

9th March 2016

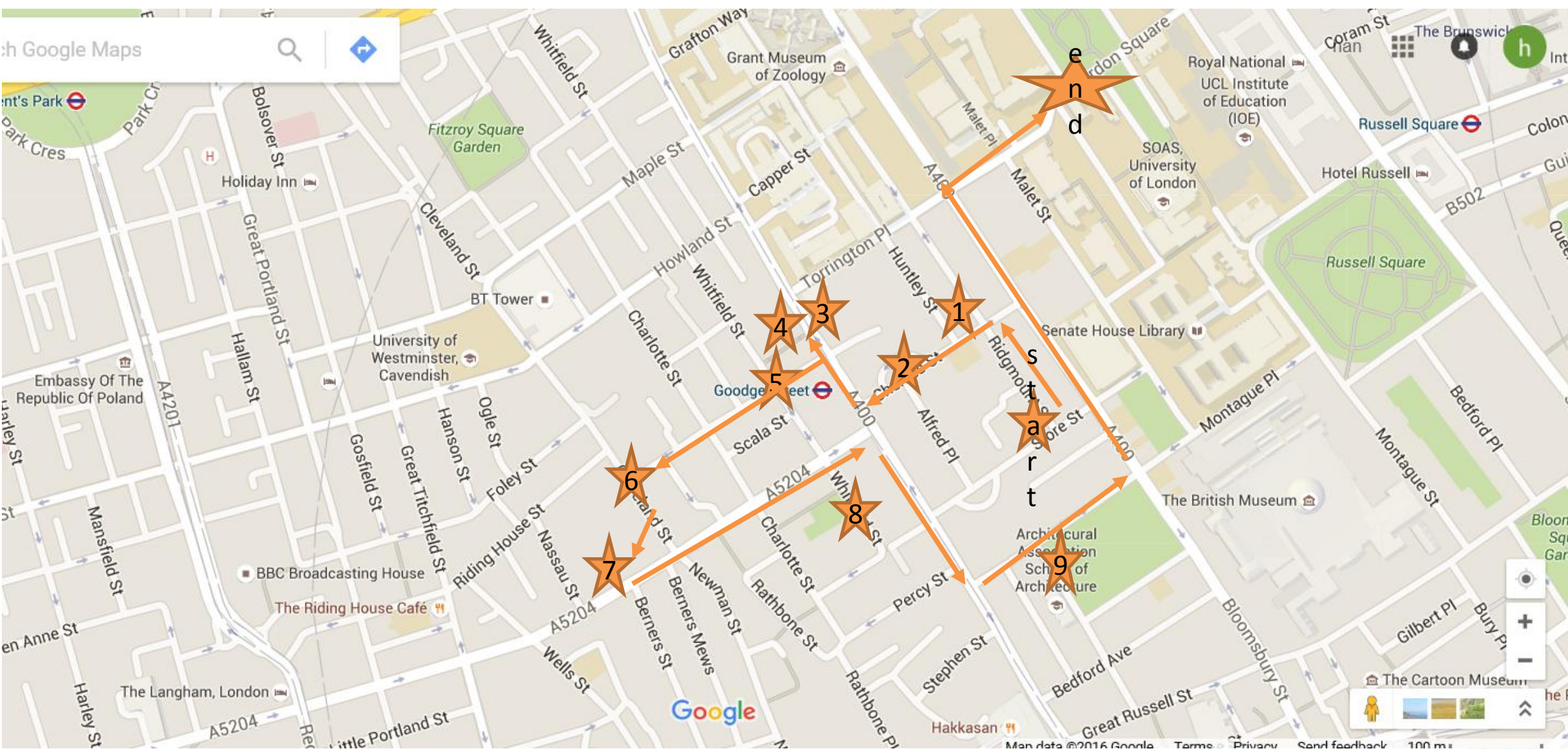
BWF Heritage and Conservation Joinery Group Architecture and Joinery Tour



Fitzrovia Facts

- The Newman Arms, features in George Orwell's novels Nineteen Eighty-Four and Keep the Aspidochelone Flying.
- Bernard Shaw and Virginia Woolf lived (at different times) in the same house at 29 Fitzroy Square.
- The UFO Club, home to Pink Floyd during their spell as the house band of psychedelic London, was held in the basement of 31 Tottenham Court Road on the eastern border of Fitzrovia.
- Pink Floyd and Jimi Hendrix also played at the Speakeasy on Margaret Street and Bob Dylan made his London debut at the King & Queen pub on Foley Street.
- The band Coldplay formed in Ramsay Hall, a University College London accommodation on Maple Street in Fitzrovia.
- Despite the BT Tower being one of most recognisable and conspicuous buildings in London, it was classed as an 'official secret' until fairly recently, and taking or possessing photos of the tower was technically an offence under the Official Secrets Act!





