

**GORDON AND WOBURN SQUARE  
GARDENS**

**CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT  
PLAN**

**Prepared for  
The University of London  
by  
Land Use Consultants**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1. BASIC SITE INFORMATION

The two adjoining spaces of Gordon and Woburn Squares were developed for residential use in the mid 1800's, by the Bedford Estate. Due to their location in central London, the predominant use of buildings in the square is now commercial offices and institutional buildings of the University of London, now a major landowner in the district of Bloomsbury.

The freeholds of Gordon and Woburn Square Gardens were acquired by the University of London directly from the Bedford Estate in 1951. Gordon Square Gardens are managed via the Garden Committee, composed of inhabitants of the square. The University's Facilities Management and Estates Divisions manage Woburn Square. Maintenance of both gardens is by a private landscape contracting firm, Commercial Grounds Care. Gordon Square is open Monday to Friday 8am -8pm or dusk. Residents of houses facing the square pay maintenance charges, collected by LB Camden, allowing access on weekends. Residents of nearby streets can also pay a fee for access. Woburn Square is open Monday to Friday, 11am-3pm, April to September.

The two squares are located in Bloomsbury, London WC1. Bloomsbury is noted for its garden squares, which provide considerable areas of green space, most of which are open to the public. Refer to *Figure 1*. Location Plan. Gordon Square is a rectangular space, 132m north-south by 69m east-west, or .9 hectare. Woburn Square is much smaller, at 96m north-south by 21m east-west, or .2 hectare.

The square's elevation is 25m above sea level. Both are flat, with only minor level changes visible. The boundary tree and shrub planting within both squares is slightly raised, contained by low retaining walls in some places, although all entrances are level.

The soil in Bloomsbury is composed of riverine deposits which overlay the more well known London Clays. The type of river terrace gravels which cover Gordon and Woburn Squares, Lynch Hill Gravel, were deposited by the shifting course of the River Thames during the

'Wolstonian' era of the Pleistocene period.<sup>1</sup>

London enjoys a temperate climate, with average annual rainfall of 800mm spread relatively evenly throughout the year and temperatures range from a winter average of 4 degrees, in January, to a summer average of 17 degrees, in August. The inner city location of Gordon and Woburn Squares means temperature will be slightly higher, from the heat storage and radiation from surrounding buildings, resulting in fewer frost days and very little snow. Evaporation is slightly increased and thunderstorms are more frequent than over open countryside, with increased intensity downpours. As the buildings surrounding the two squares are generally four or five storeys, they shade and shelter localised areas of the gardens, particularly in winter. Wind is reduced in overall velocity, although gusts can increase close to tall buildings.

The site survey shows the existing layout of trees, paths and planting beds plotted on a current Ordnance Survey plan. A full topographical survey will need to be undertaken before the detail design is resolved.

Gordon and Woburn Squares are within the Bloomsbury Conservation Area, designated in 1968 and the Central London Area of Special Character. The London Squares Preservation Act of 1931 applies to them. Gordon Square is of Local Importance as a Nature Conservation Area.<sup>2</sup>

Many of the surrounding buildings and structures are listed; in Gordon Square, the Church of Christ the King, railings and walls are listed Grade I. On the western side, Nos. 1-5 and attached wall, 14-15 and attached railings and pillars, 16-25 and attached railings on 16; on the east side, Nos. 47-53 and attached railings, on the south side Nos. 55-59 and railings, and the lamp post at the corner of Gordon Square and Tavistock Street are all listed Grade II. In Woburn Square, Nos. 10-18 and attached railings and lampholder and Nos. 24-28 and attached railings are listed Grade II.<sup>3</sup>

### 1.1.1. Consultation Methodology

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<sup>1</sup> London Ecology Unit; Handbook 24

<sup>2</sup> London Parks & Gardens Trust; The London Inventory Historic Green Spaces Camden

<sup>3</sup> as above

During the preparation of this Conservation and Management Plan, the Access Plan (by Land Use Consultants) and the Audience Development Plan (by Groundwork Camden and Islington), the following groups, organisations and individuals were consulted. The frequency of use of the gardens, times of use, types of use or reasons for not using the gardens, which features are valued and ideas on existing positive and negative aspects of the gardens and potential improvements and responses to proposals, were gathered by a combination of direct survey/interviews, postal or on-line questionnaires, telephone and face-to-face discussions, meetings on and off-site.<sup>4</sup>

## 1.2. LIST OF CONSULTEES

- Gordon Square Garden Committee (including residents of square) re. current management, difficulties experienced, ideas for improvement and actual & potential income earning.
- Local Residents & Tenants Associations via postal questionnaire.
- Local Amenity Groups, Youth-focused groups, Community Groups, Hospitals, Health Centres and Libraries, via questionnaire with pre-paid envelope or website address for completing survey on-line.
- University of London students via Student Union website link to Groundwork questionnaire.
- University of London staff via postal questionnaire.
- Local businesses via postal questionnaire.
- Local schools and colleges via postal survey.
- Visitors to the square via observational exercises, headcounts, direct approach discussions on an ad-hoc basis for the Access Plan and via observational counts and user surveys, on four separate occasions for four hours, at different times to ensure

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<sup>4</sup> Groundwork Camden & Islington; Gordon & Woburn Squares – Questionnaire, - User Survey/Interview,  
- Observational Survey

representative analysis, for the Audience Development Plan.

- Bloomsbury Improvement Group via website link to Groundwork questionnaire.
- University of London Estates Division re. maintenance and management, via meetings and emails.
- University of London CCTV Control Room re. coverage of squares, problems commonly encountered, via visit to control room.
- Camden Police Partnership Unit re. existing crime, anti-social problems and potential design solutions, crime statistics for both squares, via site meetings and emails.
- London Borough of Camden Planning and Built Environment re. proposed work in Bloomsbury Conservation Area to buildings, landscape layout, trees, railings and designing out crime, via site meeting, telephone conversations.
- London Borough of Camden Street Policy re. new pedestrian crossing to link the two garden squares directly, via letter and telephone conversations.
- Institute of Education Day Nursery re. their current use of the play equipment in Woburn Square and desirable improvements, via telephone conversations.

## 2. UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

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### 2.1. CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE VALUE

#### 2.1.1. Summary of Historical Development

The important stages of the development of Gordon and Woburn Squares have been summarised in *Figure 2*. for Analysis of Historic Plans. Copies of the Bloomsbury Estate Plans, Parish Plans and Ordnance Survey Plans from which the information was obtained are included in *Appendix 1*.

- Prior to the 1550's, the land was part of the Tottenham Manor. It then became the Bloomsbury estate, granted to the first Earl of Southampton, Thomas Wriothesley. The property was inherited by William Russell, fifth Earl and first Duke of Bedford through the first Earl of Southampton's daughter and heiress, Rachel.<sup>5</sup>
- On John Roque's map of the cities of London and Westminster, which was surveyed from 1738 and printed in 1747, the area which became Gordon and Woburn Squares was still fields. They lie adjacent to Lambs Conduit Fields, to the east, which surrounded the Foundling Hospital. The established roads of Tottenham Court Road, to the west of the site and Great Russell Street, to the south, are also shown.
- The fifth Duke of Bedford began a major building programme in 1776, commencing with Bedford Square, which had an enclosed central garden surrounded by residential buildings, which faced and had views over the open space.
- A basic grid of streets was established through the estate, which was recorded in the Estate Plan of 1800. Some of the streets were later altered, as development continued under the sixth Duke, who succeeded in 1802.
- Other squares were built on the estate soon afterwards, including Russell Square and Burton Crescent (now called Cartwright

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<sup>5</sup> Ferguson & McIlveen; Gordon Square and Woburn Square An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund from Groundwork Camden

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Gardens) between 1800 and 1817, by the building firm of James Burton. The speculative lessees of building land were often required to enclose and plant the central gardens in squares.

