

SOUTH EAST OFFICE

Ms Angela Fettiplace
Oxford City Council
City Development
Ramsay House, St Ebbe's Street
Oxford
Oxfordshire
OX1 1PT

Direct Dial: 01483 252044
Direct Fax: 01483 252001

Our ref: P00237203

9 December 2013

Dear Ms Fettiplace

FORMER RUSKIN COLLEGE SITE, WALTON STREET, OXFORD, OX1 2HE

As you know, we held a further meeting with Turnberry and Alison Brooks on 17 October, out of which came an agreement (as I thought) on the question of the windows, and an additional document round which included a modification on the windows, plus an additional heritage statement by Dr Doggett. This letter comments on those documents, and on the reasons for requiring them.

As to the windows, the architect has been willing to move in the right direction, but on the Worcester Place facade they still are not as discussed. That is, the sills would still be below the level of the bases of the implied pilasters on the extreme left of the facade (near the corner), and thus the sills of the first bay, whereas it is normal for them to line up as far as possible, and anything nearly right (but not actually right) looks quite wrong in this regard. I have since had an undertaking by e-mail to accept a condition ensuring a further change to the drawings to achieve a common level for the sills on this retained facade, and I would be grateful if you could consider imposing this, as it would achieve an improvement in the design.

The second question is more for your authority, in that it relates to the extent of demolition, and whether you believe that the public benefit of Exeter College creating a new quad in this location outweighs the loss of historic material, and of the accompanying amount of the building's significance. This hinges on whether you believe that any institution, not simply Exeter, would have needed to alter the building this much. I have written before (letter of 16 May) about how awkwardly the existing steel frame sits athwart the possibilities for a 'fair degree of flexibility' on this site, and I would be content, therefore, to accept a judgement (if this is the considered and explained view of your authority) that the building would lose this much significance in any institutional use - as Dr Doggett argues.



EASTGATE COURT 195-205 HIGH STREET GUILDFORD SURREY GU1 3EH

Telephone 01483 252000 Facsimile 01483 252001
www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.

SOUTH EAST OFFICE

Subject to these points being resolved in your advice to Committee, we have no further objection to this scheme.

Yours sincerely

David Brock
Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

Formatted: German (Germany)



EASTGATE COURT 195-205 HIGH STREET GUILDFORD SURREY GU1 3EH

Telephone 01483 252000 Facsimile 01483 252001
www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.