

HERITAGE STATEMENT

Listed Building Consent Application – Installation of Internal Lift

Property: Nightingale Mews, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey,
Hampshire

Date: 02/07/2025

Introduction

This Heritage Statement supports a Listed Building Consent application for the installation of a domestic lift within a residential dwelling located at Nightingale Mews, within the Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey. The proposal involves internal adaptations only, with no changes to the external appearance of the building.

The objective of this statement is to assess the significance of the heritage asset, the potential impact of the proposed works, and to demonstrate how the proposal has been designed to preserve the character and special interest of the listed building.

Site Description and Historical Background

Nightingale Mews forms part of the former Royal Victoria Military Hospital site, a Grade II listed heritage asset set within the Royal Victoria Country Park. The wider site has significant historical and architectural interest, having been established in the 19th century as a military hospital complex, with connections to Florence Nightingale and Queen Victoria.

The hospital buildings were designed in a restrained Victorian institutional style, with solid brick construction, classical proportions, and extensive use of durable materials. Following the closure of the hospital, parts of the site were repurposed into residential dwellings, now known as Nightingale Mews. These properties retain many original features and contribute to the historical integrity of the estate.

Significance of the Heritage Asset

The listed buildings at Royal Victoria Country Park are important for their:

- Architectural interest: As an example of late 19th-century institutional architecture.
- Historic interest: Due to their role in military medical history and associations with key figures like Florence Nightingale.
- Group value: As part of a coherent former hospital complex and its setting within landscaped grounds.

The significance of the specific dwelling at Nightingale Mews lies in its contribution to the overall character of the group and its retention of historic features such as original walls, windows, cornices, and circulation patterns.

Description of Proposed Works

The proposal is for the installation of a compact domestic passenger lift within the internal envelope of the dwelling. Key features include:

- Minimal intervention to existing fabric.
- The lift is electric and quiet-running, requiring no external plant or vents.
- Any affected finishes (e.g., floorboards or plaster) will be carefully removed, retained, and reinstated where possible.
- The works are fully reversible and will not compromise the structural integrity or character of the heritage asset.

No external alterations are proposed, and no harm will occur to principal elevations or significant architectural features.

Assessment of Impact on Heritage Significance

The proposal has been carefully designed to respect the historic fabric and spatial layout of the building. The location of the lift has been chosen specifically to:

- Avoid intrusion into rooms with original features or principal historic fabric.
- Maintain circulation patterns and proportions of key spaces.
- Minimise loss of historic material and allow full reversibility.

Given these considerations, the proposal constitutes a low level of intervention with no harm to the special architectural or historic interest of the building, in line with NPPF paragraph 203. The work is considered justified and proportionate, particularly in improving accessibility for current and future residents.

Conclusion

The proposed internal lift installation is a sensitive and carefully considered alteration to a listed building. It has been designed to:

- Preserve the character and special interest of the heritage asset.
- Minimise physical and visual impact on historic fabric.
- Ensure the continued viable residential use of the property, with improved accessibility.

In line with national and local heritage policy, the proposal represents a sustainable and respectful enhancement to the building's function without detriment to its significance.

We therefore respectfully request that Listed Building Consent be granted.

Supporting Documentation:

- Location and Block Plans
- Existing and Proposed Floor Plans
- Photographic Survey of Existing Conditions
- Specification of Proposed Lift