- Thomas Cubitt was a large scale property developer, with extensive interests in Lord Grosvenor's estate in Belgravia as well as the Bloomsbury Estate. From 1820 to 1835, his firm built many of the houses and enclosed and planted the gardens of Euston, Tavistock, Torrington and Gordon Squares and laid out the garden of the adjoining Woburn Square.<sup>6</sup>

## GORDON SQUARE

Refer to *Figure 3*. for a photograph of the original railings in Gordon Square.

- Plans for the houses on Gordon Square were drawn up during the 1820's and 1830's, to designs by Thomas Cubitt's brother, Lewis.
- The construction of houses in Gordon Square continued over several decades, with a slow period of construction during the 1830's. James Alexander Frampton built seven houses on the east side of the square, on Cubitt's behalf. Cubitt continued building in the 1840's, although neither east nor west sides were completed by 1852. The executors of his estate completed the east side, after his death, in 1855.<sup>7</sup>
- Gordon Square was named after the sixth Duke's father-in-law (by his second wife), the Duke of Gordon. The sixth Duke was interested in architecture and landscape gardening, studying and often modifying the building plans for his estate. He personally designed and supervised the planting of Gordon Square Garden, including the original layout of shrubs and trees. He also paid for some of the recurring costs of the gardens, such as gravelling and replanting.
- To complete the scheme of Gordon, Torrington and Woburn

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<sup>6</sup> Longstaffe-Gowan, Tod; The London Town Garden 1700-1840

<sup>7</sup> Ferguson & McIlveen; Gordon Square and Woburn Square An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund from Groundwork Camden

Squares, gates were placed across each of the four streets to the north, to “reduce the influx of undesirables”. The gates were part of a series of eight in Bloomsbury, which were built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and removed c. 1891-1893.

- Greenwood’s map of 1830 shows the square without any ornamentation in the enclosed ‘gardens’.
- A Bloomsbury Estate plan of 1833 appears to show a proposed plan for the gardens, with a wide border and perimeter path and six curving paths leading in to a circular path. Two entrance gates are shown, on the centre of the long east and west sides of the square. Although the design was probably not built, it is very similar to the model square design originally published by J. C. Loudon in 1812, in *Hints on the Formation of Gardens and Pleasure Grounds*.<sup>8</sup>
- Despite the ideas proposed in 1833, the St. Pancras Parish plan of 1834 shows a very different, formal garden layout was constructed in Gordon Square, with a perimeter path and cruciform paths dividing the central space into four equal sized areas, with a circular path at the centre. Four entrances are positioned at the midpoint of each side.
- From the 1840’s the social mix of people living in the Bloomsbury district began to change, with professional people replacing the gentry. This was particularly so towards the east of the square, in the area of Lamb’s Conduit Fields.
- The University of London built a mock-tudor style Hall of Residence, on the south-west side of the square in 1848-9. Three years later the Catholic and Apostolic Church and linked Gothic cloister flats were also built on the south west side.
- St. Pancras Parish plans of 1849 and 1860 confirm that the formal, cruciform plan of the garden remained. On the more detailed Bedford Estate Plan of 1866, information about the planting is apparent. Trees, possibly pollarded Limes, are set at close spacings

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<sup>8</sup> Longstaffe-Gowan, Tod; *The London Town Garden 1700-1840*

(approximately 6m) around the inner edge of the perimeter path and double rows border the cruciform path. The square's border is densely planted, as is the central circular bed and four beds positioned in each of the lawns. The south east bed is oval in shape and distinguished by a path to the centre and a built feature. Seats are informally positioned on the lawn or beside the paths.

- A dramatic change in the garden layout had occurred by the Edition of the Ordnance Survey published in 1894, in the late Victorian era. An informal, curving path layout had been superimposed on the square, with removal of the cruciform paths and lime tree avenue. The eastern and north-east sections of the perimeter path were retained, as were the four entrances. Planting of trees and shrub beds became more irregular, particularly along the western side, with many small beds set within the lawn areas. A park keeper's hut was erected in the south-east corner, constructed of brick with a pitched tiled roof.
- Although the square's garden layout changes in 1894 may have been prompted by the growing public interest in playing tennis, it is not until the Ordnance Survey plan of 1938 that tennis courts are shown. Two courts are marked on the large northern lawn area. Whilst planting seems to be unchanged, a minor path in the north-west corner of the square has been removed.
- During the Edwardian era, Bloomsbury was considered a slightly Bohemian residential area. This was the period that the Bloomsbury group formed and many of the best known members lived at 46 Gordon Square, or in adjacent houses. They included the novelist Virginia Woolf (who lived here 1904-07), her sister, the artist Vanessa Bell, their brothers Toby and Adrian Stephen, the economic theorist John Maynard Keynes, critic and biographer Lytton Strachey and others.<sup>9</sup> Refer to **Appendix 4** for a more extensive list of residents.
- Whilst the First World War did not appear to effect the square, the Second World War had more direct consequences. The railings which had enclosed the square were removed, so that the iron could be reused. This allowed direct public access from all sides.

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<sup>9</sup> Wilson, Jean; Virginia Woolf Life & London

Some years later, a chain link fence was erected and presumably the public were again excluded, as it was not until 1974 that a formal agreement for access was organised between the London Borough of Camden and the Gordon Square Garden Committee.

- During the Second World War several houses surrounding the square were bombed. Many of these sites were acquired by the University of London, allowing expansion of teaching facilities and residential accommodation. The private residential use of the square was changing to that of institutes and professional offices, including Save the Children Fund, which had an office in the Square for more than thirty years.<sup>10</sup>
- The garden square was purchased by the University 8<sup>th</sup> May 1951, from the Bedford Estate, although management continued to be carried out by the Garden Square Committee.
- The gardener's hut was extended with a flat roofed section on the western side, prior to 1951. A paved square, with central planting bed for roses, was built at a raised level, behind the gardener's hut., circa 1970.
- Following an Act of Parliament in 1963 to create London Boroughs, an interim council was elected, which took over the administration of St Pancras Parish, which had existed since the Norman era.<sup>11</sup> Gordon Square had been on the southern boundary of the old parish. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 1965, the London Borough of Camden was created.<sup>12</sup>

## WOBURN SQUARE

Refer to **Figure 4.** for a photograph of the original railings in Woburn Square.

