

HERITAGE STATEMENT



May 2024

10 PROSPECT SQUARE

BA13 3ET

1. Introduction

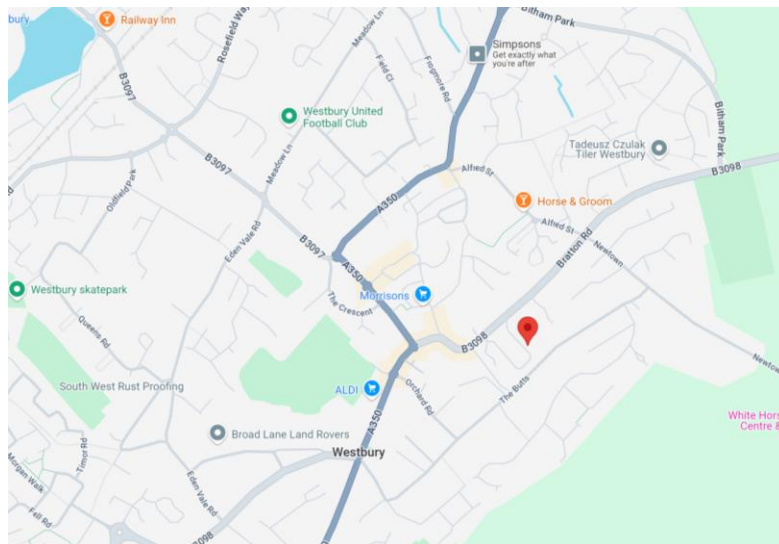
This heritage statement has been created in support of a planning application for the proposed replacement of the current gas fireplace and surrounding hearth, including opening up a section of the chimney breast, of 10 Prospect Square, Westbury, Wilts, BA13 3ET.

Therefore, this heritage statement will endeavour to describe the property, its context and the proposed application, whilst considering any impact upon the building's heritage. Thus, this statement should be read in conjunction with the submitted proposal.

We are aware that the property is a Grade II listed building and have endeavoured to mitigate the impact of any proposed changes on the site's historic significance.

2. Site location

10 Prospect Square is situated in Westbury, Wiltshire, equidistant to the town centre and the historic White Horse.



The site location is marked by a red pin.

3. Site context

The building is situated in 1-39 Prospect Square, a group of two-storey cottages, constructed in 1869 on the bequest of Abraham Laverton, a liberal politician and benevolent employer. Laverton leased the Angel Mill (also situated in Westbury) and decreed the construction of Prospect Square when workers were fired for voting for him. In turn, this furthered the cause for the Secret Ballot Act 1872, thus illustrating Prospect Square's integral historic – and political – significance.

The development comprises of thirty-two houses and seven alms-houses. Mill foremen and managers would occupy the semi-detached pairs of houses at each end (numbers 15-16 and 24-25), and allotments were also originally present.

The property itself is part of a terraced block of cottages, in brick, with a single gable. As with a number of other dwellings around the Square, a kitchen extension was added in 1982 to enhance the interior potential, with a pitched roof. Bifold aluminium doors were added to the extension (following planning permission being granted) in 2025.

The fireplace in the property is a 1980s addition. The gas fireplace is metal (likely steel), sitting on a tile base with a standard wooden mantelpiece. The chimney has been blocked up in order to accommodate this; the proposal is that the lower section of the chimney would be reopened, a premium gas fireplace fitted within, with an oak beam replacing the current mantelpiece. Many properties around the Square have open chimney breasts with a range of different fireplace units inside; the one inside No.10 is due an update, in-keeping with traditional aesthetics and without altering the fuel source used.

4. Heritage Constraints

10 Prospect Square is Grade II listed building. It was first listed on 17th December 1976:

BRATTON ROAD, 7-11, PROSPECT SQUARE, 29-33, PROSPECT SQUARE

Grid reference: ST 87497 51070

2. 2 storeys, red brick with brick cill and over lintel bands, latter stepped in several steps per house. Irregular gabled front. One gable to No 8, a low gable over 1st floor window to No 9, a single gable over Nos 10 and 11. All gables tile hung with colour and fish scale banding. Gable lights to Nos 8, 10/11 and in return gable of roof. Tile roof with 3 course fish scale tile bands and vertical polychromy between in front, diaper polychromy to sides. 1 range of windows per house, 2 light casements with slightly cambered arches. Ground floor windows slightly off set by bracketted lean-to tiled porches. 4 panel doors. 2 brick chimney stacks, cruciform on irregular octagonal base. Nos 29-55 (consec): Same design, reflected. The gables are tile hung with fish scale tiles in polychrome bands.

Listing NGR: ST8749751070

5. Proposal: Design, Scale and Materiality

As the building is Grade II listed, we have chosen premium materials in order to have a sympathetic replacement. The replacement fireplace will be black, to match the current fireplace, and the mantelpiece replacement will be wooden, but crucially they will be superior materials to the ones currently in place – i.e. cast iron and oak, respectively. The longevity of the fabrics used guarantees a quality finish. This therefore aligns with the provisions in s.72(1) Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 in regard to the enhancement of listed buildings.

The works to switch the fireplace unit itself will be undertaken by a qualified gas engineer in order to meet safety requirements.

As already mentioned, multiple other properties in the Square have opened (or partially opened) chimney breasts in the living areas. Therefore, the submission is no more than what has already been done to dwellings in the same development.

6. Conclusion

It is important to note that the proposed works are not purely of an aesthetic nature; the paramount consideration is that they are to make a marked improvement to the fireplace, which is neither original nor in-keeping with the other historic features of the house. Indeed, the aim is

to create a fireplace which will more accurately replicate a traditional woodburning stove. All works are to take place internally.

The proposal does not seek to alter any original, historic part of the building and the owners understand their responsibilities as custodians of a piece of Westbury's history. The current fireplace is not of traditional design; indeed, the chimney has been blocked up in the 1980s in order to accommodate the gas fireplace and surround.

Due to this range of factors, the impact on the heritage assessment is considered to be minimal.