03.00

Heritage Statement

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03.01 Overview











Historic Photographs of the Building

fabric. Victoria House is listed Grade II and lies within the impact of the proposals upon the historic fabric.

This chapter describes the heritage and historical character of Bloomsbury Conservation Area. Listed building consent is the building, with reference to the Grade II listing, the planning sought for internal works to improve the existing layout and history of the building relevant to the proposed works, areas redecorate the areas from floors 1-9. There are no remaining excluded from the works, the significance assessment of the historic or architectural features of interest within these areas. building and the impact of the proposal upon the historic This section assesses the significance of building, and the

03.02 Planning History

Application No.	Address	Development Description	Date	Decision
2019/4278/L	Victoria House, 36-63	Internal works to improve the existing layout and redecorate the office areas in the 4th and 5th floors.	05/09/2019	Granted
	Southampton Row London			
	WC1B 4DA			
2009/2300/L	Victoria House, 36-63	Removal of internal partitions at fourth floor level (Class B1).	31/07/2009	Granted
	Southampton Row London			
	WC1B 4DA			
2006/3016/P	Victoria House, 36-63	External alterations to the existing office (Class B1) at 5th floor level including retention of two external air conditioning units, and installation of associated air handling plant and one extract fan to be mounted behind	07/07/2006	Granted
	Southampton Row London	the parapet wall at 5th floor roof level.		
	WC1B 4DA			
2006/2828/L	Victoria House, 36-63	Internal alterations to the existing office (Class B1) at 5th floor level and retention of two air conditioning units, installation of associated air handling plant and extract fan to be mounted behind the parapet wall at 5th	07/07/2006	Granted
	Southampton Row London	floor roof level.		
	WC1B 4DA			
2003/3437/L	Victoria House, 36-63	Internal alterations to the fourth floor including internal partitions, secondary glazing and installation of plant at seventh floor	10/02/2004	Granted
	Southampton Row London			
	WC1B 4DA			
PSX0105141	Victoria House, 36-63	Submission of details of position materials and detailed design of shopfronts and installation of plant and equipment pursuant to additional conditions 1 and 5 respectively of planning permission dated 18 July 2001	22/10/2001	Grant Approval of
	Southampton Row London	ref: PSX0004957/R1 and submission of details of precautions to be taken to secure and protect interior features; details relating to alterations and repairs of the external envelope and details of the new atria, new		details
	WC1	entrances, internal treatment of office areas and proposed new floor in central reception hall and full details of position of shopfront pursuant to additional conditions 2(a-d) 6(a-d) and 7 respectively of listed building		
		consent dated 18 July 2001 ref: LSX0004958/R1, as shown on drawing numbers; 0770/01/091 RevP1; 170 Rev P1; 192 Rev P1; 193 Rev P1; 325 Rev P1; 326 Rev P1; 421 to 425 Rev P1 (inclusive).		
		1000 to 1002 Rev P1 (inclusive); 1008 to 1010 Rev P1 (inclusive); 1501 to 1503 (inclusive) Rev P1; 2002 Rev P1; 2005 Rev P1; 2008 Rev P1; 2009 Rev P1; 2101 Rev P1; 2300 Rev P1; 2350 Rev		
		P1; 11022 to 11023 (inclusive) Rev P1; 14010 Rev P1; 15000 Rev P1; 15001 Rev P1; 15101 to 15102 (inclusive) Rev P1; 17000 to 17001 (inclusive) Rev P1; 19060 Rev P1. Architectural specification reports C20		
		Demolition works/ alterations-listed areas; C40 Stone repair and cleaning; C50 Window renovation works; C90 conservation works. Acoustic consultancy report.		
LSX0105235	Victoria House, 36-67	Submission of details of position materials and detailed design of shopfronts and installation of plant and equipment pursuant to additional conditions 1 and 5 respectively of planning permission dated 18 July 2001	22/10/2001	Grant Approval of
	Southampton Row London	ref: PSX0004957/R1 and submission of details of precautions to be taken to secure and protect interior features; details relating to alterations and repairs of the external envelope and details of the new atria, new		details (listed Bldg)
	WC1B 4EA	entrances, internal treatment of office areas and proposed new floor in central reception hall and full details of position of shopfront pursuant to additional conditions 2(a-d) 6(a-d) and 7 respectively of listed building		
		consent dated 18 July 2001 ref: LSX0004958/ R1, as shown on drawing numbers; Drawings 0770/01/091 RevP1; 170 Rev P1; 260 rev P1; 192 Rev P1; 193 Rev P1; 325 Rev P1; 326 Rev P1; 421 to 425 Rev P1		
		(inclusive). 1000 to 1002 Rev P1 (inclusive); 1008 to 1010 Rev P1 (inclusive); 1501 to 1503 (inclusive) Rev P1; 2002 Rev P1; 2005 Rev P1; 2008 Rev P1; 2009 Rev P1; 2101 Rev P1; 2300 Rev P1; 2350		
		Rev P1; 11022 to 11023 (inclusive) Rev P1; 14010 Rev P1; 15000 Rev P1; 15001 Rev P1; 15101 to 15102 (inclusive) Rev P1; 17000 to 17001 (inclusive) Rev P1; 19060 Rev P1. Architectural specification reports C20		
		Demolition works/ alterations-listed areas; C40 Stone repair and cleaning; C50 Window renovation works; C90 conservation works. Acoustic consultancy report.		
PSX0004957	Victoria House, 36-67	Refurbishment of the listed building including alterations at roof level; alterations to the shopfronts; the formation of an internal vehicular loading bay at the north end of the Bloomsbury Square elevation; the erection	22/01/2001	Grant Full Planning
	Southampton Row London	of a roof over the two existing two light wells to form atria, with new internal walls, and the insertion of pods in the atria. The use of the building to involve:- retention of office use on part of the ground and all the upper		Permission (conds)
	WC1	floors; double height Class A1 retail units on the Southampton Row frontage; retention of the existing bank on the southern corner and introduction of new restaurant use (with entrance and bar on Vernon Place); and		
		a new health club on the basement floors. as shown on drawing numbers and documents listed on the schedule dated 18.1.2001, reissued on 6.4.2001		

