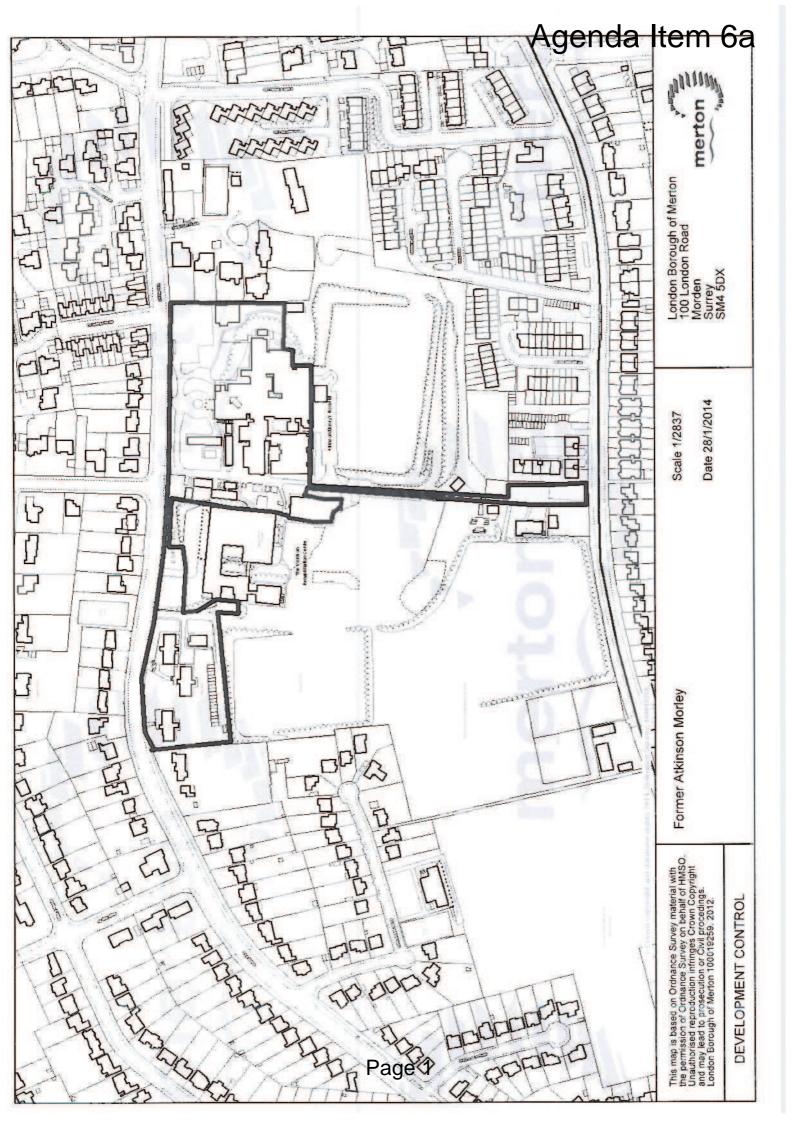
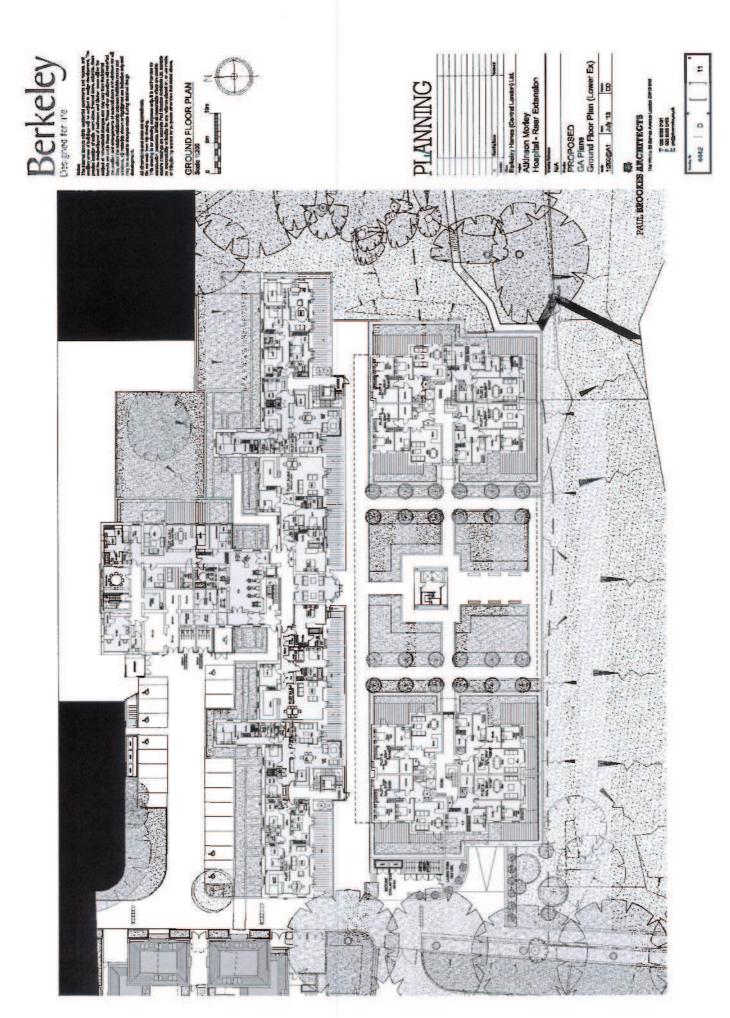
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Merton Council Planning Applications Committee 13 February 2014 2nd Supplementary agenda

