

Mompesson House

North-East Bedroom

Heritage Statement

Connolly Wellingham Architects

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Connolly
Wellingham



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

Connolly Wellingham Architects have worked in collaboration with the National Trust to develop detailed proposals that respond to a brief that seeks to bring the north-east bedroom at Mompesson House into the visitor experience.

This document supports an application for Listed Building Consent for these works. It follows initial engagement at the pre-application stage with Wiltshire County Council, with written feedback provided by Jocelyn Sage in Spring 2025.

Initial feedback has been supportive of these proposals, and has identified the extent of additional information and detail that should be included within an application for Listed Building Consent.

Also identified through pre-application engagement are the works of a more minor nature, or which entail 'like for like' replacement or renewal, which fall outside the scope of Listed Building Consent. While this informs the programme for undertaking work on site, these elements are also referenced in this document because, in combination, they provide the full picture of the programme of works to be undertaken.



1.0 Introduction

1.2 Summary of Proposed Work

It is proposed that the north-east bedroom of Mompesson House, a former bedroom on the first floor, is refurbished in order to reveal it to public view for the first time as an historic interior. While the house has been open to the public since 1977, this space has been outside the visitor experience for most of the time, due to its condition. Although it was open to the public as an exhibition space from 2008-20, the wall panelling was concealed by twentieth century plasterboard wall linings.

The space had been divided in the mid-20th century to create a bathroom, boiler room, lobby and storage spaces. When the National Trust took over the house and opened it to the public in 1977 the partitions and false ceiling in the north-east bedroom were removed. The battens attached to the panelling remained until they were very recently removed following pre-application consultation with Wiltshire Council's Conservation Officer.

To bring the room back to public use, a suite of repair works is proposed, alongside carefully-judged additions to support its new purpose. These will include:

- Repair of the timber wall panelling, to address limited damage caused by the insertion of the bathroom and associated partitions and services, as well as the ongoing processes of movement and shrinkage that have occurred since the panelling was concealed.
- Reinstatement of missing timber mouldings, principally the mantle which has been removed in its entirety.
- Removal of boxed-in services in corner of room at skirting level, with reinstatement of skirting.
- Repair of the lath and plaster ceiling, to address damage caused by water leaks (historically), and structural movement reflected in cracks in the plaster.

- Replacement of carpeted floor finishes.
- Installation of new picture rail to support flexible display without ongoing need for installation of fixings into panelling.
- Redecoration of the room, based on research into historic precedent within the space.
- Removal of redundant, surface-fixed electrical services; renew power outlets at skirting level to support flexibility in the set-up of the room.

In addition, further supporting work is to be undertaken which does not require Listed Building Consent. This includes:

- Repair of windows and shutters to working order, and redecoration.
- At a later date, the repair of the mechanical bell call system, most of which survives in this room.



Existing condition: East wall



North wall



South wall

1.0 Introduction

1.3 Designation of the Heritage Asset

Mompesson House is listed at Grade 1. It is set within the Cathedral Close in Salisbury and, as such, forms part of the setting of the Cathedral. It is noted in the listing description that the buildings of the Close form an outstanding group.

The listing description offers the following:

Mompesson House & No 53 SU 1429 NW 3/19 28.2.52 I GV 2. (Mompesson House now owned by National Trust, former service wing to right now separate property No 53). Built for Sir Thomas Mompesson 1704 date on east lead rain water heads. 2 storey and attic. Ashlar stone on projecting plinth. Raised 1st floor string. Moulded and bracketed cornice, broken forward over 1st floor central window. Hipped old tile roof. 3 dormers with moulded wood cornice and small paned sashes. 7 windows on 1st floor the central window with raised architrave surround, moulded cill on raised apron and supporting side scrolls with carved enrichment. 6 windows on ground floor and central 8 panel door, egg-and-tongue enrichment round panels, in moulded and enriched wood frame, with bold stone bolection surround, moulded cornice and broken curved pediment, with central cartouche and carved supporting swags, all supported on carved scroll brackets. The windows flanking central bay are 2 panes wide, remainder 3 panes. Exceptionally fine interior of contemporary panelling, staircase and enriched plaster ceilings. (Illustrated Nathaniel Lloyds' - History of the English House). Later service wing to right hand 2 storey, brick with moulded stone cornice, and brick parapet with recessed panels over windows and moulded stone coping. 5 windows on 1st floor, 4 windows on ground floor and 8-panel door to right hand in wood Doric doorcase, pilasters triglyph frieze and modillioned cornice and pediment. This block terminated at right hand with slightly projecting bay with similar cornice broken over and carried in pediment. 3-centred arched entry with chamfered stone surround and triple key block and lodged doors, with panelled door head. Semi-circular 3-light window in tympanum.

The screen wall, rails, piers, gates and overthrow in front of Mompesson House are separately listed at Grade 1, but are unaffected by these proposals.



2.0 The Heritage Asset and its Significance

2.1 Overview and Background Documentation

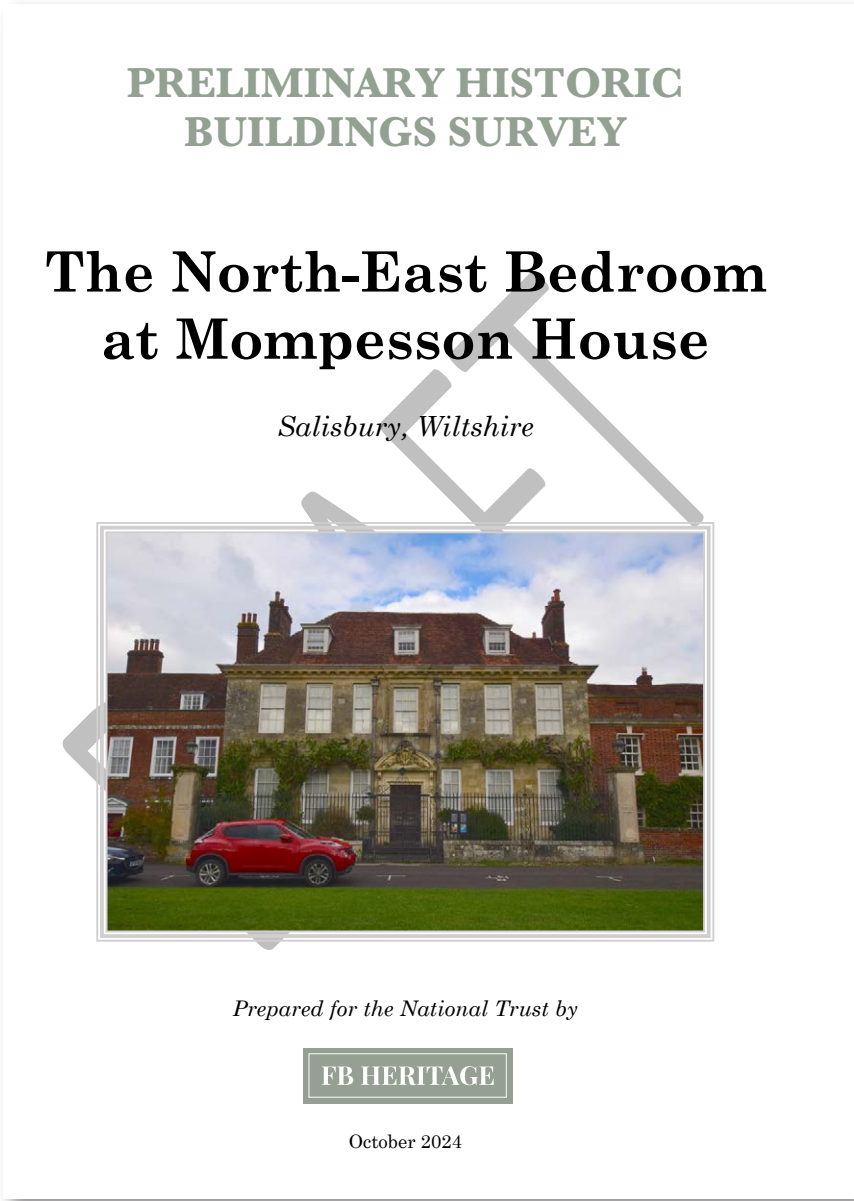
The Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England’s inventory of the City of Salisbury, Houses of the Close (1992) describes the history and evolution of Mompesson House and its site.

