MAIDEN LANE ESTATE ALLENSBURY PLACE & BROADFIELD LANE WINDOWS

DESIGN AND ACCESS REPORT JANUARY 2015





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01 INTRODUCTION

01. Introduction

1.1 Executive Summary

The Maiden Lane Estate is undergoing regeneration as part of Camden Council's Community Investment Programme. The first phase of the project will see the redevelopment of part of the estate and the construction of 265 new homes. Following on from this will be a major refurbishment of the existing estate and services of which this works package forms part.

Overview

The London Borough of Camden have commissioned Hawkins\Brown to produce a study to facilitate a window renewal programme to two existing blocks on the Maiden Lane Estate: 1-30 Allensbury Place and 1-70 Broadfield Lane. The brief is to produce a design that satisfies all required standards and achieves planning permission.

This document sets out our proposals for window replacement for these two specific blocks; It provides background context and brief, document consultation, analysis, and proposals for the window replacement.



Right Maiden Lane Estate during the 1980's

01. Introduction

1.2 Project Background

Maiden Lane new build is a flagship project for the London Borough of Camden and forms part of the Council's innovative Community Investment Programme - a 15 year plan to invest over £400 million in Camden's housing, schools and other public services. Proposals have been developed by PRP and currently being built on site for Maiden Lane that will deliver much needed affordable housing and lever investment in order to revitalise the estate and link into the wider regeneration of this part of Camden. This study is planned for development under the same investment plan to revitalise the Estate.



Existing typical Maiden Lane block



Existing Allensbury Place Block Fenestration



Existing Broadfield Lane Block



Existing Broadfield Lane Fenestration



Existing Broadfield Fenestration





Signage outside the existing Community Centre

02 **CONTEXT:** MAIDEN LANE ESTATE



02. Context 2.1 Physical Context

Site Location

Maiden Lane Estate is located in the London Borough of Camden to the north of the Kings Cross redevelopment area. 1-30 Allensbury Place and 1-70 Broadfield Lane are situated near the eastern boundary of the estate, indicated in red.

Surrounding Context

The surrounding area is predominantly residential with small retail quarters near by which serve the needs of the estate. To the east of the site is a well developed industrial and commercial area around Brewery Road. To the north is predominantly residential with traditional terraced housing dominating the streetscape.

The western and southern edges are bounded by railway lines and the area further south is the King's Cross redevelopment area, one of the largest urban regeneration projects in Europe; including proposals for high density development and tall buildings at 27 storeys, approx 250m from Maiden Lane's South-East corner.

This will have a major long term influence as it will bring many thousands of new residents, students, visitors and workers to the area.



Allensbury Place & Broadfield Lane



Right Existing Site Context Aerial View

02. Context 2.2 Historic Context

Historic Development

The Estate was built in two phases in the late 1970's and early The Estate was built in two phases in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Maiden Lane is a low rise, high density estate comprising 479 dwellings providing a mix of accommodation sizes. It is recognised to be of architectural importance and is locally listed within the borough. 1-30 Allensbury Place and 1-70 Broadfield Lane form part of the second built phase and are situated near the eastern boundary of the estate. They are the two blocks most exposed to the main redevelopment site, (indicated in red).





Phase 1 Area (approx. 2.9ha)

Phase II area (approx. 2.1ha)

Industrial site (approx. 0.54ha) Currently under redevelopment

Right Existing plan showing extent of Maiden Lane Estate & PRP site currently under construction

02. Context 2.2 Historical Context

History of Maiden Lane

The first phase of Maiden Lane towards the western side of the site was designed by Gordon Benson and Alan Forsyth, employed by the London Borough of Camden. Maiden Lane was the third and last of three schemes of public housing designed by Benson and Forsyth. Maiden Lane has now been recognised as an important piece of public housing along with other Camden housing schemes of the period.

The scheme is architecturally significant, not only in its form and its use of materials but also in the way its buildings were designed and laid out, with the designers seeking to find an effective solution to providing high density housing without resorting to high rise or deck access arrangements.

History of site

The site was a former railway sidings built in the 1850's to serve the Metropolitan Cattle Market just to the east. In 1963 it had become a freight terminal, after which it was bought by the London Borough of Camden for housing purposes.

