

Document Reference: 2677-HIA

December 2024

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Proposed extension to provide public access to first floor

Albert's Restaurant and Bar

120 - 122 Barlow Moor Rd

West Didsbury

Manchester

M20 2PU



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document has been prepared in order to provide an assessment of the likely impact of a proposed extension to a Non-Designated Heritage Asset which is located within a Conservation Area. The appraisal is concerned with the process of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and the special architectural and historic significance of heritage assets including its setting.

1.2 This appraisal has been conducted in accordance with the general guidelines set out in British Standard 7913:2013 'Guide to the Conservation of Historic Buildings' and in particular responds to policies outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF). In respect of information requirements, paragraph 207 sets out that:

"In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance."

1.3 Guidance on the implementation and interpretation of historic environment policy has been provided by the Historic England publications 'Historic Environment Good Practice in Planning' notes 1 'The Historic Environment in Local Plans, GPA2 'Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment' and GPA3 'The Setting of Heritage Assets' (Second Edition).

1.4 Local level planning policy for West Didsbury comprises Manchester's Local Development Framework and Core Strategy Development Plan which was adopted in 2012. With respect to the historic environment, Policy EN3 – Heritage sets out that:

New developments must be designed so as to support the Council in preserving or, where possible, enhancing the historic environment, the character, setting and accessibility of areas and buildings of acknowledged importance, including scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, conservation areas and archaeological remains. Proposals which enable the re-use of heritage assets will be encouraged where they are considered consistent with the significance of the heritage asset.

The building lies within the Southern Character Area where Policy EN1 Design Principles and Strategic Character Areas sets out that:

New development needs to retain the identity and focus of activity associated with the historic District Centres.

1.5 Significance has been assessed in accordance with guidance as set out in Historic England Advice Note 12 'Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets' and the former English Heritage document entitled 'Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance'.

1.6 The author Daniel Waugh has over 35 years' experience working with historic buildings. He studied a Master of Science Degree in Architectural Conservation and is a lecturer in Architectural Technology (BSc) and Building Conservation and Adaptation (MSc) at the University of Central Lancashire. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists and a supporter member of the Institute for Historic Building Conservation in addition to being a member of The Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain.

1.7 A site survey and external visual inspection of the site was carried out in December 2023. Background research was conducted via the following online resources:

- The Manchester interactive planning service
- The Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record via the Heritage Gateway
- The Greater Manchester Local Heritage List
- Historic mapping databases

Research was also conducted through discussions held with the architect and applicant. The assessment of the proposals will be conducted with reference to a range of texts, particularly the Historic England good practise guides and local appraisals.

1.8 The following drawings have been assessed in preparation of this report:

Jonathan Davidson Architects

381-PD-0100	Location Plan
381-PD-0101	Existing Site Layout
381-PD-0102	Existing Ground Floor Plan
381-PD-0103	Existing First Floor Plan
381-PD-0104	Existing Front Elevation
381-PD-0105	Existing Rear Elevation
381-PD-0106	Existing Side Elevation
381-PD-0107	Existing Section A – A
381-PD-1101	Proposed Site Layout
381-PD-1102	Proposed Ground Floor Plan
381-PD-1103	Proposed First Floor Plan
381-PD-1104	Proposed Front Elevation
381-PD-1105	Proposed Rear Elevation
381-PD-1106	Proposed Side Elevation
381-PD-1107	Proposed Section A – A
381-PD-6001	Design & Access Statement

2.0 PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

2.1 The proposals assessed in this document comprise the construction of a two-storey extension to the western end of the building in order to provide a staircase and lift for customers to access a new Private Dining Room facility at first floor level.