This is expanded upon by a Preliminary Historic Buildings Survey for the north-east bedroom at Mompesson House, prepared by FB Heritage in 2024 to inform the development of this project. The ‘preliminary’ nature of this report stems principally from the prioritisation of its application to the north-east bedroom, in advance of a planned comprehensive assessment of the house in its entirety. This report is a key reference in this application and should, therefore, be read alongside this document.

The FB Heritage report includes a summary assessment of significance, the key findings of which are:

- Mompesson House is of high architectural as a ‘smaller gentry townhouse’ of c.1700 for Charles Mompesson, MP; and of high historical significance in its redevelopment of a medieval ecclesiastical site as a secular residence.
- Within the north-east bedroom, it is believed that wall panelling, sash windows and the door are original to the house’s construction at the start of the eighteenth century.
- Similarly, the fireplace and associated features are also considered to be contemporary with the construction of the house. Although the mantle shelf is missing, a clear outline of its profile remains.
- The papier mâché decoration below the mantle shelf is an extremely rare survival which, despite its damaged and fragile condition, is of high architectural significance. This is likely to be a mid-eighteenth century addition associated with a later redecoration of the room.
- Also a later addition, but rare in its survival, are the remnants of a mechanical bell pull system, attached to the top rail of the wall panelling directly beneath the cornice.

Taken together, these features form an interior of high architectural significance in its completeness as an eighteenth century bedroom. This is remarkable, given its more recent subdivision and concealment of most of these elements.



FB Heritage report, October 2024

2.2 Assessment of Significance

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2.0 The Heritage Asset and its Significance

2.2 Assessment of Significance

While much of the room's value derives from its completeness and survival with little loss of original fabric, this section considers the significance of individual architectural elements at a more granular level.

Wall Panelling

Despite having been concealed with modern wall linings in the room's conversion to a bathroom and ancillary spaces, the wall panelling and associated features have survived relatively complete and undamaged.

Vertical timber battens that supported the later wall linings were nailed on and notched around decorative mouldings, and this avoided significant damage. Since our survey of the room, these have been very carefully removed, avoiding further damage in the process.

The painted panelling is bolection-moulded, with a dado dividing shallow panels beneath from taller panels above. The bolection moulding of the tall panels above the dado is wider than that of those below.

This treatment is consistent all round the room, with the exception of the panel between the windows. This has a plain ovolo moulding, which maximises the size of the field. Based on similar instances at Mompesson, it is believed that such panels, set between windows, would have held mirrors.

At floor level, there is a deep timber skirting, brought forward from the face of the panelling with an ogee moulding.

At ceiling level, the panelling is capped with a deep, painted timber cornice. As FB Heritage describe in their report this consists of (from top down): cymatium (cyma recta), corona and bed moulding with ovolo and ogee profiling.

The painted timber wall panelling and associated features remain largely complete and in reasonable condition. Loss of fabric has resulted from the room's conversion to a bathroom, but is localised and can be reinstated to match surviving features.

The most significant loss has been to the panelling above the fireplace, where a modern flue was taken through the masonry of the chimney breast, resulting in the loss of panelling and brickwork.

The hole in the brickwork has since been made good. A modern re-creation of the wall panel, re-using an original bolection moulding on one side, has been fixed in the wrong place, leaving missing and damaged fabric around it where the underlying masonry remains visible.

The eighteenth century skirting survives to the full width of the north wall while, on other sides, it has been replaced in whole or in part with modern, unpainted pine, in facsimile of the original. This was done after the removal of wall linings in the early 2000s.

Aside from this loss, panelling and associated features exhibit a level of damage and degradation consistent with their age, principally resulting from structural movement in the house since its construction. This movement, in combination with the shrinkage of wide wall panels across the grain of the wood, has opened up joints between the panels and the bolection moulding. This has caused the loss of support to some panel edges, and is especially marked in the 'mirror' panel between the windows where the modern timber battens have been left in place to support it until repair works are carried out.

The wall panelling, complete with skirtings and cornice, in its relative completeness, is a principal architectural element of this eighteenth century interior. Accordingly, it is of high architectural significance, and of high historical significance as a relatively intact room original to the construction of Mompesson House.



