



DESIGN, ACCESS AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

Additional Window Reinstatement Works to
the Main Hall

Walton Hall, Walton-on-Trent

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1. Assessment

1.1 Name and Address of the Site

Walton Hall, Main Road, Walton-on-Trent, Derbyshire, DE12 8LZ

1.2 List Description

Location

Statutory Address: WALTON HALL AND ATTACHED STABLE RANGE AND GARDEN WALL, MAIN STREET

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Derbyshire

District: South Derbyshire (District Authority)

Parish: Walton upon Trent

National Grid Reference: SK 21459 17882

Details

SK 21 NW PARISH OF WALTON-UPON-TRENT MAIN STREET 2/50 (South Side)
Walton Hall and Attached Stable Range and 2.9.52 Garden Wall GV II*

Small country house and attached stable ranges and garden wall. Early C18 with early C19 and C20 alterations. Built for the Taylors, and later the seat of Disbrowe family. House is of red brick with painted gauged brick and stone dressings on ashlar basement and has a slightly sloping bitumen roof with panelled brick ridge stacks hidden behind flush parapets with moulded stone copings. Each corner of the house has a clasping giant brick pilaster with moulded stone base and cornice, and all except the front facade have plain brick bands to each floor. Three storeys, plus basement to north-west corner, and seven bays by five bays. Stable ranges attached to north are also of red brick with first floor band and hipped plain tile roofs with two tall brick ridge stacks to north range, plus stepped eaves bands. Two storeys and L-plan, both ranges seven bays. Main front of the house has a moulded ground floor sill band, two giant pilasters, similar to the corner ones, on either side of the three central bays, and a moulded stone cornice with panelled parapets over. All except central and basement window openings have flat gauged brick arches with corniced stone double keystones, and those to first and second floors have consoled sills. Basement to north has two 2-light casement windows in segment headed surrounds with corniced double keystones. Ground floor has a central pilastered doorcase with triglyphed frieze and moulded segmental pediment plus double, glazed C20 doors. To either side there are three full height glazing bar sashes, those to either side of the doorcase and to north with early C19 pelmets and those to south painted on. Above there are seven similar sashes, that to centre in moulded raised surround with bracketed cornice and that to far south painted on. Above again there are seven smaller sashes, that to centre in moulded shouldered stone surround with eared pieces to the base of the jambs plus a plain stone apron below. South elevation has five glazing bar sashes to ground floor below flat gauged brick arches, three of which have been extended downwards and five similar above, all with early C19 pelmets. Above again five segment headed openings, three blind and two with glazing bar sashes, also to either side there are original fluted C18 lead hopper heads. Rear elevation has seven segment headed

openings to each floor, all with glazing bar sashes except central opening to ground floor which has double glazed doors inserted. Stable ranges attached to north have seven segment headed openings to each floor. Ground floor to north wing has an inserted 3-light casement window in the northernmost opening, a C20 glazed door below divided overlight and a passageway through the building to south. Beyond to south, the opening has been blocked and a panelled door inserted below concrete lintel and beyond again there are four timber cross windows. Above there are three 2-light timber mullion windows to north, one with C18 leaded lights and a similar opening with plank door to south. Beyond to south is a similar opening with 2-light window and a glazing bar sash. West wing has mostly blind openings to ground floor with later windows inserted. Above there are two blind openings to west and five openings with 2-light timber mullion windows, three with C18 leaded lights. Interior of west part has original stable fittings. Garden wall attached to south-east corner of the house is about 10 feet high, of red brick with flat stone copings. House has good contemporary interiors with original open well staircase, dogleg back staircase and several panelled rooms to ground and first floors. Main staircase has three knopped balusters to each tread, one fluted, one twisted and one barley sugar, and a ramped moulded handrail, plus carved cheekpieces. It also has dado panelling to opposite wall and fine plaster cornice to landing ceiling. Back staircase has turned balusters and solid newels plus wide moulded handrail, and closed string with pulvinated frieze. All panelled rooms have matching panelled doors, dado rails and timber cornices. The present kitchen also has the original fireplace with a fluted pilastered overmantle. Two southern rooms to ground floor re-fitted in early C19.

Listing NGR: SK2145917882

1.3 Proposed Development

The owners overall vision for the site is to carry out a rolling programme of phased construction plan to refurbish, repair and upgrade the main hall, adjoining buildings and outbuildings.

It is proposed to keep the site under single ownership and to refurbish the main hall as the owners main residence for use as their family home.

The Hall requires significant investment and upgrade to bring the property up to a standard and level of comfort and amenity that is expected of 21st-century living.

This application for Planning and Listed Building Consent follows the previously approved application (refs 9/2019/0319 and 9/2019/0293) for the Phase One scope of works. This comprised of the reinstatement of 8no. former windows; relocation of the kitchen to the former library; new WC to ground floor; reinstatement of a former opening between the former library and drawing room; and to create a master suite, including dressing room/ wardrobe area and new bathroom.

