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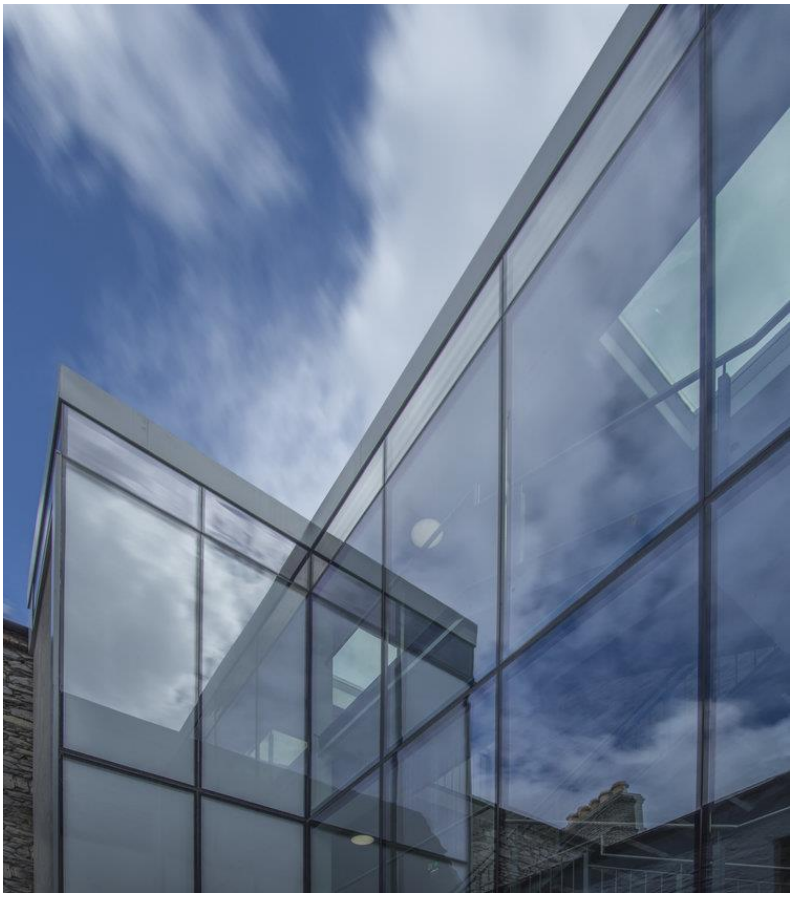
# DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE BARRACKS AT **LAD LANE / HAGAN'S COURT, DUBLIN 2**

## Completed on September 2017

Client: Private

Architect: Keogan Architects

Contract Used:



Glass detail on the building

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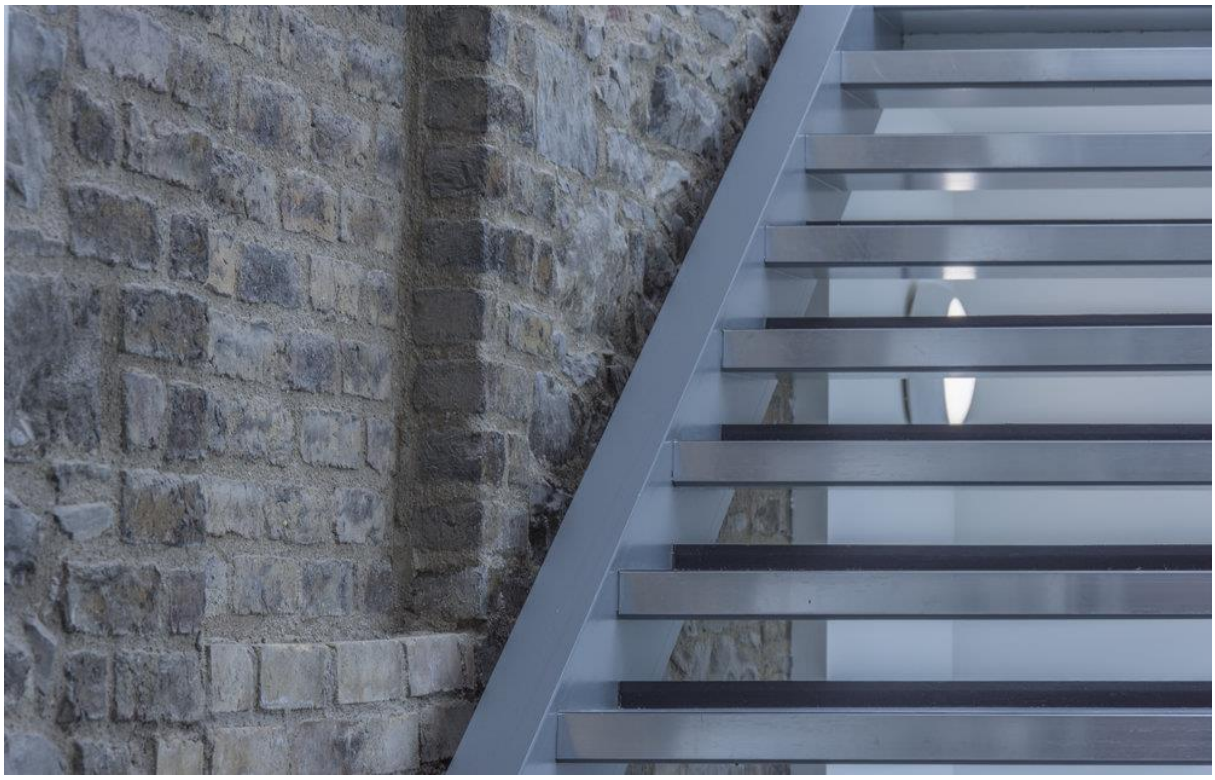
Registered Office: 42 Arran Street East, Smithfield, Dublin 7 VAT No: IE 9845456M CRO No: 473504

