## **Existing Site & Building**

### 3.09 Existing Building Elevations

#### **Gray's Inn Facade**

From a visual inspection, Gray's Inn Facade utilises two tones in the facade; White and dark granite with a glazed in curtain wall system. A central section on level 01 curves out and oversails the existing ramp and steps. It is believed this facade to be a reclad from the 1990's.

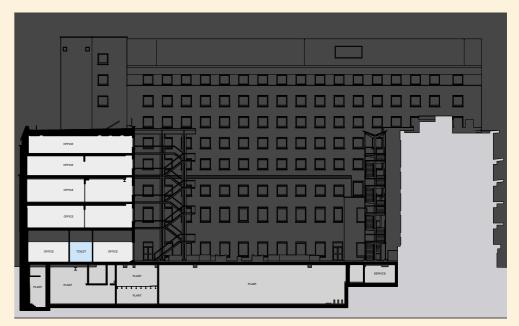
#### North / East / South Facade

All other facades have a red brick finish secured back to the concrete frame with punched square windows. At roof level there is a black/bronze metal plant screen.

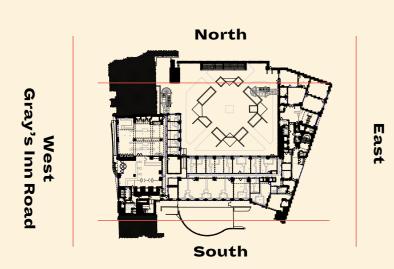
Along Brooke Street a lower podium level is topped off with a steep slate mansard roof at level 3.

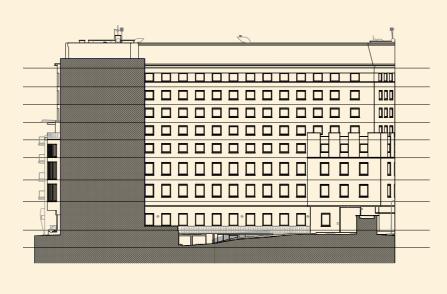


West Gray's Inn Road

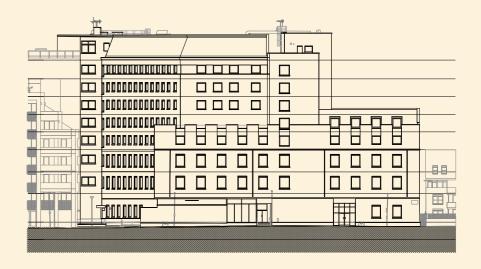


North Brookes Court





South Service Yard



East Brooke Street

# **Existing Site & Building**

# 3.10 Party Wall and Neighbourly Matters

The initial research into the adjoining owner's has been undertaken and a report has been complied by GIA. In order to understand neighbouring rights and potential risks for the project, GIA attended site, consulted the land registry and all available Solicitor's report.

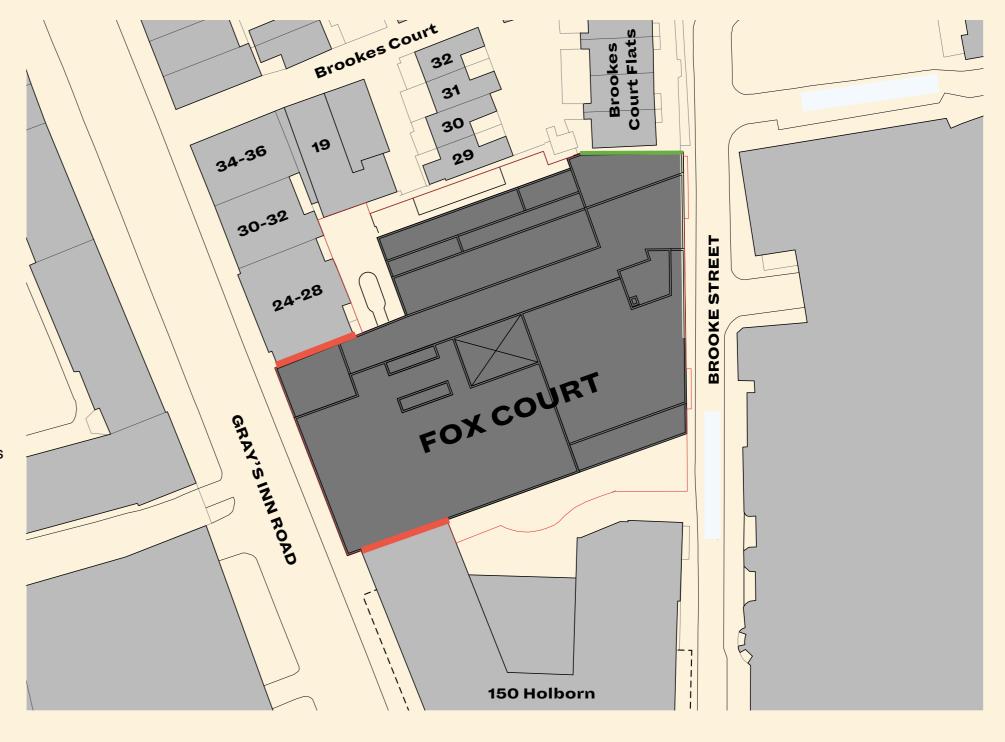
Their report concluded that Party Wall Agreements will need to be sought with the following neighbours:

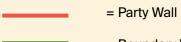
- 2-12 Gray's Inn Road (150 Holborn)
- 24-28 Gray's Inn Road
- LPN Transformer Chambers at Fox Court

In addition their report highlights issues of access over adjoining owners land for the purposes of construction and access consent will need to be sought with:

- 2-12 Gray's Inn Road (150 Holborn)
- 24-28 Gray's Inn Road
- Brookes Court Private & Public Properties

Further site investigations will be required to access the existing condition of all party and further design development is required at the next stage to determine the details for all party and boundary walls.





= Boundary Wall

### **BGY**

# 4.00 Pre-Application Consultation

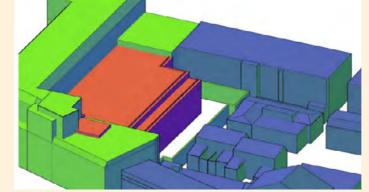
## **Pre-Application Consultation**

#### 4.01 **Previous Planning Consents**

Planning permission was granted on 31st October 1975 (LBC ref N16/20/A/18886) for the construction of a part 3, part 4 and part 8 storey building for use as a computer centre with ancillary offices. This is the planning permission relating to the original construction of the current building.

Planning permission was granted on 27th January 1995 (LBC ref 9401522) for the refurbishment of the building including the demolition of a 4 storey computer block and the creation of a landscaped courtyard, the insertion of windows to the south and east elevations, the re-cladding of the west elevation and the erection of small extensions at second third and fourth floor levels to provide new office accommodation. These are the works that have broadly led to the current condition of the building.

Planning permission was granted on 14th May 2013 (LBC ref 2013/0786/P) for a 4 storey infill extension to the existing courtyard providing a retail unit on the ground floor and office floorspace on the upper floors, as well as refurbishment of the building including a new entrance, external alterations and rooftop plant. This permission was not implemented and has now lapsed.

