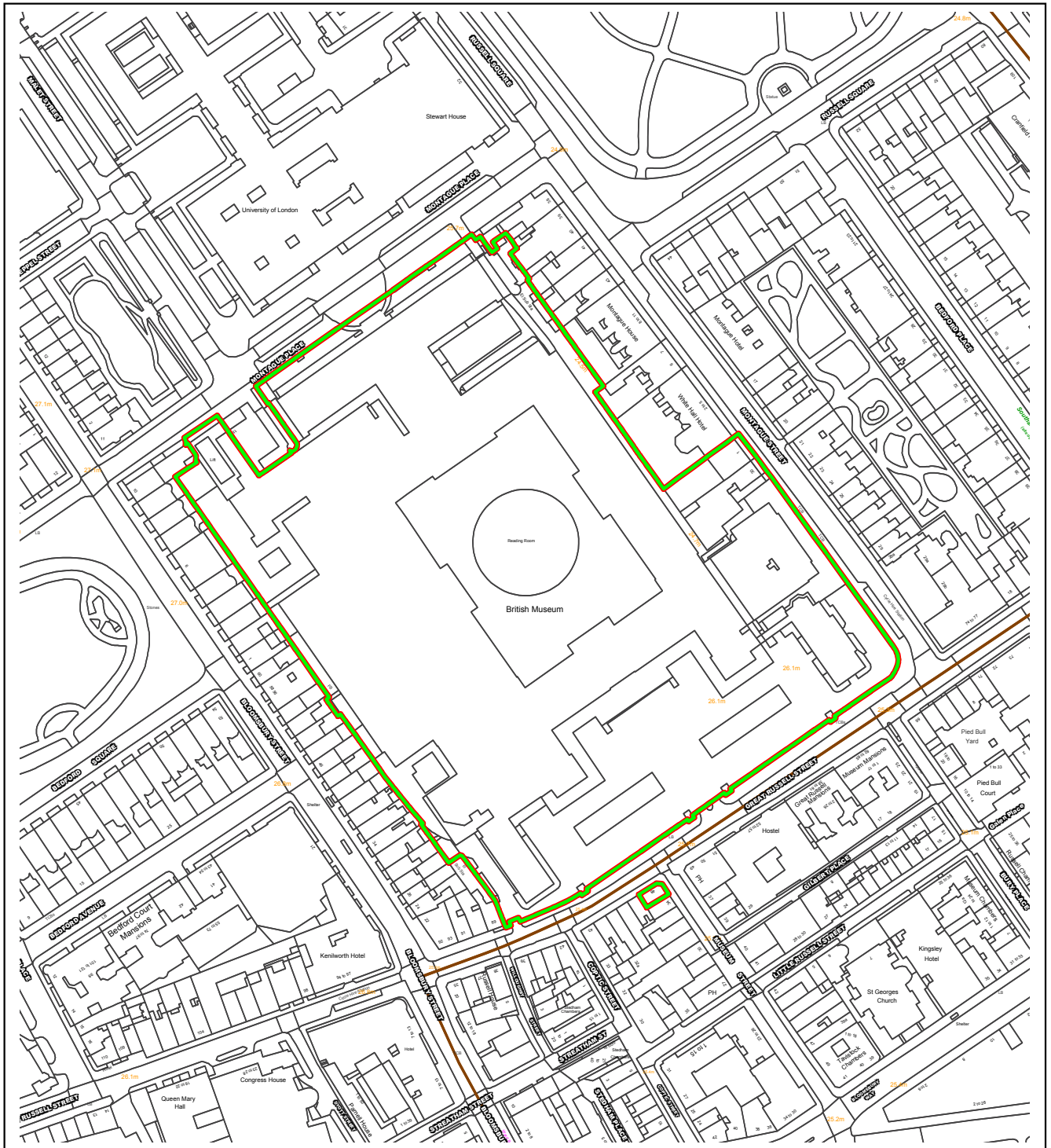


2016/0422/P – British Museum



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2016/0422/P - Site Photographs



