

3.0 HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF DOLPHIN SQUARE ESTATE (CONTD.)
EXTERNAL PHOTOGRAPHS (CONTD.)



Fig. 3.15: Colonnade pavilion to south of amenity block



Fig. 3.16: West elevation of amenity block



Fig. 3.17: Detail of west entrance to amenity block



Fig. 3.18: Arched entrance from Chichester Street and north-west corner of amenity block



Fig. 3.19: Typical ten storey tower articulated from main building



Fig. 3.20: Example of varied fenestration patterns

3.0 HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF DOLPHIN SQUARE ESTATE (CONTD.)
EXTERNAL PHOTOGRAPHS (CONTD.)



Fig. 3.21: Brick repairs post war damage



Fig. 3.22: Existing vents



Fig. 3.23: Existing vents

4.0 EFFECTS ON SIGNIFICANCE - PLANNING APPLICATION NO.1

ROOF PROPOSALS

4.1 This chapter considers the effects of the proposed alterations to specific parts of the buildings that are included in Planning Application No.1. They are described below under relevant subheadings. This chapter should be read in conjunction with GRID architects' DAS.

Proposed changes on Roofs

4.2 In order to enhance the fire safety of the buildings, the lack of any smoke ventilation in the common corridors of the buildings is rectified through the introduction of vertical smoke ventilation shafts in the common corridors which will be powered by extraction fans on the roof. In order to minimise and mitigate the visual impact of these fans, they are located near the centre of the roofs and further shielded from view in a 2.3m high louvered enclosure, finished in polyester powder coated (PPC) paint in an appropriate unobtrusive colour (p.17, DAS). The proposed locations of these are shown at fig 4.1 (p.18, DAS).

4.3 The carefully considered locations of these enclosures and their sensitive treatment, as described above, means their visibility will be small and where visible will be unobtrusive. There will be no harm to the significance of the 'unlisted building of merit' or the character and appearance (significance) of the Dolphin Square Conservation Area.

4.4 The other changes such as the removal of servicing equipment, replacement of paving on the roof, installation of photovoltaic cells, and new roof insulation will not harm the significance of the buildings or the significance of the conservation area.

4.5 As a result of the new roof insulation, the existing safety guardrails in the main roof areas will no longer be compliant with minimum height requirements for safety, and will therefore be replaced with a replica guardrail at the required height, which is 40cm taller than the existing (p.19, DAS). Similarly, for the accessible flat roof areas from residential flats, the balustrade design has been subtly improved to be compliant for children's safety, while retaining the off-white colour as present, and increased in height to be safety compliant (p.21, DAS). In the case of the roof terraces on the 8th and 9th floors on the north, east and west blocks, the different surface coverings and screens installed by individual leaseholders will be replaced with unified materials and new screens of a consistent design based on the tubular frame design of the existing balustrades (p.22, DAS). These improvements will have a minimal effect on the appearance of the buildings and will not affect their significance or that of the conservation area.

- Smoke Extract Fan Location
- Abseiling Rail
- - Parameter Guarding
- Paving Removal
- Services Removal
- Masonry Removal
- Hatch Infill
- PV Opportunities



Fig. 4.1: Proposed Roof Plan showing proposed alterations

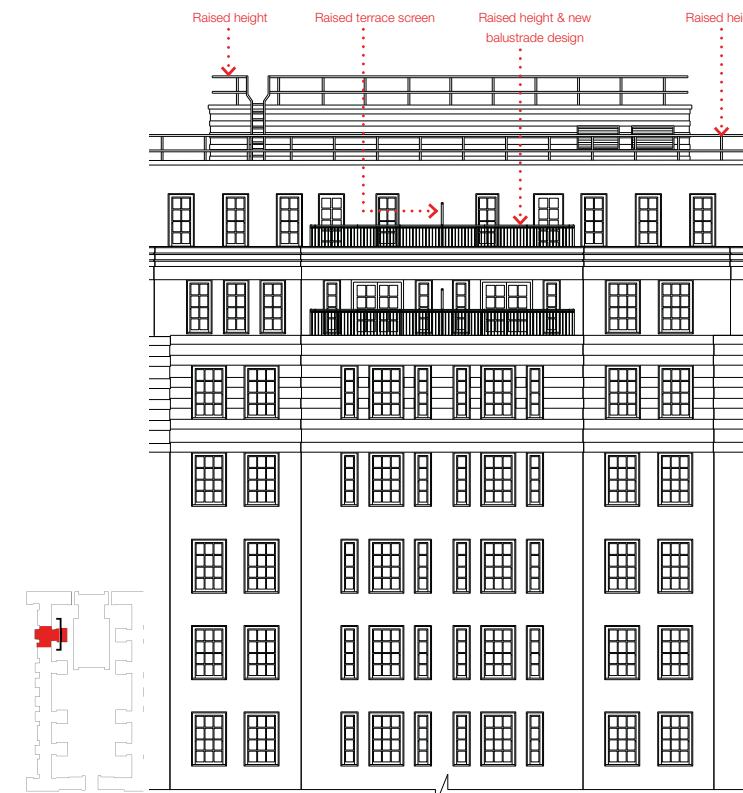


Fig. 4.2: Guardrail amendments indicated on a section of the western elevation

4.0 EFFECTS ON SIGNIFICANCE - PLANNING APPLICATION NO.1 (CONTD.)

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS

Replacement Windows

4.6 The existing windows are all square-headed timber sliding sash in design with a mixture of 2-over-2, 4-over-4, 6-over-6 and 8-over-8 lights (fig 4.4, p.31 DAS). The regularity of the window pattern creates a coherent rhythm that is an important part of the building’s appearance. The age of the windows however mean that they have poor thermal performance owing to their air leakage from inadequate seals and being mostly single-glazed. Their timber frames are also in poor condition (p.30, DAS).

4.7 In order to improve on thermal performance across all the buildings, it is proposed to replace all the windows with replica double-glazed windows, which will be a double-glazed single glass pane with applied beading, which replicates the existing profiles, to each side of the glass. To simulate the appearance of individual panes a white gasket is included in the cavity of the glazing (fig 4.4 and 4.5, p.32, DAS) which replicates the external putty lines on a single glazed window. A mock-up was constructed on site as part of the pre-application meetings with WCC officers.

