



## **Design, Access & Heritage Statement**

**The Museum Tavern,**  
49 Great Russell Street  
Bloomsbury,  
London,  
WC1B 3BA

On behalf of: Greene King PLC

## **Introduction**

This statement has been prepared to accompany an application for the alterations and development proposal at The Museum Tavern, London.

The idea of this statement is to show how we as designers wish to take into account the historical values of not only the building but the surrounding environment to help preserve its beauty and history by designing for a purpose with form and function.

We believe that it is important that any changes to The Museum Tavern are in context with neighbouring streets and the surrounding local area as well as respecting the nearby buildings. The changes would also need to fulfil the actual function that was in hand and also work with the existing fabric. This statement will assess the building in terms of historic and architectural interest and context of the local planning policy with a view to the application to refurbish the internal and external areas of the building.

## **General building information**

Public house. c1855-64. By William Finch Hill and EL Paraire. Stucco with wooden public house ground floor. Modified French Renaissance style. 4 storeys. 1 window with 1-window splayed corner and symmetrical 5-window return to Museum Street. Public house front with Corinthian pilasters and colonnettes carrying entablature with dentil cornice. Round-arched, recessed openings with panelled dados. Entrance on splayed corner with fanlight and double part-glazed doors. Main entrance on Museum Street with pediment, rectangular fanlight and double part-glazed doors. 1st to 3rd floors with rusticated corner and pilaster strips at angles capped by small segmental pediments. 2-pane sash windows. 1st floor round-arched, architraved, recessed sashes, above which architraved oculi with decorative grills and enriched with swags. 2nd floor segmental-arched architraved sashes. Console bracketed cornice beneath 3rd floor recessed sashes. Coved cornice and blocking course. INTERIOR: retains some original fittings including Classically styled wood back fitting to bar (glass later).

## **History of the building**

The Museum Tavern is a grade II listed building. The Museum Tavern was expanded in 1855 and much of what you see today dates from then or a little later. Despite the removal of partitions that divided Victorian drinkers, many original features remain, like much of the carved wooden fittings, etched and cut glass outer windows and some coloured leaded-glass detail. The pub is the proud work of architect William Finch Hill and is probably his only surviving work, save for the recently reopened Hat & Feathers in Clerkenwell. Hill was well known for his music hall designs but alas these seem to have all gone. In the early eighteenth century a pub called the Dog & Duck stood there. Its name reflecting the hunting that took place on the surrounding swamps and ponds. The British Museum was built in the 1760's and the pub changed its name to suit. Past customers include, J.B. Priestley, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Karl Marx. Visitors to the British Museum who have absorbed enough culture will always find a warm welcome in the Museum Tavern across the street.

## **Description of Works**

All works will be to the highest standard and any areas affected will be made good to ensure full respect and acknowledgement of the buildings history. The scope of works will see the pub receive overall internal refurbishments with no structural alterations.

## Design Statement

This proposal reflects our clients desire to reinforce the buildings position to the residents of the area and to customers who will return and, also, recommend the establishment to others thereby increasing its importance to the local economy by offering improved bar and dining facilities.

The design philosophy is to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century social space but still pay due respect to the historical context of the area and the city where tourists visit daily.

## Proposed Works

1. Carefully remove existing carpet and replace with new timber flooring.



2. Repair existing foot rail.





3. Bar backfitting to be refurbished. All timber features to be stripped, prepped and polished. Retain mirrors. Install new purpose built bottle fridges. New strip lighting to be installed to backfitting.



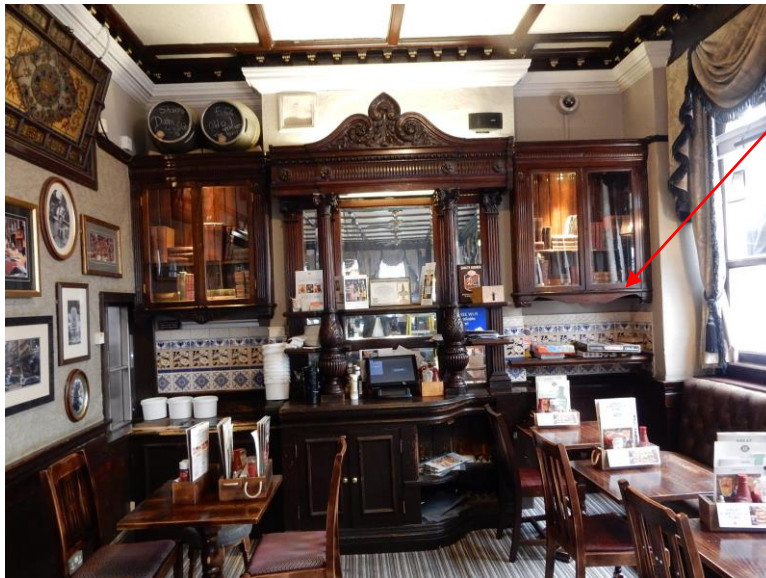
4. Carefully remove existing timber bar walk and replace with black and white tile.



- Carefully remove all seating and replace with new deep buttoned fixed seating.



- New LED lighting to backfitting. Carefully remove existing tiles and replace with new. Treat & restain backfitting.





7. New lighting and overall internal decorations.



8. Full decorations to Gents/Ladies WC.

9. New vanity units to Gents/Ladies

10. Block up Gents vanity area to form new. Alter & adapt all waste/drainage.



11. New sw enclosure to hide electrics.



12. New signage and external decorations with new ironmongery and brass finishes complete with new external furniture.



## **Access Statement**

Our client, Greene King PLC, is committed to improving the products and services offered to all customers, they fully intend to comply with all current regulations and good practice.

The physical limitations of the area provide some constraints being a Grade II Listed building; however, it is our intention to make the proposed scheme as accessible as possible in compliance with Local Planning Policy and the Equality Act 2010.

## **Summary**

We believe that our proposal for, and our clients' commitment to the Museum Tavern, secure the following strategic planning objectives -

- ensure the premises ongoing commercial viability
- preserve and contribute to the character and appearance of the area
- create an attractive place for people to visit
- enhances an existing amenity to the local community, and, achieves all of the above in a manner that respects historical importance of the area and the eclectic mixture of the neighbouring buildings and surroundings within the town.