

DISCLAIMER

Decision route to be decided by nominated members on Monday 25th February 2008. For further information see

<http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/environment/planning-and-built-environment/planning-applications/development-control-members-briefing/>

Delegated Report Members' Briefing		Analysis sheet		Expiry Date:		06/02/2008	
				Consultation Expiry Date:		18/02/2008	
Officer				Application Number(s)			
Jenny Fisher				2007/6382/P			
Application Address				Drawing Numbers			
British Museum Great Russell Street London WC1B 3DG							
PO 3/4	Area Team Signature	C&UD	Authorised Officer Signature				
Proposal(s)							
Erection of a 3-storey temporary building to replace the existing 2-storey temporary building to the south west corner of the site.							
Recommendation(s):		Grant planning permission for a limited period					
Application Type:		Full Planning Permission					
Conditions:		Refer to Draft Decision Notice					
Informatives:							
Consultations							
Adjoining Occupiers:	No. notified	15	No. of responses No. electronic	00 00	No. of objections	00	
Summary of consultation responses:	Site Notice displayed – no response received.						

<p>CAAC/Local groups comments:</p>	<p><u>Bloomsbury CAAC</u></p> <p>The application gives no details of the building to be demolished and should not have been accepted. The drawings also need to give more details of the setting; in particular the relationship with listed buildings in Bloomsbury Street. The site here is less sensitive than the application of the same date (application for a temporary structure on the Montague annexe), but all these changes are covered by the Grade 1 listing of the Museum itself. A clear statement must be made about the length of time for which consent is being sought. We advise Camden not to give consent until the position of other temporary consents at the British Museum, now long overrun, is regularised.</p> <p><i><u>Officer comment:</u> Not considered necessary for the Applicant to be required to provide details of how the temporary structure would be removed. The temporary structure would be 18m from the rear of the Bloomsbury Street buildings, and set in 10m from the site boundary. It would replace an existing 2-storey structure, not visible from the public domain. Letters of consultation were sent to occupants of the Bloomsbury Street buildings; no objections raised. Building not attached to the fabric of any part of the listed building. Space needed for contractors on site.</i></p> <p><u>English Heritage</u></p> <p>Do not wish to make any comments.</p>
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Site Description

The British Museum is a Grade 1 listed building bounded to the north by Montague Place, to the east by Montague Street, to the west by Bloomsbury Street and to the south by Great Russell Street. Located within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area

Relevant History

Temp. permission for ground floor cabin until December 2004. First floor until June 2005.

06/09/2004 2004/2657/P planning permission for retention of 1st floor portacabin on west side British Museum adjacent to rear of Bloomsbury Street properties.

Relevant policies

Replacement UDP S1/S2, SD1, SD6, B1, B6, B7

Camden Planning Guidance: conservation areas; design; listed buildings
Bloomsbury Conservation Area Statement

Assessment

Proposed:

The replacement of an existing 2-storey temporary structure to the s/w corner of the Museum site. It is off West Road, which is a thoroughfare restricted to the British Museum site. The existing structure is used for storage by caterers to the British Museum. Premises are unsuitable because access is currently via two narrow concrete steps to the front and rear, the building is showing signs of age and, following a recently commissioned survey, it has been decided that the building is beyond economic repair.

The new building would provide welfare facilities for the Museum's contractor's workforce in compliance with relevant legislation (DDA).

A period of 5 years is requested. This is considered reasonable given the amount of work in progress or scheduled, the intended duration of such works and the lack of space available within the Museum itself for contractor's use.

The building would be a stand-alone unit, not attached to the main building at any level. An existing link at level 2 would be removed and the fabric of the main building made good by filling in the opening. The agent has confirmed that this is a modification to the 1970s extension and will not affect the special or historic or architectural importance of the Grade 1 listed BM. On this basis, it has been concluded that listed building consent is not required in this instance.

Access:

The building would provide level access to storage areas and an internal lift would serve upper floors.

No objections in listed building / conservation area terms – the structure replaces an existing temporary type structure positioned behind the Museum in a service area. It is not supported by or otherwise attached to any listed fabric.

It will not have a detrimental effect on the setting of the Museum, positioned as it is at the rear of the building. It will have limited effect on the character or appearance of this part of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area, as it is not seen from the public realm. There would be no adverse impact on the setting of the nearby listed buildings, provided it is retained for a temporary period only. The building is considered unsuitable for permanent retention due to its non-traditional form, design and facing materials, which would cause harm to the character and appearance of the building if permanently retained.

Recommend approval for the 5 years requested.