4.8 The replacement double-glazed windows will replicate the appearance of the existing windows as closely as possible while significantly improving their overall thermal performance. This change would cause no harm to the significance of the buildings nor affect the character or appearance of the conservation area.



Fig. 4.3: Existing typical windows types and configurations



Fig. 4.4: Sample of double glazed sash window



Fig. 4.5: Double glazed replacement option example - Cut section

4.0 EFFECTS ON SIGNIFICANCE - PLANNING APPLICATION NO.1 (CONTD.)

MVHR

Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR) Vents

- 4.9 The installation of an MVHR system is proposed to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the estate. The details of the proposed MVHR system can be found on pages 35-46 of the DAS. The MVHR system requires two ducts for the flow of air into and out of the building, which requires vents to the external faces of the buildings. After careful consideration of multiple options, including air brick/louvered moulded brick, a louvre integrated into the window head design, and a bespoke cast metal cover, a smaller, circular louvred vent cover was found to be the smallest insertion in size, would sit flush with the façade and its flange will cover the circular hole made in the existing masonry. The vent cover will be made of aluminium with a PPC finish. After testing a number of colour options, a charcoal colour for those inserted into the brick facades, and an off-white colour for those inserted into the stucco or stone sections of the façade were chosen.
- 4.10 The locations of these vents were another important consideration to mitigate the overall visual impact. Each of the facades of the buildings was studied carefully, in relation to the layout of fenestration and the structure of the building in order to ensure that the inserted vent covers create a consistent pattern across the facades; in some cases 'fake' vents are proposed to maintain this pattern. This is shown in fig 4.8 and the illustrative elevations at pages 47 and 48 of the DAS.
- 4.11 The insertion of the vent covers across the facades lead to a minor change in the overall appearance of the facades of the buildings, however, the discreet nature of the vent covers and their careful placement creating a pattern means that the effect is not harmful to the appearance of the buildings. There is considered to be no harm to the significance of the buildings or the conservation area as result of these proposals.

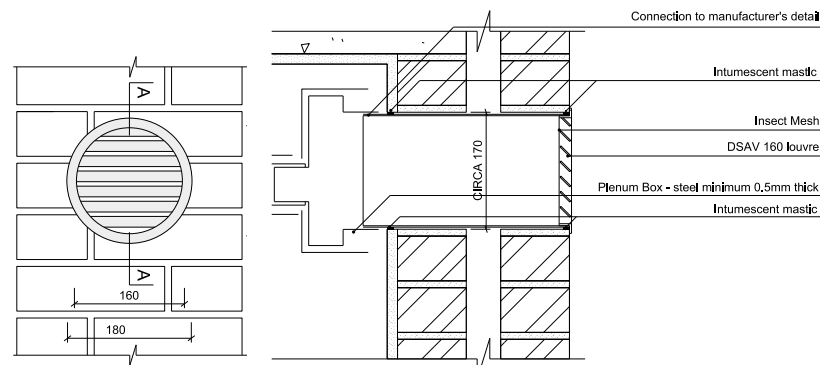


Fig. 4.6: Proposed louvred cover detail



Fig. 4.7: CGI showing the proposed insertion of the louvred vent cover

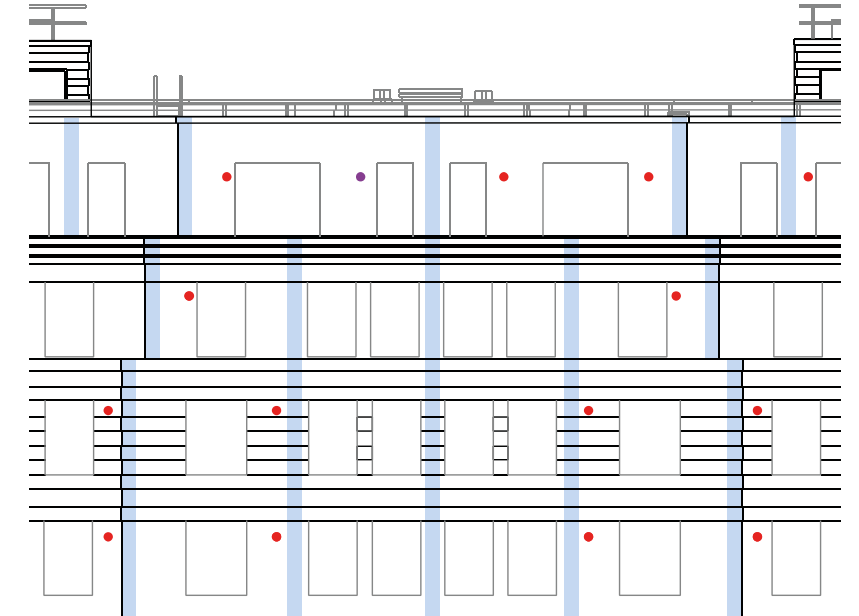


Fig. 4.8: Zoomed-in part of west elevation showing the distribution of functional (in red) and fake (purple) vents. Refer to p.45-46 of DAS for full diagram.

Area in dashed line forms part of Planning Application No. 2



Fig. 4.9: Illustrative View of Chichester Street Facade with the inserted vent covers

5.0 EFFECTS ON SIGNIFICANCE - PLANNING APPLICATION NO.2

CHICHESTER STREET PORTICO

5.1 This chapter considers the effects of the proposed alterations to specific parts of the buildings that are included in Planning Application No.2. They are described below under relevant subheadings. This chapter should be read in conjunction with GRID architects' DAS and SPLA landscape architects' DAS.

Chichester Street Portico and Entrance

5.2 The Chichester Street entrance, a principal entrance to the complex, was altered from the original design in 2006. The current entrance is a compromised version, with little that makes it a welcoming or worthy entrance to the Dolphin Square Estate.

5.3 The proposed design introduces a new entrance door and windows, within full-height arched openings, reflecting the existing arched entrances to the gardens on either side of the portico. The entrance is differentiated from the windows by its bronzed metal reveals. The new stone will have ribbed/fluted detail to create texture and interest and will be carefully selected to match the stone of the existing columns which are retained.



