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DOLPHIN HOUSE

DESIGN, ACCESS, & HERITAGE STATEMENT

Dolphin House,
 Tresco,
 Isles of Scilly,
 TR24 0QD

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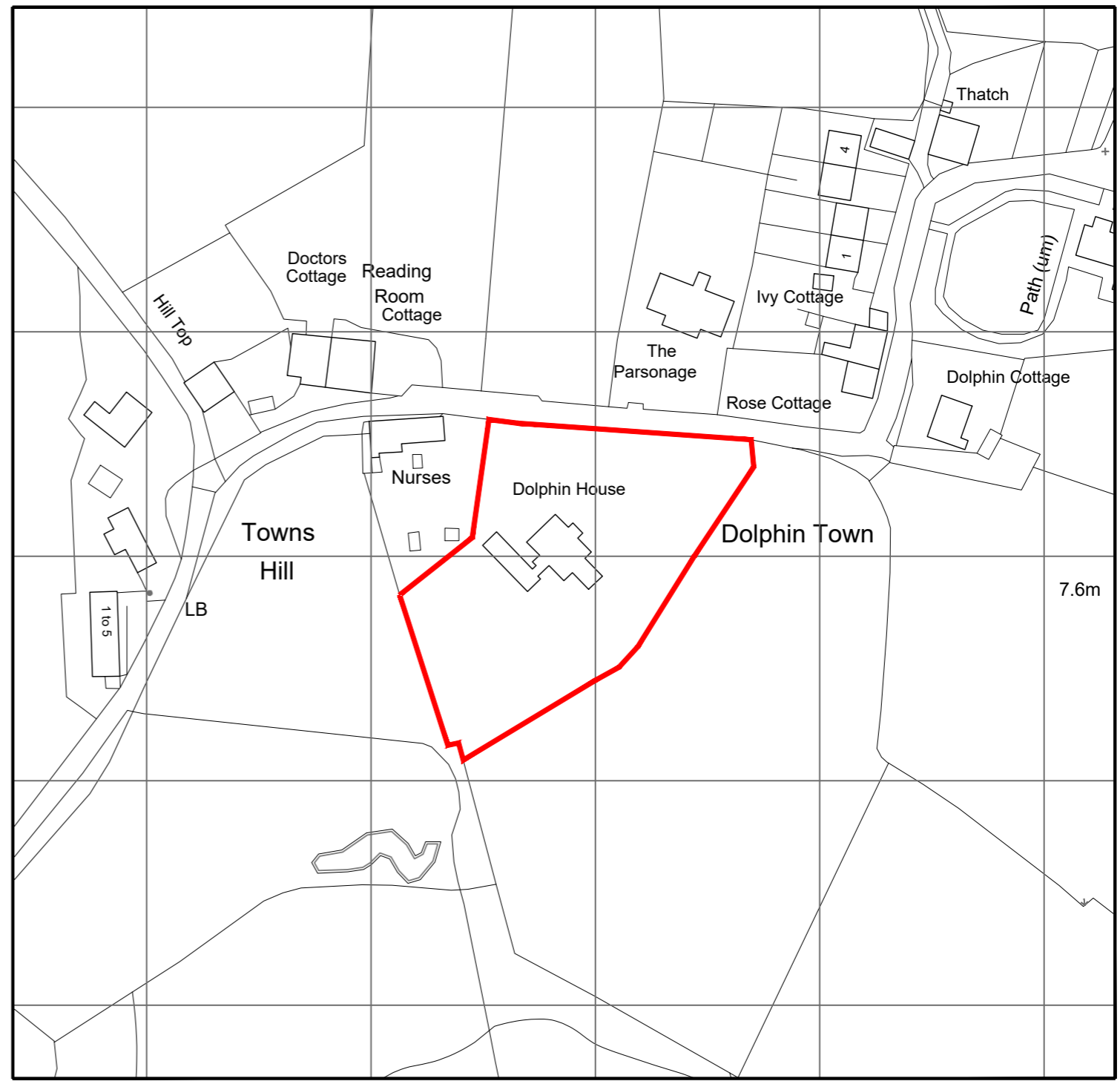
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DOLPHIN HOUSE

DESIGN, ACCESS, & HERITAGE STATEMENT



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OCTOBER 2020

1.0 Summary of Design, Access and Heritage Statement

1.1 Introduction

This document has been prepared to support a Planning and Listed Building application for the proposed alterations to Dolphin House.

The investigation has comprised a site inspection carried out in January 2020 and desktop based historical research, due to Covid 19 restrictions. A brief illustrated history of the building is included in Section 2 and the findings of the site survey are included in section 3. The significance of the building has been set out in section 4 and it is based on the findings of section 2 and 3.

The proposed modifications would involve limited internal alterations to the original house, a two storey rear extension to replace an existing rear closet wing, and an enlargement of the existing south-eastern wing. A more detailed description of the proposals and design development is included in section 5.

Historic buildings are protected by law and planning policy. The specific constraints for Dolphin House are described in section 1.2. This document has been drafted to inform the design proposals, so that they comply with these requirements. Section 5 provides a commentary on the proposals and a justification of the scheme in accordance to the relevant legislation, planning policy and guidance.

1.2 Dolphin House and its legal status

Dolphin House is grade-II listed and it is located in the Isles of Scilly Conservation Area, in the Tresco Character Area, in the local authority area of the Council of the Isles of Scilly. The statutory list description is included in Appendix I.

The Planning Act 1990 is the legislative basis for decision making on applications that relate to the historic environment. The Act requires local authorities to give *'special regard to the desirability of preserving the listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses' and, in respect of conservation areas, that 'special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area'*.

Local authorities are also required to consider the policies for the historic environment set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2019). At the core of the Framework is a *'a presumption in favour of sustainable development'*, with specific policies relating to the historic environment, which require that a heritage asset should be *'conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.'* A designated heritage asset is defined as a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area. The Framework defines a heritage asset as an *'an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations'*.

The NPPF recognises that in some instances, the significance of a heritage asset may be lost or harmed through alteration or development within its setting. Where any harm of loss to a designated heritage asset is proposed, *'clear and convincing justification'* must be provided and that any *'less than substantial harm'* should be weighed against the benefits of the proposal, which includes, where appropriate, securing the its optimum viable use.

1.3 Summary Assessment of Significance

Dolphin House is a Grade II listed late Georgian House, constructed on Tresco in 1799. Dolphin House is a formal dwelling of some status, second only to the Abbey in terms of hierarchy of residences on the island. It was originally built as a missionary house for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. It was later used as a parsonage associated with St Nicholas' Church, and as the Godolphin land agent's house, before Tresco was acquired by Augustus John Smith in 1834. It is now a private residence and holiday let. The primary significance of the building is found in the front elevation, including the roofline, chimneys and dormers, and in the remaining interior features in the original house. A full assessment of significance is included in Section 4.

1.4 Summary of the Proposals and Justification

The proposals have been developed to respect and re-establish the historic core of the dwelling through the replacement of the modern staircase and rationalisation of the plan, reverse insensitive C20th alterations, and reveal lost period features. In addition, where original features have been removed, period appropriate features will be reinstated. The alterations and extensions are proposed in areas where later, less sensitive, additions to the original dwelling have already been undertaken, which will provide a high standard of accommodation. They have been designed to maintain the established relationship of being secondary elements to the original house and minimise the visual impact on the setting by primarily being to the side and rear of the house, where the upper garden encloses the rear courtyard. The project seeks to improve the accommodation of the house to be more reflective of the property's historically hierarchical status on the island, as the second largest dwelling to Tresco Abbey.

In accordance with the terminology of the National Planning Policy Framework and for the reasons outlined in Section 6, any perceived harm caused by the proposals to the significance of the listed building is considered to be 'less than substantial' and should be weighed against the following public benefits, which would modestly enhance the significance of the listed building:

- Replacement of the modern staircase with a period appropriate staircase from ground to first floor and reinstating the proportions of the space above the staircase by removing the staircase to the attic
- Removal of modern partitions and reinstatement of elements of the original plan form at ground and first floor
- Removal of all uPVC window and replacing them with traditional timber sashes, with glazing bars to match the existing C19th windows in the front elevation
- Removal of modern surface mounted pipes and wires from the exterior elevations
- Reinstatement of period details, including cornices in the principal rooms, and replacing modern doors and architraves with traditionally detailed ones to match the originals. Reinstating chimney pots
- Removing modern white paint from the rear elevation of the main house
- Bringing the outbuildings back into active use
- Removal of modern concrete paving slabs in the rear courtyard, to be replaced with traditional stone slabs
- The improved level of accommodation and access provided by the proposals would arguably contribute to the continued viable use of the building

The proposed changes to the property are described in detail in Section 5 and they are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. A full commentary and justification is included in Section 6.

1.5 Conclusion

The purpose of this project is to provide enhanced accommodation for visitors to Tresco, while conserving and enhancing the historical significance of Dolphin House, and to undertake much needed repair works to the Grade II listed building. In accordance with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, the special architectural and historic interest of the Grade-II listed building and the character and appearance of the conservation area would be preserved and modestly enhanced by the proposed scheme. In accordance with the terminology of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), it is considered that any perceived harm caused by the scheme would be considered 'less than substantial,' and would be mitigated by the heritage benefits provided by the scheme, which arguably contribute to the continued and optimum viable use of the listed building. The proposals are therefore considered to be the type of sustainable development for which the NPPF establishes a strong presumption and it would align with relevant national and local policy. As such, the proposals are considered to be acceptable in heritage terms.

2.0 Historical Background

2.1 The Scilly Islands¹

There is evidence of prehistoric inhabitation across the Isles of Scilly, with evidence of human activity on the island dating back to c.8000BC. Iron Age and Roman sites have been excavated but the islands are first recorded in the tenth century, when they were subdued by King Athelstan (925-939). It appears that before or during the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066), some of the islands had been given to monks or hermits, who lived on the Island of St Nicholas (now Tresco). King Henry I (1100-1135) granted to the Abbot of Tavistock all of the churches of 'Suliyé' and the land which had belonged to the monks, or hermits. In 1193, Pope Celestin confirmed to the abbey a number of the islands, including St Nicholas (Tresco), with all their churches and oratories, and certain lands on other islands, known as the Domini de Scilly. The islands had been part of the Crown since the Norman Conquest and have been part of the Duchy of Cornwall since it was established in 1337 by Edward III (1327-1377), for his son and heir, Prince Edward.

The islands were of considerable importance during the civil war, when in 1645 they afforded a temporary protection to Prince Charles and his associates. In 1649 Sir John Grenville, who was governor of the Scilly Islands and instrumental in bringing about the Restoration, built fortifications, with the intention of holding them for Prince Charles, but the islands eventually succumbed to Parliament. Grenville's standard was one of the last rallying points for the Royalists.

2.1.1 The Scilly Islands and The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge

In 1698, a group of four Anglican laymen and one clergyman, Sir Humphrey Mackworth, Colonel Maynard Colchester, Lord Guildford, John Hooke and the Reverend Dr Thomas Bray, founded the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK). Their aim was to promote Christian knowledge through evangelical philanthropy and particularly by printing and distributing Christian literature. The work was in reaction to what they perceived as a 'growth of vice and immorality' in the country.² Their early work included the translation of bibles and prayer books into other languages, erecting charity schools and libraries in market towns and poor parishes. Their mission on the Scilly Isles began in the mid-18th.

