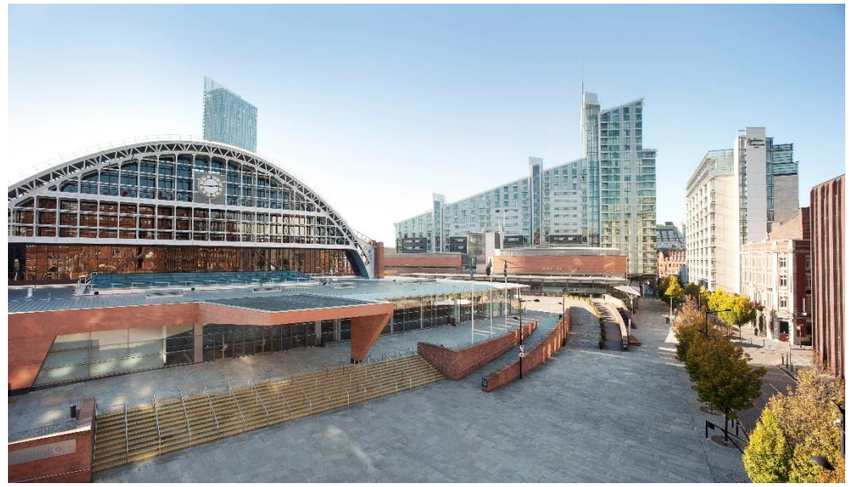


Design and Access Statement

Manchester Central – Undercroft Lift

Prepared by Taylor Design Architects Ltd
April 2024

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1.0 The Site

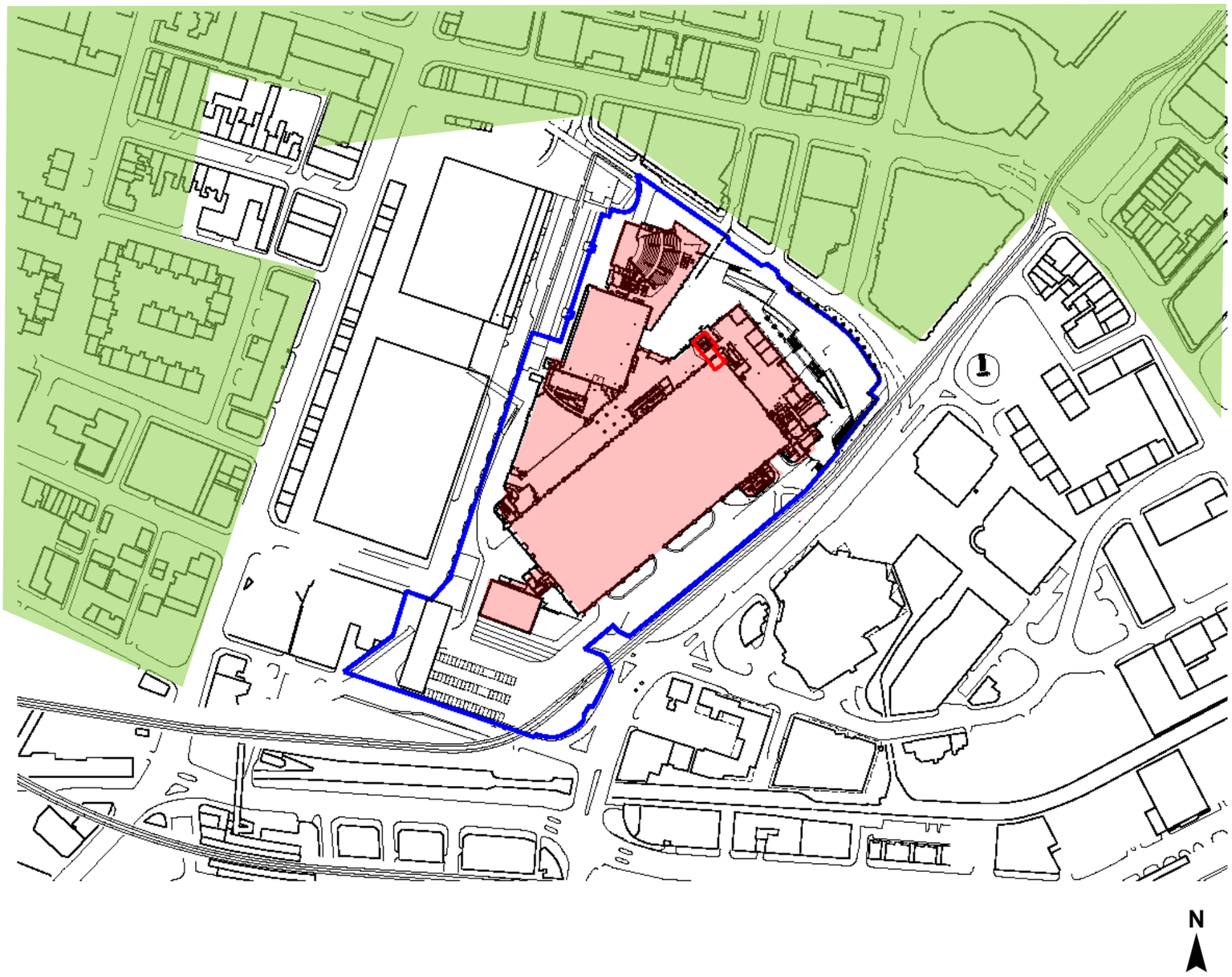
1.1 Site Context

The Manchester Central Conference and exhibition Complex is situated on the south side of Manchester City centre. The site is bounded by Windmill Street, Lower Mosley Street, Watson Street and Great Bridgewater Street.

The Convention Centre is grade II* Listed and is situated outwith the Peter Square and Deansgate Conservation area.

The Manchester Central buildings are set above two levels of undercroft, formed by brick arches, which are used for NCP parking. This sets the entrance level of the building above