LOCAL MEMBER & MP OBJECTIONS

COMMITTEE DATE: 17/7/2019

APPLICATION No. 18/02874/MJR APPLICATION DATE: 02/11/2015

ED: CATHAYS

APP: TYPE: Prior Approval (of the Method of Demolition and Making Good of Land).
 APPLICANT: Denstream Ltd
 LOCATION: 1-6 GUILDFORD CRESCENT
 PROPOSAL: DEMOLITION OF TERRACE PROPERTIES

RECOMMENDATION 1 : That prior approval for the method of demolition and making good of the site be **GRANTED** subject to the following condition:

- The development permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details before the expiration of five years from the date of this consent.
 Reason: In accordance with the provisions of Part 31 Class A of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.
- 2. The demolition shall be undertaken in accordance with the following approved documents:

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal- ADAS- BRT69105-220(03); Facade Retention scaffold – 19/TAD/114-001 (07/06/2019) Guildford Crescent Demolition/Retention Plan (IL60115/01/004) Letters from Lichfields dated 31 May 2019 (60115/01/JCO/LC/17491353v4) and 23 May 2019 ((60115/01/JCO/LC/17378578v5) Reason: For the avoidance of doubt.

 No demolition of any building fabric attached to the Grade II Listed Masonic Hall shall be undertaken without first obtaining Listed Building Consent.
 Reason : To ensure the Listed Building is not adversely affected by the proposed demolition.

RECOMMENDATION 2: To protect the amenities of occupiers of other premises in the vicinity attention is drawn to the provisions of Section 60 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 in relation to the control of noise from demolition and construction activities. Further to this the applicant is advised that no noise audible outside the site boundary adjacent to the curtilage of residential property shall be created by construction activities in respect of the implementation of this consent outside the hours of 0800-1800 hours Mondays to Fridays and 0800 - 1300 hours on Saturdays or at any time on Sunday or

public holidays..

RECOMMENDATION 3: That the developer be advised that where any species listed under Schedules 2 or 4 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994 is present on the site in respect of which this prior approval is hereby granted, no demolition works shall take place in pursuance of this approval unless a licence to disturb any such species has been granted in accordance with the aforementioned Regulations and a copy thereof has been produced to the local planning authority. In the event that demolition work has already commenced and bats are found, or if any evidence that bats are using the site as a roost is found, work should cease and the Council ecologist and NRW should be contacted immediately.

RECOMMENDATION 4: The applicant is advised that any demolition that would affect the Listed Masonic Hall that has not been approved through a Listed Building consent is an offence liable to prosecution.

RECOMMENDATION 5: The applicant is advised to contact Network Rail Asset Protection team before undertaking any works email assestprotectionwales@networkrail.co.uk

1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.1 An application seeking prior approval for the method of demolition of the 2 storey terrace known as 1-6 Guildford Crescent. The plans have been amended to allow the front facade to remain. To enable the retention of the facade the plans indicate that the front will be held in place with scaffolding and weighted, this structure would project approximately 3.5 metres onto the public highway.
- 1.2 The reason for demolition is to allow redevelopment of the site. At the point of completing this report, no formal applications are before the Local Planning Authority to consider.
- 1.3 The site is bounded to the north by the grade II listed Masonic Hall, to the east by public lane/railway embankment, to the south by Guildford crescent beyond which is the Ibis hotel and to the west by Churchill Way.
- 1.4 The site is not in a conservation area. The buildings are not listed or locally listed but the terrace is attached to the grade II listed Masonic hall
- 1.5 On completion of the demolition works the site will be left cleared of all material including the removal of the tarmac hard standing areas and will be left with finished material rolled level.
- 1.6 A copy of the public notice has been displayed on site by the applicant in accordance with regulatory requirements.

1.7 By way of background a letter was received from CADW dated 20.3.19 stating that the buildings were not considered worthy of listing.

