

**1461/2**

**DESIGN ACCESS AND HERITAGE STATEMENT**

**ALTERATIONS TO COMMERCIAL UNIT, GROUND FLOOR, CATHERINE MILL,  
WHITEHAVEN.**

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The works are to include minor alterations to the internal layout of a single office space unit to the Northern gable of the existing Mill building. This section of the building is a stand alone office previously used by Castles & Coasts as building owners.

The proposal will see the internal connection of this unit with the part removal of the existing modern partition alongside minor cosmetic improvements to the functionality of the unit to suit the needs of Westhouse who currently rent the adjacent unit.

Catherine Mill is Grade II\* listed with the following description : -

*Grade:II\**

*List Entry Number: 1038943*

*Date first listed: 13-Sep-1972*

*Date of most recent amendment : 24-Oct-1989*

*List Entry Name : CATHERINE MILL*

*Statutory Address 1: CATHERINE MILL, CATHERINE STREET, CA28 7QT*

*(Formerly Listed as: Barracks Mill)*

*(Previously listed as: Factory building of Dobson & Musgrave, II; and, Factory Building of Dobson & Musgrave, II\*)*

*Former fireproof flax mill (empty at time of inspection, August 1989; noted converted to flats, Jun. 2016). 1809 (dated rainwater heads and documentary evidence). Coursed limestone; renewed concrete pantiled gable-end roofs. Long range with centrally-placed engine house, possibly the first mill building to have its engine house so positioned and marking an important stage in the development of the textile mill. Four storeys. Seven window bays to either side of slightly projecting pedimented central wing (which contains the engine house), including two loading bays asymmetrically placed. All windows under segmental arches with keystones; renewed casements with glazing bars. Some ground-floor window openings altered. Central doorway (double doors with recessed panels), the pedimented wing with one central window to each floor. Moulded stone cornice. End walls with stone coping and external stack; left-hand return rendered with three windows, the openings narrowed in brick; right return with two windows to each floor treated as to front, those to the left lengthened to form loading bays. 4th floor window set within stack. Blocked circular privy windows, two to each floor. Rear, the engine house projecting one window bay with tall tapering external stack, renewed top course of shaft in brick. Windows as to front, several altered. INTERIOR: central rank of paired iron columns. Quatrefoil in section, with lugs for line shafting. Cast-iron queen-strut roof. Transverse arches below windows to equalise load.*

*This mill is of national importance. It appears to be the earliest mill to contain a central engine house which was more economical in driving long line shafts. It is also one of the half dozen or so earliest surviving fire-proofed mills. Plan, section and brief discussion in K Falconer and R Thorne's, 'Industrial Archaeology and the RCHME; Industries Archaeology Review (1986), 29-30.*

The proposed works do not have a negative impact on the building and only serves to adjust or amend modern works to the building and is described below, in part these items may not required LBC but for completeness have been included :

1. Removal of modern Fire Wall between units and the installation of double door sets to match the existing doors. – the wall is non load bearing and installed between the original cast iron columns and support beams on the line of the brick barrel vault. The works do not impact on the original building fabric and is fully reversible
2. Removal of reception counter screen – this is a modern addition and is no longer required once the units are combined as the primary access is through the adjacent unit
3. Floor sockets – this are fitted in the modern timber floor and no longer required so will be disconnected and the floor made good
4. Glazed Screen – currently a single toilet exits from a meeting room which is not appropriate. It is proposed to altered the screen walling to allow toilet access from the main room
5. Toilets – minor works in this room to remove the modern sanitary partition and installation of a Doc M toilet
6. Kitchenette – removal of this built in appliance which is not required as part of the new use.

Details and photographs have all been provided as part of the Drawing for the site. The works are simple in nature and see the removal of modern additions rather than altering the historic fabric of the building and therefore should be simple to grant Listed Building Consent.

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