

# Devonshire Dome – Buxton SK17 6RY– Listed Building Consent – Heritage Statement



## Heritage Statement

Statement in support of a listed building consent application in relation to Devonshire Dome, Buxton SK17 6RY.

### Table of contents

|                                          |   |
|------------------------------------------|---|
| 1.0 Introduction.....                    | 2 |
| 2.0 Existing Building.....               | 2 |
| 3.0 Heritage.....                        | 2 |
| 3.1 Significance.....                    | 2 |
| 3.2 Buxton Dome Conservation Area .....  | 2 |
| 3.3 Historic England listing entry ..... | 2 |
| 4.0 Planning history .....               | 3 |
| 5.0 Relevant Planning policies .....     | 4 |
| 7.0 Conclusion .....                     | 4 |
| 8.0 Appendix .....                       | 5 |

## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The proposal comprises internal alterations to the floor of the building involving the refurbishment of existing flooring, on the Ground Floor.

This report presents a summary of the relevant planning policies regarding listed buildings and conservation areas.

The proposal is assessed in relation to the site significance within its historical context.

This heritage statement should be read in conjunction with other documents submitted with the application.

## **2.0 Existing Building**

2.1 Buxton Dome is a historic building located within the town of Buxton, Derbyshire, England. The Dome was originally built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century as a stable for the nearby Crescent Hotel. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Dome was converted into a concert hall & ballroom. In the 1970s the Dome was converted again, this time into a spa. Today the Dome is used as a campus for both the university and Buxton college.

2.2 The Buxton Dome is an impressive example of Georgian architecture, which was popular in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The building has a symmetrical and balanced design, with classical elements within the interior. The Dome has a unique appearance to it that makes it a notable landmark in Buxton. The building has a circular shape and a distinctive dome shaped roof, which is made of glass & iron. The Dome itself is supported by a series of elegant arches, which create a covered walkway around the building. The exterior of the Dome is made up of local stone, with a classical style columns and decorative mouldings. The buildings large windows also allow for plenty of natural light to flood through to the interior space. Inside of the Dome, it has been renovated and adapted for various uses over the years. The lower level of the building now houses a variety of shops and cafes, while the upper level has been converted into a multipurpose events space. The original Ballroom and concert hall have been preserved and are still in use for concerts and other cultural events.

## **3.0 Heritage**

### **3.1 Significance**

The Buxton Dome has been a grade II\* listed building since February 19<sup>th</sup> 1970.

### **3.2 Buxton Dome Conservation Area**

The conservation area was designated by High Peak Borough Council in 1978, and it includes a number of important buildings and structures in and around Buxton, including the Crescent, the Thermal Baths, the Opera House, and St. Ann's well. The purpose of the conservation area is to protect and enhance the special character and historic significance of these buildings and their surroundings. Planning controls are in place to ensure that any development within the conservation area is carried out in a manner that preserves or enhances the character of the area.

### **3.3 Historic England listing entry**

BUXTON SK0573NE DEVONSHIRE ROAD 616-1/3/32 (South West side) 21/12/70 Devonshire Royal Hospital II\*

Stables to the Crescent, now hospital. 1785-90, by John Carr, for the 5th Duke of Devonshire, converted 1859, by Henry Currey, domes and clock tower added 1880-81 by Robert Ripon Duke, C20 alterations and additions. Ashlar gritstone with ashlar dressings, slate roof and copper domes. PLAN: Square with

canted corners and circular courtyard. EXTERIOR: 2 storeys with 11 windows to each front and 3 windows to each corner front. Plinth, ground floor impost band, dentilated eaves cornice. East, entrance front, has slightly projecting 3 window centre with broad pediment. Central round headed doorway with double doors and fanlight, flanked by single round headed windows, with above three 9-pane square windows, flanking 4 window wings have round headed glazing bar window set in plain outer arches, with four 9-pane windows above. Chamfered corners each have large central round headed windows flanked by small windows all in plain round headed arches. All fronts identical, except for south front which has projecting 3 bay centre with single bay returns. Pedimented front has a former entrance in raised moulded surround with inscription to frieze recording the munificent charity of Wm Spencer, 6th Duke of Devonshire in allowing the building to be converted in 1858. The urn surmounting the pediment is believed to be by Tom Wentworth of Doncaster and originally crowned the Well House (demolished) of 1782 by J Carr. East front topped by square clock tower with 2 round headed louvred bell openings to each face of first stage flanked by pairs of Tuscan Doric pilasters. Above clock to each face flanked by pilasters topped by pediments. Above a square ribbed lead dome with iron weathervane. Over each chamfered corner a square wooden lantern with 3 blank panels to each face, the central one topped by a pediment, and above an octagonal copper dome with finial. Central slated dome has circular lantern topped with small copper cupola. North front largely obscured by later alterations and additions. INTERIOR: central circular hall 180 feet in diameter with a fine Tuscan Doric colonnade of 48 columns, each 28 feet high, supporting an entablature with frieze bearing the inscription: one half of this building was given to the use of the poor by William spencer cavendish sixth duke of Devonshire in the year 1859 and conveyed to trustees as the Devonshire hospital together with the pleasure grounds by William cavendish 7th duke of Devonshire in the year 1868. the remainder of the building was obtained in the year 1878 and the whole was internally reconstructed by the governors of the cotton districts convalescent fund in the year 1881. This colonnade was originally designed as an indoor all-weather ride. Hospital wards and rooms radiate off. Open central area with some ornate ironwork railing: the ribbed dome above was at one time the largest unsupported dome in the world with a span of 154 ft. The original stables cost £16,470.3.10, and were built to accommodate 120 horses. (The Buildings of England: Pevsner N: Derbyshire: Harmondsworth: 1953-1986: 114; Hall I: Georgian Buxton: Chapel-en-le-Frith: 1984-: 26).

