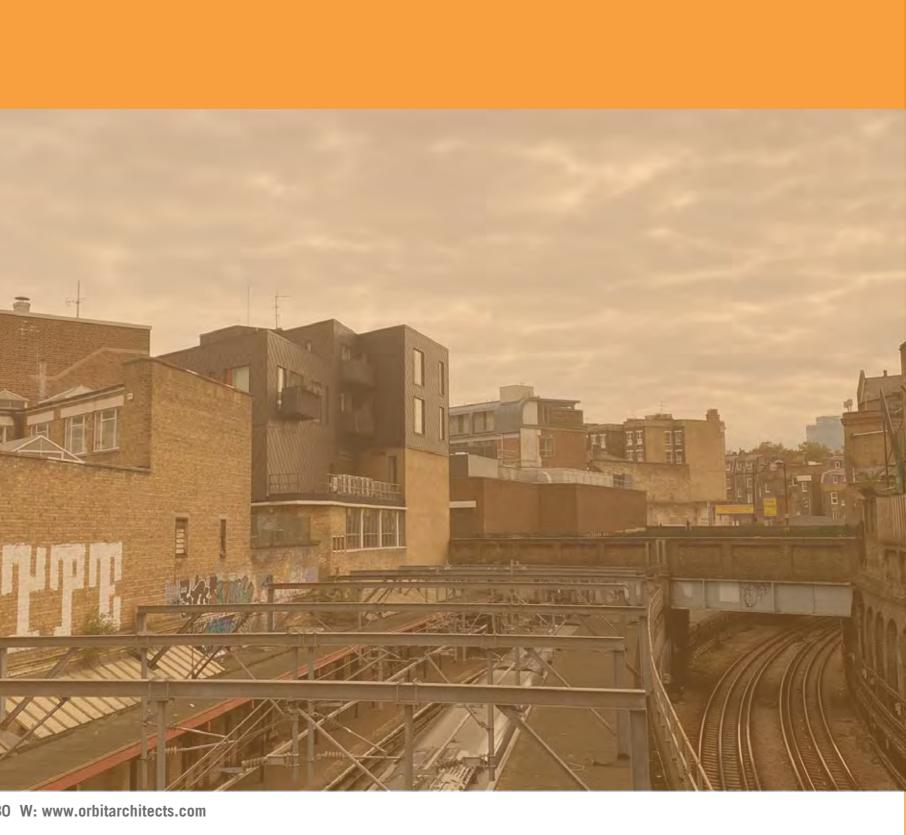


Field & Leeke Street, WC1

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

JUNE 2021



Orbit Architects 83 Blackfriars Road London SE1 8HA T: 020 7593 3380 W: www.orbitarchitects.com

Orbit Architects







Introduction & Contents

of a planning application to the London Borough of Camden for the potential reconfiguration and extension of the existing building located at 1-6 Field Street and

The Existing Building and Site

- The Site, Existing Building & Site Photos including Street Facade Photographic Study
- Planning History, Policy & King's Cross Conservation Area
- View Impact Assessment & Listed Buildings
- Tall Buildings

Design & Access Statement

- 1. Layout, Amount & Use
- 2. Scale & Massing
- 4. Appearance & Materials
- 5. Landscape & Amenity

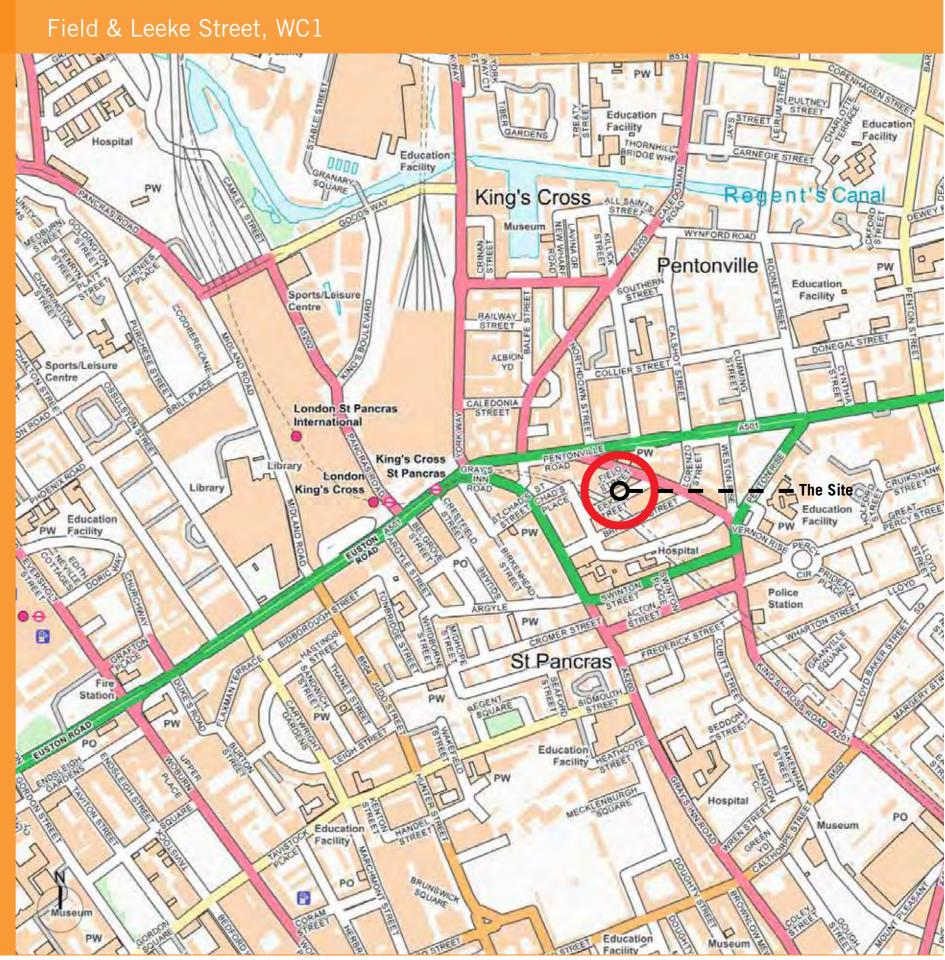
- 8. Transport Impact & Facilities (Cycles, Refuse etc)

application, particularly the following that have been used in order to generate the

- Quinn Ross Sustainability Statement & Air Quality Assessment

- Nexus Planning Planning Statement

Project No.	1878
Date:	30th June 2021





The Site & Existing Building

The existing site is located in the London Borough of Camden and within its King's Cross Conservation Area.

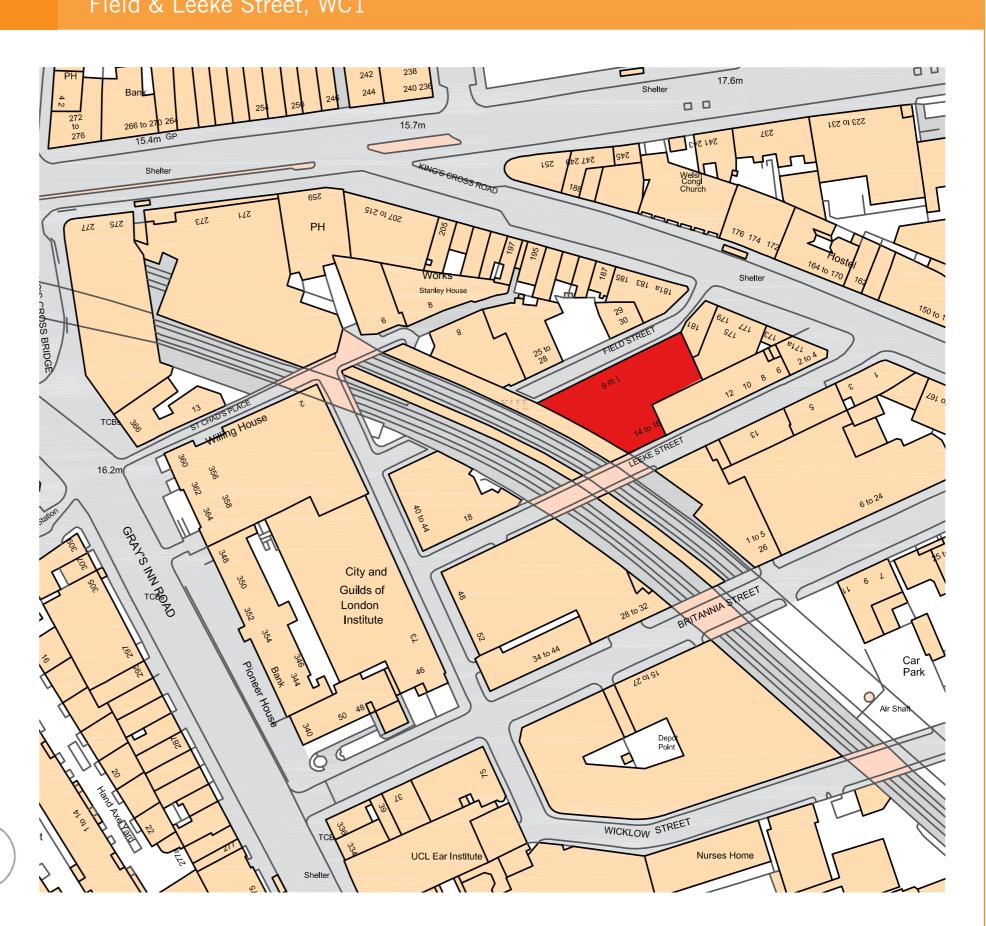
The site area is approximately 560 sqm. It is not listed but does bound some listed building to the north-east that are located on Kings Cross Road (see further information later).

