

ES ARCHITECTURE

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## DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

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**Land Adjacent to 5 Albert Road/24 North Hyde Road,  
Hayes,  
UB3 4HR**

**To accompany a planning application for three new build flats: a three-bedroom flat at ground floor and basement level, and two additional three-bedroom dwellings including a ground floor flat and a first-floor flat with a loft room over a vacant corner plot.**

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**15/07/2022**

**Prepared by ES ARCHITECTURE LTD**



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## **1. Assessment and Evaluation**

### 1.1 Context and Design Overview

This application has been prepared using the Hillingdon Local Plan Part 1 and 2, Saved Unitary Development Plan policies, the London Plan 2015 and the Nationally Described Space Standard guidance.

The site is currently vacant of buildings, comprising of three coppiced chestnut trees and various road signage, lamp posts, a public refuse point and electrical maintenance cabinets. The plot is situated on the corner of North Hyde Road and Albert Road.

This Design & Access Statement supports a planning application for the permission to build a new, partially sub terranean, three-bedroom house, plus two additional three-bedroom dwellings which will include a ground floor flat and a first-floor maisonette with a loft floor above.

We believe the proposed scheme meets the criteria for new build dwellings in relation to the overall dimensions and amenity and parking requirements for its location.

It is understood that plots such as the land adjacent to 5 Albert Road maintain visually soft and open street corners. The new dwellings on the property have been therefore designed as a low-density, low-lying proposal. Its above ground building height and proportions match the existing Albert Road dwellings so that it should be in keeping with the character of the local area and have no detrimental visual effect. When completed, the dwellings would provide residential accommodation finished to a high standard ready for family living.

In its low-lying, low-density design, the proposal allows for generous outdoor spaces, all three proposed dwellings will have associated amenity space and bicycle and refuse storage, compliant with the Hillingdon Local Plan. Single dedicated parking bays for each dwelling have been provided and are in accordance to Table 1a, *parking bay sizes*, in Hillingdon's Local Plan.

Existing Site





## 1.2 Location

Whilst the application site includes the entire 479m<sup>2</sup> corner plot adjacent to 5 Albert Road. However the proposed built over land comprises just 25% of the plot, with the remaining development being at below ground level to avoid overdeveloping the land.

The site is situated near a parade of local shops and a large supermarket on North Hyde Road, both accessible by pedestrian crossings immediately adjacent to the site. The plot has excellent links to public transport networks into and around London, such as the Hayes and Harlington train station a 4-minute walk away. The nearest bus stop is Fairey Corner, a 1 minute walk away. The immediate location has a PTAL rating of 5.

The land is located in Flood Zone 1.

The surrounding area is residential in character. The street scene in this locality is characterized in the main by semi-detached properties which are similar in their appearance. In the immediate context there are several larger developments, such as the Asda Superstore and the Hayes and Harlington Community Centre opposite.

The property sits opposite an area of open green space on Station Road.

## 1.3 Existing Residential Design

The current housing stock near the comprises a typical 1930's semi detached style of dwelling; constructed using red brick and often finished with painted render or sand and cement pebble dash.

## 2. Design

### 2.1 Previous Application Decision Notes

There have been two applications submitted since 2019 for the development of this property. Both applications were refused, with the main reasons being for loss of light to neighbours, insufficient amenity space and inconsistency of character with the local housing stock. Both proposals were for the erection of a three-storey building with up to 6 flats. To create these units, the total volume and visual presence of both proposals were much larger than the current proposal.

The most recent planning application for this site was the appeal, APP/R5510/W/21/3283412, submitted 14 May 2021, and dismissed by the inspector A Price on the 5 August 2021. The main reasons for refusal were:

#### Character and Appearance

- 1. The proposal would act to infill this currently open space, rising to three storeys, and would be highly visible from North Hyde Road. The building would disrupt the existing layout of the neighbouring residential plots and sit uncomfortably and incongruously amongst them. As such, the development would fail to respond to the local distinctiveness of the site or enhance its context.*
- 2. The relationship between the two rows of established residential properties and their interconnectedness would...be lost.*
- 3. I do not disagree with the appellant's assessment of the wider area as there are undoubtably some very large developments that exist very close by the appeal site, including the superstore opposite (although I do not have the full history or context of these developments in front of me). However, this does not remove the established relationship of the appeal site with the more suburban residential properties that frame it, and is not sufficiently compelling a reason to accept a larger form of development here.*
- 4. I conclude the proposed development would fail to accord with the relevant provisions of Policy BE1 of the Hillingdon Local Plan Part One – Strategic Policies (2012), Policies DMHB11 and DMHB12 of the Hillingdon Local Plan Part Two – Development Management Policies (2020) and Policy D3 of the London Plan (2021). In summary, these policies seek to ensure that all development is of a high-quality design.*