Bolection-moulded upper and lower panels separated by dado rail

2.0 The Heritage Asset and its Significance

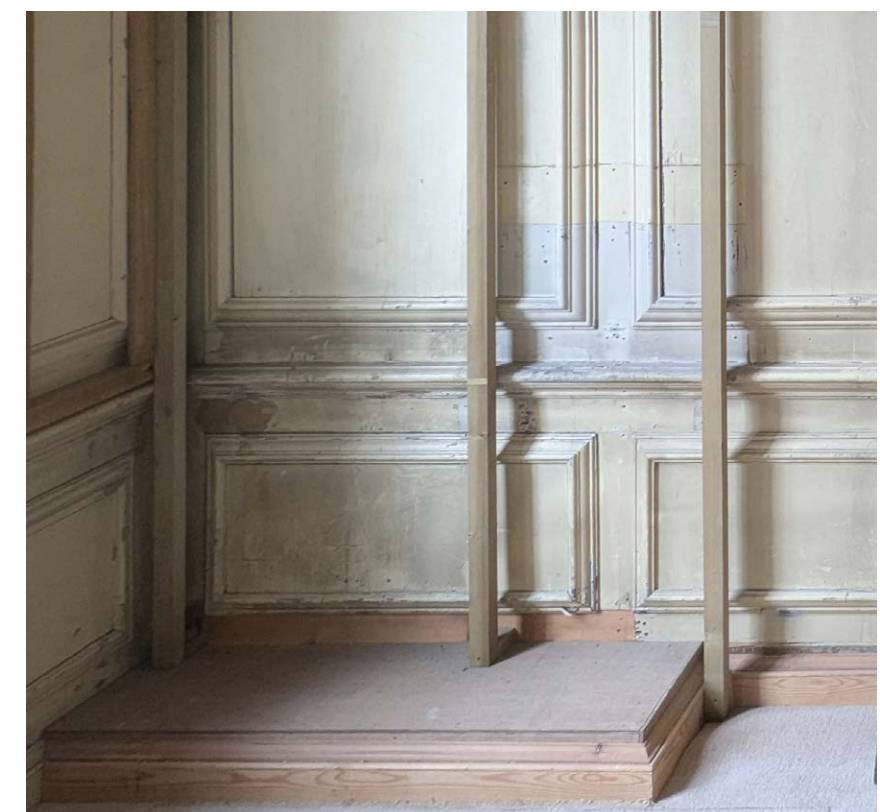
2.2 Assessment of Significance



'Mirror panel' between windows



Top: cross-grain shrinkage and loss of connection at panel edge
Bottom: localised notching of moulding and loss of fabric



Top: timber cornice
Bottom: skirting reinstated in facsimile with 'plinth' to conceal pipes

2.0 The Heritage Asset and its Significance

2.2 Assessment of Significance

Windows and Shutters

Windows are double-hung sashes, nine over nine with ovolo-moulded glazing bars, consistent with the c.1700 date of construction. The majority of panes are crown glass.

Shutters comprise two leaves on each side of the windows, a shallower outer leaf folding behind a wider one in the open position. Each leaf has three panels set within ovolo-moulded margins on the front, and plain raised fields on the back which are matched by the treatment of the lining of the shutter recesses. Ornamental H-hinges are believed to be original, and later locking bars have been fixed to the internal face.

The window and shutter joinery is in reasonable condition. There are two cracked panes, which are to be replaced, and redecoration is needed. There is a missing cover panel to a sash weight on the eastern window, which is visible within the shutter recess.

Both shutters and windows, being original and integral to the interior of the north-east bedroom and to the house as a whole, are of high architectural significance.



Window with shutters closed, showing locking bar and missing cover to sash box on right hand side



Window with shutters open

2.0 The Heritage Asset and its Significance

2.2 Assessment of Significance

Fireplace

The fireplace is integral to the architecture and fabric of the interior as originally built, being brought forward on a shallow chimney breast that projects slightly into the room.

It is formed of a light grey marble surround and hearth bounded by ovolo-moulded architrave (missing at the top and left hand side of the fireplace). Within the surround is set a cast iron insert of flowing acanthus foliage, of probable nineteenth century date.

The mantle shelf is missing, presumed to have been removed at the time of the insertion of a bathroom in the mid-twentieth century. Its presence is revealed by the 'ghost profile' of its outline in the painted finish of the adjoining stiles of the wall panelling.

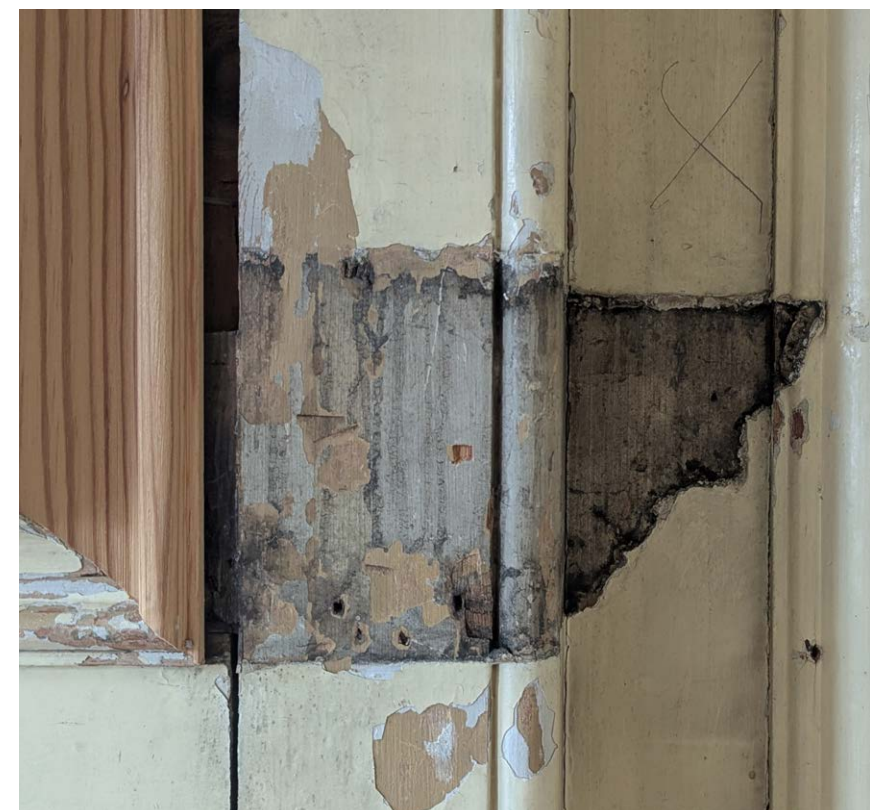
Between the fire surround and the mantle shelf, a timber rail is embellished with a frieze of sculpted papier mâché acanthus foliage. No other room on the first floor of the house has either this decorative treatment or a mantle shelf, and this serves to emphasise the status of this bedroom. Both of these elements are believed to be antecedent to the construction of the house, along with the (now partially missing) architrave to the fire surround.

Although in damaged and very fragile condition, the papier mâché detail is very rare as a survival of eighteenth century decoration in this material - partly because it is so inherently vulnerable to damage.

Despite this damage, and the loss of other elements, the fireplace is intrinsic to the architectural treatment of the room, and is, therefore, of high architectural value. It is also of high historical significance in speaking of a different character from that of other bedrooms at Mompesson.



Fireplace, with displaced modern panel above and missing mantle shelf



Top: papier mâché ornamental frieze
Bottom: 'ghost profile' of missing mantle shelf at right hand side

2.0 The Heritage Asset and its Significance

2.2 Assessment of Significance

Door

An eight-panelled, oak door with a varnished finish, framed by a wide, stepped architrave with ogee moulding to its outer edge and plinth blocks at the base. On the outer (hallway) side, the reveal is panelled, also with ogee mouldings to the margins.

Hardware is of more recent date. There is evidence that the door was originally hung to open on the other side, but this would have been changed in order to facilitate access through the narrow lobby created by the room's subdivision. The brass rim lock appears to have been added then, even though it may be older than this date.

As an original element of the room's composition and construction, the door is of high architectural significance.

Floor

Until very recently, the room was carpeted but this has now been removed to expose the historic fabric. The floor is of wide oak boards, the majority of which can be assumed to be contemporary with the original construction. Some modern boards in matching material.

