

No. 26 Bedford Way
Heritage Statement
Prepared for
UCLH
March 2018



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Executive summary

This Heritage Statement presents an understanding of the history and significance of Sir Denys Lasdun's Grade II* listed building which houses University College London, the Institute of Education, and the University of London's Institute of Advanced Legal Studies on Bedford Way. It also assesses the proposals by CSM Architects for the installation of an MRI scanner at no. 26 Bedford Way against current legislation and planning policy for the protection of the historic environment.

Lasdun's Bedford Way building is a significant Brutalist style megastructure in the Bloomsbury Conservation Area, in the London Borough of Camden. No. 26 Bedford Way occupies the northern portion of the building, with its principal elevation fronting Bedford Way. The proposal Site faces the service road along the rear of the building.

The Site is located at basement level for structural loading reasons, but this is also an area of the building that has undergone previous alterations. The proposals entail the reconfiguration of internal partitions which have been assessed as being of neutral significance; the reconfiguration will not harm the significance of the building and follows Lasdun's flexible design principles. The installation of the MRI scanner necessitates the temporary removal of three highly-significant bronze-anodised aluminium panels and glazing, and two concrete mullions to the internal side of the wall, but these will be reinstated once the scanner is in place and so will not affect the significance of the building. The proposals incur the removal of a pane of glass on the front elevation and replacement with solid wall. This is in an area that is not seen from street level at Bedford Way and will have negligible effect on the significance of the building, and no effect on the character and appearance of the conservation area.

The installation of an MRI scanner at basement level will support the leading research and teaching facilities of University College London Hospital (UCLH). The continued use of the building by institutes of the University of London is the building's optimum viable use.

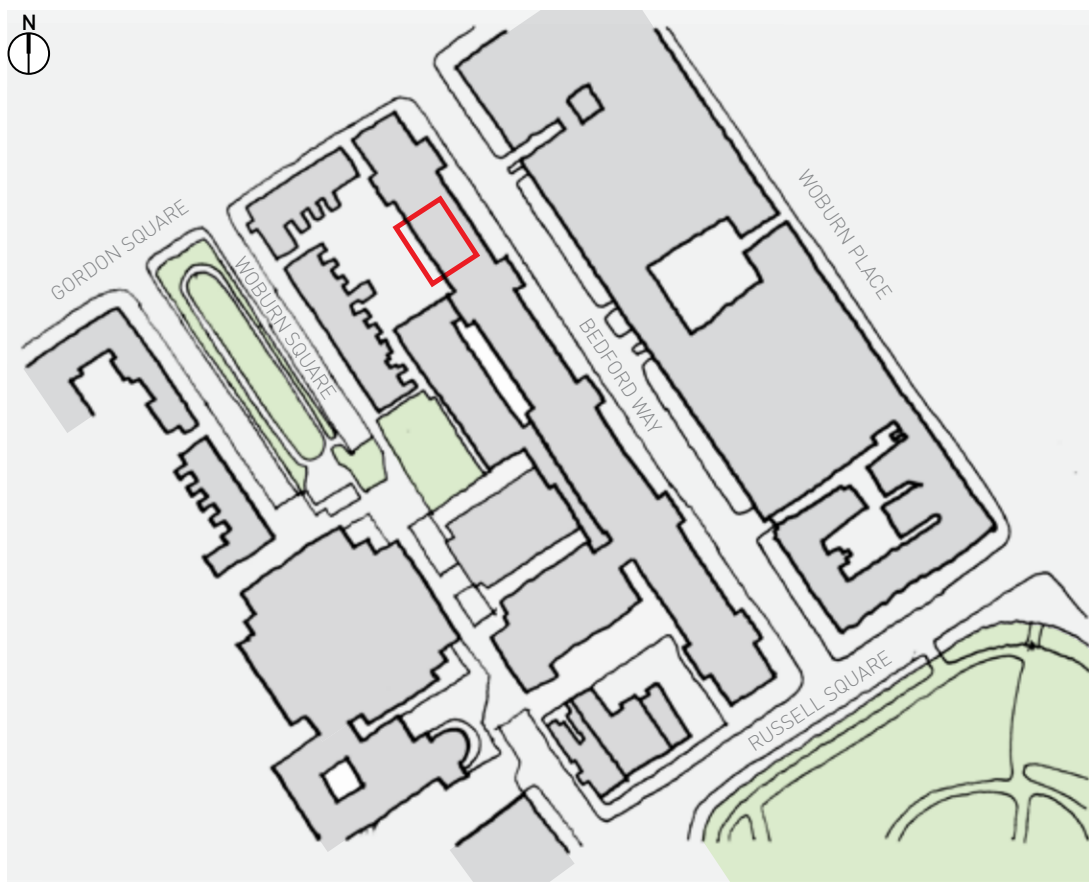
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

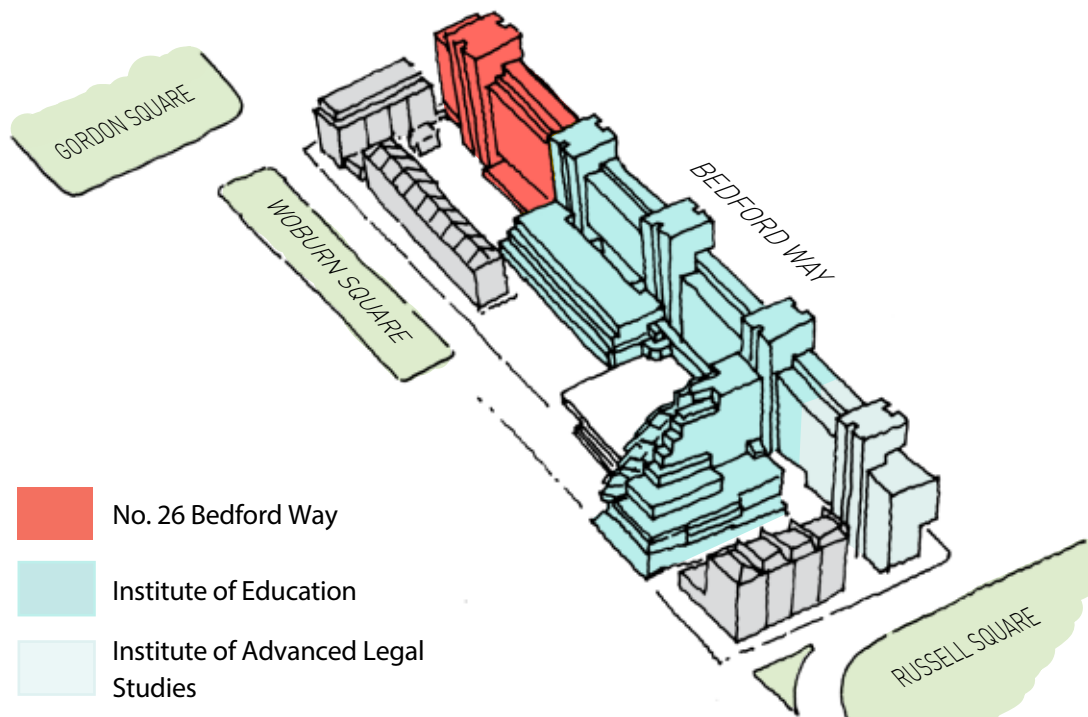
This Heritage Statement has been prepared by Alan Baxter Ltd (ABA) for University College London Hospital (UCLH) to accompany a planning and listed building consent application to the London Borough of Camden (the Council). It is concerned with two designated heritage assets (as defined in Annex 2 of the National planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2012); the Grade II* listed Brutalist-style building on Bedford Way, and the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. The building, designed by Sir Denys Lasdun, comprises the Institute of Education, the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies as well as other functions of University College London (UCL). Departments housed at no. 26 Bedford Way are: Clinical, Educational & Health Psychology; Cognitive Perceptual & Brain Sciences; the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience; the Centre for Languages & International Education; the Division of Psychology & Language Sciences; and Geography.