## Living Conditions

5. *The proposed areas of amenity space are significantly below the requirements of the Local Plan. Not only this, but balconies on the upper floors would be positioned very close to, and overlook, the adjoining busy roads, providing an unattractive and unpleasant environment for occupiers. This would no doubt limit their use throughout the year.*
6. *Similarly, the terrace and garden areas depicted on the ground floor plan...would be immediately adjacent to the road and pavement. Irrespective of any landscaping that could be conditioned to mitigate this, these areas of amenity space would be very uncomfortable to use.*
7. *...users of these cramped spaces would still feel exposed and vulnerable to the high volume of passing traffic, particularly given the location of the appeal site at a signal-controlled junction.*
8. *An area of communal amenity space is proposed to the rear of the new building, adjacent to North Hyde Road. Communal amenity space in lieu of private amenity space is generally not supported by Local Plan policies unless there are strong planning reasons for it. For similar reasons to those set out above, this space would not feel comfortable to use by reason of its position adjacent the busy North Hyde Road.*
9. *I do not agree with the argument that because many of the units will not accommodate families, the occupiers of these units would have less need or pressure for external amenity space. Similarly, I do not consider it appropriate to rely on the open space (including that next to Old Station Road or of nearby developments) in lieu if appropriate on-site provision.*

The revised design proposal and this supporting statement considers the above reasons given for appeal dismissal by the Inspector. In the **Design Approach** section of this document, these reasons for dismissal will be considered in detail with regards to the new proposal plans.

## 2.2 Planning Policy

### National Planning Policy Framework

#### **Chapter 5**

Para. 60: To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land

can come forward where it is needed, that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed and that land with permission is developed without unnecessary delay.

Para. 70: Neighbourhood planning groups should also give particular consideration to the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites (of a size consistent with paragraph 69a) suitable for housing in their area.

## **Chapter 9**

Para. 105: The planning system should actively manage patterns of growth in support of these objectives. Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions, and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.

## **Chapter 12**

Para. 130: Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:

- a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;
- b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping; 39
- c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities)

## **The London Plan 2021**

### **Chapter 1, Best Use of Land:**

**Policy GG2: of the London Plan 2021 states that; to create successful sustainable mixed-use places that make the best use of land, those involved in planning and development must:**

- A) enable the development of brownfield land, particularly in Opportunity Areas, on surplus public sector land, and sites within and on the edge of town centres, as well as utilising small sites
- B) prioritise sites which are well-connected by existing or planned public transport
- C) proactively explore the potential to intensify the use of land to support additional homes and workspaces, promoting higher density

development, particularly in locations that are well-connected to jobs, services, infrastructure and amenities by public transport, walking and cycling

D) applying a design-led approach to determine the optimum development capacity of sites

## **Chapter 2, Opportunity Areas:**

Para. 2.1.1 states that Opportunity Areas are identified as significant locations with development capacity to accommodate new housing, commercial development and infrastructure (of all types), linked to existing or potential improvements in public transport connectivity and capacity. Opportunity Areas typically contain capacity for at least 5,000 net additional jobs or 2,500 net additional homes or a combination of the two. When developing policies for Development Plans, allocations and frameworks, boroughs should use the indicative capacity figures as a starting point, to be tested through the assessment process.

Table 2.1 of the London Plan identifies Heathrow/Elizabeth Line West as an Opportunity Area with a capacity for new homes. Hayes has been given an indicative capacity for 4,000 new homes and Heathrow 13,000.

### **Policy SD1 Opportunity Areas states that Boroughs, through Development Plans and decisions, should:**

- 1) clearly set out how they will encourage and deliver the growth potential of Opportunity Areas
- 2) support development which creates employment opportunities and housing choice for Londoners
- 3) plan for and provide the necessary social and other infrastructure to sustain growth and create mixed and inclusive communities, working with infrastructure providers where necessary
- 4) recognise the role of heritage in place-making
- 5) establish the capacity for growth in Opportunity Areas, taking account of the indicative capacity for homes and jobs in Table 2.1

## **Chapter 3, Design**

Para. 3.1.8 states that, as change is a fundamental characteristic of London, respecting character and accommodating change should not be seen as mutually exclusive. Understanding of the character of a place should not seek to preserve things in a static way but should ensure an appropriate balance is struck between existing fabric and any proposed change. Opportunities for change and transformation, through new building forms and typologies, should be informed by an understanding of a place's distinctive character, recognising that not all elements of a place are special and valued.