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Map navigation controls including a compass, zoom in (+) and zoom out (-) buttons, a street view pegman icon, and a home button. Below these are icons for different map styles (satellite, terrain, street view) and a scale bar showing 100 meters.

1. Ridgemount Gardens

- The Ridgemount Gardens mansion block was built in the 1890s and includes 149 flats. The freehold of the properties is owned by the Bedford Estate.
- The poet and playwright George Egerton (Mrs Golding Bright) (1859–1945) lived at number 59.
- Novelist and dramatist Joseph Hatton (1837-1907) lived at number 87.
- Musician Bob Marley (1945–1981) lived at 34 Ridgemount Gardens in 1972 and a blue plaque marks the spot.



2. Eisenhower Centre

Goodge Street Station was one of eight underground stations that during the Second World War were used for deep-level air raid shelters. Later in the war it is sometimes said to have had connections to General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander for D-Day.

Concrete blockhouses were used to protect the staircases.

In late 1942 part of the Goodge Street shelter became used as a headquarters for the Allied armed forces.

The shelter entrance on Chenies Street was used for access to this HQ. Despite its current name (The Eisenhower Centre) this site was not used as a headquarters by General Eisenhower.



3. Heal's Furniture

- Heal's has operated since 1818 in Tottenham Court Road, and from the present site since 1840.
- Its first purpose-built store, completed in 1854, was then one of the largest in London: the architect was James Morant Lockyer who presented the RIBA with a photographic elevation in May 1855. This is one of the earliest known professional applications of architectural photography in Britain.
- The central part of the present building was commissioned by Ambrose Heal and designed by his cousin, and best friend, Cecil Brewer of the architectural practice Smith and Brewer.
- It was completed in 1917 and is a distinctive modern building, immediately hailed as a landmark in shop architecture, subsequently extended in a number of phases.
- An extension on the southern side of the building was added in 1938, designed by Sir Edward Maufe.



4. 79 Tottenham Court Road

- On Tottenham Court Road, opposite Heal's department store, is a solitary Caffè Nero.
- On Palm Sunday 1945, much of this area was decimated by a V2 rocket blast – the last, in fact, to rock central London.
- It destroyed Whitefield's Tabernacle killing at least nine and damaging the surrounding buildings, many of which were never redeveloped.
- Today, the only signs of the tragedy are the seven non-flowering trees to the right of the café.



5. Carpenters Arms

- Not the original building.
- 1930's windows and tiled frontage.
- Rumoured to be the site of a public house where the carpenters who made the Tyburn gallows drank.



7. Cleveland Street Workhouse

- Georgian property built between 1775 and 1778
- From 1836, it became the workhouse of the Strand Union of parishes.
- The building remained in operation until 2005.
- The Cleveland Street Workhouse is of particular importance in light of the fact that Charles Dickens is known to have lived nearby in what is now 22 Cleveland Street. Dickens lived there as a young child between 1815 and 1816, and then again as a teenager in 1828–1831.
- His residence in the street has led to the suggestion that the nearby workhouse was probably the inspiration for Oliver Twist.



Cleveland Street – Notable Buildings

Grade II listed

- **16-22** (terraced houses with attached shop, the first with later shop; **c.1780-1800**).
- **54** was Cleveland Hall which was constructed as a radical meeting place as a bequest from William Devonshire Saull. Secularists, spiritualists and anarchists met there until the hall was converted into a mission hall for the West London Methodist Mission in **1890**.
- **68** (terraced house with shop **c.1780-1800**)
- **106** (terraced house and shop **1832-5**)
- **45-49** (block of flats dated **1911** with red brick with blue brick banding and stone dressings, tiled roof in the Arts and Crafts free style)
- **139,141** (terraced houses c.1790-1800)The latter has a blue plaque signifying that Samuel Morse, inventor of the Morse Code once lived there.
- **143-149** (terraced houses, some with shops **c.1790-1800**)
- **151** (George and Dragon corner public house **c.1850** rebuild or recasting)
- **The BT Tower complex.** The tower was London tallest building when it was completed in **1960** and it remains a major London landmark, being currently the **8th tallest building in London at 177 metres** plus a 12-metre antenna.