The subject of this report is part of the Lasdun building at no. 26 Bedford Way, the northern portion of the building, specifically the basement level between cores C and D (the Site).

The interior of this well-used building was designed by Lasdun for flexibility and future reconfiguration. It has been extensively altered since its completion in 1976 to meet changing education needs over the decades. Today, UCLH needs to install an MRI scanner at basement level to support its research, educational and practical medical applications.



Site plan (ABA)



An aerial sketch of the building's various functions (ABA)

1.2 Structure and methodology

This report describes the heritage assets and summarises the planning policy context (section 1.0) and presents an account of the historical development of the site and wider Bloomsbury areas (section 2.0). It provides an assessment of significance of the Site (section 3.0). It briefly describes the Architect's proposals (section 4.0) and assesses the impact of the proposals on the heritage assets in light of relevant national, regional and local planning policy for the protection of the historic environment (section 5.0). This is followed by a conclusion (section 6.0). The list description and Historic Environment Record (HER) search results map are appended.

A site visit was carried out on 07 June 2017. This report is informed by this site visit and documentary research.

Please refer to the Architect's *Design and Access Statement*, and proposal drawings for further information.

1.3 Limitations and assumptions

This report deals with standing buildings only; archaeology is not considered, but the HER has been consulted.

It is the nature of existing buildings that details of their construction and development may be hidden or may not be apparent from a visual inspection. The conclusions and any advice contained in this report – particularly relating to the dating and nature of the fabric – are based on our research, and on observations and interpretations of what was visible at the time of our site visits. Further research, investigations or opening up works may reveal new information which may require such conclusions and advice to be revised.

1.4 The Site

The listed building takes up the length of the urban block between Tavistock Square to the north and Russell Square to the south. The main elevation faces Bedford Way. To the north-west it is enclosed by rows of nineteenth-century terraced houses facing Woburn Square and to the south several houses of the same period facing Russell Square (many are now in University use).

The building consists of nine levels – six above and three below ground level. It has a long linear plan with five distinctive core towers. The projecting west wing to the west of core tower A faces the extension to the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), another Lasdun project. A low-level service road runs along the rear of the building.

1.5 Designations

The building was listed Grade II* in December 2000, under the title 'Institute of Education, Clore Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and Accommodation for University College, 17, 20 And 26, Bedford Way'.

Several other buildings in the immediate vicinity are listed and contribute to the setting of no. 26 Bedford Way. They include the Grade II group listings for the terraced houses nos. 10 to 18 Woburn Square, nos. 55 to 59 Gordon Square and nos. 21 to 24 Russell Square. To the south-west, SOAS is listed Grade II, while its extension – the Phillips Building – is Grade II*. Russell Square is listed Grade II on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Two nineteenth century parish markers in Woburn Square are on the Council's local list.

The site lies within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area, which was initially designated in 1968. There have been numerous subsequent extensions, reflecting a growing appreciation of high-quality Victorian, Edwardian and twentieth-century architecture. The Bloomsbury Conservation Area has numerous Sub Areas and no. 26 Bedford Square straddles two of them; Sub Area 3: University of London/British Museum and Sub Area 6: Bloomsbury Square/Russell Square/Tavistock Square.



Designation map with site outlined in red

1.6 Planning policy summary

As no. 26 Bedford Way is a listed building within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area, any works that might affect the significance of the building or conservation area as heritage assets are subject to statutory controls and Government guidance.

The overarching legislation governing the consideration of applications for planning consent that affect heritage assets is contained in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Government guidance is contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012). In regional policy, the updated spatial planning strategy for London (The London Plan, 2015) contains relevant policies for the historic environment.

Local policies adopted by the Council also need to be considered. Camden's Local Plan was adopted on 3 July 2017 and sets out the Council's planning policies, and replaces the Core Strategy and Development Policies planning documents. Relevant policies that should be considered as part of this project are in 'Section 7 Design and Heritage', specifically Policy D2 Heritage.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) give detailed guidance on how the Council's planning strategy and policies will be implemented for specific topics. The *Bloomsbury Conservation Area Appraisal and management Strategy* (April 2011) is relevant and described in more detail in section 3.0 of this report.

2.0 Understanding no. 26 Bedford Way

2.1 Overview

Historic maps illustrate the overall evolution of Bedford Way and the wider Bloomsbury area, including the construction of no. 26 Bedford Way. Please consult the List Description in Appendix A for a detailed history of the Site.

2.1.1 1746

Before the eighteenth century the future site of no. 26 Bedford Way consisted of agricultural fields, called Lamb's Conduit Fields. In 1669 the area came into the ownership of the Russell Family – the Dukes of Bedford – through marriage, as part of the Bloomsbury Estate. This area stretched from Tottenham Court Road in the west, Oxford Street in the south, the 'New Road' (Euston Road) in the north and Woburn Place and Southampton Row in the east. The estate included Southampton House, built in 1657, and renamed Bedford House when it became the London home of the Dukes of Bedford.