**Policy D2.A, states that the density of development proposals should:**

- 1) consider, and be linked to, the provision of future planned levels of infrastructure rather than existing levels.
- 2) be proportionate to the site's connectivity and accessibility by walking, cycling, and public transport to jobs and services (including both PTAL and access to local services)

**Policy D3:**

A) All development must make the best use of land by following a design-led approach that optimises the capacity of sites, including site allocations. Optimising site capacity means ensuring that development is of the most appropriate form and land use for the site. The design-led approach requires consideration of design options to determine the most appropriate form of development that responds to a site's context and capacity for growth, and existing and planned supporting infrastructure capacity (as set out in Policy D2 Infrastructure requirements for sustainable densities), and that best delivers the requirements set out in Part D.

C) In other areas, incremental densification should be actively encouraged by Boroughs to achieve a change in densities in the most appropriate way. This should be interpreted in the context of Policy H2 Small sites.

The proposal has also been designed to conform to the design led approach as set out in Policy D3.D, 1) to 13) in the London Plan, addressing Form and Layout, Experience, and Quality and Character.

**Policy D6:**

A) Housing development should be of high-quality design and provide adequately-sized rooms (see Table 3.1) with comfortable and functional layouts which are fit for purpose and meet the needs of Londoners without differentiating between tenures.

C) Housing development should maximise the provision of dual aspect dwellings and normally avoid the provision of single aspect dwellings.

D) The design of development should provide sufficient daylight and sunlight to new and surrounding housing that is appropriate for its context, whilst avoiding overheating, minimising overshadowing and maximising the usability of outside amenity space.

E) Housing should be designed with adequate and easily accessible storage space that supports the separate collection of dry recyclables (for at least card, paper, mixed plastics, metals, glass) and food waste as well as residual waste.

The proposal has been designed to conform to the minimum gross internal floor areas and built-in storage as set out in the technical housing standards - Nationally described space standard and Policy D6.F, 1) to 9) in the London Plan.

## **Chapter 4, Housing**

**Policy H2 states that boroughs should pro-actively support well-designed new homes on small sites (below 0.25 hectares in size) through both planning decisions and plan-making.**

Para 4.2.1 states that small sites (below 0.25 hectares in size) must make a substantially greater contribution to new supply across the city. Therefore, increasing the rate of housing delivery from small sites is a strategic priority. Achieving this objective will require positive and proactive planning by boroughs both in terms of planning decisions and plan-making.

## **Chapter 10, Transport**

**The proposal takes into consideration the requirements for parking as set out in Policy T6 and T6.1 of the London Plan, particularly in relation to developments which are well connected to public transport links.**

### **Local Plan**

This planning proposal is designed to meet the requirements of Hillingdon Local Plan Part 1, Strategic Policies and Local Plan Part 2, Development Management Policies.

- Policy BE1.1) to 11) of the Hillingdon Local Plan Part 1 (Nov 2012) states that all new development achieves a high quality of design in all new buildings, alterations and extensions which is also appropriate to the identity and context of Hillingdon.
- Para. 4.6 of the Local Plan Part 2 (2020) states that there is a substantial borough wide requirement for three-bedroom properties, new developments for residential schemes will need to demonstrate that this has been taken into account. Policy DMH 2 addresses the council's requirement for the provision of housing units which reflect the council's latest information on housing need.
- Policy DMHB 11: Design of New Development, A) to D) Local Plan Part 2 (2020)
- Policy DMHB 18: Private Outdoor Amenity Space, A) to D) Local Plan Part 2 (2020)
- Policy DMEI 2: Reducing Carbon Emissions, A) Local Plan Part 2 (2020)
- Para 2.14 of the Local Plan Part 2, Site Allocations and Designations (2020), identifies that Crossrail will be a catalyst for growth in Hayes,

where the station will be modernised as a public interchange. New residential developments within proximity to the station will benefit from the improved public transport link

- Para 2.17 of the Local Plan Part 2, Site Allocations and Designations (2020), states that proposals for a mix of retail, residential and other town center uses will be actively encouraged in Hayes.