- Lying south of Gordon Square, the land upon which Woburn Square was eventually built, was in the adjoining Parish of Holborn. The

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<sup>10</sup> Fuller, Edward; Thirty Years in Gordon Square, in St. Pancras Journal

<sup>11</sup> Weinreb, B and Hibbert, C; The London Encyclopaedia

<sup>12</sup> Malcolm Holmes, Senior Archivist, Camden Local Studies Centre

Parish was first mentioned in a 10<sup>th</sup> century royal charter and became a Metropolitan Borough. It also became part of the London Borough of Camden, in due course.<sup>13</sup>

- The land was the last remaining plot on the Bloomsbury Estate within Holborn Parish, to be developed. The grid road layout of the 1800 estate plan had shown a road running directly through the space. By 1819, it was labelled Montague Street North, on Horwood's plan.
- The Bloomsbury Estate plan of 1830, showing proposals for the completion of the estate, has Woburn Square Garden shown virtually as it was subsequently laid out. The northern end of the square's gardens was squared off, rather than semi-circular, as shown. The remaining short section of the old road, linking Woburn to Russell Square was renamed Upper Montague Street.
- Originally the square was to be named Rothesay Square, possibly after the Wriothesley family, Earls of Southampton, who had previously owned Bloomsbury or perhaps in honour of the Prince Regent, Duke of Rothesay. The name was changed to Woburn, after Woburn Abbey, the seat of the Duke of Bedford.
- The land was considered to be wetlands, which the Duke of Bedford expressed concern about in 1817. He felt the development of houses would help alleviate the general nuisance of the swampy lowlands.
- In April 1829, the Sim family were contracted to build the whole of Woburn Square, consisting of 41 second rate houses, with the exception of Christ Church (Church of England), which was planned for the centre of the eastern side. Whilst the church appears on the 1834 St Pancras Parish plan, detail of how many houses were built at the time has not been included, as the square was not in that parish. Block plans and elevations of the buildings planned are held in the Woburn Abbey archive.
- Thomas Cubitt, who had built most of Gordon Square, also carried out work in Woburn Square. He formed and enclosed the central gardens during the 1830's, for which the residents were to pay rates

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<sup>13</sup> Weinreb, B and Hibbert, C; The London Encyclopaedia

towards the maintenance. He also laid sewers and foundations for the houses.

- The Sims then proceeded to build eighteen houses on the east side of the square, within the space between terraces fronting Gordon and Russell Squares. Twenty three houses were built on the west side of the square, backing onto houses facing Torrington Square. When James Sim died in 1833, his sons James and Robert continued with building, until by 1847, the square was complete.<sup>14</sup>
- The Bedford Estate plan of 1866 shows the completed square with the internal layout of the gardens. Two entrances, approximately at the centre of the east and west sides lead to an central island bed, from which perimeter paths ran north and south, The border of the gardens contained trees and shrubs as did the central oval bed, with long, thin, strips of lawn to the north and south.
- The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1871 shows minor changes in the garden layout. Another entrance on the west side had been positioned close to and just south of the existing entrance. A feature, possibly a specimen tree or planting bed, had been located on the northern lawn, with a small path connecting it to the main perimeter path. At the extreme ends of the long space were positioned a seat (north) and a planting bed (south).
- The second edition Ordnance Survey of 1894 is drawn in a less detailed style, however, individual trees have been indicated, at regular spacings around the edges of the garden and in the central beds. The trees that were planted in the 1830's would have attained a substantial size after 60 years growth. The extra western entrance had been removed and the path to the northern lawn feature, now a tree, connected to both east and west sides of the perimeter path.
- By 1938, the line of trees around the garden's edge had thinned considerably. At the northern end of the square a building had been erected, where the seat had been earlier. This was probably the summerhouse which exists today, an ornamental, pitched roof,

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<sup>14</sup> Ferguson & McIlveen; Gordon Square and Woburn Square An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund from Groundwork Camden

late Victorian style structure, with built-in seats facing the view along the length of the square. Behind the summerhouse is a very small yard enclosed by railings and a brick built shed, both of later construction than the summerhouse.

- As at Gordon Square and the majority of squares in London, the railings which had enclosed Woburn Square, were removed during World War II. Chain link fencing was erected as a replacement but only after years of the square being unenclosed.
- The University purchased the garden square from the Bedford Estate on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1951, as well as purchasing individual buildings as they became available.
- In 1958 the Warburg Institute, designed by Charles Holden, was built on the north western side of Woburn Square. It included premises for the Courtauld Institute. This began a major period of change in Woburn Square's appearance, as the University of London expanded, replacing the terraced housing with large institutional buildings.
- In the late 1960's, the terraced houses south of Christ Church on the eastern side of Woburn Square were demolished, for the construction of the Institute of Education. The School of African and Oriental Studies followed on the south side in 1972, with the loss of the southern section of the gardens which amounted to 37% of the total garden area or 1220m<sup>2</sup>. This was after a drawn out planning application and despite widespread public criticism of the proposal and the 'Save Woburn Square' campaign. Both buildings were designed by Sir Denys Lasdun. Later, Christ Church was also demolished and the space now forms the forecourt into the Education building. Upper Montague Street was renamed Thornhaugh Street, with a pedestrian walkway from it linking to the remainder of Gordon Square. The direct visual link between Russell and Woburn Squares had been destroyed.
- More recently, some play equipment for young children has been installed, with woodchip surfacing and a sandpit, near the gates. It is principally for the use of children attending the Institute of Education Day Nursery at 59 Gordon Square.

- Until recently, a sculpture of Tiruvalluvar, a Tamil philosopher was temporarily positioned outside the gardens, beside the chain link fencing on the southern boundary. It was donated to the School of African and Oriental Studies, in 1996. It has been returned to its original near the main entrance of the School, after building works were completed.

### 2.1.2. Site Survey & Plan

The site survey, based on the current Ordnance Survey, at A2 size/1:500 scale is folded and enclosed at the rear of the report. *Figure 5.* shows the Survey in reduced form, at 1:750 scale. *Figures 6. & 7.* are a photographic survey of Gordon Square and *Figures 8. & 9.* are a photographic survey of Woburn Square.

#### GORDON SQUARE

##### Walls and Fences

The existing boundary treatment is a low brick retaining wall (between 250-400mm high) with chain link mesh fence supported by black painted steel posts. The fence is in moderate condition but is easily climbable and does not prevent access after the gates are locked. As there are many mature Plane tree beside the boundary, enlarged roots have lifted the brick wall and adjacent paving in places. Gates are steel framed, chain link, with three single gates, on the north, east and south sides and a double maintenance gate on the western side of the square.

A dry-laid York stone retaining wall edges the path to the east of the square. The wall requires some repairs and replacement of the coping but is generally in reasonable condition and is an attractive asset. One short section of the wall, near the gardener's building is in poor condition, having partially collapsed.

A mesh fence encloses a temporary rubbish storage yard close to the western gate. Despite the shrub planting around it, the yard is still visible and it attracts vermin.

##### Surfaces

Paths are constructed of loose gravel which has not been topped up

or rolled recently and contains considerable amounts of organic matter. Edgings are generally Victorian curved top edging tiles. As the tiles project higher than the grass, they are a trip hazard and many have been damaged by mowers or pedestrians. Pre-cast concrete edging is also used in the square.

York stone slabs have been used as threshold stones at entrances. A small area is paved in stone beside the Gardener's building and behind the building on slightly elevated ground, a formal rose bed has been laid out using stone. Due to the shade cast by the Plane trees, the planting is unsuccessful.

Two round areas of crazy paving with central planting (or possibly ponds) and a crazy paving path contrast markedly with the gravel paths.

#### Site Furniture

Various styles of benches furnish the square, include timber and steel with timber slats, all eleven are movable. Styles include solid wood and several versions of timber slats on steel frames. Litter bins are numerous (nineteen), though not well sited and are constructed of timber slats or grey plastic with a red band. They do not blend in well with the garden. There are no dog waste bins as dog walking is not allowed under the garden bylaws.

