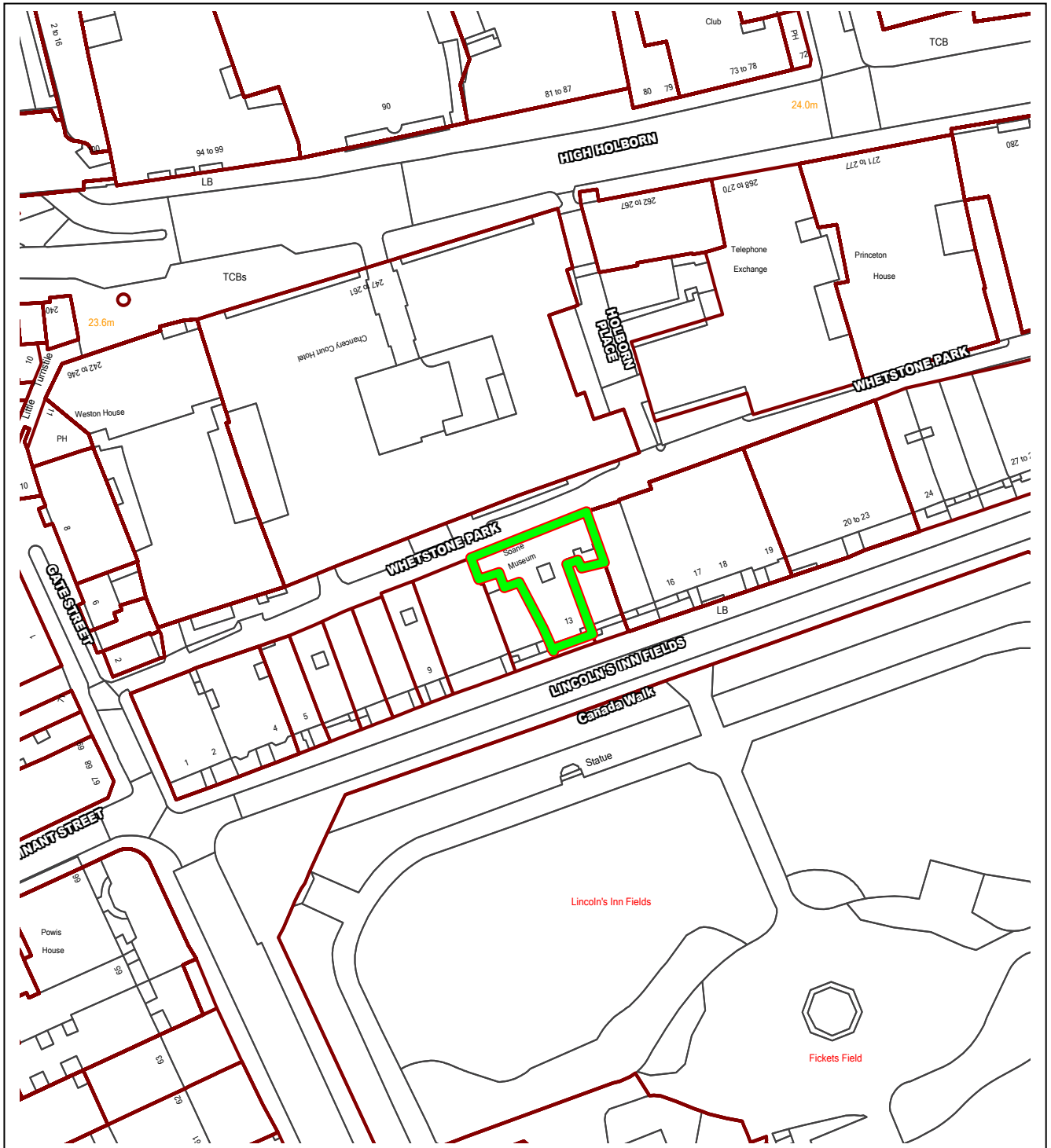


# 2022/2772/P - 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, Sir John Soane's Museum



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## Photos



1. Front elevation view of site and neighbouring buildings



2. Front elevation



3. Aerial view of site

<b>Delegated Report (Members Briefing)</b>		<b>Analysis sheet</b> N/A / attached	<b>Expiry Date:</b> 24/08/2022	<b>Consultation Expiry Date:</b> 05/11/2022
<b>Officer</b>			<b>Application Number(s)</b>	
Jaspreet Chana			2022/2772/P	
<b>Application Address</b>			<b>Drawing Numbers</b>	
Sir John Soane's Museum 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields London WC2A 3BP			See draft decision notice	
<b>PO 3/4</b>	<b>Area Team Signature</b>	<b>C&amp;UD</b>	<b>Authorised Officer Signature</b>	
<b>Proposal(s)</b>				
Installation of a light installation by contemporary artist Nayan Kulkarni which will illuminate the facade of Sir John Soane's Museum from October 2023 to January 2024, including erection of two 4m high poles with colour-changing LED high precision waterproof theatrical profile lights in Lincoln's Inn Fields, opposite the Museum.				
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Grant conditional planning permission for temporary period between October 2023 and January 2024.			
<b>Application Type:</b>	Full Planning Permission			

Conditions or Reasons for Refusal:	<b><i>Refer to Draft Decision Notice</i></b>			
Informatives:				
<b>Consultations</b>				
Summary of consultation:	<p>Three site notice(s) were displayed near to the site on the 12/10/2022 (consultation end date 05/11/2022).</p> <p>The development was also advertised in the local press on the 06/10/2022 (consultation end date 30/10/2022).</p>			
Adjoining Occupiers:	No. of responses	<b>00</b>	No. of objections	<b>00</b>
Summary of consultation responses:	No consultation responses received following the expiry date of statutory consultation period.			
Bloomsbury CAAC:	<p>A letter of objection was received on behalf of the Bloomsbury CAAC. Their objection comments can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We understand that the light installation is intended to complement an exhibition within the Museum, “Georgian Illuminations” but cannot find this advertised in the current programme on the website during the next three months.</li> <li>• This suggests that the light installation is now a stand-alone project. This kind of light installation could perhaps be appropriate for a shorter period of time - such as the Bloomsbury Festival - but we consider that imposing a light show on the facade of this building for three to four months is far too long.