

Table 3.31 Summary of the Assessment for Walls and Revetments

<i>Building No., Name & Designation</i>	<i>Date of Construction and Original Use</i>	<i>Reference Drawings</i>
Walls and Revetments Within either Central Police Station or Victoria Prison Declared Monument	Various External walls, internal division and revetment walls	Drawings provided by RDA/HdeM
<i>Brief Overview</i>	<i>Proposed Adaptive Uses</i>	<i>Significance (refer to Section 3.11 of the Conservation Management Plan dated June 2008)</i>
There is a variety of masonry and brick walls throughout the Site, the function of which varies from security to structure to division of the various parts of the Site. Many of these – mostly the external and granite revetment walls – are some of the earliest structures on the Site.		HIGH Though there are some areas of wall which are later and of less significance, the general location, pattern and construction of the walls throughout the Site is of interest for their age, relationship to the Site and the sense of foreboding portrayed to the outside world.
<i>Conservation Approach</i>	<i>Major Proposed Changes (for Mitigations see Annex A1)</i>	<i>Other Heritage Impact Rating Assessments</i>
There are a number of walls of high significance around and across the Site which are seen as highly significant structures. The intention is to keep the external walls to the whole Site very much as they are at present. The internal revetment walls will also all be retained though some more modifications will be undertaken here to provide entrances and exits.	Modifications to the revetment walls will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opening of a new pedestrian gateway in the revetment wall on Arbuthnot Road close to Bauhinia House in the location of a former historic opening to the Site. This will also provide an emergency exit from the Site. • The taking down and rebuilding of a section of high revetment wall onto Old Bailey Street at the northwest corner of the site of the General Offices. This part of the wall has been prejudiced by a wall tree and is leaning over to some degree. As there is to be a deep basement next to this wall it would seem to be more sensible to take down the unstable section and rebuild it rather than trying to stabilize it in situ. • The single storey red brick extension adjacent to the south side of the Ablutions building on Old Bailey Street will be removed to provide a vehicle access to the new service yard. • The retaining wall to the south of the new service yard is currently heavily buttressed with steelwork. A new service entrance is to be cut in this wall for access to the back of house spaces of the new arts-related building. As the wall is already in poor condition and new basements are to be excavated on its south side, it will more practical to take it down and rebuild it rather than stabilizing it in situ. • A new gateway will be made in the wall on Old Bailey Street adjacent to the west end of Barrack Block. This is necessary to provide access to the Site for people coming from Staunton Street. The gateway will follow the pattern of the historic gates – one gate pier of which remains. • The curved modern concrete wall that has been built to allow the sweep of Arbuthnot Road into Wyndham Street will be rebuilt to allow new footpath to be provided. The intention is to rebuild the wall with a feature facing treatment, using a material similar to that proposed for use on the facades of the new buildings. This will identify this particular section of wall as not being original or on the original alignment of the historic granite wall. • The wall which run east west across the Site to the south of the Barrack Block is an early retaining wall. This is to be repaired but there will be three new openings created in it (two of these will be about 1.5m wide to accommodate escape routes from the new stairs through A and C Halls. The third will be wider to accommodate the new public circulation access tunnel with a stairway and lift to the upper site levels. • The new footbridge from the mid-levels escalator to the Site will require the existing balustrade between the Police Headquarters and the Armoury buildings on Old Bailey Street to be removed. 	Impact Rating: Generally 3 - Acceptable Impact with mitigation measures The impacts of these modifications to the walls should not greatly compromise their historic significance, and the greater accessibility of the site will greatly benefit its future adaptive uses. The new openings will not be wider and higher than they need to be for the pedestrian traffic using them for access and emergency evacuation , and the scale and continuity and materials of the revetment walls will still retain their strong character of containment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The north face of the buttressed boundary wall running the full length of Chancery Lane will be fitted with a frame on which plants can be grown. The frame will be fitted with reversible fixings to the wall and will incorporate an irrigation system designed to protect the wall from moisture penetration. Although the new “green wall” will hide the severe rendered face of the Prison wall, there will be the merit for the Prison Yard becoming a place with a softer setting which the public can use and sit in. The existing razor wire and broken glass will be removed from the top of the wall to remove the danger to workmen, although consideration will be given to retaining a section for interpretation purposes. The retaining wall will be strengthened with ground anchors, and pointing defects will generally be repaired. • Significant alteration to heritage value to the walls where repair and strengthening is to be carried out is not anticipated. The most significant alterations to heritage value are where new openings are being created for Old Bailey and Arbuthnot new wings; in association with the footbridge and to the curved wall by buildings Nos. 4, 5 and 6. There is also significant impact on the wall to the service yard and to Old Bailey Street where a section has to be taken down and rebuilt, partly for repair and partly to assist with the new build. The new openings are part of the key design decisions about people flowing through the new buildings across the site. In structural terms, the stability and integrity of the walls is a primary concern. For the walls around the OBW stability during construction is an issue, and the service yard wall is currently unstable and hence needs to be taken down and rebuilt. In terms of the openings through walls, these will be designed so as to ensure the integrity of the wall remains, and also ensure that the existing wall and foundations are still adequate to cope with any slight additional loading. 	
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