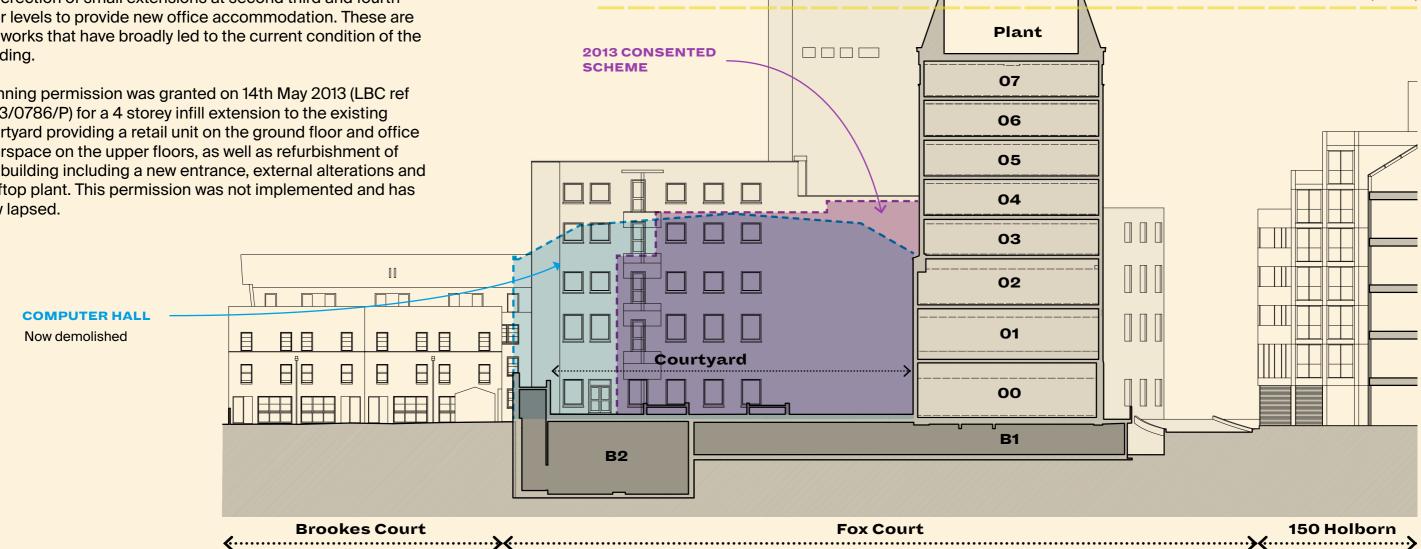


Fox Court Previous Application 2013/0786/P. Proposed development massing



**PROTECTED VIEWS (LVMF)** 

Fox Court Previous Application 2013/0786/P. Scheme visual of courtyard infill.

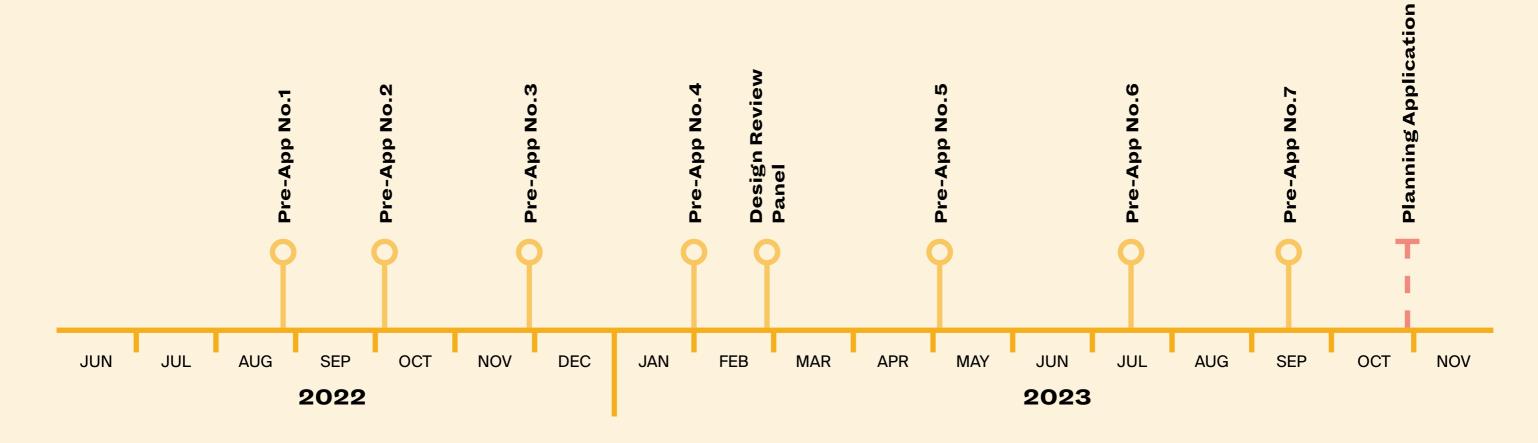


# **Pre-Application Consultation**

### 4.02 Pre-Application Timeline

Over the course of Stage 2, we have engaged with London Borough of Camden Council to discuss the proposals through a number of pre-application meetings and a Design Review Panel.

All discussions with the council have informed the design development and refinement of the proposals and has led to the proposals addressing a number key areas of the building, as detailed on the following pages.



# **Pre-Application Consultation**

### 4.03 Pre-Application No.1

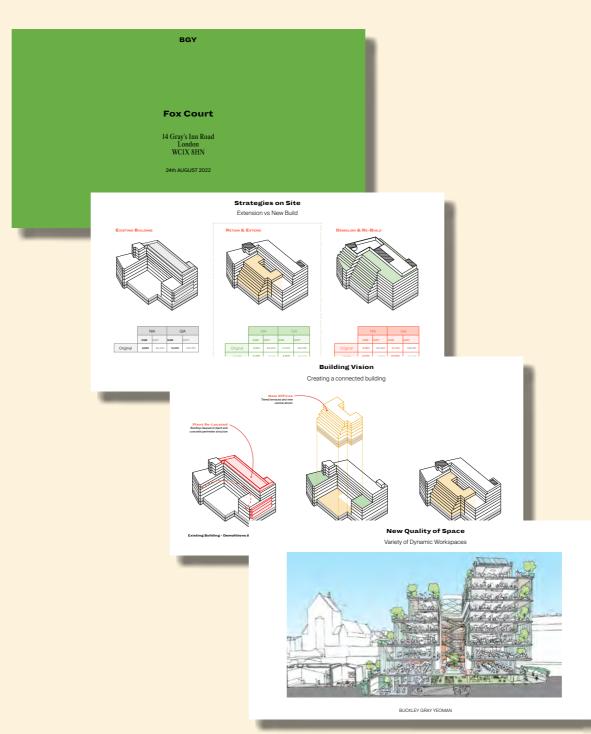
On the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020, Pre-Application meeting no.1 was held between General Projects, Buckley Gray Yeoman, DP9 and London Borough of Camden (LBC) with regards to the proposed refurbishment and extension of Fox Court.