Window view / rooflights / stairs and wall details



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# Summary:

From the time of its founding in the 1836, the Dublin Metropolitan Police, and later the Gardai from 1925, maintained a barracks or Station House on the corner of Lad Lane and Hagan's Court, Dublin 2 until the functions were removed to the newly constructed Harcourt Terrace Station in or about 1948. The Lad Lane building then experienced a number of diverse uses until the present time.

The ground and first floors have been vacant for some time but, until recently, the second floor was used as a photographer's studios but is now vacant. It is intended to repair and upgrade the premises to provide office accommodation on the ground floor and residential accommodation on the first and second floors. On the extant deeds, it is referred to as No. 4A Lad Lane.

This application has been prepared by **Keogan Architects** to accommodate the proposed residential use and Lindsay Conservation Architects were requested to prepare a Conservation Report to accompany a planning application to Dublin City Council.

# HISTORIC CONTEXT:

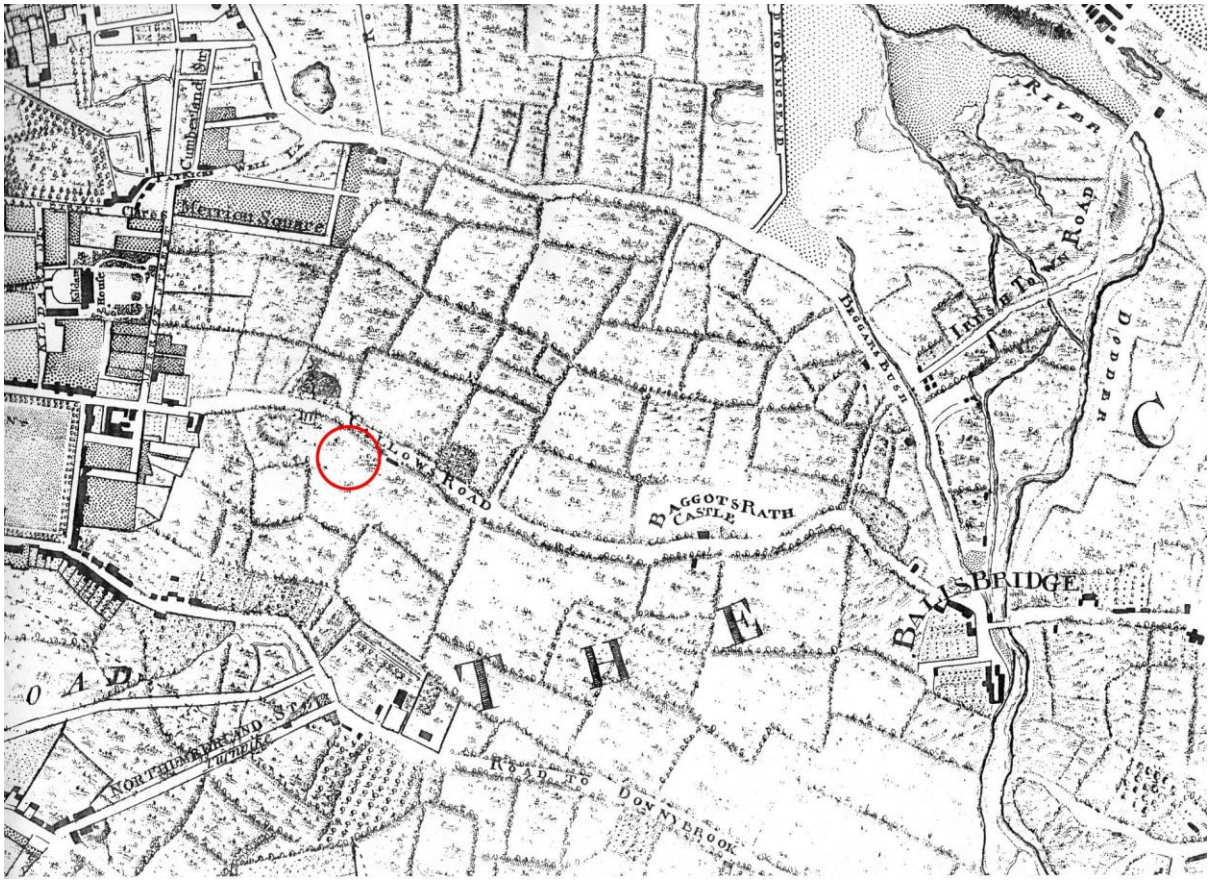
This section has been prepared to place the building in its overall historic context.