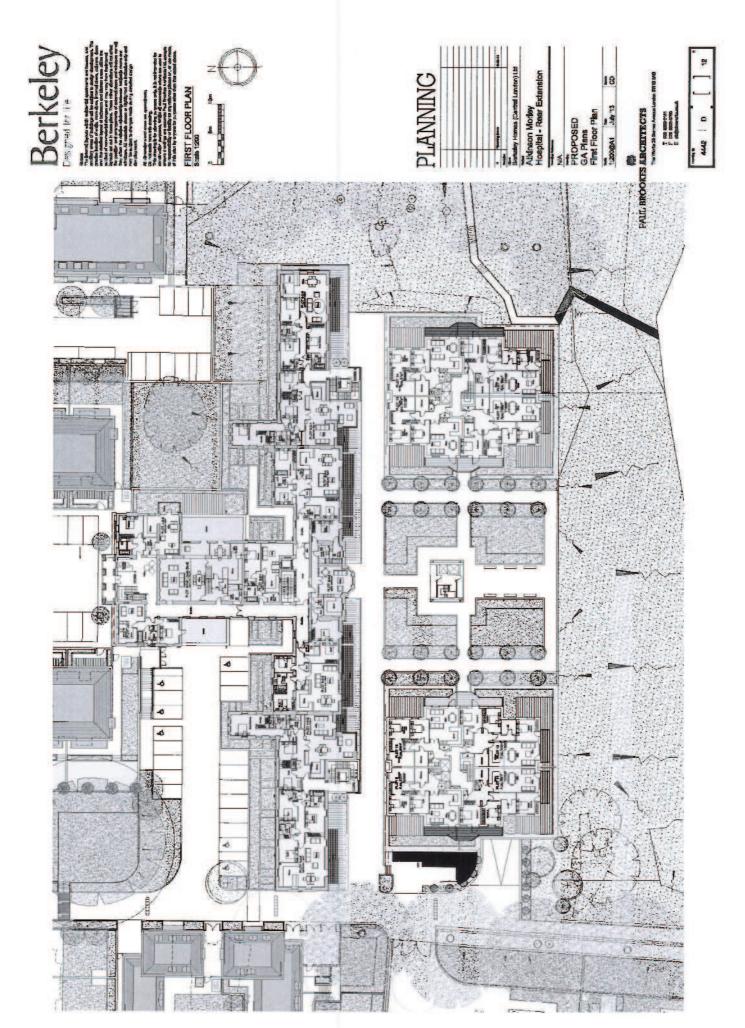
6a Plans & Appendices The Former Atkinson Morley Hospital and 1 - 26 The Firs, Copse Hill, SW20