#### The information presented included:

- Introduction to the team,
- Overview of the site, context, planning background,
- The existing building analysis and area schedule,
- The building and site opportunities and constraints,
- Review of LVMF viewing corridors and daylight sunlight constraints,
- Extension vs new build analysis,
- Overall building vision; making the building work, adding new quality space and creating street presence,
- Review of site capacity for office and residential,
- Residential studies; potential location for residential.

#### LBC feedback at Pre-App no.1 meeting:

- Retention of the existing building supported.
- Uplift in office supported.
- Need to see more options for delivering housing on-site.
- Encouraging about ground floor frontage improvements, more detail needed on scale and massing and related impacts.





ABOVE: GRAY'S INN ROAD FACADE INITIAL DESIGN AT PRE-APP NO.1

ABOVE: EXTRACTS FROM PRE-APP NO.1 PRESENTATION

# **Pre-Application Consultation**

#### 4.04 Pre-Application No.2

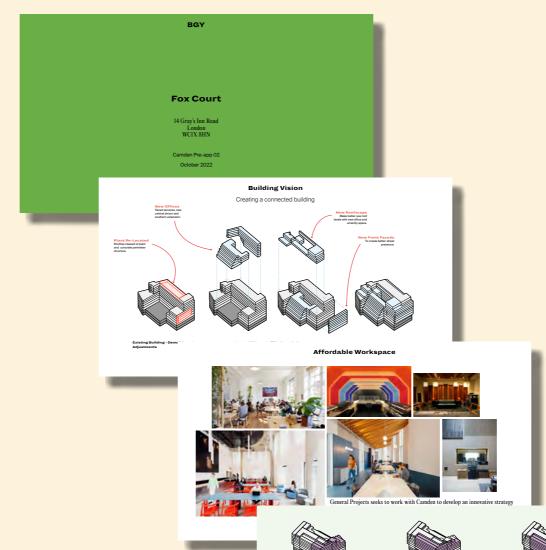
On the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Pre-Application meeting no.2 was held between General Projects, Buckley Gray Yeoman, DP9 and London Borough of Camden (LBC) with regards to the proposed refurbishment and extension of Fox Court.

#### The information presented included

- Recap of the site, context, planning background,
- Recap of the existing building analysis,
- The building and site opportunities and constraints,
- Affordable workspace initial proposal,
- 7 no. townscape views with current massing,
- Gray's Inn Road history and context
- Front facade principles,
- Preliminary Facade Proposals
- Residential studies; further locations explored, developed flat layouts and daylight sunlight analysis.

#### LBC feedback at Pre-App no.2 meeting:

- Reservations about scale on Gray's Inn Road and forward projection.
- Welcome further residential studies and request further work including more flexibility on smaller units.
- Query daylight and sunlight impacts on residential units both sides of the building.
- Welcome initial proposals for affordable workspace





ABOVE: GRAY'S INN ROAD FACADE INITIAL DESIGN AT PREAPP NO.2

ABOVE: EXTRACTS FROM PRE-APP NO.2 PRESENTATION

# **Pre-Application Consultation**

### 4.05 Pre-Application No.3

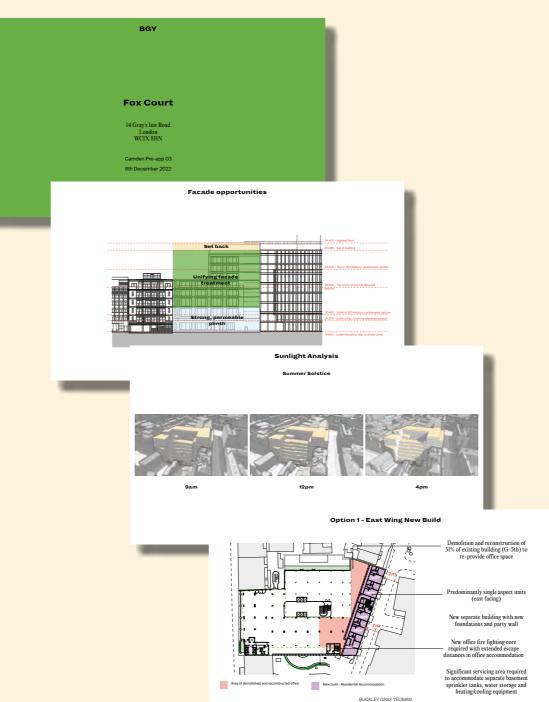
On the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Pre-Application meeting no.3 was held between General Projects, Buckley Gray Yeoman, DP9 and London Borough of Camden (LBC) with regards to the proposed refurbishment and extension of Fox Court.

#### The information presented included:

- Recap of the site, context, planning background,
- Recap of the existing building opportunities and constraints,
- Recap of the building vision and massing,
- Recap of Gray's Inn Road history and context
- Front facade principles,
- Front facade development with material options,
- Northern massing and terrace articulation,
- 11 no. townscape views with updated massing,
- Residential studies; further locations explored, developed flat layouts and demolition analysis

#### LBC feedback at Pre-App no.3 meeting:

- Fire resilient design constraints of putting residential on site understood, but some further options should be considered.
- Site should be seen as a continuation of Gray's Inn Road, distinct from High Holborn, and further work is needed on the façade design.
- Impact on conservation area is a concern.





ABOVE: GRAY'S INN ROAD FACADE INITIAL DESIGN AT PREAPP NO.3

ABOVE: EXTRACTS FROM PRE-APP NO.3 PRESENTATION

# **Pre-Application Consultation**

### 4.06 Pre-Application No.4

On the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023, Pre-Application meeting no.4 was held between General Projects, Buckley Gray Yeoman, DP9 and London Borough of Camden (LBC) with regards to the proposed refurbishment and extension of Fox Court.

#### The information presented included:

- Recap of the site, context, planning background,
- Recap of the existing building opportunities and constraints,
- Recap of the building vision and massing,
- Review of previous front facade design
- Front facade principles developed,
- Front facade options developed,
- New front facade,
- Northern terraces articulation further broken down,
- Initial terrace planting principles.

#### LBC feedback at Pre-App no.4 meeting:

- Encouraged to maximise planting on the stepped northern façade.
- Still reservations about the scale of development and transition between 150 High Holborn and the rest of Gray's Inn Road.
- Impact on Gray's Inn Square still a concern looking for a design approach that maintains the inverted L-shaped appearance and step down.





ABOVE: GRAY'S INN ROAD FACADE INITIAL DESIGN AT PREAPP NO.4

ABOVE: EXTRACTS FROM PRE-APP NO.4 PRESENTATION

# **Pre-Application Consultation**

#### 4.07 Design Review Panel

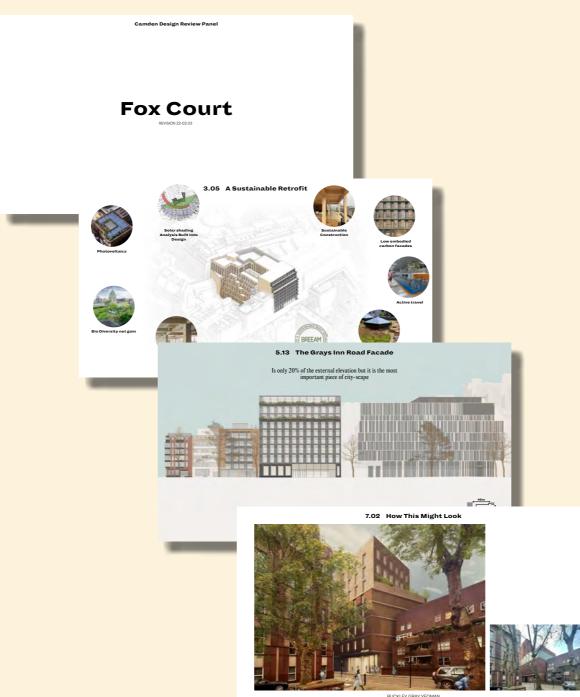
On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023, a Design Review Panel was held between General Projects, Buckley Gray Yeoman, DP9 and London Borough of Camden (LBC) organised through Frame Projects with regards to the proposed refurbishment and extension of Fox Court.

#### The information presented included:

- Introduction to the team,
- Overview of the existing building, site and context,
- Overview of extension vs new build and building vision,
- Analysis of mid-town context and history,
- Extension vs new build analysis,
- Front façade principles and design development
- Proposed front façade and materiality,
- Verified Views from Gray's Inn Court
- Northern terraces design development,
- Terrace landscaping proposal and materiality,
- Brookes Market entrance,
- Summary of residential studies.

#### **DRP feedback:**

- Support the refurbishment and considers there is potential to add massing, but current proposals too large.
- Proposals should respond better to character of Gray's Inn Road with the building line pulled back.
- Panel not convinced that residential cannot be provided.
- More information required in relation to sustainability.





ABOVE: GRAY'S INN ROAD FACADE INITIAL DESIGN AT DESIGN REVIEW PANEL

ABOVE: EXTRACTS FROM DESIGN REVIEW PANEL PRESENTATION

# **Pre-Application Consultation**

### 4.08 Pre-Application No.5

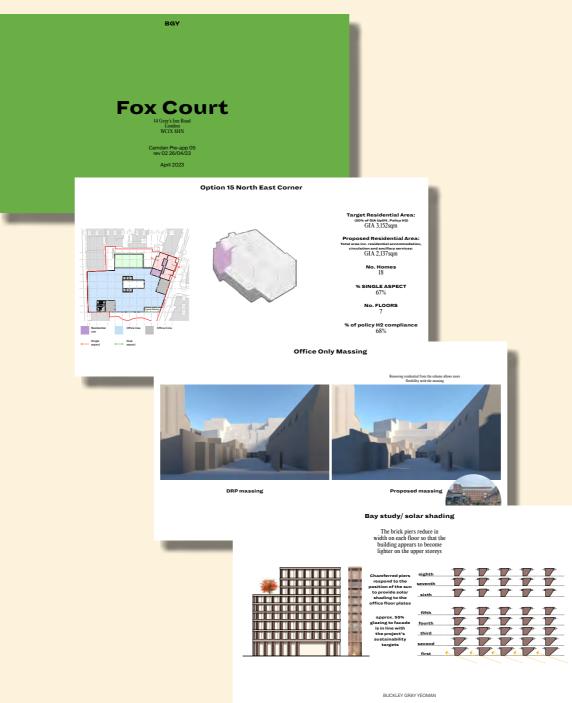
On the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, Pre-Application no.5 meeting was held between General Projects, Buckley Gray Yeoman, DP9 and London Borough of Camden (LBC) with regards to the proposed refurbishment and extension of Fox Court.

#### The information presented included:

- Review of DRP feedback,
- Review in detail previous presented residential options,
- Additional residential option,
- Summary of all residential options,
- Development and simplification of northern terrace massing,
- Front facade massing and proportions developed,
- Front facade architectural principles developed,
- Proposed front façade, materiality and colour,
- Verified Views from Gray's Inn Court,
- Public Realm enhancements,
- Affordable Workspace Jewellery Workshop concept.

#### LBC feedback at Pre-App no.5 meeting:

- Viability justification required to demonstrate on-site residential not feasible.
- Still reservations about forward projection of Gray's Inn Road building line, impinges on pedestrian environment and more prominent in heritage views.
- Public realm enhancements broadly welcomed, conversation needs to be started with highways and should involve resident engagement.





ABOVE: GRAY'S INN ROAD FACADE INITIAL DESIGN AT PREAPP NO.5

ABOVE: EXTRACTS FROM PRE-APP NO.5 PRESENTATION

# **Pre-Application Consultation**

#### 4.09 Pre-Application No.6

On 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Pre-Application meeting no.6 was held between General Projects, Buckley Gray Yeoman, DP9 and London Borough of Camden (LBC) with regards to the proposed refurbishment and extension of Fox Court.

The information presented included:

- Scheme Overview,
- Recap of existing building and context,
- Review of previous front facade feedback,
- Building line and pavement analysis,
- Facade expression developed,
- Proposed front façade,
- Verified
- Views from Gray's Inn Court,
- Review of neighbouring properties to north of the site,
- Updated northern terrace massing and design,
- Review of Brookes Market entrance.

#### LBC feedback at Pre-App no.6 meeting:

- Unconvinced by collonading of the Gray's Inn Road frontage, concerns are not just about pavement width but townscape impact as well.
- Increased prominence and impact on Gray's Inn South Square is a concern, do feel more detached from wider London in this space and there would be heritage harm.
- More information on sustainability requested.
- More information on daylight, sunlight and overshadowing requested.
- Officers want to resolve the residential use issue before we go back to DRP and also want to better understand sustainability.





ABOVE: GRAY'S INN ROAD FACADE INITIAL DESIGN AT PREAPP NO.6



ABOVE: EXTRACTS FROM PRE-APP NO.6 PRESENTATION

# **Pre-Application Consultation**

#### 4.10 Pre-Application No.7

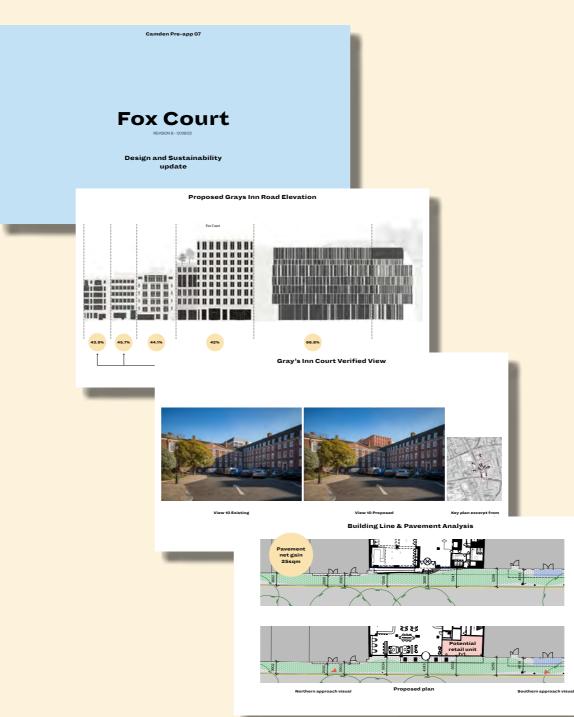
On 12th September 2023, Pre-Application meeting no.7 was held between General Projects, Buckley Gray Yeoman, DP9 and London Borough of Camden (LBC) with regards to the proposed refurbishment and extension of Fox Court.

