

Delegated Report		Analysis sheet		Expiry Date:		04/08/2010	
		N/A		Consultation Expiry Date:		23/7/10	
Officer				Application Number(s)			
Alan Wito				2010/3145/L			
Application Address				Drawing Numbers			
British Museum Great Russell Street London WC1B 3DG				See decision notice			
PO 3/4		Area Team Signature		C&UD		Authorised Officer Signature	
Proposal(s)							
Internal works involving the installation of 4 information screen housings containing monitors, 2 in the Montague Place entrance lobby and 2 in the south cloakroom to museum and associated works (Class D1) .							
Recommendation(s):		Grant listed building consent					
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 29/6/10 to 20/7/10 but no responses were received as a result of this.</p> <p>English Heritage was notified of the application and a letter was received from them dated 28 July 2010 authorising the council to deal with the application as is seen fit.</p>					
CAAC/Local groups* comments: *Please Specify		N/A					

Site Description

Grade I listed museum building situated on the north side of Great Russell Street within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. The original portions of the building date from 1823-47 and were built to the designs of Robert Smirke. Constructed of Portland stone it was originally planned as a big quadrangle with an open central courtyard. The building consists of two principal storeys and adheres to the Greek Revival style in the most part. Various additions, most recent of which is the Norman Foster designed Great Court scheme which created a central glass covered space around the Sidney Smirke designed Reading Room dating 1852-57.

Relevant History

There is no planning history which is considered relevant to this application.

Relevant policies

Replacement Unitary Development Plan 2006

Policy B6 – Listed Buildings

LDF Core Strategy and Development Policies

Policy CS14 – Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage

Policy DP25 – Conserving Camden's heritage

As the draft LDF Core Strategy and Development Policies documents have now been published, they are material planning considerations. However, as a matter of law, limited weight should be attached to them at this stage.

Assessment

The South Cloakroom is currently used as a cloakroom area and shop. On the wall at a higher level are slate benefactor panels which are located between each pilaster. Below this is a continuous MDF information panel which projects beyond the line of the pilasters. The existing MDF panels would be cut down in size and mounted between the pilasters. Two new panels incorporating monitors would replace the two central panels. This would create a much neater appearance with the vertical lines of the pilasters respected.

In the north entrance two more panels would be mounted on the pilasters. These have been specifically designed to leave the skirting and capital exposed. It was not possible to locate the units on the floor as it is paved in stone which would be damaged by such works. In the proposed location they could be removed in future with the only work of making good being repairs to the plasterwork.

The monitors would provide information on events and exhibitions in the museum and would not be used for more general advertising.

The proposed monitor screens would provide valuable information to visitors to the museum and have been located by the two main entrances. Their positioning is considered acceptable and strikes an acceptable balance between the preservation of the special interest of the building and its successful operation as a museum. It is recommended that consent is granted.

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