

Natural History Museum Grounds Design Guidance

Supplementary Planning Document
Adopted 2 February 2012

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Guidance is concerned with the Grounds to the Natural History Museum, and how they can be used to further the Museum's mission and that of the Cultural Quarter as a whole, while at the same time contributing positively to the historic environment and respecting residential amenity.
- 1.2 The Museum Building was designed by Waterhouse and opened in 1881. It is a listed building (grade I). The building faces the Cromwell Road. It is set back from the Cromwell Road as well as from Queen's Gate and Exhibition Road to each side, creating the Museum Grounds. The later addition of the Palaeontology building (1976) abuts Exhibition Road, whereas the most recent building – the Darwin Centre – maintains a set back from Queen's Gate with grounds in front. There is a row of mature plane trees to the Cromwell Road and Exhibition Road. Whilst the main entrance is on the Cromwell Road, many visitors arrive from the east, from the pedestrian tunnel which runs under Exhibition Road connecting to South Kensington underground station.
- 1.3 The Grounds cover 2.1 hectares, but do not feel extensive because of their elongated shape, between the Museum buildings and the surrounding roads. However they offer an important green landscape contribution in an otherwise built up environment, as well as playing an important role in how the Museum functions, such as by providing external space for visitors to relax. Servicing for the Museum is to the rear, in Museum Lane. There is a small enclosed recessed space on Exhibition Road at the junction with Museum Lane, next to the Science Museum, also regarded as part of the Museum Grounds, as it is in the ownership of the Museum.
- 1.4 Before turning to the matters of the Grounds themselves, some context about the Museum is helpful. The Museum is a major cultural attraction that welcomes nearly 5 million visitors a year. This has increased year on year since free admission was introduced about a decade ago, when visitor numbers were less than a third of their

current level. The Museum is also a world-class scientific research institution. The mission of the Museum is “to maintain and develop its collections and use them to promote the discovery, understanding, responsible use and enjoyment of the natural world”. Funded predominantly through Government grant-in aid by the Department for Culture Media and Sport, the Museum has an ever-increasing responsibility to generate its own income in support of managing the nation’s collections, ground-breaking research and popular public programmes, as well as repairing and maintaining the existing buildings. This has never been more relevant than now with cuts in public funding.

- 1.5** The Museum sits within the Exhibition Road Cultural Quarter, alongside the Victoria and Albert Museum, and to the north the Science Museum, Imperial College and the Royal Albert Hall, all of which have their roots in the Great Exhibition of 1851. The South Kensington Museum’s area is identified in the London Plan as a Strategic Cultural Area within the Central Activities Zone. The Museum has a key location in the Queens Gate Conservation Area. The Exhibition Road area attracts in excess of 12 million visitors a year. In response to its status as one of London’s primary destinations, Exhibition Road has been radically changed, with a new rectangular pattern single surface to better accommodate the pedestrian numbers, whilst still allowing through traffic. Visitors from South Kensington underground station will in future be as likely to come to the Natural History Museum, and the other attractions in the area, along Exhibition Road, rather than directly to the main entrance on Cromwell Road. The area surrounding the Exhibition Road institutions is residential in character.
- 1.6** This change is of particular relevance to the Grounds, because they abut Exhibition Road. The level of the Grounds is well below street level and slightly above the pedestrian tunnel level of Exhibition Road.
- 1.7** The Grounds have some historical significance, and play a very important role in providing a setting for the Waterhouse Grade I listed building, and a visual and physical amenity for residents and visitors, as well as being important for biodiversity. The Grounds also play an

important role for the Museum, in terms of visitor management and attractions, as well as for accommodating the queues of visitors to the museum. The significance of the Grounds is set out in Chapter 4.

