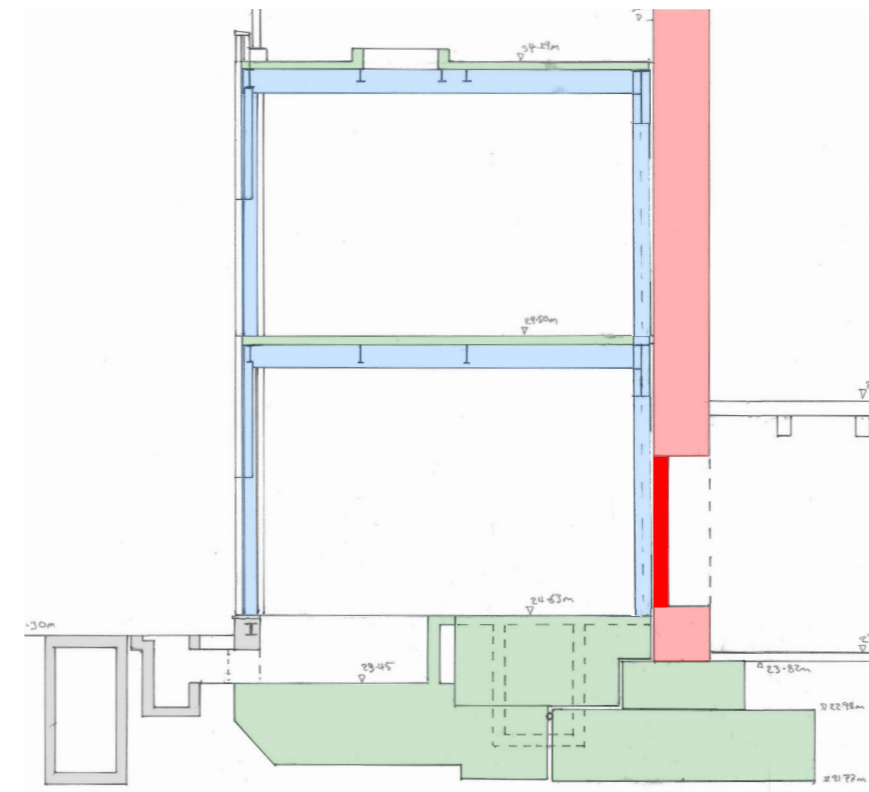


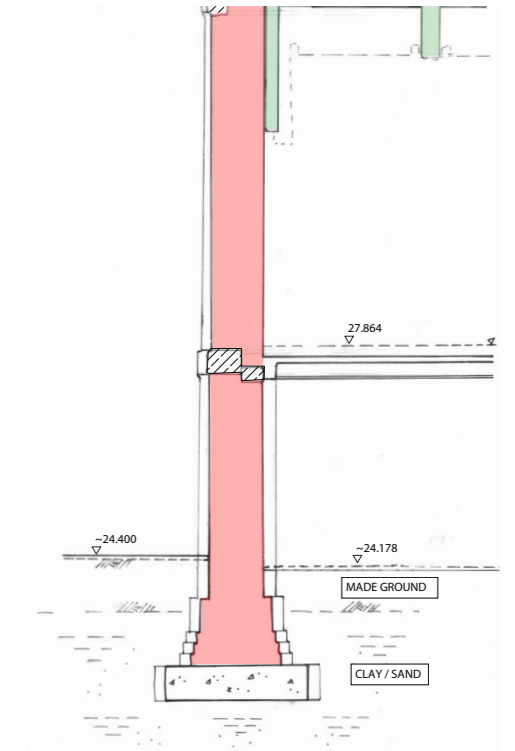
**Design Height Considerations: Limiting Basement Constructions**

An early requirement set by the Museum for the SWEC project was to avoid basement construction and have a 'light-touch' approach to foundation design. This was principally due to concerns regarding:

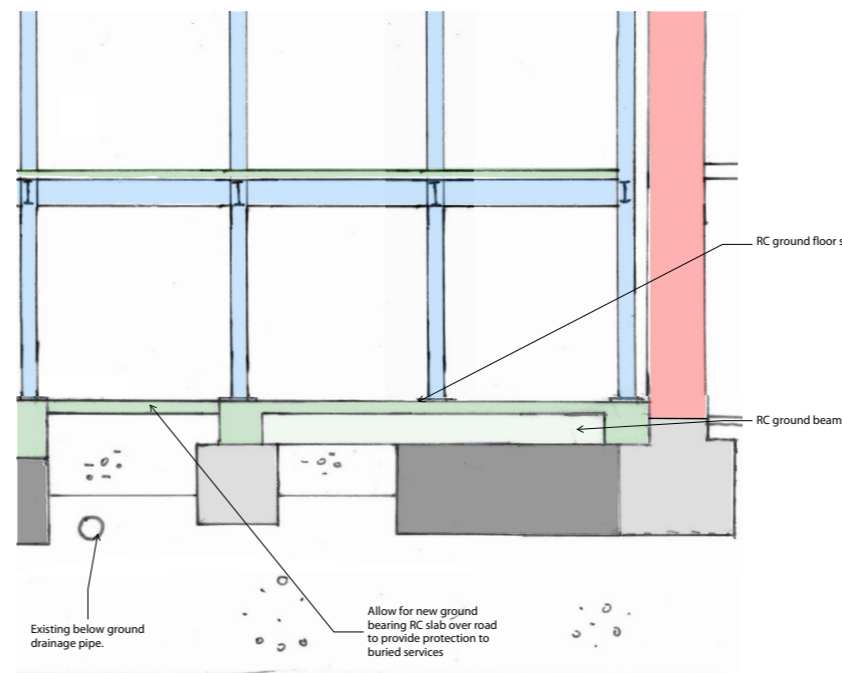
- Impact of new basement construction on the risk profile to neighbouring listed building assets and collections held within them, including the Duveen Gallery, Lycian Building, and New Wing
- Increased decant activity that would be required as a result of basement construction
- Prolongation of the project programme and resulting impact on programmes for wider masterplan vision projects as well as Business-as-usual (BAU) operations reliant on the West Road
- Low value for money and cost efficiency attained for basement construction
- Deeper foundations creating a larger carbon footprint (the current shallow foundation proposals allow for the reuse of existing South-West Boiler House foundations in part).



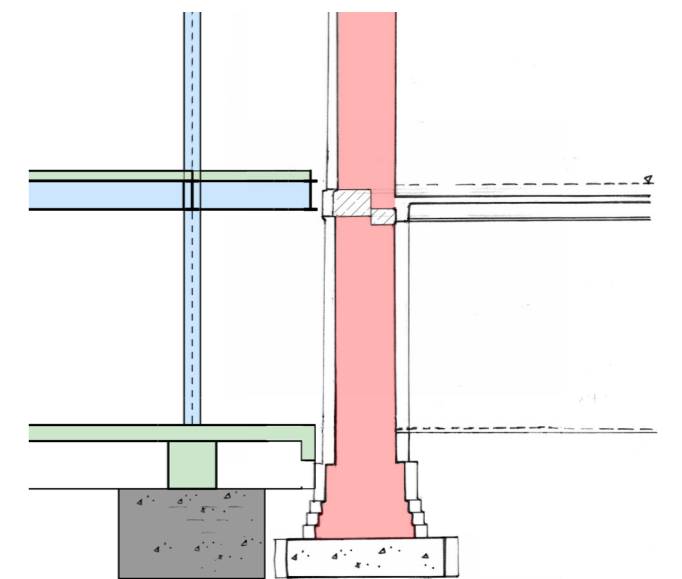
Existing SWEC & Duveen Section



Existing Lycian Building Section



Proposed Duveen Section



Proposed Lycian Building Section

Right

Existing and proposed detail sections through the Lycian and Duveen Galleries showing the light touch strategy to minimise risk to adjacent structures. Courtesy of Alan Baxters Ltd.

