

# Construction Update – May 2026

## BRITISH LIBRARY EXTENSION

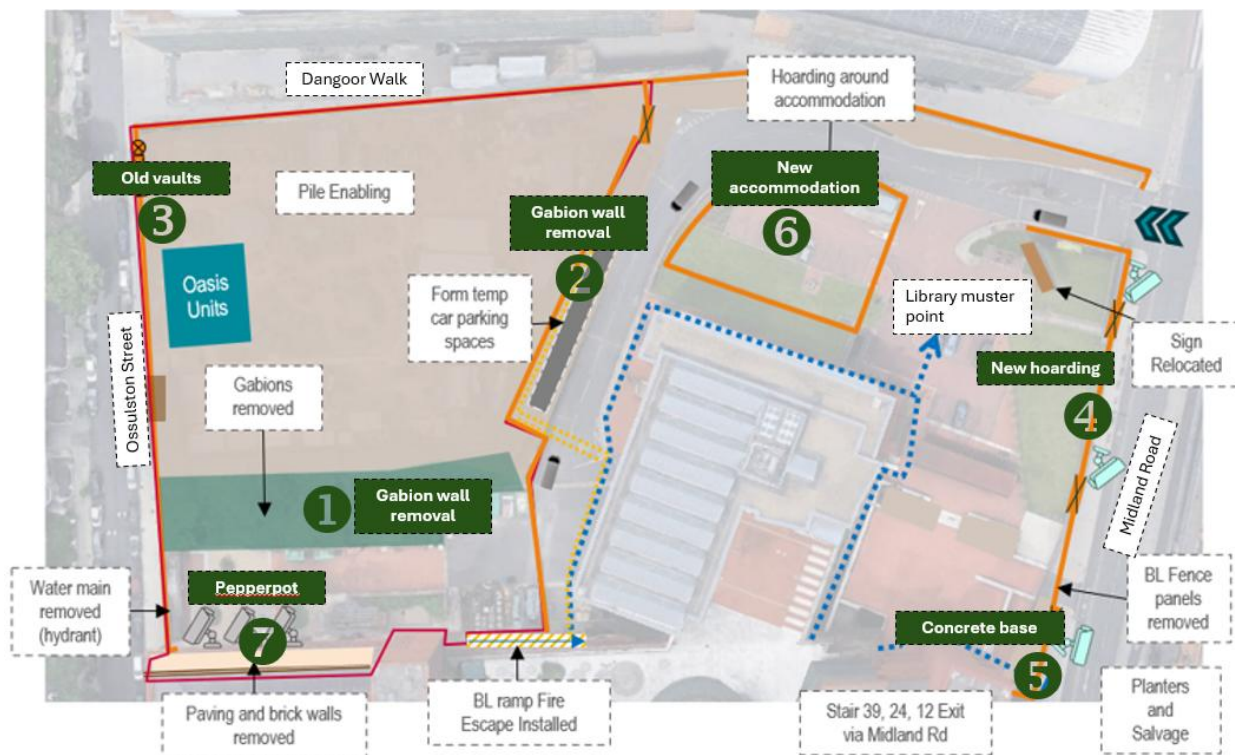
**Continuation of site preparation works** (map locations ① ② ③ ④ ⑤)

**Starting installation of our site accommodation** (② ⑥)

**Getting ready to demolish the “Pepperpot”** (⑦)

Dear neighbour,

During May and early June we will continue preparations for our main works, due to start in July. This will include clearing the site of retaining walls to give us a firm surface to start creating foundations for the British Library extension. We will also get ready for the arrival of our new site accommodation. These will provide offices, changing facilities and storage for our site workers. We will also get ready for the demolition of the “Pepperpot” staircase at the back of the Library.



In locations ① ② we will remove the retaining walls, made up of metal baskets containing rocks. This will create a firm surface for creating foundations. At ② temporary parking spaces will be created as we are placing our site accommodation on existing ones.

At ③ there are old brick underground vaults which we need to drill through to prepare for creating pile foundations. We will keep noise below permitted levels and damp down any dust. ④ We will complete the hoarding and gates along Midland Road and ensure the cycle lane can be used safely with vehicles accessing the site. At ⑤ we will be creating a base for a new substation. At ⑥ we will create foundations for our site accommodation. ⑦ In July we will start to demolish the freestanding staircase. To get ready for this we need to remove existing paving, block up doors from the Library and divert the emergency escape route.