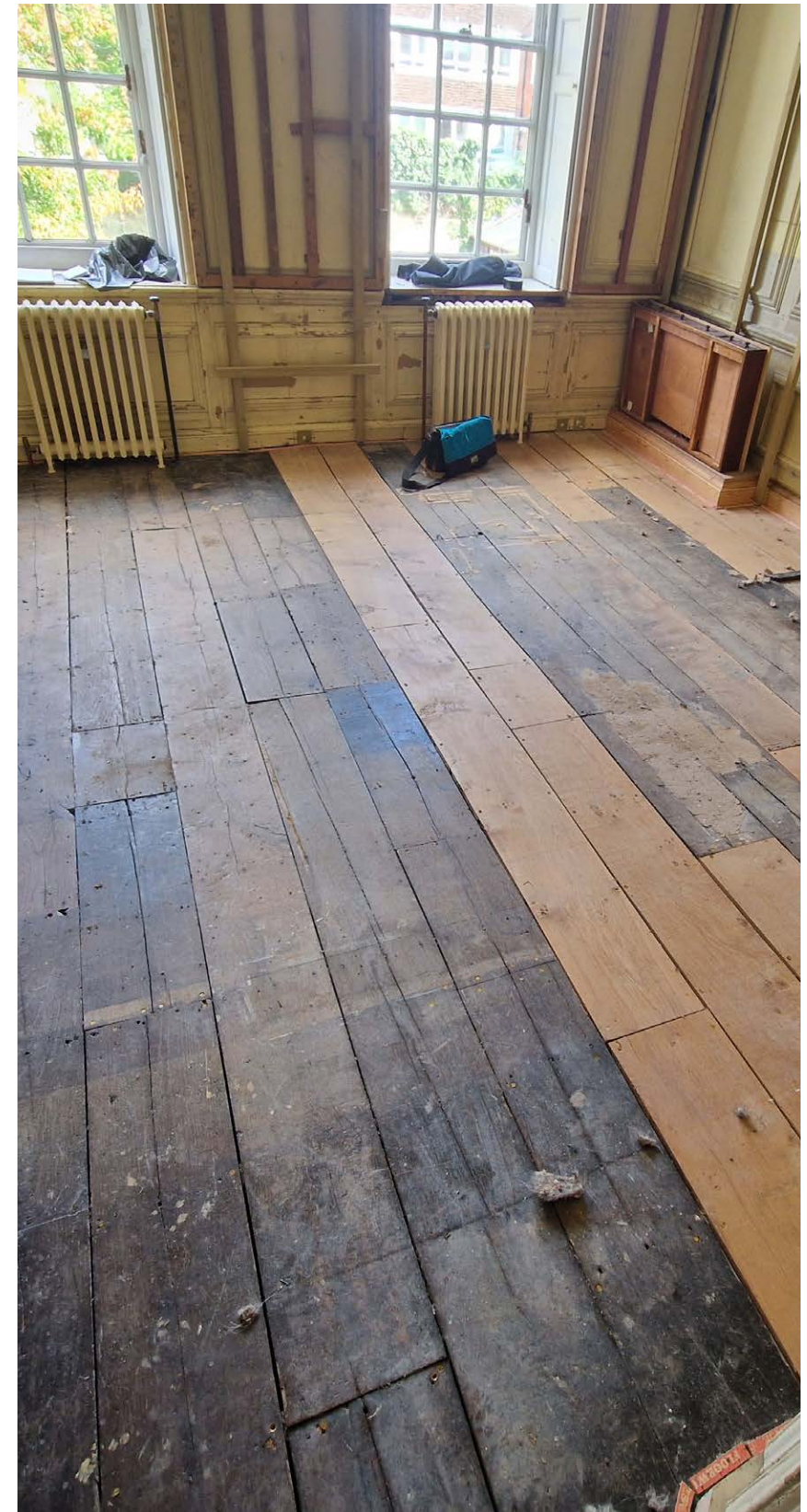
The boards have a mixed appearance, being partly treated with a dark stain. This would have been applied to boards around the margins of the room, with boards left untreated where a rug would have been laid in the middle of the room. However, it is apparent that most / all of the boards have since been lifted and relaid without regard to their original position.

While many of the historic boards are nailed down, many of them, and all of the modern ones, are fixed with brass, flat head screws.

Although re-laid and, in part, replaced the boarded floor is an integral part of this highly significant interior, with much original fabric still present. It is therefore of moderate architectural significance.



Door, looking into hallway



Floor with carpet and underlay removed

2.0 The Heritage Asset and its Significance

2.2 Assessment of Significance

Ceiling

The room's ceiling, consistent with other bedrooms on the first floor of Mompesson House, is entirely unornamented. It is of plain lime plaster on lath, with a paper lining and painted finish.

There has been a degree of damage to the fabric of the ceiling through historic water leakage and structural movement. Small patch repairs have previously been carried out and, being unpainted, these are clearly legible. Notwithstanding, the ceiling is of moderate architectural significance as an integral part of a highly significant interior.

Fittings

The room retains a substantial part of the fittings of a mechanical bell pull system, with levers and cranks attached to the top rail of the wall panelling, immediately beneath the cornice. It can be seen that these would have served two rope pull positions: one to the south of the fireplace and a second on the opposite (west) wall which would have corresponded to the position of the bed.

These fittings pre-date the adoption of electrically-operated systems, and were probably installed in the latter half of the nineteenth century. They are of moderate historical value, revealing something of the way in which this room was used, and being relatively rare in their survival (largely through having been concealed for many decades by modern wall and ceiling linings).



Remnant of mechanical bell pull system



Existing condition of ceiling

3.0 Proposed Work

3.1 Wall Panelling

The room's panelling, skirting and cornice will be repaired and repainted to present the room as it would have appeared before it was subdivided and the panelling concealed. This will remove the last elements of this subdivision, and repair damage associated with it.

There are no proposals to otherwise modify or adapt the historic fabric, except for the fixing of new lighting and electrical services (see Section 3.7).

Panelling has been inspected by Graham Marley ACR, who has prepared a report setting out proposed repairs in more detail. As described in this report, and outlined in CWa drawings, the repair works generally comprise a number of key interventions:

Making good small holes and areas of damage:

Small areas of damage, of around 7-8mm in diameter or less, will be made good by filling and sanding flush prior to redecorating. These will include the many nail holes resultant from the attachment of the timber battens that supported the modern wall linings.

Making good larger holes:

There are a number of larger holes through the panelling, in the stiles / rails and in the panels themselves, most of which result from the formation of holes for pipework and other services. These are to be repaired by piecing cross-grain wooden plugs to match adjoining material.

