

Mr Adrian Arnold  
Oxford City Council

Direct Dial: 0207 973 3700

Our ref: L01381690  
11 March 2021

Dear Mr Arnold

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015  
& T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015  
& Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990**

**EXETER COLLEGE , TURL STREET , OXFORD OX1 3DP  
Application Nos 21/00355/LBC & 21/00354/FUL**

Thank you for your letters of 19 February 2021 regarding the above applications for listed building consent and planning permission. On the basis of the information available to date, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the applications.

**Historic England Advice**

The proposals at Exeter College library include conservation and repairs to historic fabric and a new lift to enable access, as well as improvements to the interior of the library and fire safety escape routes.

Historic England is content that the proposed lift is the best way to achieve much needed access improvements to the building. We also welcome the conservation and repair to the historic fabric. We are content for the other elements of the proposals to the Grade II listed building to be assessed by the council's Conservation Officer.

Alternative options for a new lift were considered (as shown in section 3.6 of the Design and Access Statement) but these were discounted due to the negative impacts on the historic building, along with not meeting other requirements of the scheme. We are content that limited harm that the new lift shaft would cause is clearly and convincingly justified, as NPPF paragraph 194 requires. The proposed new lift would be tucked behind the stair turret when viewed from the Rector's Garden and the decorative cast iron cladding would complement the historic setting, resulting in a limited degree of low level harm to the group of historic buildings. Together with conservation and repair of the building, we are content that these elements of the scheme would accord with Local Plan policy DH3. The proposal put forward in the applications achieves maximum benefit with minimal heritage impact.



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**Recommendation**

Historic England has no objection to the applications on heritage grounds. We consider that the applications meet the requirements of the NPPF, subject to those elements to be considered by the Council's Conservation Officer. A condition to enable agreement of the final exterior finish of the lift will be needed.

Your authority should take these representations into account in determining the applications. If there are any material changes to the proposals, or you would like further advice, please contact us. Please advise us of the decisions in due course.

Yours sincerely

**Rachel Fletcher**

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