

<b>Delegated Report</b>		<b>Analysis sheet</b>		<b>Expiry Date:</b>		27/11/2014	
		N/A / attached		<b>Consultation Expiry Date:</b>		27/11/2014	
<b>Officer</b>				<b>Application Number(s)</b>			
Catherine Bond				2014/6236/L			
<b>Application Address</b>				<b>Drawing Numbers</b>			
11 Gower Street London WC1E 6HB				Refer to decision notice			
<b>PO 3/4</b>		<b>Area Team Signature</b>		<b>C&amp;UD</b>		<b>Authorised Officer Signature</b>	
<b>Proposal(s)</b>							
Installation of a cast aluminium Blue Plaque to commemorate Robert Aickman, author and co-founder of The Inland Waterways Association.							
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		Grant listed building consent					
<b>Application Type:</b>		Listed Building Consent					
<b>Conditions or Reasons for Refusal:</b>		Refer to Decision Notice					
<b>Informatives:</b>							
<b>Consultations</b>							
<b>Adjoining Occupiers:</b>		No. notified	<b>00</b>	No. of responses	<b>00</b>	No. of objections	<b>00</b>
				No. electronic	<b>00</b>		
<b>Summary of consultation responses:</b>		<p>English Heritage was consulted and the letter of response dated 19 December 2014 states, "We do not consider that it is necessary for this application to be notified to English Heritage under the relevant statutory provisions".</p> <p>SN – no response</p> <p>PN – no response</p> <p>LB Camden Arts &amp; Tourism responded on 10/11/2014, stating they did not need to be consulted</p>					
<b>CAAC/Local groups* comments:</b> *Please Specify		N/A					

## Site Description

Grade II listed building situated in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. It forms part of terrace comprising Nos 1-15 (odd), and the list description reads, "Terrace of 8 houses. c1780. Darkened multi-coloured stock brick; all are, or show evidence of having been, tuck pointed. Nos 1-7 with rusticated stucco ground floors. 1st floor stucco sill bands. Slate mansard roofs with dormers. 3 storeys, attics and basements. 3 windows each. Nos 7 & 9 with return of 3 blind windows to Gower Mews and No.15 with 3-window return, mostly blind, to Store Street. Round-arched, recessed entrances with rusticated surrounds, impost bands and cornice-heads beneath fanlights and mostly panelled doors. Gauged brick flat arches to recessed 2-pane sash windows, most at 1st floor level with cast-iron window guards. Cornice and parapet. INTERIORS: not inspected. SUBSIDIARY FEATURES: attached cast-iron railings with acorn finials to areas."

## Relevant History

N/A

## Relevant policies

### LDF Core Strategy and Development Policies

Policy CS14 – Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage

Policy DP24 – Securing high quality design

Policy DP25 – Conserving Camden's heritage

## Assessment

### Background

The application is for the installation of a commemorative plaque on the front elevation of the grade II listed building at ground floor level. It is to commemorate the life of Robert Aickman (1914-1981), founder of the Inland Waterways Association. The application has been submitted by the Inland Waterways Association as part of their plaque scheme to commemorate important figures associated with the canals and waterways. A plaque has already been erected in Banbury, Oxfordshire, for co-founder LTC Bolt.

The application comprises a cast aluminium plaque blue in colour (Pantone 285) with white raised text, which roughly matches in terms of size and graphics those installed under the English Heritage commemorative blue plaque scheme, including other examples on grade II listed buildings in this stretch of Gower Street. However, the materials differ from the distinct ceramic finish used by English Heritage. The detailed design resembles that of other Inland Waterways plaques, including colour, finish and overall graphics and layout.

### Fixing method

A notable difference with this plaque and the English Heritage blue plaques is the method of fixing to the building. English Heritage installs the plaques so that they are flush with the face of the wall in which they sit. This appearance is achieved by removing the masonry of the exact diameter of the plaque to slot it into the wall.

The plaque proposed in this application will differ from the English Heritage equivalents in terms of its installation as it will be mounted to the wall surface directly. The plaque will be surface mounted to avoid the modification of the building fabric required by a recessed plaque. The plaque will be fixed to the brickwork using concealed plug and screw fixings, minimising potential harm to the brick surface in the event of the plaque being removed in the future.

### Appearance

The proposed plaque will differ slightly from English Heritage's version because it will protrude out from the face of the wall slightly. The plaque will project by some 20mm. This projection will be

negligible and not impact negatively on the appearance of the building, giving a somewhat irreversible appearance.

The proposed plaque will be sited at ground floor level on the front elevation of the building facing the street within the context of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. It will be centrally positioned between the two first floor sash windows. In terms of aesthetic impact on the special interest of the listed building and the effect on the character and appearance of the conservation area, it is considered acceptable. This location is similar to that of existing plaques to be found on adjacent grade II listed terraced buildings in the street, and there are many other precedents on listed buildings throughout the conservation area. In terms of size and design, the plaque is a minimal physical intervention which will not compete with overall appearance, proportions and details of the listed building's façade.

### Conclusion

The proposal is compliant with LB Camden guidance on 'Artworks and memorials in parks, open spaces and the public realm in Camden'. Most notably it complies with the 30 year rule which relates to the time of death of the subject (Robert Aickman passed away in 1981).

Recommendation to grant listed building consent to mount the blue plaque on the front elevation of No 11 Gower Street, as it complies with LDF policies CS14, DP24 and DP25 and would not harm the special architectural or historic interest of the grade II listed building or the character and appearance of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.