2.1.2 By 1815

The large-scale development of the Bedford Estate began towards the end of the eighteenth century, transforming the rural landscape into planned, urban estate. The process began with the laying out of Bedford Square, started in 1776. In 1800, Francis Russell, the 5th Duke of Bedford (1765–1802) demolished Bedford House, commissioning James Burton (1761–1837) to develop the land. Burton created Russell Square between 1801 and 1804, while the renowned landscape designer Humphry Repton (1752–1818) laid out the gardens. Upper Bedford Place, leading north from Russell Square, was created at this time; this was the street that would later become Bedford Way.



1746 Rocque



1815 Horwood

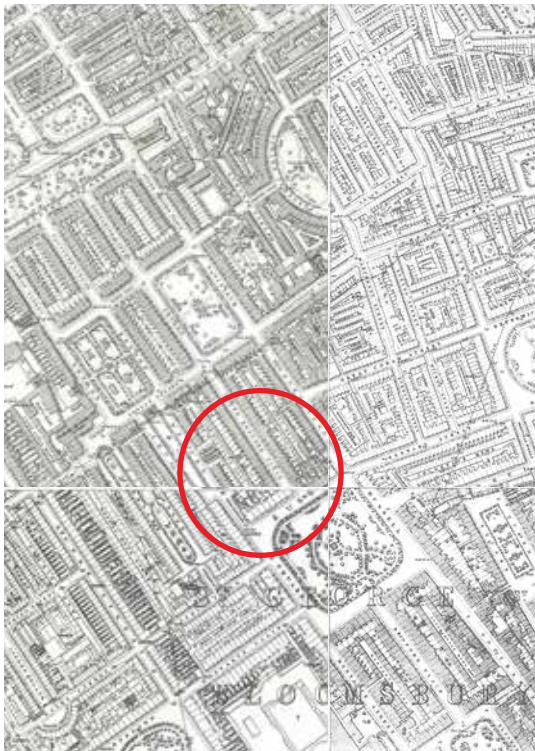
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2.1.3 Nineteenth century

The University College – UCL today – was established in 1826, inspired by Jeremy Bentham’s (1748-1832) radical proposal for a secular university. The University’s first building was the classically-styled college on Gower Street, designed by William Wilkins and opened in 1829. This was followed by wider and quite varied development of Bloomsbury in the Victorian age. To the north new railway termini on Euston Road led to a proliferation of hotels. The British Museum to the west was formally opened in 1857. At the same period, the wealthy began to occupy impressive town houses on new streets and squares to the south. On the 1870 Ordnance Survey, Upper Bedford Place – the future Bedford Way – has a new terrace, with a mews and Christ Church on Woburn Square.

2.1.4 Twentieth century

In the first half of the twentieth century, Bloomsbury’s major development was associated with the expansion of the University, between Gower Street and Russell Square. This expansion, coupled with the advent of railways, hotels and office uses led to a decline in residential occupation by the wealthier population, who moved to more fashionable areas. During the 1930s a new aesthetic and scale was adopted by the University and an expansion scheme was prepared by the architect Charles Holden (1875–1960), with a spine of buildings extending from Montagu Place to Byng Place and from Malet Street to Woburn and Russell Squares. By the outbreak of the Second World War only the Senate House was complete. Bomb damage suffered during the Second World War led to the replacement of older housing stock with large-scale new developments, including no. 26 Bedford Way.



1870 Ordnance Survey

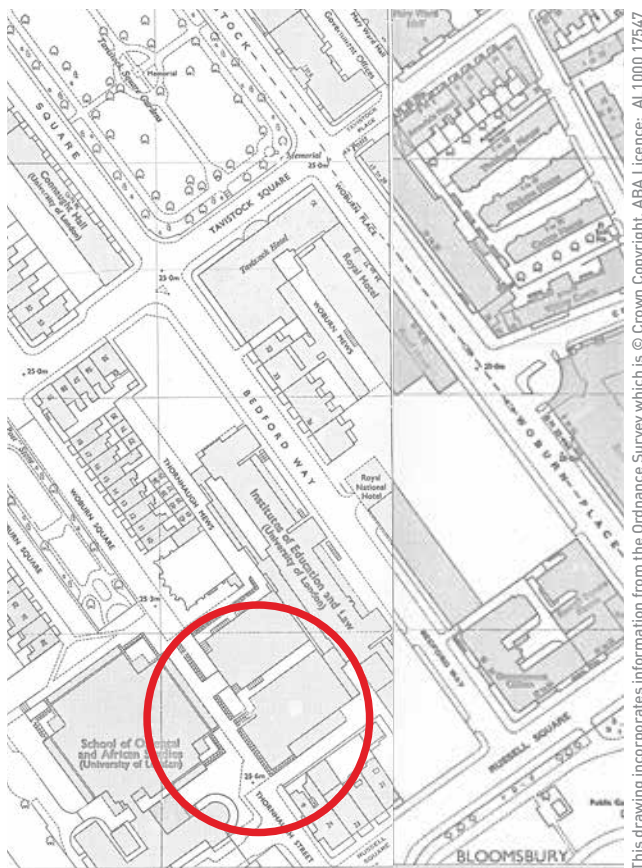


1914 Ordnance Survey

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2.1.5 Post-war development

Following the Second World War, the University extended further south and east, demolishing existing historic buildings. In 1960, Denys Lasdun (1914–2001) was commissioned to plan a new building for the Institute of Education between Bedford Way and Woburn Square. Construction commenced in 1969 and was completed in 1976. Lasdun's plan was never fully realised – for example, the west wing is only one of five that were meant to adjoin each of the stair core towers. The project was stopped due to a combination of financial difficulties and the burgeoning historic building conservation movement that opposed the demolition of Bloomsbury's older building stock, most of which became listed. The building was formally opened by the Queen in 1977. The area has continued to evolve but most development continues to come from the larger institutions like the University and the British Museum. Today, no. 26 Bedford Way continues to fulfil its original function as an educational and administrative building.



