



External mobility platform for a Grade I listed building

Historic England has eighty-five structures located in Berkshire that are deemed to be of architectural or historic interest, the majority of which are churches. However, there are some standout houses, and one of these is Shaw House, Newbury, which was built in the 15th century for wealthy cloth merchant, Thomas Dolma. Shaw House is considered to be one of the best-preserved Elizabethan houses in England, and since 1998 it has been owned and managed by West Berkshire Council.

Earlier this year (2024) Jackson was asked to help with a requirement for an external two-stop wheelchair platform lift to be installed at the rear entrance of the house, where there are seven steps leading to a paved landing. There was already a lifting platform adjacent to the steps, but it now required replacement to meet visitor needs and Christmas events taking place at Shaw House.

To provide advice and respond to this request, a Jackson Sales Engineer specialising in platform and mobility lifts visited Shaw House to undertake a survey and provide West Berkshire Council with a budget proposal and time frame that were subsequently accepted.

Local Jackson engineers working in Berkshire undertook the installation, which occurred during a period when the house was open to the public. Jackson engineers had to follow strict English Heritage guidelines for the new installation, which included limited drilling into the building's walls.

The management at Shaw House were pleased when the completed installation was handed over for use well in time for Christmas, to programme time and budget.