OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240

<u>Justification Statement and Design and Access Statement for proposed alterations to the house and garage at Brockhampton House, Bringsty, Herefordshire</u>

Rev A - August 2019

# Site Location

Brockhampton House is located in the parish of Brockhampton in Herefordshire. The house is set in an elevated position on a slight spur overlooking the landscape park which falls away to the south and east.



View of Brockhampton House from the south east.

# **Building Description**

Brockhampton House is a large red-brick mansion of mid eighteenth century date and is listed grade II\*. It is referred to as Brockhampton Park in the Historic England listing, and the listing for the grade II park and garden mentions that the house has also been referred to as Brockhampton Court.

BROCKHAMPTON Brockhampton Park SO 65 NE 9/123 9.6.67. II\* 2. Mid C18. Red brick mansion with moulded stone cornice and hipped slate roof. Central 3 bays break forward with pediment. 5 storeys. 7 sash windows, the central 1st floor group being V enetian in character and the outer windows on all floors have late C19 broken architraves with Corinthian caps. Corbelled pediment to doorway. Wing at rear with cupola. Some original panelling inside.

List Entry Number 1176659



OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240

The eighteenth century part of the house is of seven bays, with the central three surmounted by a pediment. The architect was Thomas Farnolls Pritchard (1723-1777) and the house was reputedly built after the marriage between Richard Barneby (whose family had owned the estate of Brockhampton for over 400 years) to Betty Freeman. Her marriage portion of £3000 and subsequent further money inherited on the death of her father, allowed the new house to be built on high ground to the south of the original manor house. The landscape park surrounding the house was also created at this time (separate list entry no. 100087).

About 1870 the House was remodelled internally and new window architraves were applied to the exterior (later removed). Further wings to the rear were added in the nineteenth century.

In 1946 the house was bequeathed to the National Trust who opened the original manor of Lower Brockhampton to the public, and leased Brockhampton House to various tenants. These included to a developer in 1982, an insurance company and to a further tenant in 1996. During this final period significant works took place including the addition of the conservatory and the bay window to the Morning Room on the east elevation, the garage block to the north, as well as significant remodelling of the rear of the house to create a new kitchen, rear entrance hall and a loggia style porch.

Copies of the Architect's (Rodney Melville & Partners) floor plans from the date of these last works are included in Appendix 1. These show clearly the areas that have been remodelled, what the approximate previous layout might have been and where fabric is potentially of more recent origin.

The lease was assigned to the present owner in 2017.

# Planning Policy and the Building

At national level the principal legislation covering the protection of the cultural heritage of the built environment is the Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act 1990. The Act sets out the legislative framework within which works and development affecting listed buildings and conservation areas must be considered. This states that:

'In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses" (s66(1))

Various principles and polices relating to cultural heritage and archaeology are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which guide local planning authorities with respect to the wider historic environment. The NPPF identifies that the significance of a heritage asset can be damaged or harmed through alteration or destruction of the asset or by development that affects its setting. If harm or loss is likely then a justification should be provided that weighs the harm or loss to the significance of the heritage asset against the benefits of the proposal.

# Recent Application History and Pre-application Advice

The applicants submitted a listed building consent application in 2018 (ref 182536) for alterations to the second floor. This was approved in November 2018.

The applicants have recently submitted planning and listed building consent applications for alterations to the house which include the addition of a hydraulic lift to serve all floors, the addition of glazed screens to the rear porch and internal alterations to doors and the forming of new openings. Herefordshire Council's reference numbers for these applications are 191001 and 191002 and they were validated on the 19th March.



OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240

The proposals included in this application were not included with the above application as they had not been previously submitted for pre-application advice. These proposals were then submitted for pre-application advice to Herefordshire Council, Historic England and the Georgian Group on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

Herefordshire Council's Conservation Officer, Robert Walker, provided comments in his letter of the 16th April 2019 (ref 101256/CE). This letter said that the proposals generally could be supported and suggested that the surround proposed for the bay window should be omitted.

A meeting was held at the house with Sarah Lewis of Historic England on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019. A record of her observations and comments are set out in her letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019. This letter noted that Historic England were broadly content with the proposals but recommended that the treatment of the bay window and surround be reviewed.

No written response has yet been received from the Georgian Group but they have verbally confirmed that they have no objection to the proposals.

