

Issue 8

July 2025



LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

# The FLGH Newsletter

## Dear Colleagues,

*This newsletter provides an update on the School's major campus redevelopment project; the Firoz Lalji Global Hub Redevelopment Project at 35 Lincoln's Inn Fields.*

## Inside this issue:

Minimising Disruption	1
Monitoring Noise	2
Noise and dust control in SAL	3

## Estates Division Firoz Lalji Global Hub Redevelopment Newsletter

### Firoz Lalji Global Hub Redevelopment at 35 Lincoln Inn Fields

This newsletter sets out the works planned for the next four months and the completion of the first phase of works and the impact it may have on staff and students occupying the Sir Arthur Lewis Building (SAL), focusing in particular on:

- Demolition works
- Reinforced concrete works

#### Current demolition works

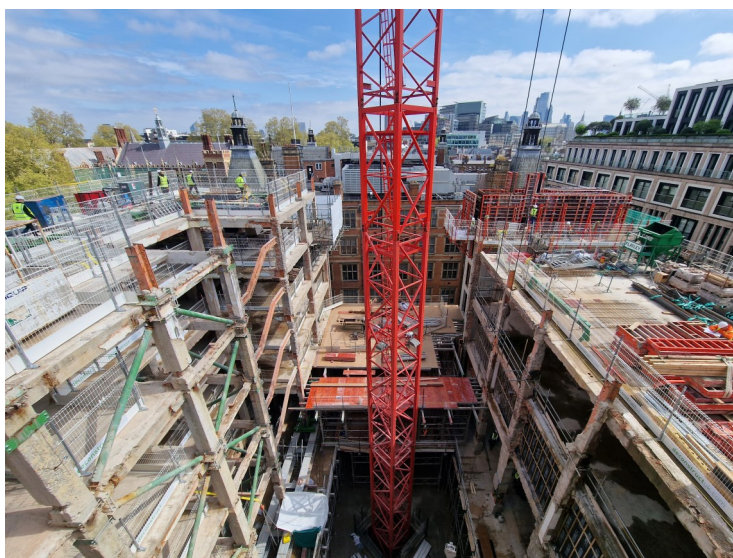
The main demolition works are complete. As Deconstruct (current contractor onsite) are concluding their works, the welfare area that is currently being used will be stripped out as will no longer be in use. Screed removal which will involve some small electric concrete breakers, will take place within the noise periods of 8am-10am, 12pm-2pm & 4pm-6pm. These works are along the Portugal Street elevation, with an estimated duration of 5 weeks from the middle of August 2025.

#### Construction works

The main structural works within the contractor scope are also coming to a completion and are expected to finish towards the end of July 2025.

However, the contractor will remain onsite to complete some reinforced concrete stairs within the ground floor. These work should have minimal impact and will last from July to September 2025.

Once Deconstruct conclude their package of work in September 2025, the follow-on fitout contractor will take possession of the site and will commence site set up.



*Yours sincerely*  
Cheryl Smitham  
Assistant Director of Capital Development

## What is noise and how is it measured?

Sound is what we hear—noise is unwanted sound. The difference between sound and noise depends upon the listener and circumstances. The loudest of sound is measured in units called decibels, abbreviated “dB”. The decibel is named after Alexander Graham Bell, the pioneer of the telephone.

