

Application ref: 2023/2537/L  
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Date: 9 August 2023

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **DECISION**

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

### **Listed Building Consent Granted**

Address:

**Kathleen Lonsdale Building**  
**5 Gower Place**  
**WC1E 6BT**

Proposal: Installation of new external and internal gas supply pipework, gas cylinder cages, alterations to the landing, step and lightwell and a new metal ramp, railing, and other associated works to the rear.

Drawing Nos: LB032-SW2215-100, LB032-SW2215-101, LB032-SW2215-102, LB032-SW2215-103, LB032-SW2215-104, LB032-SW2215-001, LB032-SW2215-002, LB032-SW2215-003, LB032-SW2215-004, Cover letter dated 30 June 2023, Schedule of works titled BEAMS - SW2215 KLB Specialist Gas Supply, NBS Specification dated 13/03/2023, Photo document titled Proposed External Gas Supplies to Chemistry Laboratories, Design and Access Statement dated 5 June 2023.

The Council has considered your application and decided to grant Listed Building Consent subject to the following condition(s):

#### **Conditions And Reasons:**

- 1 The works hereby permitted shall be begun not later than the end of three years from the date of this consent.

Reason: In order to comply with the provisions of Section 18 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

- 2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: LB032-SW2215-100, LB032-SW2215-101, LB032-SW2215-102, LB032-SW2215-103, LB032-SW2215-104, LB032-SW2215-001, LB032-SW2215-002, LB032-SW2215-003, LB032-SW2215-004.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

- 3 All new work and work of making good shall be carried out to match the existing adjacent work as closely as possible in materials and detailed execution.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

#### Informative(s):

- 1 Reasons for granting listed building consent

The Kathleen Lonsdale Building in Gower Place is Grade II-listed and was originally purpose built as the University chemistry laboratory in 1912-13 by FM Simpson. In addition, there are a number of designated highly important heritage assets in close proximity to the site including the Grade I-listed Wilkins Buildings. The KLB is located in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area, within Sub Area 3. The building is described as having a dressed stone facade with later slate mansard roof and dormer with a symmetrical facade in modified Neo-Greek style with projecting end bays and a central temple fronted entrance accessed by paired stone steps.

Planning permission is sought for the installation of new internal and external pipework, three new gas cylinder cages, a new hand rail and a new ramp to facilitate access and deliveries of the gas cylinders at the rear of the building. The proposals will ensure that the provision of materials necessary for laboratory work (in this case various gas to a suite of adjacent rooms) meets current safety measures within the laboratories by locating them externally.

The proposals would result in additional clutter to the rear of the building, but the works are required to meet current health and safety requirements and would be easily reversible in the future. The applicant also worked with officers at pre-application stage to ensure the external pipework is routed to minimise visual impacts and utilise existing service routes as much as possible. Given the current arrangement to the rear of the building which is fairly utilitarian in its character and is of less importance to the significance of the building, the Council's Conservation Officer has confirmed the proposals would not harm its architectural significance.

No objections were received prior to the determination of this application and

the Bloomsbury CAAC have confirmed they have no comments on the proposals.

The site's planning history has been taken into account prior to making this decision and special regard has been attached to the desirability of preserving the listed building and its features of special architectural or historic interest, under s.16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990 as amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act [ERR] 2013.

As such, the proposed development is in general accordance with policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017. The proposed development also accords with the London Plan 2021 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2021.

- 2 You are advised that any works of alterations or upgrading not included on the approved drawings which are required to satisfy Building Regulations or Fire Certification may require a further application for listed building consent.

In dealing with the application, the Council has sought to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive way in accordance with paragraph 38 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021.

You can find advice about your rights of appeal at:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/appeals/guidance/guidancecontent>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DPope', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Daniel Pope  
Chief Planning Officer