

# Heritage Statement

## **Monckton Services Ltd**

Raymond Buildings Gray's Inn Estate London WC1R 5BN

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# **Prepared by**

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## **Quality Standards Control**

The signatories below verify that this document has been prepared in accordance with our quality control requirements. These procedures do not affect the content and views expressed by the originator.

This document must only be treated as a draft unless it is has been signed by the Originators and approved by a Business or Associate Director.

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Limitations

This document has been prepared for the stated objective and should not be used for any other purpose without the prior written authority of GL Hearn; we accept no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than for which it was commissioned.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This statement has been prepared by GL Hearn on behalf of Monckton Services Ltd in support of an application seeking listed building consent submitted for the site at the Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn Estate, London, WC1R 5BN.

#### The Proposal

- 1.2 This listed building consent application is in regards to the excavation and waterproofing works proposed to vaults 5 and 6 of the Raymond Buildings.
- 1.3 The proposal involves internal work to the vaults with no external alterations to the building, to the frontage of the vaults, or the lightwell being made. It is for this reason that planning permission is not required.
- 1.4 The internal alterations include damp proofing works as described in Newton Waterproofing specification (drawing: P17-0249/06).
- 1.5 The description of development is as follows:

"Excavation and waterproofing works proposed to basement vaults at 1-2 Raymond Buildings".

## Structure of this Statement

- 1.6 The remainder of this statement is set out in the following sections:
  - Section 2 Site, Surroundings and Context;
  - Section 3 Planning Policy; and
  - Section 4 Assessment and Conclusion.

## 2 SITE, SURROUNDINGS AND BACKGROUND

2.1 The site is located in the London Borough of Camden comprising a terraced row of properties of 4 storeys plus lower ground floor (Figure 1). At lower ground floor level to the front of the properties there is a lightwell / passageway where vaults are located and used for storage. This application specifically relates to vaults 5 and 6 (adjacent to No.5 Raymond Buildings) along the lightwell (Figure 2).



Figure 1: Front Elevation of Raymond Buildings



Figure 2: Lower Ground level lightwell to vaults and internal of vault 5

- 2.2 The Raymond Buildings are located within the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn Estate dating back to c1825. They are set in the north-west corner of the Gray's Inn Estate backing onto Gray's Inn Gardens.
- 2.3 The property is a row of six terraced chambers and residencies. The terraces were damaged during the Second World War and there is evidence of 20<sup>th</sup> Century restoration to the upper levels and roofs. The buildings have been modified over the years to meet the changing needs of the occupants.
- A total of 11 vaults are located at lower ground level to the front of the buildings opening accessed by the passageway adjacent to the front of the building. Some of the vaults contain water tanks and pumps, BT equipment with the remainder being used for storage.
- 2.5 The Raymond Buildings 1-6 are Grade II listed with the following Historic England entry:
  - "6 terraced chambers. 1825, restored late C20. Multi-coloured stock brick under a slate roof with dormers. West elevation – 4 storeys, attics and basements. 7 windows each. Entrances of semicircular arches with key-stones and impost blocks. Gauged brick flat arches to recessed sash windows. Restored parapet. East elevation – facing gardens, with stone bands at ground and 1<sup>st</sup> floor. INTERIORS: have stone stairs with square iron balusters. SUBSIDUARY FEATURES: attached cast-iron railings with urn finials to areas".
- 2.6 Historic England defines Grade II listed buildings as being of special interest. 92% of listed buildings fall within this category.
- 2.7 Camden Council's Planning Policy Map shows the site as being located within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.
- 2.8 In the Bloomsbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy, the Raymond Buildings are identified as falling within Sub Area 9: Lincoln's Inn Fields/Inns of Court/High Holborn; however there is no further detail on the site provided in the document.

#### Planning History

- 2.9 An extensive amount of minor alterations have been made to the building over time and have been approved listed building consent.
- 2.10 Such changes include:
  - · Rebuilding and repair of boundary walls;
  - Removal of partition walls;
  - Alterations to entrance doors:
  - Internal alterations to stud partitions; and
  - Installation of entrance doors;

#### 3 PLANNING POLICY

- 3.1 The proposed development is set in the context of national and local planning policy; this is now considered. National planning policy comes in the form of the National planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local policy comes in the form of Camden's adopted local plan, however there is also an emerging plan that is set to be adopted in the summer of 2017. The following planning policy documents have been considered in the assessment of this listed building consent application:
  - NPPF
  - Camden Core Strategy (2010);
  - Development Policies (2010);
  - Emerging Local Plan.