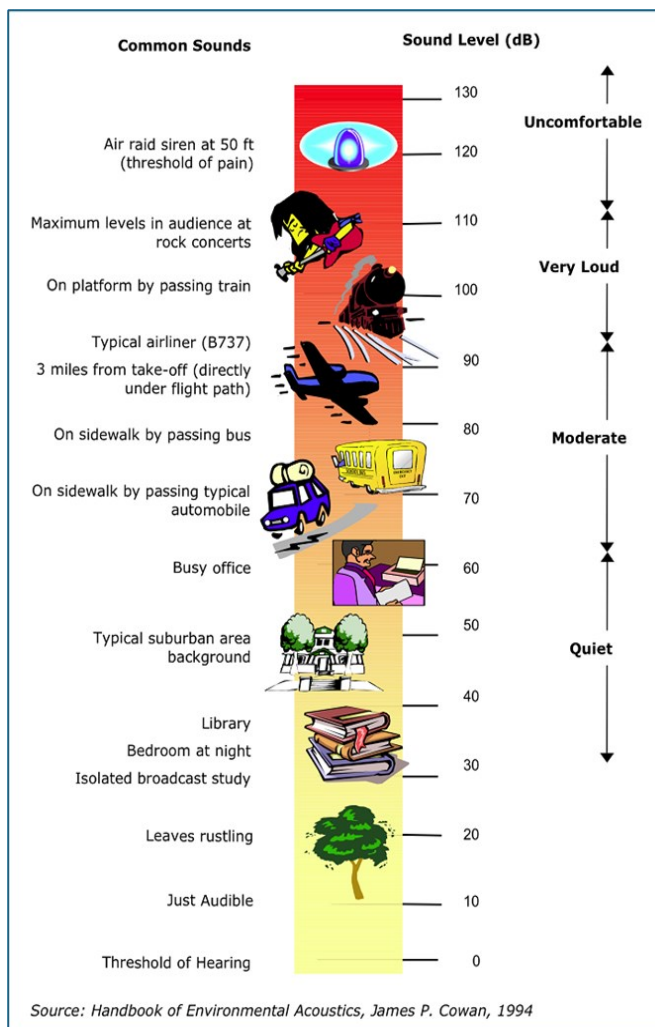


Image 2: Decibel Scale

A decibel unit expresses the relative intensity of sounds on a scale from zero, for the average least perceptible sound, to about 100 dB, which is near the level most people find uncomfortably loud.

Normal speech is around 50 to 60 dB. Distance plays an important role in the perceived sound level, decreasing by approximately 6 dB every time the distance from the source is doubled. Sound levels inside a building will be approximately 10 dB less than those outside, even when a window is open.

The adjacent chart demonstrates the sound scale in decibels for common noises.

## What governs noise levels?

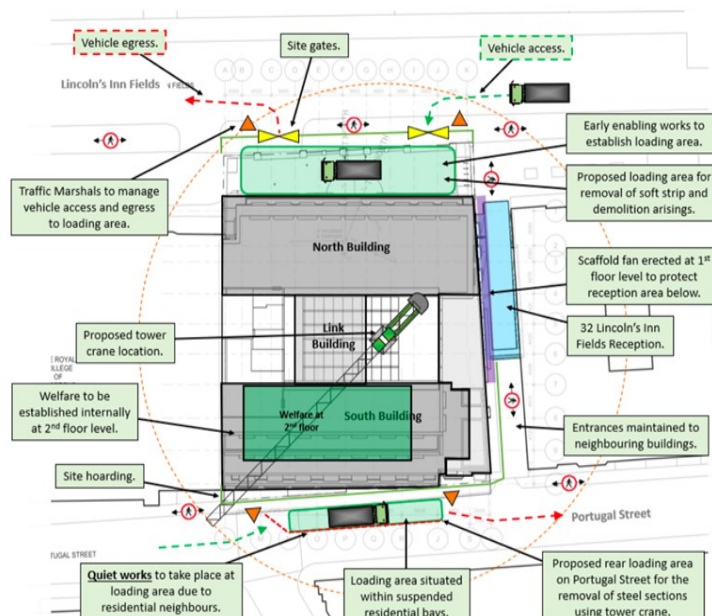
Westminster City Council (WCC) is the local authority covering the majority of the LSE campus. WCC operates a Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) to monitor, control, manage and enforce its statutory duties for major development sites and this will include the Firoz Lalji Global Hub Redevelopment project. The CoCP sets out standards and procedures for managing the environmental impacts during the construction of major projects. It covers the environmental, public health and safety aspects of the project that may effect the interests of local residents, businesses, the general public, and the surroundings of the proposed construction site.

The CoCP covers a number of aspects of construction including hours of operation, noise, dust, and traffic movements setting out the legislative framework covering all these issues under which WCC operate. WCC will impose a CoCP on the LSE as a condition of the planning process, or by prior agreement.

