



Figure 2.1

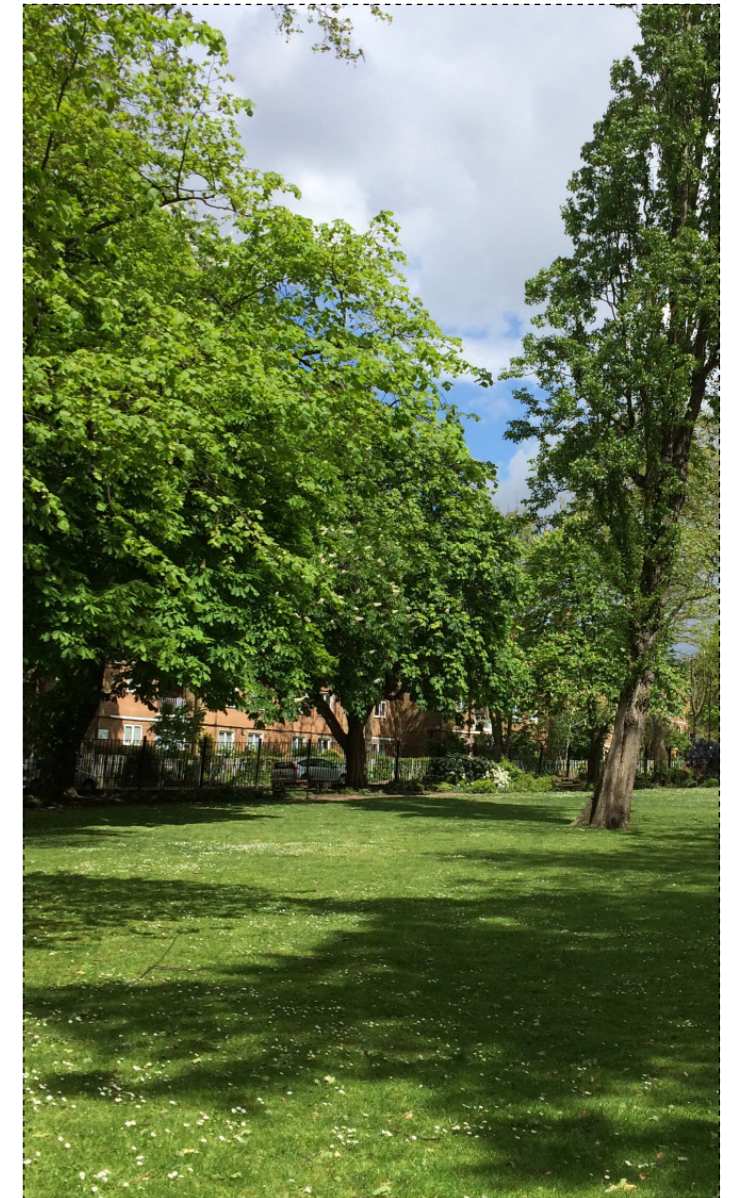


Figure 2.2



Location

40 Camden Square is set in north west London, within the London Borough of Camden and is a part of the Canteloves Ward. It is situated just south east of Camden Road, and on the South side of Camden Square. The area is characterized by a mix of architectural styles, which stretch from Victorian-Italianated to innovative, all connected by the great green public space of Camden Square. Predominantly residential, the area is however bordered by major transport routes which provide a contrast of business activity.

Figure 2.1 OS Road Map showing location of 40 Camden Square, set within the London Borough of Camden, part of the ward of Canteloves. **Figures 2.2** Camden Square, looking North-West. **Figure 2.3** 40 Camden Square and neighbors seen from across the north side of Camden Square.

Conservation Area

The Camden Square Conservation Area is a relatively small area defined mainly by Camden Road and Agar Grove, stretching from Rochester Square to Yorkway but excluding Camelot House. It is centered around Camden Square itself and the area has been extended several times since originally designated.

The centerpiece of the conservation area is, as stated above, Camden Square: a plentiful public garden which serves as the lungs and soul of the area. The built environment around it is diverse, since there has been both phased development and individually developed plots. The area has also been through early railway construction, which not only required the demolition of several properties in the 19th century, but also made the area a bombing target during WWII. Thus, it became the subject of later infill development and newer builds of different character than the early stuccoed Victorian-Italianate style of the 19th century.

The character of the streets can be described as diverse and interesting, a result of a mix between semi-detached houses, terraces and a few detached single houses. Brick, stucco, slate and timber sash windows are the main details and textures, assembled with classical, Italianate, Victorian as well as other references. Large trees are important for the street experience, within private as well as public areas, often bridging visually between the private front gardens and the streets.

There has been a great variety of nurseries in the area, one of the first ones installed near Rochester Square in the 18th century. There are also nurseries next to St Paul's Chapel. Today though, the nursery at Rochester Square is derelict and a ruin, and many others have since been demolished.

The alterations, set forth in the this application, seek only to improve and enhance the Conservation Area, since they merely repair the front elevation and strive to add quality to the street and square. The proposed extension takes inspiration from the areas rich history and architecture.

Figure 3.1 The current use of Rochester Square Nurseries **Figure 3.2** Camden Square North Passage. **Figure 3.2** Aerial photo showing Camden Square Conservation Area, and 40 Camden Square.



Figure 3.1



Figure 3.2



Figure 3.3

History

The massive expansion of suburbs in the 19th century, which converted the rural areas to residential, has greatly influenced the Conservation Area, and the Area's development is linked with the developments of Kentish Town and Camden Town.

The Camden Square locality remained largely rural all the way until the 18th century and at the close of the century, the area was still mainly grassland. In the early 1800's, the layout of Camden Town began, but by the 1840s, the descendants of the Earl of Camden (the Estate) decided that Camden Square, (which was under development), needed to house a different crowd than that of Camden Town. By selling leases on a wholesale basis, the Estate made sure to attract the middle classes. The will to make it 'up-market' also encouraged green open spaces as well as St Paul's Church. The development of Camden Square loosely followed the concept of Covent Garden, by concentrating the large houses around the square and letting them become increasingly smaller the further away from the Square they were built.

Regarding architectural style, the south west part of Camden Square and Camden Road were mostly stuccoed Italianate style. However, the later high-density builds at the north east end of the Square, one would find plainer brick houses with arched windows and projecting eaves.

As formerly stated, the railway made a large impact on Camden Square in the end of the 1800s. Since it was built with cut-and-fill techniques, and bisected Camden Square, several properties had to be demolished. After the railway was built, the area became less desirable by the originally targeted demographic. Even so, the developers were obliged to continue the building works, but changed the original plan and increased density to the north east of the central church site. This resulted in a greater social mix and subdivision of properties.

WWII had a great impact on the neighbourhood and the infills of the bombed sites were mostly public housing blocks of brick, which changed the area's appearance, consequently suffering from decay to a great extent. This was taken care of during the 20th century by the conversions of multiple occupancy to single family homes, which brought subsequent renovation.

Other changes in the 1900s include an adventure playground at the top of Camden Square, as well as a new church in the place of the damaged St Paul's Church. The area remains a diverse, yet attractive pocket of Camden.

Figure 4.1 Ward Box of Camden Square bombed during WWII, journalist standing in the opening.



Figure 4.1