</li> <li>• As such we consider this an inappropriate intervention that will create a negative impact on the setting of the listed buildings and the heritage square itself.</li> <li>• It could also set a precedent for future inappropriate projects which will cause harm to the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. The listed buildings within the conservation area are to be protected and viewed as examples of architectural heritage. They are not actually there to provide a background for a three month light show.</li> </ul> <p><u>Officer’s response:</u>  <i>This installation is proposed for next year between October 2023 – January 2024, hence why it may not be on the website yet.  Please see sections 3 and 4 in response to the above points raised.</i></p>			



## Site Description

The application site is the grade I listed Sir John Soane Museum, which is situated on the north side of Lincoln's Inn Fields within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area. The building is not only of national importance as one of the few buildings designed by the architect, Sir John Soane, but it has cultural significance on an international level, now serving as a museum to commemorate his life and work.

The building originally dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and forms part of a row of properties bordering the north side of the square, many of which are four-storey Georgian buildings. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Soane remodelled the original building, including its frontage, to produce a unique piece of architecture which sits harmoniously in its context and which is visible in views across the square. Lincoln's Inn Fields is a public open space which is a designated London Square under the 1931 London Squares Preservation Act.

## Relevant History

The planning history for the application site can be summarised as follows:

**2022/3987/P & 2022/4542/L:** Replacement of roof access ladders with new ladders, installation of two roof access gantries with guarding, installation of temporary restraint safety lines, eyelet bolts and minor grab rails and ladder brackets – decision pending.

**2020/5134/L:** Alterations to the Colonnade and Basement Staircase including: narrowing and altering the linings to the Basement Stairs, altering two columns and repositioning six columns within the Colonnade and installing a new stained glass screen and door, to recreate Soane's 1837 arrangement was **granted** on 21/01/2021.

