

Alexandra Road Estate

113C Rowley Way

Design & Access Statement

February 2024

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Section 01

01

Introduction



Introduction

This Design and Access statement has been produced by Levitt Bernstein, on behalf of Camden Council, as part of a Listed Building Consent application for dwelling 113C in the Alexandra Road Estate.

Context

This application provides a detailed description of the proposed works to 113C Rowley Way in the Alexandra Road estate.

The application describes limited works to the existing bathroom as requested by Camden Occupational Therapy Services (OTS). This upgrade will allow the dwelling to fulfil the occupants' needs whilst causing minimal alteration to the nature of the existing building.

This document forms part of the 'Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Works to a listed building' and should be read alongside the following material:

- Existing/Proposed Plan Drawing
- OTS Adaptation Request form
- Application form
- OTS Specification of Works

02

The Alexandra Road Estate

The quality and importance of the estate has been widely recognised both in England and abroad. It is a powerful icon of the optimism and idealism that underpinned post-war public sector architecture.

Statement of Significance

The Alexandra Road Estate is a residential estate of 520 dwellings in Camden, NW9. The majority of the estate was listed Grade II* in 1993, the remainder now falling within the Alexandra Road Conservation Area, designated in 1996.

Designed in 1968 by Neave Brown of the London Borough of Camden Architects Department and built between 1972-78, the estate is among the most ambitious social housing schemes of this time, one of a series of low rise, high density schemes.

The street is the dominant element in the design, a modern translation of the traditional London street where the sum of the whole exceeds the individual parts. The linear, stepped section, influenced by Leslie Martin's work, by Denys Lasdun at the University of East Anglia (1962-68) and by Patrick Hodgkinson at the Brunswick Centre (1967-72), enables all dwellings to have a sunny outdoor space and the seven storey A block shields the estate from the noise of the railway line to the north.

The estate also represents a development of Brown's earlier work in private practice, for housing societies at Winscombe Street and Fleet Road. Though much smaller, these too were essays in high-density developments of stacked dwellings and the considered sequencing of spaces from public and semi-public to private and semi-private.

Internal features

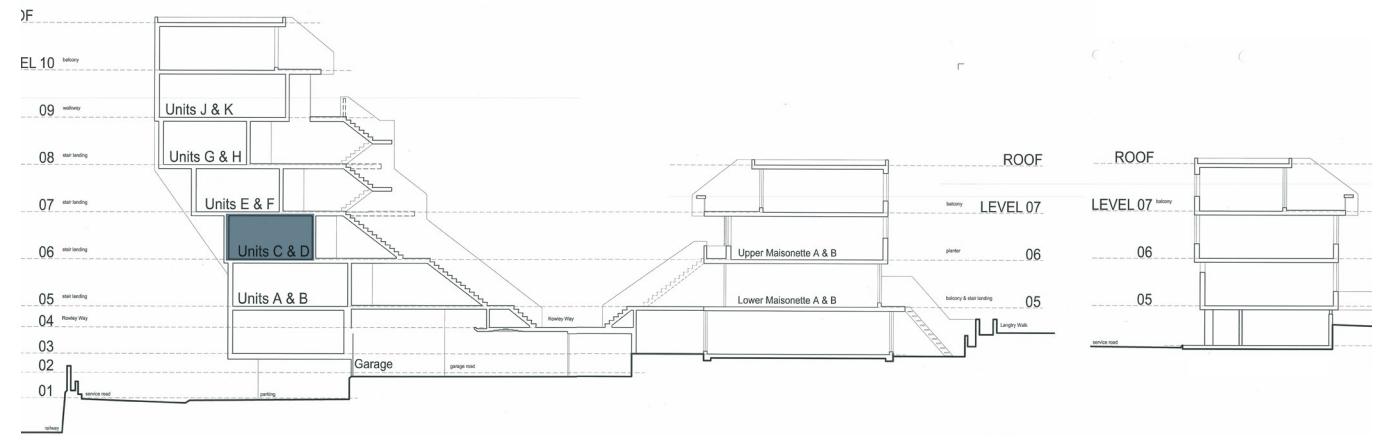
The estate contains a number of different dwelling types, all sharing a similar approach and a number of key features. The high density of the estate led to tight interior layouts, mitigated by open plan elements. Sliding doors and glazed partitions allow flexible arrangements, with the potential for views and light to pass through each dwelling.

The proximate relationship of public and private is eased by porches, decks and planting.

