

Application ref: 2024/4979/L
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Montagu Evans
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Dear Sir/Madam

DECISION

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Approval of Details (Listed Building) Granted

Address:

British Museum
Great Russell Street
London
WC1E 7JW

Proposal:

Details of method statements covering dismantling of gates fronting Great Russell Street (condition 4(i)) and removal of sections of railing fronting Montague Street (Condition 4(ii)), required to part discharge Condition 4 of planning permission ref 2023/4903/L dated 16/10/2024 for Erection of new energy centre incorporating maintenance support accommodation to internal West Road, new substation off Montague Street, all together with associated internal and external works, service runs, erection of plant, landscaping, and temporary works associated with construction following demolition of existing Energy Centre to internal West Road and removal of temporary buildings to the south of the existing energy centre on the internal West Road and to the north and east of the White Wing facing Montague Street.

Drawing Nos: 10771-WW-SW-RF-DR-A-1030 rev P4; 10771-WW-SW-RF-DR-A-1031 rev P4; SW001-WWA-1000-X_01-DDG-A-1920 rev C04; SW001-WWA-1000-X_01-DDG-A-1921 rev C03; SW001-WWA-1000-X_01-DDG-A-1922 rev C05; SW001-WWA-1000-X_01-DDG-A-1950 rev C02; SW001-WWA-1000-X-DDG-A-1951 rev C03; SW001-WWA-1000-X-DDG-A-1952 rev C02; Enabling works method statement prepared by Acorn Restorations Limited dated November 2024; Ground Penetrating Radar survey prepared by Sandberg Consulting Engineers dated 17/07/2024.

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

Informatives:

1 Reasons to grant approval of details:

Details have been submitted to discharge condition 4(i) method statement covering the removal of the gates, posts and section of railing forming the westernmost section of the British Museum's frontage onto Great Russell Street and condition 4(ii) method statement covering the removal of sections of railings forming the southeast section of the British Museum's frontage onto Montague Street of planning permission 2023/4903/L.

The Council's Conservation officer has reviewed the documents and is satisfied that the contents of the submitted method statements and drawings meet the requirements of conditions 4 (i) and 4 (ii). The documents demonstrate that the listed gates and railings will be dismantled, removed and stored within the Museum's specialist facility (the British Museum Archaeological Research Collection) in an appropriate manner to preserve historic fabric in readiness for reassembly once the building works have been completed and the affected stretch of the Great Russell Street frontage towards its south-western end is no longer required for construction vehicle access.

As such, the temporary part removal of the railings will cause a low level of less-than-substantial harm to the special interest of the listed structures, which are an inherent part of the British Museum estate and which make an important contribution to the character and appearance of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area, to which a low level of less-than-substantial harm will also be caused. However, such negative impacts to the affected designated heritage assets will be outweighed by the public benefits arising from the implementation of the energy centre programme that was granted listed building consent in 16/10/2024. The method statements and drawings submitted for this approval of details application give assurance that the heritage impacts will be kept to a minimum with the employment of conservation led techniques and mitigation measures in place.

The submitted details are consistent with the general expectations of the approved scheme and are acceptable in all other respects.

Historic England has authorised the Council to determine the application using its own conservation expertise. A stamped version of Historic England's letter was received from the Secretary of State dated 12/12/2024.

As such, the submitted details are sufficient to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with policy D2 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017.

2 You are reminded that conditions 4(iii) (removal of lampposts) and 4(iv)

(removal of section of flagstone) of listed building consent (ref 2023/4903/L) granted on 16/10/2024 are outstanding and require details to be submitted and approved.

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:

<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 grey rectangular background.

Daniel Pope
Chief Planning Officer