Fig. 5.1: Chichester Street Portico - Existing



Fig. 5.2: Chichester Street Portico - Proposed

5.0 EFFECTS ON SIGNIFICANCE - PLANNING APPLICATION NO.2 (CONTD.)

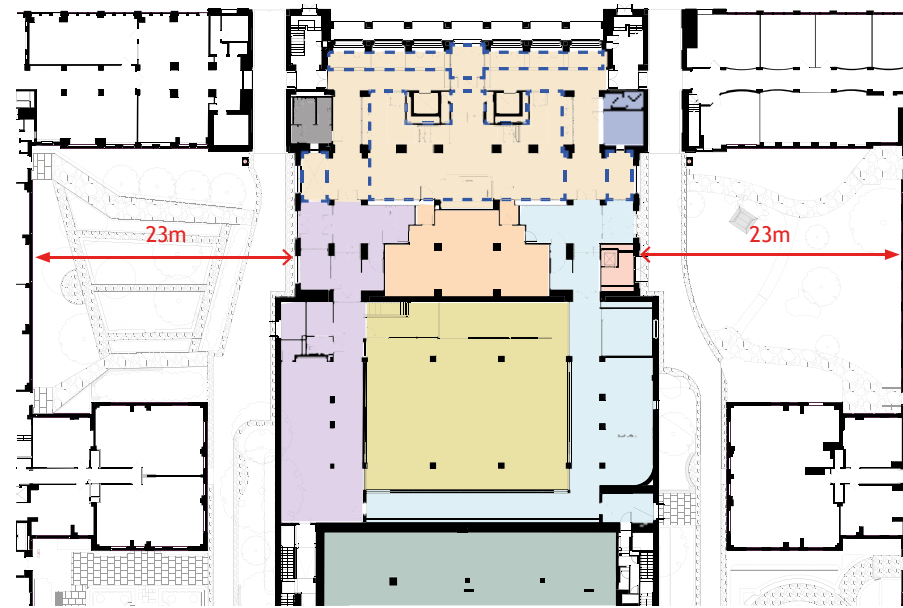
AMENITY BLOCK

Rodney House Amenity Block

5.4 Along with the Chichester Street entrance, the ground floor entrance/reception space is proposed to be remodelled into a double-height space, and rear amenity block of Rodney House demolished and replaced with a two-storey block, in order to improve the quality of the internal spaces and its functioning. The roof of the amenity block will be decluttered, with plant spaces rationalised within stone lattice enclosures, and new green roofs which create a new terrace space, animated with pergola frames, and accessible ramps that lead to the remodelled Moroccan Gardens. The first floor façade is glazed and opens out to the terrace, allowing generous views to the central courtyard.

5.5 The proposed new block extends to the east and west from the previous building line but retains a gap between the arched entrances, and a separation distance of approximately 23m to the opposite building façades (fig. 5.7 and p49, DAS). The east and west façades are expressed as three equal bays and clad in stone to tie in with the existing (fig 5.5, p.44-46, DAS). While the higher part obscures the central 9 window bays at first floor of the Rodney House courtyard elevation, they are not important elements of the elevational composition, nor visible from ground level views. Furthermore, the new and larger scale architectural approach brings a more appropriate architectural hierarchy to important side entrances. This element enhances the relationship between the amenity block and Rodney House.

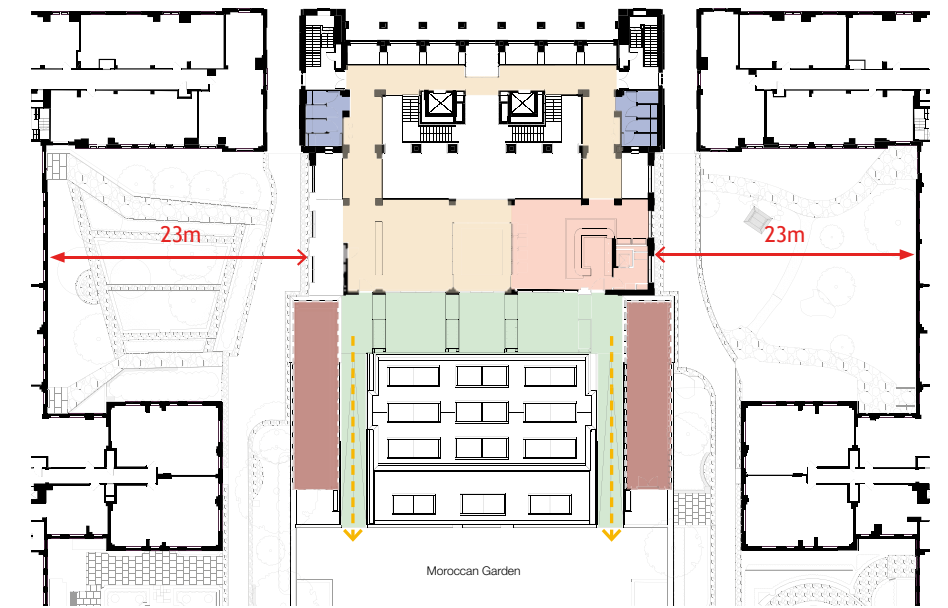
5.6 The proposed alterations to the existing entrance, the ground floor of Rodney House, and new amenity block have been sensitively designed to complement the character of the existing building and will be of high architectural quality. These will be overall enhancement to the 'unlisted building of merit' and to the character and appearance of the conservation area.



Proposed Ground Floor Plan

- Double Height Space
- Seating Area
- Reception Area
- Cafe Goods Lift
- Gym
- Letting Office
- Dolphin Square Office
- Gym Reception / Juice Bar
- Swimming Pool (below)
- WCs

Fig. 5.3: Proposed Ground Floor Plan



Proposed First Floor Plan

- Double Height Space
- Meeting/Zoom Room
- WFH / Lounge
- Cafe/ Cafe Goods Lift
- WCs
- Terrace and Ramps
- Rationalised New Plant Rooms

Fig. 5.4: Proposed First Floor Plan

5.0 EFFECTS ON SIGNIFICANCE - PLANNING APPLICATION NO.2 (CONTD.)

AMENITY BLOCK (CONTD.)