In the book *Two hundred years: The history of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1698-1898*, the SPCK's mission on the Scilly Isles is well documented. In 1752, the Reverend Richard Corbett Hartshorne, Rector of Brosely near Bridgenorth, Salop, who was 'touched therefore with a sense of the spiritual wants of these poor islanders,'³ raised initial funds for the SPCK to start work. The SPCK acknowledged that life on the island was hard and conditions were harsh for the inhabitants. One missionary described that their 'houses are mean and little better than stables,'⁴ and that on 'several of the islands, there were far more widows than women with husbands,'⁵ because of the many men that drown during piloting.

A special committee was established in 1796 to improve and better establish the mission on the Scilly Isles. At this stage the society acknowledges that there is not house or boat provided for the missionary but both of which would be provided in the future. At the end of the 18th, two separate ministers were appointed; Rev. David Evens was appointed to Tresco and the Rev. Frederick Crocker was appointed to St Agnes. They both received allowances for lodging on the island until their own houses were built, one of which appears to have

1 <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/magna-britannia/vol3/pp330-337> (accessed 20.10.2020)

2 <https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/manuscripts-university-archives/significant-archival-collections/society-0> (accessed 20.10.2020)

3 Allen W.O.B, M.A, & McClure Edmund, M.A, *Two hundred years: the history of The Society for Promoting Christian knowledge 1698-1898* (London, 1898). P.375

4 Ibid., P.377

5 Ibid., P.377

been Dolphin House, built in 1799, and the focus of this report.

The SPCK continued working on the islands into the C19th, until an Act of Parliament in 1836 declared that the islands would fall under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Exeter. The Bishop felt that the clergy employed on the islands could no longer be recognised as missionaries. Therefore, the relationship of the society with the islands changed and their work on the islands was brought to a close.

2.1.2 Augustus Smith and Tresco Island

Augustus Smith acquiring a lease of ninety-nine years from the Duchy of Cornwall for the Isles of Scilly in 1834, marginally preceded the end of the work undertaken by the Society for the Promoting Christian Knowledge. Smith was required by the Crown to spend £5000 within six years on various improvements across the islands and was prepared to take in hand the management of the schools. Unlike previous absentee landlords, Smith was to make Tresco his home and carried out improvements across the Island. He began building a new house to the east of the ruins of the medieval priory of St Nicholas on Tresco in 1835, which was extended in 1843 and again in 1852-3. Augustus Smith died in 1872 and was succeeded in his lease by his nephew, Thomas Algernon Dorrien-Smith, who was instrumental in establishing flower-growing on the island to revive the islands' economy in the late-C19th. Dorrien-Smith was succeeded by his son, Major Arthur Dorrien-Smith, who continued augmenting the plant collection with specimens from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa during his military service. Following World War Two, he was succeeded by his only surviving son Lt. Commander TM Dorrien-Smith, who in turn was succeeded by his son in the 1970s, Robert A Dorrien-Smith.

Today, Tresco is a family run island providing high quality self-catering accommodation and facilities for visitors. All of the properties, including Dolphin House, are owned and managed by the Tresco Estate. The island has a community of around 150 permanent residents, with a number of the families having lived on the island for generations.

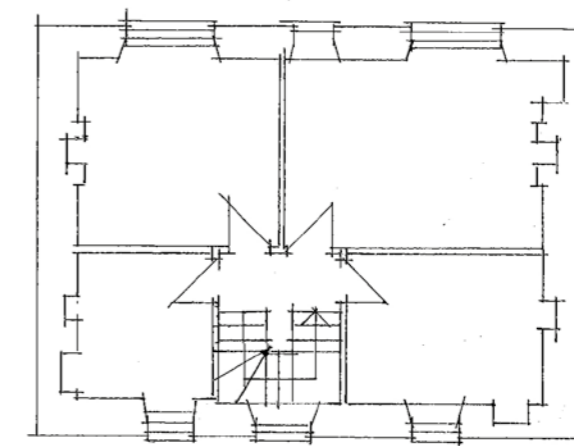
2.2 Dolphin House

Dolphin House was built in 1799, as a missionary house for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The build cost of the house was £400 plus £200 for fixtures and fittings.⁶ Original plans of the house have not been found but based on on-site survey work, it has been possible to reconstruct the likely layout of the original house [Figure 1], which is a typical plan of a late Georgian house. The ground floor appears to have had four rooms, with a central corridor from the front door to the staircase at the rear and a small single storey porch in the centre of the rear elevation below the tall height and a half stair light. The first floor would have likely followed the layout below, also with four rooms. The rear of the house was serviced by a series of outbuildings around a courtyard, the south west range as enclosed buildings and the south range as external, covered spaces.

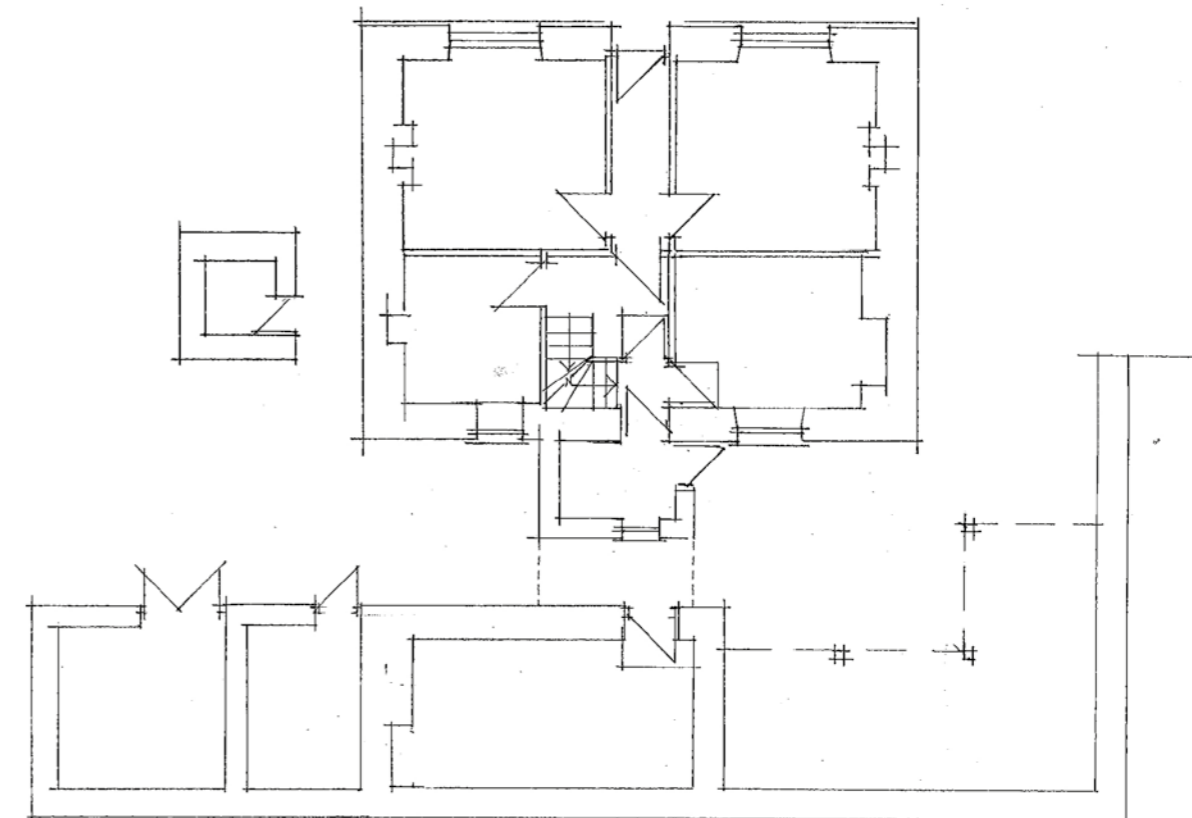
The earliest record of the building is shown on the ordnance survey map from 1889 [Figure 2]. The main house is labelled as a parsonage, which was associated with St Nicholas' Church, and accessed via a drive from the north, with a secondary route dotted in to the south east and a small outbuilding. The slight step in the primary north east elevation shows the addition of the romantic style porch in the mid-C19th. The map also shows that the service extension on the south east elevation of the main house had been added by 1889. There is a range of 'L-shaped' out buildings to the south west of the house, which, are shown to be linked to the main house, presumably with a lean-to or covered link, as extant today. As drawn on the reconstructed plan, it is likely that this would have originally been a single storey, sitting below the height and a half window onto the original staircase and providing covered access to the outbuildings. An outbuilding is shown sitting separately to the north

6 <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1376770> (accessed 20.10.20)

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



BASEMENT

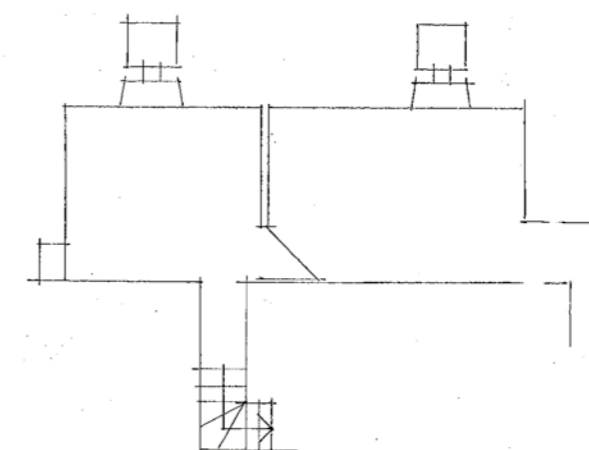


Figure 1 - Probable reconstructed original layout (LHL)

west elevation and the south corner of the rear elevation appears to step forward, suggesting an extension or lean-to in this location.

The ordnance survey map from 1900 shows a more defined outline of the main house and the outbuildings [Figure 3]. The map shows the same access arrangement to the main house. The form of the additions to the original main house are clearly shown; the mid-C19th porch, the single storey lean-to or link centred on the rear elevation, and the extension on the south east elevation and the small extension or lean-to on the south corner of the rear elevation, all added prior to 1889. On site survey work has shown that this lean-to was accessed from the adjacent room; the extant window opening has an infilled lower section, demonstrating that this was previously a doorway. The lean-to was removed during the C20th but the detail on the ordnance survey maps from this period is not sufficient to establish when. The north west range of outbuildings is shown to be deeper in plan than the south east range and return.

Dolphin House is shown on the 1909 ordnance survey map but the main house and outbuildings are not accurately shown and are depicted as one solid hatch. The house is shown in an aerial photograph from 1938, which shows the two tall chimney stacks and two dormers in the pitch above the primary south east elevation, which also shows the mid-19th romantic style porch [Figure 4]. The extant attic is very small and awkwardly planned. Given this, and the encumbered stair arrangement required for access, it is hard to imagine that this space was originally designed and constructed to be occupied, but was perhaps instead converted at a later date. If this was the case, the alterations took place prior to 1938.

A comparison of the reconstructed plans [Figure 1] and the survey drawings from 1991 [Figure 5], make it possible to understand the changes in the plan form that have taken place. The walls that had previously enclosed the front entrance corridor have been removed to create one large living room across the front of the house, completely removing the original plan form in this area. A further opening into the rear kitchen has also been made. The opening into the dining room extension is narrow and hampered by the chimney breast, suggesting this space was not originally intended to connect directly into the dwelling. On-site survey work shows that the south west elevation of the extension was infilled, demonstrating that this extension was originally open to the rear yard and most likely a separate outbuilding to the main house, as shown on the reconstructed original ground floor plan.

The original plan form at first floor is still largely extant, although compromised by the partitions that were added to enable the installation of the bathroom between the front two bedrooms. As a result, a lobby has been cut into the rear eastern bedroom to provide a replacement access to the front bedroom.

