



Historic England

LONDON OFFICE

Ms Elaine Quigley
London Borough of Camden
Development Control Planning Services
Town Hall
Argyle Street
London
WC1H 8ND

Direct Dial: 0207 973 3777

Our ref: L00507143

19 January 2017

Dear Ms Quigley

**Arrangements for Handling Heritage Applications Direction 2015 &
T&CP (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015
46 BEDFORD SQUARE , LONDON , WC1B 3DP
Application No 2015/3840/L**

Thank you for your letter of 8 April 2016 notifying us of the application for listed building consent relating to the above site. We do not wish to comment in detail, but offer the following general observations.

Historic England Advice

The application property is a grade I listed terrace house, which dates from 1775-86 and was designed by Thomas Leverton or Robert Palmer. The building forms part of a larger palace- style facade which fronts onto the south side of Bedford Square and is considered to form part of one of the finest pieces of designed Georgian townscape in London. The application property forms the architectre centrepiece of the terrace and has a fine stuccoed facade with a rusticated ground floor and grand pilasters over supporting a decorative pediment.

The proposals are for the retention of three security cameras, which are afixed to the stucco on the front elevation in a highly prominent location between ground and first floor levels.

Sections 66 and 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended) set out the obligation on local planning authorities to pay special regard to safeguarding the special interest of listed buildings and their settings. The National Planning Policy Framework, guides our decision making on how to safeguard this special interest. In this case, paragraphs 134 are considered to be most relevant and refer to the requirement to weigh harm against the public benefits of proposals, including securing optimum viable use.

Historic England has serious concerns regarding the erection of the three security cameras on the front elevation of this building. These cameras visually interrupt the



1 WATERHOUSE SQUARE 138-142 HOLBORN LONDON EC1N 2ST

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fine architecture and detailing of the facade and, as such, we consider the cameras to cause harm to the special interest of the listed building.

Recommendation

We recommend that the application is refused on grounds of the proposed harm to the special interest of the listed building, as the proposals are contrary to sections 66 and 72 of the relevant legislation and paragraph 134 of the NPPF. We cannot see that there would be any heritage benefits arising from the proposals that would outweigh such harm. We would instead recommend that the applicants seek to negotiate a more appropriate scheme of camera surveillance with ourselves and the London Borough of Camden.

Yours sincerely



Claire Brady

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas

E-mail: claire.brady@HistoricEngland.org.uk



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