



## PLANNING & HERITAGE STATEMENT

Internal and external alterations including reinstatement of door, removal of ground floor window and lowering of cill level to first floor window in west elevation and restoration of garden wall

Earnley Place Clappers Lane Earnley  
PO20 7JL

AUGUST 2023





This Heritage Statement accompanies a listed building application for alterations to the internal layout at basement, ground, first and second floor levels of the dwelling. External changes are also proposed to the west elevation incorporating an additional timber glazed door at ground floor within an original opening, infilling a window and a new timber window with lowered cill to match original opening and restoration of garden walls on north, east and south elevations at Earnley Place.

## THE SITE & SURROUNDINGS

The application site is situated outside of any designated Settlement Boundary Area within a countryside location, however, is located within close proximity to Bracklesham Bay and its services and facilities. Earnley Place, the host dwelling, is designated as a Grade II listed building located within the Earnley Conservation Area. The appeal site area is shown outlined in red below at Figure 1.

Earnley Place is situated to the eastern side of the plot and features a vehicular access to the northeast corner of the site onto Drove Lane. The access features brick piers and railings to a gravel driveway, lined with grass verge and tree planting. The property has an established flint and brick walls associated with the listed house and has been previously extended with single storey extensions to the east and west.

Earnley Place is set well back from the highway behind mature tree planting, however, can be viewed above the boundary wall and tree planting, and particularly through the opening to the highway. A large pavilion building occupies a central position further west within the site and is used in connection with the private residential dwelling at Earnley Place and has been since the use of the building ceased as an educational facility in 2019. The remainder of the site is laid to grass and features dense tree coverage to the southern and western site boundaries, and within the south-eastern corner of the site.

The site is located within Flood Zone 1, being identified as having the lowest level of flood risk. The area to the west of the site and a small area to the northwest corner of the site, away from any habitable buildings, is situated within Flood Zones 2 & 3. There are no other site-specific constraints.



Figure 1. Site outlined in red



## Planning History

Earnley Place has been historically part of the wider Earnley Concourse and used in connection with the adult education centre use of the site and its wider complex of buildings. The adult education centre ceased its use and as of 2019 Earnley Place has been occupied independently from Earnley Concourse as a residential dwelling. Planning permission LA Ref: E/20/01610/FUL granted consent in November 2020 for the change of use of Earnley Place from adult education centre (Use Class C2) to residential dwelling (Use Class C3) along with the reinstatement of the separate driveway to serve the dwelling.

Outline planning permission was allowed on appeal under LA Ref: E/19/02493/OUT and PINs Ref: APP/L3815/W/20/3255383 for the demolition of Earnley Concourse buildings, Elm Lodge and Gate Lodge and replacement with residential development of up to 32 no. dwellings with associated access and footway works, landscaping, open space and drainage infrastructure at Earnley Concourse. The Inspector in their decision states that whilst the proposals would be at odds with the development plan as a whole the benefits would outweigh the harm.

A recent application for alterations and extensions at Earnley Place comprising single storey additions, fenestration changes and landscaping was refused by the Local Planning Authority and is now the subject of a written representation appeal, (LA Ref: 22/02539/DOM). The reason for refusal stated:

***Earnley Place is listed as being of special architectural or historic interest and the Local Planning Authority is statutorily required to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest it possesses. The property also lies within the Earnley Conservation Area, wherein the Local Planning Authority is statutorily obliged to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the locality.***

***The proposal includes the construction of a single storey extension, two lean-to single storey extensions, works to the boundary wall and internal alterations. Furthermore, insufficient information has been provided regarding the basement floor, to enable the Council to assess the impact of the works on the special interest of the listed building. It is therefore considered that the proposed works, by virtue of the heavy weight design of the extension would appear visually incongruous, furthermore the length of a lean-to extension, the reduction of height to the boundary wall and internal subdivision of the second floor would result in the loss of historic fabric, obstruction of important features and would fail to preserve the special interest of the building or the character and appearance of the conservation area. The harm would be less-than-substantial, but not be outweighed by any resultant public benefits.***