The staircase is a late C20th installation, of inappropriate style, and poorly planned configuration, which does not reflect the layout of the original staircase. Head clearance under the half landing to the rear entrance door is insufficient. The half landing leading to the attic bifurcates a tall one-and-a-half-height stair well window. This confident architectural gesture would formerly have flooded the stairwell with light, but is now enclosed by the rear closet wing. The awkward relationship of the modern staircase to access both the WC and the attic, suggests that the replacement of the staircase, creating access to the attic and the addition of a first floor closet wing WC, may have formed one phase of work in 1963 under planning application P.0410, *Permission granted for an extension to the rear of existing house.*

The limited map evidence and the reconstructed plan indicate that the successive alterations, adaptations and additions carried out to the original house have largely been limited to the rear elevation and south east elevation.



Figure 2 - Ordnance Survey Map 1889 (National Library of Scotland)

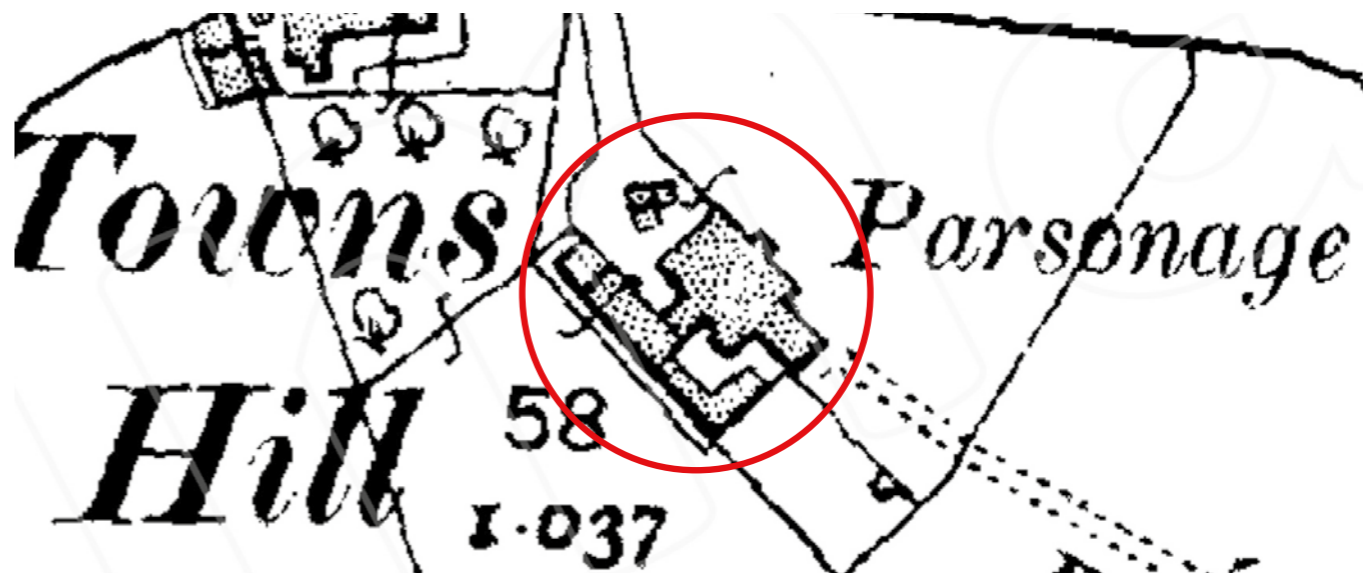
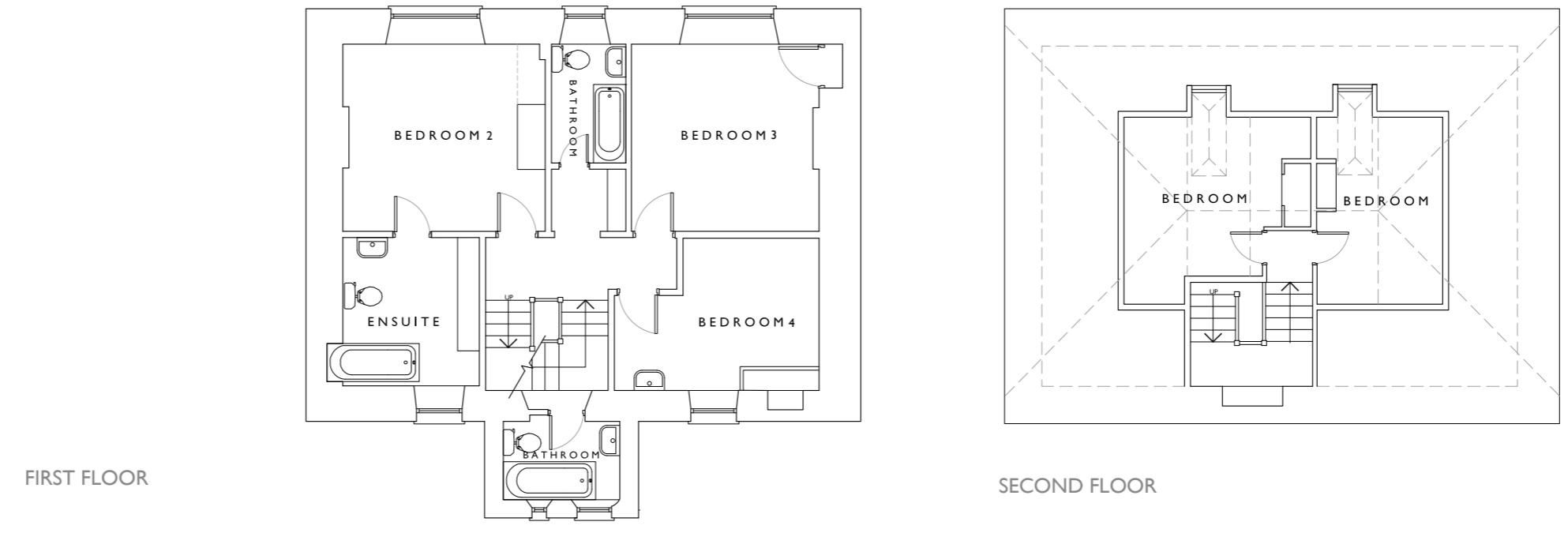


Figure 3 - Ordnance Survey Map 1900 (National Library of Scotland)

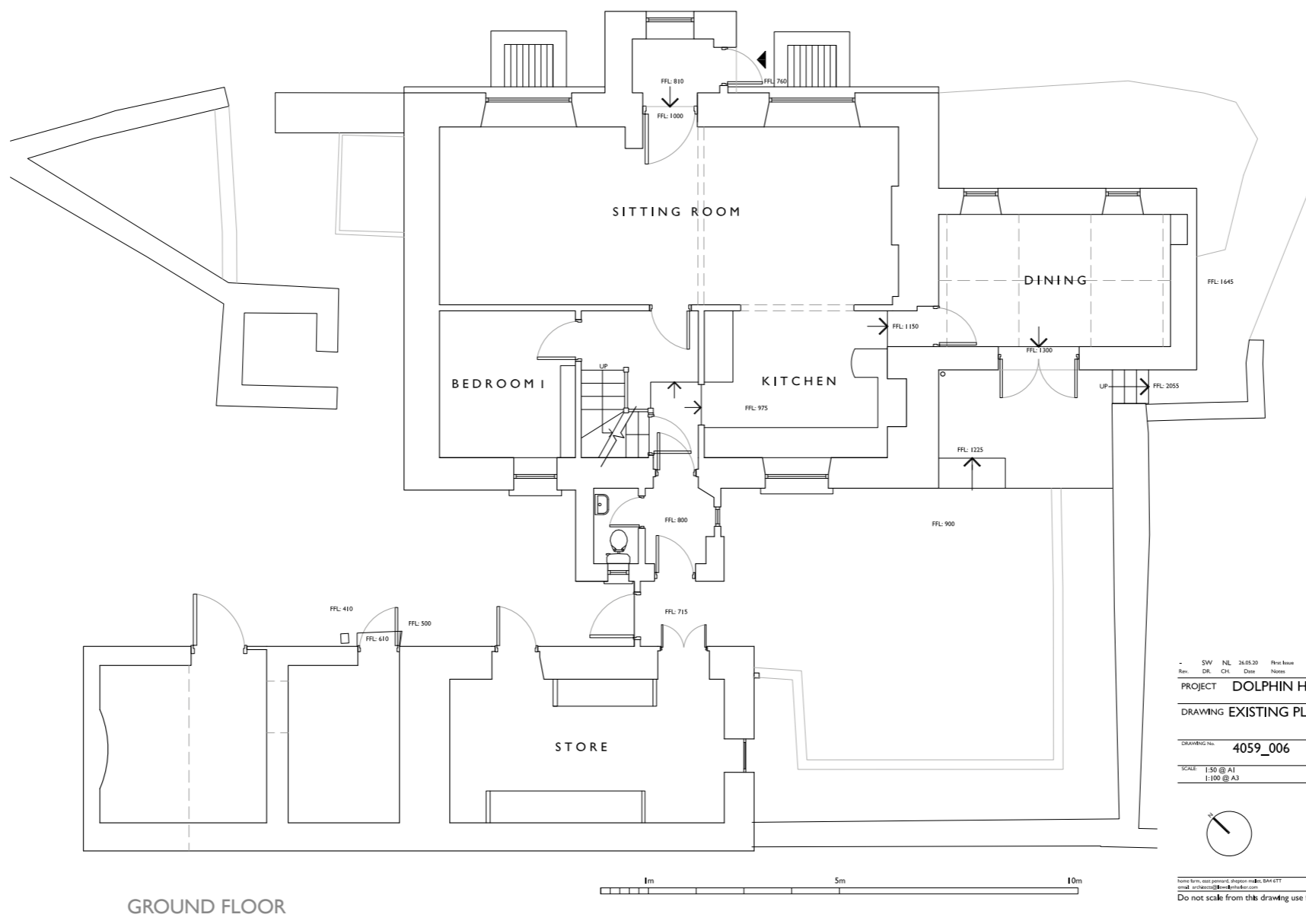


Figure 4 - Aerial photograph from 1938 (Britain from Above)



FIRST FLOOR

SECOND FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

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	DR	CH	Dim	Notes
PROJECT DOLPHIN HOUSE				
DRAWING EXISTING PLANS				
DRAWING No. 4059_006				
SCALE 1:50 @ A1		DATE MAY 2020		
1:100 @ A3				

llewellyn harker lowe

Name firm, user, project, drafter, title, date
email: info@lhk.co.uk
Do not scale from this drawing use figured dimensions only.

Figure 5 - Survey Drawings 2020 (LHL)

3.0 Site Survey Descriptions

3.1 The Setting of the Building and Conservation Area Context⁷

The architecture and landscape of the Scilly Islands is varied. The buildings are generally of local granite, which was quarried from the Islands until the mid-C19th, when it was then imported from the Cornwall. Later terraces are rendered. The islands' domestic vernacular is predominantly two storey, double fronted houses, with a central door and traditional sash windows, grouped in small hamlets. Traditionally, the roofs were thatch but in the 19th and 20th centuries, the primary roof material is slate, including wet laid scantle.

Dolphin House is one of the most elevated dwellings on the island and it is cut into the hillside just below the topographical ridge. Its primary northeast facing elevation overlooks St Nicholas' Church below and Old Grimsby quay and harbour beyond. The property is part of a small hamlet known as Towns Hill. The house is set within an extensive gardens plot, and is placed above, and well back from the lane. The house sits in proximity to other Listed Buildings, including, Dolphin Cottage, Ivy Cottage, Rose Cottage, Thatch and the Church of St Nicholas.