2. SITE HISTORY

2.1 None relevant to the application

3. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

National Policy

- Town &Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order: Schedule 2 Part 31 Demolition of Buildings
- Welsh Office Circular 31/95 Planning Controls over Demolition
- Chief Planning Officer letter dated 18th April 2011
- Section 3 Annex Development Management Manual

4. **CONSULTATIONS / REPRESENTATIONS**

- 4.1 In accordance with part 31 of the T&CP General Permitted Development Order 1995 a site notice was posted by the applicant on 23.10.15 to advertise the application.
- 4.2 722 letters of objection have been received a summary of the objection are :
 - Loss of established family business;
 - Loss of employment (loss of 70+ jobs)s
 - Loss of cultural assets for future generations;
 - Loss of a thriving music scene
 - Cardiff does not require any more flats/student accommodation
 - The council should stand up to greedy developers
 - This terrace should be saved as in the case of Womanby Street
 - Demolition of this terrace would go against the council's declaration of being the UK first Music City
- 4.3 Cathays Local Ward Councillors Merry, Mackie and Weaver object to the loss of the building on heritage grounds and further request that the demolition must be subject to environmental considerations.
- 4.4 Councillor Carter objects to the loss of the only part of the 'old Cardiff' left in the city centre;
- 4.5 Jo Stevens, Member of Parliament for Cardiff Central, objects to the loss of a significant heritage asset in her constituency and supports the petition of some 19,000 signatures to retain the terrace and businesses and further supports the council's draft Conservation Appraisal for Guildford Crescent;
- 4.6 Anna McMorrin, Member of Parliament for Cardiff North, objects because the loss of a culturally and historically important space would undermine the designation of the area for conservation status, and because of the loss of

profitable local businesses.

- 4.8 Operational Manager (Transportation) No objection but request that the applicant is advised that a separate licence is required for the erection of the scaffolding;
- 4.9 County Ecologist No objection subject to implementing the recommendation of the submitted ecology report;
- 4.10 Pollution control: No objection subject to final confirmation
- 4.11 The Victorian Society object to the loss of a heritage asset, which in their view should gain conservation area status and raise concerns how the impact on the adjoining Grade II building will be mitigated.
- 4.11 Natural Resources for Wales: No comments to make but advise that the County Ecologist should be consulted;
- 4.12 Network Rail: no objection

5. ANALYSIS

- 5.1 The above application has been submitted under the provisions of Schedule 2, Part 31 of the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1995, which gives the Local Planning Authority the means of regulating the method of demolition and proposed restoration of the site through the 'prior approval' process.
- 5.2 The purpose of this control is to give the LPA the power to regulate the method of demolition and proposed restoration of the site in relation to amenity considerations only, in order to minimise the impact of that activity on local amenity. The merits or otherwise of demolition cannot be considered under this process because permission to demolish the building(s) has already been granted by Regulatory Order.

The proposed demolition of the buildings is permitted development under part 31 of the second schedule to the 1995 Order. That is planning permission has, in effect, already been granted for the demolition by national government.

- 5.3 The applicant was informed by letter dated 12.12.18 that prior approval is required for the proposed method of demolition. Given the level of objection to the original submission (as amended) it is necessary to determine the application at a formal meeting of Planning Committee.
- 5.4 Method of demolition
- 5.5 The demolition method statement includes for mitigatory measures in respect of hours of demolition, dust suppression, construction site working/safety. The proposed demolition method and proposed restoration of the site is considered acceptable insofar as it affects local amenity.

5.6 Heritage Considerations

The terrace is linked to the Grade II Listed Masonic Hall, however the applicant has advised that there is no intention to interfere with any fabric attached to the listed building at this juncture, and acknowledges that any physical alterations that affect the hall will require separate consent through a Listed Building process. A condition has been imposed on this prior approval that reaffirms this. The applicant has further advised that a separate application will be submitted to allow assessment of the impact of any future works which might impact upon the Listed building (adjacent/party wall).

Significant objections have been raised in relation to the loss of cultural heritage of the site. A consultation exercise was undertaken in October 2018 to consider the potential of designating Guildford Crescent as a Conservation Area.

In the absence of any formal designation, the Committee are advised that the draft appraisal document cannot be considered as a material planning consideration.

Members should also be advised that conservation area status does not in itself preclude the demolition of buildings within such areas, but would instead introduce a further control mechanism. However, it is acknowledged that the need for 'Conservation Area Consent' would allow the heritage merits or otherwise of any such proposals to be considered before demolition or redevelopment could be undertaken.

5.7 Expediency

National advice (W/O 31/95 circular) states 'the Secretaries of State (now the Welsh Ministers) attach great importance to the prompt and efficient handling /determination of applications

It is considered that all necessary information has been submitted for officers and Committee to make an informed decision over those matters that can be considered (i.e. method of demolition and remediation of the sites), in terms of amenity.

5.8 Highways Consideration

The proposed scaffolding and weights to support the facade would be sited on the adopted highway. The Council's Highways Section have been consulted and advise that they have no objection subject to the applicant submitting the necessary licence, which will control the relocation of the existing lamp post and directing pedestrians through a safe route around the structure. The agent in their email of the 10 June suggest an indicative start date of spring 2020, subject to the necessary consents, including planning permission. The proposed hours of operation and access to the site are considered acceptable.