## RELEVANT PLANNING POLICY

Relevant national planning policy is contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the South Downs Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was revised in July 2021. Paragraph 130 requires that planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

- will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;
- are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);
- establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;
- optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and
- create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users<sup>46</sup>; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

Section 12 concerns design and informs that achieving well-designed places is one of the key components of achieving sustainable development. Paragraph 126 states that; 'Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities'. Section 12 also requires planning policies and decisions to ensure that development is designed to function well and add to the overall quality of the area for the lifetime of the development. Including quality of architecture, layout and effective landscaping, a sympathetic to local character and history. The section also supports innovation and change and encourages that design should achieve a strong sense of place through an appropriate amount and mix of development through arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials. Design should also achieve places that are accessible, and which promote health and well-being with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users are also encouraged.



The application site is located within Earnley Conservation Area and is a designated Grade II listed building and as such the site lies within and forms designated heritage assets. Section 16 of the NPPF is therefore relevant to this application. Within this section paragraph 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework advises that 'in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary.' An assessment of the impacts of the development on the heritage assets is included within the Heritage Assessment submitted alongside this report.

Paragraphs 206 and 207 relate to Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites. Para. 206 states: Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.

Paragraph 207 states: Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 201 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 202, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.

## Local Plan Policy

The Chichester Local Plan (CLP): Key Policies was adopted in July 2015 and the policies relevant to the application proposal are Policy 1 (Sustainable Development), Policy 2 (Development and Settlement Hierarchy) and Policy 47 (Heritage & Design).

Policies 1 and 2 set out the strategic approach to sustainable development with the district and provides the hierarchy of the settlements for the District. Establishing the locations and role of the settlements to support sustainable development. The application site is located outside of any designated settlement but forms an existing established residential dwelling and as such alterations and extension are considered acceptable where they meet other development management criteria.

Policy 45 relating to Development in the Countryside is also relevant and states: Within the countryside, outside Settlement Boundaries, development will be granted where it requires a countryside location and meets the essential, small scale, and local need which cannot be met within or immediately adjacent to existing settlements. The application proposal relates to residential development involving an existing dwelling within the countryside and as such is compliant with Policy 45.

Policy 47 states that proposals affecting designated and undesignated heritage assets and their settings should demonstrate that they meet the following (extracted) guidance:



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- a) The use of traditional, local materials and adherence to local building techniques and details, where appropriate;
- b) The conservation of features and elements that contribute to the special interest of a heritage asset, including structures forming part of the curtilage, in particular the structural integrity and historic plan form of listed buildings and historic building groups;
- c) Appropriate use of the heritage asset that is compatible with the conservation of its significance;
- d) The location, form, scale, massing, density, height, layout, roofscape, landscaping, use and external appearance of developments within conservation areas should conserve and enhance the special historic and architectural interest of the conservation area;

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## CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

### The Proposals

Earnley Place has previously been extended in its capacity as an adult education centre with a number of less than sympathetic modern additions and alterations. Use of the building as a family home was considered appropriate by way of the granted of change of use to residential in 2020. In order to be suitable for modern family living the property requires updating, which would be undertaken in a sympathetic manner to restore the character of the listed house.

The proposal relates to internal and external alterations to the dwelling and excludes any extensions which will allow consideration to be given solely to the changes to the existing property. The dwelling has a large curtilage and is a family home with a reasonably large footprint. The proposal seeks to maximise the use of the existing floorspace and upgrade and improve the facilities available to the current occupiers.

The existing boundary walling is proposed to be restored as indicated on the north, east and south elevations. The submission of additional details such as the precise mortar mix could be the subject of a condition.

Openings in the west elevation would be altered to lower the sill height of a first floor window and reinstate an earlier door at ground floor in the same elevation. The photographs below at Figure 2 (black and white from 1960s) show the position of the infilled doorway with a door previously shown in this position.

It is acknowledged that the proposal removes some historic fabric, but this is limited in extent and in the case of the door comprises removal of a later infill. The window to be removed is a previously altered original opening as is evident from the photographs. The new openings would replicate the Georgian details of the existing windows and would be constructed in single glazed timber. The reintroduction of the original access to the garden from the west is a positive enhancement, reintroducing an original feature within the filled in opening of proportions which replicate the original.

