

Ministry of Justice Law Courts

Architectural, Space Planning,
Structural, Specialist
Conservation and Remodeling
Advisory Services

Sector: Public Sector – Property Use and
Remodeling.

Project Length: Term Contract – 3 years

Budget: Projects up to £750k



Winchester Crown Court

Upgrade and Alterations – Court 8

- Winchester Combined Court is an extension to the Great Hall of Winchester Castle, originally built in the 12th Century and from which Justice has been administered for over 600 years.
- The main building covers an area some 75m x 50m and has four floor levels including the galleries above Courts 1-4 plus a basement carpark
- It was formally opened in February 1974.
- Court 8 required substantial upgrade to suit modern Public Gallery, Jury and Witness configurations together with video and other IT installations. Overall some £700k plus VAT



DESMONDE ASSOCIATES (DA) were responsible for:

- Assisting with Project Design Brief, Viability Assessment and Business Case.
- Dimensional, Fabric and Structural Surveys.
- Research and investigation of existing structural systems in the absence of records.
- Scheme Design, Spatial Planning, and Risk Assessment.
- Complex structural alterations with novel design treatment.
- Coordinating Construction Activities.
- Sign-Off and deliver of “As-Constructed” Records

Swindon Magistrates Court

Structural Cracking Investigations

- The Swindon Magistrates Court building was constructed in the 1960's – see original appearance and external treatment below. In the late 1980's it received a new external treatment, “overcoating”, with brick masonry.
- Structural cracking in parts of the structure were noted during 2019 and causing some alarm.
- Some alterations to the interior layout had taken place and the original loading profile changed.
- Assessment was urgently required with an emphasis on safe use.



DESMONDE ASSOCIATES (DA) were responsible for:

- Existing Construction Research was required.
- Dimensional, Fabric and Structural Surveys were undertaken.
- Consultations with the Local Authorities on Planning and the Building Regulations were made.
- A report on our findings with costed recommendations was issued.
- We discovered severe and unsafe conditions concerning the roof coverings.
- Overall works value identified of some £950,000 plus VAT

Swindon Combined Courts

Internal Remodeling - Chamber 5

- Structural alterations at first floor level between Chamber 1 and a Video Conferencing Room to create a larger and more appropriate space for modern Chamber activities.
- An assessment of the built environment and special configuration was included.
- A busy and high security arrangement.



DESMONDE ASSOCIATES (DA) were responsible for:

- Existing Construction Research was required.
- Dimensional, Fabric and Structural Inspections were undertaken.
- A proposed scope of works on our findings with costed recommendations was issued.
- Overall works value identified of some £150.000 plus VAT

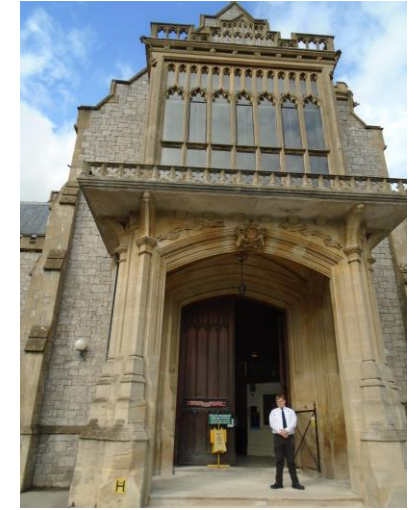
Taunton Combined Courts

Major Remedial Works

- In Sept 2019, a large area of plaster fell from a lath ceiling, in a Judges Robing Room from a Staff Room and toilet timber floor above. Luckily, severe injuries were avoided.
- Urgent structure and fabric investigations led to the discovery of overloaded floors and an emergency safety procedure was out in place pending design of remedial works.
- First known as the Shire Hall and opened in Aug 1855, it is Grade II Listed (July 1975).
- The structure is predominantly of stone masonry with timber floors and a timber pitched roof. About 60m by 43m and 3/4 storeys high with Court functions and part Local Authority.

DESMONDE ASSOCIATES (DA) were responsible for:

- Detailed Research and Study of the structure and cause of structural inadequacies.
- Reporting on findings with recommendations.
- Design of remedial treatment in the context of best conservation practice and seek statutory approvals.
- Oversee construction and certify use of 2nd Floor as Archive



Overloading Storage 2nd Floor



Structural Ply Joist Strengthening



Underside 1st Floor Court



DESMONDE ASSOCIATES

PROJECT MANAGEMENT
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING
STRUCTURES & HERITAGE

Truro County Court

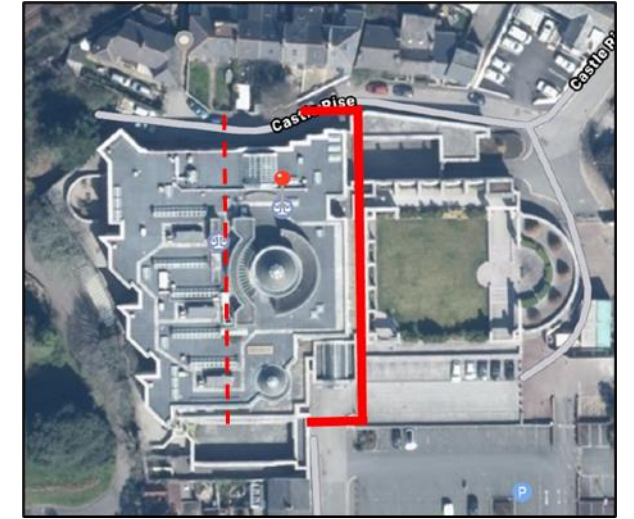
Internal Remodelling

Designed by Eldred Evans and David Shalev (RIBA Building of the Year 1988). On site of a medieval castle. Opened Spt. 1988.

- Extensive alterations and upgrade and create a new Court C1. Works include: structural alterations, fabric renewal, window and door replacement and forming new access.
- A Listed Grade II* Building of National and International historic importance. Design details and works comprise conservation, upgrade and remodelling all to Conservation Authority approval.
- BIM level measured survey and scan to suit National Archive Office and Historic English standards.



East Elevation from landscaped gardens



Ariel Plan noting area of Remodelling

DESMONDE ASSOCIATES (DA) were responsible for:

- Assisting with Project Design Brief, Viability Assessment and Business Case.
- Research and investigation of BIM modelling in the absence of records.
- Concept Design, Spatial Planning, and Risk Assessment.
- All Work on hold from late 2019



Desmonde Associates Role

DESMONDE ASSOCIATES (DA) were responsible for:

- Specialist Framework Support – Maintenance, Upgrade and Remodeling
- Expert Conservation Structural Engineering and Architectural services for Historic and Listed Building.
- Assisting with Project Design Brief, Viability Assessment and Business Case.
- Dimensional, Fabric and Structural Surveys.
- Scheme Design, Spatial Planning, Risk Assessment and obtaining Statutory Approvals for the proposals.
- Coordinating Construction Activities.
- Sign-Off and deliver of “As-Constructed” Records



What can we do for you?



**DESMONDE
ASSOCIATES**

PROJECT MANAGEMENT
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING
STRUCTURES & HERITAGE

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