

DESIGN and HERITAGE STATEMENT

COURT GREEN

ST ANNES HILL, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX, GU29 9NN

PROPOSED OFF STREET PARKING



Front (East) Elevations taken from St Annes Hill

The Site

Court Green is a Grade II listed detached two-storey property positioned on the southern side of St Anne's Hill in Midhurst. The property is the final dwelling on St Anne's Hill which leads to an area of wooded public space further east also called St Anne's Hill. The property, dating back to C18 or earlier, is of brick, stone and tile construction with tile-hung elevations at first floor level. The North elevation of the main house fronts directly onto the street but occupies a spacious plot with a large garden to the rear. To the west of the main house lies a garage building linked to the main house via a brick front wall, which ensures the rear amenity area of the plot remains private from the street. The front (East elevation) of the main house faces St

Anne's Hill. This part of garden is sub-divided with a stone wall separating the formal garden for the area of neglected land that has the vehicular access rights. This area also forms part of the grounds to the Ancient Monument

See appendix A –Land Registry

See appendix B –Conveyancing Documents from 1960

See appendix C –Conveyancing Documents from 1961

See appendix D –Conveyancing Documents from 1964

Summary

This Design and Heritage Statement will accompany the Application for Scheduled Monument Consent and listed buildings consent for the upgrade of the parking area, crossover, gates, and fences at the head of St Anne's Hill Road. The works will involve the demolition of approximately 5.000m of the existing Fittleworth stone wall.

The site is identified on the Location and Block Plan 1523-AMC-00 Rev A

This proposal aims to make efficient and effective use of the building and grounds within an established residential area, in a manner which is compatible with the character and appearance of the area.

It is considered that the proposed alterations and additions will make a positive contribution to the character of the area, without causing any harm to the asset.

History

Appendix A, B, C and D confirm the legal position regarding the vehicular right of way. This has been periodically used over the years. This application is made to secure this right and make it practical for use. The improvements will enhance the access to St Anne's Hill by removing the need for on street parking.

Schedule of works

Should the proposal be approved, my client will carry out all the improvement works at his expense. The schedule of works is split into four areas as follows.

Fences and Gates: The existing vehicular and pedestrian gates at the head of St Annies Hill Road are in poor condition and will be removed. New Oak gates and close boarded fence will be provided on the boundary between Courts Green and St Annes Hill road as shown on drawings 1523-AMC-01B, 1523-AMC-02B and 1523-AMC-03A.



Vehicular cross over: The existing vehicular and pedestrian crossover is in very poor condition. The suggested proposal is the extend the existing road Tarmac into the crossover.



Parking Area: The parking area needs to be tided and finished to allow vehicle use. The ground level falls away from the crossover therefore there will be very little dig. The suggested proposal is to finish the area with hardcore and gravel, edged and retained with a low level Fittlework Stone wall and Granite Sets



Fittleworth Stone wall: To improve access the proposal is to remove approximately 5.000m of the stone wall. The wall will be carefully taken down and stones used to edge and retain the parking area as shown on the drawings



Pre-Application Advice

We have had formal discussions with the Midhurst Town Council and Historic England. We have also researched the Ancient Monuments and had informal discussions with the Midhurst Museum. Ancient Monuments Consent was issued on 9th October 2023

Ancient Monuments and Heritage Assets affected by the proposal.

Two heritage assets will be potentially impacted by the proposed scheme, the Scheduled castle on St. Anne's Hill, and the Listed dwelling of Court Green.

