

**John Dalton Heavy Engineering Building
Manchester Metropolitan University**

**Installation of External
Ventilation Grilles**

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

John Dalton Heavy Engineering Building – External Louvres

26-004-DA 01 Design and Access Statement
05 March 2026

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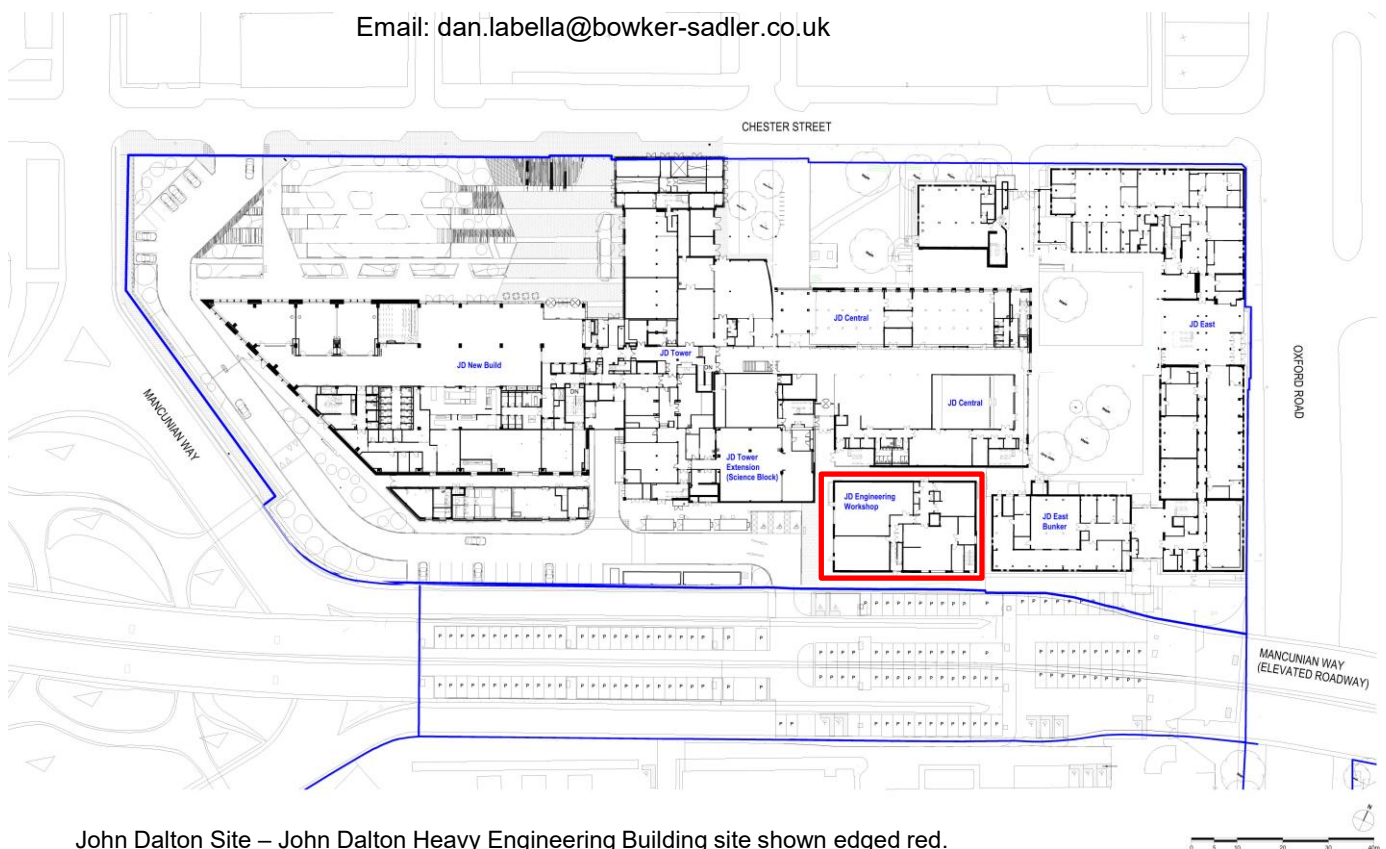
1.0 INTRODUCTION

This statement accompanies and supports the Full Planning Application, submitted on behalf of Manchester Metropolitan University, for the addition of attenuated ventilation grilles to the south elevation of the John Dalton Heavy Engineering Building.