Information was obtained from a number of research repositories, mainly historic maps, the Valuation Office and other sources.

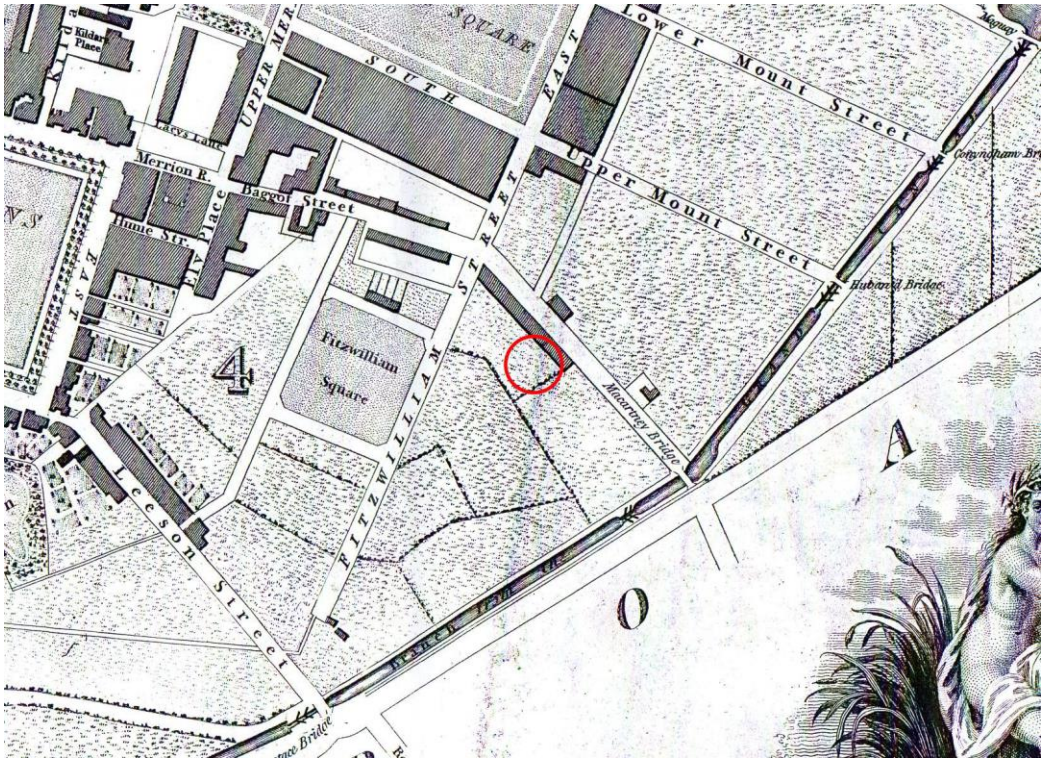
A number of standard texts were consulted and while some mentioned Lad Lane, only Casey specifically mentioned the building.

As mentioned previously, the building was assessed at the time of the inspection when the extant fabric was dated insofar as that was possible.

