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This is a statement from user-centred and inclusive design agency, Mima, regarding the accessible cobble strategy as part of the Power Hall project. We have been working as accessibility consultants on the project since Spring 2023.

Proposals for the design and interactive elements within the new Power Hall have been welcomed from an accessibility and inclusivity perspective. We are in great support of the new accessible cobble strategy for the entrance to Power Hall, after having advised on and tested several alternative materials and options including both reclaimed and new granite sets, as well as the possibility of splitting and relaying existing materials. A larger, more accessible entrance area would provide appropriate space for visitors to view Pender demonstrations without obstructing the entrance access route. It would also promote the installation of inclusively design seating and ease of access to gallery information points and access hubs (where resources such as ear defenders and large print guides will be available). Without this larger accessible area, visitors with accessibility requirements will simply not be granted equitable access to Power Hall, its objects and installations, and the information and resources required to ensure learning and enjoyment for all. As a public organisation, the Science and Industry Museum and wider Science Museum Group also has a duty under the Equality Act's Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to have due regard to the need to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation', 'foster good relations' and 'advance equality of opportunity'.

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