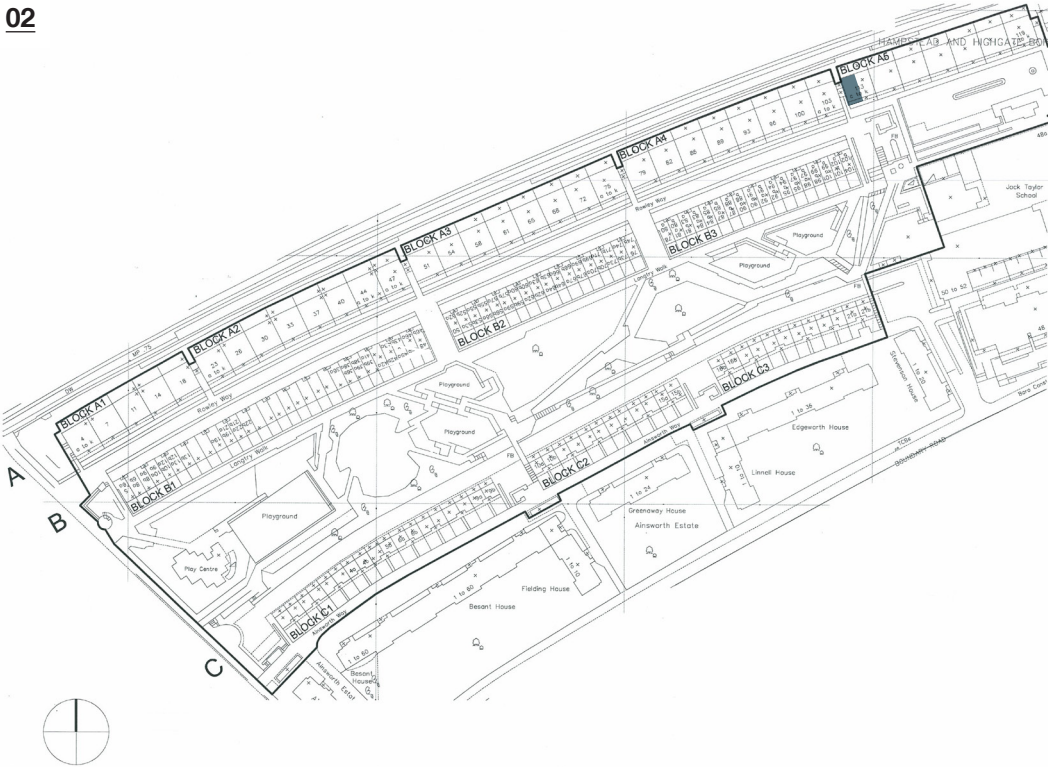
Finishes are restrained, white paint contrasting with stained timber and brown tiling. Simple joinery shelves and cupboards are formed from plywood, while the stairs are a more developed piece of joinery work. In the kitchens, concrete worktops form a striking, almost sculptural element. These are tiled, as are the walls, forming a very deliberate composition.

The number of bespoke elements is unusual in authority-built housing, and the level of ambition has led to some long-term issues. The tiled surfaces, for example, the best that could be done with the budget at the time, are now missing tiles, with the grout hard to clean. The sliding partitions are prone to stick and fail. These elements will have to be mended or replaced, as appropriate.

