

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

Philips Building
SOAS University of London

'ONE STOP' COLLEGE HUBS



August 2023
Revised 29 September 2023 (Rev A)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared by Neville Bruton Design on behalf of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), to support an application for listed building consent for interior refurbishment works to the Grade II* Philips Building, SOAS University of London, Thornhaugh Street, London, WC1H 0XG.

This revision (Rev A 29.09.23) to our original submission under 2023/3409/L, together with amended and additional support documentation as referred to within this document, is submitted following mid planning consultation with Camden's Regeneration & Planning designated Planning & Conservation Officer.

It should be read in conjunction with other application documentation.

VISION & OBJECTIVES

The application for listed building consent is in relation to the SOAS Grade II* listed Philips Building, situated within the Russell Square, University of London campus, which sits within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

The proposals relate to the creation of 'one-stop' functional and accessible student focused College hubs on each of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors of the Philips Building, where students and the academic body of each College can obtain information and assistance from administrative support teams.

- ☐ College A - 4th Floor Hub, supporting:
 - ☐ Department of East Asian Languages & Culture
 - ☐ School of History
 - ☐ Religion & Philosophies
 - ☐ School of Languages
 - ☐ Culture & Linguistics
 - ☐ School of Arts
- ☐ College B – 3rd Floor Hub, supporting:
 - ☐ Dept of Development Studies
 - ☐ Department of Economics
 - ☐ Finance & Management
- ☐ College C – 2nd Floor Hub, supporting:
 - ☐ Department of Anthropology & Sociology
 - ☐ School of Law (with Gender & Media)
 - ☐ Department of Politics & International Studies

The proposals involve the opening-up of office interior spaces located at southwest corner of each of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors. The works generally comprise:

- Removal of later addition corridor facing blockwork walls to Rooms 249, 349 & 482
- Removal of blockwork and studwork room dividing partitions
- Installation of dry lining to interior of office areas
- Repair of metal frame plasterboard ceilings within office areas
- Replacement of suspended ceilings and bulkheads within Rooms 249, 349 & 482
- Replacement of floor finishes
- Redecoration of walls, doors, architraves, and skirtings
- Upgrading existing lighting, fire & security infrastructure
- Removal of redundant services within ceiling voids & fire stopping

The proposals do not seek to increase the building's area or introduce significant changes in design or material finish.

In removing the later addition blockwork walls forming Rooms 249, 349 & 482, SOAS are reinstating the area to its original plan form and the proposed removal of office area, non-structural dividing partitions, aligns with Lasdun's original design intent for future flexibility of accommodation spaces.

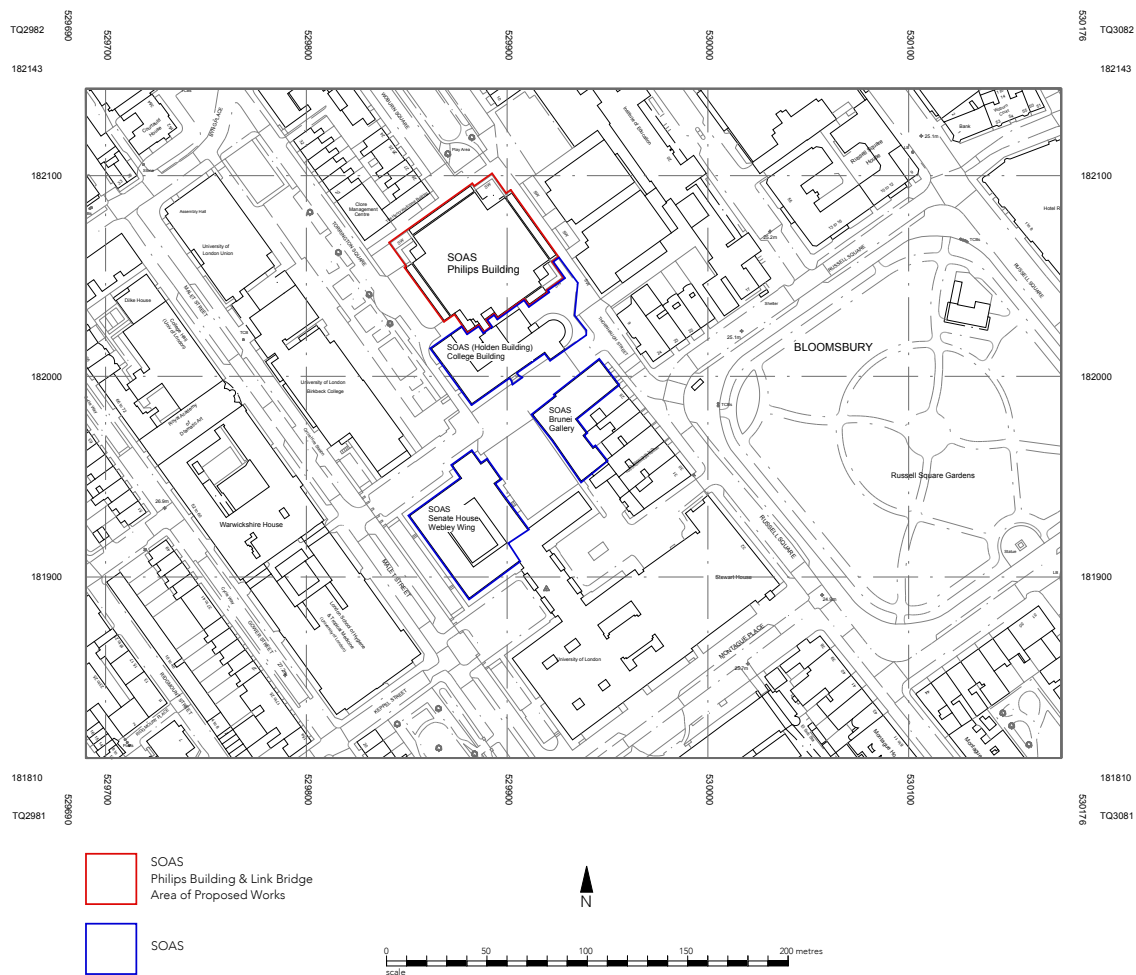
SOAS are committed to the preservation of its listed assets. The challenge is to design and specify a scheme which respects the integrity and maintains the preservation of the building.

BACKGROUND

The Grade II* Philips Building forms part of the SOAS central London campus, associated to the University of London and includes, the (Holden Building) College Building (Grade II), the Brunei Gallery, the Paul Webley Wing of Senate House (Grade II*), which sit within Sub Area 3 of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area and 53 Gordon Square (Grade II), which sits within Sub Area 2 of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

Please refer to the accompanying Heritage Statement for further detail

Location Plan



SOAS is home to leading research and expertise on the global issues of today. Students engage with academics on these issues throughout their study.

It is uniquely placed to inform and shape current thinking about the economic, political, cultural, security and religious challenges of our world.

Its decolonial outlook on education allows it to strive for a more equal and just world through its teaching and research. It is committed to building bridges within the global communities and forging equitable global partnerships.

It challenges perspectives, broaches debate, and empowers its students to question the global status quo and find solutions to the issues facing the world today.

Its programmes are taught by respected international academics with inter-disciplinary expertise. These scholars are engaged in fieldwork and research that influences governments, industries and communities across the world.

SOAS has a very diverse student base, from over a hundred different countries, and has a number of unique courses.

SOAS cater for approximately 6,145 students on campus with a further 2,140 off campus/distant learning students – Supported by 1,010 academic and professional services staff.

The Philips Building houses one of only five National Research Libraries in the UK, with over 1.5 million volumes, periodicals and audio-visual materials in 400 languages, focusing on Asia, Africa and the Middle East. It also provides teaching rooms, academic and administration offices and welfare facilities.

A full overview of the SOAS offer can be viewed at: <https://www.soas.ac.uk>

DESIGN BRIEF

The design brief issued by SOAS sets out their aspirations as follows:

SOAS propose to create 'one-stop' functional and accessible student focused 'hubs' on each of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors of the Philips Building, where students and the academic body of each College can obtain information and assistance from administrative teams.

The aim of the project is to ensure the buildings long term and continued viability, by maintaining its assets through suitable and compliant interventions providing long-term and sustainable environments for its students and staff, which are fit for contemporary purpose and showcase the university and its facilities.

DESIGN APPROACH

The design approach has been based on the following principles:

- ☐ To sustain the significance of the listed building
- ☐ To maintain the viable use of the building
- ☐ To find solutions that do not adversely impact on either the interior or exterior of the building or its context within the site.
- ☐ To undertake modifications and repairs in a sensitive way, respecting the integrity of the original fabric with sympathetic use of new materials and finishes

POLICY CONTEXT

The proposals have been developed with reference to:

- ☐ English Heritage 'Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance' 2008
- ☐ Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- ☐ National Planning Policy Framework 2021
- ☐ Camden Core Strategy 2010-2025 'Policy CS14 – Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage
- ☐ Bloomsbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy – Adopted 18 April 2011

Please refer to the accompanying Heritage Statement for further detail

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The design proposals have been progressed through various studies, discussions and consultations with the SOAS and have been subject to further discussions, consultations and design amendments as the project has proceeded through the preparation of the listed building consent application.

Mid planning consultation has informed and assisted in design approach and in formalising the proposals contained within this revised Design & Access Statement.

The final design proposals show what can be summarised as the maximum change envisaged taking into account the ambitions of the brief, the limitations of altering a listed building, the sensitivities of the site and the target costs.

USE

The use of the building will remain the same

APPEARANCE

It is felt that the proposed works will have a positive impact on the appearance of the interior of the building. The potential impact the proposed work will have, is detailed within the section 'Statement of Justification' later in this document.

ACCESS

The proposed scope of works to the interior of the building do not represent a material change of use so do not require the wholesale upgrading of the building to comply with The Building Regulations Approved Document Part M except where material alterations are made, however the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality (Disability) Regulations 2010 requires service providers to make reasonable adjustments to any physical features that might put a person with a disability at a "substantial disadvantage".

Primary access to the Philips Building is via the College Building and the Link Bridge connection. There is both stepped and ramped access with intermediate landing points to the main entrance of the College Building, with step free access also available to the rear of the College Building. Both entrances offer lift access to upper floor levels and the Link Bridge to the Philips Building.

The Link Bridge connection between the College Building and Philips Building has a shallow ramped floor, the double leaf fire doors at the head of the ramp are fitted with magnetic hold opens with fail release under fire condition.

SOAS do not propose to structurally alter any of existing access points as part of the proposals under this application.

