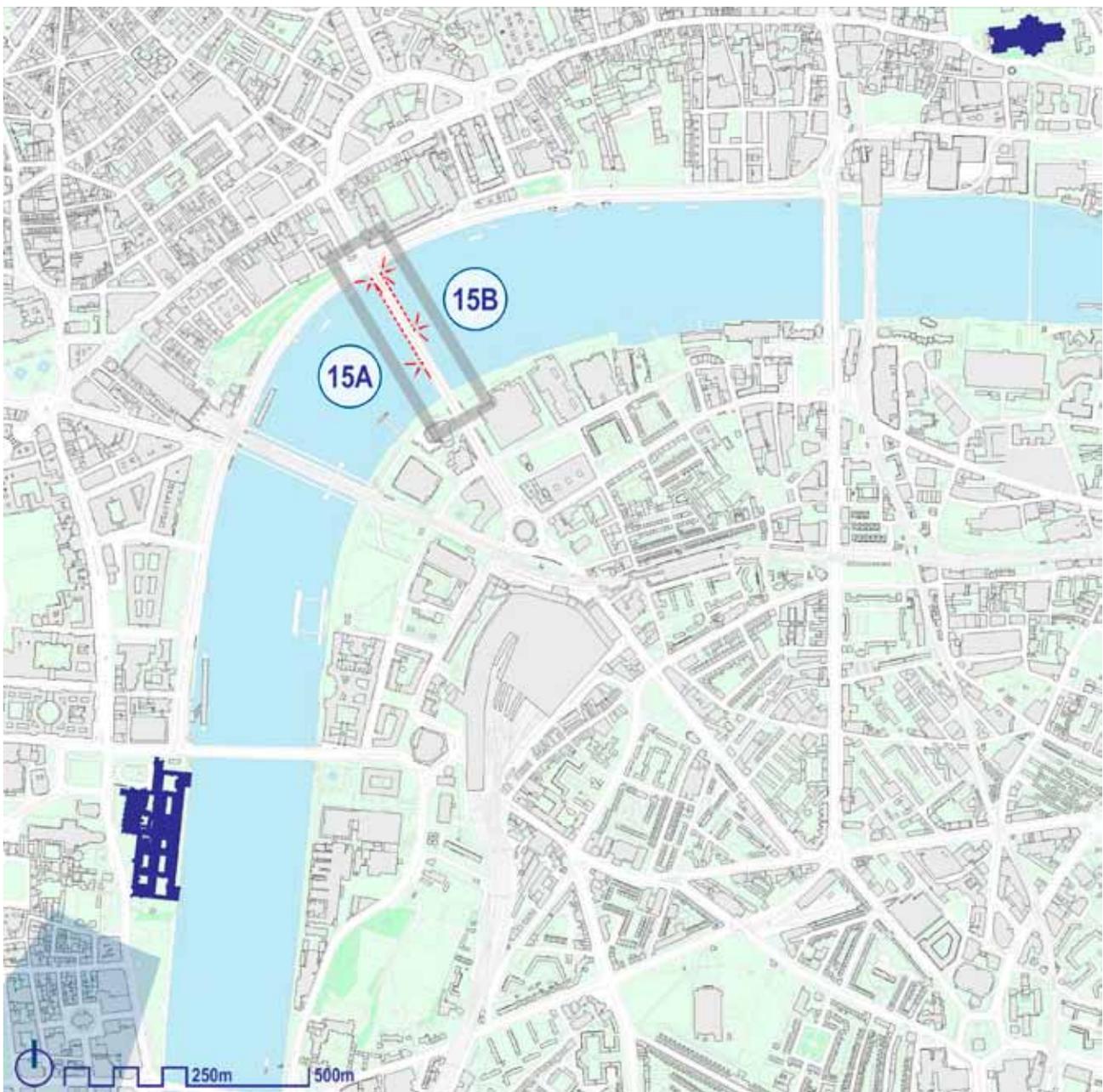


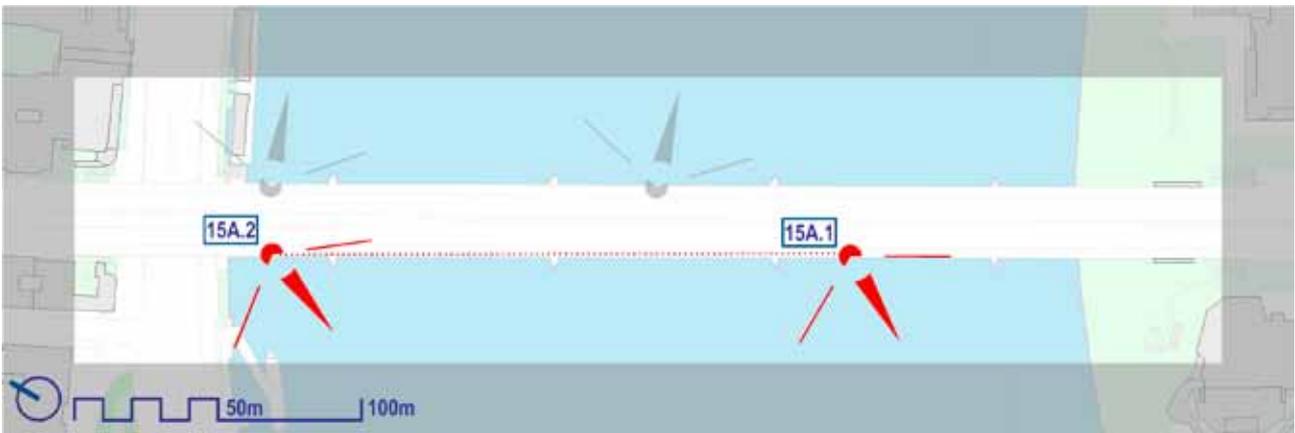
# 15 River Prospect: Waterloo Bridge

246 Waterloo Bridge marks the apex of the principal bend in the Thames through central London and provides extensive views to the west as far as Vauxhall, and to the east as far as Canary Wharf. The bridge is Grade II\* Listed and was designed by Rendel, Palmer & Tritton with Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and was opened in 1945.