The site is currently occupied by a four storey building that is formed from a more historic two-storey lower level that contains a now vacant recording studio ("The Joint") with a relatively contemporary upper two floors above that contain 7no residential flats (5 x 1-bed units and 2 x 2-bed units). The existing gross external area of the entire building is approximately 1,714sqm with the recording studio having a gross internal area of circa 1,546sqm and the residential flats 684sqm.

The site is unusual in that it has dual addresses by virtue of spanning between two separate streets: Field Street to the north-west from which The Joint recording studio was primarily accessed and Leeke Street to the south-east which contains the main entrance to the residential flats and servicing entrance for the former recording studio.

Of these two elevations, the larger is towards Field Street, though a third significant elevation also exists to the south-west that faces towards the existing railway tracks that serve the London Underground's Circle and District Lines and Thameslink railway.

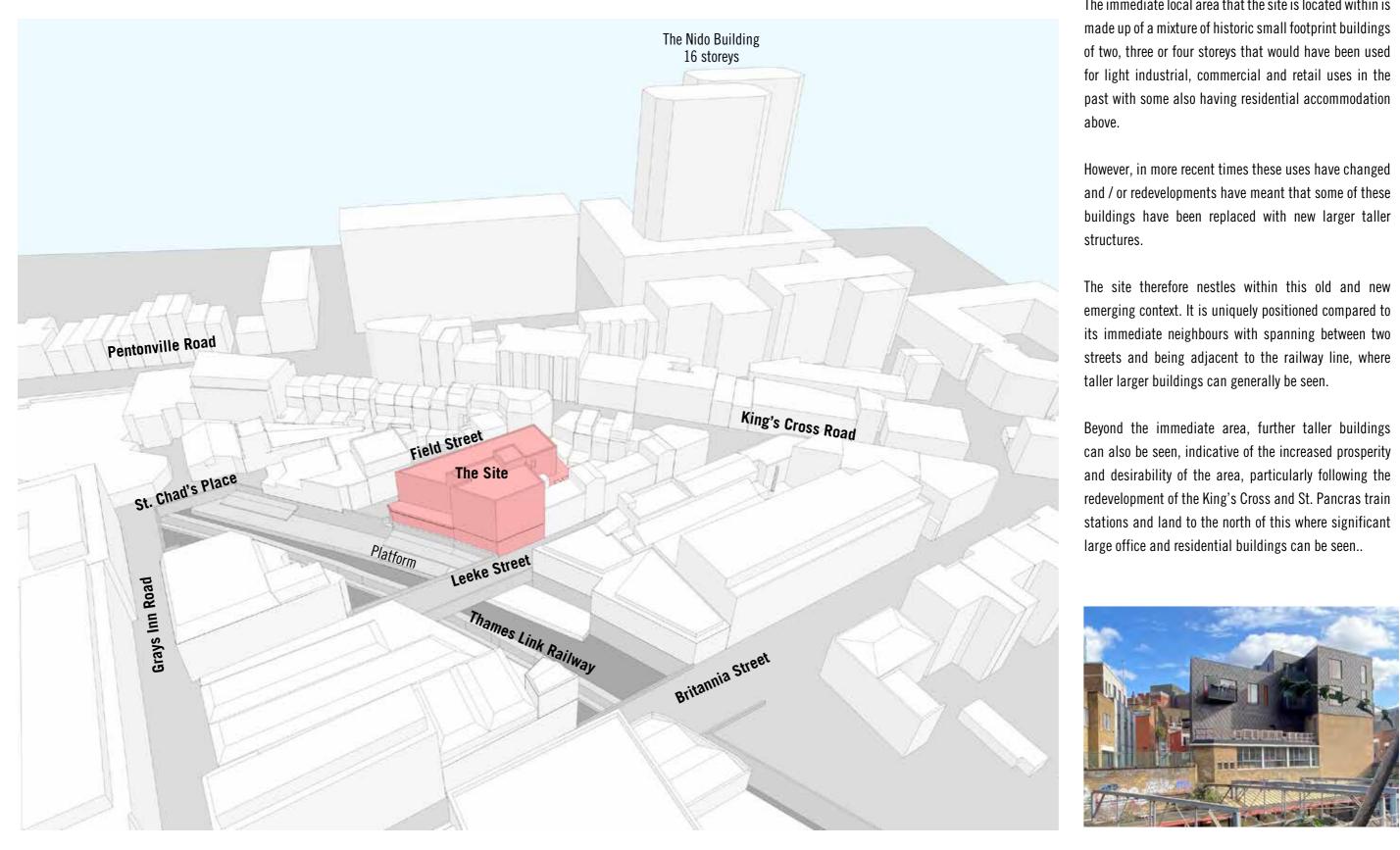
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The Site & Existing Building

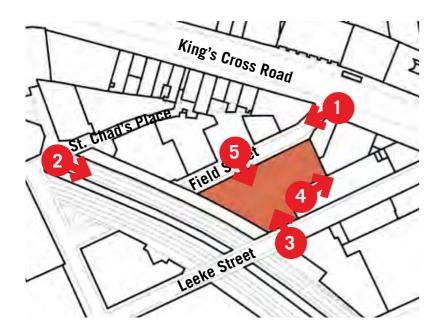
Field & Leeke Street, WC1





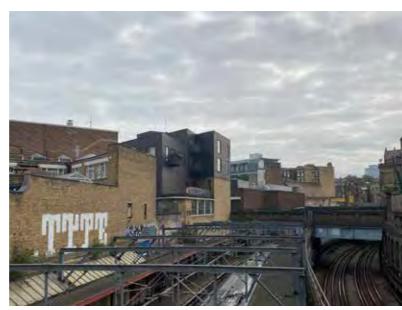
The immediate local area that the site is located within is

Existing Building and Site Photos





1. The dead-end cobblestoned Field Street hosts the existing commercial entrance



2. The site overlooks Thameslink railway



3. The residential entrance is located at the foot of Leeke Street Bridge which is open to cyclists and pedestrians only.



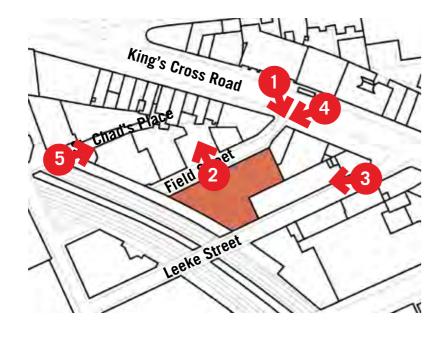
4. To the back of the site, the upper levels are set in to protect the adjoining buildings.



5. The Field Street facade is finished in London Stock Brick and steel framed windows at ground level with black zinc cladding above.