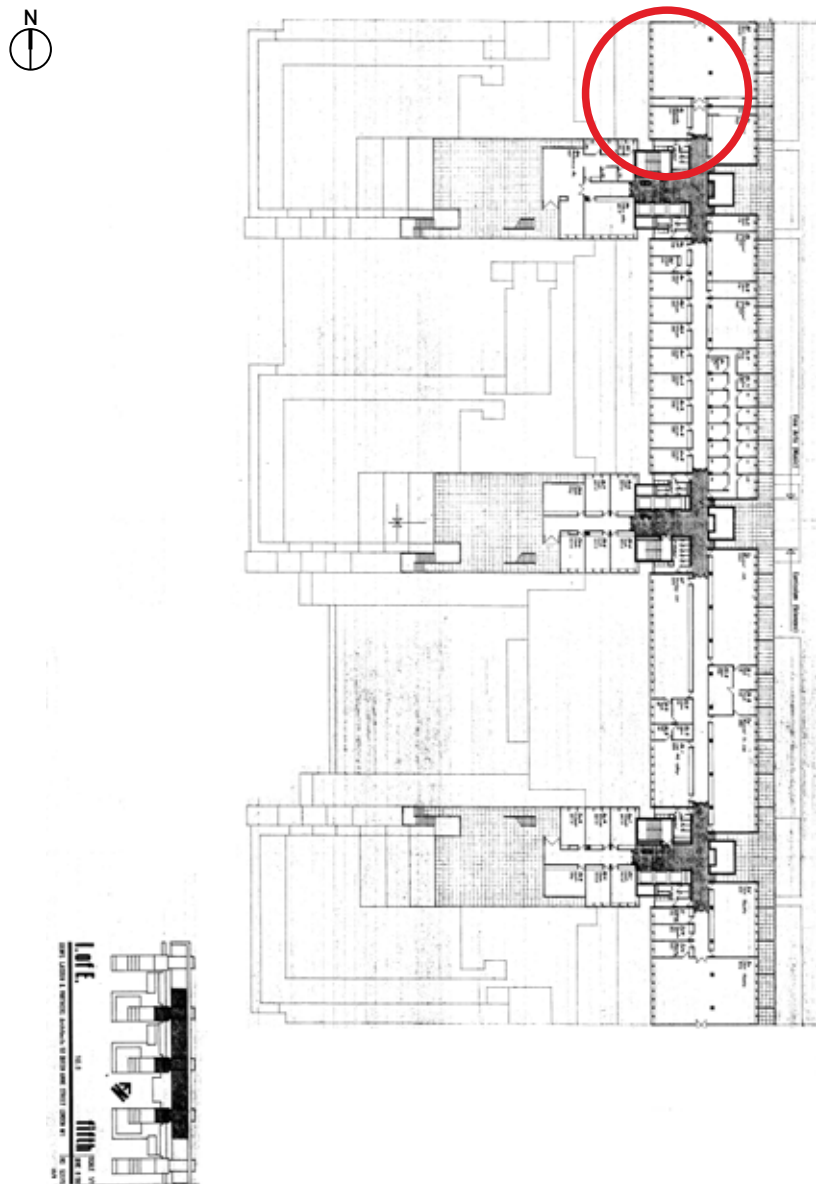
1977 Ordnance Survey

2.2 Lasdun's design for no. 26 Bedford Way

The building is constructed of a combination of *in-situ* and precast concrete and clad in prefabricated, bronze-anodised aluminium panels. Fenestration varies from modern float glass in bronze-anodised aluminium frames on primary elevations like Bedford Way to more standard, toughened glass windows in ordinary painted aluminium frames on secondary elevations, such as those at the lower level of the west wing.

The proposal Site retains the aluminium panels and glazing, with the exception of an air duct that has been installed in place of one of the panes of glass. Internal structural elements have been retained but modern partitions and suspended ceilings have been introduced.

The Site is currently used as offices for the Engineering and Electronics departments.



Drawing by Denys Lasdun and Partners showing the proposed basement level, 1966



Principal elevation of no. 26 Bedford Way looking south



Exterior of the Site, viewed from the service road



View along basement corridor



Window detail in existing engineering office



Existing electronics office and stud wall



Windows of existing electronics office to be temporarily removed to allow installation of the MRI scanner

3.0 Assessment of significance

3.1 Assessing significance

Assessing 'significance' is the means by which the cultural importance of a place and its component parts is identified and compared, both absolutely and relatively. It is essential for effective conservation and management: the identification of areas and aspects of higher and lower significance, based on a thorough understanding of a place, enables proposals to be developed which protect, respect and where possible enhance the character and cultural value of a place.

The assessment of significance can assist the identification of areas where only minimal changes should be considered, as well as locations where change might enhance understanding and appreciation of the building's significance. Any changes will need to be carefully designed to ensure that significant features are not compromised, and will be judged within the legislative context governing the historic environment, this includes the NPPF.

This section provides a discussion of the significance and coloured significance drawings for the Site are provided at the end of the section. The significance drawings correlate to the preceding terminology and should be consulted while reading the following summary of significance.is provided below, followed by coloured significance plans.

3.2 Summary of significance

The NPPF places the concept of significance at the heart of the planning process for the historic environment. Its definition of significance is:

The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence but also from its setting.

The significance of no. 26 Bedford Way is described using the following terminology:

Highly Significant: Original elements or features that contribute to the historic and architectural interest of the building as a heritage asset; or later elements or features which are of sufficiently high quality that they maintain a high degree of architectural or historic interest.

Significant: Original elements or features which contribute to the historical or architectural interest of the building as a heritage asset, but which are not in themselves or as a group of particular importance; or non-historic features which contribute to maintaining the overall architectural or historic interest of the asset.

Neutral significance: Later elements or features of little or no interest, which do not contribute positively to the historic and architectural interest of the building as a heritage asset. This can include historic fabric where this is of minimal special interest or is located in an area that has undergone notable change.

3.3 Designations

In statutory terms, the architectural significance of no. 26 Bedford Way has been recognised by the listing of the building at Grade II*. The significance of the wider neighbourhood is reflected in its designation as the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

3.4 Significance of no. 26 Bedford Way

i) Archaeological interest

While this report deals with standing buildings only, the Historic Environment Record (HER) has been consulted. The HER search results map – Appendix B of this report – suggests evidence of recent and older archaeological remains. It is worth noting that any future work that requires excavation may need an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment to verify the condition below ground.

ii) Architectural and artistic interest

Exterior:

The list entry description — included as Appendix A of this report — succinctly summarises the main elements and principal qualities of the whole building. These are:

- Mature language of strata and towers
- Over-scaled concrete staircase towers
- Entrance floors set back behind exposed frame
- Smooth and sharp appearance and form of the concrete
- Quality of finishes
- Contrasting textures of materials

For the exterior the list entry description states that:

The elevational treatment is in Lasdun's mature language of strata and towers, a grid of aluminium panels and glazing set over concrete plinth on western elevation (sic), with massively over-scaled concrete staircase towers. On the eastern elevation to Bedford Way, the entrance floors are set back behind exposed frame (sic), and has cut-back corners which demonstrate the smooth, sharp concrete particularly forcefully. The quality of finishes is exceptional and the contrasting texture of materials unique in Lasdun's surviving work. The single spur that was built is highly sculptural, with a striking silhouette of angular concrete escape stairs rising above the floor levels and curtain walling. A similar system of anodised aluminium and glass was adopted by Lasdun for his extension, but with more pronounced glazing bars, and with three pyramidal roof lights that are the clearest indication of the new work. Entrance doors in anodised aluminium surrounds.