- 247 There are two Viewing Locations at Waterloo Bridge, 15A and 15B, referring to the upstream and downstream sides of the bridge.

### Viewing Location 15A Waterloo Bridge: upstream



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 15A.1 Waterloo Bridge: upstream – close to the Lambeth bank



Panorama from Assessment Point 15A.2 Waterloo Bridge: upstream – close to the Westminster bank

### Description of the View

- 248 The character of the upstream views is dominated by the considerable length and breadth of the river in the foreground. Two Assessment Points (15A.1 and 15A.2) are located on the upstream side of the bridge where these characteristics are best appreciated in relation to the townscape. A Protected Silhouette of the Palace of Westminster is applied between Assessment Points 15A.1 and 15A.2.
- 249 Buildings on the Embankment in this view are of consistent height, material and mass. They form the middle ground either side of Hungerford Bridge and strengthen the broad outer curve of the river. These buildings – including the Palace of Westminster, Portcullis House, Ministry of Defence, Whitehall Court and Embankment Place, Adelphi, and Shell Mex House, produce a varied skyline that adds visual richness to the view, as do the pylons of the Hungerford Footbridges. Trees on the Embankment soften the relationship between the river and the built fabric.
- 250 The view culminates on the outer curve with the Palace of Westminster, which is prominent on the skyline. The three principal towers of this Strategically Important Landmark stand clear against the sky, as do many of the lesser roof top elements and finials. The towers of Westminster Abbey are visible. As the bridge is crossed from north to south, buildings in Pimlico can be glimpsed in the background of the Palace of Westminster. The ability of the viewer to recognise and appreciate the Strategically Important Landmark must not be undermined. There is a marked difference in the visual experience of the Palace of Westminster at different times of day and in different light conditions. The London Eye forms a visually permeable counterpoint to the Strategically Important Landmark.

### Landmarks include:

Palace of Westminster (I) †  
 Towers of Westminster Abbey (I)  
 Royal Festival Hall (I)  
 The London Eye  
 Cleopatra's Needle (I)  
 Whitehall Court (II\*)

### Also in the views:

Shell Centre  
 County Hall (II\*)  
 Norman Shaw North (I) & South (II\*) (Formerly Old & New Scotland Yard)  
 Methodist Central Hall (II\*)  
 Tower of Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields (I)  
 Embankment Place  
 Shell Mex House (II)

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

- 251 The convex inner curve of the river, to the left of the view, has a less consistent townscape but includes several listed 20th Century buildings of note, forming the middle ground of this view. Rows of trees along the Embankment are also important elements in the view. The viewer is more aware of the southern bank when on the northern landing of the bridge. Here the depth of the view past Millbank Tower extends to the Vauxhall area.



View from Assessment Point 15A.1 Waterloo Bridge: upstream – close to the Lambeth Bank (Centre of the second span from the Lambeth Bank). 530806.0E 180465.1N. Camera height 16.60m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (The Central Tower, above the lobby crossing). Bearing 209.2°, distance 1.1km.



### Visual Management Guidance

- 252 Development within this River Prospect must contribute to the settings of spaces and buildings immediately fronting the river, including the Strategically Important Landmark of the Palace of Westminster, and the other landmarks.
- 253 Development proposals likely to affect the World Heritage Site should pay regard to the guidance set out in the Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan. It is recommended that English Heritage is consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.

### *Foreground and Middle Ground*

- 254 250 Development in the foreground and middle ground should not compromise the existing riverscape character or obscure significant landmarks.

- 255 Development should not cause adverse impact to the World Heritage Site and should not compromise a viewer's ability to appreciate its Outstanding Universal Value.

### *Background*

- 256 New clusters of tall buildings may emerge within the Waterloo and Vauxhall/Nine Elms Opportunity Areas. Tall buildings are already consented at Vauxhall/Nine Elms and it is important that further proposals are designed to relate to and strengthen the composition of the emerging cluster there. New buildings to the right of Millbank Tower should not detract from the dominance of the Palace of Westminster in the view, should preserve the dominance of the trees in this part of the view, and contribute to the horizontal emphasis of the buildings on Millbank.



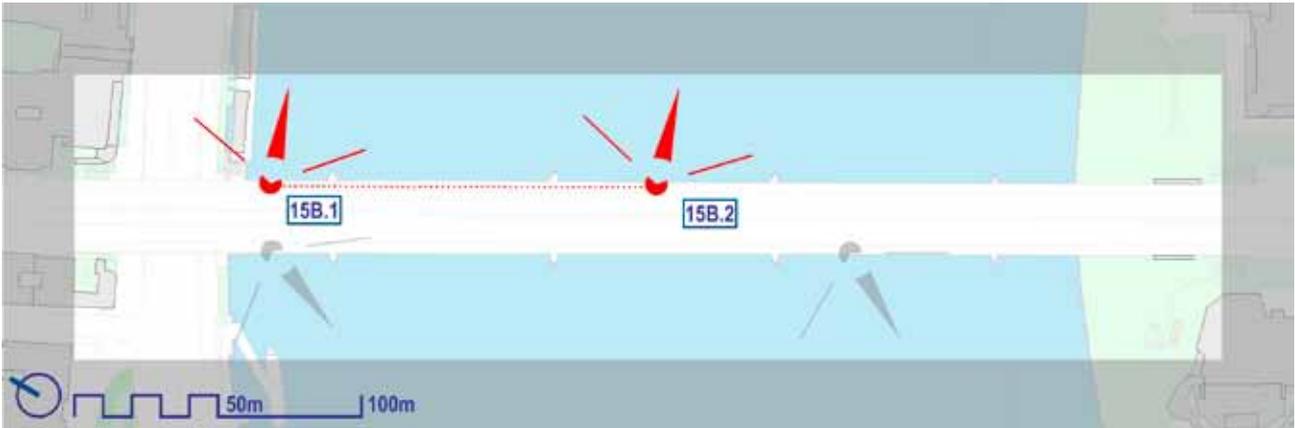
View from Assessment Point 15A.2 Waterloo Bridge: upstream – close to the Westminster bank (Entering Bridge from the Westminster bank). 530703.3E 180638.4N. Camera height 16.40m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (The Central Tower, above the lobby crossing). Bearing 201.1°, distance 1.2km.

