



## 3-4 Percy Mews

Pearl & Coutts

10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Pearl & Coutts Contents

## Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Results of the Daylight and Sunlight Assessments	6
3.	Conclusion	9

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1	Existing Site and Scheme Drawings Numbered BRE/01 to 04
Appendix 2	Principles of Daylight and Sunlight
Appendix 3	Window Maps Numbered BRE/07 to 09
Appendix 4	No Sky Line Drawings Numbered BRE/13
Appendix 5	Technical Spreadsheets (proposed scheme)
Appendix 6	Technical Spreadsheets (cutback scheme)

Prepared By: Mark Kidd Date: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

For and on behalf of GVA Grimley Limited

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 GVA has been instructed by Pearl & Coutts to assess the impact of a proposed scheme at 3-4 Percy Mews (the 'Site') by RGP Architects (the 'Architect') in relation to daylight and sunlight enjoyed by surrounding residential buildings.
- 1.2 GVA's 3D model showing the proposed scheme is shown in green in plan and 3D form on drawings numbered BRE/02 and BRE/04 in Appendix 1 and Figures 1 and 2 below.
- 1.3 The 3D computer model of the existing buildings, surrounding context and the proposed scheme is based on the information cited on the above-mentioned drawings.
- 1.4 The proposed scheme differs to that of the planning application scheme. As will be noted from Figure 1, the proposed scheme assessed included a proposed massing upon 2 Percy Mews in addition to that at 3-4 Percy Mews.
- 1.5 The analysis in this report may therefore be deemed a worst case scenario, as the proposed massing at 2 Percy Mews is not included in the planning application for the proposed scheme at 3-4 Percy Mews.
- 1.6 Our principles of daylight and sunlight and how guidance should be interpreted can be found in Appendix 2.



Figure 1: Plan view of proposed scheme in green scheme within GVA context model

Pearl &Coutts Sources of Information



Figure 2: 3D view of proposed scheme in green scheme within GVA context model

Pearl & Coutts Assessment Results

## 2. Results of the Daylight and Sunlight Assessments

2.1 Based on our site visit in June 2018 and a search of the Valuation Office Agency data online, the neighbouring residential buildings in reasonably close proximity to the Site are 26 Rathbone Place and 27 Rathbone Place. The location of both properties is shown on Figures 1 and 2.

### 26 Rathbone Place



Figure 3: Bing Maps aerial view of 26 Rathbone Place

- 2.2 The assessed windows (first and second floors relevant only) are shown on the window map in Appendix 3. The 'No Sky Line' ('NSL') drawings in Appendix 4, these show the room layout assumptions which have been based on a measured survey by Greenhatch Group. The corresponding technical spreadsheets are located in Appendix 5; these cover all the relevant tests as set out in the BRE Guidelines *Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight: A Guide to Good Practice* (see Appendix 2 for further information).
- Our assessment has shown that the pertinent bay window on the first floor, which can be seen in Figure 3, would be materially impacted in terms of daylight by the proposed scheme. Sunlight is not relevant due to the orientation of the main window.

Pearl & Coutts Assessment Results

In response to the breach, the Architect instructed GVA to carry out a cutback exercise which would result in a BRE Guidelines compliant scheme (Vertical Sky Component ('VSC') and NSL). The cutback, which results in a no more than 20% loss of existing daylight (see technical spreadsheet in Appendix 6) is shown in Figure 4 below. The Architects' subsequent revised scheme is shown in Figure 5.

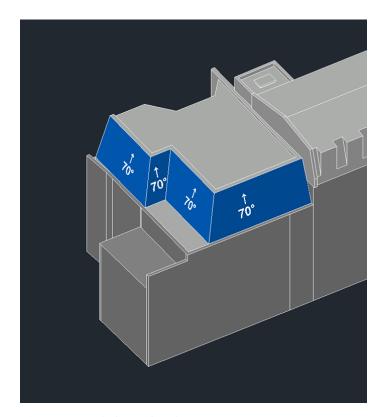


Figure 4: Daylight cutback



Figure 5: Architects' revised scheme taking into account the VSC cutback

Pearl & Coutts Assessment Results

2.5 It will be noted that the cutback area only related to 2 Percy Mews, and did not affect the proposed massing at 3-4 Percy Mews. The planning application scheme for 3-4 Percy Mews does not include any massing upon 2 Percy Mews and, therefore, it can be concluded that this would also be BRE compliant.

2.6 Therefore, we are of the view that the planning application scheme is acceptable in daylight and sunlight terms.

## 27 Rathbone Place



Figure 6: Bing Maps aerial view of 27 Rathbone Place

- 2.7 The assessed windows (first and second floors relevant only) are shown on the window map in Appendix 3. The NSL drawings are in Appendix 4. The corresponding technical spreadsheets are located in Appendix 5.
- Our assessment demonstrates no breaches of the BRE Guidelines daylight guidance. Sunlight is not relevant as the windows do not face within 90 degrees of due south.
- 2.9 Therefore, it can be concluded that the planning application scheme will also be acceptable in daylight and sunlight terms.

