

Staunton Country Park Works to Northern Wall of Storey Gardens

Combined Design and Heritage Statement

Introduction:

In July 2017 a planning and listed building application was made for major repair and conservation works across Staunton Country Park. (Ref: APP/17/00736). And in November 2019 another application was made for structural reinforcing works to the Southern wall of Storey Gardens (APP/19/01193)

This application includes works and infill to the Northern wall of the Storey Gardens which also forms the boundary to Stable Cottage. During a recent structural safety inspection, it was identified that a length of wall is leaning, which, in the short term have been fenced off for safety reasons. A 25m length of this wall has historically collapsed and the boundary is protected only by vegetation.

Funds are not available at this time, to rebuild all affected parts of the wall. This application identifies a short-term solution to shore up the wall, so that the safety fencing can be removed. It then develops a medium-term solution to rebuild the leaning wall, and to add a timber fence to reinforce the exposed boundary.

History

Storey Gardens are believed to have been built for William Stone circa 1860-65 as a sizeable kitchen garden. Currently the site is used as a Cottage garden and orchard.



Fig 1: Historic Maps



Fig 2: Construction History



Fig 3: Storey Gardens aerial view

Description

The wall to the Northern boundary is built in 9-inch brickwork with intermediate supporting piers and canted brick coping.



Fig 4: Image to show leaning wall

Proposed Works

The works comprise an initial short-term addition of timber shoring to prevent collapse. The next stage will be to carefully take down the leaning length of wall and rebuild in 9 inch brickwork with piers and a parapet brick capping, to match the existing walls. To the length of wall which has historic partial collapse, the proposal includes brickwork repairs, and to infill the gap with a timber close boarded fence.

Justification and Mitigation

The leaning wall presents a significant chance of collapse. There are 3 options:-

- Demolish the wall
- Shore up the wall
- Rebuild the wall to match

The wall provides a boundary between the public space of Storey Garden and the private garden to Stable Cottage. Stable Cottage has a manged use and provides employment opportunities for people with learning difficulties. Therefore, the other part of this application, is to provide a physical boundary treatment. Until further funds can be obtained, this proposal is for a close boarded fence, which will be built slightly inboard, to avoid the historic footing below ground.

Ecology

A detailed Ecology report including surveying was carried out as part of the above application ref: Ref: APP/17/00736, which included the Storey Gardens area. This can be provided as supplementary information if it is required.

Trees

A detailed tree survey was prepared for the 2017 application. Part 2 of the report is included as part of this application, which shows the works are beyond the root protection zone.