- 257 Development should not cause adverse impact to the World Heritage Site and should not compromise a viewer's ability to appreciate its Outstanding Universal Value. The Protected Silhouette should not be altered by development appearing in its background from any position at or between Assessment Points 15A.1 and 15A.2.

### *Management of the Viewing Location*

- 258 Viewing plaques should be updated and repositioned to aid viewers' enjoyment of the views.

## Viewing Location 15B Waterloo Bridge: downstream



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 15B.1 Waterloo Bridge: downstream – close to the Westminster bank



Panorama from Assessment Point 15B.2 Waterloo Bridge: downstream – at the centre of the bridge

### Description of the View

- 259 The location provides important views east towards St Paul's Cathedral and the City of London. The river frontage buildings on the Westminster and Southwark sides of the Thames frame the middle ground views and the river dominates the foreground. The viewer's eye is drawn towards Temple Gardens, St Paul's Cathedral and the City's financial district. There is also a good view of the tall buildings at Canary Wharf, in the distance.
- 260 Both river banks are softened by trees in the foreground of the view. From the north end of the bridge, St Paul's Cathedral appears above the trees on the Embankment, with only the river and tethered boats also in the foreground. While the principal cluster of tall buildings in the City remains to the right of the Cathedral in views from Waterloo Bridge, recent developments close to the north-east edge of the City, have begun to create a second cluster on the left side of the Cathedral.
- 261 The view of the south side of the river includes several large individual buildings, including the Shard. There is little sense of a coherent composition of buildings at this location.

### Landmarks include:

St Paul's Cathedral (I) †  
Somerset House (I)  
The Shard

### Also in the views:

Temple Gardens (I)  
St Bride's Church (I)  
Barbican Towers (II)  
The Old Bailey (II\*)  
Tower 42  
30 St Mary Axe  
Heron Tower  
Tate Modern Chimney  
IPC Tower  
ITV Tower  
Royal National Theatre (II\*)

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

### Visual Management Guidance

- 262 Development proposals must show how they contribute to the settings of spaces and buildings immediately fronting the river, including the Strategically Important Landmark of St Paul's Cathedral.
- 263 New tall buildings should seek to complement the City's eastern cluster of tall buildings with buildings of a height appropriate to their site and of high architectural design quality.
- 264 New development which draws the emerging clusters of tall buildings closer to St Paul's Cathedral from these viewpoints, whether on its left or right hand side, should preserve or enhance the composition of the view, the Cathedral's relationship with its clear sky background and should not dominate the dome or western towers. A canyon effect caused by the addition of buildings too close to the left of the Cathedral should not be accepted.



View from Assessment Point 15B.1 Waterloo Bridge: downstream – close to the Westminister bank (Crossing bank). 530723.6E 180651.2N. Camera height 16.44m AOD. Aiming at St Paul's Cathedral (Central axis of the dome, at the base of the drum). Bearing 69.7°, distance 1.4km.

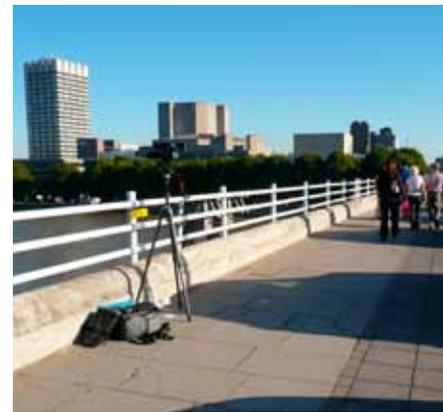


### Foreground and Middle Ground

- 265 New development should not obscure a significant landmark.

### Background

- 266 Consideration should be given to the space St Paul's Cathedral requires between it and tall buildings to maintain its visual prominence in the river prospect.
- 267 Development should not dominate the peristyle, drum, dome or western towers of St Paul's Cathedral in the background of the view. Development that visually interacts with the dome in the immediate background should not diminish the viewer's ability to recognise and appreciate the Strategically Important Landmark.