Stamford Norfolk Ltd Conclusion

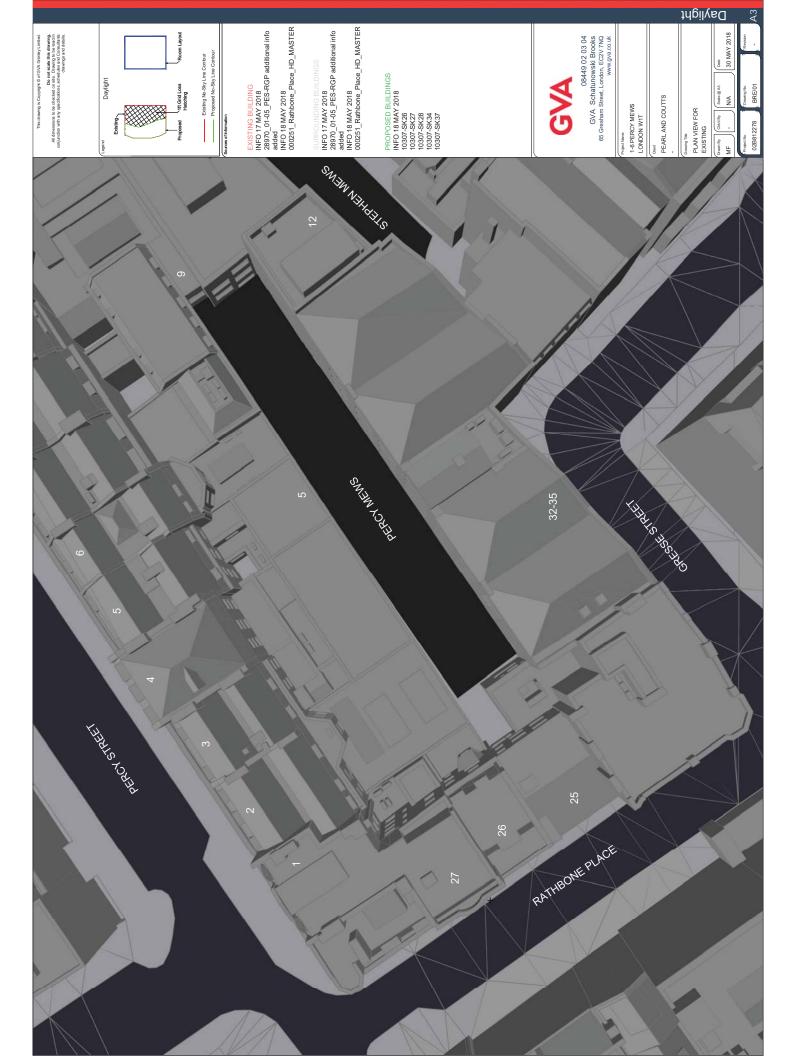
## 3. Conclusion

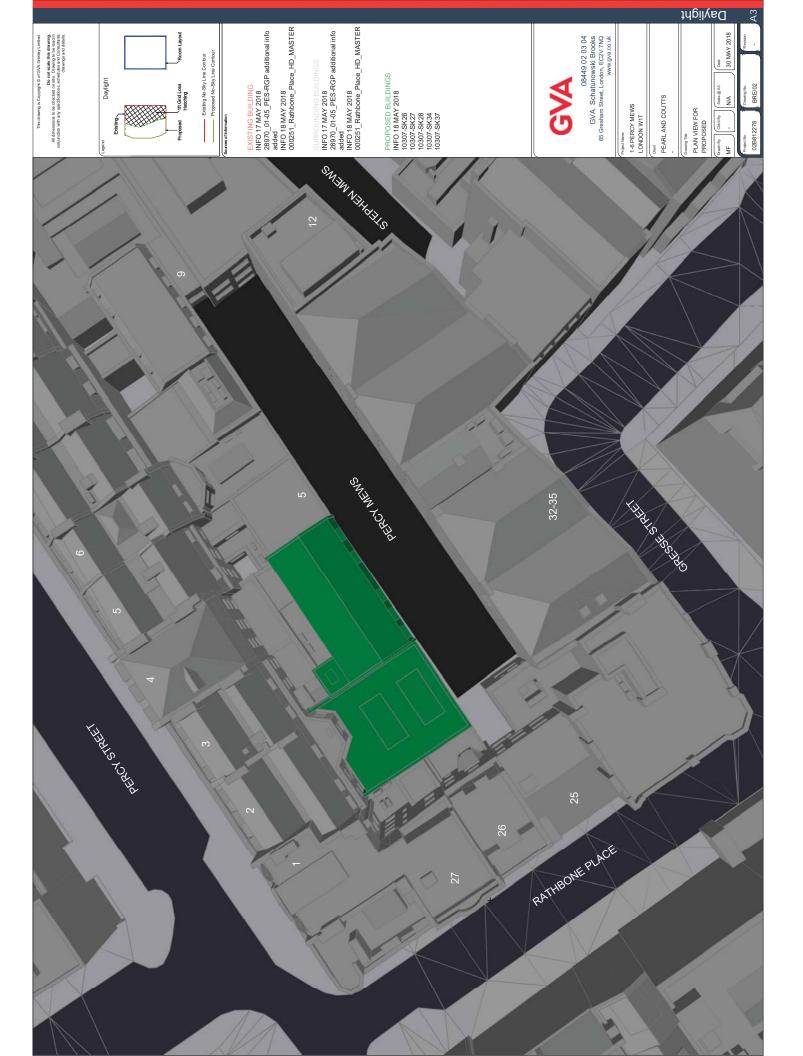
3.1 We carried out various daylight and sunlight studies in connection with a proposed scheme for the Site in accordance with the BRE Guidelines.

