

Lifetimes Homes Assessment for Proposals at 24-25 Bloomsbury Square, W1

3686(99)1001 Rev E (11.06.13)

Introduction

The buildings at 24-25 Bloomsbury Square are Grade *II* Listed terraced houses and due to the restrictions incumbent in working on historic buildings it is not possible to fully meet the requirements as set out in the sixteen Design Criteria used in the assessment of the Lifetime Homes Standards, however we are partly meeting ten criteria and fully meeting a further four of the sixteen criteria.

Though not possible to address all the recommendations of each of the design criteria, the design team has tried as far as possible to meet the requirements. Listed below are each of the Lifetime homes criteria and a summary of how the proposals respond to each.

Criterion 1. Parking (Width or widening capability)

Off street parking is not provided as part of the scheme but there is an underground car park available in Bloomsbury Square to the front of the buildings. This is not part of the proposals, but these spaces do include compliant disabled bays.

Criterion 2. Approach to dwellings from parking (distance, gradients, widths)

Off street parking is not provided as part of the scheme but there are parking bays (including disabled) in the underground Bloomsbury Square car park, which can be accessed by a ramp & a lift.

The entrance to the buildings has to be accessed via five (no.24) or 6 (no. 25) steps which cannot be adjusted as they are integral to the historic building and the streetscape.

Main entrance widths are over 900mm wide.

Entrances are illuminated.

Criterion 3. Approach to all entrances

As item 2 above.

Criterion 4. Entrances

The level of external street illumination is such that the provision of additional lighting at the entrance should not be necessary. Any external lighting would be subject to what is permissible in the context of a listed building in this location and would need to be agreed with the Planning Authority.

The existing thresholds are currently not level and have two steps from the level landing area outside so it is not possible to address this requirement.

The existing building does not feature weather protection over the main entrance door due to the historic listed nature of the building. It is not possible to add further weather protection to the façade due to planning restrictions.

Criterion 5. Communal Stairs and Lifts.

The installation of a communal lift within the dwellings is not feasible as it would result in a significant loss of historic fabric and major disruption to its structure and plan form. (Criterion 5b)



The principle access stairs within the dwelling are a retained historic feature and cannot meet the going and rise requirements as defined in Approved Document M or criterion 5a.

Criterion 6. Internal Doorways and Hallways.

The new hallways and doorways formed within the dwellings are not all of a width and configuration to meet the Lifetime Homes Requirements, due to the restrictions of the exiting historic fabric, although compliance is maintained as far as is practicable.

Nibs to communal doorways have been provided.

Criterion 7. circulation space

The space provided in the living rooms, dining rooms and basic circulation areas is such that it can meet circulation and clear width space requirements as set out in the turning ellipse as defined in criterion 7 of Lifetime Homes recommendations.

Criterion 8. Entrance level living space

The living space to all apartments is located at the entrance to each flat so satisfies the requirements of criterion 8.

Criterion 9. Potential for entrance level bed space

The size and arrangement of the living space within the duplex apartments would permit an area to be used as a convenient temporary bed space, in the four, two storey maisonettes at the front of the house & the inclusion of an electrical socket in the area would satisfy Criterion 9.

Criterion 10. Entrance level WC and shower drainage

Due to the desire for historic building layouts to reflect where possible the original configuration of primary rooms, entrance level WC's with shower drainage to the size/zones defined in Figure 10a of Criterion 10 have not been provided.

Criterion 11. WC and bathroom walls

All walls to bathroom perimeters can be constructed to permit post fixing of grab rails in the height range 200-1800mm. Existing walls bounding WC/ bathroom areas are general masonry construction and would provide adequate fixing and support provision for post fixing of grab rails.

Criterion 12. Stairs and potential through floor lift in dwellings

It may be possible to fit future stair lift installations to the four, two storey flats in the front of the building. It will not be possible to do so in the one bedroom, two storey flats within the rear closet wings. Due to the nature of the historic building and restrictions/ constraints imposed in respect of structural alterations, the provision of a through lift is not possible.

Criterion 13. Potential for future fitting of hoists and bedroom/ bathroom relationship

All structure above bedrooms and bathrooms is existing and would be unlikely to adequately provide sufficient support for future hoists without intrusive structural alterations to existing fabric which we believe is likely to be unacceptable to the Planning Authority.