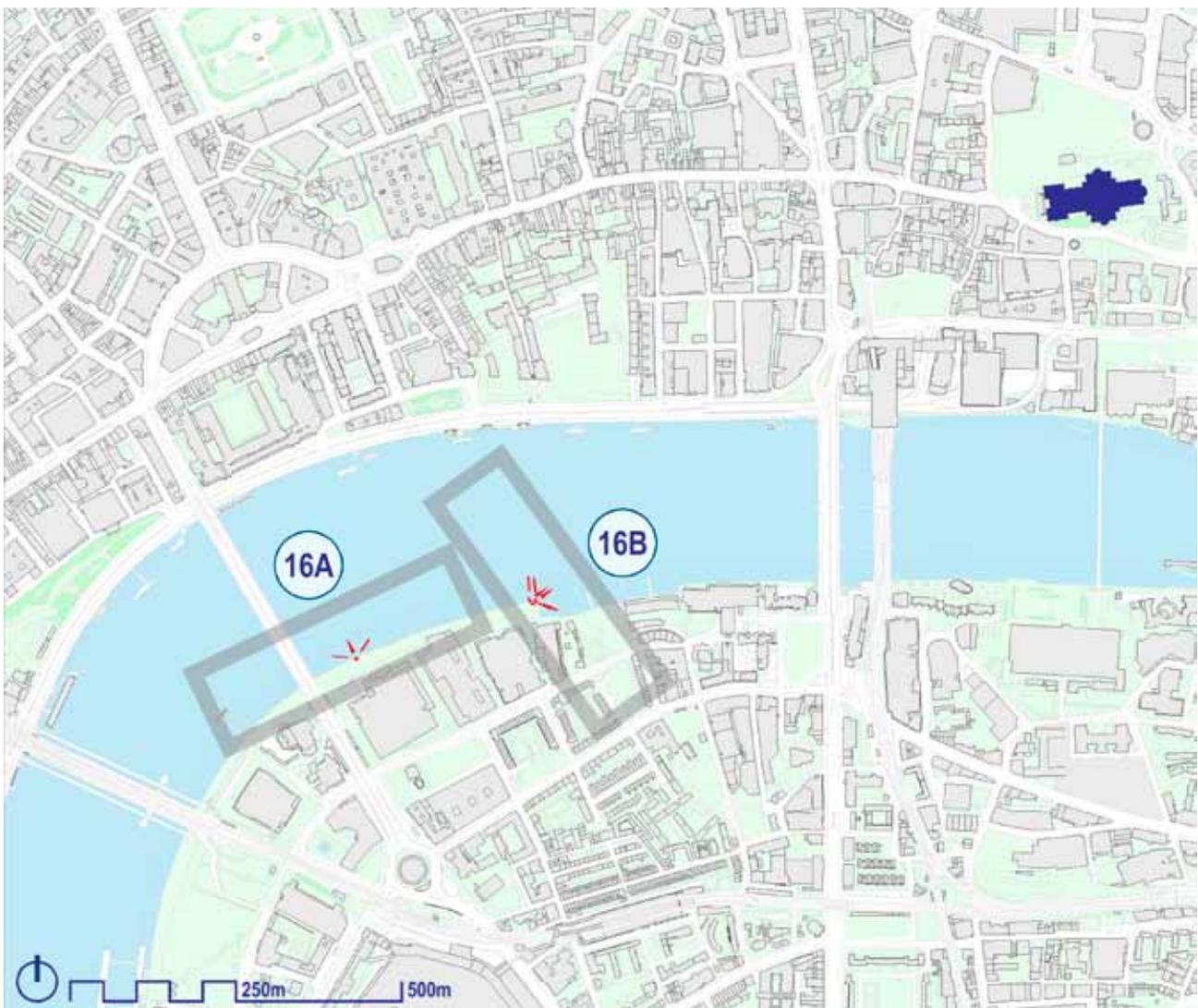
View from Assessment Point 15B.2 Waterloo Bridge: downstream – at the centre of the bridge (Approximate centreline of bridge). 530792.2E 180535.6N. Camera height 16.61m AOD. Aiming at St Nicholas Cole Abbey (Centre line through spire). Bearing 72.5°, distance 1.4km.

### Management of the Viewing Location

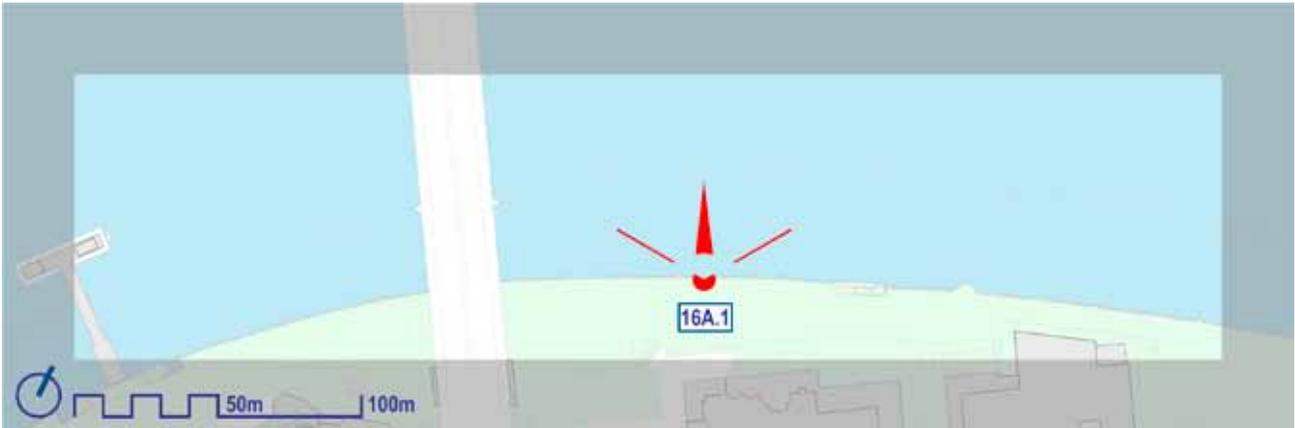
- 268 Viewing plaques should be corrected and repositioned to aid viewers' enjoyment of the views.



- 269 The South Bank River Prospect is the wide and pleasantly shaded section of the Queen's Walk between Waterloo Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge. The Viewing Place has a distinctly late 20th Century character, with a few remnants of Victorian industrial history. The Royal National Theatre is the most significant public building in this area and a significant cultural element of the South Bank Centre. Other elements are 20th Century commercial buildings and the Oxo Tower residential conversion.
- 270 There are two Viewing Locations at The South Bank: 16A is outside the National Theatre and 16B is at Gabriel's Wharf.



## Viewing Location 16A The South Bank: outside Royal National Theatre



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 16A.1 The South Bank: outside Royal National Theatre – axial to Somerset House

### Description of the View

- 271 The position of Assessment Point 16A.1 relates principally to the Grade I listed Somerset House and its immediate setting of Brettenham House, Waterloo Bridge and Kings College. The view also includes Temple Gardens and the intervening commercial buildings to the east and the Savoy Hotel and the former Shell Mex House to the west. The low profile of Somerset House means that buildings on higher ground in the Aldwych area provide a backdrop. There are only restricted views of animating structures, such as the fleche of the Royal Courts of Justice and the towers of the Strand churches. These are largely obscured by the riverside commercial buildings.
- 272 The foreground and middle ground consist of the river, Waterloo Bridge and the northern Embankment. Trees along the Embankment are an important element in the view.