3.0 LOCATION AND SITE INFORMATION

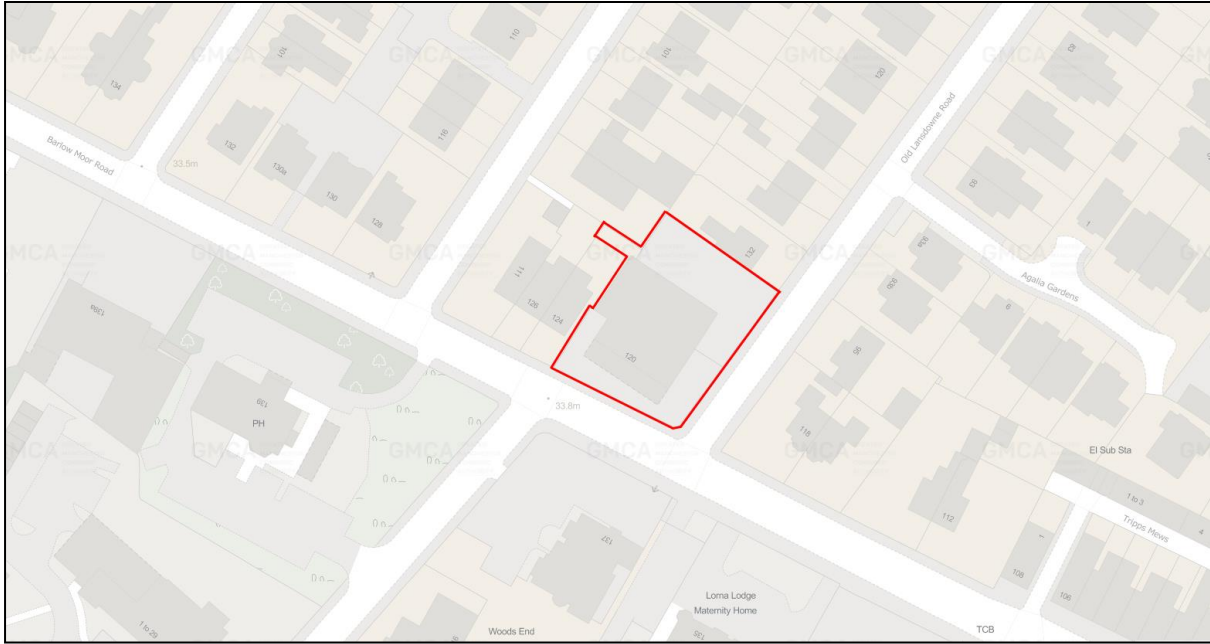


Figure 1. Site Location Plan courtesy of the Manchester Interactive Map (not to scale). Site boundary edged in red.

- 3.1 120 – 122 Barlow Moor Road, Albert's Restaurant and Bar (the building), formerly known as The Barleycorn Public House, is located at national grid reference - SJ 83865 91703. The site has an area of approximately 1,400m² (0.35 acres) and the building footprint is approximately 500m² (5,380ft²).
- 3.3 The building lies within the Albert Park Conservation Area as designated by and under the authority of Manchester City Council and is a Non-Designated Heritage Asset by virtue of the positive contribution it makes to the character and appearance of the area. The neighbouring terraced villas to the west: 124-126 Barlow Moor Road and 111 Clyde Road are also considered to be NDHA's. There are no statutorily Listed Buildings (Designated Heritage Assets) within close proximity to the building.
- 3.4 Consent was granted in August 2022 under application reference 134104/FO/2022 for the erection of a first-floor side extension to the building. The proposal assessed within this document broadly follows the line of the previously approved extension and projects it forward towards the principal façade.

4.0 CONTEXTUAL ASSESSMENT OF CONSERVATION AREA

- 4.1 The Albert Park Conservation Area was originally designated in 1988 and shares a boundary along Old Landsdowne Road with the Blackburn Park Conservation Area.
- 4.2 120 – 122 Barlow Moor Road (the building) is situated towards the mid-point of the southern boundary along Barlow Moor Road at the junction with Old Landsdowne Road.
- 4.3 There are four statutorily listed buildings within the conservation area, all of which are Grade II Listed Buildings. None are considered to lie within close enough proximity to be affected by the proposals assessed in this document.

- 4.4 Significant development within the area began during the latter part of the C19th, typically around the time of the construction of the Manchester South District railway line which provided easy access in and out of the city.
- 4.5 The building lies within an area bound by Barlow Moor Road, Palatine Road, Lapwing Lane and Burton Road which is acknowledged historically as comprising '*mainly three-storey pairs of semi-detached properties*'. The properties facing Barlow Moor Road were larger and more prestigious. 120 – 122 Barlow Moor Road is an example of the grander villas.
- 4.6 The building was originally constructed as a pair of large semi-detached dwellings within a substantial, divided plot. Historic mapping suggests that it remained as separate dwellings until the latter part of the C20th where from the mid 1970's it appears on a single plot. This was presumably around the time the dwellings were knocked into one and the building was converted into a public house (The Barleycorn).
- 4.7 Many of the houses within the conservation area were converted in to flats and bedsits. These were occupied primarily by students during the late C20th. Larger residences to the principal roads of Barlow Moor Road and Palatine Road were converted to institutional or hotel uses or in many cases, demolished to make way for developments of modern apartments (flats).
- 4.8 Didsbury is now a vibrant and popular suburb and a sought-after area to live. Most of the historic building stock remains with a few modern infill developments. The quality of the buildings has improved measurably over the last two decades.
- 4.9 Manchester CC encourage developments within the conservation area which aspire to enhance the prosperity of the area whilst acknowledging its distinctive architectural and visual character.

