

President: Sir Nicholas Underhill

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For the attention of Ms.Jennie Humphrey

10th December 2013

Dear Ms. Humphrey

Ref 13/10405/FULL

6-7 Old Palace Yard London SW1P 3JY

Alterations to doors and windows on the north and south elevations, replacement of existing stonework and installation of new handrail to front elevation. Installation of two air conditioning units within an external light well area (east area) at basement level. Installation of earthing tape for new lightning protection on the east and west elevations. Associated internal alterations including the installation of fan coil units, insertion of new doorways and installation of a new lift from basement to third floor level with lift overrun at roof level

Thank you for your letter dated 31st October 2013 regarding the above proposals for the refurbishment of this significant II* listed building. We welcome the care and attention to detail described in the proposals for improvements to this highly visible building in its key location.

We have reviewed the substantial documents including the comprehensive Design and Access Statement. The amount of detail is impressive; and from the historical account alone it must be regarded as a very special building - not least from the fact that so much of the original has survived.

Reference is made to the work of Sir John Soane and that which might be attributed to him: Clearly it is important that this work is carefully restored as the documents propose. In this context, the insertion of a lift is sensitively incorporated in the proposal, which given today's requirements is considered acceptable.

It will be interesting to see whether there are any archaeological discoveries arising particularly from work associated with the basement, and the immediate surroundings.

The Society considers that given the detailed analysis and provisos contained within the proposals the Application is sound.

We trust our observations and comments will be of assistance and ask that our comments be made known to the Council and the Planning Committee.

Yours Sincerely
for and on behalf of the Thorney Island Society

PP Tom Ball

June A Stubbs
Chairman

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