- 1.8** The Natural History Museum has for a number of years made use of the eastern area of the Grounds for temporary structures to host events. Some of these are linked to the function of the Museum itself, others are primarily commercial, to raise revenue for the Museum.
- 1.9** The Grounds have to balance a number of competing demands. These include not only issues of historical significance but also their role in the conservation area, the setting of the listed building and the amenity of the space primarily for visitors, as well as the use of the space for events by the Museum. Concern has been expressed by the Council's Planning Applications Committee about the number of temporary events and structures on the eastern section of the Grounds. This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to set out the Council's views on how to balance the competing demands and to assist the Museum in developing its own strategy.
- 1.10** Disabled access is provided to the Museum from Exhibition Road, but there is no disabled access from the main Cromwell Road entrance, nor is there disabled access from the tunnel into the Grounds. The Grounds are not effective at present in accommodating the queues of patrons that build up at opening times.
- 1.11** The Museum has prepared a number of plans for the future management of the estate. The Building Conservation Plan (2003) and Masterplan Development Framework (2009) were prepared with input from the Royal Borough and residents, although reservations remain about its conclusions, and its focus was, as the title suggests, on the buildings rather than on the Grounds.
- 1.12** The Museum has produced a Grounds Development Feasibility Study (GDFS) from consultants Arup Associates (2010). The GDFS has been subject to informal consultation with the Royal Borough and local interests. Whilst it includes some welcome proposals such as the provision of step-free access to Exhibition Road, the document

contains elements that are contentious, and not acceptable to the Council.

- 1.13** The Museum commissioned further work from an architectural historian into the evolution of Waterhouse's designs for the site (2011). This report, *The Evolution of the Grounds and their Significance*, has been used to assist in the analysis of the various parts of the site.
- 1.14** In maintaining and enhancing the quality of historic assets, only so much can be achieved through the planning system. Temporary structures on wheels, for example, might be regarded as exempt from planning controls. The spirit of the importance of maintaining and enhancing a historic asset is thus much more important than any particular control that the planning system might allow for. The quality of design and management is not simply a matter for the planning authority: it is also in the hands of the owner of the asset.
- 1.15** Consultation on the Draft SPD took place in November 2010. The 'Evolution of the Grounds' document was produced by the Museum after the end of the consultation period. The Royal Borough, with the consent of the Museum, made the 'Evolution' document available for consultation in April 2011, and undertook to take comments on that document into account in finalising the SPD.
- 1.16** The Museum will liaise with residents, the Council and other stakeholders periodically to assess the effectiveness of the SPD. The SPD will be reviewed on a periodic basis, in response to changing circumstances.

2 Existing Planning Policy

- 1.1 The relevant local policies are contained in the saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (2002) and the adopted Core Strategy (2010) as well as the adopted revised London Plan (2011). In addition there is government guidance, and advice from English Heritage of particular relevance set out below.
- 1.2 UDP Policy CD10 protects important views and vistas around the South Kensington museums area, and Policy CD11 sets out ways in which the precinct character of the museums area may be preserved and enhanced.
- 1.3 Chapter 12 of the Core Strategy addresses South Kensington in the context of the wider cultural quarter initiated in 1851. The vision is for a thoroughly contemporary re-evocation of the original Victorian vision (CV12), and the related policy plans for the continued success of South Kensington as a premier public cultural destination (CP12). Paragraph 12.3.3 makes specific reference to the part of the Grounds near Exhibition Road as an event space, and the need for better management to ensure the primary purpose as publically accessible open space providing essential breathing space for visitors can remain. On Plan 12, the area to the front of the Museum is annotated with the need to scale back the use of open space for events – a reference to London Fashion Week that no longer uses the space.
- 1.4 Policy CF9 of the Core Strategy identifies the South Kensington Strategic Cultural Area where the Council will protect and enhance the arts and cultural uses.
- 1.5 Policy CL1 requires new development to not only respect local context and character, but also to take opportunities available to improve the quality and character of buildings and the way they function, including being inclusive for all. Policies CL3 and CL4 protects the character and appearance of conservation areas and the special interest and setting of listed buildings respectively.
- 1.6 Policy CR3 (e) and (f) specifically deal with the temporary use of

open spaces. CR3(e) has six criteria against which planning applications will be assessed. CR3(f) requires an Events Management Plan and a Management Strategy for repeated use of an open space for temporary uses. Policy CR5 protects parks, gardens, open spaces and waterways.