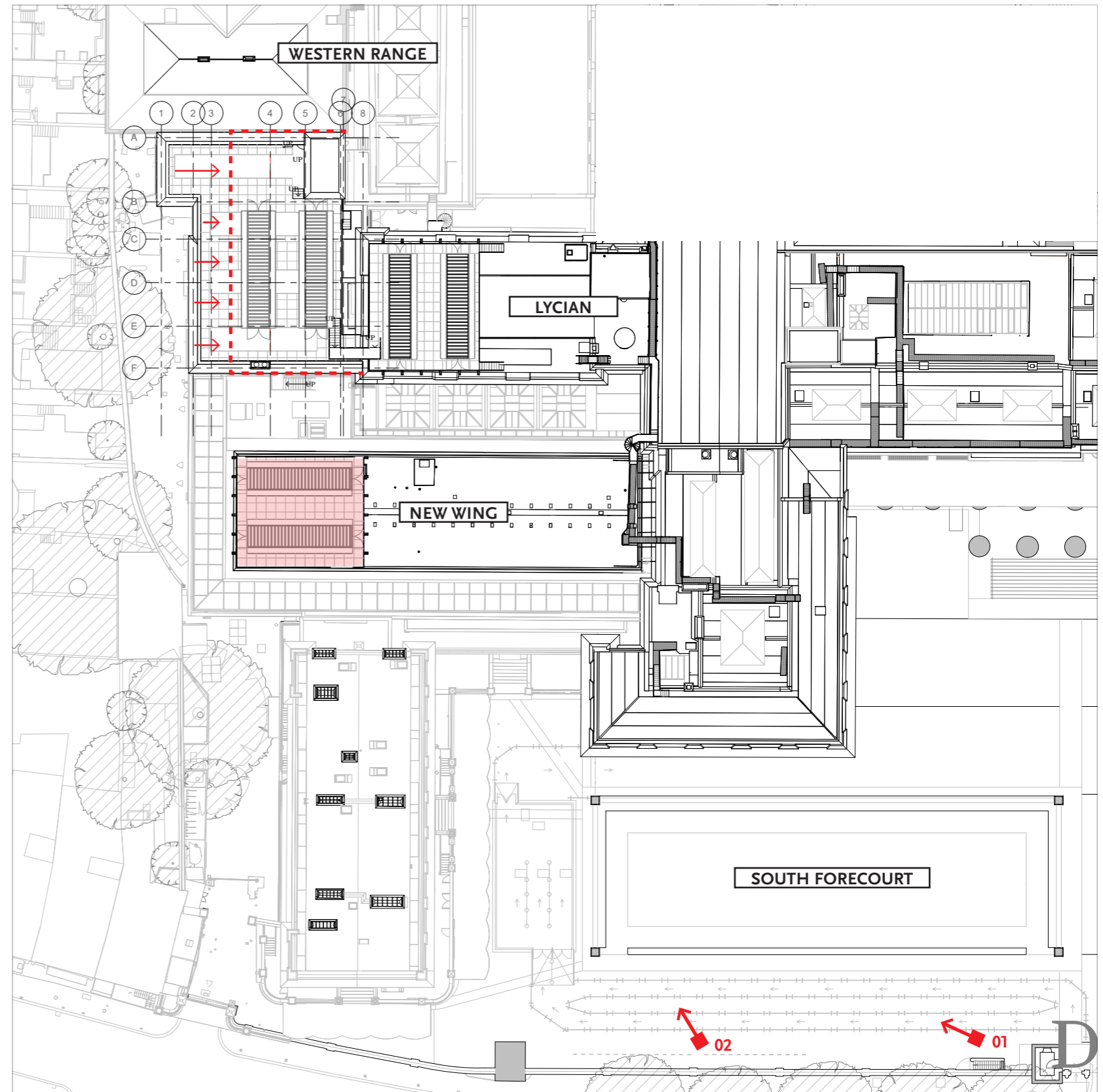
Alan Baxter

### 3.3.21

## Alternative Locations for Roof Mounted Plant: The New Wing

An alternative potential location assessed for location of roof mounted plant other than on the proposed SWEC building was the New Wing roof.