Historic maps were obtained from the Map Library, Trinity College, Dublin.



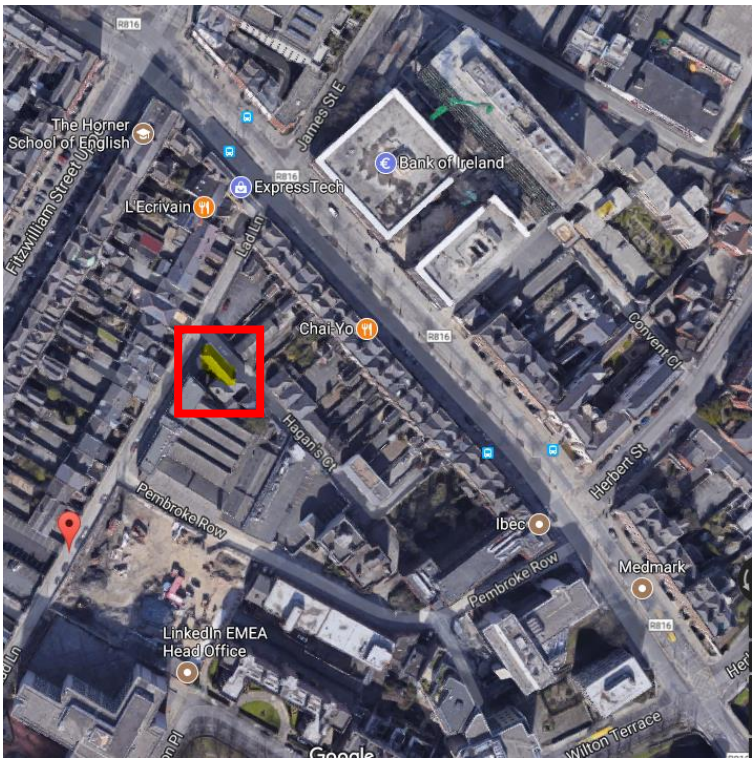

**Rocque corrected Le Scalé – A Survey of the City, Harbour, Bay and Environs of Dublin – 1773.**




**William Faden – A Plan of the City of Dublin – 1797.**

**Ordnance Survey Map, Sheet 28, Surveyed 1838-47, Published 1847.**

**Ordnance Survey Map, Sheet 18-11 & 12, Revised 1907-08, Published 1911.**




**Actual location (source: googlemaps.com)**

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**ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT :**

The building does not conform to any of the accepted styles of architecture, but cannot be called vernacular being originally built as part of the development of the Pembroke Estate.

It is perhaps best described as being built in a generally classical manner, but much altered and extended to the degree that the classical characteristics of regularity and symmetry have been lost.

Internally, apart from some elements of joinery and chimneypieces and inserts, there is little of interest. It cannot be described as being in good condition, but it is not in a dilapidated condition either and has been maintained to the extent that there are no particular areas of water ingress, structural defects or other agencies of decay that are of particular concern.

However, it does have a certain interest. As one of the first apparently purpose built police stations and it long association with the DMP and later the Gardai, it has a claim for protection in its historical associations.

Again, its overall configuration with the chamfered corner does provide it with a certain charm. Some might claim vernacular qualities in the erratic placement of openings, but that owes more to uncaring alterations than vernacular qualities.

In the final analysis, while it is probably not justifiable to protect the building for its architectural qualities or notable detailing, its historic association as an early purpose built DMP barracks is sufficient to justify its protection.

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**Outside**

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Inside

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**Key Issues:**

- The building was used as a photographer's studio and store on the second floor until recently, but is now vacant on throughout. It is proposed to convert it to residential use on the First and Second Floors with two office suites on the ground floor.

- A new lift and stairwell enclosure is proposed in the courtyard following the removal of the existing single story buildings.

- Access to the upper floor apartments through Room G8 will be closed off and not used, but the extant staircase will be retained being floored over at First Floor level.

- Two apartments will be provided on each of the first and second floors with access from the proposed new lift and staircase in the courtyard.

- In terms of the ground floor, the staircase will be removed from Room G7 and the existing doors widened to form the larger office suite as indicated on the drawings.

- A second office suite will be formed also, sharing external access through the enlarged window opening on Hagan's Court.

- External access to the proposed residential accommodation it to be provided via the new staircase and lift through the existing doorways in Room G8.