The information presented included:

- Confirmation of previous agreed elements,
- Recap of Gray's Inn Road context,
- Review of front facade solidity,
- Proposed alterations to the front facade,
- Views from Gray's Inn Court development,
- Building line and pavement analysis development,
- Visualisation of pavement approaches,
- Sustainability overview
- Daylight and Sunlight summary,
- Migration to daylight / sunlight issues,

#### LBC feedback at Pre-App no.7 meeting:

- Daylight, sunlight and overshadowing information welcomed and further analysis requested, request that the existing external stair is re-designed to reduce impact on neighbouring residents.
- Elevation design treatments improved but still reservations about the forward projection to Gray's Inn Road.
- Reiterated that there is considered to be less than substantial harm to Bloomsbury Conservation Area.
- Sustainability feedback received and discussed.
- sustainability.





ABOVE: GRAY'S INN ROAD FACADE INITIAL DESIGN AT PREAPP NO.7

ABOVE: EXTRACTS FROM PRE-APP NO.7 PRESENTATION

# **Pre-Application Consultation**

### 4.11 Community Engagement Event

Pre-application community engagement around General Projects' Fox Court scheme started in October 2022 and ran up to submission, in October.

Lowick began the engagement process by auditing relevant stakeholders, neighbours, groups and interested parties. Despite low interest from the community given the nature of the proposals and the lack of nearby long-term residential neighbours, the project team endeavoured to engage with local residents and neighbours wherever possible, with consultation undertaken outlined below:

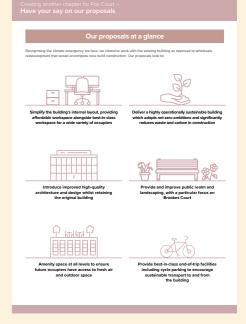
- Meeting with Councillor Danny Beales, Oct 2022
- Meeting/site walkabout with Central District Alliance (CDA), Nov 2022
- Door knocking exercise in the vicinity of the site, Nov 2022















### **BGY**

# 5.00 Residential Studies

BUCKLEY GRAY YEOMAN 1195 - Fox Court Design & Access Statement October 2023

### **Residential Studies**

#### 5.01 Residential Options Overview

Separate residential study documents have been issued to the council as part of the pre-application consultation process.

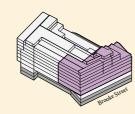
15 opportunities for inclusion of residential accommodation within the site boundary were discussed at length. Options 14 and 15 were reviewed in greater detail in a pre-application meeting in May 2023.

Following pre-application meetings and the design review panel the design team presented best-case scenarios for inclusion of residential accommodation on site. The challenges of providing quality homes was demonstrated to officers in the meetings and the subsequent detailed design study and it was agreed that a viability exercise would be required to support the position of not including residnetial accommodation in the proposlals. A viability exercise has been undertaken separately.

### **Planning Policy**

Camden Local Plan Policy H2 promotes the inclusion of self-contained homes as part of new development in Central London where additional floorspace of more than 200sqm (GIA) is proposed. Whether the inclusion of housing on-site is practical or appropriate will be assessed against a number of considerations, including the site size and any constraints, compatibility with the proposed use and other nearby uses, the impact on a mix of uses on the efficiency and overall quantum of development and scheme viability.

Previous pre-app officer feedback expressed a need to consider the options for providing residential on-site in more detail, which the team have done. The tight relationship between the building and surrounding/proposed uses on this small site makes delivery of housing alongside office use extremely challenging for the reasons set out in the following slides.



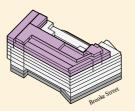
1 - East Elevation

3,850sqm GIA 102% of policy compliant area



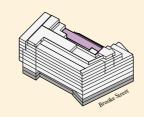
4 - North East Corner

2,250sqm GIA 60% of policy compliant area



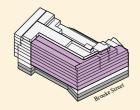
7 - Rooftop

2,447sqm GIA 65% of policy compliant area



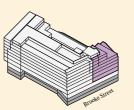
10 - Courtyard (north facing)

1,590sqm GIA 42% of policy compliant area



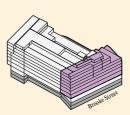
2 - South & East Elevation

3,810sqm GIA 101% of policy compliant area



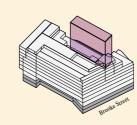
5 - North East Corner

2,535sqm GIA 67% of policy compliant area



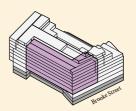
8 - East Elevation

3,309sqm GIA 88% of policy compliant area



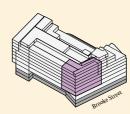
11 - Courtyard new build

1,968sqm GIA 77% of policy compliant area



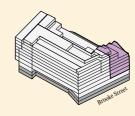
3 - South elevation

3,840sqm GIA 102% of policy compliant area



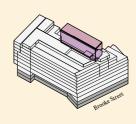
6 - South East Corner

2,704sqm GIA 72% of policy compliant area



9 - North East Corner

1,665sqm GIA 44% of policy compliant area

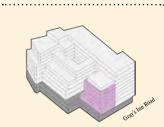


12 - Courtyard New Build

984sqm GIA 77% of policy compliant area



13 - Courtyard (Duplexes)



14 - Gray's Inn Road



Focussed
Residential Studies

### **Residential Studies**

#### **Existing Building Constraints** 5.02





### **Residential Studies**

#### 5.03 Detailed Residential Studies

#### Options 14 and 15

To comply with new Building Safety Act and to avoid the whole office being subject to HSE approval process, the following part of the existing structure would need to be demolished to facilitate structural separation between the office and residential accommodation.

