

Application ref: 2025/1678/L  
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Date: 29 May 2025

**Development Management**  
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London  
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United Kingdom

Dear Sir/Madam

## **DECISION**

Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

### **Listed Building Consent Granted**

Address:

**College Building**  
**10 Thornhaugh Street**  
**Russell Square**  
**London**  
**WC1H 0XG**

Proposal:

Replacement of non-original ceiling panels and lighting fittings on the first floor, staff common room.

Drawing Nos: 240243-1100-P02 Site Location Plan, 240243-1101-P02 Block Location, 240243-1201-P02 Existing Ceiling Plan C120-Staff Common Room, 240243-1300-P02 Existing Internal Elevations C120-Staff Common Room, 240243-1400-P02 Proposed Ceiling Plan C120-Staff Common Room, 240243-1500-P02 Proposed Internal Elevations and Fixing Details C120-Staff Common Room, Covering Letter, Planning Heritage Design and Access Statement School of ~ Studies Main College Building Ceiling and Lighting Staff Common Room April 2025(2).

The Council has considered your application and decided to grant Listed Building Consent subject to the following condition(s):

Conditions And Reasons:

- 1 The works hereby permitted shall be begun not later than the end of three years from the date of this consent.

Reason: In order to comply with the provisions of Section 18 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

- 2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

240243-1100-P02 Site Location Plan, 240243-1101-P02 Block Location, 240243-1201-P02 Existing Ceiling Plan C120-Staff Common Room, 240243-1300-P02 Existing Internal Elevations C120-Staff Common Room, 240243-1400-P02 Proposed Ceiling Plan C120-Staff Common Room, 240243-1500-P02 Proposed Internal Elevations and Fixing Details C120-Staff Common Room, Covering Letter, Planning Heritage Design and Access Statement School of ~ Studies Main College Building Ceiling and Lighting Staff Common Room April 2025(2).

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

- 3 All new work and work of making good shall be carried out to match the existing adjacent work as closely as possible in materials and detailed execution.

Reason: In order to safeguard the special architectural and historic interest of the building in accordance with the requirements of policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017.

Informative(s):

- 1 The Grade II College Building forms part of the SOAS central London Campus, associated with the University of London and includes the Philips Building (Grade II\*) which the College Building is connected to, the Brunei Gallery, the Paul Webley Wing of Senate House (Grade II\* and 53 Gordon Square, all of which sit within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

The building was designed by Charles Holden and was constructed from 1939-45. The building is five storeys over a basement, the principal south facing elevation has 17 windows and there is a curved corner bay to the eastern end. The building is constructed from brown brick and has Portland Stone dressings, windows have flush metal frames with horizontally set panes. The building is linked to the Philips Building designed by Denis Lasdun via link corridors on each floor.

The proposals are to replace the ceiling and lighting in the staff common room which is located within the projecting bay at first floor level.

The existing ceiling consists of grey metal linear channels that run the length of the ceiling, with a combination of mounted square light boxes and circular pendant fittings. The existing ceiling and lighting arrangement is not of historic or architectural value, the removal is therefore supported.

The replacement ceiling is a metal grid system, coloured to appear like wood. A combination of recessed lighting and pendant lighting is fixed to the grid ceiling. The ceiling and lighting will create a more pleasing aesthetic than the existing arrangement and will improve the appearance of the staff common room.

The proposed works will not harm the special interest of the grade-II-listed building.

The site's planning history has been taken into account in making this decision.

Special attention has been paid to the desirability of preserving the special interest of the listed building, under s.16 of the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990 as amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (ERR) 2013

As such, the proposal is in general accordance with policy D2 of the Camden Local Plan 2017. The proposed development also accords with the London Plan 2024 and the NPPF.

- 2 You are advised that any works of alterations or upgrading not included on the approved drawings which are required to satisfy Building Regulations or Fire Certification may require a further application for listed building consent.

In dealing with the application, the Council has sought to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive way in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework. The council publishes its adopted policies online, along with detailed Camden Planning Guidance. It also provides advice on the website for submitting applications and offers a pre-application advice service.

You can find advice about your rights of appeal at:

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/appeals/guidance/guidancecontent>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DPope', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Daniel Pope  
Chief Planning Officer