01



02



Key:
Dwelling location

01 Cross section
02 Location plan

The A1 Flat type

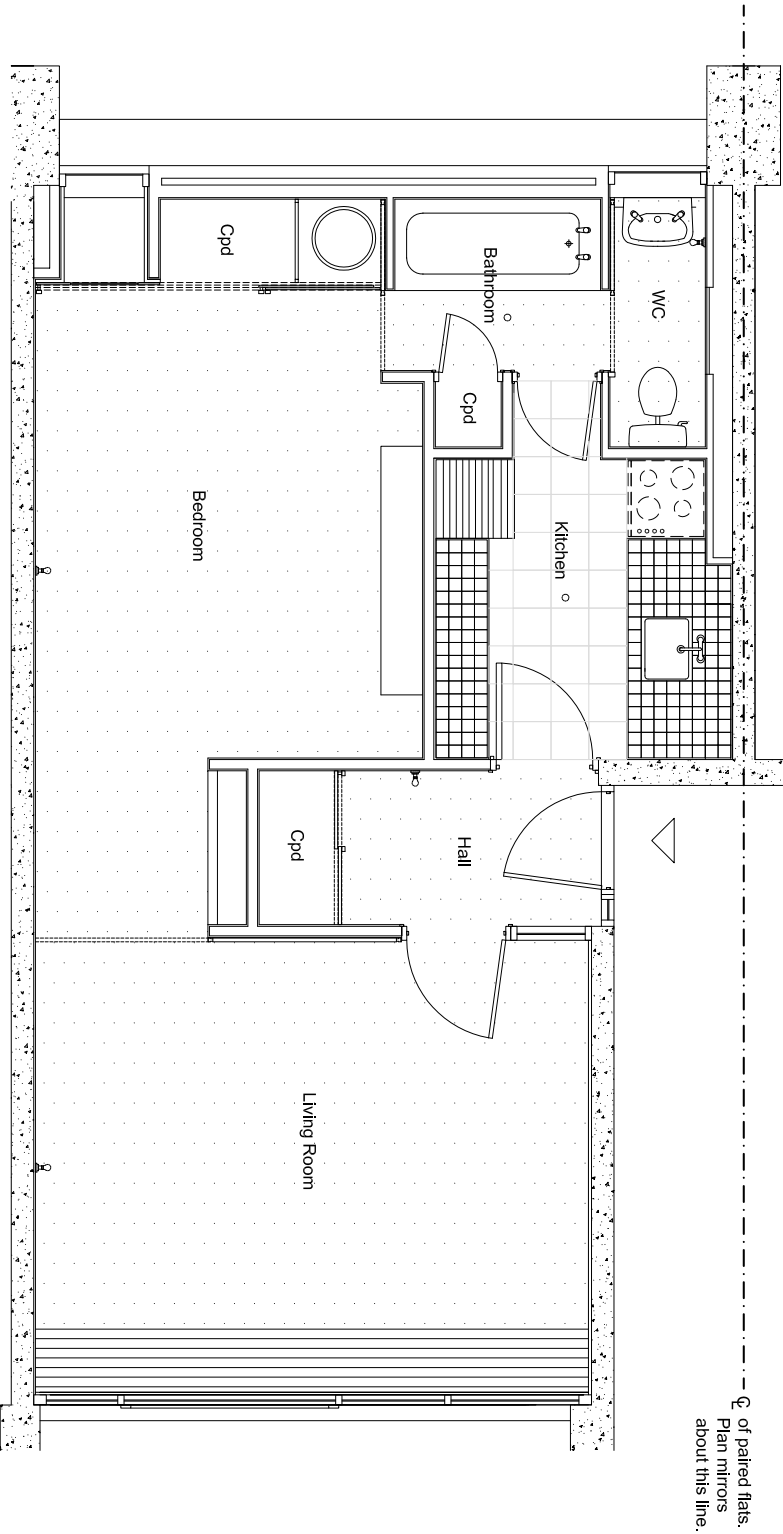
The A1 flats are similar in layout, differing only in the location of the riser that passes vertically through the horizontally staggered kitchen and WC areas.

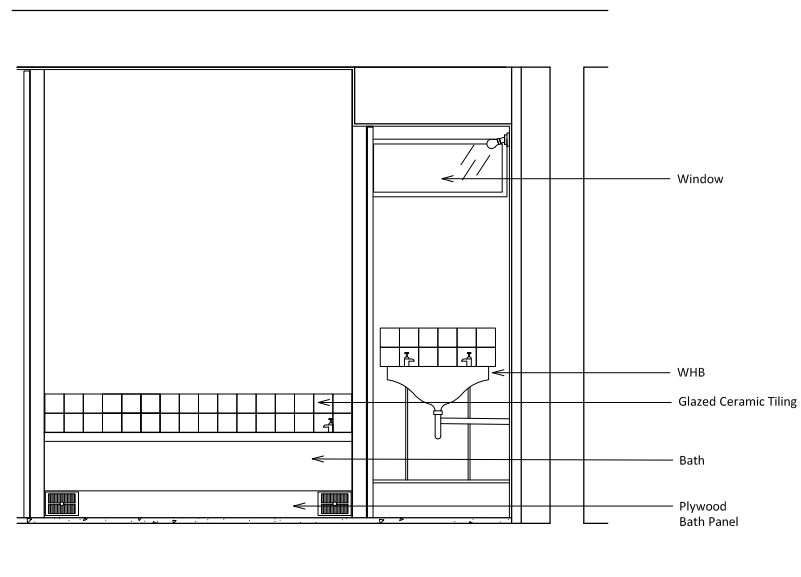
Flat description

The flat is a single storey arrangement with one bedroom. A living room at the front opens onto a south facing terrace over the shared walkway. To the rear, a bedroom and WC look over the mainline railway. The kitchen and bathroom are interconnected and form a circulation route from the hall to the bedroom.