This current application is for the reinstatement of another 8no. former windows and modification of an existing external door. Drawings 3405-32 and 33 mark clearly those works which have been previously approved and those which currently being applied for in this application.

1.4 Statement of Significance

The historic and architectural *significance* of Walton Hall is defined by both its fabric and aesthetics, and its social and cultural history. Walton Hall is a fine example of an early 18th-century modest gentleman's country house. The building was built for William Taylor in 1724-29 and later the seat of the Disbrowe family. The Hall has undergone four distinct phases of development, extension and alteration up until the early 20th-century (see below extract from Heritage Assessment/ Statement of Significance, by Maxwell Craven, 2018- document previously submitted).

“2.1 Origins of the estate

2.1.1 Place name

The name of the settlement first occurs in the Peniarth MSS for 942 as Waletune¹ and in 1086 in Domesday Book as Waltune². The name, from old English walk (= ‘Welsh’, but understood at that time to mean ‘inferior people’ or ‘serfs’) + tun (enclosure, place) suggests, bearing in mind the proximity of Bretby (‘the place of the British’), that this part of what became Derbyshire in the 10th century was a long-standing post-Roman enclave of British people which kept their identity after the area came under Saxon control in the mid-7th century. This identity may have continued until the immediate aftermath of the arrival of the Danish Great Army in the area in 874, after which Scandinavian settlement in the area gave rise to mutated Norse place names, Bretby itself consisting of Old English Bret (= Briton) being suffixed Norse –by (= place)³.

2.1.2 Earliest period

At the time of Domesday Walton belonged to the King, but was soon afterwards granted to Hugh d’Avranches, Earl of Chester, whose posterity held it until the earlier fourteenth century, when it went through some vicissitudes before being confirmed in 1349 to Robert, 2nd Lord Ferrers of Chartley Castle, in Staffordshire. Ferrers was the son of the disgraced 6th Earl of Derby.

2.1.3 Walton Old Hall

Chartley was the one substantial estate he had salvaged from the Earl’s attainder in 1265. His junior descendants, seated at Tamworth Castle, built the Old Hall at Walton in the 16th century. Before that time, all the manor’s lords had held great estates elsewhere, so if there was a capital mansion at Walton (and a moated site near the church very much suggests there was) it would have been sub-tenanted or occupied by a bailiff.

In the early 17th century alterations were made to the Old Hall by John Ferrers of Walton (1629-1680). He had been High Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1654, but despite such service to the Commonwealth managed to obtain an exemplification of the grant of the manorial estate of Walton from Charles II at the Restoration on account of his signing the Derbyshire petition to General George Monck (later Duke of Albemarle). He married Anne, daughter of Sir Dudley Carleton of Imbercourt, near Thames Ditton in Surrey and had a son and a daughter. He was also Captain and Commander-in-Chief of the Derbyshire militia from May 1660 and a captain in Lord Chesterfield’s Regiment of Foot in 1667. He sat as MP for Derbyshire 1660-1661 and for Tamworth from 1669-1670⁴. In 1673-74 he was obliged to sell portions of the estate towards raising a £12,000 dowry for the marriage of his daughter Dorothy, although at his death in August 1680, he still

¹ National Library of Wales Peniarth MS 147.

² DB 1.16.

³ Cameron (1959) III. 667-668.

⁴ Heming (1983) II. 287

left land bringing in over £2000 per annum in rents in Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Essex and in the West Midlands⁵.

Ferrers' only son, Humphrey, drowned in the Trent in 1678, probably trying to cross the old ford there with the river in spate. What remained of the Walton estate, along with the Old Hall, passed to Humphrey's only child, Anne, later the Hon. Mrs. Robert Shirley⁶. The Old Hall estate thereafter passed through the hands of a number of grand families, none of whom lived there, and the house gradually decayed and in the 19th century was reduced drastically, being today no more than a brick fragment most recently used as a garage and part of the stable range, converted as cottages⁷.

2.2 Initiators: The Taylors

The part of the estate John Ferrers sold in 1664 was purchased by Richard Taylor (1629-1690). This was virtually an 'in house' purchase, for at that time the Taylors were living in a modest house taxed on but two hearths, in contrast to the seventeen hearths upon which Ferrers had been assessed for tax at the Old Hall. Taylor's grandfather, Richard seems to have taken up residence at Walton before 1601, the year in which his eldest child was baptised at St. Lawrence's church. The family's house, with two hearths, was probably a fairly ancient farm house; its size may have reflected their lack of wealth, or it could well be that it was a medieval house of some size with only a fire in the great hall and another in the chamber. The latter may well be the most likely, for the family appear to have been a branch of the family of Taylor of Lingfield, in Surrey, whose arms they later bore⁸.