Looking north-west toward the British Museum from Great Russell Street



View of the Museum from Great Russell Street including fence line and rectangular pillars

Delegated Report		Analysis sheet		Expiry Date:	14/04/2016
		N/A		Consultation Expiry Date:	21/04/2016
Officer			Application Number		
Anna Roe			A. 2016/0422/P B. 2016/1617/L		
Application Address			Drawing Numbers		
British Museum, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG			60304751_GA_PIDS_L2_TS_02; OS Extract; Heritage Statement; Design and Access Statement.		
PO 3/4	Area Team Signature	C&UD	Authorised Officer Signature		
Proposal					
Installation of 23, 3 metre high poles and attached perimeter detector devices.					
Recommendations:		A. Grant Conditional Planning Permission B. Grant Conditional Listed Building Consent			
Application Type:		A. Full Planning Permission B. Listed Building Consent			

Reasons for Refusal:	Refer to Draft Decision Notice					
Consultations						
Adjoining Occupiers:	No. notified	01	No. of responses	02	No. of objections	01
Summary of consultation responses:	N/A					
Local groups comments:	<p>A. Planning</p> <p>Advertisement in Ham & High 25/02/2016, expired 17/03/2016.</p> <p>Site notice displayed 24/02/2016, expired 16/03/2016.</p> <p>B. Listed Building</p> <p>Advertisement in Ham & High 31/03/2016, expired 21/04/2016.</p> <p>Site notice displayed 30/03/2016, expired 20/04/2016.</p> <p>This application concerns improvements to the security of the British Museum and contains sensitive information which the applicant does not wish to be made available on the planning register. Camden Council has dealt with this application in accordance with the national planning policy guidance (NPPG) on sensitive information in planning applications (paragraphs 36 – 40 of the NPPG).</p> <p>Historic England was consulted, whereby a response was received on 30/3/2016 authorising the London Borough of Camden to determine this application in accordance with national and local policy guidance and on the basis of its specialist conservation advice.</p> <p>The Bloomsbury Conservation Area Advisory Committee objected to the application on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While we recognize the presumed need for security cameras and motion detectors we have an objection in principle to their installation in a grade one listed building. We note that Britain has by far the world's highest number of cameras and surveillance devices per head of population in the world and the committee remain to be convinced by the arguments of the security establishment that these are as effective and as necessary as they are made out to be. They are universally ugly and unsightly and would engender an intrusive atmosphere of paranoia to the detriment of the enjoyment of the museum. 2. We have two suggestions concerning the proposed installation. Firstly 					

we ask that, in the likely event of permission being granted, it should be for a limited time of say five years. This will mean that it can be reviewed after this period and the Museum can be forced to take advantage of the undoubted progress of technology to enable smaller and more discreet camera to be fitted.

3. Our second suggestion is that the proposed extremely intrusive poles with motion detectors around the site perimeter should be replaced by discreet detectors mounted on the railings/pylons with small lights which illuminate to indicate that the sensor has been activated. This will undoubtedly indicate the presence of the detectors to any suspected intruder (presumably the aim) without having to demonstrate it to the rest of the public. In conclusion, we object strongly to the installation of yet more extraneous and intrusive hardware to the listed building.

Officers response:

1. *The proposed works are necessary for security reasons and form part of on-going upgrade works to protect the safety of the museum, its exhibits and visitors.*
2. *Paragraph 5 of Planning Practice Guidance sets out what approach should be taken to imposing conditions. The guidance states that 'a temporary permission where the proposed development complies with the development plan, or where material considerations indicate otherwise that planning permission should be granted will rarely pass the test of necessity'.*
3. *The perimeter detection devices require a mounting height of 3m to achieve the desired detection zone. Each device is fed by an 8-core cable from the ducting already in place in the forecourt. This cable needs to be secure and protected along its entire length in order to meet the British Standard BS EN 50131. If the device was mounted on the marble pillar a 25mm galvanised conduit would be required from the ducting up the side of the pillar to a surface joint box in order to connect to the detector. This would be rather unsightly and introduces fixing holes into the pillars. By using freestanding posts which are mounted adjacent to the ducting the cabling can be fully hidden and secured with in the post. The posts can be removed at end of life with no damage or effect to the pillars or surroundings.*