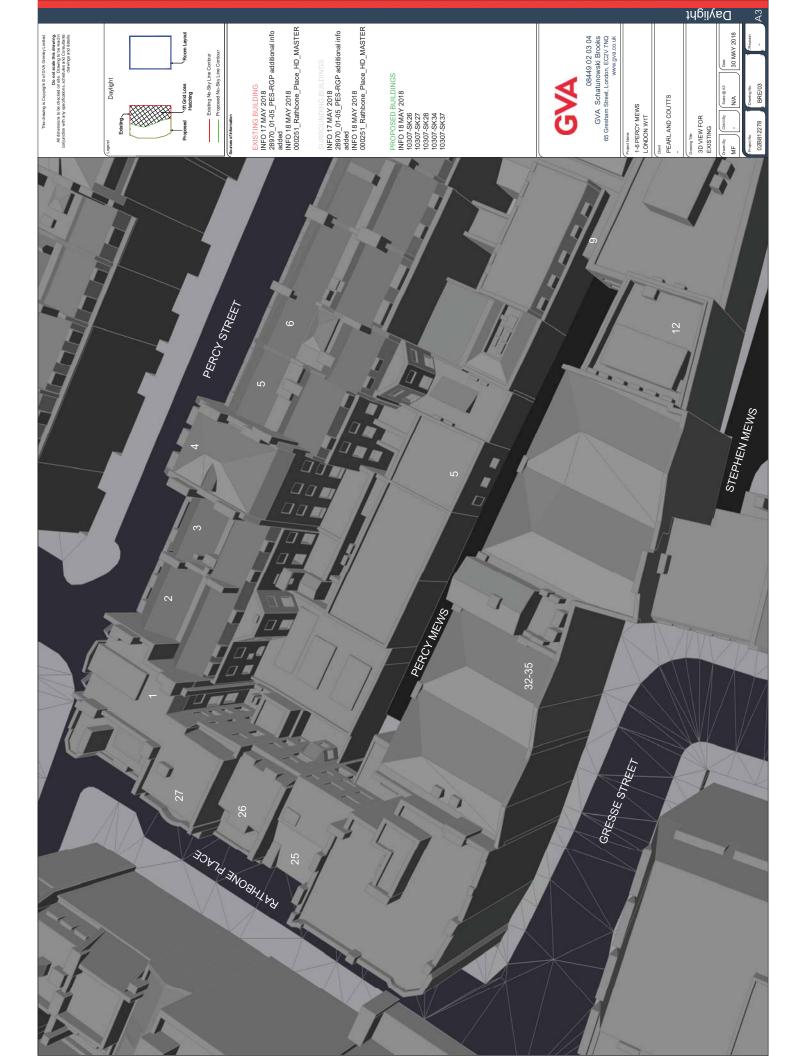
3.2 The results of the study demonstrate that the planning application scheme is acceptable in terms of daylight and sunlight.

