

# Rotunda Trust

Media pack / V1.2 / August 2026

Building Preservation Trust / Company 17115816

Rotunda Trust is a charitable Building Preservation Trust. Its sole purpose is to repair the Woolwich Rotunda, John Nash's 1814 timber polygon, and return it to open, accessible use. This pack is a short film, a vision, the wider site, recent press coverage, and a set of images available for editorial use.



Watch the film *Rotunda Irrepressible* — FennecMedia, March 2026

<https://vimeo.com/1180517747>

## Our vision

The Rotunda was built as a place for people to gather. For 181 years it served as one of London's most distinctive public buildings. We want to return it to that role. A commercial operating company would run the venue under a binding lease covenant, paying the trust a market-aligned rent, or a share of turnover or profit, whichever is larger. That money goes to one place: conservation of the building.

## Online

Website

[rotundatrust.org.uk](https://rotundatrust.org.uk)

*The trust, building history, vision, trustees, further reading.*

Vision A5 booklet

[rotundatrust.org.uk/...\\_A5\\_Booklet.pdf](https://rotundatrust.org.uk/..._A5_Booklet.pdf)

*Same content, folded booklet format.*

Vision A4 PDF

[rotundatrust.org.uk/Rotunda\\_Trust\\_Vision\\_A4.pdf](https://rotundatrust.org.uk/Rotunda_Trust_Vision_A4.pdf)

*A vision for the Woolwich Rotunda. V1.0/March 2026.*

Contact

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*Rotunda Trust Limited.*

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*Further reading / [rotundatrust.org.uk](https://rotundatrust.org.uk)*

[The Trust](#) · [Building History](#) · [Our Vision](#) · [Trustees](#) · [Further Reading](#)

# The wider site

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The Rotunda parcel and the GEB partnership

The Rotunda parcel sits within a larger 1.65-acre disposal site that includes a former tractor shed, a small gatehouse, and an ancillary annex. The trust's bid is made in coordination with the **Greenwich Enterprise Board**, a Greenwich-based not-for-profit social enterprise that has restored listed buildings in the Royal Borough for over forty years, including the Eltham Orangery and the Royal Arsenal Gatehouse.

The Greenwich Enterprise Board is the trust's development partner for the wider site. The two plots work as a single destination, with a shared public realm of paths, seating, and planting that re-establishes the site as part of the wider Woolwich civic offer.

The visualisations below were prepared by GEB's design team. They are reference images, not consented planning proposals.



The Rotunda within a restored public realm. Visualisation courtesy Greenwich Enterprise Board.



Wider site aerial; Woolwich Studios from above; Hookwick Studios entrance; Woolwich Studios courtyard. Visualisations courtesy Greenwich Enterprise Board.

# In the press

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Recent coverage of the Rotunda and the bid

Outlets are listed with article date and a direct link. Pull quotes are from the published pieces.

LONDON NOW · 30 April 2026

## Woolwich Rotunda for sale – trust makes restoration bid

*"It's been sitting there as a dead space, and that's really sad for a building like this. We don't want it to become a fossil. We want it to be alive again."*

[london-now.co.uk/news/26062249.woolwich-rotunda-sale---trust-makes-restoration-bid](https://london-now.co.uk/news/26062249.woolwich-rotunda-sale---trust-makes-restoration-bid)

CHARLES SAUMAREZ SMITH · former Director, National Portrait Gallery · 27 April 2026

## The Woolwich Rotunda

*"I hope it can be acquired by the Rotunda Trust which has been set up specifically in order to preserve a building of extraordinary architectural and more purely structural interest."*

[charlessaumarezsmith.com/2026/04/27/the-woolwich-rotunda](https://charlessaumarezsmith.com/2026/04/27/the-woolwich-rotunda)

LONDON NOW · 27 April 2026

## Grade II\* listed Woolwich Rotunda still on sale after years of standing empty

*"A newly-formed Rotunda Trust has reportedly expressed interest in buying the site."*