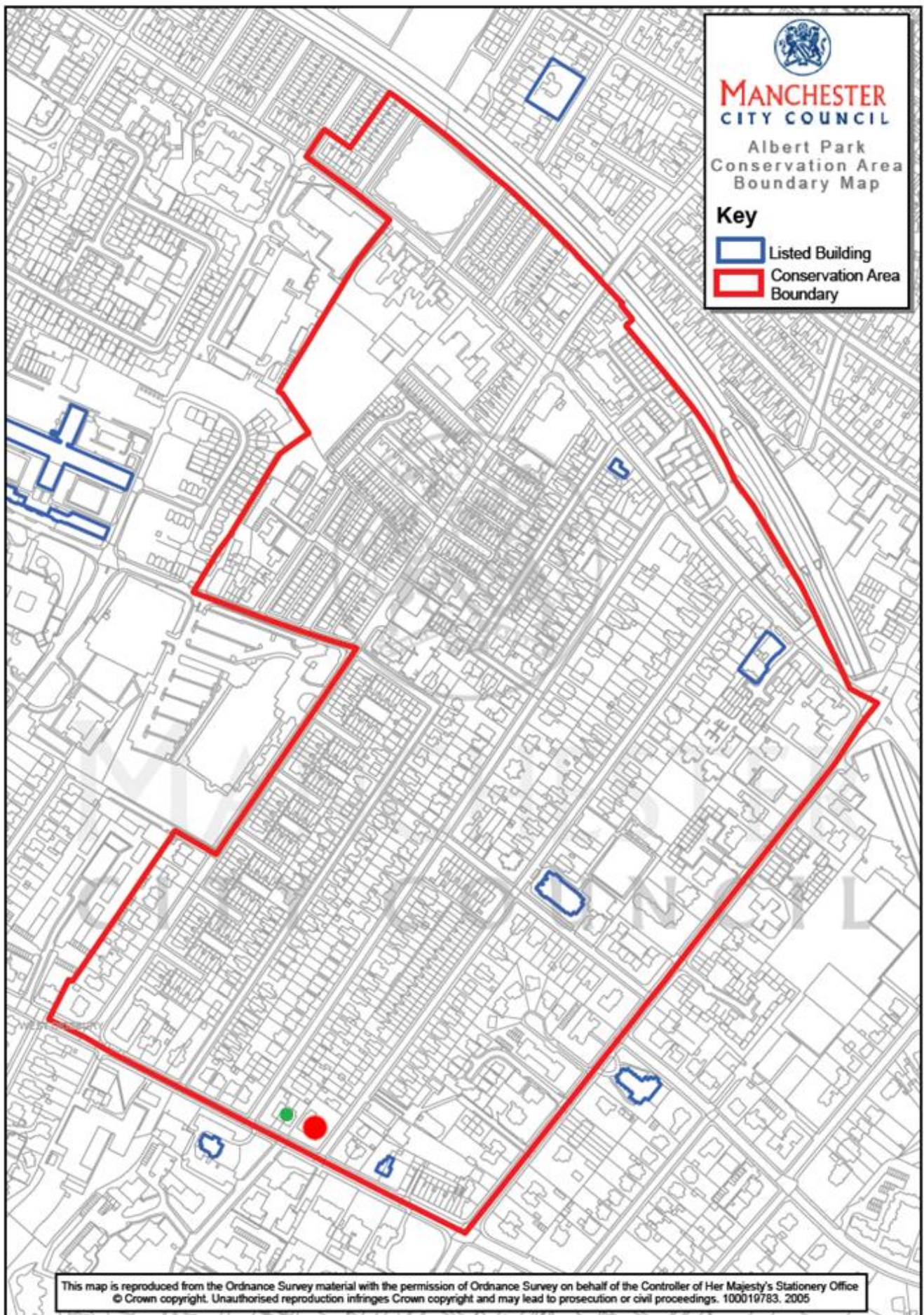


Figure 2. Map of Albert Park Conservation Area boundary. Location of application building is indicated with a RED dot and the neighbouring NDHA's indicated with a GREEN dot.

