



# alan power | (ARCHITECTS.)

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## **22 FROGNAL WAY LONDON NW3 6XE: SITE MEETING WITH L B of CAMDEN**

Date : 26 August 2010

Present : Victoria Pound (Conservation Area Officer LBC)  
Tariq Siddiqi (Client representative)  
Alan Power (Alan Power Architects Ltd)  
Tim West (Modular Clay Products)

### 1 Review of existing brickwork:

- a) TW explained that the existing bricks that were used above ground in the original construction were probably Blaby brick from Butterley, a factory that is no longer in operation.<sup>1</sup>
- b) The existing bricks are not frost-proof and there is much evidence of frost damage through surface spawling of the brickwork.
- c) Frost-proof bricks are mandatory for external brickwork today.
- d) In addition, TW explained that the bricks were not of a through-colour, but had been coloured using a dye in the mould during manufacture.
- e) This has meant that any damage to the brick – or any loss of the surface colour – exposes the strong orange colour of the clay used in the bricks.
- f) Therefore, the range of colours evident in the brickwork today – from orange through to a dark purple – is not as a result of the original colour range in the clay used, but as a result of the surface coloured dye being lost due to a variety of weathering phenomena.
- g) The continual damage to, and loss of, the surface colour of the original bricks has created a very unsightly appearance to the building, lending it a somewhat mottled appearance.

### 2 Options for replacement:

- a) Given that the existing bricks are, in effect, not fit for purpose, two options were discussed for their complete replacement at ground floor: replacement with an existing range of bricks, for example, the 'Rimini' Roman proportion bricks manufactured by Hagemeister; or the

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<sup>1</sup> This excludes the variety of bricks uncovered below the main ground floor level as a result of recent excavations: these bricks are of a range of types, none of which are suitable for below ground installations, and they have been condemned by the client's structural engineer

manufacture of bespoke bricks by York Hand-Made bricks (either in the Roman proportion or in the standard UK brick size).

- b) It was agreed that, whichever option is decided upon, the new bricks must be frost proof and of a through-colour.
- c) Samples of the 'Rimini' Roman brick by Hagemeister were reviewed in context, and it was agreed that the colour range was not suitable, particularly if one assumes that the colour range of the original brickwork was predominantly of a darker hue.
- d) Consequently, it was agreed that York Hand-Made's special blend range (which mixes several different types of clay) had a sufficient colour range to replicate selected colour hues from the existing bricks.
- e) To this end, AWP/VP identified three bricks adjacent to the tradesman's entrance at the front of the building that appeared to reflect the original colour palate for the brickwork at the time the building was completed.
- f) The client is to arrange for the careful removal of these three bricks and TW will arrange for their shipment to York Hand-Made.
- g) YH-M will then match these colours in a sufficient number of bespoke bricks to allow for three sample panels 1m high by 1.5m wide to be constructed on the site.
- h) The three brick sizes for the samples panels will be 490mm long, 327mm long and 215mm (the current UK standard brick).
- i) Once these have been manufactured, the three sample panels will be erected on site for VP to review.

3 Action points:

- a) AWP will meet the client's builder on site at 8.00am tomorrow to direct which bricks are to be removed from the building for shipment to YH-M.
- b) TW will then arrange for shipment, and will discuss the project with YH-M.
- c) AWP/TW are to visit YH-M's factory if appropriate to review and discuss the colours required for the samples.
- d) TW is to arrange for the manufacture of the three sample panels for as soon as possible.
- e) AWP will then arrange for the 3 no. samples to be erected on site.
- f) In the meantime, VP will review and comment on the Method Statement produced by Pavehall plc, showing how the existing bricks can be sequentially re-clad wall by wall.

DISTRIBUTION: All those present

AWP/26 August 2010

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS – 26 August 2010**



**EXISTING BRICK SAMPLE NO. 1**



**EXISTING BRICK SAMPLE NO. 2**





**EXISTING BRICK SAMPLE NO. 3**



**TYPICAL COLOURATION RANGE OF EXISTING BRICKS AS AT AUGUST 2010**