

Supporting Statement Brunswick Square Gardens

The statement below is supporting information in relation to the Planning Application 2011/5956/P for the erection of bronze statue of the Bangabandu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the centre of Brunswick Square Gardens WC1N 1AR.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this statement is to give some context to the pre-application consultation which was undertaken by the applicant Dr Mohammad Saydeedur Rahman Khan High Commissioner for Republic of Bangladesh.

Background to the proposals

The subject of a statue has been under consideration for a considerable time in the public domain. Historical background for the subject and his importance as the father of the Bangladeshi Nation is included in the application documents.

There has been a significant vibrant Bangladeshi community focussed around the Bloomsbury area centred on the location of the proposal since the mid-late 20th century. The statue will represent the established nature of the community in the life of Camden and in particularly Bloomsbury. It will provide an excellent role model reference to the children growing up locally and inform the community as a whole as to the international importance of Bangabandu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the international links with this part of the London Borough of Camden.

Other Squares in the area also recognise world statesman from the sub-continent and these include Mahatma Ghandi statue in Tavistock Square.

Before preparing the proposals the applicant selected an artist of international repute who has sculpted world leaders including Margaret Thatcher and John Major. Her works adorn other public spaces in London including Rabindrath Tagore in Gordon Square.

The applicant then embarked on extensive consultation before submitting a planning application to ensure the proposals are inclusive and take account of local opinion.

Consideration of the choice of Site

In considering the most appropriate site the applicant and Shenda looked at Brunswick Square Gardens, Russel Square, and Tavistock Square as possible locations which were the subject of consultation with London Borough of Camden Parks and Open Spaces Director and his team.

These discussions commenced in the Summer 2011 and were concluded by the recommendation of the then Director of Parks Sean Kiddell that Brunswick Square Gardens was the most appropriate location. Some of the issues considered leading to this conclusion were as follows (in brief).

Tavistock Square is a small London Garden Square in a compact urban space. The history of the square since 1738 has seen it develop as a popular amenity and place for the commemoration of international and local figures. This popularity has led to an accumulation over time of a large number of commemorative art and landscape objects including a listed memorial to Mahatma Gandhi by sculptor Fredda Brilliant.

The size of the space and number of commemorative objects have 'on the one hand' made it unique but 'on the other' caused to be already very densely populated for a square which has to meet many needs including local history, culture, amenity, leisure and relaxation. The current policy of the then Director of Parks and Open Spaces was to resist an over-population or dominance of a single use as one function in relation to these proposals i.e. commemoration. It also has a large number of residential properties. The Square is a Grade II listed open space recently refurbished utilising a Heritage lottery fund which would make it a sensitive site to propose a new landscape and sculpture insertion.

Russel Square on the other hand has few commemorative works of art. It too however has benefited from a recent major Heritage grant which provided a comprehensive restoration of the square and new cafe pavilion. The restoration paid close attention to recreate the features of the square to give them a refreshed new lease of life respecting existing patch layouts and reflect Humphrey Repton's original design. A grade II listed park the square would be a sensitive option for a new landscape and sculpture intervention. Its setting is residential, office academic and hotel use adjacent and it is both a heavily used amenity and also its paths provide a busy thoroughfare.

Brunswick Square Gardens has few commemorative works of art similar to Russel Square. It too however has benefited from a recent refurbishment in 2008 but it is not listed individually but as a group with Mecklenburgh Square and Coram's Fields (see conservation report Attached Appendix) and some of its features are not as highly regarded as the other

alternatives above. It is also at the heart of the local Bangladeshi community in Bloomsbury and that proximity is a key factor in its appropriateness as a location for the work of art. The community have been present in this vicinity of Camden since before World War II and the connections of the community include service in the war with the British and Commonwealth forces. The epicentre of the Bangladeshi community in Camden we can say is close to the site location being around Judd Street and neighbouring residential areas. There is an established mosque at Cromer Street/Argyle Square namely Kings Cross Mosque and Islamic Centre. There is a clear cultural connection with the community in this locality and a recognised involvement in the diverse community through their numerous social cohesion projects and events including the well established Mela.

