

WORLD CONSERVATION & EXHIBITIONS CENTRE

For more information, visit www.britishmuseum.org/wcec

2010 / 2013

The British Museum is undertaking an important new project that will transform the north-west corner of the Bloomsbury site. The World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre will house state-of-the-art laboratories and studios for the conservation, preservation and research of the collection, a new special exhibitions suite, world-class stores for the study of the collection as well as facilities to support the Museum's extensive national and international loans programme. These new facilities will enable the Museum to enhance its educational role and greatly increase the amount of training it is able to provide to institutions and colleagues in the UK and internationally. The project completion date is late 2013.

The Museum is committed to keeping the local community involved and informed about the project. One way we will be doing this is through quarterly newsletters which will be distributed locally. They will also be displayed in information cases on the site hoarding and on the Museum's website.

The Museum has appointed Mace as the construction manager for the project, and Mace will be responsible for all construction activity on the site.

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1 Work so far

Following the receipt of planning approval in December 2009, phase 1 of the demolition works started in April. This was completed in July 2010 and was followed by a comprehensive archaeological dig which finished in October. The archaeological excavation has given a fascinating insight into the rich history of the Bloomsbury area and we hope to have a display next year about the finds.

Additionally, enabling works have also taken place to clear the footprint of the new basement construction from live water, drainage, gas and electrical services.



Phase 1 demolition



Demolished site showing archaeological investigation works



Aerial view of site with archaeological garden features

2 Looking ahead

Phase 2 demolition is scheduled to commence at the end of November 2010.

Over the next few months, works will include:

- The erection of a 3.9m-high hoarding along the site frontage with Montague Place, including two pairs of gates
- The installation of temporary crossovers to allow vehicles to safely pass from the site on to the carriageway
- The formation of an access ramp leading from Montague Place into the construction site
- The deconstruction of 1 & 2 Montague Place, including the erection of scaffolding to all elevations which will be covered with dust-proof sheeting
- Underpinning and temporary support works to existing structures within the site
- Initial excavation of the site to reduce the levels in preparation for piling works



Demolition truck leaving site

During the course of the project we will update you on progress and on the

construction programme. You can contact us at any time on the contact details below.

3 Questions and answers

What can I expect to see over the next month?

As well as the erection of a hoarding and scaffolding along Montague Place, there will be several lorries arriving and leaving the Museum via Montague Place to remove the waste materials arising from the demolition process. Measures such as wheel washing and covering lorry loads with sheeting are in place.

When is the site active?

The site will be operational Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 18.00 and occasionally on Saturdays from 08.00 to 13.00. There may very occasionally be

some out-of-hours activity, for example the delivery of large plant. Neighbours will be advised of such activity in advance.

Are any special measures in place?

There are many measures in place to minimise the impact of the works on the local environment. Whilst most of these measures have generally been included in the method of work or machinery employed, we do monitor noise, dust and vibration generated by the works. This is real-time monitoring with text and email alerts so if we exceed pre-set levels, we are informed immediately in order that we can effect a remedial solution.

4 Who to contact

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact Heidi Weeks on 020 7323 8713 or email wcec@britishmuseum.org

If you have any questions regarding the activities on site, you can also contact Martin Field at Mace on 020 7323 8933 or email martin.field@macegroup.com

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Rendered view of new building in Montague Place