# Assessment of Significance

The summary of the building's history above identifies that the earliest form of the building is the 18th century block located to the south end. The remaining parts to the north of the 18th century part are thought to be of 19th century origin which have been subsequently altered since the acquisition of the property by the National Trust in 1946. It is understood that much of the plasterwork and decorations at ground and first floor have been reconstructed.

The Rodney Melville drawings, included in Appendix 1, show that all parts of the house were altered during the 1996 works and in particular the northern 19th century parts were significantly altered and the plan layout of these parts is now very different to that shown on the drawings.

The 18th century part of the building is clearly of the highest significance while the parts to the north are of less significance due to the heavy modifications that they have been subject to. The proposals affect a number of areas of the property; alterations to the bay windows on the east elevation, floors in the northern rear part of the building and the garage to the north of the house.

# **Proposed Works**

The works proposed are set out in detail below

## 1. Alterations to the bay window on the east elevation

The existing bay window on the east elevation of the house has three windows each arranged as a fixed light with two opening casements below. The fenestration of the windows matches those of the ground floor windows on the northern part of the east elevation.

The bay window was constructed during the 1996 works and is formed of red bricks bedded in a lime mortar to match the existing building. At high level there are Haddonstone copings and architrave and the heads of the windows are poorly formed of a soldier course of bricks supported by a steel angle lintel.



# HISTORIC BUILDINGS CONSERVATION CONSULTANTS

OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240



View of inside of bay windows.

View of outside of bay windows

On this elevation there is no direct connection from the principle rooms used by the family to the garden outside. Clearly alterations to the window openings of the 18th century part of the house are not acceptable so it is proposed that the central window of the bay is adapted to to become full height with a pair of glazed French doors.

The sills to the two windows on either side are to be lowered so that it is possible to have views out from inside when seated. The casement windows will be extended to suit.

Externally it is felt that the treatment of the lintels to the windows is poor. The soldier course and steel lintel will be removed and replaced with a flat brick arch formed with red rubbed bricks with a sandstone keystone. The keystone will be of the same dimensions as those on the 18th century house.

At the new doors a pair of steps will be provided down to the garden. These will be of local sandstone with a bullnose outer profile to match the stone used elsewhere on and around the house.

### 2. Replacement of tiled flooring to ground floors

During the 1996 works much of the ground floors in the northern part of the house were finished in ceramic tiles. Unfortunately these tiles were poorly selected and are not at all sympathetic to the house.

It is proposed that these tiles are removed and replaced in a number of areas as set out below. The floor underneath all of these areas, with the exception of the back stair hall, is believed to be a concrete screed inserted during the 1996 works. The tiles to the back stair hall are laid on to a plywood base sub-base over joists.

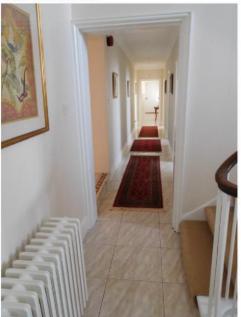


# HISTORIC BUILDINGS CONSERVATION CONSULTANTS

OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240



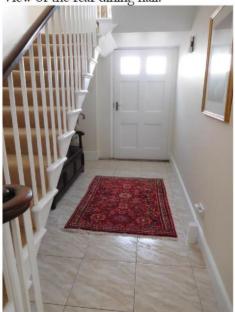
View of kitchen.



View of east service corridor.



View of the rear dining hall.



View of back stair.

#### Rear Dining Hall

The tiles are to be replaced with square diagonal format limestone with a border and dark inset cabochon stones.

## Kitchen

The tiles are to be replaced with larger format random stone flooring. The southern end of the room is arranged as a breakfast area and this will be finished with hardwood boarding to visually separate it from the remainder of the space.

### Back Stair

The back stair has an elegant though simple stone cantilevered stair with iron balustrading and it is proposed to use square diagonal format limestone here with a border as the dining hall but without inset cabochons.



OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240

### Rear Service Corridor

The service corridor is proposed to be finished with random width coursed tiles of a darker stone to distinguish it from the dining hall and the back stair.

### 3. Replacement of garage doors

The garage was constructed during the 1996 works and has been executed in red brick with painted metal up and over garage doors. The garage has five doors with the far left door accessing an enclosed space for storage of gardening vehicles. The rear wall of the garage is formed of an earlier garden wall and internally there are blockwork piers that support steel beams and timber joists that support a flat bitumen roof over.