### Landmarks include:

Somerset House (I)  
Waterloo Bridge (II\*)

### Also in the views:

Fleche of the Royal Courts of Justice (I)

## Visual Management Guidance

### Foreground and Middle Ground

- 273 The dominance and singularity of the treescape of Temple Gardens, as a break in development, should be preserved or enhanced, as should the treescape on the Embankment.



View from Assessment Point 16A.1 The South Bank: outside Royal National Theatre – axial to Somerset House (3rd bay to west of steps). 530931.0E 180441.6N. Camera height 6.82m AOD. Aiming at Somerset House (Flag pole on dome at centre of southern range; top of dome). Bearing 334.5°, distance 0.4km.



### Background

- 274 Development in the background of Somerset House should not dominate the landmark. Improvements to the setting of the landmark are encouraged through appropriate, high-quality design that respects Somerset House as the principal building in the view. The skyline of the view could be improved by new development of high architectural design quality in the background that respects the horizontal composition of the view and the dominance of Somerset House.

### Management of the Viewing Location

- 275 Consideration should be given to the installation of a viewing plaque at Assessment Point 16A.1

## Viewing Location 16B The South Bank: Gabriel's Wharf viewing platform



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 16B.1 The South Bank: Gabriel's Wharf viewing platform – centre of north rail



Panorama from Assessment Point 16B.2 The South Bank: Gabriel's Wharf viewing platform – centre of north-east rail

**Landmarks include:**

St Paul's Cathedral (I) †  
The Oxo Tower

**Also in the views:**

Temple Gardens (I)  
St Bride's Church (I)  
Unilever House (II)  
Tower 42  
30 St Mary Axe  
Heron Tower  
IPC Tower

**Description of the View**

- 276 Two Assessment Points (16B.1 and 16B.2), are located close together on the viewing platform, both orientated towards St Paul's Cathedral at the centre of the view.
- 277 The cluster of tall buildings in the City of London forms the skyline in the east. The river dominates the foreground, while the middle ground consists of mature trees leading from Temple towards the buildings on the Embankment near Blackfriars Bridge. Buildings between these provide a rich and intricate skyline. The viewing platform provides a distinct view position from which to appreciate St Paul's Cathedral and its wider setting.
- 278 There is a subtle transition from the Westminster section of this prospect, left of the view, to the City section further east and to the right. The scale of development gradually increases from the largely intact fine network based on a medieval foundation of alleys, courts and interlocking squares forming part of the Temple to the more recent institutional and commercial developments around Fleet Street and Ludgate in the City. Larger commercial development includes buildings such as Unilever House and the unforgiving Faraday House, which imposes on the view of the Cathedral. Beyond, to the right, is the City's eastern cluster of tall buildings.
- 279 The three dimensional form of St Paul's Cathedral can be fully appreciated in this view, with the main cornice and western towers both prominent. The dominance of St Paul's Cathedral and the visibility of its principal features are safeguarded by the St Paul's Heights Limitations, which prevent inappropriately high developments close to the Cathedral. Some existing tall buildings in the backdrop have started to damage the clarity of the Cathedral's overall form, and reduce the viewer's ability to appreciate it.

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

### Visual Management Guidance

- 280 New development should preserve or enhance the townscape setting of St Paul's Cathedral within this view. Development within the St Paul's Heights Limitations will need to conform to that local policy, maintained by the City of London Corporation, but should utilise good design principles to avoid the overt horizontality of many of the existing buildings in that area.
- 281 Proposals for new tall buildings should contribute to the existing northern or eastern clusters of tall buildings, seen on either side of St Paul's Cathedral.



View from Assessment Point 16B.1 The South Bank: Gabriel's Wharf viewing platform – centre of north rail (Centre of north railing, on strip of granite setts). 531193.8E 180530.4N. Camera height 6.93m AOD. Aiming at St Paul's Cathedral (Central axis of the dome, at the base of the drum). Bearing 54.6°, distance 1.1km.

### Foreground and Middle Ground

- 282 There are several landmarks and historic buildings other than St Paul's Cathedral in the view, which aid the viewer's strategic appreciation of London. The viewer's ability to recognise these landmarks should be preserved or enhanced.

### Background

- 283 The prominence of St Paul's Cathedral should not be reduced by development visually crowding or dominating the landmark when seen by the viewer moving between Assessment Points. The architectural form and materials of a proposal in the background should provide an appropriate context to the landmark.

*Management of the Viewing Location*

- 284 Accurate viewing plaques should be made available at this location to aid the public's enjoyment of the view.