EXISTING LAYOUT & FINISHES

The following is an extract from the

'Philips Building Sketch Design & Estimate of Costs Document, dated June 1966'

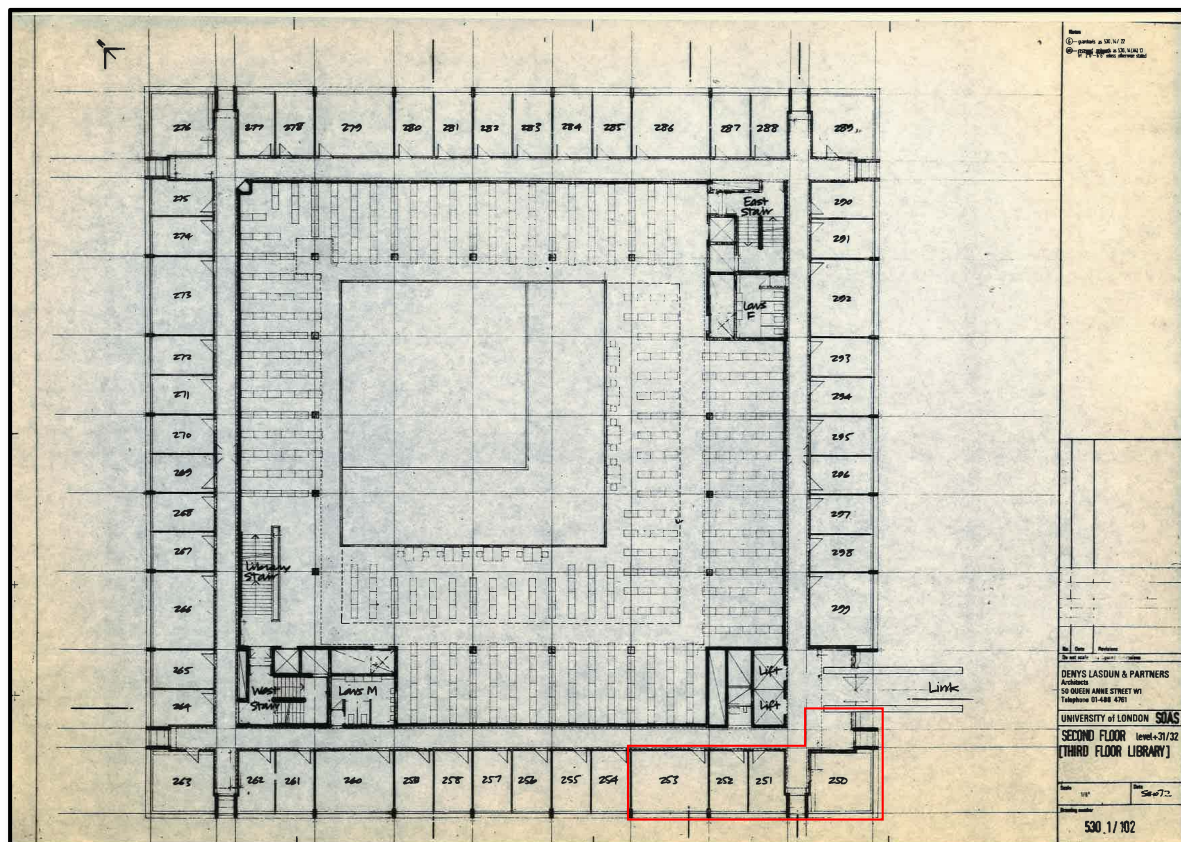
The accommodation located on the 2nd to 5th floors has been planned to permit maximum flexibility for possible future reorganisation. The 4'0" design module at the window wall permits non-structural partitions to be located against any mullion. Partitions are generally constructed from 4" standard, dense concrete block, plastered and painted.

The areas of the proposed works to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floor levels are outlined in red on the below 1972 archive and current 2023 drawings.

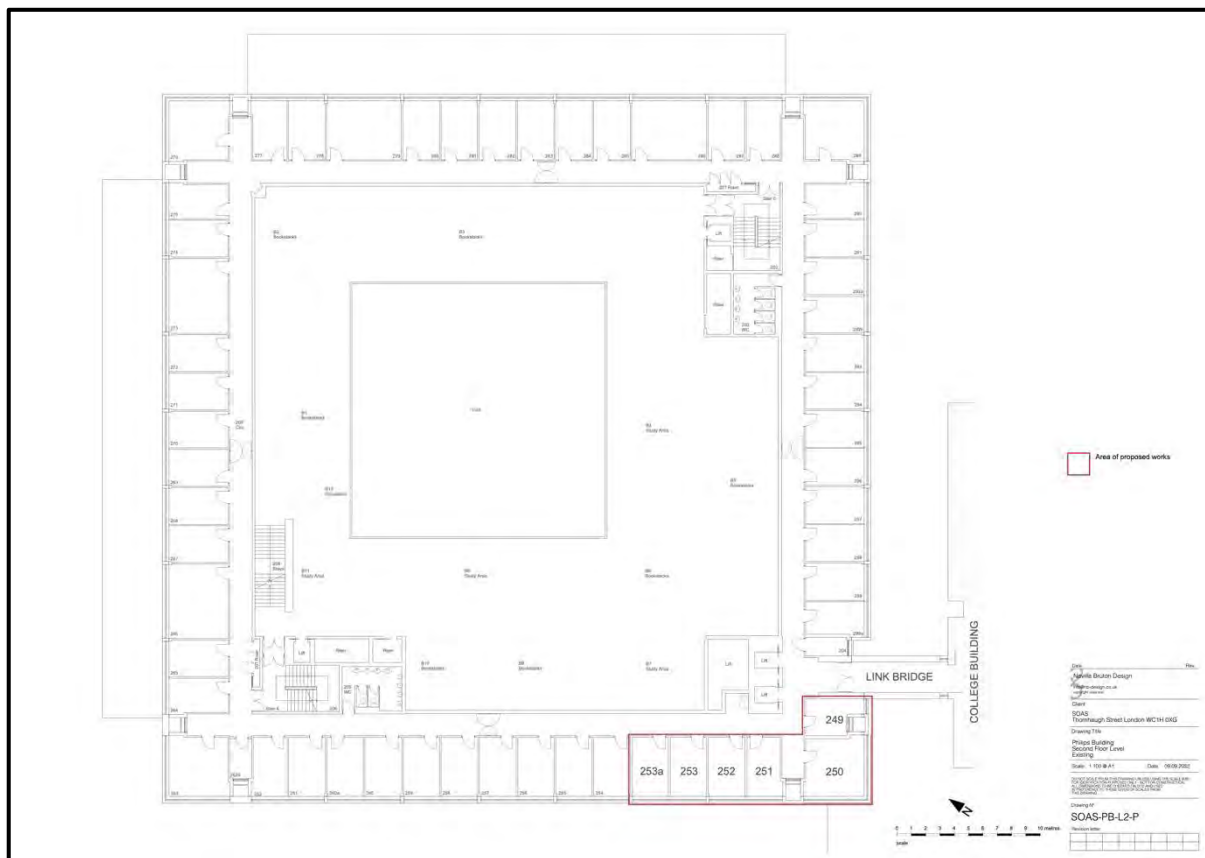
The original floor arrangement with a window at the end of each corridor largely remains, although as shown on the 2023 plans, rooms 249, 349 & 482, have been added to these spaces, blocking off both the natural light and the view. The location of the proposed hubs aims to address the impact of these later addition spaces.

The proposals reinstate the original design intent of the corridor areas through the removal of the blockwork walls forming the later addition office spaces.

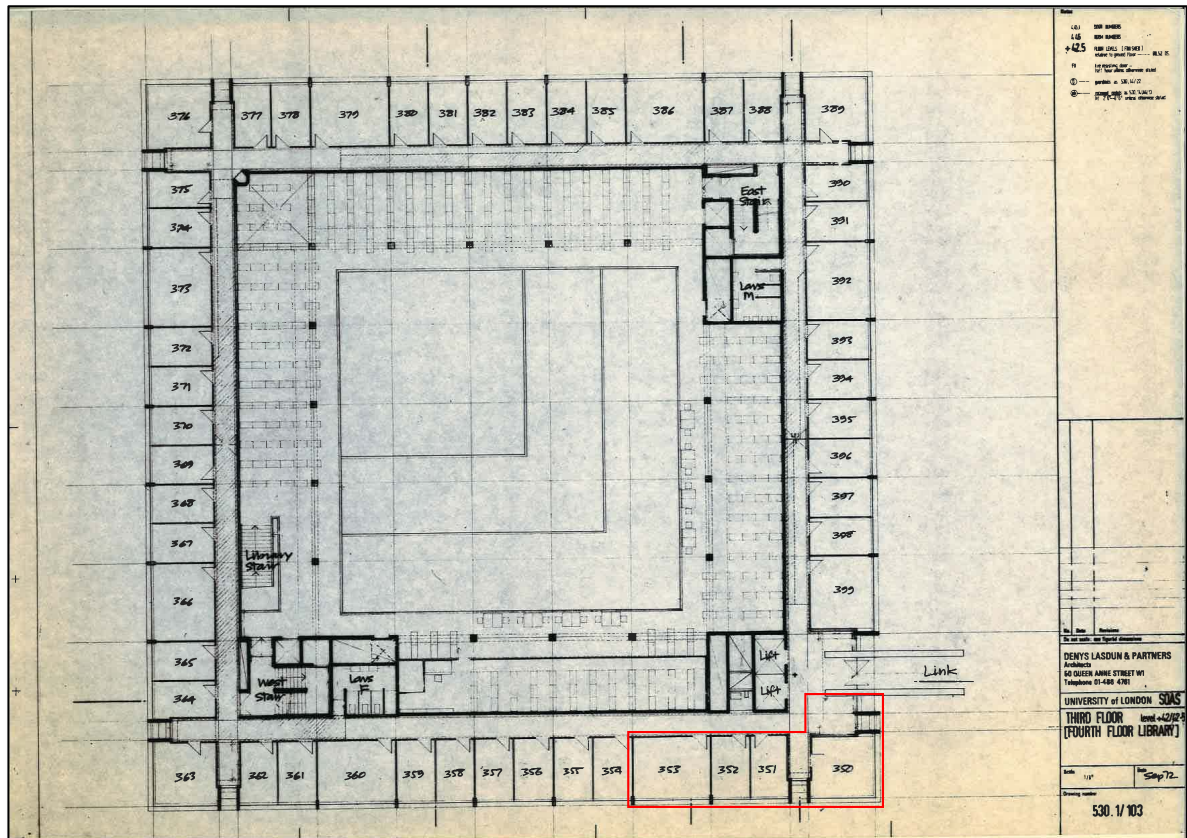
The proposed removal of office area, non-structural dividing partitions, aligns with Lasdun's original design intent for future flexibility of accommodation spaces.