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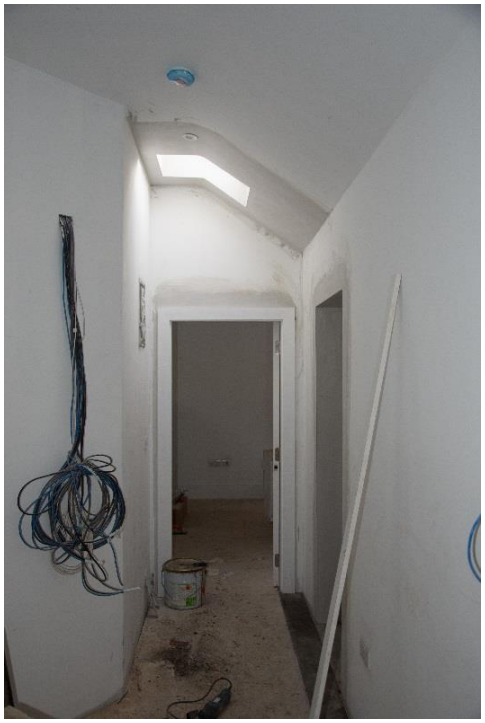
# Work Progress - Before and After

**Floor conservation and refurbishment**



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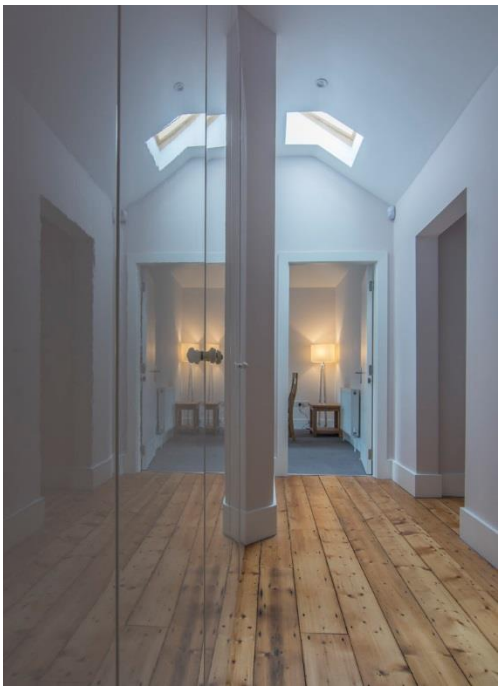

**Windows conservation and restoration**

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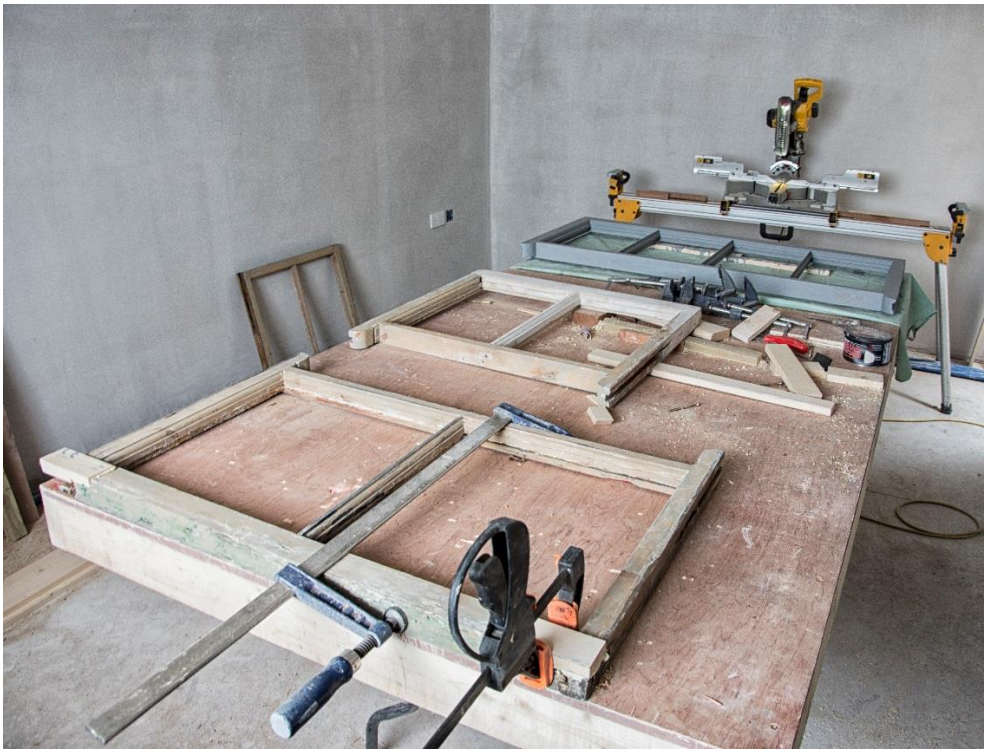