**2016/4730/L:** Internal alterations comprising works to: i) the Temporary Gallery Rooms (no.12 FF Front & Rear Rooms), including the installation of a picture rail over the chimney pieces; ii) the Shop (no.12 GF Front Room), including the installation of picture rails to the west and south walls, installation of shelving units to north wall and a new free-standing central display unit; and iii) to WCs (in basement of No. 13), including the replacement of modern doors, architraves and panelling to the service wall behind the WCs and replacement of sanitary ware was **granted** on 15/11/2016.

## Relevant policies

### National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

### The London Plan (2021)

### Camden Local Plan (2017)

- **A1** Managing the impact of development
- **D1** Design
- **D2** Heritage **T3** Transport Infrastructure
- **DM1** Delivery and monitoring

### Camden Planning Guidance:

- CPG Amenity (2021)
- CPG Design (2021)

Transport for London Guidance for Digital Roadside Advertising 2013

### Conservation Statements:

- Bloomsbury Conservation Area appraisal and management strategy (2011)

## Assessment

### 1. The proposal

1.1. Temporary planning permission is sought for:

- Display of a light installation by contemporary artist Nayan Kulkarni which will illuminate the facade of Sir John Soane's Museum from October 2023 to January 2024, this will involve the erection of colour-changing LED high precision waterproof theatrical profile lights installed three to four metres above ground level on two lighting poles in Lincoln's Inn Fields, opposite the Museum.

### 2. Assessment

2.1. The principal considerations material to the determination of this application are as follows:

- The visual impact upon the character and appearance of the host property, streetscene, local area and the Bloomsbury Conservation Area
- The impact on neighbour amenities
- Transport considerations

### 3. Design and Conservation

3.1. The Council's design policies are aimed at achieving the highest standard of design in all developments. The following considerations contained within policy D1 are relevant to the application: development should respect local context and character; comprise details and materials that are of high quality and complement the local character; and respond to natural features. Policy D2 'Heritage' states that in order to maintain the character of Camden's conservation areas, the Council will not permit development within conservation area that fails to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of that conservation area.

3.2. The site comprises the grade-I-listed St John Soane Museum, an 18th-century town house remodelled by Soane in the early 19th century that makes a positive contribution to the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

3.3. Sir John Soane's Museum hosts an inspiring programme of historic and contemporary exhibitions which highlight the continuing importance of Soane, his legacy and Georgian architecture more widely. This exhibition programme aims to engage new audiences with these themes and one element of this involves commissioning contemporary artists to engage with Soane and his work. The proposed installation forms an element of the Museum's contemporary exhibitions programme and complements the historic exhibition Georgian Illuminations at Sir John Soane's Museum.

3.4. The installation would be titled Georgian Illuminations (to open October 2023), and it would consist of the erection of two 4 metre poles in Lincoln's Inn Fields, which will be used to light up the façade of No.13 Lincoln's Inn Fields.



*Fig.1 Front elevation*

- 3.5. The proposed external lighting installation by Nayan Kulkarni is proposed for a temporary period from October 2023 - January 2024 and will be active from dusk until 11pm each evening during that period. The installation will be limited to the frontage of the museum, going no taller or wider, to avoid any problems arising from light spill. It will involve a subtle wash of changing colours across the façade, which will take into account the distinct form of Soane's architectural masterpiece with the aim of complementing and enhancing it during hours of darkness. The artwork will be visible in views across the square from all angles.
- 3.6. There will be no direct physical impacts on the historic fabric of the grade I listed building, as no equipment will be attached to the building or to any structure within its curtilage. Instead two LED lighting poles will be erected within the grounds of Lincoln's Inn Fields across the road from the site. The poles will be 4 metres high and constructed from a robust black-painted steel and sunk into the ground through a flange-mounted system. Once installed these will disappear into the tree foliage behind and have a minimal visual impact upon the street scene (see photographs below for location).