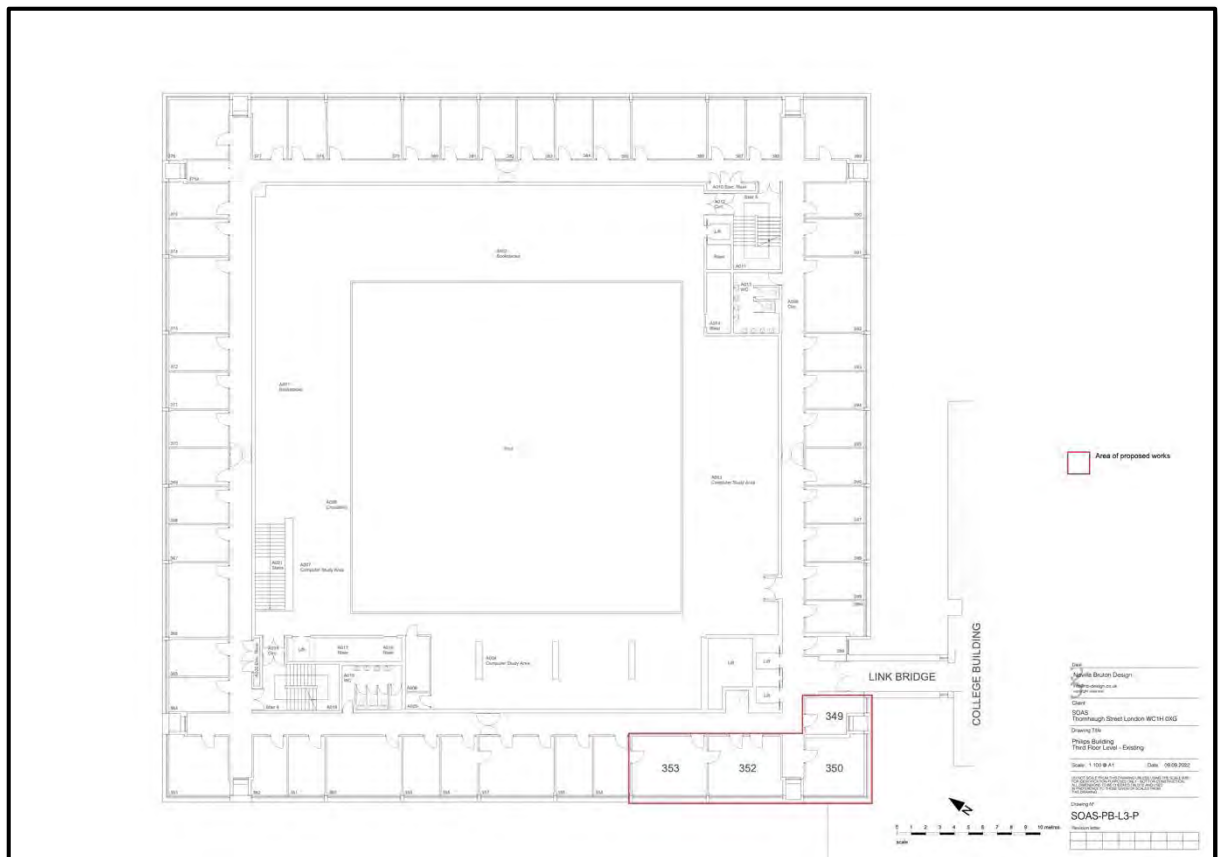
Philips Building Second Floor Level – Archive Plan 1972 - Red line highlights area of proposed works



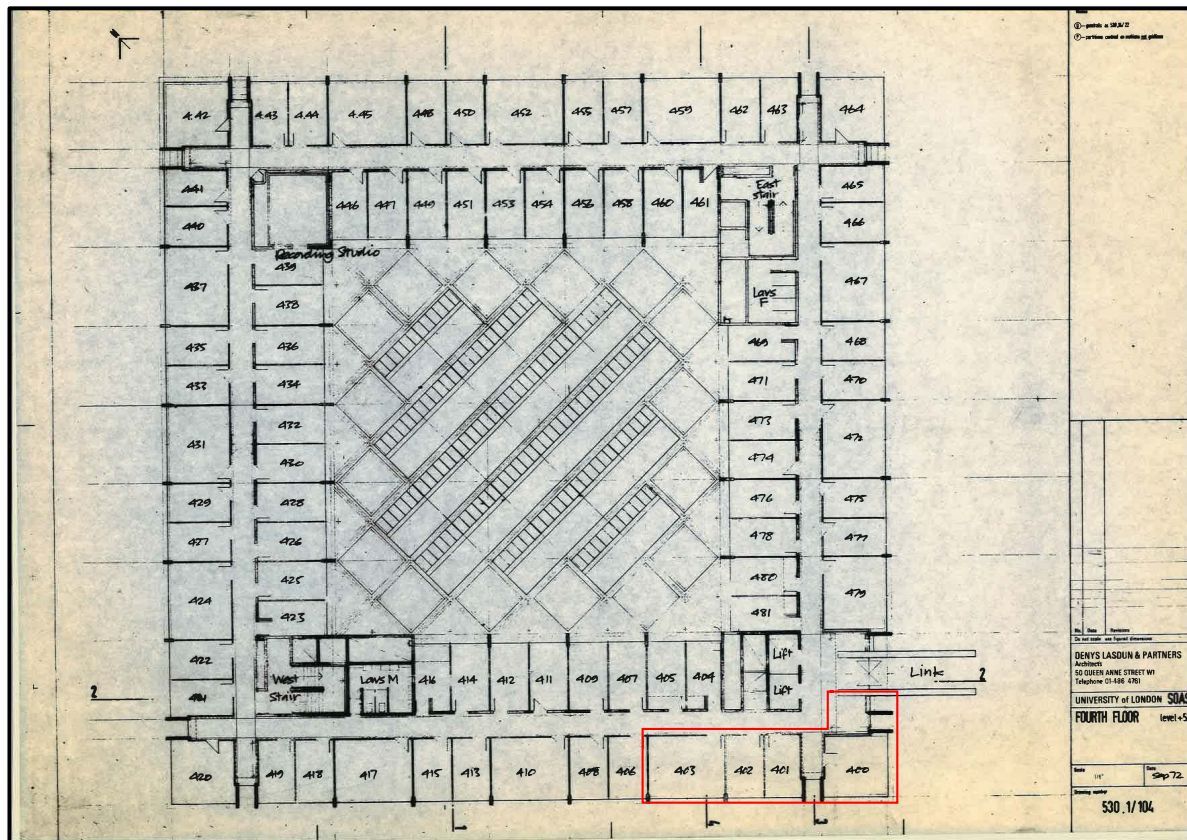
Philips Building Second Floor Level – Current 2023 - Red line highlights area of proposed works



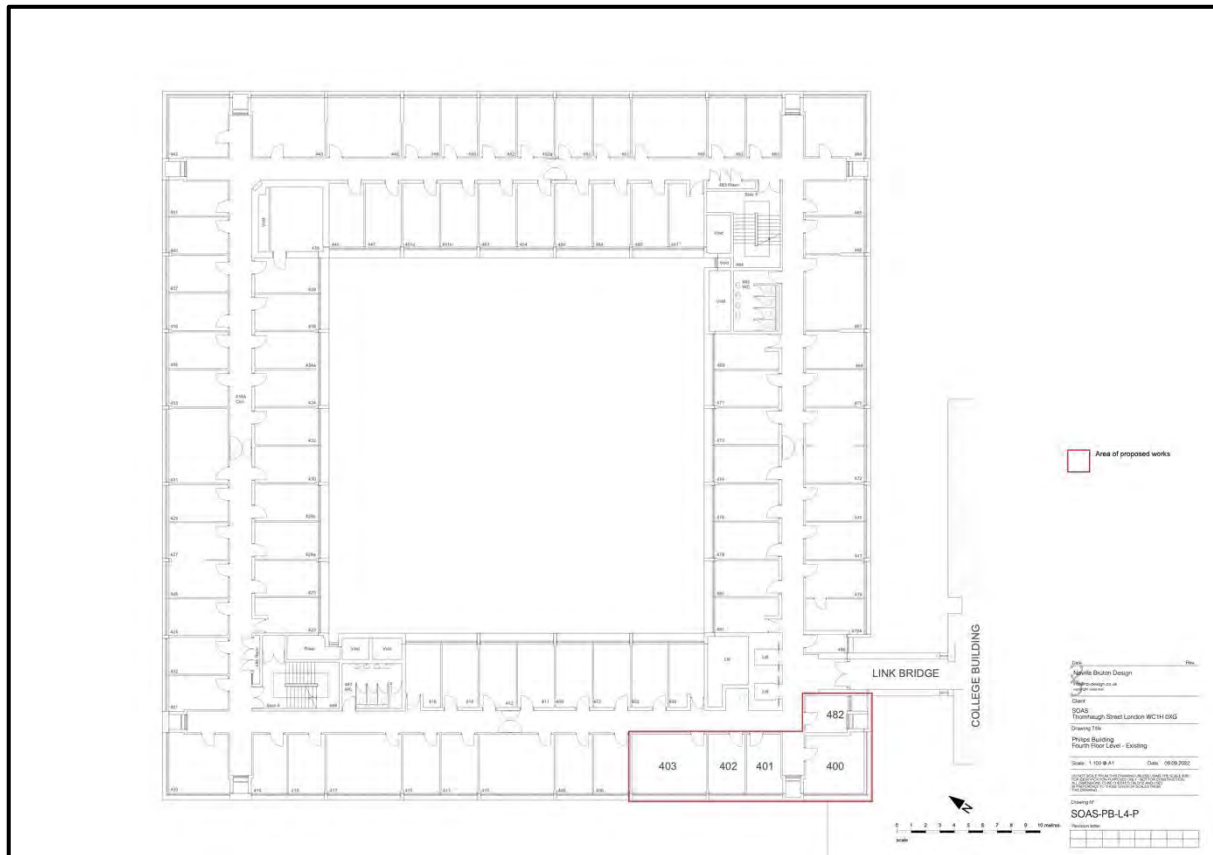
Philips Building Third Floor Level – Archive Plan 1972 - Red line highlights area of proposed works



Philips Building Third Floor Level – Current 2023 - Red line highlights area of proposed works



Philips Building Fourth Floor Level – Archive Plan 1972 - Red line highlights area of proposed works



Philips Building Fourth Floor Level – Current 2023 - Red line highlights area of proposed works

Please refer to the below listed drawings and appendices for details of existing and proposed layouts and finishes.