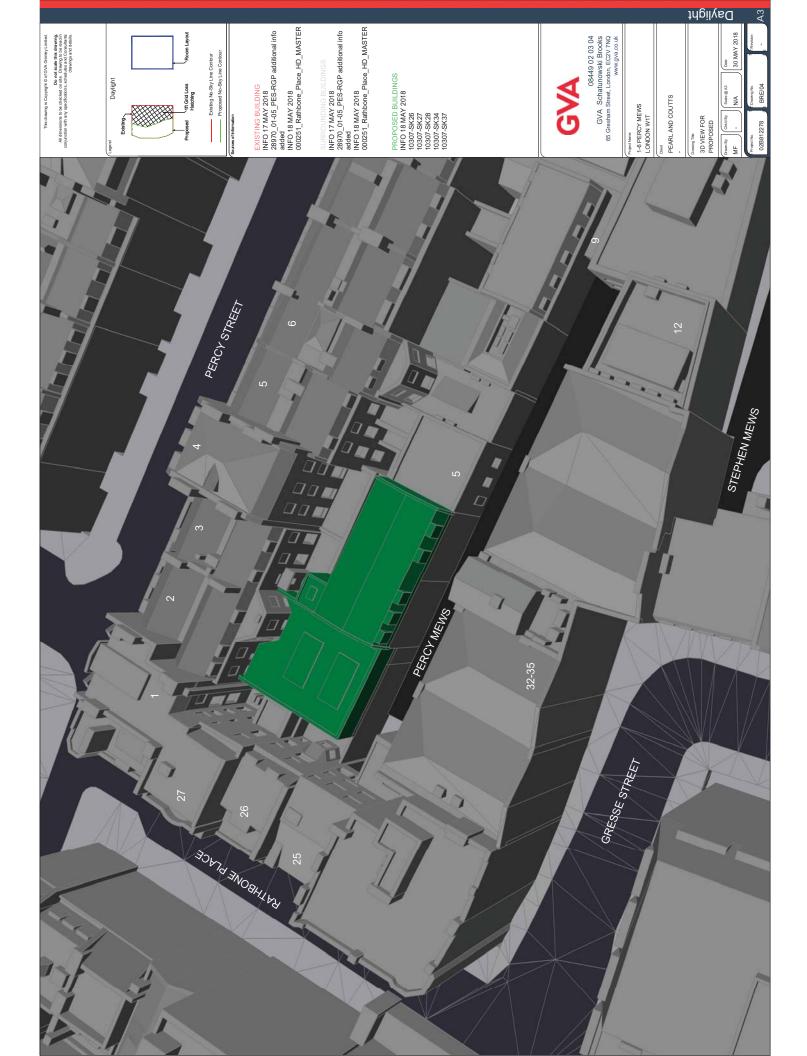


# Appendix I











# Appendix II

## **Daylight & Sunlight Principles**

The BRE Guidelines – Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight: A Guide to Good Practice are well established and are adopted by most Local Authorities as the appropriate scientific and empirical methods of measuring daylight and sunlight in order to provide objective data upon which to apply their planning policies. The Guidelines are not fixed standards but should be applied flexibly to take account of the specific circumstances of each case.

The Introduction of the Guidelines states:

"The guide is intended for building designers and their clients, consultants and planning officials. The advice given here is not mandatory and this document should not be seen as an instrument of planning policy. Its aim is to help rather than constrain the developer. Although it gives numerical guidelines, these should be interpreted flexibly because natural lighting is only one of the many factors in site layout design."

The 'flexibility' recommended in the Guidelines should reflect the specific characteristics of each case being considered. For example, as the numerical targets within the Guidelines have been derived on the basis of a low density suburban housing model, it is entirely appropriate to apply a more flexible approach when dealing with higher rise developments in a denser urban environment where the general scale of development is greater. In addition, where existing and proposed buildings have specific design features such as projecting balconies, deep recesses, bay windows etc., it is also equally valid to apply a degree of flexibility to take account of the effect of these particular design features. This does not mean that the recommendations and targets within the Guidelines can be disregarded but, instead, the 'flexibility' that should be applied should be founded on sound scientific principles that can be supported and justified. This requires a certain level of professional value judgement and experience.

## Daylighting

In respect of daylighting, the BRE Guidelines adopt different methods of measurement depending on whether the assessment is for the impact on existing neighbouring premises or for measuring the adequacy of proposed new dwellings. For safeguarding the daylight received by existing neighbouring residential buildings around a proposed development, the relevant recommendations are set out in Section 2.2 of the Guidelines.

The adequacy of daylight received by existing neighbouring dwellings is measured using two methods of measurement. First, it is necessary to measure the Vertical Sky Component (VSC) followed by the measurement of internal Daylight Distribution by plotting the position of the 'existing' and 'proposed' no sky line contour.

VSC is measured at the mid-point on the external face of the window serving a habitable room. For the purpose of the Guidelines, a "habitable" room is defined as a Kitchen, Living Room or Bedroom. Bathrooms, hallways and circulation space are excluded from this definition. In addition, many Local Authorities make a further distinction in respect of small kitchens. Where the internal area of a small kitchen limits the use to food preparation and is not of sufficient size to accommodate some other form of "habitable" use such as dining, the kitchen need not be classed as a "habitable" room in its own right.

VSC is a 'spot' measurement taken on the face of the window and is a measure of the availability of light from the sky from over the "existing" and "proposed" obstruction caused by buildings or structures in front of the window. As it is measured on the outside face of the window, one of the inevitable shortcomings is that it does not take account of the size of the window or the size or use of the room served by the window. For this reason, the BRE Guidelines require internal Daylight Distribution to be measured in addition to VSC.

The 'No Sky Line' contour plotted for the purpose of measuring internal Daylight Distribution identifies those areas within the room usually measured on a horizontal working plane set at table top level, where there is direct sky visibility. This therefore represents those parts within the room where the sky can be seen through the window. This second measure therefore takes account of the size of the window and the size of the room but is only more reliable than VSC when the actual room uses, layouts and dimensions are known. When interpreted in conjunction with the VSC value, the likely internal lighting conditions, and hence the quality of lighting within the room, can be assessed.

