



## **Participant Information Sheet For Adults**

UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number: 20231222 IEDE PGR ETH

### **YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET**

**Title of Study:** The development of moisture risk assessment for traditional solid bricks in London

**Department:** Institute of Environmental Design and Engineering, University College London

**Name and Contact Details of the Researcher(s):**

Prof Anna Mavrogianni and Dr Valentina Marincioni, IEDE, UCL, Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, London, a.mavrogianni@ucl.ac.uk, v.marincioni@ucl.ac.uk

**Name and Contact Details of the Principal Researcher:** Miss Bingyu Xu, IEDE, UCL, Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, London, [bingyu.xu.20@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:bingyu.xu.20@ucl.ac.uk), +44 07501782555

#### **1. Invitation Paragraph**

We would like to invite you to take part in the doctoral research project: The development of moisture risk assessment for traditional solid bricks in London. Before you decide to join this research, please take time to read the following information carefully. It is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what participation will involve. Please don't hesitate to ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for reading this.

#### **2. How can I support this research?**

We are currently looking for a small number of bricks from buildings constructed in London between 1850 and 1930. If you have any project where bricks are discarded (for example as part of a demolition or a building extension), you can support this research by donating some bricks for testing. We are aiming to collect bricks from at least 10 different buildings in London, so please share this call with any colleagues who might be able to help.

#### **3. What is the project's purpose?**

In 2021, approximately 91% of solid-wall buildings lacked thermal insulation, and London alone has 1.5 million buildings are without wall insulation. This research project aims at understanding how bricks in pre-1930s solid wall buildings interact with insulation, especially in relation to moisture balance. The scarcity of data on these material properties and the impact of moisture on traditional brick structures in the UK presents a challenge for effective retrofitting. The study proposes a framework for characterising bricks for moisture risk analysis, with the aim of facilitating the specification of appropriate insulation strategies and moisture control measures in retrofit. The anticipated outcomes of this research include the development of holistic retrofit solutions that improve the moisture balance of traditional brick walls. This will provide insights to

the existing knowledge base and contribute to a more resilient and sustainable building stock in the UK.

**4. Do I have to take part?**

It is completely up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this research. The researchers will be happy to discuss with you any aspect of the research before asking you to make a decision, especially if you have any concerns. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You can withdraw your consent at any time. If you withdraw your consent, you do not need to give a reason and it will not disadvantage you in any way. If you decide to withdraw your consent, you will be asked what you wish to happen to the data you have provided up to that point.

**5. What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you give your consent, we'll send a form for you to provide more detail on the bricks you are willing to donate. If these bricks meet our research criteria, we will get in touch to organise a collection from a location that suits you. We will not be removing bricks from walls; instead, we will handle the collection process.

The study is expected to last between 1 and 2 years. Your main role will be to assist in the collection of bricks and to fill out the provided form. We'll then carry out detailed analysis and experiments on the collected samples. Should we require further details or need to clarify anything about the bricks, we'll reach out via email. This ensures a smooth and cooperative research process.

**6. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

Risks during brick collection process:

Handling heavy bricks can lead to musculoskeletal injuries, strains, or sprains; Accidents involving dropping or mishandling bricks may cause cuts, bruises, or fractures; Dust generated during brick collection and processing can pose respiratory risks. To manage this risk, we will set up a risk assessment for the handling of bricks.

Risks to the buildings:

The removal of bricks might weaken the structural integrity of a building and rainwater protection, leading to structural failures or water damage to interior spaces. There is a risk of losing valuable cultural heritage for historical buildings. We are expecting to receive bricks that are discarded, for example as part of a demolition or a building extension, which reduces the risks above.

**7. What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Although participants in the project may not experience immediate benefits, the endeavor aims to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of brick material properties through experimentation and relevant moisture risk analysis. This research is anticipated to inform future investigations in this field, ultimately enhancing decision-making processes for brick building retrofitting.

**8. What if something goes wrong?**

Firstly, if you feel you wish to make a complaint to an independent person, please contact the researcher team, Dr Valentina Marincioni: [v.marincioni@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:v.marincioni@ucl.ac.uk), and Miss Bingyu Xu: [bingyu.xu.20@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:bingyu.xu.20@ucl.ac.uk). Our commitment to participants begins with an assurance of confidentiality and sensitivity regarding their complaints. Subsequently, we will promptly acknowledge the receipt of complaints, ensuring participants are informed that their concerns are being actively reviewed. The research team will then discuss the outcomes of the investigation within 2 weeks, providing participants with a clear and detailed explanation of the resolution or any actions taken to address the complaint. If applicable, participants will be notified of any

adjustments made to the research procedures based on the complaint. If you find the resolution unsatisfactory, we encourage you to contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee at [ethics@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@ucl.ac.uk).

**9. Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

All data including name, address, email, phone number and signature collected will be securely stored on UCL servers be fully anonymised, and under no circumstance they can be used to trace back to you. Only the two supervisors and the PhD student have access to the data.

We will ask for your specific consent for the data collection and you retain the right to withdraw at any stage during the process, and opt out of either the brick sample collection form, the material testing or further analysis.

The results of this research are likely to be published in journal articles and presented at conferences. If you wish, you can obtain a copy of the published results. You will not be identified in any report or publication. The data collected during the project might be reused in its anonymised form for additional or subsequent research.

The research team would like to share the findings of this study with all the participants. It is important to note that in case any technical issues will be found out by the research team at any point, our contribution will not aim at identifying the causes of these issues (if any).

**10. Limits to confidentiality**

Please note that assurances on confidentiality will be strictly adhered to unless evidence of wrongdoing or potential harm is uncovered. In such cases the University may be obliged to contact relevant statutory bodies/agencies.

Confidentiality will be respected subject to legal constraints and professional guidelines.

Confidentiality will be respected unless there are compelling and legitimate reasons for this to be breached. If this was the case, we would inform you of any decisions that might limit your confidentiality.

**11. What will happen to the results of the research project?**

The generated data will be securely stored on the UCL cloud-based platform for a duration ranging from 5 to 10 years. Our plan includes disseminating the project's findings through various channels, including journal papers, conference papers, and a PhD thesis. The study is expected to conclude in 2024-2025. If you wish to access the detailed outcomes of the research, copies of the published results will be available through the academic publication system.

**12. Local Data Protection Privacy Notice**

**Notice:**

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk)

For participants in research studies:

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the 'local' and 'general' privacy notices.

The categories of personal data used will be as follows:

Name, Address, Email, Phone number, signature

The lawful basis that would be used to process your personal data will be performance of a task in the public interest.

Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).

**13. Who is organising the research?**

This research is being conducted by the UCL Institute of Environmental Design and Engineering, under the supervision of UCL.

**16. Contact for further information**

Please contact Valentina Marincioni and Bingyu Xu if you have any queries about this research.

Valentina Marincioni : [v.marincioni@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:v.marincioni@ucl.ac.uk), Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, London

Bingyu Xu: [bingyu.xu.20@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:bingyu.xu.20@ucl.ac.uk), Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, London,

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**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering to take part in this research study.**