First opened in Bloomsbury in 1759, the British Museum is a museum dedicated to human history and culture. With over 8 million works, it is among the largest museums in the world.

The new World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre, will provide the museum with a new gallery; state-of-the-art studios; science labs and purpose built storage areas to catalogue & support the museums extensive UK and International loans programme.

The team at Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners won a competition to design the new facilities at the museum back in 2007. Their design represented the architectural legacy of the Grade I listed building whilst improving and enhancing the existing infrastructure.

Albion Stone supplied 1,600m² of Portland Roach for the stone and glass façade of the new centre pavilions. RSH+P’s decision to use the Roach Stone was a result of collaboration with Albion to understand the physical characteristics of the material, its performance over time and its visual qualities both at the quarry and in its use on numerous prestigious buildings.

“It was our intention to use a stone which beautifully demonstrated the texture, grain and variation of the material itself along with clues to its geological formation.”

Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners

Architect/Designer: Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners   Client: The British Museum   Main Contractor: Mase
Completion date: 2013   Location: Bloomsbury, London   Portland Stone: Bowers Roach
Scope of Project: Construction of new exhibition centre in the North West corner of the museum