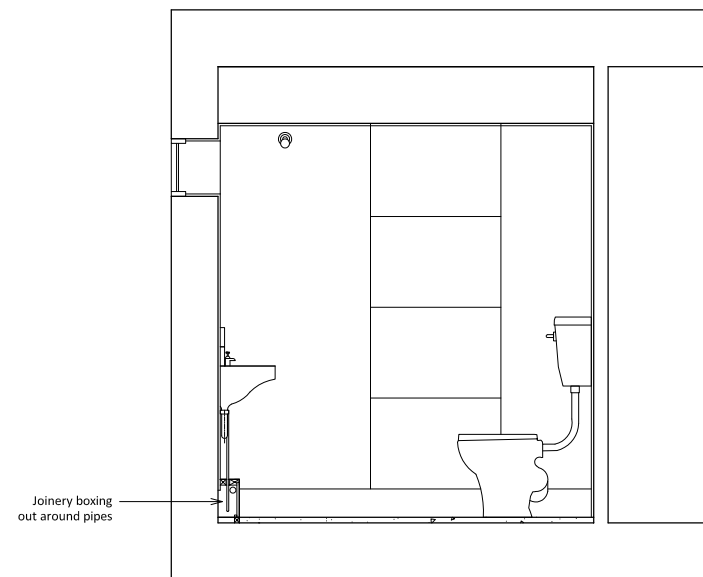
Bathroom Layout

The Bathroom design shows a clear, well-ordered concept, with a limited, complementary range of robust materials. However, by modern standards there is very little room for disabled occupant and this proposal seeks to address this whilst preserving the nature of the original design.

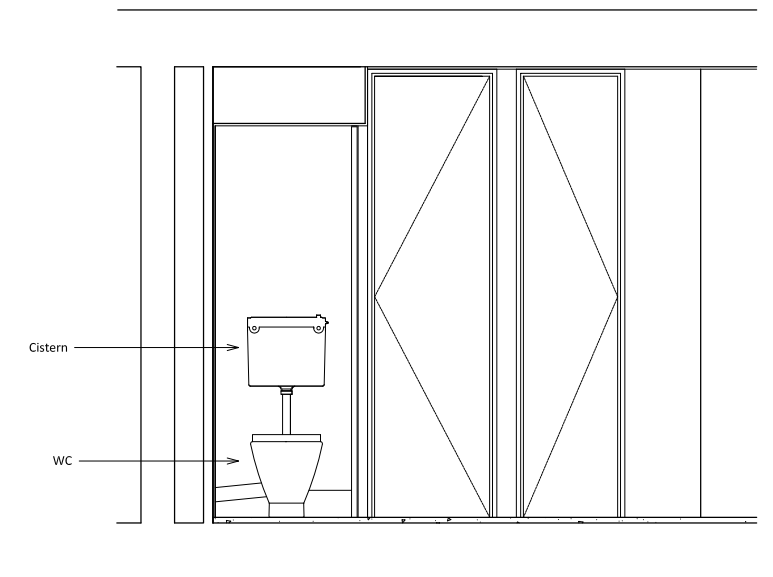




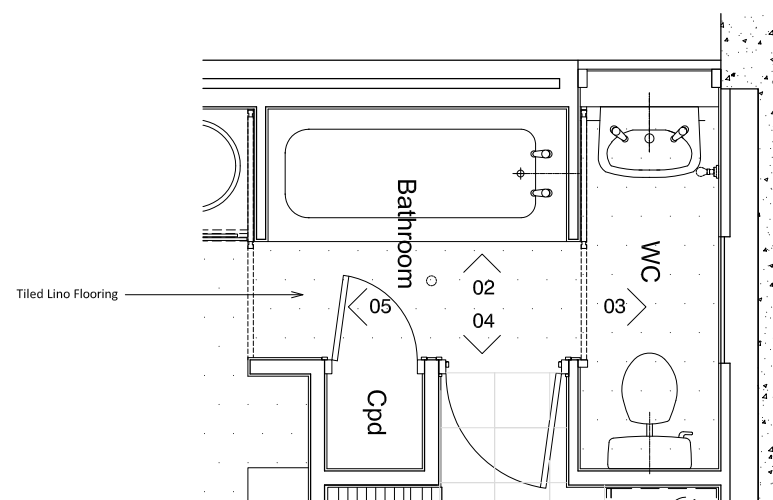
02



03



04



05

01 Original flat plans
02-04 Original bathroom elevations
05 Original bathroom plan

03

Proposed Works

Design Approach

The proposed works are limited to the Bathroom/WC and involve the removal of the bath and replacement with a level access wet floor shower.

Use, scale and layout

There are no proposed changes to the use, scale or layout of the dwellings.

Access and Inclusive Design

There are no proposed changes to transport provision or the external approach to the dwelling. It is not proposed to change the dwelling itself, beyond refurbishment and alteration to the bathroom.

