



Photo taken from Google Images

## DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

### PIAZZA PAVILION - THE BRITISH LIBRARY

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**DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT**  
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Prepared by Carter Jonas for and on behalf of The British Library

**April 2022**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared for and on behalf of The British Library, in support of the proposed development at 96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB.

The British Library is proactively working to meet the public interest in its work and improve its cultural offer. One of the key events that will use the Piazza and temporary marquees is the Jaipur Literature Festival that runs from Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

### The site

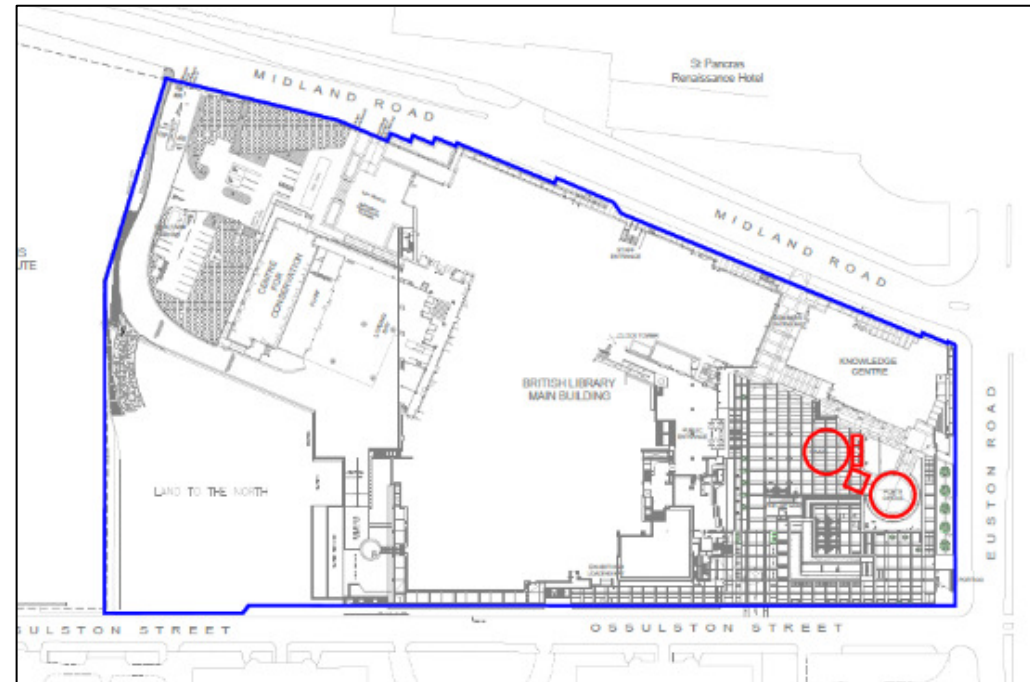
The site comprises a small area (309sqm) of the piazza of The British Library. The total area of the piazza is approximately 5,000sqm.

The piazza comprises a designated area of Open Space, located within the centre and front of the British Library buildings. It is used for the enjoyment of visitors to the library and as a cut through for members of the public to get to surrounding locations.

### The surroundings

The buildings of the British Library form the boundaries of the site, notably the buildings are Grade I listed.

Proposed location of the marquees within the piazza



Plan produced by the British Library. Not to scale.

## 2.0 THE PROPOSAL

### Design and Layout

This application seeks full planning permission for a temporary period for:

*Erection of marquee structures to provide temporary event space within the British Library's piazza for the period of May and June in 2022 and May and June in 2023.*

The marquees will be erected in the piazza from 16<sup>th</sup> May -15<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and will be used to host the Jaipur Literature Festival and public talks and small performances, for the enjoyment of visitors to the British Library. The maximum hours of operation will be 09:00-22:00 on any given day.

The positioning and size of each marquee has been carefully considered, given the sites designation and surrounding heritage assets. The layout plans on the following pages show the location of the temporary marquees on the piazza. The dome marquees are located at Poet's Circle Pavilion (Dome A) and in the central part of the Piazza (Dome B).

The location and limited size of the marquees allow for the remainder of the piazza to be used for normal activities.

The same marquees and structures will be used in 2023 to host events so planning permission is also sought for their temporary erection in May and June 2023.

CULTURAL EVENTS 2022

PHASE 1: Mon 16 May – Tue 31 May

Poet's Circle Dome (A)