the surrounding street level. There are stairs from the Windmill Street public plaza to an upper podium and this provides pedestrian circulation around the main entrance foyer, and along the centres Watson Street elevation towards the Deansgate – Castlefield metrolink station. The Watson Street elevation is approximately 10m above street level. Public throughways are separated from the rear parking areas by fence lines.

The metrolink provides an urban boundary condition to the rear of the Manchester site.



KEY

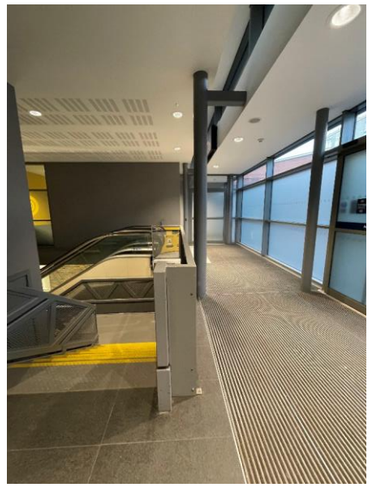
- Extent of Conservation Areas
- Manchester Central Convention Complex
- Site



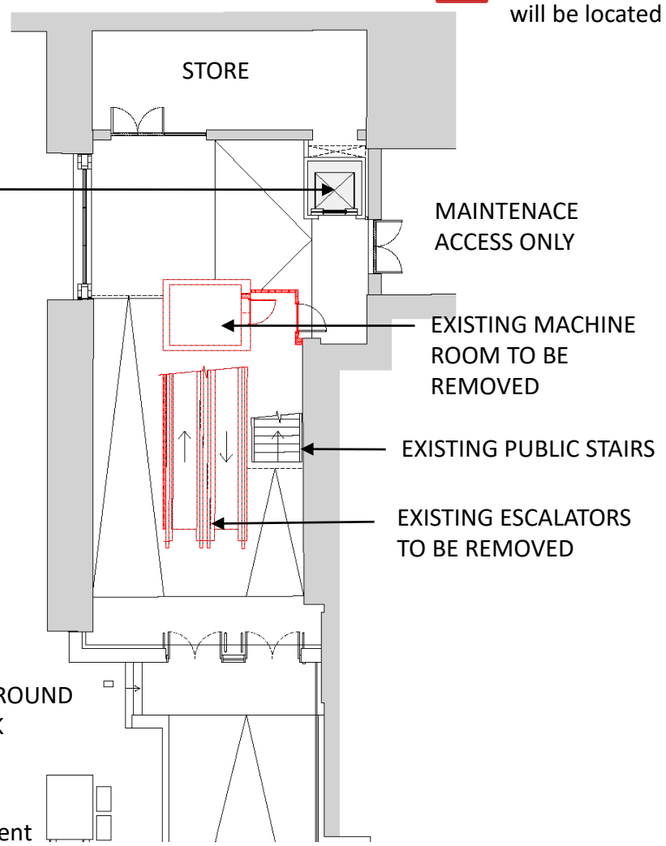
Manchester Central (Front / West entrance)

▲ Entrance to existing escalators (Operating between basement and ground floor).

