

Application ref: 2024/3089/P
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Development Management
Regeneration and Planning
London Borough of Camden
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The Planning Lab
Somerset House
South Wing
London
WC2R 1LA

Dear Sir/Madam

DECISION

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Full Planning Permission Granted

Address:
British Museum
Great Russell Street
London
WC1E 7JW

Proposal: Installation of new and replacement external lighting to the British Museum estate.

Drawing Nos: 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-100 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-105 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-110 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-111 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-112 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-113 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-114 rev P3; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-131 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-133 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-135 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-136 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-137 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-139 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-140 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-141 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-142 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-143 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-144 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-145 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-146 rev P1; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-210 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-211 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-212 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-213 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-214 rev P3; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-251 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-253 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-255 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-256 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-257 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-259 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-260 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-261 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-262 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-264 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-265 rev P1; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-281 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-282 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-284 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-285 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-286 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-287 rev

P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-288 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-289 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-290 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-291 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-292 rev P2; Luminaire Datasheet prepared by Steensen Varming dated June 2024; British Museum Health and Safety Exterior Lighting Specification D Equipment Schedules - Electrical prepared by Steensen Varming dated April 2024; Covering letter prepared by The Planning Lab dated 16/07/2024.

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

Condition(s) and Reason(s):

- 1 The development hereby permitted must be begun not later than the end of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: In order to comply with the provisions of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

- 2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-100 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-105 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-110 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-111 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-112 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-113 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-114 rev P3; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-131 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-133 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-135 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-136 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-137 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-139 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-140 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-141 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-142 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-143 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-144 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-145 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-146 rev P1; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-210 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-211 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-212 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-213 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-214 rev P3; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-251 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-253 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-255 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-256 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-257 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-259 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-260 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-261 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-262 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-264 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-265 rev P1; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-281 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-282 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-284 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-285 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-286 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-287 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-288 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-289 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-290 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-291 rev P2; 113-Nex-00-XX-DR-A-292 rev P2; Luminaire Datasheet prepared by Steensen Varming dated June 2024; British Museum Health and Safety Exterior Lighting Specification D Equipment Schedules - Electrical prepared by Steensen Varming dated April 2024; Covering letter prepared by The Planning Lab dated 16/07/2024.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interest of proper planning.

- 3 All new external work shall be carried out in materials that resemble, as closely as possible, in colour and texture those of the existing building, unless otherwise specified in the approved application.

Reason: To safeguard the appearance of the premises and the character of the immediate area in accordance with the requirements of policy D1 and D2 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017.

Informative(s):

1 Reasons for granting permission:

The lighting within this proposal would be installed in three primary external spaces of the Museum; the South Forecourt and around the East Residence (the former of which is public and the latter private), the East Road (private service road), and the West Road (private service road). The East Road can be partially seen from the South Forecourt and Montague Street, and the West Road can be partially seen from the South Forecourt and Great Russell Street.

A higher luminance is expected in destination areas such as at entrances. The prominence and footfall vary around the British Museum site and the lighting has been designed to reflect this hierarchy, with higher light levels at entrances. The project will adhere to established standards for minimum recommended illumination levels for general access areas and means of escape. Exterior staircases have been designed to be lit at 20 lux, as recommended by SLL Lighting Guide 16: Lighting for Stairs and The Health and Safety Executive's guide HSG38: Lighting at Work. High contrasts in light levels have been avoided in the proposals and comfortable transitions between areas of different brightness ensured. Overall, the proposed lighting is designed to create a compliant, comfortable level of lighting to the steps, walkways and roads of the site. The lighting proposed will not be completely uniform in a way that washes out or removes atmosphere from the site, but instead will be sympathetic to the existing building and atmospheric within external spaces.

An approach has been taken which provides consistent fittings and light levels site-wide, whilst removing life-expired or incongruous fittings. Any new lighting in this project will require compliant cabling with appropriate IP-rated connection boxes, aligned with Museum Standards and current regulations. Redundant cabling and trunking for existing lighting will be removed as part of this proposal, and mortar joints where cabling and cable trays have been fixed into will be repaired with suitable lime mortar.

The lighting project both improves the legibility of the grade I listed building and preserves its historic, within its prominent conservation area context, whilst improving safety and access to the museum complex in both front-of-house and back-of-house areas.

The new light fittings and lighting levels have been specified to be sensitive to historic significance, but also to read as modern additions which complement the sensitive context. Great care has been taken in the design of connection details and fixings, wherever possible utilising secondary brackets or rail systems fixed to existing mortar joints, to ensure that the installations will have minimal and reversible impacts on historic fabric. The lighting has also been

designed to provide subtle and even levels of light, to avoid light spill and glare both inside and outside the site.

It is therefore considered that the proposed works preserve the special interest of the listed building as well as preserving and enhancing the character and appearance of the conservation area, whilst providing noticeable public benefits through an enhanced environment for building users.

Given the minor scope and scale of the proposed works, it is not considered that they would create any new impacts to neighbouring residential amenity with regards to loss of daylight/sunlight, outlook, or privacy. Careful attention has been paid to avoid light spill or glare outside the site into neighbouring streets or properties, with lights carefully selected, positioned and orientated to light its required areas without excessive lighting or spillage.

- 2 As this development does not impact a priority habitat and is on an existing area of hardstanding it is considered de minimis and would be considered to be exempt from the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements set out within Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).

No objections were received prior to making this decision. The planning history of the site has been taken into account when coming to this decision.

Special attention has been paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the conservation area, and of preserving the listed building and its features of special architectural or historic interest, under s.66 and s72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990 as amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013.

As such, the proposed development is in general accordance with policies A1, D1 and D2 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017. The proposed development also accords with policies of the London Plan 2021 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2023.

- 3 This approval does not authorise the use of the public highway. Any requirement to use the public highway, such as for hoardings, temporary road closures and suspension of parking bays, will be subject to approval of relevant licence from the Council's Streetworks Authorisations & Compliance Team, 5 Pancras Square c/o Town Hall, Judd Street London WC1H 9JE (Tel. No 020 7974 4444). Licences and authorisations need to be sought in advance of proposed works. Where development is subject to a Construction Management Plan (through a requirement in a S106 agreement), no licence or authorisation will be granted until the Construction Management Plan is approved by the Council.
- 4 Your proposals may be subject to control under the Building Regulations and/or the London Buildings Acts that cover aspects including fire and emergency escape, access and facilities for people with disabilities and sound insulation between dwellings. You are advised to consult the Council's Building Control Service, Camden Town Hall, Judd St, Kings Cross, London NW1 2QS (tel: 020-7974 6941).

- 5 All works should be conducted in accordance with the Camden Minimum Requirements - a copy is available on the Council's website (search for 'Camden Minimum Requirements' at www.camden.gov.uk) or contact the Council's Noise and Licensing Enforcement Team, 5 Pancras Square c/o Town Hall, Judd Street London WC1H 9JE (Tel. No. 020 7974 4444)

Noise from demolition and construction works is subject to control under the Control of Pollution Act 1974. You must carry out any building works that can be heard at the boundary of the site only between 08.00 and 18.00 hours Monday to Friday and 08.00 to 13.00 on Saturday and not at all on Sundays and Public Holidays. You must secure the approval of the Council's Noise and Licensing Enforcement Team prior to undertaking such activities outside these hours.

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/appeal-planning-decision>.

If you submit an appeal against this decision you are now eligible to use the new [submission form](#) (Before you start - Appeal a planning decision - GOV.UK).

Yours faithfully



Daniel Pope
Chief Planning Officer