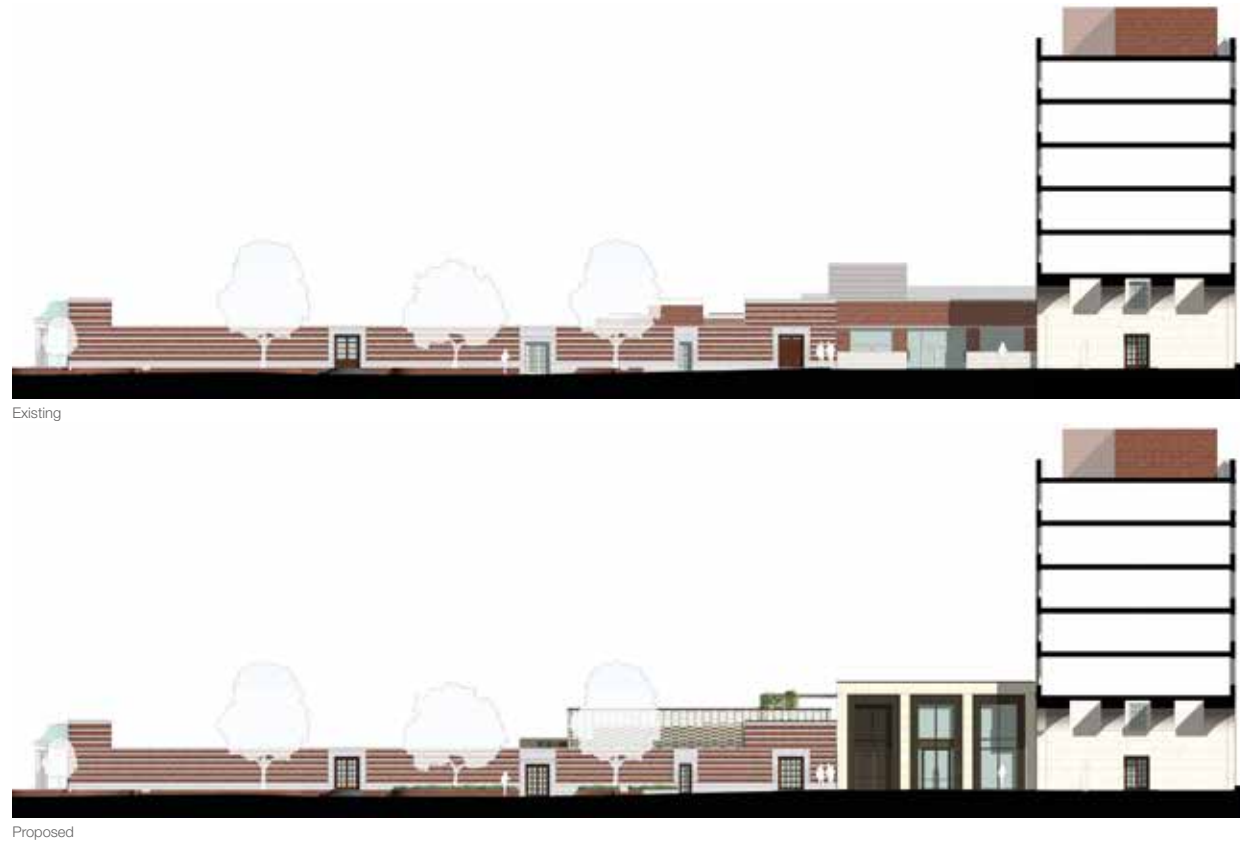


Fig. 5.5: Comparative Existing and Proposed north-south sectional elevation showing the proposals

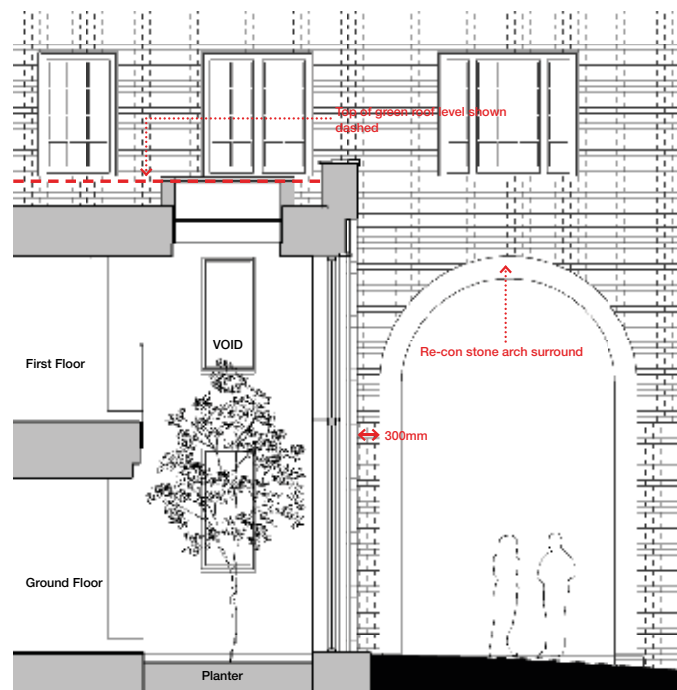


Fig. 5.6: Detailed section through East Facade of the new amenity block



Existing



Proposed

Fig. 5.7: Comparative Existing and Proposed east-west sectional elevation showing the proposals

5.0 EFFECTS ON SIGNIFICANCE - PLANNING APPLICATION NO.2 (CONTD.)

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) Enclosures

5.7 A number of alternatives were considered for the location of the ASHPs. The least visually intrusive option was to locate them within the basement car park, utilising the four original car park vent locations in the gardens to exhaust the air from these units. Albeit taller than the original vents by 1m, they have been designed to fit within the original pergola enclosures, and will be screened with perforated steel panels depicting patterns of trees, foliage or similar, creating an interesting piece of artwork within these spaces. In front of these, in line with the existing trellises, will sit a new trellis screen in sustainable hardwood, to be covered by climbing plants, providing a richness through the layering of different materials and plants. More details are provided in SPLA's DAS, which also includes a detailed assessment of the landscape significance of the gardens.