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**Flat roof refurbishment**

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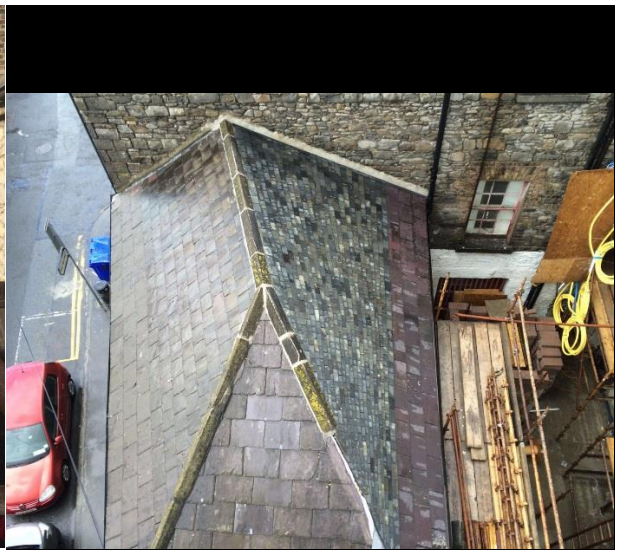
**Roof work**



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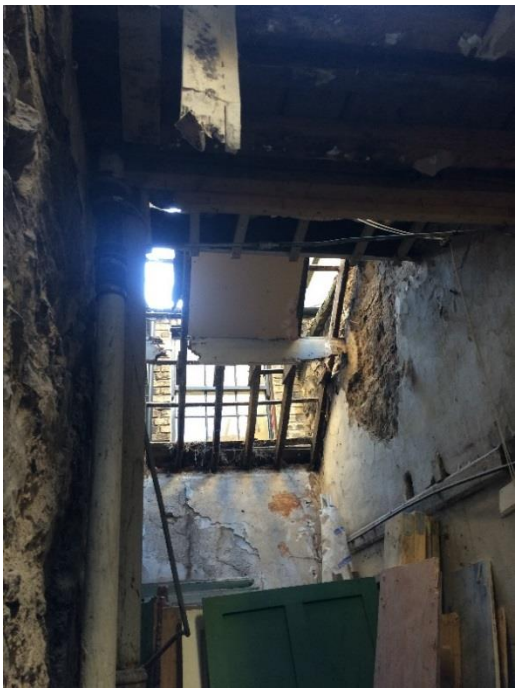
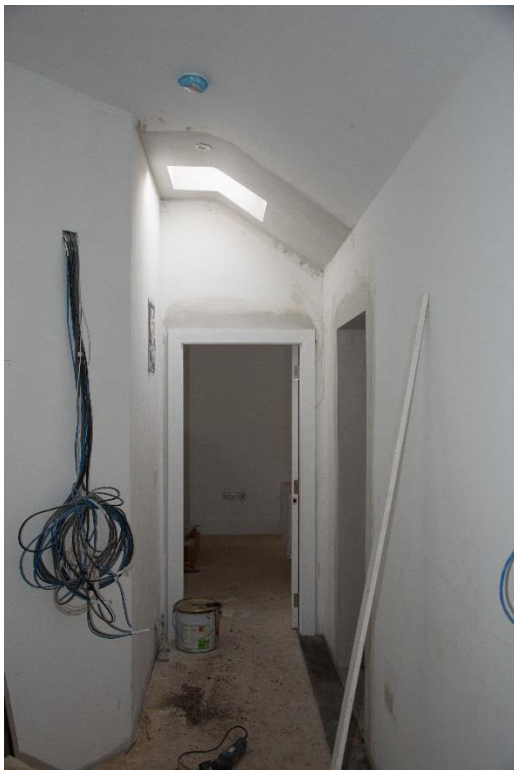
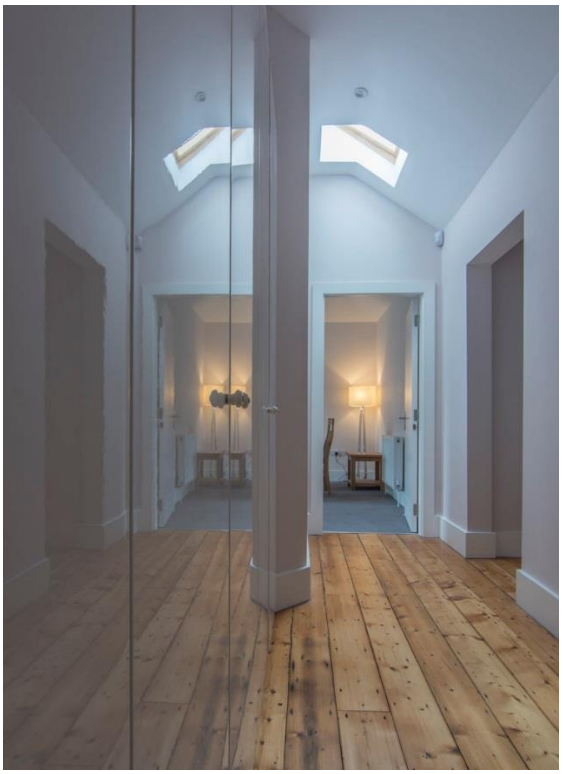
**Rooflights conservation and restoration**







