

# Brunei entrance building ductwork handrails and new plant enclosure.

Design and Access Statement

School of Oriental and African studies (SOAS)

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# Notice

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This document has 6 pages including the cover.

## Document history

Revision	Purpose description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Author-ised	Date
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# 1. Description

The proposal is to install new ductwork on the roof level, a new Air Handling Unit for the supply of fresh air into the music rooms below and guardrails around the perimeter of the roof for safety to retrospectively cater to ventilations requirements within the building and comply to the employer's health and safety requirements.

This application is made on behalf of SOAS (School of Oriental and African studies) in relation to the entrance block for the Brunei Building, Thornton Street, Russel Square, Bloomsbury, London. WC1H 0XG. The building and neighbours serve in the education sector belonging to the establishment of SOAS.

# 2. Building construction

The building is constructed with red brick elevation covering two floors and a mezzanine. The elevations have few apertures on the west face with lead cladded timber window frames with varnished double-glazed window casements and glass panelled doors in a single other aperture.

The north elevation has two sandstone columns and entablature above which dominate the north façade framing an entrance which has a lead cladded double-glazed curtain wall and glazed double and single doors forming the main entrance to the building; shown in Figure 7-1. A sandstone cladded drum occupies most of the entrance block roof space and is mostly obscured from street level; unless approaching Torrington Square during the Autumn/Winter as opposed to Summer/Spring seasons as shown in Figure 7-2. The building has a gravel and asphalt covered inverted roof with low brick and lead lined parapets capped in sandstone coping or aluminium capping. There are two skylights to the front and patent glazing around the circumference of the drum. A small lead cladded timber frame enclosure is located at the south east corner of the roof space and encompasses the lift overrun and some small, obsolete, ventilation extractors.

# 3. Surrounding buildings & spaces

The campus is located in the centre of the Bloomsbury conservation area which covers a wide area enveloping parts of the Fitzrovia and Saint Pancras wards. The Brunei entrance block is surrounded by other SOAS owned buildings. The entrance block is attached to the main 4 floor Brunei building which obscures the east portion of the site. Its immediate neighbour to the north is the listed brick built 5 floor Philips building with aluminium windows, essentially constructed in similar style to the Brunei building. Between the two buildings is a thoroughfare lined with deciduous trees along its length spanning from Torrington Square to Thornhaugh Street. The next nearby building is the east found 4 floor Paul Webley block. This has an art deco architectural style and is an extension to Senate House. Between the Paul Webley block and the Brunei building is a large green space.

# 4. Objectives

The scale of the works is relatively small and retrospective to include:

- The installation of low-lying ventilation ductwork supported on low profile footings. The proposed flexi foot footings are to support a H frame which will be spaced equidistantly along the length of the ductwork for support. The height of the ductwork will range from 350 to 600mm with a 30mm insulation sleeve. The ducts will be stacked to minimise impact on circulation and where visible we estimate a full height of circa 1.1m. From ground level this would not be immediately visible due to the angle at which it would be viewed
- A new Air Handling Unit will be installed and will remain exposed to reduce its spatial requirements and located in the same position as existing enclosure as this is deemed to be the most visually inconspicuous position available in an effort to meet requirement stated in section 7.34 of the 'Camden Local Plan 2017'. Details of the unit have been appended to this document along with drawings and sections to provide a clear understanding of the proposed construction.

- To achieve the Health and Safety requirements of the CDM regulations 2015 we propose installing a stainless steel or galvanised handrail around the perimeter of the roof to safeguard operatives from falling during maintenance operations. To avoid damaging the stone copings and approach with a reversible construction, the rail will be freestanding. The height of the handrails needs to be 1100mm to meet the Health and Safety requirements and where the parapet is present will be mostly obscured by building.
- A gantry to provide access over the ductwork further at the back of the space, we propose a gantry with handrails and looped safety guard. This is predicted to be circa 3m in height and located as far back as is practical. The proposed dimensions are to scale and shown in green on the proposed drawings provided with this document.

## 5. Design & Appearance

The galvanised/stainless steel finish of the handrails will match the handrails at ground floor level near the entrance for continuity in the design. If required, we would consider shrouding the insulation around the ductwork insulation which we expect to be foil faced ductwrap with Ventureclad 1577CW Grey in colour. Alternatively, we are considering installing black insulation to the ductwork.