As stated in Dr Mervyn Miller Conservation Report *"The wish to commemorate Bangabandur Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of the Republic of Bangladesh has been under consideration for some years since the late 20th century, and has crystallised around the location of a significant Bangladeshi community in the Bloomsbury area."*

This was the preferred site of the applicant a selection from the site above was through consultation endorsed by the then Director of Parks and Open Spaces, Shaun Kiddell, which became the recommended location for the development of a detailed proposal as a pre-requisite for planning pre-application consultation.

Unlike Russel Square it is not such a thoroughfare and the surroundings are non-residential. The entrance area from the Brunswick Centre is enclosed by a hedge which was an early site considered. Early consultation with user groups and in particular the Friends of Brunswick Square identified that within the Square it was a local concern to preserve the entrance area for event such as choral performances which is a current and on going popular activity. Alternative sites were reviewed.

This concern was taken on board by the applicant and a discreet location to the choral event area was selected as the central planted area which would minimise the impact on routes, paths and the available open space would not reduce.

The square is heavily screened by trees, shrubs and hedges around the perimeter which would render the views of the statue site from the surrounding streets all but invisible (see photo-montages).

Access is limited by the Coram Fields area abutting one side and the square is a quiet space in terms of pedestrian through traffic unlike Russel Square.

It is a very open square with large areas of grass and the relationship of the major trees to the path layout reduce any perceived formality of the central circular feature.

Pre-application Consultation

Following the recommendation for the preference for Brunswick Square Gardens as the appropriate site for the sculpture meetings were held in the council offices and at the High Commission to present the proposals to the planning authority and the local interest groups such as 'Friends of Brunswick Square Gardens'. The scheme enjoys wide support notwithstanding there are some reservations which the applicant would like to address to maximise the inclusive nature of the proposal.

The principle consultees of Camden Parks and Open Spaces and the freeholders of the site Goodenough College have confirmed they have no objections to the application as have over 200 members of the local community.

The local planning authority were consulted on numerous occasions including 23 August 2011, 11 September 2011, 22 September 2011 and latterly in October and November in the preparation of the application by Shenda Amery and the applicant.

Early comments on the size of the sculpture made by planning officers were taken on board and the design was reduced in scale prior to submission of an application in response to conservation and design officer's comments.

A planting brief has been developed in consultation with Camden Parks and Open Spaces and consideration has been given to tree officers views in the development of the detail proposal. The sculpture will be set in a high quality landscaped bed within the original central circular path utilising drought resistant planting to achieve a sustainable attractive planting bed which will enclose the sculpture and at the same time screen the plinth from view.

The proposal then, creates the minimum intervention to the square with the only new hard surface being a high quality paving in the immediate central circular environs within the centre of the former forlorn flower bed. This will be surrounded by the high quality planting bed referred to above. The planting in the central bed retained around the sculpture will screen the plinth visually from the rest of the square to large degree (final planting scheme is to be agreed with Camden and the Friends).

Detailed Design

The application document Design and Access Statement sets out the criteria for the design approach. It also provides a commentary on how the design has been developed taking on board comments from the consultations undertaken with both community organisations, local authority and Goodenough College the site owners.

The applicant is keen to respond to any concerns raised by the planning application consultation and desire to make the proposal as inclusive as possible. This proposal however we feel meets all of the Town and Country Planning Act criteria and the policies of the Parks and Open Spaces department. The Access liaison officer's comments have been incorporated in the design in determining the hard landscape setting around the sculpture.

Artists Statement by Shenda Amery Sculptor

ERECTION OF A BRONZE STATUE OF BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBIR RAHMAN

IN THE CENTRE OF BRUNSWICK SQUARE GARDENS, WC1N 1AR CAMDEN LB

It is the will of the Bangladesh community in Camden to erect a bronze bust of the Father of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Brunswick Square. He is to Bangladesh as Nelson Mandela is to South Africa of whom there are several statues in London. Brunswick Square Gardens was felt to be the most suitable square to erect a bust of the Bangabandhu for the following reasons:

1. It is close to the Bangladesh community.
2. Brunswick Square Gardens is totally devoid of any statues
3. The centre of the Square is in poor condition. Due to the lack of water it cannot be a flourishing garden square. Therefore it is an ideal spot for a piece of sculpture. Taking into account the size of the trees the statue would not be very prominent in the Square.

