

The Museum Estate is located in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area in the London Borough of Camden.

The site is accessed at the south from Great Russell Street and at the north from Montague Place. Both streets have opportunity to improve the public realm and the Museum’s relationship with the street.

All three of the Energy Centre Programme sites are accessed off the internal road perimeter network within the Estate. The South-West Energy Centre (SWEC) site, in the south-west corner, off the West Road, and the East Road Building (ERB) and Incoming Substation (ISS) off the East Road. The ISS site also fronts onto Montague Street, though access to the street is blocked by the listed railings at the site perimeter. The Energy Centre Programme also involves services distribution works, including works to the Museums internal East and West servicing roads, which will require excavation.

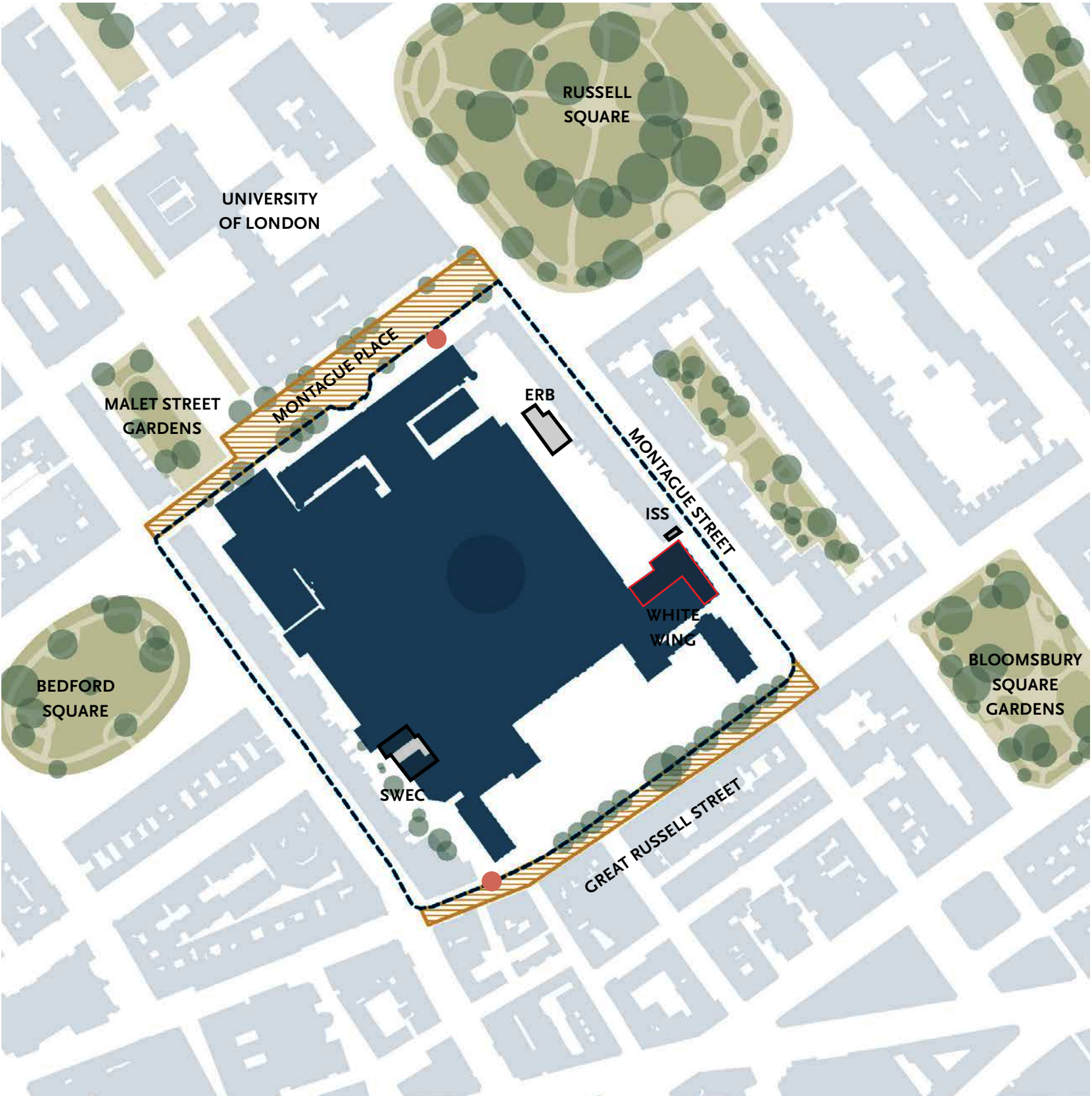
It is the works to the ISS Site and East Road combined that result in the need for temporary noise mitigation measures to be installed in the form of secondary glazing within the White Wing.

Key:

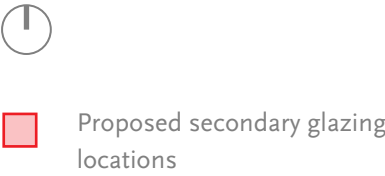
- Museum Estate buildings footprint
- Perimeter property and wider context building footprints
- Proposed areas of noise mitigation detailed within this application
- ECP proposed building sites
- Location of existing principal back-of-house entrances to the Museum

Right:

Site context plan with wider borough planned improvement locations and proposed ECP building sites and their relationship to proposed areas of intervention contained within this application.



Site Designations



Right:
London Borough of Camden
Policies Map, updated August
2021.

S.38(6) of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) (As Amended) requires applications to be determined in accordance with the adopted development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In this case the development plan comprises:

- The London Plan 2021
- The Camden Local Plan 2017
- The Camden Local Plan Proposals Maps.

Neighbourhood Plans also form part of the development plan but there are none in force which cover The British Museum.

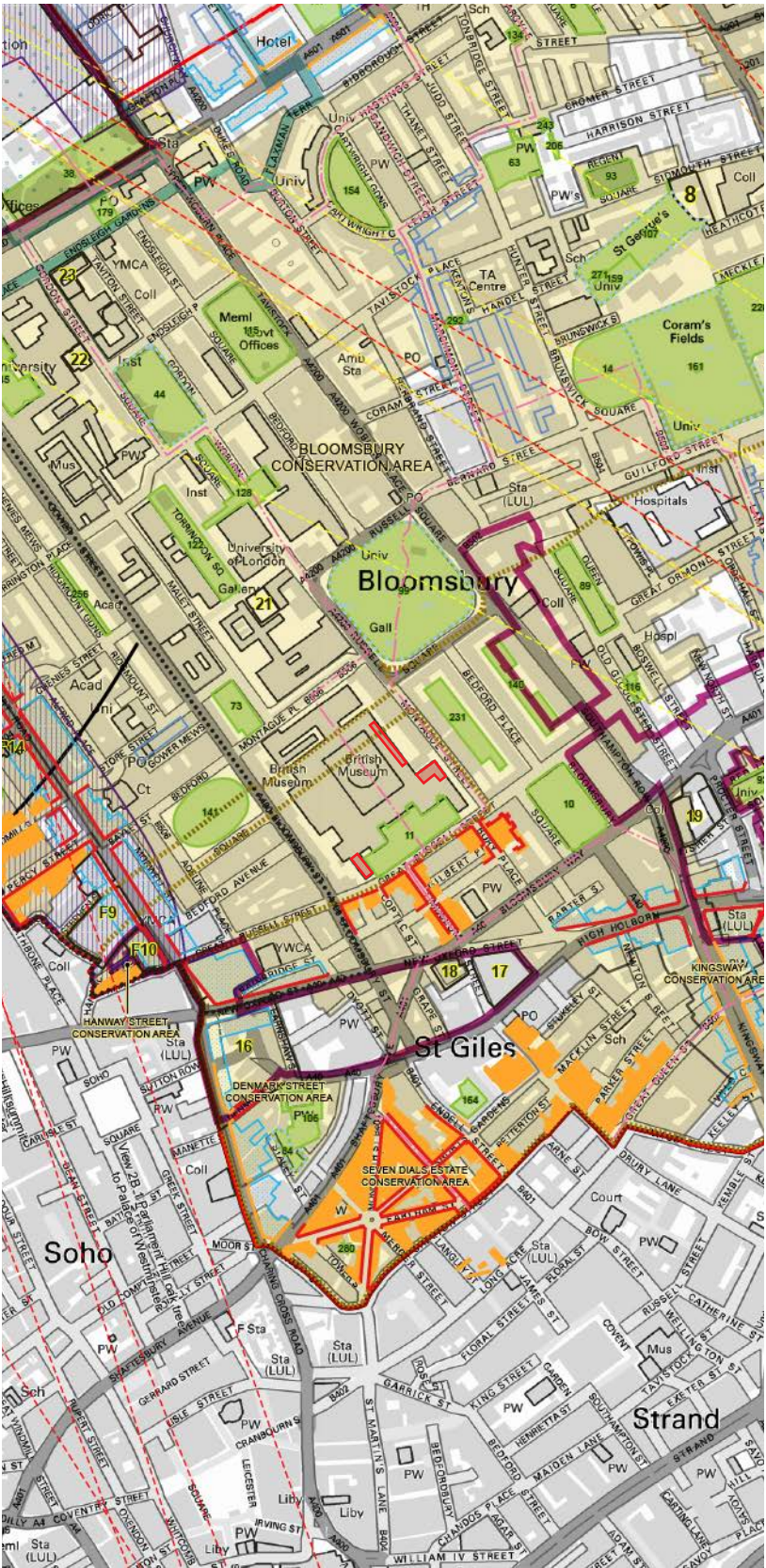
The National Planning Policy Framework sets out Government Policy and approach to planning and is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, as is the National Planning Practice Guidance.