The planning applications on Victoria House outlined above are relevant to the proposed works only.

Application No.	Address	Development Description	Date	Decision
9570191	Victoria House, Southampton	Internal alterations to remove existing ducts for refurbishment of toilets as shown on drawing numbers P124/646-649 651 655 657 659A 666 667A 669 673 677 680A 683A.	19/06/1995	Grant List. Build. or
	Row, WC1			Cons. Area Consent
9370125	Victoria House, Southampton	Relocation of 2 air conditioning condenser units from basement area on south elevation to first floor gallery level on east elevation as shown on location plan dated 4th December 1987 and on drawing numbered	24/06/1993	Grant List. Build. or
	Row, WC1	OPUS SK No E1879B/1		Cons. Area Consent
9270216	Victoria House, Southampton	Fire precaution works including new doors and signage as shown on fourteen un-numbered floor plans and drawings nos. P124/487B and 489B.	04/12/1992	Grant List. Build. or
	Row, WC1			Cons. Area Consent
9270214	Victoria House, Southampton	Remodelling of the south part of the fourth floor to create open plan offices as shown on drawings nos. P124/467 470C 471A 477 478 479A 491 492 493 494 and 506 (parts 1 and 2).	04/12/1992	Grant List. Build. or
	Row, WC1			Cons. Area Consent

The planning applications on Victoria House outlined above are relevant to the proposed works only.

03.03 Historical Background



West facade central distyle-in-antis portico

1926 and 1932. The architect was Charles William Long. The Grade II Listed building comprises 8 storeys with a basement and sub-basement. It occupies a rectangular island site with



East facade tympanum depicting navigation and industry

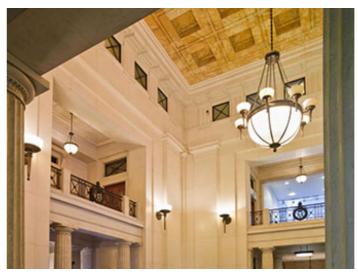


West facade entrance lobby in Subiaco marble





works carried out. The individual tenants within the building have also undertaken fitting out works beyond the landlord's Category A finish, some of which are very bespoke. Externally the building is in its original form but for the retail units on



Central ground floor public area with elaborate coffered ceiling



Extensive mahogany panelling to the third floor



18th century fireplaces from houses previously on the site



Basement dance hall with coloured glass fittings

03.04 Consented Works by LSX0004958

Details of the listed building consent granted in 2001 in respect of specified works for the alteration and extension of the listed building have informed the conditions and level of intervention recommended for the new proposals.

Summary of Internal Works consented by LSX0004958

The refurbishment works internally were very extensive within the office accommodation areas and included major alterations that created new space arrangements. These areas have been retrofitted with:

- Raised access floors
- Suspended ceilings
- Lighting
- New power distribution
- New fire alarm installation
- Air conditioning and heating from new fan coil units
- Refurbishment of existing windows

The office accommodation located on the Bloomsbury Square side of the building on the third and fourth floor levels have remained unaltered in their arrangement and appearance. These are known as the 'Heritage Rooms'. All fixtures including the light fittings, the finished joinery including such items as the timber polished panelling, door sets and doors, the marble skirting and mouldings have been retained.