Local Area Photos





2. Public car park directly opposite the site on Field Street



4. 181A King's Cross Road



1. Field Place - 171-181 King's Cross Road. 173-179 are Grade II Listed.

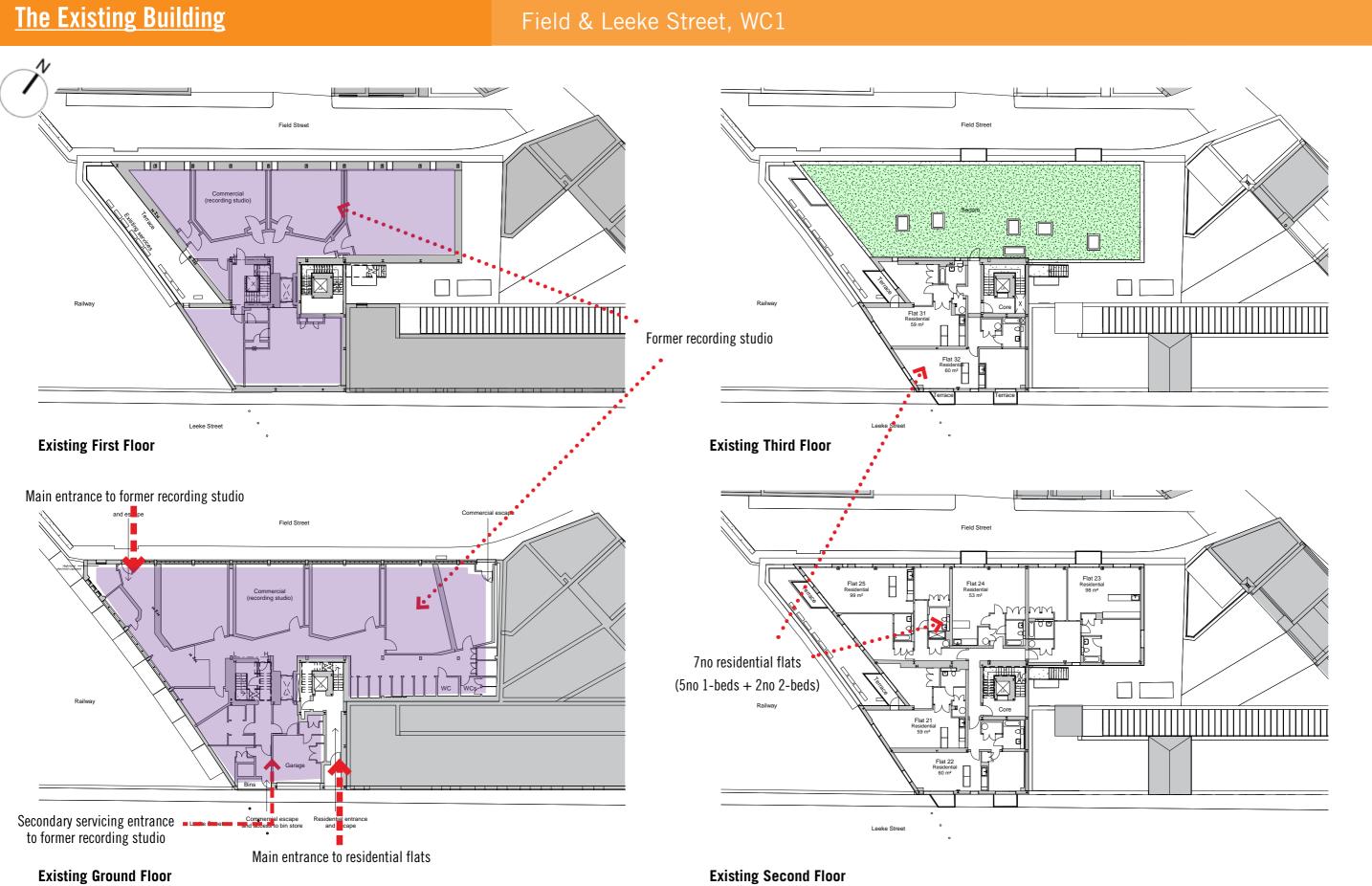


3. Leeke Street



5. St. Chad's Place







Field & Leeke Street, WC1

<u> Area Schedule - For all use types:</u>

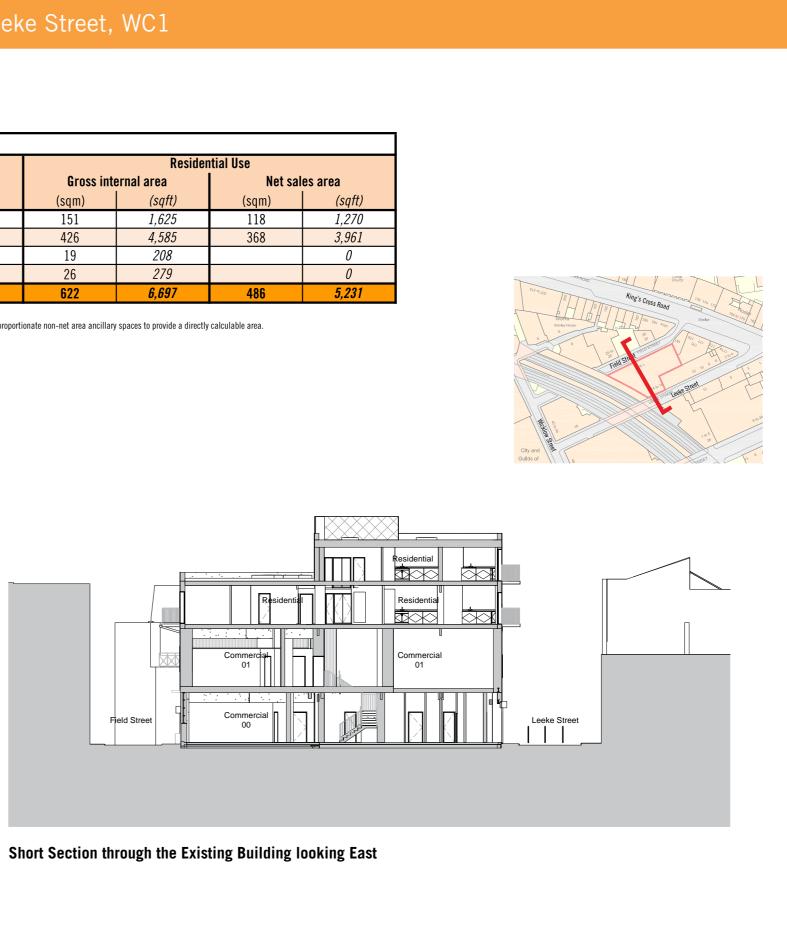
EXISTING	Based on dwgs D(00-10, D00-11,D00	-12 and D00-13							
Floor Level	GEA (entire development)		Commercial Use				Residential Use			
		dEA (entire development)		Gross internal area		Net internal area		Gross internal area		Net sales area
	(sqm)	(sqft)	(sqm)	(sqft)	(sqm)	(sqft)	(sqm)	(sqft)	(sqm)	(sqft)
3rd Floor	176	1,894					151	1,625	118	1,270
2nd Floor	463	4,984					426	4,585	368	3,961
1st Floor	462	4,973	392	4,219	n/a*	n/a	19	208		0
Ground Floor	613	6,598	513	5,522	n/a*	n/a	26	279		0
TOTALS	1,714	18,449	905	9,741	0	0	622	6,697	486	5,231

Note: Existing comercial net internal areas not currently available due to existing internal fit out obscuring location of shell and core and recording studio fit-out not having appropriate or proportionate non-net area ancillary spaces to provide a directly calculable area.

<u>Residential:</u>

EXISTING	Based on dwgs D00-10, D00-11,D00-12 and D00-13						
Unit Reference		Residential Unit Type					
	1-Bed 2-Person	2-Bed 4-Person			(sqm)		
Unit 32	1				59		
Unit 31	1				59		
Unit 25		1			98		
Unit 24	1				52		
Unit 23		1			98		
Unit 22	1				59		
Unit 21	1				59		
TOTAL	5	2	0	0	484		
Unit split % ratio =	71.4%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	-		
	Tot	al number of re	aidantial unita	7			

Total number of residential units = 7





9

The Existing Building

Field & Leeke Street, WC1



Existing Field Street context elevation

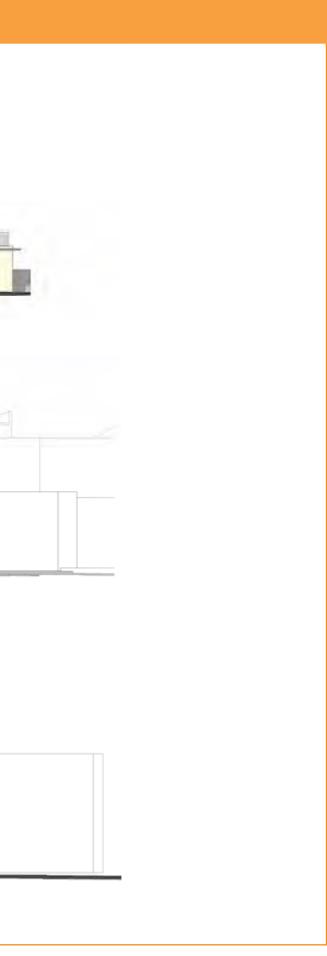


Existing Railway context elevation



Existing Leeke Street context elevation





Street Facade Photos - King's Cross Road

Field & Leeke Street, WC1



King's Cross Road (west side)

