

Application ref: 2024/3134/L
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The Planning Lab
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Dear Sir/Madam

DECISION

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Listed Building Consent 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 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:

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: 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 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.

The site's planning history has been taken into account when making this decision. Historic England have authorised the issuing of a consent for this proposal.

Special regard has been attached to the desirability of preserving the listed building and its features of special architectural or historic interest, under s16 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 policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017. The proposed development also accords with policies of the London Plan 2021 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2023.

- 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 stamp.

Daniel Pope
Chief Planning Officer