5.8 One of the primary features of Richard Sudell's design for Dolphin Square gardens is its variety of different environments including large formal areas, smaller intimate areas, and themed gardens creating a diverse richness within the gardens. The carefully considered proposals add another layer of landscape richness without detracting from the special interest of the Grade II registered gardens. Whilst the ASHP units and their vents will be larger and more visible than the existing, their sensitively designed screening, as described above, will preserve the special qualities of the registered gardens while allowing the incorporation of sustainable energy sources for the Estate's energy demands. There will be no harm to the significance of the registered gardens or the ability to appreciate it. There are also some minor alterations to the Moroccan gardens covered in the Landscape DAS. These are essentially improvements to the later changes in the late 1990s to the original Spanish/Mexican gardens and do not, therefore affect significance.

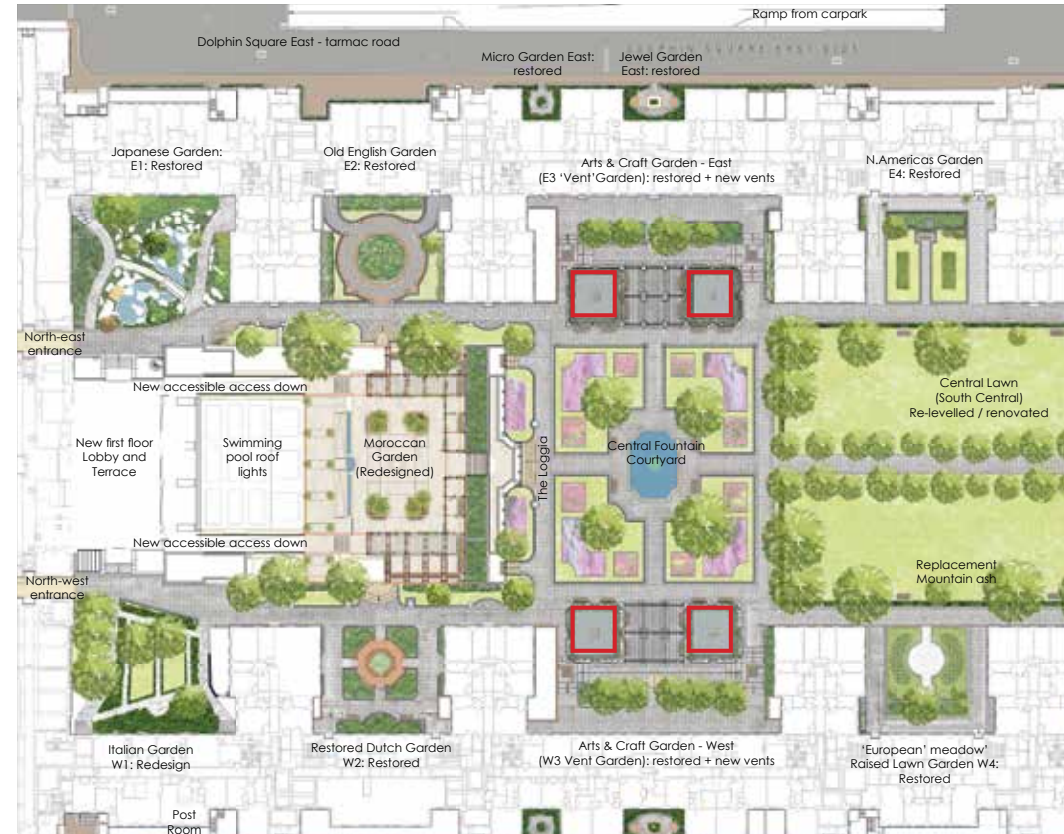


Fig. 5.8: Plan showing locations of ASHP units (marked in red).