At entrances discreet steel signs display opening hours and regulations of the square. They are in relatively good condition, however information on the heritage values of the square has not been included.

The streets and surrounding footpaths are lit with a variety of street lamps, on columns ranging from five to eight metres in height. The garden square does not contain any lighting. Some coverage of the southern end of the square is obtained from the CCTV cameras adjacent to Woburn Square, however, the central and northern sections of the gardens are not able to be viewed.

#### Building

The present Gardener's building comprises a rectangular brick building of circa 1880-90 with a gabled pitched roof, to which a flat roofed

brick built extension of circa 1940's has been added on the west side. The old building is more substantially built and appears to be in reasonable structural condition. The walls are one and a half bricks thick but contain panels of one brick in thickness. The gable ends are of roughcast render between timber framing and barge boards. The original building appears to have had a doorway in the centre of east and west elevations. That to the east has been bricked up; the doors have been removed from the western entrance and it is open to the later addition. The original west elevation of the old building is visible from within the addition and it appears that, if the later addition were to be demolished, quite limited making good would be required to reinstate the original appearance of the building.

The plain clay tile roof and ridge tiles appear in serviceable condition and the roof structure appears to be reasonably free from the kinds of distortion that would suggest significant timber decay. A small window has been cut into the north elevation at some time.

The later addition has walls of half brick thickness, stiffened by one brick thick piers at intervals. The flat roof appears to be reasonably sound, but the headroom internally is very low. The addition could not be used to house any type of use other than low grade storage as it has little inherent resistance to damp. It would have to be rebuilt if any use such as refreshment kiosk were considered.

The building is used primarily as a rest room for the gardeners, together with some storage. A WC is located within the older building whilst the later extension contains a Belfast sink, and basic tea making facilities. There is an electricity supply to the building, serving a distribution board within the later extension. The WC and sink appear to be connected to the main sewer but down pipes appear to discharge on to the ground.

## Planting

Mature Plane trees *Platanus x hispanica* grow at regular spacings around the perimeter of the square. Many of the trunks are over 1 metre in diameter, with canopies varying from 15 to 25 metres in diameter. Pollarded Common Lime trees, *Tilia x europaea*, have been

maintained in a formal line beside the original eastern path. Various smaller growing ornamental tree species grow between the Plane trees and in the central area of the square. There are several fine Beech trees *Fagus* species and a large number of Purple-leaved Plums *Prunus cerisifera* '*Pissardii*'. In recent years a number of commemorative trees have been planted.

The perimeter of the square is enclosed with shrub planting on slightly raised (approximately 400mm) beds, many of the shrubs are overmature and require replacement. The species include Gold dust plant *Aucuba japonica*, Mexican Orange Blossom *Choisya ternata*, Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, Mock Orange *Philadelphus* and Lilac *Syringa vulgaris*.

Numerous small rose beds are scattered throughout the central garden area. They generally contain modern shrub roses with the occasional standard rose. The condition of the roses varies, with some plants near the end of their productive lives. Some of the beds are in shaded situations which reduces flowering and plant vigour.

The lawns within Gordon Square are in good condition. Bluebells and Cow Parsley grow in swathes in the south western corner of the square.

## WOBURN SQUARE

### Boundary

As at Gordon Square, the boundary treatment consists of a low brick retaining wall (between 110-400mm high) and chain link mesh fence, supported by galvanised steel posts. The fence is in poor condition and does not prevent access by climbing. Again, some of the mature Plane tree have enlarged roots, which have lifted the brick wall and adjacent paving in places. Gates are steel framed, chain link, with a single gate, on the west side (usually locked) and a double gate, for maintenance, on the eastern side of the square. Both are close to the southern end of the square.

### Paths

Paths are constructed of loose gravel which has not been topped up

or rolled recently and contains considerable amounts of organic matter. The gravel can barely be seen in places. Edgings are generally Victorian curved top or straight edging tiles which again, are a trip hazard and have been damaged by mowers and pedestrians.

### Furniture

There are two benches in the centre of the square. One is an attractive style with thin horizontal painted slats on a curved steel frame, which could be used as the prototype for new benches. The other style is a more recent solid timber bench. Three modern grey and red plastic litter bins are positioned near the playground and entrance, though one has been pulled from the ground with its concrete footing. Several low level signs display opening hours, near the double gates.

The square does not contain lighting. However the surrounding streets and footpaths are lit with a modern reproduction of a Victorian street lamp design, on five metre columns. A number of CCTV cameras situated outside the gardens provide good coverage of the area, though some views are blocked by dense shrub growth. They are maintained by the University of London.

### Building

The present building comprises a timber framed summerhouse with a hipped roof, probably of late C19, facing south into Woburn Square, to the north of which are a small brick building, probably a store, with a flat roof and a small enclosed yard surrounded by iron railings on Portland stone copings on a low brick wall. The store and yard appear to have been constructed after the shelter. The railings around the yard seem likely to have been salvaged from a nearby building.

The roof structure appears reasonably free from the kinds of distortion that would suggest significant timber decay. The original covering, probably plain clay tile, has been replaced by a felt covering. The timber superstructure appears to be in good condition. The main posts along the north wall will have been vulnerable to damp trapped against the store and the corner posts of this wall will have been vulnerable to damage from the down pipes fixed to them.

The seats are complete and in surprisingly good condition. The concrete floor is serviceable but unsightly.

The building appears to have no services, other than an electrical connection to an external light on the western side. Down pipes discharge to the ground.

### Planting

Mature Plane trees *Platanus x hispanica* surround the square. One tree remains from the former southern half of the square and is 6m outside the fence. A number of smaller trees grow at the edges of the square, including Cherries and Purple-Leaved Plums.

Shrub beds enclose the square, however, the majority of plants are overmature and up to 6m in height. They provide little cover at ground level whilst blocking out light higher up. The oval bed towards the southern end of the garden is planted with Rhododendrons approximately 2m in height.

### Playground

A Lappset Tudor Rose unit with elevated platform and climbing structures, constructed of timber with steel bases to the posts, is set in woodchip surfacing with half-round timber edging. The surfacing is in very poor condition, and is well below the depth required to reduce injury. Repairs to the edging are needed. A round log acts as a balance beam and timber rounds set on end in the ground are stepping posts. The play equipment is not separated by fencing from the remainder of the square.

## 2.1.3. Character Assessment

### 2.1.4. Design Analysis

#### GORDON SQUARE GARDENS

The original cruciform layout was an extremely formal design, with straight paths enclosed by lines of trees. This was replaced, in most of the garden, with a very informal design of curving paths, randomly planted trees, swaths of shrubs and bulbs, with small rose beds positioned near paths.

Routes through the square are meandering and encourage visitors to walk slowly and enjoy the variety of views within the space. At present, views towards the surrounding buildings are restricted by tall shrubs and low hanging tree branches, though this would not have been the effect or intention when the garden was first laid out, with smaller trees and more intensive shrub maintenance, including regular pruning.

## WOBURN SQUARE GARDENS

The narrow, linear shape of Woburn Square Gardens resulted in a simple but formal layout of central lawn strip, edged with a path which allowed visitors to promenade. The summerhouse at the northern end provided an attractive feature and destination. The space was enclosed by a three metre wide shrub border and line of regularly spaced trees, creating an avenue effect but allowing views through to the surrounding houses. The centrally placed gates and planting beds visually broke up the 154 metre length. Since the removal of the southern half of the gardens and development of shrubs and small trees, which enclose the cut-off point, the extreme proportions of the space have been replaced with a more regular but less interesting character.