Although not completed in full, the strong design concept of stepped form, bold horizontal layers, strong vertical elements and high-quality finishes on primary elevations gives the exterior of the building high architectural and artistic interest.

Elements of the exterior - such as glazing - are of standard design, usually toughened glass that has degraded over time. They are not of high architectural significance of themselves. Nonetheless, the overall importance of the building's exterior is of **high significance**. The service road to the rear of the building is of **neutral significance**.

Interior:

The list entry description clearly states three elements of Lasdun's interior as being of special interest:

- Lift lobbies
- Entrance hall
- Principal stair to the lecture theatre.

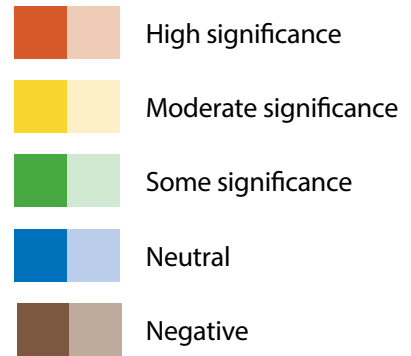
Below is an excerpt from the list description:

The interiors are simple, but the quality of concrete finishes is exemplary throughout. The upper teaching spaces were designed to be flexible, and continue to be altered regularly – a tribute to the success of the original concept. The areas of special interest are the lift lobbies, where Lasdun's finishes can be seen at their best, and the entrance hall and principal stair to the lecture theatre. This staircase, in a deep well in which are set giant columns, is a version in smooth concrete with brick treads (sic) of his earlier ceremonial stair at the Royal College of Physicians in Regent's Park (LB Camden, grade I), with concrete walls and balustrade. The entrance hall, with pavioured floors, is on two main levels, corresponding to the different level of Bedford Way and the square behind. Separate stairs lead to bookshop on lower level.

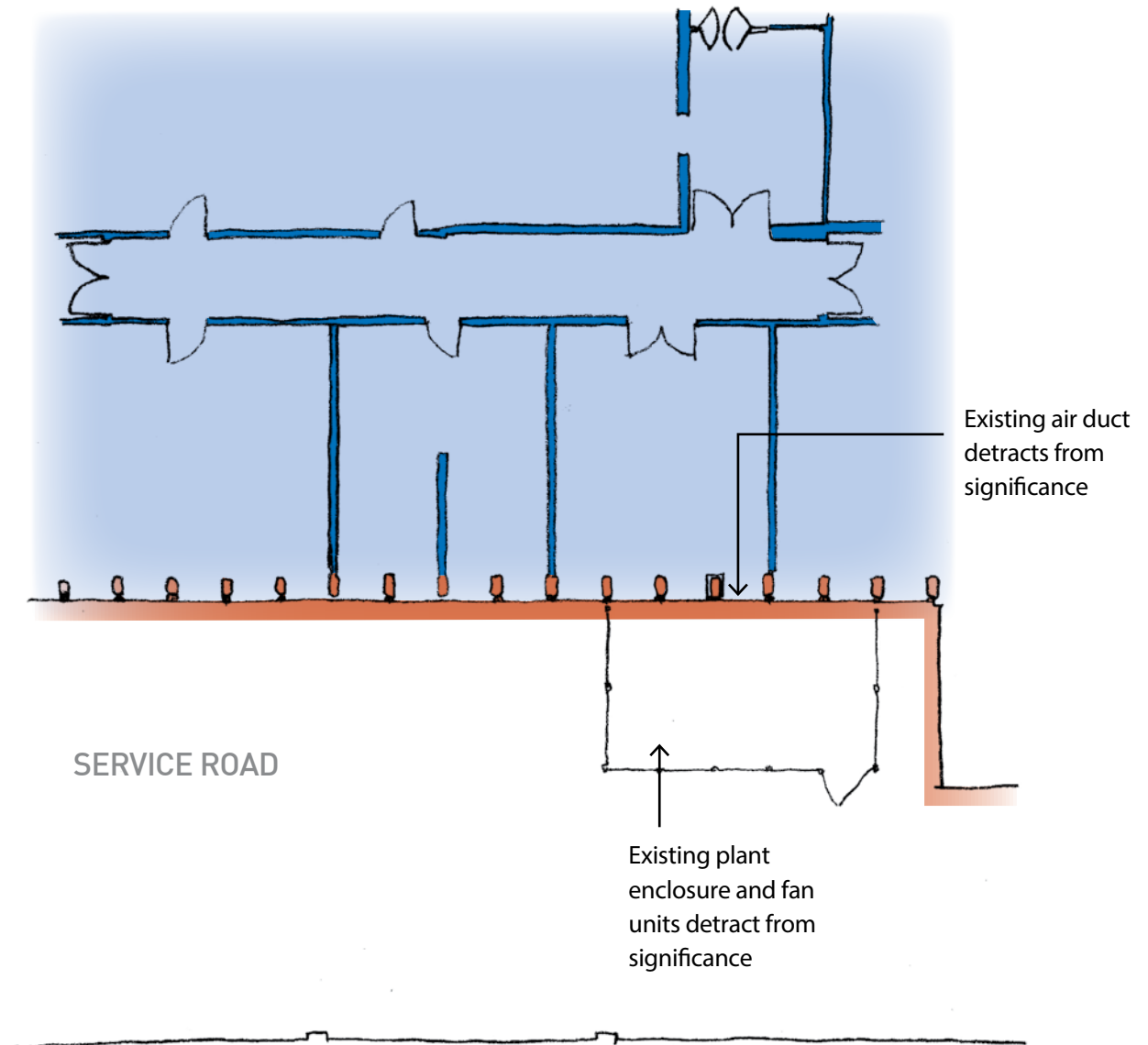
The interiors of the Site have been altered and little of the original layout or fabric survives. The partitions are non-original fabric and are of **neutral** significance. It is worth noting that Lasdun designed the building with flexibility in mind; he anticipated changes in teaching practices and needs of the building and designed partitions that could be removed and reconfigured. The original elements expressing the structural system of the building, e.g. concrete columns, are of **moderate significance**. The concrete mullions that feature throughout the building and are present in the office spaces affected by the proposals are of **high significance**.

iii) Historic interest

No. 26 Bedford Way, along with no. 20 Bedford Way and Charles Clore House, is an important piece of post-war architecture in central London. Its historic interest also lies in its approach to urban planning in Bloomsbury in the second half of the twentieth century.



