

DESIGN, ACCESS & HERITAGE STATEMENT

The Whitworth Gallery: The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This statement is part of an application for listed building consent for the installation of a lifting hoist in the Grand Hall at the Whitworth Gallery.
- 1.2 The Whitworth Gallery is a gallery housing an extensive and eclectic collection of art and design of international significance. Under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, The Whitworth Gallery is Grade II listed. The Whitworth Gallery is shown on the location plan.
- 1.3 This statement is to be read in conjunction with the following documents:
 - 1.3.1 Drawing numbers 031AA-8504-A100 (Site Location Plan); A101 (Drawing showing roof void), A102 (Drawing showing Grand Hall), A103 (Ceiling plan), A104 (Location of proposed power).

2.1 Proposal

- 2.11 Listed building consent is sought to install a lifting hoist in the Grand Hall. The purpose of the hoist is to allow inspection, photography and conservation of textiles. A hoist was installed in 2015 as part of the Whitworth Gallery extension but it has been installed in a room that is too small for this purpose.
- 2.12 Within the Grand Hall the proposed works involve the drilling of two holes (approx. 75mm – 100mm in diameter) in the plaster ceiling.
- 2.13 Within the roof void above the Grand Hall two motors will be fixed to the roof timbers, timber boarding will be fitted around the motors to allow access and a power supply will be installed to the motors. Photo 1 and Photo 2 in Appendix 1 show the Grand Hall and the roof void.

2.2 Detail of works

- 2.21 The proposed works will involve fixing two motors to the roof timbers in the roof void above the Grand Hall. Image 1 in Appendix 1 shows the hoist motors. Each motor will be fixed directly off the side of the truss rafter, immediately inside the horizontal purlin on each side of the roof. Photo 3 in Appendix 1 shows the fixing detail as designed by the Structural Engineer.
- 2.22 Each motor will be connected a cable and a hook. Two holes will be drilled in the plaster ceiling below the motors to allow the cables to drop down into the Grand Hall. Each hook is 75mm in diameter so the width of the holes in the plaster ceiling will be approx. 75mm – 100mm. Drawing 31AA-8504-A103 shows the location of the holes in the ceiling.

- 2.23 A lifting bar will be attached to the hooks once the cables are lowered. The lifting bar will only be attached when the hoist is in use. Photo 4, Appendix 1 shows the Whitworth Gallery's existing hoist, which has the same arrangement as the proposed hoist.
- 2.24 When the hoist is no longer required the lifting bar will be removed and the cables raised back into the roof void. To reduce the aesthetic impact of the holes in the ceiling it is proposed to fix metal discs to the base of the hooks so that once the cables are fully raised the discs will fill the holes in the ceiling. Photo 5, Appendix 1 shows a metal disc with the same function which is fixed to a chandelier chain in the Whitworth Gallery.
- 2.25 Power is required to the motors, and a new 16A 240V switched interlock socket will be installed adjacent to the motors in the roof void. New SWA cables will be installed from the nearest distribution board to the position of the new socket utilising existing cable trays. Drawing 031AA-8504-A104 shows the location of the distribution board in relation to the motors.
- 2.26 In order to safely access the roof timbers in the roof void for the installation of the motors, timber boarding will be installed to the ceiling joists on both sides of the roof truss where the motors are to be installed.

3.0 Identifying the Heritage Asset (Source: Historic England)

3.1 WHITWORTH GALLERY.

List entry number: 1246569

Grade: II

Date first listed: 3 October 1974

Address: WHITWORTH GALLERY, OXFORD ROAD

National Grid Reference: SJ 84868 95969

3.2 Details

Art gallery. c.1895-1900, by J.W.Beaumont; altered. Red brick with bands and dressings of matching terracotta, green slate roofs. Roughly rectangular plan with 2 towers and a large porch projecting to the front plus short wings to left and rear. Free Jacobean style. Two storeys over basements, 1:1:9:1:2 windows; with semi-octagonal pilasters to the corners finished as short Baroque turrets with colonnades, plinth, 1st-floor sill-band, stylised corbel tables, moulded cornice, and parapet. The 9-bay main range has a projected ground floor with cornice and balustraded parapet which sweep out over a large semi-circular porch with a screen of paired stone Ionic columns and stone frieze, mounted on 4 semicircular steps; round-headed windows to the curved wall in this porch, small 3-light windows to the straight sides of the projection; cross-windows at 1st floor except the centre which has a slightly bowed 6-light transomed window with a balustrade in the parapet (flanked by raised gold lettering "WHITWORTH" "GALLERIES"). The towers flanking the main range have tiered

canted oriel windows and low top stages with corner pinnacles and pyramidal roofs. The end bay to the left and the 2 bays to the right have cross-windows to both floors, the lower larger and set in segmental-headed recesses. All windows have small-paned glazing. Small white lantern on roof ridge, with pedimented faces

4.0 Heritage Impact and Assessment against National Planning Policy Framework

4.1 195. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

There will be no change to the external appearance of The Whitworth Gallery and minimal change to the internal area. The only change to the public area of the Whitworth Gallery will be two holes drilled in the plaster ceiling of the Grand Hall for the hoist cables. Metal discs will be attached to the cable hooks to minimise the aesthetic impact of the holes when the cables are in the up position.

In the roof void, which is not accessible to the public, two motors will be installed to the roof timbers, the area around the motors will be boarded out for access and a power supply for the motors will be installed.

The proposed work will have no impact on the heritage assets.

4.2 202. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

The proposed new hoist will allow inspection and photography of textiles which will assist the Whitworth Gallery in cataloguing and conserving historically significant materials.

5.0 Design and Access Statement.

5.1 There are no proposals to change the access to, or circulation within, the building.

Jo Wavish
Projects Group
University of Manchester
11.10.23

Appendix 1.

Photographs



Photo 1. Grand Hall. Holes to be drilled after second truss from the south side of the room.



Photo 2. Roof void above Grand Hall. Boarding out required to the ceiling joists on both sides of the second roof truss to allow safe access.

Drawing and dimensions

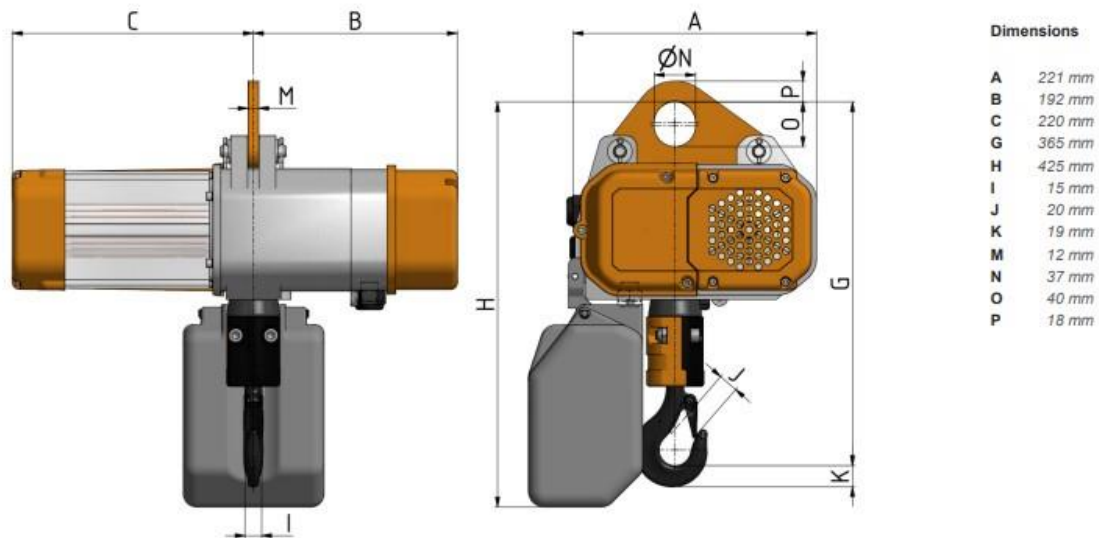


Image 1. Hoist motors

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY, UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER	WMLCONSULTING Civil, Structural and Geotechnical Engineers		
	MOTOR SUPPORT OVER MAIN HALL	Job No.10834	Page No. SK01
		Made by SE	Date 03-10-23
			Rev.
			Checked



Photo 3. Fixing detail for motors in roof void, as specified by WML Consulting



Photo 4. Existing hoist showing cables, lifting bar and motors



Photo 5. Disc attached to chandelier chain in the Whitworth Art Gallery.