## 6. Assessment

The layout has been designed to avoid drawing attention to any of the above items. The ducts have been resized to minimise their height and conceal its presence, the handrails are set back as far as practical and the enclosure has been cladded in such a way that it compliments or blends into the surrounding environment. In this exercise we discovered that we could not fix the handrail to the inside face of the parapet wall and had to revise our scope to accommodate this.

From the roof level the following images have been provided to help orientate the reader to the location:

Figure 7-3 – Facing over North-West parapet from roof level

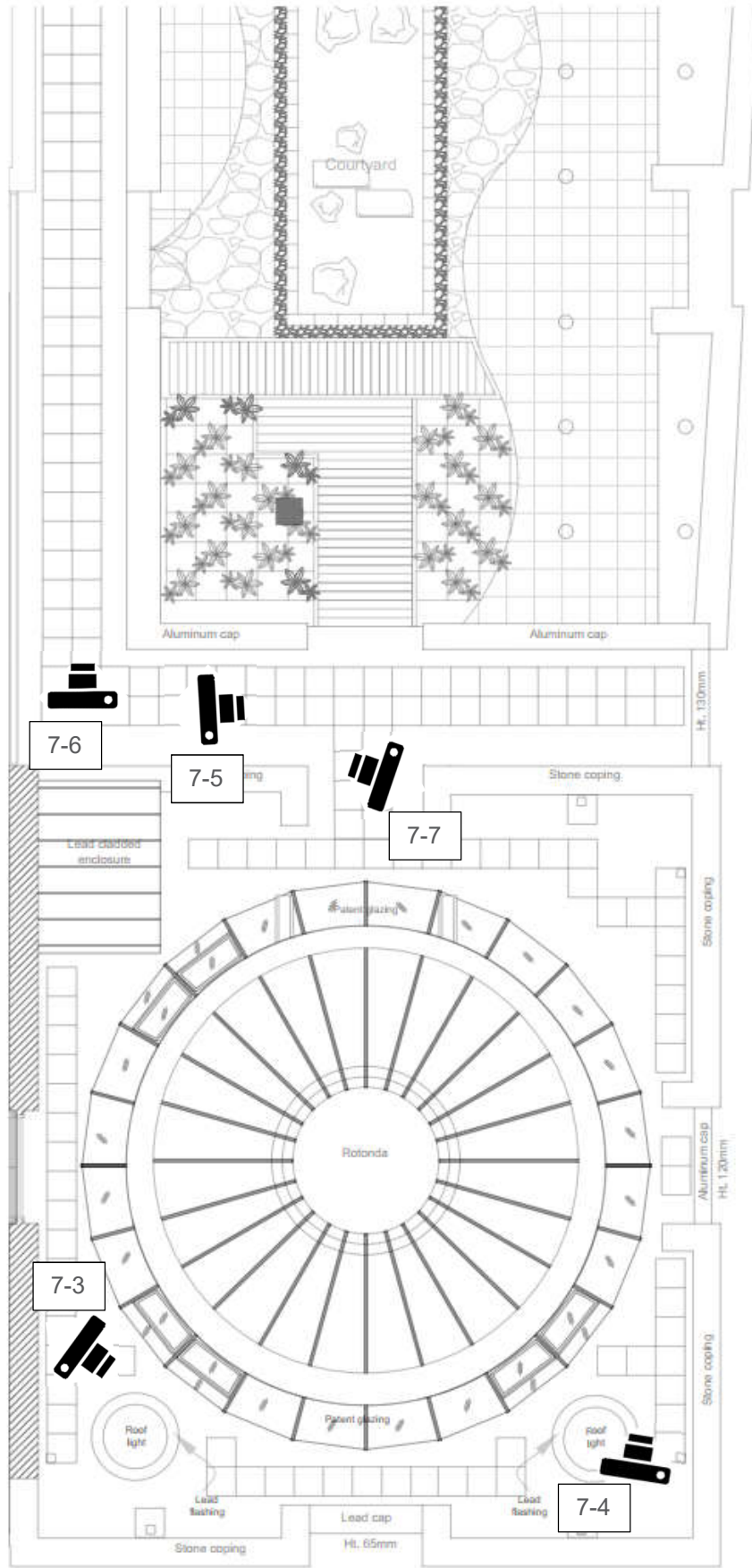
Figure 7-4 – Facing South-West over parapet from roof level

Figure 7-5 – Facing West along side path from roof level

Figure 7-6 – Facing South on roof adjacent Japanese roof garden

Figure 7-7 – Facing South East of the roof toward the current enclosure surrounding the lift overrun

Locations mentioned above have been superimposed on the schematic plan overleaf.