- 4.10 In terms of small-scale developments, the local authority aim to '*ensure that the character and quality of both the buildings and the spaces between them is retained. As with all conservation areas, attention must be paid to maintaining harmony with regard to building heights, the type and colour of materials*'.

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUES (INTEREST)

- 5.1 An appraisal of the significance of the building has been carried out below. This process relates to the assessment of a range of heritage values as outlined by Historic England; formerly English Heritage in the 2008 guidance document which have been revised for the 2017 draft document.

These values are distilled under the following headings: Historic Interest (including Communal Interest), Archaeological Interest (formerly Evidential Value) and Architectural and Artistic Interest (formerly Aesthetic Value). The purpose of assessing these values is to enable an assessment of the site's significance - whether physically manifest (e.g. architectural features) or in some other less tangible form (e.g. historical associations) - so as to enhance the objective appraisal of proposals for the change to the building.

In essence this follows the approach generally advocated by Historic England, whereby necessary change in the historic environment is intelligently managed. A brief summary of the heritage values associated with the site, and more specifically those parts due to change under the proposals being considered, is given below, together with an indication on how these values contribute to the appraisal of significance

5.2 Historic Interest

- 5.2.1 Historic England consider that historical value "*can illustrate the story of past events, people and aspects of life*" (EH.2017.s28). This is generally regarded as either Illustrative whereby the site can be perceived to represent a period in history, Communal; where the place may invoke emotion or contribute to an individual's or community's sense of place or where a place can be a form of catalyst for memories associated with it or Associative where a connection with an event or person can contribute to the historic significance of a site.
- 5.2.2 The building is illustrative of a significant period of local development resulting from a period of enormous economic growth within Manchester. The original building was constructed at the same time as the local railway line and contributes to the layered interest and historic evolution of the area.
- 5.2.3 The building is a significant local landmark and will hold considerable communal value to local residents, many of whom would have interacted with the building along with past relatives. The building contributes to local distinctiveness and resident's pride and sense of place.

5.3 Archaeological Interest

- 5.3.1 Described by Historic England as "*evidence of past human activity.*" (EH.2017.s38), archaeological interest is derived from one's ability to interpret the history and historic evolution

of an asset through visible and tangible features whether superficially evident or that could be revealed through investigation.

- 5.3.2 The building stands as a tangible link to local and wider history and possesses significant evolutionary / layered history having served as substantial and prestigious dwellings before being converted in to a public house and recently a restaurant.

5.4 Architectural and Artistic Interest

- 5.4.1 Architectural and Artistic Interest according to Historic England “*derives from a contemporary appreciation of the asset’s aesthetics.*” (EH.2017.s42) and relates to sensory and intellectual stimulation and may be derived from detailed design produced by an architect or designer, or from direct creation by a craftsman or sculptor.
- 5.4.2 The building is a typical example of late, High Victorian polite domestic architecture and whilst it has received considerable modern intervention, it broadly retains its architectural identity primarily due to the steep pitched gables with fretwork barge boards to the principal and rear elevations. Modern additions are of varying quality but broadly speaking appear at least honest.
- 5.4.3 There are some changes which have served to dilute the architectural interest of the building, notably the render finish which now conceals some decorative brick and stonework and alters the overall appearance of the building considerably and also the loss of original, presumably two storey bay windows, which appear on historic mapping and would undoubtedly have matched those of the neighbouring property.

6.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.1 Having assessed the heritage values associated with the site, it is possible to take a more informed approach to the assessment of site significance. This is usually done by attributing levels of significance to the various aspects/parts of a building or site whereby, for example, more modern or unsympathetic additions to an historic building are deemed of less significance than, say, original features.
- 6.2 The building is a local landmark and significant contributor to the street scene and historic character and appearance of the conservation area within which it lies and is therefore considered to be a ‘key building’. Such buildings are defined by Historic England as ‘*buildings of particular architectural or historic distinction which contribute significantly to the special character and appearance of a Conservation Area*’.
- 6.3 The building is defined as a non-designated heritage asset and therefore proposals which impact on its architectural interest and setting should be assessed together with that of neighbouring buildings which hold similar interest.
- 6.3 The building is now a commercial building although it has retained strong ties its historic and original use. Proposals which seek to reinforce historic use should be considered favourably.
- 6.4 Ensuring that the building remains in viable and sustainable use is a primary objective. Past changes have clearly been necessary in order for the building to operate as a viable and

sustainable business and it is anticipated that future changes will be required for the same reason.