Their presence was probably due to their having recruited to act of bailiffs for the Ferrers estate at Walton, although we cannot be sure⁹. Certainly, by 1664 Richard Taylor had made sufficient money to buy something like 1,200 acres from John Ferrers, and acting as his factor would have hardly been sufficient for the family to have built up such a fortune. The probability is that they were somehow involved with the river traffic on the Trent, as were the Fosbrookes of Shardlow in Derbyshire, the Meynells at Willington and the Haynes at Burton¹⁰.

It is not known if the Taylors underwent any change in their lives after the purchase of the land. Probably they put it to good use. John Ferrers had been known as an agricultural improver and it is possible that they used the land to rear cattle and amplified their fortune through supplying the butchers of Lichfield, Burton and possibly even Derby. Having bought the land, and made a profit from so doing, the family then had to put their surplus money to work. Richard died in 1690, being succeeded by his twenty-one year old son, William (1669-1733). William seems to have spent time in the capital, and invested widely, notably in the South Sea Company. Better still, he got out before the 'bubble' burst in 1720, and found himself a rich man. A cousin, Thomas Taylor 'Gent.' and, later, his son William were wheeling and dealing in land at Walton and

⁵ Sale: Bulmer (1895) 833; Derbys. Record Office (DRO) Wilmot-Horton MSS D3155/7817(to middlemen) & 7819 (to Horton of Catton).

⁶ Bulmer (1895) 833. Who her husband was has been difficult to establish; most likely a grandee if a sum of this magnitude was required by the impoverished John.

⁷ Craven & Stanley (2001) II. 231

⁸ Tax: Edwards (1982) 135; Lysons (1817) cxlix. George Taylor of Lingfield was confirmed the arms in 1623: Visitation of Surrey 1623, Harleian Society Vol. XLIII (London 1899) 229.

⁹ As in his acting for Ferrers in pleadings in the Six Clerks Office of the Court of Chancery over much of the reign of James I: PRO C2/Jast/F11/28.

¹⁰ Craven (2010) 75-76.

Rosliston (to which Thomas moved between 1711 and 1724) which look very much like measures to unify and strengthen the estate, with Thomas as agent¹¹.

Yet it was not until 1724 that William decided to build himself a new house, apparently on a fresh site, atop a knoll just south of the village with the Trent to its west. The incentive was undoubtedly the fact that he was on the list to be pricked as High Sheriff of Derbyshire, and the concomitant entertaining and need for a reasonably prestigious local base must have spurred him on. His choice as builder and architect fell on the at first unlikely choice of Richard Jackson of Armitage, near Rugeley, in Staffordshire about fifteen miles away across Needwood Forest. Despite the existence of the contract, however, the Taylors' descendants always believed the house to have been the work the Jacobite, Catholic Scots-born architect James Gibbs (1682-1754). Strangely, the owners of nearby Catton Hall long suffered under a similar delusion until recent times, although their house is by William Smith of Warwick, the younger¹².

Although the account for the house was not settled until 8th February 1729, it is likely that it was to all intents and purposes finished and habitable by 1727, when Taylor assumed the High Shrievalty for which he had been earlier pricked¹³. Settling accounts with tradesmen was ever a tardy practice in the eighteenth century.

Taylor was to enjoy his new seat for only another few years, for he died in February 1733, unmarried, leaving the estate to his niece, Louisa, daughter of his younger brother Richard, who had died in London a few years before¹⁴.

2.3 The Disbrowe family

Louisa Taylor's husband was another London merchant (which probably explains how she met her husband) Samuel Disbrowe, who also had an estate in Northamptonshire at Chelveston¹⁵. His father, also Samuel had been the fourth son of the Civil War Parliamentary commander Maj. Gen. John Disbrowe (1608-1680), a close confidant of the Protector Cromwell, whose sister he married. He was rewarded for his loyalty by being summoned on 10th December 1657 to Cromwell's newly constituted upper house of Parliament as Lord Disbrowe¹⁶. Louisa seems to have lived at Walton, and enjoyed a very long life, dying in 1773, having outlived both her husband and her son George, who lived at Isleworth in Middlesex with his wife Margaret, daughter of Welsh grandee Arthur Vaughan of Trederwen, Montgomeryshire.

When Louisa died, the house and estate passed to her 19-year-old grandson Edward. In 1775, on coming of age, he moved to Walton Hall, although kept a London town house. He soon afterwards accepted a commission in the Staffordshire militia, and whilst on duty with a detachment of the unit guarding the Royal Apartments at Windsor, struck up a close friendship with the King, who shortly afterwards, in 1790 appointed him an extra Equerry. A year earlier he had married the sister of another courtier, Lord Hobart, Lady Charlotte Hobart, daughter of George, 3rd Earl of Buckinghamshire. She died in 1797 leaving him with three young sons, so in 1801, hankering after retirement to Walton, and with the King recovering from one of his bouts of illness, he expressed a wish to retire. Nonetheless, he was entreated by the George III to stay, with the *douceur*

¹¹ E.g. DRO D3155/7006 (24/3/1700), 7032 (31/7/1711) & 7060 (Feb. 1724)

¹² Gibbs: Innes-Smith (1972) 132; Craven & Stanley (2001) I. 68-69

¹³ Account: Northamptonshire Archives, IC/4014.