3.2 The Building Exterior

3.2.1 North east elevation (front elevation)

The original primary northeast elevation is granite ashlar, the peripheral bays have large double width windows with voussoir granite flat arch heads **[Figure 6]**. At ground floor there are two over two sashes and at first floor level, two over two central sashes with fixed half-width side lights. The pane sizes and horns indicate that these are C19th replacements and not the original joinery. The three pane sash window above the porch appears to be original.

A porch in the romantic style has been added to this elevation. It incorporates large rounded granite boulders and raked back pointing to achieve a rusticated appearance. This addition is consistent in style with other mid-C19th architectural additions made around the island, under the auspices of Augustus Smith (Lord Proprietor of the Scillies 1834 – 1872).

3.2.2 South west elevation (rear elevation)

The original rear elevation is formed of randomly coursed, roughly squared granite, which has been painted in some areas **[Figure 7]**. The original rear elevation has asymmetrically placed sash window openings. Joinery in these openings has been replaced with uPVC imitation sashes. The window at the south end of the elevation was previously a door, now with an infilled section added during the C20th, would have lead onto a small lean-to, also removed in the C20th.

In the centre of the rear elevation, the house has been extended on the rear southwest elevation with a closet wing containing WC and first floor bathroom, which is shown in the 1889 ordnance survey map. The closet wing have undergone successive alterations and it is not possible to establish its original form. This is finished in render and painted. At roof level, the parapet has been built up and has detracting modern services attached, including a large satellite, plastic soil vent pipe and security light. An asymmetric projecting parapet on one side houses



Figure 6 - Front elevation of Dolphin House (LHL)



Figure 7 - Rear elevation of Dolphin House (LHL)

⁷ Isles of Scilly Conservation Area Character Statement Supplementary Planning Document. Draft for Consultation, 8th June 2015 to 17th July 2015, Council of the Isles of Scilly.

satellite + TV equipment. Openings are meagre and placed at random. Jointing lines in the masonry indicate alterations to this section of building. However there is not sufficient evidence available to ascertain what form this previous incarnation took.

3.2.3 North west and south east elevations (side elevations)

The original side elevations are formed in randomly coursed [Figures 8 & 9], roughly squared granite, and have been painted in some areas. There are no windows in the side elevations. Each features a substantial chimney breast that occupies much of the elevation. These terminate in granite stacks that have subsequently been extended with red brick, presumably to improve the draw.

The building has been extended on the south east side elevation, with a small single storey masonry wing with double pitched slated roof (not scantle) [Figure 10]. This wing is identifiably present on the 1888 map. However, the masonry here is not jointed into the side elevation of the main body of the house, demonstrating that it not original. It is also cruder, with more irregularly sized and shaped stones, particularly on the rear elevation, which perhaps indicates that the extension has been altered or that the less visible rear elevation was built of lower quality.

3.2.4 The roof

The roof is covered with scantle; a technique that involves the use of particularly small slates of varying size, laid with a triple lap. Larger slates are used at the eaves and on the verges to offer more resistance to wind; the rest of the roof is filled with the smaller slates with a general reduction in size towards the ridge. Two small hipped dormers break the northeast roof slope. The joinery and scale of these windows suggests that they were installed in the mid-late C19th (horns on the sashes).

3.2.5 Outbuildings and garden

To the rear of the house is a small sunken courtyard, bounded by high walls and outbuildings that retain the land to the south. The 1908 map shows these buildings formerly wrapped around all sides of the rear yard. Now only the NW portion of these buildings remains [Figure 11]. This is split into three cells, two of which are currently unroofed. A notably large flat granite slab is embedded into the internal masonry of the northwest elevation. A slate lined water tank, used to store rainwater when there was no mains water supply on the island, is still present adjacent to the northeast elevation.

The grounds are arranged with private gardens to the North, and the service area / courtyard on the rear southern side, cut into the hillside. The primary access to the plot is from a lane to the north. A particularly fine granite wall leads from the plot entrance to the house. This separates the visitor and services routes; on the north visitors' side a path leads through the gardens to the rusticated entrance porch, on the south is an access drive leading the courtyard and service buildings at the rear of the house

3.3 The Building Interior

3.1.1 Ground Floor

The front porch

The front porch was added in the mid C19th. There is a fixed two over two pane window and a four panelled timber door, both of which appear to be contemporary to the porch.



Figure 8 - North west elevation of Dolphin House (LHL)



Figure 9 - South east elevation of Dolphin House (LHL)

The sitting room

The sitting room is one large room that spans the front elevation of the house, which would have most likely originally been two rooms with a central corridor from the front door to the staircase. Nibs and a downstand show the line of the north west corridor wall, which has a modern architrave.

There is an original radial fanlight centred in the north east elevation, above an original six-panelled door, which has had the two central panels taken out and glass added. This would have been the original front door. Opposite, there is an original six panelled door onto the stair hall. Throughout the room there is modern coving and carpet. There is a large opening in the south west wall that opens onto the kitchen, with a modern architrave. There is a modern stone, bolection style fireplace with a raised hearth on the south east elevation. There are pairs of two over two sash windows, with a central mullion, which are C19th replacements. The architrave, panelled reveals, apron and soffit are original [Figures 12a and b].

The kitchen

The kitchen has modern fitted units and a modern laminate timber floor. There is no cornice. The sill of the window has been raised to accommodate the kitchen units and a modern uPVC window inserted. There is a non-original opening in the south east wall, formed to link the house to the eastern-service wing when this was converted from an outbuilding to an internal room. In the south east elevation the fireplace has been enlarged to accommodate a range cooker, with a modern timber lintel and extractor above [Figure 13].

Bedroom 1

There is an original six panelled door and original shutters and window architrave, which have been altered and reset when the uPVC windows were added. There is modern carpet and no cornice. There are modern cupboards at high level.

Dining room (south eastern service wing)

The service wing has painted stone walls and a modern tile floor [Figure 14]. The roof timbers are painted and appear to be modern.

WC and hall

In the ground floor of the rear extension, there is a lobby and a WC with modern fixtures and fittings. The ad hoc doors, architraves and windows are modern.

2.1.2 First Floor

Bedroom 2

There is a two over two central sash with two fixed half-width side lights, which are C19th replacements. The architrave, panelled reveals, apron and soffit are original [Figure 15]. There is an original six panelled door and architrave onto the stair landing. There is a modern cornice and carpet. The door and architrave leading onto the ensuite are modern.

Bedroom 3

There is a two over two central sash with two fixed half-width side lights, which are C19th replacements. The architrave, panelled reveals, apron and soffit are original. There is a historic four panelled door, which was likely reused in this location when the modern lobby and bathroom were added.

Bathroom

Between these rooms is a modern bathroom, formed with modern partitions. The door and architrave to the bathroom is modern, as is the adjacent joinery. The three over three sash window appears to be original and has



Figure 10 - South east service extension & Figure 11 - Outbuildings in the courtyard behind Dolphin House (LHL)



Figure 12a - Ground floor sitting room looking north west (Tresco Estate)

original panelled reveals and architrave, with modern sill and joinery below.

Ensuite

The rear ensuite is accessed from bedroom 2 via a modern door and architrave. There are original shutters and a window architrave, which have been altered and reset when the uPVC windows were added. There is modern carpet and no cornice. There are modern cupboards at high level.

Bedroom 4

A modern lobby has been formed in the rear bedroom to provide access to the front bedroom when the bathroom was added. There is a historic six panelled door, which is likely the original bedroom door that was reused when the lobby was added. There is modern built in joinery on the south west elevation and modern carpet.

2.1.3 Staircase and attic

Staircase

The timber staircase is modern from the ground floor to the attic and appears to date from the mid-to-late C20th [Figures 16a, b, c, d and e]. The staircase has an awkward junction to access the half landing bathroom in the rear extension and a landing above, to access the attic, which cuts across the original opening of the stair light. Under the first floor landing and below the pitch of the roof there is inadequate headroom. The current staircase form does not likely reflect the form of the original staircase.

Attic

The attic is small and awkwardly spilt into two small spaces, which are boarded and painted. With the insertion of the modern staircase, it is not possible to establish whether the attic spaces were originally intended to be inhabited. However, the awkward space and access, suggests that this was a later conversion.



Figure 13 - Kitchen viewed from the sitting room (Tresco Estate)



Figure 14 - South easter service wing interior (Tresco Estate)



Figure 12b - Ground floor sitting room looking south east (Tresco Estate)



Figure 15 - Original window joinery in bedroom 2 (Tresco Estate)

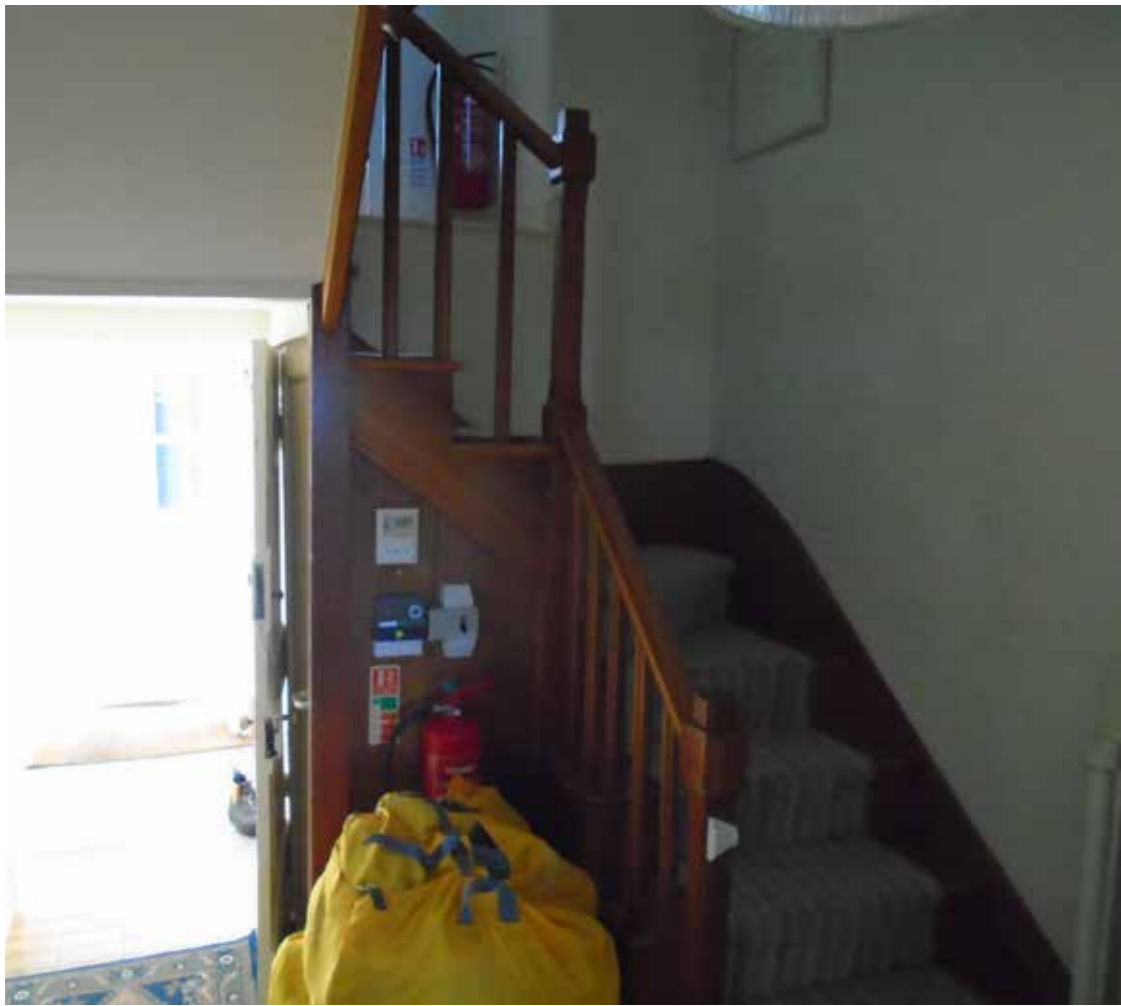


Figure 16a - Ground floor stair hall



Figure 16b - Staircase ground to half landing and access to rear extension



Figure 16c - View to first floor landing with half landing to the attic above



Figure 16d - First Floor Landing



Figure 16d - Staircase to attic

4.0 Assessment of Significance

4.1 Dolphin House Assessment of Significance

Dolphin House is a Grade II listed late Georgian House, constructed on Treco in 1799. It is sited on a northeast facing inland plot on the northern side of the ridge between New Grimsby and Old Grimsby. Dolphin House is a formal dwelling of some status, second only to the Abbey in terms of hierarchy of residences on the island. It was originally built as a missionary house for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. It was later used as a parsonage associated with St Nicholas' Church, and as the Godolphin land agent's house, before Treco was acquired by Augustus John Smith in 1834. It is now a private residence and holiday let.

