

25 October 2021

London Borough of Camden
Development Management Team
5 Pancras Square
London
N1C 4AG

FAO Elaine Quigley

Dear Officers

Discharge of Condition | British Museum, London WC1B

On behalf of British Museum (BM), we enclose an application to partially discharge planning permission (PP) Condition 16 of application (ref: 2009/4638/P), to provide details of a granite bench and x2 security bollards in association with the World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre (WCEC), London WC1B.

Planning permission was originally granted for the WCEC on 13 January 2010 (ref: 2009/4638/P). The approved description of development is: *Erection of 5 storey building (plus 3 basement levels) with roof level plant to provide a special exhibition gallery, logistic bay (accessed via new vehicular lift off Montague Place), collection storage facilities, conservation laboratories, associated offices and management facilities for the British Museum (Class D1), associated alterations to the facades of the North Range and King Edward Building, and hard and soft landscaping works (following demolition of Nos.1 and 2 Montague Place, Book Bindery, EDF Sub-station, BMS Store, Stonemasons/Locksmiths workshops and portacabins (includes Environmental Impact Assessment).*

The WCEC development associated with the above permission is complete and has been occupied by the British Museum for a number of years. This application does not seek to amend the implemented development; it proposes to introduce a granite seat and two collapsible bollards as part of the hard and soft landscaping for the WCEC; namely to further enhance security measures surrounding the Museums site.

The proposal and process being pursued has been discussed and agreed with LB Camden officer, Elaine Quigley.

Application content

This application has been submitted via the Planning Portal (ref: PP-10290034). The following forms the submission and supporting documents:

- Application form
- Document showing proposed location of the new granite seat and retractable bollards (ref: Additional HVM_Rev2)

The relevant application fee of £116 has also been submitted for the application.

Details of Conditions

This application seeks to discharge PP Condition 16 of the above referenced PP.

PP Condition 16 states *'Prior to the construction of the building full details of hard and soft landscaping (including plant species, positions and a long term maintenance schedule and full details regarding the design, materials and type of boundary treatment to be erected) shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. The landscape design and boundary treatment shall be completed before the building is occupied. Implementation of the landscape design and the development of the boundary treatment shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

The Museum propose to install a new granite seat (to match the existing) on Montague Place and integrate this with the landscape elements that were approved previously, namely to protect a ramped entrance into the Museum off Montague Place. The new seat will have the same appearance as the existing adjacent granite seats in situ. Images of the existing and proposed seat can be found in document ref: Additional HVM_Rev2. It is also part of the proposal to include two retractable black steel bollards placed in front of the gate within BM's site. The document ref: Additional HVM_Rev2 also includes the specification of the bollard.

Overall, the proposals have been carefully designed to ensure they are sympathetic and enhance the architecture of building and the character and appearance of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. The external security system will protect the building and its users and provide an integrated approach to the security of the site. The system has been designed to take account of the functionality of the area and the needs of its users, and will be sensitively designed to respect the surrounding context and public realm. The proposals will improve the overall visitors' experience which in turn will help BM maintain its international reputation. The proposal has been developed with the principle objectives of London Borough of Camden Policy D1 Design and D2 Heritage.

This application is made to satisfy the planning conditions associated with the PP at the Museum. If you have any questions on any of the enclosed information, please do not hesitate to contact me at melanie@theplanninglab.com.

Yours faithfully

Melanie Gurney
The Planning Lab