

46-47 Russell Square London WC1

Heritage Assessment Supplementary information regarding disabled lift

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1 Scope

- 1.1 This supplementary information has been produced to consider the implications of the installation of a disabled lift. It should be read in conjunction with the Heritage Assessment.

2 Background

- 2.1 The listing description refers to the railings being mid nineteenth century indicating that they were not original to the terrace which was constructed at the beginning of the century circa 1800-03
- 2.2 Examination of Planning Practice Guidance states that *The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* is clear that local planning authorities should plan to create safe, accessible environments and promote inclusion and community cohesion.
- 2.3 The building is in academic use and there is a need to provide adequate access for disabled people. To achieve this it is recognised that there is a need to make provision disabled access from the street. There is an existing internal lift which provides access to different floor levels internally.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 The application proposes an external lift with access formed as a gate in the existing railing along the back of pavement. This is described in more detail in the architects DAS.
- 3.2 More detailed consideration has been given to the lift which is proposed to be a simple platform with glass walls. This will be stationed in the front light well tight up against the wall to the vaults under the pavement and adjacent to the existing steps down to the front area.
- 3.3 It is considered that this location has two distinct advantages.
First by being situated close to both the wall to the vaults and the small staircase when not in use and located at basement level this will be screened from view from the north and east and only be visible when standing on the access bridge to 47.
Secondly it is proposed to form the gateway through the railing by using a section of the railing as a gate. By locating it adjacent to the existing gate to the steps this will minimise the interventions in the historic railings. The controls and locking devices will be located within the railings.

4 The impact of the proposals on the significance of the buildings and the Conservation Area

- 4.1 The removal of plant from the front areas will have a beneficial impact on the appearance of the conservation area from the main vantage point of Russell Square.
- 4.2 As described above, the introduction of disabled access will be done discreetly and will have minimal impact on the appearance and character of the area while providing a public benefit by enabling disabled access to a public institution.