Appendices

- ☐ Appendix A Photographic Reference – 2nd, 3rd & 4th Floor Areas
(Documented 2023)
- ☐ Appendix B Interior Glazing System Details
- ☐ Appendix C Floor Finish Isolator Membrane

Drawings – EXISTING

- SOAS-PB-L2-P Philips Building Second Floor Existing (1:100 @ A1)
- SOAS-PB-L3-P Philips Building Third Floor Existing (1:100 @ A1)
- SOAS-PB-L4-P Philips Building Fourth Floor Existing (1:100 @ A1)

Drawings - SCHEME

- ☐ 230438-1403 Rev P7 Proposed Second Floor Plan College Hub (1:50 @ A2)
- ☐ 230438-1404 Rev P7 Proposed Third Floor Plan College Hub (1:50 @ A2)
- ☐ 230438-1405 Rev P7 Proposed Fourth Floor Plan College Hub (1:50 @ A2)
- ☐ 230438-1500 Rev P4 Proposed College Hub Internal Elevations
Office Area (1:50 @ A2)
- ☐ 230438-1501 Rev P2 Proposed College Hub Internal Elevations
Reception Area (1:50 @ A3)
- ☐ 230438-1502 Rev P6 Proposed College Hub Internal Elevations
Waiting Area (1:50 @ A3)

WALLS & PARTITIONS

Areas of original internal partition walls are constructed from solid blockwork, plastered with paint finish. Timber and metal studwork partitions have been installed during later remodelling works.

The proposals include for the removal of both original non-structural blockwork and later addition studwork dividing partitions forming the current office configurations to provide flexible open plan office accommodation.

The proposals also include for the removal of the later addition non-structural blockwork corridor walls forming Rooms 249, 349 & 482, located next to the Link Bridge on each of the floors, this returning the area at the head of the Link Bridge to its original plan. The resultant existing rendered wall finishes to the retained perimeter walls and opened-up area of the Link Bridge brickwork faced nib will be retained and made good.

GLAZED PARTITION

Full height acoustic double glazed partitioning is proposed to be installed within each of the main office areas to form small one to one confidential 'pod' meeting areas.

Please refer to Appendix B – Interior Glazing System Details

INTERIOR DOORS, FRAMES & ARCHITRAVES

The proposals do not involve the removal of corridor facing office doors, these are to be retained and, where identified on the drawings, be decommissioned (locked, ironmongery retained) to allow plywood and plasterboard dry lining to be installed to the office side of the wall opening.

Where identified on the proposal drawings, some existing doors are to be rehung to assist in maximising interior circulation.

Decoration of doors and refinishing of architraves and skirtings within the area of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floor corridors is covered under previous listed building consent, reference: 2022/5402/L (Corridor Refurbishment).

Doors within both blockwork and studwork office area dividing partitions are later additions and are proposed to be removed along with the associated non-structural partition walls, as are the doors installed within the later addition office spaces (249, 349 & 482) located next to the Link Bridge.

CEILINGS – General Office Areas

Later addition MF suspended plasterboard ceilings are installed within the existing office interiors. It is proposed that these finishes are retained and made good where disturbed by the removal of interior partitions.

CEILINGS - Later Addition Rooms 249, 349 & 482

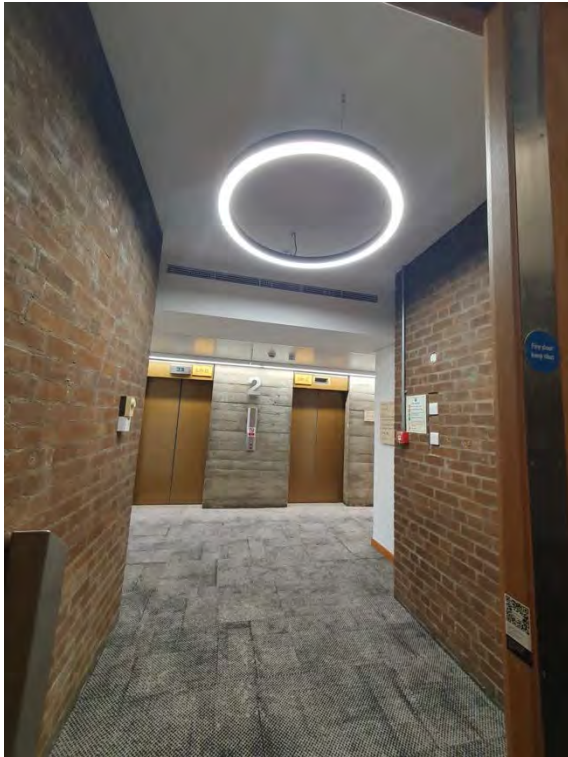
The existing ceiling finishes within these areas comprise of the remnants of the original corridor ceiling detail at the head of the Link Bridge, comprising a dropped service bulkhead, formed from suspended 36" x 12" perforated steel ceiling tiles and pressed steel upstand/fascia, with patch areas of fibrous 12" x 12" tiles, mounted on a metal frame system or in some areas bonded directly to the concrete ceiling slab – Please refer to the photographic references contained within Appendix A

The main corridor ceiling areas have been refurbished, with the original 36" x 12" perforated steel suspended ceiling tiles being replaced with an approved contemporary equivalent, with the addition of plasterboard boarder and replacement plasterboard bulkhead and plasterboard MF ceiling installed at the head of the Link Bridge (reference listed building consent: 2022/5402/L).

The proposed removal of the later addition blockwork walls and reinstating the areas to their original plan form will result in a disconnect between the new corridor ceiling finishes (reference listed building consent: 2022/5402/L) and the small areas of original sections of ceiling & bulkhead that remain.

The proposal is for the removal of these original sections of bulkhead, which currently do not have a visual link/connection with adjacent refurbished ceiling finishes and replace, as with the corridor refurbishment, with a new MF plasterboard faced bulkhead which will provide connection within the opened-up areas and head of the Link Bridge.

The small area of original fibrous 12" x 12" tiles result in a visual and finishes disconnect between new and old ceiling finishes within the opened-up area. The proposal is to unify the finishes within the area in alignment with new corridor finishes, (listed building consent 2022/5402/L) through their removal and replacement with a MF plasterboard ceiling to mirror the adjacent corridor finish at the head of the Link Bridge (as referenced in the below photograph). This will also ensure that the replacement area of ceiling, finishes above the line of the window glazing.



2nd Floor

This image shows the refurbished corridor ceiling at head of the Link Bridge.

Please note the Link Bridge retains its original 12" x 12" fibrous tiles – Please refer to Appendix A - Photographic Survey

EXISTING FLOORING

The floor construction throughout the building comprises of a solid concrete slab over which, within office areas, later addition fibre bonded carpet has been fully adhered directly to the floor slab or to original cork and linoleum tiles.

Investigation has identified that in some areas original cork or linoleum tiles may still be present under the bonded fibre bonded carpet. Unlike the exposed cork and linoleum tiles within the corridor areas the underlying cork and linoleum has been heavily damaged by the later addition of directly and fully bonded carpet tile floor finishes.

It is proposed that the existing carpet tiles are lifted with new carpet tiles being directly installed to the underlying remnants of the original floor finishes.

If it is considered that the original underlying cork and linoleum tiles are to be protected, the proposal can be amended to incorporate the pre installation of a loose lay proprietary isolator membrane system to be laid on top of the existing hard floor finishes, providing a separation layer between new carpet adhesive and retained flooring, as per approved systems detailed for protection of the Philips Building corridor floors under listed building consent 2022/5402/L.

Proposed Materials:

- F Ball & Co Ltd Stopgap Isolator Membrane
- EGE Carpets – Transition Carpet Tiles - Seed

Please refer to Appendix C – Floor Finish Isolator Membrane

LIGHTING

Existing lighting installations are primarily surface mounted linear fluorescent luminaires with cover reflectors.

New lighting installations will be designed to be functional in use, to aid safe movement and provide compliant lighting levels and colour rendering applicable to specific area activities. Installations will generally utilise high quality colour temperature matched LED luminaires to minimise both energy consumption and heat gains to spaces.

It is proposed that microwave sensor-controlled low profile linear and circular LED downlights be installed.

Self-test LED emergency pin spots are proposed within emergency escape routes.

PROCUREMENT

The proposed work will be procured by means of competitive tendering, with drawings and specifications and schedules of work. This process is important in order to maintain cost control within budgetary constraints and retain control over design quality, especially within the context of work to a listed building.

To comply with procurement policy 'equal and approved/equivalent' is required to be adopted during tendering of services, products and equipment. Details contained within this application therefore forms the basis of design intent and minimum performance requirements for the project.

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION

The following issues have been considered during the preparation and development of the proposals.

- ☐ The importance of the building and its intrinsic architectural and historic interest on both a national and local level

The building forms part of the University of London campus which is an important and recognisable local landmark within Camden and which is recognised nationally. The building has architectural associations with Denys Lasdun, as mentioned earlier and within the accompanying Heritage Statement.

The proposals will not impact on the buildings intrinsic architectural or historical interest.

The proposals reintroduce Lasdun's original design intent by reinstating views and natural light through the removal of the later addition blockwork forming Rooms 249, 349 & 482

- ☐ Setting and contribution to the local scene

The elements of the proposed works will have a positive impact on the interior of the building but will not impact on the buildings setting and contribution to the local scene.

□ Substantial benefits to the community

The proposed works highlight the strong commitment to the University's student population and will support a positive University offer, which is believed will benefit the local economy and community.

The maintenance and repair of the building illustrates the continued investment and care by the SOAS of a locally important building.

