

## HERITAGE STATEMENT

### PROPOSED INTERNAL WORKS TO THE PACCAR GALLERY

#### THE BRITISH LIBRARY, 96 EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, NW1 2DB

##### Introduction

This Heritage Statement has been prepared and submitted on behalf of The British Library, to provide justification for the following development:

*“Internal works consisting of the formation of a new opening into the exhibition workshops, installation of new partitions, alteration of ceiling grid and installation of new lighting track system, within the Paccar Gallery.”*

##### The proposal and location

The proposed works will be undertaken within the Paccar Gallery, which is located on the lower ground floor of the British Library, west of the main entrance hall. Historic England’s detailed listing for the Library includes reference to the Paccar Gallery and states:

*“Stairs lead down to the Paccar Gallery for temporary exhibitions, which partly underlies the ‘Treasures’ exhibition, with access points from both the Ground and Lower Ground floors; the wall partitions in the Paccar exhibition and the stairs between the Paccar and Treasures exhibition spaces\* are functional and do not form part of the listing. The adjacent exhibition workshops\* are classed as office areas and are not included in the listing. Stairs with travertine risers and steel and brass handrails lead down from the ground floor to the Paccar Exhibition space but beyond this point the exhibition partition walls\*, fixtures\* and fittings\* are temporary, not fixed and not included in the listing” (our emphasis).*

*\*Pursuant to s.1 (5A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (‘the Act’) it is declared that these aforementioned features are not of special architectural or historic interest.*

It is considered that the proposed internal alterations can be implemented and are suitable within this area, as long as works are carried out in an appropriate manner ensuring no harm is caused to other parts of the Library which are included in the listing.

The proposed works will result in a newly formed entranceway, partitions, alteration of the ceiling grid and a new lighting track system to replace the existing system, which will all be all provided to match existing finishes and architectural details, to ensure that the character of the listed building is not effected.

Therefore, the proposed works, in this internal part of the Library are considered to be appropriate and will have no substantial impact on the listed building.

##### Policy considerations

The proposed development is compliant with both National and Local Planning Policy, as set out below and within the detailed Heritage Statement which has been submitted in support of this application.

Section 16 of the NPPF (2018) sets out the approach to be taken for the consideration of Listed Buildings, of particular relevance are Paragraphs 189 -194 which seek to protect heritage assets (inclusive of Grade I listed buildings) by resisting the approval of planning applications which will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of an asset. In line with these requirements, substantial weight has been given to the conservation of The British Library

and it is considered that this internal alteration to the listed building will result in no substantial harm to or loss of the significance of the heritage asset.

Policy D2 (Heritage and Conservation) of Camden's New Local Plan (adopted 03 July 2017) seeks to preserve and enhance Camden's heritage assets and their settings. In accordance with the policy requirements, this proposal does not result in the loss of, or substantial harm to the designated heritage asset, affect the preservation and will not cause harm to the special architectural or historic interest of the listed building.

### Conclusion

Overall, the proposed works will cause no substantial harm or impact to the listed building and will not affect the setting or character of the specific internal area of building. The construction process has been carefully considered and planned, to ensure no harm is caused to any surrounding structures and features of the Paccar Gallery.