Nex—

—The British Museum
King Edward Building Window Replacement Design & Access Statement

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Revision	Date	Comments
0	31.10.2022	Draft Issue for Comment
A	09.11.2022	Issue for Comment
B	22.11.2022	Issue for Listed Building Consent

Contents

Design & Access Statement

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Introduction
This Design and Access Statement has been prepared by Nex on behalf of The British Museum to illustrate proposals for the replacement of a single window to the south elevation of the King Edward Building.

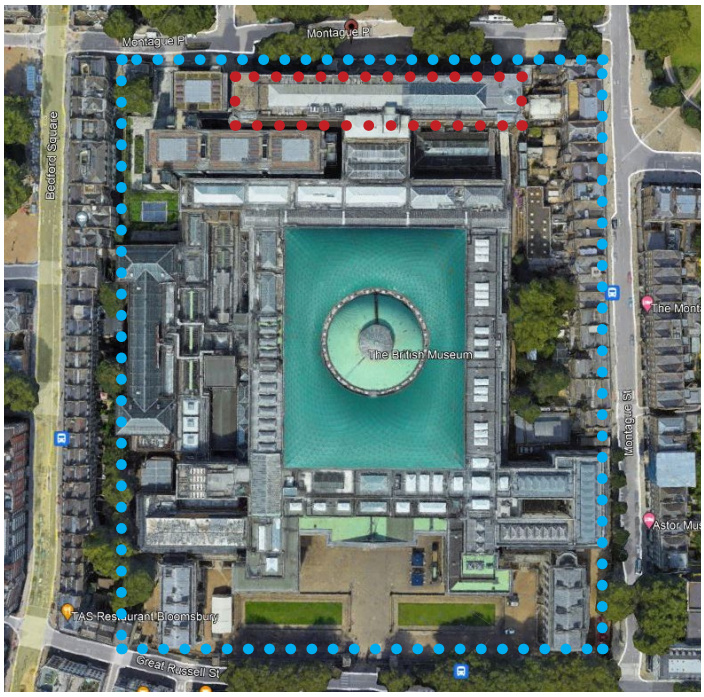
Project Location & Context
The King Edward Building is located on Montague Place on the north side of the museum's Great Court. It is a Grade I listed building designed by Sir John Burnet & Partners, completed in 1915.

The building contains Gallery 33, along with the Galleries 33a, 67, 95, Prints and Drawings galleries, and Anthropology Library.

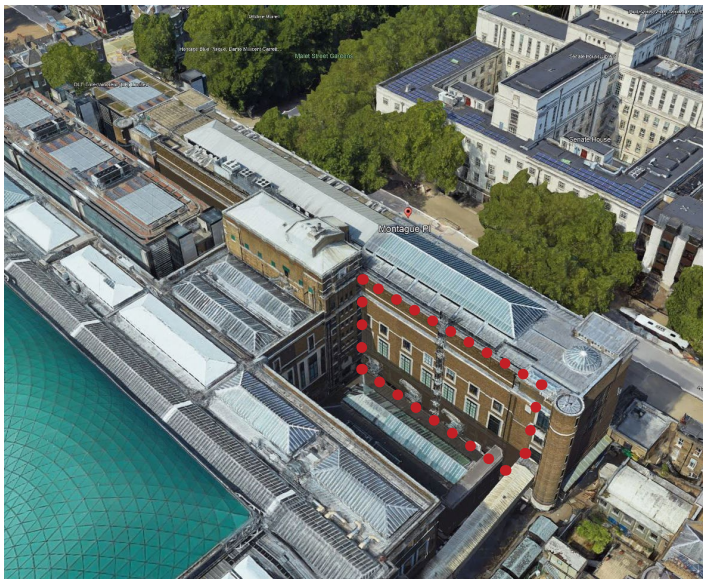
The building runs in an east-west direction with it's main elevation fronting onto Montague Place. The proposed intervention is located on the south east elevation at level 0. This is lower ground level on the south elevation. The elevation looks onto a back-of-house services area, which is not accessible to members of the public, nor visible from the street.

The southern elevation is constructed from glazed brick, London stock brick, and stone sets dressed around window and door openings. A more detailed description of the building fabric and its historic significance is contained in the Heritage Impact Statement on the following pages.