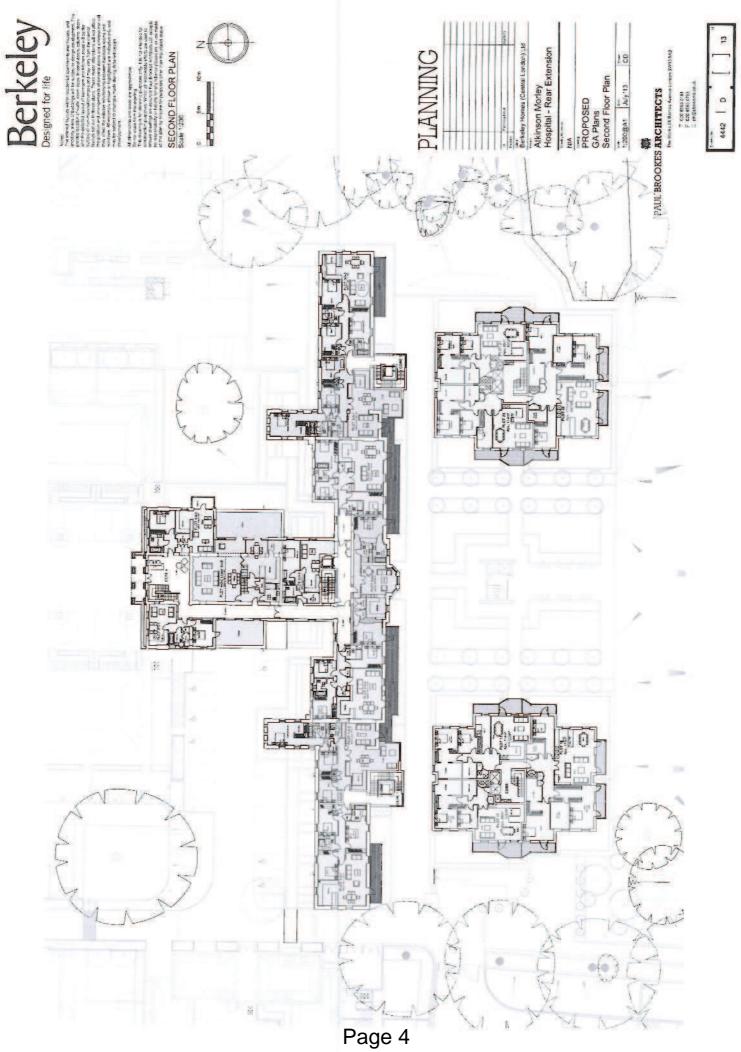




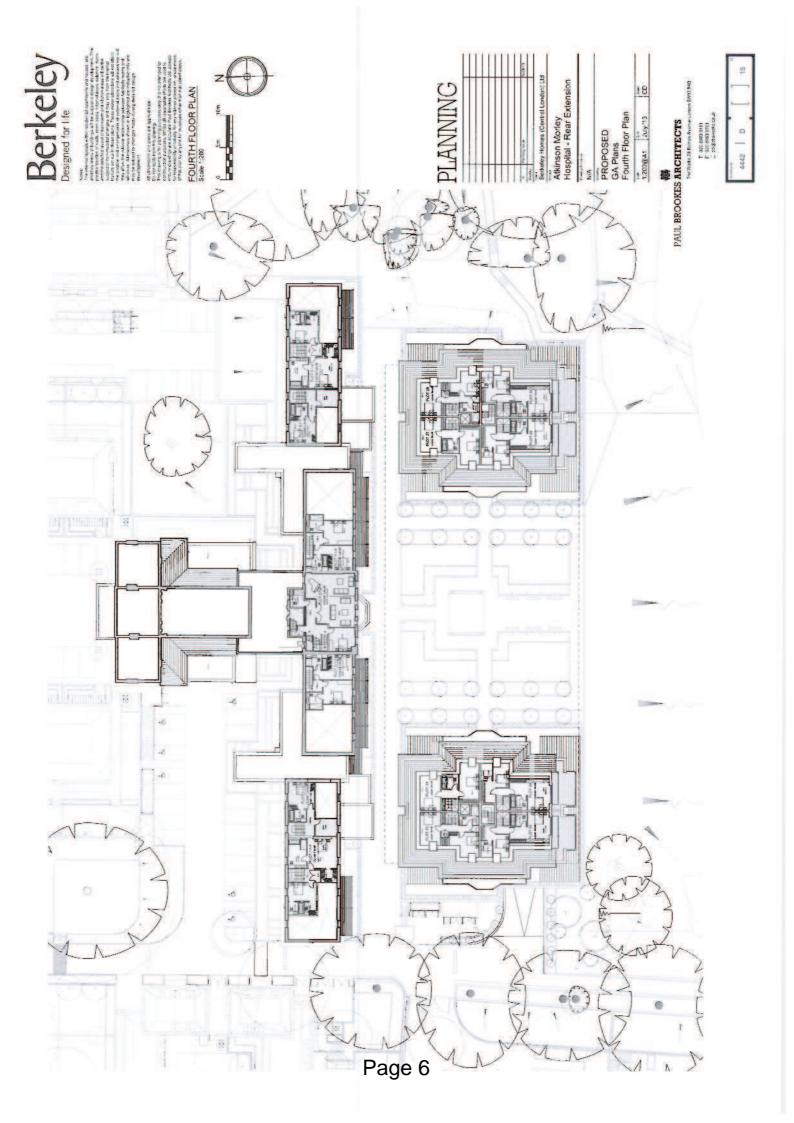
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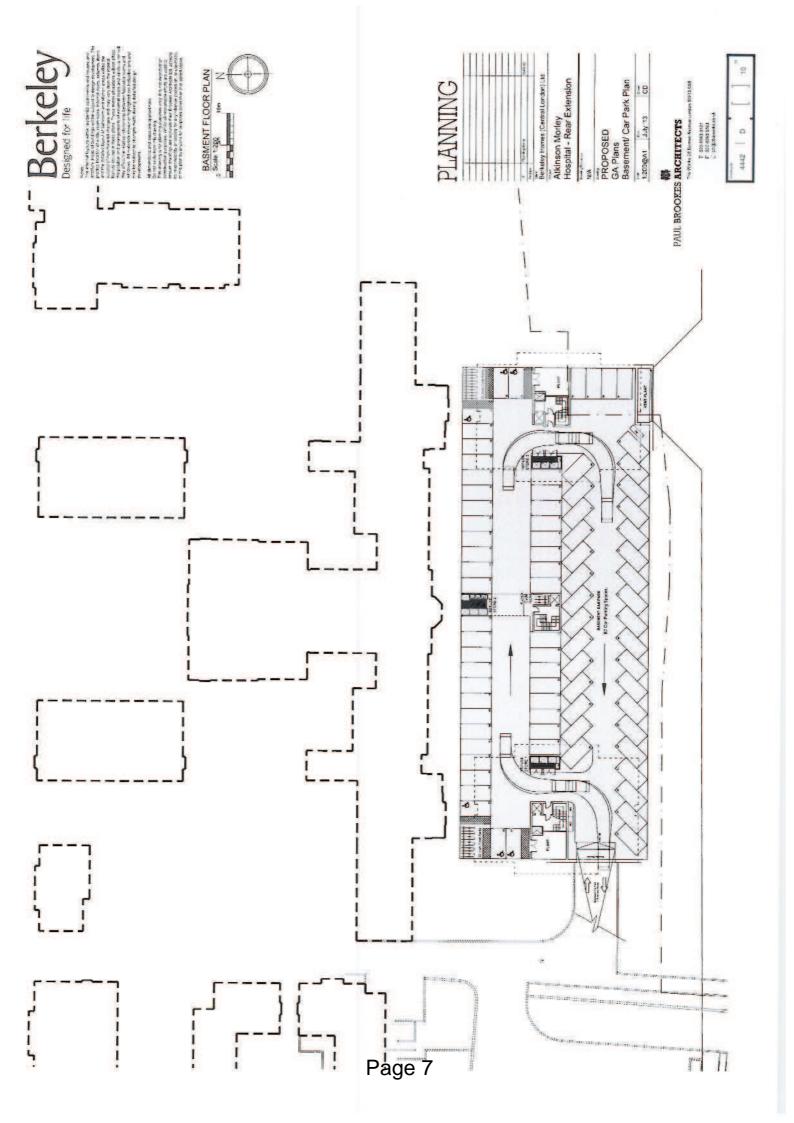


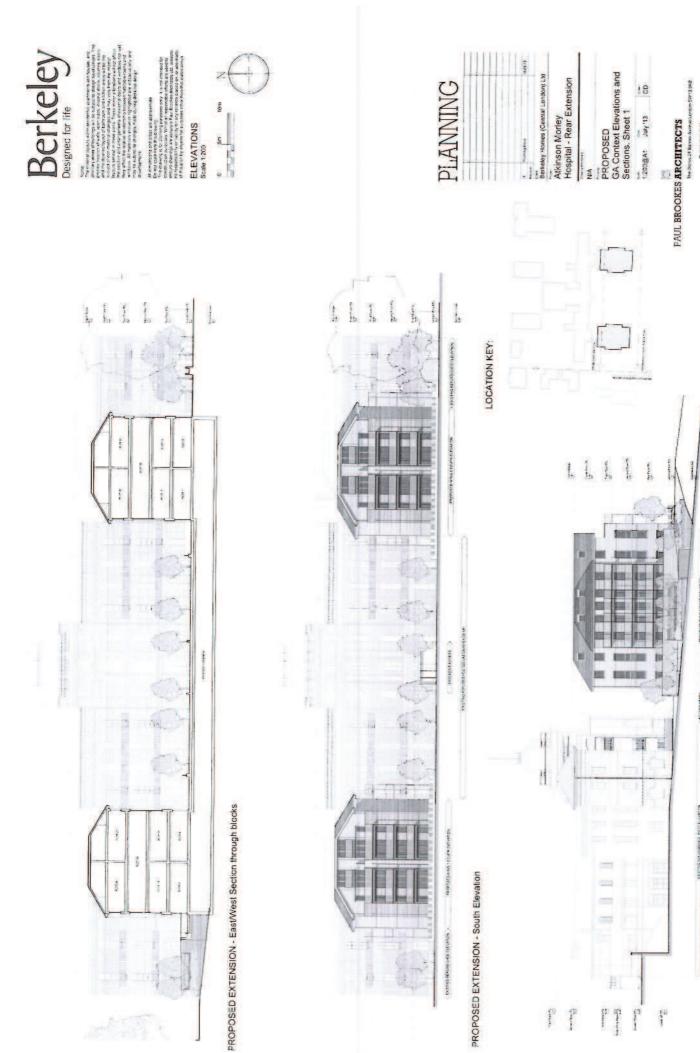
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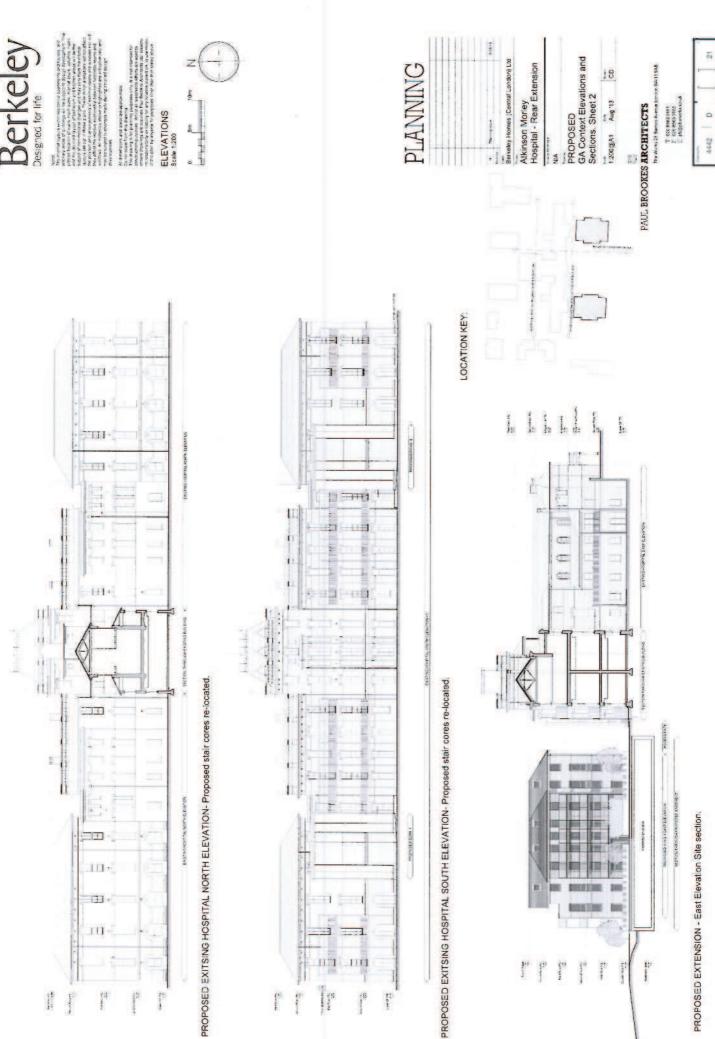