APPENDIX A

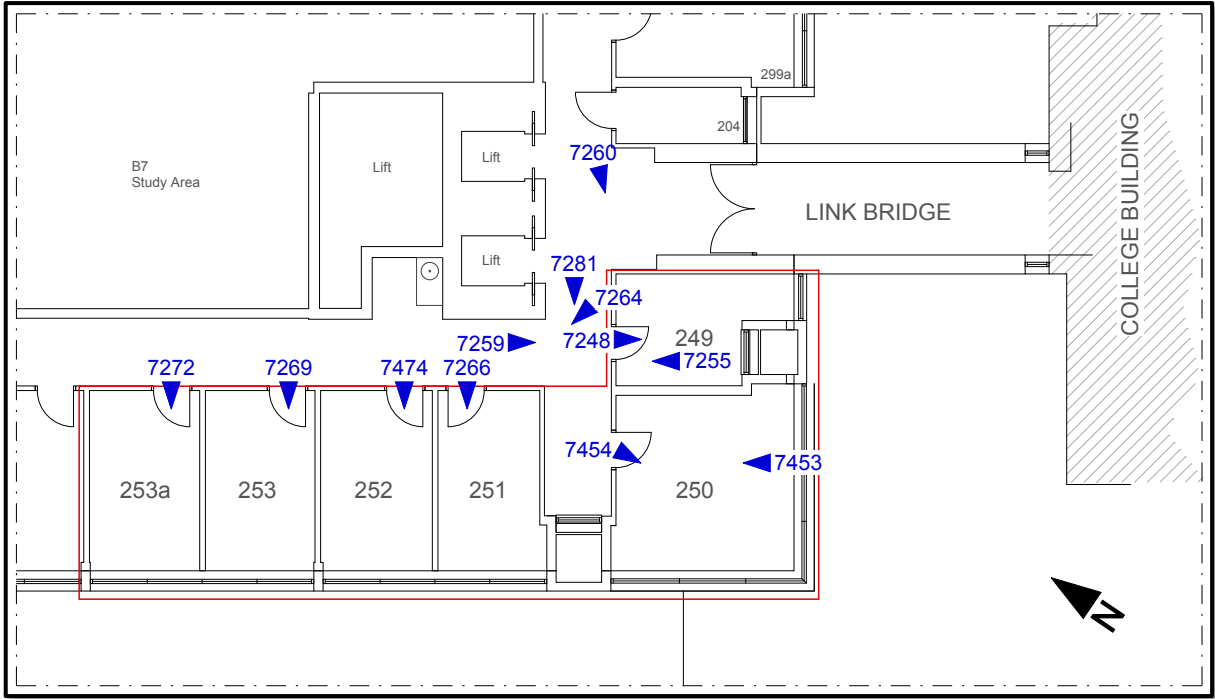
Philips Building

Photographic Survey - 2nd, 3rd & 4th Floor Proposed Works Areas

PLEASE NOTE

The following photographic survey has been undertaken during the on-going refurbishment of the corridor areas on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th floors of the Philips Building (listed building ref: 2022/5402/L)

PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY - KEY
SECOND FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



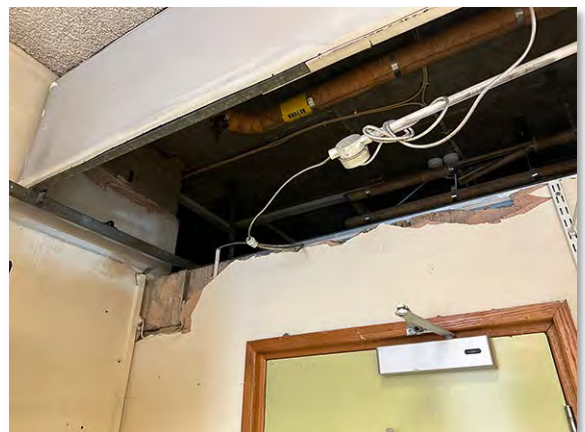
IMG_7259
Rm 249 later addition



IMG_7260
Rm 249 later addition



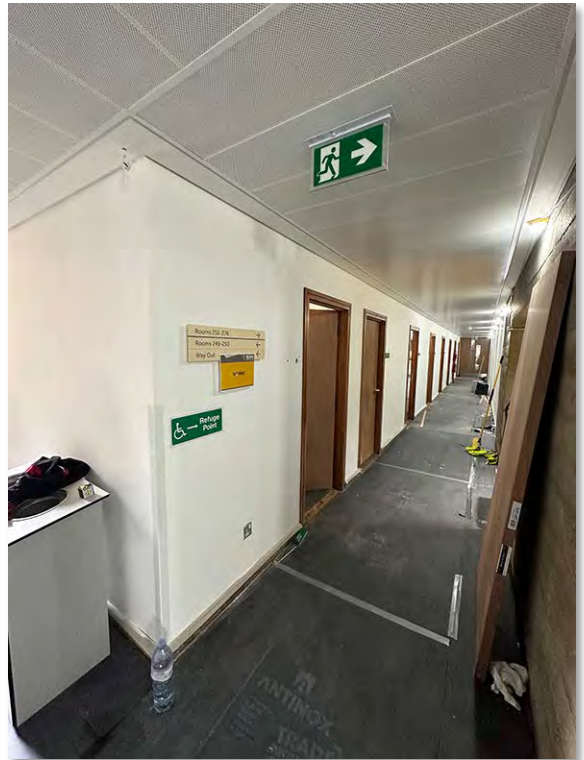
IMG_7248
Rm 249 interior



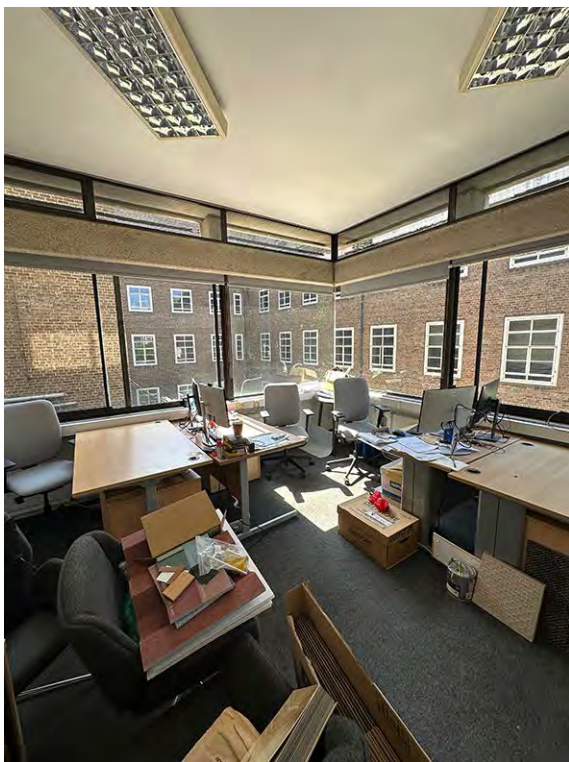
IMG_7255
Rm 249 ceiling bulkhead – later addition blockwork sits below bulkhead soffit



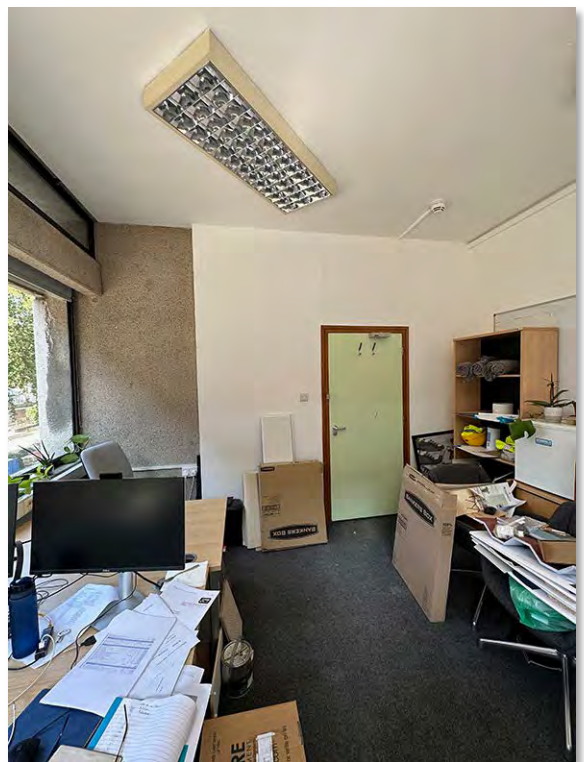
IMG_7281
Corridor area between Rm 250 & Rm 251 showing wall where proposed new door is to be installed



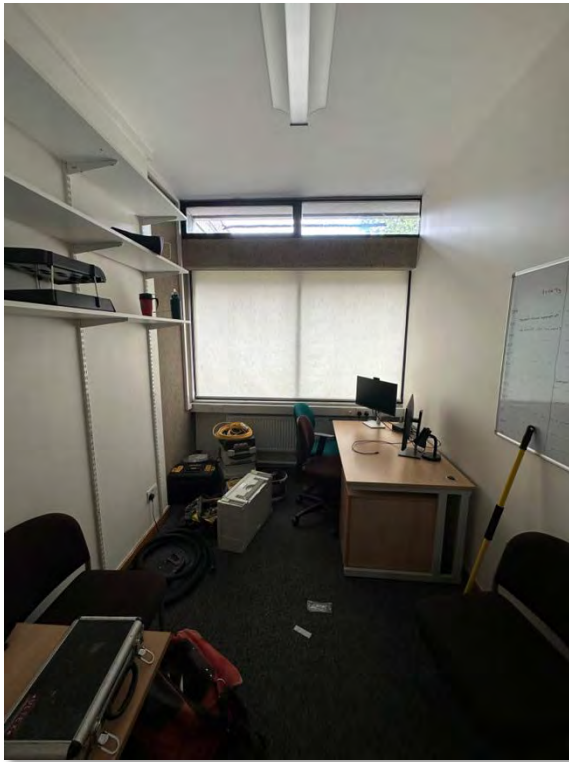
IMG_7264
Corridor area with doors leading into Rm 251, 252, 253 & 253a