The intention was for Camden Council to purchase adjoining industrial sites, located to the south of Agar Grove. Camden Council owned a number of the properties on the south side of Agar Grove and therefore the potential existed to extend a series of north/south streets into the Maiden Lane site.

There was a desire to create formal and functional spaces. By giving the grounds as well as the buildings a carefully defined use it was hoped that they would be both well used and maintained.

"However, the various initiatives which were intended for Maiden Lane to ensure the site was integrated into its surroundings were unsuccessful. The links envisaged in the original masterplan were not carried through and, in the revised version of Phase 2, the links into the surrounding streets increase the sense of dislocation from its surroundings." AJ





Right

1. Maiden Lane in 1880's 2. Maiden Lane in 1990's 3. A social gathering on the estate, courtesy of Benson & Forsyth



02. Context 2.2 Historical Context

Architectural Heritage of the site

Maiden Lane is the last in a series of housing projects planned or built between 1965 and 1982 when Sidney Cook was the head of the Department of Architecture for the London Borough of Camden. These projects include the completion of Foundling Estate, Highgate New Town, Fleet Road, Alexandra Road and other housing estates in addition to many schools and other community buildings. While Maiden Lane was designed and built after Cook retired in 1973, it is of the genre of buildings built after Cook's tenure and is reflective of the brief heyday that Modern Architecture enjoyed in Camden before serious economic restrictions encouraged a return to an architecture of popular and vernacular influence.

The scheme is architecturally significant, not only in its form and its use of materials but also in the way its buildings were designed and laid out, with the designers seeking to find an effective solution to providing high density housing without resorting to high rise or deck access arrangements.

Maiden Lane was designed as a collection of 2 story row houses and 3 and 4 story point and gallery-access apartment buildings arranged around several public open spaces. The terraced, turreted forms, railings and general look of the community complex suggest nautical references.

The construction and materials used in Maiden Lane include a mix of poured in place concrete, precast concrete panels that are used for the cross walls, plaster walls, concrete block and black timber window and door frames and balustrade parts.

Shortly after it opened in 1982, Maiden Lane was hailed as a model new community by articles in the April 1983 issue of Architectural Review written by Alvin Boyarsky and John Winter. Praise was given to the site design and the quality of the public spaces, the mix of dwelling types and the overall quality of the individual dwellings.







Next Page:

A selection of Maiden Lane archive history accumulated as research for the study

Right

 Walkway into the housing from the landscaped area to the west. Low row houses to the left, flats beyond and to the right
 Centre of scheme with public seating area in the foreground, housing beyond and community centre on the left
 View of eastern side of the site with raised walkway



02. Context 2.3 Archive Research

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02. Context 2.4 Planning Context

Recent / Future Developments in the Area

There is a great variety of land uses surrounding Maiden Lane Estate, due to its location and proximity to Central London. Maiden Lane is also on the edge of the Kings Cross Opportunity Area for which the Council adopted a planning brief in January 2004. With the completion of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link in 2007, an area of around 24 hectares was made available for development and a number of proposals and opportunities will have significant implications for the Maiden Lane Estate. These include;

• King's Cross re-development - consisting of 50 new buildings, 2,000 new homes, 20 new streets, 10 new public squares, 67 acres, 45,000 people who will live, work and study in the area

• St Pancras International and Domestic Station and Channel Tunnel Rail Link infrastructure, including bridging over York Way

- King's Cross St Pancras London Underground station upgrade
- Redevelopment of P&O buildings and sites at York Way

• The restoration of St Pancras Chambers, hotel & residential uses

• £55m redevelopment of Agar Grove Estate - consisting of the demolition of 112 homes and the provision of around 360 new homes, total no. of homes - 500

Reference Document: Maiden Lane PRP D&A Statement



Right Hawkins\Brown Agar Grove scheme

02. Context 2.4 Planning Context

Recent / Future Developments in the Area: PRP Scheme

Images on this page depict the new PRP scheme proposed adjacent to Broadfield Lane and on either side of Allensbury Place.