This special interest of the building culminates in the building fabric, which has the following hierarchy of significance –

Of the **highest significance** and most sensitive to change –

- The primary, granite ashlar north east elevation, including the fenestration pattern, albeit with later C19th replacement windows
- The scantle roof, dormers and chimney stacks

Of **high significance** and also sensitive to change-

- The porch, with large rounded granite boulders and raked back pointing, as an example of a romantic style mid-C19th addition, likely under the auspices of Augustus Smith (Lord Proprietor of the Scillies 1834 – 1872)
- The roughly coursed square granite side elevations
- Areas where the original plan form remains at ground and first floor, although fragmented and compromised by the previous removal of partitions and the original staircase

Of **moderate significance** and therefore broadly adaptable-

- The roughly coursed square granite rear elevation, compromised by modern UPVC glazing and areas of painted granite
- The south east side elevation extension, which is not jointed into the elevation of the original house and altered, and is built of cruder, irregularly sized stones
- The rendered rear closet wing, which has been previously altered, indicated by the irregular parapet, ad hoc openings and blockwork. The projecting parapet on one side houses satellite + TV equipment
- The range of outbuildings that retain the land to the south, which are split into three cells, two of which are currently unroofed
- The extant courtyard perimeter wall that would have formed the rear wall of the south east range of outbuildings

Of **neutral significance**, therefore neither contributing or detracting from the significance as a whole-

- Modern bathroom and kitchen fixtures and fittings throughout the house

Elements that **detract** from the buildings significance, which should be removed where possible and provide clear opportunity for change –

- The modern staircase
- UPVC imitation sash windows in the rear elevation
- Modern fitted joinery, doors and architraves
- Generally, modern surface mounted services, plastic pipes and vents
- Missing chimney pots
- Areas of the rear elevation, where the granite has been painted

4.2 The Conservation Area Context

The Isles of Scilly are unusual, as there is one single conservation area, under the jurisdiction of the Council of the Isles of Scilly. The conservation area is divided into five character areas, one of which is for the island of Treco. Treco is the second largest island to St Mary's and roughly has a linear north / south orientation. The island is characterised generally by sandy beaches and coastal dune systems, with dramatic cliffs at its northern end. The island has the remains of two important castles; the remains of King Charles's Castle and the prominent round tower of Cromwell's Castle. The heathy headland gives way to the centre of the Island, where there are the two small hamlets of New Grimsby and Old Grimsby, stretching from the west to east coasts. The great pool, a long linear lake surrounded by marshes, almost divides the Island in two. Beyond, at the southern end of the island, is Treco Abbey and houses built into the ruins of the abbey by Augustus Smith, begun in 1835. The house and landscape are sheltered by woodlands and the gardens were developed by successive generations of the family.

5.0 Proposed Alterations

5.1 Introduction

The purpose of this project is to provide enhanced accommodation for visitors to Tresco, while conserving and enhancing the historical significance of Dolphin House, and to undertake much needed repair works to the Grade II listed building. Alterations would be restricted to the side and rear elevations, where the visual impact of the proposals would be mitigated by the way the original dwelling is cut into the hillside. The primary northeast facing elevation on the historic core of the house remains entirely unchanged, as would the principal rooms at the front of the house. In addition, the dwelling would be more energy efficient and sustainable as a result of the changes and the proposals would improve the accessibility of this house.

5.1.1 The Main House

Within the historic core of the dwelling, the existing C20th staircase would be entirely removed, and replaced with a new stair that extends to the first floor only. The half landing would engage with the bottom of the original tall stairwell light that is currently obscured by the attic stair half landing. Removal of the flight up to the attic would re-establish this significant opening as the dominant feature within the stairwell. The attic landing would be left open into the stair well so as to minimise changes and allow access via a ladder.

The existing door opening in the stud wall between the stairwell and current kitchen would be enlarged to create an open library that connects onto the stairwell at ground floor level. Nibs and a downstand would be maintained so that the former separation between these two spaces remains expressed. The opening between the sitting room and the kitchen would be filled in, creating two rooms and part reinstating the original plan form. The window, (which was formerly a door), would be cut down to form window seat and better proportioned sash window.

The rear western room would be subdivided to create a cupboard and shower room, making the dwelling more accessible for wheelchair users and the ambulant disabled.

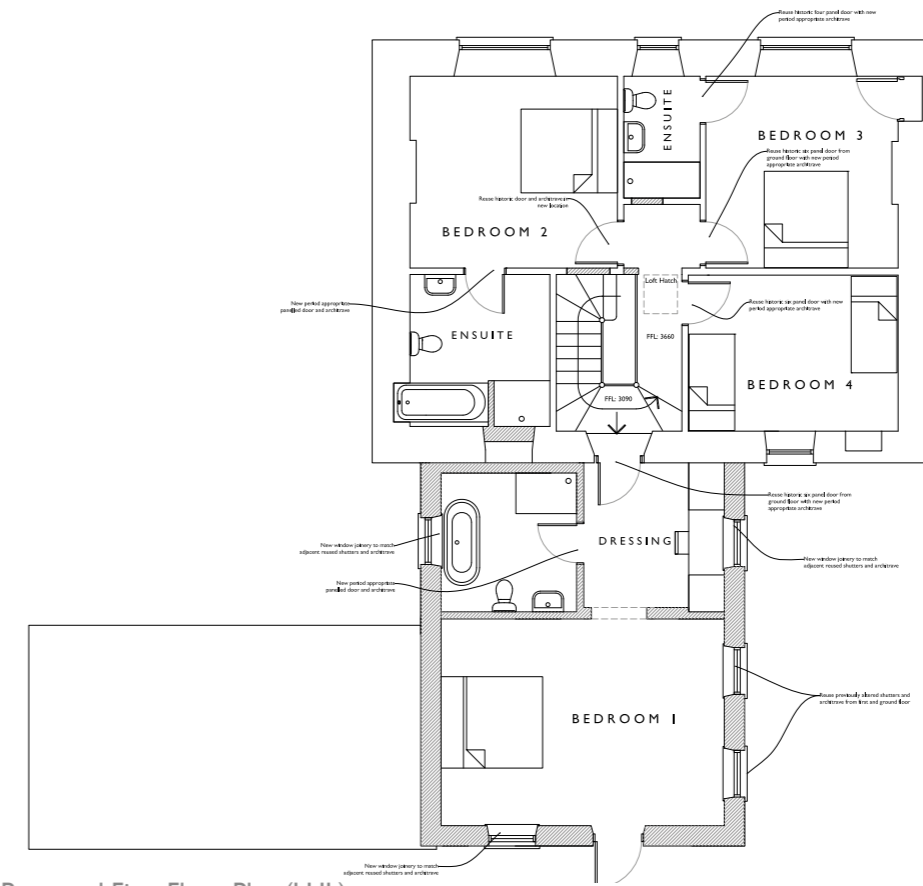
The first floor layout would be rationalised. The two bedrooms at the front of the house would be connected ensuite to the existing bathrooms. This allows the removal of the modern lobby that cuts into the rear eastern bedroom.

Excepting the removal of the stairs, the attic would remain unchanged. The scantle roof, which is in need of repair, would be lifted and relaid over new felt. Insulation between rafters would be upgraded with a breathable mineral wool from above. UPVC windows throughout would be replaced with timber slim double-glazed sash windows that replicate the profiles of those on the primary elevation.

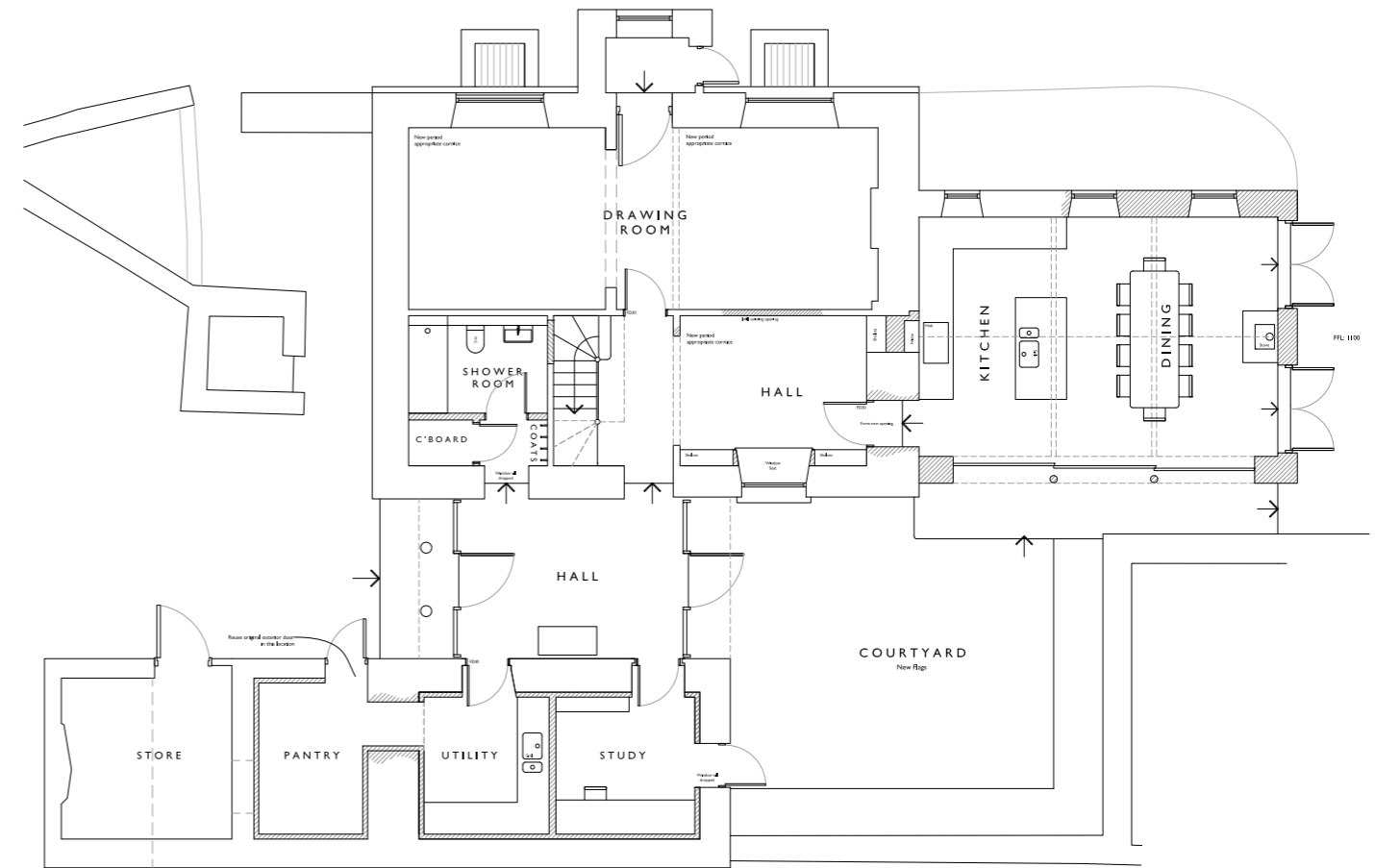
5.1.2 The South-eastern Wing

This section of the building would be part demolished and enlarged. The majority of the principal north-facing granite masonry elevation, would be retained.