## 7. Photographs



Figure 7-1 - Front entrance north elevation



Figure 7-2 - West elevation - currently obscured by trees



Figure 7-3 - Facing North-West over parapet from roof level



Figure 7-4 - Facing South-West over parapet from roof level



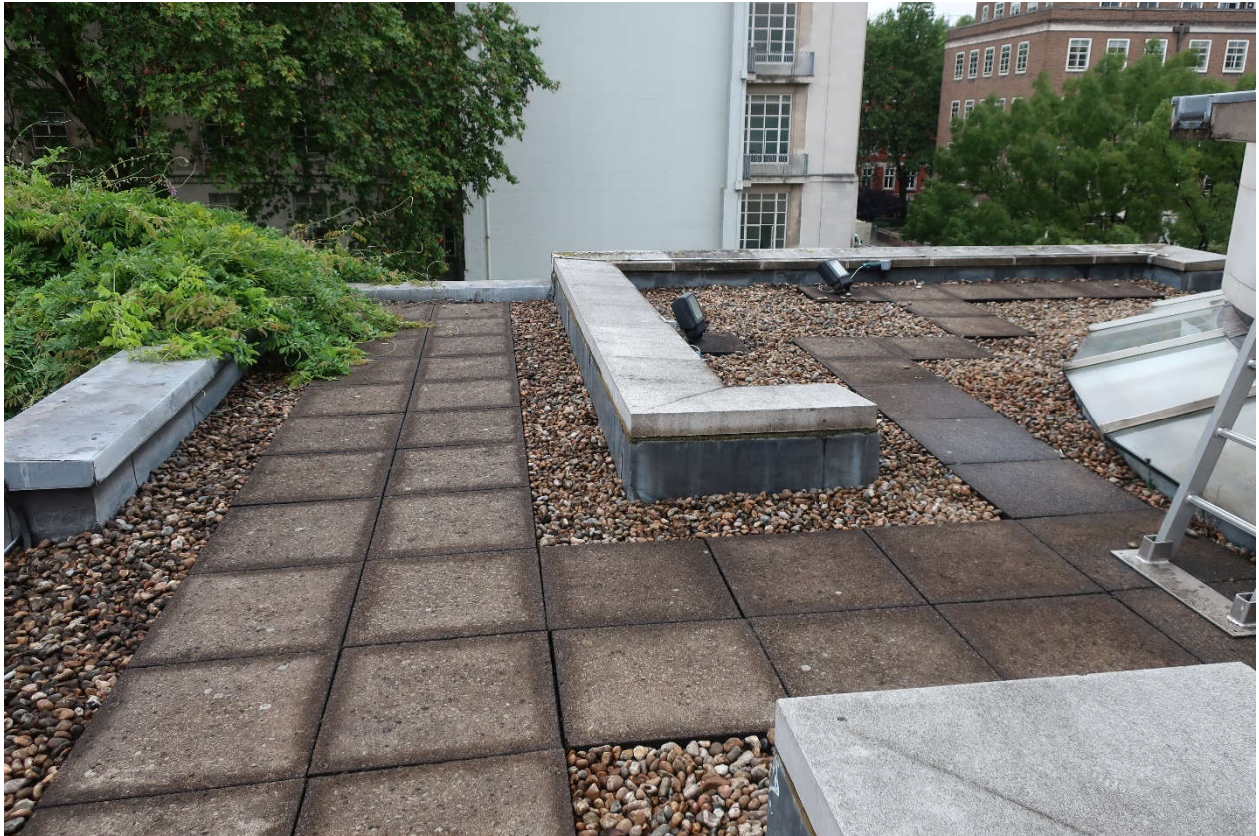


Figure 7-5 - Facing West along side path from roof level



Figure 7-6 - Facing South on roof adjacent Japanese roof garden



Figure 7-7 - Gantry and new AHU location

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