Camden Occupational Therapy Service have deemed the proposed adaptations essential in order for the occupant to live as independently as possible.

Approaches to existing elements

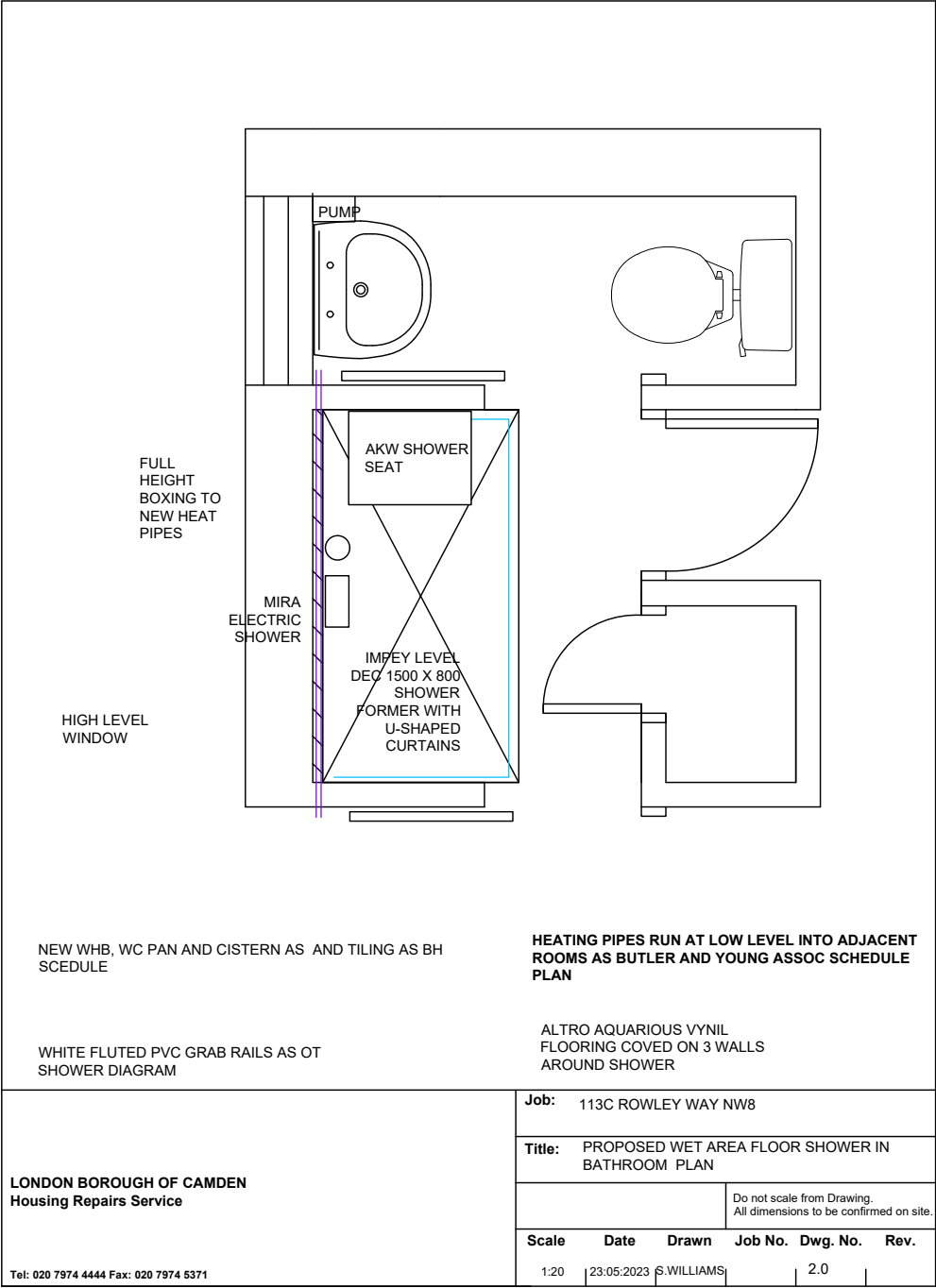