PROPOSED EXTENSION - West Elevation

Constant

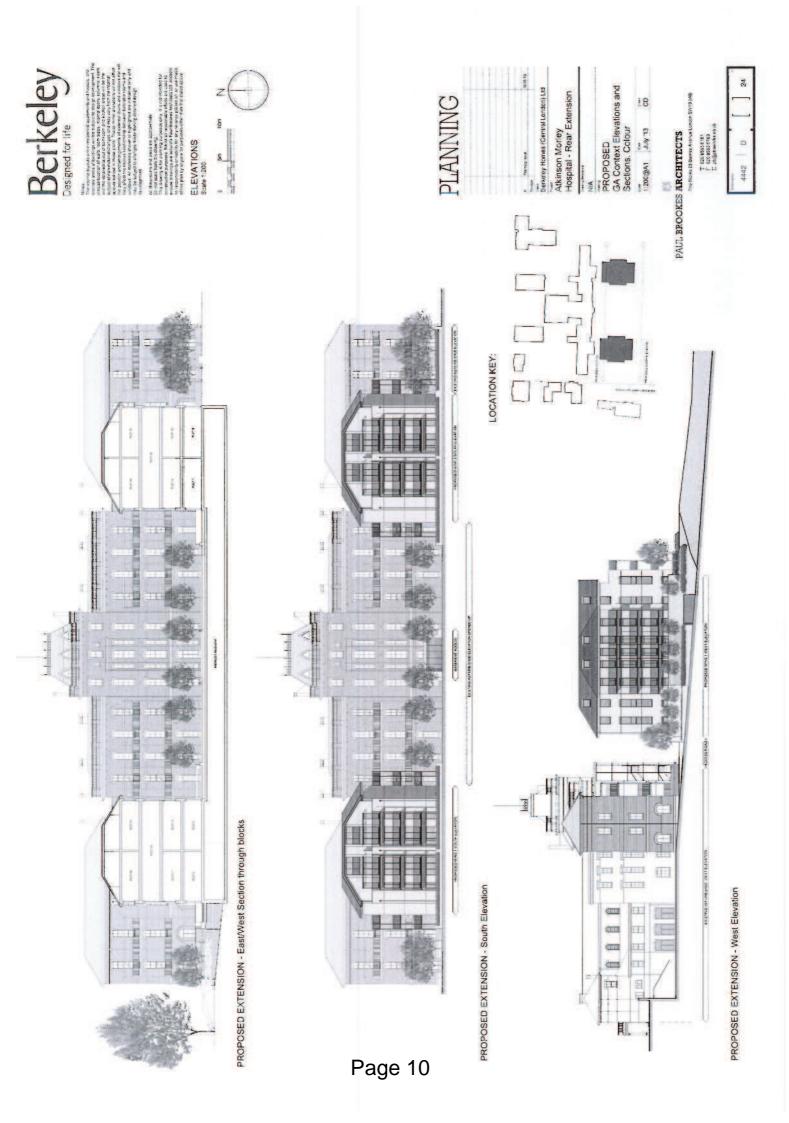
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Page 9

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Atkinson Morley Hospital - Rear Extension

PROPOSED
Typical Wing Elevations
Sheet 1 of 2

1 100@A1 A.g.13

PAUL BROOKES ARCHITECTS

4442 D

(9) 9 PROPOSED EXTENSION - West Elevation 0 (a) 0 (1) 0 0 9 Θ 6 9 PROPOSED EXTENSION - South Elevation 0

Second Foor FFL

First Floor FFL.

Fourth Floor FFL school

Top of Auge

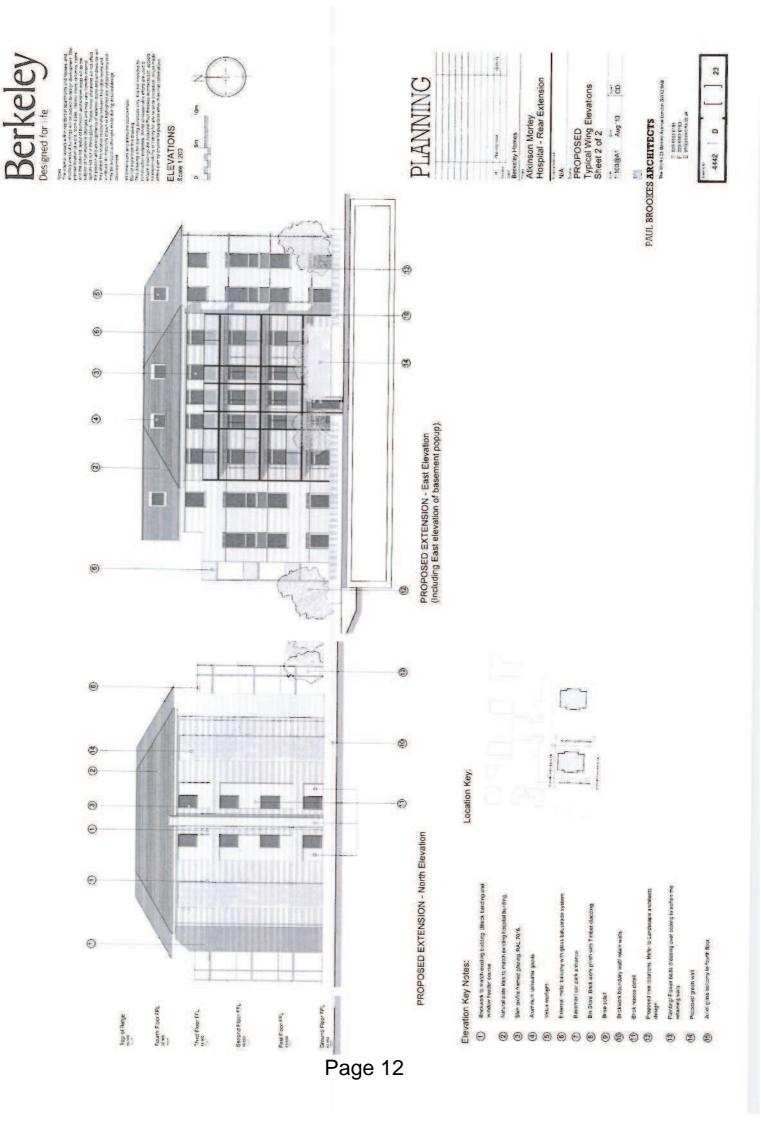
Thug Foor FFL

Elevation Key Notes:

Location Key: Natural state tiles to match existing hospital building profile framed glazing, RAL 7016

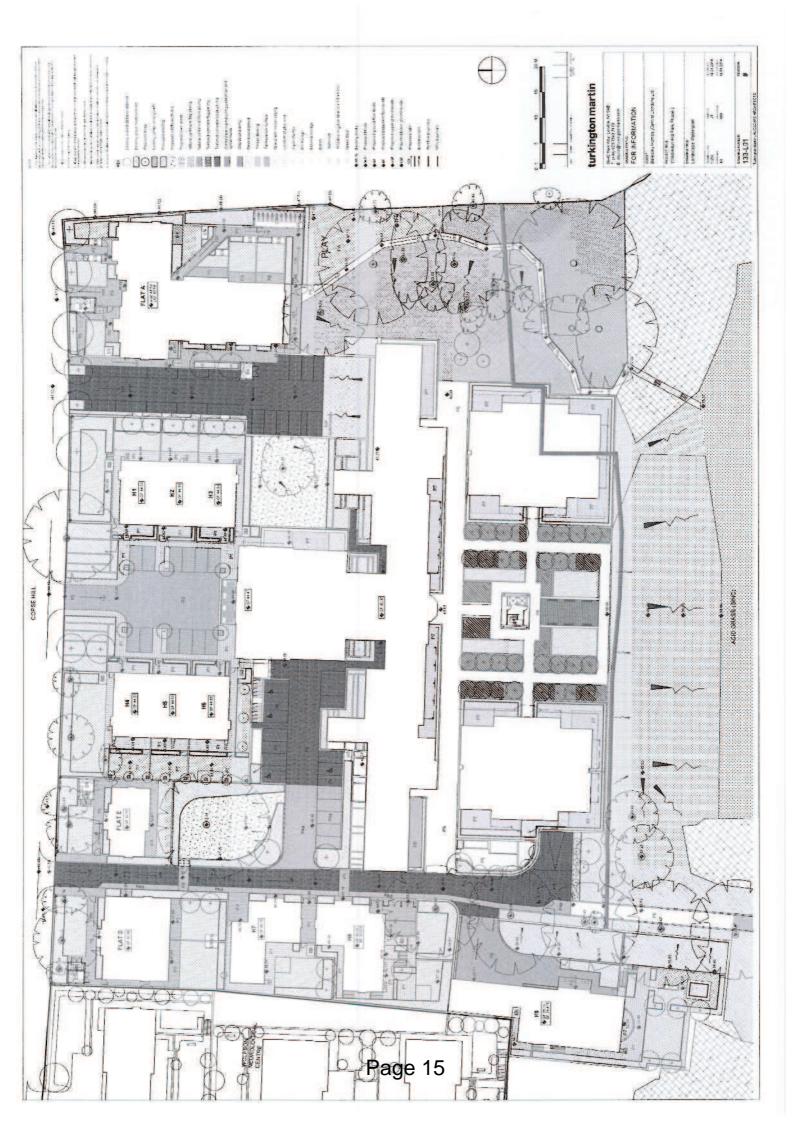
Basement car park entrance

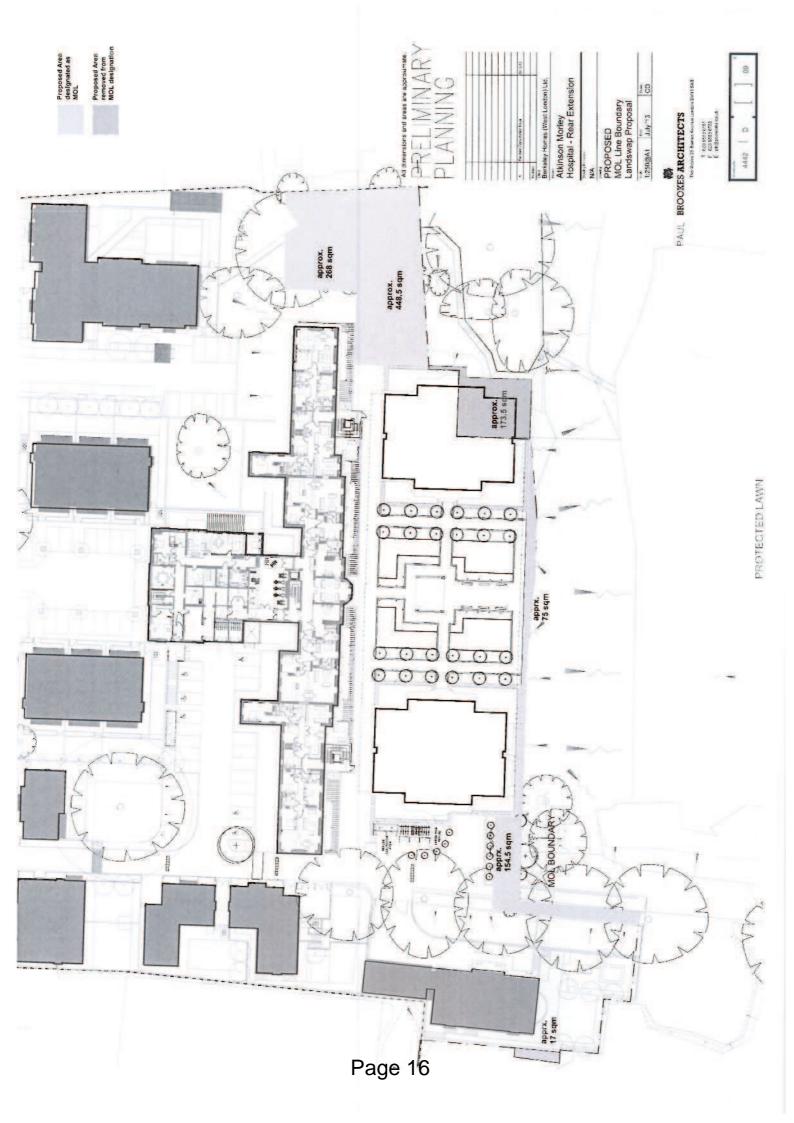
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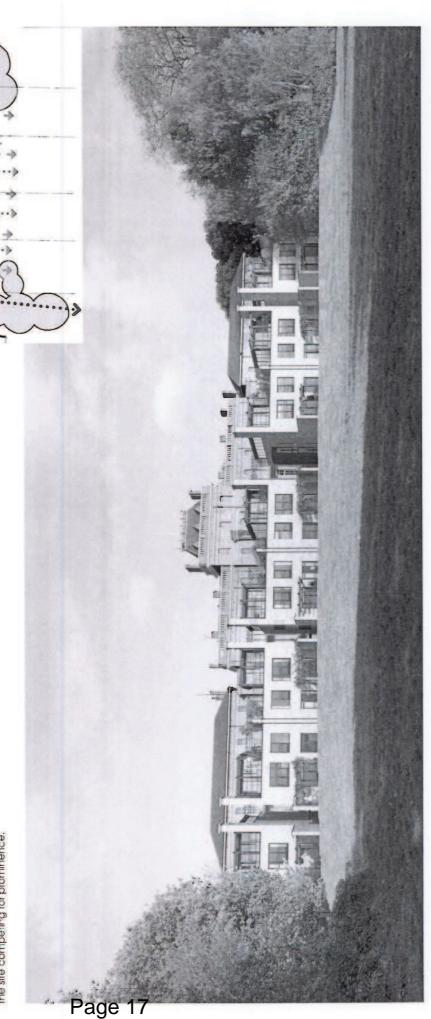