Replacing lost fabric:

As outlined in the previous section, there are a small number of locations where mouldings have been removed. These will be reinstated, their profile taken from undamaged mouldings elsewhere. Principally, these comprise:

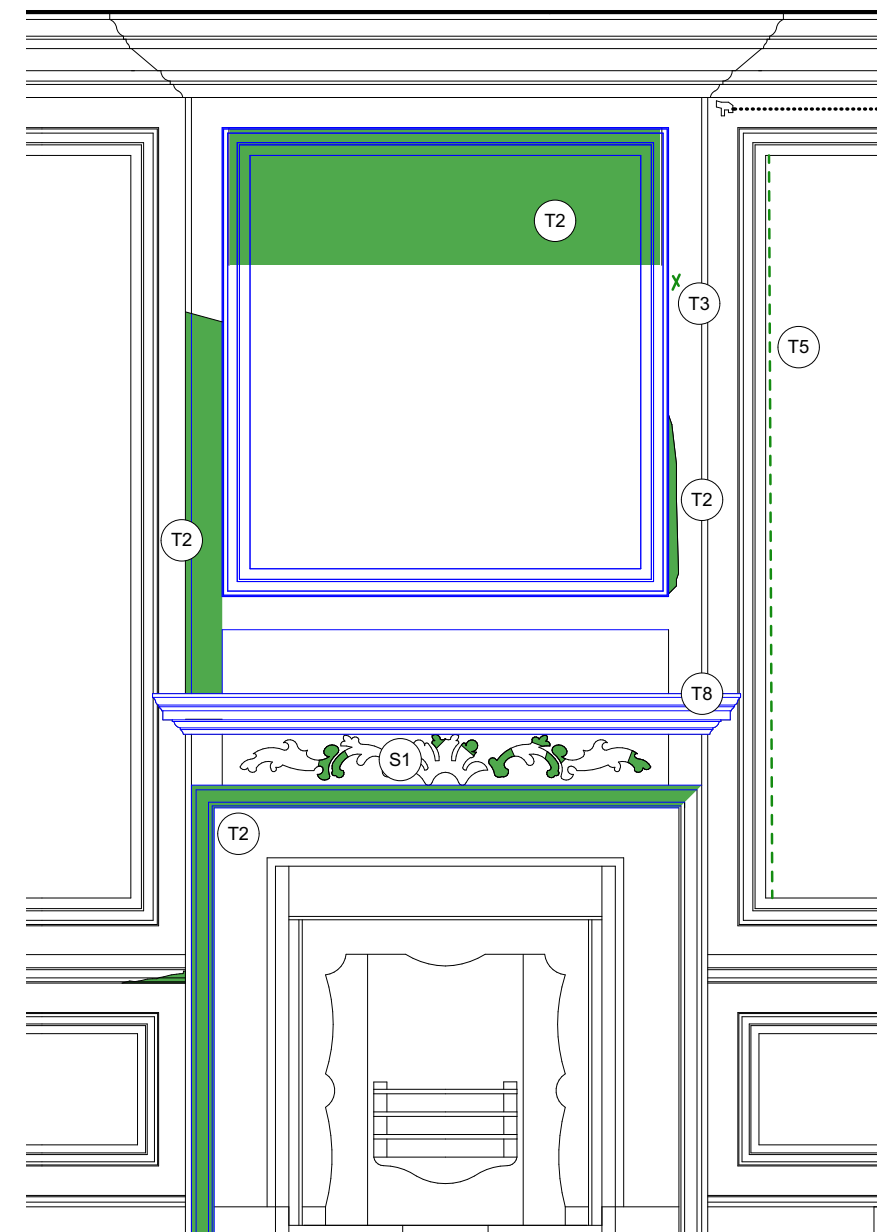
- Dado rail: Missing section beneath window W2 to be reinstated to match existing adjacent.
- Skirtings: The historic skirting is intact on the north side of the room but, on other sides, has been replaced in whole or part in facsimile. At the north-east corner of the room, the skirting projects as a small 'plinth', formed in the reinstated skirting material with a flat, timber top. Investigation reveals that this encloses water and gas pipes, which terminate inside

the plinth, or penetrate the wall and floor within it. Further survey and testing is required in order to determine whether these pipes can be removed or re-routed, but it is hoped that they can be removed from the space and the skirting reinstated on its historic alignment with the panelling, as elsewhere. If this is found to be possible, the 'plinth' section will be dismantled and the skirting material from it re-used in the re-set skirtings.

- Panelling above fireplace: The existing, modern panel in this location has re-used, historic bolecion moulding on one side, and reproduction mouldings to the other three sides. This is fixed too low at present: it will be removed and reinstated so that it abuts the top rail of the panelling to the chimney breast.
- Beneath this panel, a new horizontal rail will be reinstated. This is evidenced by the profile of the surviving stile at the right hand side, which shows the depth of this rail and retains the pegged tenon joint that secured it. Pegs and any remnant of the removed rail will be removed, and the new rail will be secured with pegged tenon joints at each end.

Between the mantle shelf (see below) and this reinstated rail, a plain, flush panel will be fitted. Its historic size is known (since the position of the removed rail above it, and missing mantle shelf below, are both precisely located). Its treatment as a flush panel is informed by that of the overmantle in the Small Drawing Room on the ground floor of the house, which we believe to have a similar treatment to that of the north-east bedroom. In this case, a shallow, flush panel above the mantle shelf provides a 'clean' backdrop that does not detract from objects displayed on the shelf. For the reinstated panel, we propose a small 'check' recess to the top and side joints, pre-empting differential movement that will open these joints a little wider and crack the painted finish (as indeed is evident in the Small Drawing Room overmantle).

The stile on the left hand side of the fireplace has been cut out between the level of the mantle shelf and a point around half a metre below the cornice. The surviving portions will be removed and joined to a new middle section, then reinstated. This middle section will include the mortice of the pegged tenon joint for the new rail above the mantle shelf (referred to above).



Extract of CWa drawing showing proposal for restored arrangement with re-used and new fabric to the overmantle

3.0 Proposed Work

3.2 Windows and Shutters

No alterations are to be made to these elements; windows and shutters will be restored to proper working order, with pulley mechanisms overhauled.

No significant repair is required: two cracked glass panes will be replaced, sash pulleys will be overhauled and the missing cover panel to the box frame at the right hand side of W2 will be replaced in matching timber.

No fabric is to be removed (except for cracked glass).

3.3 Fireplace

These proposals seek to return the fireplace to its historic arrangement, pre-dating its mutilation and concealment in the twentieth century. Principally, this will involve the reinstatement of missing elements: the top and left hand side of the architrave to the fire surround and the mantle shelf.

While the missing architrave can be matched to the surviving portion, the mantle shelf is entirely missing. Its reinstatement will therefore be based on contemporary examples at Mompesson, and, critically, the 'ghost profile' left on the stiles to the adjacent panelling by the painted finish prior to the removal of this element.

Illustrated on this page is a photograph of the 'ghost profile' at the right hand side of the fireplace, upon which is superimposed the proposed profile of the reinstated mantle shelf. The line of the edge of the paint lacks definition some of the on finer detail, particularly in the bed moulding. However, the profile on the left hand side of the fireplace provides a clearer delineation of this part.

From the top, the new profile will consist of (from top down): cymatium (cyma recta), corona and bed moulding with ovolo and cavetto profiling.



