

48 LOVERIDGE ROAD LONDON, NW6 2DT

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF LAWFULNESS OF EXISTING USE OR DEVELOPMENT

JULY 2014

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Date: 03 April 2014 Location: P:\CURRENTJOBS\PD9359 48 Loveridge Road\Draft CLEUD Supp Stat 030414.docx

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Supporting Statement has been prepared in support of an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development ('CLEUD') which seeks confirmation of the lawfulness of a flat on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road, London, NW6 2DT.
- 1.2 Our client purchased the rear flat (variously referred to as 'First Floor Rear' or 'Flat 1a') in late 2011 / early 2012.
- 1.3 It is one of two flats on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road which, at some earlier point in the past, was a single flat.
- 1.4 This Supporting Statement provides evidence to demonstrate that the rear flat on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road has been used as a self-contained dwellinghouse for more than four years (and by consequence that there have been two separate flats on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road for more than four years).

2.0 THE APPLICATION SITE

2.1 The site subject of this application (**Figure 2.1**) is the first floor of the property known as 48 Loveridge Road, London, NW6 2DT.

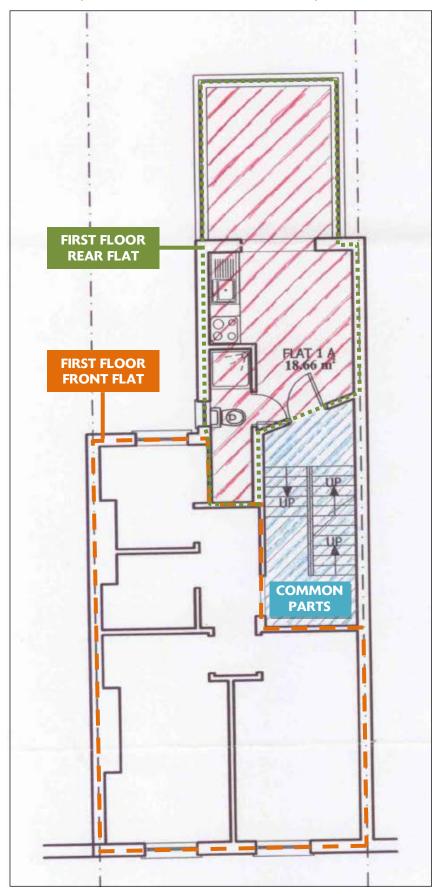
Figure 2.1 – Site Location



Source - Promap. Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432. Not to Scale.

2.2 **Figure 2.2** (on the following page) is an extract from a lease plan showing the extent of the two flats on the first floor of this property. The rear flat – the property owned by our client – is a studio flat or 'bedsitter' with a separate toilet / shower room. The front flat has four rooms.

Figure 2.2 – Annotated Extract from Lease Plan Showing Extent of the First Floor Flats (Plan Undated on Lease; Not to Scale)



3.0 EVIDENCE OF USE

- 3.1 In terms of proving the lawfulness of an existing use or development, the courts held in *Gabbitas v Secretary of State for the Environment* [1985] JPL 630 that the relevant test of the evidence on such matters is 'the balance of probability'. It has also been held by the courts that the applicant's own evidence does not need to be corroborated by 'independent' evidence in order to be accepted. If the local planning authority has no evidence of its own, or from others, to contradict or otherwise make the applicant's version of events less than probable, there is no good reason to refuse the application, provided the applicant's evidence alone is sufficiently precise and unambiguous to justify the grant of a certificate 'on the balance of probability'.¹
- 3.2 We have looked at a variety of records to establish the length of time that the separate flats have existed. These include independent public records as well as documentation provided by our client.

Council Tax Records

- 3.3 The two flats subject of this application were, at one time, a single flat on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road. Council Tax records show that the entry for the single flat, *"Flat 1st FLR 48, Loveridge Road, London, NW6 2DT"*, was deleted.
- 3.4 In place of that entry are two separate entries showing that there are two flats on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road (see **Figure 3.1** and **Figure 3.2**).
- 3.5 Both of the entries are dated as having effect from 20 December 2007, indicating that two separate flats have existed on the first floor over six years.

Figure 3.1 – Council Tax Record for First Floor Flat Front

ouncil Tax band detail	5						
FLAT 1ST FLR FNT 48, LOVERIDGE ROAD, LONDON, NW6 2DT Last update on 30/03/201							
Local authority reference number	Council Tax band	Improvement indicator	With effect from	Mixed use property	Court code		
	В		20/12/2007	No			

Source - <u>www.voa.gov.uk</u>

Figure 3.2 – Council Tax Record for First Floor Rear

ouncil Tax band detail	-						
FLAT 1ST FLR RR 48, LOVERIDGE ROAD, LONDON, NW6 2DT Last update on 30/03/20							
Local authority reference number	Council Tax band	Improvement indicator	With effect from	Mixed use property	Court code		
			20/12/2007	No			

Source - <u>www.voa.gov.uk</u>

¹ Moore, V (2010) A Practical Approach to Planning Law. Oxford: Oxford. (Paragraph 21.178)

Land Registry Records

3.6 A copy of the Register of Title dated 26 October 2006 (**Figure 3.3**) indicates that a change was made to the demised area on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road on 26 October 2006. The change was the introduction of Flat 1A (see **Figure 3.3 (b)**).