Criterion 14. Bathrooms

All apartments in the two & three bedroom flats have bathrooms that can meet the dimensional requirements defined in Criterion 14 and fittings provided as defined. (Hoist provision not above) In the double storey units the bathrooms are not provided at the entrance level to the apartments. Please refer to item 12 above regarding potential through floor access.

Criterion 15. Glazing and window handle heights

All windows in principle living rooms are existing. The windows in these areas generally have a cill level below 800mm and windows are generally sliding sashes providing visual fields within the parameters defined in Criterion 15.



Sash windows would have finger pulls at a point lower than 1200 mm though these may present difficulties for some disabled users.

Criterion 16. Location of service controls

All service controls switches etc. within a height band of 450mm to 1200mm and at least 300mm away from all internal corners of room. Therefore Criterion 16 can be met.

Internal stair dimensions are not all compliant, Criterion 14 Bathroom dimensions are acceptable. /Star 25-3 lifetime homes standards 00 ass makes winders bendate Sedreom 1 Water Tank Matera Criterion 15 Glazing is generally below 800mm above f.f.l. Stell 24-1 Ges meters **8 B (11)** (2) **(1)** 24 Criterion 7 Internal living space areas are adequate throughout Criterion 5 Due to the building fabric being listed, and All new and existing bathroom walls are existing constraints on space. It is not suitable for fixing future grabrails possible to install a common lift. Criterion 6

Criterion 5

Criterion 11

To be read in conjunction with the attached lifetime homes assessment.

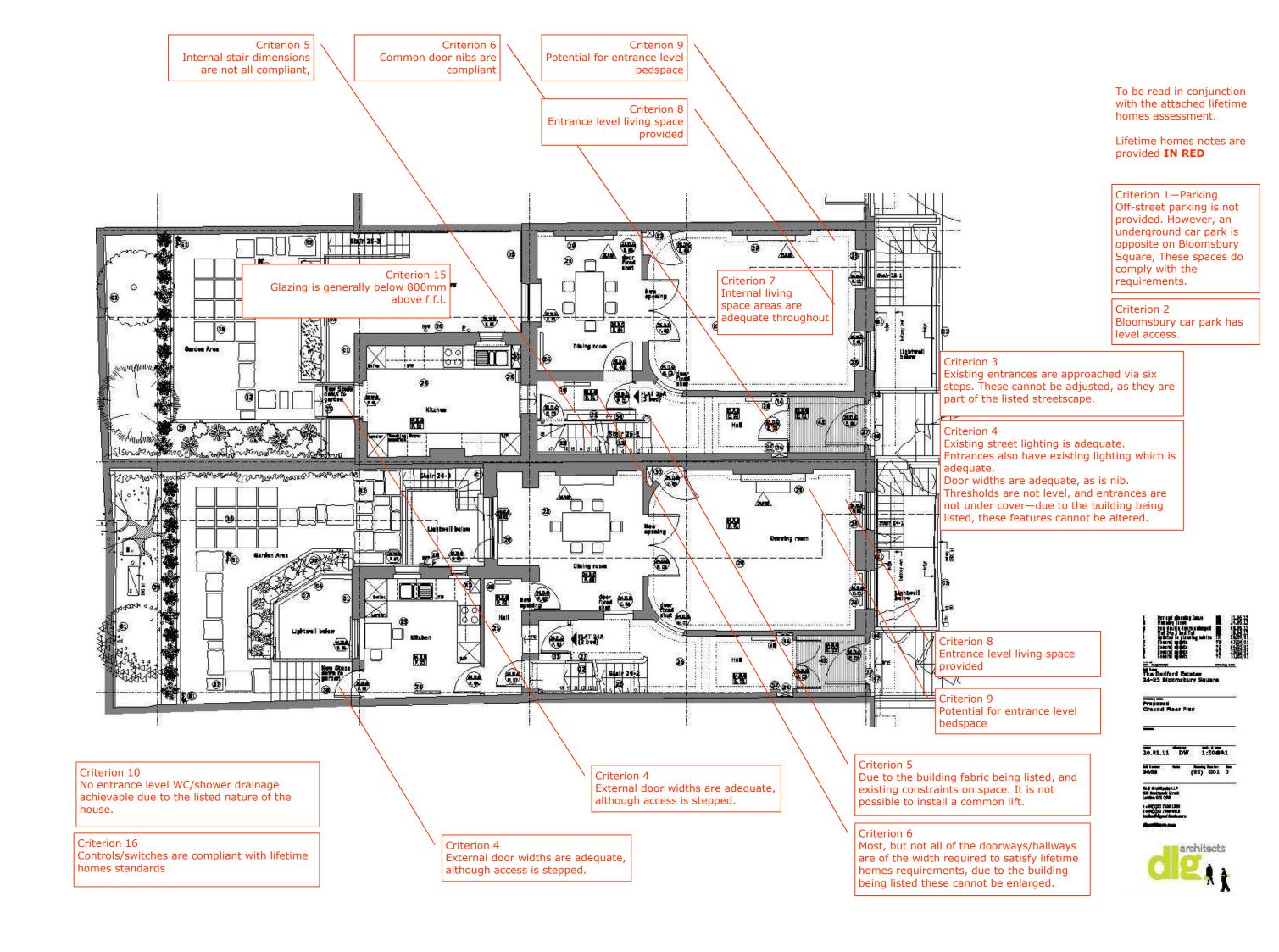
Lifetime homes notes are provided IN RED

