

New Fitness Suite (including the conversion of the former Stable Block) and extension to provide en-suite shower rooms to existing residential accommodation.

New College Worcester is a residential college founded in 1902 for blind and visually impaired students aged between 11 and 19 years. There are a range of different buildings on the site including three large late Victorian and Edwardian houses, the original administration block and various teaching blocks which have been added at later dates.

Following detailed consultations with the users, a series of feasibility studies were prepared and a brief was developed to provide improved facilities to meet the particular needs of the students. The work involved providing a new and accessible Fitness Suite linked to

changing and therapy rooms in the Victorian stable block. A separate extension was also added to the adjacent residential building to provide en-suite shower rooms for six study bedrooms, including two wheelchair accessible shower rooms.

The project provided the opportunity to provide purpose designed facilities for the blind and visually impaired students, and also to bring back into use the derelict stable block, which despite its condition, was a characterful building worthy of re-use. The refurbishment retains the appearance and character of the original stables, which are now linked to a new modern Fitness Suite with generous areas of glazing and a contemporary appearance. Throughout the design development, particular attention was given to the particular needs of the students, with emphasis on safe circulation and high levels of contrast between different elements. The refurbishment of the stables was extensive,

with a significant amount of timber replacement, structural repairs and damp proofing, but the result in a building that is once again is able to contribute to the educational activities on the site. The new Fitness Suite provides a valuable and energy efficient facility that is available to both students and staff throughout the year.

The provision of en-suite shower rooms was an important improvement to the adjacent residential accommodation, where most of the bathrooms were shared by groups of students. Externally, the extension was clad with horizontal timber cladding to match the existing stair enclosure in the original building. The work was designed to minimise disruption to the students, and the connection into the existing residential building was made during the summer of 2017 when the building was not occupied.



