23/02/2022

HeritageStatement of Significance and Impact

Telephone Exchange, St Edward St, Leek, Staffs. ST13 5DS

The site is a Telephone exchange providing internet service and telecommunications. It is approximately 50-60 years old.

There is a proposal to install ventilation louvres into the first floor of the building on two elevations. This is to allow fresh air into and out of the rooms in order to cool electronic equipment being operated for the Governments initiative for high-speed broadband, to every home by 2025.

Two louvres will be installed on the west elevation. It is proposed to remove panes of glass from two windows. An aluminium louvre will be installed and fixed to the metal window frames. Two louvres will be installed on the east elevation. It is proposed to remove panes of glass from the windows and an aluminium louvre will be installed and fixed to the metal window frames.

The louvres are of aluminum construction and the colour will be a mill finish to match window frames and louvres already installed on various elevations in the building.

To the east, the exchange faces various retail outlets off St Edward Street. To the west of the exchange, the proposed louvres overlook the Royal Mail depot which it shares entrance/exit access, off Strangman Street.

The building is of brick construction. It is used daily by BT Openreach personnel with their vehicles using the exchange carpark although there are no permanent personnel based there.

Its not of particular architectural significance and is a practical building adorned with one or two aerials and masts on the roof. It also has a louvres installed on other elevations which currently act as ventilation for the rooms.

There will be no access issues after or during the installation.

An installation of the louvres would not significantly take away any of the character of the structure in any way as they will be of the same construction of existing louvres already installed in the building on the same elevations.