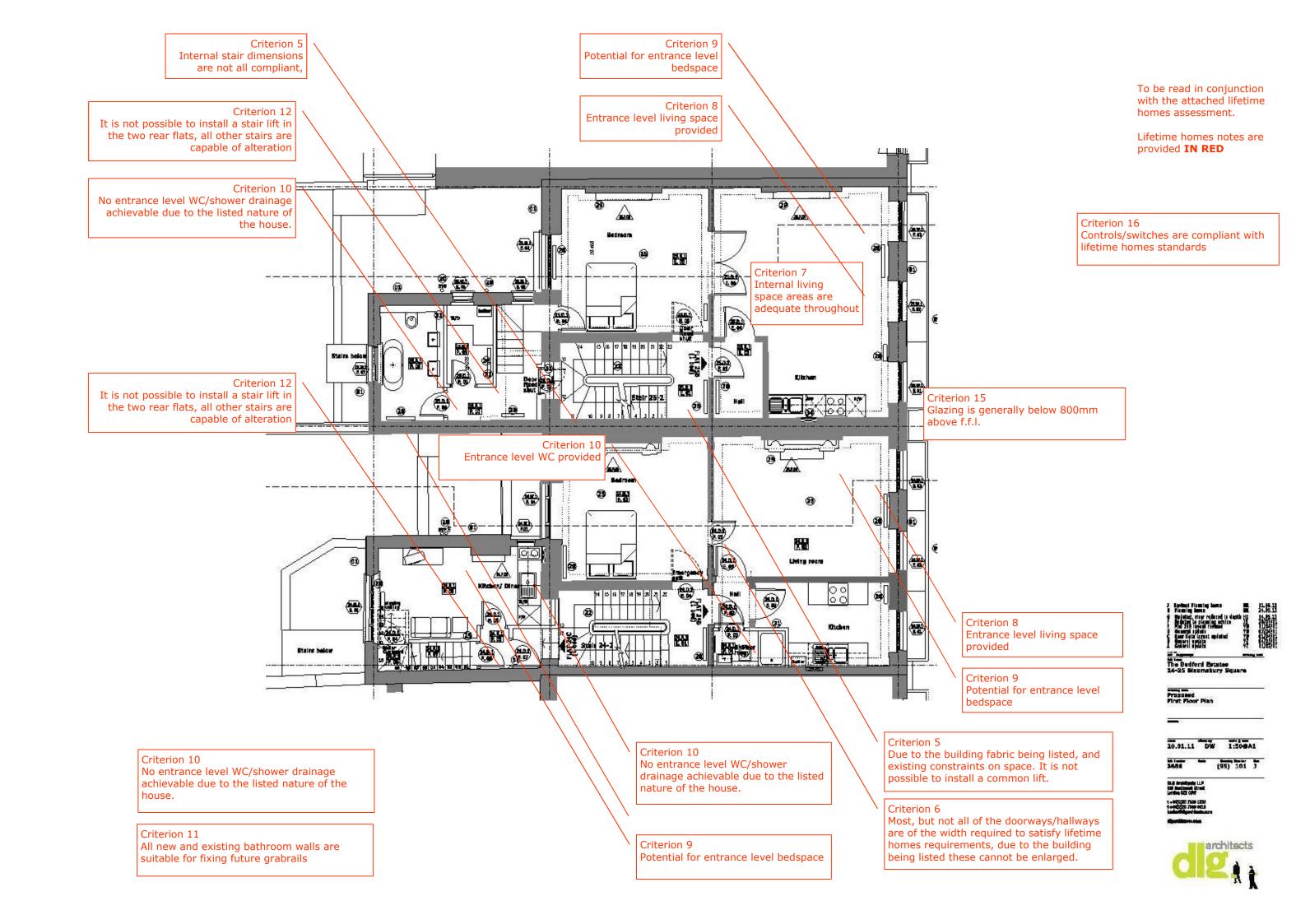
Criterion 16 Controls/switches are compliant with