'Ghost profile' of mantle shelf at left hand side of fireplace



Proposed profile of reinsrated mantle shelf superimposed on 'Ghost profile' at right hand side of fireplace

3.0 Proposed Work

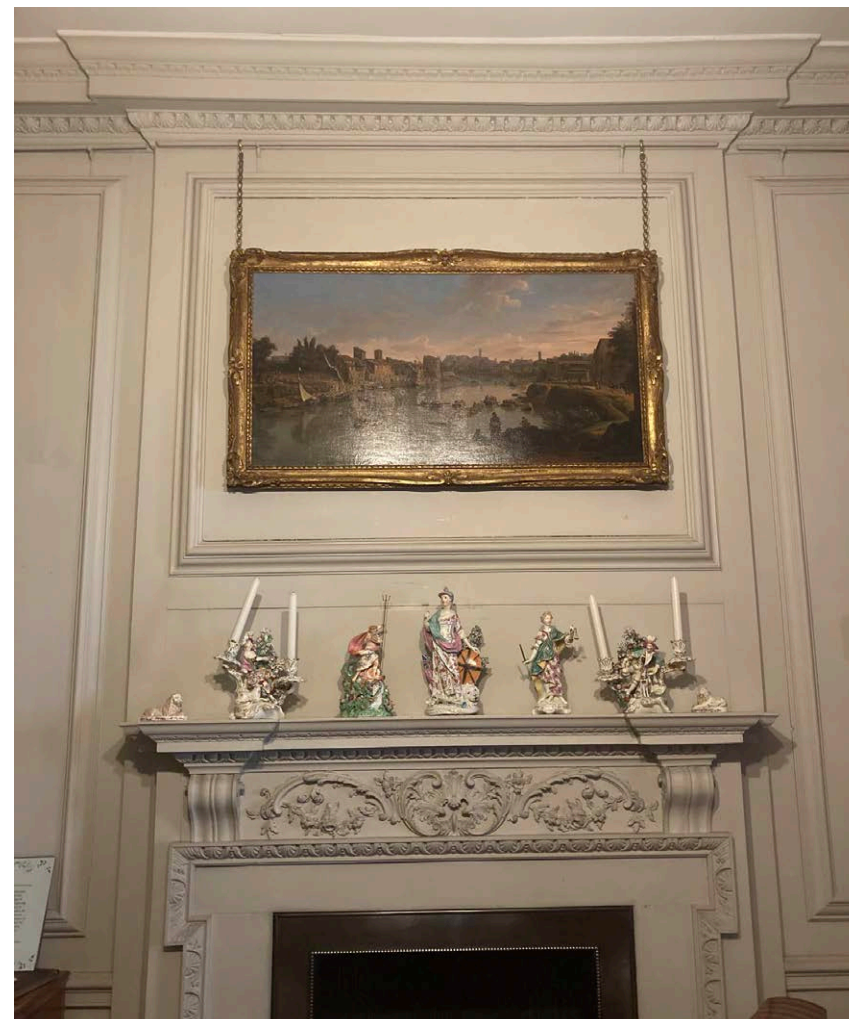
3.3 Fireplace

With the exception of the cavetto profile at the bottom of the moulding, this is the same composition as that used in the north-east bedroom for the cornice. It is also very similar to the extant example of the mantle shelf in the Small Drawing Room at Mompesson, which uses a similar composition, but with ornamented foliage detail (see photo, right).

As described in the previous section, the papier mâché detail of the ornamental frieze immediately beneath the mantle shelf is damaged and in need of urgent stabilisation and repair. Permission for this work is sought as part of this submission, with a more detailed methodology to be prepared by a specialist. Initial advice has suggested that this might preferably be done in controlled workshop conditions, with the timber backing laid horizontally.

With this in mind, the detailing of the edges of the timber backing could be designed to allow it to be removed and / or reinstated in a later phase of work. As can be seen from the photograph on this page, the timber backing will lap behind both the reinstated architrave to the fire surround at its bottom edge, and the reinstated mantle shelf above. Dependent on the programme and sequence of work, it may be beneficial for both of these reinstated elements to be fixed temporarily so that they can be removed easily to allow the paper mâché panel to be removed for off-site conservation.

The National Trust will determine the timescale for this but, for the duration of the works described in this submission, the fragile papier mâché ornamentation will either be protected with a hard cover, or removed for safe storage until conservation work of the ornamentation is complete.



Fireplace and overmantle in Small Parlour at Mompesson



Extant condition, showing missing architrave at top and left hand side, to be reinstated to match that on right

3.0 Proposed Work

3.4 Door

The internal door needs no significant work, but the varnished finish is in need of renewal. It is therefore proposed that this is rubbed down on the side that faces into the room, and a clear finish re-applied, consistent with its historical treatment (a natural oil-based varnish or wax).

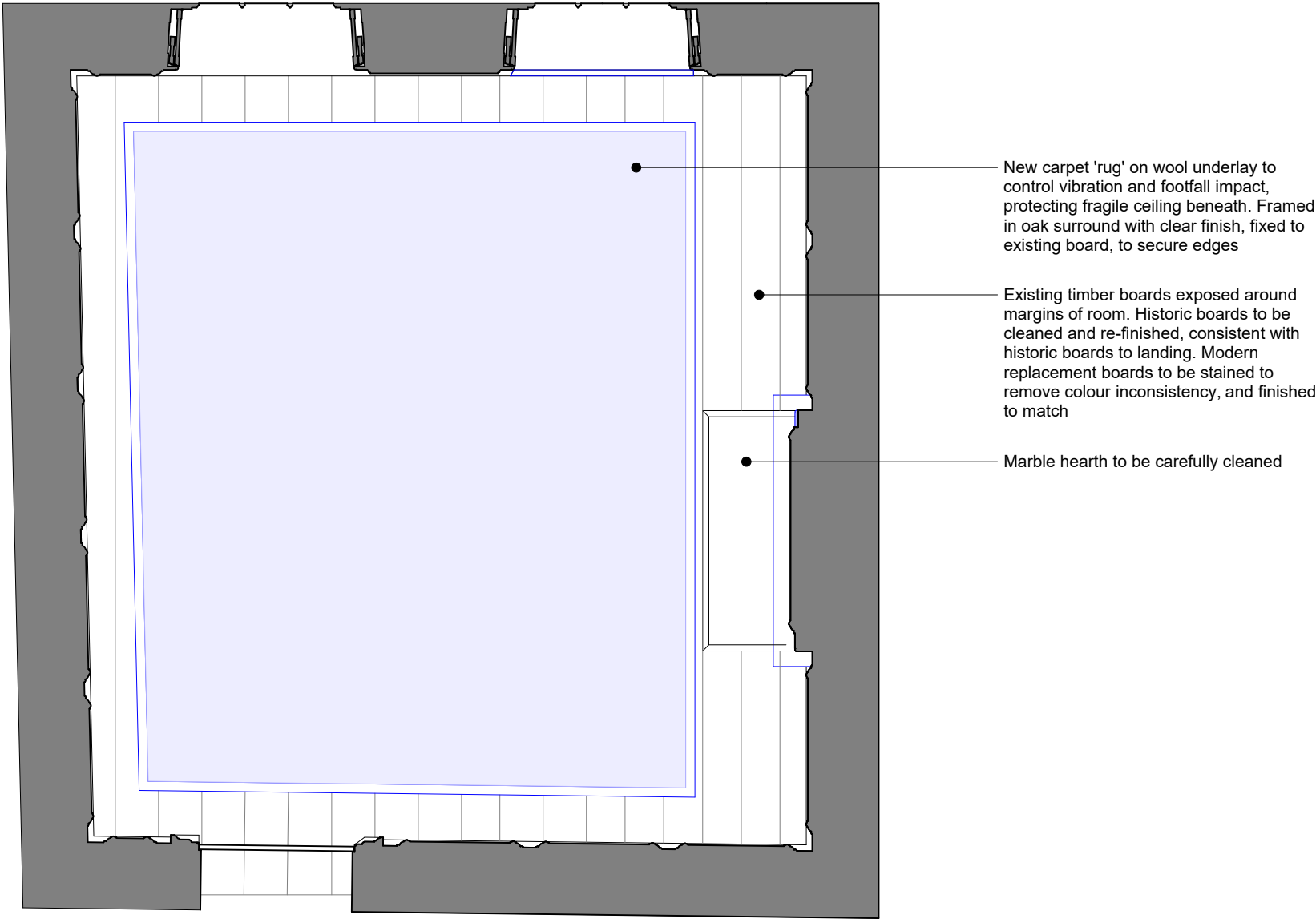
As noted in FB Heritage’s report, there is one silver cross-head screw in the attachment of the drop leaf handle on the hallway side of the door leaf. This will be replaced with a brass flat head screw to match the others.

