SENATE HOUSE NORTH BLOCK ADDENDUM TO HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT OF JULY 2013 FOR MACE



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This note is an addendum to the report of July 2013 on the Senate House North Block, a Grade II*-listed building in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

The historic building report of July 2013 sets out the architectural and historic significance of the building. This note describes works for which an amendment of the planning consent, granted in February 2014, is sought.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK & THE FABRIC AFFECTED

The amendment to the planning consent is very minor. The proposed new work involves excavating a rainwater harvesting plant room below the lower ground floor, in the location of the 'steps' feature in the centre of this space. This will be accessed via a door in the rear wall of the 'steps'. This will affect the fabric of the 'steps' alone, a new feature granted planning and listed building consent in February 2014. There is no archaeological significance that might be harmed by the excavation of the ground beneath the lower ground floor as the site was extensively excavated during its original phase of construction in the 1930s. While the new excavation may go beyond this depth, the MoLAS report for the site concludes that deeper excavations have 'only the remote possibility of deeply cut features of the late post-medieval period of negligible significance'.

3.0 JUSTIFICATION OF THE WORK

In terms of historic building legislation and policy, the works described above have no impact on the significance of the listed building and therefore should be granted planning permission. It is very unlikely that listed building consent is required, as the work affect no historic fabric.