The only areas within the 'Heritage Rooms' that appear to have been altered are the lighting units that have been converted to provide emergency lighting, the fire alarm installation and the heating and cooling system that was designed to fit within the constraints of the existing perimeter radiator covers.

Two atria to the south and north ends of the building have been formed within the existing light wells. These have curved walls of glazing from ground to roof level. Within the atria are suspended 'pods' that provide meeting room areas. These are accessed directly from the office accommodation and lift lobby landing areas via glazed lined walkways.

The central reception area has been fitted with a new raised glazed floor which has been fitted over the existing covering and steps.

Four new lift shafts have been constructed to provide access to the newly arranged floor layouts.



Image from the current Upper Ground Floor atrium

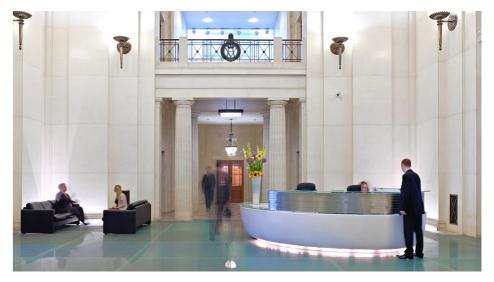


Image from the current Upper Ground Floor reception



Image from the current 2nd Floor lift core

03.05 Heritage Considerations

Areas Excluded from the Application

Precautions shall be taken to secure and protect the interior historical features against accidental loss or damage, or theft during the building works. No such features shall be disturbed or removed temporarily or permanently and are to be fully excluded from this application as follows:

- fittings in the entrance halls, stair halls, lift lobbies and surrounding spaces, and in the entrances and stairs at the northern and southern ends of the building;
- At first to seventh floor levels inclusive: all internal finishes, fixtures and fittings Evidential value: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human in the entrance halls, stair halls, lift lobbies and surrounding spaces;
- At third and fourth floor levels all internal finishes, fixtures and fittings in the executive office suite and associated halls and toilets in the north western corner of the building (Heritage Rooms).

Proposals

The proposal seeks approval to replace the existing modern partitions with new ones, following a specific grid but allowing flexibility in the number of partitions in Victoria House is a substantial building arranged over eight floors, with further Historic England Conservation Principles accepts that change is part of the life of order to create larger or smaller offices according to the tenants needs.

Two types of partitions, framed glass and insulated plasterboard, are proposed to be built following the grid, allowing to achieve either an almost open plan or an array of different size offices.

In view of the fact that all the historic finishes have been stripped in all office floors, the proposals include a simple and minimal intervention to fix the partitions in an unobtrusive manner to ceiling, replacement floor, and the plasterboard boxing external walls and columns.

It is also proposed to redecorate the offices utilising a mix of traditional and contemporary materials. No works are proposed to the external fabric of the listed The building is considered to have high aesthetic and architectural value, not just building.

Significance Assessment

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines 'Significance' as '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'. b. 'Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management • At street, upper ground and mezzanine level: all internal finishes, fixtures and of the historic environment', describes instead a range of heritage values, arranged c. in four groups, which may be attached to places as follows:

- be connected through a place to the present it tends to be illustrative or associative.
- Aesthetic value: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

accommodation at basement and sub-basement level. Its elevations are an elegant neo-classical composition built of high-quality materials such as Portland Stone bronze. The building occupies an entire block between Southampton Row and Bloomsbury Square; the architectural motifs and articulation repeats in all four secure the continuous occupation of the offices in the short and long term, and the elevations creating a harmonic sense of solid coherence.

The exterior of Victoria House remains largely in its original form, retaining its external finishes and architectural detailing. To Southampton Row the ground floor retail units have been altered, with new glazed shopfronts, however these works do not detract from the overall quality of the facade, blending with the retail and commercial character of Southampton Row.

due to its elegant facades which contribute to the character and appearance of the conservation area but because of its grand internal spaces such as the entrance lobbies and basement ballroom.

The building has been a contributor to the evolution of the Bloomsbury area and it has significant townscape value due to its imposing neo-classical facades which are highly visible within the streetscape and its strong relationship with Bloomsbury Square. It is therefore considered that Victoria House has significant historic and aesthetic value as well as lesser degrees of communal and evidential significance.

Proposed works and impact on the significance of Victoria House

The proposals aim to refurbish and upgrade the existing offices to a flexible partition layout. The works include:

- Removal of modern non-structural partitions:
- Construction of new stud wall and glass partitions following an established
- Creation of new tea points to serve the offices;
- d. New flooring;
- General decoration.