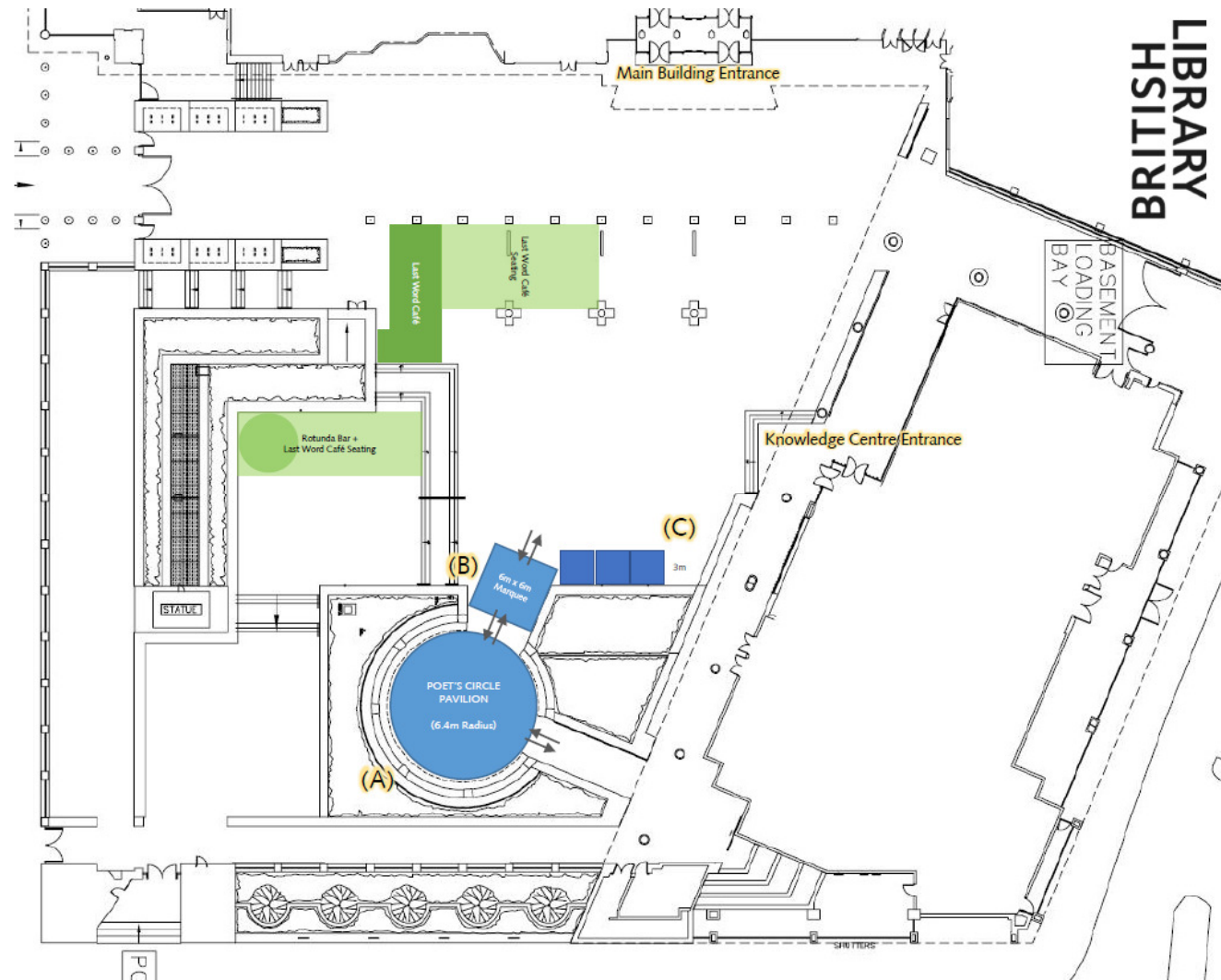
6.4m Radius

'Porch' Marquee (B)

6m x 6m square marquee

Bookstall Marquee (C)

