



DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**522063 – NEW MILLS
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

CHURCH LANE, NEW MILLS, HIGH
PEAK SK22 4NR

Heritage Impact Statement & Design and Access Statement

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Project:	New Mills Secondary School – Replacement Roofing
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Overview:

The Heritage Statement has been produced in support of a Listed Building Application. The application for the replacement of the current lead valleys, flashings and associated detailing with a terne coated steel alternative to the existing main block roof at New Mills Secondary School, Church Ln, New Mills, High Peak SK22 4NP.

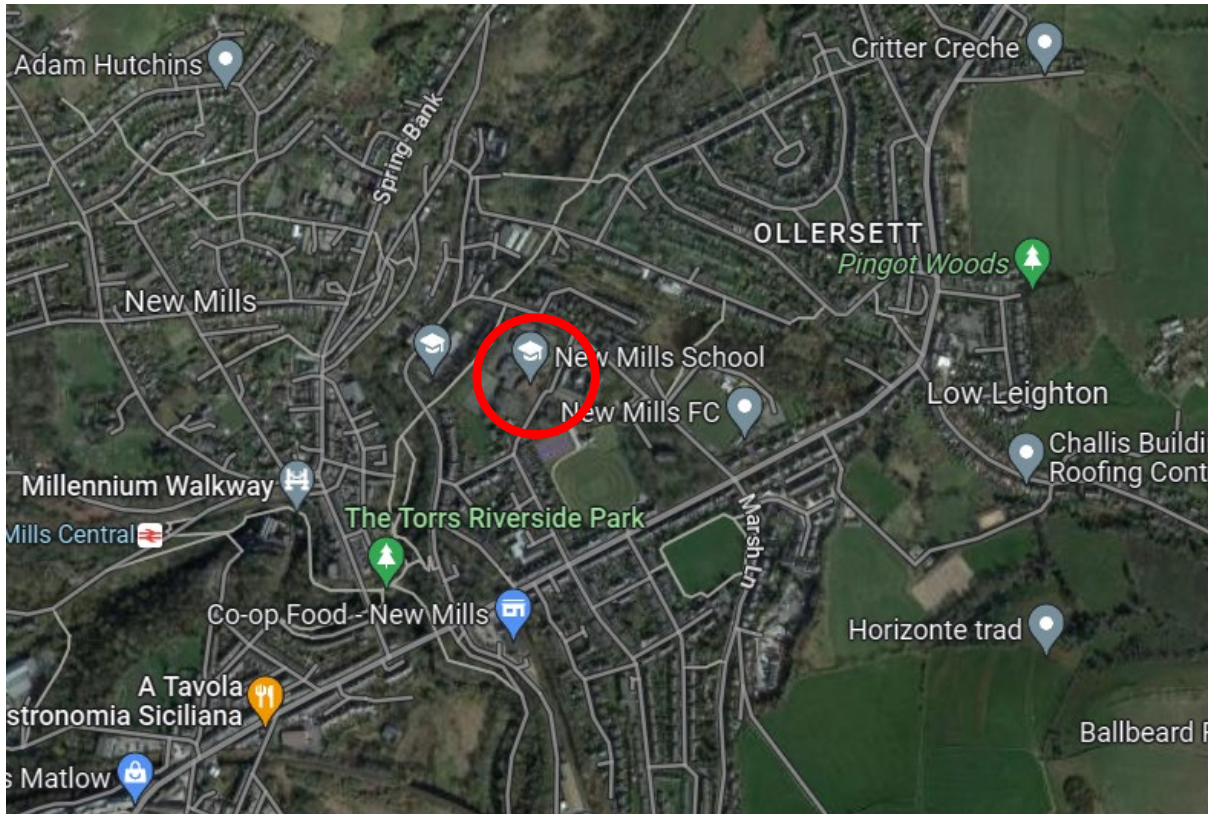


Figure 1: aerial photograph the town of New Mills, with the location of the school identified.

History and Significance:

The Grade II listed New Mills School, completed in 1912, stands as a testament to the architectural prowess of George H. Widdows, the esteemed designer renowned for his innovative ideas on school planning and hygiene during the early 20th century. Widdows, serving as the Chief Architect to Derbyshire County Council from 1910 to 1936, designed the school as part of a significant wave of educational infrastructure development responding to the population surge in Derbyshire, particularly fuelled by coal mining and textile manufacturing.

Constructed in a distinctive neo-vernacular style, the school boasts a quadrangular plan with classroom ranges linked to an octagonal central hall. The exterior, crafted from uncoursed polygonal rubble gritstone with ashlar gritstone dressings, showcases a meticulously designed front elevation featuring advanced pavilion-like bays with tall, canted mullion and transom windows. The entrance, with a barbican-like appearance and narrow ashlar towers, leads to a richly detailed interior that retains original fixtures such as door and window joinery, fireplaces, and stained-glass windows depicting figures representative of Arts, Literature, Music, Science, and Engineering.

Widdows' commitment to high standards of hygiene is evident in the school's design, incorporating features like open veranda-style corridors for effective cross ventilation and generous full-height windows. Notably, the New Mills School is one of only two known examples of Widdows' quadrangular design, and its original plan form remains unaltered, contributing to its special architectural interest. The exterior, characterized by locally worn gritstone, and the well-preserved interior further enhance the school's significance as a historic and architectural gem, standing as a testament to Widdows' transformative contributions to English school architecture in the early 20th century.