All original cladding materials and flooring have been removed throughout the office Historical value: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can area at the time of the major refurbishment in the early 2000s. The existing raised floor structure and boxing to the external walls will be kept in order to protect what remains of the original substrate.

None of the existing fittings or decorations are of heritage value, therefore the • Communal value: the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for proposed works are considered not to cause any impact on the values and significance of the listed building.

> heritage assets: 'Change in the historic environment is inevitable, caused by natural processes, the wear and tear of use, and people's responses to social, economic and technological change'. We believe that the proposed works are necessary to impact is considered generally beneficial.

03.06 Planning Considerations

This section provides supplementary information about the extent of the impact of the proposals on the significance of the heritage assets affected in accordance with National and Local Policies.

Planning (Listed Building & Conservation Areas) Act - Section 66 & 72

Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires that when considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the decision maker shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possess. Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 also provides that, in respect of development affecting conservation areas, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.

No changes are proposed to the exterior of the building; therefore, the character • No external works are proposed, hence there will be no impact on the historic 7.31A - Substantial harm to or loss of a designated heritage asset should be and appearance of the asset and conservation area will not be affected. There are no historic or architectural features of interest in the interior of the unit.

National Planning Policy Framework March 2012

- 126 Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:
- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness: and
- the character of a place.
- 128 In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance [...]
- 131 In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take architectural detail.
- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

- sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local of that asset. character and distinctiveness.
- 132 When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. [...]
- 134 Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable
- fabric of the building and the character of conservation area as a whole.
- It is our belief that the new layout reorganization will lead to a more practical and friendly use of the offices, therefore contributing to secure its future.

The London Plan March 2016

integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the our belief that no harm will be caused to the heritage asset at large. development of London over the next 20-25 years.

Policy 7.8 - Heritage assets and archaeology

Strategic

- London's heritage assets and historic environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic of the plan in autumn 2019. Although not yet adopted, the Draft Plan policies are a landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified. opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.
 - Development should incorporate measures that identify, record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology. Planning decisions
 - incorporate heritage assets, where appropriate.
 - Development affecting heritage assets and their settings should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to their form, scale, materials and enhancement opportunities by integrating heritage considerations early on in the
 - New development should make provision for the protection of archaeological resources, landscapes and significant memorials. The physical assets should, where possible, be made available to the public on-site. Where the archaeological

the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to asset or memorial cannot be preserved or managed on-site, provision must be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving

Supporting text

4.29 - London's built and landscape heritage provides a depth of character that has immeasurable benefit to the city's economy, culture and quality of life. [...] Ensuring the identification and sensitive management of

London's heritage assets in tandem with promotion of the highest standards of modern architecture will be key to maintaining the blend of old and new that gives the capital its unique character.

- 4.30 Crucial to the preservation of this character is the careful protection and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings and their settings. [...]
- exceptional, with substantial harm to or loss of those assets designated of the highest significance being wholly exceptional. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimal viable use. [...]
- It is considered that the new layout and internal decoration will facilitate the The London Plan defines the overall strategic plan for London, setting out an continuous occupation of the floors; and given the lack of historical features, it is

Draft New London Plan

Consultation for the Draft New London Plan ran from 1 December 2017 to 2 March 2018. The Examination in Pubic (EiP) is targeted for autumn 2018, and adoption material consideration as they hold weight, albeit limited weight, in decisions going forward. As such the proposal has taken into account the Draft Plan policies.

Policy HC1 Heritage Conservation and Growth

- Development proposals affecting heritage assets, and their settings, should conserve their significance, by being sympathetic to the assets' significance Development should identify, value, conserve, restore, re-use and appreciation within their surroundings. The cumulative impacts of incremental change from development on heritage assets and their settings, should also be actively managed. Development proposals should seek to avoid harm and identify design process.
 - Development proposals should identify assets of archaeological significance and use this information to avoid harm or minimise it through design

and appropriate mitigation. Where applicable, development should make provision Policy D2 Listed Buildings for the protection of significant archaeological assets and landscapes. The protection of undesignated heritage assets of archaeological interest equivalent to To preserve or enhance the borough's listed buildings, the Council will: a scheduled monument should be given equivalent weight to designated heritage i. assets.