¹⁴ Buried Walton 23/2/1733: Parish register.

¹⁵ The name in some sources is rendered 'Desborough', but the family invariably signed 'Disbrowe'.

¹⁶ On Lord Disbrow see DNB & CP IV (1916) 267.

that he be appointed Vice-Chamberlain to Queen Charlotte, who was also fond of his company. He subsequently was elected to parliament in 1806 for New Windsor.

As a consequence, Col. Disbrowe was permanently absent from Walton from 1790 until his death at Windsor in December 1818. As he had never been particularly well off, and his family 'inadequately provided for', he was in 1802 furnished by his brother-in-law Lord Hobart, Prime Minister Lord Addington's colonial secretary, with a West Indian sinecure, the duties of which were executed by deputy, while Disbrowe himself took all the profits in excess of £200 per annum. This may have paid for alterations to Walton Hall c. 1803/1804.

The house was not in demand by Col. Disbrowe's son, either, for he was a career diplomat and led a peripatetic existence in consequence. Edward Cromwell Disbrowe was born at Windsor in 1790 and after Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, and was serving as secretary to the legation to Denmark at Copenhagen when his father died. Fortunately, the house had been let in 1804 to Edward Miller Mundy – the third of that name and son of the eminent MP for Derbyshire who died in 1822 after nearly forty years in Parliament. Mundy had married his cousin Eleanor (Nelly) Barwell in 1802 and moved to Walton Hall two years later, where the two raised a family of eleven children, whose births are all recorded in the Walton parish register.

However, in 1822 his father died and he succeeded to Shipley Hall, the family seat in the east of the county, and a new tenant had to be found, a situation that continued until the 1870s. Nevertheless, Disbrowe family seem to have returned to stay in Walton at intervals if only to baptise two of their five children; the remainder were born abroad, as indeed had their parents' marriage been, for Edward had wed Anne, daughter of Hon. Robert Kennedy at Thun in Switzerland in October 1821. His father-in-law was a younger son of the 11th Earl of Cassilis, and was installed as temporary tenant at Walton on Mundy's departure in 1822. One of her sisters married a (Walton) neighbour, Joseph Levett Prinsep of Croxall Hall. Edward, who was made a Knight Grand Cross of the Hanoverian Guelphic Order in 1831, died in harness as Minister Plenipotentiary and Ambassador Extraordinary to the Court of The Hague 29th October 1851¹⁷.

Edward Cromwell Disbrowe had two sons, both of whom were commissioned into the army, the elder Edward Amelius, being killed in heroic circumstances at the Battle of Inkerman in November 1854 aged barely twenty, as a Lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards. Thus on his father's death, Walton was inherited by the younger son, William Herbert John, who probably never visited his family seat, fighting in the Crimea as an ensign and dying in Canada as Lieutenant in the 17th Foot, serving as ADC to Sir William Eyre in 1858 aged twenty two. Neither son having been married, the estate devolved upon the elder of the two surviving daughters, Charlotte Anne Albinia (1823-1918)¹⁸. The Northamptonshire estate passed to the younger, Jane Harriett, the only one of the pair to marry, her husband being a widower, Henry Christopher Wise JP DL MP of Woodcote

¹⁷ In 1829 the poor rate assessment reveals that E C Disbrowe owned 34 properties in the parish

¹⁸ The name Albinia was inherited from the Hobart family.

House, Leek Wootton Warwickshire (1807-1883)¹⁹. Both sisters were, however, joint lords of the manor of Walton, a title bought from Marquess Townshend to whom the lordship had descended along with the Old Hall estate.²⁰

It is thought that Charlotte and Jane lived in the family town house in Hanover Square until 1863 when the latter married and retired to Leek Wootton, but the elder sibling did not move back to Walton until the current lease had expired in the mid-1870s²¹. Even then, the tenants, the Gisbornes had taken such a liking to the village that they elected to remain, renting a large estate property in the village, occupied until 1908, when Edith Wilberforce Gisborne died there unmarried²². This seems to have triggered a partial sale of the estate, consisting of 1,760 acres 2 rods and 30 perches, proposed in 1909, to include the *White Swan* in the village²³. This seems not to have been followed through, but instead part of the estate was sold to Sir Robert Wilmot-Horton of Catton 6th Bt., immediately to the south. Most of the rest was sold in 1919.

