

Design and Access Statement

REPOSITIONING OF WINDOW, STICKLEYS HOUSE, SIBFORD GOWER, OX15 5RT

The Design and Access Statement submitted with the proposal 20/02076/LB recently approved for relocation of the staircase at Stickleys House is attached for reference and generally covers this supplementary application.

This proposal is for one minor alteration to the approved proposal in order to allow better use of interior space and light into the reconfigured kitchen. Please see attached plans.

Planning issues

The dividing wall configuration between kitchen and vestibule/WC in the approved application was proposed as a result of comments received in earlier planning consultations that ideally a dividing wall should not bisect an existing window. This however creates an unnatural wall profile and use of interior space which could be avoided if the window is moved slightly to the right (viewed from inside) of its existing position. The maximum displacement necessary would be 50-60 centimetres.

This is one of only two windows on the North side of Stickleys House. They have no decorative or architectural function but provide light into otherwise unlit parts of the house. The window in question is a simple wooden window of modern construction to traditional design, with wooden lintel, set into a thick exterior wall of rough stone.

The window is not visible from the outside, other than to the immediate neighbour, and is screened by shrubbery, as shown in the photographs in the attached Heritage Impact Assessment.

The proposal is to retain the existing window and lintel, and simply move it laterally at the same height, using the removed stone from one side to infill the space on the other. This will be done carefully, using as much of the original stone as possible. There is therefore no change of materials or appearance to the exterior.

This will result in a rectangular floorplan for the kitchen, in line with the original shape of the eastern section of the house, allowing sufficient light to enter the rear of the kitchen and better and more natural use of space in the vestibule and kitchen areas.

Heritage issues

Please see the original report for 20/02076/LB by Worlledge Associates and their supplementary report on this proposal, both attached.