- 1.7** Policy CE4 protects Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, which are defined in the saved portion of the UDP.
- 1.8** Policy CE6 controls the impact of noise and vibration generating sources which affect amenity.
- 1.9** Queen's Gate Conservation Area Proposals Statement seeks improvements to the Museum's frontage (pp28).
- 1.10** The adopted revised London Plan identifies the area as a Strategic Cultural Area within the Central Activities Zone. Policy 2.11Af looks for an extension of the offer and enhancement of the environment. Policy 4.5Af looks for the promotion, enhancement and protection of the special characteristics of major clusters of visitor attractions including those in Strategic Cultural Areas.
- 1.11** Government policy and guidance is contained in PPS5 (2010) and the accompanying Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (2010). The most relevant policies relating to proposals affecting listed buildings are HE7, HE9 and HE10 which set out the considerations in dealing with applications which affect them and their settings. This will shortly be superseded by the forthcoming National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). There is no change to the overall policy objective, and the NPPF takes the same approach of protecting the heritage asset based on an assessment of that asset's significance.
- 1.12** English Heritage's Guidance Temporary Structures In Historic Places (2010) is also relevant. The guidance lists a number of issues including location, physical impact, visual impact, setting, design, duration and season, public access, and financial benefits.

3 Aims

1.13 As mentioned in the introduction, this SPD aims to balance a number of competing demands. These include maintaining the historical significance of the Grounds, their role in the conservation area and the setting of the listed building and as amenity space primarily for visitors, as well as the use of the space for events by the Museum.

1.14 The aims of the SPD are set out below, in the general context of the duties of the Council in relation to listed buildings and conservation areas, set out in sections 66 and 72 of the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990. The aims of the SPD recognise the importance of the Museum as an institution of international importance, and its mission: ‘to maintain and develop its collections and use them to promote the discovery, understanding, responsible use and enjoyment of the natural world’. They also recognise the need for the Museum to increase revenue generation to support the Museum mission in the context of reduced funding to the public sector. In the consideration of any relevant applications, a local planning authority has to weigh any harm to the setting of a listed building against any wider public benefits. The aims of the guidelines are therefore as follows:

1. To protect the character, appearance and setting of the listed building and the conservation area;
2. To improve access to the Museum and its Grounds for all;
3. To protect residential amenity;
4. To ensure a comprehensive landscape design of the highest quality;
5. To address the needs and aspirations of different stakeholders of the Museum, residents, the Royal Borough and English Heritage.

4 The Grounds and their Significance

They provide a setting for to the Grade I listed building, and contribute to the character and appearance of the conservation area;

- 4.1** The Grounds are important for several reasons:
1. They have historic significance in their own right;
 2. They contribute towards a varied townscape, and provide a 'breathing space' in an otherwise intensively built-up area;
 3. They are a Site of Nature Conservation Importance;
 4. They are used for operational purposes by the Museum. These will be considered in turn.

Setting of the Museum

- 4.2** The primary reason for the Grounds was to provide an appropriate setting for Waterhouse's great building. A key element in the setting of the Museum is the fact that it sits at a level well below that of the surrounding roads. This affects the openness and angle of views. Cromwell Road is clearly the primary frontage and for the passer by, the views through the trees give tantalising glimpses of the imposing facade. From the corner of Queen's Gate views are limited by the vegetation, but the juxtaposition between the main building and the Darwin Centre is quite dramatic. By contrast, views from the corner of Exhibition Road allow the main frontage of the Museum and the flank of the East Tower to be appreciated through the foil of the mature plane trees.

- 4.3** The Grounds also play an important role in the Queen's Gate Conservation Area. Queen's Gate itself has an avenue of mature plane trees, like those in Cromwell Road along the Museum frontage.

Historic Significance

- 4.4** In assessing the significance of the Grounds as a 'heritage asset', the Council will draw on the documentary evidence presented in The Natural History Museum: The Evolution of the Grounds and their Significance, completed in February 2011 by consultants Montagu

Evans on behalf of the Museum. It comprises a detailed history of the design and development of the open land around the Museum and a statement of its significance, in terms of PPS5 and English Heritage's Conservation Principles. Whilst the history of the Grounds is factual, the assessment of their significance is a matter of professional opinion, and the conclusions are not shared by the Council.

