

Application ref: 2024/4365/P
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Date: 4 December 2024

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Montagu Evans LLP
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EC3A 8BE

Dear Sir/Madam

DECISION

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Full Planning Permission Granted

Address:

**Royal Free Hospital
Pond Street
London
NW3 2QG**

Proposal:

Installation of new Air Handling Unit at first floor, 3no. new and 3no. relocated condensers to fourth floor enclosure, relocation of 4no pipes to west facade, and temporary relocation of 2no. chillers from first to fifth floor, and 7no. condensers from first to ground floor

Drawing Nos: Site Location Plan (00)001 B, (00)100 A, (00)102 A, (00)103 A, (00)110 A, (00)150, (02)111 A, (02)112 A, (02)113 A, (00)020 B, (00)030 B, (00)040 B, (00)050 B, (02)011 B, (02)012 B, (02)013 B, (00)010 B, External Plant Noise Assessment (RSK 2062434-RSKA-RP-002-(01)), Design and Access Statement Rev 03 Oct 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:

Site Location Plan (00)001 B, (00)100 A, (00)102 A, (00)103 A, (00)110 A, (00)150, (02)111 A, (02)112 A, (02)113 A, (00)020 B, (00)030 B, (00)040 B, (00)050 B, (02)011 B, (02)012 B, (02)013 B, (00)010 B, External Plant Noise Assessment (RSK 2062434-RSKA-RP-002-(01)), Design and Access Statement Rev 03 Oct 2024

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

- 3 The external noise levels emitted from plant/ machinery/ equipment shall ensure that the rating level of the noise emitted from the proposed installation located at the site shall not exceed the existing background level at any noise sensitive premises when measured and corrected in accordance with BS4142:2014 +A1:2019 "Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound."

Reason: To ensure that the amenity of occupiers of the development site/ surrounding premises is not adversely affected by noise from mechanical installations/ equipment in accordance with the requirements of policies A1 and A4 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017

- 4 Prior to use, machinery, plant or equipment at the development shall be mounted with proprietary anti-vibration isolators and fan motors shall be vibration isolated from the casing and adequately silenced and maintained as such.

Reason: To ensure that the amenity of occupiers of the development site and surrounding premises is not adversely affected by vibration in accordance with the requirements of policies A1 and A4 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017

- 5 The temporary plant work hereby permitted is for a temporary period only and shall be removed on or before the 04/12/2030.

Reason: The type of structure is not such as the local planning authority is prepared to approve, other than for a limited period, in view of its appearance. The permanent retention of the structure would be contrary to the requirements of policy D1 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017.

Informative(s):

- 1 Reasons for granting permission:

The application relates to the Royal Free Hospital, in particular the Clinical Research Facility which is being refurbished and as such, an updated plant and heating/cooling strategy is required. This facility is located to the western side of the site. The application site is neither listed nor located within a conservation area.

The proposal involves a combination of temporary and permanent works. The temporary works include the relocation of 2no chillers which are on the first floor, to the fifth floor. In addition, 7no condensers which are currently located at first floor level would be relocated to ground floor level also to the northwest part of the building.

The permanent changes include the installation of a new air handling unit at first floor level on the west elevation. Associated ductwork would be installed around and above the unit along the west elevation. In addition, four existing pipes would also be rerouted along the west elevation and would discharge at fifth floor roof level. Moreover, 3no new condenser units and 3no existing (currently located at first floor level) would be installed at fourth floor level within an existing enclosure.

The west part of the hospital is set back from the public realm and therefore the works would have limited visibility in views. It has a back of house feel already, with existing plant units and piping in situ. The works would therefore not be out of keeping with the appearance of this part of the building and would facilitate the refurbishment of the clinical research facility. They would not detract from the overall appearance of the building.

A noise impact assessment has been submitted and reviewed by the Council's Environmental Health officer, who has deemed it to be acceptable. The units are unlikely to result in adverse noise impacts to neighbouring occupiers, and conditions are attached to ensure the noise levels are in line with the Council's requirements for noise.

Although the proposal involves the use of active cooling, this is aimed at replacing existing active cooling and the new technology will be more efficient than the current. The active cooling is needed for the operation of the hospital and is therefore acceptable in this instance.

The proposal is not considered to cause any adverse impacts on the amenity of adjoining residential occupiers.

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

As such, the proposed development is in general accordance with policies A1, A4, D1 and CC2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017. The proposed development also accords with the London Plan 2021 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2023.

- 2 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).
- 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 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.

- 5 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Informative (1/2):

The effect of paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ("1990 Act") is that planning permission granted in England is subject to the condition ("the biodiversity gain condition") that development may not begin unless:

- (a) a Biodiversity Gain Plan has been submitted to the planning authority, and
- (b) the planning authority has approved the plan.

The local planning authority (LPA) that would approve any Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) (if required) is London Borough of Camden.

There are statutory exemptions and transitional arrangements which mean that the biodiversity gain condition does not always apply. These are summarised below, but you should check the legislation yourself and ensure you meet the statutory requirements.

Based on the information provided, this will not require the approval of a BGP before development is begun because it is below the de minimis threshold.

++ Summary of transitional arrangements and exemptions for biodiversity gain condition

The following are provided for information and may not apply to this permission:

1. The planning application was made before 12 February 2024.
2. The planning permission is retrospective.
3. The planning permission was granted under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the original (parent) planning permission was made or granted before 12 February 2024.
4. The permission is exempt because of one or more of the reasons below:
 - It is not “major development” and the application was made or granted before 2 April 2024, or planning permission is granted under section 73 and the original (parent) permission was made or granted before 2 April 2024.
 - It is below the de minimis threshold (because it does not impact an onsite priority habitat AND impacts less than 25 square metres of onsite habitat with biodiversity value greater than zero and less than 5 metres in length of onsite linear habitat).
 - The application is a Householder Application.
 - It is for development of a “Biodiversity Gain Site”.
 - It is Self and Custom Build Development (for no more than 9 dwellings on a site no larger than 0.5 hectares and consists exclusively of dwellings which are Self-Build or Custom Housebuilding).
 - It forms part of, or is ancillary to, the high-speed railway transport network (High Speed 2).

6 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Informative (2/2):

+ Irreplaceable habitat:

If the onsite habitat includes Irreplaceable Habitat (within the meaning of the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024) there are additional requirements. In addition to information about minimising adverse impacts on the habitat, the BGP must include information on compensation for any impact on the biodiversity of the irreplaceable habitat. The LPA can only approve a BGP if satisfied that the impact on the irreplaceable habitat is minimised and appropriate arrangements have been made for compensating for any impact which do not include the use of biodiversity credits.

++ The effect of section 73(2D) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

If planning permission is granted under section 73, and a BGP was approved in relation to the previous planning permission (“the earlier BGP”), the earlier BGP may be regarded as approved for the purpose of discharging the biodiversity gain condition on this permission. It will be regarded as approved if the conditions attached (and so the permission granted) do not affect both the post-development value of the onsite habitat and any arrangements made to compensate irreplaceable habitat as specified in the earlier BGP.

++ Phased development

In the case of phased development, the BGP will be required to be submitted to and approved by the LPA before development can begin (the overall plan), and before each phase of development can begin (phase plans). The modifications in respect of the biodiversity gain condition in phased development are set out in Part 2 of the Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Modifications and Amendments) (England) Regulations 2024.

In dealing with the application, the Council has sought to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive way in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework. The council publishes its adopted policies online, along with detailed Camden Planning Guidance. It also provides advice on the website for submitting applications and offers a pre-application advice service.

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