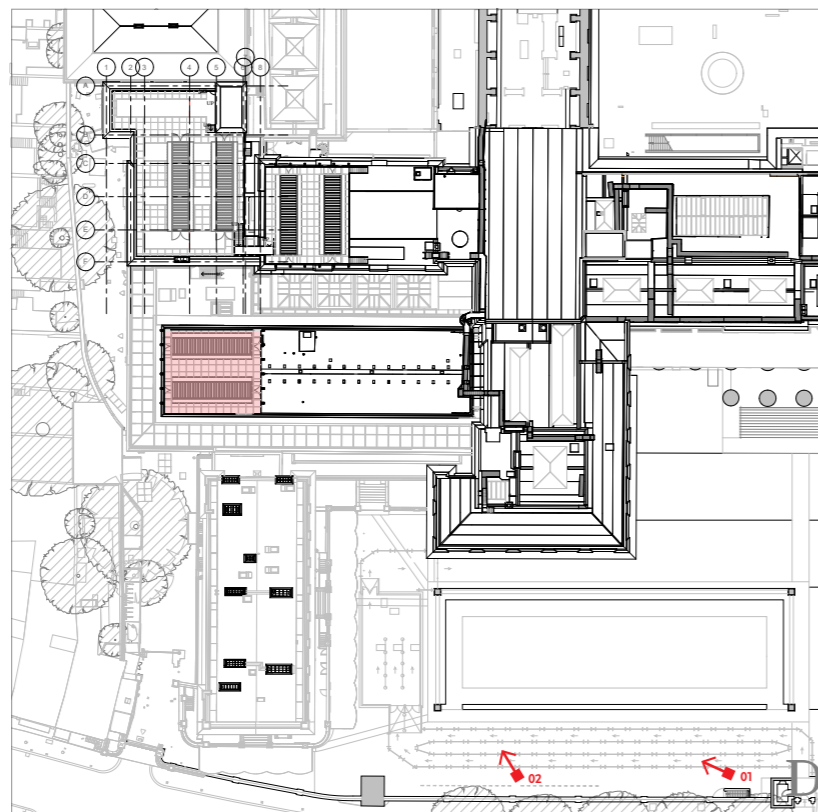
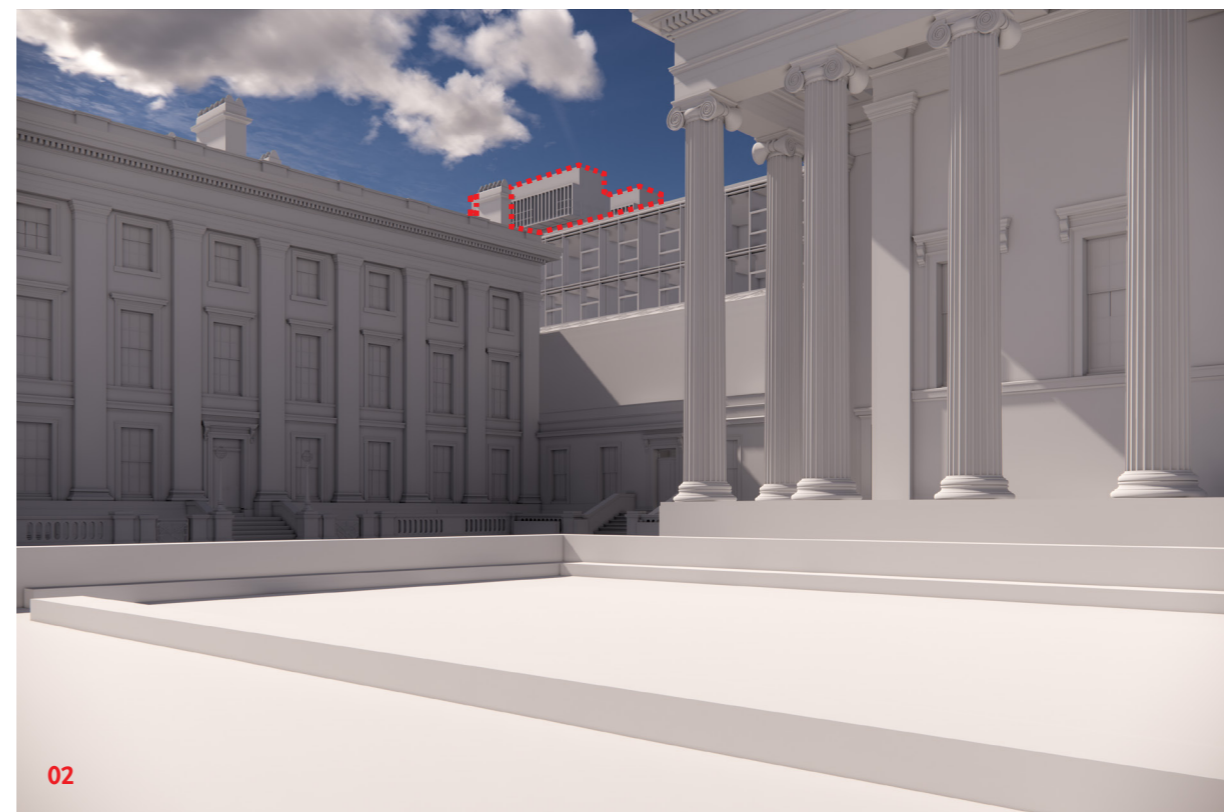
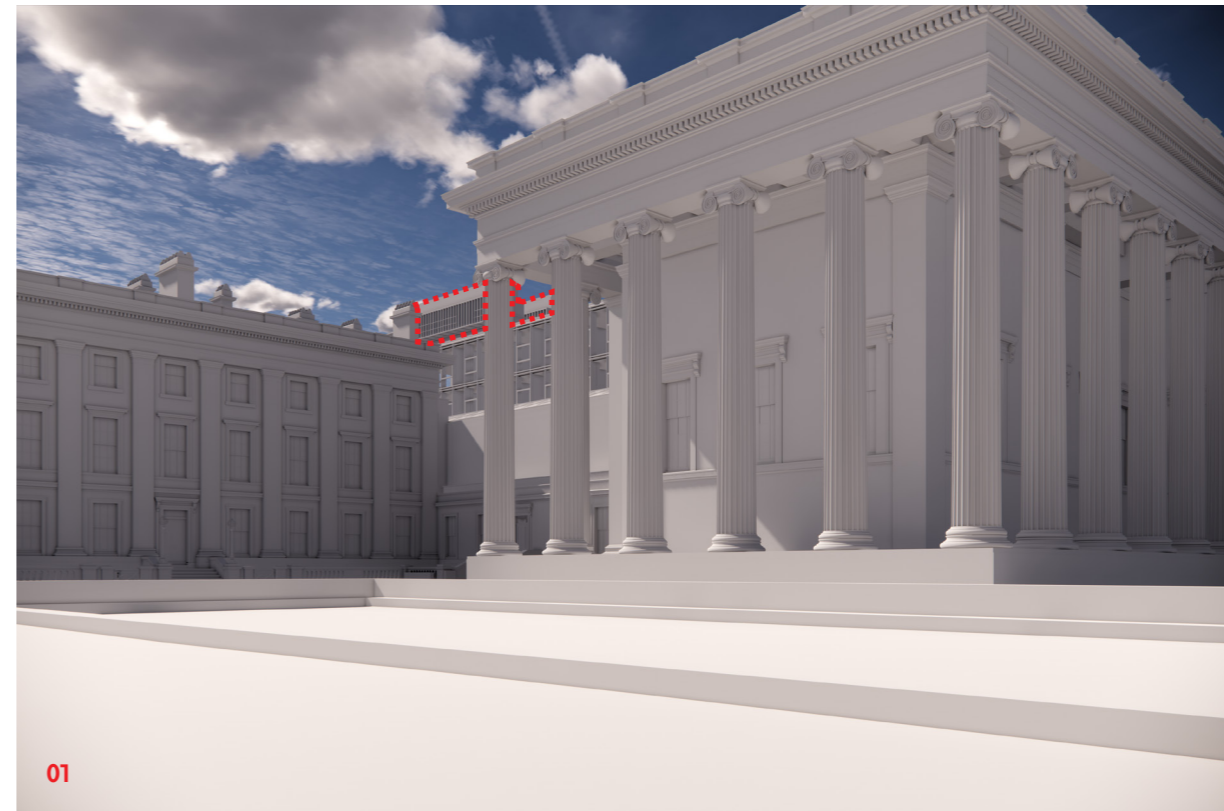
Structural Engineers Alan Baxter's assessment of the building's structure found that there was no spare capacity to support additional load placed on the building via rooftop mounted plant. Therefore, any proposal to place additional plant on the New Wing roof would require structural refurbishment and resulting decant of accommodation which includes the Staff Canteen, Museum Restaurant, and Office Space, a substantial amount of decant activity.