The Motte and bailey castle on St Ann's Hill, Midhurst (No. 1012176, first Scheduled 28th Sept 1954) is still rather poorly understood. Significant archaeological investigations of this castle have been limited to those by Sir William St John Hope in 1913 and then those by the Chichester District Archaeological Unit in 1994. The latter, while identifying more than one phase to the castle's development, was unable to recover evidence of their dating, with the published monograph merely suggesting an 11th century origin, with later modifications (Magilton J. & Thomas S. 2001 *Midhurst*, Chichester District Council, p.21 & 41). The castle was composed of an inner and outer bailey, with the gateway to the latter suggested to lie at the eastern end of the lane St Ann's Hill (*Ibid.* p.42), where the existing entrance is today. A section of the outer bailey ditch is said to run south from this point, through part of the curtilage of Court Green (*Ibid.*, p.42) and there is indeed a depression here that begins c.10m to the south of the existing castle site entrance. It is not known what form the castle gateway might have taken, should it have existed in this location, but it may have begun as a timber structure before potentially being upgraded to stone. It would seem from the contours that in front of it lay a simple causeway between the two termini of the outer bailey ditch, rather than a bridge, although this is not certain.

Court Green is itself a Grade II Listed Building (No.1216735, first Listed 26th Nov 1987), described in the Listing description as 18th century or earlier. The presence of some externally visible timber framing would suggest pre-18th century origins. It faces towards the castle site, with its northern gables fronting St. Ann's Hill, although only the upper part of the front elevation can be seen from the east.

The proposals are for the upgrade of a parking area to the east of the house, which currently lies between the evergreen hedge that separates the property from the castle site, and a Lower Greensand wall that divides it off from the rest of the garden. The approach to the castle site currently runs along St. Ann's Hill, past Court Green on the right, followed by a close boarded fence, before reaching a five-bar gate, with smaller pedestrian side gate, through which the visitor must pass before entering the outer bailey. Underfoot, to the west of this gate, is the tarmacked road, while on its eastern side is an earth path, trending to mud in the wetter months, flanked by grass. The entrance to the existing parking area lies on the

south side immediately after passing through the gate and is separated from the castle site by a five-bar gate.



Figure 1 The existing parking area lies to the left, behind the five-bar gate and adjoining evergreen hedge, with the Listed Court Green behind.

The proposals would involve the replacement of the existing fence and five-bar gate with a close boarded fence of the same height and on the same alignment, containing a gateway of identical height and materials. The tarmac surface of St Ann's Hill would be continued up to the line of the evergreen hedge, and the existing gates forming the entrance to the castle site would be relocated at the edge of the extended road.

It is considered that this new framing of the entrance to the castle site would be an improvement on what currently exists: the existing southern boundary, which currently consists of a close-boarded fence and five-bar gate, would be simplified, presenting instead a uniform appearance, with no visibility through to the parking area (and any cars present)



Figure 2 The existing entrance to the castle site (through the five-bar gate and adjoining pedestrian gate) looking eastwards along St. Ann's Hill, with Court Green to the right

In terms of groundwork, within the scheduled area the new fence with its gates will utilise the existing post-hole against the evergreen hedge and insert one new one to mount the eastern of the two gates. The only other postholes required, three in number, will be outside the scheduled area. The parking area itself, together with the new area of tarmac to the north, will require the reduction of the ground within its footprint to the surface of the subsoil in order to allow for an adequate sub-base, with a low Fittleworth stone retaining wall erected at its southern end. It is anticipated that the ground reduction will be no more than 300mm, including the footings for the retaining wall. It is suggested that a condition for an archaeological watching brief would be the most sensible mitigation for this, with suitable provisions being included within its Written Scheme of Investigation to allow for adjustments to the scheme should any significant remains be found.

All materials and details will match existing and therefore be in keeping with the age and character of a building. The proposal will safeguard and enhance the Listed Building.

Works are located on the boundary of the Ancient Monument away from the Castle, Inner and Outer Bailey. Although technically within the grounds they are located South of the Wharf footpath and adjacent to the Garden Allotments that are also within the grounds.



Affected, Impact and Conservation of the Ancient Monuments and Heritage Assets

The works will require a maximum dig of 300mm to allow for hardcore MOT type 1 sub-base and finishes. The works are within the grounds of the Ancient Monument, but away from the Castle, Inner and Outer Bailey.