#### **NPPF**

- 3.2 The NPPF requires that in determining planning applications local authorities should require applicants to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected including the contribution made to their setting. The detail of this is proportionate to the importance of the asset.
- 3.3 Paragraph 130 states that 'where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of or damage to a heritage asset the deteriorated state of the heritage asset should not be taken into account in any decision'.
- 3.4 When determining planning applications authorities should take account of:
  - 'The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
  - The positive contribution that conservation or heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
  - The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness'.
- 3.5 Paragraph 132 outlines that when an authority considers the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset; great weight should be given to that asset's conservation. The more important that asset is, the greater the weight given should be. This paragraph goes on to state: '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'
- 3.6 Where a proposed development would lead to substantial harm of the significance of a heritage asset an authority should refuse consent, unless it is demonstrated that the harm is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm caused.

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- 3.7 When there is less substantial harm this should be weighed against public benefit, securing the optimum viable use.
- 3.8 Paragraph 137 states that local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development in Conservation Areas. Schemes that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset should be treated favourably.

## Camden Core Strategy 2010

3.9 Policy CS14 of the Core Strategy regards *Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage.* The policy seeks to preserve and enhance the borough's heritage assets and their settings including listed buildings.

#### Camden Development Policies 2010

- 3.10 Policy DP25 *Conserving Camden's Heritage* seeks to maintain the character of Camden's conservation areas. In order to do so the Council will:
  - "Take account of conservation area statements, appraisals and management plans when assessing applications within conservation areas"; and
  - "Only permit development within conservation areas that preserves and enhances the character and appearance of the area".
- 3.11 The policy goes on to state that the council will preserve listed buildings by:
  - "Prevent the total or substantial demolition of a listed building unless exceptional circumstances are shown that outweigh the case for retention;
  - Only grant consent for a change of use or alterations and extensions to a listed building where it considers this would not cause harm to the special interest of the building; and
  - Not permit development that it considers would cause harm to the setting of a listed building".

### Camden Local Plan Adoption Version June 2017

- 3.12 This document will supersede the adopted Core Strategy and Development Policies. Although not adopted, this document is a significant way through its preparation and should be considered as material consideration to this application.
- 3.13 Policy D2 on heritage looks to preserve and enhance conservation areas and listed buildings. With regards to conservation areas the council will require that development, where possible will enhance the character or appearance of the area.
- 3.14 To preserve or enhance the borough's listed buildings the council will resist alterations where it would harm the special architectural and historic interest of the building.

#### 4 ASSESSMENT AND CONCLUSION

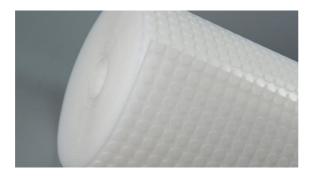
- 4.1 This application for listed building consent is required in order to make the proposed alterations to the vaults of the Grade II listed Raymond Buildings.
- 4.2 As set out in Section 1 of this statement the proposal makes internal changes to vaults 5 and 6 of the Raymond Buildings and as such the proposed changes to the listed building are not visible externally and the function of the vaults is not changing (no physical changes are being made to the external frontage of the vault or within the lightwell).
- 4.3 The internal changes include damp proofing works as described in Newton Waterproofing Specification (drawing: P17-0249/06). Details of the proposed materials and Technical Drawings are shown in Appendix A and Appendix B.
- 4.4 The proposal seeks to make the vaults waterproof which will provide the applicant with much needed useable storage space that will allow for the future proofing of and continued use of the building going forwards. The existing historic fabric of the building is retained.
- 4.5 The proposed works are unobtrusive and do not seek to make a change of use of the vaults.
- 4.6 It should be noted that there is no mention of the vaults in the listed building entry, and it can therefore be considered that they are not a significant aspect of the importance of the listed building.
- 4.7 Historic England sets out that, harm to a heritage asset includes the total physical destruction, minor physical harm, and harm through change of setting. The proposed scheme does not destroy, cause harm to, or harm the setting of the listed building. As such, the proposal does not cause any harm to the listed building
- In line with the legislation set out by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the heritage based policies of the NPPF and policy CS14 of Camden's adopted Local Plan, the applicant understands the importance of the Grade II listed building designation in considering the proposed development and has ensured that proposal respects this designation.
- 4.9 In compliance with policy DP25, Camden Council should grant consent as the proposed development does not harm the special interest of the building or its setting or that of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

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## **Appendices**

#### **APPENDIX A:** Proposed Waterproofing Materials Specification

Newton 503 – A high quality cavity drain waterproofing and damp proofing membrane suitable
for use internally above or below the ground to retaining walls, vaulted soffits and floors. Does
not require extensive and damaging preparation to the wall surface.