*Fig.2. View of where the poles would be erected*

- 3.7. The location for the poles would be made secure and is discreet, this is considered to be an area of low footfall and therefore would not impinge on the park users. The bases for the poles will sit above ground. They will rest on the grass on 25mm marine plywood circular pads to distribute the weight of the equipment and protect the soil. On removal the affected grass will be reseeded if necessary. Power and data cables will be ground mounted in armoured cable ducts.
- 3.8. The light fittings would be controlled by a Pharos LPC1 architectural lighting controller. This will provide both the curfew timings for the installation as well as control the colour and light requirements of the artwork. This controller will have a wireless remote control from the museum offices and internet. The hours of operation of the lighting will be secured by condition.
- 3.9. It is not generally considered acceptable to illuminate the historic frontages of what were originally private 18th-century houses, regardless of their current use. External illumination is also considered to cause harm to the visual character of the conservation area and of the square after dark.
- 3.10. However, because of the temporary nature of the proposal and the fact that it is specifically and thematically linked with an exhibition within the museum relating to similar light show events that were designed by Soane himself in the early 19th century, making this proposal a one-off installation the proposal is considered to be acceptable in this instance.
- 3.11. Special attention has been paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the conservation area, under s.72 of the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990 as amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013.
- 3.12. Special regard has been attached to the desirability of preserving the listed building and its features of special architectural or historic interest, under s.16 and s.66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area) Act 1990 as amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (ERR) 2013.
- 3.13. Due to the 3 month temporary period that the installation would be in place, overall, it is considered that the proposed installation would not cause a detrimental impact upon the character and appearance of the host property and would preserve the special character of the conservation area. A condition would be



attached to ensure the installation is removed on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

#### **4. Residential Amenity**

- 4.1. Policy A1 seeks to protect the quality of life of occupiers and neighbours by only granting permission to development that would not harm the amenity of residents. This includes factors such as privacy, outlook, implications to natural light, artificial light spill, odour and fumes as well as impacts caused from the construction phase of development. Policy A4 seeks to ensure that residents are not adversely impacted upon by virtue of noise or vibrations.
- 4.2. The Museum is positioned on the north side of the Lincoln's Inn Fields Park. The artwork will be observed from the pavement. Adjacent residential properties are over one hundred meters away with the park and its mature trees obscuring the sight lines, it is not considered neighbouring properties will be directly affected by the installation.
- 4.3. Given the lighting would be solely on No.13 Lincoln's Fields front façade, it is not considered any light spill or movement would have an impact on the surrounding street or opposite Lincoln Inn Fields. Museum is in Environmental Zone E4 (urban areas) (from Light Pollution – Environment Protection UK), the guidelines note that pre-curfew facade lighting should not exceed 25 cd/m<sup>3</sup>. The installation is to be measured at commissioning stage to ensure it conforms to the maximum intensity (25 cd/m<sup>3</sup>). This will be secured via planning condition to control the level of lighting.
- 4.4. The light fittings use cinematic projection quality lenses with internal shuttering. This ensures that there will be no spill light as the beam edge can be focused to produce a 100% cut off at the edge of the facade. The light fittings are bespoke RGBW high power RG2 IP65 LED glass gobo projectors designed for permanent external architectural illumination and are to run silent. The lights will be projecting in a shallow upwards angle minimising reflected light (specular and diffuse reflection). Residual specular and diffuse reflection will only be observable from the pavement and within the park. Therefore it is not considered any neighbouring properties would be harmed by the installation.
- 4.5. The proposed development is not considered to lead to a significant impact upon the amenities of any neighbouring resident. The development is thus considered to be in accordance with planning policies A1 and A4.

#### *Transport considerations*

- 4.6. The application has been reviewed by a transport officer, he has said that it is not considered there would be any light spill and only slowly changing effects in lighting would be had, furthermore the lighting is not expected to exceed 25 cd/m<sup>3</sup>. The officer has no objections to the proposal in terms of its impact on the vehicular traffic and the surrounding highway network.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1. Grant temporary Planning Permission

***The decision to refer an application to Planning Committee lies with the Director of Regeneration and Planning. Following the Members Briefing panel on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022, nominated members will advise whether they consider this application should be reported to the Planning Committee. For further information, please go to [www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk) and search for 'Members Briefing'.***

Application ref: 2022/2772/P  
Contact: Jaspreet Chana  
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Date: 15 November 2022

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Dr Louise Stewart  
13 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
London  
WC2A 3BP

# DRAFT

Dear Sir/Madam

**DECISION**

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

## **Full Planning Permission Granted**

Address:

**Sir John Soane's Museum**  
**13 Lincoln's Inn Fields**  
**London**  
**WC2A 3BP**

# DECISION

Proposal:

Installation of a light installation by contemporary artist Nayan Kulkarni which will illuminate the facade of Sir John Soane's Museum from October 2023 to January 2024, including erection of two 4m high poles with colour-changing LED high precision waterproof theatrical profile lights in Lincoln's Inn Fields, opposite the Museum.