- 4.5** Waterhouse's early plans of 1873/4 show a formal geometric layout of paths and beds, placed symmetrically around the front and sides of the building. By 1879 the area devoted to garden on the east and west sides had been reduced in its northern extent by approximately one third. It is not clear whether this was for cost reasons or to allow for future expansion of buildings on the site. The planting appears to be more ornamental though still geometric and symmetrical. Whilst the plan remained Waterhouse's the detailed design and planting was by others. This was at least in part due to cost savings.
- 4.6** In the 1880s the pedestrian tunnel was built under Exhibition Road and a connection made to the eastern Grounds – what is referred to in this document as the Palaeontology Grounds. Also in the 1880s, the western Grounds were redesigned in a much more informal manner. In the 1890s some further adaptation took place and freer public access was permitted.
- 4.7** Waterhouse's original conception for the Eastern and Western Grounds was never realised. In place of the highly-ornamented municipal parkland which he envisaged (a dense network of paths with extensive ornamental beds in strict geometric patterns) only the armature of this layout was realised (just paths and greensward). This explains one of the oddities of the Grounds today – the fact that there is a clear network of paths which do not have any particular function in terms of framing vegetation, ornamental plants or bedding.
- 4.8** From its earliest days there has been pressure to extend the Museum to house its ever-increasing collections. In the twentieth century, the Eastern Grounds were affected first by the construction of the Geology Museum (in the 1920s) and then the Palaeontology

building in 1976. More recent construction of the Darwin Centre on the western side of the main building has resulted in a new landscaped area, and left the Wildlife Garden intact. The pressure for space along with early cost constraints have perhaps led to the open areas around the Museum not being given the holistic attention they deserve over the years.

4.9 For the purposes of this document we identify five main areas (see Appendix 1), the first four of which are geographically contiguous:

1. The East and West Grounds – the area in front of the Waterhouse building (Area 1);
2. The Palaeontology Grounds, which lie to the east of the Waterhouse building, in front of the Palaeontology building, at the junction of Cromwell Road and Exhibition Road (Area 2);
3. The Wildlife Garden, which lies to the west of the Waterhouse building at the junction of Cromwell Road and Queen’s Gate (Area 3);
4. The Darwin Centre Grounds, to the north of the Wildlife Garden, in front of the Darwin Centre (Area 4); and
5. A small area adjoining Museum Lane, which is physically separate from the other parts of the Grounds (Area 5).

East and West Grounds (Area 1)

4.10 The area in front of the Waterhouse building, as the setting of the Grade I listed building, is clearly the area with most heritage significance (Area 1 on the attached map). In many respects, this area retains much of the character of Waterhouse’s original concept including the strong sense of symmetry around the central axis which stretches from the Museum to the Albert Memorial. The original railings and gates form the boundary with Cromwell Road. The lines of plane trees, planted later and protected by a Tree

Preservation Order, help to define this screen, but also mark the start of the intended green setting for the Museum. The curved ramps and entrance steps form part of the Grade I listed building. They have not changed apart from the loss of the earlier gas lamps. The East and West Grounds along with the Palaeontology Grounds, formerly known as the East Lawn, also form part of the setting of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

- 4.11** The parallel paths and central lawns appear to be quite an accurate reflection of the original layout, although it is possible that the current grassed areas were originally planted with flowers and shrubs. A photograph from 1896 shows the western section of the Grounds less formalised than the east, with its lawn flowing continuously into an informal area which is now the Wildlife Garden. This was consistent with the original internal layout of the Museum, which had the 'living' exhibits in the West Wing and the extinct exhibits in the East Wing. Its fundamental character of greenness and openness is still there today. It is this history and the extent to which the current layout is consistent with Waterhouse's original design has been researched and will inform future proposals. Some aspects clearly detract from the Museum's setting, such as the tarmac paths, the use of the area in front of the ramp for car parking (now infrequent) and to a lesser extent some of the miscellaneous objects, such as the petrified tree. The grounds are in concept, at once formal and dignified, but at the same time softened by their tree-lined southern and eastern borders. The trees and the associated landscaping of the embankment make a significant contribution to the green setting of the building as well as providing a baffle to the noise and fumes of the heavy traffic on the Cromwell Road and traffic on Exhibition Road. This planted area, at least in part, seems to accord with Waterhouse's intentions for the landscaping of the site.