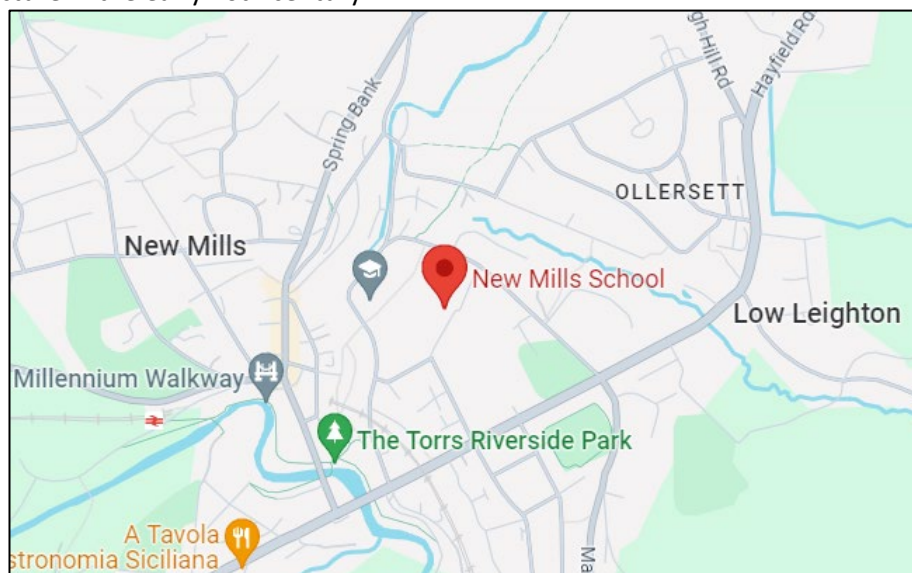


Figure 1 Illustration showing New Mills School

Proposal:

The existing leadwork detailing has been a target for thieves in the past, this has led to the removal of the leadwork to the roof in some areas as a direct result. This allows for water ingress to the building, causing significant damage to a historic asset and the obvious continuing costs of maintenance, replacement and repairs to any damages. The proposal is to therefore replace the existing leadwork detailing with a terne coated steel alternative, which is less valuable to thieves and thus reducing the likelihood of theft from site.

Design:

The proposed solution involves a comprehensive ridge replacement scheme, encompassing the original lead sections. To maintain historical authenticity and meet conservation advice, a terne-coated stainless steel alternative is to be used. This durable material, with a 0.4mm thickness, adheres to Historic England guidance (HEAG280) specifications. Precision and expertise are crucial, as stainless-steel tools must be used exclusively to prevent staining. A Federation of Traditional Metal Roofing Contractors (FTMRC) member with stainless steel experience will be appointed to undertake the works. Concurrently, local slate coverings will undergo assessments and repairs during scaffolding installation, where required for preservation purposes.

Visibility and Sustainability:

The existing building is owned by Derbyshire County Council. It is important to retain the educational use of the site and maintain a good environment for the children and staff. The proposed material will be in keeping with the building and its surroundings.

This strategy, encompassing the existing lead sections, offers a long-term solution in harmony with the Grade II Listed George Widdows building. In adherence to conservation advice and Historic England's HEAG280 guidance,terne-coated stainless steel emerges as a viable, environmentally sustainable option. With specifications of 0.4mm thick grade 316L or grade K44 stainless steel and a tin-rich electroplated surface coating, this choice ensures durability.

To minimize ecological impact, all roofing tools will be stainless steel to prevent staining. While considering contractors, a Federation of Traditional Metal Roofing Contractors (FTMRC) member will be appointed, to demonstrate their stainless-steel usage expertise and competence of historic repair. Additionally, if possible, the contractor will also be a member of the Lead Contractors Association (LCA) providing additional experience with the proposed works. Regular inspections once the scaffolding has been erected will allow for localised repairs to the original slate coverings too, to ensure longevity of the asset.

Impact and Access:

Access arrangements to the site will remain unchanged, with no impact on existing vehicle and pedestrian routes in and around the remaining school site due to the upcoming roofing replacement project. The absence of heavy machinery and on-site traffic ensures minimal disruptions, and emergency evacuation procedures adopted by the school will not be affected. Accessibility for authorized users will be continually monitored and approved.

The roofing replacement project, covering the entire school spanning approximately 8km², is anticipated to have minimal effects on school operations and its surrounding vicinity. Despite the school entrance residing on Church Lane, a small residential street, disruptions to the street itself are not expected, given the absence of heavy machinery and on-site traffic. This comprehensive undertaking prioritizes minimizing disruptions, ensuring neighbouring properties on the modest-sized street remain unaffected. While student relocation may be necessary in specific areas, the overall functionality of the school will be preserved throughout the project.

Conclusion:

The proposed roofing replacement project at New Mills Secondary School addresses persistent challenges of theft and the gradual deterioration of the existing lead roof, showcasing the school's commitment to historical preservation and alignment with conservation guidelines from Historic England. Opting for aterne-coated stainless steel alternative, endorsed by the Federation of Traditional Metal Roofing Contractors (FTMRC), ensures precision and longevity. Meticulous planning minimizes disruptions, with the absence of heavy machinery and on-site traffic contributing to a peaceful environment. While localized student relocation may be needed, the overall goal is to safeguard the school's integrity, striking a balance between historical preservation, practicality, and community consideration.

The Grade II listed school's historical importance is honored through the replacement of leadwork detailing with terne-coated stainless steel, emphasizing durability and minimal environmental impact. Exclusive use of stainless-steel tools prevents staining, maintaining site accessibility and preserving emergency evacuation procedures. This balanced approach reflects a commitment to heritage and sustainability, ensuring a suitable environment for future generations. Undertaking this work contributes to the school's intended operation, with maintenance and lead replacement costs supporting the education of the community's children. This comprehensive approach, integrating historical preservation, environmental sustainability, and educational continuity, exemplifies a holistic commitment to the school's long-term well-being.

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