Strangely, the Return of Owners of Land of 1873 informs us that Alice Disbrowe of Northamptonshire, the only daughter of Col. Edward Disbrowe, is revealed as the owner of another portion of the estate, being just over 269 acres. On her death, unmarried a few years later, the land appears to have devolved upon Charlotte and Jane²⁴.

Charlotte Anne Albinia was an accomplished author; her 1903 work Old Days in Diplomacy, Recollections of a Closed Century, by the Eldest Daughter of the late Sir Edward Cromwell Disbrowe, G.C.H. is a tour-de-force of description of courtly life in Europe in the shadow of the Congress of Vienna. She also wrote Original Letters from Russia and Records of Stirring Times 1726-1822. She died aged ninety four in 1918.

2.4 The Disbrowe-Wise family

By the time old Charlotte had died, she had outlived her sister and H C Wise, too, so the Hall passed to their son, Lt. Col. Henry Edward Disbrowe Wise, then living at Wall Hall, Staffordshire with his wife, Katherine Mary, daughter of Thomas Levett-Prinsep of Croxall Hall and thus a great-niece of Lady Disbrowe. The Colonel had been born in 1868, went to Harrow and New College, Oxford and was commissioned into the 3rd (Volunteer) Bn. 45th/95th Notts. & Derbys. Regt. (Sherwood Foresters), being promoted Captain in 1898, and commanded the battalion in the Great War, for which he was recognised with a CBE in 1919.

On inheriting Walton, he sold his Northamptonshire estate, gave up the lease of Wall Hall and moved to Walton, assuming the surname of Disbrowe-Wise by deed poll in February 1919, becoming Henry Edward Disbrowe Disbrowe-Wise²⁵. The couple did not have any children but took a full role in village life,

¹⁹ Will of E C Disbrowe dat. 5/7/1839. Wise's first wife died in 1858; he re-married 1863. The Wises were Descended from the famous Royal gardener, Henry Wise (1653-1738), locally responsible for setting out the grounds of Melbourne Hall.

²⁰ Walford (1861) 298

²¹ Probably (on circumstantial grounds) 1877

²² Censuses, *passim*.

²³ DRO D87/19616 & D3155/7842.

²⁴ Anon (1875) I. 12; it brought her a rental income of £890 per annum.

²⁵ It is unclear why he did not take out a Royal Licence and assume the arms as well, for the Wises were armigerous.

and in the Second World War the colonel organised the billeting of evacuees, taking some himself at the Hall²⁶.

He died in 1948, but Katherine remained resident at the hall until her own death nineteen years later, although the heir to the house and diminished estate was the Colonel's sister, Charlotte Albinia (1870-1979) wife of Gilbert Dolben Paul of Theale, Berks. The Pauls descended from a long line of Northamptonshire clergymen who had married a co-heiress of Sir John Dolben of Finedon, Northants., 4th Bt., the last of his line, who had died in 1837 after a thoroughly eccentric old age.

Whilst her aunt was still alive, Charlotte remained in Berkshire with her family, and indeed she pre-deceased her, dying in 1959 at eighty nine. When Katherine Disbrowe-Wise finally died in 1967, it was Charlotte's eldest son Digby Dolben Paul (1903-1978) who succeeded her, followed by his daughter and heiress Elizabeth Albinia (known to her family as Liza), who had married South African-born physician Peter Goodson in 1974.

2.5 The tenants

The hall was let from 1789 to c. 1872, a period of 87 years approximately covering the metropolitan and continental careers of the two Edward Disbrowes. It is not known to whom the house was let during the period immediately following Col Edward Disbrowe's decision to move permanently to Windsor in 1789; indeed, it may have remained open for the occasional use of the family.

2.5.1 Edward Miller Mundy

In 1804 Edward Miller Mundy moved in, two years after his marriage to Nelly Barwell. Their first two children were baptised in Heanor (bearing in mind that the father's home was Shipley Park, in Heanor) in 1800 and 1804²⁷. Yet a third child was baptised later in the same year at Walton, and further offspring were baptised at Walton through to the youngest in 1822, the year that Edward Miller Mundy MP (senior) died and his son moved out of the hall back to take over at Shipley²⁸.

2.5.2 Hon. Robert Kennedy

Kennedy was Edward Cromwell Disbrowe's father-in-law and his need for somewhere to live seems to have been temporary, although he may have been a case of 'family representative in occupation' rather than a formal tenant²⁹. It is not clear when Kennedy moved out, leaving the house again vacant, but he was certainly there in 1829, as Glover's Directory implies.

2.5.3 The Gisbornes

Directories and censuses record the Gisborne family in occupation from at least 1835³⁰. The family came to Derby from Hartington in the 16th century, where they became wealthy mercers and vintners. John Gisborne MP built St. Helen's House there, and acquired Yoxall Lodge in Staffordshire. The son was Revd. Thomas Gisborne, mentor in the fight to abolish slavery, of William Wilberforce, MP (1759-1833).