- 6.5 The building has to earn its keep as it always has. The current use however, provides unique challenges in terms of conservation as public houses / restaurants belong to a very dynamic, ever evolving industry where operators are continually required to attract custom within a very competitive commercial arena. This results in frequent alterations and refurbishments which inevitably impact on heritage values.
- 6.6 The architectural significance of the building is also considered paramount. Changes to the external appearance of the principal elevation will require sensitive design and careful consideration; however, it is considered that the aesthetic and architectural values attributed to the building both inside and out, will always contribute to the appeal of the building.

7.0 PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

- 7.1 The proposals comprise the construction of a two-storey extension to the western side gable of the building. The proposed extension will follow the roof line of the recently constructed extension and project forward towards the principal elevation. The proposal provides a staircase and lift access to a new private dining facility at first floor level.
- 7.2 Justification for the proposal comes from the applicant's need to maintain the building's commercial viability by providing a supplementary and complimentary private dining facility to the existing restaurant. This is an established feature which exists in the applicant's other 'Albert's' sites and has proved to be successful.
- An important feature of the stair/lift access is that it will be accessible both directly from the outside and from within the existing restaurant. The applicant considers this to be essential to the viability of the proposal.

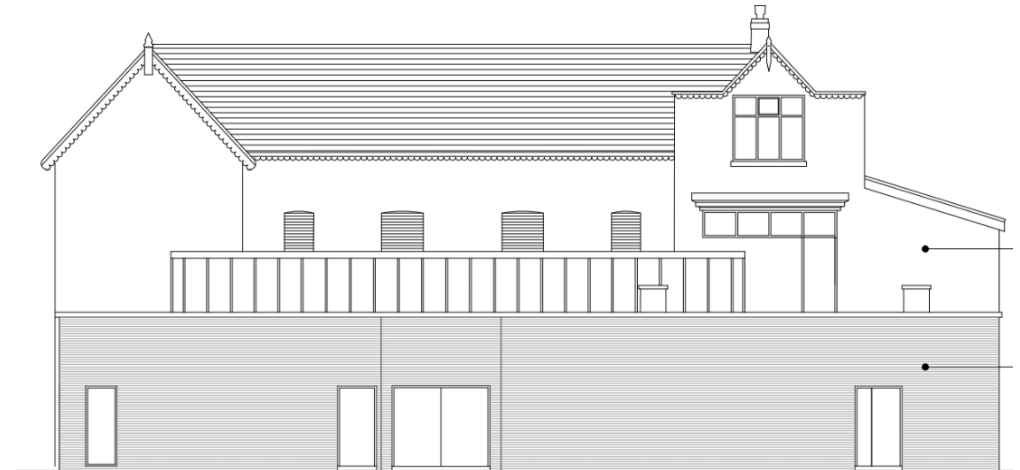
8.0 CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSALS

8.1 Impact on the Conservation Area

- 8.1.1 The building stands as a prominent local landmark at the corner of the junction of Barlow Moor Road and Old Lansdowne Road and whilst it has been the subject of significant modern intervention, it retains its historic character and significance within the area.
- 8.1.2 Aside from head on views of the façade from the south, the proposed extension will not be visible from within the public realm and will not feature in any views that are considered to be of significance, it is therefore considered that the proposals at least preserve the distinctive character and appearance of the conservation area and meet the objectives of the council in managing change within the area as they intend to aspire to enhance the prosperity of the area whilst acknowledging its distinctive architectural and visual character.



