

Subject: OBJECTION: 2022/3537/L - Senate House 'Temporary Works'

Dear Antonia,

The Bloomsbury CAAC strongly objects to the proposed 'temporary installation' at the ground floor of Senate House.

This is a well-preserved Grade II listed building with a preserved and highly significant interior. The ground floor area which is proposed to be altered is also publicly accessible. The listed building consent regime exists in an effort to preserve the interiors of buildings of this type in recognition of their national importance.

Works to alter the appearance of preserved areas of this building should be considered harmful under the NPPF and refused unless there is some public benefit to outweigh that harm. It is difficult to understand what public benefit there is offered by these proposals. The only mitigation offered is that the works are 'temporary'. This makes little difference - the historic and architectural features of the building shall be obscured for a period of 3-5 years. In this time the historic and architectural significance of this interior shall not be accessible or appreciated by the public or students, and will therefore be unable to be 'enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing [and future] generations.' (Para 189 NPPF 2021)

In total this application is poorly conceived and totally at odds with the conservation of this heritage asset. It should therefore be refused.

Owen Ward



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