For VSC, the Guidelines states that:

"If this Vertical Sky Component is greater than 27% then enough skylight should still be reaching the window of the existing building. Any reduction below this level should be kept to a minimum. If the Vertical Sky Component with the new development in place is both less than 27% and less than 0.8 times its former value, then the occupants of the existing building will notice the reduction in the amount of skylight."

To put this in context, the maximum VSC value that can be received for a totally unobstructed vertical window is 40%. There are however circumstances where the VSC value is already below 27%. In such circumstances, it is permissible to reduce the existing VSC value by a factor of 0.2 (i.e. 20%) so that the value on the 'proposed' conditions remains more than 0.8 times its former value. The scientific reasoning for this permissible margin of reduction is that existing daylight (and sunlight) levels can be reduced by a factor of 20% before the loss becomes materially noticeable. This factor of reduction applies to VSC, daylight distribution, sunlight and overshadowing.

By contrast, the adequacy of daylight for proposed 'New-Build' dwellings is measured using the standards in the British Standard Code of Practice for Daylighting, BS8206 Part 2.

The British Standard relies upon the use of Average Daylight Factors (ADF) rather than VSC and Daylight Distribution. The use of ADF is referred to in the BRE Guidelines (Appendix C) but its use is usually limited as a supplementary 'check' of internal lighting conditions once the VSC and Daylight Distribution tests have been completed.

ADF is sometimes seen as a more accurate and representative measure of internal lighting conditions as it comprises a greater number of design factors and input variables/coefficients. That is, the value of ADF is derived from:

- The actual amount of daylight received by the window(s) serving the room expressed as the "angle of visible sky" which is derived from the VSC value and therefore represents the amount of light striking the face of the window.
- The loss of transmittance through the glazing.
- The size of the window (net area of glazing).
- The size of the room served by the window(s) (net internal surface area of the room).
- The internal reflectance values of the internal finishes within the room.
- The specific use of the room.

One of the main reasons why ADF is more appropriate for New-Build dwellings is that any of the above input variables can be changed during the course of the design process in order to achieve the required internal lighting values. The ability to make such changes is not usually available when dealing with existing neighbouring buildings.

Unlike the application of VSC and daylight distribution, the British Standard differentiates between different room uses. It places the highest ADF standard on Family Kitchens where the minimum target value is 2% df. Living Rooms should achieve 1.5% df, and Bedrooms 1.0% df.

### Sunlighting

The requirements for protecting sunlight to existing residential buildings are set out in section 3.2 of the BRE Guidelines.

The availability of sunlight varies throughout the year with the maximum amount of sunlight being available on the summer solstice and the minimum on the winter solstice. In view of this, the internationally accepted test date for measuring sunlight is the spring equinox (21 March), on which day the United Kingdom has equal periods of daylight and darkness and sunlight is available from approximately 08:30hrs to 17:30hrs. In addition, on that date, sunlight received perpendicular to the face of a window would only be received where that window faces within 90° of due south. The BRE Guidelines therefore limit the extent of testing for sunlight where a window faces within 90° of due south.

The sunlight standards are normally applied to the principal Living Room within each dwelling rather than to kitchens and bedrooms.

The recommendation for sunlight is:

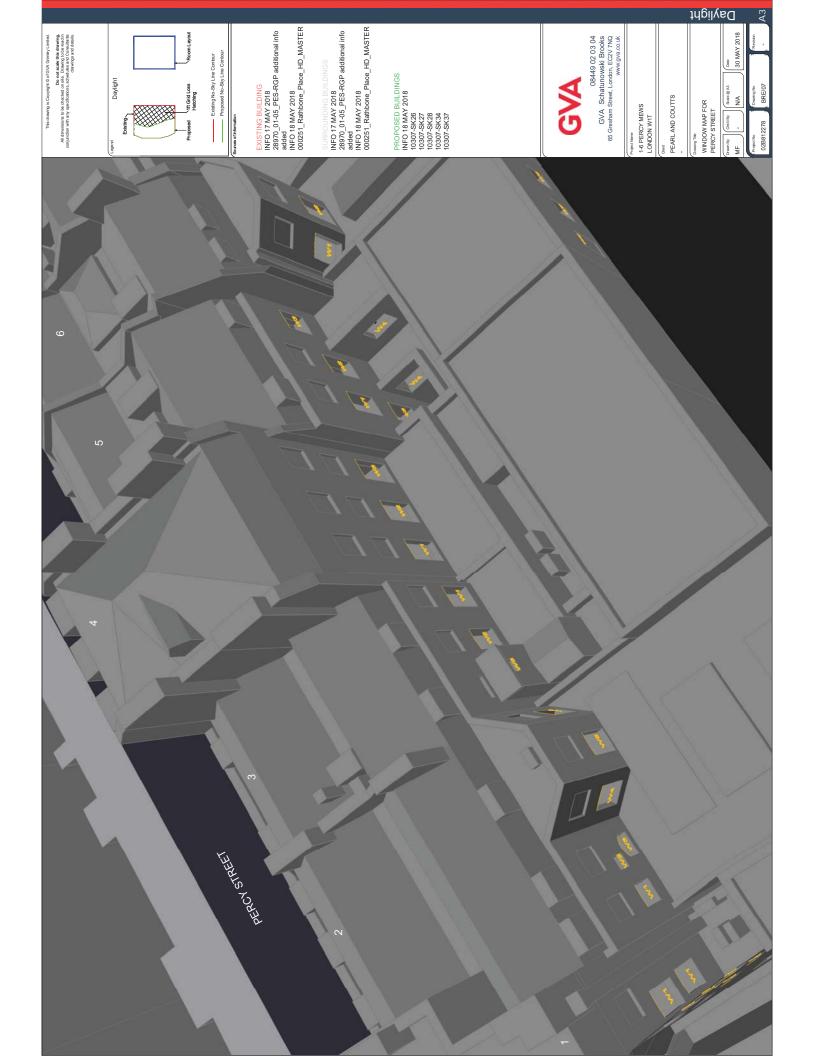
"If this window reference point can receive more than one quarter of annual probable sunlight hours, including at least 5% of annual probable sunlight hours during the winter months of 21 September and 21 March, then the room should still receive enough sunlight.