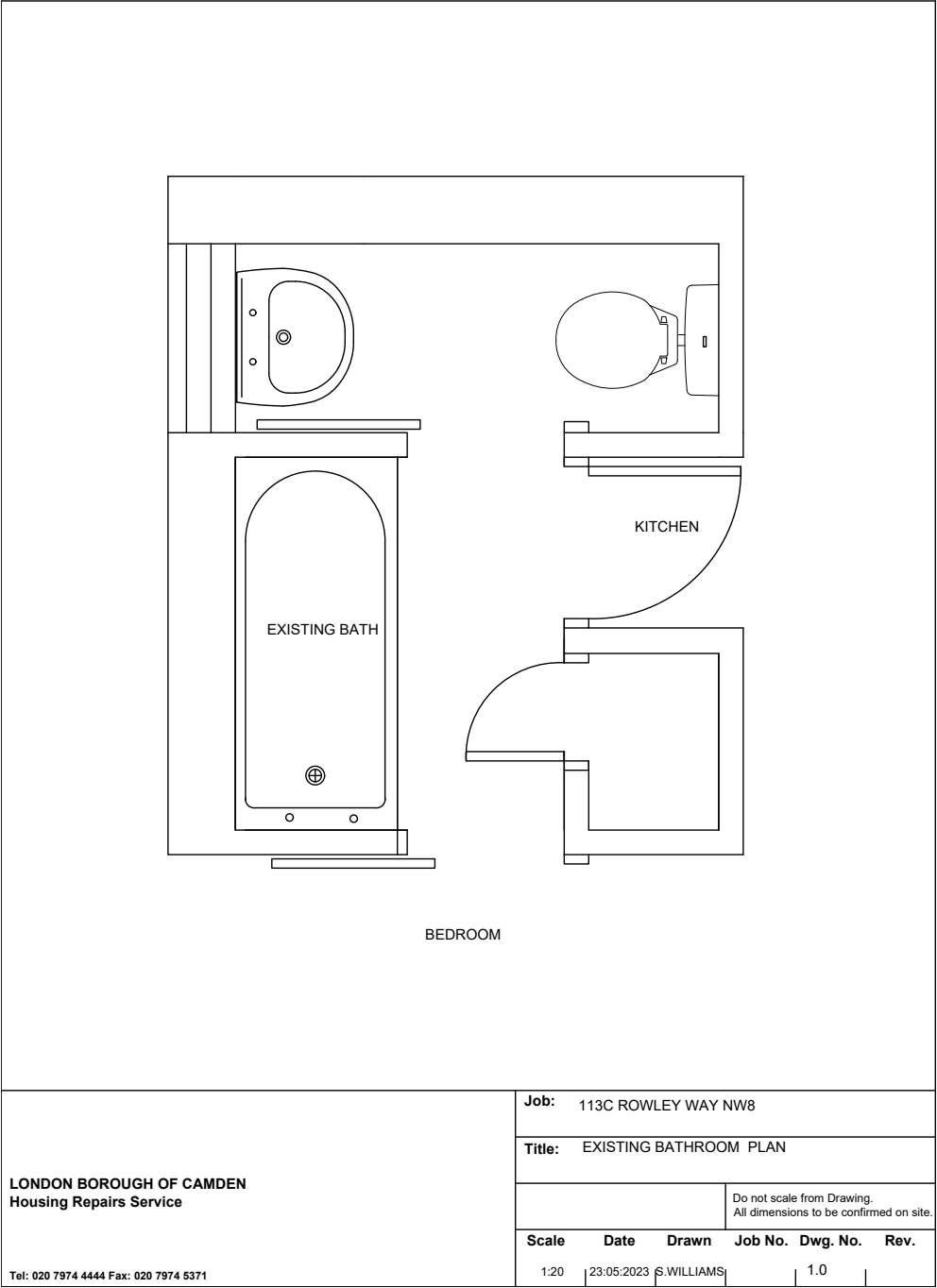
The majority of the original bathroom and its key features are retained. Subsequent elements and finishes will be removed, to replace with materials and modern appliances which fulfil the requirements of the occupant.