The gable and rear elevation (which has later poor-quality granite work and a 1980s timber French door) would be demolished and rebuilt to enlarge the size of the enclosed space. Material salvaged from the demolition would be used in reconstruction of the new masonry walls. The modern slate roof would also have to be replaced and rebuilt to suit the new footprint.



Proposed First Floor Plan (LHL)



Proposed Ground Floor Plan (LHL)

Figure 17a - Proposed Floor Plans (LHL)

The space created by these changes would be used to house a comfortable kitchen and dining room. It would have a glazed connection to rear courtyard, which reproduces the original open-sided character of this section when it was a service building rather than part of the habitable accommodation. There would be twin double door openings in the gable, to bring morning light into the space.

These alterations improve the internal living spaces, and their connection to the garden and courtyard.

5.1.3 Rear Extension and Outbuildings

The rear elevation of the house, and the various extensions and outbuildings, have been incrementally altered and added to over time with little regard for the cohesiveness and quality of the original house. The consequence of these accumulated changes is a compromised rear facade that no longer exhibits the dignified qualities of the original.

The unattractive existing two-storey rear extension and covered porch would be demolished and replaced with a larger two-storey extension that takes its architectural cues from the original house. This would span over the existing outbuildings to connect to the upper garden at first floor level.

At ground floor level a new entrance porch and hall is created in space between the rear elevation of the original house and the face of the outbuildings. Granite columns and lintels frame the entrance and support the first floor level. Full width glazing on both sides maintains the visual connection between the east and west courtyards. The existing outbuildings are retained and incorporated into the ground floor plan to form a study and utility room. These would be lined with a cavity drainage system and insulated stud work to prevent damp ingress from the solid masonry retaining walls. This is a fully reversible solution, not harmful to the original building fabric in the way liquid applied membranes can be.

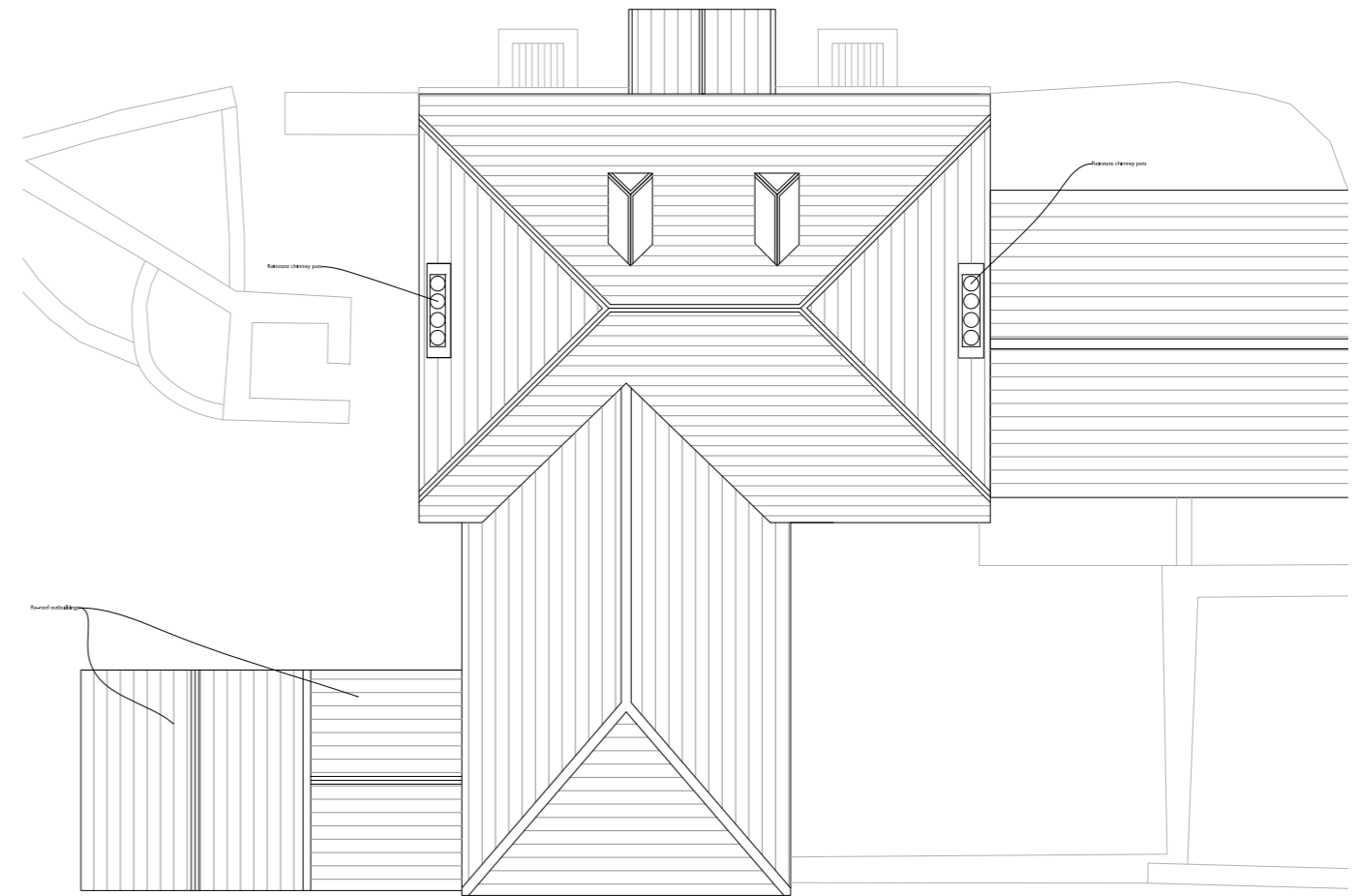
The first floor would contain a new bedroom suite, which would connect with a single door to the upper level garden.

The roof extension would be pitched and hipped to complement the existing roof. It would be slated in blue-grey slate, to aid legibility between old and new. The first floor would be skinned with coursed granite rubble masonry. Eaves and ridgeline would be lower than the existing roof to ensure subservience to the main body of the dwelling. Windows take their proportion from the front facing sashes, but are of a reduced scale, again to maintain the hierarchy of the various elements of the building. New windows would be painted timber sashes with slim double glazed units.

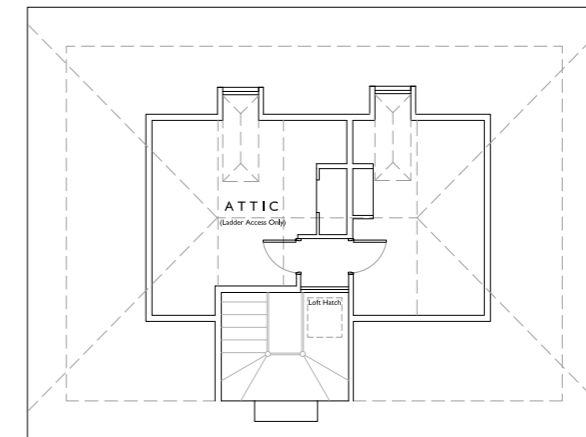
The existing rear store buildings that are not incorporated into the new rear wing would be re-roofed to prevent the masonry from falling into further disrepair. The former roofline evident from the existing gables would be reinstated.

5.1.4 Garden

The principle south facing garden would remain unchanged. As would the historically significant drive, pathway and granite separating wall, and the service yard adjacent to the rear entrance.



Proposed Roof Floor Plan (LHL)



Proposed Attic Plan (LHL)

Figure 17b - Proposed Floor Plans (LHL)

5.2 Sustainability Assessment

The proposals have been developed to include a range of strategies to achieve sustainability in construction and in the building's ongoing use.

5.2.1 Embodied Energy In Construction

A considerable proportion of a building's carbon footprint is attributable to the manufacturing and transportation of building materials. To minimise this, the works would be primarily constructed from reclaimed material available on site and around the island.

New external elements would be constructed in long lasting materials, and installed with robust detailing, capable of withstanding the marine environment would be employed in the construction works. Improved lifespan ensures a better return on the energy expended in construction.

The specification would be developed with reference to the BRE Green Guide to Specification to evaluate the environmental credentials of the materials procured from further afield.

5.2.2 Heat Loss and Energy use

The proposals take a 'fabric first' approach to energy reduction, seeking to minimise consumption from the outset through the use of passive design principles. These include optimising orientation and massing, as well as ensuring the use of high-performance building fabric.

The new building elements will have insulation that is far superior to the existing elements that are being replaced. This will reduce the energy required to heat the property. Double glazing for new windows and would improve air tightness and improve thermal performance.

5.2.3 Renewable Energy Sources

The existing oil fired boiler would be removed. The dwelling would be heated using an air source heat pump, which is typically 3 times more efficient than traditional direct electric heating methods, and does not involve the use of fossil fuels. This approach is particularly effective on Tresco, where the temperate climate ensures operating efficiency is maintained through the year.

An additional stove would allow the property to be heated using fuel from local and sustainable sources. This is particularly effective to top up the heating in the winter when efficiency of the air source heat pump is reduced. The scheme as whole would be also sustainable in the broader sense; supporting the economy of the Islands and providing work for the people who live there. The Current Local Plan, encourages development of this sort to support tourism and the local economy.

5.3 Access

The proposals have been developed to include a range of strategies to achieve sustainability in construction and in the building's ongoing use.

5.3.1 Outside:

The existing lanes and driveway will be used to access the plot. The absence of cars on Tresco creates a safe, peaceful and refreshing environment and reduces emissions. For less mobile guests, golf buggies or mobility scooters can be hired, but most visitors hire bicycles or walk.



Figure 18 - Proposed Elevations (LHL)

The existing yard provides space for a golf cart to turn and park, and to unload adjacent to entrance door. The replacement roof on the outbuilding would provide covered space to park store bicycles. Tresco's emergency services would have sufficient existing capacity to deal with the modest increase in scale of this property.

