

Heritage Statement – Hitchin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

108 Grove Road

Hitchin

Herts, SG5 1SQ

Previous History

The building to which the planning application relates was purpose built on the site in the early 1990s (Ref:93/00629/1) for the local congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses as a Place of Worship and has been in constant use ever since.

Heritage Assets Affected

The building itself is modern, of no particular architectural merit and not a Listed Building. It is located adjacent to the Ransoms Recreation Ground Conservation Area and the River Hiz which lies within it. Ransoms Recreation Ground was donated to Hitchin by the Ransom family in 1927. Ransoms Pavilion (dated 1930) was renovated in 2010. (See figure 1 below).

Current Proposals

The boundary shared with the Conservation Area contains a number of mature trees and shrubs. This serves to hide the existing building to a large degree from views from this direction. Furthermore, the air conditioning units will be located on the opposite side of the building. Equally there will be no views of them from Grove Road looking towards the Conservation Area as they will be located so as to be screened by the existing hedge. The other proposed alterations are very minor and will have negligible impact on views from the Conservation Area or its character.

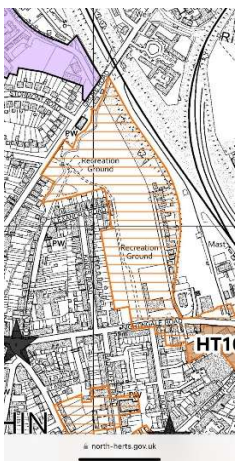


Fig. 1 Conservation area highlighted from North Herts local plan