The High Commissioner of Bangladesh Dr. M. Sayeedur Rahman Khan has commissioned me to create a sculpture of the Bangabandhu. On July 18 2011 I contacted Planning Officer Catherine Bond, and subsequently had several meetings with her and Bethany Arbery and the head of parks Shaun Kiddell. Several visits to Brunswick Square were made. The position of the sculpture and the size were discussed. After a number of meetings and discussions with the High Commissioner the agreed position was to be close to the Entrance gate opposite the Brunswick Centre. And the agreed size was to be

Plinth 1.8-2.0 meters

Bust 1.2 meters overall height 3.2 meters.

On the 16 August I had a further meeting with the Friends of Brunswick Square. Later I attended a meeting with the Friends of Brunswick Square, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh and Major General Andrew Ritchie, CBE, Director of Goodenough College. The Friends were neither happy with the position nor the size of the proposed sculpture. My desire was to reach a conclusion in which all parties would be satisfied. So I reduced the overall size of the statue to 2.38 meters and with the help of both the planners and the High Commissioner selected another site in Brunswick Square. The centre was chosen as the most suitable site for the sculpture.

I prepared all the paper work and drawings ready to submit however it was decided to ask Graham Newsome of Architects Network to do an in-depth architectural study of the Square and submit a computerized application on our behalf. He suggested that a report should be prepared by Chartered Architect and town Planner Dr Mervyn Miller on the environmental aspects of this project. Dr Miller has an in-depth knowledge of the history and planning of the entire area. In his report he has analysed the public interest by subdividing it into the following:

1. addressed the environmental, historic,
2. aesthetic,
3. evidential

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4. Communal aspects of this project.

He has concluded 'that the proposal fulfils all planning provisions and merits granting planning permission'

I conclude that I have done my utmost to realize a situation where all parties have been considered and every possible precaution taken to satisfy the majority.

Appendix

Conservation Report - Dr Mervyn Miller (separate attachment)

Typical Letter of Support (below)

Brief History of Brunswick, Russel and Tavistock Squares (below)

Typical letter of support

Catherine Bond

>> Planning Officer for Conservation Area Camden Town Hall Extension

>> Argyle Street London WC1H 8NJ

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>> Dear Catherine Bond

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>> Ref: Planning Application for Brunswick Square - 2011/5956/P

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>> I am writing to support the planning application for a statue of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the Brunswick Square.

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architectsnetwork

>> For many British Bangladeshis, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the greatest Bangladeshi leader and indeed the founder of Bangladesh. He led his nation in their struggle for freedom in 1971 and fought the war against West Pakistan (now known as Pakistan). Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is and always will be a positive role model for young British Bangladeshis.

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>> In Camden we have a considerable population of British Bangladeshis and the erection of the statue will contribute to strengthening the diversity and understanding between our communities. There is a clear link between the Square and the statue.

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>> The London Plan states:

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>> "The Mayor and the GLA Group will, and all other strategic agencies should, ensure: a that London retains and extends its global role as a sustainable centre for business, innovation, creativity, health, education and research, culture and art and as a place to live, visit and enjoy..." (Policy 2.1. A, Page 39).

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>> British Bangladeshis have made Camden their home and a statue of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will reinforce a sense of belonging for them. " A city of diverse, strong, secure and accessible neighbourhoods to which Londoners feel attached, which provide all of its residents, workers, visitors and students - whatever their origin, background, age or status - with opportunities to realise and express their potential and a high quality environment for individuals to enjoy, live together and thrive".

>> (Point 3, Policy 6, page 32)

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>> The Brunswick Square is an ideal location for the statue and it also meets Camden Council's planning regulations. I hope the Council approves the planning application.

