

Heritage Advice

Building 119 FFMT shed at Bicester Heritage - Reference 18/00745/F

Garry Campion, Senior Conservation Officer

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Proposal

The building is a Fire-Fighting Motor Transport Shed. Although not Listed, the building is in the former airfield Conservation Area. The application follows a range of unsuccessful attempts by Bicester Heritage to address significant issue with water ingress and pooling, within the interior of the building. Following a range of advice, this involved various treatments to the brick-parapetting which have proved unsuccessful. Advice from a CDC conservation architect considered that the only viable option was to rebuild the parapetting. Bicester Heritage's architect was of the view that cladding it as proposed was a viable approach.

Advice

Given that the building has been significantly altered and remodelled for modern use within the site, the rebuilding of the parapetting was considered on balance to pose practical difficulties – both practically, but also in terms of bringing the building into use. Given the works to Building 119 to this point, the character of the Conservation Area is not unduly affected by the proposed solution, and it also retains the earlier parapetting, whilst cladding this in a material in keeping with the remainder of the building.

The proposed solution is supported in heritage terms as the best option given the building's remodelled appearance, the limited impact upon the character of the Conservation Area, and the need to bring the building into use.