Internal changes include some reconfiguration of the first floor layout to provide additional en-suite bathrooms within the proposals. Alterations to existing first floor bathrooms would require removal of existing and proposed stud walls. At second floor the space would be maximised, making use of the existing dormer windows with minor alterations to create three further en-suite bedrooms.



Figure 2. Photographs showing current west elevation and as was (including doorway proposed for reinstatement) in the 1960s



The basement would be refurbished to support its use as a home gym and cinema. Lightweight and reversible stud partitions are proposed, and the stairs would be reinstated in their historic location. This reinstatement was supported by the Chichester District Conservation Officer in a previous application submission.

## HERITAGE CONSIDERATIONS

The list description for Earnley Place reads:

*C18. Two parallel ranges. Two storeys and attic. Three windows. Two dormers. Red brick and grey headers. Modillion eaves cornice. Tiled roof. Glazing bars intact.*

The proposals relate to development within the curtilage of the Grade II listed building which is part of the designated Conservation Area. The works have been fully considered taking into account the character of the listed building and its setting and are required in order to upgrade the accommodation and amenity for the occupiers of the property.

Earnley Place is a Grade II listed building and therefore a designated heritage asset. Designated assets are of national importance and an 'irreplaceable resource' that should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. Local planning authorities must give 'great weight' to the conservation of heritage assets with any proposals that might affect their significance in a harmful manner requiring 'clear and convincing justification'.

Local authorities should look for and support proposals that enhance or better reveal the significance of the listed building and its setting. The building's primary significance is as a polite dwelling from the late 18th century, constructed from red brick and built by a locally important man. The Georgian design reflects the national taste for the classical which was also instrumental in the development of 18th century society and prevalent in Chichester.

## Description of the building and its setting

Earnley Place is approached from the north-east via a metal gate and gravel drive which terminates immediately to the east of the house. The building is two-storeys and of brick construction in Flemish bond with a large single-storey addition linked to the west and smaller single-storey additions to the east. The building has gardens to the north and south which are enclosed by masonry walls. The house consists of two parallel ranges of similar size and proportions which are oriented east-west. Both have gable ends with a valley running in-between. The south range contains the façade which overlooks a small garden laid to lawn and is enclosed by a brick wall also laid in Flemish bond. The entrance to the front of the house is via a small gateway from the drive. The front elevation has a central door in the Georgian style, set within a Doric porch. This has columns supporting an open pediment with stone steps up to the door. Either side are 4x4 sash windows of traditional timber construction with single glazing. Above these are three sash windows aligned with the openings on the ground floor.

A modillion eaves cornice terminates the elevation, though has an enclosed eave in white painted timber, above which is a simple sloping roof pitch in clay tile with two flat-roofed dormers. These both contain casement windows. There are chimney stacks at either end, which tie into the gables. The north elevation has a very similar





arrangement though is more understated and has undergone some alterations. This looks out onto a kitchen garden which is enclosed by a relatively large wall of flint, stone rubble and brick construction. The windows and doors of the north elevation sit below more modest segmental arches with the main door multi-paned with a light above. To the right the window has been replaced with multipaned French doors with a light over. The elevation also terminates with a modillion eaves cornice, though is not enclosed. The roof contains two dormer windows with pitched roofs. The gable ends also have corresponding chimney stacks set within the gable ends. The east and west elevations have an assortment of sash and casement windows, with the sashes predominantly on the ground or first floor. All the windows are white, painted timber and single glazed.

The linked addition is single-storey and of brick construction in Flemish bond with a clay tile roof. This is orientated north-south with gable ends and a modillion eaves cornice with sash windows in the east and west elevations. This is connected to the main house via a brick built link with a clay pitched roof. The extensions to the east side of Earnley Place are of brick and timber construction with flat roofs laid to felt. These additions incorporate the garden walls of the front and rear gardens which are flint and brick. An opening with a brick arch over leads to a side entrance.