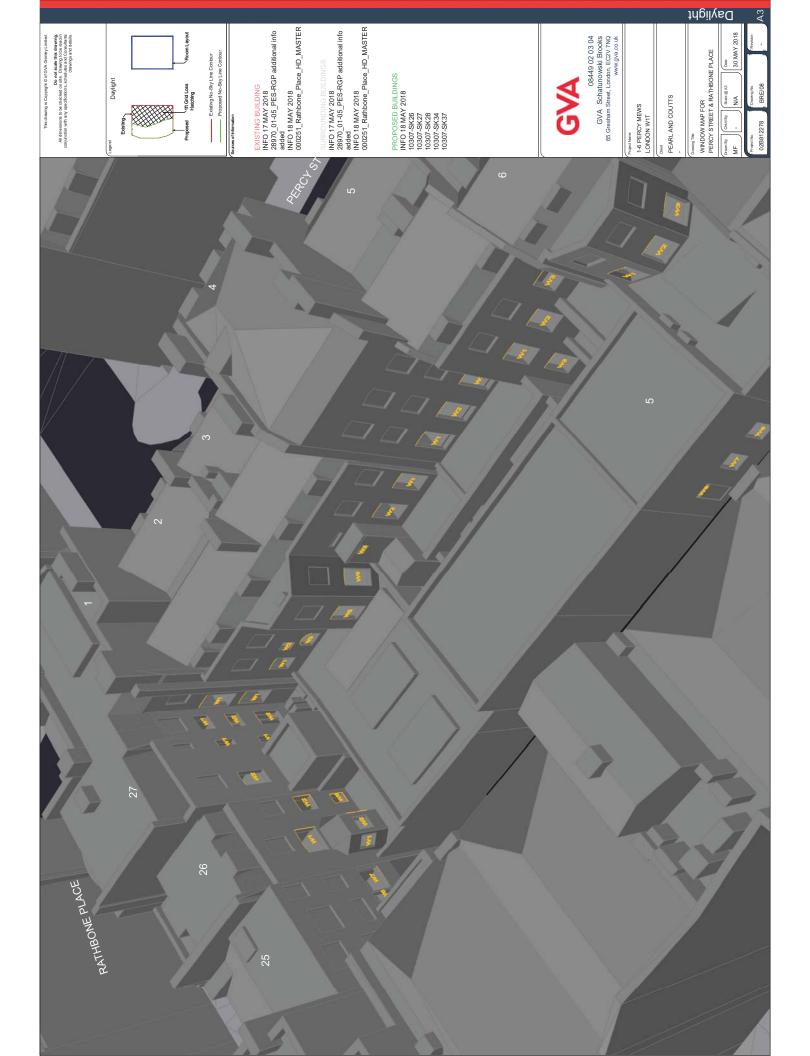
Any reduction in sunlight access below this level should be kept to a minimum. If the availability of sunlight hours are both less than the amounts given and less than 0.8 times their former value, either over the whole year or just during the winter months, then the occupants of the existing building will notice the loss of sunlight."