The proposal for a ground floor accessible flat (Flat A) as part of this application has been designed to meet the spatial requirements set out in Hillingdon Local Plan, Accessible Hillingdon Supplementary Planning Document.

### 2.3 Design Approach

In presenting our proposal, we are open to amendments to be made to best meet Hillingdon Council requirements.

Having carefully considered all aspects of local and national planning policies as well as past planning feedback from Hillingdon Council, we believe that the characteristics of the site enables the construction two traditionally designed 3-bedroom flats, and a sub terranean 3 bedroom house which maximises open amenity space at ground floor level. The addition of the new dwellings supports Policies GG2, SD.1 and H2 of the London Plan, as well as Policy DMH2 of the Local Plan Part 2.

The '1930's semi' style flats and sub-terranean new build property proposed on the site was designed in consideration to the first refusal point on the previous Appeal dismissal last year:

1. *The proposal would act to infill this currently open space, rising to three storeys, and would be highly visible from North Hyde Road. The building would disrupt the existing layout of the neighbouring residential plots and sit uncomfortably and incongruously amongst them. As such, the development would fail to respond to the local distinctiveness of the site or enhance its context.*

The previous application had proposed a larger development, resembling a block of flats typology. The new proposal in this application however will be visible from street level as a two-storey property with loft accommodation, this will replicate the same scale, style and bulk of the existing streetscape. This responds to the second and third refusal points which were concerns raised by the larger development proposal:

2. *The relationship between the two rows of established residential properties and their interconnectedness would...be lost.*
3. *....there are undoubtably some very large developments that exist very close by the appeal site... However, this does not remove the established relationship of the appeal site with the more suburban*

*residential properties that frame it, and is not sufficiently compelling a reason to accept a larger form of development here.*

The new proposal also maintains the building line of the street to maintain congruity with its immediate context. The new building is traditional in design and has been designed to match with the neighbouring properties in the surrounding area. The form of the scheme reflects the density and character of the surrounding area and is suitable in scale. The height of the eaves and ridge of the building frontage matches the adjacent buildings. The new build relates well to the layout, characteristics and scale of its neighbours for use now and in the future. The render, brick and roof tiles are to match the colour and appearance of the neighbouring properties. The window sizes reflect the proportions of neighbouring properties.

In response to refusal point 4, The above mentioned factors respond to para. 130 of the National Planning Policy, Policy D3 of the London Plan, para. 3.1.8 of the Local Plan Part 1, and Policy DMBH 11.A.i) of the Local Plan Part 2.