approved design concept (CGI view)

The approved scheme, as illustrated in the Computer generated Image below, demonstrates that whilst the approved houses were proposed in an attractive and overtly contemporary style, there is little in the way of meaningful views between them.

Similarly from this key view of the nospital from the MOL, only the distinctive roofline is visible. This diminishes the hospital, as the key heritage asset of the site, to little more than a backdrop behind the houses. This results in compromised aspect from the lower floors of the Hospital conversion units and the central feature of the site competing for prominence.



PAUL BROOKES ARCHITECTS



proposed design concept (CGI view

The proposed amendments, as illustrated below, open-up the views between the existing hospital and the MOL. Re-establishing the original verdant link between these elements that have been separated for many decades by later extensions.

The proposed apartment blocks remain subservient in scale to the more prominent hospital building, with their finished ridge height at a similar level to the eaves and parapets of the existing building. This accommodation is "concentrated" onto a smaller footprint, with each block presenting their narrow elevations to

The central 'countyard' garden space created is appropriate to the scale of the enclosure created by the existing hospital and the new blocks. The entire central feature section of the existing hospital becomes visible, improving the legibility and hierarchy of this building, reinstating it as the central focal point of the wider development.

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY Development, Enterprise and Environment

Sue Wright

Merton Council
Public Protection and Development Division
Merton Civic Centre

London Road Morden

SM4 5DX

Our ref: D&P/0725c/JF01
Your ref: 13/P2722
Date: 18 December 2013

Dear Sue,

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended); Greater London Authority Acts 1999 and 2007; Town & Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008

Former Atkinson Morley Hospital and The Firs, Copse Hill, Wimbledon, SW20 Planning Application Reference: 13/P2722

I refer to the copy of the above planning application, which was received from you on 9 December 2013. On 18 December 2013, Sir Edward Lister, Deputy Mayor and Chief of Staff, acting under delegated authority, considered a report on this proposal, reference D&P/0725c/01. A copy of the report is attached, in full. This letter comprises the statement that the Mayor is required to provide under Article 4(2) of the Order.

The Deputy Mayor considers that the principle of the Section 73 application is generally supported and that he is content for the Council to determine the application in accordance with strategic and local planning policy. Pursuant to Article 5(2) of the Order, the Mayor does not need to be consulted again. Your Council may therefore proceed to determine the application without further reference to the GLA.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Wilson

Senior Manager – Development & Projects

cc Richard Tracey, London Assembly Constituency Member
Nicky Gavron, Chair of London Assembly Planning Committee
National Planning Casework Unit, DCLG
Alex Williams, TfL
Tania Tindale, Indigo Planning Ltd, Swan Court, 11 Worpole Road, London

SW19 4JS

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

planning report D&P/0725c/01

18 December 2013

Former Atkinson Morley Hospital, Copse Hill

in the London Borough of Merton planning application no. 13/P2722

Strategic planning application stage 1 referral

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended); Greater London Authority Acts 1999 and 2007; Town & Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008

The proposal

Application for variation of condition 2 attached to planning application 11/P0346 dated 8 December 2011 (previously amended 12/P0537) relating to the redevelopment of the former Atkinson Morley Hospital and The Firs for residential and recreational purposes, in order to substitute eight detached houses to the south of the former main hospital building with two residential blocks providing a total of thirty apartments, relocation of the basement car park from in front of the former hospital to the rear, minor reconfiguration of apartments within main hospital building and revisions to the landscape masterplan including eight additional car parking spaces to the north of the hospital building.

The applicant

The applicant is **Berkeley Homes (Central London) Ltd** and the architect is **Paul Brookes Architects**.

Strategic issues

As set out in this report, it is considered that very special circumstances exist in this case and therefore the principle of the proposed development on a small part of **Metropolitan Open Land** is not considered inappropriate.

Recommendation

That Merton Council be advised that the principle of the Section 73 application is generally supported and that the Mayor is content for the Council to determine the application in accordance with strategic and local planning policy. The application does not need to be referred back to the Mayor.

Context

On 9 December 2013 the Mayor of London received documents from Merton Council notifying him of a planning application of potential strategic importance to develop the above site for the above uses. Under the provisions of The Town & Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008 the Mayor has until 19 January 2014 to provide the Council with a statement setting out whether he considers that the application complies with the London Plan, and his reasons for

taking that view. The Mayor may also provide other comments. This report sets out information for the Mayor's use in deciding what decision to make.

- The application is referable under Category 3D of the Schedule to the Order 2008: "Development on land allocated as Green Belt or Metropolitan Open Land in the development plan, in proposals for such a plan, or in proposals for the alteration or replacement of such a plan and which would involve the construction of a building with a floorspace of more than 1,000 sq.m."
- Once Merton Council has resolved to determine the application, it is required to refer it back to the Mayor for his decision, as to whether to direct refusal or allow the Council to determine it itself, unless otherwise advised. In this instance the Council need not refer the application back to the Mayor.
- The Mayor of London's statement on this case will be made available on the GLA website www.london.gov.uk.