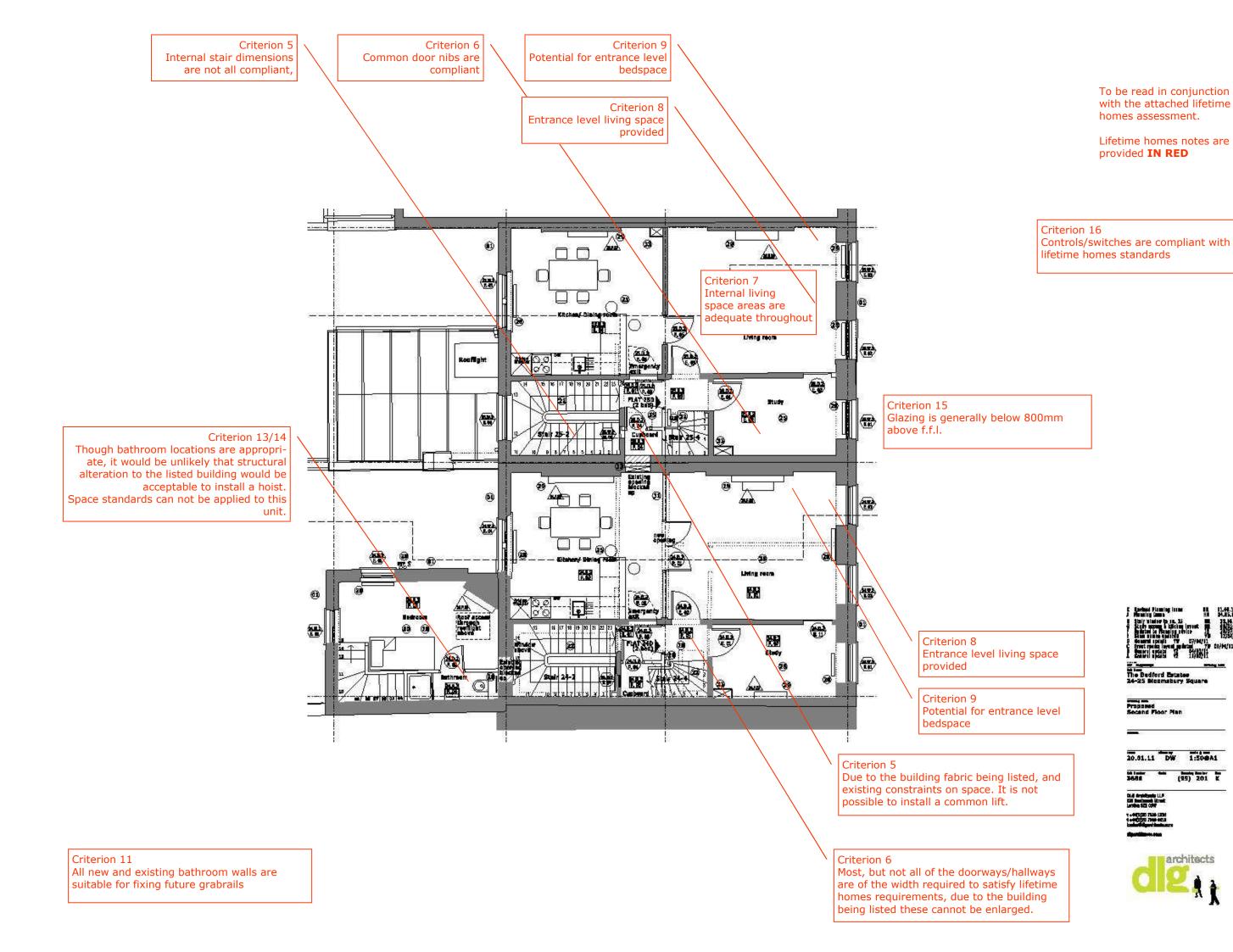
Most, but not all of the doorways/hallways are of the width required to satisfy lifetime homes requirements, due to the building being listed these cannot be enlarged.