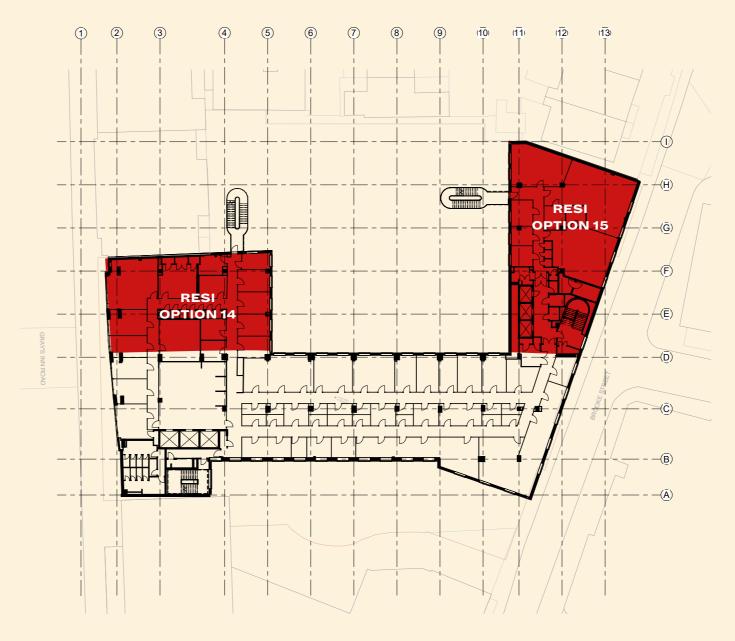
Whilst tecchnically feasible, it does not comply with the project aspirations for retrofitting the existing structure and reducing the embodied carbon of the project. The demolition of the existing strucutre would also provide significant diruption to neighbouring buildings and will result in the delivery of substandard residential accommodation.

Additional 1,125 T/CO<sub>2</sub> emitted

 $985 \, kg/CO_2/m^2 \, (GIA)$ 

Material Quantities
Steel = 192 Tonnes
Concrete = 497 m<sup>3</sup>

= 1,283 flights London to New York



Additional 1,622 T/CO<sub>2</sub> emitted

723 kg/C0<sub>9</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> (GIA)

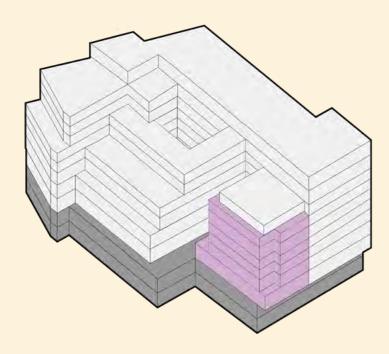
Material Quantities
Steel = 390 Tonnes
Concrete = 1,040 m<sup>3</sup>

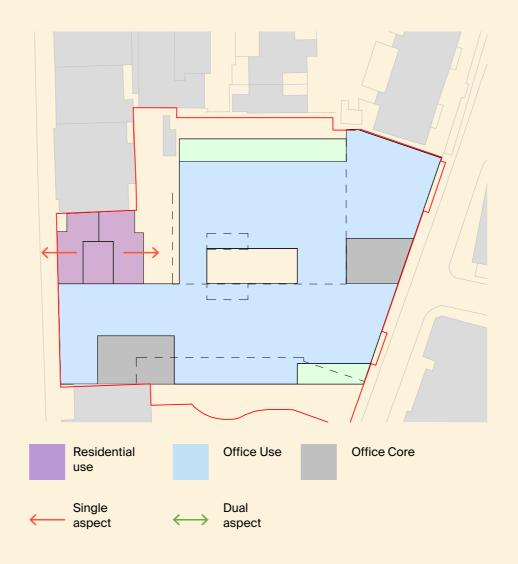
= 1835 flights London to New York

## **Residential Studies**

### 5.04 Option 14 overview

The smaller portion of the Grays Inn Road facade could be considered for residential development. The northern half of the Grays Inn Road facade could be demolished and rebuilt with a dedicated residential entrance.





### **Proposed Residential Area:**

Total area inc. residential accommodation, circulation and ancillary services:

GIA 1,141sqm

No. Homes

8

% SINGLE ASPECT

100%

No. FLOORS

5

% of policy H2 compliance

44%

### **Residential Studies**

### 5.05 Option 14 Analysis

#### **Pros**



Delivers 8 homes in a separate residential building



Provides 44% of the requirement under policy H2

ROAD

NNIS

#### Cons



Would require demolition of 8% of the building



Requires the rebuilding of existing massing at cost of 1,125 T/CO2.



Single escape stair will require enhanced fire engineered solution or addition of second stair to make sure residential building over 18m is complaint.



Compromised basement areas will require further massing at roof level to accommodate additional plant spaces.



Poor air quality on Grays Inn Road requires enhanced filtration systems and larger plant area.



Eastern flat has constrained outlook onto to office flank wall.

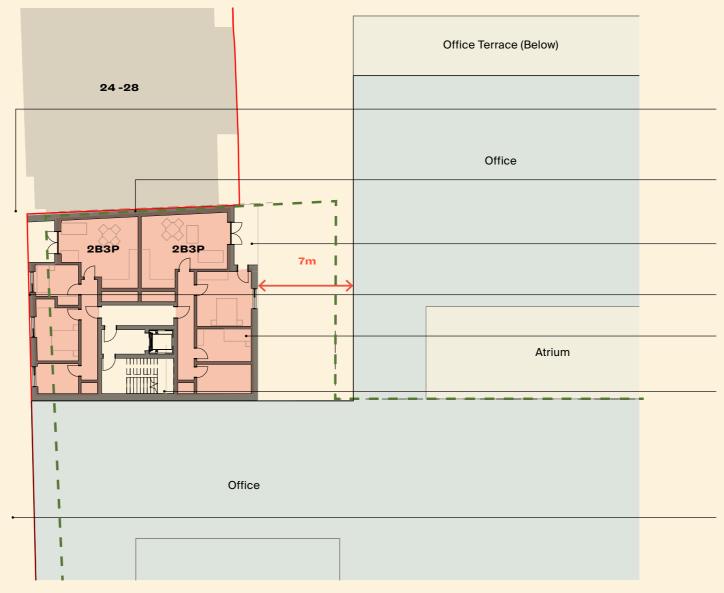


Residential servicing would need to take place from Grays Inn Road which could cause highway safety issues.



Compromised single aspect homes are contrary to London Plan D6 policy.

### **Option 14 Plan**



Residential servicing would need to take place from Grays Inn Road which could cause highway safety issues.

Basement below is compromised by reducing the slab to facilitate level access, making servicing not possible in this location.

Eastern home has constrained outlook onto to office flank wall.

Limited frontage for generous home layouts.

Compromised single aspect homes are contrary to London Plan D6 policy.

Single escape stair will require enhanced fire engineered solution or addition of second stair to make sure residential building over 18m is complaint.

Poor air quality on Grays Inn Road requires enhanced filtration systems and larger plant area.

**— — —** Existing Building

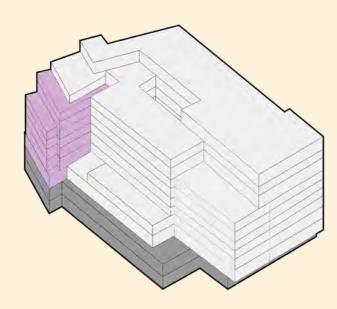
Note layouts have not been coordinated with structural or services engineers, massing subject to change.