Drawing Nos: SJS-01-B, SJS-02-B, SJS-03-A, SJS-04-A, Heritage Statement, Lighting Impact Assessment, Artwork Management Plan.

The Council has considered your application and decided to grant permission subject to the following condition(s):

Condition(s) and Reason(s):

- 1 The light installation hereby permitted is for a temporary period only and shall only be permitted in association with the 'Georgian Illuminations' exhibition while hosted at the John Soane Museum and shall not be for a duration of any greater than 3 calendar months in total.

Reason: The type of installation is not such as the local planning authority is prepared to approve, other than for a limited period, in view of its appearance. The permanent

retention of the structure would be contrary to the requirements of policy D1 and D2 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017.

- 2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: SJS-01-B, SJS-02-B, SJS-03-A, SJS-04-A, Heritage Statement, Lighting Impact Assessment, Artwork Management Plan.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interest of proper planning.

- 3 Prior to the commencement of the use of the lighting, automatic time clocks shall be fitted to the lighting hereby approved to ensure that the lights do not operate outside 5pm to 11pm Monday to Sunday.

Reason: To safeguard the amenities of the adjoining premises and the character of the area generally in accordance with the requirements of policies D1, D2, DM1, A1 and T3 of the London Borough of Camden Local Plan 2017.

- 4 The intensity of the illumination of the external lighting shall not exceed 25 candelas per square metre during the day and 25 candelas per square metre during the hours of darkness in line with the maximum permitted recommended luminance as set out by 'The Institute of Lighting Professional's 'Professional Lighting Guide 05: The Brightness of Illuminated Advertisements' 2015.

Reason: To ensure that the lighting does not harm the character and appearance of the streetscene and does not create a distraction to pedestrian or vehicular traffic and therefore cause a hazard to highway safety. In accordance with the requirements of policies A1, D1, D2, DM1 and T3 of the Camden Local Plan 2017 and Transport for London Guidance for Digital Roadside Advertising 2013

Informative(s):

- 1 This approval does not authorise the use of the public highway. Any requirement to use the public highway, such as for hoardings, temporary road closures and suspension of parking bays, will be subject to approval of relevant licence from the Council's Streetworks Authorisations & Compliance Team, 5 Pancras Square c/o Town Hall, Judd Street London WC1H 9JE (Tel. No 020 7974 4444). Licences and authorisations need to be sought in advance of proposed works. Where development is subject to a Construction Management Plan (through a requirement in a S106 agreement), no licence or authorisation will be granted until the Construction Management Plan is approved by the Council.
- 2 All works should be conducted in accordance with the Camden Minimum Requirements - a copy is available on the Council's website (search for 'Camden Minimum Requirements' at [www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk)) or contact the Council's Noise and Licensing Enforcement Team, 5 Pancras Square c/o Town Hall, Judd Street London WC1H 9JE (Tel. No. 020 7974 4444)

Noise from demolition and construction works is subject to control under the Control of Pollution Act 1974. You must carry out any building works that can be heard at the boundary of the site only between 08.00 and 18.00 hours Monday to Friday and

08.00 to 13.00 on Saturday and not at all on Sundays and Public Holidays. You must secure the approval of the Council's Noise and Licensing Enforcement Team prior to undertaking such activities outside these hours.

In dealing with the application, the Council has sought to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive way in accordance with paragraph 38 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021.

You can find advice about your rights of appeal at:

<https://www.gov.uk/appeal-planning-decision>.

Yours faithfully

Chief Planning Officer

**DRAFT**

**DECISION**