▲ Stable Block before refurbishment

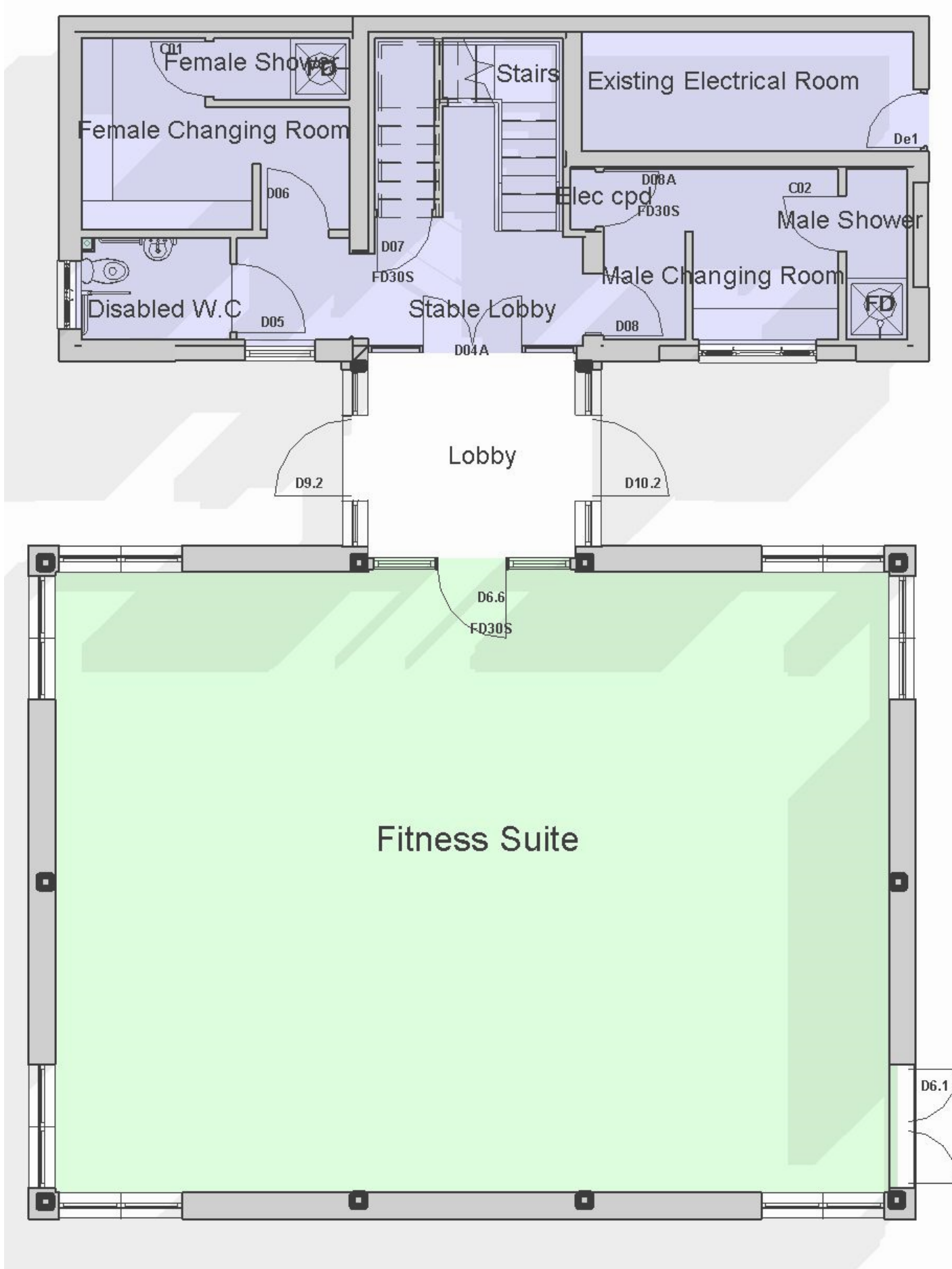


▲ Stable Block interior before refurbishment

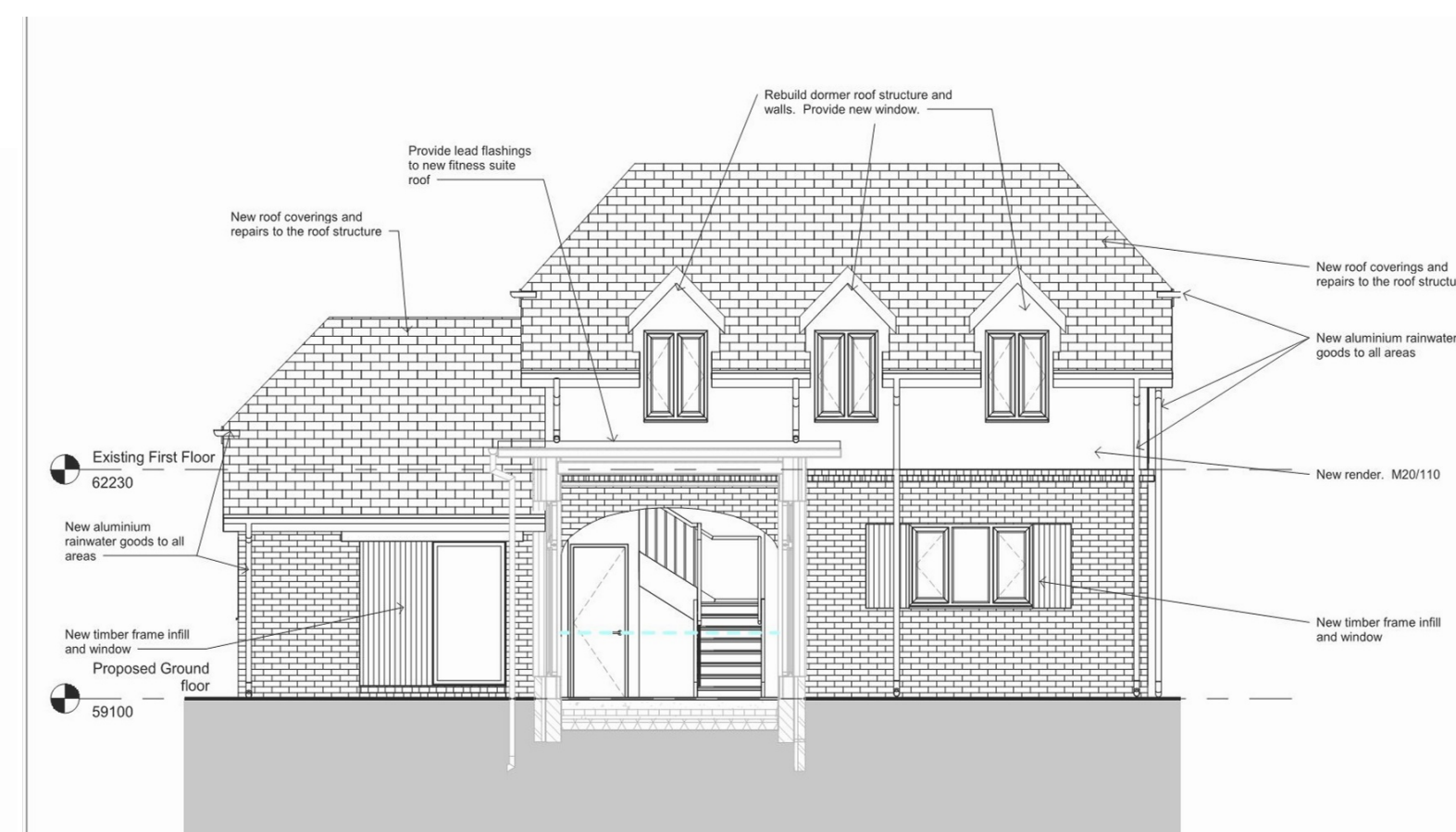


▲ Stable Block interior before refurbishment

▼ Stable Block before refurbishment



Plan as proposed, with the refurbished Stable Block and the Fitness Suite Extension below.



▲ Refurbishment of South East Elevation

▼ The refurbished Stable Block



▲ Extension forming the fitness suite



▲ Refurbished Stable Block with extension on the right



▲ New Entrance



▲ Stable Block before refurbishment

KEY PROJECT FACTS

Client: Worcestershire County Council

Architect: Jacobs - Worcester. Project Architect: Patrick Travis

Other Consultants: Jacobs - M&E, Quantity Surveyors and Clerk of Works

Completed: September 2017

Contract Value: £590,000

Contract Type: JCT Intermediate

Contractor: Speller Metcalfe Ltd