

9th June 2021

HERITAGE STATEMENT FOR

The George Mercure Hotel, 10-12 King Street, Reading, RG1 2HF

PROJECT REF: 20.04_MER_Reading

PREPARED BY: Studio Spacebrand Ltd

Details

The George Mercure Hotel is located at Nos 8,9 and 10 to 12 on King Street as well as Nos 61 to 63 on Minster Street and is first mentioned in 1423. The hotel is built around a courtyard with one entrance from King Street and a secondary entrance from Minster Street. There are some cobble stone flooring as well as modern paving and the facades are mainly 18th Century painted brick with various groups of 18th and 19th Century windows.

Proposals

The proposals are to create a new raised and level seating area externally to be used as an outside restaurant/bar space for the hotel with low level planters bounding the area and providing some seclusion from passersby.

Also, the removal of the existing bin store to extend the restaurant area internally and replace the modern external doors with a new window which will require build-up of a new brick wall section and painted threshold.

Studio Spacebrand Ltd
Studio 2
Priston Mill Cottages
Priston
Bath
BA2 9EQ

+44 (0) 7788785988
info@spacebrand.co.uk
www.spacebrand.co.uk

Impact

- The intention is for the new raised seating to be a temporary structure that can be removed at any point in the future with no damage to the courtyard.
- The raised area will be built over already existing paving although it is understood that this is of little or no historical interest.
- The cobble stones within the courtyard will not be covered.
- The new seating area will cover paving that is sometimes slippery when wet and has previously caused accidents including broken bones. Pedestrians will navigate through the courtyard via modern, anti-slip paving.
- The existing facades will be maintained, and the raised area will stop short of a direct junction with the elevations.
- The new window to the restaurant replaces existing modern elements and is considered to be an improvement to the overall aesthetic of the covered yard.

Summary

It is proposed that the new works have little or no impact on any areas of historical interest within the hotel courtyard and could in fact bring some much needed improvements including a safer transit for pedestrians. The existing courtyard will be protected under the new raised area and can be returned to the current conditions relatively easily.