Site description

- The application site is to the west of Wimbledon Town Centre, in the London Borough of Merton, immediately to the south of the Royal Wimbledon Golf Course. The site is to the south of Copse Hill and north of Cottenham Park Road, with Raynes Park Station located approximately 900 metres to the south east of the site.
- The entire site is approximately 10.12 hectares in size and is characterised by three areas; the former Atkinson Morley Hospital site in the north east portion, the former nurse's accommodation located on The Firs site in the north west portion and the open land located to the south of the above developed portion. It is important to note that the Wolfson Neurological Centre buildings that front onto Copse Hill and sit between the hospital site and The Firs site does not form part of the application site. The area of open land in the southern portion of the site, referred to as 'the lawns' is designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation and consists of the former lawns to the hospital interspersed with a large area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.
- The existing buildings on the site consist of a range of architectural styles and age. Most notably is the locally listed main building of the former Atkinson Morley hospital which was built in the 19th Century and referred to within as the main hospital building. Over the years, the setting of the building has been altered due to new additions at ground and first floor level and a number of surrounding modern buildings associated with the hospital function. The Firs site in the north west of the site comprises four, three storey, flat roofed blocks of flats built in the 1960s as residential accommodation for nursing staff. Both the hospital and The Firs are now vacant as a result of the relocation of the hospital services to St George's Hospital in Tooting, which was completed in 2003. With the exception of The Firs site, the application site falls within the Copse Hill Conservation Area, with the surrounding area characterised by residential development in the form of two to three storey detached and semi-detached houses dating from 18th and 19th Century.
- The site is currently subject to the extant planning permission 11/P0346 granted in December 2011, and as amended in February 2012 under planning permission 12/P0537, for the residential redevelopment of the site, comprising the conversion and refurbishment of the former Atkinson Morley Hospital building plus new build to provide 79 residential units, gymnasium, car parking, new access from Copse Hill, landscaping, remodelled and replacement sports facilities and extension to the existing scouts hut in the south west corner of the site. This application was not originally referable to the Mayor under the Town and Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order

2008. This Section 73 application relates only to area of the site occupied by and surrounding the former Atkinson Morley Hospital.

Details of the proposal

- The Section 73 application proposes the replacement of the approved terrace of eight houses immediately to the south of the main hospital building, with two separate four storey residential buildings to provide thirty residential units. In addition the application proposes the relocation of the front basement car park to the rear of the site to create an extended rear basement structure, the minor reconfiguration of six residential units and the management and leisure suite within the main hospital building and other associated works. The corner of the proposed eastern residential building encroaches on the adjacent area of Metropolitan Open Land and has therefore triggered a referral to the Mayor.
- With the exception of the above proposals, the remainder of the scheme remains as per the extant planning permissions 11/P0346 and 12/P0537.

Strategic planning issues and relevant policies and guidance

- 11 The key strategic planning issue in this case is the principle of development on a small portion of Metropolitan Open Land.
- For the purposes of Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the development plan in force for the area is the 2011 Merton Core Strategy, the saved policies of 2003 Merton Unitary Development Plan, the London Plan (with 2013 Alterations).
- 13 The following are also relevant material considerations:
- The National Planning Policy Framework and Technical Guide to the National Planning Policy Framework.
- Draft Merton Sites and policies Development Plan Document.

Principle of development

Metropolitan Open Land

- Since the vacation of the site and its acquisition by the applicant, the main hospital building has fallen into a state of disrepair. On the granting of the extant planning permission in 2011, the applicant has undertaken remedial works to prevent the main hospital building from deteriorating further, including the removal of some of the unsympathetic extensions to the locally listed building. As a result of the removal of the later additions, it has been possible for the applicant to further assess the current condition of the hospital building and on assessment it has become apparent that significant structural works will be required to restore the building's integrity in order to enable its residential conversion as envisaged by the extant permission. The additional costs represented by these unforeseen works have resulted in the scheme becoming undeliverable in its current approved form and the applicant has revised this element of the scheme to factor in the increased cost, the details of which are set out in paragraph nine and ten of this report.
- The proposed revisions have also created the opportunity for the applicant to reconsider the relationship between the locally listed hospital building and the southern lawns, designated Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), which would effectively be severed by the approved terrace of eight contemporary houses. The revisions therefore propose to replace the approved terrace of

houses with two separate residential buildings of fifteen units, off-set to either side of the central facade of the hospital building, with a new open courtyard garden between the two blocks. The height of the buildings will be in line with the height of the eaves and parapets of the east and west wings of the main hospital building, to ensure that they remain subservient to the central facade of the hospital. However, as a result of the proposed positioning, the south east corner of the proposed eastern block will partially encroach into the designated MOL by 173.5 sq.m.

- In accordance with London Plan policy 7.17, the Mayor strongly supports the current extent of MOL, its extension in appropriate circumstances and its protection from development having an adverse impact on the openness of MOL. The policy goes further to state that the strongest protection should be given to London's MOL and inappropriate development refused, except in very special circumstances, giving the same level of protection as in the Green Belt and that essential ancillary facilities for appropriate uses will only be acceptable where they maintain the openness of MOL. Therefore, the relevant test is whether the proposed development will have an adverse effect on the openness of the surrounding area of MOL.
- The proposed positioning of the residential blocks will provide for a 41–45 metre opening between the two buildings, to enable the creation of a new landscaped courtyard which will provide new open views of the historic central facade of the hospital building when viewed from the area of MOL to the south, which have been previously obscured by unsympathetic extensions and would be completely blocked by the approved row of terraced houses. In addition, the proposed landscaped courtyard will effectively create a new 'green link' between the main hospital building and the MOL, simultaneously enhancing the setting of the locally listed building, the open nature of the adjacent MOL and the wider Copse Hill Conservation Area, when viewed from the south. If the proposed blocks where to have a more central position in order to prevent any incursion into the MOL, approximately sixteen to twenty metres of the listed central facade would be screened by the proposed buildings and the resultant narrower courtyard would make a lesser contribution to the open nature of the MOL. It is considered that this second option would be less beneficial to overall scheme and has also been considered unfavourable by the Council's Design Review Panel during pre-application discussion.
- In addition to the above, the applicant has expressed a willingness to enter into discussions with the Council to re-provide a comparable amount of land to be designated as MOL to compensate the minor encroachment by the eastern building. The applicant currently proposes that an area of 448.5 sq.m. immediately to the north east of the eastern residential building where the application boundary joins the current MOL boundary, a small strip of land measuring 75 sq.m. immediately to the south of landscaped courtyard and small area of 17 sq.m. to west of the site could be newly designated as MOL. This would effectively result in a net gain of 367 sq.m. of MOL as a result of the revised proposals. Whilst development that involves the loss of MOL in return for the creation of new open space elsewhere will not be considered appropriate in accordance with London Plan policy 7.17, when considered as part of the wider benefits to the setting of the hospital, the increased open nature of this part of the MOL and the benefits to the wider conservation area as a result of the revised layout, this additional proposed mitigatory measure is welcomed and should be secured in the Section 106 Legal Agreement.
- In summary, it is considered that while the revised proposals result in a minor encroachment into the MOL, the revised building layout will have an overall positive effect on the open character of the adjacent MOL and the setting of locally listed hospital building by opening up new views that have been previously obscured by modern extensions and that would be completely blocked by the approved building layout and overall represents a positive improvement over the extant planning permission. Therefore, in light of the above special circumstances, the principle of development in the small section of MOL is not considered inappropriate and is accepted in accordance with London Plan policy.