Project Team

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1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

Location.

The John Dalton Heavy Engineering Building is located in an area of the MMU campus that is currently bounded by the John Dalton Tower, John Dalton Central and John Dalton East and by the Mancunian Way to the south. It can be accessed from Chester Street to the north of the building or via an internal road beneath the Mancunian Way.



Topography and existing buildings.

The John Dalton Heavy Engineering Building comprises of 2 floors of accommodation and was constructed in 2010. The building is effectively annexed to the main John Dalton Building. Its south facing façade is partly obscured by the Mancunian Way slip road which lies immediately to the south.

Access.

The unit can be accessed by all staff, students and visitors arriving on foot via the main entrance from Chester Street. Vehicles enter the site via the access road off Chester Street or via the internal road network beneath the Mancunian Way.

Boundaries.

There are no boundaries to the building itself other than those as defined on the redline plan which does not physically manifest itself on the site.

1.2 SITE PHOTOGRAPHS access and surroundings



John Dalton HE Building as viewed from the South-West



John Dalton HE Building as viewed from the South-East



John Dalton HE Building as viewed from the West



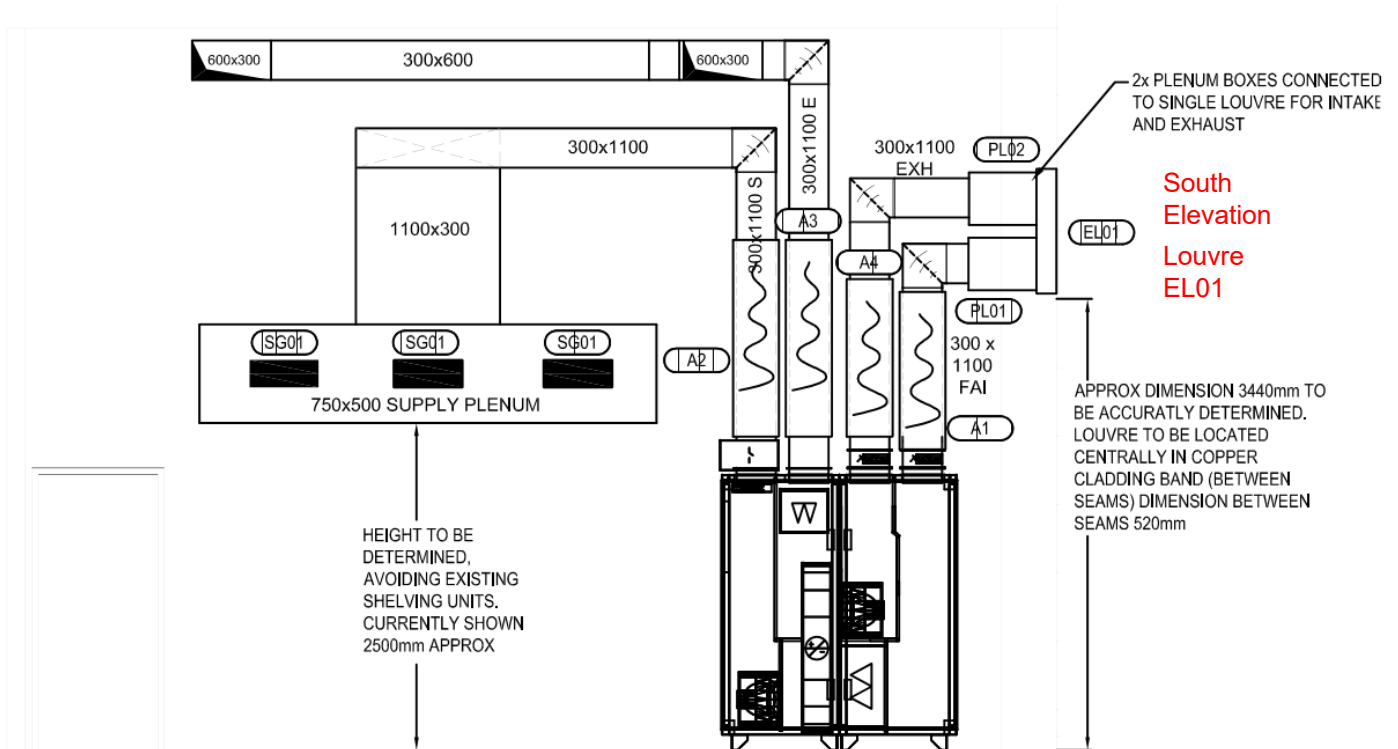
John Dalton HE Building Copper Cladding close-up