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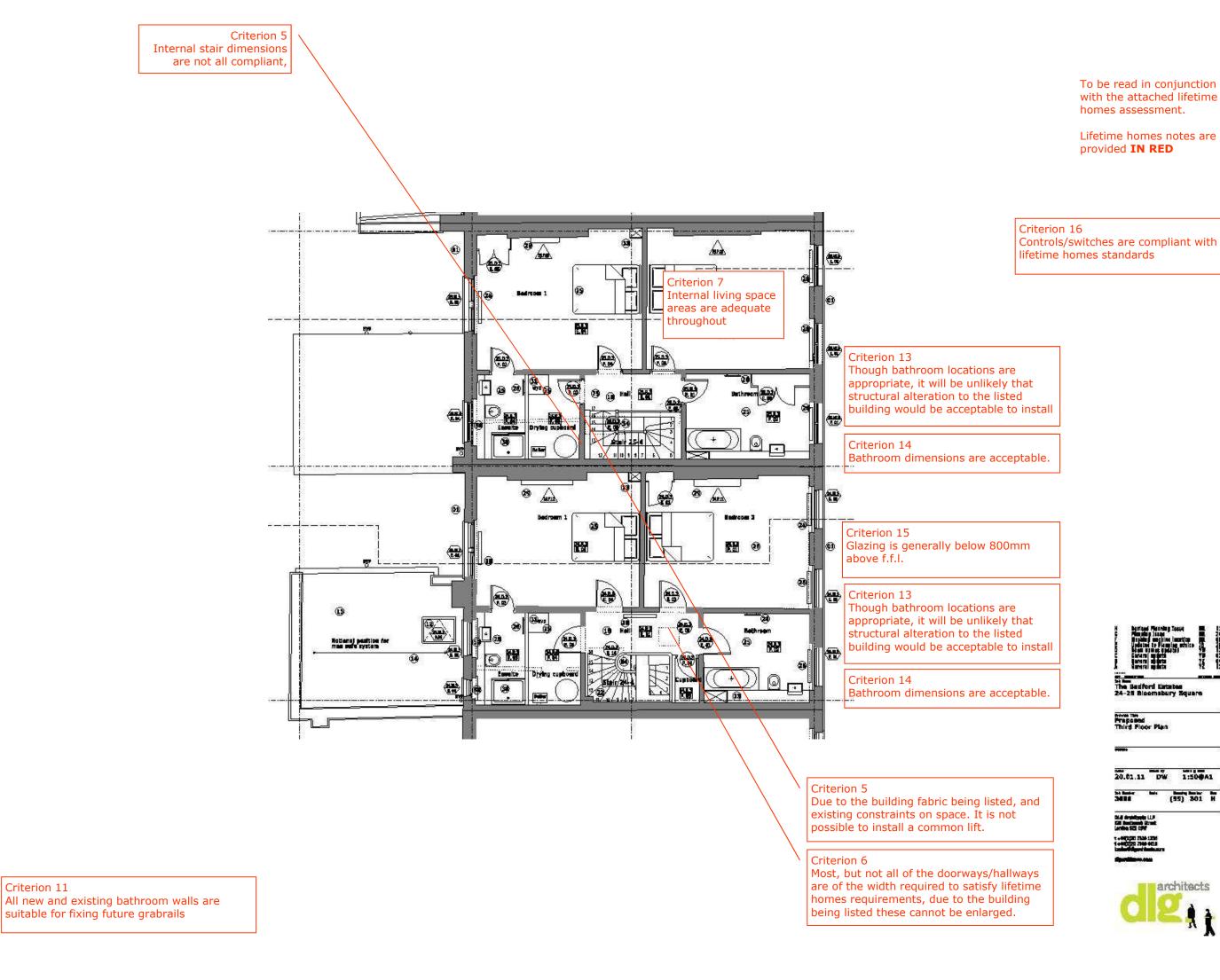








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Criterion 11