### **2.1.5. Relationship to Bloomsbury**

The character of Gordon and Woburn Squares, with houses overlooking the central gardens, is a distinctive characteristic of the whole of the Bloomsbury Estate. Successive Dukes of Bedford developed the estate, providing high quality residences near to the City of London. The provision of open space was included for aesthetic and health improving reasons. Gordon and Woburn Square Gardens are the result, and help to form a network through the district, along with Bedford, Bloomsbury, Cartwright, Tavistock, Torrington and Russell Square Gardens.

The larger and more palatial houses in Gordon Square were dignified with a large central garden compared with the second rate houses in Woburn Square, with narrower frontages and fewer storeys, which were apportioned a comparatively smaller space for the garden. The individual yards at the rear of houses are very small and were not designed to be used for recreation, so the garden squares fulfilled an

important function for the families living in the squares.

The squares were managed by garden committees consisting of residents who were obliged to pay rates for the upkeep. In return, they enjoyed private use of the space and the gardens were kept to a high standard.

In the early 1900's Bloomsbury had a reputation as an arty, Bohemian district. The development of the Bloomsbury Group, around the Stephen family, who lived at 46 Gordon Square was characteristic of the time. The group included forward thinkers in art, literature, philosophy and economic theory. Refer to *Appendix 4*.

During the twentieth century, the use of the buildings in Gordon and Woburn Square changed from purely residential, to professional offices and University of London residential, teaching and research functions. This trend occurred throughout Bloomsbury, due to its central location in London. The two garden squares were acquired by the University and their purpose changed to weekday lunchtime retreats for staff and students and they also were open to the general public, with management by the University.

#### **2.1.6. Changes**

The most important changes that Gordon Square Garden has experienced are the formal layout being replaced with an informal style in the 1890's, the removal of the railings in the 1940's and the function changing from private residential to publicly accessible space.

Major changes for Woburn Square Gardens are the removal of railings in the 1940's, allowing public access and the destruction of the southern portion of the gardens in 1972, for the construction of the School of African and Oriental Studies.

#### **2.1.7. Ecological Survey**

An ecological walkover survey of the adjoining Gordon (TQ298823) and Woburn (TQ299821) squares was undertaken by an LUC ecologist on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2004. The aim of the walkover was to provide a brief description of the habitats present and to assess the site's potential to

support species with high individual nature conservation value, for example species protected by wildlife legislation and/or targets of the National and regional Biodiversity Action Plans.

## GORDON SQUARE

Gordon Square (0.9ha) is a Site of Local Importance (SLI) for nature conservation. According to the London Ecology Unit (1993) an SLI is defined as a site which is or may potentially be of particular value to nearby residents or schools.

### Habitats

The boundary of the square consists of mature London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*) trees, together with over-grown linear shrub beds. Internally the square consists of improved regularly mown amenity grassland dominated by perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, daisy *Bellis perennis*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium* and greater plantain *Plantago major*. A number of formal ornamental tree/woody shrub beds and neglected rose beds also exist. These are particularly concentrated in the corners of the square and support a range of ornamental species, including snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*, crab apple *Malus* sp, roses *Rosa* sp, and cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, and native species such as elm *Ulmus* sp, and hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*. The ground flora beneath these woody areas is sparse and species-poor with occasional cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, chickweed *Stellaria media*, nettle-leaved bell flower *Campanula trachelium*, enchanters night-shade *Circaea lutetiana*, fever few *Tanacetum parthenium*, broad-leaved willow herb *Epilobium montanum* and American willow herb *E. ciliatum*.

The site supports occasional semi-mature individual trees including cherry plum *Prunus cerasifera* 'pissardii', and along the eastern boundary walk there is a line of common lime (*Tilia x europaea*) pollards.

### Protected species

*Breeding birds* - The trees and over-grown shrub beds are likely to support a range of common garden bird species. During the walkover survey, a number of bird species were recorded from the woody areas including blackbird, green finch, gold finch, blue tit and great tit.

*Bats* - The mature London plane trees around the perimeter of the site do not appear to possess any suitable holes, cracks or fissures which would provide suitable habitat for roosting bats.

## WOBURN SQUARE

Woburn Square (0.2ha) currently carries no nature conservation designations.

### Habitats

This small square has a perimeter of mature London plane, together with overgrown shrub beds including snowberry, cherry laurel, roses and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, the ground flora beneath these shady boundaries is sparse and species-poor.

The central area of the square comprises regularly mown amenity grassland and a children's play area.

### Protected species

*Breeding birds* – The woody boundaries of the site have the potential to support a range of common garden bird species, during the walkover blue tits and great tits were recorded in this area.

*Bats* - The mature London plane trees around the perimeter of the site do not appear to possess any suitable holes, cracks or fissures which would provide suitable habitat for roosting bats.

## 2.1.8. Bibliography & Sources

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## SOURCES

British Library Map Room

96 Euston Road

London NW1 2DB

Tel: 020 7412 7676

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Holborn Library

32-38 Theobalds Road

London WC1 8PA

Tel: 020 7974 6342

Camden Police Partnership Unit

London Metropolitan Police

Tel: 020 8733 6320

London Metropolitan Archives

40 Northampton Road

London EC1R OHB

Tel: 7332 3820

National Monuments Records Centre

Great Western Village

Kemble Drive

Swindon SN2 2GZ

Woburn Trust Archives

Woburn Abbey

Bedfordshire

Tel: 01525 290666

The following institutions were contacted but did not have any relevant information.

The Imperial War Museum

Lambeth, London

The National Archives

Kew, Surrey

### 3. SIGNIFICANCE

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A statement of significance explains what matters about a site, why and to whom. The site has been thoroughly described in Section 3. Understanding the Site. In Section 4, the important elements are listed and an appraisal of why they are significant is conducted. Significance is based on subjective judgements regarding the importance of an asset, whether international, national, regional or local and an assessment of its condition and vulnerability. Assets include tangible (such as buildings and structures) as well as intangible (such as perceptions and aesthetic) qualities.

#### 3.1. GENERAL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gordon and Woburn Square Gardens were designed for the use of local residents and today, although the surrounding district has changed, they are still essentially local parks in character. People who use the square travel to it from a relatively small area. The ecological and horticultural merits of the site are strictly local in scale. Recreational opportunities, whilst popular and enthusiastically entered into, are limited to more passive, informal, short-term activities. The aesthetic qualities of the gardens are heightened due to the relative absence of green space in the immediate area rather than any particularly superior design. The economic effect of the gardens is of a minor nature.

Where the squares are more than locally important, is in the areas of landscape and architectural history and cultural value.

The most significant aspect of the two garden squares is that they are examples of Georgian inspired town planning from the time period when much of central London's grand residential developments were created. Whilst Gordon Square Gardens have been altered internally, the extent is exactly as was originally laid out. Woburn Square Garden's extent has been much reduced but retains the original internal design. Both retain a garden-like ambience which is highly valued by local residents and visitors.

The regular perimeter planting of London Plane trees to both squares, defines the space and balances the gardens with the bulk and height

of the surrounding four to five storey buildings. The trees, being approximately 160 years old, have reached their middle age and have attained sizes up to 1.4m trunk diameter and 25m canopy diameter. They are a characteristic tree of wider streets and larger open spaces in London. The other important landscape element in Gordon Square is the remnant length of the original Lime tree colonnade. The internal edge of the rectangular path had been bordered with Common Limes on all four sides of the square.

