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HERITAGE & DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

INSTALLATION OF DISABLED ACCESS / ESCAPE RAMP TO THE SIDE DOOR
OF
HECKMONDWIKE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
HIGH STREET
HECKMONDWIKE
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INTRODUCTION

This statement is prepared in support of a Planning and Listed Building consent application for the installation of a disabled access / escape ramp to the side door of Heckmondwike United Reformed Church.

HISTORIC ENGLAND – list entry

1313684 Sunday School to Heckmondwike Upper Independent Chapel - Grade ll listed building

Congregational Sunday school. Dated 1856. Dressed stone. Hipped slate roof (bitumen covered). 2 storeys with string course. 5-bay facade, the centre 3 break forward slightly and are surmounted by pediment with blind oculus in tympanum with elaborate foliage support and raised inscription: INDEPENDENT DAY AND SABBATH SCHOOLS. ANNO DOMINI 1856. Ground floor windows are round arched with double string course at impost level. 1st floor windows are round arched but with slightly pointed head, elongated key and Composite pilaster surround. 3- bay side elevations as before. Later 4-bay addition to roar.

CURRENT USE

Heckmondwike Upper Independent Chapel was converted to flats in the 1990's and this building, the former Sunday school, is now Heckmondwike United Reformed Church.

PROPOSAL & SCOPE OF WORK

The current main access has ramped access however the secondary access / means of escape has steep stone steps and is unsafe to use

The proposal is to install an access / escape ramp and steps to the side door to provide an accessible means of access to and escape from the church.

The proposed ramp and steps are to be constructed from galvanized steel and will be installed over the existing steps minimizing any alteration or damage to the existing building,

Position of proposed ramp and steps

Proposed style of ramp and steps

Existing plans

[redacted]

Proposed plans

ASSESSMENT AND CONCLUSION

The installation of the ramp and steps aim to achieve a sensitive solution in keeping with the property's historic interests.

The proposed scheme will have no detrimental effect to the building and is required to provide safe disabled access to and escape from the building, therefore the applicant asks for this proposal to be granted Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent.