



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES Q1 BUILDING – RUSKIN AVENUE, KEW, RICHMOND, TW9 4DU

APPLICANT'S PLANNING STATEMENT FOR WORKS TO ROOF

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The National Archives site is some 4.8HA in extent, and comprises 2 linked buildings, "Q1", and "Q2", together with extensive landscaping and large purpose built ponds, which as well as providing a distinctive setting for the buildings and attractive amenity features, also have a role in flood mitigation.

"Q1" was the first purpose designed archives building constructed on the site, and was opened in 1977. It is a large, 5 floor, (plus basement) square shaped building with splayed corners. The building is raised up on a plinth as part of the flood defence strategy. The 3 top floors are document repositories, and have continuous horizontal "slit" windows.

In the 1990's, to accommodate the additional space requirements for The National Archives document repositories, offices and conservation laboratories, "Q2" was designed and built on a similarly grand scale as "Q1" had been, and was linked to "Q1" with a glazed atrium.

- 1.2 The National Archives is a government department, and also an executive agency of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The National Archives brings together the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information and Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

The National Archives is at the heart of information policy – setting standards and supporting innovation in information and records management across the UK, and providing a practical framework of best practice for opening up and encouraging the re-use of public sector information. This work helps inform today's decisions and ensures that they become tomorrow's permanent record.

The National Archives is also the UK government's official archive, containing 900 years of history from Domesday Book to the present, with records ranging from parchment and paper scrolls through to recently created digital files and archived websites.

Approximately 400 members of the public visit The National Archives daily to use the reading rooms or museum. Visitors come by train to Kew Gardens or Kew Bridge stations, by car, by foot and by bicycle.

2. PROPOSED ROOF WORKS ON Q1 BUILDING

2.1 THE EXISTING ROOF

The existing 'Kalzip' standing seam aluminium roof was installed around 1995. It appears that the new roof was installed over the existing timber boarding which itself is carried on a lightweight Metsec steel lattice grid structure between stub columns. The Kalzip standing seam roof sheeting is still considered to be generally in good condition, but repairs and replacements are necessary to existing flashing and upstands; work will also be necessary around the 2 existing roof 'penetrations' that need to be refurbished and upgraded.

There is an existing deteriorated 'Coxdome' and spaceframe structure over the atrium, which leaks and needs replacement. This has a self-supporting lightweight spaceframe metal grid. The coxdome rooflights provide a white translucent light quality in the atrium.



Internal view of Coxdomes and spaceframe



External view of Coxdomes and Kalzip roofing

2.2 NEW ACCESS STAIR FOR MAINTENANCE

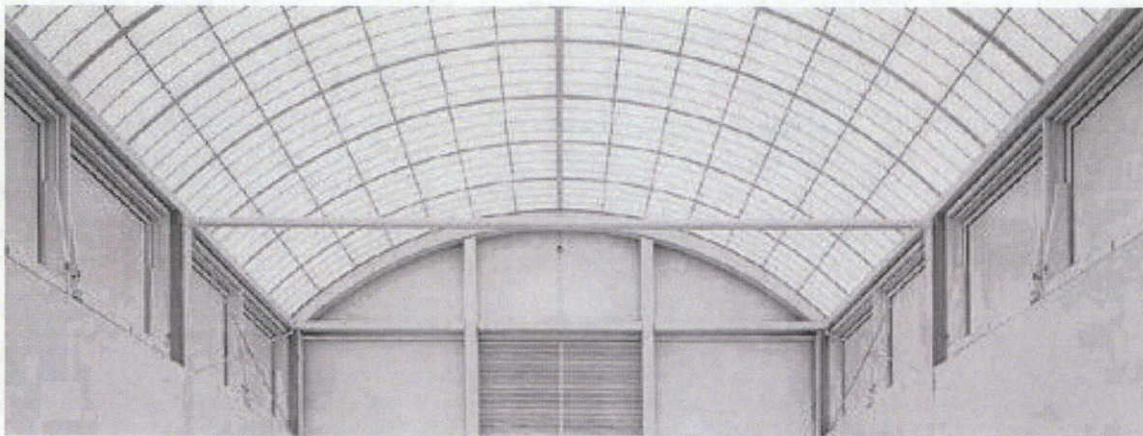
The existing means of accessing the roof via the roof void is extremely tortuous, confined and difficult to access. The arrangements are not in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, and there is inadequate safe access to maintain the roof. The proposal is to install a service access hatch with an internal stair, to allow easier access to the roof for maintenance.



Existing structure with roof access ladder within

2.3 REPLACEMENT ATRIUM ROOF

The existing roof structure is very lightweight, so a lightweight replacement is required which would be largely self-supporting and provide similar translucent daylight as the existing. The proposed structure is a low rise curved 'Kalcurve' roof, made of translucent 'Kalwall' panels.



Typical Kalcurve roof with translucent light

2.4 NEW WALKWAYS AND HANDRAILS

New walkways and handrails are proposed on the existing roof to allow safer movement around the roof for maintenance.

2.5 ANCILLARY WORKS

These will include decorative improvement works and repairs to the existing roof projections.