Many of the buildings surrounding Gordon and Woburn Square are listed and together they form an interesting and attractive façade. Terraced houses from the 1830's are Grade II listed, together with their attached railings. The University Church of Christ the King, its railings and wall are Grade I listed.

The past residents of Gordon and Woburn Squares mean the squares have international significance in the respective fields of achievement, religion, law, art, literature, philosophy and economic theory. Gordon Square has featured in a painting by Vanessa Bell and the 1994 film *Tom and Viv*. **See Appendix 5**. Other unrecorded references to the squares in films, art and books are probable.

## 3.2. TABLE OF SIGNIFICANCE

Key Features by main value	Importance				Notes elements which detract from key features
	International	National	Regional	Local	
<b>1 Landscape History</b>					
1.1 Bloomsbury Garden Squares from Georgian era	✓	✓	✓	✓	original railings and gates missing
1.2 Historical evolution of uses and layouts			✓	✓	some unsympathetic later changes to layout
1.3 Plane trees originally planted mid-1800's			✓	✓	
1.4 Pollarded Lime trees form colonnade			✓	✓	some gaps in the colonnade
<b>2 Architectural History</b>					
2.1 Bloomsbury Conservation Area status		✓	✓	✓	unsympathetic developments
2.2 Numerous listed buildings and railings facing both squares		✓	✓	✓	views of buildings obscured by vegetation
2.3 Gardener's building in Gordon Square from Victorian era				✓	extension obscures attractive view of building
2.4 Summerhouse in Woburn Square from Victorian era				✓	unused shed and yard attached at rear
<b>3 Landscape Character &amp; Land Use</b>					
3.1 Gordon Square: mixture of formal & informal styles with 'wild area'				✓	wild area looks uncared for at some times of the year
3.2 Woburn Square: formal space with playground				✓	playground visually dominates space & isn't well sited

Key Features by main value	Importance				Notes elements which detract from key features
	International	National	Regional	Local	
<b>4 Ecological Value</b>					
4.1 Gordon Square: site of importance for nature conservation (SNC)				✓	
4.2 Both squares provide habitats in highly urbanised environment and form links with other garden square habitats				✓	vegetation lacks diversity
<b>5 Cultural Value</b>					
5.1 Succession of influential residents of the square, particularly the Bloomsbury Group in the early 20th Century	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.2 References to the squares in literature, art and films		✓	✓	✓	information is not well known
5.3 Memorial trees planted in Gordon Square				✓	tree selection & siting is poor
<b>6 Recreational Value</b>					
6.1 Amenity value of green, open space which is easily accessible to many people, because of the close proximity to where they live, work, study or are staying temporarily				✓	current condition of poor maintenance, overgrown shrubs & safety issues discourages people
6.2 Used for informal activities including walking, lunch/picnics, reading, playing				✓	limited range of activities
6.3 Used for private events on weekends			✓	✓	
6.4 Used by local residents (7 days/week), university students & staff, local business workers, tourists & visitors (5 days),				✓	limited opening hours of Woburn Square, both squares closed to public on weekends
6.5 Children attending the Inst. Of Ed. nursery use the play equipment occasionally				✓	unsafe bark surfacing, poor condition of equipment & lack of fencing deter more regular use
<b>7 Aesthetic &amp; Spiritual Value</b>					
7.1 Attractive views of tree groups, flowering shrubs, roses and open spaces				✓	poor level of maintenance is apparent, some planting blocks views & reduces safety
7.2 View of University Church of Christ the King from within Gordon Square				✓	view is obscured by vegetation
<b>8 Economic Value</b>					
8.1 Positive impact that the garden squares have on residential and commercial property				✓	
8.2 Income from events				✓	private events potentially restrict public use of the gardens

## 4. VISION AND POLICIES

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## 5. PROPOSALS

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### 5.1. CAPITAL WORKS

The proposed physical improvements to Gordon and Woburn Squares are summarised below. Also refer to *Figure 12.* the Masterplan at 1:750 scale.

#### 5.1.1. Paths and Paving

##### PATH LAYOUT

In Gordon Square, minor alterations to the paths are proposed near the western gate and storage yard, with removal of the crazy paving and replacement with gravel to match other paths. Near the gardener's building the path layout will change to align with the new gate position and allow improved visibility into the centre of the gardens. A widened section of path will provide an informal stage, sufficiently close to the power supply available from the gardener's building.

In Woburn Square, the proposed through route and new gates mean paths will be simplified and realigned at either end of the garden, with removal of the central crossover. See *Figure 13.* for Photomontage of proposed southern entrance.

##### PATH SURFACING

Gravel paths will be restored with removal of the existing surface layer, due to the high organic matter content, and replacement with 100mm layer of firmly compacted Coxwell gravel sub base over a geotextile membrane, an 80mm layer of Coxwell gravel, topped with a 15mm layer of path dressing. This will retain the existing nature (appearance and sound) of the gravel paths, whilst improving the hard wearing qualities and providing firmer access for wheelchairs. New paths will be constructed to match. See *Figure 14.* for path construction detail.

##### EDGINGS

All existing path edgings will be removed (stone, tile, concrete) and replaced with steel edging which is thin in section and can be curved to fit the shape of the paths. It is pegged into the ground to provide a long term and unobtrusive restraint system.

Between shrub beds and lawn areas, timber edging will be used. Again the narrowness of the timber section will allow it to be bent to match curves.

## STONE PAVING

Many of the existing gateways use a small area of stone paving to bridge the level change between gravel paths and paved sidewalks. Where necessary they will be relaid to less steep gradients. New gates will also employ the same detail of stone thresholds with stone from the raised rose garden being reused.

### 5.1.2. Railings, Gates, Walls and Fences

#### BOUNDARY RAILINGS AND GATES

The existing chain link fences are to be replaced with reproduction railings to match the original boundary railings. The low brick retaining wall will be repaired as required to provide a base for the reproduction Portland stone plinth, into which the uprights of the railings will be leaded and caulked in the traditional method. See *Figure 15*. Photomontage of proposed railings and gate at the western entrance of Gordon Square.

The overall height of the plinth and railings will be 1800mm and the height of the base wall will vary, to avoid changing the angle of railings. Gates are designed to be unobtrusive, various widths of 3m and 2m double gates and 1m pedestrian gates are proposed. Where the Plane tree roots have lifted walls from their horizontal alignment, a bridge will be formed with a steel support, allowing sufficient room for future growth. Refer to *Appendix 7*. for Engineer's report on the trial pits dug beside the brick wall. Railings are to be finished in Invisible Green colour. Refer to *Figures 165. to 19.* for railing layout, construction sketch details and gate sketch details. Dimensions were obtained from the Grade II listed railings attached to houses in Woburn Square, which match the design of the original garden square railings. A remnant section of the stone plinth forms a border to the shrub bed, near the Summerhouse in Woburn Square.

#### DRY STONE WALL

The majority of the existing dry stone wall on the eastern side of Gordon Square will be repaired. The short section of the wall near the gardener's building, which has been unsuccessfully rebuilt or repositioned in the past, will be removed to improve access and openness into the south-east corner.

#### FENCED STORAGE AREA

The existing yard in Gordon Square will be rebuilt closer to the boundary, allowing more screening with informal shrub planting on all sides. The yard can be reduced in size to accommodate 3-4 wheelie bins, as it is intended to use them in the future. Surfacing is to be Coxwell gravel and the area is to be enclosed with black plastic coated mesh fencing, to the height of the bins, with climbing plants placed on the outside. See *Figure 20*.

### 5.1.3. Planting

#### WORKS TO EXISTING TREES

As the Plane trees are in good condition, works to them will be restricted to crown lifting in both Gordon and Woburn Squares, to allow views into and out of the gardens and in Woburn Square, some crown reduction, down the centre line of the garden, to increase light levels and improve grass growth.

Some tree removals are proposed to improve sightlines including the Cherries at the southern end of Woburn Square and several trees from the group of *Prunus 'Pissardii'* at the northern end of Gordon Square. Also a pair of Laburnum in Gordon Square are in poor condition and should be removed.

#### NEW TREE PLANTING

The gaps in the Lime tree colonnade in Gordon Square are to be infilled with suitably sized *Tilia x europaea*.

#### SHRUB BORDERS

All shrub borders are to be redesigned to achieve a lower overall height, approximately 1.2m, allowing views into and out of the gardens. See *Figure 21*. Section through site boundary with planting improvements. Some of the existing larger shrubs in good condition

may be retained, to retain interest and variety, as long as they do not form a continuous block of taller vegetation. There will be considerable clearance of existing overgrown shrubs or reduction by pruning where appropriate. The wide eastern border of Gordon Square, edged by the dry stone wall, merits a more ambitious planting scheme and a more diverse range of flowering shrubs and hardy perennials is proposed. See *Figure 22*.

#### ROSE BEDS

The small rose beds in Gordon Square, which are at present scattered through the gardens are to be replaced with a new rose bed in the centre, where optimum sunny conditions are achievable. Rose varieties will be selected for their repeat flowering and disease resistant qualities.

#### WILD AREA/NATURAL PLANTING

The western border of Gordon Square, known as the wild area is to have the planting increased and diversified with shrubs and groundcover plants of native species and exotic plants which encourage and support birds and invertebrate species. The areas of bluebells and daffodils will be increased. See *Figure 23* for indicative layout and plant species.

### 5.1.4. Site Furniture and Signage

#### BENCH

The four seater timber slat and steel bench in Woburn Square is to be used as a prototype for the new benches for both squares. Refer to *Figure 24* for a photograph of the bench and *Figure 25* for construction details.

#### LITTER BINS

Robust steel, black painted litter bins by CU Phosco are to be installed in both garden squares, twelve bins in Gordon and five in Woburn. See *Figure 26* for detail. The byelaws of the University exclude dog walking and nearby Russell Square allows it, so dog waste bins will not be provided.

#### SIGNAGE

Four signs are proposed, with either interpretation information, walking route maps, general information or panels for public notices of events to be attached. The signs will be at the north and south entrances to Gordon Square and the north and south entrances to Woburn Square. The signs will be of long lasting vitreous enamel finish, similar to those used in Russell Square. See *Figure 27*.

Selected trees will be labelled with their botanical and common name with small, long lasting tree tags, for the information of visitors.

### 5.1.5. Buildings

#### THE GARDENER'S BUILDING IN GORDON SQUARE

The building is situated in a quite prominent position close to the southern entrance to the square and, unfortunately, it is the later addition which is visible from the pathways rather than the considerably more elegant original building.

The works will comprise the removal of the later addition and the restoration of the original appearance of the western elevation of the old building, complete with timber doors and frame. The electricity service will be extended to connect into the old building and by renovation of the WC and lobby, it is possible to provide a more compact but serviceable mess room and small kiosk. New windows and serving hatch will be added, as well as fitting out the interior to suitable standards. See *Figure 28.-31* for drawings of the existing building and proposed works and *Appendix 8* for the works specification.

To assist in protecting the building from vandalism and because of its development as a kiosk, alterations to the surrounding planting will be made, including York stone paved access to the serving hatch and doors, removal of the raised rose garden and some of the shrub beds and their replacement with lawn., making the building more visible and accessible. As well, the exterior will be lit at night. See *Figure 33*.

#### THE SUMMERHOUSE IN WOBURN SQUARE

Although now hidden, the proposal to create a route through Woburn Square will make the building much more prominent than at present and perhaps leaving it more exposed to the risk of vandalism. The good condition of the building may in some measure be due to the difficulty of gaining access to this area. The building will be lit at night to deter vandals.

It is suggested that the works comprise the removal of store and yard to the north, the replacement of the felt roof with new roof coverings to match the original (currently believed to be a plain clay tile roof) the removal of plastic gutters and redecoration of the painted timber structure. Consideration will be given to removing some of the panels in the north wall (either leaving them open or fitting vandal resistant glazing) in order to improve supervision of the shelter from the adjoining street. See *Figure 32*.

NOTE: As the woodwork or other parts of both structures which are covered, unexposed or inaccessible have not been inspected, it cannot be confirmed that any such part of the property is free from defect.

#### **5.1.6. Playground**

The existing play equipment and sandpit will be removed and replaced with a new playground at the southern end of Woburn Square. A low bow top fence will enclose the playground, with a self-closing gate for access. Within the enclosed space will be, as a minimum, a climbing frame with slide, double swing set, two springers, a bench and litter bin. The age range the equipment will be selected for will be two to four year olds, as the children attending the nearby nursery are the most likely users. Wet pour safety surfacing will surround the equipment, with areas of grass to either side. See *Figure 34*. The enclosed space will be more practical for the nursery staff to supervise a group of children and allow regular safety inspections of the equipment and playground to be carried out efficiently.

#### **5.1.7. Sculpture**

A sculpture has been offered to the University of London on a long term loan and the intention is to site it in Woburn Square, within the shrub

bed near the playground. The sculpture, made of bronze, entitled “The Green Man” by Lydia Karpinska, is the artist’s impression of a descriptive passage in the Virginia Woolf poem-like novel ‘The Waves’. Overall height of the sculpture is 184cm. See *Figure 35*.

#### **5.1.8. Off Site Proposals**

Other proposals which are intended to complete the works include;

- Removal of parallel parking bays (not angled bays) the eastern of Woburn Square and reduction of bays on the western side, because pedestrians access will be improved, the new railings are less likely to be damaged by vehicles and the use of the bays has declined since the Congestion Charge has been introduced.
- The pedestrian crossing between Gordon and Woburn Square is likely to be taken on by London Borough of Camden, with appropriate public consultation.
- The University of London intends to erect way marker signs throughout the district which will highlight the location of Gordon and Woburn Square Gardens. The project has planning approval and is in the tender stage.
- Analysis of the existing closed circuit television camera coverage of the gardens and consideration of installing more cameras where necessary. Also installation of signs informing visitors of the camera presence.

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **Notable Residents of Gordon and Woburn Squares**



## Residents of Gordon Square

No. 18 1880-1885 Sir Frederick Treves, Bt. (1853-1923) surgeon, founder of British Red Cross, protector of the Elephant Man and he named appendicitis.

No 18 1954 Theodore Komisarjevsky - theatrical producer, architect, artist and writer.

No. 20 1873-1883 Rev. William Josiah Irons (1812-1883) theological writer, vicar of Brompton 1840-1870, rector of St. Mary Woolnoth 1872-1883.

No. 22 1898-1900 Rev. Henry Wace (1836-1924) Dean of Canterbury, Principal of King's College, London.

No. 23 no date John Garnet Armstrong (1870-1949) Vice Admiral.

No. 26 1852 Rev. Christopher Heath (1802-1876) see No. 28

No. 26 no date William Archer (1856-1924) Drama critic, translator of Ibsen's plays.

No. 26 1865 Sir William Thomas Chesley (1833-1904) lawyer, Queen's Counsel, Conservative politician.

No. 28 1853-1863 Rev. Christopher Heath (1802-1876) left Church of England to join Edward Irving's congregation, responsible for erection of church in Gordon Square, ( see also No.s 28 & 38).

No. 28 1860 Christopher Heath, surgeon, son of Rev. Heath, held appointments at King's College, Westminster, St. George and St. James Dispensary, West London Hospital and University College.

No. 28 1864-1868 Lewis Pocock (1808-1882) F.S.A. art amateur, founded Art Union of London, director of Argus Life Assurance, writer on life assurance, patented scheme for electric lighting.

No. 28 1869-1889 Sir Henry Alfred Pitman (1808-1908) physician, registrar of the Royal College of Physicians.

No. 28 1890-1891 Sir Alexander Edward Miller, Queen's Counsel.

No. 31 St Pancras Vicarage

1852-1860 rev. Thomas Dale (1797-1870) Dean of Rochester, professor of English Literature & Language at University College, vicar of St. Pancras, publisher of literary and theological works.

No. 31 1860-1869 Rev. William Weldon Champneys (1807-1875) Dean of Lichfield, rector of St. Mary's Whitechapel, vicar of St. Pancras, provided schools for poor children.

No. 31 1869-1877 Rev. Anthony Wilson Thorold (1825-1895) Bishop of Rochester and of Winchester, incumbent of St. Giles-in-the-fields, vicar of St. Pancras.

No. 31 1878-1886 Rev. Canon Henry Donald Maurice Spence, vicar of St Pancras.

No. 31 1887-1906 Rev. Henry Luke Paget (1853-1937) vicar of St. Pancras.

No. 31 1890 Rev. Phillip Waggett

No. 32 1844-1852 John Romilly, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Romilly (1802-1874) Master of the Rolls, Liberal MP for Bridport and Devonport, Solicitor-General, Attorney -General, 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Sir Samuel Romilly, law reformer.

No. 33 no date Ivor John Carnegie Brown (1891-1974) critic, journalist, essayist and novelist.

No. 34 no date Charles Laughton (1899-1962) actor, Academy Award winner.

No. 35 1843-1864 Peregrine Bingham, the younger (1788-1864) legal writer, contributor to Westminster Review, police magistrate at Great Marlborough Street, son of biographer & poet of same name.

No. 35 1881-1900 James Martineau (1805-1900) Unitarian Divine minister? Professor of mental and moral philosophy at Manchester New College (based at University Hall, Gordon Square) trustee of Dr. Williams library.

No. 36 1878-1881 Charles Darling (1849-1936) barrister, created Lord Darling.

No. 37 1839-1842 M. Pedro de la Quintana, Mexican vice-consul.

No. 37 \*undated Clive Bell (Arthur Clive Howard Bell) (1881-1964), writer on art and literature.

No. 37 1947-1948 Kate O'Brien, Irish Novelist and playwright.

No. 38 1844-1849 Rev. Christopher Heath (1802-1876)

No. 38 1955-1964 Architects, H.P. Adams & C. Holden, designer of Senate House and other buildings for the University of London.

No. 39 1847-1859 Charles Phillips (1787?-1859) barrister (England & Ireland) author, leader at Old Bailey, commissioner of the Insolvent Debtor's court.

No. 39 \*1925 Duncan Grant, artist and Clive and Vanessa Bell (see No.s 37 & 46).

No. 41 \*1919-1956 John St. Loe Strachey, journalist, Alix Sargent, Florence

- and James Strachey (brother of Lytton)
- No. 41 \*1920-1923 Dora Carrington, painter.
- No. 41 \*1925 Francis Marshall and Ralph Partridge, artists??
- No. 42 1840-1841 Thomas Gordon Hake (1809-1895) physician and poet.
- No. 42 1871-1872 James Maden Holt, MP
- No. 44 1884, Mr Busk, barrister.
- No. 45 Charles Kaye Ogden (1889-1957) linguistics reformer.
- No. 46 1893-1903 Arthur Downes, doctor.
- No. 46 \*1904-1907 Virginia, Vanessa, Adrian and Thoby Stephen.
- No. 46 \*1907-1916+ Clive and Vanessa Bell (nee Stephen) writer on art and literature and artist, respectively.
- No. 46 \*1916-1946 John Maynard Keynes, economic theorist, became Lord Keynes.
- No. 46 \*1919- Lydia Lopokova, Russian born ballerina and wife of Keynes.
- No. 47 1896-1899 Henry Duff Trail (1842-1900) author, journalist on historical and political subjects, man of letters.
- No. 47 Samuel Jacobs
- No. 47 Brandon Thomas, playwright
- No. 48 Lionel Monkton (1861-1924) composer.
- No. 49 1859-1865 Robert Gambier, Admiral.
- No. 50 1898- 1899 Robert Thornburn Turnbull
- No. 50 \*1920-1924 Adrian and Karin Stephen, 1920-1922 Vanessa Bell and her children, 1922 Clive Bell
- No. 50 1966 Arthur Waley, poet and oriental scholar
- No. 51 1858-1862 Rev. Samuel Minton
- No. 51 c.1913 Rabbi Hertz.
- No. 51 \*pre-1919 undated Lytton Strachey, critic and biographer.
- No. 51 \*1919 Lady Jane Strachey (1840-1928) suffragette, mother of Lytton Strachey, author of *The Cause*, history of suffragette movement.
- No. 51 \*undated, Vanessa Bell (see No. 46)

No. 51 1931 Miss Mary Adshead, painter.

No. 53 William Courtney

No. 55 1921 Miss Peter's private school for girls.

No. 57 1893 Maurice Wilson Disher, English journalist and John L. Haydon, artist.

No. unknown 1927 Gordon Hall High School.

No. unknown Douglas Jerrold (1803-1857) English dramatist and writer for Punch magazine.

The \* indicates members of the **Bloomsbury Group**, which was an unstructured collection of people interested in art, literature, philosophy and economics, which evolved around the household of the Stephen siblings at 46 Gordon Square and their acquaintances from Trinity College, Cambridge University.

Although the following people are not known to have been residents of Gordon Square, as they were friends and associates of the group they would certainly have been visitors; Roger Fry (artist, employed by Slade School of Art), Desmond McCarthy, E.M. Forster (novelist), Leonard Woolf, (novelist and founder of the Hogarth Press, married Virginia Stephen), Saxon Sydney-Turner (treasury staff) ? Shove (economist), H.T. Norton (mathematician), Robert Trevelyan (poet), T.S. Eliot (poet), Aldous Huxley (novelist), Duncan Grant (artist & cousin of the Stracheys), David Garnett (writer), Leon Bakst (artist), Andre Derain (artist), Gerald Kelly (artist), Wyndham Lewis (artist), Gerald Brennan (writer), David Cecil (writer), Christopher Isherwood (writer), Vita Sackville-West (writer), Hugh Walpole (writer) and other members of the Strachey family.

### **Residents of Woburn Square**

No. 14 undated, Archibald Marshall.

No. 21 1876 William Stanley Jevons (1835-1882) theoretical economist.

No. 31 pre 1876 Christina Rossetti, poet, sister of Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