Site Description

The British Museum complex is located in the heart of Bloomsbury. It is bound to the north by Montague Place and to the south by Great Russell Street. It is flanked to the east and west by the Georgian terraces which front onto Bedford Square and Montague Street.

The original museum building was designed by Sir Robert Smirke c.1823 and its core remains, but it is now seen in the context of extensions that have been incrementally added since the mid-1800s.

The proposed works are directed at the south elevation of the site and south east corner.

The British Museum is grade I listed and is located within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

Relevant History

2004/3321/P - Resurfacing of parts of the forecourt to the front of the British Museum. Granted 12/11/2004.

Relevant policies

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

The London Plan 2015, consolidated with amendments since 2011

Camden LDF Core Strategy 2010

CS5 Managing the impact of growth and development

CS14 Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage

Camden Development Policies 2010

DP24 Securing high quality design

DP25 Conserving Camden's heritage

DP26 Managing the impact of development on occupiers and neighbours

Camden Planning Guidance

CPG1 Design 2015

CPG6 Amenity 2013

Bloomsbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy (2011)

1. Proposal and Revisions:

- 1.1 Planning permission and listed building consent are sought for the installation of twenty three, electronic intruder detection measures located along the inside of the wrought iron fence which surrounds the museum. The work is necessary for security reasons and forms part of on-going upgrade works to protect the safety of the museum, its exhibits and visitors.
- 1.2 The detectors would be mounted on three metre high, black metal poles with black plastic housing, to blend with the existing boundary treatment.
- 1.3 The ducting routes were implemented at the same time as the resurfacing of the Museum forecourt around 6 years ago, which will eliminate almost all civil ground works and disruption to the site.

2. Assessment:

2.1 The principle considerations material to determining the application are as follows:

- Visual impact upon the character and appearance of the listed building and Bloomsbury Conservation Area
- Impact of the proposal on the residential amenity of neighbouring occupiers

3. Design and Conservation

- 3.1 The application site is grade I listed and within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.
- 3.2 The proposed detectors would be mounted on three metre high, black metal poles with black housing, to blend with the existing boundary treatment and would not be attached the historic fabric of the building.
- 3.3 By virtue of their size and sympathetic design it is considered that the devices would not significantly harm the grade I listed museum building nor the character or appearance of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.
- 3.4 Paragraph 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) indicates that when considering the impact of a proposed development upon the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Harm can be justified on the grounds of public benefits that outweigh the harm, taking account of the greater weight to be given to conservation (paragraphs 133 and 134). On balance the minor harm caused by the provision of the pole mounted intruder devices is outweighed by the significant public benefit of protecting the museum and its visitors from crime/harm (including the threat of terrorism and theft).
- 3.5 The Council's Senior Conservation Officer raised no objections to the proposal.

4. Amenity

- 4.1 Policy CS5 seeks to protect the amenity of Camden's residents by ensuring the impact of development is fully considered. Furthermore, Policy DP26 seeks to ensure that

development protects the quality of life of occupiers and neighbours by only granting permission to development that would not harm the amenity of neighbouring residents.

4.2 By virtue of their size and location the proposed detectors would not have an adverse impact upon the amenity of neighbouring occupiers in terms of outlook, sunlight, daylight or loss of privacy.

Recommendation

Grant Conditional Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent

DISCLAIMER

Decision route to be decided by nominated members on Monday 25th April 2016. For further information, please go to www.camden.gov.uk and search for 'Members Briefing'.