3 x 3m x 3m square marquees



CULTURAL EVENTS 2022

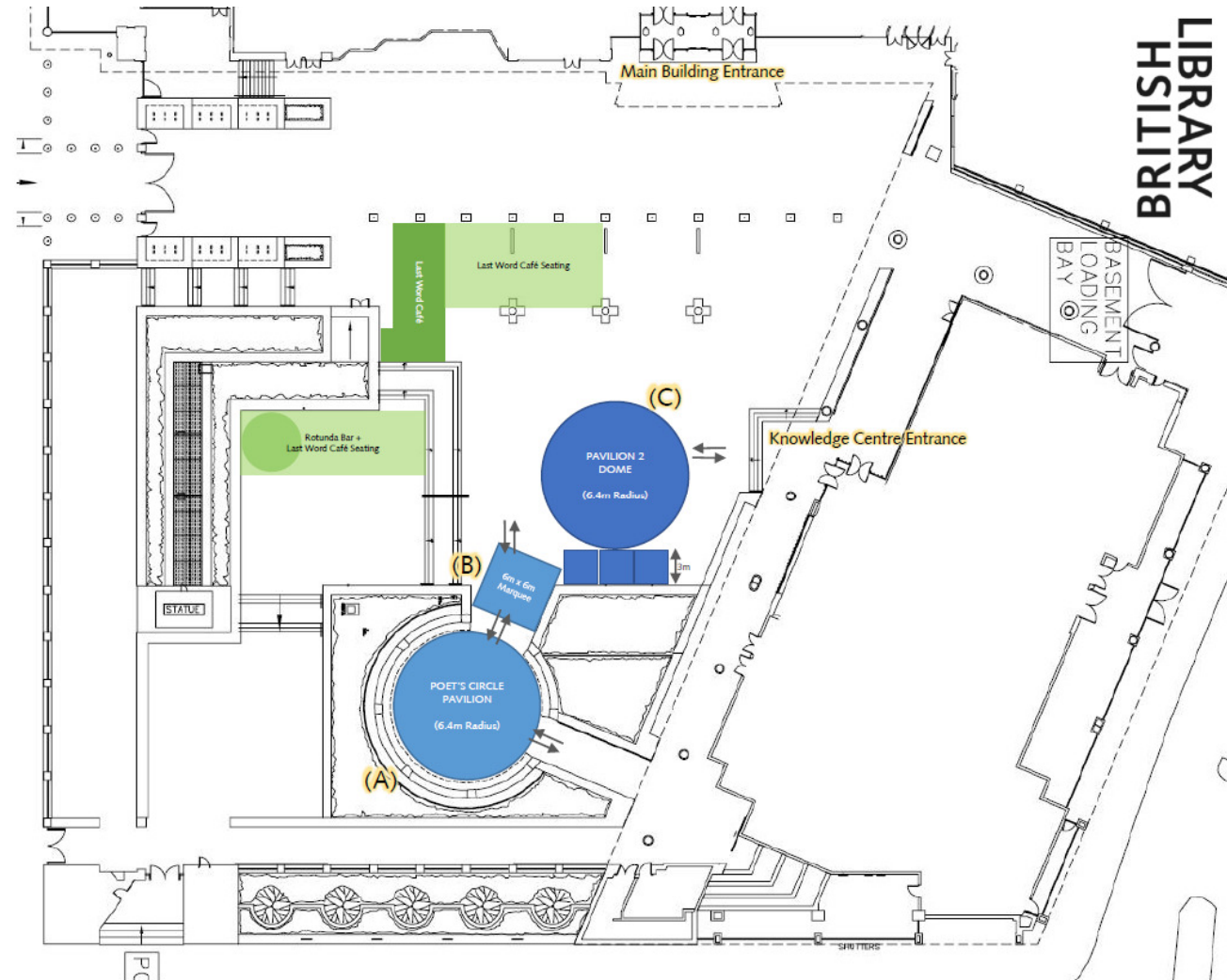
PHASE 2: Tue 01 Jun – Wed 15 June

Jaipur Literature Festival:  
Fri 10 June – Sun 13 June

Poet's Circle Dome (A)  
Likely removed Wed 15 June

'Porch' Marquee (B)  
Likely removed on Wed 15 June

Piazza Dome (C)  
Likely removed Tue 15 June



## Proposed structure

The proposal comprises two dome marquee structures and two smaller rectangular/square marquees (4mx6m and 9mx3m). The diameter of each dome marquee is 12.7m.

The dome marquees will be secured in position with the suppliers specified 500kg water filled weights, and these can be positioned to avoid resting on the smoke vent covers on the Piazza.

The structures are similar to those installed in previous years and will operate in a similar way. As previously, The British Library are working with external contractors BAYA hire (Domes) and Hectors Haus (Marquees).

The marquees will be constructed from lightweight aluminium tubing with a flame retardant polyester, as shown in the photo to the right. The structure will not be fixed to any part of the existing British Library building.

As shown in the photo, a marquee has been provided in the piazza in the past, albeit for a shorter period of time, and it did not have an impact on the surrounding character or the public open space.

Photo of the marquee within the piazza in 2017

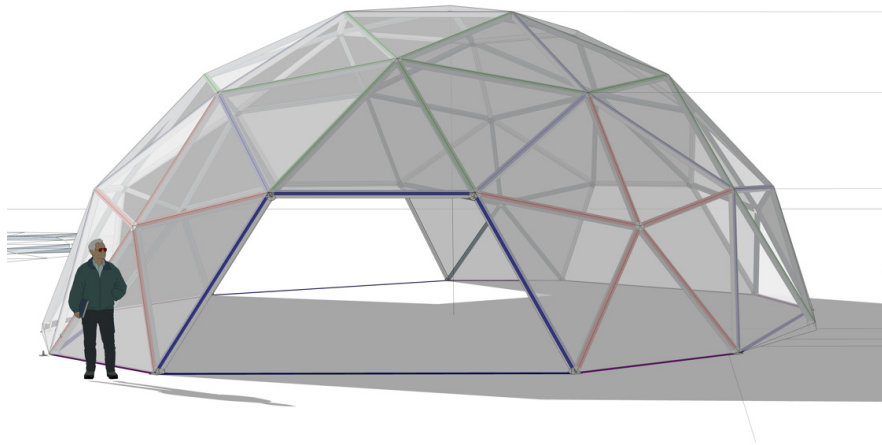


## Elevations

The dome marquees will be 5m in height at their highest point, as shown in the 3D drawing below. This is considered a reasonable height for a marquee, as it will not exceed the height of the surrounding British Library buildings so will not impact on the buildings or wider surrounding area. The other marquees are smaller.

## Access

The marquees will be located as to not obstruct any access points into the piazza. The marquees will be suitable for disability access.



3D image of the proposed domes



### 3.0 SUMMARY

The proposed temporary development is considered a suitable development and use for the site, which will enhance the piazza and cultural offer of the British Library, providing a greater enjoyment for visitors to the site in May and June 2022 and 2023.