The tenant at first was Matthew Gisborne (d. 1851) fifth son of Thomas Gisborne the younger of Yoxall Lodge, another neighbour. He lived there with his wife, Anne, daughter of an Irish missionary in Calcutta, Revd. David Browne, their

²⁶ Adams (2000) 82.

²⁷ The first child's baptism jumped the marital gun by eighteen months. Mundy is also recorded as at Walton in 1805: DRO D239M/F371-373 and in 1817 by the Lysons, *op.cit.*, 282.

²⁸ DNB

²⁹ Glover (1829) 107

³⁰ Bagshaw (1846) 273, White (1857) 388.

children and five indoor servants. Thomas Matthew (1863-1894) and Charles Francis (1866-1892) and later, Thomas Matthew's daughter Edith Wilberforce, whose second name derived from her mother and, perhaps more to the point for such a family, also from her great-grandfather's great friend³¹. After Matthew's death in 1851, his son went off between 1857 and 1861 to Calcutta, where he was involved in the tea trade, returning to Walton later³².

By 1878, Charlotte Disbrowe was in residence, and so remained until her death in 1918, but the Gisbornes seem to have elected to remain in the village, being settled in a house in Main Street, presumably part of the estate, although Thomas Matthew had died in 1894, leaving Edith Wilberforce as the family's representative there until her death, unmarried in 1908, when she was interred at Walton³³.

“5.3.1 First phase after c. 1733

The earliest phase of the present service wing would appear (from evidence cited above) to have been built after Louisa had succeeded to the house. It would have moved the kitchen from the lower ground floor (**B1**) to the new extension. The new kitchen may originally have risen through the second floor to a top glass ventilator.

5.3.2 Second phase c. 1797/1804

It is not easy to date certainly the next phase of development. When Edward Disbrowe moved to Windsor and got married in 1789, he would have had no obvious incentive to re-model his ancestral home any further. However, the subsequent prospect of letting it on a longer term basis may have forced a re-think. His first known tenant was Edward Miller-Mundy III, from his marriage in 1804, and the likelihood of this happening, or Mundy's requirements, may have prompted changes.

The two most important aspects of this was that the house was 'turned round' so that the entrance was henceforth from the SE side, and that the service wing was extended to join the stable block.

Concerning the latter, Mundy's family were much better off than the Disbrowes, being major coal-owners in the Heanor area, and Edward Mundy probably expected to greatly increase the establishment from the levels of the 1780s³⁴. The kitchen was ceiled over to create more accommodation and the vent on the (now modified) roof was replaced by a timber bell turret, removed in the early 20th century...

The alterations to the stable block may date from this phase too, indicating a change perhaps from a couple of carriage and the accommodation of the necessary horses and some hacks, for which the high openings on the SW side had been made. Mundy was a hunting man and may have adapted the range to accommodate more mounts and fewer wheeled vehicles, although such has to remain speculation.

The provision of service accommodation also allowed the upper storey to be used as extra bedrooms for visitors and for provision could be made for Mundy's

³¹ Revd. Thomas Gisborne had been the propagandist for and philosophical underpinning of Wilberforce's battle to have the slave trade ended; his son, also Thomas, Matthew's wife was Caroline, daughter of the abolitionist's kinsman Revd. William Wilberforce Bird.

³² Matthew's obit: *Gents' Mag.* (1852) I. 636; Burke (1891/95) I. 449, where T M Gisborne is described

³³ Wilkins

³⁴ DRO D517 *passim*.

numerous children in **S1-S4**. This may have been when the roof access was partitioned off. It was surely at this point that the secondary stair was replaced and, in all probability, the SE wall of **F9/F10** was moved back to make space for it (cf. top storey **S8** where the equivalent wall was left in situ, making for a very narrow landing)...

5.3.3. Third phase, c. 1877

There appears to have been very little evidence of Victorian intervention, except for the provision of modern plumbing and for the fitting of a mid-late Victorian chimneypiece and grate on the top floor in room **S7**. It has been suggested that this latter may have been to improve comfort for the Gisborne children.

The lavatory tower was attached as a plain square section addition at the NW front of the house, approximately on the centre line of the house, and essentially supplied lavatories and on the upper floors bathrooms.

This was probably done when the family reclaimed the house in c. 1877 for Charlotte Albinia Disbrowe.

5.3.4 Fourth phase, c. 1919

When Col. H. E. Disbrowe-Wise moved in on Charlotte's death, further changes appear to have been made. It is at this stage (judging by the vintage of the kitchen range) that the kitchen in **G4** was de-commissioned and moved under William Taylor's original roof into **G13**. This was probably also the occasion for the bathroom (**F10**) to be carved out of **F9**. It is interesting that Col. Disbrowe-Wise shied away from the prospect of installing a central heating scheme. It is to be presumed that at this time the central heating (later converted from coal to oil-fired) was installed in the house, along with electricity, both systems which have been subsequently renewed³⁵.