The development site sits within the London Borough of Camden, the Central London Area (CLA), Central Activities Zone (CAZ) and the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

It sits outside of any LVMF Protected Vistas, Local Plan Centers, and Local Plan Growth Areas. It does not sit within adopted Site Allocation areas nor areas covered by local Neighbourhood Plans, other specific area Action Plans, or the Crossrail 2 Safeguarding Area.

It also does not sit within or directly adjacent to designated Local Plan Open Space, Local Green Space, or Local Plan Habitat Corridors, though the ISS site within the ECP proposals will become predominantly a small hard landscaped open area. The ECP SWEC site also sits near the rear gardens of perimeter properties which neighbour the garden party wall along the West Road.


The British Museum does provide a connection for a Metropolitan Walk route from Montague Place to Great Russell Street, though this route runs through the front-of-house areas of the Museum which sit outside of the proposed application boundary.




The British Museum is a Grade I listed building under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for its special architectural or historic interest. The Museum was first listed in 1951 and lies within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area, which is subject to statutory protection under s72 of the 1990 Act.

The 2023 *British Museum Conservation Management Plan*, authored by Purcell, provides the overarching strategic plan for the Museum’s management as a heritage asset. The following excerpt from the plan provides a summary of its relationship to earlier work and its relevance to any new development work undertaken by the Museum:


‘The British Museum occupies a Grade I listed building and is one of the country’s most popular cultural attractions. The original Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for this site was adopted in 1999 and later revised in 2007. In recognition of the changes that have taken place since the last revision, as well as progresses in conservation management best practice and the constantly evolving challenges and opportunities for improvements the Museum faces, the CMP has undergone a third revision, completed in 2020. The CMP has been developed as a guide for the future development and care of the Museum’s buildings by setting out a framework for their management, maintenance and safeguarding. Understanding the Museum site, particularly what makes it significant, is a central theme of the CMP and draws on the extensive assessments prepared for the 1999 and 2007 Plans.’




Key:




Proposed areas of noise mitigation detailed within this application




ECP proposed building sites




Grade I Listed



Grade I Listed (WCEC Basement)



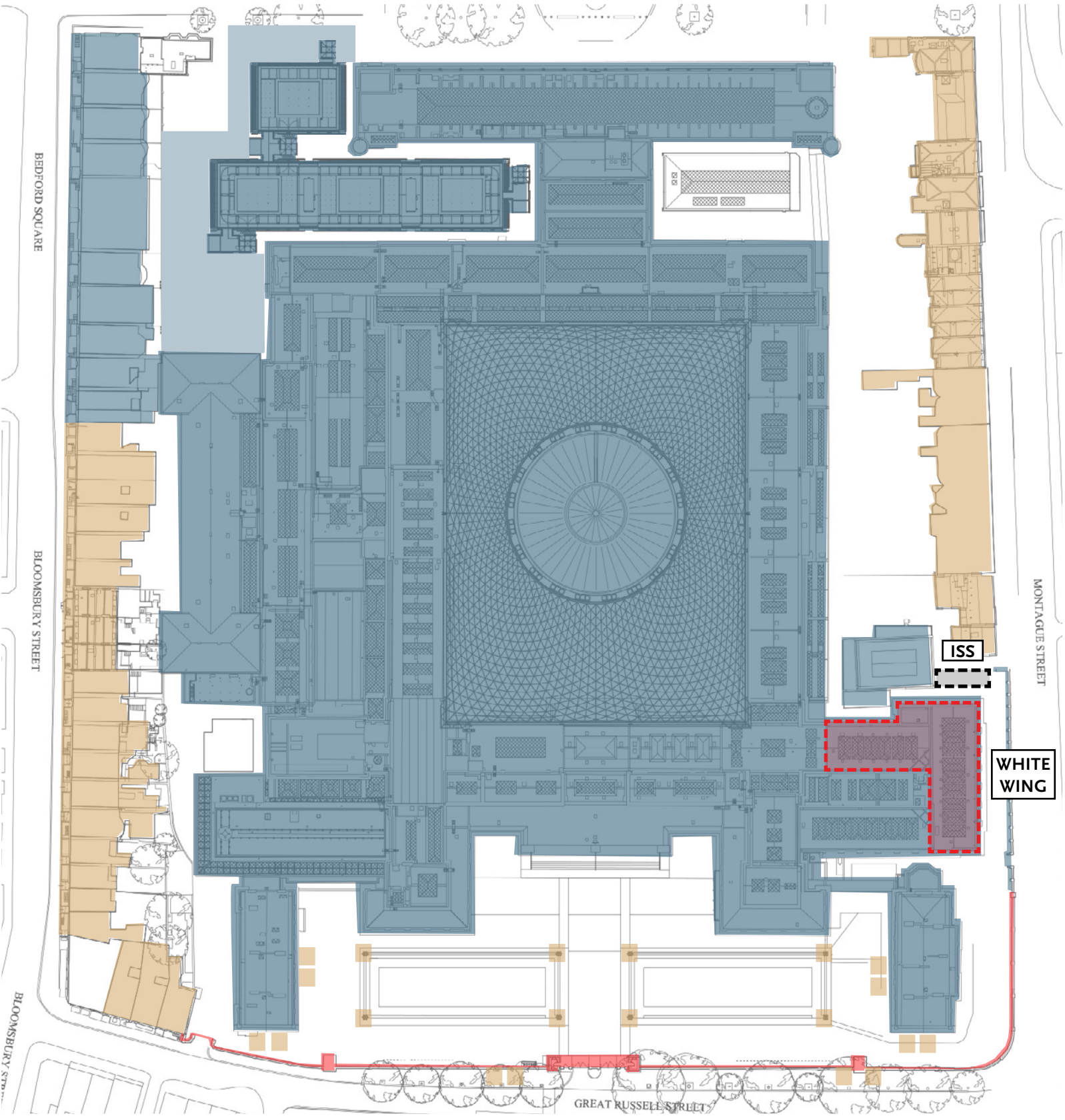
Grade II Listed



Grade II* Listed

Right:

Roof plan of the Museum Estate & neighbouring perimeter properties illustrating the Listed status of existing structures.



