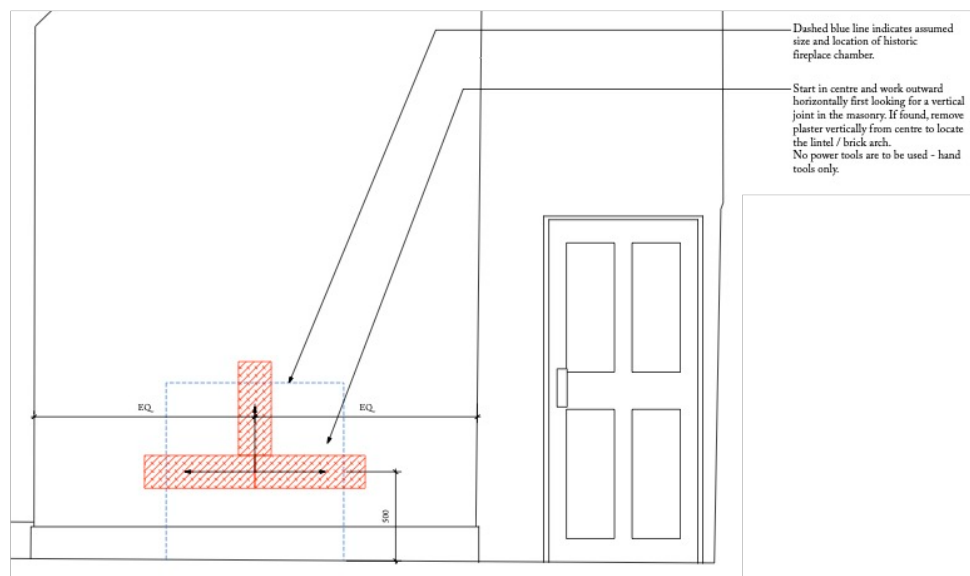


Details of investigation into proposed reopening of blocked fireplace chamber

This information has been supplied to discharge condition 13 of listed building consent DC/22/05516.

Elevation excerpt (S-101.3) highlighting areas of investigation to locate existing fireplace chamber.



Investigation methodology:

The investigation to determine the presence, location, and size of the existing fireplace chamber was undertaken with care and caution. No power tools were to be used during these investigative works, with the lime plaster being carefully removed with the assistance of hand tools only.

Removal of the lime plaster was started centrally, around the assumed midpoint of the hidden chamber. Plaster was carefully removed horizontally in order to locate the sides of the historic chamber. Once found, the lime plaster was then removed vertically to locate the brick arch of the chamber.

Investigation findings:

The investigation confirmed the presence of a historic fireplace chamber, with clear distinction between the original fireplace perimeter and later brickwork infill. The below images showing our findings:



Image 1: Showing findings of investigation following removal of lime plaster, with existing fireplace shown to the right-hand side of the chimney breast

Re-opening methodology:

The brickwork infill to the historic chamber is to be carefully removed using hand tools only. Great care is to be taken when removing the infill material abutting the sides, rear, arch and floor of the historic chamber. Once the infill material has been removed, the revealed historic brickwork is to be documented, checked for damaged and repaired where required using traditional materials to match. Lime based mortars will be tested for colour and consistency to ensure a close match to the existing, in areas where repointing is required. If any bricks are damaged beyond repair, a suitable reclaimed brick shall be sourced to match as closely as possible to the existing. Brick replacements will be kept to an absolute minimum.