The design seeks to minimise the alteration to the nature of the existing building however some unavoidable features remain such as:

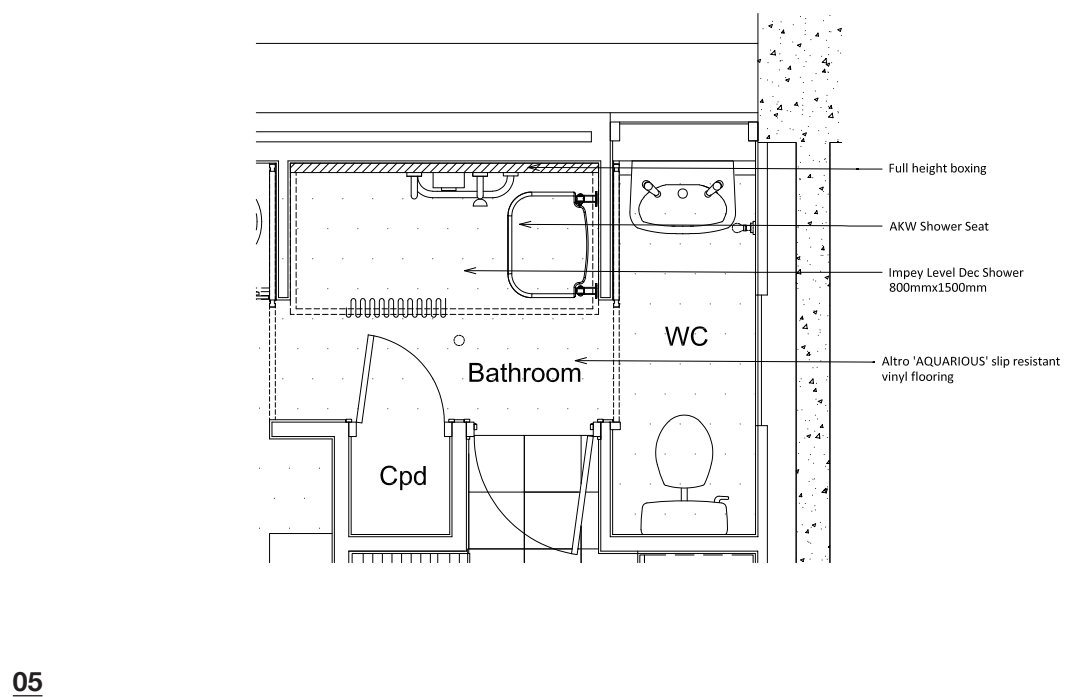
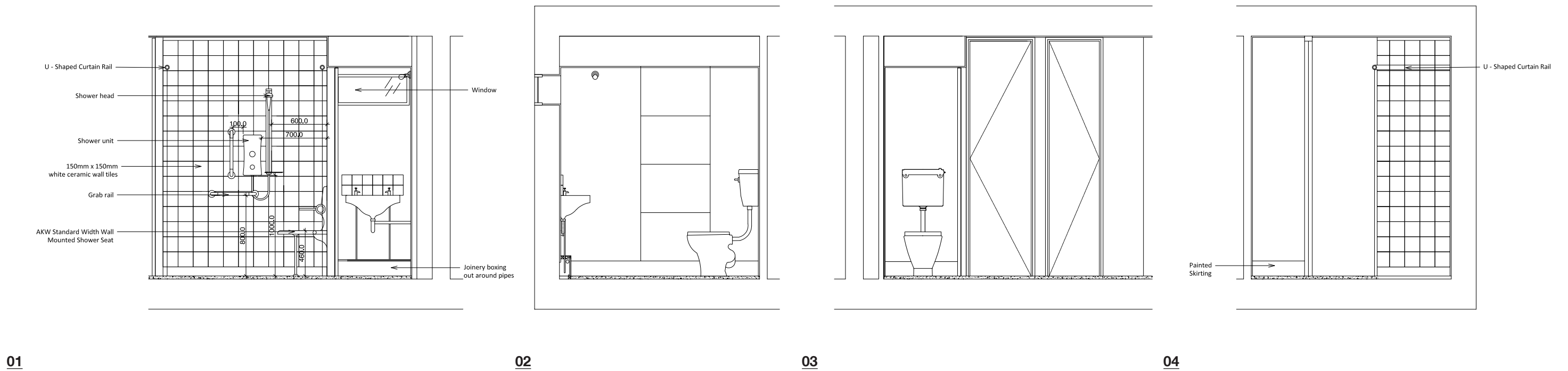
- There is insufficient space to retain the bath and provide for a level access shower. The removal of the bath will ensure that no further damage to the building's structure occurs.
- Works carried out will prevent damage to the building structure.
- All designs allow future occupants to return the bathroom to its full original design.

Scope of Works

The Scope of works below is to be read in conjunction with the attached Specification of works produced by Camden Housing Repairs Service