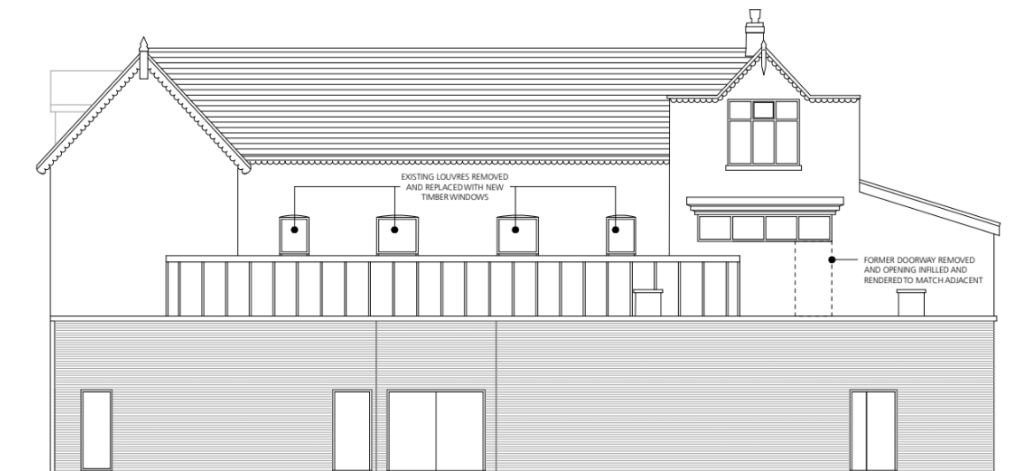
Existing Principal South Facing Elevation



Existing Rear North Facing Elevation



Proposed Principal South Facing Elevation



Proposed Rear North Facing Elevation

Figure 3. Existing and proposed elevations indicating position and scale of extension



Figure 4. Image of the façade of the building and neighbouring house taken from Barlow Moor Road to the south. The recent extension can be seen which sets the line of the proposed extension which projects forward. This image is intended to demonstrate the impact of the proposal on the architectural interest attributed to the building and its neighbour and their setting.



Figure 5. Image from Barlow Moor Road to the west looking east with the building on the left. This image is intended to demonstrate the impact of the proposals on a key view within the conservation area.



Figure 6. Image from Barlow Moor Road to the east looking west with the building on the right. This image is intended to demonstrate the impact of the proposals on a key view within the conservation area.

8.2 Impact on Non-Designated Heritage Asset(s)

- 8.2.1 Setting is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework as *‘The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral’*.
- 8.2.2 Projecting the previous extension forward towards the principal façade raises issues in terms of impact on the character of the building, the setting of the neighbouring building and the perceived historic space between the two. The architect has responded to this by setting the extension back in order to provide some visual separation and an element of subservience, but also introduced modern glazing to the front of the extension which serves to mitigate the impact and the mass of the building and enhance its architectural integrity.
- 8.2.3 The proposed extension does not appear to undermine one’s ability to experience and appreciate the assets nor does it adversely impact on their visual relationship and therefore the impact is considered to be neutral.

8.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 120 - 122 Barlow Moor Rd is a restaurant, former Public House and original Victorian dwelling situated within a Conservation Area.
- 8.2 The building holds some historic and architectural interest in local context and contributes to the historic character and appearance of the Conservation Area (key building) and is therefore defined as a non-designated heritage asset. The neighbouring building to the west is also a NDHA.
- 8.3 The proposals comprise a modest two-storey extension to the side of the building which has the potential to impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area and the heritage values and setting of the heritage assets. This document has been prepared in order to assess the impact.
- 8.4 This document contends that the proposals will at least preserve the distinctive character and appearance of the conservation area and will not be causative of harm to either the setting or architectural interest attributed to both the host building and neighbouring NDHA.
- 8.5 The proposals are therefore consistent with the objectives set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (CLG, 2024. S16 Para 210) in terms of:
- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
 - the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
 - the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.
- 8.6 In conclusion, the author considers that the proposals present no significant risk in terms of unnecessarily compromising the significance of the Conservation Area and non-designated heritage assets, and that the objectives set out by Historic England and the National Planning Policy Framework have been met insofar as:
- a. there is sufficient information comprehensively to understand the impacts of the proposal on the significance of the place;
 - b. the proposal would not materially harm the values of the place, which, where appropriate, would be reinforced or further revealed;
 - c. the proposals aspire to a quality of design and execution which may be valued now and in the future;
 - d. the long-term consequences of the proposals can, from experience, be demonstrated to be benign, or the proposals are designed not to prejudice alternative solutions in the future.

8.8 It is therefore recommended that the application is permitted subject to conditions set out in accordance with Paragraph 58 of the National Planning Policy Framework ensuring that they are:

- a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- b) directly related to the development; and
- c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

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