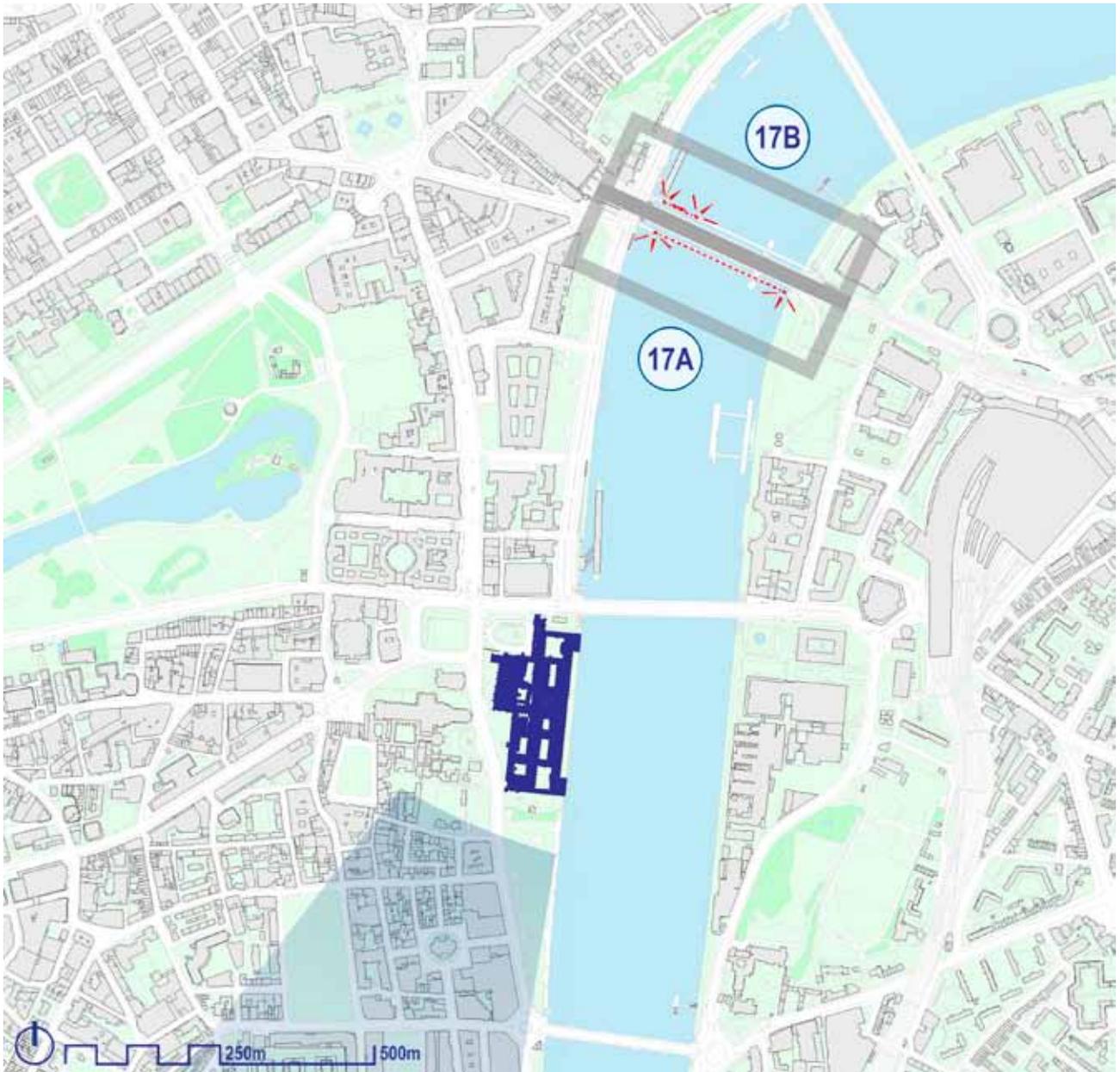


View from Assessment Point 16B.2 The South Bank: Gabriel's Wharf viewing platform – centre of north-east rail (On strip of granite setts). 531202.7E 180528.7N. Camera height 6.95m AOD. Aiming at St Paul's Cathedral (Central axis of the dome, at the base of the drum). Bearing 54.2°, distance 1.0km.

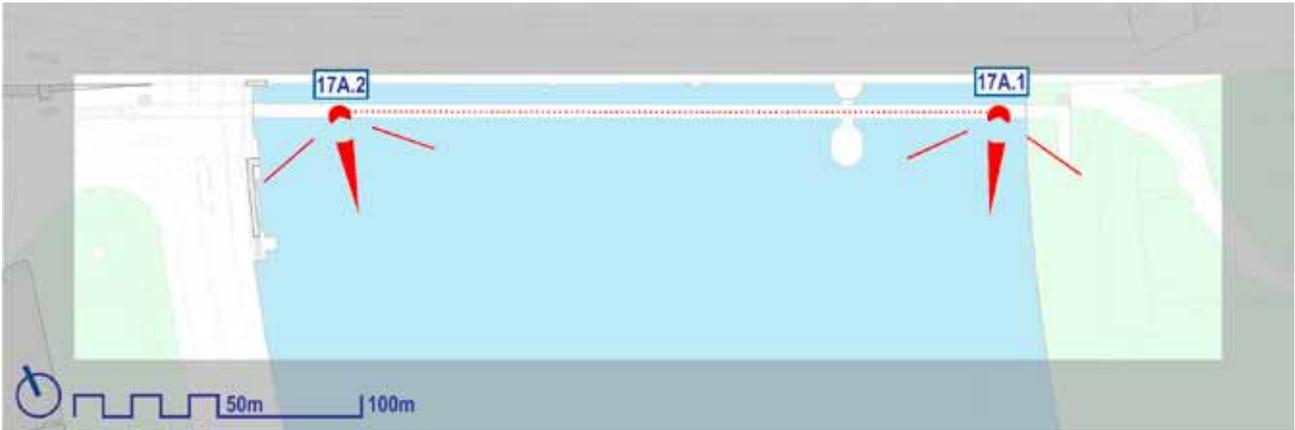


# 17 River Prospect: Golden Jubilee/ Hungerford Footbridges

- 285 The Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges flank the Hungerford railway bridge, built in 1863. The footbridges were designed by the architects Lifschutz Davidson and were opened as a Millennium Project in 2003.
- 286 There are two Viewing Locations at Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges, 17A and 17B, referring to the upstream and downstream sides of the bridge.



