

Design and Access Statement

Improvements to hearth in kitchen fireplace

The kitchen is in the 1920s extension of the house. In the kitchen is a fireplace with a wood burner installed. It stands on a concrete slab which was the base for the Rayburn that preceded the wood burner.



The plaster on the wall behind the wood burner is in bad condition. This is because of a combination of damp ingress, heat effects from the wood burner, and the fact that I had in the past made repairs using the wrong material (gypsum).

The distance between the back of the wood burner and the wall is 60mm whereas we discovered that the manufacturer recommends a minimum of 100mm to enable good air circulation.

A part of the proposal is to remove all plaster from the fireplace and replace it with lime plaster, applied in 3 layers. The best time would be early May as this is when lime plasterers are coming to re-plaster a part of the wall in the bedroom directly above the kitchen (that had also been damaged by damp).

At the same time it is proposed to replace the concrete slab with limestone slabs from a nearby quarry. The slabs would cover the width of the fireplace (as does the concrete slab) and extend in front of the fireplace by about 30cm. This would enable the wood burner to be brought forward to

increase the gap between it and the wall which would improve air circulation and help preserve the wall.

In the photo above I have placed a small slab of limestone in front of the wood burner to give an idea of appearance and the extent of protrusion.

To enable the wood burner to be brought forward it would be necessary to put two offsetting bends in the flue pipe.

It would be necessary to remove a small area of wooden flooring to accommodate the projecting limestone slab. The flooring is not original and has no historical or architectural value. The flooring appears to go under the concrete slab which also has no historical or architectural value.

The limestone slabs would be of Hartham Park Tier 2 Base Bed. They would be approximately 65mm thick whereas the present concrete slab is 90mm thick. There would be two slabs at the back, 300mm deep and one at the front, 500mm deep for a total depth of approximately 800mm.

Please refer to the separate documents:

- Floorplan Kitchen
- Floorplan Fireplace Current
- Floorplan Fireplace Proposed