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>> Yours sincerely

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History of Brunswick

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Brunswick Square was developed as part of the Foundling Estate. The Foundling Hospital was established in 1739 by Captain Thomas Coram, whose statue is just outside Brunswick Square Gardens.

The Trustees of the Hospital purchased 56 acres in Lamb's Conduit Fields from Lord Salisbury and the Hospital, now Coram's Fields, was built by 1753. The plan was to develop the surrounding estate in order to provide ground rents to

support the hospital but also to retain an open situation.

Brunswick Square, one of two squares either side of the Hospital, was built between 1795-1802 and named after Caroline of Brunswick, the Prince Regent's wife.

The railed gardens were laid out in 1799 with lawns, flowerbeds and fine trees. The gardens were re-landscaped in 2008, including new railings, paths and seating.

Part of the Foundling Estate and now owned by the London Goodenough Trust and leased to LB Camden. The Foundling Hospital was established in 1742 by Captain Thomas Coram, whose statue by William Macmillan of 1963 is just outside Brunswick Square Gardens.

The Trustees of the Foundling Hospital purchased 56 acres in Lamb's Conduit Fields from owner Lord Salisbury for £6,500 and Foundling Hospital, now Coram's Fields (q.v.) was built by 1753.

The plan was to develop the surrounding estate in order to provide ground rents to support the hospital but also to retain an open situation. The Building Committee appointed Samuel Pepys Cockerell to develop the estate surrounding the hospital, whose plan of 1790 had two squares on either side of the Hospital.

Although his general principles accepted, details of the west Brunswick Square was by Thomas Merryweather, the Hospital's Secretary.

Brunswick Square was built between 1795 and 1802 and was named after Caroline of Brunswick, Prince Regent's wife. The gardens were laid out and railed in 1799. Described in 1928 as 'a very attractive garden with well-kept lawns and flower beds and some fine trees . . . Surrounded by a thick shrubbery'.

It was maintained for the use of inhabitants of the surrounding houses by a Committee who managed it out of rates levied on the occupiers by St Pancras Borough Council. Now open to the public and maintained by LB Camden, the gardens have numerous mature trees including a London plane in the centre described as the finest in the borough, flower and shrub beds and shrubbery around the perimeter.

There was once a tennis court, its site later marked by tarmac. Substantial re-landscaping of the gardens was completed by 2008, which included restoration of perimeter railings, the original having been replaced by chain-link fencing in the C20th.

Opposite is the now listed Brunswick Centre, which was built in 1967-72 and described as 'the pioneering example of low-rise, high density housing a field in which Britain was extremely influential on this scale'

History of Tavistock

Prior to 1550	The land was part of the Tottenhall Manor. It then became the Bloomsbury estate, granted to the first Earl of Southampton, Thomas Wriothesley.
1738	On John Roque's map of the cities of London and Westminster, the area which became Tavistock Square was still fields.
1792	Richard Horwood surveyed the northern part of the Bloomsbury estate and the site was still open fields.

1800	A basic grid of streets was established through the estate and recorded in the estate plan of 1800. This included Tavistock Square, which was not laid as an oval.
1803	James Burton constructed the buildings on the east side of Tavistock Square, including old Tavistock House (to the rear of the terraced houses).
1851-60	Tavistock House was the residence of Charles Dickens
1825	Richard Horwood's plan shows the square at the beginning of the 19th century. The basic layout of the garden with a perimeter path is apparent, although it is not thought to have been constructed until 1825.
1825-6	The western side of Tavistock Square was designed by Lewis Vuillamy and built by G Anstey and JA Frampton.
1820-26	Thomas Cubitt began building the northern and southern sides to Tavistock Square, completing them in about 1826. Lewis Cubitt was the designer for his brother Thomas' buildings.
1830	Greenwood's map shows a basic layout for Tavistock Square Garden, with planted border between the perimeter path and boundary. Planting in the central lawn is minimal.
1830	The Bloomsbury Estate plan shows the gardens the same border and perimeter path. Tree planting is scattered with tighter groups at the centre and each corner of the lawn.
1849	St Pancras Parish plan confirms the formal path layout and shows four entrances at the centre of each side of Tavistock Square Gardens.
1866	The detailed Bedford Estate Plan provides, information about the planting is apparent. Trees are set at irregular intervals around the outer edge of the perimeter path and a new path crosses the