## Viewing Location 17A Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges: upstream



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 17A.1 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges: upstream - close to the Lambeth bank



Panorama from Assessment Point 17A.2 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges: upstream - close to the Westminster bank

### Description of the View

- 287 Two Assessment Points are located on the upstream side of the bridge (17A.1 and 17A.2) representing the wide swathe of views available. A Protected Silhouette of the Palace of Westminster is applied between Assessment Points 17A.1 and 17A.2.
- 288 The river dominates the foreground. In the middle ground the London Eye and Embankment trees form distinctive elements. The visible buildings on Victoria Embankment comprise a broad curve of large, formal elements of consistent height and scale, mostly of Portland stone. They form a strong and harmonious building line.
- 289 The Palace of Westminster, part of the World Heritage Site, terminates the view, along with the listed Millbank Tower. The lower cluster of buildings at Vauxhall is also visible in the background. The towers of Westminster Abbey can just be seen as a backdrop to New Scotland Yard. The pinnacles of the Palace of Westminster are echoed in the gables, turrets and chimneys of adjoining buildings, which together create a distinctive and vibrant skyline. In most of the views from the bridge the complete silhouette of the Palace of Westminster can be seen against sky. Where buildings are glimpsed in the background of the landmark, the viewing experience is diminished. Enjoyment of the view is affected by the time of day and the changing quality of the light.

### Landmarks include:

Palace of Westminster (I) †  
 Towers of Westminster Abbey (I)  
 The London Eye  
 Westminster Bridge (II\*)  
 Whitehall Court (II\*)

### Also in the views:

The Shell Centre  
 County Hall (II\*)  
 St Thomas's Hospital (Victorian section) (II)  
 St George's Wharf, Vauxhall  
 Millbank Tower (II)  
 Portcullis House  
 Norman Shaw North (I) & South (II\*) (Formerly Old & New Scotland Yard)  
 Ministry of Defence

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

### Visual Management Guidance

- 290 Development should contribute to the settings of spaces and buildings immediately fronting the river, including the Strategically Important Landmark of the Palace of Westminster.
- 291 Development proposals likely to affect the World Heritage Site should pay regard to the guidance set out in the Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan. It is recommended that English Heritage is consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.



View from Assessment Point 17A.1 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges: upstream - close to the Lambeth bank (Adjacent to the first support mast). 530662.9E 180177.2N. Camera height 13.60m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (The Central Tower, above the lobby crossing). Bearing 210.4°, distance 0.8km.



### Foreground and Middle Ground

- 292 Development should not cause adverse impact to the World Heritage Site and should not compromise a viewer's ability to appreciate its Outstanding Universal Value. Landmarks also make an important contribution to the skyline and they should not be obscured by new development.

### Background

- 293 The view is characterised by the Palace of Westminster, as the most prominent building, punctuating the skyline and rising above the trees on the Embankment south of Millbank Tower. Development proposed behind the other river frontage buildings must respond to the character and appearance of existing buildings and landscape, and should not encroach on, or form a backdrop to, the Palace of Westminster or Westminster Abbey in this view. New development should not impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.
- 294 Incremental change to development in the background of the river frontage is acceptable provided each addition to the view contributes positively to the overtly horizontal composition.
- 295 It should be noted that new clusters of tall buildings may emerge at Vauxhall/ Nine Elms Opportunity Area. Tall building proposals in that area should be designed to preserve or enhance the setting of key landmarks and to relate to and strengthen the composition of the emerging cluster of tall buildings.
- 296 The Protected Silhouette should not be altered by development appearing in its background at or between Assessment Points 17A.1 and 17A.2.

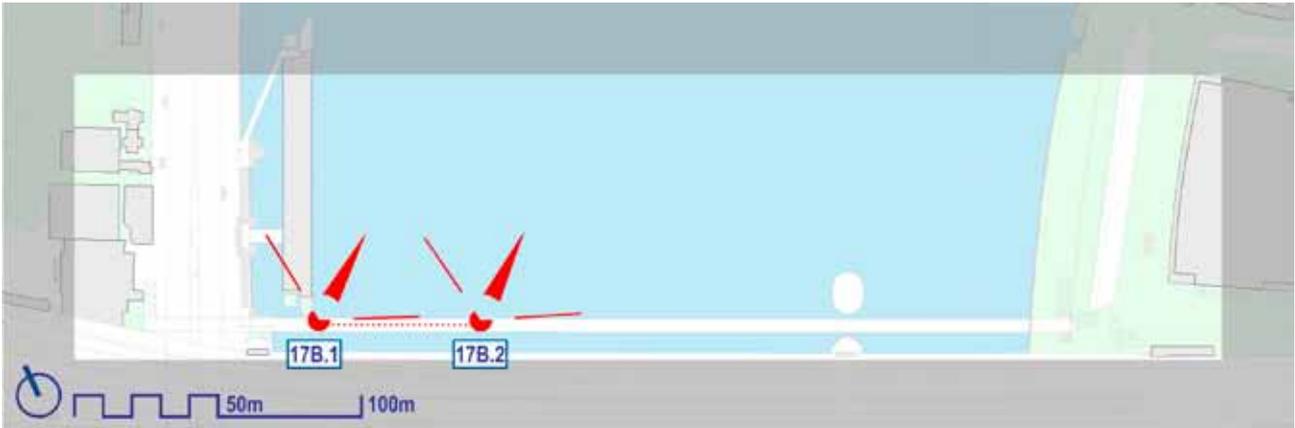


View from Assessment Point 17A.2 Golden Jubilee/ Hungerford Footbridges: upstream - close to the Westminster bank (Next to the orientation board). 530454.6E 180274.1N. Camera height 13.52m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (The Central Tower, above the lobby crossing). Bearing 193.8°, distance 0.8km.

### Management of the Viewing Location

- 297 Accurate viewing plaques should be positioned to relate to the Assessment Points.