[london-now.co.uk/news/26055699.grade-ii-listed-woolwich-rotunda-remains-sale](https://london-now.co.uk/news/26055699.grade-ii-listed-woolwich-rotunda-remains-sale)

TIME OUT LONDON · Eloise Feilden · 25 April 2026

## This iconic abandoned south London building, which was designed by a famous architect, is up for sale

*"The 200-year-old Rotunda in Woolwich Common could soon be transformed into a new music and theatre venue."*

[timeout.com/london/news/...-up-for-sale-042526](https://timeout.com/london/news/...-up-for-sale-042526)

SOUTHWARK NEWS · Cameron Blackshaw · 21 April 2026

## One of south London's historic buildings is on sale

*"The Rotunda was built as a place for people to gather and served that purpose for 181 years. It has been left to decay for a quarter of a century."*

[southwarknews.co.uk/news/community/one-of-south-londons-historic-buildings-is-on-sale](https://southwarknews.co.uk/news/community/one-of-south-londons-historic-buildings-is-on-sale)

THE GREENWICH WIRE · Darryl Chamberlain · 21 April 2026

## Woolwich Rotunda: Trust aims to restore the '200-year-old Millennium Dome'

*"The trust wants the Rotunda restored so it can host community and commercial events, as well as live music and theatre, as well as opening it to visitors for the first time in more than a quarter of a century."*

[greenwichwire.co.uk/2026/04/21/rotunda-trust-woolwich-restore-john-nash-derelict](https://greenwichwire.co.uk/2026/04/21/rotunda-trust-woolwich-restore-john-nash-derelict)

THE PAST · Chris Catling · November 2025

## From royal hall to cannonballs: rediscovering the many lives of the Woolwich Rotunda

*"Currently on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register and described as being in 'very bad' condition, the Woolwich Rotunda is supported by a web of scaffolding and faces an uncertain future."*

[the-past.com/feature/from-royal-hall-to-cannonballs...](https://the-past.com/feature/from-royal-hall-to-cannonballs...)

# Images

*Historical plates / wider-site visualisations / interior frames / click any tile for source*

*Wikimedia Commons and The National Archives / public domain*



**Earliest view, 1820**  
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[Earliest\\_known\\_view\\_...](#)



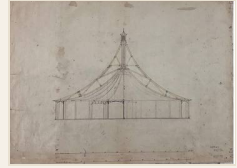
**Aerial, 1975**  
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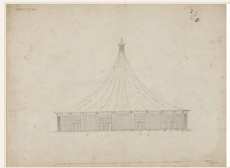
**Exterior, south**  
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**Grant view, 1844**  
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[View\\_of\\_the\\_Rotunda\\_...](#)



**Section, 1814**  
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**Nash elevation**  
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[WORK 43/573-577](#)



**Carlton House, 1819**  
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**Temple of Concord, 1814**  
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[Revolving\\_Temple\\_Con...](#)



**Congreve father and son**  
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[Captain\\_William\\_Con...](#)



**Rocket badge, 1832**  
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*Greenwich Enterprise Board / visualisations of the wider site, 2026*



**Restored public realm**  
Visualisation courtesy  
Greenwich Enterprise  
Board



**Wider site aerial**  
Visualisation courtesy  
Greenwich Enterprise  
Board



**Studios from above**  
Visualisation courtesy  
Greenwich Enterprise  
Board



**Hookwick entrance**  
Visualisation courtesy  
Greenwich Enterprise  
Board



**Studios courtyard**  
Visualisation courtesy  
Greenwich Enterprise  
Board

*FennecMedia / CC BY 4.0 International / interior of the Rotunda, March 2026*



**Interior geometry**  
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**Central column**  
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**Column from below**  
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**Colonnade**  
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**Arched window**  
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**Perimeter ties**  
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**Iron strap connection**  
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**Cross-bracing**  
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**Bracing and sarking**  
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**Mid-height bracing**  
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**Truss perspective**  
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**King post near apex**  
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**Inspection walkway**  
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