In addition, the *Heritage Toolkit*, provided in Part 3 of the plan:

‘...is intended for those at the British Museum who are responsible for making decisions that enact change, particularly project managers and Design Teams. It brings together conservation best practice and other guidance documents to set out methodologies for the processes needed to protect the significance of the Museum whilst still allowing it to adapt and evolve.

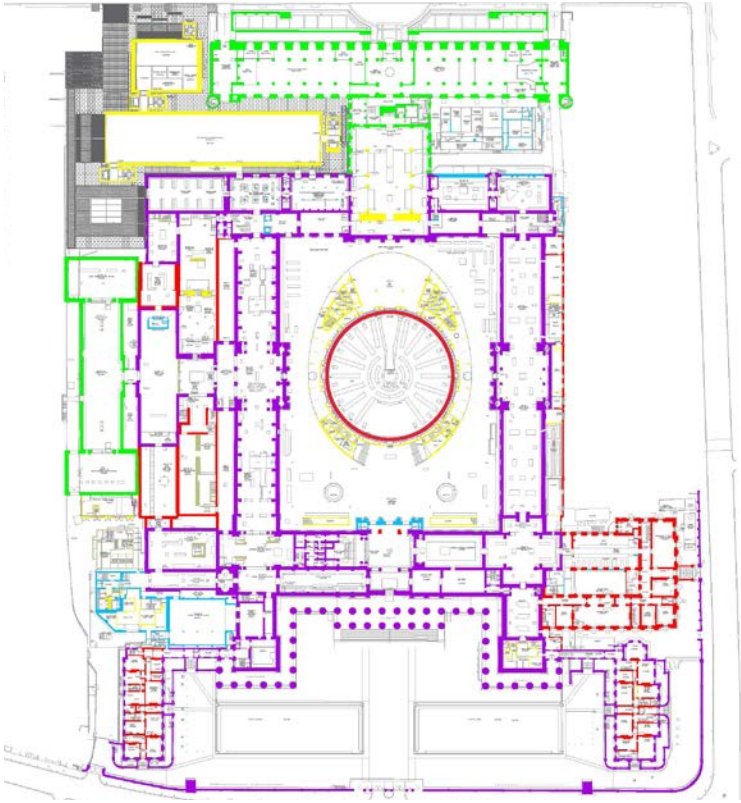
‘This starts with understanding significance, which highlights where there is capacity for change, and ultimately how to balance its impact.’

The Toolkit identifies three principal reasons which will necessitate change:

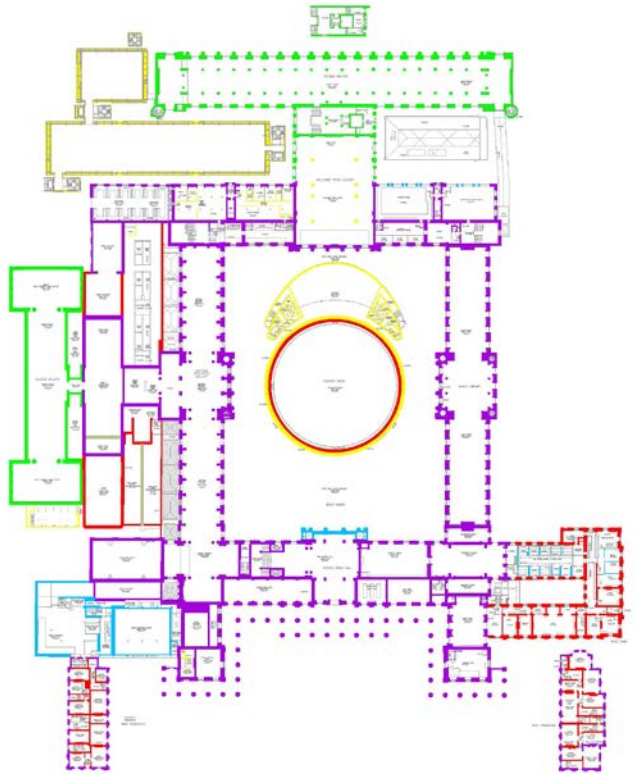
1. The presence of risk
2. A new operational challenge
3. A new opportunity

The proposals within this application fit within the definitions of items 1 and 2 above. Firstly, the interventions are proposed precisely to mitigate a risk of harm and disruption to people of site via high noise levels to associated with the nearby construction work on ECP sites.

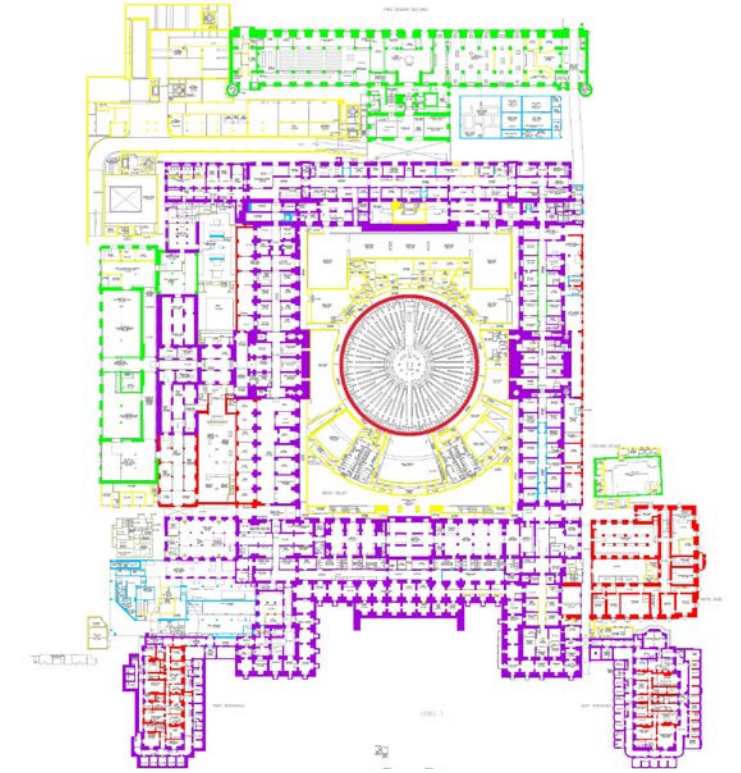
Secondly, the proposals are formed in a direct response to the operational challenge of realising a major capital project on site (which will bring dramatic positive sustainable change to the Estate) and maintaining business-as-usual operations during construction, keeping all public galleries open and ensuring those who work at the Museum can continue to do so effectively.



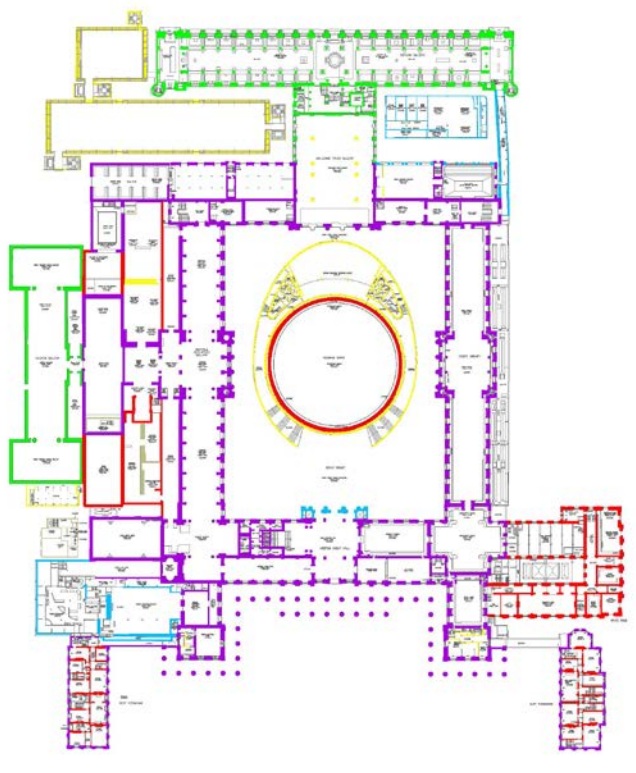
Level 02



Level 04



Level 01



Level 03



Key:

- Very high significance
- High significance
- Medium significance
- Low significance
- Neutral
- Detrimental

Right:

Purcell Heritage Significance Plans from the 2023 Conservation Management Plan.