3.5 Floor

The modern carpet and padded underlay have already been removed, revealing the floor boards. However, underlay and carpet will need to be reinstated in order to protect the ornamental lath and plaster ceiling of the room beneath. This has previously been stabilised through the addition of recessed and filled washer supports that are carried on stainless steel straps fixed between joists. It is therefore known to be in fragile condition, and the floor structure of the north-east bedroom is relatively ‘live’, with the result that impact and vibration from footfall on a boarded floor would leave the ground floor ceiling susceptible to damage.

To balance this necessity with the desirability of revealing the presence of the floorboards, it is proposed to install new carpet on a padded underlayer, but to draw this back from the margins of the room. This will give the carpet something of the character of a rug, while making visible the boarded floor beneath. As CWa drawings show, the carpet will be set within a timber edging, to hold it in place and mitigate the risk of a trip hazard at its edge.

The revealed portion of board will be rubbed down and refinished as necessary, to reinstate the darker stained margin evident in earlier treatments of the interior. This will involve the application of a stain to the modern floor boards so that they closely match the colour of the original ones.



Plan showing proposed floor treatment

3.0 Proposed Work

3.6 Ceiling

An inspection of the ceiling has been undertaken by Cliveden Conservation, and a summary report prepared on the findings and proposed remedial work (October 2025). This has found damaged areas that are slightly detached and in need of re-support. The works recommended in their report form part of the scope to which this application relates.

Broadly, the proposed repairs comprise:

- Removal of lining paper across the entire ceiling, and application of a stainblock treatment.
- Addressing damage caused by historical movement in the vicinity of a supporting beam above the ceiling. Longitudinal cracks parallel to the beam will be opened up and filled. This area of ceiling will be stabilised and supported using washer supports, recessed into the plaster and filled.
- Addressing damage caused by historical water ingress. Cracks will be opened up and filled. This area of ceiling will be stabilised and supported using washer supports, recessed into the plaster and filled.

This work will stabilise the lath and plaster ceiling, and address its patchy and discoloured appearance - the result of historic damage and localised repair.

An excerpt of the key plan from Cliveden's report is shown here, to illustrate scope. Fuller detail is provided in this report, which is to be read alongside this document.



Reflected ceiling plan from Cliveden Conservation report.
Areas in red to receive recessed washer support

3.0 Proposed Work

3.7 Fittings and Building Services

The mechanical bell pull system will be retained unaltered and is unaffected by any other aspect of these proposals. The National Trust plan to restore it to working order at a later date, to illustrate the room's historic use, and it is understood that this would not require a new application for Listed Building Consent.

The principal addition proposed in the room's re-use is the addition of picture rails and lighting to support the flexible placement of wall-hung artworks, as well as objects placed against walls. This must recognise the imperative to avoid the introduction of fittings that add unnecessary visual 'clutter', or which attracts attention from the historic setting. In response, it is proposed that the picture rail and lighting are integrated.

At Mompesson there is a clear precedent for the addition of picture rails in most of the other publicly-accessible rooms, both at ground and first floor levels. Accordingly, it is considered appropriate, and justified by a brief that brings the north-east bedroom back into public use, that picture rails are provided in this space.

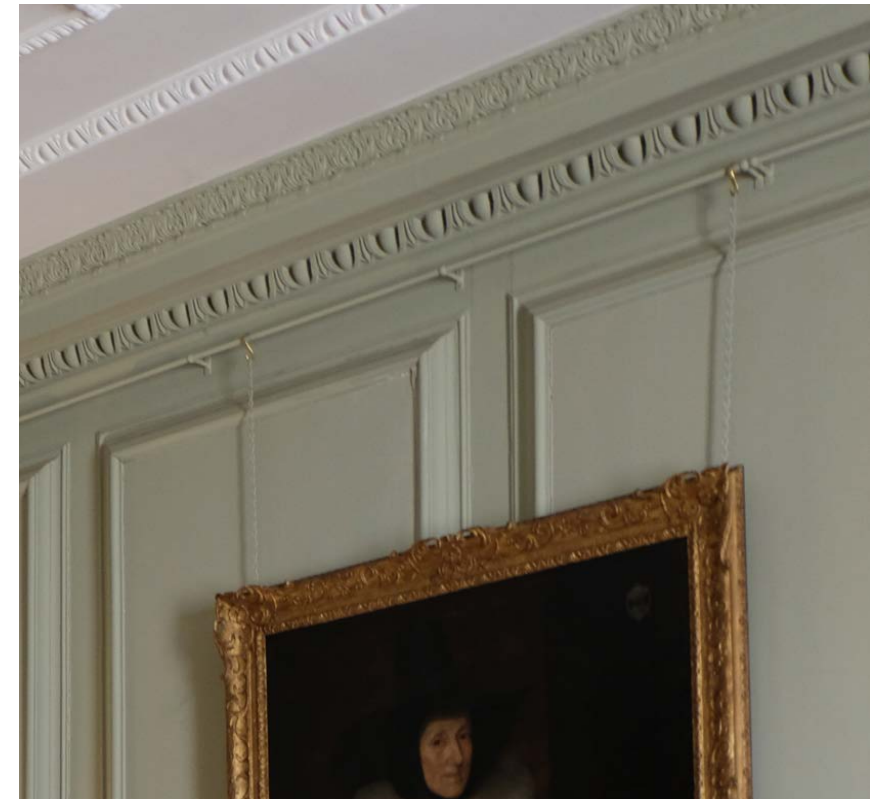
To support flexible and changing displays of interpretive material, artworks and other artefacts, a lighting track will be installed. This will allow track-mounted light fittings to be added, repositioned or removed as necessary to support the presentation of the space and its contents in the visitor experience. It is proposed that the track and the fittings are white, so they do not contrast with the colour of the ceiling. The track will be suspended below the ceiling level, to visually separate it from the ceiling which remains uninterrupted above.