The site on Field Street



King's Cross Road (east side)





Street Facade Photos - Field Street

Field & Leeke Street, WC1



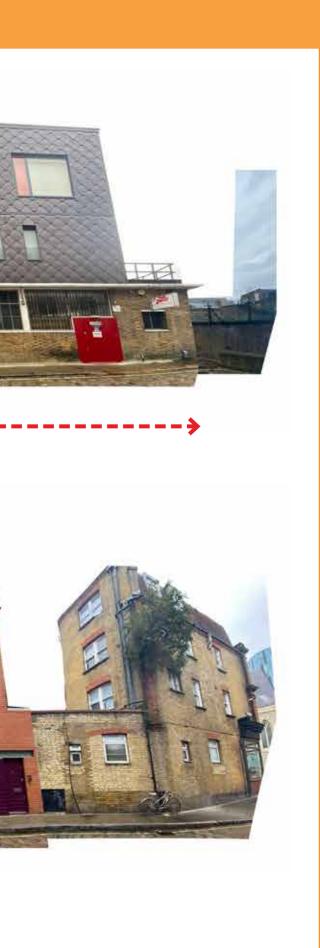
Field Street (south side)

The site



Field Street (north side)





Street Facade Photos - Leeke Street

Field & Leeke Street, WC1



Leeke Street (north side)



Leeke Street (south side)





Field & Leeke Planning History

Field & Leeke Street, WC1

Built in the early 20th century, the original building was one storey in height and constructed from yellow stock brick with large steel framed windows as was common for light industrial use.

In 2004, planning permission was granted for a new upper floor extension finished in dark grey zinc which can be seen today.

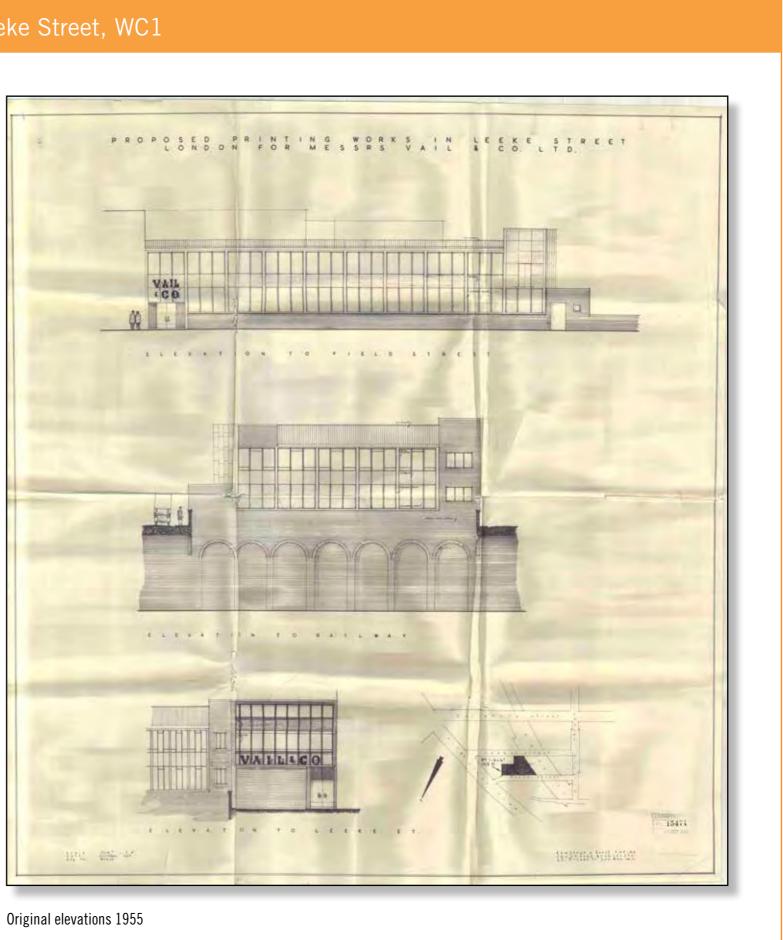
However, site investigations have revealed that the new upper floor cladding system is defective in terms of workmanship and fire separation and requires removal and rectification.



Leeke Street



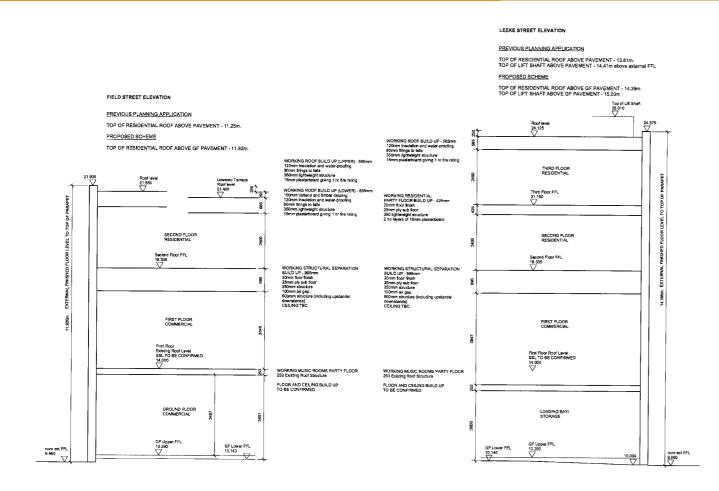
Field Street





Field & Leeke Planning History

Field & Leeke Street, WC1

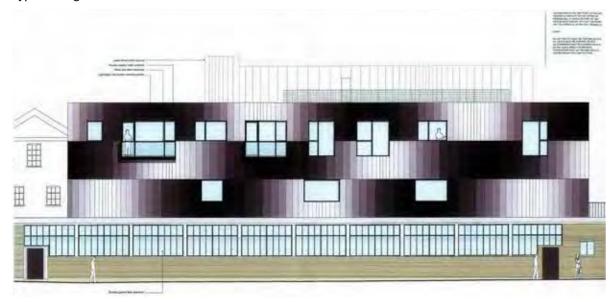




1 TYPICAL SECTION - FIELD STREET

2 TYPICAL SECTION - LEEKE STREET

Typical diagrammatic cross sections



Field Street Elevation **Extracts from 2004 Planning Permission drawings**





Planning Policy

The application site is located within the London Borough of Camden and therefore will be subject to their planning policy.

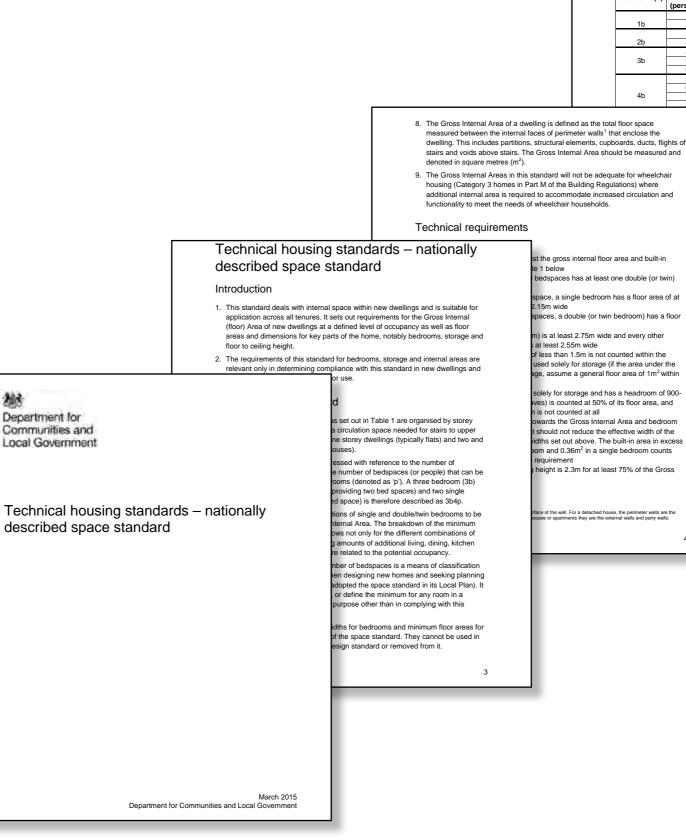
The Council have published a number of planning policy and guidance documents to aid applicants on appropriate applications and associated design decisions.

One of the primary documents is Camden's Planning Guidance - Design (Draft November 2018) document see page opposite.

As well as the above, other national planning policies may also apply and these are set out in other documents such as the Department for Communities and Local Government's Technical Housing Standards - Nationally Described Space Standard.

Any future design proposals will need to make use of and reference the above policy documents.