The plans adjacent and on the previous page, produced by Purcell and appended to the Conservation Management Plan, provide a summary of the assessment of significance as informed by extensive analysis undertaken both in 2019 and 2007.

The areas affected by the secondary glazing mitigations contained within these proposals are:

- The White Wing (Levels 01, 02, 03, 04), assessed generally within the CMP as being of High Significance. In some locations, post war alterations have been made, which are assessed as being of Low Significance within the CMP. This is particularly evident at Level 04, where a mezzanine level has been installed.

Further narrative from the CMP regarding each of these locations is on the following pages.



Key:

- Very high significance
- High significance
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- Neutral
- Detrimental

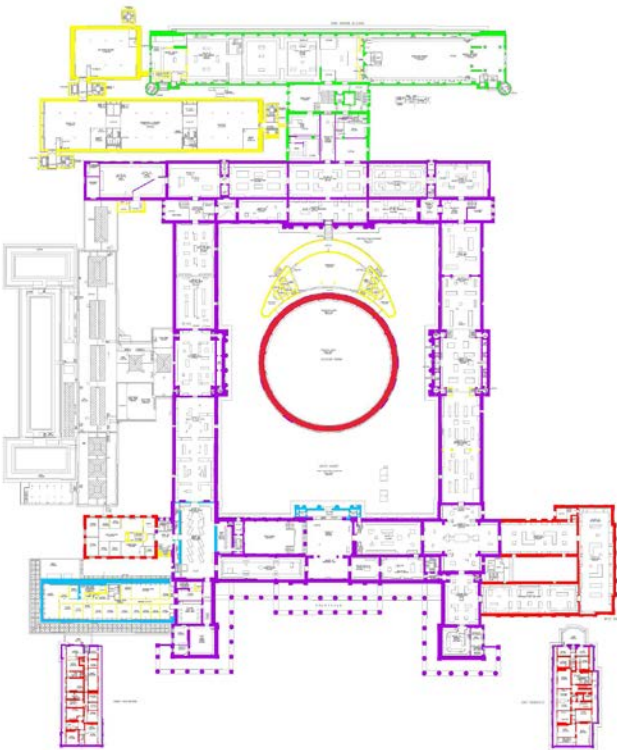
Purcell Heritage Significance
Plans from the 2023 Conservation
Management Plan

Clockwise from top left:

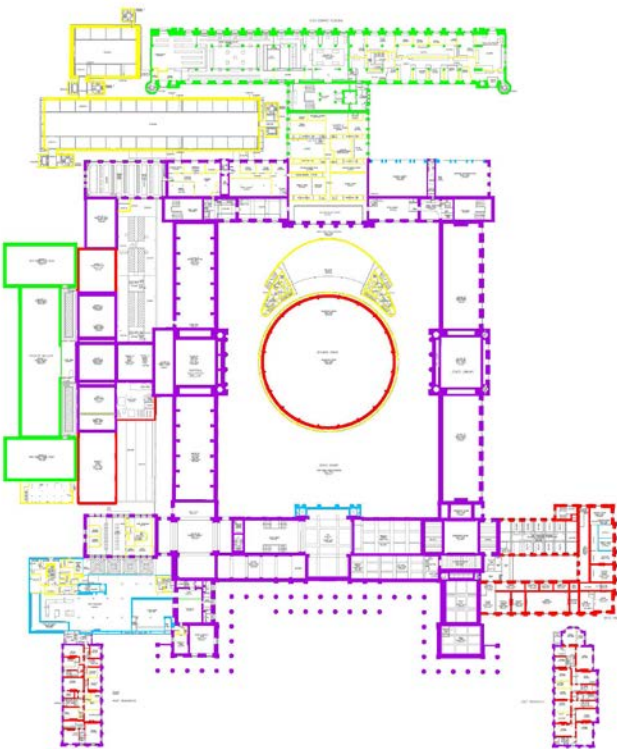
Level 06

Level 06A

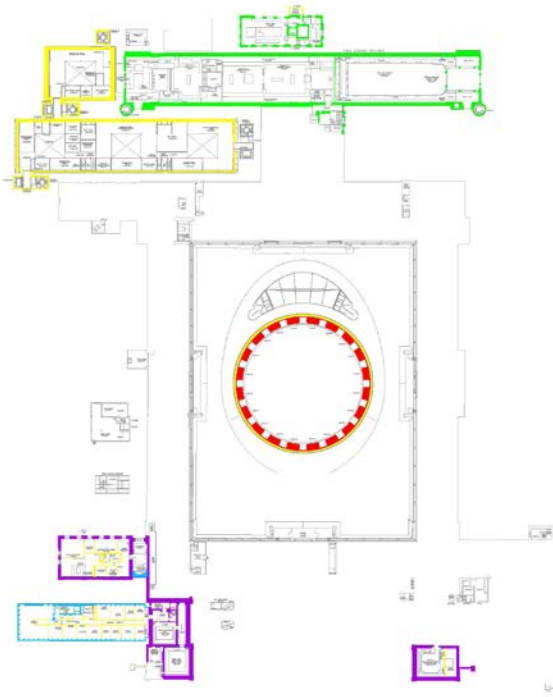
Level 05



Level 06



Level 05



Level 06A

The White Wing was built as a three-sided courtyard block, funded by a bequest from William White and designed by Sir John Taylor. It was intended to provide exhibition space for the Prints and Drawings department and the British Medieval Antiquities, as well as storage for newspapers and manuscripts. The site was formerly the garden of the Principal Librarian’s residence. An earlier addition on the east side of the South-East Wing was partially demolished to accommodate the White Wing. Construction started in 1881 and the building was occupied by July 1885.

The areas of proposed secondary glazing installation within the white wing are shown in the adjacent plans. Effectively, these are the windows to occupied spaces in the building’s northern, eastern, and south-eastern elevations at Levels 01, 02, 03, & 04. The mitigation is required due to the increased levels of noise dur to construction activity associated with the new ISS building and associated landscaping works as part of the ECP development. Alongside further narrative from the CMP Gazetteers of these areas below (with the most relevant text highlighted in **bold**), zoomed significance plans from the 2023 CMP of the equivalent area and level are shown on the following page.

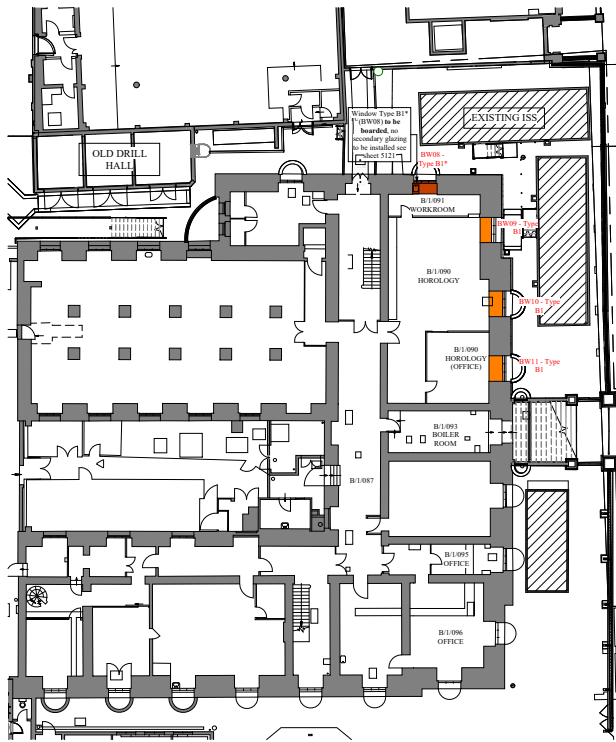


- Key:
- S.Glazing Type B1
 - S. Glazing Type B1*
 - S.Glazing Type F
 - S.Glazing TypeC3
 - S.Glazing Type E2
 - S. Glazing Type E1

