

GUILDFORD MUSEUM AND CASTLE

INTERIM CONCEPT DESIGN REPORT PROPOSALS BY ZMMA

OUTLINE HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

This outline HIA has been prepared by Richard Griffiths in connection with a forthcoming pre-application consultation for a major redevelopment of the museum and castle site. The present concept designs by ZMMA have been thoroughly revised since the earlier pre-application meeting with Historic England and Guildford Conservation Officer to take account of the subsequent advice letter from Historic England dated 22 March 2018.

In terms of heritage and public benefit, the objectives of the project can be summarised as follows:

- To create a new main entrance to the museum from the town via the Castle gardens
- To interpret the Castle as a fundamental aspect of the museum displays
- To safeguard the archaeology of the Castle remains
- To adapt and partially redevelop the museum site to provide a first class local museum, with all the displays, temporary exhibition space and facilities required by today's visitors
- To reveal the wealth of the collection, some of it of national significance
- To adapt Castle Arch House to improve its use as a Museum
- To make the Museum and Castle site fully accessible to the public
- To provide a development of the site that is sustainable economically, socially and environmentally as required by the NPPF.

This impact addresses each of the heritage assets in turn, summarising in outline their significance, the impact of the proposals, their justification, and any proposals to mitigate their impact.

GUILDFORD CASTLE AND CASTLE GARDEN



Summary of significance

- The most important historic site in Guildford, linked to King Stephen and extended to the east as a palace by King Henry III.
- The 12th century keep built of Bargate stone survives remarkably intact.
- Castle arch to the south-west still straddles the alley that runs adjacent to the ruined King's Chamber and New Chamber.
- The Castle grounds, laid out as Pleasure Grounds by the Council in 1888 are a very attractive and much-loved public amenity .
- For a fuller account see the Conservation Management Plan by the Drury McPherson Partnership 2009, revised 2015.
- See also the Archaeological Evaluation by the Surrey Archaeological Unit 1994.
- The site of the Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, which also lies partially below the museum site.
- The keep, King's Chamber and New Chamber are separately listed grade I.
- The Castle, Castle Grounds and museum lie within the Guildford Town Centre Conservation Area.

Impact of the proposals

- A new entrance pavilion will be built on the south terrace of the Castle Grounds.
- The foundations of the new entrance pavilion and the other new buildings of the museum may have an archaeological impact, however the internal levels and foundation strategy have considered the level of the Medieval Layer and have been designed not to disturb this layer.

- There will be an impact on views from the Castle Keep over the museum site.



- The modern lean-to building built against the west-facing Castle Garden wall and against the north-facing wall of the New Chamber will be demolished and the medieval walls revealed and conserved.



Justification for the proposals

- The entrance pavilion is required to announce the presence of, and entrance to, the museum to visitors arriving via the Castle Grounds from the centre of Guildford.
- The new entrance pavilion must have a highly visible presence in order to enable the increase in the number of visitors required by the Business Plan.
- The proposals are justified by giving the site a secure and sustainable future economically, socially and environmentally, as required by the NPPF.
- The lean-to is modern and of low or no significance.

Proposed mitigation

- The roof of the new museum building and entrance pavilion will be modelled and faceted to provide an attractive roofscape as seen from the roof of the castle keep. The scale of the sloping sections of roof have been carefully considered to be similar to those of the adjoining buildings.
- The new pavilion will be designed as a contemporary foil to the ruins of the castle, lightweight, whereas the castle is heavyweight; open and welcoming, whereas the castle is closed and forbidding.
- The foundations will be designed to minimise any harm to the Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- The demolition of the lean-to will allow the medieval walls of the Castle Garden and of the New Chamber to be revealed and conserved, and an attractive courtyard to be created between the new building and the rear of Castle Arch House.
- If there is any harm to the significance of the site (which we do not believe to be the case), this harm is abundantly mitigated by increased public benefit owing to the increased access to and enjoyment of the site by the public.
- The proposals provide a sustainable future for both castle and museum economically, socially and environmentally, as required by the NPPF.

CASTLE ARCH HOUSE



Summary of significance

- 16th century hall and cross-wing house built into the remains of the south-west tower of the Castle wall, with medieval archway over Castle Hill to the south.
- Later subdivided into 5 houses.
- Site of the original Guildford Museum established by the Surrey Archaeological Society in 1898.
- Grade II* listed.
- The east part of Castle Arch House falls within the Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- Fine plaster ceilings and 17th century tiled chimneypieces are representative of the wealth and status of the urban merchant owners.
- A picturesque composition and massing as seen from all sides.