Field & Leeke Street, WC1





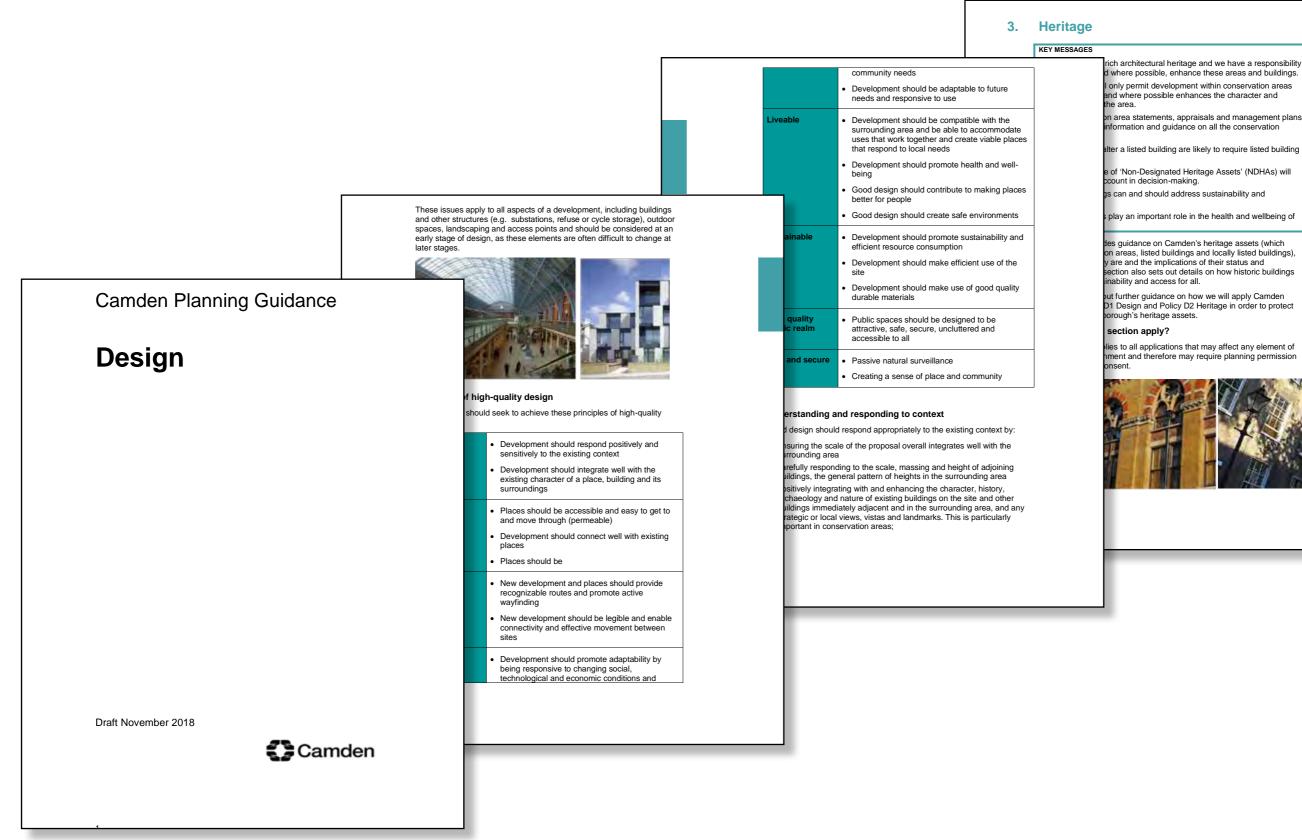
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able 1 - Min

Number of

bed

Planning Policy



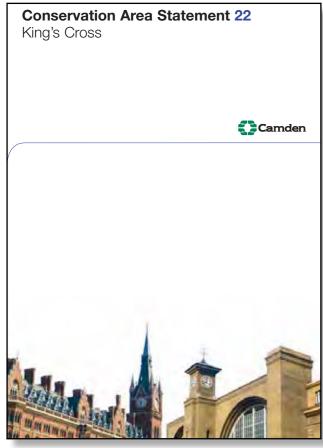


King's Cross Conservation Area

Field & Leeke Street, WC1

As previously noted, the site is located in the London Borough of Camden's King's Cross Conservation Area for which a Conservation Area Statement has been prepared by the Council. This was published in June 2004 which pre-dates the current residential development on the site.

This confirms that the conservation area is further broken down into various sub-areas of which the site is located in Sub-Area 4: Gray's Inn Road. An extract from this document is shown adjacent that indicates the relevant area of the sub-group with the site's location highlighted within:





SUB AREA 4: GRAY'S INN ROAD

4.2.111 This sub area comprises the area bounded by Pentonville Road and King's Cross Road to the north and east, Swinton Street to the south and the Birkenhead Street Estate to the west. King's Cross Road and Gray's Inn Road are principal roads linking King's Cross to the City of London. These roads are lined with a mix of early 19th century terraces and larger scale institutional buildings. The area between the main roads contains narrow streets paved in granite setts, predominantly lined with later 19th century buildings of former light-industrial and commercial uses, as well as housing, and several vacant sites currently used for car parking. These



streets are bisected by the London Underground Metropolitan Line and Thameslink railway cutting, and, despite piecemeal re-development, have a characteristic fine urban grain with broad consistency of building heights and materials. The blocks of the 1950s Birkenhead Street Estate are located against the west boundary of the Conservation Area

West of Gray's Inn Road

4.2.112 The southern side of St Chad's Street is fragmented, with little consistency in style, scale or building line. Nos. 13 and 14 St Chad's Street are grade II listed, three-storey properties, plus basements, dating to c1827, which have similar elevational detailing to the terraced buildings on the north side: they have square headed windows and iron balconies at first floor level. To the west of these properties, no. 12 St Chad's Street forms the northern entrance to the depot that runs behind the Gray's Inn Road frontage buildings. The entrance and yard has granite sett paving beyond which is a single storey building of no architectural or historic merit, set behind the buildings on St Chad's Street. The adjacent property, no. 13 St Chad's Street, is a three-storey building, which is constructed of stock brick and has a plain façade. At ground floor level, the building has been rendered and large modern windows and contemporary signage introduced.

4.2.113 The seven storey blocks of the Birkenhead Street Estate are adjacent and occupy the area at the western boundary of Sub Area 4. The St Chad's Street elevation to the northernmost block includes open balconies and projecting stairwells, whilst the southern elevation to the slab block fronting Argyle Street is characterised by regular fenestration and recessed balconies. The estate is bounded by a pale orange brick wall with large areas of glazing, and the route of Birkenhead Street through the estate is now a private road.

4.2.114 The building adjacent to the Birkenhead Street Estate on Argyle Street, no. 55, forms the southern entrance to the depot situated to the rear of the Gray's Inn Road frontage buildings. The two-storey mid 20th century building is constructed of yellow brick and has a horizontal band of windows at first floor and vertical windows at ground floor on either side of a wide vehicular entrance, with rendered reveals and mullions.

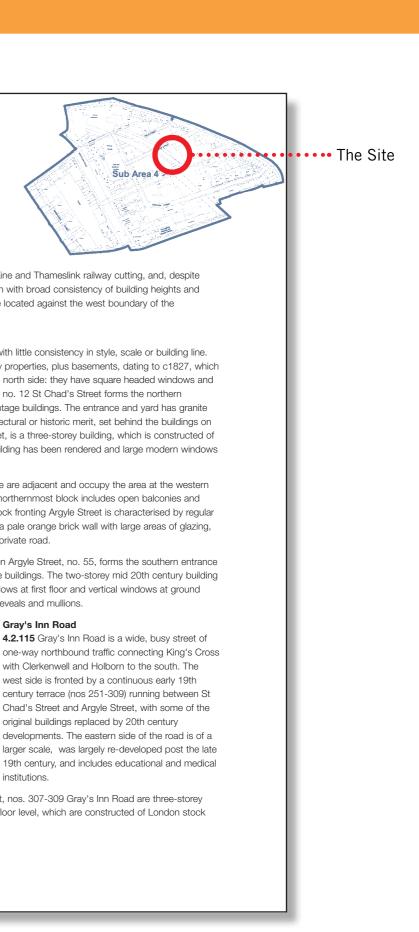


Grav's Inn Road original buildings replaced by 20th century nstitutions

4.2.116 At the junction of Gray's Inn Road and St Chad's Street, nos. 307-309 Gray's Inn Road are three-storey buildings, part of the original terrace, with retail units at ground floor level, which are constructed of London stock

40 Conservation area statement





King's Cross Conservation Area

Field & Leeke Street, WC1

4.2.141 Field Street is situated to the south of St. Chad's 4.2.143 **On the eastern side of the railway cutting, the rear** Place, and is a short street which formerly connected King's Cross Road to Wicklow Street but is now bisected by the railway cutting. On the north side are two and three-storey buildings of late 19th/early 20th century date and which abut the cutting. They are currently in light industrial use. On the south side of the street is an early 20th century single storey building with large metal-framed windows. The former junction with Wicklow Street is currently marked by a short stretch of road at the eastern end of Field Street, which is lined with a tall wire fence that detracts from the street scene. Both ends of the street are surfaced in granite setts which has been unsympathetically repaired in many places with modern materials.

