

Conservation Response.

Date: 23/02/2023.

File/Application ref: SMD/2023/0024.

Case Officer: Hannah Hollins.

Proposal: 'Listed Building Consent for proposed drilling 5mm hole for installation of fibre broadband service'.

Address: 62 The Old Stone House, St Edward Street, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 5DL.

Dear Hannah,

No issues with this intervention.

However, from the photos on the Design and Access statement I can see moisture ingress and biological growth in the area the hole is proposed to be drilled, and what looks like a cut black pipe partially off the property. A new hole being drilled in this location will see interior damp and moisture ingress exacerbated at this location. It is advised any rainwater goods are correctly managing water away from the building and that drains are clear.

Secondly, it is imperative that generic silicone or expanding foam is not used to bung the gaps at the hole once the new cable is installed. This is not appropriate and both will recede away from the stone in varying weather conditions, damaging and posing further moisture ingress into the fabric. Lime putty will suffice.

Traditional lime must be used for mortar repointing. Similarly, generic silicone or expanding foam must not be used to fill gaps where the *old* cable is removed from. If gaps from old cable are near timber frames then lime putty will suffice, or oakum and burnt sand mastic would be appropriate.

Regards,

Miss E Holland.
Conservation Officer.