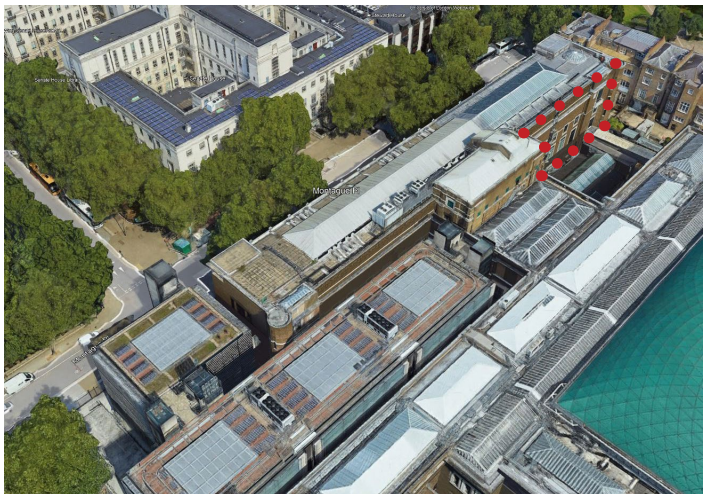
The southeast elevation has been altered extensively over time and hosts multiple window types, services and ventilation ducts.



Aerial view of museum outlining KE building



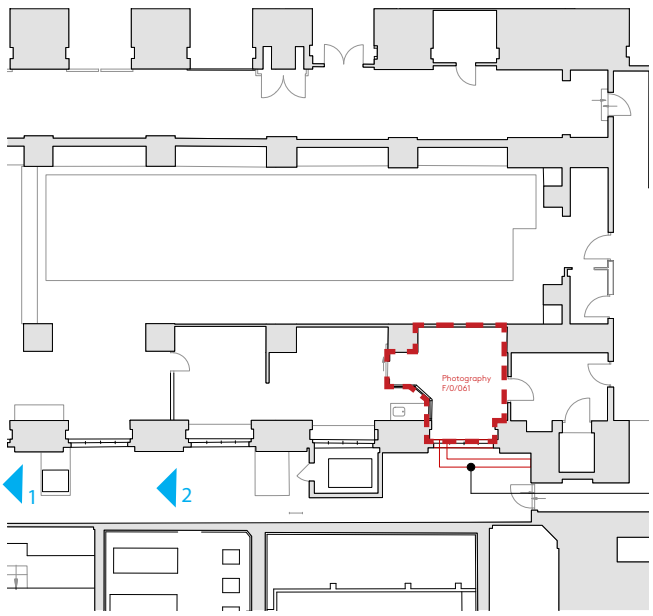
Aerial view of south east elevation of the KEB


Aerial view of south west elevation of KEB

Statement of Significance

The King Edward VII Galleries, constructed as an extension the British Museum in 1906-1914, are of exceptional architectural and historic special interest, and this is reflected in their listing at Grade I, a separate list entry from that of the British Museum.

The building is an important work by the prominent architectural practice of J. J. Burnet, later Burnet and Tait, and then Burnet, Tait and Lorne, whose designs, many in London, are amongst the best classical and modern buildings in inter-war England. The King Edward VII Galleries is the only executed building of a comprehensive masterplan by Burnet to enlarge the British Museum to fill the entire city block and replace all surviving terraced Georgian houses around the Museum's perimeter with museum accommodation. Whilst the masterplan did not come to pass, the King Edward VII Galleries were built, and housed part of the expanding museum's collection, namely British and Medieval Antiquities, the print room, the map room, and, inset to the south, the North Library.



Keyplan of service access alley at the rear of the KEB. Photo positions indicated in blue.

1. Photo of existing mechanical ducting on the south east elevation above the window

2. Photo of existing external passage on south east elevation that accesses location of window

Southeast elevation of the KEB showing the window to be replaced, and the duct that is proposed to be removed.

The Project Need

During a building inspection in June 2022, it was noted that a window onto the level 0 photography workshop has suffered from extensive corrosion in sections of its steel frame.