## Historic Context

Documents suggest that Earnley Place was built by John Drew Senior, prior to his death in 1808. We know that the property descended to Lucy Ann Drew as in 1845 the house and associated lands were under the control of 'the executors of the late Lucy Anne Drew' as mentioned in the apportionment which accompanies the Tithe map. At this time the house was occupied by a tenant, Richard Seymour. The 'Drew estate' included Earnley Place which was shown on the Tithe map for the first time, but also agricultural land and associated farm buildings to the south and south-west, all the way down to the coast. Marsh Farm was part of these holdings and today is known as Marsh Farm Cottage and Marsh Farm Barn. These were no doubt the lands known to have been purchased in the late 18th century by John Drew Senior.

At the time of the Earnley tithe map in 1845, the house and domestic curtilage are contained to the area north and west of the house and a small 'square' of garden on which the front of the house opens on to. A gatehouse to the north-east of the house is located on land described in the Tithe apportionment as 'house meadow' and was used as pasture. This arrangement would certainly have corresponded with the notion of the picturesque and the concept of the landscape opening up beyond the garden, that was prevalent in the 18th century.

At the time of the First Edition OS map of 1875, Earnley Place had not altered, and it is clear from historic mapping, did not experience any significant changes until the mid-20th century. In the 1950s the Earnley Concourse was built to the east on land that was formerly 'house meadow'. This was purchased by John Bett, founder of the Earnley Trust, and in 1962 a boarding school created within the grounds of Earnley Place. This closed in 1972 and was then used as an Adult Education Centre. The resulting development of the educational facilities have clearly had a long-term impact on Earnley Place and its setting with multiple, large buildings, now derelict soon to be replaced with a small housing development.

## Conservation Area



Earnley Conservation Area was designated on 4th February 1976. In September 2006 a Conservation Area Character Appraisal was published. This was later updated in 2012 and adopted in May 2013. Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 stipulates that local planning authorities have a duty to 'determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.'

Earnley Place is one of only four listed buildings within Earnley Conservation Area. The others being the 13th century church which is Grade II\*, the Manor House, the earliest parts of which also date from the 13th century and a red K6 telephone box which is situated on the northern boundary of Earnley Place.

The Character Appraisal identified other significant surviving historic features which includes the medieval street plan with a small central green; 18th and 19th century barns associated with Earnley Manor; 19th century labourer's cottages on the north side of the green and the Old Rectory which is an 18th century or earlier building with a large addition built c.1900.

Earnley Place is noted in the character appraisal as being 'typically Georgian', highlighting its modillion eaves cornice and sash windows. Some of the key characteristics of the Conservation Area include the 'spacious and informal layout of buildings'; 'large gardens with trees' and the range of barns. Its character is also informed by a range of building materials that include flint with red brick, including pebbled flint; clay tiles; stucco and stone. Significant tree groups are located to the south of Earnley Place, north of the church between it and the Manor House and to the east of the barns.

## Assessment of the Listed Building

As set out above the main house consists of two parallel ranges with the southern range being the high-status half. It is interesting to note that the primary elevation faces away from the village and does not seek to engage with the village architecturally to be part of the 'scene' and in this respect very much appears private. The entrance hall is not overly large and has an 18th Century staircase with a corridor to the left accessing the ground floor rooms to the rear. A doorway to the left opens into a drawing room, whilst to the right there is no door as one might expect. A 'tapping' test of the wall suggests a cavity higher up in what is otherwise a brick wall, suggesting that a doorway may have been blocked up here.

The rooms at the rear are largely intact, though walls have been removed and altered which to some extent blurs the legibility of the historic footprint. This includes a blocked doorway in the western elevation which formed the western entrance into the garden. From the service area of the house there were stairs down into the cellar and a staircase to the first floor which has since been removed. This would have been a service stair that exited at first floor from a small room which is now the airing cupboard. The plan of the first floor appears largely as built, though has had some modern additions. A small stair continues from a corridor in the western half of the house to the attic rooms in the southern range. One of these has been subdivided and a bathroom installed.

