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St Peter, Belsize Park - New Hatch/Ladder Access from Tower Louvred Openings

Site Records:

Fullers builders staff were instructed to install a new access hatch to the north elevation of the existing louvred openings of the Church Tower in accordance with Thomas Ford Drawing ref: DET- 09.

The two experienced members of staff that attended site to carry out these works identified that the existing access ladder that connected the ringing chamber to the upper bell ringing platform was both long and steep, and noted that this timber ladder did not benefit from a modern fall restraint system. When leaving the ladder within the upper level (the 'bell chamber'), it was apparent that the transition from the top of the ladder is precarious and the area does not currently allow a landing or platform for operatives to safely stand on.

It was apparent that the addition of an access hatch to the tower gutter could not be introduced at the transition point as proposed and the operatives identified that the neighbouring louvred opening would better suit the site conditions as this would ensure that a small landing could be introduced at the point of transition.

The location of the tower gutter access door has now been relocated to the next adjacent louvred opening, this revised location ensures that a transition platform can be provided at the top of the internal access ladder. Furthermore, the proposed location of the external ladder has been trialled (as per the attached image) — It is apparent that from street level, the modified position of the external access ladder is not noticeable.



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Image 1 - Suggested Location of Access Hatch

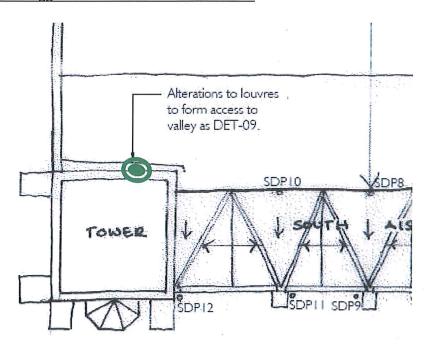
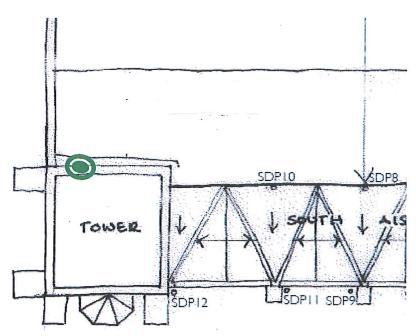


Image 2 - Modified position of access hatch



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Image 3 - View of new external ladder from street level