Existing and proposed bathroom plans by Camden Housing Repairs Service



01-04 Proposed bathroom elevations
05 Proposed bathroom plan

Element	Works	Specification notes
1.0 Bathroom Fixtures		
1.1 Existing bath	Remove existing bath.	Remove existing complete with supplies & wastes & dispose.
1.2 Proposed shower	Supply & fit a new Mira “Advance Flex” thermostatic electric shower unit complete.	Set at maximum 41 degrees Celsius, with lever type control. Run new mains water connection, and electrical supply, pipe work and cable, to include all necessary fittings, isolating valves and double check valves, to comply with current regulations. The head must be detachable on a 1000mm extended riser bar, and with a 1500mm flexible hose, handset, and soap dish as per OT drawing / instruction. Supply & Fit Pumped waste and whale waste pump
1.3 Shower electricity supply	Provide new electrical supply to shower.	Provide new electrical supply to shower, concealed in the shower area and surface mounted in mini trunking elsewhere. The supply will be on a fused spur RCD, suitably rated MCB, via a double pole switch. Earth bond in the bathroom as necessary. All electrical work to fully comply with current 18th Edition IEE Regulations.
1.4 Shower curtain rail	Supply and fit a U-shaped shower curtain rail.	Supply and fit a U-shaped shower curtain rail, 100mm inside of the edge of the shower former, as shown on the drawing, and TWO fit full length weighted shower curtain just touching the floor.
1.5 Wall mounted grab rails	Grab rails	Supply and fix 2 no. slip resistant PVC grab rails, in shower area as shown on the drawing/OT instruction.
1.6 Shower Seat	Supply & fit AKW standard width shower seat.	Supply & fit AKW standard width shower seat.
2.0 Tiling		
2.1 Bathroom tiling	Remove all existing wall tiles in bathroom and dispose.	Tile in the new shower room, full height on wall as indicated on plan with 150mmx150mm white ceramic wall tiles, waterproof grouted, and finished at exposed edges.Make good disturbed plaster where items/ tiles etc. removed.
3.0 Shower Tray		
3.1 Shower tray preparation	Remove area of sand and cement floor screed.	Form recess to receive shower tray and waste, in preparation for Altro flooring.
3.2 Shower tray	Supply & fit the following, to manufacturer’s instructions.	Impey level dec shower former – 800mm x1500mm.
3.3 Waste pump	Supply & fit the following, to manufacturer’s instructions.	PGTF shallow waste and shower waste pump.
4.0 Painting and decorating		
4.1 General refurbishment	Make good disturbed decorations/plaster where items/tiles etc removed.	Prepare and redecorate bathroom.
5.0 Flooring		
5.1 Existing floor coverings	Strip flooring.	Take up & cart away existing floor covering, bathroom and wc. Form recess to receive shower tray and waste, in preparation for Altro flooring. Prepare for new coved anti-slip Altro floor covering
5.2 Proposed floor coverings	Supply and fit vinyl floor covering with 100mm coving.	Prepare the floor, latex, and supply and fit slip resistant Altro AQUARIOUS slip resistant vinyl floor covering complete with 100mm coving throughout the entire shower room. Fit a screw down aluminium threshold strip at the doorway.
5.3 Floor covering to shower tray	Altro strip in the shower area.	Fit Altro strip in the shower area, to take tiles to above and vinyl below. Fit Altro strip to take vinyl flooring in bathroom.

Product images

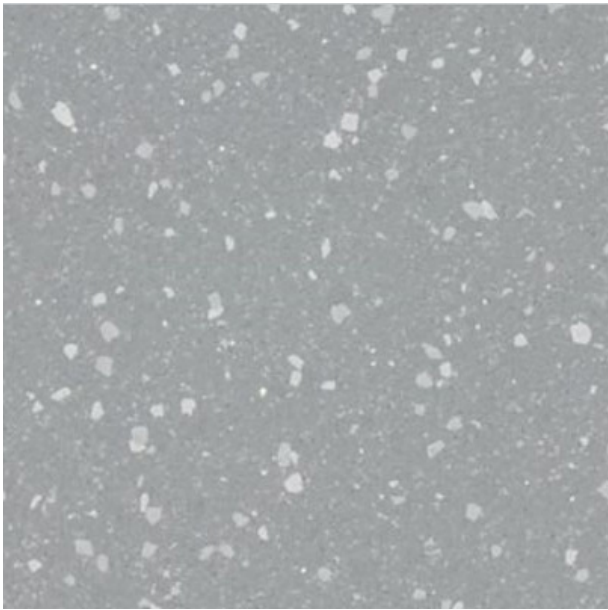
Description of the works: Removal of bath and replacement with disabled level access shower for disabled resident, as requested by Camden Occupational Therapy Services. The resident cannot access bathing facilities at present. Only non-original features are to be affected; the WHB, door and frame are original features of the building and will not be affected by the proposed works.



AKW Standard Width Wall Mounted Shower Seat



Bathroom Tiles
150mmx150mm ceramic wall tiles, waterproof grouted, and finished at exposed edges.



Altro: Aquarius slip resistant vinyl floor finish



Mira: Advance Flex shower

Status	Job number	Output date
Listed Building Consent	2504	February 2024
Revision	File name	Client
P1	2504_Design & Access Statement_113C	LB Camden

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