Supporting Text

- 7.1.3 Ensuring the identification and sensitive management of London's heritage building through an effect on its setting. assets in tandem with promotion of the highest standards of modern architecture will be essential to maintaining the blend of old and new that gives the capital its. The proposed works are considered to fully comply with the requirements of unique character.
- 7.1.7 Heritage significance can be represented in an asset's form, scale, materials and architectural detail and, where relevant, the historic relationships Framework, in particular ensuring that the significance of the listed building is between heritage assets. Development that affects the settings of heritage assets sustained and that it is put to viable uses consistent with its conservation. should respond positively to the assets' significance, local context and character to protect the contribution that settings make to the assets' significance. In particular, consideration will need to be given to impacts from development that is not sympathetic in terms of scale, materials, details and form.

Camden Local Plan 2017

The Camden Local Plan sets out the Council's planning policies and replaces the Core Strategy and Development Policies planning documents adopted in 2010. The Local Plan will cover the period from 2016-2031.

Policy D2 Heritage

The Council will preserve and, where appropriate, enhance Camden's rich and diverse heritage assets and their settings, including conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains, scheduled ancient monuments and historic parks and gardens and locally listed heritage assets.

Designated heritage assets

Designed heritage assets include conservation areas and listed buildings. The Council will not permit the loss of or substantial harm to a designated heritage asset, including conservation areas and Listed Buildings, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss [...]

- Resist the total or substantial demolition of a listed building;
- Resist proposals for a change of use or alterations and extensions to a listed building where this would cause harm to the special architectural and historic interest of the building; and
- Resist development that would cause harm to significance of a listed

Camden's Local Development Framework. They are considered to preserve the special architectural and historic interest of the listed building in line with the statutory duty. The proposals also accord with the provisions of the National Planning Policy

03.07 Grade II Listing Entry

VICTORIA HOUSE AND ATTACHED RAILINGS

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1378788 Date first listed: 04-Dec-1990

Date of most recent amendment: 11-Jan-1999

Statutory Address: VICTORIA HOUSE AND ATTACHED RAILINGS, 37-63, SOUTHAMPTON ROW

Details

TQ3081NW 798-1/100/1481

CAMDEN SOUTHAMPTON ROW(West side) Nos.37-63 (Odd) Victoria House and attached railings

(Formerly Listed as: SOUTHAMPTON ROW Nos.37-67 Victoria House and attached railings)

04/12/90 GV II Commercial building with ground floor shops on east side. c1926-32. By Charles William Long. For the Liverpool Victoria Insurance Company as their headquarters. Sculpture by Herbert William Palliser. Ornamental brasswork by the Bromsgrove Guild. Steel frame clad with Portland stone, bronze infill panels and copperlite glazing surrounds. Green slate mansard roof with dormers.

EXTERIOR: eight storeys, sub-basement and basement on a rectangular island site with facades to Bloomsbury Square, Bloomsbury Place, Vernon Place and Southampton Row. Long sides, 15-window bays; returns five-window bays. West facade to Bloomsbury Square with tall channelled ground floor, central distyle-in-antis lonic (Erechtheion) portico through first to fourth (attic) floors. Attached columns as far as projecting end bays with paired pilasters. Ground floor to third floor windows tripartite with small panes; second floor with relief pediments. Attic windows, with small panes in plain rectangular recesses, grouped in trios in the frieze (corresponding to window beneath). Tympanum with sculpture of central robed figure with arms outstretched flanked by other figures expressing the bounty of the natural world. To either side, cornice surmounted by parapet with panels of open ornamental brasswork behind which a further attic storey with trios of windows slightly offset from parapet openings. Mansard dormers slightly offset again; all echoing shape of triangular pediment. Central two storey feature above mansard. East facade similar but with shops at ground floor level (originally recessed but now with projecting C20 shopfronts) and tympanum sculpture on the theme of navigation and new forms of industry. Returns similar in style with distyle-in-antis centres, paired pilasters and no tympana. Entrance doors on all sides of panelled bronze.

INTERIORS: virtually unaltered. Entrance lobbies on all four sides faced in Subiaco marble with Greek style decoration and much decorative brasswork. Central ground floor public area, open through three floors to elaborate coffered suspended ceiling. Basement meeting/dance hall with coloured glass light fittings, door furniture and surrounds in polished steel and radiator grilles embossed with VH monogram. Extensive mahogany panelling to third floor offices. Some rooms with C18 fireplaces from houses previously on the site.

Listing NGR: TQ3039381709

03.08 Photos of the Opening Up



Strip out of flooring with indication of removed original parquet flooring



Strip out of boxing at wall where concrete structure projects into room



Strip out at will with exposed brick



Strip out at ceiling indicating 2003 refurbishment with ribbed concrete slab



Strip out of flooring with indication of removed original parquet flooring



Strip out of boxing at wall where concrete structure projects into room



Strip out at wall with indication of removed panelling



Existing HVAC services to the ceiling strip out