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**Ceilings repairs and restoration**

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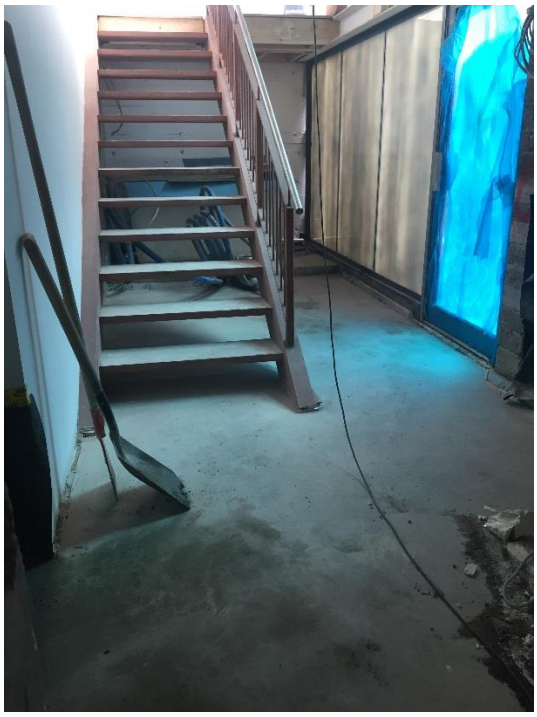
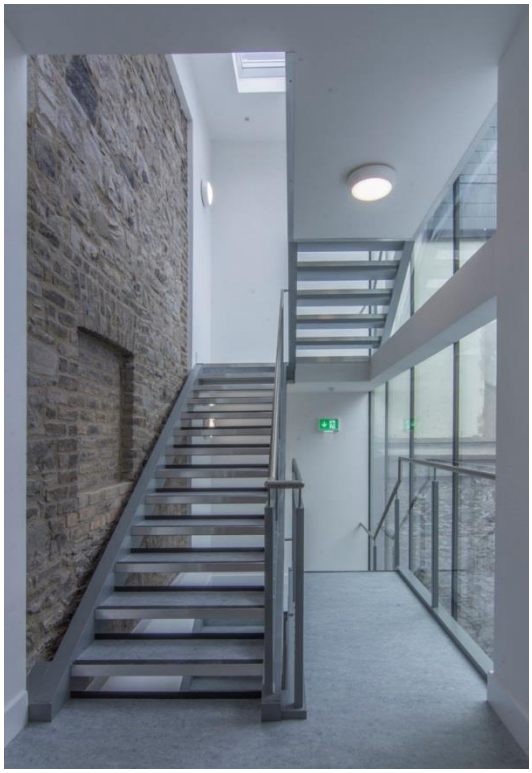
**Stairs work**