Affected Heritage Asset

This report was commissioned to assess the impact of upgrading the entrance to St Anne's Hill and providing off street parking in a neglected area of the curtilage of Court Green

Listing Description

Description: Court Green

Grade: II

Date Listed: 26 November 1987

English Heritage Building ID: 411202

OS Grid Reference: SU8880121440

Latitude/Longitude: 50.9855, -0.7362

Listing Text

MIDHURST ST ANNE'S HILL

SU 8821

21/62 Court Green

House C18. Two parallel ranges. Ground floor coursed stone, above tile-hung. Tiled roof. Glazing bars intact. Gable ends north and south

Listing NGR: SU8880121440

Source: English Heritage

Affected Ancient Monument

This report was commissioned to assess the impact of upgrading the entrance to St Anne's Hill and providing off street parking in a neglected area of the curtilage of Court Green

Official list entry

Heritage Category: Scheduled Monument

List Entry Number: 1012176

Date first listed: 28-Sep-1954

Date of most recent amendment: 19-Jul-1991

Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: West Sussex

District: Chichester (District Authority)

Parish: Midhurst

National Park: SOUTH DOWNS

National Grid Reference: SU 88889 21474

Reasons for Designation

Motte castles are medieval fortifications introduced into Britain by the Normans. They comprised a large conical mound of earth or rubble, the motte, surmounted by a palisade and a stone or timber tower. In a majority of examples an embanked enclosure containing additional buildings, the bailey, adjoined the motte. Motte castles and motte-and-bailey castles acted as garrison forts during offensive military operations, as strongholds, and, in many cases, as aristocratic residences and the centre of local or royal administration. Built in towns, villages and open countryside, motte castles generally occupied strategic positions dominating their immediate locality and, as a result, are the most visually impressive monuments of the early post-Conquest period surviving in the modern landscape. Over 600 motte castles or motte-and-bailey castles are recorded nationally, with examples known from most regions. As such, and as one of a restricted range of recognised early post-Conquest monuments, they are particularly important for the study of Norman Britain and the development of the feudal system. Although many were occupied for only a short period of time, motte castles continued to be built and occupied from