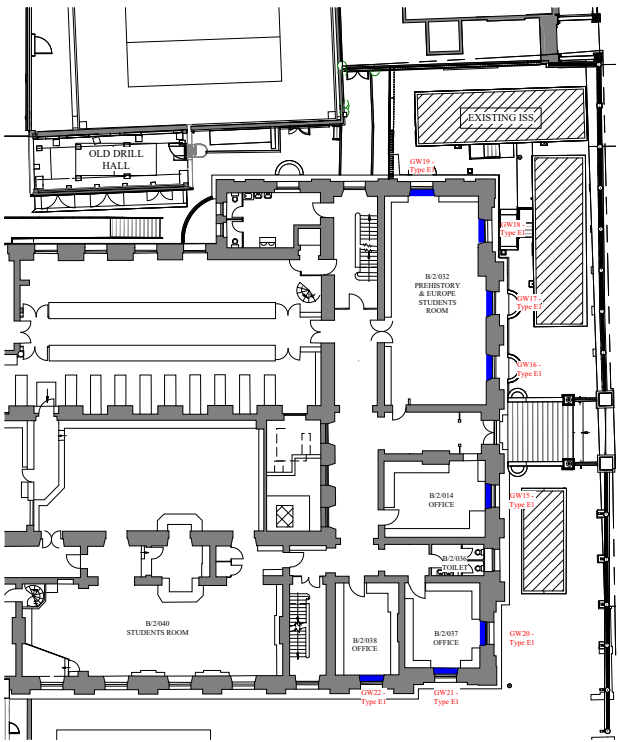
Right:
Existing photographic survey of windows proposed to have temporary secondary glazing acoustic mitigations installed within these proposals in Level 04 of the White Wing

Basement (Level 1) Windows

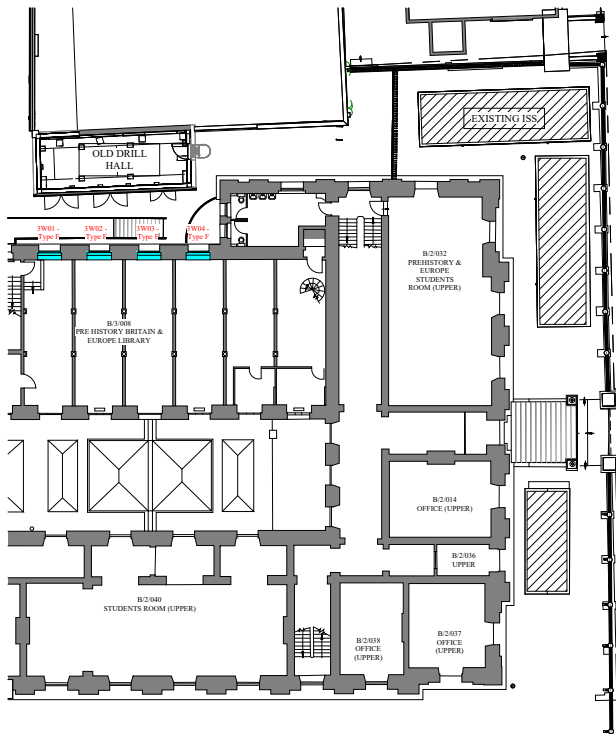
*To the east side of the East Road are solid flank walls and the courtyard was originally separated from the road by railings and central gates which have subsequently been removed although the stone kerbing still exists. **The windows facing outwards to the north east and south sides of the Wing are***



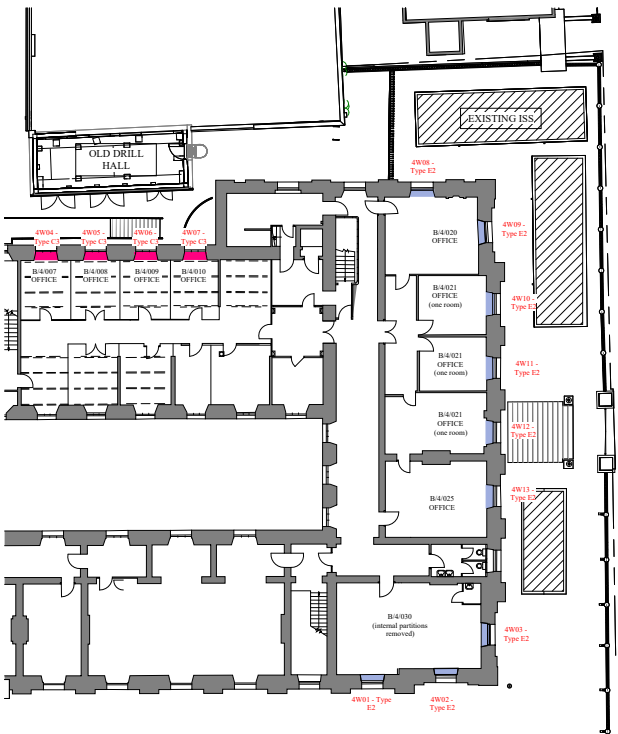
Level 01



Level 02



Level 03



Level 04

set within semi-circular areas with elaborate railings over the window openings and grilles at ground level above.

Ground Floor (Level 02)

On Level 2, the north range of the White Wing connected to the Manuscripts Saloon; the south side with the Middle Room. There has been little change in the original plan form at Level 2 and the original detail and architectural features generally remain intact.

Level 02: Prehistory & Europe Students Room B/2/O32

East Range: B/2/O32 was originally the Slavonic Manuscripts Reading Room. This room and fittings appear to be entirely as originally built, apart from an introduced door at the south end. The floor duct arrangement is original and possibly indicates early furniture layouts. The entrance vestibule (B/2/O13) adjacent to the south is again as originally built including the draught lobby screen, but this has a modern partition at the west end. An unusually designed counter hatch was added in the south wall opening into the administration office (B/2/O14) in the period 1926-45. The staircases at the north (B/2/SO3) and south ends (B/2/SO4) of the east corridor are both original and unchanged. The north stair was separated originally with a low-level screen. This was extended up as a fire protection screen in a matching design. A new oak/glazed screen recently has been added at the south end. Temporary offices, meeting rooms were added into the corridor after 1954. Other

offices and ancillary spaces are very much as built apart from the insertion of fitted cases which have been relocated from the Museum at various times.

Level 04

The three ranges of the White Wing at Level 4 are virtually unaltered from their original built form. There are minor local alterations and accretions such as the insertion of reversible partitions to form subdivided offices. However, most original fittings are still retained.

Level 04: North Range

North Range (Incl. B/4/007, B/4/008, B/4/009, B/4/010) ...

The range of offices off B/4/006 are all original with partitions and cupboards supported within the iron framework. The iron columns are still evident within the central corridor but otherwise concealed within the cupboards on either side.

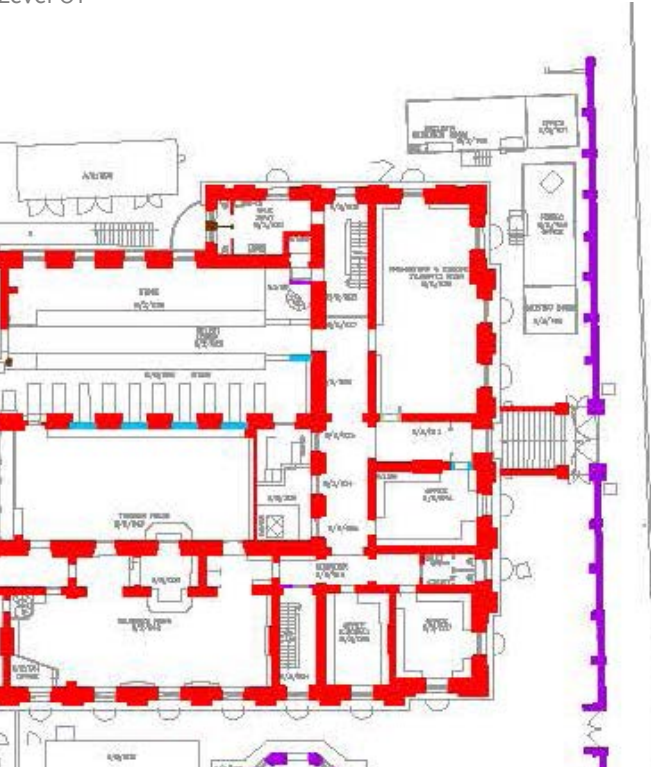
Level 04: East Range

East Range Incl: (B/4/020, B/4/021, B/4/022, B/4/023, B/4/024, B/4/025, B/4/030, B/4/029, B/4/031) ...

