

Application ref: 2025/0886/P
Contact: Henry Yeung
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Date: 25 April 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
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Centro Planning Consultancy
2nd Floor
Abbey House
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EC1M 4DT

Dear Sir/Madam

DECISION

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Full Planning Permission Granted

Address:
County Hotel
Upper Woburn Place
London
WC1H 0JW

Proposal:
Relocation of the existing/temporary air source heat pumps and associated structure to rear external terrace, and the erection of acoustic louvred enclosure.

Drawing Nos: AL(00)700, PL(00)701, PL(00)702, PL(00)703, Cover Letter (prepared by Centro, dated 28/02/2025), Noise Impact Assessment (prepared by Nova Acoustics, dated 17/03/2025)

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:

AL(00)700, PL(00)701, PL(00)702, PL(00)703, Cover Letter (prepared by Centro, dated 28/02/2025), Noise Impact Assessment (prepared by Nova Acoustics, dated 17/03/2025)

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 policies D1 and D2 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017.

- 4 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

- 5 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 safeguard the amenities of the adjoining premises and the area generally in accordance with the requirements of policies A1 and A4 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017.

Informative(s):

- 1 Reasons for granting permission.

This application follows the refusal of application reference 2024/3948/P, which proposed the installation of ASHP units on the upper levels of the building. That application was refused due to the visual impact of the plant on the character and appearance of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area and the setting of nearby heritage assets. The current proposal seeks to address the previous reasons for refusal by relocating the ASHP units to a discreet ground floor location.

Planning permission is sought for the relocation of four ASHP units and roof mounted plant at ground floor level. The proposal includes the erection of a louvred acoustic enclosure to house the ASHP units and mounted plant. The enclosure will incorporate high-quality materials, designed to be in keeping with

the character of the site and its surroundings. The proposal also includes the removal of any previously installed screening and plant from the upper levels of the building.

The ASHP units are proposed to be located at ground floor level in a discreet area that is not visible from public or prominent private viewpoints. This location ensures that the installation does not interrupt important views, nor does it compete visually with the adjacent listed terrace or the broader streetscape of the Conservation Area.

The enclosures proposed and material are consistent with the character of the host building and the Conservation Area. The Council's Conservation Officer has reviewed the proposals and raises no objection, concluding that the installation, as proposed, would preserve the setting of the adjacent listed buildings and would not result in harm to the significance of designated heritage assets. The proposal is therefore considered acceptable with respect to design and heritage.

The siting of the equipment at ground floor level ensures that there are no unacceptable impacts in terms of outlook, privacy, or overshadowing. An acoustic assessment has been submitted in support of the application. The report identifies the nearest sensitive receptors and confirms that noise levels from the ASHP units will be well within acceptable limits at nearby residential properties. The Council's Environmental Health Officer has reviewed the acoustic report and associated technical documentation. They are satisfied that the proposed equipment would not result in any significant harm to neighbouring amenity and recommend conditions to secure compliance with the submitted details.

The proposed installation of ASHP units and associated enclosure at ground floor level is considered acceptable in terms of design, heritage, amenity, and sustainability. The siting and screening of the plant ensures there is no harm to the adjacent listed buildings or the character of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. The use of high-quality materials and the provision of acoustic mitigation further reinforce the appropriateness of the proposal.

The application complies with the relevant policies D1, D2, A1, and A4 of the Camden Local Plan (2017), the London Plan (2021), and the National Planning Policy Framework (2024).

- 2 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 08.00-18.00 hours Monday to Friday and 08.00-13.00 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.

- 3 Your proposals may be subject to control under the Party Wall etc Act 1996 which covers party wall matters, boundary walls and excavations near neighbouring buildings. You are advised to consult a suitably qualified and experienced Building Engineer.
- 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 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.
- 6 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).

7 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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DPope', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Daniel Pope
Chief Planning Officer