High-level lighting will be supplemented by floor or table-standing lamps, as employed elsewhere at Mompesson, which will be plugged in to 5 Amp sockets set into the skirting.

The existing light switch, next to the door, will be removed but its position will be re-used for a new dimmer switch with separate circuits for the picture rail lighting and for the 5 Amp outlets at skirting level.

Both 5 Amp and 13 Amp outlets will be direct replacements for those that already exist. These will be specified with a paintable face plate, and will be painted the same colour as the skirting. This will reduce their visual impact from that presented currently.

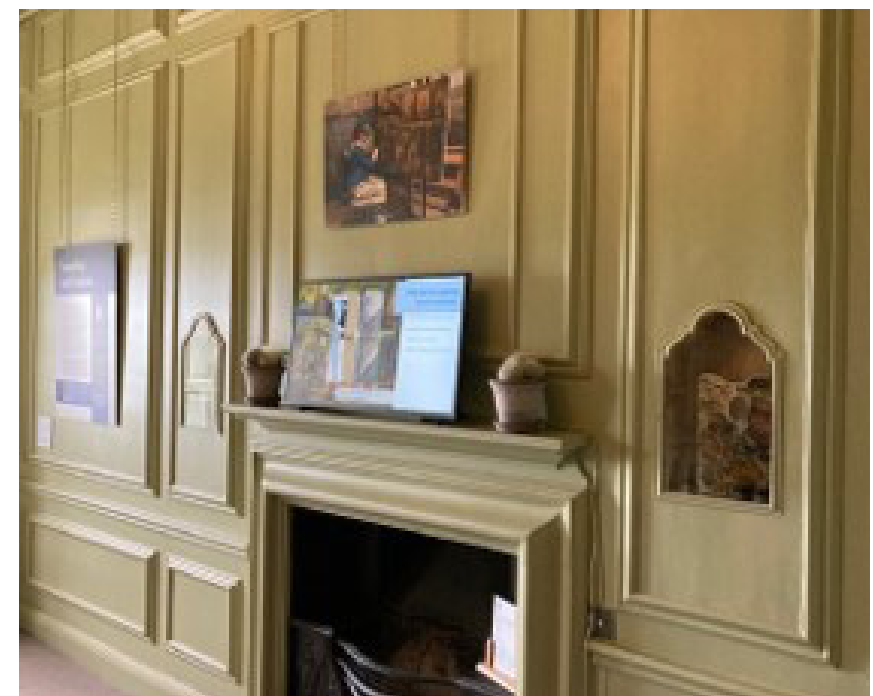
The two existing cast iron column radiators, one beneath each window, will be retained and repainted to match the colour of the wall panelling, in a matt finish.



Picture rail, Mompesson ('Green Room')



Track lighting (surface mounted): Kelmscott Manor



Precedent for interpretive display: Upton House;

3.0 Proposed Work

3.8 Redecoration

The room’s panelling, along with all associated timber mouldings including the cornice and skirting, is to be re-painted, as is the ceiling.

The ceiling will be painted white, as it is currently (albeit with water staining and patching). In effect, this will be an off-white, in accordance with the paint formulations available at the start of the eighteenth century. For the panelling, however, the selection of an appropriate colour scheme is informed by paint analysis for this room, undertaken by Lisa Oestreicher in 2003 and 2005.

In summary of the findings of this work, paint samples uncovered nine or ten decorative schemes, with the original believed to be a dark cream, possibly with a varnished finish.

The second scheme was stone grey, followed by a sequence of cream-coloured and white-coloured layers, the final one being the warm cream paint visible today. It is likely that, in at least one of these schemes, the panels may have been picked out in slightly different shades from that of the panel stiles, cornice and skirting.

The application of a two-tone scheme has been considered, and may be implemented in the future. Initially, however, it is proposed that the panelling will be given a uniform ‘stone grey’ painted finish, based on the room’s second historic scheme. A precise colour selection is yet to be made, but a reference for it is provided in a small patch of stone grey paint visible in an area of damage below the removed mantle shelf, which may date from this second decorative scheme.

This is consistent with the treatment of rooms in the early eighteenth century, during which the use of stone grey colour was very widespread. The use of stone grey colour is also prevalent in other rooms at Mompesson.



Final scheme: warm cream

Later scheme of white / grey

Possible second colour scheme: stone grey

Possible original colour scheme: dark cream

4.0 Impact of Proposed Work

The work to be undertaken is focussed on the repair and reinstatement of the historic fabric and presentation of the room in support of public access to, and interpretation of, this space.

These repair works will necessarily involve some physical impact on the historic built fabric, through the interventions needed to implement the repair. Key amongst these will be:

- Careful removal of bolection mouldings to wall panels, removal and adjustment of panels prior to reinstatement.
- Any further dismantling of panelling to the west wall that may be necessary for it to be soundly re-attached to the masonry.
- Temporary removal of the papier mâché ornamental frieze and its timber backing panel, for conservation.
- Installation of recessed screw and washer supports within localised areas of partly-detached ceiling plaster, and filling over with lime plaster.

These repair works, in stabilising and conserving the historic fabric, while facilitating public access, will have a positive impact on the architectural value of Mompesson House. They will be carried out by skilled craftspeople and conservators in order to minimise any loss of built fabric.

Alongside the repair of historic fabric, the reinstatement of elements that have been lost will re-assert the completeness and integrity of the architectural treatment of this early eighteenth century bedroom. In particular, work to the fireplace and associated elements will enhance the significance of the historic fabric, reinstating the historic composition and making it legible to visitors. This, and work to the panelling above, will address the most significant area of damage and loss in this interior.

As an integral aspect of this approach, the removal of elements that are detrimental to the architectural significance of the heritage asset will bring further benefits. Principal among these will be:

- Removal of the remnants of the timber battens and wall linings, which seriously impair the legibility and character of the room.
- If possible, the removal of the pipework in the skirting 'plinth' in the north-east corner of the room, and of the 'plinth' itself.
- Removal of modern surface-fixed services such as the CCTV camera, and of trailing / surface-fixed cabled and flexes.
- Removal of carpet, underlay and grip rod, to reveal more of the historic, boarded floor.

Taken together, this programme of works will enhance the architectural value of the space, which will be more legible and coherent, better interpreted and presented, more accessible to the public, and in better condition.





With thanks