- Modern suspended ceilings and services accretions detract from significance



Site significance plan

3.5 Significance of the setting and conservation area

No. 26 Bedford Way forms part of the setting of several other listed buildings. These neighbours are eclectic in age, quality and interest and their significance varies. Please see Paragraph 1.5 for a description of the designations within the setting. The Bloomsbury Conservation Area is noted for its formally planned arrangements of streets and squares.

The *Bloomsbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy* (2011) states that:

The quintessential character of the Conservation Area derives from the grid of streets enclosed by mainly three and four-storey development which have a distinctly urban character interspersed with formal squares which provide landscape dominated focal points. (LB Camden 2011: 6)

This document divides the Conservation Area into sub-areas based on shared characteristics. No. 26 Bedford Way is mentioned under two of the sub-areas. In Sub Area 3: University of London/British Museum, the building is described as part of a group with its Lasdun-designed neighbour, the Philips Building extension to SOAS, stating that the two buildings:

Share a common vocabulary derived from postwar British Brutalist architecture: stark concrete, strongly modelled structures with horizontal glazing, and distinct sculptural forms including vertical circulation towers. While radical interventions in the Bloomsbury landscape, the Lasdun buildings are now part of the established character of the Conservation Area. (LB Camden 2011: 34)

In Sub Area 6: Bloomsbury Square/Russell Square/Tavistock Square, Charles Clore House is mentioned for its dominant presence in the Bloomsbury streetscape:

On the north side, the southern end of Denys Lasdun's Institute of Education (grade II listed) has a bronze-coloured glazed curtain wall elevation facing the square... The western side of the street is occupied entirely by the strongly modelled elevation of Sir Denys Lasdun's 1970s grade II* listed Institute of Education and Clore Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. A notable example of British Brutalist architecture, the street elevation is punctuated by the vertical staircase towers and lecture room 'pods' at roof level. (LB Camden 2011: 48)*

The Site is minimally visible from within the conservation area and does not contribute to its character or appearance. The service road is more visible but makes a neutral contribution to the character and appearance of the conservation area.

4.0 Proposals

The proposals for the installation of an MRI scanner in the basement of no. 26 Bedford Way have been developed by CSM Architects. Please refer to the Design and Access Statement (February 2018) and the proposal drawings for more information.

An MRI scanner will be installed in the basement rooms currently used as offices by Engineering and Electronics departments. In order to manoeuvre the MRI scanner into the building it will be necessary to temporarily remove two concrete mullions and three bronze-anodised aluminium panels and panes of glass from the northern most office space of the Site. Once the MRI scanner is in place, the mullions and glazing will be reinstated on a like for like basis. It will also be necessary to lower the existing floor slab by approximately 350mm; this will not affect the beam that supports the concrete mullions.

The existing partitions between the offices will be removed and the space reconfigured to provide an MRI examination room and an adjacent control room, the doors onto the corridor will be repositioned.

An office on the opposite side of the corridor will be partitioned to create an MRI tech room. This will require the removal of an existing pane of glass and its replacement with a solid wall. A new plant enclosure will be provided on the service road, to replace the existing plant enclosure.

5.0 Heritage impact assessment

The proposal has been developed so as to minimise disruption to the significant fabric during the installation of the MRI scanner. The proposal will temporarily remove the highly significant bronze-anodised aluminium panels and concrete mullions and glazing panels but these will be reinstated after the installation process and will therefore have no long-term effect on the significance of the building.

The Site is located in an area of the building that has undergone previous alterations and these proposals represent the latest reconfiguration of the partitions. The fabric affected is of neutral significance; the reconfiguration will not harm the elements of primary significance of the building and is in line with Lasdun's design philosophy.

The proposed lowering of the floor is localised and will not affect the beam that supports the highly significant mullions. The lowering is necessary to accommodate the final height of the scanner. The internal works will not affect the character or appearance of the conservation area.

Externally, the proposed plant enclosure will cover the same area as existing and will be enclosed with a solid screen rather than fencing as existing; this will reduce the visual clutter and use higher-quality materials than existing. This proposal is located within the service road which is lower status space. The proposal will maintain the character, and improve the appearance of the conservation area.

Overall, the scheme has no significant impact to fabric of any significance. The installation process will have a temporary impact due to the removal and reinstatement of the mullions but this will not have a long-term impact on the significance of the building. The interventions are necessary to allow the institute to continue to evolve to meet twenty-first-century needs; the proposals will provide state of the art research and teaching facilities for UCLH, which is the optimum viable use of the building. In terms of the conservation area, the scheme will enhance its appearance due to reduction of visual clutter and use of higher-quality materials.

We conclude that the proposals are in line with NPPF paragraphs 131 and 132, London Plan policy 7.8 and Camden's Local Plan policy D2, and should therefore be approved.

6.0 Sources

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LB Camden. (2017) Draft Local Plan. LB Camden Council, London

Appendix A

List Description



INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, CLORE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES AND ACCOMMODATION FOR UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, CLORE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES AND ACCOMMODATION FOR UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

List entry Number: 1246932

Location

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, CLORE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES AND ACCOMMODATION FOR UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, 17, 20 AND 26, BEDFORD WAY

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Greater London Authority

District: Camden

District Type: London Borough

Parish:

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II*

Date first listed: 04-Dec-2000

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 486897

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

Summary of Building

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

798-1/0/10133 BEDFORD WAY 04-DEC-00 Camden (West side) 17, 20 AND 26
Institute of Education, Clore Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and
accommodation for University College

GV II*

University teaching building, 1970-6 by Denys Lasdun and Partners, extended 1990-3, also by Sir Denys Lasdun and Partners. In situ reinforced concrete and precast mullions with a cladding of prefabricated bronze-anodised aluminium panels and window sections. In plan the building makes a strong

barrier to the traffic of Bedford Way while extending the concept of flexible teaching space already explored at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. Six storeys above ground, with three basement storeys, in 1999 numbered 1-9. Flat, paved roof. Long spinal range, with wing to rear, and footings for a second incorporated in 1990-3 library extension. Large basement includes lecture theatre, the Logan Hall, under forecourt facing Lasdun's extension to the School of Oriental and African Studies opposite; conference facilities, students' union and service entrance. Split-level entrance hall gives on to library, drama studio and bookshop, with flexible teaching areas above, mainly facing street, and tutorial rooms, mainly facing courtyard and in wing.

