



ENGLISH HERITAGE

LONDON OFFICE

Mr Gavin Sexton
London Borough of Camden
Development and Control Services
Town Hall
Argyle Street
London
WC1H 8ND

Direct Dial: 0207 973 3777
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Our ref: P00417851

23 June 2014

Dear Mr Sexton

**Notifications under Circular 01/2001, Circular 08/2009 &
T&CP (Development Management Procedure) Order 2010
WATES HOUSE, 22 GORDON STREET, LONDON, WC1H 0QB
Application No 2014/3486/P**

Thank you for your letter of 28 May 2014 notifying us of the application for planning permission relating to the above site. We do not wish to comment in detail, but offer the following general observations.

English Heritage Advice

English Heritage was pleased to be consulted on the proposals for redevelopment of this site at the pre-application stage and welcomes the opportunity to comment at the application stage.

In principle, we support the proposed redesign and extension of Wates House. Whilst the site is sensitive, due to its location in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area and close proximity to numerous listed buildings of differing architectural characters, the existing building, which dates from the 1970s, is considered to be poorly designed and does not relate well to its setting.

It is our view that the overall approach adopted by the architects responds well to urban design and heritage considerations. We would, however, encourage the use of an appropriate material for the facades, such as a high quality brick to the street facades, which should allow those facades to sit comfortably in the context of the surrounding historic environment. We would also recommend that further consideration is given to enlivening the northern elevation of the building, as seen from Gordon Street. The imposition of a blank facade in this location is considered to appear incongruous with the architecture of the proposed building and the surrounding street scene, even if this situation is only proposed for a limited time.



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Recommendation

We would urge you to address the above issues, and recommend that the application should be determined in accordance with national and local policy guidance, and on the basis of your specialist conservation advice. It is not necessary for us to be consulted again. However, if you would like further advice, please contact us to explain your request.

Please note that this response relates to historic building and historic area matters only. If there are any archaeological implications to the proposals it is recommended that you contact the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service for further advice (Tel: 020 7973 3712).

Yours sincerely

Claire Brady

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

E-mail: claire.brady@english-heritage.org.uk

cc



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