

Reading Central Telephone Exchange, 41 Minster Street, RG1 2JB

Planning, Design, Heritage & Access Statement

Our Ref: 212-2202-173

1 Introduction

Due to the installation of British Telecom's new 21st century communications network system, also the uptake of broadband and the installation of other licensed operator's telecommunications equipment within telephone exchanges, BT are looking to improve cooling and ventilation at the above premises, and all of BT's Telephone exchange premises. The new cooling equipment will also be highly efficient and will meet current requirements for energy savings and provide a significant carbon reduction across the portfolio.

2 Proposed Works

Brief outline of works as follows:

Installation of 2 Nr. energy efficient fresh air ventilation units within the Second Floor of the Telephone Exchange to maintain cool temperatures for BT equipment, the equipment requires 2 Nr. new louvres, Louvres will be installed within existing window openings and will be fitted with rear acoustic plenums. Location of the louvres are shown on drawing Nr. 173-01.

3.0 Heritage Statement

We understand the Telephone Exchange is a Grade II Listed building, listing 1302939 and is within a Conservation Area.

The new louvres are the only visual external change proposed to the property, which is minimal and in keeping with the use of the building. The new louvres are at the rear of the site and will not change the design of the façade as there are already similar louvres installed. We consider that the proposed louvres will not cause harm to the character or significance of the of the Grade II listed Building at the front of the site.

The site will not be developed or enlarged in anyway. The use of the floor space will not change it will continue to house telecommunications equipment.

The building is a functioning Telephone Exchange and already has louvres installed, which are vital to maintaining the equipment therein. The growth of broadband is putting increased pressure on all Telephone Exchanges and these buildings must be kept cool for such equipment to remain operational.

There will be no changes to any landscaping, access or parking arrangements as part of the works. We are of the opinion the proposed works will have minimal impact on this building, or buildings in the immediate vicinity.

4.0 Parking Provision

Not applicable to this application, no parking changes proposed.

5.0 Landscaping

Not applicable to this application, no landscaping works proposed.

6.0 Telecoms supplementary info

Not applicable to this application, no telecoms works are proposed nor is the existing telephone equipment to be changed.

7.0 Design & Access Statement

There will be no changes to the existing access arrangements of this building either during the works or following completion of the works.

Photo 01 – Proposed location of new louvres highlighted.