Summary

Unfortunately, as a consequence of the size and scale of Walton Hall and the associated buildings, the site requires significant investment to suitably modernise the building and to accommodate 21st-century living. In addition, the site and buildings require on-going maintenance, repair and upkeep. After decades of neglect, the buildings had fallen into a state of disrepair and decay. As such the building is on the Buildings at Risk Register.

Today, the current owners have carried out a programme of urgent repair works to stop continued water ingress into the building with a view to carrying-out an overall phased 'vision' for the site. The owners are willing to provide the sufficient investment required to carry out a phased refurbishment of the main Hall, cottages, stables and outbuildings at Walton Hall.

In August 2011 an advertisement for the sale of Walton Hall was published in Country Life and referring to the building's refurbishment stated, "[it] will take a big heart and deep pockets to see it through"!

Walton Hall lies within Walton-on-Trent Village Conservation Area. The Hall is an important surviving 18th-century building and a significant *heritage asset*³⁶. It is Listed Grade II* rendering it a particularly important building of *more than special interest*. As a consequence of this significance any repairs or alterations to the site or building must be properly informed, appropriate and of a high quality.

³⁵ He disposed of the Northamptonshire estate in 1919 and much of what remained of that at Walton, but built the village hall in memory of his aunt in 1920.

³⁶ <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/hpr-definitions/>

2. Involvement

2.1 Consultation

The proposal now submitted for consideration has evolved over the last year following discussion with both the building's owner, the LPA conservation officer and Historic England officer; being both informed by the research and appreciation of the history of the house and the surviving historic fabric.

Historic England (HE) were initially consulted for pre application advice for the extension and alteration of the Hall, in April 2018.

A second application for pre application advice was submitted to HE and South Derbyshire District Council for a refined scheme to outline a phased approach for the site and to discuss the proposed alterations and refurbishment outlined as part of the Phase One scope of works.

3. Design

3.1 Proposed Use

The Hall's current use is as a single-dwelling. It is proposed to retain Walton Hall as a family house under single ownership.

3.2 Amount of Development

No additional buildings/structures or extensions are proposed as part of the proposal.

3.3 Layout and Appearance

Externally it is proposed to reinstate 8no. former window openings with new sash window openings, and to modify the existing rear door so that it sits within the existing opening and to reinstate the glazed light over it.

3.4 Landscaping

Landscaping will not be affected by this proposal.

4. Access

4.1 Access

It is not proposed to alter the existing access, entrances, internal or external ground levels. Therefore, access to the property will remain unaffected by this proposal.

5. Heritage Assessment

The following commentary is a summary of the proposed external alterations and is intended to be read in conjunction with the drawings submitted with the application for Planning & Listed Building Consent.

5.1 Externally

Modifications to 21st century external door

The existing rear door ED.02 in the east elevation is a 21st century addition, likely added to reduce draft into the rear hall. Above this the opening has been infilled with brick, to meet the front face of the wall, leaving no reveal, but the later brick infill clearly not toothed into the original wall. The external door ED.02 is fitted between a frame that is fixed over the external face of the wall, with additional timber surround. Coupled with the infill over this gives the impression of a short doorway, out of proportion compared to the symmetrical windows in the rear façade, as seen below.



Figure 1 East (Rear) Elevation with central door ED.02, *July 2019*

Internally a panelled timber door and frame remains, and the proposals to modify the external door leaf and frame will not result in physical alterations to this internal door and frame. The internal door and internal panels to the reveals suggest that this is an earlier door and it is assumed that in the area of the brick infill there would have been a glazed light.



Figure 2 Existing external door ED.02 with existing white frame of internal door behind visible, July 2019

It is proposed that the external door frame be removed and a new frame positioned within the existing opening between the brick reveals. The existing external door is then to be resized to fit the reduced width and rehung. The brick infill over is to be removed and new glazed light reinstated over.

The overall impact will be to reinstate the proportions of fenestration in the rear elevation

Reinstatement of former windows

Works are proposed to reinstate and open-up 8no. former window. There are currently 18no. blocked-up former window opening in total. 1no. on the ground floor (GW.14), 1no. on the first floor (FW.21) and 6no. on the second floor (SW.05, SW.08, SW.09, SW.12, SW.13 and SW.24). On the three principle elevations (east, south and west) the windows have been rendered or boarded over with plywood and painted with a crude and simplistic image to give the impression of a window opening.

All former windows have been built with decorative stone or brick arched heads to match the respective elevations. The external masonry infill is recessed exposing a masonry reveal. In order to understand the development of the building and to provide sufficient justification for the opening-up of the former windows, the current owner has carried out investigation and opening-up works, under the direction of the Architect, to establish whether these windows were the original design intention and the Hall was built as such, or whether the windows were blocked-up at a later date.