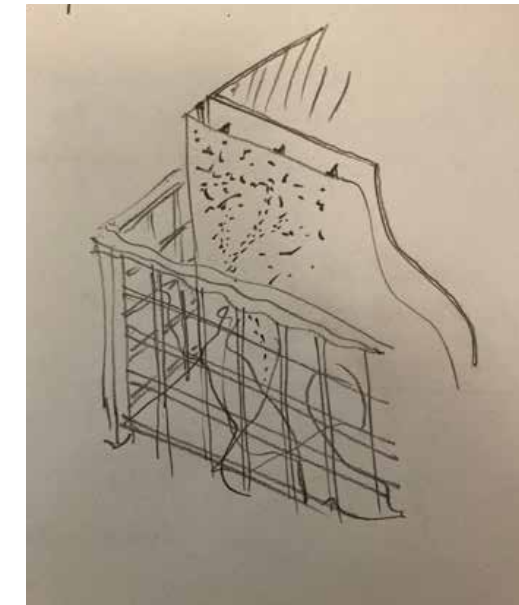


Fig. 5.9: Concept sketch of the ASHP Vent enclosure

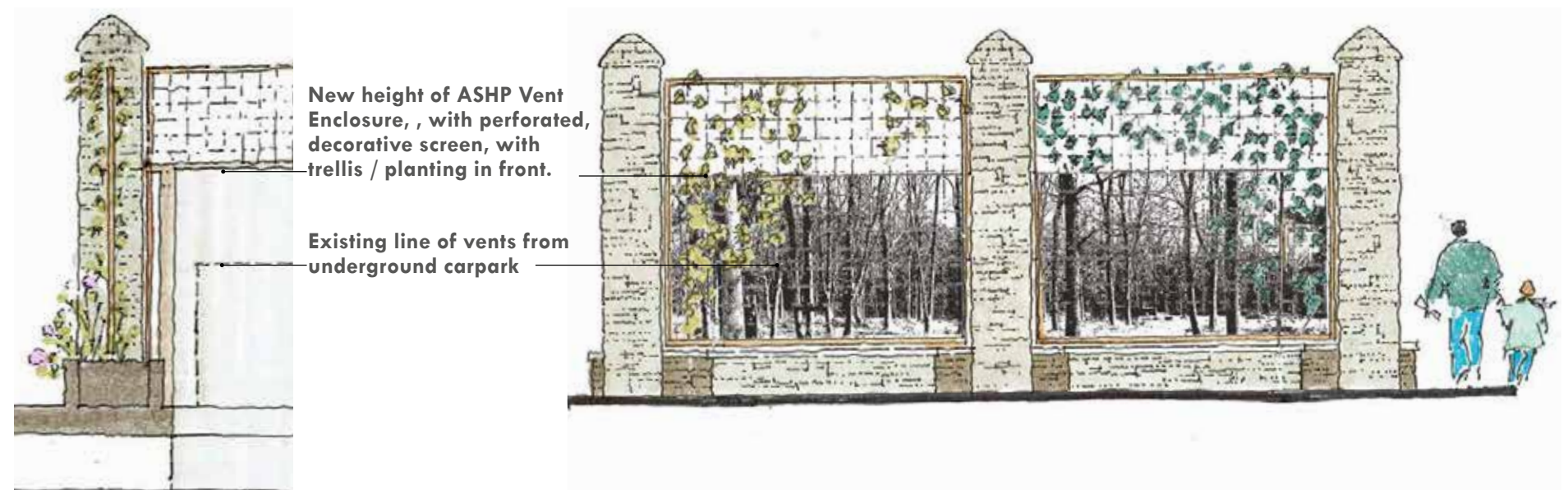


Fig. 5.10: ASHP Vent Enclosure details

6.0 SETTINGS OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS

Introduction

- 6.1 This chapter considers the effects of the proposals in Planning Applications 1 and 2 on nearby designated and non-designated heritage assets near the site. These include conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and unlisted buildings of merit.
- 6.2 The NPPF at paragraph 194 states that 'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.'
- 6.3 The map at fig 6.1 identifies all the heritage assets within the wider area of the site. Research sources include relevant conservation area appraisals and audits, Historic England's National Heritage List for England, and online interactive map of designations.

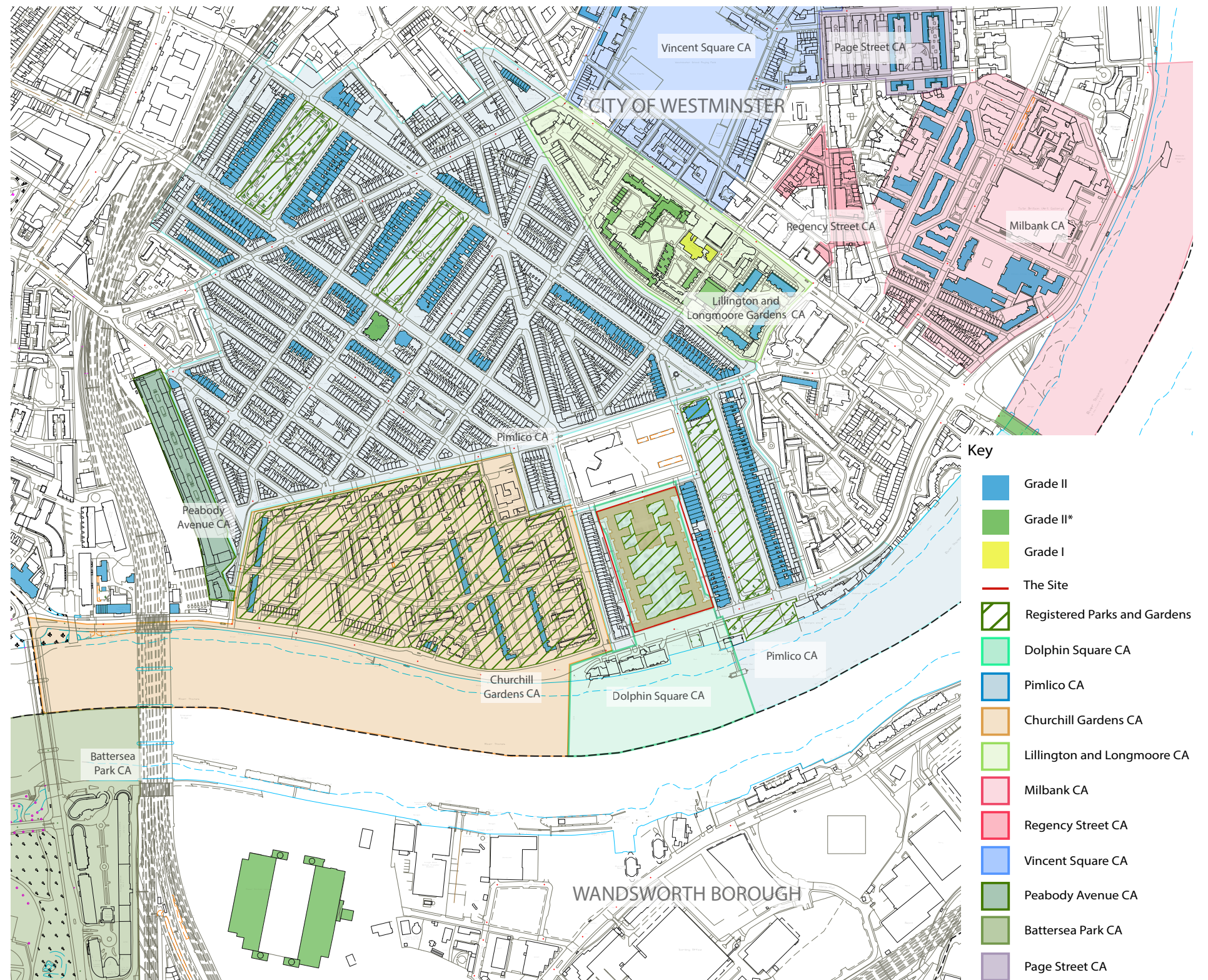


Fig. 6.1: Map showing heritage assets in the wider area around the site (marked in red).

6.0 SETTINGS OF NEARBY HERITAGE ASSETS (CONTD.)

Effects on settings and significance of nearby heritage assets

6.4 The map at fig 6.2 shows the heritage assets close to the site. The Dolphin Square Conservation Area, in which the site lies, is surrounded by the Pimlico Conservation Area and the Churchill Gardens Conservation Area. It is also in close proximity to the Lillington and Longmoore Gardens Conservation Area. These conservation areas include a number of listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, and unlisted buildings of merit.

