

The Courtauld

The Strand Aldwych Project – Briefing Note – updated 12 August 2021

Given the location of Duchy House on the corner of the Strand and Waterloo Bridge, the purpose of this briefing note is to inform those accepting an offer of accommodation in Duchy House for the academic year 2021/22 about **The Strand Aldwych Project**, which one side of Duchy House overlooks

As an incoming resident living in Duchy House you need to be aware of the changes being made to the Strand. By the time you are likely to be moving into Duchy House, the traffic switch will have happened but there will be some on-going improvement work to create the new traffic free street scape.

- 1.0 Westminster City Council (WCC) has commenced work on delivering public realm improvements in the Strand Aldwych area. The project is due to complete November 2022.
- 2.0 [The Strand Aldwych project](#) will transform this traffic dominated gyratory into a pedestrian-focused destination with strong links to the surrounding districts. The vision is for the area to become a global creative and cultural quarter which will be an international beacon for creativity, enterprise and learning.
- 3.0 Works to implement the scheme commenced in January 2021 and are due to complete in late 2022. The scheme will be delivered in 3 main stages:
Pre-Switch - January 2021 to August 2021 - Works in the main three signalised junctions along Aldwych to prepare them to receive two-way traffic in the future: Strand - Waterloo Bridge, Aldwych - Kingsway and Strand - Arundel Street.
Aldwych switch to two-way - August 2021 - Switch to two-way: During a long weekend late August, Strand and Aldwych will be closed to traffic to facilitate the switch of Aldwych to two-way traffic and the closure of Strand to create the new public space.
Post-Switch - August 2021 to Late 2022 - From August 2021 to late 2022, works will focus on the remaining areas of the scheme, including the Aldwych - Catherine Street and Aldwych – Melbourne Place junctions, the St Clements Danes Church area and works along Strand to create the new public space.
- 5.0 As of 21 July 2021, WCC have advised that the change of Aldwych to two-way operation is proposed to be undertaken between **Thursday 19 and Sunday 22 August 2021**. Both Strand and Aldwych will need to be closed to traffic while this operation takes place. Subject to suitable weather conditions, this **closure will begin at 7pm on Thursday 19 August and run until Sunday 22 August early**

afternoon. The painting of road markings in wet conditions will though not be possible. However, subject to the weather, on Sunday 22 August Aldwych will reopen as a two-way road, and Strand will be permanently closed to traffic between Surrey Street and the Waterloo Bridge. There is likely to be major disruption while certain roads are closed within the vicinity, and it is advisable to avoid the area by road during this period noted above, but this period does not coincide with arrival dates to live in Duchy House.

- 6.0 On Sunday 22 August, early afternoon, the Strand will become a Pedestrian/Cycle Zone. This means all on-street deliveries from the 22 August will have to be organised between midnight and 10am. However, some contractor and delivery vehicles may be permitted entry to the public realm (that is the area between Surrey Street and Waterloo Bridge) between 10:00 and midnight Monday to Sunday but this will be controlled and limited (further details on this arrangement are to be confirmed). Entry to the public realm during this time period will be controlled by temporary bollards pending the installation of permanent automatic Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) bollards.
- 7.0 From 22 August the next phase of works will be begin which will have some direct impact on the frontages of our Somerset House and Duchy House premises. The works fall into three key areas as follows:
- **1 – Completion of Aldwych works** – Works in Aldwych will continue once the switch over of Aldwych to two way is completed on the 22 August. As part of this phase the section between 180 Strand and Australia House will be completed (scheduled for 2022). Work to create a new connection to the Victorian sewer below the Strand will take place, with a shaft outside 170 Strand starting **23 August to mid-September 2021**.
 - **2 – HVM or Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures** - This phase will see the security perimeter of the public space being built. The team will start with the Western Alignment (near the ME hotel, opposite Duchy House) **starting October 2021**. Works will take approximately 4 months at this location. Working hours are 08:00 to 16:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 to 13:00 on Saturday's.
 - **3 – Strand Meanwhile landscape works** – During the last phase the landscape of the 'Strand' section will be completed. This phase is scheduled from January to November 2022.
- 9.0 The Courtauld's [Head of Estates and Facilities](#) is participating in regular meetings with WCC and its Project Implementation Team via an Operational and Maintenance Project Group which includes representation from Kings College London, Somerset House Trust, St. Mary's Le Strand and the Northbank BID.