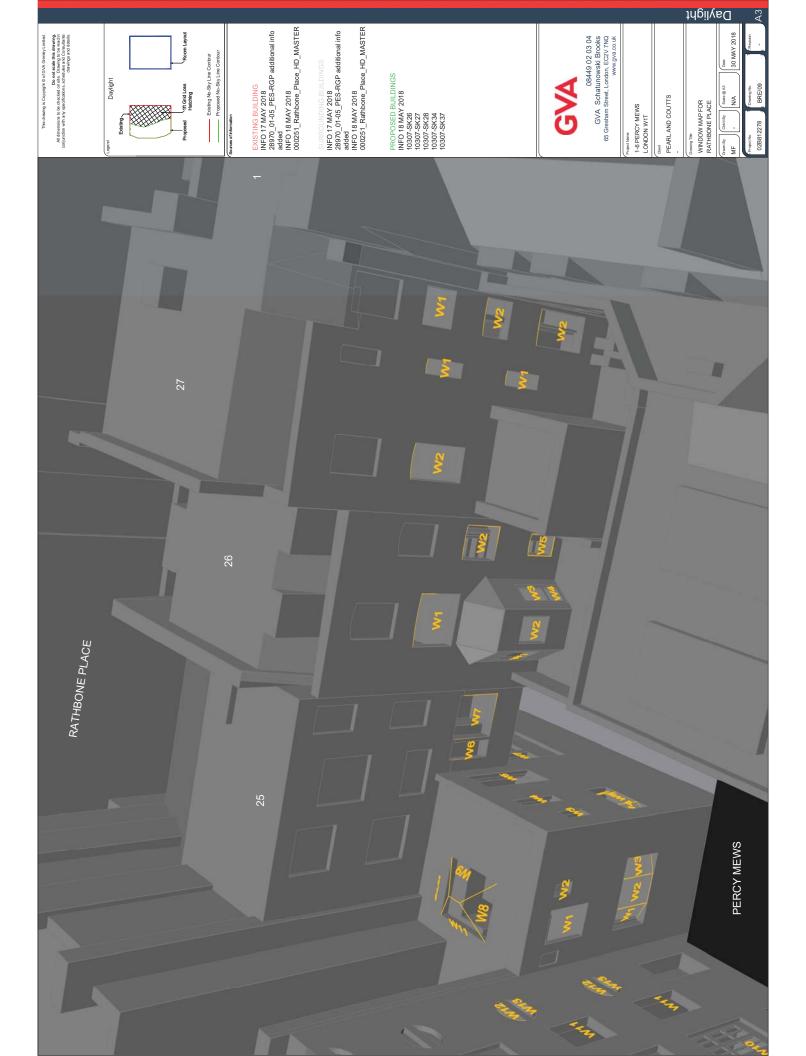
A good level of sunlight will therefore be achieved where a window achieves more than 25% APSH, of which 5% should be in the winter months. Where sunlight levels fall below this suggested recommendation, a comparison with the existing condition should be undertaken and if the reduction ratio is less than 0.2, i.e. the window continues to receive more than 0.8 times its existing sunlight levels, the impact on sunlight will be acceptable.



# Appendix III

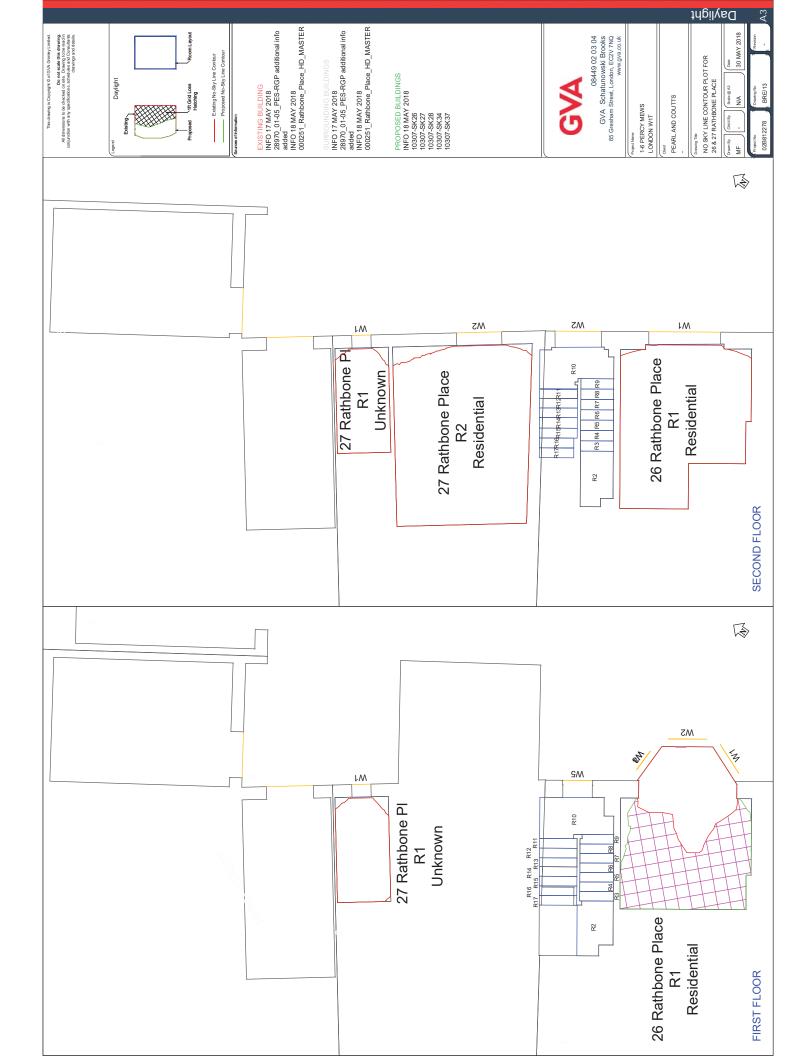








Appendix IV





Appendix V

Project Name: 1-6 Percy Mews Project No.: 02B812278

Report Title: Daylight Distribution Analysis - Neighbour Existing v Proposed Date of Analysis: 07-Jun-18