Mr ANDREW THOMPSON
AECOM
5th Floor City Walk
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS11 9AR

Application Ref: **2016/0422/P**
Please ask for: **Anna Roe**
Telephone: 020 7974 **1226**

19 April 2016

DRAFT

Dear Sir/Madam

DECISION

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Full Planning Permission Granted

Address:
**British Museum
Great Russell Street
London
WC1B 3DG**

DECISION

Proposal: Installation of 23, 3 metre high poles and attached perimeter detector devices.

Drawing Nos: 60304751_GA_PIDS_L2_TS_02; OS Extract; Heritage Statement; Design and Access Statement.

The Council has considered your application and decided to grant permission subject to the following condition(s):

Condition(s) and Reason(s):

- 1 The development hereby permitted must be begun not later than the end of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: In order to comply with the provisions of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

Director of Culture & Environment



- 2 All new external work shall be carried out in materials that resemble, as closely as possible, in colour and texture those of the existing building, unless otherwise specified in the approved application.

Reason: To safeguard the appearance of the premises and the character of the immediate area in accordance with the requirements of policy CS14 of the London Borough of Camden Local Development Framework Core Strategy and policy DP24 and DP25 of the London Borough of Camden Local Development Framework Development Policies.

- 3 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: 60304751_GA_PIDS_L2_TS_02; OS Extract; Heritage Statement; Design and Access Statement.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interest of proper planning.

Informative(s):

- 1 Your proposals may be subject to control under the Building Regulations and/or the London Buildings Acts which cover aspects including fire and emergency escape, access and facilities for people with disabilities and sound insulation between dwellings. You are advised to consult the Council's Building Control Service, Camden Town Hall, Argyle Street WC1H 8EQ, (tel: 020-7974 6941).
- 2 Noise from demolition and construction works is subject to control under the Control of Pollution Act 1974. You must carry out any building works that can be heard at the boundary of the site only between 08.00 and 18.00 hours Monday to Friday and 08.00 to 13.00 on Saturday and not at all on Sundays and Public Holidays. You are advised to consult the Council's Compliance and Enforcement team [Regulatory Services], Camden Town Hall, Argyle Street, WC1H 8EQ (Tel. No. 020 7974 4444 or on the website <http://www.camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/contacts/council-contacts/environment/contact-the-environmental-health-team.en> or seek prior approval under Section 61 of the Act if you anticipate any difficulty in carrying out construction other than within the hours stated above.

In dealing with the application, the Council has sought to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive way in accordance with paragraphs 186 and 187 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Yours faithfully

Director of Culture & Environment

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West Yorkshire
LS11 9AR

Tel 020 7974 4444
Textlink 020 7974 6866

planning@camden.gov.uk
www.camden.gov.uk/planning

Application Ref: **2016/1617/L**

Please ask for: **Anna Roe**

Telephone: 020 7974 **1226**

19 April 2016

DRAFT

Dear Sir/Madam

DECISION

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Listed Building Consent Granted

Address:

**British Museum
Great Russell Street
London
WC1B 3DG**

DECISION

Proposal: Installation of 23, 3 metre high poles and attached perimeter detector devices.

Drawing Nos: 60304751_GA_PIDS_L2_TS_02; OS Extract; Heritage Statement; Design and Access Statement.

The Council has considered your application and decided to grant subject to the following condition(s):

Conditions and Reasons:

- 1 All new work and work of making good shall be carried out to match the original work as closely as possible in materials and detailed execution.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy CS14 of the London Borough of Camden Local Development Framework Core Strategy and policy DP25 of the London Borough of Camden Local Development Framework
Director of Culture & Environment



Development Policies.

- 2 The works hereby approved are only those specifically indicated on the drawing(s) referred to above.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy CS14 of the London Borough of Camden Local Development Framework Core Strategy and policy DP25 of the London Borough of Camden Local Development Framework Development Policies.

- 3 The works hereby permitted shall be begun not later than the end of three years from the date of this consent.

Reason: In order to comply with the provisions of Section 18 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Yours faithfully

Director of Culture & Environment

DECISION