

Conservation Response.

Date: 22/06/2023.

File/Application ref: HPK/2023/0183.

Case Officer: Rachel Robinson.

Proposal: 'Application for Listed Building Consent to refurbish the Devonshire Dome floor'.

Address: Devonshire Dome, Devonshire Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6RY.

Dear Rachel,

A site visit was conducted on 14/04/2023 with a second briefing on 21/06/2023.

At the former, it was discussed the rejuvenation of the Dome floor. It's current condition is to be expected from a pine floor of a wide span, that sees high foot fall. The initial brief is to remove the black marks left by adhesive tapes used in various events. Though as a repercussion of this it would risk portions of the floor becoming more pale and obviously and simply cleaner than other areas.

There have been a small number of test areas chosen for different cleaning methods, as per my initial advice, in order to assess the results of each and identify which will be more appropriate for the flooring, both to protect its longevity and general aesthetics.

In order to avoid patch cleaning and therefore a patchy floor; it was discussed the entirety of the floor is to be cleaned – sensitively. I advised that a form of care plan for the flooring be integrated into the main Management Plan for the Dome so there is opportunity to review the condition of the flooring *for example*; every 12-18 months. Predominantly to mitigate the need for such a large job again and ensure its protection.

On site I identified with Ryan Wheeler that there will be splice repairs required for:

1. One of the test areas that was unfortunately quite damaging. (Nearest the entry help desk). Explained on site this test area saw three differing gradients of cleaning strength focused in a square. Consequently, the strongest gradient within this square has resulted in quite a deep almost shaving of the timber. This will need rectifying to retain uniformity.
2. Planks that are split vertically of the grain, naturally from use.
3. Knots that have been lost, again naturally from use. It is advised some form of bung would be appropriate for these.
4. The most central piece of the Dome floor. The decorative pieces are loose and it appears as though the small very central piece is missing. Clarity required.

The proposal sees the cleaning of the span of the ground floor. The method chosen in Appendix 8.0 of the Heritage Statement with accompanying photographs identifies the sensitive method. Images 2 and 3 in particular show the pine marginally as was, before adhesives, grease, dirt and other associated marks from high footfall.

However, the method statement accompanying the proposal unfortunately does not go into enough detail.

At 5.4 of the Design and Access Statement, the current method statement appears to be just an overview or a summary of the works. There is no mention of the repairs; (amount, how, where and what), as above and discussed on site. The centre piece is not addressed, there is no clear order of the works, there is no clarity on whether the cleaning will be done for example - in four quarters, a sweep from north to south or whether it will be with or against the grain of the timber. This is a concern due to the fact the worst of the black adhesive marks are perpendicular, or across the planks, (where the carpet runners are fixed) and it would be pertinent to avoid long pale track marks across the floor if more pressure is required here, and if the application is random. This will have a bearing on the uniformity of the end result, due to the machine/s presumably being handheld? I am not confident in the information provided in boxes 1 and 2 to be able to ascertain this.

Further, from preliminary investigation, 'Osmo Poly X Hardwax Oil' has a variety of colour or type codes. For example, '3032 Satin Clear' is one. Which one if any, is proposed to be used?

In order to provide a confident response I would advise a revision of the method statement.

Regards,

Miss E Holland.
Conservation Officer.