

Application ref: 2025/0428/P
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Date: 28 March 2025

Development Management
Regeneration and Planning
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
Judd Street
London
WC1H 9JE

Phone: 020 7974 4444

planning@camden.gov.uk
www.camden.gov.uk/planning

Montagu Evans
70 St Marys Axe
London
EC3A 8BE

Dear Sir/Madam,

DECISION

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Full Planning Permission Granted

Address:
39 and 40 Russell Square
London
WC1B 5DA

Proposal: Installation of CCTV camera to the fanlight on the facade of 39/40 Russell Square for a temporary period until June 2030.

Drawing Nos: 1077J-WW-RS-RF-DR-A-1000 rev P4; SW001-NEX-2511-39RS-DR-A-160 rev P1; SW001-NEX-2511-39RS-DR-A-260 rev P4; Covering letter prepared by Montague Evans dated 30/01/2025 (ref PD13794/CM/GF/GA/RA/HM-H).

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 proposed CCTV camera and associated equipment hereby permitted are for a temporary period only and shall be removed from the building and the site made good on or before June 2030.

Reason: The type of equipment 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 policies D1 and D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

- 3 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: 1077J-WW-RS-RF-DR-A-1000 rev P4; SW001-NEX-2511-39RS-DR-A-160 rev P1; SW001-NEX-2511-39RS-DR-A-260 rev P4; Covering letter prepared by Montague Evans dated 30/01/2025 (ref PD13794/CM/GF/GA/RA/HM-H).

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

- 4 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 policies D1 and D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

- 5 The CCTV camera and cabling hereby approved shall be finished in white and/or a similar light colour to match the existing paintwork of the timber fanlight frame and the keystone on the front elevation of the building.

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.

Permission is sought for the installation of a single CCTV camera to the façade of 39/40 Russell Square to provide additional security measures during the British Museum's Energy Centre Programme (ECP) works for the length of the construction period until December 2029. The building has remained unoccupied since 2013. The applicant has advised that a CCTV camera is required to increase site safety and to deter crime due to the long history of vacancy at the building.

The camera is to be mounted on the underside of the keystone within the entrance to the site fronting Russell Square to allow for optimal security coverage. The camera cable is proposed to be fed through a new 10mm hole through the timber frame of the fanlight. A conduit is also proposed to be installed internally which will not affect the window frame and provide coverage for the cable internally.

It is acknowledged that the camera installation is in a prominent location on the Grade II listed townhouse which will cause a low level of harm to the special interest of the listed building and to the character and appearance of the Bloomsbury conservation area. Notwithstanding this, a security need for the camera has been identified for the duration of the planned building works, so it is considered expedient to grant temporary consents on condition that the camera and associated cabling are removed within 6 months of the ending of the ECP construction works and that the affected existing fabric is made good

in a like-for-like manner. The temporary permission and making good would be secured by condition. A condition would also be attached to ensure that the camera and cabling are finished in white and/or a similar light colour to match the existing paintwork of the timber fanlight frame and the keystone.

Due to the nature of the works there will be no impact on neighbour amenities.

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.

The proposed works are considered de-minimus in relation to the biodiversity net gain criteria. The necessary informatives would be attached to any decision notice.

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 2024.

- 2 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.
- 3 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).
- 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 (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).

++ 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