6.5 The most likely to be affected are the Grade II listed western terrace of St. George’s Square within the Pimlico Conservation Area. Views of Dolphin Square, above this terrace can be seen in winter from the east side of the central gardens (fig 6.3). Only the guard railing, which is slightly increased in height for safety compliance, will be seen from here. In summer, Dolphin Square will be largely obscured by trees in this view.

6.6 The nature and scale of the proposals to the Dolphin Square Estate, as described in chapters 4 and 5, therefore, result in a minor change to the settings of these designated and non-designated heritage assets, and would have no effect on their significance or the ability to appreciate their significance.



Fig. 6.2: Zoomed-in map showing heritage assets near the site (marked in red).



Fig. 6.3: View of Dolphin Square from St. George’s Square above the listed terrace

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The proposals in Planning Applications 1 and 2 represent sensitive and harmonious change to the Dolphin Square Estate complex within the Dolphin Square Conservation Area. They respond to the requirement for functional and sustainability improvements. These changes cause no harm to the conservation area, the Grade II registered gardens, nor to the buildings themselves.
- 7.2 This Heritage Assessment Report considers the history of the area, the significance of the Dolphin Square Estate buildings and the conservation area of which it is a primary part. Detailed assessments of the effects of the proposals, on the buildings, the character and appearance of the Dolphin Square Conservation Area and the settings of nearby heritage assets show that the proposals will not lead to any harm to the significance of any heritage assets.
- 7.3 The proposed alterations will lead to a number of benefits such as an improved and worthy entrance from Chichester Street leading to a new and enhanced amenity space, and enlarged amenity block that better mediates between Rodney House and the central gardens, and significantly improves the energy and sustainability performance of the Estate.
- 7.4 The development proposals accord with relevant national, regional and local policies and guidance. These include the NPPF policies 194 – 208, London Plan 2021 policy HC1, and WCC's City Plan 2019-2040 policies 38, 39 and 40. HE's guidance, namely GPA Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment 2015, HEAN Note 1: Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management, and Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings 2018, and WCC guidance, namely Dolphin Square Conservation Area Audit 2008, Development and Demolition in Conservation Areas 2004, Retrofitting Historic Buildings for Sustainability 2013, have also been taken into account throughout the design development.
- 7.5 This well thought out, carefully designed and high-quality scheme, which has been fully consulted upon with Westminster City Council's planning officers, should therefore receive planning permission.

APPENDIX 1: DOLPHIN SQUARE GARDENS REGISTRATION DESCRIPTION

Official list entry

Heritage Category: **Park and Garden**

Grade: **II**

List Entry Number: **1455668**

Date first listed: **13-Jul-2018**

Location Description: **Dolphin Square Gardens, Pimlico, London SW1**

Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: **Greater London Authority**

District: **City of Westminster (London Borough)**

Parish: **Non Civil Parish**

National Grid Reference: **TQ2950078004**

Summary

Gardens to a 1930s block of flats, designed by Richard Sudell in approximately 1937.

Reasons for Designation

The courtyard gardens at Dolphin Square, a mid-1930s landscape for a private housing development by Richard Sudell, are registered at Grade II, for the following principal reasons: * Design interest: as a high-quality landscaping scheme providing a series of garden environments, where small-scale intimate spaces contrast with open lawns, with an emphasis on geometry and balance, carefully integrated with the surrounding building; * Rarity: one of few surviving substantial interwar landscaping schemes to a private housing estate; * Historic interest: one of a limited number of schemes known to survive by Richard Sudell, an important and influential figure in the development of mid-C20 landscape design, and a pioneering theorist, writer, and advocate of the profession; * Representative of Sudell's design philosophy, and illustrative of the principles set out in his significant 1933 book, *Landscape Gardening*; * Illustrating the fashion of the period for themed gardens, incorporating designs inspired by several nations' landscaping traditions; * Degree of survival: the overall structural layout survives very well, notwithstanding the reconfiguration of the former Spanish/Mexican garden and one of the western recessed gardens.

History

Dolphin Square is a block of flats with ancillary facilities, dating from 1935-1937, designed by Gordon Jeeves for Richard Costain Ltd. The neo-Georgian building consists of over 1200 flats arranged around a large central courtyard garden, and was designed to be a self-contained living environment, which originally included shops and services, sporting and leisure facilities, a bar and restaurant, a telephone exchange, car park, and petrol station. Landscaped gardens appear to have been an important part of Costain's vision for the scheme, and they were implemented in two phases, as construction of the building finished, to the designs of Richard Sudell.

The formation of the gardens was reported in the 'The Dolphin' – the flats' residents' magazine, in an article entitled 'Riverside Rendezvous: How Your Gardens Will Soon Appear', in October 1937. Designed for the 'health and enjoyment of Dolphinians', they were some of the largest communal private gardens in London, and provided a variety of environments: expanses of lawn with backgrounds of seasonal flowerbeds and formal beds, and more intimate, informal areas within the recesses between the building's projecting wings. Themed gardens were built in the four northernmost recesses, following Dutch, Italian, Japanese and Old English traditions, and there was a Spanish and Mexican garden on the roof of the amenity block, the area which would have been exposed to the best sunlight. Sudell, stated that a 'stroll around the square will ...enable you to make a tour of the whole horticultural world. London's Squares are beautiful indeed, but Dolphin Square will surpass them all in brightness, variety and originality'.

Sudell was an experience horticulturalist, and created a planting scheme to provide blooms as the seasons progressed, with appropriate plants concentrated in the areas of the greatest light and shade. Thousands of daffodils and tulips were planted, intended to give an early splash of colour, along with pansies, polyanthus and primroses, crocuses and snowdrops. Rose gardens fronted the amenity block, forming the formal centrepiece to the courtyard. The themed gardens had plants native to those regions, and elsewhere, a variety of shrubs were planted according to whether an area was intended to be intimate or open, formal or informal. Planting was used to emphasise the strong geometric layout, with the pathway along the north-south axis being lined with horse chestnut trees, creating a formal avenue with wide lawns to either side.