John Dalton Heavy Engineering Building – External Louvres

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1.3 PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

This application seeks approval for the installation of 1 externally mounted louvres positioned at high level on the south-facing façade of the John Dalton Heavy Engineering Building. This louvre will provide exhaust and intake openings for a new ventilation system that will be installed within room EW.04 which has been designed by PSA (MEP Engineers) to deal with inadequate ventilation within the room. The aim of which is to improve ventilation to the workshop where fumes and odours have been accumulating, creating poor air quality and discomfort for occupants. The proposed solution also ensures the space remains fully compliant with HSE expectations for containment control.



Excerpt Cross-section from MEP drawing showing the ventilation kit proposed for room EW.04 and the ducting which will be routed to the outside wall on the south-facing elevation

2.0 PLANNING POLICIES

2.1 Planning Policy

No reference has been made to any Planning Policy given the nature of the proposal

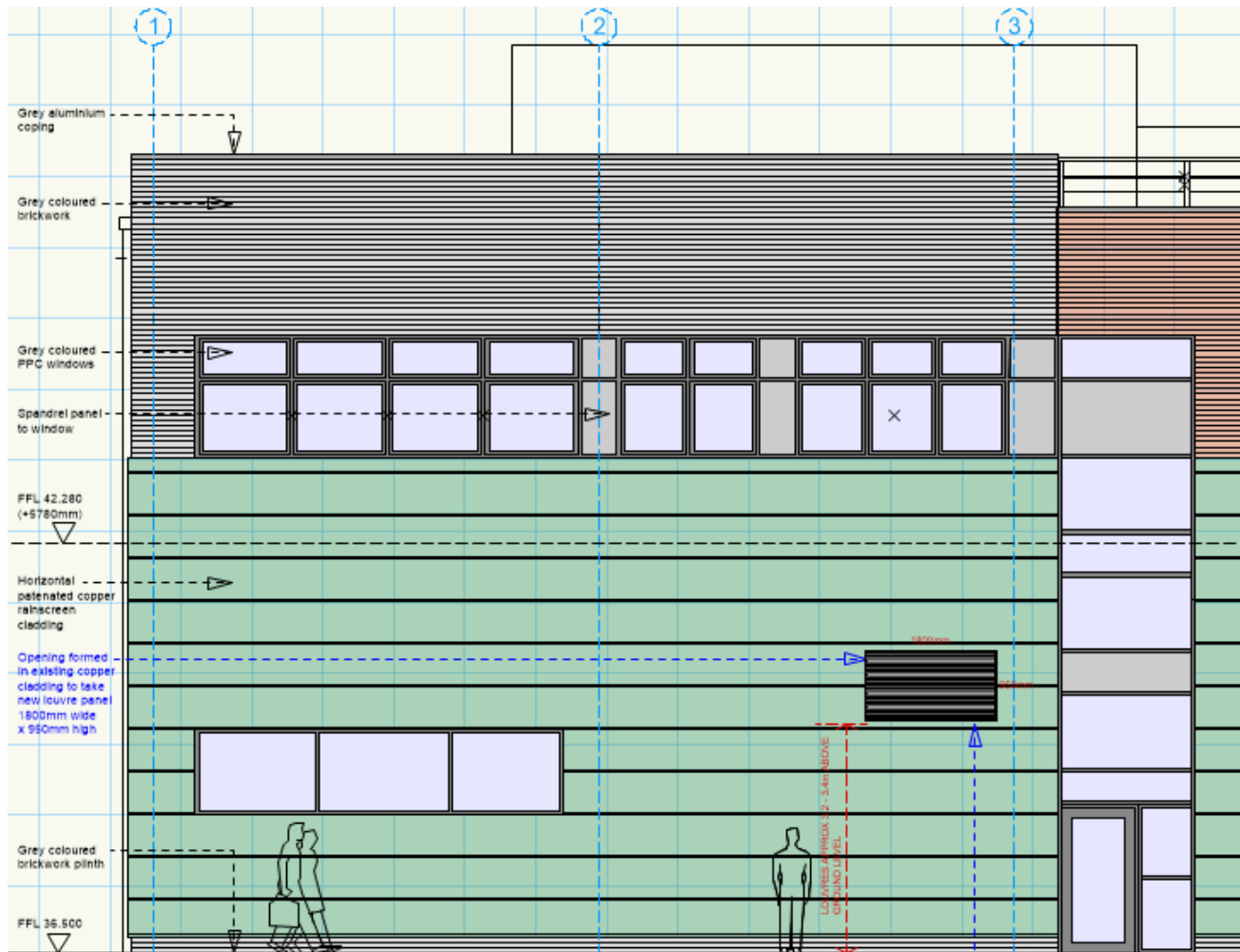
2.2 Pre Application Consultations

No Pre-Application discussions have been made given the nature of the proposal

2.3 Local consultation

To be arranged as required.

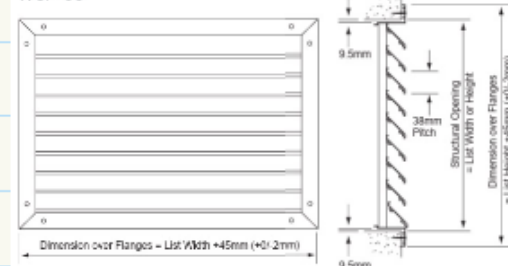
3.0 DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS



Above: Proposed louvre as would be visible on the South Elevation. Set at approx. 3.2 to 3.4m above ground level and positioned between horizontal copper seams



WGF-38



DETAIL OF 'GILBERTS' WGF-38' LOUVRE

Left: Photograph of internal corner of Room EW.04 where proposed ventilation kit will sit and blockwork wall where openings will be formed to receive new louvre.

3.0 DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Introduction;

The need for the development.

A report was carried out in November 2025 to assess the feasibility of improving ventilation to workshop EW.04 where fumes and odours have been accumulating, creating poor air quality and discomfort for occupants. The existing provision is limited to a single 30 L/s supply grille, which is inadequate for contaminant dilution or removal. The report offered 2 options varying from:

Option 1: replacing the existing AHU's

Option 2: Installing a new dedicated ventilation system

