

Delegated Report		Analysis sheet		Expiry Date:		20/07/2007	
		N/A / attached		Consultation Expiry Date:		09/07/07	
Officer				Application Number(s)			
Victoria Fowlis				2007/2746/L			
Application Address				Drawing Numbers			
The British Museum Great Russell Street London WC1B 3DG				See decision letter			
PO 3/4	Area Team Signature	C&UD	Authorised Officer Signature				
Proposal(s)							
Erection of additional temporary structure within the round reading room for exhibition purpose to support lights, cameras and projectors.							
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:		<u>Site notice</u> – no responses received <u>English Heritage</u> – flexible authorisation, authorised by GOL 28.06.07					
CAAC/Local groups* comments: *Please Specify		Bloomsbury CAAC – no objection					

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

2006/3731/L – listed building consent granted (for a limited period of time) for *Erection of a temporary stage within the Round Reading Room, and the opening of the Reading Room North door in order to provide a temporary exhibition space.*

Relevant policies

UDP 2006:

B6 – listed buildings

Assessment

Listed building consent was granted in October 2006 for the erection of a temporary structure within the Museum's Round reading Room, in order to provide adequate exhibition space for a season of temporary exhibitions. Consent is now sought for the erection of an additional structure within the temporary space, which is intended to provide support for lighting, cameras etc, and to provide some acoustic deadening.

The proposed structure takes the form of a plywood ring which is supported on 6 steel columns at a height of 3.5m, fixed into the floor of the previously-approved temporary structure. On plan, the ring is approximately 2.5m in width. In section, it measures approx. 300mm. The overall diameter is approx 28m.

Structural engineer's drawings and a report have been submitted which demonstrate that this additional structure falls within permissible loads, and as such the additional weight will not cause harm to the original arched structure which supports the floor of the Reading Room.

Visually, the ring will be read as part of the temporary exhibition space. It is not fixed to any historic fabric, and will not interfere with views of the Reading Room ceiling.

The proposal is considered to preserve the building's special architectural and historic interest and is recommended for approval.