Floor Ref.	Room Ref.	Room Attribute	Property Type	Room Use.		Room Area	Lit Area Existing	Lit Area Proposed	Pr/Ex	Meets BRE Criteria
				26 Rathbone Place						
First	R1		Residential	Residential	Area m2	10.53	10.18	3.98		
					% of room		97%	38%	0.39	NO
Second	R1		Residential	Residential	Area m2	10.32	10.19	10.19		
					% of room		99%	99%	1.00	YES
				27 Rathbone Place						
First	R1		Residential	Unknown	Area m2	3.17	3.01	3.01		
					% of room		95%	95%	1.00	YES
Second	R1		Residential	Unknown	Area m2	3.17	3.03	3.03		
					% of room		95%	95%	1.00	YES
	R2		Residential	Residential	Area m2	13.68	13.25	13.25		
					% of room		97%	97%	1.00	YES

Project Name: 1-6 Percy Mews Project No.: 02B812278 Report Title: Daylight & Sunlight - Neighbour Analysis Existing v Proposed Date of Analysis: 07-Jun-18

Floor Ref.	Room Ref.	Room Attribute	Property Type	Room Use.	Window Ref.	Window Attribute	vsc	Pr/Ex	Meets BRE Criteria	Window Orientation	Annual	Pr/Ex	Meets BRE Criteria	Winter	Pr/Ex	Meets BRE Criteria	Total Suns per Room Annual	Meets BRE Criteria	Total Suns per Room Winter	Meets BRE Criteria
								26 Ra	thbone Pla	ace										
First	R1		Residential	Residential	W1	Existing Proposed	13.26 8.04	0.60	NO	112°	1 1	1.00	YES	0	0.00	YES				
					W2	Existing Proposed	22.75 7.54	0.33	NO	55°N		*North*			*North*					
					W3	Existing Proposed	14.65 7.26	0.49	NO	1°N		*North*			*North*					
					W4	Existing Proposed	11.06 4.43	0.40	NO	1°N		*North*			*North*		1		0	
																	1	YES	0	YES
Second	R1		Residential	Residential	W1	Existing Proposed	27.57 27.45	0.99	YES	55°N		*North*			*North*					
																	*North*	*North*	*North*	*North*
								27 Ra	thbone Pla	ace										
First	R1		Residential	Unknown	W1	Existing Proposed	15.25 13.36	0.87	YES	54°N		*North*			*North*					
																	*North*	*North*	*North*	*North*
Second	R1		Residential	Unknown	W1	Existing Proposed	24.55 24.55	1.00	YES	54°N		*North*			*North*					
	R2		Residential	Residential	W2	Existing Proposed	27.82 27.82	1.00	YES	54°N		*North*			*North*		*North*	*North*	*North*	*North*
																	*North*	*North*	*North*	*North*



Appendix VI

## Proposed No Sky Line Results (cutback massing)

Building Ref	Floor Ref	Room Ref	Room Use	Area	Lit Area Ex.	Lit Area Pr.	Diff.	Test
■ 26 Rathbone								
Place	First	R1	Residential	10.53	10.18	10.18	1.00	PASS
	Second	R1	Residential	10.32	10.19	10.19	1.00	PASS

Project Name: 21 GIA Street Project No.: 12345 Report Title: Daylight & Sunlight - Neighbour Analysis Existing Vs. Proposed Date of Analysis: 12-Jul-18

Floor Ref.	Room Ref.	Room Attribute	Property Type	Room Use.	Window Ref.	Window Attribute	VSC	Pr/Ex	Meets BRE Criteria	Window Orientation	Annual	Pr/Ex	Meets BRE Criteria	Winter	Pr/Ex	BRE	Total Suns per Room Annual		Total Suns per Room Winter	
	26 Rathbone Place																			
First	R1		Residential	Residential	W1	Exis: Prop	-	0.90	YES	112°	1 1	1.00	YES	0	0.00	YES				
					W2	Exis	•	0.80	YES	55°N		*North*			*North*					
					W3	Exis: Prop	ng 14.65	0.82	YES	1°N		*North*			*North*					
					W4	Exis		0.80	YES	1°N		*North*			*North*					
																	1 1	YES	<b>0</b> 0	YES
Second	R1		Residential	Residential	W1	Exis: Prop	ng 27.57 sed 27.45	0.99	YES	55°N		*North*			*North*					
																	*North*	*North*	*North*	*North*