The original floor plan of this area is generally still clearly discernible. The original keeper's room (B/4/020) in the north-east corner retains original features including the fire surround and grate, bookcases and iron doors. The reading room adjacent



Level 01



Level 02



Key:

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Purcell Heritage Significance
Plans from the 2023 Conservation
Management Plan

Top to bottom

Level 01 White Wing

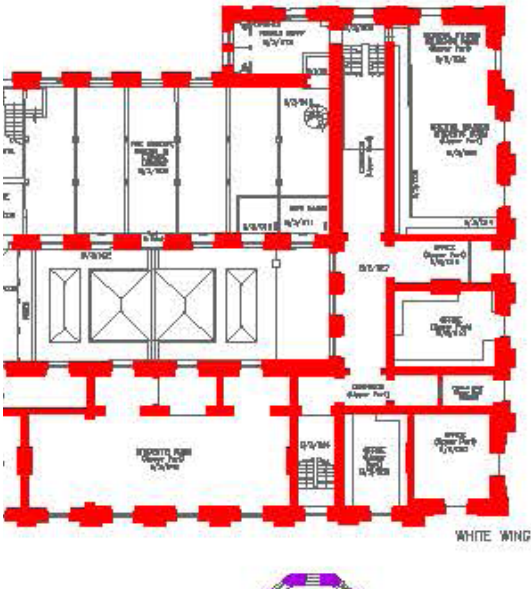
Level 02 White Wing

(now offices B/4/021, B/4/022, B/4/023, B/4/024)
 was subdivided in the 1990s...

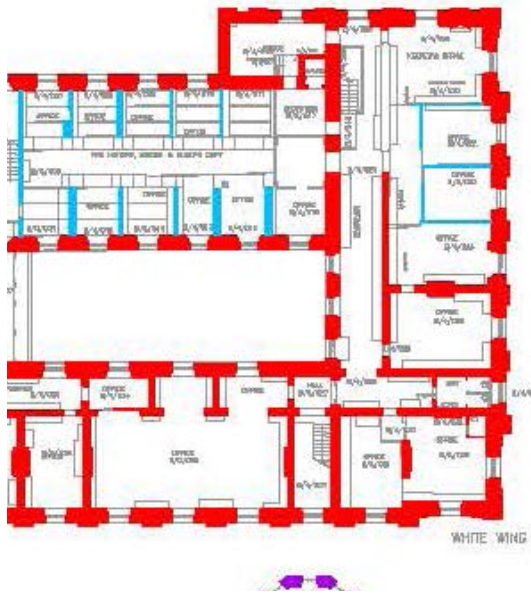
The offices in the east range were used by British and Mediaeval Antiquities and Ethnography following the transfer of Prints and Drawings to the King Edward VII building. Ethnography became a separate department in 1946. Further partitions and relocated cases were installed to separate B/4/029 and B/4/031 (formerly one room) and install a kitchen in 1974 when the MLS department (now Britain, Europe and Pre-History) occupied this area following the relocation of the Ethnography department.

Note: Photos taken on site confirm that the paritions forming rooms B/4/029, B/4/030 & B/4/031 were removed, presumably as part of the 21st century redevelopment of the White Wing.

A photographic survey on the following spreads indicates the character and condition of the the window types within the White Wing where intervention is proposed.



Level 03



Level 04



Key:

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- High significance
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Purcell Heritage Significance
 Plans from the 2023 Conservation
 Management Plan

Top to bottom:

Level 03 White Wing

Level 04 White Wing

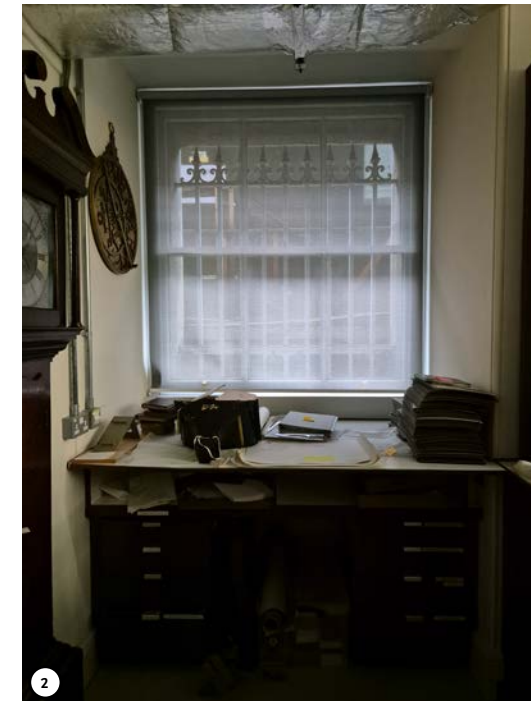


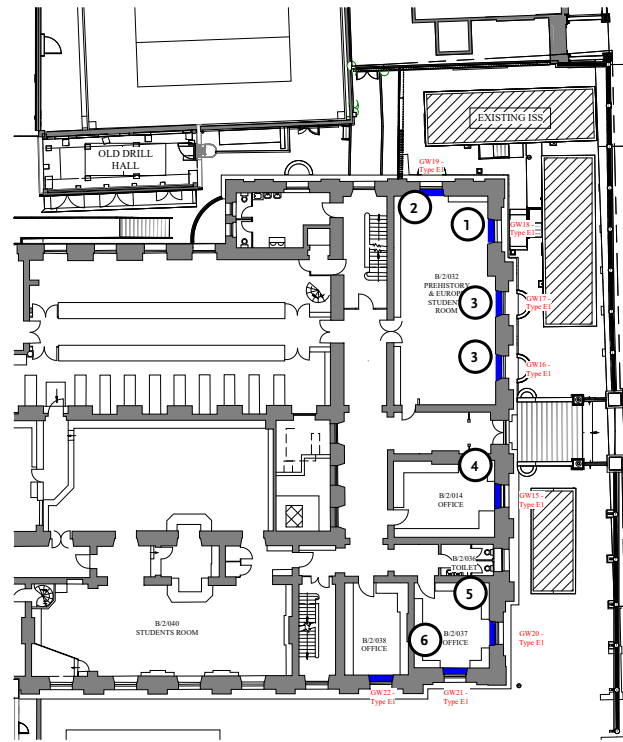
Key:

-  S.Glazing Type B1
-  S. Glazing Type B1*
-  S.Glazing Type F
-  S.Glazing Type C3
-  S.Glazing Type E2
-  S. Glazing Type E1

Right:

Existing photographic survey of windows proposed to have temporary secondary glazing acoustic mitigations installed within these proposals in Level 04 of the White Wing