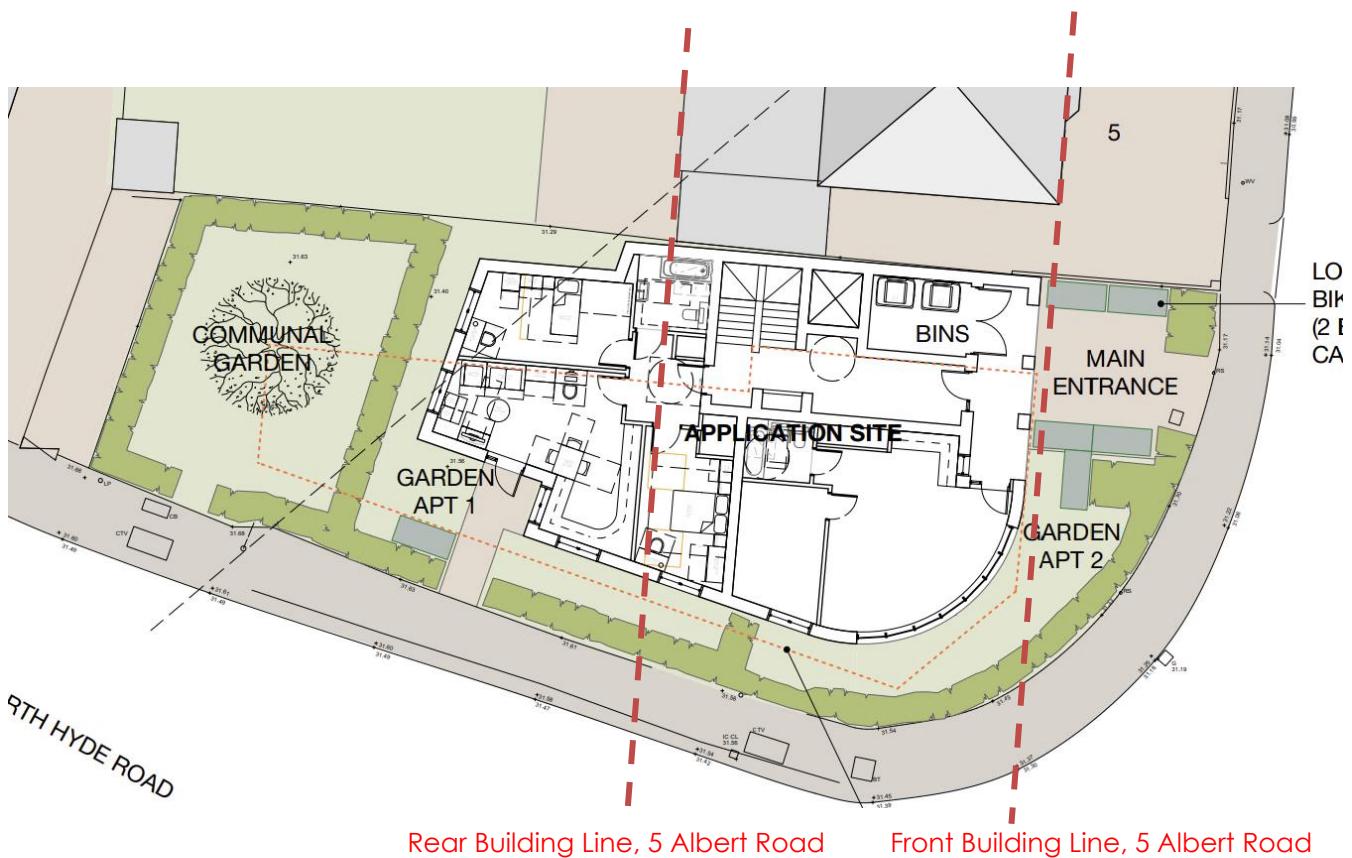
Refused Proposal (2021): Albert Road Elevation



Current Proposal: Albert Road Elevation

## Design & Access Statement

## Land adj. to 5 Albert Road, Hayes



### Refused Proposal (2021): Ground Floor



### Current Proposal: Ground Floor

## 2.4 External Provision

5. *The proposed areas of amenity space are significantly below the requirements of the Local Plan...*

In response to the above comments made by the Planning Inspector, the new proposal includes private amenity spaces which are in accordance with Policy DMBH 18.A and table 5.3: Private Outdoor Amenity Space Standards of the Local Plan Part 2. See Table A for the private garden areas of each dwelling.

**Table 5.3: Private Outdoor Amenity Space Standards**

Dwelling type	No of bedrooms	Minimum amenity space provision (sqm)
<b>Houses</b>	<b>1 bedroom</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>2 and 3 bedrooms</b>	<b>60</b>
	<b>4 + bedrooms</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Flats</b>	<b>Studio and 1 bedroom</b>	<b>20</b>
	<b>2 bedrooms</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>3 + bedrooms</b>	<b>30</b>

Comments 6 and 7 on the dismissal letter addressed the scale of the amenity space and proximity to North Hyde Road:

6. *...garden areas depicted on the ground floor plan...would be immediately adjacent to the road and pavement. Irrespective of any landscaping that could be conditioned to mitigate this, these areas of amenity space would be very uncomfortable to use.*
7. *...users of these cramped spaces would still feel exposed and vulnerable to the high volume of passing traffic, particularly given the location of the appeal site at a signal-controlled junction.*

The new proposal for the site details the use of a 200mm, 1.8m masonry wall which will separate Flat B's garden from the pavement and road side. Dense shrubs will be planted along the garden wall to further reduce noise impact. Moreover, the depth of Flat B's garden from the roadside is far greater than those of the previously proposed scheme, creating more open space away from the road.

Each apartment will include provision for secure and screened off refuse and bicycle storage on the ground floor with direct access to the street for collection. This has been designed in accordance with Policy DMBH 11.D of the Local Plan Part 2.

Parking provision is not required as part of the new development of the property, as stated in the London Plan, Chapter 10, table 10.3. The immediate area has been issued a PTAL rating of 5 and is therefore classified as a Car Free area.

Parking provision has however been provided for visitors to the site and disabled users, this is to reduce parking congestion on the road. The parking provision will comply with policy T6 and T6.1 of the London plan, where new developments should provide electric vehicle charging points.