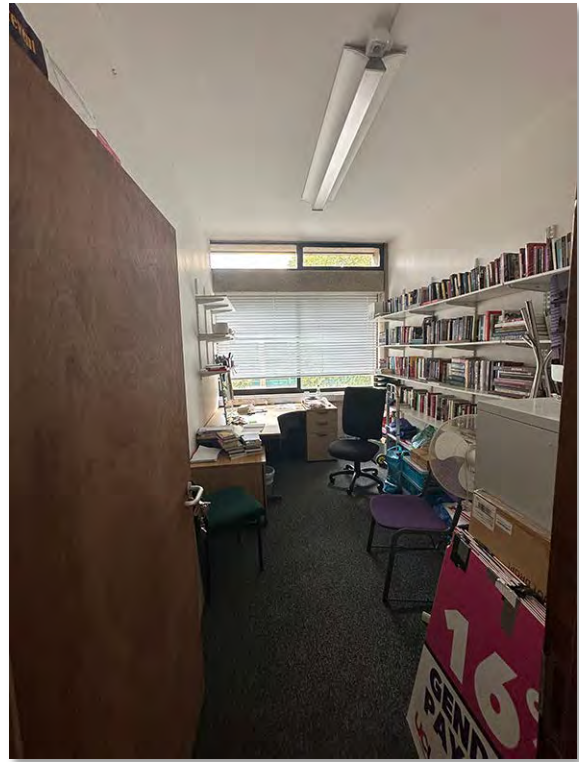
IMG_7454
Interior of Rm 250



IMG_7453
Interior of Rm 250



IMG_7266
Interior of Rm 251



IMG_7474
Interior of Rm 252

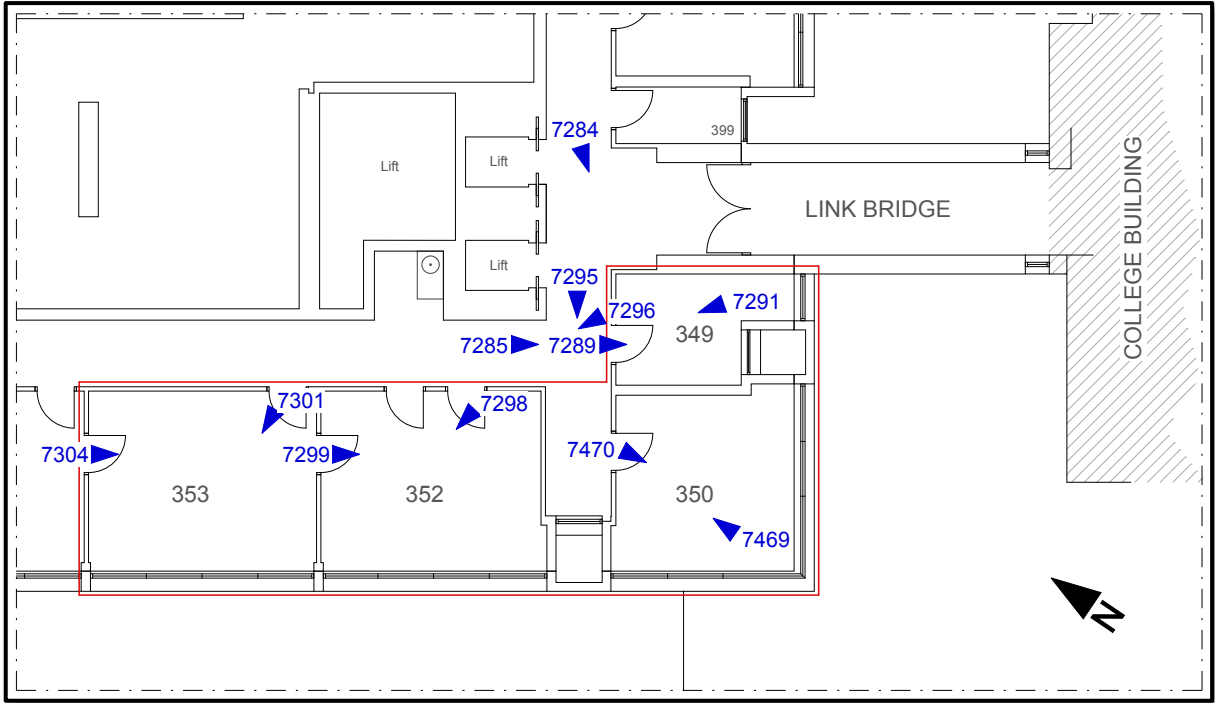


IMG_7269
Interior of Rm 253



IMG_7272
Interior of Rm 253a

PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY - KEY
THIRD FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



IMG_7285
Rm 349 later addition



IMG_7284
Room 349 later addition



IMG_7289
Rm 349 Interior



IMG_7291
Rm 349 Interior showing dropped bulkhead, with soffit



IMG_7295
Corridor area between Rm 350 & Rm 352 showing wall where proposed new door is to be installed