The proposed means of enclosure 1.8 metre high fence would not undermine highway safety.

5.9 Ecology

Section 3 Annex of the Development Management Manual (this replaces circular advice) states:

"Before some agricultural, forestry, telecommunication and demolition operations can commence, conditions in the GPDO mean the developer must apply to the local planning authority (LPA) to confirm whether prior approval is required for certain details of the development. When considering such an application, the duty in regulation 9(3) of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 ('the 2010 Regulations'), as amended, means the LPA must have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora)." The annex also states the test required by the Habitats Directive, these being:

- sufficient information has been submitted for them to determine that the proposal satisfies an appropriate Habitats Directive derogation purpose;
- there is no satisfactory alternative to the proposal; and
- the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

To be able to discharge the duty outlined in article 12 of the Habitats Directive, a Bat assessment has been submitted.

In relation to the potential presence of bats the initial bat survey carried out on the building in January, 2019 (revision 3) showed no evidence of bats, but recommended that an emergent survey be carried out in the summer months, since parts of the roof were inaccessible.

To address these concerns, the applicant has agreed to a method of demolition that will minimise the risk of potential damage to bats, that an ecological consultant will be appointed to keep a watching brief during the removal of the roof, and that in the event that any bats be seen or disturbed during the demolition process all works shall stop and the Council's Ecologist and NRW be notified immediately.

5.10 Both the survey and the method of demolition have been considered by the County Ecologist and NRW; both of whom raise no objection. It is also considered that the duty imposed under the Habitats Directive has been considered fully.

5.11 Environmental Impact Assessment

Having regard to Chief Planning Officer letter that was issued on 18th April 2011 there is a requirement for demolition development to be screened for the need of an environmental assessment. The Regulations covering this assessment are The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017. The Regulations provide guidance on the quantum and nature of developments which are likely to require the submission of an Environmental Statement.

Having regard to the schedule 2 paragraph 10 (b) (Urban development projects) of these regulations it is considered that the proposal would not have a significant impact upon the environment and therefore does not require an Environmental assessment

- 5.12 Additional Comments raised by objectors not addressed above include:
 - Loss of established family business;
 - Loss of employment (loss of 70+ jobs)s
 - Loss of a thriving music scene
 - Cardiff does not require any more flats/student accommodation
 - The Council should stand up to greedy developers
 - This terrace should be saved as in the case of Womanby Street
 - Demolition of this terrace would go against the council's declaration of being the UK first Music City

Significant objections have been raised in relation to the loss of family businesses, the loss of jobs and a live music venue. However, these are not matters which can be considered under the prior approval process.

5.13 Conclusion

It is considered that all necessary information has been submitted for officers and Committee to make an informed decision in respect of the proposed method of demolition, and making good of the site. It is recommended that prior approval be granted subject to conditions, and additional construction noise and bats recommendations.



