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Listed Building Application  
11 January 2018

## DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

### Blue Plaque to John Thelwall

### 40 Bedford Place, Bloomsbury, WC1B 5JT

#### Site Analysis

Bedford Place was built by James Burton in 1800-1806 as part of the fifth Duke of Bedford's redevelopment of the site of his London residence. Number 40 Bedford Place, is listed Grade II, and is within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. It forms the end house in a terrace of twenty houses built of stock bricks, with a rusticated stucco ground floor. It consists of four storeys, with a basement, and balcony at first-floor level. Some internal reordering has been carried out in the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century, as the building is now internally one building with number 39 and currently functions as a hotel, however externally, the appearance of the building remains in essence much as it was in Thelwalls' heyday.

#### Design Process Components

It is proposed that English Heritage erect a standard 19.5-inch diameter ceramic commemorative blue plaque at 40 Bedford Place, to commemorate John Thelwall, Political Orator, Writer and Elocutionist. There will be no change to the use of the building, no floor space will be added or subtracted, and no new homes will be built on the site. The layout of the building will not be changed, nor will the scale of the building be affected. There will be no landscaping undertaken.

The exterior elevation of the building will be slightly adapted to accommodate the blue plaque (please see separate Installation Note). The plaque is best placed in a position at ground floor level, centred between the ground floor windows, and exactly between the recessed lines in the stucco - the distance between the top of the top channel and the bottom of the bottom channel is 499 mm, a plaque of 495 mm would cut into the channels but not completely bisect them. It is noted that this position will not exactly centre the plaque on the upper sash window pane, however, it is considered that for the positioning within the façade architectural decoration, we should locate the plaque symmetrically within the stucco course lines. The decision to locate the plaque here is so as to be as appropriate as possible to the design of the façade of the building, and to be visible to the average passer-by.

#### Access

No new access points and routes are proposed. No changes are proposed in relation to pedestrian and cycle routes, road layout, local services and public transport provision. The blue plaque will be visible from the public highway and therefore no

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new access is required. There is no new need for provision of access for emergency services.

### **Design Solution**

The above information has explained and justified the proposed development, and the lack of necessity for good access into and through the site in relation to the proposed works. The English Heritage blue plaque design has been developed over 150 years in sympathy with the character of London buildings. It is hand crafted and is thought to respond positively to most local contexts. The freehold owners of 40 Bedford Place, have approved the project, there are no leaseholders to consult. The architectural character of this listed building will only be affected in a minor way, and the historic interest of the property and area will be enhanced within the local and wider community.

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