sections of the timbers have been de-frassed with the removal of the soft friable, previously infected timbers back to the heartwood. Oak trees have two different sections, the heartwood which is a denser material and is less susceptible to woodworm and contains tannins which act as a natural preservative. The outer nutrient-rich sapwood is less dense and is easier broken down by the larva of the insect. For larger sections of timber like trusses and purlins

the impact usually will not affect the structural strength. However, on small timbers including roof rafters, ceiling joists and lath & plaster ceilings the effect of woodworm can greatly affect the loading capacity of the timber. Severely affected ceiling joists were noted above the Queen Ann 3 room.



Severely affected ceiling joists above Queen Ann 3



Surface old woodworm to larger section timber to purlins and truss members



3.0 Queen Ann 3 room

At the time of inspection ongoing repairs with removal of floorboards and upgrading joists was in progress to Queen Ann 3 room. The removed floorboards revealed similar old woodworm attack to the ceilings and the floor construction consisting of fitch beams with intermediate joists. Again, the attack appeared old with no signs of recent activity with flight holes old in appearance and no signs of new dust.



4.0 Summary

The outbreaks of woodworm to the roof and the Queen Ann 3 room revealed no signs of recent activity. With buildings of this age, Robinsons suspect some previous treatments have been carried out with no signs of fresh dust and new recently cut flight holes. At this time, no

specialist insecticide treatments are recommended to the accessible timbers inspected to the roof and the Queen Ann floor.

Some minor reinforcement will be required to the badly eroded ceiling joists to the roof timbers above the Queen Ann 3 room. This can be achieved with fixed new joists along side existing and fixing with stainless steel coach screws. The timber reinforcement can be carried out by the site joiners currently reinforcing the floor joists below.

We hope you find our comments helpful Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Yours faithfully

ROBINSONS PRESERVATION LTD

Warren Shepherd
SURVEYOR

Nb.

1. This report should be retained in association with any guarantee issued for work done by us.