The corrosion has resulted in significant bowing of the window frame and cracking of glazing panels. Warping has become so pronounced that the window has become a safety hazard and it was temporarily boarded to protect occupants in September 2022.

In addition to warping, sections of frame show significant corrosion due to the fact that they do not have a galvanisation primer coat. Sections of frame exhibit jacking and delamination from oxidation making repair unfeasible.

The warping of the frame and decay has also led to some water ingress into the space and possibly contributed to cracking of the lower sill. The surrounding fabric will continue to deteriorate if the condition of the frame is not addressed.

Photo of the window to be replaced

Photo of window showing redundant duct work and vents that may be removed on top left.

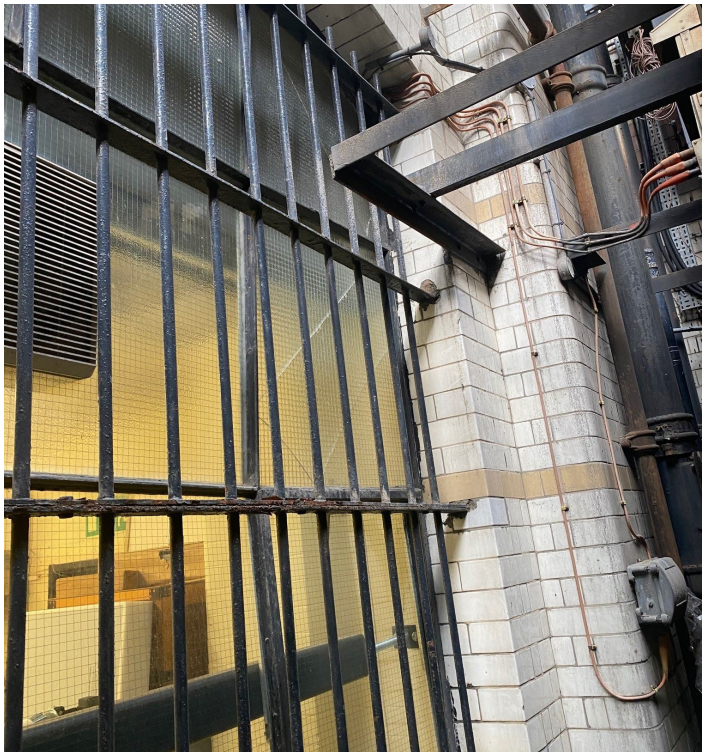


Photo of window showing warping of steel frame and cracking of wired glass.

Photo of window showing corrosion of window frame and cracking of sill.

Photo corrosion of window frame at jamb.

Museum Brief

The Museum's brief is to stop water ingress and restore safe access, daylight and locally controlled ventilation to the room. The existing grille should be temporarily removed and restored to allow for window replacement.

Redundant mechanical ventilation ducts should be removed and the fixed permanent vent can be replaced with an operable windows similar to the opening sections in the other windows in the facade. Glazing will be replaced with a similar obscure wired 'Georgian' glass replacement.

Feasibility of Repair

The window was inspected by the architect and structural engineer who concluded that its condition was beyond repair due to extensive metal oxidation and delamination.

Design Proposals

This proposal seeks permission for the removal of the warped window and installation of a like-for-like new replacement steel framed 'Crittal' type window. Cracks to the sill will be repaired with a conservation appropriate treatment. Redundant duct work will also be removed to offer a heritage benefit.

Heritage Impact of Proposals

The proposals would entail the replacement of a low-level window in a back-of-house area. In more detail, the works are as follows:

- Temporary removal of 5 corner bricks on each side of the window reveal to remove the steel security grille.
- Temporary removal and refurbishment of the grille and it's fixings.
- Removal of the corroded window frame, ventilation ducts and supporting brackets.
- Assembly and installation of the replacement W20 Crittal-type steel windows.
- Reinstatement of the redecorated window grille and repair of the stone sill.

In our view, because of the low heritage significance of these areas and their already-modernised conditions, these works would not affect the special interest of the listed building nor the conservation area.

Most elements of the proposal are like-for-like replacements. Their impact would be neutral and cause no harm, and the removal of the duct work represents an enhancement to the appearance of the building. Listed Building Consent should therefore be granted.