Due to the nature of the parallel ranges which are divided at roof level by a valley, access to the attic rooms in the southern range is only available from the main staircase which continues up. One of these bedrooms here has also been subdivided and a bathroom installed. Externally, there is evidence of alterations to the west and north elevations, particularly on the ground floor. On the north elevation there were no doors with the windows being changed from sashes to steel casements. Meanwhile, the



ground floor of the west elevation appears to have had no windows originally. This is evident from the lack of brick closures either side of the current windows. These were once modern casements but have since been changed to multi-pane sashes to appear more sympathetic. To the right of this is the historic door which, as mentioned above, has since been blocked up in brickwork. As can be seen this had a multi-paned light above. These later alterations to the north and west elevations are evident in a further photograph taken slightly later, probably from the 1960s which shows the steel casement windows in the north elevation have been replaced by a multi-paned sash and French doors. It is not totally clear whether the central window has been changed to a door by this time. On the west elevation the multi-paned sashes replaced the shallow casements and the door blocked to the right of these. The new brickwork is clearly visible. A small casement window in the southern range has at some time been replaced by a door that provides access to the linked extension to the west built in the 1970s.

## Significance

Within Heritage protection, 'significance' is a term that describes a structure or feature's special interest. It is an interest that is understood in terms of values – evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal. These can be applied to Earnley Place as follows:

- Evidential value: As a building with fabric dating back to the late 18th century Earnley Place has limited potential to reveal special interest with great time depth. Its evidential value is therefore low. Stonework within the garden wall may be of archaeological interest if connected to an older building, such as the church.
- Historic value: Earnley Place has historic value as a late 18th century house in an historic village setting. Its origins and association with an important local person also add interest. Its historic value is therefore considered high.
- Aesthetic value: Earnley Place has some aesthetic value in its contribution to the scene though it is not readily visible from the public realm. It is also not somewhere that has been explored artistically, so its aesthetic value is considered low-medium.
- Communal value: Earnley Place formerly had some communal value as an educational establishment however this was short-lived. Its value is more as a private property and therefore its communal value is low.

The dwelling is extensive, and the proposed alterations would allow for the building to be better utilised as a family home with improved accommodation and flow. The external appearance of the building would not be compromised. The alterations would not be readily visible within the Conservation Area and would not alter its appearance or be detrimental to the setting of the listed building.

The proposal would accord with para 197 of the NPPF in that the heritage assets are sustained, and their significance enhanced. It is considered that the proposal would result in less than substantial harm to the designated heritage assets which when weighed against public benefit is acceptable as works to a listed private dwelling which secure its future as a designated heritage asset can be considered a public benefit as set out in Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 18a-020-20190723 of Historic Environment



Planning Practice Guidance. This applies to this proposal which sustains and enhances the significance of the heritage asset and the contribution of its setting by securing the optimum viable use of the heritage asset in support of its long-term conservation.

The loss of historic fabric and layout changes are limited and reversible. The proposal enhances the significance of the heritage asset and the contribution of its setting assisting in its continued residential occupation and continued viable use consistent with its conservation. The proposal enhances the significance of the listed building and its setting and as such should be supported. The building's primary significance as a polite dwelling from the late 18th Century, constructed from red brick and built by a locally important man is not adversely affected by this proposal. The proposals seek to provide improved family accommodation with a better more flexible and usable internal layout which will ensure the building is maintained and occupied into the future.

## CONCLUSION

This proposals at Earnley Place for internal and external works has been fully considered in terms of the impact on the listed building. The proposals would enhance the house without detracting from the character of the listed property, its setting within the Conservation Area or the wider appearance of the rural setting. The works are considered necessary in order to upgrade the dwelling and keep the listed building as a functioning family home.

The scheme has been designed to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, its setting, and any features of special architectural or historic interest. Overall, the scale and nature of the proposal are such that the design quality and setting of the heritage assets would be preserved and enhanced. The proposal would be respectful to the character and appearance of the listed building, conservation area and its historic setting.

Based on the above assessment, it is considered the proposals comply with the Council's Development Plan and the considerations material to the case, and there are no material considerations that indicate otherwise therefore, subject to conditions, permissions should be granted at the earliest opportunity.