The scheme's Design and Access Statement promises to deliver a total of 265 new homes, including 124 affordable homes and 81 Council house owned homes for rent.

The scheme is currently under development.







03 THE BRIEF

03. The Brief

3.1 Aspiration and Objectives

Outline Design Brief

Camden requires a window design solution which;

- Achieves planning permission.
- Provides value for money, both in terms of capital expenditure and future maintenance.
- Gives due consideration to the unique architecture and window design, and the prominent role of the windows in the facade composition.
- Gives due consideration to the heritage issues of the estate.

• Meets all relevant regulatory and performance standards, including: Building Regulations; Secure by Design.

• Achieves high thermal efficiency and sustainability performance, and full compliance with Part L1B.



03. The Brief 3.2 Scope and Logistics

Logistics

The two blocks Allensbury Place & Broadfield Lane are adjacent to the new build redevelopment site, and there will be significant logistical issues and constraints in delivering external works. The works will also have to be carried out with residents in occupation.

Camden is planning future comprehensive refurbishment of the estate but this works package will be confined to window renewal, for both Broadfield Lane and Allensbury Place blocks.



Right Maiden Lane Estate Masterplan Architectural Review April 1983

04 CONSULTATION

04. The Brief 4.1 LBC Planning and Conservation

Email Correspondence from Nick Baxter

"Dear Steve - it was good to meet you on site on Friday.

Here is a synopsis of my thoughts.

The windows in this estate are clearly a more important component of the composition than in some other estates. The design is typical of the Camden Architects' Department style, as seen at Branch Hill (by the same architects) and Dunboyne Road, both listed, while this estate is on the local list, which reflects the quality of its design.

The joinery is prominent and of high quality, and its removal would dramatically alter the appearance of the estate for the worse.

Therefore, from a conservation point of view, our first preference would be that, where possible, you investigate inserting double glazing into the existing casements.

If you decide that the windows need to be replaced, a like-forlike replacement in timber would be ideal. The windows are not "off the peg" or simple in their arrangement, and nor is it just a matter of replacing window frames. The woodwork is complicated and integrates various elements, such as bin stores, spandrels, clerestories, frameless corners, etc.

These elements would be difficult to replicate satisfactorily in either uPVC or metal, and you would risk permanently stripping the buildings of all of their visual interest by doing so, to the detriment of the residents' amenity.

Therefore replacement in timber would seem to be the simplest – and so cheapest – solution.

While like-for-like replacement would be preferable, if necessary, it would probably suffice to retain the general proportions and forms, even if not making a precise copy.

What is fundamental are the heavy frames, the rhythms of glazing and solid elements, and the dark, matt colour; the methods of opening should also be retained.

Please drop me a line if you would like to discuss this further"

Best wishes, Nick Baxter Heritage and Conservation Officer

Email Correspondence regarding Pilot Scheme

"Dear all,

We have go head from planning for a pilot plat ahead of the planning process – subject to submitting acceptable drawings.

We can discuss next week.

Regards,

Steve Downes Development Manager

Telephone: 020 7974 3147

From: Baxter, Nick Sent: 05 February 2014 15:32 To: Downes, Steve Subject: RE: Maiden Lane Estate

Hello again Steve – I have spoken to my colleague and we would allow a pilot flat, subject to your first submitting acceptable drawings, which would then be implemented at the pilot. Obviously, if the pilot was refused, we would want you to reinstate the original features.

Please let me know if you need more information"

Kind regards, Nick Baxter Heritage and Conservation Officer





04. The Brief

4.2 Tenants and Residents

Feedback from Residents

In order to develop the new windows to suit the users, the design team have consulted with tenants and residents to record their feedback on the current conditions within the existing flats, and how they currently use their windows.

The first consultation took place on the third of February 2013 with a tour around 4 existing flats and an informal discussion with each resident in the flats below;

- 1. Ground Floor 1 bed Garden Flat on Broadfield Lane
- 2. Second Floor Bedsit on Broadfield Lane
- 3. Second Floor 1 bed Flat on Allensbury Place 4. Second Floor 1 bed Flat on Allensbury Place

The feedback has been recorded on the next few pages identifying the type of flat they live in, the type of windows in their flat, how they use the windows and feedback regarding the way they use the windows on a daily basis.