Image 3: Measures to mitigate effect of demolition

## Noise and Dust Control in SAL Building

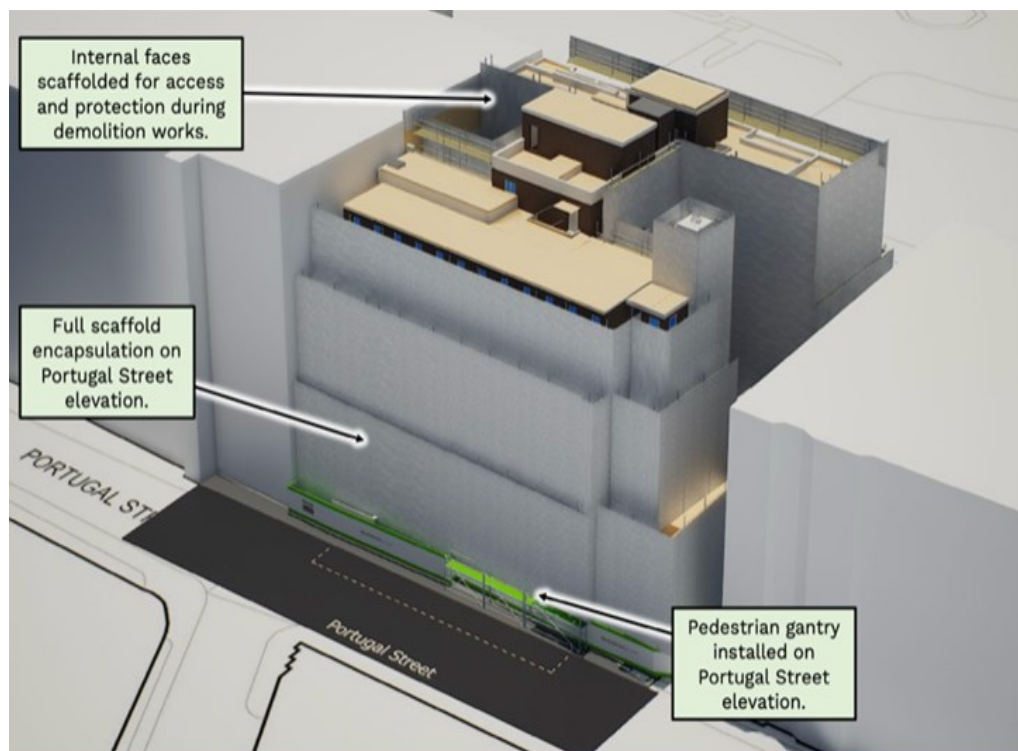
Once the final part of the planning permission has been approved by Westminster City Council (May 2024), the demolition contractor will start to remove the wall joining 35 Lincolns Inn Field facing the Sir Arthur Lewis Building. This is to allow space for a crane to be erected in the centre of the building. The demolition of the external wall will see an increase in the noise levels in the surrounding area. In order to mitigate against the effect of the increased dust levels the contractor will be wrapping the building in a Monarflex plastic sheeting, which not only give protection to the contractors operatives by allowing work to progress in all weather conditions, but also reduce noise and dust caused by the demolition works (see image 3).



## Noise and Dust Control SAL Building

In addition to the Monarflex sheeting (see image 4), the contractor will be installing an acoustic quilt (Soundex) behind the Monarflex which will be moved down the building as the demolition progresses. The Soundtex quilt can reduce the transfer of noise by up to 28.2 dB allowing staff and students in the surrounding building to continue their day-to-day activities.

Image 4: Monarflex wrapping proposal



The Estates team commissioned a survey within the SAL building to assess the effect of the noise from the demolition on individual teaching rooms. It was found that teaching and studying windows on the West elevation of the building (facing 35 LIF) are fitted with secondary glazing which will reduce the impact of the airborne transfer of noise caused by the demolition works. The table below illustrates the reduction in noise levels from different types of window treatment will have on external noise. The contractor will be taking noise measurements in surrounding buildings during particularly noisy activities to ensure the dB levels are within agreed parameters.

Table 1 below illustrates the reduction in noise levels different types of window treatment will have on external noise.

Type of Window	Estimated Sound Reduction in dB against external noise
Single glazed	Up to 20 dB
Double glazed	Up to 30 dB
Single glazed with additional secondary glazing	Up to 35 dB windows in SAL

Table 1

Further to the mitigation measures undertaken by the contractor to reduce the noise caused by the demolition process, the WCC code of construction practice sets out parameters to when noisy works can be carried out which are;

- between 08.00 and 18.00 Monday to Friday;
- between 08.00 and 13.00 on Saturday; and
- not at all on Sundays, bank holidays and public holidays.

These parameters state that the general level of site noise shall be no more than 70 dB(A) outside the nearest University building or private residence at the window of the occupied room closest to the site boundary, as recommended in the Wilson Report on Noise, 1963.

Further to the mandatory restrictions on working hours imposed by Westminster City Council, the contractor will also be required to only carry out noisy works between 08:00hrs – 10:00hrs, 12:00hrs – 14:00hrs and 16:00hrs – 18:00hrs.

In addition to the physical demolition works occurring there will be scaffolding erected adjacent to the entrance of the SAL building between Portugal Street and Lincoln Inn Fields which will span over the top of the glazed entrance. The scaffold will be designed to allow unhindered access to the building for staff and students and allow the existing bin area to be accessed as normal. There maybe some disruption whilst the scaffold is erected, but the contractor will limit works to the early mornings to avoid busy times.

If you require further information please email: [estates.35l@lse.ac.uk](mailto:estates.35l@lse.ac.uk) or contact  
Barbara Moldawa, Senior Project Manager: [b.moldawa@lse.ac.uk](mailto:b.moldawa@lse.ac.uk)