The Palaeontology Grounds (Area 2)

- 4.12** Waterhouse's original plans show this area as a relatively formal garden layout with paths and borders. Subsequently, the planting of the plane trees, the construction of the Exhibition Road pedestrian tunnel with its link to the grounds and much later, the 1970s

Palaeontology building have given this area quite a different character. It now consists of an open lawn surrounded by paths, which affords views towards the front of the Waterhouse building and the flank of the East Tower. It is enclosed to the north by the Palaeontology building, to the east by mature plane trees and the retaining wall to Exhibition Road with the entrance to the pedestrian tunnel, and to the south by a ramp down, alongside the retaining wall to Cromwell Road. The railings to the Cromwell and Exhibition Roads are original. The ramp, the stepped entrance to the pedestrian tunnel and the backdrop of the Palaeontology building give it a rather less formal and more fragmented appearance than the East and West Grounds. However, its openness is important in views to the Waterhouse building from the corner of Cromwell Road and Exhibition Road and the pedestrian route to the Museum from the east through the Grounds. This route is likely to become more intensively used now that the improvements to Exhibition Road have been completed. This area of the Grounds also contributes to the setting of the Victoria and Albert Museum. The tree-lined embankment is as important here as it is to the East and West Grounds.

Wildlife Garden (Area 3)

- 4.13** From its early adaptation in the 1880s to the present day this area has had an informal and densely-planted character. At the end of the twentieth century its character was reinforced by its ecology theme. This continues today. Its profuse planting and limited public access give it a secluded character in an otherwise very busy area. The railings along Cromwell Road and Queens Gate are original.

Darwin Centre Grounds (Area 4)

- 4.14** Following the completion of the Darwin Centre, this part of the grounds has been relandscaped to form an amphitheatre. Access is gained only from the Darwin Centre. It contains the memorial for the British victims of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami in the Darwin Centre Courtyard.

Museum Lane (Area 5)

4.15 Museum Lane is a narrow service road which runs between the Earth Sciences Wing of the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum and connects to Exhibition Road. The flanking buildings were both constructed in Portland stone in a classical style in the 1920s. They are connected by a matching stone link which acts as a screen to the rather utilitarian parts to the rear of the Museum. There are grassed areas to either side of the roadway, which, taken together form a small square off Exhibition Road. Neither of the adjoining Museum buildings is listed, but as a group they have a strong neoclassical character. The buildings do not have a functional link to the open space. The significance of this open space is as part of the twentieth century expansion of the museums and a subtle means of integrating a service road into the formal townscape of Exhibition Road. Its value is also as a punctuation and informal breathing space in the line of institutional buildings on the western side of Exhibition Road. It has a formal civic quality in common with this stretch of Exhibition Road. Its current appearance is as a simple grassed area, contained within a low granite kerb with the service road running down the middle. It is often used informally for picnics, but there is no clear management process in place at present to deal with the resulting litter.

Amenity

4.16 The Grounds make a significant contribution to the street scene, whilst remaining private land, rather in the manner of a traditional Royal Borough garden square. However, unlike a garden square, they are accessible to the public during the hours the museum is open, and may be enjoyed during those hours by visitors to the Museum, visitors to the area and by local residents and workers. The eastern areas (1a and 2) are the most heavily used. The uses range from taking the route as the main approach to the Museum to strolling or sitting and picnicking in the summer months.

4.17 In addition to the Grounds to the Museum there are two other open spaces nearby: the gardens by the Ismaili Centre, opposite the Victoria and Albert Museum, which are open to the public, and just to the south is Thurloe Square, a private garden square.

Nature Conservation Significance

- 4.18** The Grounds as a whole, except for Museum Lane, are designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (Grade II) in the saved portion of the Unitary Development Plan. The part to the east is more formal and used for public displays and recreation, while to the west, a Wildlife Garden has been created. The Wildlife Garden contains a great variety of created habitats given its size and location and acts as an outdoor extension to the Museum. It is a valuable awareness-raising tool seen by visitors from all over the world. A nationally notable species of clearwing moth and a large population of a leaf-mining moth are present.
- 4.19** The Wildlife Garden has developed significantly since 1993 and its designation has therefore been upgraded. It comprises nine different habitats: urban, chalk grassland, ponds, meadows, oak woodland, acid, hedgerow, reed bed and wet meadow/fen. The range of habitats and the great variety of planted native species is likely to attract a good variety of vertebrates and support breeding and foraging birds. Mammal surveys have reported the presence of low numbers of wood and house mice, grey squirrels and foxes.
- 4.20** The ponds are particularly important for invertebrates, bird and mammal populations in this part of the Borough which is otherwise densely urbanised. The site appears very suitable for amphibians, and if they are not already represented, introduction could be considered.