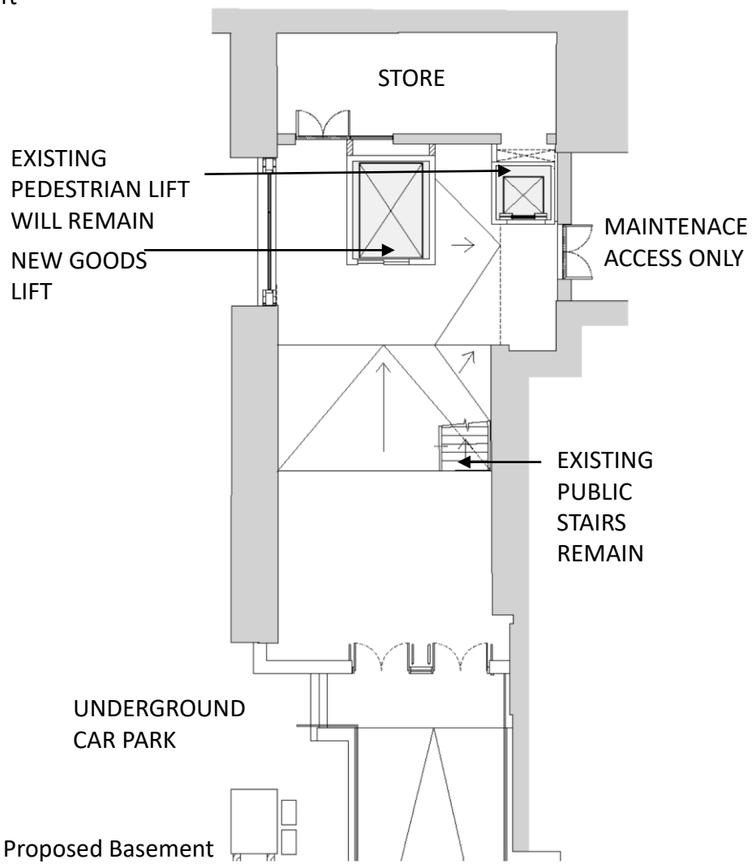
▭ Area where goods lift will be located



Manchester Central West Entrance Foyer



Existing Basement Floor Plan



Proposed Basement Floor Plan

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Preface

This Design and Access statement has been prepared by Taylor Design Architects Ltd on behalf of Manchester Central as a supporting document to accompany an application for planning consent.

As part of the ongoing maintenance and development of the Grade II* listed building. Manchester Central requires maintenance and development of the conference centre to help bolster the success of the high volume of events it undertakes.

Located within the foyer additions, constructed in 2007-2010. The escalator from the basement to the ground floor has provided public access from the basement level underground car park to the ground floor of the building foyer. However, the need for a goods lift in place of the escalator is now deemed necessary. As the escalators have now reached the end of their serviceable life, the senior management team at Manchester Central have taken the decision to replace the escalator with a goods lift. This does not affect the public access as the existing stair and pedestrian lift will stay in place.

The proposed works will not be detrimental to the listing and heritage of Manchester Central.

1.2 Project Directory

Client	**Architects**
Manchester Central	Taylor Design Architects Ltd
Windmill Street	30 Manchester Road
Manchester	Wilmslow
M2 3GX	SK9 1BG

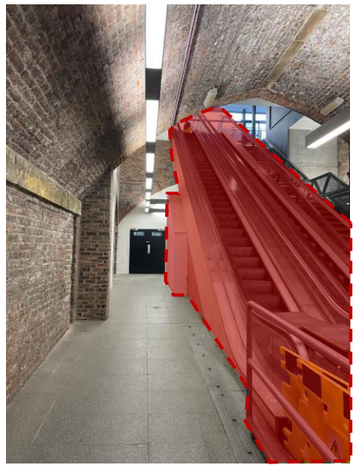
3.0 Design Influence

3.1 Requirements

Manchester Central is a successful business located within a central city location and hosts numerous types of conference events. The proposed works are a necessary part of the building's ongoing development.

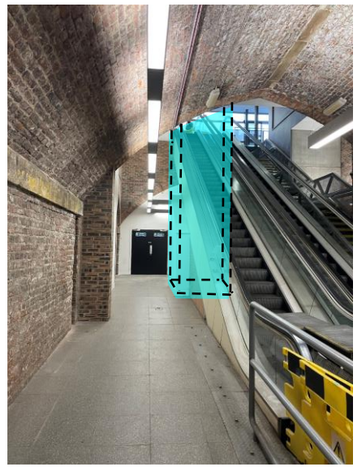
Due to the continued success of hosting events, the Introduction of a goods lift will be welcome.