	gardens from east to west, with a central planted oval. A hedge lines the boundary railings. On the central lawns there are four semi-circular beds, two crescent shaped beds and several other small circular beds. Colourful displays of carpet bedding were very popular at this time and the numerous beds in Tavistock Square Gardens were probably planted that way.
1871	The first edition of the Ordnance Survey indicates the border between boundary and path is fully planted, the beds in the lawns are reduced in size and more kidney shaped, a dozen trees on the lawn are randomly planted and three seats have been positioned against the beds for the enjoyment of garden visitors. A building, presumably a gardener's store, has been built within the planting bed in the north east corner. The oval path bulges at the southern end, for no apparent reason.
1894	The second edition of the Ordnance Survey shows less detail than the first. However, trees are shown lining the paths and boundary at reasonably regular intervals. A new path from the north gate joins to the central oval path and steps lead down from the south gate.
1916	The Ordnance Survey plan does not show any layout changes.
1904	The Stephens family of novelist Virginia (Woolf), her artist sister Vanessa (Bell) and their brothers, Thoby and Adrian, moved to adjacent Gordon Square and the Bloomsbury Group gradually formed around them and their friends, many of whom lived nearby.
1926	A memorial to the surgeon Dame Louisa Brandreth Aldrich Blake was constructed in the south east corner of the gardens. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.
1928	The gardens were still private and were maintained by a committee of inhabitants of the square, from rates levied by St Pancras Borough Council

1938	The Ordnance Survey plan shows two tennis courts on the north western lawn and southern lawn.
1940	The railings, which had enclosed the square, were removed so that the iron could be reused for the war. This allowed direct public access from all sides. Some years later, a chain link fence was erected and the public were again excluded.
1940-44	During the Second World War several houses on the southern side of the square were damaged or destroyed by bombs. This included number 52 where Virginia and Leonard Woolf had lived and ran the Hogarth Press between 1924 and 1939.
1953	President Nehru of India planted a copper beech tree in the gardens. The tree was replaced in 1997.
1965	On 1 April, the London Borough of Camden was created and management of Tavistock Square was transferred to the new authority.
1967	A flowering cherry was planted at the north end of the square in August to commemorate the victims of Hiroshima.
1968	A memorial to Mahatma Gandhi by sculptor Fredda Brilliant was placed in the centre of the square.
1994	A large rough hewn boulder was placed at the northern end of the gardens on 15 May for International Conscientious Objectors' Day as a memorial "to all those who established and are maintaining the right to refuse to kill".
2004	A memorial to Virginia Woolf was erected in the south west corner of the gardens on Saturday 26 June.
2005	Tavistock Square became internationally recognised when a double-decker bus was the target of a suicide bomber on 7 July as part of a terrorist strike. The bus exploded outside the British Medical Association and resulted in the loss of 13 lives.

History of Russell Square

1545	The first Earl of Southampton purchased the manor of Bloomsbury from the Crown.
1661	Charles II granted the Earl a building licence allowing the first phase of construction in Bloomsbury to begin with Bloomsbury Square. This was not only the first square to be so designated but Lord Southampton pioneered the system of development by hereditary landlords through speculative builders, which brought the rest of Bloomsbury (and half of London) into being.
1669	The Russell family acquired the Bloomsbury Estate through the marriage of William Russell to Lady Vaughan, daughter and co-heir of the fourth Earl of Southampton.
1771	William Russell was found guilty of being party to the 'Rye House' plot to assassinate Charles II and his brother, and was beheaded in Lincoln Inn Fields. A bronze tablet in the Fields commemorates the event and is succeeded by his five year-old grandson, Francis Russell (1765-1802).
1776	Building agreements granted for Bedford Square marked the beginning of the second phase in the building of Bloomsbury. Development prior to 1776 lay to the south of Great Russell Street, while building to the north began in 1776 with Bedford Square.
1795	Bloomsbury Estate plan marks the Duke's decision to develop the rest of his estate, with his family home, Bedford House, as the plan's central feature.
December 1799	Fifth Duke employs James Burton (1761-1837) as his builder to develop his estate and