Impact of the proposals

- The lean-to against the north wall of Castle Gate House and the fire escape will be demolished and a new link will connect the new building to Castle Arch House through the existing doorway that leads into the lean-to. The fire escape door will be returned to a plastered wall.
- There will be minor alterations for reasons of presentation and display.
- New services will be introduced.
- Alterations only as required for Building Regs and servicing.

Justification for the proposals

- The rear lean-to is of low significance and in poor condition.

- The new door opening is essential to be able to provide equal access to the whole of the museum site.
- The demolition of the lean-to allows a better appreciation of the rear walls of Castle Arch House.

Proposed mitigation

- The revealing and conservation of the north wall of the Castle Arch House allows better interpretation and public enjoyment of the listed building.
- The proposals allow the creation of two pleasantly scaled and landscaped courtyards between the rear of Castle Arch House and the new museum building, allowing better views and appreciation of Castle Arch House by the public.
- Work to be carried out sympathetically with matching materials.

NO 48 QUARRY STREET

Summary of significance

- A plain 3-storey house of 1835 of gault brick with sash windows
- Adapted for museum use in 1970's
- Listed grade II

Impact of the proposals

- No exterior impact
- Minimal internal alterations required for upgrading and reservicing

Justification for the proposals

- Building regulations and museum standards
- A sustainable future

Proposed mitigation

- Sympathetic design and materials to match existing

THE MUNIMENT ROOM



Summary of significance

- Built in 1928 to house the muniment collection.
- Mentioned, possibly erroneously, in the listing description of no 48 Quarry Street.
- The front elevation is two-storey of brick with stone dressings in a late Tudor style, with an ill-proportioned composition of single doorway and window on its two levels that relates awkwardly its context in the Conservation Area.
- The interior is of no significance.

Impact of the proposals

- Building demolished.

Justification for the proposals

- The site of the Muniment room is essential for the creation of sufficient floorspace to meet the brief for a sustainable museum development.

Proposed mitigation

- The building will be replaced with a new museum building that expresses itself on the Quarry Street frontage with a composition, massing and material that enhances the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- Although taller than the existing Muniment building, the new museum building is of three stories relating to the height of the adjacent no 48 Quarry Street.

THE 1911 MUSEUM ENTRANCE AND JEKYLL GALLERY



Summary of significance

- Designed in 1911 by local architect Ralph Neville as the new main museum entrance and to house the Jekyll collection of Surrey Cottage Life.
- Mentioned in the listing description for Castle Arch House as a curtilage building.
- Single storey gabled elevation of brick and terracotta with timber bus shelter in front.
- Internally it has a double-height barrel-vaulted gallery space with a long roof lantern and cross-vaults to the flanking recesses.

Impact of the proposals

- The façade will be retained and the remainder demolished.

Justification for the proposals

- The retention of the whole of the 1911 building is incompatible with the creation of a sustainable new museum building that satisfies the brief and the business plan

Proposed mitigation

- The masonry façade and the timber bus shelter in front will be retained as a frontage to a new entrance gallery and courtyard between Castle Arch House and the new museum building.
- The 2 & 3 story elevation of the circulation spine of the new building is set back from the retained façade.

- The façade of the new gallery and learning space block sits at the same height as no. 50 Quarry Street.
- The articulation of the new elevation relates to the design of the new museum and to the scale of the adjoining buildings on Quarry Street, adding a new layer to the multi-layered architectural history and expression of the buildings in Quarry Street and in the Conservation Area.

THE STRONG ROOM



Summary of significance

- Built in 1961 to provide secure archive storage
- Unlisted but in the Conservation Area
- Of low significance
- Tile-hung elevations designed to decorate the otherwise unrelieved elevations

Impact of the proposals

- The existing building will be demolished.

Justification for the proposals

- The existing Strong Room has a low floor to ceiling height and is currently used as low grade storage for some of the less sensitive collection. The museum will be moving all of its collection off site to new purposed built facilities. The New Strong room will be larger, with taller ceilings and will provide galleries of a scale suitable for the display of the collection.
- The New Strong room will house a new lift giving disabled access to Level D of Castle Arch.

Proposed mitigation

- None required