Level 02

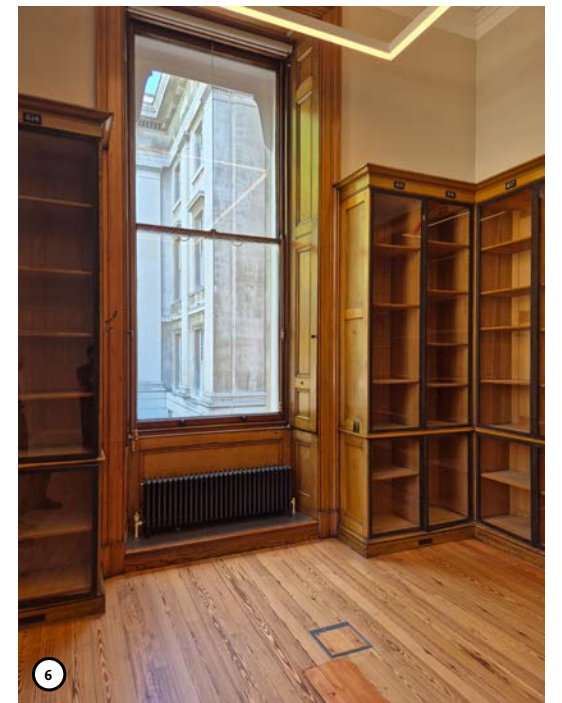
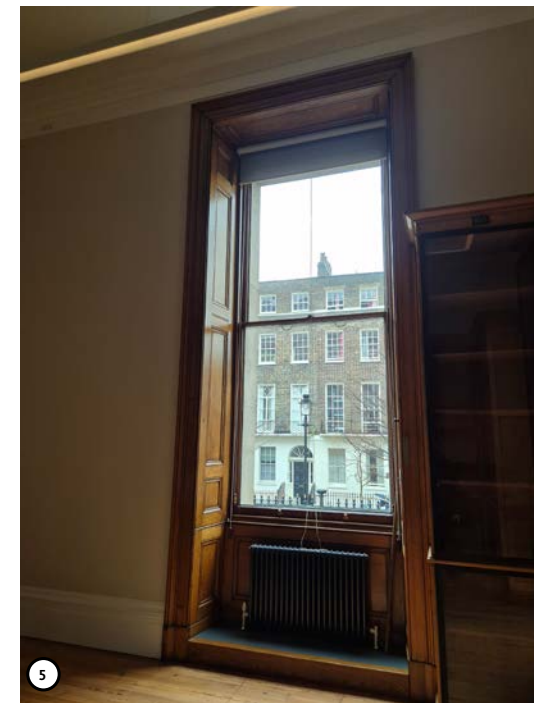
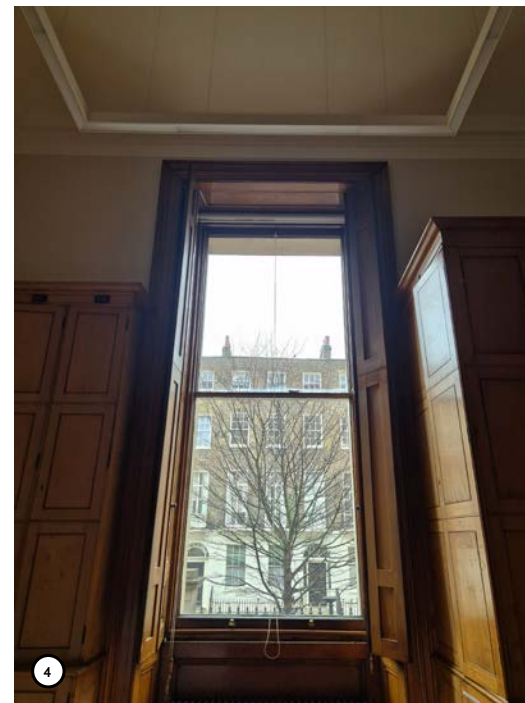
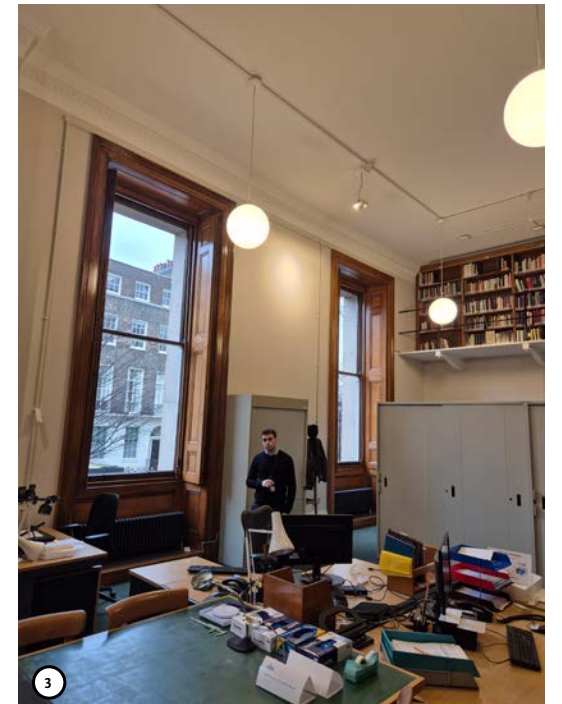


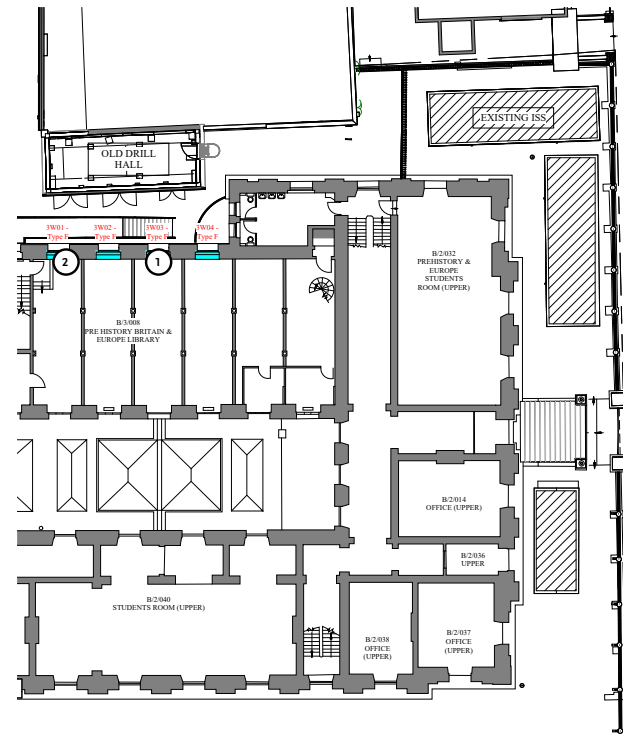
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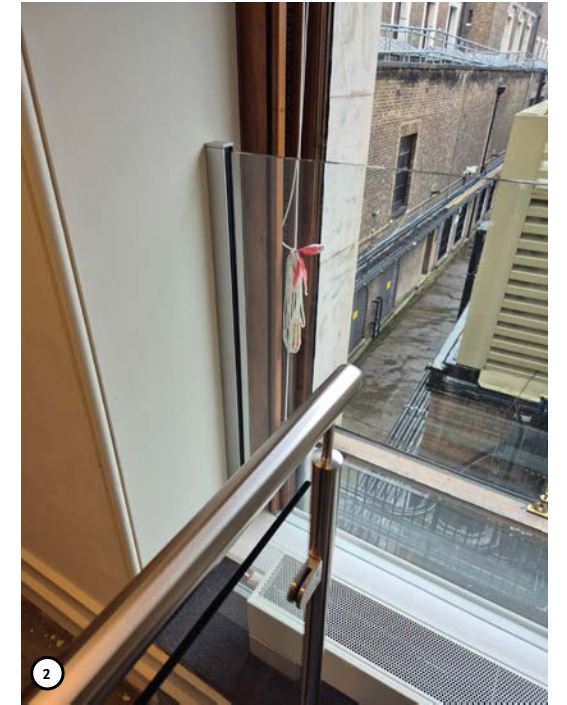
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Level 03