The elevational treatment is in Lasdun's mature language of strata and towers, a grid of aluminium panels and glazing set over concrete plinth on western elevation, with massively over-scaled concrete staircase towers. On the eastern elevation to Bedford Way, the entrance floors are set back behind exposed frame, and has cut-back corners which demonstrate the smooth, sharp concrete particularly forcefully. The quality of finishes is exceptional, and the contrasting texture of materials unique in Lasdun's surviving work. The single spur that was built is highly sculptural, with a striking silhouette of angular concrete escape stairs rising above the floor levels and curtain walling. A similar system of anodised aluminium and glass was adopted by Lasdun for his extension, but with more pronounced glazing bars, and with three pyramidal roof lights that are the clearest indication of the new work. Entrance doors in anodised aluminium surrounds. New entrance on Bedford Way, reached up steps, installed by Lasdun in 1993.

INTERIORS. The interiors are simple, but the quality of concrete finishes is exemplary throughout. The upper teaching spaces were designed to be flexible, and continue to be altered regularly - a tribute to the success of the original concept. The areas of special interest are the lift lobbies, where Lasdun's finishes can be seen at their best, and the entrance hall and principal stair to the lecture theatre. This staircase, in a deep well in which are set giant columns, is a version in smooth concrete with brick treads of his earlier ceremonial stair at the Royal College of Physicians in Regent's Park (LB Camden, grade I), with concrete walls and balustrade. The entrance hall, with pavioured floors, is on two main levels, corresponding to the different level of Bedford Way and the square behind. Separate stairs lead to bookshop on lower level.

While the University of London was discouraged from further expansion in the post-war years it was appreciated that certain departments such as Education, Law and the School of Oriental and African Studies required enlarged facilities. Lasdun was commissioned by the University of London in 1960 to develop the concept of a spinal range along Bedford Way and to its north which had been published by Sir Leslie Martin and Trevor Dannatt the

year before. His task was to integrate the new buildings within an existing urban fabric, whose pattern of Georgian squares was belatedly being appreciated. Lasdun's scheme preserved more terraces than had the earlier proposals, and created a new square between his two buildings, much of it formed over the basement lecture theatre. For him, the relationship between the spine building and the SOAS pavilion is paramount.

The building was formally opened by the Queen in 1977. 'Lasdun's architecture carries absolute conviction', *Architectural Review*, March 1980, p.148. Although a building constructed to a grid, it is Lasdun's interest in planes and interpenetrating masses and belief in pure form and modelling. His synthesis of the modern movement of the 1930s, inspired by working with Wells Coates and Berthold Lubetkin, and his unique understanding of the formalism of the later generation of the New Brutalists makes him a comparable figure with Louis Kahn and is demonstrated particularly well here. This building forms a contrasting mass to the square pavilion of Lasdun's extension to the School of Oriental and African Studies, with which it forms an exceptionally strong group.

Architects' Journal, 5 March 1959, p.336 *Architects' Journal*, 14 June 1967, p.1384 *Building Design*, 15 October 1976 *Architects' Journal*, 12 December 1990, p.11 *Architectural Review*, March 1980, pp.145-54 Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England, London North*, London, Penguin Books, 1998, pp.279-80

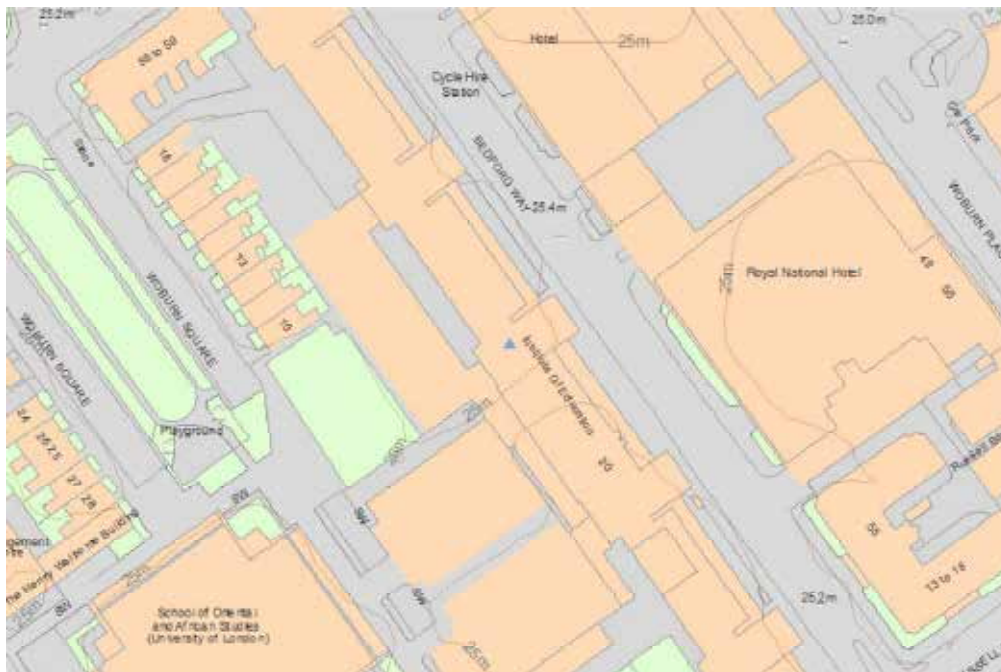
Selected Sources

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 '*Architects Journal*' in 14 June, (1967), 1384
 '*Architects Journal*' in 12 December, (1990), 11
 '*Building Design*' in 15 October, (1976)