Site Boundary

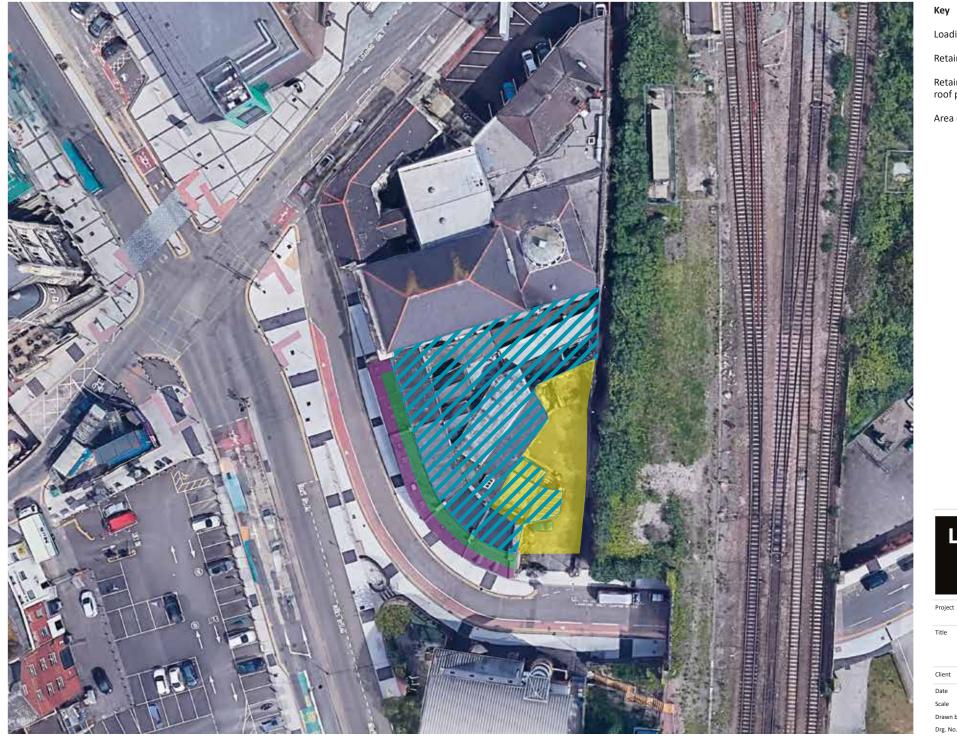
LICHFIELDS

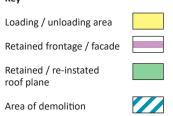
Project Guildford Crescent

Title Demolitions Plan

Client Denstream Ltd
Date 22.11.18
Scale NTS N
Drawn by BBa
Drg. No. IL60115/01

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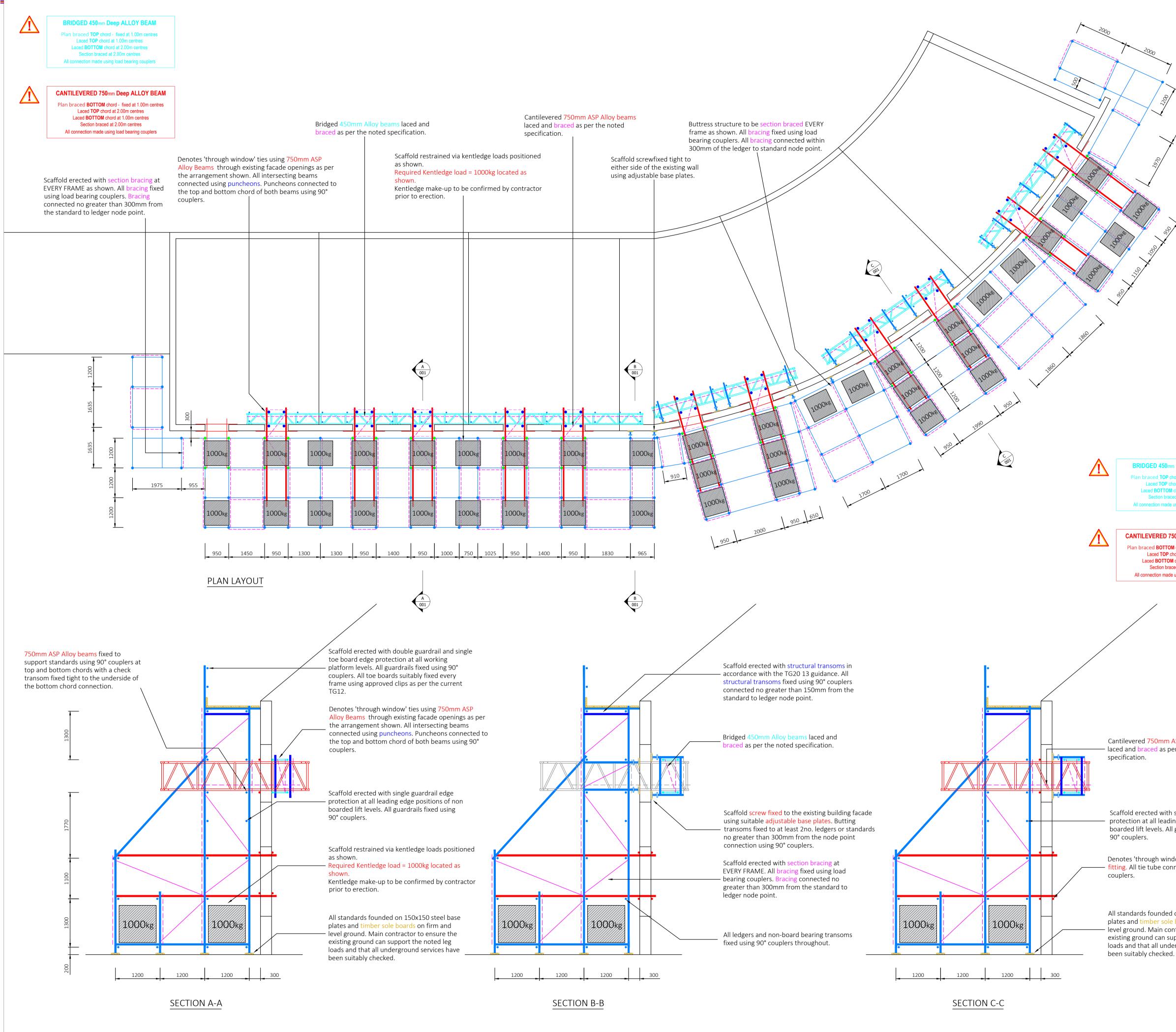
Guildford Crescent

