

HERITAGE STATEMENT

ALTON CASTLE
ALTON, STAFFORDSHIRE

Georgian House
24 Bird Street
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 6PT

t: 01543 254357

f: 01543 416540

e: mail@bhbarchitects.co.uk



BROWNHILL HAYWARD BROWN
Chartered Architects

Brownhill Hayward Brown Ltd
Registered in England and Wales
Registration No. 6538949

The Application Site

Alton Castle is located on the outskirts of the quiet and picturesque village of Alton, and is within the Alton and Farley Conservation Area. The building is a Gothic-revival castle, Listed Grade I, and is also a scheduled ancient monument.

Alton Castle has been operating as a Catholic Youth Residential Centre since 1996. The castle was unoccupied from 1989-1996, and the building's previous use was a boarding school.

Description of the proposal

The Youth Residential Centre wish to provide improved facilities for their staff accommodation on the third floor in the form of en-suite facilities for the two staff rooms. Two additional shower rooms are also proposed on the third floor. This provision will ease the pressure on the existing facilities for the dormitories in the centre.

The ground floor currently lacks a w.c facility, and it is proposed to accommodate this facility within a room to the rear of the building (back of house) which is in a state of disuse.

This application relates to the above mentioned proposals on the ground and third floor respectively.

Proposed Works

Third Floor

Walls forming the en-suite facilities and the shower rooms will be constructed as traditional plasterboard partitions, skim finish, painted to match and echo the character of the third floor rooms. Where openings are formed in existing walls/partitions and new doors inserted, these will be in timber, painted finish in a style to match the appearance of the existing doors. New timber skirtings will match the existing in size and profile.

Ground Floor

A traditional plasterboard partition, skim finish, painted is proposed to form the w.c enclosure. The new door will be in timber, style and finish to match the character of doors on the ground floor.

A new vented suspended timber floor is proposed for the w.c enclosure.

Impact of the proposed change

Third floor

Drainage for the proposed sanitary facilities will connect internally with the existing drainage facilities on the second floor.

No external connections are proposed.

The foul drainage pipework of the en-suite in bedroom3 will drop through the third floor and traverse along the ceiling of the second floor and drop down into the en-suite facility of the second floor. The existing drainage pipe at floor level will be extended to facilitate the new foul drainage pipe connection, as indicated on the accompanying drawing.

The foul drainage pipework of the en-suite in bedroom2 will drop down through the third floor, into the bedroom of the second floor, and connect into the existing soil pipe at floor level, as indicated on the accompanying drawing.

Generally pipework on second floor will be boxed in MDF, and decorated to match the room and ceiling finish.

Existing heating pipework will be modified to suit the new layouts.

The internal alterations proposed are minimal and no historic features are affected by the proposal.

Mechanical ventilation for the en-suites and shower rooms will terminate through the roof via in-tile (clay to match the existing Staffordshire Blue clay tiles) vents. The vents will be located on the north pitch of the roof to ensure the visual appearance of the principal (south) elevation is unaffected.

Ground Floor

Foul drainage for the w.c will connect with the existing foul drainage internally.

Mechanical ventilation for the w.c is proposed to terminate in the stone wall via a purpose made stone vent with square holes. The stone will match the existing stone walls.

Conclusion

The proposals have been designed to have minimal effect on the historic fabric.

Externally, the visual impact is insignificant and restricted to elevations that are not principal elevations.

As such the proposed works will not have a detrimental impact to the character and appearance of the building.