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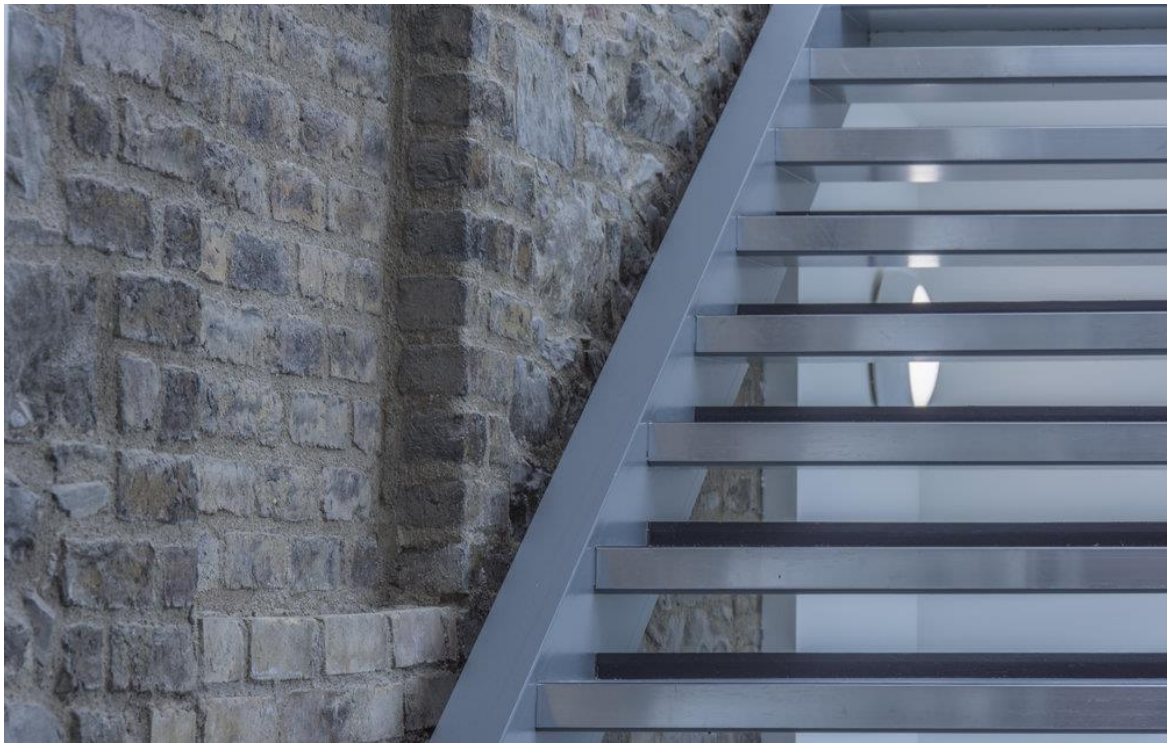

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**Doors refurbishment**

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**Glass Façade**

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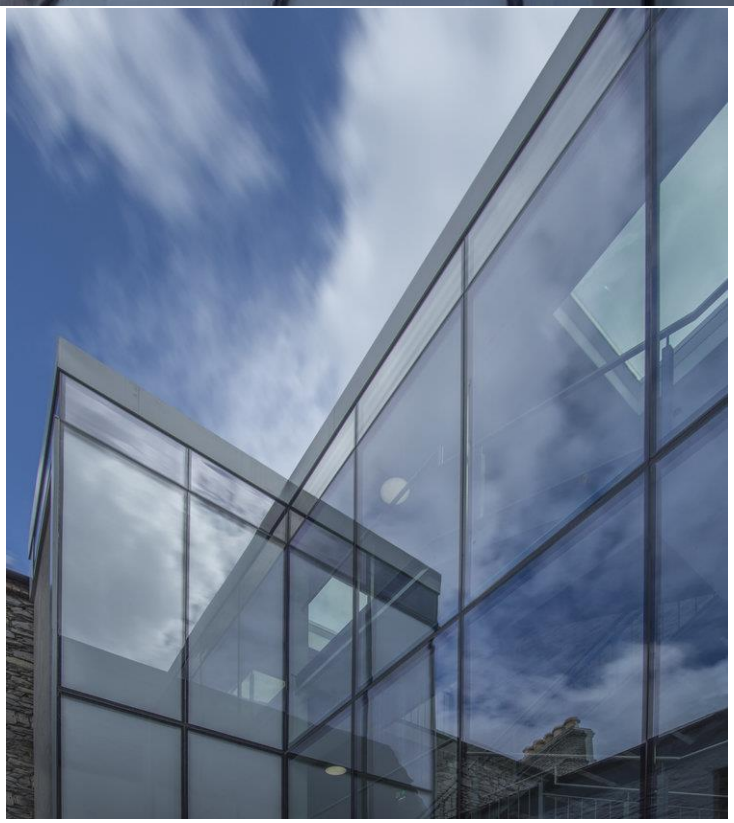

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