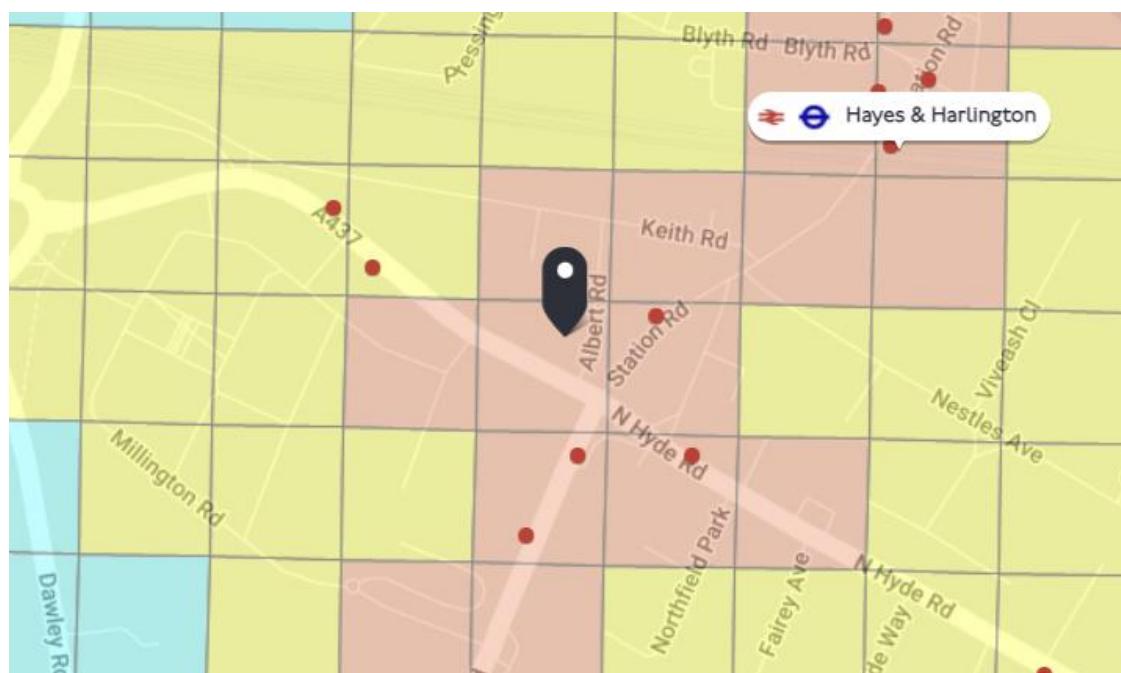
**Table 10.3 - Maximum residential parking standards**

Location	Number of beds	Maximum parking provision*
Central Activities Zone Inner London Opportunity Areas Metropolitan and Major Town Centres All areas of PTAL 5 – 6 Inner London PTAL 4	All	Car free~
Inner London PTAL 3	All	Up to 0.25 spaces per dwelling
Inner London PTAL 2 Outer London Opportunity Areas	All	Up to 0.5 spaces per dwelling
Inner London PTAL 0 – 1	All	Up to 0.75 spaces per dwelling

Access Level (PTAL) Rating for Albert Road, Hayes:

Map Key - PTAL  5

Future PTAL rating: 6



## 2.5 Internal Accommodation

### Flats A & B:

The application proposes to erect two, three-bedroom flats. In the proposal's height, bulk, style, positioning and materiality, it has been designed to harmonise with the Albert Road residential built context.

The main habitable rooms of the flats have been designed to maximise natural light to habitable rooms. Windows have been positioned primarily on the east (Albert Road), and west (rear garden) elevations to offer the best outlook from the property and minimise road noise permeating the south façade. Flat B windows which overlook the garden of Flat A will be obscured to prevent overlooking.

As the proposed massing of the flats does not extend past the rear building line of 5 Albert Road, the scheme will not prevent sunlight from the south from penetrating into the garden of the neighbouring property. There will therefore be no loss of amenity to the neighbouring properties.

The privacy of the existing neighbours will be safeguarded due to the set back of the proposal from the rear building line of 5 Albert Road, preventing overlooking. The design of the new build provides no detriment to the appearance of the street or the neighbours.

The new apartments comply with the minimum gross internal floor areas and built-in storage as set out in the technical housing standards - Nationally described space standard and Policy D6.F, 1) to 9) in the London Plan. The floor areas for the property are set out in Table A.