View of front of garages with the edge of Brockhampton House to the right and the cottages of Brockhampton Mews to the left.



Steel up and over doors to the garage.



OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240

It is proposed to replace the metal doors with painted timber side hung doors with glazing at high level.

#### 4. Relocation of Oil Tanks

The existing oil tanks that feed the boiler for heating and hot water are located in the basement of the house below the dining room on the south side of the house. This has been identified as a significant fire risk to the house and the applicants wish to relocate the oil tanks to an external location behind the garages. A new oil tank will be sited so that it is correctly spaced away from buildings and boundaries as required by the relevant regulations.



View of rear of garages where oil tank is proposed to be located.

The oil tanks must sit on a hard surface that extends a minimum of 300mm around the tank. It is proposed to use paving slabs laid on a porous bedding and tree protection matting (eg Terram Geocell or Core TRP). The fill point for the tank will be above ground and fed by opening the rear garage window and feeding the supply pipe from the oil tanker through to connect to the fill point. No excavation is required for the installation of the oil tank.

# Impact on significance of the building

### 1. Alterations to the bay window on the east elevation

The alterations proposed to the bay window affect fabric from the late 20th century. In our opinion some of the detailing of this is poor and this proposal seeks to address this by changing the treatment of the heads of the openings. The proposals also improve the outward appearance of the bay window and give it more relevance on the eastern façade while avoiding overpowering the significant elevation of the 18th century house.

### 2. Replacement of tiled flooring to ground floors

The existing tiled floors all date from the works of 1996 and are completely out of keeping with a house of this nature. The existing floor substrates are largely solid and assumed to be a new concrete screed inserted when the alterations where carried out to this house.



OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240

## 3. Replacement of garage doors

Replacement of the existing modern garage doors will improve the appearance of the garage and allow it to sit more sympathetically within the setting of Brockhampton House and the adjacent grouping of buildings forming Brockhampton Mews.

### 4. New oil tank

The location of the new oil tank is discrete and not visible from the house, sits away from the principle elevations and is tucked behind the garage and the adjacent store/ boiler room.

# **Justification**

These proposals are to be read in conjunction with the proposals submitted in the planning and listed building consent applications of earlier this year and are alterations that are proposed by the applicant to make the house and its grounds more suitable for a modern family that wishes to live in the house for many years.

The proposals for the bay window, garage and siting of the oil tanks do not affect historic fabric and actively improve the appearance of the house and garage and improve the fire safety of the house.

The new flooring finishes are within the house but these replace modern unsympathetic finishes with natural stone finishes



# HISTORIC BUILDINGS CONSERVATION CONSULTANTS

OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240

# Design and Access Statement

Design and access implications for the proposed works listed above have been considered under the following headings:

#### 1. Use

There is no change proposed to the use of the building which will continue to be used as a family home.

## 2. Amount of Development

The proposed work involves alterations to the garage, adjustments to the bay window, replacement of floor finishes and installation of new oil tanks behind the garage.

The work does not increase the footprint of the building.

### 3. Layout

No changes to layout are proposed.

### 4. Scale

The overall scale of the house remains unaltered.

### 5. Landscape

New oil tanks are to be sited behind the garage.

# 6. Appearance

## Garage

The new doors are designed to improve the garage's appearance and allow it to sit more comfortably alongside the existing cottages and landscape.

### Bay Window

The proposals seek to improve the appearance of the bay window and to improve the connection between the house and the garden.

#### <u>Flooring</u>

The existing flooring is unsightly and the new flooring proposed will improve the different spaces and reflect their nature more clearly

#### Oil Tank

The oil tank is located in a discrete position behind the garage.

#### 7. Access

Access from the Morning Room to the garden is improved.

A new flight of steps is provided for access to the new storage area over the garage.

### 8. Parking

Car parking is unaffected by these proposals.



OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240

## Summary

The works proposed seek to address parts of the house that had been poorly considered during the work in the 1990s and to offer proposals that improve their functionality and appearance.

The proposals have been carefully considered and designed to retain as much historic fabric as possible and to minimise any impact on significant features within the house.



HISTORIC BUILDINGS CONSERVATION CONSULTANTS

OLD MANOR STABLES, TOUT HILL, WINCANTON, SOMERSET BA9 9DL 01963 824240

Appendix 1 – Rodney Melville Drawings from 1996 Alterations