4.2.1 Site Visit 2 Case Study 1



Location: No.11 Broadfield Lane

Type: 1 bed Ground Floor flat + garden

Users:

Young man, lease holder

Description:

Windows throughout the flat are single glazed, timber framed, painted black & range in shapes and sizes. Living room & bedroom are situated on the west, kitchen and bathroom to the east.

Condition:

-Kitchen & bathroom relatively dark - not much daylight.

-Blinds to the kitchen window for privacy.

-Living room bright and spacious with views to the garden -Bedroom relatively good daylight levels.

-Clerestory lights within the flat, above doorways and in between the kitchen and living room allowing borrowed daylight into the rooms.

-No visible signs of condensation / mould - flat in good condition -Curtains dressing living room door and windows as well as bedroom door and clerestory windows.

User Feedback:

-Users would prefer openable, sliding doors connecting the living room to the garden, or double doors in order to open one door to the garden and keep the other closed

-Users never use the ventilation panels - allows the neighbourhood cats into the flat. Would use them more often if they were perhaps half the length / something to obstruct cats -Users do not use the stable doors as stable doors - but as a normal door.

-Fittings of stable doors clumsy and do not close very well letting in the draught and do not feel very secure

-Users do not use the bedroom door very often, but often open the clerestory light in the summer but finds the winch unsightly is there a better solution for this?

-Opens clerestory lights in the kitchen & bathroom but once again winch is badly placed - is there a better solution? -Timber panel in kitchen rarely opened due to security



Living Room looking out on to the garden



View of the west elevation window



Above View of east elevation window to the kitchen



Above: Corner glazing detail to the kitchen







4.2.2 Site Visit 2 Case Study 2



Location: No. 55 Broadfield Lane

Type: Second Floor Bedsit + Garden

Users: Currently vacant / may be used as pilot flat

Description:

Windows throughout the flat are single glazed, timber framed, painted black externally, white internally & range in shapes and sizes. Layout: Stairs lead up to the main living space with a balcony to the west, kitchen and bathroom to the east.

Condition:

-As the flat is currently vacant and seems to have been recently re-decorated, it is in relatively good condition.

-Windows in relatively poor condition externally, but no evidence of condensation or mould.

- -Door & window fittings in relatively poor condition.
- -Solid timber panel door sealed up not in use.
- -Flat bright throughout, good daylight levels.

User Feedback:

-No current users living at this property, although issues from other flats with occupants may be present at this property too such as:

- -Draughty stable doors with poor fittings. -Underused solid timber panel.
- -No level access to the balcony.

-Consider position of barrel radiator underneath the window and the environmental gualities of the room when considering the new window proposals.

-Enlarge window to the kitchen to allow more daylight and views? Consider external elevation composition.



Above: Living / Bedroom looking west at the balcony



Above: Small kitchen window



Above: External west facade glazing with timber panel



Above: West Elevation

Cloakroom **Bathroom**



Clerestory lights to the bathroom

Above:





4.2.3 Site Visit 2 Case Study 3



Location: No. 19 Allensbury Place

Type: 1 bed Second Floor flat + balconies

Users: Elderly man + disabled lady

Description:

Windows throughout the flat are single glazed, timber framed, painted black externally & range in shapes and sizes. Living room and bedroom to the south, kitchen and bathroom to the north.

Condition:

-Living room bright.

-Kitchen & bathroom darker but still adequate amount of daylight.

- -Timber opening panels all boarded up.
- -No evidence of mould / condensation.

-Clerestory lights within the flat above doorways and in between the kitchen and living room allowing borrowed daylight into the rooms.

-Some clerestory lights winches missing due to refurbishment. -Net curtains dressing all windows bar bathroom and bedroom clerestory lights, look tired and old.

-Stable doors draughty, fittings poorly fitted.

User Feedback:

-User complained of dust in the living room from the construction site next door, difficult to keep cleaning the house. -Current door is not wide enough for a disabled user, user currently cares for his elderly mother.