8. Taylors Buttons - 22 Cleveland Street

- 10 Norfolk Street and 22 Cleveland Street are the same building
- Charles Dickens lived here twice in his lifetime
- Taylors have been selling buttons for over 100 years
- They sell buttons to all the stars!
- Cleveland Street was described as an area of **special architectural and historic interest** when it was designated a Conservation Area.



Middlesex Hospital and Fitzrovia Chapel

- First opened in 1745, it was moved in 1757 to Mortimer Street where it remained until it was finally closed in 2005.
- Pearson Square, acknowledging the work of local resident and renowned architect John Loughborough Pearson who designed the retained hospital chapel sited in the square
- The chapel was structurally complete in the mid 1920s and the surrounding hospital then demolished and rebuilt around it 1927-29.
- During the 2011-14 redevelopment of the site a S.106 planning gain agreement ensured that the chapel was carefully kept stable on a column of soil surrounded by deep piles while the surrounding hospital buildings were demolished for the second time in the chapel's history





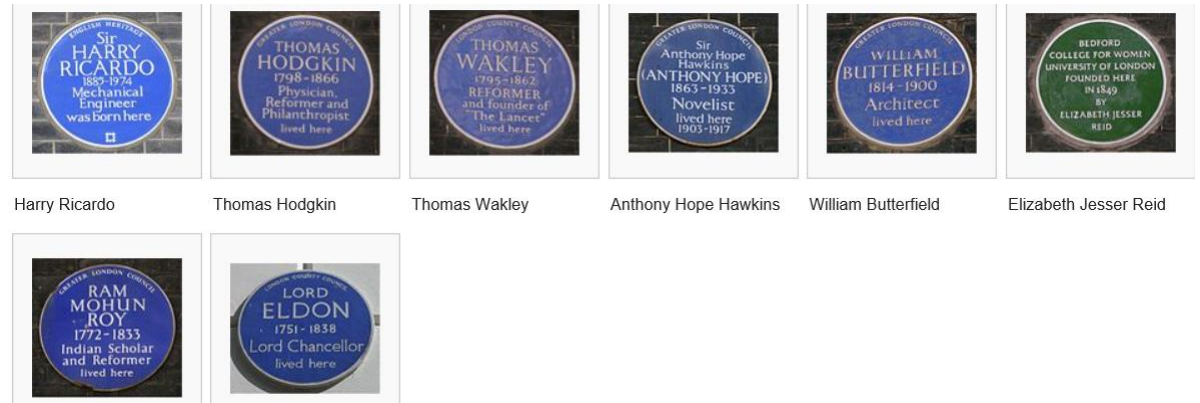
Crabtree Fields

- This area suffered bomb damage during WWII and as a result the former townscape of Fitzrovia changed in post-war rebuilding. Crabtree Fields was laid out in 1985 by the GLC replacing a former car park on an empty bomb-site.
- The public gardens recall the old name of the area in the early C18th when it was a meadow known as Crab Tree Field.
- It was owned by the wife of carpenter John Goodge after whom Goodge Street is named.



Bedford Square

- Built between 1775 and 1783
- Takes its name from the main title of the Russell family, the Dukes of Bedford, who owned much of the land in what is now Bloomsbury.
- Best preserved set pieces of Georgian architecture in London
- Mainly Grade I listed
- Probably the work of Thomas Leverton, as well as the builder/contractors William Scott and Robert Grews.



Gordon Square

- The houses at Gordon Square were built between 1820 and 1850. The Gardens were designed and laid out by the 6th Duke of Bedford who named them after his second wife, Lady Georgina Gordon.
- Developed by master builder Thomas Cubitt, as one of a pair with Tavistock Square

