

**Subject:**RE: Northwick

**Date:**Mon, 19 Dec 2016 11:46:07 +0000

**From:**Ian Gething [REDACTED]

**To:**Peter Tyzack [REDACTED]

Dear Peter,

Many thanks for the email, photos and link to the drone footage which was very helpful.

As I mentioned on site, in order for the works to be classed as a repair not requiring consent, the weathervane needs to be repaired and reinstalled and the works to the roof carried out to match the existing. It looks like the bolt(s) connecting the 4 supporting struts to the central pole has failed, allowing the 5 metal rods to move freely in the wind and thus cause localised damage to the slates and ridge tiles. Once these are reconnected, they should stabilise and it may be unnecessary to alter the way they are fixed - I'm not sure how the struts were weatherproofed as they passed through the slates so this may need to be checked. Bath stone ridge tiles can be obtained from reclamation yards so it should be unnecessary to replace these with new material. <http://salvage-and-reclamation-yards.co.uk/product/bath-stone-ridge> & <http://www.bensreckyard.co.uk/product-details?item=383> both claim to have stock.

As for the stonework, the ashlar window surround need to be carefully removed, the plant material and roots removed and the stones re-set in lime mortar in their original locations. The removal of these features would require listed building consent and it would not receive officer support.

In terms of pointing, localised areas of repointing can be classed as repair providing we can agree a sample of the mortar and the way it is finished. We want to avoid the modern strap pointing, cement and odd red coloured mortars so it is advisable to get a sample panel of pointing carried out for approval. The council carried out the repointing of the Californian Incline bridge at Willsbridge Mill a few years back and used an aggregate from Ty Mawr lime to achieve a greyish lime mortar with the black flecks in (Light Blaenavon aggregate) so you could take a look at that to see how its weathered in. Any open joints in the ashlar door/window surrounds should be carefully pointed in using a bath stone lime mortar and a lime shelter coat may be advisable to the very eroded areas around the door. It would be advisable to get a stone mason to look at the masonry repairs generally, especially if you are looking at shelter coating and re-setting the window surround.

The repairs/reinstatement of the louvre panels in the open window is acceptable and you should take the opportunity to reposition the wire mesh to the inside of the window.

The tower was first listed on the 5th December 1984 so if the electric cables were in situ prior to this date, then there is nothing we can do to insist on their removal. There is no planning history associated with this building.

I hope the above is of assistance, but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me,

Kind regards,  
Ian

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