-Indifferent about having an opening casement window in place of the timber panel. Lack of openable windows not a problem.

-Openable timber panel in the kitchen boarded up due to security - never uses it.

-Opens clerestory light in the kitchen - unsightly winch can we remove / replace more discreet?

-Winch removed from bathroom during refurb - reinstate? But doesn't open the window that much - user didn't mention any condensation issues due to this.

-Existing barrel radiator removed and new radiator installed to the west wall of the living room, enabling better access to the windows.



Above: Living Room leading to the balcony



Above Living room glazing from the balcony



Above: Living room glazed door



Above: Kitchen window with timber panel









4.2.4 Site Visit 2 Case Study 4



Location: No. 15 Allensbury Place

Type: 1 bed Second Floor flat + balconies

Users: Elderly man

Description:

Windows throughout the flat are single glazed, timber framed, painted black externally & range in shapes and sizes. Living room and bedroom to the south, kitchen and bathroom to the north. (Same typology as No.19 Allensbury Place).

Condition:

-Living room bright.

-Kitchen & bathroom darker but still adequate amount of daylight.

-No evidence of mould / condensation.

-Clerestory lights within the flat above doorways and in between the kitchen and living room allowing borrowed daylight into the rooms.

-Net curtains dressing all windows bar bathroom and bedroom clerestory lights.

User Feedback:

-Would prefer sliding / double doors to the balcony instead of stable doors as they are very draughty.

-Indifferent about having an opening casement window in place of the timber panel in the living room.

-Opens clerestory light in the kitchen - unsightly winch near the door, can we remove / replace more discreet?

-Unsightly winch in the bathroom - can this be relocated / made more discreet?

-Consider relocating radiator (as no.15) to allow better access to the balcony.

-Uses timber panel in the kitchen when cooking for ventilation, but keeps closed most of the time due to security.

-Logistics of the window replacement a concern. Will scaffold be proposed?



Above Living Room window to the south facing balcony



Kitchen window with solid timber opening panel



Above: Barrel radiator in front of living room window



Above: Bedroom glazed stable door & clerestory windows



Above: South Elevation





4.3 Consultation 'Drop in' with Tenants & Residents

Consultation Event

A consultation / drop in event took place on the evening of Tuesday the 22nd of April to discuss the window upgrading with the residents of Broadfield and Allensbury blocks.

Hawkins\Brown produced 5 consultation boards to explain the proposals to the residents.



Right: Consultation Boards





05 ANALYSIS: **ALLENSBURY PLACE**





5.2 Overview Analysis of Block



South Elevation

5.2 Overview Analysis of Block - North Elevation



Access - 2 large communal entrances service upper floors, individual flats accessed via a communal deck on the upper floors



Transparency / Screening - Glazed screens to the communal entrances & glazed nooks create the illusion of a second skin to the facade



Storey heights - Ground Floor +3



Rhythm - Reads as one block with a horizontal rhythm broken up by vertical glazed screens



Enclosure - North facade utilises screens to open the facade and at the same time maintain privacy from the street for its residents on the upper floors

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5.2 Overview Analysis of Block - South Elevation



 $Objects\,$ - Communal glazed circulation cores break up the elevation

Soft / Hard - Softer living spaces such as living rooms and bedrooms face south

5.3 Condition

Windows:

- Current windows in poor condition
- Security grilles to be removed on all windows
- New windows & timber panels throughout

Facade:

- Glazed screen 'nooks' in relatively poor condition, some worse than others

Note: Works to facade not in scope of works next package of works.

Private Front Doors :

- Current condition varies but most are in poor condition
- Some have security grilles

Note: Works to front doors not in scope of Note: Works to balustrading not in scope of for current package - likely to commence under works for current package - likely to commence works for current package - likely to commence under next package of works. under next package of works.









Balustrading :

- Current balustrading in relatively poor condition

5.4 Analysis of Existing Window Types

Window Family Type
<u>.</u>
-

Allensbury Place North Elevation

01



Existing Window Family Type 01 Allensbury Place North Elevation 30no

Existing Window Family Type 02 Allensbury Place South Elevation 30no

Allensbury Place South Elevation