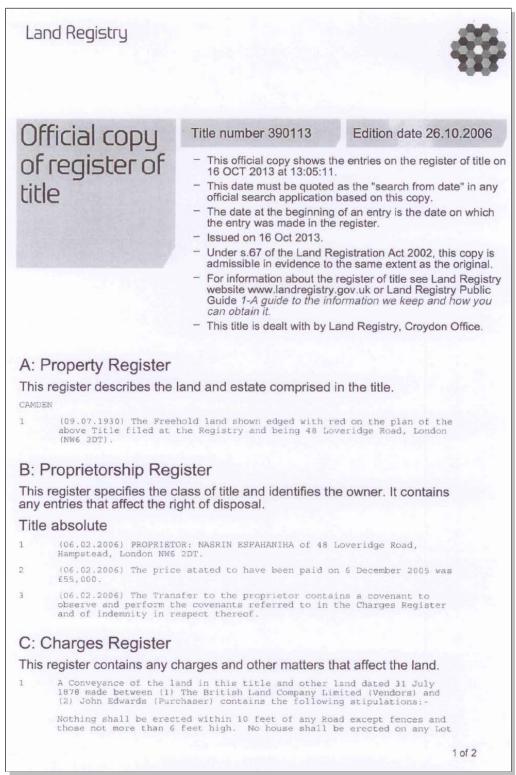
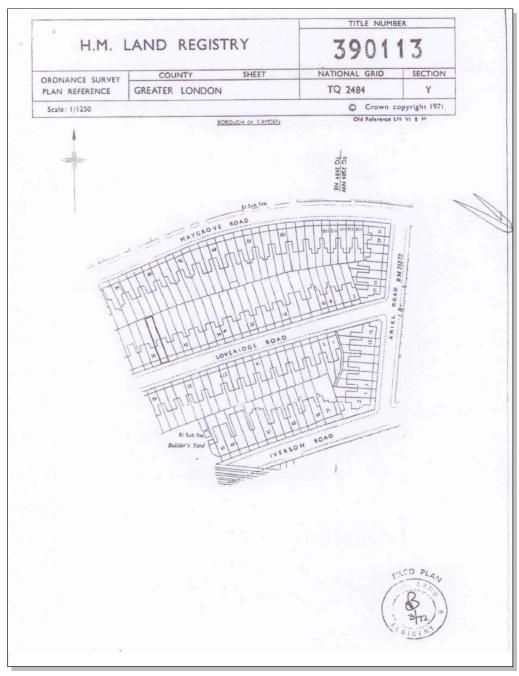


Figure 3.3 (a) – Copy of Register of Title (Page 1 of 3)

Figure 3.3 (b) – Copy of Register of Title (Page 2 of 3)

Title r				
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Sche	edule of notic	ces of leases		
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2	16.08.2005	Second Floor Flat 2	05.07.2005 125 years from 1.1.1989	NGL851677
3	20.10.2005	First Floor Flat 1	29.9.2005 125 years from 1.1.1989	NGL854468
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4	6.6.2006	Third Floor Flat	6.12.2005 125 years from 1.12.2005	NGL858679
5	26.10.2006	First Floor Flat 1A	15.6.2006 125 years from	NGL871453
_	of register		1.1.1989	





3.7 Based on this information it appears that the change from one flat on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road to two flats occurred on or before June 2006. As noted earlier, this change does not appear on the Council Tax records until December 2007, however.

Planning Records

- 3.8 We have been unable to find any records on the Council's planning register relating to the creation of two flats on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road, hence this application for a CLEUD.
- 3.9 Another planning submission shows the existence of two separate flats at first floor level, however.
- 3.10 Planning application 2010/3368/P was registered on 30 June 2010 and sought permission for *"Erection of rear dormer and two velux rooflights on front roofslope of residential building (Class C3)"*. This application related to Flat 3 which is the uppermost flat in the building.
- 3.11 On page 5 of the Design and Access Statement, prepared by Studiodare Architects and dated 22 June 2010, shows that at that time there were two flats on the first floor Flat 1A (the rear flat) and Flat 2 (the front flat). An extract from the Design and Access Statement is below (Figure 3.4).