Right

Plan showing alternative design study for the location of roof mounted ASHP plant on the New Wing

Additionally, were rooftop plant of the size required for the Energy Centre Programme be placed on the roof of the New Wing, It would be highly visible from the South Forecourt of the Museum. This visibility will have a large negative impact on the setting of the Museum Forecourt and appreciation of the South Colonnade and West Residence, and therefore is not deemed a viable design solution.



**Right:**

Views from the South Forecourt showing visibility of ASHP units if located on the New Wing Roof

**Bottom Left:**

Plan showing alternative design study for the location of roof mounted ASHP plant on the New Wing and location of views adjacent

## 3.4

# EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

### 3.4.1

## Statement of Community Involvement

*Prepared with Concilio*

The Applicant has sought to involve the local community and stakeholders extensively as part of a transparent and collaborative engagement process.

This process is in addition to ongoing correspondence and communication with the LB Camden and Historic England as part of the formal pre-application process.

A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared in support of the planning application (the 'Application') for the proposals for the Energy Centre Programme, and can be found within the application documents.

The report details the public consultation carried out to date in order to inform the design evolution of the proposals. The consultation process has been carried out in accordance with national and local policies. The consultation took place between August 2023 and October 2023.

This section provides a summary of consultation activity and responses received, though reference should be made to the submitted SCI for full information.

### Aims of the Consultation

The Applicant was keen to ensure the consultation strategy put in place delivered a series of key aims to assist with the evolution and development of the proposals:

- To raise awareness of the emerging proposals and discuss the public benefits;
- To undertake consultation that ensured feedback could be incorporated into the final proposals;
- To build on the existing relationship with the local community;
- To enable constructive dialogue between local stakeholders, the community, the project team and the Applicant;
- To ensure everyone who wanted to take part in the consultation was able to by being accessible and inclusive.

### Consultation Process

The consultation strategy and process that specialist consultants Concilio has undertaken in relation to the Application has been developed with both local and national policy and the above aims in mind.

Specifically, the consultation process has:

- Conducted an engagement programme that is appropriate for the local community and key stakeholders;
- Conducted consultation using a mix of mediums to maximise awareness, including proposed individual meetings with key stakeholders, in-person events, dedicated freephone number and emails for online engagement
- Ensured the consultation was well publicised through the delivery of consultation letters;
- Analysed the results from the consultation objectively;
- Publicised collective responses with due regard to the Data Protection Act and General Data Protect Regulation (GDPR) requirements.

### 3.4.2

## Public Exhibitions

*Prepared with Concilio*

The Applicant sought to widely engage with key stakeholders, residents, and community representatives in the area. The Applicant hosted two public consultation events on site.

Both events were well publicised in the museum with notifications for staff and visitors. The first event was held on Thursday 14th September 2023 between 13:00-17:00 at the Model Room of the British Museum. The second event was held on Saturday 16th September 2023 between 11:00-15:00 at the same room. In total, the events were attended by 326 people who provided feedback over the course of the sessions, with more information in Section 4.

Overall, participants of the exhibitions were positive about the proposals, especially in relation to the prospect improving the sustainability element of the Museum and understood the need for steps towards this direction. During the events participants had the opportunity to review a model of the Museum that included the proposed development.



Right:

Photographs taken at the in-person public consultation for the proposals held at The British Museum on the 14th and 16th of September 2023.

Attendees at the public exhibitions were able to provide their feedback through a survey and had the opportunity to provide open feedback through the email address provided with the consultation letter.

The project team continues to accept comments. The consultation was advertised via a letter drop to 180 addresses in the vicinity of the site. Political and community stakeholders were also invited to participate at the public consultation through an email notification. A website was also set-up and has remained live so that people can sign-in their details for future updates.