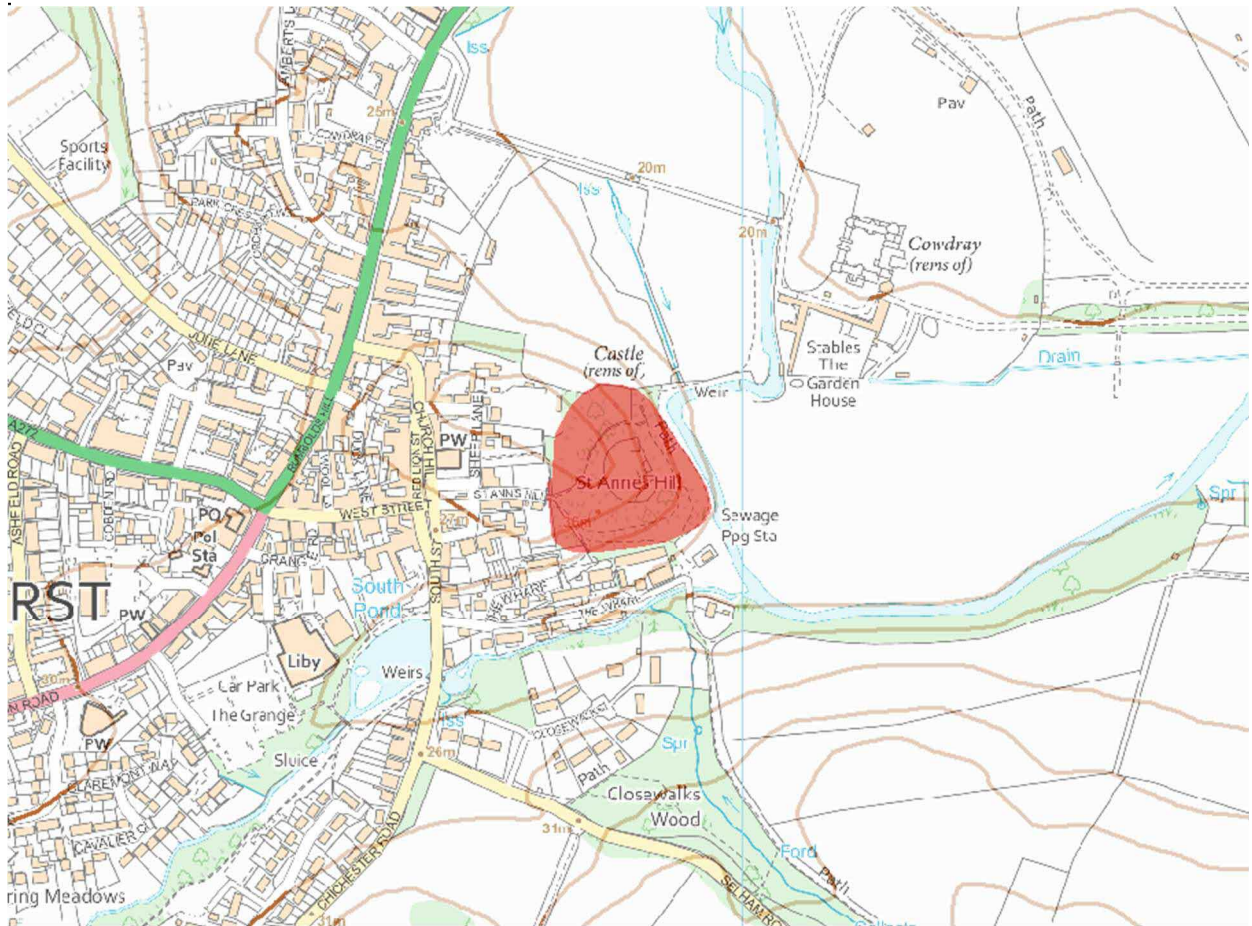
the 11th to the 13th centuries, after which they were superseded by other types of castle.

Norman castles which evolved beyond the use of timber for their defences often have a rigidly regular enclosed area on the motte - a shell keep - unlike the enclosure wall of the example on St Ann's Hill which has been tailored to fit the mound. This example, therefore, adds to the known diversity of shell-keeps in the South East. It holds considerable archaeological potential, especially in the areas of the dry ditch and the bailey, despite the disturbance caused by tree-roots and by former partial excavations. The importance of the castle is increased by its proximity to the manor house at Cowdray 300m to the north-east which superseded it.

Details

The monument includes the earthworks and ruined walls of a castle dating from the 12th century. The central area of the castle is the artificial mound, or motte, an existing natural prominence which was heightened using rubble. On the motte was built a roughly oval enclosing wall up to 1.7m thick which defined an area 65m north-south by 50m east-west. Backing on to the wall were a number of chambers used for living quarters, kitchens and storage, as well as a small chapel dedicated to St Denis. The motte was defended on the south and east sides by steep slopes. On the north side a dry ditch was dug measuring over 10m wide which has now been largely infilled by eroded soil although it is still over 3m deep at the northern end. On the west side the defences were pierced by an arched entrance, probably the front part of an otherwise wooden gatehouse. To the north-west of the motte, and still within the defences, is a second raised area which is likely to have been the site of ancillary buildings such as stables and granaries. This bailey area measures 78m north-east/south-west by 15-25m north-west/south-east. The foundations of many of the stone walls of the castle were traced during partial excavations by Sir W. St John Hope in 1913. The walls were partly reconstructed so that they stand to ca.0.8m, the original stone having been taken for other Midhurst buildings after the site's abandonment in favour of the nearby Cowdray mansion in the Tudor period. The two sets of steps and all of the modern fences and walls are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath is included.

MAP EXTRACT The site of the monument



Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System number: 12855

Legacy System: RSM

Sources

County Monument No 1162,