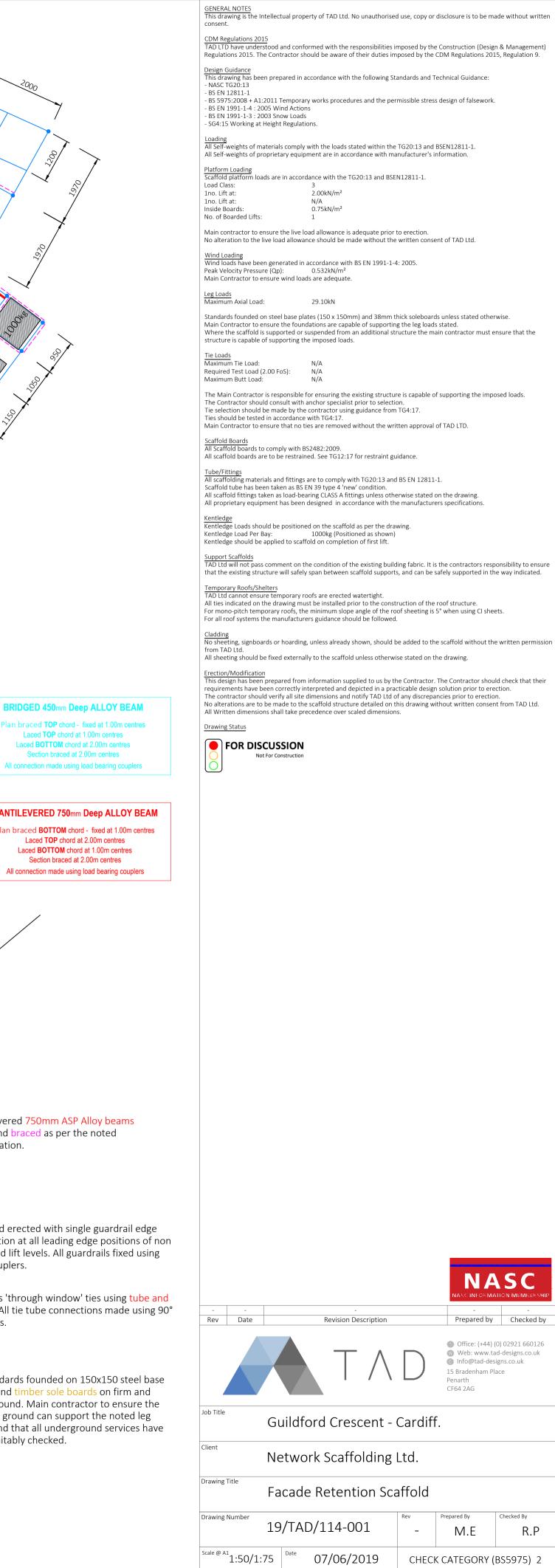
Retention Plan Client Denstream Ltd 30.05.19 Date NTS Scale Ν Drawn by RT Drg. No. IL60115/01/004

Guildford Crescent Demolition /

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Кеу





RIDGED 450mm Deep ALLOY BEAM an braced TOP chord - fixed at 1.00m cen Laced **TOP** chord at 1.00m centres aced **BOTTOM** chord at 2.00m centre Section braced at 2.00m centres

CANTILEVERED 750mm Deep ALLOY BEAM Plan braced BOTTOM chord - fixed at 1.00m centres Laced **TOP** chord at 2.00m centres Laced **BOTTOM** chord at 1.00m centres Section braced at 2.00m centres

Cantilevered 750mm ASP Alloy beams · laced and braced as per the noted

Scaffold erected with single guardrail edge protection at all leading edge positions of non boarded lift levels. All guardrails fixed using

Denotes 'through window' ties using tube and fitting. All tie tube connections made using 90°

All standards founded on 150x150 steel base plates and timber sole boards on firm and level ground. Main contractor to ensure the existing ground can support the noted leg loads and that all underground services have