### **Public Exhibition Survey Responses**

A total of 43 survey responses were received. The full responses are contained within the Statement of Community Involvement included in the application documents. However a summary is provided below for ease of reference.

The feedback gathered from the consultation has enabled the project team to consider the evolution of the proposals and enhance relationships with the local community. The Applicant has established themselves as a partner of the community and has gathered key public feedback to inform the design review process and to help positively tailor the proposed development where possible.

The consultation made clear that the community is supportive of the overall positive impact of the proposed development. Those who visited the consultation were keen to protect the Museum's future while moving towards net zero. Over 70%

of visitors said that preserving the collection was important and recognised that this was an important step to protect the identity of the museum for the future.

The Applicant also welcomes the overall positive feedback, particularly in relation to the environmental sustainability of the proposals. The importance of environmental sustainability was rated 9.3 out of 10. This was seen as one of the most important things for us to include in the proposals.

With regards to comments received, the majority were supportive of the proposals and required no amendment to the emerging design. These included:

- *Support carbon reduction, energy sustainability and zero carbon objectives.*
- *The explanation of the progress is engaging*
- *Very pleased to hear of the improvements - thank you and keep up the great work!*
- *very impressed with the museum's efforts to help future generations while still preserving the past. Beautiful to see.*
- *Excellent presentation of Energy renovation*
- *I think the pump project is important, I'm just surprised it didn't happen before*
- *Amazing*
- *Looking forward to seeing it.*
- *Brilliant idea, thinking about the future and the impact that using energy will have on the environment in the future.*
- *Amazing. Route to carbon neutral and focus on sustainability setting the tone for future British museum projects.*
- *Fantastic scheme that moves the museum*

*towards a net-zero future. Great to see and iconic building represent sustainability aims which are vital for our climate. Fully support*

- *I think it's a great initiative backed by some amazing people.*
- *It is an amazing program, and I am sure we need the same for any big structure in the world. Thanks for your effort for making a better world.*
- *Really important to modernise energy and improve conditions. Love the ideas*
- *It's good to see environmental stewardship being undertaken by such a large and important organisation*

There were also some comments not related to the design proposals themselves, which equally required no amendment to the emerging design:

- *I work with renewable energy companies. I have a stakeholder engagement tool that can benefit your stakeholder engagement. Simply Stakeholders*

Lastly, there were a limited number of comments for which further information as to how these have been addressed within the design is provided below:

- *Interesting project that should be implemented to the future of The British Museum. It should also think about wellbeing of people who maintain the museum.*

The Museum sees the well-being of staff as critical to the success of the Energy Centre Project. As noted in

sections 2.5 and 2.6 of this document, the proposed support space is driven by a social sustainability brief focused on providing fit-for-purpose and healthy accommodation for staff. As evidenced in Chapters 1 & 2 of this document, the existing support staff areas are currently in some of the most tired accommodation on the Museum, including much in temporary portacabin type accommodations. The proposals will address this issue and provide a marked improvement for the working environment and well-being for those who maintain the Museum.

With regards to the provision of modern fit-for-purpose support accommodation and proposed environmental measures within the design to ensure health and well-being of occupants within the proposed buildings, please refer to sections 4.4 and 4.6 of this report for further information.

- *Cleaning above windows would reduce the need to use lights*

A full operational and maintenance strategy for the proposed buildings has been developed, which will ensure robust and regular cleaning of proposed areas of glazing. Internal light fittings proposed will be low energy and utilise LED technology to reduce energy use associated with lighting. The health and well-being of building users will be promoted by ensuring good access to daylight and views out, adequate control of solar overheating, and internal and external lighting compliant with best practice for visual performance and comfort.

Reference should be made to the Energy and Sustainable Design Statement contained within the application documents for further information.

- *Please give the plan imagination*

Though unclear as to whether the above comment is in relation to the plan of the overarching Energy Centre Programme, or refers to the proposed building plan, in either case it is felt the proposals, outlined in Chapters 4-7 of this document, present an imaginative and considered response to the site opportunities and constraints (outlined in Chapter 1 of this document) and project brief (outlined in Chapter 2 of this document).

