Heritage statement for The Old School House, Green Lane, Belper.

Job no. 740.

The building is a Grade 11 listed building comprising a three storey rendered building lying parallel to Green Lane and a two-storey (with semi-basement) brick extension running east to west.
There is a small paved area to the south of the building and a substantial tarmac, concrete and gravel area to the north which provides the main pedestrian access to the building and a parking area for eight cars. The boundary to the east runs along Green Lane and that to the west abuts private garden spaces.
The original building was a brick single storey unit adjacent to Green Lane and was constructed in the early 1700's (The plaque over the main entrance reads Sunday School 1721 - 1855). In later years the building was extended upwards, in its entirety, adding a first floor and also access into the roof space.. Later a two storey extension was added to the south of the main building providing storage and possibly toilet facilities. At some stage during this period the whole of the building was rendered. Numerous openings and fixings have left the render looking rather drab, exacerbated by the lack of a paint finish. It is proposed not to make any external alterations to this part of the building at this stage. This will form a later application once the works to the rear of the site have been completed.
In the 1970's a substantial two storey brick extension, with a lower semi-basement area, was constructed on the west side of the original building. This extension has not been rendered to match the main building. The brickwork is sound and clean. The extension is set back from the western boundary by some 600mm. The new pitched roof to the extension is stopped short of the main building forming a rather ungainly junction between new and old. Presumably this was done in order to retain the lines of the imposing stone fascia and eaves line which forms a bold feature combined with a decorative iron gutter and support brackets to the main building. Construction details of the new extension do not reflect nor match the main building except for an original metal window that has been built into the north wall of the extension. This window was probably salvaged from the junction of the new to old part of the building.
It is the intension to retain the brick built extension in its entirety but altering the depth of the existing windows on the south elevation thus providing more daylight and ventilation into the proposed offices. These existing timber windows and doors will be replaced with aluminium frames. The double doors on the north side of the building will be change to provide a single disabled access door with a fixed glazed side panel; retaining the same overall opening width.

The bulk of the alterations will be internal, blocking of the access openings at ground and first floor levels between the original and new extension, providing partitioning on both levels (but not interfering with the exterior elevations) and removing a toilet area at first floor level. This will open the existing blocked off window and provide more light into the first floor.

The semi-basement, which is at the western end of the 1970,s extension, has a single external steel door access. It is intended to replace the door and frame with an aluminium construction. At the same time it is intended to install three new windows thus providing light into the basement space.

Externally, the paved area to the south of the building is to remain unaltered except for some minor re-leveling of some of the slabs. In order to provide privacy to the space it is intended to install metal railings and gate. The area to the north of the building provides pedestrian access to the building and also parking for eight cars. This area is completely covered in tarmac, concrete and gravel. It is intended to repair the surface finishes and clean-up the whole space. The western boundary to the car park has a change of level of some 1200 -1500mm. It is intended to provide metal safety railing to the rear of the car park and around the existing external steps leading down to the sub-basement. The height of the railings will be 1100mm high. The boundary to the north of the car park is of random grit stone, some 1200-1500mm high. This wall is to remain intact. The eastern boundary to the site, running parallel with Green Lane, comprises random grit-stone wall some 600-800mm high. At present there is a seven metre gap in the wall in order to provide access to the site.

The existing ramped pedestrian access to the building has a brick guard wall but is only some 200mm high at the entrance level. It is intended to install metal railings on top of the brick wall in order to provide a safety height of 1100mm to the entrance level and down the ramp.