

Thorncroft Manor, Surrey



Client: Longford Securities & Equities Ltd
Contractor: N/A
Project Manager: N/A
Structural Engineer: Scott Wilson (incorporating Cameron Taylor) (Lovesoft)
Surveyors: Ground Solutions Group Limited

DLG will undertake a programme of extensive restoration and conservation of the existing Grade II* listed 18th C structures at Thorncroft Manor along with the addition of a considered 21st Century building. The cluster of buildings will provide office accommodation appropriate to the modern user, and is brought together with landscaping to create a sustainable group of buildings for the future.

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Above and below:
The existing buildings
at Thorncroft Manor.
Middle: a watercolour
artists impression of
the proposed extension

Thorncroft Manor, Surrey



The building in effect completes the spiral of development which has occurred on this site and the new buildings form an integral part of the grouping of the existing structures maintaining the areas of historical development. There is no extension of the developed area of the site and indeed taking account of the car park area there is in effect a reduction in the developed area.

The proposals focus on the extensive restoration and conservation of the existing structures and landscaping to create a sustainable group of buildings for the future. This requires a balance between flexible well serviced space and the retention and restoration of the historic rooms for specialist purposes. Both the main house and the ancillary buildings are in need of extensive repair, maintenance and modernisation of services and other installations. Where possible it is proposed to remove many intrusive subdivisions which have been introduced over the years into the main house and to restore the stable block façade to what would have been typical of this building type. It is also proposed to consolidate the jumble of smaller ancillary buildings in particular those situated in the area between the main house and the stable block and replace them with a single structure thereby removing a incongruous element which detracts from the appearance of the other buildings.

Part of the sustainability objective is to provide an effective balance between good functional office space and the retention and restoration for proper use of the historic buildings. At present while the glazed building provides some good areas there are functional problems with its performance and there needs to be a greater proportion of flexible accommodation which can respond readily to the needs of the modern office user.

Consideration has also been given to the traditions clearly established on this site of a continuing evolving use and building form from the first construction of the Taylor house to the more recent introduction of modern structures in the form of the glazed building. It is proposed to introduce another stage in that pattern with a new building in the area directly south of the main house in the area previously developed and linked to the stable block thus integrating this into the overall pattern of use.



There has been development on the site since Norman times but the present buildings comprise Robert Taylor's late eighteenth century house for Crabb Boulton which was extended on several occasions the most recent being a significant reflective wing built in the 1970's.

Anthony Walker, Consultant