IMG_7296
Corridor area with doors leading into Rm 352 & 353



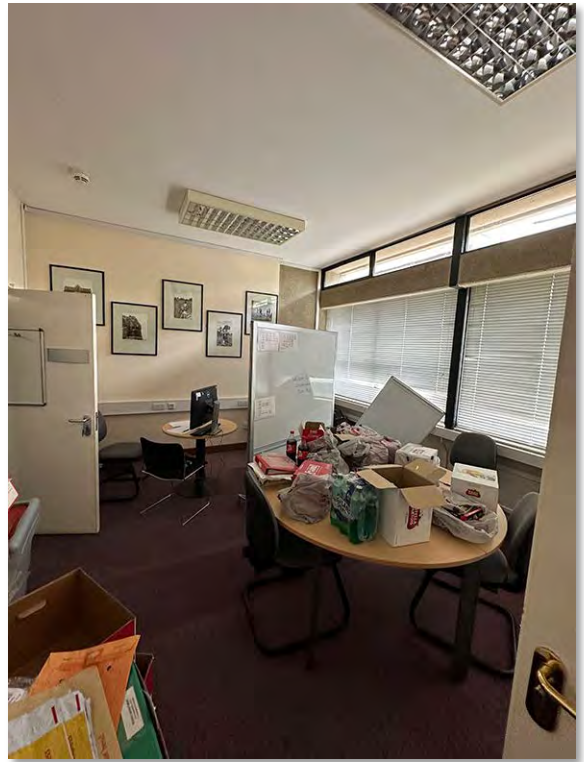
IMG_7470
Interior Rm 350



IMG_7469
Interior Rm 350



IMG_7298
Interior Rm 352



IMG_7299
Interior Rm 352

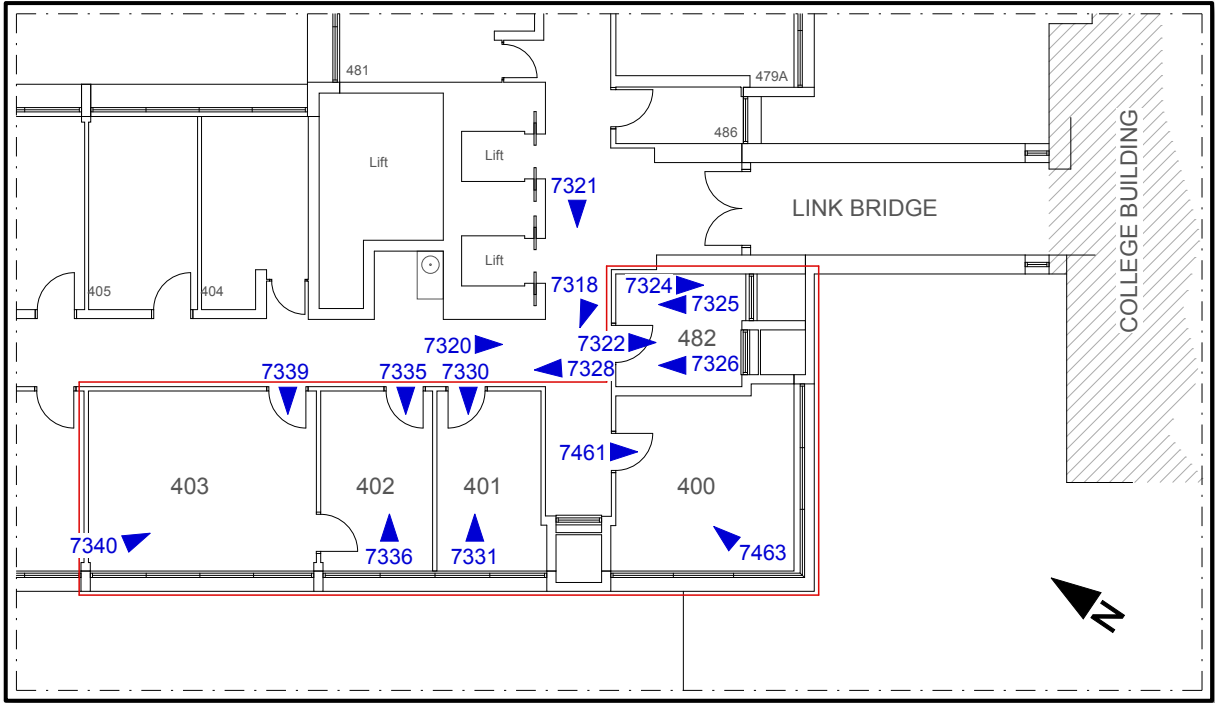


IMG_7301
Interior Rm 353



IMG_7304
Interior Rm 353

PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY - KEY
FOURTH FLOOR



FOURTH FLOOR



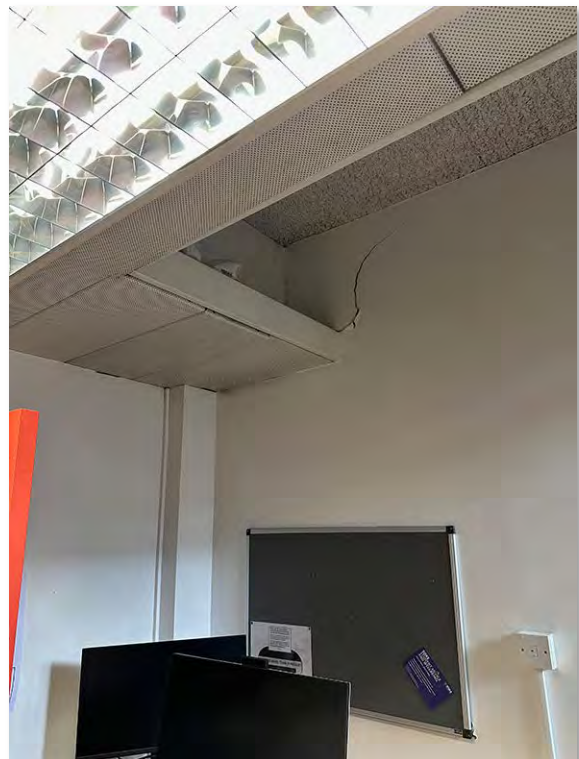
IMG_7320
Rm 482 later addition



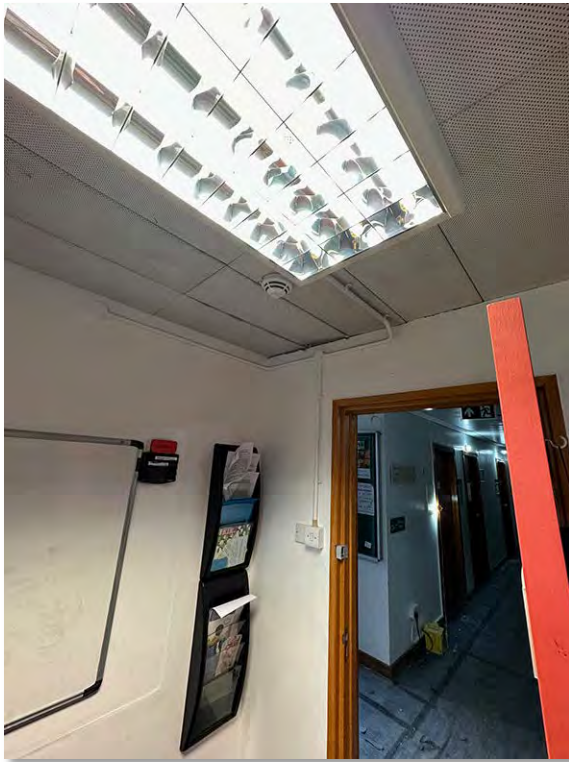
IMG_7321
Room 482 later addition



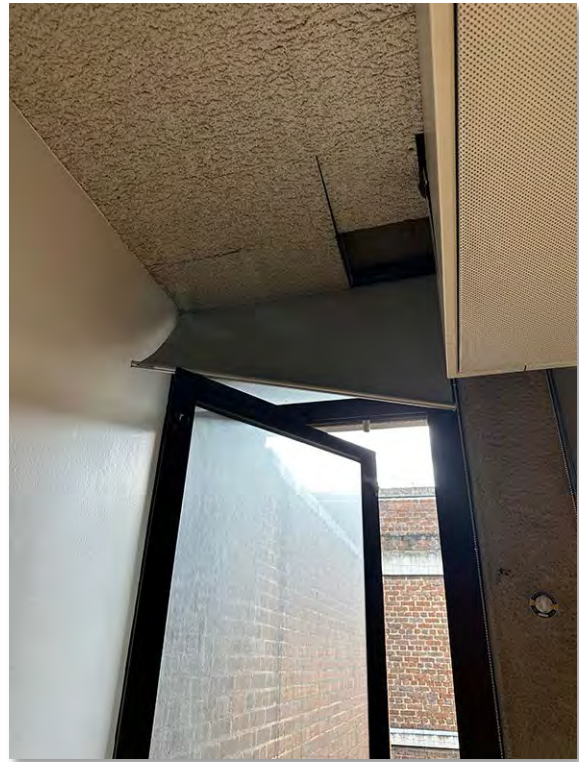
IMG_7322
Interior Rm 482



IMG_7325
Interior Rm 482 showing extended bulkhead



IMG_7326
Interior Rm 482 showing extended bulkhead



IMG_7324
Interior Rm 482



IMG_7318
Corridor area between Rm 400 & Rm 401 showing wall where proposed new door is to be installed



IMG_7328
Corridor area with doors leading into Rm 401, 402 & 403



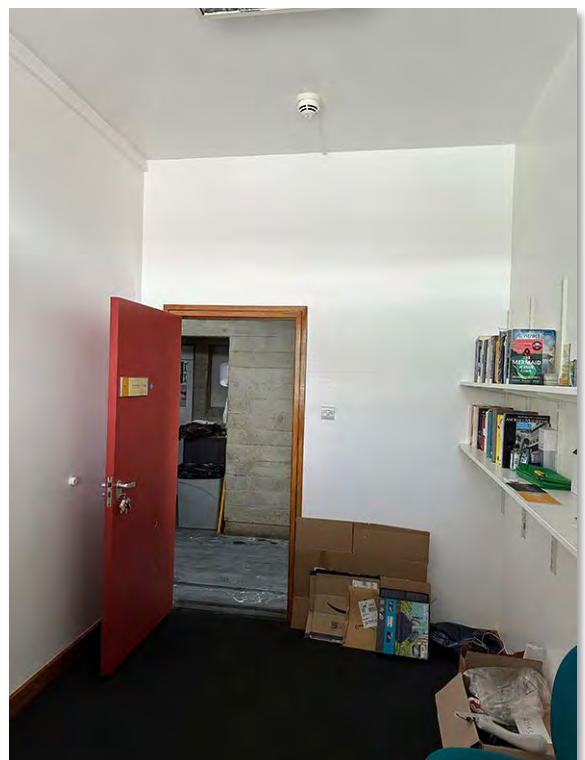
IMG_7461
Interior Rm 400



IMG_7463
Interior Rm 400



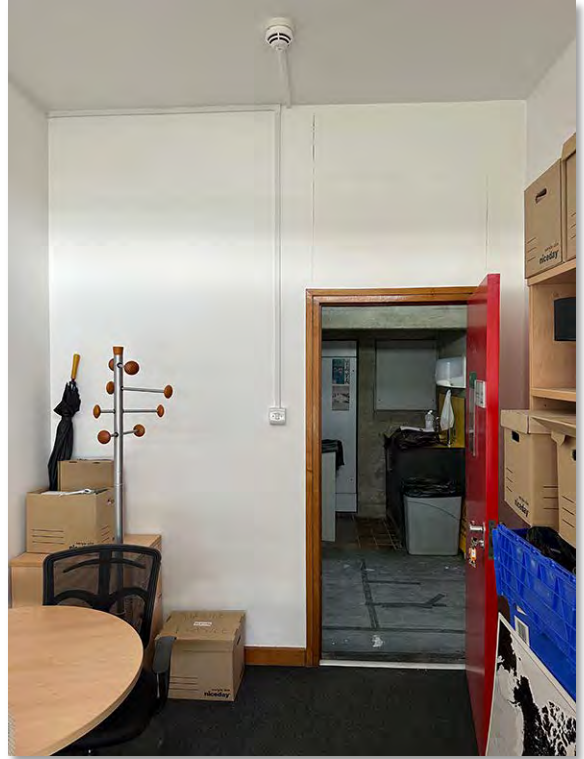
IMG_7330
Interior Rm 401



IMG_7331
Interior Rm 401



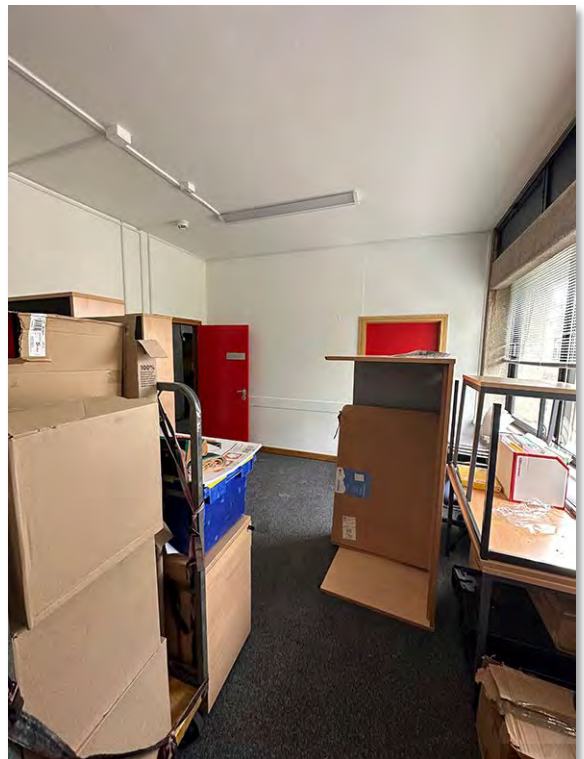
IMG_7335
Interior Rm 402



IMG_7336
Interior Rm 402



IMG_7339
Interior Rm 402



IMG_7340
Interior Rm 402

APPENDIX B
Philips Building
Proposed Interior Glazing System

- Office Area Glazed Partition – Optima Revolution 54

Revolution 54 Plus

Product Data Sheet



PurOptima



Product facts

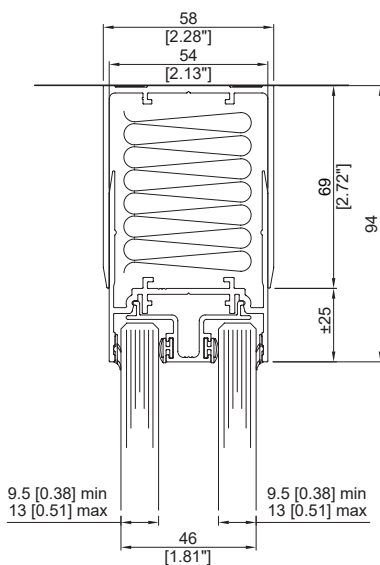
- Minimal single or double glazed system
- Dry jointed and fully demountable
- High-quality, low-carbon aluminum framework
- Fully integrates with PurOptima 117 Plus system
- Numerous door options
- Manufactured at Optima's UK factory and fabricated in the US

Acoustics

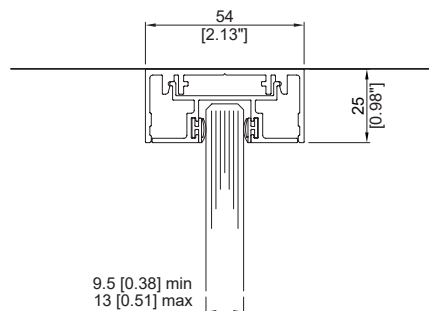
- Maximum tested acoustic rating of up to 48 STC using 2 panes of 12.8mm (0.5") acoustic laminated glass

Deflection

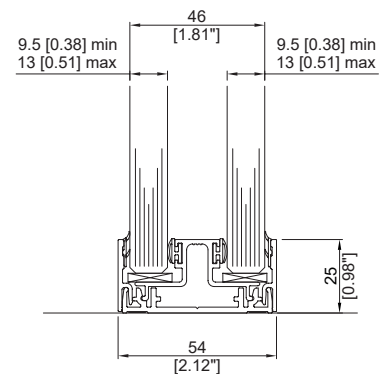
- Can accommodate up to $\pm 40\text{mm}$ (1.57") deflection



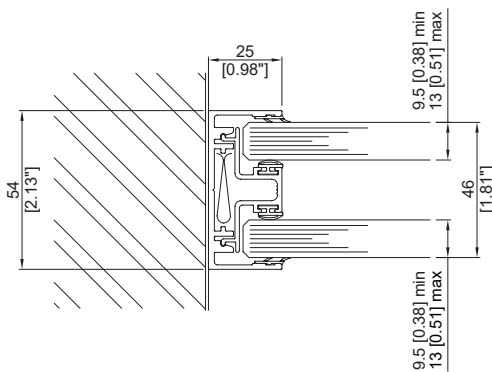
**DOUBLE GLAZED HEAD TRACK
WITH EXTERNAL UPPER CHANNEL
 ± 25 [0.98"] DEFLECTION**