Other comments

Parking

The site is not within close proximity to the Transport for London Road Network or the Strategic Road Network. Notwithstanding this, a reduction in the amount of car parking is encouraged, which as a result of the revisions is now proposed at 1.5 spaces per unit which is not compliant with London Plan policy 6.13.

Legal considerations

Under the arrangements set out in Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Mayor of London) Order 2008 the Mayor is required to provide the local planning authority with a statement setting out whether he considers that the application complies with the London Plan, and his reasons for taking that view. Unless notified otherwise by the Mayor, the Council must consult the Mayor again under Article 5 of the Order if it subsequently resolves to make a draft decision on the application, in order that the Mayor may decide whether to allow the draft decision to proceed unchanged or direct the Council under Article 6 of the Order to refuse the application. There is no obligation at this present stage for the Mayor to indicate his intentions regarding a possible direction, and no such decision should be inferred from the Mayor's statement and comments.

Financial considerations

22 There are no financial considerations at this stage.

Conclusion

The key strategic planning issue in this case is the principle of development on a small portion of Metropolitan Open Land. As set out in the above report, very special circumstances have been demonstrated in this case and therefore the principle of the proposed development on a small part of Metropolitan Open Land is not considered inappropriate and is generally supported in accordance with London Plan policy 7.17. Therefore, the Mayor is content for the Council to determine the application in accordance with strategic and local planning policy and does not need to be consulted again on this application.

for further information, contact Development & Projects:

Colin Wilson, Senior Manager – Development & Projects

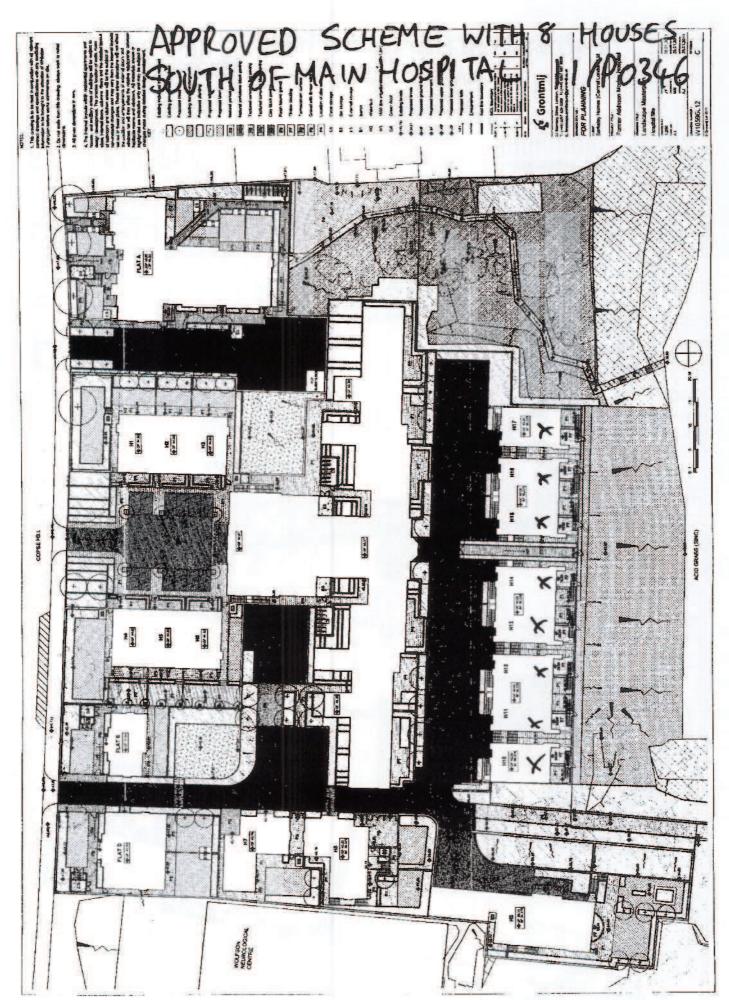
020 7983 4783 email colin.wilson@london.gov.uk

Justin Carr, Strategic Planning Manager (Development Decisions)

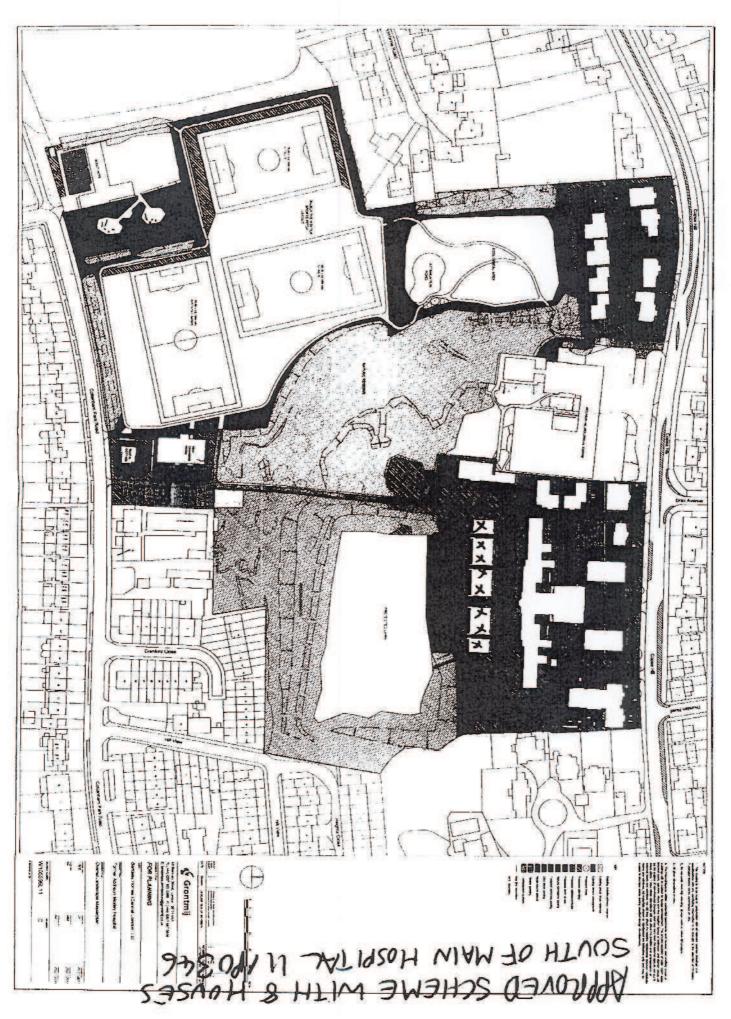
020 7983 4895 email justin.carr@london.gov.uk

Jonathan Finch, Case Officer

020 7983 4799 email jonathan.finch@london.gov.uk



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