Photo of frame detail around opening vent

Photo of W20 steel frame window in brick wall

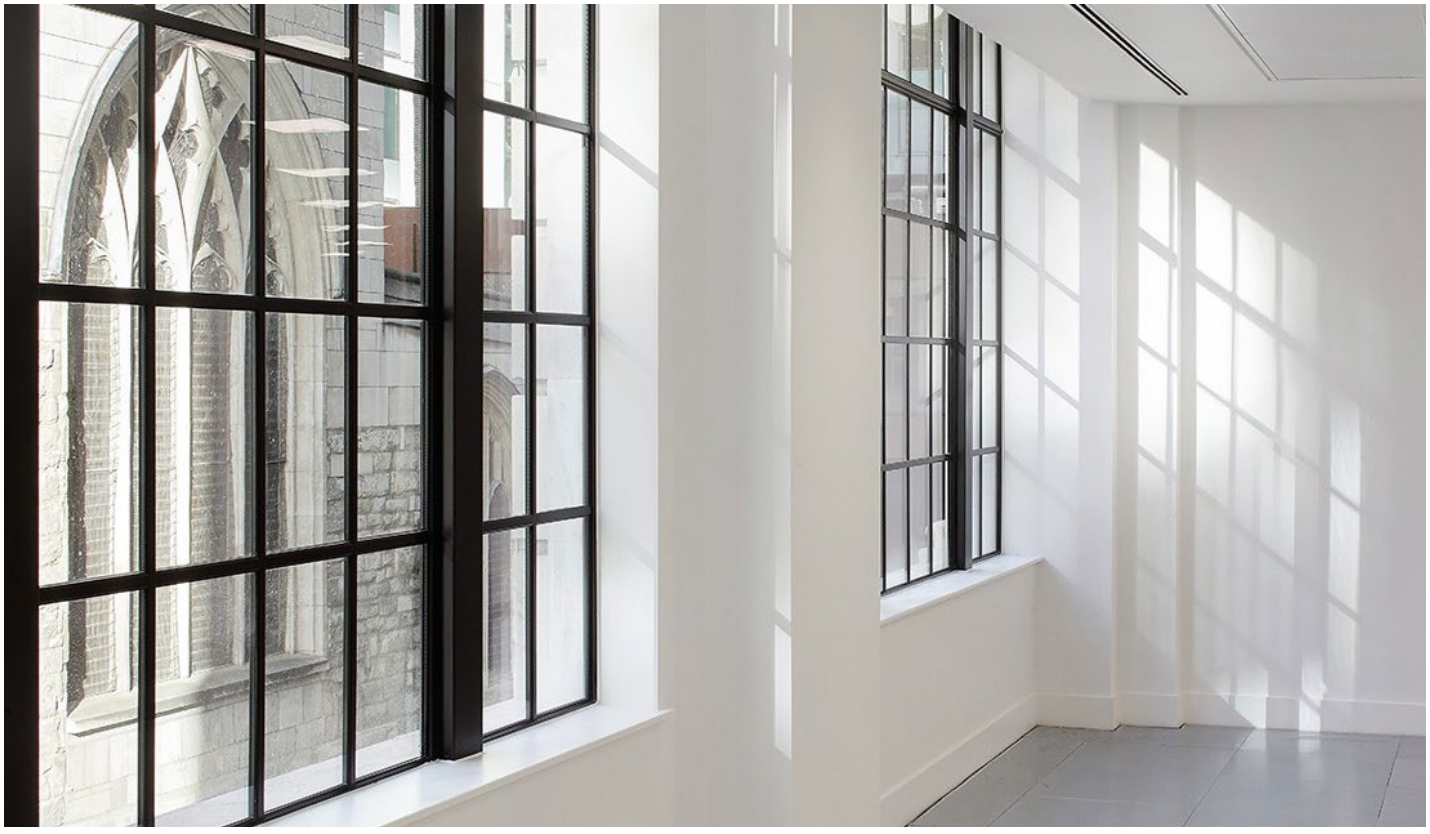


Photo of W20 type steel windows with single glazing, opening window vent and panel joint at transom