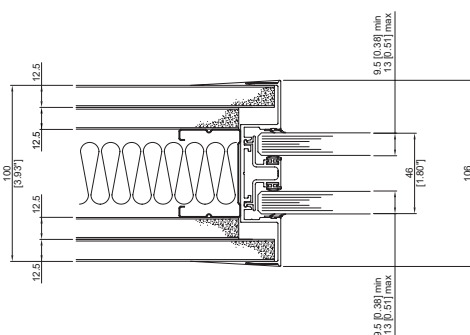
**FIXED HEAD TRACK 25mm [0.98"]
CENTRAL SINGLE GLAZED**



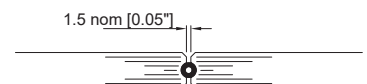
**DOUBLE GLAZED FLOOR TRACK
25mm [0.98"] GLAZING BEAD**



**DOUBLE GLAZED
25mm [0.98"] WALL
ABUTMENT**



**TAPE BONDED GLAZING BAR
DOUBLE GLAZED, DOUBLE BOARDED**



Nebula Patented Butt-Joint - All Glass Types

Product overview

System type	Single glazed (centrally and offset) and double glazed
Head detail	Standard aluminum head channels available in 25mm (0.98") or 50mm (1.96") deep
Base detail	Standard aluminum base channels available in 25mm (0.98") or 50mm (1.96") deep
Deflection head options	2-part external deflection heads: ±25mm (0.98") - 94mm (3.54") deep aluminum channel ±40mm (1.57") - 140mm (5.51") deep aluminum channel
Door head detail	Head clip available for each glazing channel to accept door leaf
Door options	Compatible with Axile Clarity, Edge Symmetry, Edge Affinity, 44mm (1.73")/54mm (2.12") thick timber door
Glass thickness	12.8mm (0.5") thick glass available as standard, subject to panel width, height and acoustic rating
Maximum screen height	3000mm (118.11") subject to build configuration and access into building using 12.8mm (0.5") acoustic laminated glass. Please speak to our Technical Team for advice.
Glass to glass joint options	Nebula®, aluminum, ghost and taped dry joints available
Acoustic rating	Up to 48 STC

Product Comparison

Partition/ Wall Range	Acoustics STC/ RwdB up to max value	Single/ Double Glazed		Head Track/Floor Track					Deflection head options ±25mm (0.98")/40mm (1.57")	
		Single	Double	25mm (0.98") Depth	50mm (1.96") Depth	25mm (0.98") Width	36mm (1.41") Width	40mm (1.57") Width	Internal	External
Revolution 100, PurOptima Adaptable Wall & Shoreditch Edition	Rw51dB	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Revolution 54 Plus & Shoreditch Edition	STC 46	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
PurOptima 117 Plus & Shoreditch Edition	Rw38dB	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Range of RAL colors and special paint finishes, powder coated or anodized

Door Range	Acoustics STC/ RwdB up to max value	Single/Double Glazed		Swing or sliding		Compatible with		
		Single	Double	Swing	Sliding	PurOptima 117 Plus	Revolution 54 Plus	Revolution 100
Kinetic	Rw36dB	✓			✓	✓		
Axile	Rw33dB	✓		✓		✓		
Edge	Rw42dB	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Elite	Rw45dB		✓	✓	✓			✓
Timber	Rw33dB		n/a	✓		✓	✓	✓

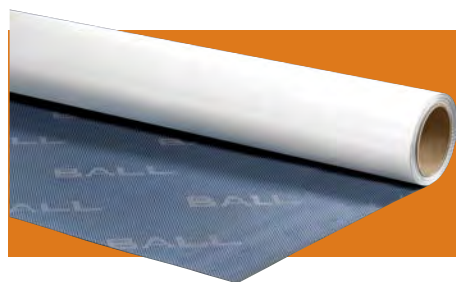
Range of RAL colors and special paint finishes, powder coated or anodized

Range of door hardware including pull/lever handles, locks and hinges

PurOptima

APPENDIX C
Philips Building
Proposed Floor Finish Isolator Membrane

- F Ball & Co Ltd Stopgap Isolator Membrane



STOPGAP ISOLATOR MEMBRANE



Scan to view the product demonstration video



PRODUCT DATA

INTRODUCTION

STOPGAP ISOLATOR MEMBRANE is an impervious loose lay sheet designed to be laid over damp or contaminated subfloors prior to the installation of a wide range of sheet vinyl, linoleum, rubber floorcoverings and bitumen backed carpet tiles. The membrane has nodules on the underside to create an airspace allowing ventilation of water vapour from a damp subfloor into a dry wall, thereby allowing impervious floorcoverings to be bonded quickly and easily.

STOPGAP ISOLATOR MEMBRANE is ideally suited for fast-track projects where time required for traditional subfloor preparation is not available, for heritage projects where removal of the existing floor is not possible and for temporary coverings where floors need to be returned to their original state. It is not suitable for use in biologically sensitive areas such as hospital wards, operating theatres or in secure areas such as prisons or psychiatric units. Being a loose lay system, STOPGAP ISOLATOR MEMBRANE does not have the sound attributes of a fully bonded system and as such, a slight increase in noise levels may be experienced when trafficking.

SUBFLOOR PREPARATION

STOPGAP ISOLATOR MEMBRANE is a loose lay system and the quality of the finished installation will depend on the preparation of the subfloor. Badly prepared or deteriorating substrates can mirror through to affect the appearance of the finished floorcovering.

All surfaces must be sound, level and smooth. Remove any bumps, ridges, uneven adhesive residue and if necessary, mechanically prepare the subfloor. Any irregularities, holes or cracks in solid absorbent sand/cement screeds or concrete floors must be skimmed with a minimum thickness of 3mm of STOPGAP GREEN BAG and 114 Liquid or STOPGAP 1200 PRO in accordance with the data sheets. Where overlaying existing floorcoverings, these must be firmly bonded.

Substrates and existing floorcoverings must be able to withstand covering with STOPGAP Isolator prior to installation. The installation must be carried out at the temperature recommended for the floorcovering.

SUITABLE FLOORCOVERINGS

1. Sheet vinyl adhered with F47 or F84 depending on the circumstances.
2. Sheet linoleum or rubber adhered with F84 adhesive.
3. Bitumen backed carpet tiles with F41.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Roll width	2m
Roll length	20m
Roll coverage	40m ²
Thickness	1.5mm
Weight	55kg

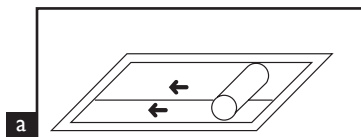


FEATURES

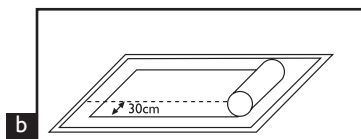
- Provides a fast solution to laying a floorcovering over a damp floor.
- Ideal for use where time is important.
- Can be used to fit floorcoverings where the subfloor needs to be preserved in its original condition.
- Flooring installation can be easily removed at the end of its life.
- Excellent where subfloors are contaminated with paint, oil, adhesive residues.

FITTING INSTRUCTIONS

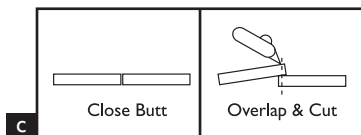
1. On arrival at site, STOPGAP ISOLATOR should be secured in an upright position and stored, together with adhesive at a minimum temperature of 18°C for at least 24 hours prior to installation.



2. Prior to laying STOPGAP ISOLATOR, vacuum or sweep the subfloor to remove any dust, dirt or debris. Roll out STOPGAP ISOLATOR in the same directions as the floorcovering is to be laid and allow to lay flat.

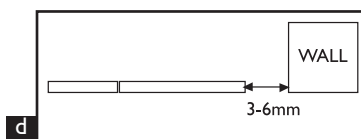


3. Seams must be laid out to provide a minimum 30cm offset from the seam of the resilient floorcovering to be installed over the membrane.



4. Close butt joint or overlap and cut the membrane. Do not form compression joints as this can result in tenting.

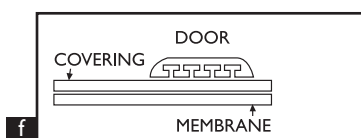
5. Where the floor has a relative humidity of greater than 75%, trim the membrane leaving a gap of 3-6mm from the walls, fixtures, columns and other abutments.



6. Suitable floorcoverings can be bonded to the membrane using STYCCOBOND F84 Adhesive or F47 Pressure Sensitive Adhesive with STOPGAP Jointing Tape - refer to specific technical data sheets for further information.



7. Use mechanically fixed thresholds for transition areas where STOPGAP ISOLATOR meets other surfaces in doorways.



8. Allow the adhesive to cure before trafficking the area or moving furniture.

PRECAUTIONS

Use only materials with the same batch number to avoid compatibility issues. Prior to application of adhesive, please ensure there are no surface defects or transit damage within the STOPGAP ISOLATOR MEMBRANE that may lead to grin through and affect the appearance of the finished floorcovering. Should surface defects or damage be noticeable, or you are in doubt, do not proceed with installation and contact your local Technical Representative, or F. Ball and Co. Ltd. Technical Service on +44 (0) 1538 361633. Should you proceed with installation of the membrane in this condition, F. Ball and Co. Ltd. will limit the value of any subsequent claim to the cost of the STOPGAP ISOLATOR MEMBRANE only.

Do not use where subfloors are subject to hydrostatic water pressure or standing water.

Do not use in areas that are subject to very heavy-wheeled traffic or where indentation is likely to occur.

Ground floor timber bases must be adequately ventilated.

Not suitable on wood blocks at ground floor level.

Do not use over magnesite.

Do not use over synthetic anhydrite screeds that have not fully dried.

Do not use on weak or friable floors.

In certain service conditions and in conjunction with high sheen floorcoverings, the outline of the taped joints may be seen.

HEALTH & SAFETY ADVICE

This product contains encapsulated glass fibre reinforcement which may be released when cutting/handling. Take suitable precaution against exposure to these fibres. Obtain the relevant Material Safety Data Sheets and follow the advice given. These can be found at www.f-ball.co.uk. Alternatively these can be obtained from the point of purchase or from F. Ball and Co. Ltd. at the address below.

Site conditions vary, to ensure this product is suitable and confirm this data sheet is current, please call our technical service department.

For further information about F. Ball products or more detailed technical assistance, please contact:

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