The Operational Requirements for the Museum

- 4.21** The Grounds fulfil a number of operational requirements.
- 4.22** The Wildlife Garden (see above) allows natural history to be observed live – and is an important external ‘gallery’ for the Museum. This is important for visitors, but so too, elsewhere in the Grounds, such as the East and West Grounds and the Palaeontology Grounds, there are opportunities to relax in the green space, eat sandwiches, or just ‘take a break’ from the Museum. Visitors to other

attractions in the Exhibition Road complex also make use of the Grounds, particularly in the light of the changes to Exhibition Road as do local residents enjoying the green space.

- 4.23** The Grounds provide circulation and queuing space for the Museum. By the time the Museum opens in the morning, at 10 am, large queues numbering many hundreds of people will have formed, especially in the summer months. These people need to be accommodated off the pavements. The Grounds also needs to meet stringent security requirements that apply to this and the other institutions in the Exhibition Road area.
- 4.24** The Grounds provide opportunities for temporary exhibitions that, as with the Wildlife Garden, provide 'galleries' in the grounds. The Butterfly Exhibition and Earth from the Air are recent examples.
- 4.25** Finally, the Museum uses parts of the Grounds to hold income-generating events. Some of these events, such as the Ice Rink, do not necessarily have a link with the mission of the Museum other than to raise revenue. Some years ago the Museum hosted 'London Fashion Week', but no longer does so.

5 Planning and Design Guidelines

Guideline A: Location of Temporary Structures

Guideline A1 – the East and West Grounds (Area 1)

- 5.1 These Grounds are an important part of the setting of the Waterhouse building. There is a presumption against permanent or temporary structures in Area 1. The opportunity should be taken to enhance the landscaping, and to improve the materials and appearance of the paths, as set out under Guideline B below.

Guideline A2 – the Palaeontology Grounds (Area 2)

- 5.2 Temporary activities and structures may be allowed in front of the Palaeontology building, providing that they follow the guidelines set out below:

- (1) Open views and vistas to the Waterhouse building should be maintained;
- (2) The formal pedestrian route is maintained to a high standard and in a dignified manner that befits the approach to one of the Royal Borough's finest listed buildings;
- (3) In area 2a the height of the structures should be no higher than the string course above the basement floor of the Waterhouse building, as with the Butterfly Exhibition. Some limited increase in height might be acceptable close to the Palaeontology building, depending on the overall scale and design of the structure;
- (4) Area 2b should normally remain visually open. Lower structures such as the ice rink, or open exhibitions such as 'Earth from the Air' which still allow the area to be enjoyed as an open space, may be acceptable periodically;
- (5) The design should be of the highest quality appropriate to the setting of the Grade I listed building and Conservation Area location;

(6) A satisfactory management plan should be provided, including measures to mitigate impacts on neighbours, visitors and local residents. The full contents required in a management plan can be found on the website (see also Appendix 2). Appropriate conditions will also be imposed to cover issues such as the duration of the event and reinstatement;

(7) There should be no adverse effect on protected trees.

Guideline B – Creating a Coherent Landscape

5.3 The Natural History Museum, engaging consultants as appropriate, will prepare a plan for the whole of the Grounds to finish the task that has never been completed since the opening of the Waterhouse building – a coherent landscape design that is of equivalent quality to the Building itself and worthy of its location next to a Grade I listed building. This plan will have regard to the advice published by Heritage Lottery Fund on Conservation Management Plans and take into account the latest historic research. It will draw on existing research documents (see Section 1). Changes and enhancements to the Grounds (other than temporary uses and structures as set out above) will be undertaken to that agreed plan.

5.4 The plan to create a coherent landscape must:

(1) Be prepared with the involvement of local residents, the Council and other stakeholder groups from the Museum, in accordance with the Council’s revised Statement of Community Involvement, such that it can form an appendix to this SPD;

(2) Be agreed by the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy through a Key Decision as an appendix to this SPD before planning and / or listed building applications are made to implement any part of the plan; and

(3) Must achieve the following objectives:

(a) ensure the green character of the Grounds from the street

and setting of the listed building is dominant in any resultant design;

- (b)** enhance the area contained by the front entrance ramps currently used as occasional parking;
- (c)** high-quality finishes to all paths;
- (d)** step free/disabled access in relation to:
 - (i)** the main entrance to the Museum;
 - (ii)** access to the Grounds from Cromwell Road;
 - (iii)** access to the Grounds from the pedestrian tunnel; and
 - (iv)** access to the Grounds from Exhibition Road;
- (e)** a design for the Palaeontology Grounds that is of high quality conceptually, visually and functionally to make it both fit for purpose for the use of temporary structures, and as attractive and functional open space at other times;
- (f)** ensure that any new landscape design enhances the biodiversity value of the Grounds and ensures the continued health of the mature plane trees along the Cromwell Road and Exhibition Road;
- (g)** explore the potential of using the arcade beneath the Palaeontology building for café/restaurant use, subject to health and safety considerations ;
- (h)** include sustainable urban drainage, as well as service points for water and electricity.