The principal structural elements of the scheme survive, though various features, such as some of the concrete urns and sculptural elements have been lost. The original central fountain was replaced by a bronze dolphin sculpture by James Butler, RA, to mark the 50th anniversary of the square in 1987. The Spanish and Mexican garden was reported to have had a central surface of blue, green and yellow tiles set in a geometrical design around a picturesque wellhead with brick and tile scroll-work, stone columns and trellis screening would have enclosed the garden. The Mexican ingredient was cacti. This garden was remodelled in the 1990s though retains the lion-head fountain and paving.

Costain is understood to have engaged the well-known landscape architect Richard Sudell directly. Sudell (1892-1968) was born near Preston, Lancashire. He began an apprenticeship as a gardener aged 14, and went on to study botany, chemistry and geology. He established his own horticultural consultancy in London in 1919, and during the 1920s, through the Royal Horticultural Society, met the eminent garden designers, Thomas Mawson, George Dillingstone, and Edward White, whose holistic focus on landscape, rather than just horticulture, appealed to Sudell. He was influential in bringing professional recognition to landscape design, being a founder member of the Institute of Landscape Architects, of which he was appointed president in 1955. A prolific author, he published numerous books on garden design and practical gardening of which 'Landscape Gardening' (1933) and the quarterly magazine 'Landscape and Garden' received wide recognition; he was appointed the gardens editor of the 'Ideal Home' magazine and a number of other publications. He advocated the consideration of landscape at factories, hotels, on roofs, for airports, and as part of new estates, and for landscape design to have as wide a reach as possible. Sudell spent three years in partnership with Marjory Allen on her innovative initiative to design a roof garden at

APPENDIX 1: DOLPHIN SQUARE GARDENS REGISTRATION DESCRIPTION (CONTD.)

Selfridges; this was lost in the Second World War. Part of his scheme at the de Havilland Aviation headquarters, St Albans survives, as do a number of memorial gardens, a landscape type to which he was forced to turn after the Second World War, when fewer private commissions were available. His memorial garden at the City of London Cemetery, Newham is included in the Grade I Register entry.

Details

Gardens to a 1930s block of flats, designed by Richard Sudell in approximately 1937.

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING: Dolphin Square stands in Pimlico, Westminster. The building is an oblong quadrangle orientated roughly north-south, with an internal courtyard garden of almost an hectare. This garden is technically a roof garden, having a basement below, and is level, though the natural topography slopes gently towards the river to the south. There is a single-storey amenity block in the north side of the courtyard, and this has also has a roof garden, of about 100m².

The landscaping continues along the outer elevations of the building on the east and west carriageways, and the riverside, separated by Grosvenor Road, was also part of the grounds.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES: the courtyard garden is only accessible to pedestrians. Primary access is from Chichester Street, to the north, and is via two vaulted passages through the building, emerging between the amenity block and the east or west range of the principal building. Access from the south is through three vaulted passages from Grosvenor Street, now with iron gates. Access is also possible from each of the building's 13 'houses'; their lobbies open both onto the street, and onto the courtyard gardens.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING: Dolphin Square was built in 1935-1937 to the designs of Gordon Jeeves. It is a large complex of 1236 flats with amenity facilities, originally aimed at a high-to-middle class clientele. The unlisted building is an oblong quadrangle, seven storeys high on the northern range, and ten storeys elsewhere, and is divided into 13 'houses'. Stylistically it is neo-Georgian, with strictly-ordered, repetitive elevations, which are slightly more restrained in their decoration on the inward-facing elevations. A single-storey range, containing leisure facilities, projects deeply into the northern half of the courtyard.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS: the courtyard garden is the principal element of the scheme. It follows a geometric layout, with a strong central axis running roughly north-south, connecting the loggia of the amenity block, the central fountain, and the three archways on the southern range. Paths cross the axis perpendicularly, dividing the gardens into distinct sections. There are five recesses along the east and west sides of the courtyard in between the projecting wings of the building; each contains a separate, small-scale garden. A continuous perimeter path separates these from the central features of the courtyard. Most beds are raised, with low Cotswold stone walls with concrete copings, and these generally follow a strict geometric layout; those bordering the sides of the amenity block digress from this framework and meander along the edge of the building. Paths are laid, in the main, with concrete slabs, some of which have crazy-paving borders and occasional brick highlights.

To the south of the courtyard there are large lawns either side of the central pathway, which is lined with pollarded horse chestnut trees, and there are clumps of trees on the outer edges of the lawns. The privet hedging along the northern edges of the lawns were part of Sudell's design; the hedging enclosing the outer and southern sides is a later introduction. North of the lawns is a formal arrangement of four raised lawns around a central pond with Butler's dolphin fountain at the centre. Within the lawns there are beds, echoing the shape of the pond, with notched corners. This stands in front of an open loggia, with Doric columns and a copper roof, flanked by raised beds and low pavilions of banded brick and ashlar.

At the centre of the loggia are steps up to the former Spanish garden on the roof of the amenity block. This is paved in terracotta-coloured tiles and has a lion's head fountain on the north side, in line with the principal axis of the courtyard. The Spanish garden, redesigned in around 2000, has pergolas, trellises, and a number of large potted shrubs.

The northern four recesses of the square originally contained an Italian, a Japanese, a Dutch and an Old English garden. Of these, the Japanese garden (which is said to have been re-christened the Chinese garden after the Second World War) in the north-east recess, is the most recognisable, retaining its narrow bridge and rockeries. The Italian garden, within the north-western recess retains the original layout, though enrichments: ivy-covered columns, classical sculptures and vases have been lost. The Dutch garden, between Duncan and Beatty Houses, is a formal arrangement with four raised beds around a central circular seating area; the armillary sundial and topiary do not survive. The English sunken garden, opposite, is a circular path around a bed, with raised beds to either side and in front.

In the central opposing recesses are two large pergolas supported on square stone and tile piers; attached trellising hides vents form the basement. There are stepped paths around the sides and through the centre of the pergolas, which converge at a circular step, which forms a perpendicular axis with the central fountain and the opposing pergola.

South of the pergolas, the next pair of recesses have raised lawns either side of a central pathway with seats and beds to the rear. That on the western side has been remodelled with a central circular seating area. The two southernmost recesses each have four raised beds bisected by pathways, with raised borders and a central seat. These have substantial shrubbery.

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