- *The hideousness of this building warrants demolition.*

This comment is understood to relate to exhibition board number 5, which showed existing photographs of the existing portacabins and South-West Boiler House proposed for demolition on the SWEC site. It is therefore taken as a comment in support of the proposals.

### 3.4.3

## External Consultation with Amenity Groups and the Public

*Prepared with Concilio*

The wider range of external stakeholders concerned with this project was comprehensively mapped out at an early stage and a programme of engagement for the Energy Centre Programme application has been developed by specialist Consultants Concilio in collaboration with the Project Director.

### Engagement with Locally Elected Representatives

From the outset, the Applicant sought to engage with the political leadership of LB Camden, and the site's ward members and neighbouring ward members from Camden Council.

### Engagement with Interested Community Stakeholders

From the outset, the Applicant sought to engage with community representatives and invitations to briefing session and literature concerning the consultation was sent to:

- Central District Alliance
- Holborn District Management Committee
- Bloomsbury Association
- Westminster Property Association
- Bloomsbury Conservation
- Historic Buildings and Places
- The Georgian Group
- The Twentieth Century Society
- Victorian Society
- SOAS University of London
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical

Medicine

- Bloomsbury Institute
- Royal Holloway University London
- Winston House, University of North Carolina's European Study Centre
- Bloomsbury Professional
- English Heritage
- Canning Training
- Sports Aid
- Sport England
- Classical Numismatic Group
- The English Campus
- Transport for London
- Somerton House Residents Association
- Bloomsbury Residents Action Group
- Holborn Community Association
- Knollys House Residents Association
- Tin Pan Alley Traders Association
- Newton Street Action Forum
- Covent Garden Community Association
- Bloomsbury Squares and Gardens
- Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association
- Other immediate site neighbours

### Direct Liaison with Residents

The Applicant ensured that members of the project team were able to discuss the plans with residents and businesses who wished to be involved in the application process. This was achieved through the targeted delivery of consultation letters to 180 neighbouring addresses. The letters provided all the related contact details and the information for the public exhibitions.

### Responses Received

Responses were received from the following stakeholders:

- Georgian Society
- Victorian Society
- Bloomsbury Ward Councillors

At the time of writing, an on-site meeting and site walk was held with representatives from the Georgian Society on the 6th October 2023, where general support of the proposals was voiced and no objections raised with regards to the proposals presented.

Briefing sessions with the Victorian Society and Bloomsbury Ward Councillors are imminent at the time of writing.

A Statement of Community Involvement is included within the application documents and should be referred to for further information.



### 3.4.4

## Conclusion

*Prepared with Concilio*

### Summary

Throughout this consultation, the Applicant has effectively engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, including locally elected politicians, community groups, and local residents.

The Applicant's consultation on the proposals for The British Museum Energy Centre has prioritised an open and collaborative approach to engagement, genuinely seeking to understand the views of the local community and establish close relationships.

Those who engaged with the proposals welcomed the fact that the proposals will move towards net zero while protecting the long term future of the museum, ensuring people can continue to enjoy the museum for many years to come. The Applicant is committed to working on community considerations about possible implications of the development.

### Continued Engagement

Throughout the consultation process, the Applicant has been clear in their intention to create genuine dialogue and create relationships with the local community. The Applicant followed an engagement approach that was transparent and accessible to all the interested parties.

The Applicant will ensure that the submission of the application does not mark the end of community engagement and will continue to discuss the proposals with the local community throughout the planning application determination process. The contact details remain on the website and the team will respond to any enquiries received.

Once the application has been validated, there will be a period where those who are interested can visit the planning portal to view all the documents submitted as part of the application.

Should the application be approved by Camden Council the Applicant is committed to continue to work with the local community and stakeholders throughout the lifetime of the project and ensure that neighbours will be informed about the Construction Management Plan (CMP), any construction work and the mitigation measures that will be in place. The Applicant will ensure that there will be a community liaison group during the construction period and an open line of communication and regular updates to neighbouring residents, political stakeholders and community groups.

