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Design and Access Statement

and

Heritage Statement

50 Birkby Lodge Road

Birkby, Huddersfield

HD2 2BG

Introduction

1.0 - Context

The site is located within Birkby Conservation Area, which is noted for being a mainly nineteenth century residential suburb of Huddersfield, but includes older buildings and a large mill complex together with a Victorian cemetery and public park. The stone terraced properties have a leafy aspect to the streets with uniform stone boundary walls and gateways contributing to the street scenes. The site sits on the bend from Birkby Hall Road and Crescent Road.

- The site is situated predominantly in a residential area.
- The site falls within the Birkby conservation area.
- The property is not identified as a listed building.

Site History

2.0 - Previous local relevant planning permission

- *Application number 2023/62/90775/W - Erection of single storey front and side extension (within a Conservation Area) (50, Birkby Lodge Road, Birkby, Huddersfield, HD2 2BG)*
- Application number 2023/62/92266/W - Demolition of part of boundary wall to create entrance for off street parking (within a Conservation Area) *(50, Birkby Lodge Road, Birkby, Huddersfield, HD2 2BG)*

Proposal

3.0 - Removal of stone pillars for vehicular access (within conservation area)

- The proposal is for the removal of 2 damaged stone pillars at the entrance of a path of Birkby lodge road.
- An application for a drive way and off street parking was approved in 2023 referenced in section 2.0 Site History.
- The proposal is required to allow access to the drive and off street parking safely. The current opening is too narrow and is causing damage to vehicles.

3.1 Access

- Access to the location is off Birkby Lodge Road, indicated on the drawing titled 05 Proposed Site Layout.

3.2 Appearance

- The pillars are not structurally integrated into the wall; therefore, their removal would not result in any damage to the wall itself. The final appearance would resemble the entrance of number 52, as illustrated below. The finish would seamlessly blend with the natural appearance of the adjacent walls, rendering it indistinguishable.

3.3 Assessment of the site in relation to conservation status

- The following National Policy and guidance have been noted for significance in relation to the proposal.
- 16.Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
- 184. Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value. These assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.
- 185. Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.
- The property and the boundary wall is of stone build.
- The proposal does not prejudice the established style in the area which is predominantly traditional.

3.4 Justification of Work

- The works will not affect any significant historic building.
- The works will not harm the conservation status of the area.
- It will allow the linked property at number 50 to have access to their drive and parking safely.

Conclusion

The removal of the two damaged stone pillars is a practical and necessary intervention to enhance vehicular access and safety for the property at number 50, Birkby Lodge Road. Given that the pillars are not structurally integrated into the wall, their removal will not compromise the wall's integrity or the character of the conservation area. The resulting appearance will align with the established aesthetic, seamlessly blending with the adjacent walls and preserving the area's traditional charm. Additionally, the proposed works respect the heritage status of the site, as they will not impact any significant historic buildings and align with national policies for conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Thus, the proposal supports both modern functionality and the preservation of the site's architectural heritage.