	instructs him to demolish Bedford House.
1800	Bloomsbury Estate plan shows the intended development of the estate to the north with two garden squares (Russell and Bloomsbury) as the principal new features.
24 June 1800	<p>The Building Agreement of Russell Square was signed between the Duke of Bedford and James Burton. In it Burton agrees to set out the north side of Bloomsbury Square, the south and west side of Russell Square, and Bedford Place, and to set out and plant the two squares of Russell and Bloomsbury.</p> <p>Russell Square Paving Act was passed. This provided for the maintenance of the garden square by an elected committee of rate-payers. Fifth Duke of Bedford moves from his Bloomsbury estate to St. James's.</p> <p>Future residents of Russell Square were to be:</p> <p>1805-30: Sir Thomas Lawrence had his studio at number 67 (demolished for the Imperial Hotel) when he painted Platov, the house was guarded by Cossacks "on their small white horses with their long spears grounded".</p> <p>1818: Sir Samuel Romilly, the great law reformer killed himself at number 21 in 1818 when distracted by grief at the death of his wife.</p> <p>1818-34: Lord Thomas Denman, Lord Chief Justice lived at number 50.</p> <p>Circa 1830s: William Cowper, the poet, lived at number 62 (later demolished for the Imperial Hotel) when a schoolboy at Westminster.</p> <p>1832: Lord Tenterden died at number 28 in 1832.</p> <p>1836: Mary Russell Mitford, the novelist and dramatist, attended a dinner in Russell Square also attended by Wordsworth, Browning, and "quantities more of poet".</p> <p>1880-1905: George Williams, founder of the YMCA lived at number 13.</p>
1802	Fifth Duke of Bedford dies.

1805	Burton appoints Humphry Repton (1752-1808), England's foremost landscape designer, to design and plant Russell (at a cost of £2,570) and Bloomsbury Squares (which were to be two of his three London square commissions).
1805	J P Malcolm, antiquary and local resident, rejoiced in his 'Londinium Redivivum' on the "wonderfully rapid" increase in the population of the parish of St George, Bloomsbury: "Squares, and spacious streets of the first respectability are rising in every direction; and the north side of the parish will, in a few years, contain an immense accumulation of riches, attracted by the grand structures in Russell Square now almost complete...."
1806	Russell and Bloomsbury garden squares completed.
1806	Cadogan Square (now Place) was set out by Repton for Lord Cadogan (the last of Repton's London Square commissions)
1806	Repton's 'Inquiry into changes of taste in Landscape gardening' is published, in which he describes his work at Russell Square: "A few years hence, when the present patches of shrubs shall have become thickets, when the present meagre rows of trees shall have become an umbrageous avenue, and the children now in their nurses' arms shall have become the parents or grandsires of future generations, this square may serve to record that the art of landscape gardening in the beginning of the 19th century was not directed by whim or caprice, but founded on due consideration of utility as well as beauty". Both squares proved very popular and Dobie describes in 1830 how Russell Square "has, from its first formation, been a favourite residence of the highest legal characters; and here merchants and bankers have seated themselves and families, the air and situation



