

Design & Access and Heritage Statement

Details

Site Name: 7 Elm Court

Address of site: 7 Elm Court, Byron Road, Devizes, SN10 5FB

Local Planning Authority: Wiltshire Council

County: Wiltshire

Statutory Listing: Grade II

List Entry Number: 1244048*

Proposal: Front door replacement

Introduction

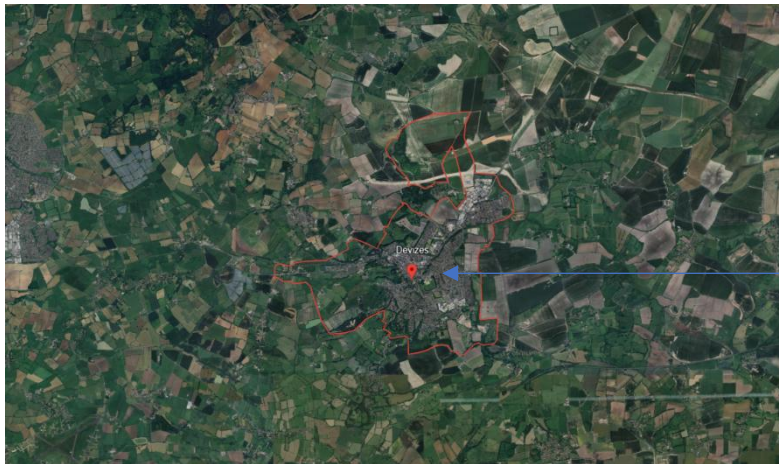
A site visit was made to 7 Elm Court, on the 10th of December 2025, which has informed this Design & Access and Heritage Statement and aims to justify the proposals.

7 Elm Court is a ground-floor flat on Byron Road, forming part of the former Wiltshire County Asylum, built 1849–51 by T. H. Wyatt and extended several times later in the 19th century. A recreation hall was added in 1897–98. The complex is in Bath stone ashlar with slate roofs, overhanging bracketed eaves and ashlar chimney stacks, in an Italianate style. It features campanile-like towers with pyramid roofs and octagonal ventilator turrets with ogee roofs.

The main front is long and symmetrical, with two and three-storey ranges and five rear cross wings creating courtyards for kitchens and exercise yards. A central three-storey administrative block with basement has slightly projecting end and central bays, angled corners to the ends, and a pedimented centre. The upper windows are mostly round-arched sashes, with an arcade in the centre over the three-arched entrance porch and Venetian-type windows at the ends; ground-floor windows have keystones. There are arched doorways in the re-entrant angles and a cast-iron balustrade to the area in front.

Flanking the centre are long two-storey ranges with short angled cross wings, similar in style, though many original glazing-bar sashes have been replaced with plate glass. The rear elevations follow the same style and include some 19th-century metal-framed glazing. To the south-west of the kitchen is a two-storey service block with loading door and crane. In the central rear courtyard is a block with a barrel-vaulted vehicle entrance and a round-arched gable with a clock, flanked by four doorways with original boot-scrapers and keystones inscribed “chief male attendant”, “porter” and “private”.

The recreation hall to the north is in red brick with a slate roof and cylindrical ridge ventilators. It is five bays long, with central entrances and staggered groups of windows under segmental relieving arches of bullnose brick. Inside, most spaces are plain, with some original features surviving. The whole complex was built as the Wiltshire County Pauper Lunatic Asylum following the 1845 Lunacy Act.



Site Location

Schedule of Works

The Purpose of this application is to restore the building to its former state, whilst providing thermal and security benefits to the residents, as the current Rear door is beyond economical repair with substantial wood decay visible. There will be no change to the buildings character and appearance, thus conserving the significance of the heritage asset.

The proposal is for like for like replacement of the existing Rear door, with no changes to the existing openings. It will return the rear elevation back to its original state, in keeping with the listed building.

Relevant Planning History

Ref. No: 16/07802/FUL. August 2016. Erection of 4 No. dwellings and change of use to public open space.

Ref. No: PL/2022/07443. November 2022. Erection of 4 No. dwellings and change of use to public open space.

Ref. No: PL/2022/00463. January 2022. Tree number - G2

Tree type - Mixed species (Holly, Ash, Yew, Lime)

Approx Height - 5-10m

Location - see map

Service - Prune

Work required- Prune/trim all lower growth (up to 5m) hard back to edge of road and lift 1x Ash and 1x Lime to give around 5.5m ground clearance over road

Reason - To prevent obstruction, As part of regular cyclical maintenance

Impact of Heritage Assets

The proposed replacement of the Front Door will preserve the special interest of the listed building and preserve the setting of the nearby listed buildings and street scene. Therefore, it will be in keeping with the objectives of Sections 66(1) and 72(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation area) Act 1990.

The proposed replacement of the door to match the existing is in accordance with the Local Plan and sections of the National Planning Policy Framework, which relate to the heritage assets and the historic environment, while bringing benefits to the residents.