

HERITAGE STATEMENT

TEMPORARY MARQUEE

THE BRITISH LIBRARY, 96 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, NW1 2DB

Introduction:

This Heritage Statement has been prepared and submitted on behalf of The British Library, to provide justification for the following development:

“Erection of a marquee structure to provide temporary event space within the British Library’s piazza for a period of 7 weeks.”

The proposed marquee will be exactly the same as the marquee which was approved and erected for a temporary period of 8 weeks, in May 2018 (LPA Reference: 2018/1316/P). The scale, location and materials of the marquee, as well as methods of fixing and installation will replicate the application which was approved last year.

The proposal and location:

The marquee will be erected within the piazza of the British Library, which is located within the central area of the Library, surrounded by the main building. Historic England’s detailed listing for the Library, states:

To the south (front) of the main entrance is a forecourt known as the piazza with brick pavements set within a grid of limestone slabs that includes steps, raised levels and a rotunda defined by walls topped with granite boulders at the entrances.

The proposed marquee will not have any impact on, or cause any harm to, the piazza or its architectural features. There is no requirement for any part of the marquee to be physically fixed to the ground of the piazza or any other part of the Listed Building.

The positioning and size of the marquee has been carefully considered, given the site’s designation and surrounding heritage assets, to ensure there is no significant impact on the setting of the Listed Building. The marquee will be positioned on the edge of the piazza on the boundary opposite the main entrance point into the Library, north of the entrance point from Poet’s Circle.

The proposal will enhance the service offer of the Library, providing an opportunity for visitors to engage in talks and small performances about the collections of the Library for a temporary period, and a positive opportunity to enhance the usability and enjoyment of the open space.

Therefore, the temporary erection of a marquee within the piazza of the Library is considered to be appropriate and will have no substantial impact on the listed building.

Policy considerations:

The proposed development is compliant with both National and Local Planning Policy.

Section 16 of the NPPF (2018) sets out the approach to be taken for the consideration of Listed Buildings, of particular relevance are Paragraphs 189 -194 which seek to protect heritage assets (inclusive of Grade I listed buildings) by resisting the approval of planning applications which will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of an asset. In line with these requirements, substantial weight has been given to the conservation of The British Library

and it is considered that the erection of this marquee will have no substantial impact on or loss of the significance of the heritage asset. The marquee will not be fixed to any part of the piazza.

Policy D2 (Heritage and Conservation) of Camden's New Local Plan (adopted 03 July 2017) seeks to preserve and enhance Camden's heritage assets and their settings. In accordance with the policy requirements, this temporary proposed use and nature of the facility, which fully supports the function of the Library, will not result in the loss of, or substantial harm to the designated heritage asset, affect the preservation and will not cause harm to the special architectural or historic interest of the listed building.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposed works will cause no substantial harm or impact to the listed building and will not affect the setting or character of the external area of the building. The construction process has been carefully considered and planned, to ensure no harm is caused to any surrounding structures and features of the piazza.