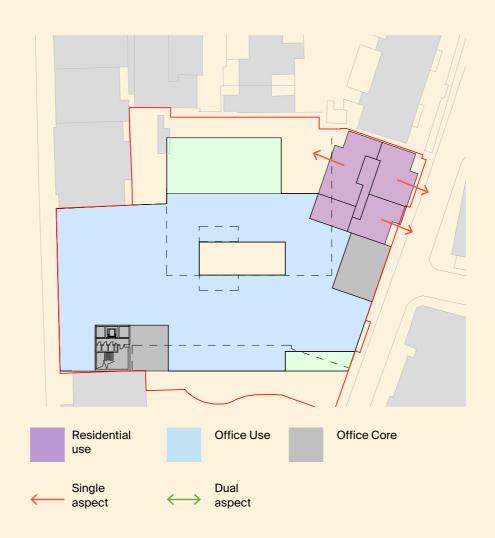
### **Residential Studies**

### 5.06 Option 15 Overview

#### **Sub-Segment Title**

The north east corner facing Brooke Street has also been considered in greater detail. This was felt to provide the most feasible ocation for residential. However, on further analysis the quality of the homes was very low, with low access to daylight and sunlight and this location significantly compromiesd the adjacent proposed office accommodation.





### **Proposed Residential Area:**

Total area inc. residential accommodation, circulation and ancillary services:  $GIA\ 2{,}137sqm$ 

No. Homes

% SINGLE ASPECT 67%

No. FLOORS

% of policy H2 compliance 68%

NOTE: This option has daylight & sunlight Issues.

### **Residential Studies**

#### 5.07 **Option 15 Analysis**

#### **Pros**

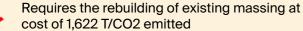
Delivers 18 homes in a separate residential building.

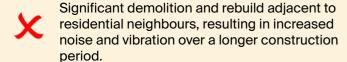


Provides 68% of the requirement under policy

#### Cons

Would require demolition of 15% of the building





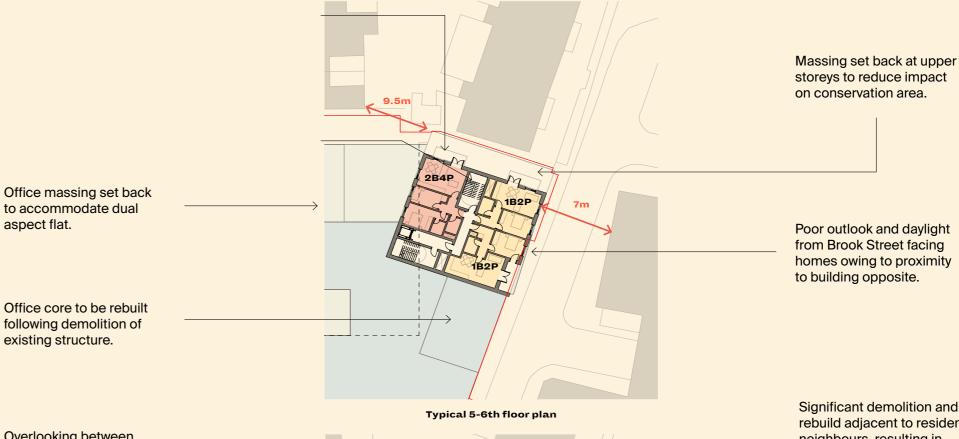
Residential building is between 18 and 30m therefore requires sprinklers, 2 escape stairs and a fire fighting core.

Poor outlook and daylight from Brook Street facing homes owing to proximity to building

Overlooking between north-west facing balconies and Brooke's Court properties

Office core to be rebuilt following demolition of existing structure.

Compromised single aspect homes are contrary to London Plan D6 policy.



Typical 1-4th floor plan

Poor outlook and daylight from Brook Street facing homes owing to proximity

Overlooking between north-west facing balconies and Brooke's Court properties

to accommodate dual

following demolition of existing structure.

aspect flat.

Office massing set back to accommodate dual aspect flat.

Office core to be rebuilt following demolition of existing structure.

Significant demolition and rebuild adjacent to residential neighbours, resulting in increased noise and vibration over a longer construction period.

Residential building is between 18 and 30m therefore requires sprinklers, 2 escape stairs and a fire fighting core.

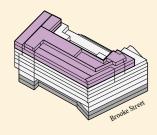
Compromised single aspect homes are contrary to London Plan D6 policy.

Note layouts have not been co-ordinated with structural or services engineers, massing subject to change

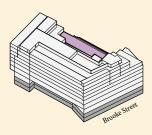
50 **BUCKLEY GRAY YEOMAN** 1195 - Fox Court **Design & Access Statement** October 2023

### **Residential Studies**

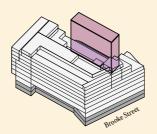
### 5.08 Residential Summary



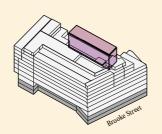
7 - Rooftop



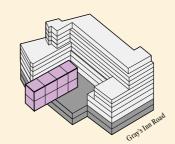
10 /10a - Courtyard (North facing)



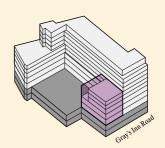
11 - Courtyard new build



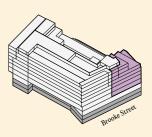
12 - Courtyard New Build



13 - Courtyard (Duplex's)



14 - Gray's Inn Road



15 - North East Corner Alternative

### **In Summary**

Fifteen options have been explored as part of the pre-application process. It is evident that there is no location within the Fox Court boundary for Residential use which can provided quality homes for the following shared reasons:

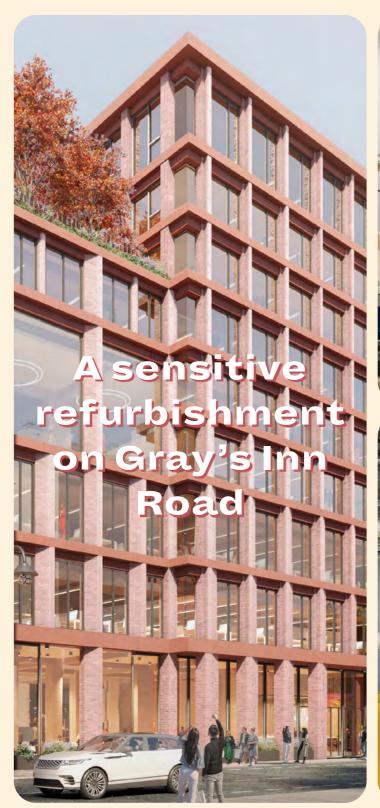
- Most options are single aspect and homes have poor quality daylight.
- Several options have issues achieving compliant layout to achieve fire safety.
- Significant demolition would be required to accommodate residential in the existing foot print.
  - No location can provided the full target GIA to meet Camden Housing Policy H2.
- All options have a significant impact on both quantity and quality of office accommodation.