5.3.2 Inside:

Internally the modifications have specifically developed to enable the property to better cater for elderly occupants or visitors with impaired mobility. They would comply with Part M of the Building Regulations as a minimum standard. The following improvements have been made to improve the overall accessibility of the dwelling:

- New doorways would have improved clearance - The front door would have a level threshold - The dwelling would have a reduced number of level changes across the ground floor.
- New glazed screens in the kitchen would be floor to ceiling, ensuring views out for seated occupants. - More generous circulation spaces would make the dwelling more accessible for wheelchair users or ambulant disabled occupants.
- New services would be installed at heights to suit elderly / disabled occupants. - Storage adjacent to the front door could accommodate mobility equipment. - Provision of a large visitors W.C. shower room at ground floor level - Improved heating and comfort for elderly occupants.

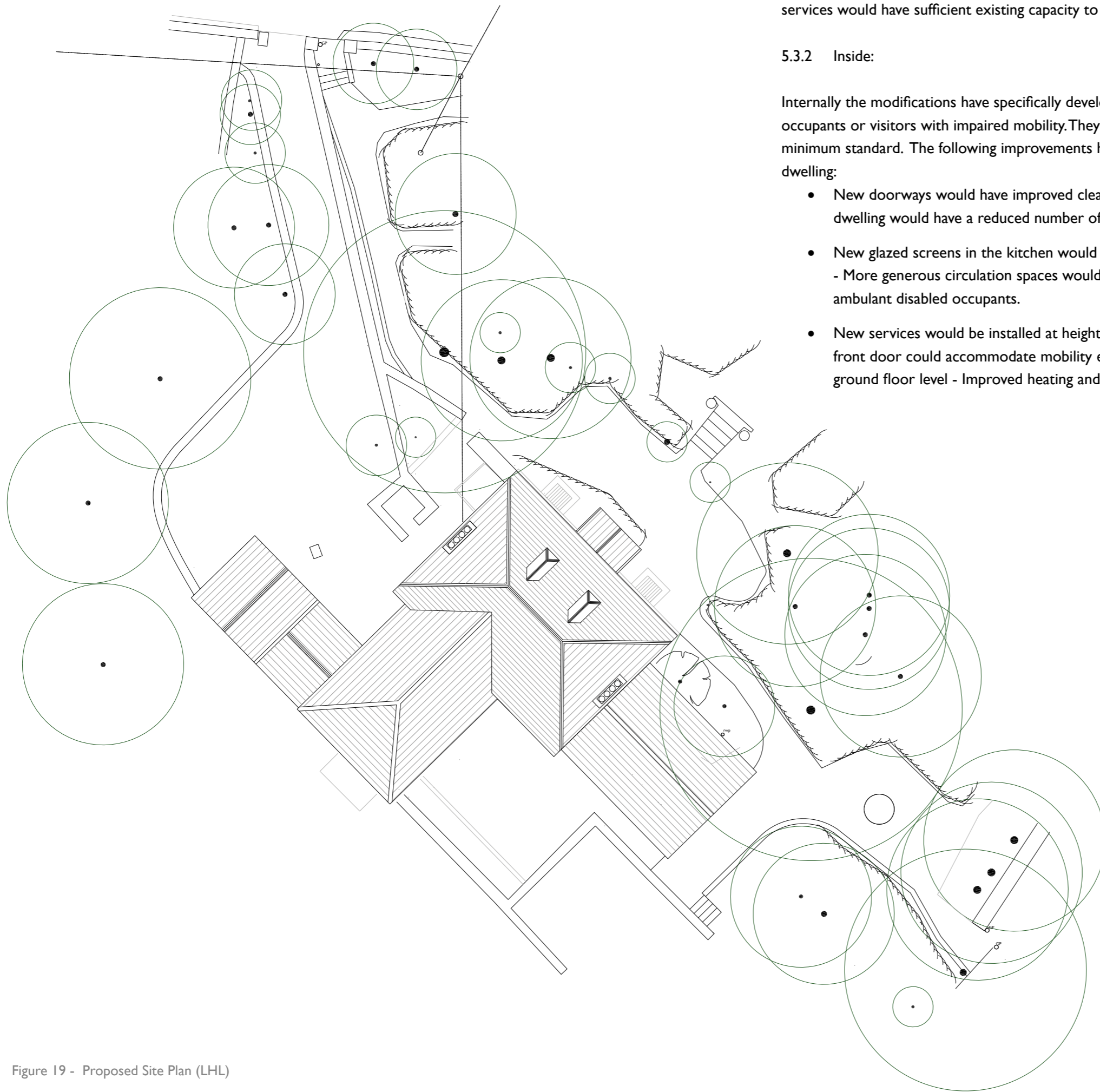


Figure 19 - Proposed Site Plan (LHL)

6.0 Commentary on the Proposals

6.1 Impact on the Listed Building and Conservation Area

The proposed changes to the property are described in Section 5 and they are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. The proposals have been developed to respect and re-establish the historic core of the dwelling through the replacement of the modern staircase and rationalisation of the plan, reverse insensitive C20th alterations, and reveal lost period features. In addition, where original features have been removed, period appropriate features will be reinstated. The alterations and extensions are proposed in areas where later, less sensitive, additions to the original dwelling have already been undertaken, which will provide a high standard of accommodation. They have been designed to maintain the established relationship of being secondary elements to the original house and minimise the visual impact on the setting by primarily being to the side and rear of the house, where the upper garden encloses the rear courtyard. The project seeks to improve the access and accommodation of the house, to be more reflective of the property's historically hierarchical status on the island, as the second largest dwelling to Tresco Abbey.

The proposed work is listed under bullet points in the following section, with a *commentary in italics* to describe the impact on the listed building and conservation area setting.

6.1.1 Main House

Ground Floor

- Filling in the opening between the sitting room and proposed hall (existing kitchen).

The original plan form at ground floor has been considerably compromised by the previous removal of the partitions to create a large reception room at the front of the house. Therefore, infilling the opening between the sitting room and proposed hall would have the modest benefit of reinstating a section of the original floor plan and once again creating two separate rooms.

- Widening the opening between the proposed hall (the existing kitchen) and staircase.

Widening the opening between the proposed hall and the staircase would result in a small loss of historic fabric. However, by maintaining the nibs and down stands, any perceived harm would be mitigated by retaining the legibility of the plan form.

- Replacing the historic door from the sitting room to the staircase with a fire rated door in the same location. Reuse the historic door in proposed bedroom 1.

The existing historic door would be reused in proposed bedroom 1 and the proposed door would be a fire rated panelled door to match the existing historic doors. Therefore, it is not considered that this work would cause any harm to the listed building.

- Removing the historic door from existing bedroom 1 (ground floor), reusing it in bedroom 3 and in filling the door opening.

Removing and filling in the opening would likely cause some loss of original plan form, as this opening appears to be in the original location. However, any perceived harm caused would be mitigated by the reuse of the historic panelled door in bedroom 3 and the overall benefit of the removal of the modern staircase and rationalisation of the circulation and improvement of access.

- Subdividing the rear western room to create a cupboard and shower room. Removing the uPVC window and dropping the sill of the existing window to form a doorway. Reusing the previously altered panelled reveals and architrave to the window in Bedroom 1.

Dropping the sill of the existing window would result in a loss of historic fabric but this would arguably be mitigated by these facilities making the building more accessible for wheelchair users and the ambulant disabled. The new partitions and infill would be lightweight and ultimately reversible and the previously altered panelled reveals and architrave would be reused in bedroom 1.

- Generally replacing uPVC windows across the rear façade and dropping the sill of the existing window in the proposed hall and inserting a window seat, with new panelled reveals and architrave to match those in the sitting room.

Dropping the sill of the window in the proposed hall would not result in the loss of any historic fabric, as this window was previously a door, infilled in the C20th and would therefore cause no harm to the listed building. Replacing the modern uPVC windows in the rear elevation with new timber sashes with glazing bars and new panelled reveals and soffit to match the C19th windows in the front elevation, would modestly enhance the significance of the listed building.

First Floor

- Removing the lobby in proposed bedroom 4, reusing the historic door and adding a partition and new opening to the staircase.

Removing the lobby would cause no harm to the listed building as the partitions are modern. Adding a new partition and opening and reusing the historic door, with a new period appropriate architrave, would have the modest benefit of reinstating the original plan form in bedroom 4.

- Forming an opening in the north west wall of bedroom 3 to access the ensuite and reuse the historic four panelled door. Filling the existing bathroom opening to form an ensuite.

The proposed work would not result in any harm to the listed building as the two proposed openings are located in modern partitions.

- Forming two new openings off the existing lobby to access proposed bedrooms 2 and 3 and filling in the existing opening to bedroom 2. Reuse the six panelled door from the ground floor in bedroom 3.

Forming an opening into bedroom 2 would result in the loss of some historic fabric, as this partition appears to be original. Filling in the existing opening to bedroom 2 would result in the loss of some original plan form, as this opening appears to be original. However, any perceived harm would arguably be mitigated by the rationalisation of the first floor to create improved accommodation, including the removal of modern partitions and reinstatement of some original plan form and the insertion of a new traditionally detailed staircase. In addition, the existing historic door and architraves would be reused in bedroom 2 and the six panelled historic door from the ground floor would be reused in bedroom 3.

- Removing the uPVC widow and infilling to form a wall in the ensuite. Reuse the previously altered panelled reveals and architrave to the window in Bedroom 1.

The proposed work would not result in the loss of any historic fabric and would ultimately be reversible. The proposals would result in the window becoming internal. (See commentary on proposed rear extension below.)

Staircase

- Removing the existing modern staircase, and replacing it with a period appropriate staircase from ground to first floor. Access to the proposed rear extension first floor would be via the tall stairwell light from the new half landing. Access to the loft would be via a hatch in the ceiling.

Replacing the inappropriate modern staircase with a traditionally detailed staircase, from ground to first floor, and removing the awkward modern flight to the attic that currently cuts across the tall stairwell light and reinstating the width of this opening to access the proposed rear extension, would recreate the proportions of the original stairwell and improve access. Therefore, the proposals would cause no harm to and would modestly enhance the significance of the listed building.

Attic

- Removing the modern staircase and installing a new access hatch.

Removing the awkward modern staircase to the attic and inserting a new access hatch would cause no harm to the listed building. The proposed work would modestly enhance the significance of the listed building as the ceiling, the full height and width of the stairwell light opening, and proportions of the space above the staircase, would be recreated

6.1.2 The South-Eastern Service Wing

- The proposals seek to enlarge this service wing by demolishing and rebuilding the gable and rear elevations (including the modern French doors) and adding a new section to the northeast elevation with a new window to match the existing. New French doors are proposed in the rebuilt gable end. New bifold doors are proposed to south west elevation facing the courtyard. The increased footprint would require the roof to be rebuilt with a slightly higher ridgeline.

The proposed work would result in the loss of some non-original historic fabric of moderate significance, in the form of the gable end and rear elevation of the south-eastern service wing. Arguably, this loss would be mitigated by the fact that the extension is a cruder addition and not jointed to the original house, which has previously been altered with the infilling of the rear elevation (previously open to the courtyard). In addition, salvaged stones would be used to rebuild the proposed elevations to a higher standard than the existing poor-quality work. Removing the modern French doors would cause no harm to the listed building. Introducing the glass bifold doors to the courtyard facing elevation would arguably re-establish the original relationship of this outbuilding to the courtyard while creating high quality living space.

By part retaining the front elevation of the extension and one of the existing openings, and adding a section of wall along the same line with two new openings, the hierarchical relationship, and functional relationship of the original house and the service wing is maintained, which is primarily perceived from the principal elevation. The proposed extension will also increase the light levels into the proposed kitchen, improving accommodation. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposed work would cause any harm to the listed building.

Forming a new opening in the south east corner of the proposed hall to the proposed kitchen, would result in the loss of a small amount of historic fabric and plan form. However, this would be mitigated by the filling in of the adjacent, non-original opening, the introduction of a period appropriate door and architrave and the improved access that a wider opening would provide.

