

Delegated Report		Analysis sheet		Expiry Date:		16/09/2013	
		N/A		Consultation Expiry Date:		22/8/13	
Officer				Application Number(s)			
Alan Wito				2013/3857/L			
Application Address				Drawing Numbers			
The Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn London				See decision notice			
PO 3/4		Area Team Signature		C&UD		Authorised Officer Signature	
Proposal(s)							
Replacement of sound system including the removal of 8x loudspeakers and replacement by 4x loudspeakers							
Recommendation(s):		Grant					
Application Type:		Listed Building Consent					
Conditions or Reasons for Refusal:		Refer to Draft Decision Notice					
Informatives:							
Consultations							
Adjoining Occupiers:		No. notified	00	No. of responses	00	No. of objections	00
				No. electronic	00		
Summary of consultation responses:		<p>A site notice was put up outside of the property from 26/7/13 to 16/8/13 and a press notice published on 22/8/13 but no responses were received as a result of this.</p> <p>English Heritage was notified of the application and a letter was received back authorising the council to determine the application as is seen fit.</p>					
CAAC/Local groups* comments: *Please Specify		Bloomsbury CAAC were consulted and whilst a response was received this raised "no comment".					

Site Description

The application site is located on the junction of Lincoln's Inn Fields, Newmans Row and Serle Street and comprises a two storey plus semi-basement Tudor-style building that is occupied by offices and a banqueting hall that are part of Lincoln's Inn precinct. The building is a Grade II* listed building and is linked at the north end to the adjoining library building. The south end is flanked by square twin towers. The application relates to the west tower. To the west is Lincoln's Inn Fields open space area, to the south is a row of chambers buildings fronting New Square that are Grade II* listed buildings, and to the east are other listed buildings within Lincoln's Inn. The site is within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

Relevant History

2013/0934/P and 2013/0836/L – PP and LB granted (23/4/13) - Re-surfacing of car park outside Great Hall/Library and replacement of concrete paving with new york stone paving outside of Old Hall.

PSX0204582/R1 and LSX0204583/R1 – PP and LB Granted (03/04/2003) - Alteration to the Great Hall to allow the Inn to function effectively in the 21st Century. These alterations were needed so that more floor space could be provided to accommodate the increased numbers of students and CPD requirements and so that the Inn had full disabled access and to bring the kitchen and servery areas up to present day Hygiene and Health and Safety requirements.

2004/5024/P and 2004/5029/L - PP and LB Granted (24/01/2005) - The erection of a single storey store for the existing refuse compactor, within the (west) kitchen service yard and the installation of new railings on the south parapet of the south terrace.

Relevant policies

LDF Core Strategy and Development Policies

CS14 (Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage)

DP25 (Conserving Camden's heritage)

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

Assessment

It is proposed to replace the existing sound system in the Great Hall. Presently there are 8 units, 6 large speakers mounted on top of the panelling in the main part of the hall and 2 further speakers located behind false panelling in the rear wall. Whilst visually these have a limited impact on the space, functionally they do not adequately cover the hall and it is likely there are a number of “dead spots” between units.

Four new speakers are proposed to replace the existing. The position of these has been modelled to cover the entire area and therefore it is unlikely that there will be further requests for additional speakers.

All the units will be visible, however the interior of the Great Hall is particularly “busy” and ornate and they will appear as subservient features in the space with attention more drawn towards the roof structure, frescos, tracery and large stained windows. There is no obvious way of concealing the speaker into the fabric of the building without causing excessive damage or without the requirement for a greater number of speakers. The tall vertical proportions of the speakers also matches the windows reveals it sits in.

The dais speakers will be clamped to the stonework which makes the fixings reversible and would leave the stonework undamaged,

The proposed works strike a balance between the acoustic requirements of how the space is used and the preservation of the special interest of the listed building. It is recommended that consent is granted.