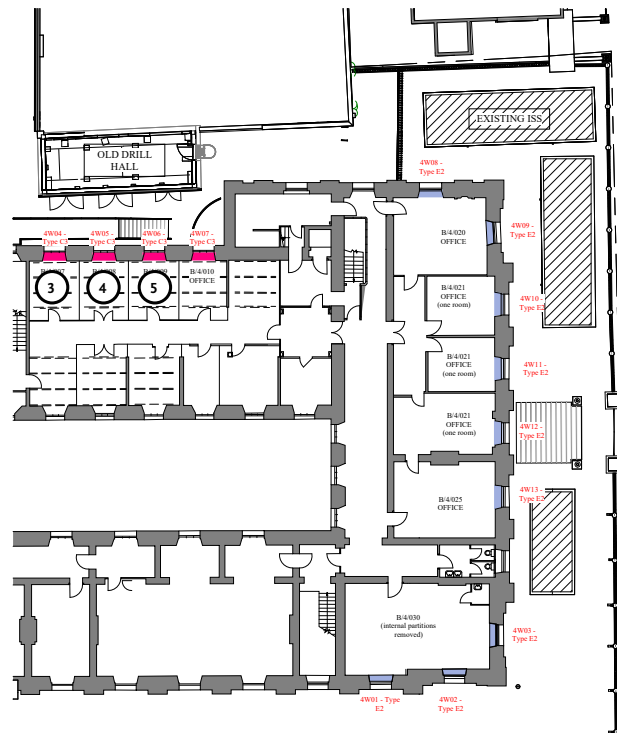


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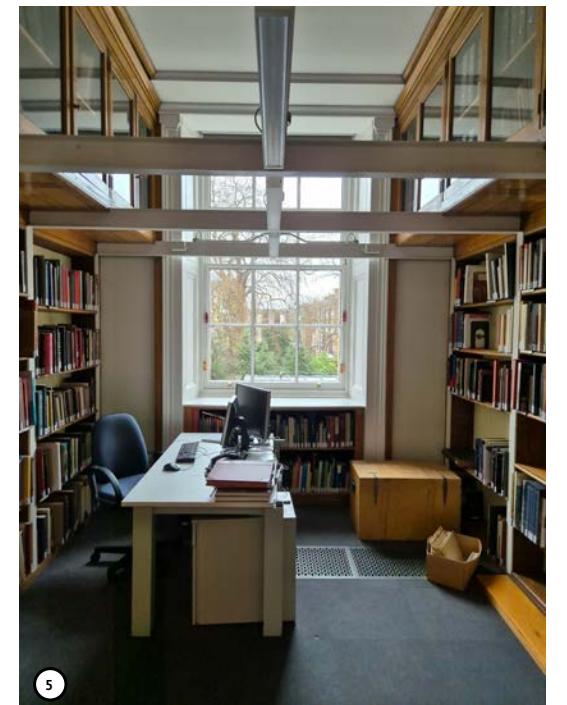
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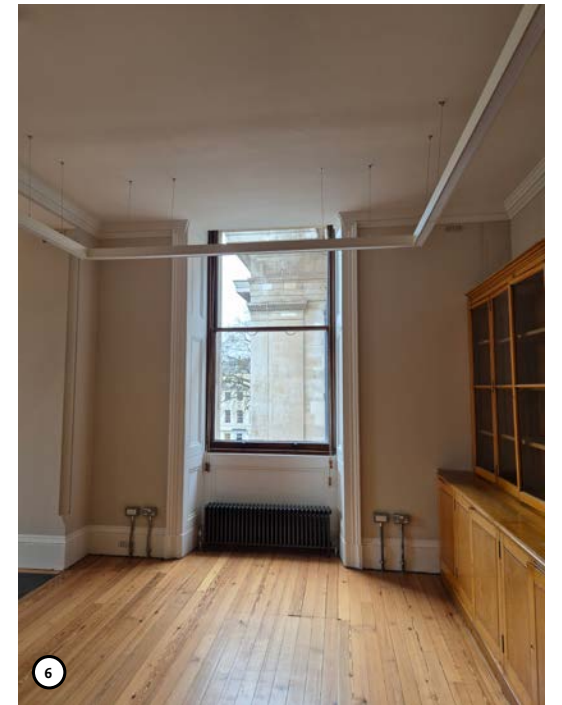
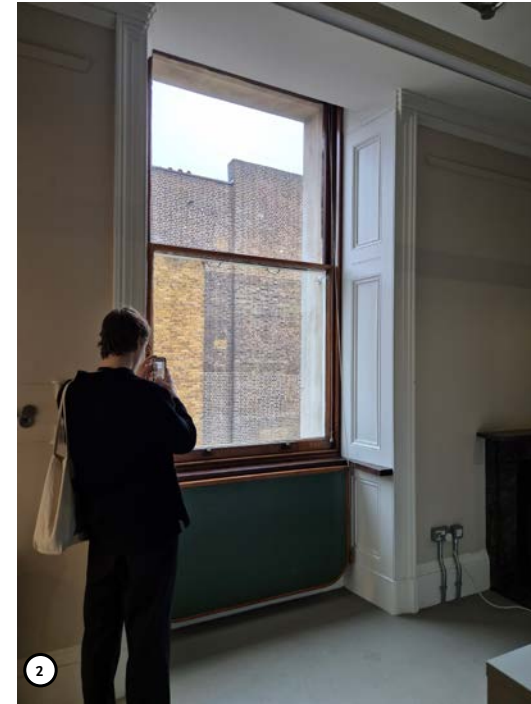
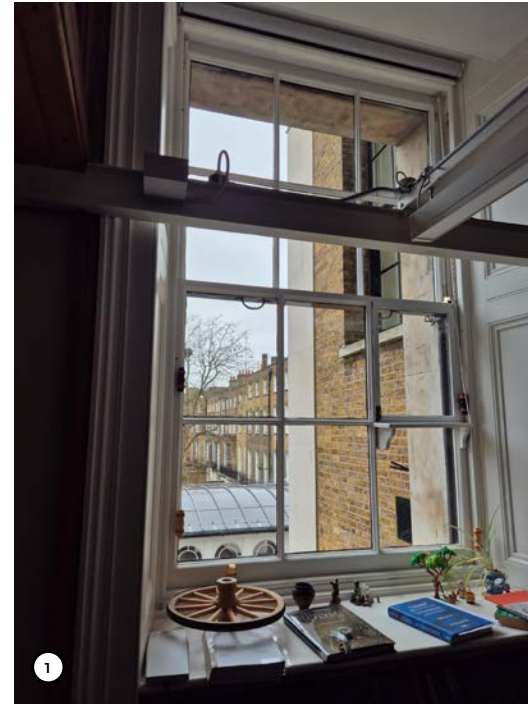
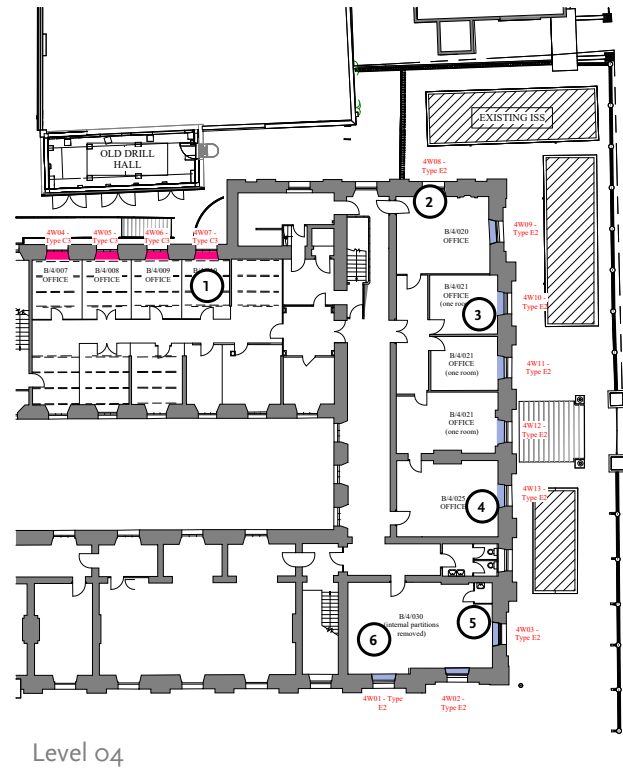
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Level 04





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Existing photographic survey of windows proposed to have temporary secondary glazing acoustic mitigations installed within these proposals in Level 04 of the White Wing