There are storage areas within the site and an addition of the goods lift will significantly improve access for staff who are moving equipment from the basement storage to the upper foyer which is currently not possible.



BEFORE

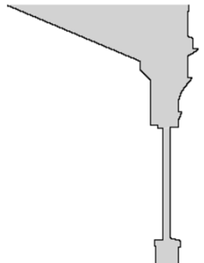
Escalators For Removal



AFTER

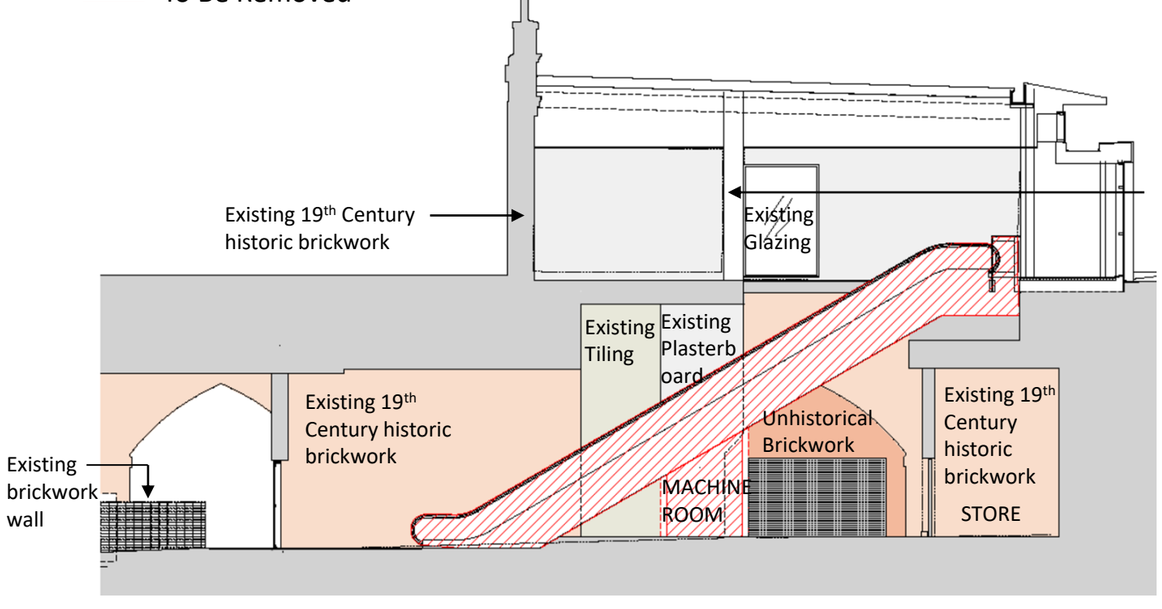
Proposed Position Of Goods Lift

3.2 Extent of works

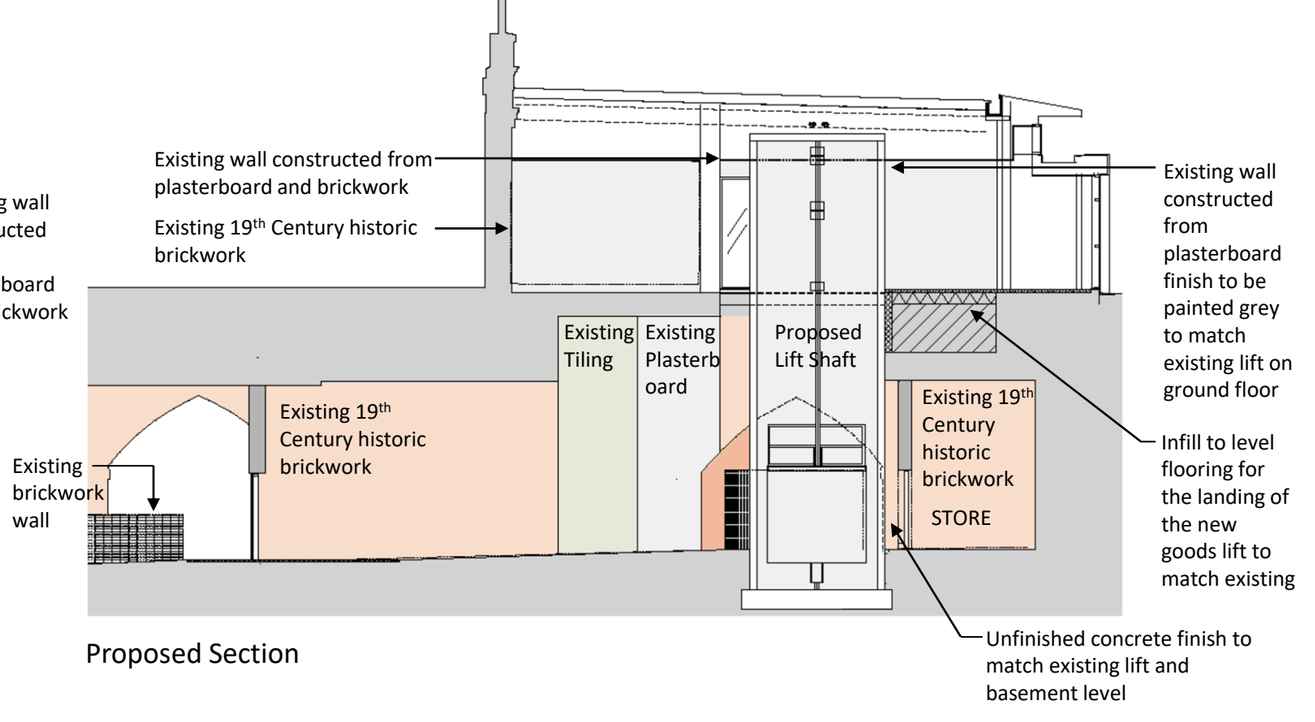


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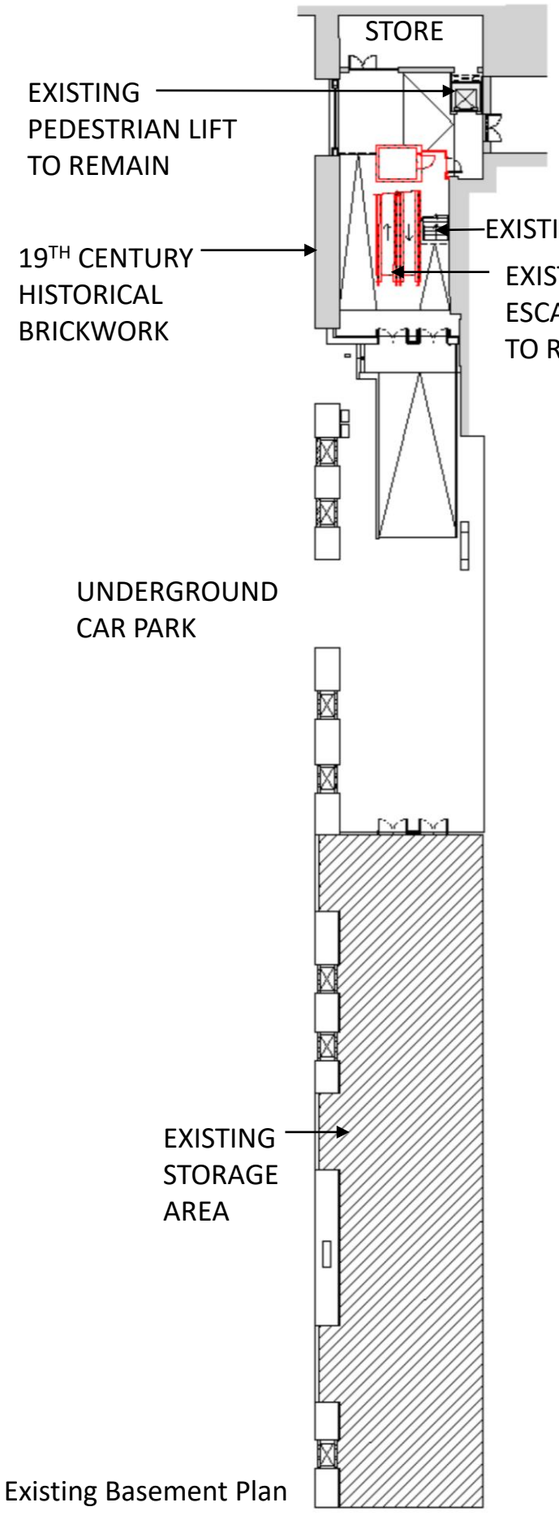
To Be Removed