	uniting to render it a pleasant retreat from the cares of business”.
1807-8	Fifth Duke of Bedford’s statue by Sir Richard Westmacott is erected in Russell Square. The statue shows Francis Russell as the agriculturalist he was with a sheep beside him and his hand on a plough, surrounded by four figures representing the seasons of winter, spring, summer and autumn.
3 August 1809	Bloomsbury Square Paving Act was passed. This provided for the maintenance of the garden enclosure by a committee of ratepayers.
1821	Thomas Cubitt (1788-1855), Burton’s successor, came forward to construct Tavistock Square, Woburn Place and Walk, and part of Gordon Square. With his own permanent paid craftsmen and workshops his houses represented a level of style and quality unprecedented among other speculative builders.
5 September 1823	<p>A manuscript details:</p> <p>“An estimate for painting works to be carried out in Russell Square:</p> <p>“Paint all the iron rails round the pleasure ground and the statue and the Watch Boxes and the Pump twice in oil Lead colour.</p> <p>“Paint the roof, sides, and seats of the eight alcoves in the centre of the pleasure grounds, and all the seats in the pleasure ground twice in oil green.</p> <p>“Paint the stucco walls at the back of the alcoves four times in oil stone colour.</p> <p>“The whole to be done for the sum of eighty eight pounds” - The Bedford Estate, 5 September 1823.</p> <p>The reference to ‘Watch Boxes’ refer to the small police huts which were presumably located on the perimeter of the square. The ‘pump’ was positioned on the east side of the</p>

	Square within the shrubbery.
1823-4	British Museum established in 1759 was entirely re-built by Robert Smirke. (Montague House was finally demolished in 1842).
1830s	There was a noticeable decline in the demand for 'first rate' houses in Bloomsbury. The Bedford Office increased their control over its property to try to preserve Bloomsbury as the 'gentlemen's private residence'.
1842-4	The Bedford Office moves to the gardens at the rear of Bloomsbury House.
1860	The Duke disturbed by "the unsightly state of the trees and plants in the gardens of several of the squares" hired a Mr Mann ("who had the care of the Grounds at Kensington Palace") to inspect Russell Square. On his recommendation, the Duke ordered the expenditure of £477 on drainage, the renewal of the soil "and re-planting and carrying the character of the garden". The works were carried out in the autumn of 1861 and completed in 1862.
1860	Gordon Square was completed (by Cubitt's brother, Lewis) and brought the building history of the Bedford Estate to a close.
July 1864	A newspaper cutting dated 23 July 1864 from The Illustrated London News describes how the annual 'Bloomsbury Flower Show' was held in Russell Square with its aim to "encourage the taste for cultivating flowers among people of the working class" in the parish of St George, Bloomsbury. The article explains how this "laudable event allows the customary barriers of exclusiveness to be thrown down for the time, and the gardens to be opened to the poorest parishioner".
1870s	Trollope uses "the unfashionable quarters of

	Bloomsbury" to lodge one of his heroes, Harry Clavering.
1884	<p>Correspondence from residents of Russell Square to the Bedford Office outline maintenance works to be carried out to the Square.</p> <p>In a letter dated January 1884 from Humphry Ward he explains that the Garden Committee had "now set the Square's garden in order. You will see that the work has cost us £300. This has quite exhausted our resources and we have not been able to touch the plant house, which is in a ruinous condition. That house was never suitable for its purpose, and in its last days is a very shabby affair. What we would like is a new house, with a glass roof on a wood (not iron) frame and a system of heating, so that the plants might be kept through the winter without loss. The outside of the house will be adapted to the purpose of a summer-house, as at present" and were disappointed that "the Duke of Bedford as the freeholder would not undertake this permanent improvement for us".</p> <p>It is unclear from the first edition Ordinance Survey where this building was located, but it is possible that it was located in front of the Duke of Bedford's statue, or in the centre where a gardener's shed was hidden by trellis work and surrounded by seats.</p> <p>In a letter from Frederick McPocter (treasurer) dated 5 November 1884 he explains the residents committee had insufficient sums to pay for a proposed "new garden house (only levying a rate of £339.18 for the past two years)."</p> <p>"No estimate has been obtained of the cost of the new Garden House proposed, nor has any design been submitted to the Commissioners for one. The desire of some is to have a roomy comfortable place for shelter and preserving tennis more exhaustive than the present but these desires have to be controlled by the</p>