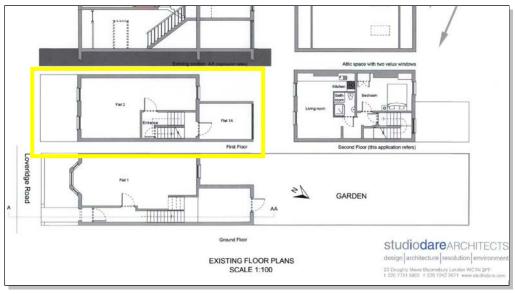


Figure 3.4 – Extract from Design and Access Statement dated 22 June 2010

Source – London Borough of Camden

Other Evidence – Landlord's Certificates

3.12 When purchasing the first floor rear flat in late 2011 / early 2012, our client was provided with a number of documents. These include an Energy Performance Certificate (Figure 3.5) which refers to *"Flat 1A"* and which is dated 30 January 2008. The second is a Gas Safety Record (Figure 3.6), completed by a CORGI-registered operative and dated 26 April 2008. This document refers to *"1A Rear 1st Floor Flat"*. It also notes that this flat is a *"bedsitter"* (ie a flat with a single room used for sitting and sleeping in) and that both the boiler and cooker were in that room.

Figure 3.5 – Energy Performance Certificate

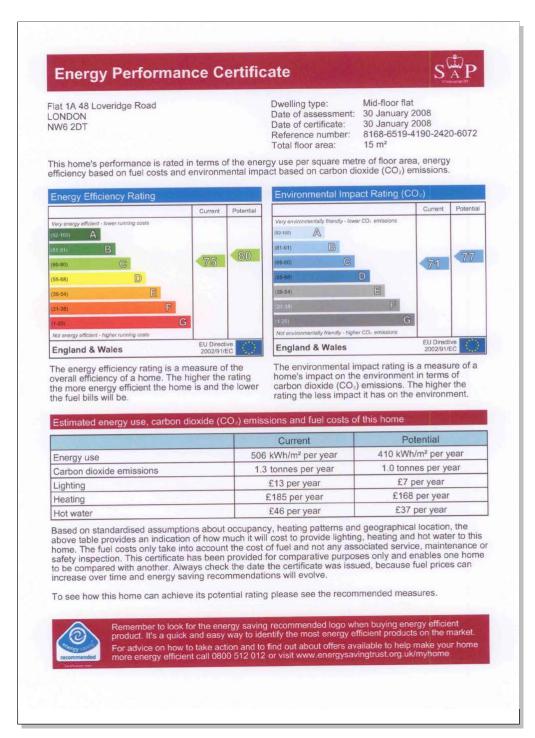


Figure 3.6 – Gas Safety Record

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Marketing Information

- 3.13 The property marketing website 'Zoopla' has an archive of transactions over the past few years. It refers to the property as *"1a, 48 Loveridge Road"*. It can be concluded that this is the rear first floor flat because it refers to the flat as being a studio.
- 3.14 The oldest Zoopla record dates from September 2010 and advertises the flat for rent (**Figure 3.7**).





Source - www.zoopla.co.uk

3.15 A record from July 2011 (**Figure 3.8**) advertises the flat for sale (as noted above our client bought the flat in late 2011 / early 2012).

Figure 3.8 – Zoopla Record from 2011



Source - www.zoopla.co.uk

3.16 Other records (**Figure 3.9** and **Figure 3.10**) advertise the flat for rent in 2012 and 2013.





Source - www.zoopla.co.uk





Source - www.zoopla.co.uk

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 This Supporting Statement has been prepared in support of an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development which seeks confirmation of the lawfulness of two flats on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road, London, NW6 2DT.
- 4.2 The two flats were previously one flat which was sub-divided to create a onebedroom flat (four rooms) at the front of 48 Loveridge Road and a studio flat (or 'bedsitter') with two rooms (a studio room and a toilet / shower room) at the rear of 48 Loveridge Road.
- 4.3 We have analysed a number of public records and documents within our client's possession. These show that:
 - the Land Registry record for 48 Loveridge Road was amended on 26 October 2006 to reflect the creation of Flat 1a;
 - the two flats on the first floor were separately registered for Council Tax on 20 December 2007;
 - an Energy Performance Certificate for Flat 1a was issued on 30 January 2008;
 - a Gas Safety Record from 26 April 2008 describes Flat 1a as the rear flat and as a "bedsitter";
 - there is information on the Council's planning applications records which indicates that there were two flats on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road on 22 June 2010; and
 - marketing information shows the marketing of Flat 1a for residential use in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.
- 4.4 There are therefore four different sources of information demonstrating that Flat 1a (the rear flat) existed on or before 26 April 2008, ie for approximately six years, as a separate entity to the front flat.
- 4.5 Subsequent information demonstrates that Flat 1a has been marketed for residential purposes since that time. The uninterrupted registration of the property for Council Tax since 2007 also demonstrates that residential is the uninterrupted planning use.
- 4.6 We therefore conclude that Flat 1a has existed and been in continuous residential use for more than four years.
- 4.7 We respectfully request, therefore, that the London Borough of Camden issues a Certificate of Lawfulness which confirms that the two separate flats on the first floor of 48 Loveridge Road (First Floor Rear and First Floor Front) are separate, lawful Class C3 units.