Guideline C – The Wildlife Garden

- 5.5** The Wildlife Garden should remain a wildlife garden, for education, through the use of live exhibits, and be managed in the interests of

its biodiversity and educational value. Some structures are required for this to be successful, such as a shelter for sheep, a green house, or for reasons of security, but only where these directly relate to the wildlife or management functions. These functional structures will be acceptable so long as they are visually unobtrusive and/or are closely screened by vegetation that already exists in the Garden. However, structures of any significance, temporary or permanent, will not be allowed in the Wildlife Garden.

Guideline D – The Darwin Centre Grounds

- 5.6** The Darwin Centre Grounds and Tsunami Memorial have been specifically designed to accommodate events in a more secluded place. Short-term structures to support these events are acceptable in principle, subject to their duration, visual appearance, and impacts on residential amenity.

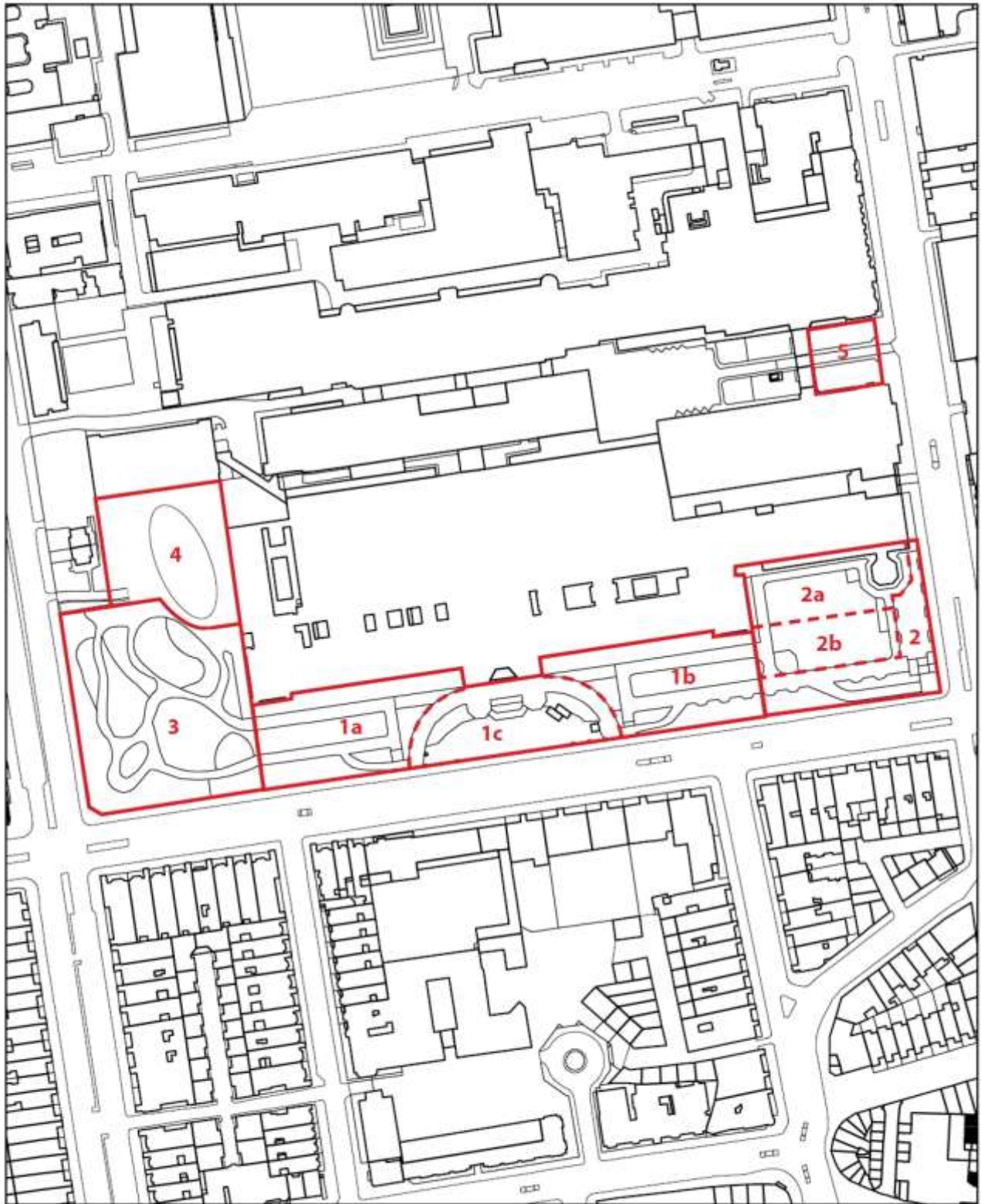
Guideline E – Museum Lane

- 5.7** The exit of Museum Lane onto Exhibition Road is no longer used on a routine basis for servicing, and, in the light of the changes to Exhibition Road itself, there is an opportunity for this space to be redesigned to provide a 'pause space' for the many visitors to the area. Low key catering facilities might be acceptable, depending on the appearance of any structure, the landscape design of the space itself, hours of operation, the associated management plan to control the potential effects of litter, and does not prejudice the occasional use of Museum Lane for servicing.

6 Planning Procedures

6.1 The majority of temporary structures and the staging of events are likely to require planning permission. These applications should be made well in advance of the event concerned to allow for local consultation and the resolution of any technical issues. The Council's pre-application procedure may be beneficial for larger, longer-term events. An application for listed building consent will be required if the proposal is attached to or alters the listed building. In each case a Design and Access Statement will be required as well as a management plan. In appropriate cases, an ecological survey and management plan may also be required. It may be beneficial for the Museum to set up a consultation group to enable discussion to take place with residents and other local interests at an early stage.

Appendix 1: Natural History Museum Grounds Plan



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Appendix 2: Management Plan Contents

