

Section 19 application for insertion of new timbers to support ceilings

Northern College, Wentworth Castle, Stainborough, Barnsley

1.0 Introduction

During works to refurbish the reception and repair the Baroque wing ceilings at Wentworth Castle, extensive historic beetle damage to ceiling joists has been discovered below attic floors and over the Italian Stair. It is considered that this will affect the bearing capacity of the timbers placing the ceilings below at risk of collapse. To address this it is proposed to fix additional joists of similar size alongside and fixed to the affected timbers.

To record and seek consent for the proposal a Section 19 application for amendment of the listed building consent is being applied for to allow new joists to be inserted during other approved works.

2.0 Need and method

The decayed timber may be retained as timbers have been previously treated and are showing no signs of ongoing infestation.

Where section sizes are considerably depleted it is proposed to double up the timbers with treated softwood. The new timbers will be fixed to the existing using Reisser Cutter (or similar) Wood Screws of as small a diameter as possible. Screws to be driven with a driver with a torque setting to avoid over sinking of head to reduce risk of splits.

If required new timbers will be fixed with binders fixed spanning joists to either side to spread load and bearing of joists.

3.0 Proposed Works

Where section sizes are considerably depleted it is proposed to double up the timbers with treated softwood. The new timbers will be fixed to the existing using Reisser Cutter (or similar) Wood Screws of as small a diameter as possible. Screws to be driven with a driver with a torque setting to avoid over sinking of head to reduce risk of splits.

If required new timbers will be fixed with binders fixed spanning joists to either side to spread load and bearing of joists. The new timbers will be date marked to identify the repair in future years.

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Section 19 application: Ceiling timber reinforcement at the Northern College



Photo showing the reduced size of timbers. New timbers of similar size will be placed alongside and screwed to the existing.



Similar damage has occurred in the floor void below the south of the long gallery.

4.0

Conclusion

The proposed works will provide additional support to the ceilings whilst retaining the maximum historic fabric.

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