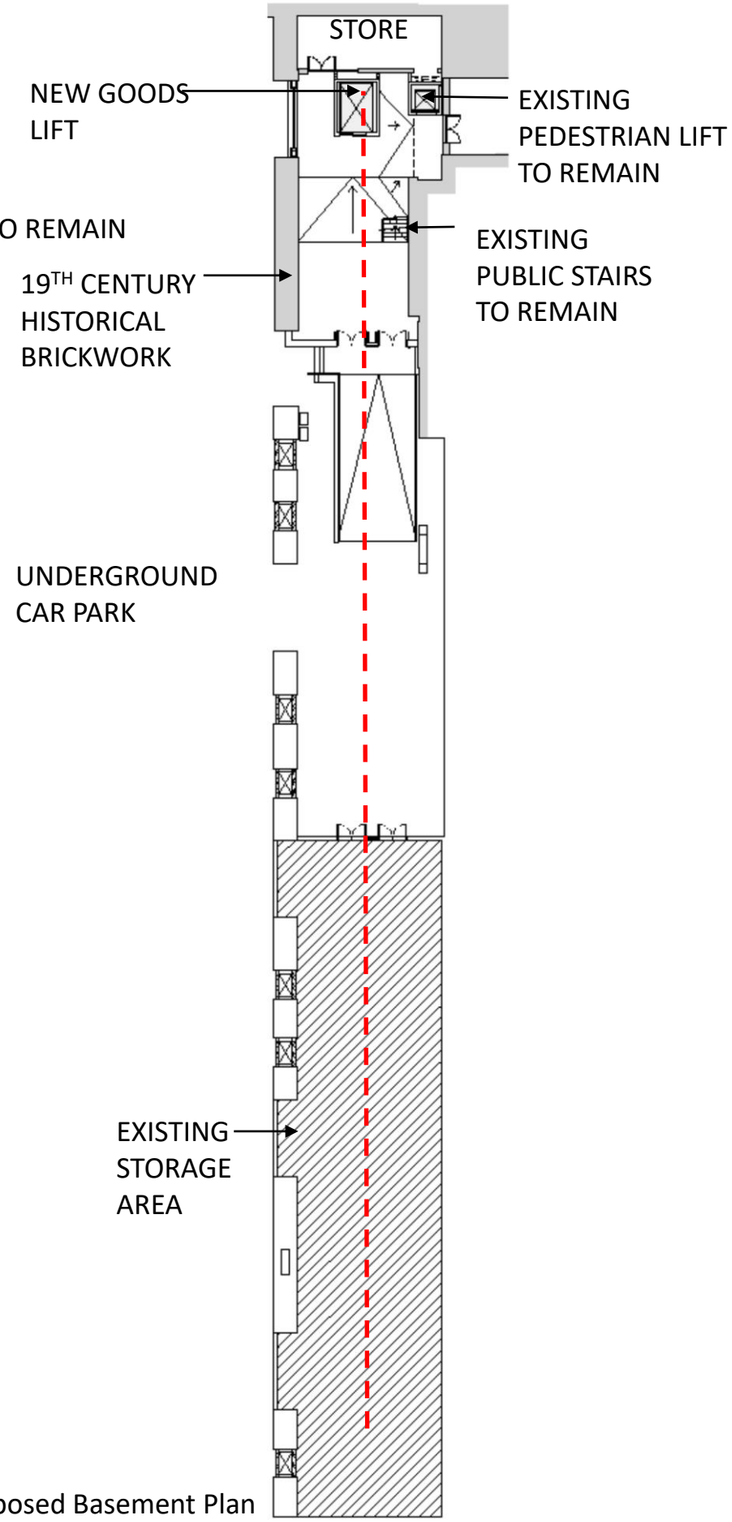
Existing Section



Proposed Section



Existing Basement Plan



Proposed Basement Plan

4.1 – Access

The existing floor level rises from the underground car park to the public lift.

Due to the escalators being removed, the floor will be excavated in order to accommodate the new floor plan layout to allow a measured approach to arrive at both lifts from the underground car park due to the sites natural incline.

The new proposal will create an easier access route for the employees overseeing and handling events at Manchester Central. Currently staff need to bring storage Items out of the building onto the public highway and load material via the rear of the building.

KEY

– – – New Access route taken by staff

5.0 Conclusion

The management team of Manchester Central Complex considers the replacement of the escalators with a goods lift to be part of an ongoing strategy for maintaining the building, ensuring the continuity of high quality operations of a competitive venue.

The building hosts large-scale conferences/events and from this business success It has secured the historical importance of the former train station building.