### **BGY**

# 6.00 Design Proposals

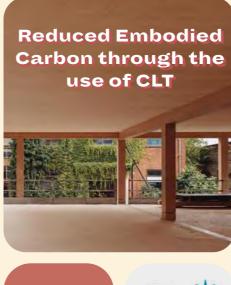
# **Design Proposals**

### 6.01 Building Vision

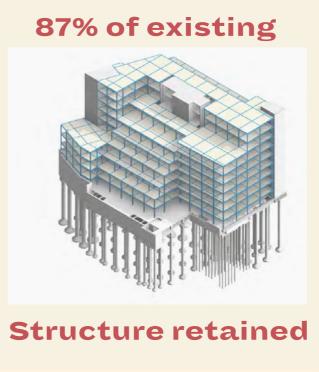






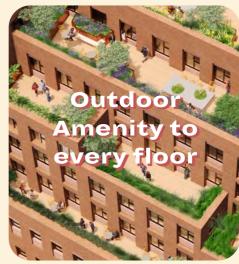


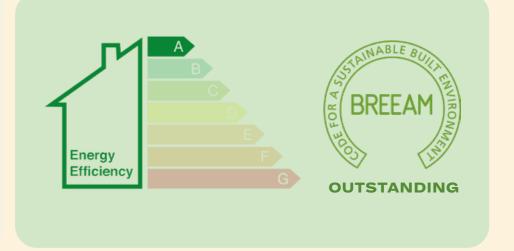












# **Design Proposals**

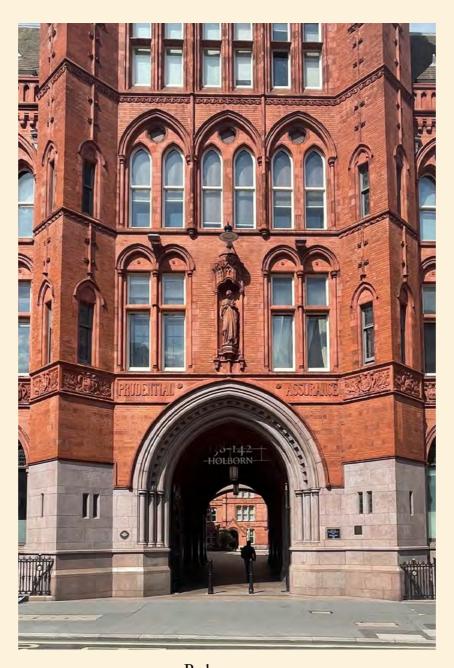
### 6.02 Building Concept



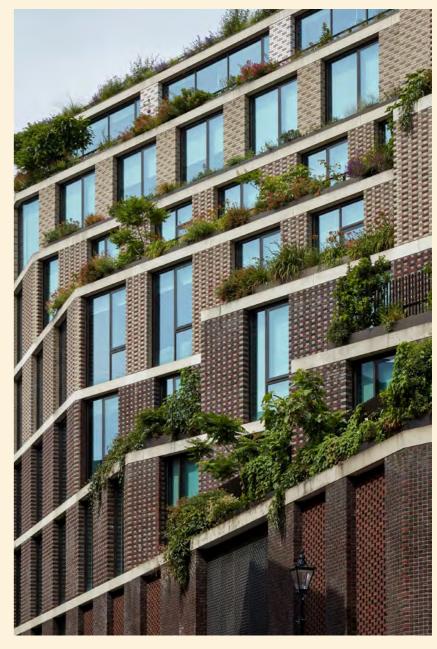
Retain the concrete structure

Install new low-carbon construction in timber

Celebrate the contrast in building structures



Red masonry
Punched windows
Vertical facade expression



Stepped terraces

Verdant planting

Gradiating masonry facade

# **Design Proposals**

### 6.03 Local Building Stock





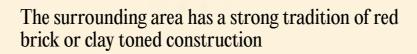
























# **Design Proposals**

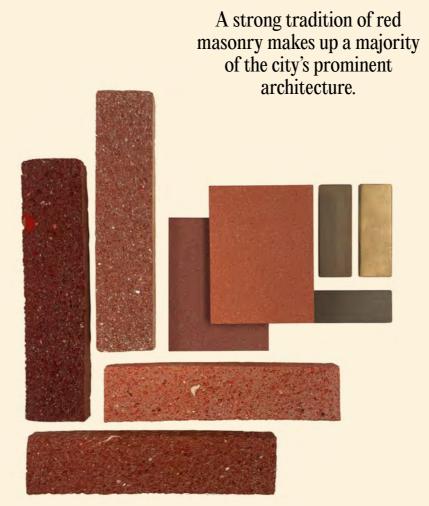
### 6.04 Materials











Fox Court will be constructed in red brick, reconstituted stone and metal.













# **Design Proposals**

### 6.05 Sustainability



By retaining 85% of the existing building structure we are able to dramatically reduce the embodied carbon of the building vs. a demolition and new build.



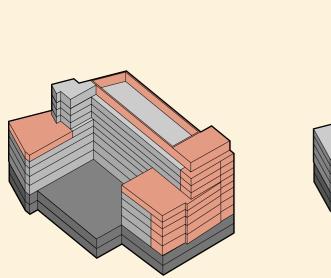
Upgrading the existing building fabric and providing a high level of insulation to the new facade elements and implementing simple passive design methods, such as awnings on the facade, will result in a refurbishment that is very low-carbon in operation



A large blue and green roof covered in PVs and a large water attenuation tank in the basement reduce the flow of water to the sewage system in peak rainfall events and future-proof the building for wetter weather in the changing climate.

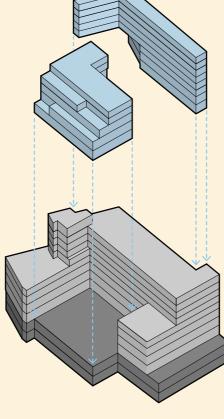
# **Design Proposals**

### 6.06 Proposed Massing



**Demolition** 

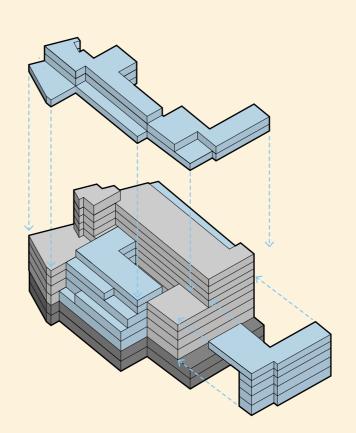
All facades to be removed Roof plant removed Internal demolition



**Courtyard and South** 

New office extension to be constructed in the courtyard

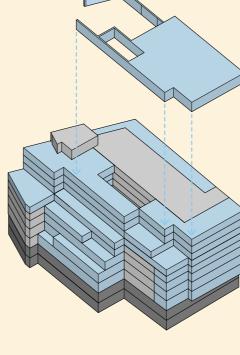
South facade to be extended into southern courtyard



**Facades** 

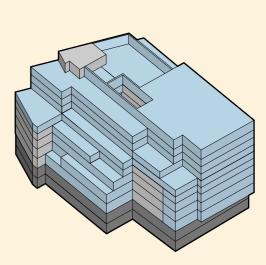
New Gray's Inn Road facade

**New rooftop extensions** 



Additional storey on 8th floor

New plant enclosure



Extended and rationalised Fox Court