The introduction of new French doors into the rebuilt gable end of the service wing would not cause harm to the listed building, as they would not be visible from the front elevation. The doors would have the benefit of allowing more light into the proposed kitchen and creating more visual connections to the garden. Increasing the footprint of the building

and moderately increasing the ridgeline of the extension would have a minimal visual impact on the principal elevation of the original house. This visual impact would be mitigated by the retention of the established relationship between the original house and service wing and that the alterations are largely proposed to the rear of the building. In addition to the proposed work above, the proposals to the service wing would have the benefit of creating much improved accommodation, contributing to the continued viable use of the building.

6.1.3 Rear Extension and Outbuildings

- The proposals seek to demolish the existing two storey rear extension and covered porch, which would be replaced with a larger two-storey extension that spans over the existing outbuildings and connects to the upper garden at first floor level. The first floor of the proposed rear extension would contain a bedroom, with an ensuite. The historic six panelled door and the previously altered window joinery for the ground and first floor, would be reused in proposed bedroom I. Below, there would be a new entrance porch and hall at ground floor, between the rear elevation of the original house and the face of the outbuildings, with full glazing on both sides framed by granite columns and lintels. The historic door currently located between the staircase and rear extension would be reused in the study.
- The existing outbuildings would be retained and incorporated into the ground floor plan to create a study and utility area. A cavity drainage system would be installed to manage damp ingress from the solid masonry retaining walls. A partition would be added to the south most outbuilding, to create a utility area and a study / accessible bedroom. The proposed roof would be pitched and hipped in blue-grey slate, with a lower eaves and ridgeline to the main house roof. The first floor would be skinned with coursed granite rubble masonry and the windows would match the proportions of the rear elevation.

The existing rear extension has moderate significance and is therefore broadly adaptable. It appears to have originally been a single storey lean-to or link to the outbuildings, with a second storey added to accommodate a WC and further alterations at parapet level, resulting in an ad hoc overall appearance. Therefore, it is not considered that replacing the rear extension would cause any harm to the listed building.

The rear extension would enclose two windows in the rear elevation; the one at ground floor would become an opening to access the WC and shower room, and the one at first floor would be filled in with lightweight partitions. As noted above, dropping the sill of the existing window would result in a loss of historic fabric but this would arguably be mitigated by these facilities making the building more accessible for wheelchair users and the ambulant disabled. Removing the uPVC window at first floor and filling in the opening with lightweight studwork would not cause any loss of historic fabric, and any perceived harm would be mitigated by the reuse of the previously altered historic window joinery in proposed bedroom I and the creation of the much improved accommodation that the extension would provide, contributing to the continued viable use of the building.

The visual impact caused by the increased volume of the proposed rear extension is much reduced by the level differences between the rear courtyard and the upper terrace; from the surrounding setting only the first floor of the extension would be visible. The chosen roof material and form has been selected to be sympathetic to the setting and to provide a distinction between the existing and new elements, and to read as a secondary element to the original house.

The proposed rear extension windows would match the size of the existing rear elevation windows, matching the glazing bars of the front elevation windows. The glazed entrances at ground and the proposed hall, incorporating the outbuildings, would visually maintain the views across the courtyard. Although enlarged, the proposals maintain the relationship of a covered space linking the original house and outbuildings. Adding a partition to the south most outbuilding to create a utility area and a study / accessible bedroom would not cause any harm, as the partition would be lightweight and ultimately reversible but would have the added benefit of providing the option of an accessible bedroom. The outbuildings will lose some legibility as a result of the proposals, as a portion of them would form the ground floor of the extension.

However, any perceived harm would be mitigated by bringing the outbuildings back into active use, including the currently roofless buildings, and the detailing of the glazed screens and outbuilding doors would maintain a clear differentiation between the house, proposed glazing and the outbuildings. Overall, the proposed work to the out buildings would have the benefit of providing much improved accommodation, contributing to the continued viable use of the building.

The cavity drainage system is a lightweight and ultimately reversible system to manage the water ingress, whilst allowing the rooms to be usable and would cause no harm to the listed building.

- The roof of the rear store buildings would be reinstated to prevent the stone walls from deteriorating further and to create usable storage space. The modern cement slabs would be removed from the rear courtyard and replaced with traditional stone slabs

The proposed work to the outbuildings is minimal and would reinstate the original roofline of the buildings, prevent further decay and bring them back into their original use as external stores. This work, in addition to the removal and replacement of the modern cement slabs in the courtyard, would modestly enhance the setting of the listed building.

6.2 Justification of the Proposals

6.2.1 Local Policies

The building has an established use as a holiday cottage. It has not been significantly altered in approx. 30 years. The changes proposed herewith are in accordance with Tresco Island's policy of improving the quality of the existing building stock and accommodation. The draft local plan, which is out for consultation, encourages flexible tourist accommodation of this sort. The standard of accommodation within the dwelling would be substantially improved. The changes improve the internal accommodation in accordance with Nationally Described Space Standards. The accessibility of the property would also be improved as set out in the access statement.

The proposals form part of Tresco Island's continuing strategy of adaptation and diversification to ensure balance in the available housing stock and in the operation of the commercial enterprise as a whole. The success of this strategy has been key to the ongoing viability of the island economy. Inevitably, investment on Tresco has an indirect economic benefit to other islands, with transport services, restaurant and retail services across the islands benefiting.

Responding to the changing expectations of the market, the project delivers the aspirations of the Destination Management Plan (Islands Partnership). Improving the quality and balance of properties on offer maintains and enhances the economic activity of the island, benefiting the Isles of Scilly as a whole.

6.2.2 National Policies

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) outlines that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and that they should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. The NPPF highlights that the conservation of a heritage asset should be set out in a positive strategy. The strategy should take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of the heritage asset, and the wider benefits that the conservation of the heritage asset could bring; in particular, 'public benefits.' The extent of the 'public benefits' required to balance any potential 'harm' to the significance of a heritage asset, as a result of the proposed work, is dependent on whether the 'harm' is 'substantial' or 'less than substantial'. Where the proposals would lead to 'less than substantial harm' to the significance of the heritage asset, the harm should be weighed against the public

benefits of the proposals, which, where appropriate, include securing its optimum viable use. For the reasons outlined in Section 6, any perceived harm caused by the proposals to the significance of the listed building is considered to be 'less than substantial' and should be weighed against the following public benefits, which would modestly enhance the significance of the listed building:

- Replacement of the modern staircase with a period appropriate staircase from ground to first floor and reinstating the proportions of the space above the staircase by removing the staircase to the attic
- Removal of modern partitions and reinstatement of elements of the original plan form at ground and first floor
- Removal of all uPVC windows and replacing them with traditional timber sashes, with glazing bars to match the existing C19th windows in the front elevation
- Removal of modern surface mounted pipes and wires from the exterior elevations
- Reinstatement of period details, including cornices in the principal rooms, and replacing modern doors and architraves with traditionally detailed ones to match the originals
- Removing modern white paint from the rear elevation of the main house
- Bringing the outbuildings back into active use
- Removal of modern concrete paving slabs in the rear courtyard, to be replaced with traditional stone slabs
- The improved level of accommodation and access provided by the proposals would arguably contribute to the continued viable use of the building

6.3 Conclusion

The purpose of this project is to provide enhanced accommodation for visitors to Tresco, while conserving and enhancing the historical significance of Dolphin House, and to undertake much needed repair works to the Grade II listed building. Alterations would be restricted to the side and rear elevations, where the visual impact of the proposals would be mitigated by the way the original dwelling is cut into the hillside. The primary northeast facing elevation on the historic core of the house remains entirely unchanged, as would the principal rooms at the front of the house. In addition, the dwelling would be more energy efficient and sustainable as a result of the changes and the proposals would improve the accessibility of the house.

In accordance with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, the special architectural and historic interest of the Grade-II listed building and the character and appearance of the conservation area would be preserved and modestly enhanced by the proposed scheme. In accordance with the terminology of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), it is considered that any perceived harm caused by the scheme would be considered 'less than substantial,' and would be mitigated by the heritage benefits provided by the scheme, which arguably contribute to the continued and optimum viable use of the listed building. The proposals are therefore considered to be the type of sustainable development for which the NPPF establishes a strong presumption and it would align with relevant national and local policy. As such, the proposals are considered to be acceptable in heritage terms.

Appendix I - Listing Description

Overview

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1376770

Date first listed: 09-Feb-1998

Statutory Address: Dolphin House, Dolphin, Tresco, Isles of Scilly, TR24 0QD

Location

Statutory Address:

Dolphin House, Dolphin, Tresco, Isles of Scilly, TR24 0QD

District:

Isles of Scilly (Unitary Authority)

Parish: Tresco

National Grid Reference: SV 89093 15352

Details

SV 81 NE 1358/1/10002

TRESCO DOLPHIN TOWN Dolphin House and attached outbuildings and wall II House. 1799. Coursed and squared granite, with ashlar front; hipped dry slate roof with symmetrical end stacks finished in brick. Double-depth plan with rear extension and outbuildings.

Two storeys with attic; symmetrical front, three windows across at first floor. Flat arches with voussoirs over late C19 replacement sashes, with paired 2/2-pane sashes to ground floor and tripartite sashes flanking 3/3-pane sash to ground floor. Hipped roof dormers with horned 2/2-pane sashes. Mid C19 front porch with 'picturesque' effect masonry. Original half-glazed six-panel door with decorative fanlight. Granite lintels over sashes to rear. Later small two-storey rendered addition to rear. Extension to east, of painted roughly coursed granite, incorporated into main house as dining room. Sundial, dated 1800, fixed to east-facing wall of house.

INTERIOR: has retained panelled shutters and doors, including six-panelled door to rear rooms with decorative fanlight.

SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: boundary wall with pyramidal gatepiers extends along the lane for approximately 50 metres.

Built as a Missionary House for the S.P.C.K., who had been involved in educational and religious activities on the islands since the mid C18. It was built on Town Hill Field in 1799, on land leased from the Duke of Leeds. The building cost £400 plus £200 on fixtures and fittings.

A complete Late Georgian house, which also has significance within the context of the historical development of the Isles of Scilly.

Listing NGR: SV8909315352

Appendix II - Sources and Bibliography

Allen W.O.B, M.A, & McClure Edmund, M.A, *Two hundred years: the history of The Society for Promoting Christian knowledge 1698-1898* (London, 1898).

Ordnance survey maps – National Library of Scotland

Historic Photograph - Britain From Above

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/magna-britannia/vol3/pp330-337> (accessed 20.10.2020)

<https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/manuscripts-university-archives/significant-archival-collections/society-0> (accessed 20.10.2020)

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1376770> (accessed 20.10.20)

Appendix III - Planning Policy and Guidance

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

The National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2019)

Historic England: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning (March 2015)

Historic England: Conservation Principles and Assessment (2008)

Isles of Scilly Conservation Area Character Statement Supplementary Planning Document (Draft for Consultation 8th June 2015 to 17th July 2015)

The Isles of Scilly Draft Local Plan (2015-203), currently under consultation

Destination Management Plan (Islands Partnership)

Appendix IV - Planning History

Received from the Council of the Isles of Scilly

Application No,	Description	Date
P.0410	Permission granted for an extension to the rear of existing house	30.04.1963
P.1672 & P.1688	Permission granted for the erection of a bungalow in the grounds	13.12.1977
P.3679	Use of existing building as seasonal accommodation	11.07.1994