Flat A has been designed to be compliant with the Accessible Hillingdon Supplementary Planning Document. Door openings, corridor widths, and rooms have been designed to be accessible by wheelchair users. Additionally, adequate internal space by the front entrance has been created to allow for the turning of a wheelchair as well as a wheelchair storage and transfer zone. The parking space to the front of the property has been designed to accommodate disabled users.

### Sub-Terranean Flat C

The proposed Flat C on the site comprises of a generous living space and three bedrooms, situated below ground level. The dwelling has been designed as such to safeguard the openness of the site, as well as maximising the provision of private outdoor amenity space for the residents of the property. Sunlight amenity for the neighbour is also preserved as the bulk of the dwelling is below ground and will not overshadow the southern aspect of garden at 5 Albert Road.

All habitable rooms in Flat C have been designed to receive natural light and ventilation. This is provided by an internal courtyard below ground level. A

substantial roof light above the kitchen space provides light in the deeper spaces of the dwelling.

The dwelling has been designed to meet the requirements of the minimum gross internal floor areas and built-in storage as set out in the technical housing standards - Nationally described space standard and Policy D6.F, 1) to 9) in the London Plan. The floor areas for the property are set out in Table A.

All new build flats will achieve Building regulations U value targets, feature 3kwh airsource heat pumps, as well as heat recovery systems to reduce energy demand in the winter months. All new windows installed will also be triple glazed. This follows Policy DME1 2: Reducing Carbon Emissions, A) of the Local Plan Part 2. In addition to this, the proposed sub-terranean dwelling benefits from greater thermal mass than a traditionally designed structure as well as stable below-ground temperatures which will reduce the energy demand for heating and cooling over the year.

## 2.6 Proposed Areas

Using the Nationally described space standard and Policy D6.F, 1) to 9) in the London Plan, the internal room and external areas for the proposed dwellings comprise of:

<b>Flat C: 3 Bed 2 storey 6 persons</b>	<b>National and Local Space Standards in sqm</b>	<b>Proposed Area in sqm</b>
GIA Total	102	147.2
GIA Ground floor		138
GIA 1 <sup>st</sup> floor		9.2
Bedroom 1	11.5 (>2.75m wide)	15.6
Bedroom 2	11.5 (>2.75m wide)	12.2
Bedroom 3	11.5 (>2.75m wide)	11.5
Bathroom		4.3
Hallway 1 <sup>st</sup> floor		5.1
Kitchen /Dining/Living		29.7
Basement storage	2.5	2.6
Basement hallway		14.3
Utility space		5.3

<b>Flat A: 3 Bed 1 storey 4 persons</b>	<b>National and Local Space Standards in sqm</b>	<b>Proposed Area in sqm</b>
GIA Total	74	78
GIA Ground floor		78
Bedroom 1	11.5 (>2.75m wide)	11.9
Bedroom 2	7.5 (>2.15m wide)	9.6
Bedroom 3	7.5 (>2.15m wide)	7.6
Bathroom		5
Kitchen /Dining/Living		3.2
Storage ground floor	2.5	2.5
Hallway ground floor		7.8
<b>Flat B: 3 Bed 2 storey 5 persons</b>	<b>National and Local Space Standards in sqm</b>	<b>Proposed Area in sqm</b>
GIA Total	93	94.2
GIA ground floor (entrance)		8.2
GIA 1 <sup>st</sup> floor		68
GIA loft floor		18
Bedroom 1	11.5 (>2.75m wide)	14.5
Bedroom 2	11.5 (>2.75m wide)	11.5
Bedroom 3	7.5 (>2.15m wide)	10.8
Bathroom		5.1
Hallway 1 <sup>st</sup> floor		5.4
Kitchen /Dining/Living		27.5
Storage loft floor	2.5	2.5

The required and proposed garden areas for the new dwellings are:

Garden Area in sq m	Private Outdoor Amenity Space Standards, Local Plan Part 2. sqm	Flat A Sq.m	Flat B Sq.m	Flat C Sq.m
Total Garden Area	60 for 3 bed house 30 for 3 bed flat	37.1	33	70 (Garden) 35.7 (Basement Courtyard) <b>Total Area: 105.7</b>

## 2.6 Material Use

The proposed new flats have been designed to harmonise with the local street scene. It will be a masonry construction with a brick and render outer skin to match the existing character of the road. Roof tiles used will also match the existing residential properties.