National Grid Reference: TQ 29954 82136

Map



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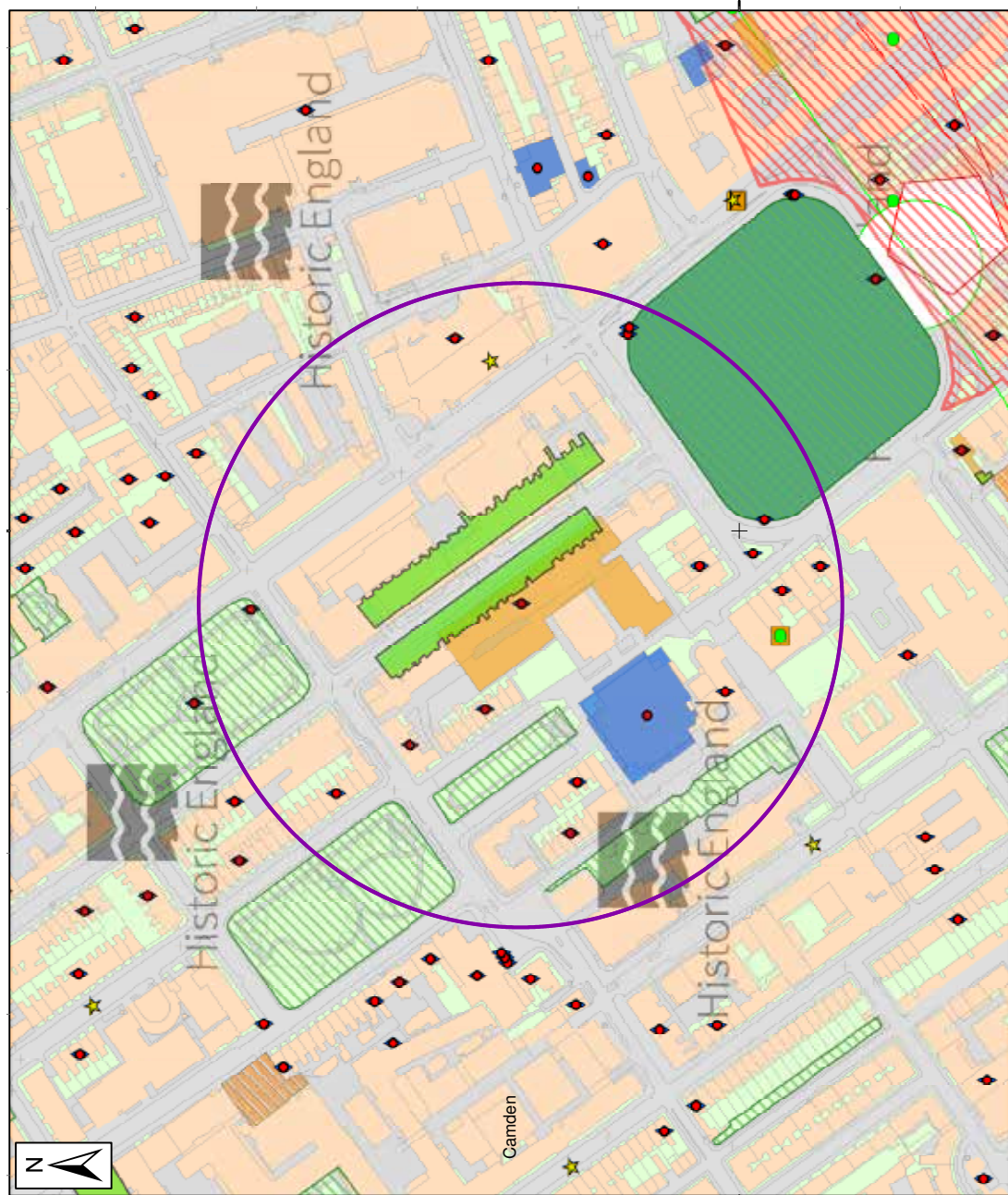
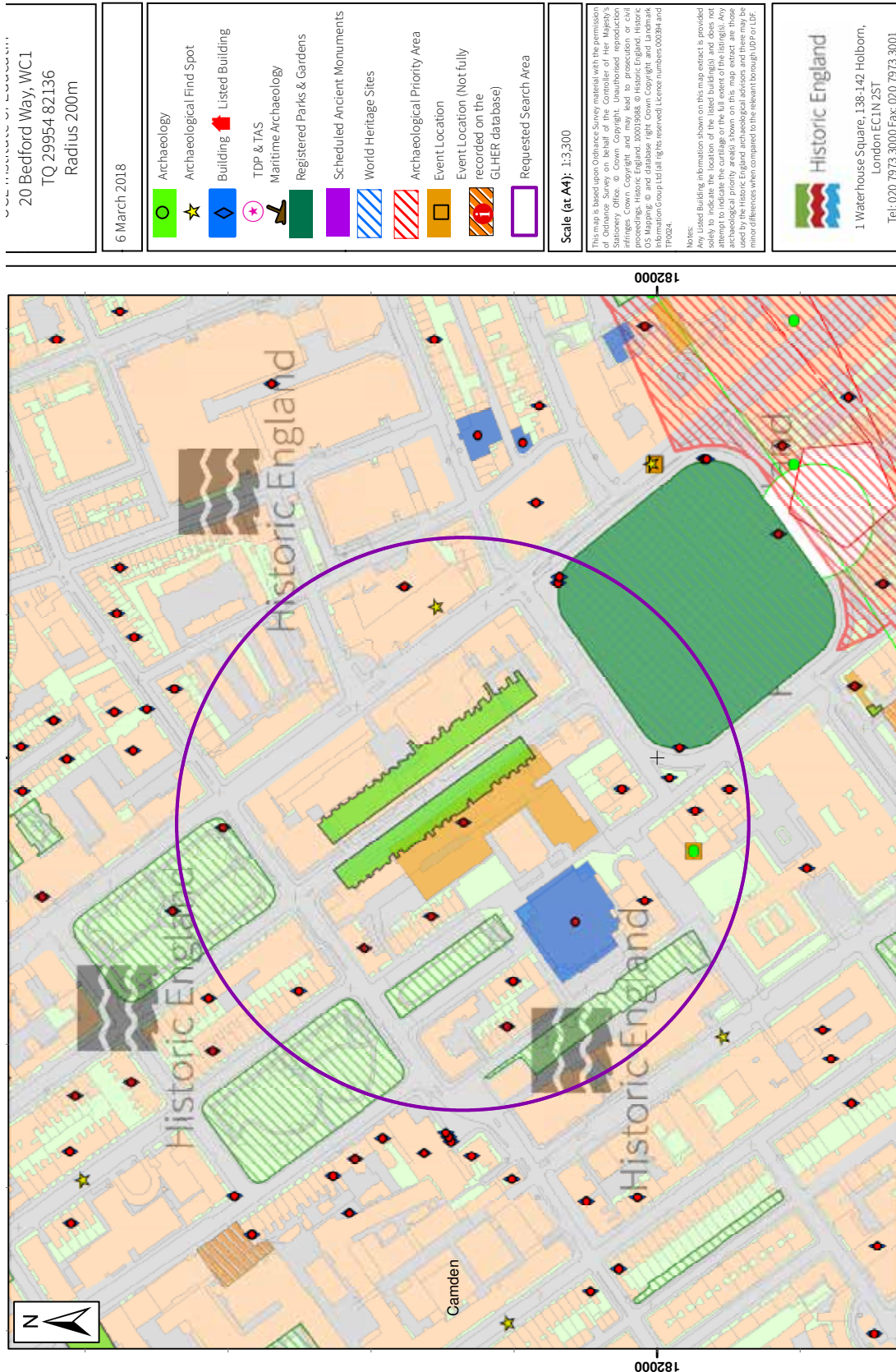
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End of official listing

Appendix B

HER Search Result

Map



Alan Baxter

Prepared by Susannah Homer

Reviewed by Alice Eggeling

Issued 7 March 2018

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