4.2.142 Leeke Street is also a narrow enclosed street surface in granite setts, which connects King's Cross Road and Wicklow Street. To the west of the railway cutting, Leeke floor level. Street is fronted by the flank elevations to nos. 40-44 and 46-52 Wicklow Street to the north and south respectively. The former building is a recently renovated former industrial building constructed of stock brick, highly characteristic of this area, but which has had modern windows in untraditional added which detract from the character and appearance of the building. Conversely, nos. 46-52 Wicklow Street, which contains the entrance to "Smithy's Bar", represents a successfully renovated former industrial building of end of London stock brick with red brick banding and lintels. The building has a contemporary entrance and retains original steel framed windows. To the east of the building at nos. 46-52 Wicklow Street, the Leeke Street bridge over the railway cutting is lined with traditional stock brick walls.

elevation to nos. 1-6 Field Street fronts Leeke Street. It is an undecorated two-storey industrial building, which is constructed of London stock brick and has a wide.

prominent blue-painted vehicle entrance. The adjoining building, no. 6-12 Leeke Street is a two-storey early 20th century building with an unadorned white rendered and painted facade with large steel-framed windows and a central gable feature. The northern side of the street is terminated at its eastern end by the building at nos. 2-4 Leeke Street, which is a three-storey property with a blue rendered and painted façade. On the southern side of Leeke Street, a single storey, red brick garage building with two vehicle entrances flanks the railway cutting. The adjoining properties, nos. 13 and 5 Leeke Street are three-storey buildings of mid to late 19th century date, constructed of yellow stock brick with red brick detailing and timber sliding sash windows above ground

Both buildings have unsympathetic, blue painted vehicle entrance shutters. No. 5 has timber sliding sash windows whereas no. 13 has modern windows in unsympathetic materials. To the east, the building at nos. 1-3 Leeke Street materials and design and a tall, unsympathetic mansard roof is a three-storey property with a brightly painted ground floor retail frontage and residential accommodation above. The building is constructed of yellow stock brick and has a curved corner onto King's Cross Road. The Leeke Street entrance to the building is surmounted by a triangular panel that bears 19th century date. The two-storey property is constructed of the date 1890 and includes a microscope emblem. All of these buildings have simple cornices on parapet walls.









The adjacent text is extracted from the Conservation Area Statement regarding Field and Leeke Street, with text highlighted in bold where this application site is specifically referenced.

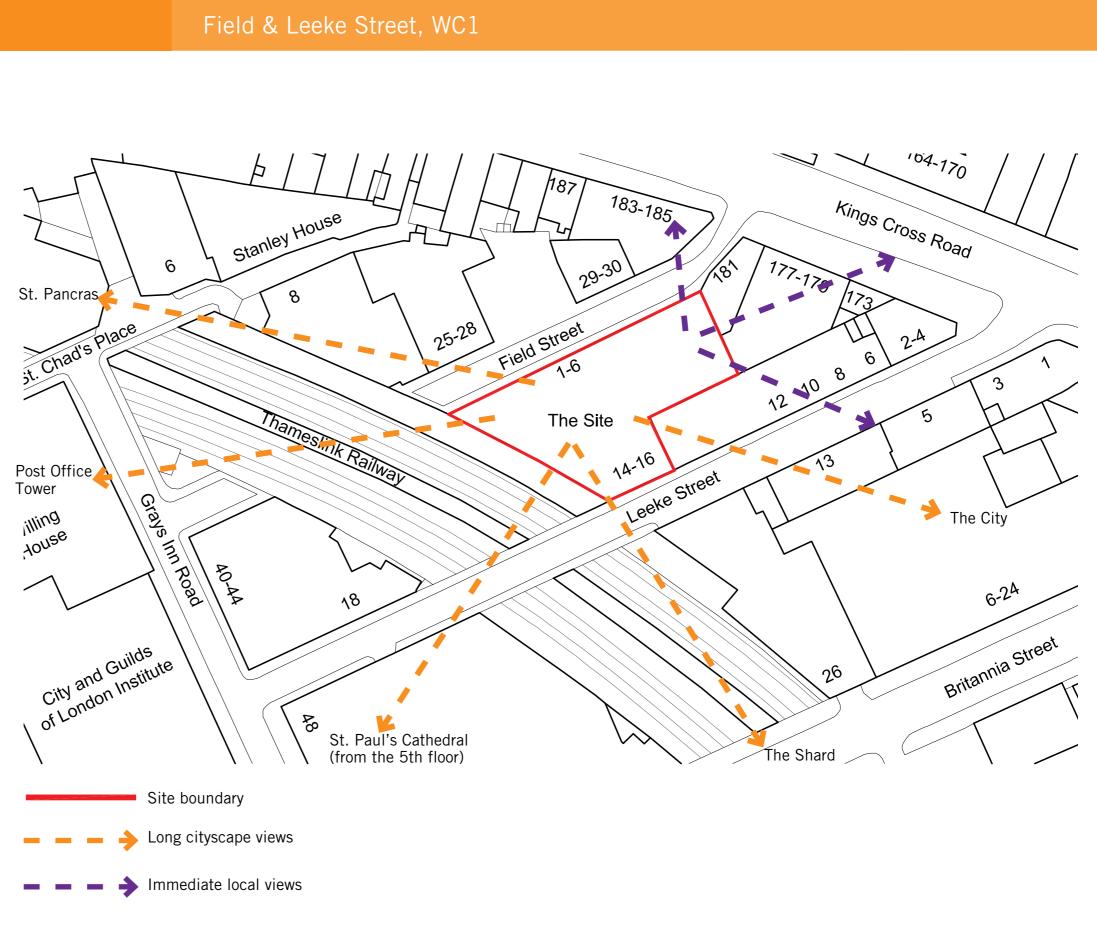
Adjacent are also selected photographs taken from within the Conservation Area in order to provide a snapshot of its general feel and appearance which is of a relative low-tomedium height buildings, mostly with brickwork or rendered facades. The street pattern is generally narrow interconnected paved or cobbled terraced streets that interweave between the historically industrial buildings that are now used mostly as commercial offices or for residential apartments.

View Impact Assessment

From within the site, particularly at roof level, there are a number of long distance views out of the site. These include views of the City, The Shard, Post Office Tower and St. Pancras railway station. However, views of St. Paul's are concealed due to other taller buildings to the south. Research also confirms that the site also falls outside of the St. Paul's protected views zone.

More locally, there are also views from the site to other local neighbouring properties. These are mostly to the north, east and south-east where mostly commercial activities can be seen to upper floors, particularly the upper levels of buildings facing King's Cross Road that appear to have long external roof terrace areas at first floor level to their rear other than No 181 Kings Cross Road whose roof terrace is further elevated in height at circa second floor level.