The rear garden perimeter will be lined with a heritage style red brick wall for privacy and attractiveness when viewed at street level. A low-level picket fence will be used around the perimeter of the front shared garden to maintain openness of the corner when viewed at street level. Low level planting behind this fencing will also soften the appearance of the boundary.

The sub terranean Flat C will be constructed with concrete retaining walls below ground level and a green roof which will serve as the private amenity space for Flat C's residents. The externally visible facing walls on the ground floor level and those facing into the courtyard will have a heritage brick outer skin.

## **3. Access**

Access to the flats will be via two separate entrances on different elevations to maintain the appearance and character of the two storey houses on Albert Road. Flat A has a front entrance off Albert Road and Flat B from North Hyde Road. As it is an accessible dwelling, the entrance for Flat A will be suitably ramped. Both flats have access to rear gardens through the dwelling, with Flat A benefitting from direct garden access from the kitchen, and Flat B from the ground floor entrance corridor. Flat B has gated external garden access.

Flat C has a separate entrance which will be visible as a small, single storey brick structure at ground floor level to the west of the site. The dwelling will also feature ground floor access to the rear garden from this structure as well as gated external access. The sunken courtyard can be accessed externally from the garden by a staircase to the south of the garden.

Each dwelling will include secure, covered storage for bins and 2 bicycles with direct external access to and from the property.

### 3.1 Vehicular

Appendix C, Table 1: Parking Standards of the Hillingdon Local Plan Part 2 relating to new development requires parking spaces to have a minimum size of 2.4m x 4.8m, and accessible spaces to have a minimum size of 2.4m x 4.8m plus shared 1.2m transfer zone.

Guidance in the London Plan state that, due to the PTAL rating of the property being at 5, there is no requirement for dedicated parking for residents. The future PTAL rating for the site will be 6. However, allocation for visitor parking has been made on site to reduce parking congestion on the nearby residential roads.

Visitor car parking spaces, including two accessible space will be located at the front of the Flat A and Flat C. There is no existing dropped-kerb access to the property and an application post-permission to the TMO would be necessary under S184 of the Highways Act 1980 to request dropped-curbs. The sizes of parking spaces comply with the Vehicular requirements at 2.4m x 4.8m and 2.4m x 4.8m plus shared 1.2m transfer zone for an accessible space.

The proposal will therefore have a minimal and insignificant impact on the adjoining highway in terms of capacity, and neighbouring amenity.

### 3.2 Pedestrian

The main pedestrian access to Flat A will be from the Albert Road elevation, Flat B will have its main access from the eastern end of the North Hyde Road elevation, and Flat C will have pedestrian access from the western end of the North Hyde Road elevation.

### 3.3 Waste

The provision for the bin stores to be covered and located near the front entrance of each property. Flat A's bin stores are located on the front driveway off Albert Road. Flat B's bin storage will be within the rear garden of the property in proximity to the garden gate. The new build house will have a bin store in the front garden, off North Hyde Road.

#### **4. Landscaping Strategy and Plan**

The plot is currently laid to lawn featuring multiple signage units, an electrical cabinet and lamp posts around the perimeter of the plot. As shown in drawing 22\_018\_P0, It is planned that the items that will need to be repositioned are the PCP box and the large road sign on the south western corner of the site, and the road sign and electrical cabinet on the north eastern corner of the site. These will need to be moved to allow for vehicular access to the properties.

The proposed landscape strategy is to re-instate the grass lawn over the roof of Flat C once the construction has been completed below ground, incorporating appropriate drainage channels beneath the soil layer. Shade tolerant border shrubs, such as Boxwood will be planted on the road-side of the gardens to mitigate the noise from the main road. Similar shrubs will be used on the perimeter of the front garden to soften the boundary on the corner of the plot. It is intended a more open and appealing visual appearance will be created by these low shrubs.

Permeable block paving will be used to create the hard landscaping for visitor parking by the front entrances of Flat A,B and C.

Each property's rear garden will comprise a decking/patio area. The gardens will be laid to lawn with shrubs and perennial plants in borders at the side and rear. This will provide low maintenance areas.

There are currently no trees in the garden space. Any new planting over the roof of the new build house will have shallow roots to avoid disturbing the structure below.

The basement courtyard of Flat C will be paved and surface water will be drained into a below ground SUDs system as appropriate. This will be applied throughout the scheme.