Newton 508 – Is the most commonly used membrane within the Newton System 500 waterproofing system. Newton 508 is guaranteed against deterioration for 30 years, with a life expectancy of at least 50 years. Does not require extensive or damaging preparation to the wall surface.



• **Newton 520** – Is one of the main constituent parts of the Newton System 500 cavity drain system used for waterproofing earth-retained structures, including drainage channels sited below the membrane for increased drainage capacity. With its 20mm deep stud profile, Newton 520 is used within Newton System 500 as a high capacity floor membrane and is generally specified where it is anticipated that there may be a risk of severe water penetration.

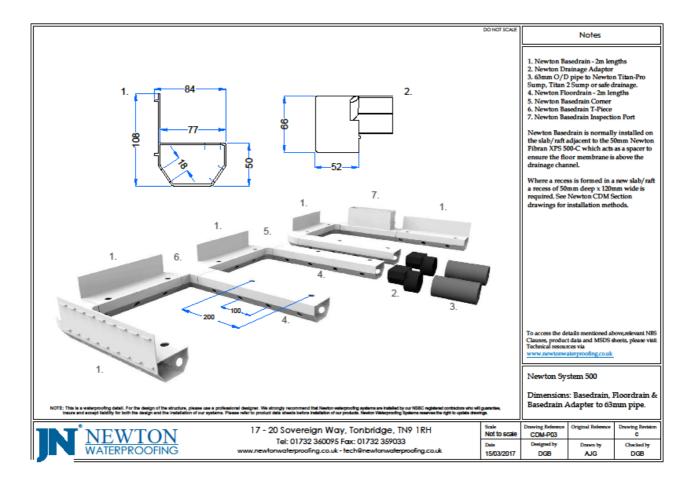
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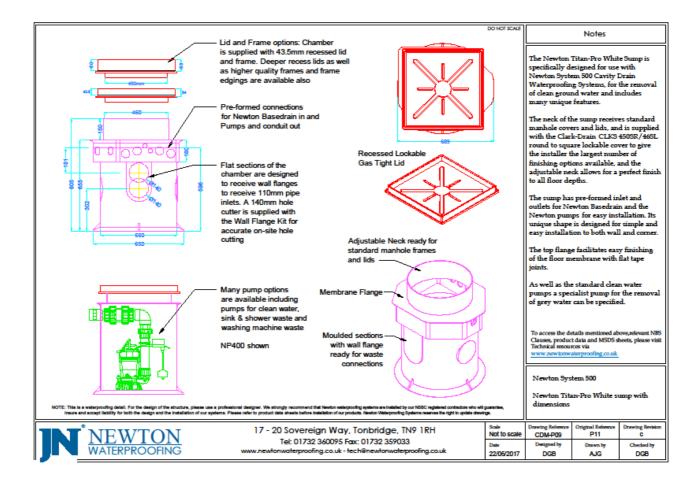


## **APPENDIX B:** Technical Drawings (Please refer to Drawing: P17-0249/06)

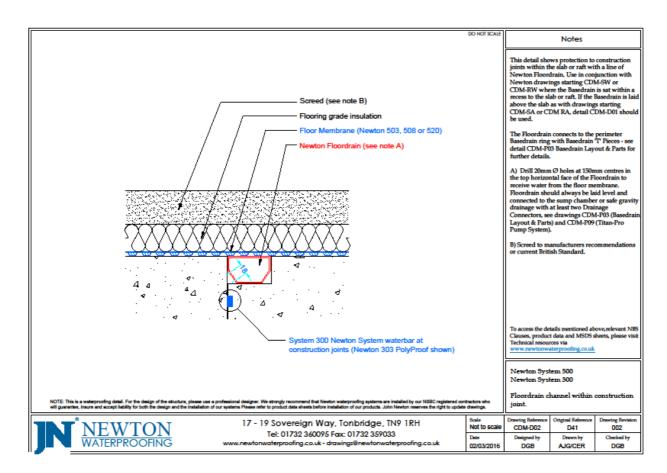
## CDM-P3



#### CDM-P9



#### CDM-D2



#### CDM-D4