3.4 The Buxton Dome has undergone several renovations and restorations over the years to maintain its historic features and structural integrity. In 2003, the dome underwent a major renovation project to convert it into a multi-purpose venue, while preserving its architectural heritage. The restoration project included repairing the domes stonework and lead roofing, restoring the grand entrance hall and preserving the buildings ornate plasterwork. While some areas of the building may show signs of wear and tear due to its age, Buxton Dome is considered to be well preserved and an important part of Buxtons architectural and cultural heritage.

## 4.0 Planning history

4.1 Buxton Dome has a complex planning history due to its long and varied use throughout the years. Here are some of the major events and changes that have taken place in the Planning history.

4.2 In 1789 the dome was designed by architect John Carr as part of a larger plan to turn Buxton into a fashionable spa town. The Dome served as the centrepiece of a grand complex that included a thermal spring, a pump room and a crescent of houses for visitors.

4.3 In 1859 the Duke of Devonshire sold the complex to the Buxton Bath Charity, which transformed the dome into a hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis.

4.4 In 1951 the Hospital was closed and repurposed as a college for the training of domestic science teachers.

4.5 In 2001 the college closed, and the dome was transferred to the university of Derby.

4.6 In 2003 the dome underwent a major renovation project to convert it into a multi-purpose venue for events, conferences, and exhibitions.

## **5.0 Relevant Planning policies**

### **5.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

Recognises that ‘Conservation is an active process of maintenance and managing change. In case of building, ensuring that they remain in active use that is consistent with their conservation. Proposed development affecting a heritage asset may have no impact on its significance or may enhance its significance and therefore cause no harm to the heritage asset’. In general, ‘works that are moderate or minor in scale are likely to cause less than substantial harm or no harm at all’; however, any harm to a designated heritage must be assessed against the nature of their impact on the asset.

## **6.0 Proposal**

3.1 The proposal is to machine polish the entire floor area using lightweight polishing machines and 80 grit papers to remove the lacquer only to prevent any damage to the timber floor protecting the historical heritage of the timber floor. The pine plank flooring would then be cleaned using 120 grit papers in preparation to applying OSMO 3062 Matt finish for the first coat (this will fractionally help to suppress the natural “orange” colour of the pine) followed by a coat of Osmo 3032 Satin finish. One of the test areas that was damaged due to harsh treatment will be rectified to retain its uniformity. Planks that have been split from natural usage will be repaired during the process of cleaning the timber floor area. Knots that have been lost in the timber planks will be restored to their original appearance. The knots will be filled using sawdust and epoxy as this will give them a longer life span and better appearance compared to using plugs to repair them. Central loose pieces will be repaired and the black marks left by adhesive tape will be cleaned off of the surface Refer to Ref 1. A scheduled maintenance plan will be set in place to ensure the timber floor life span is extended reducing the chances of another refurbishment job.

## **7.0 Conclusion**

The Buxton Dome Stables, like many historic buildings, may require occasional refurbishment of the flooring to maintain their appearance and structural integrity. There are several reasons why the Buxton Dome Stables floor may need refurbishment. If the flooring in the Buxton Dome Stables becomes uneven or damaged overtime without maintenance, it can create a safety hazard for visitors and residents. Refurbishing the floor can help to level out any uneven spots and ensure that the flooring is safe to walk on. The flooring in the Buxton Dome Stables is a prominent feature of the building's interior and can greatly impact its overall appearance. Refurbishing the floor can help to enhance the building's historic character and create a more visually appealing space for visitors and residents. Overall, refurbishing the flooring in the Buxton Dome Stables is an important maintenance task that can help to preserve the building's historic significance and ensure its long-term durability and safety.