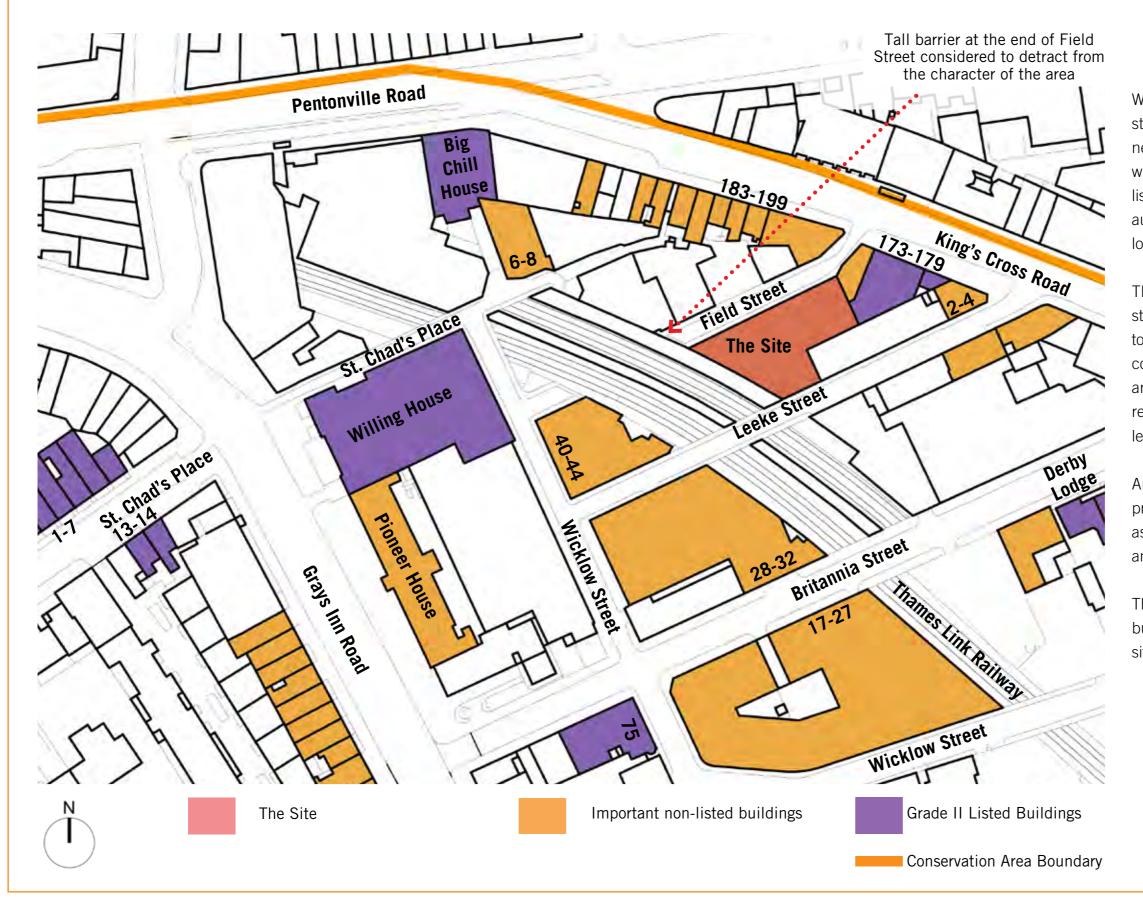
Overlooking and daylight/sunlight studies will therefore be required to consider the impact of any new development on these amenities and whether they would continue to enjoy appropriate levels of daylight and view.





Listed Buildings

Field & Leeke Street, WC1





Within the local area, a number of Grade II statutory listed building exist, some of which neighbour the site to the east/north-east along with other buildings that although are not listed are considered to be of merit by the local authority. No Grade I or II* listed buildings are located within the area though.

The majority of these buildings derive their status from the positive contribution they make to the local street scene, particularly within the conservation area. Main facades and frontages are therefore important considerations, with rear areas being potentially considered to be of lesser importance.

Any future proposals will therefore need to preserve and enhance these street scene views as well as avoid causing harm to the context and setting of any listed buildings.

The following pages therefore illustrate those buildings that are of particular relevance to the site and its immediate street scene views.

Listed Buildings - King's Cross Road

Field & Leeke Street, WC1





The rear of 175-179 King's Cross Road from our site.

173-179 are Grade II Listed buildings dating back to 1799. The ground floor is occupied by commercial, while the upper levels are a mix of residential and commercial. Formerly known as Field Place, they are constructed from yellow stock brick and timber sash windows. 179 and 175 have steep pitched mansard extensions, the latter was granted planning in 2015. Since the turn of the century, there have been many external alterations to the rear of these listed buildings including new openings and the creation of raised terraces that adjoin onto our site.



Listed Buildings - King's Cross Road



Grade II Listed Edwardian Willing House on Grays Inn Road



Six storey TraveLodge to the back of Willing House



Tall Buildings

Field & Leeke Street, WC1

The area immediately local to the site is occupied by buildings of differing heights that range broadly between 3-storeys to 4-storeys, though taller buildings of 5-storeys or more (some significantly more) can be seen beyond.

A number of these are as a result of recent redevelopment and/or extension projects, including some that are either listed or buildings of local significance, suggesting that appropriate additional height can be added to buildings if they are designed in an proportionate and sensitive manner.

2 Storey Height or

less







Position, direction and no. reference for photograph on following page

Tall Buildings



1. 7-11 Britannia Street is not listed but considered to contribute to the character of the area.



2. 6-24 Britannia Street with its top floor extension that was given planning permission in 2003



3. Student accommodation on Britannia Street refurbished and extended upwards in 2013.



4. 34-44 Britannia Street showing Rooftop plant extension from 1998 and more recently refurbished facades.



5. TraveLodge on Wicklow Street to the back of Grade II Listed Willing House



6. View from the roof looking north towards the tall buildings along Pentonville Road



Site Analysis

Initial analysis highlights the following main points about the site:

- It is well located to King's Cross and St. Pancras areas benefit from good transport connections, making it appropriate for commercial and residential uses.

- Leeke Street is perhaps the more pleasant and well connected public roadway compared to Field Street with dual access routes and interconnections with the surrounding area as well as a more visually appealing street scene.

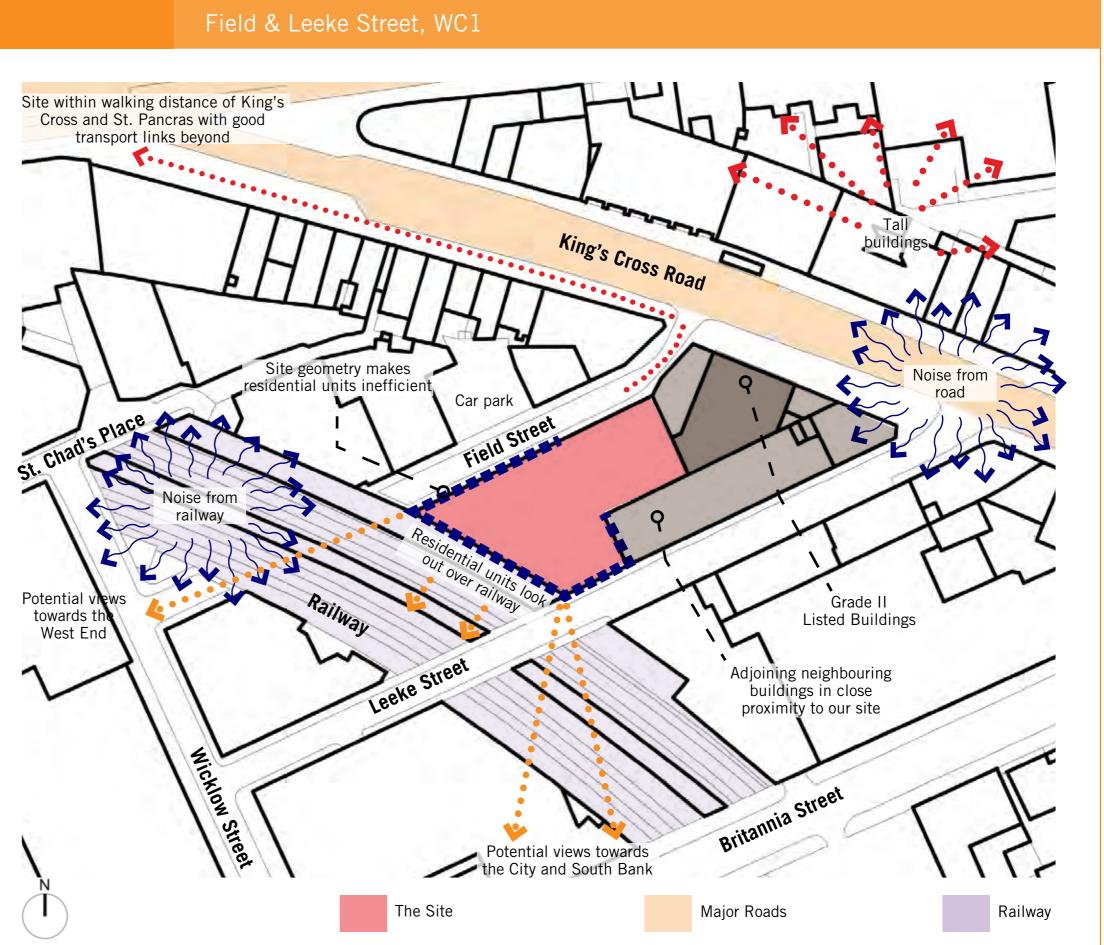
- The existing railway line to the south-west provides a set back and opportunity for views out, but has some noise implications.

- The overall height of the building is generally consistent with the local context, though there could be opportunities to add additional extensions in selected locations.