Please note, the contents of this management plan are indicative. Reference should be made to the Management Plan Guidance on the RBKC planning website, which is kept up to date. In addition, further matters may be required, depending on the nature of any specific proposal.

Management plans should cover the following aspects of temporary development and should take into account the period for setting up and dismantling the structures:

Construction Management – including information on the location, size and duration of the construction compound for set up and dismantling, proposals to mitigate for the impacts of a proposal during operation, such as in relation to the need for temporary or additional drainage, and works of reinstatement, including the period within which this will take place.

Transport assessment – reference should be made to Section 5 of the Council's Transport SPD Traffic Management Plan – see also detailed of contents below.

Noise assessment – see Noise SPD for details

Protection of trees – trees can be damaged directly by machinery and by ground compaction and can also be put at risk if chemicals (especially diesel) leak in their vicinity. Method statements detailing how trees will be protected during the set up, breakdown and during events should be submitted. See Trees and Development SPD for further guidance.

Traffic Management Plan

Contents to include:

1. Outline of Proposed Use;
2. Description of use including any ancillary catering facilities;
3. Size/location of proposed site;
4. Start and end date;
5. Proposed number of days/weeks of operation;

6. Construction and demolition details;
7. Number of days to construct and take down the structures;
8. Hours of operation for these works;

9. Numbers and types of vehicles expected and at what time;
10. Proposed access points;
11. Measures proposed to control/manage access and egress of vehicles
to/from the site;
12. Daily operation of the proposed use;
13. Opening hours;
14. Number of visitors expected per day;
15. Provision for cycle parking;
16. Provision for disabled drivers if any;
17. Numbers of servicing vehicles, times of proposed servicing,
servicing
space on site.

Event travel plan – Applicants should consider how visitors will travel to the site and prepare a document setting out how they intend to advise visitors about travel to and from the site including:

1. Location of bus stops/tube stations, and details of routes;
2. Links to TfL websites;
3. Details of London Cycle Hire facilities;
4. Facilities for cycle parking;
5. Facilities for disabled drivers;
6. Location of limited on-street and off-street parking.

This information should be made available on the website, and include any publicity information.

