# 85 CAMDEN MEWS LONDON

# STRUCTURAL ENGINEER'S CONSTRUCTION METHOD STATEMENT

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### **AXIOM STRUCTURES LIMITED**

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Axiom Structures Limited have been asked to provide construction method statement, sequence of construction works and temporary works details surrounding the proposed basement extension and refurbishment works at the address.
- 1.2 The proposed development comprises construction of a new retrofit single-storey basement under the existing building and part of the rear garden, general refurbishment works to the existing structure in line with Cullinan Studio proposals.
- 1.3 A ground investigation survey, Basement Impact Assessment and associated ground movement analysis were carried out by specialist ground investigation companies. Refer to reports by other for details.
- 1.4 Permanent architectural and structural engineering proposals are as per Cullinan Studio drawings and details.
- 1.5 We have visited site to assess the existing structure for alteration works.
- 1.6 The borehole site investigation was carried out in January 2015 by Southern Testing. The borehole confirmed firm to stiff silty CLAY becoming very stiff CLAY.
- 1.7 As part of our walk round and visual investigation survey of the property, we have not recorded signs of ongoing or historical movement to suggest any subsidence or other foundation problems in existing and adjacent properties. There are a few hedges, trees and other vegetations in the rear garden.

#### 2.0 DETAILS OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

2.1 The proposed development involves the construction of the basement under footprint of existing mews house and part of rear garden of the property. Generally the excavation is to be up to about 3.5m below existing ground floor level.

#### **Ground Water**

- 2.2 The record information indicated the ground water at depth of 3m below ground level and sits just above the level of very stiff clays and above formation level. Obstruction of below ground water courses is not considered an issue with this development as the site is not within the line or close to underground rivers, refer to BIA for further details.
- 2.3 During construction of underpins, the ground water will be controlled using mechanical pumps and close placed sheets as necessary. When the perimeter underpins are completed than we would expect that as built underpins would stop ground water ingress to the excavation. We consider that some residual perch ground water would be pumped out from temporary sump chambers. Refer to Appendix B for typical sump detail with perforated sides to avoid washout of sands and fine particles from the ground.

#### Drainage

2.4 The subterranean development is to extend to the rear garden, whilst it is likely that the existing drainage system will require upgrading or replacement possibly with the addition of pumps, the development will not impact on any public drainage or existing surface water drainage systems.

### Construction Method to Minimise Risk of Movement and Damage to Adjacent Structures

- 2.5 The existing walls and new perimeter basement walls are to be constructed in short sections in hit and miss sequencing. The existing structure is to be back propped to unload the excavation as necessary. The actual process of underpinning can cause some minor cracking in the wall being underpinned and intersecting walls, although if carried out in accordance with the specification and back-propped on completion to minimise the risk of horizontal movement, such movement normally goes undetected.
- 2.6 The permanent structural proposals as detailed by Cullinan Studio will involve the construction of reinforced concrete walls in short sections. New reinforced concrete walls will be monolithically connected to the new reinforced concrete basement slab to provide robust and watertight construction. The underpinning will be constructed in a hit and miss sequence to minimise ground movements. The new basement is a naturally rigid structure and will be designed to accommodate the horizontal ground forces imposed via the underpins to the perimeter, potential for upwards and lateral water pressures as well as the vertical loads from above. This has been explained in more details by Cullinan Studio Basement Impact Assessment and drawings.

#### 3.0 METHOD STATEMENT

This method statement is to be read in conjunction with Cullinan Studio structural drawings and Axiom sequence of construction 15005 / TW / sketches and drawings.

### SUPERSTRUCTURE AND ENABLING WORKS:

- 1. Carry out soft strip out in the property. Demolish side and rear single-storey buildings. Review condition and load run downs of the existing structure to foundations.
- 2. Carry out enabling underpinning works to the critical areas where noted in the drawings (EW) i.e. where new columns support existing structure. Use conventional needles and props to support structure over underpinning shaft to builders details. Place back props against as built underpins or backfill shaft excavation with compacted ground on completion to contractors choice.
- 3. Install ground and first floor transfer beams (columns and beams) to support existing walls onto enabling foundation bases i.e. as built underpinning. Use conventional fully braced needles and props to support existing structure before permanent steels are in place. Support temporary props onto timber sleeper spreaders to existing ground bearing slabs or temporary bases to builders details.
- 4. Install back props and temporary bracing to maintain overall stability of the mews house.
- 5. Demolish remaining existing mews house walls to achieve open plan at ground floor.

## **BASEMENT CONSTRUCTION:**

- 6. Break remaining existing ground bearing slab and prepare area for underpinning.
- 7. Underpin perimeter walls with reinforced concrete to formation level. Carry out works in 1-5 hit and miss sequence as per items below.
- Underpinning to be carried out in maximum 1.2m sections in shaft excavations.
- Install trench sheeting, struts and walings as excavation proceeds for underpins in shafts.
- Cast underpinning base and then stem, dry pack on hardened concrete between new and existing foundations.
- Back prop constructed pins with Acrow Jacks at 1.0m vertical centres
- Continue the underpinning to the perimeter until all the underpinning is completed,
- 8. Reduce earth to about 1.8m below high level props and install horizontal high level shores TW01 as works progressing from back to the front of the property.
- 9. Excavate to formation level. Install push pull props TW02 as works progressing from back to the front of the property. TW01 and TW02 props have screw jacks to pre-load the props and they are to be periodically checked by the contractor and re-tighteded as necessary.
- 10. Blind the ground at formation level and control short term heave effects. Place compressible filler as necessary and cast low level slabs.
- 11. Cast remaining parts of basement slab and ground floor slab; remove props (low and high level) when slabs gained strength.
- 12. Install remaining superstructure and construct side extension.

# **APPENDIX A**

# SEQUENCE OF BASEMENT CONSTRUCTION AND BASEMENT TEMPORARY WORKS

15005 TW