Option 2 being the favoured option in that this proposes a standalone system providing balanced supply and extract. This isolates the workshop, provides proper fume capture and allows targeted noise and planning mitigation. Option 2 is also the only solution that remains fully compliant with HSE expectations for containment control.

3.2 Context and Site analysis

The existing site

The John Dalton Heavy Engineering Building comprises of 2 floors of accommodation and was constructed in 2010. The building is effectively annexed to the main John Dalton Building. It's south facing façade is partly obscured by the Mancunian Way slip road which lies immediately to the south.

3.3 Amount

The proposal, as relevant for this application, is for the insertion of 1 no. externally mounted louvre into the existing copper cladding of the South Elevation. The louvre is 1800mm wide by 950mm

3.4 Layout

The acoustic plenums behind the louvre are vertically stacked above each other. One is for intake and the other is for exhaust. On the exterior of the building, the appearance will be of 1 no. louvre.

3.5 Scale, appearance & materials

The louvres proposed are standard louvres as opposed to acoustic louvres. The acoustic isolation treatment will be provided internally via acoustic duct linings, plenum boxes and increased attenuator performance on the supply and extract systems. The louvres are only expected to sit proud of the existing cladding face by approx. 20-50mm. The louvres themselves will be constructed of PPC aluminium in a grey colour that matches the existing PPC aluminium windows and doors.

3.6 Security and access

The proposed design does not affect the security or accessibility measures already in place at the John Dalton Heavy Engineering Building.

3.7 Climate change and sustainability

The chosen option, providing an MVHR (Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery) solution, will provide heat recovery, reducing long-term heating energy consumption.

4.0 CONCLUSION

This proposal seeks planning permission to insert 1 no. louvres on to the south-facing elevation of the John Dalton Heavy Engineering Building. As demonstrated, the design, scale and appearance of the louvre is of a quality appropriate to its intended purpose and location, and the design does not have any impact upon the existing building. It is therefore submitted that the proposals accord with local and national planning policies such that planning permission should be granted.