## 8.0 Appendix



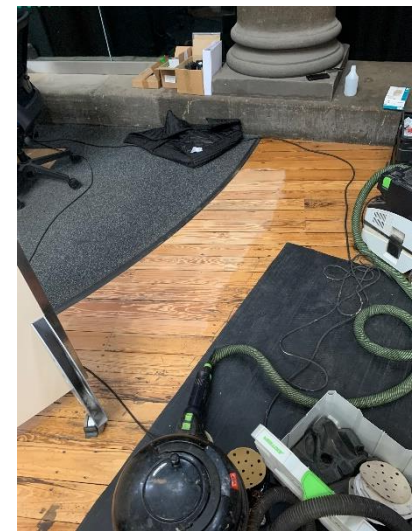
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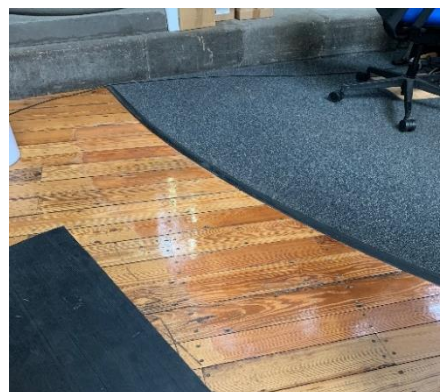
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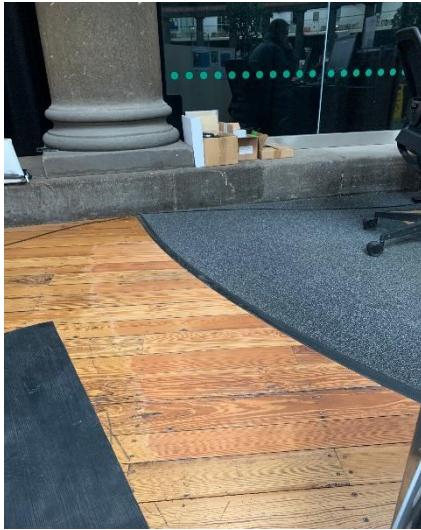
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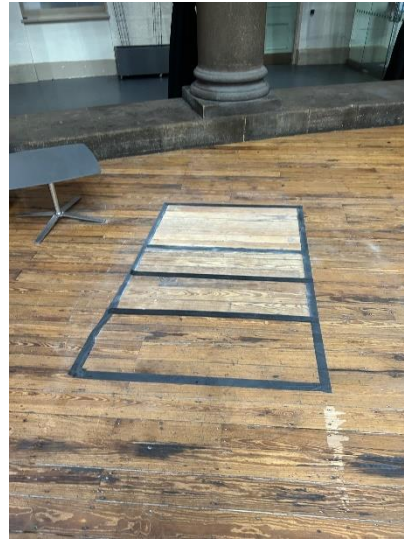
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6



7



8

1. Overview of the Dome floor.
2. Chosen method – Sample area sanded
3. Chosen Method – First coat of tone diluter
4. Chosen method - Layer of lacquer removed to reveal timber floor
5. Central piece to be repaired.
6. Chosen method - Second coat of tone diluter
7. Chosen method - Second coat added and almost dried to reveal final finish.
8. Rejected method - High abrasion to be repaired due to being quite damaging towards the timber.



| 1.Scope of work                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 2.Special competencies                                                                                                                               | 3.Access and egress provisions                                                                                                                                                                                      | 4.Materials & Equipment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 5.PPE                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 6.Sequence of works                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Machine polish entire timber floor area located in the centre of the Dome, using lightweight polishing machines and 80 grit papers to remove lacquer only. The Pine Plank flooring would then be cleaned using 120grit papers in preparation to applying 2 coats of Osmo Poly X Hardwax Oil.</p> <p>All cleaning/sanding would be carried out WITH the grain covering the floor by going in vertical lines North to south using machines with 4 x 150mm rotary pads attached. Knots within the timber planks have been lost so will be filled using sawdust and epoxy as advised by the timber specialist to restore them to their original appearance. Filling them rather than using plugs gives them a better appearance and life span. Central piece loose pieces to be repaired/Replaced to match existing by filling in the chipped areas and the very central piece to be replaced.</p> | <p>In house skilled employees would undertake works involved (SShakespeare 20yr, David Betmead 20yr, Duncan Morgan12mths&amp; Ethan Round Appr.)</p> | <p>Arrival on site, introduction to the client, familiarisation with the building, escape routes, fire fighting equipment, alarms and muster points if required. Set up ready for the process to be undertaken.</p> | <p>Bona Belt UX 2 x Bona Flexisand, 2 x Festool Rotex 150mm to perimeter. 240v to be used on finishing process and must be used in conjunction with an RCD (circuit breaker). OSMO 3062 Matt finish for the first coat (this will fractionally help to suppress the natural "orange" colour of the pine) followed by a coat of Osmo 3032 Satin finish.</p> | <p>PPE relevant to the job in hand are to be used without question. Ear and hand (impacto BG473) protection at all times. Bona DCS 50 Dust Extractor on site. Knee pads when prolonged low level working</p> | <p>As all section No 3 Set up working area Complete works as instructed. Leave working area clear of tools and materials. Ensure all rubbish is removed from site and disposed of correctly. Ensure site is left secure on exit. All cleaning and sanding will be in 2 sequences by having the workers start opposite and Clean/sand with the grain, north to south and eventually meet in the middle.</p> |

#### Method Statement – Ref 1