

The British Museum

Events Kitchen Relocation: WCEC-DP-3

Listed Building and Planning Application: 01/08/2011:

Design and Access Statement

Background:

The plans to develop the North West corner of the British Museum site to create new gallery and conservation facilities (The WCEC Building) will displace other facilities in the North West area of the site. One key area which will be displaced is the Level 2 Events kitchen and preparation facility currently accommodated in the Palestine and Cracherode Rooms. We propose to relocate the kitchen to the east of Level 1 of the King Edward VII Building, displacing two offices.

Proposal:

The aim is to provide a single room which will allow external caterers to set up a temporary kitchen for preparation of food for receptions and dinners. Ease of access from external back of house space for late afternoon food and perishables deliveries is required. The new space will also require good ventilation. The proposed location is adjacent to the North east vehicle gate and loading bay and has an external wall with windows looking onto the north wall of the Boiler House.

We propose to install simple extract units within the new kitchen which will remove air via the existing windows into the space between the KEB and the boiler house. The extract fans will either replace an existing glass panel within the window or, in the case of the window to Room 155, the unit will replace an existing metal infill panel with a ventilation grille.

Design Approach:

The separating partition between the two offices will be carefully removed along with the spur shelving and the existing structure will be made good. New finishes will be hygienic wall and floor coverings, which can be easily removed should the use of the rooms revert back to offices at some future date. The door to be removed is a veneered flush door dating back to approximately 1980.

The installation will be designed in order that the extract units will sit centrally within one of the window panes and be framed by a metal panel filling between the mullions and transoms. This installation will also be easily reversible.

Environmental approach:

The Museum is aware of the requirement to establish the impact of the transference of sound from equipment to adjacent properties and the street and this requirement will be key in determining the selection of the ventilation equipment. The windows are on the rear of the KEB and are in the strip of Museum land immediately behind the Boiler House. We do not anticipate that there will be any increase in the ambient noise level in the area from the installation of the new ventilation extract fans.