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Stride Treglown

BUXTON CRESCENT & SPA PROJECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE TO ACCOMPANY LISTED BUILDING APPLICATION FOR INSERTION OF A NEW DOOR OPENING TO THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE FRONT ELEVATION OF THE NATURAL BATHS

The south front of the natural baths consists of two parts, one of which is beneath the old hall and the other a single storey structure constructed of five bays with an ornate parapet above arched recesses which now contain windows and a central door. This layout for the south front originates in Henry Curry's design of the early 1850's which had three niches appear in the engraving illustrated which appear to contain fountains and two blank arches one to left, one to right.

In 1937 the Natural Baths were again reconstructed and the south front simplified. Into each of the arched recesses openings were made of which the central opening is the entrance door and the ones either side contain windows with leaded lights.

The Natural Baths have their history commencing in Roman times; with Medieval and Tudor shrine to St Ann. Mary Queen of Scots visited the spa during the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1.

From this time onwards a number of buildings were constructed to envelope the original natural bath and a number of subservient baths. The most significant of these are John Barker's designs of 1710 -1712, John White's scheme of 1807 and Henry Curry's scheme of 1851, which was again modified in 1937. The Natural Baths are Grade II Listed. The elevation is of 'medium' significance.

Due to the 1937 modifications to the elevation, the significance is not as great as if it dated from Henry Curry's re-modelling of the Baths.

These works are necessary to create a new independent access for Nestle to their Source Room under the Old Hall Hotel prior to the Enabling Works Contract for the Restoration and Extension of The Crescent. The existing access route, which is through the front door of the adjacent Natural Baths building, will become unavailable once it forms part of the Contractors working area for the Building Contract.