- There are listed buildings adjacent but these are set back away from the existing site and so although these will need consideration, they need not necessarily affect any future development options.

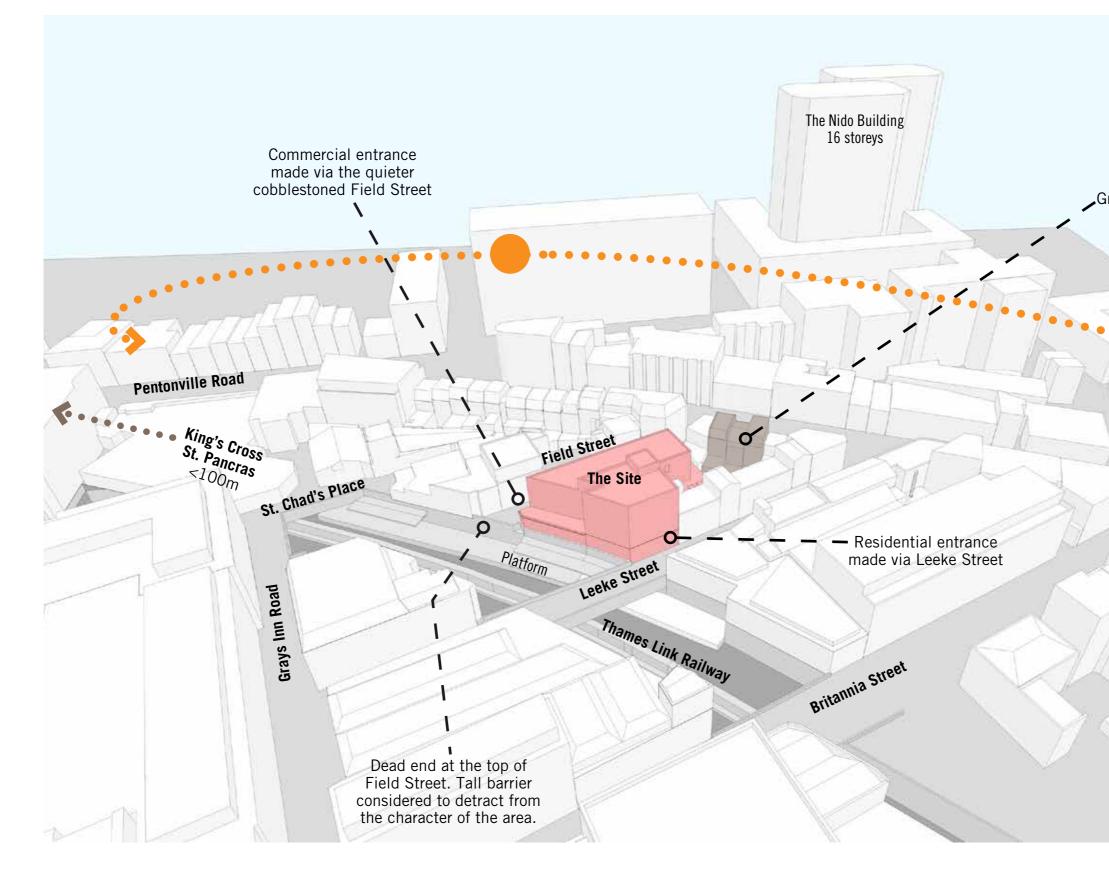
- The existing has 100% coverage and so opportunities to improve amenity and landscape would improve user experience.

- The site's geometry and internal layout, especially at lower floors requires reconfiguration to improve circulation and usable floor area.





Site Analysis

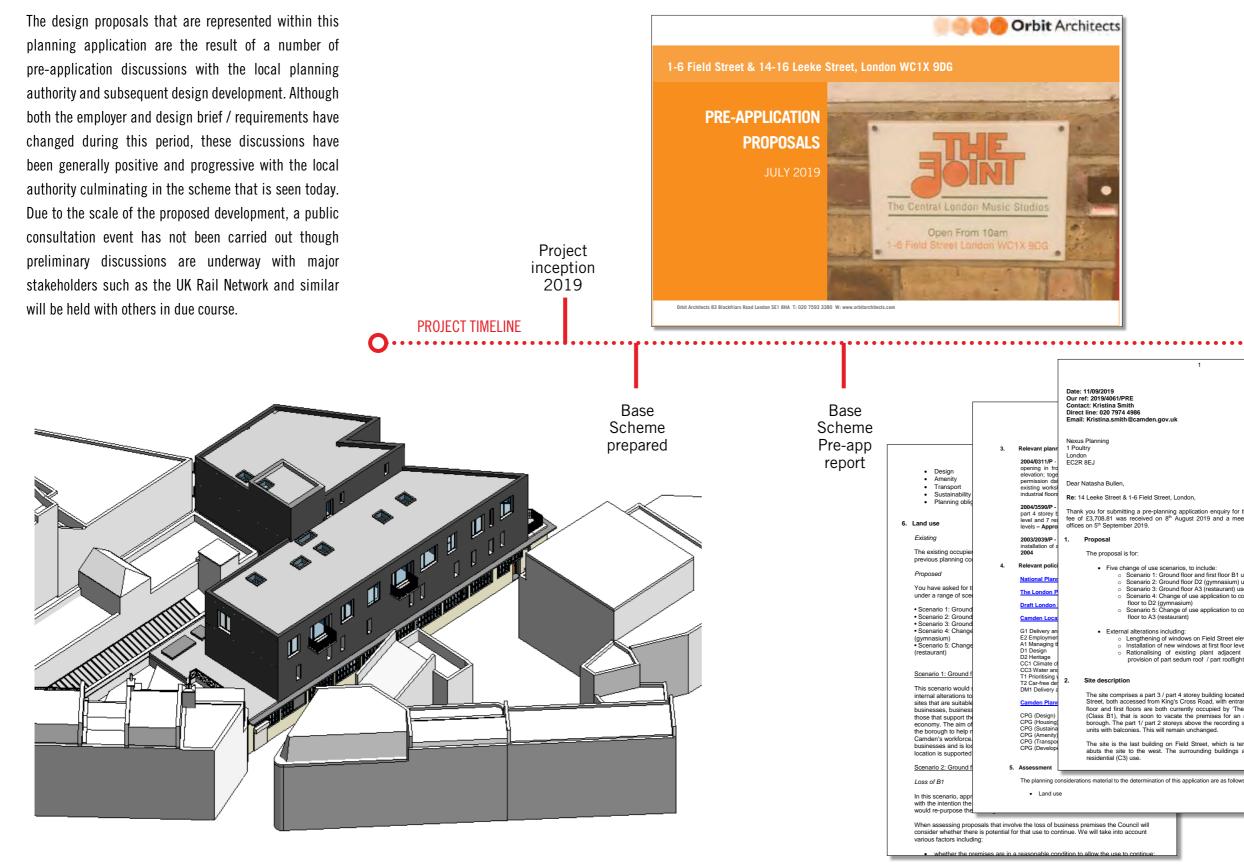






Project History & Evolution

Field & Leeke Street, WC1





Pre-app advice #1 Sept 2019

Camden Planning Solutions Team Planning and Regeneration Culture & Environment London Borough of Camder 2nd Floor 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG

www.camden.gov.uk/pla

Thank you for submitting a pre-planning application enquiry for the above property. The required fee of 13,708.81 was received on 8° August 2019 and a meeting took place at the Council's offices on 5° September 2019.

- Five change of use scenarios, to include:
 Scenario 1: Ground floor and first floor B1 use
 Scenario 2: Ground floor D2 (gymnasium) use and first floor B1 use
 Scenario 3: Ground floor A3 (restaurant) use and first floor B1 use
 Scenario 4: Change of use application to convert the ground floor and first
 floor to D2 (gymnasium)
 Scenario 5: Change of use application to convert the ground floor and first
 floor to A3 (restaurant)
 - nal alterations including:
 - al alterations inclouding. Lengthening of windows on Field Street elevation Installation of new windows at first floor level on Leeke Street elevation Rationalising of existing plant adjacent to railway in association with provision of part sedum roof / part rooflight

The site comprises a part 3 / part 4 storey building located between Field Street and Leeke Street, both accessed from King's Cross Road, with entrances on both streets. The ground floor and first floors are both currently occupied by 'The Joint' a music recording studio (Class B1), that is soon to vacate the premises for an alternative site elsewhere in the borough. The part 1/ part 2 storeys above the recording studio comprise seven residential units with balconies. This will remain unchanged.

The site is the last building on Field Street, which is terminated by the railway line that abuts the site to the west. The surrounding buildings are mainly in office (B1) use or residential (C3) use.

Project History & Evolution