	<p>means at command - and the rates not being equal to the present needs, is the main course of the application to the Duke".</p> <p>It is uncertain whether this 'garden house' was ever implemented, and further research would need to be made. It is also the only mention of the gardens being used for tennis.</p> <p>Indeed in a letter by the same Mr McPocter dated 24 March 1887 the Garden Committee had had to spend a further amount on repair works to the Square and railings "amounting to £790.12" of which £150 was still outstanding.</p>
1886	The Bedford office attempted, without success, to eject the cab ranks that had established in Russell Square.
1894	Numbers 1-8 Russell Square east side were pulled down for the building of the Hotel Russell.
1898	<p>The late 19th century saw the alteration and adaptation of Burton's north and south sides of Russell Square, while those on the east were replaced by the Russell and Imperial Hotels by Fitzroy Doll, in 1898. The Russell Hotel, impersonating a red brick French chateau, and the Imperial Hotel, a mix of art nouveau gothic and art nouveau Tudor.</p> <p>Many of the private houses of Russell Square were converted into private hotels, solicitors' offices, student hostels and departments of London University.</p>
1898-1899	<p>North and south-side elevations of Russell Square were altered, with the addition of decorative terracotta work to the facades.</p> <p>Numbers 38-43 on the west-side were sold to the trustees of the British Museum.</p>
1901	Sir Squire Bancroft presented a Cabmen's Shelter, which was added to the north west perimeter of the Square. In 1987 it was restored by the Heritage of London Trust.

1904	 <p>Vanessa and Virginia Stephen moved to Gordon Square where Bell and Woolf, as they became, were to associate the area indelibly with the 'Bloomsbury Group' – "that linking of literary and artistic lions in the early 20th century who lived in squares and loved in triangles".</p>
1910	East-side numbers 65-66 were pulled down.
1930s	Saw the biggest single change to occur in Bloomsbury, with the conversion of its private residences into the University of London's campus, the most striking being Senate House built in 1932.
1931	London Squares Preservation Act was passed. This included the protection of Russell and Bloomsbury Squares and a number of other Bloomsbury squares.
10 November 1941	The five-foot railings of Russell Square (along with Bloomsbury, Gordon, Bedford, Woburn Squares) were removed by the Ministry of Works as part of the war effort.
1943	The Bedford Estate let Russell Square to Holborn Borough Council.
19 September 1946	H F Clark (1902-1971), a landscape consultant appointed by Holborn Borough Council, submitted a report on 'The proposed improvements to Russell Square and Bloomsbury Square'. Within which he proposed that a new scheme consisting of a new path layout, central gravel area with raised flower borders and seating will replace the existing war-damaged gardens.

1950	The Bedford Estate let Bloomsbury Square to Holborn. (Torrington and Woburn Squares were sold to London University).
1950-51	 <p>The Bedford Estate sold Tavistock and Gordon Squares to the Borough of St Pancras.</p>
17 April 1957	The new scheme was opened by the Duke of Bedford.
1959-60	 <p>An updated scheme was put in place by S A G Cook, the borough architect. This new scheme included three circular fountains to provide the central focus to the Square.</p>
1963	A children's playground was added to the square.
19 September 1968	Bloomsbury Conservation Area was designated.
11 November 1980	The Law Commission recommended the abolition of the Bloomsbury Square Act of 1806 which banned Hackney carriages because of their lowly social status from lowering the tone of the Square - London taxis were now able to stand or ply for hire in Bloomsbury Square without the risk of a £2 fine.

1980s	Traffic islands around corners of square were re-planted. These it seems were added around the corners of the wide carriageway on the 1950s (first appearing in the 1951 Ordinance Survey) for traffic calming reasons.
1988	English Heritage's 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Greater London' was published. This listed Russell and Bloomsbury as Grade II.
1990s	Updated telephone boxes, toilets and recycling bins were added to the pavement boundary and an air pollution monitor station was added to the centre.
March 1996	'Friends of Russell Square' group formed.
May 1996	Land use consultants appointed by London Borough of Camden's Leisure and Community Department to produce a Heritage Lottery Bid for Russell Square.
September 1996	Heritage Lottery Application submitted.
April 2002	Park restored with funding from Urban Parks Programme – works completed.