On the ground floor, an area of external render to the former window (GW.14) was carefully removed to expose the masonry reveal. The masonry window reveal has been exposed indicating that the masonry infill was laid at a later date. On the first and second floor, areas of plaster have been removed to reveal straight joints in the internal masonry

skin. Again, evidence that the existing “blind” windows were originally constructed as window openings.



Figure 3 GW.14 external view, July 2019



Figure 4 External opening up of render over infill of window GW.14 revealed that the coursing of the single skin brickwork between the reveals was different to that of the reveals, and was not toothed into it, suggesting it is a later infill of a previously existing window opening, July 2019



Figure 5 SW.05 external view in context adjacent (left) and on its own (right), *July 2019*



Figure 6 External view showing windows SW.08, SW.09 and SW.12 in context, *July 2019*



Figure 7 SW.08 and SW.09 External view, *July 2019*



Figure 8 SW.12 External view, *July 2019*



Figure 9 SW.13 External view, *July 2019*

The above investigation suggests that the intention was that the blocked-up windows could be easily opened-up and reinstated as window openings.

The window reinstatements proposed as part of this application will form part of a comprehensive programme of works to the Hall, in which the overall vision plans to open-up all former windows.

5.2 Internally

Modifications to 21st century external door

The existing rear doorway will retain the earlier interior door (GD.19), associated frame and panelling, and so modifying the exterior door ED.02 should have little impact on the interior.



Figure 10 GD.19 in rear hallway shown closed, exterior door ED.02 is positioned behind, *July 2019*



Figure 11 Internal door GD.19, frame and panelling with external door ED.02 in front. July 2019

The exterior door can be repositioned to sit between the brick reveals without the need to modify the earlier door GD.19 behind it

Reinstatement of former windows

On the ground floor it is proposed that window GW.14 be reinstated. Internally, the opening remains at low level, so that the reveals can be seen. Above this the opening has been infilled to be flush with the wall; there is a staircase here, with panelling along the wall adjacent the steps. Because of this it is assumed that the staircase may not have been part of the original plan for the building, however it is unclear when it was installed. The proposals look to retain this staircase, complete with the existing wall panelling, and reinstate the window opening behind. The reinstated window is to be complete with shutters and detailed to match others on the ground floor.

The result will be the window seen behind the staircase, with the staircase remaining intact as it currently exists, and any panelling that requires removal for works to be reinstated in situ.

It is proposed that on the first floor window Fw.21 be reinstated. This room is currently a modern tiled bathroom and so opening up internally has not been possible here. However, given that all the other externally blind windows have been investigated and evidence of them as previously existing openings found, it follows that it is likely that this blind window (seen externally) is also an infilled former window. As such opening it up would reinstate the former fenestration arrangement of the building.

All other windows to be reinstated are on the second floor. These have been opened up internally and evidence of straight joints between the reveals of the walls and the infill brickwork found. In all instances the walls do not have existing panelling and the

proposals should not affect any existing decorative cornicing/detailing as this is largely absent in these areas.



Figure 12 Straight joint visible internally at second floor (SW.05), July 2019



Figure 13 Straight joints visible at second floor (SW.08 and SW.09) July 2019



Figure 14 Straight joints visible at second floor (SW.08) *July 2019*



Figure 15 Straight joints visible at second floor (SW.09) *July 2019*



Figure 16 SW.12 External view and internal view showing straight joints, *July 2019*



Figure 17 Straight joints between internal brick infill and adjacent masonry, with some timber visible (SW.12) *July 2019*



Figure 18 Straight joints visible internally (SW.13), July 2019



Figure 19 Straight joints visible internally (SW.24), Jan 2019

Given the findings of the above opening-up investigation works the reinstatement of the windows will be of low impact and will not be at the detriment of existing internal historic fabric.

5.3 Summary

The above proposed internal alterations to this 18th-century gentlemen's country house are, we believe, practical, and largely unobtrusive; they are sensitive and appropriate, and do not significantly compromise the integrity of the historic building.

The proposal is to help create a more suitable and sustainable family dwelling, sensitive and appropriate to the unique historic fabric and character of this *heritage asset*, so as to properly conserve it for future generations, and to secure and enhance its *significance*.

We believe that the original architectural character and legibility of Walton Hall will remain as intended, but in parts, as a result of the proposed repairs and alterations, its character will be revitalised and improved to better reveal its *heritage value*. Once the owners 'vision' is completed the repairs and alterations will leave this important local and national *heritage asset* in a considerably better condition than it has enjoyed for decades, which will help to sustain its future conservation for generations to come.

With respect to conservation guidelines and policy, we believe it is reasonable to expect a positive determination of the submitted Planning and Listed Building Consent application.