



**HERITAGE STATEMENT**  
**FOR**  
**THE REFURBISHMENT**  
**OF THE LANDINGS TO**  
**THE COLLEGE BUILDING**  
**THORNHAUGH STREET**  
**RUSSELL SQUARE**  
**LONDON**  
**WC1H 0XG**  
**ON BEHALF OF**  
**THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**



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## HERITAGE STATEMENT

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### 1.00 Introduction

This Heritage Statement is submitted in support of a listed building consent application, which is submitted by Kendall Kingscott Ltd on behalf of The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), which is part of the University of London. The application relates to the refurbishment of landings on the Lower Ground to Fourth Floor of the College Building on Russell Square. The College Building is a grade II listed building.

This statement comprises a review of the building and its heritage, the principles and justification for the proposed works, what the proposed works are and the impact that the works will have on the existing fabric.

### 2.00 Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment was published in March 2010 by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The document sets out the Government's overarching objective is that "the historic environment and its heritage assets should be conserved and enjoyed for the quality of the life they bring to this and future generations" (DCLG, 2010).

The document states that "to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions concerning the historic environment recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term" (DCLG, 2010).

As part of formulating this Heritage statement guidance has been obtained from PPS 5 and PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide as produced by English Heritage et al.

### 3.00 The Building And Its Heritage

Located on Thornhaugh Street just off of Russell Square is the SOAS College Building. The building was listed as Grade II listed on 28 March 1969 with the following information as the buildings listed description which has been obtained from the Camden Council web site.

"University, School. c 1939-5. By Charles Holden. The building has brown bricks with Portland stone dressing. 5 storeys and basements. Main south front with 17 windows and curved corner bay (with 5 windows) treatment at east end. Single storey, 2 window projection at east end. Central entrance with plain stone surround and plaque with name of school over. Flush frame metal windows with horizontally set panes. Stone band and sill string at 1<sup>st</sup> floor level, echoed by dressing to parapet above 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Cartouche with coat of arms centrally at 2<sup>nd</sup> floor level. Lead rainwater heads and pipes, dated 1940." (Camden Council).

Situated within the Bloomsbury area the College Building is situated to the north of Senate House, with Birkbeck College to the west and Russell Square to the east.

The College Building was designed by Charles Henry Holden, a Famous English architect, known best for his work designing London Underground stations. In the early 20th century



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Charles Holden was commissioned to design a number of buildings for the University of London, which at the time was rapidly expanding. This work included designing Senate House.

### **4.00 The Proposed Works**

This application relates to the proposed refurbishment works to the Lower Ground to Fourth Floor Landings of the College Building at SOAS University of London. The proposed works are to refurbish the existing landing spaces including providing new furniture to create a student 'social' area within the College Building. The works will include providing new suspended ceilings, plasterboard ceilings, repairing and cleaning the terrazzo flooring and general decoration.

### **5.00 The Principles and Justification for the Proposed Works**

Justification for the proposed works can be briefly summed up by stating that the works are to be carried out to meet the changing demands of the University, which the building was built and designed to be. We do not feel that any of the works will compromise the importance of this heritage asset.

### **6.00 The Impact Of The Proposed Works**

The impact on the historical significance of the building will be extremely limited by the proposed works. All works undertaken would be fully reversible at a later date without impacting or damaging the heritage asset.

### **7.00 Summary And Conclusions**

All of the proposed works take into account the principles set out within PPS5 and fully consider the impact of the proposals to the building in terms of the impact to the significance of the heritage and the appearance of the building in terms of context with adjacent buildings.

The proposed works will not impact on the buildings important significance.



**APPENDIX A**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**