## Viewing Location 17B Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges: downstream



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 17B.1 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges: downstream – crossing the Westminster bank



Panorama from Assessment Point 17B.2 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges: downstream – close to the Westminster bank

### Description of the View

- 298 The footbridge provides enhanced views east towards the City of London owing to its elevated position. Two Assessment Points are located on the downstream side, 17B.1 and 17B.2.
- 299 The riverside buildings, such as Shell Mex House, to the left, and the Royal Festival Hall to the right, frame the view. The dominant element in this view is the expanse of the river, which forms a very wide foreground and middle ground. Waterloo Bridge, and trees on the Embankment, are significant elements of horizontality. The Embankment, Festival Piers and the permanently moored boats in the foreground reinforce the character of the Thames as a working river, and contribute to a rich foreground.
- 300 St Paul's Cathedral and its western towers rise above the general townscape, although recent development reduces the quality of its setting in the view from the south-east side of the bridge. Either side of the Cathedral are the east and northern clusters of tall buildings in the City of London. The spire of St Brides and the dome of the Old Bailey are distinctive vertical elements seen against the sky. The curve of the river emphasises the more solid mass of buildings on the South Bank, which acts as a pivot to the sweep of buildings along the Victoria Embankment.

### Landmarks include:

St Paul's Cathedral (I) †  
 Cleopatra's Needle (I)  
 Somerset House (I)  
 Waterloo Bridge (II\*)  
 St Bride's Church (I)  
 Royal National Theatre (II\*)  
 Royal Festival Hall (I)  
 The Shard

### Also in the views:

Shell Mex House  
 Brettenham House  
 Fleche of the Royal Courts of Justice (I)  
 Barbican Towers (II)  
 Dome of the Old Bailey (II\*)  
 Tower 42  
 30 St Mary Axe  
 IPC Tower  
 Heron Tower

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

### Visual Management Guidance

- 301 The setting of St Paul's Cathedral within the view, as the singular most important structure, should be preserved or enhanced.



View from Assessment Point 17B.1 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges: downstream – crossing the Westminster bank (Crossing Westminster Bank).  
530470.6E 180325.7N.  
Camera height 13.58m AOD.  
Aiming at St Bride's Church (Centre of steeple; tip of steeple). Bearing 53.1°, distance 1.3km.



- 302 New development should strengthen the composition of the existing clusters of tall buildings. Buildings near Somerset House should utilise the highest standards of architecture and materials, and relate positively to the landmark building.

#### *Foreground and Middle Ground*

- 303 The intensification of river activity will be welcomed as a counterpoint to the distinct middle ground of Waterloo Bridge.

### *Background*

- 304 There are opportunities for additional development in the background if it is of a high quality, and if it makes a contribution to the existing characteristics and composition of the view. In particular, proposals for tall buildings in the Waterloo Opportunity Area should be designed to relate to and strengthen the composition of the group of buildings in the middle ground on the South Bank without overpowering other elements of the view or harming the setting of the Royal Festival Hall or the National Theatre.
- 305 High buildings seen in relation to St Paul's Cathedral should be grouped with either the eastern or northern cluster of tall buildings in the City.

### *Management of the Viewing Location*

- 306 Viewing plaques should be added and positioned to relate to the Assessment Points.



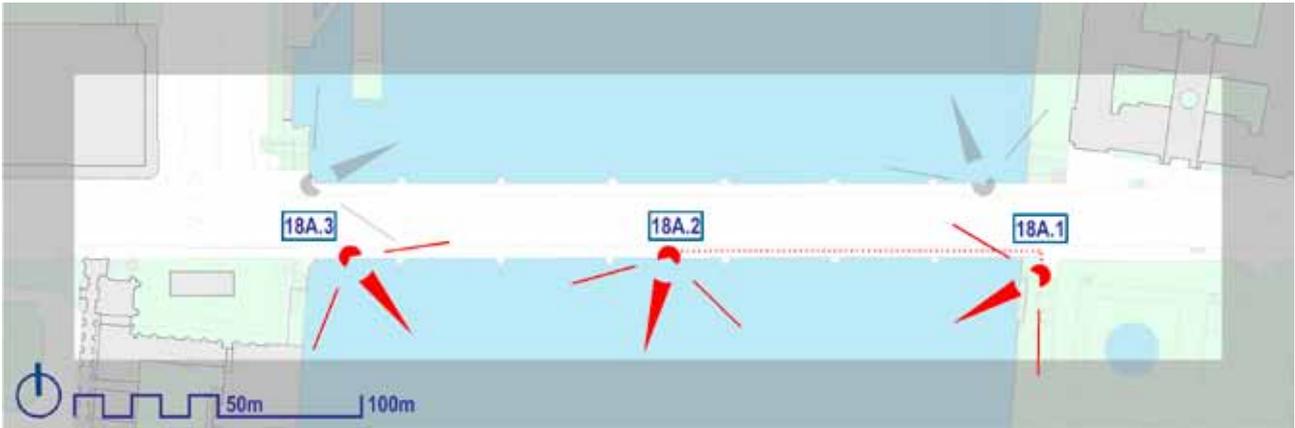
View from Assessment Point 17B.2 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges: downstream – close to the Westminster bank (One span towards Westminster bank from centre of bridge, above navigation lights). 530521.7E 180301.9N. Camera height 13.64m AOD. Aiming at St Bride's Church (Centre of steeple; tip of steeple). Bearing 50.9°, distance 1.3km.



- 307 Westminster Bridge has an east west orientation, across the Thames. The Bridge was constructed in 1854-62 to the designs of Thomas Page and Sir Charles Barry. The bridge makes a visual connection between two of London's historic civic buildings, the Palace of Westminster and the former County Hall. William Wordsworth's sonnet 'Composed Upon Westminster Bridge, September 3rd, 1802', celebrates views from the bridge.
- 308 There are two Viewing Locations at Westminster Bridge, 18A and 18B, referring to the upstream and downstream sides of the bridge.



## Viewing Location 18A Westminster Bridge: upstream



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 18A.1 Westminster Bridge: upstream – at the top of the steps from the Albert Embankment



Panorama from Assessment Point 18A.2 Westminster Bridge: upstream – at the centre of the bridge



Panorama from Assessment Point 18A.3 Westminster Bridge: upstream – at the Westminster bank

### Description of the View

- 309 The upstream side of Westminster Bridge provides views south towards Lambeth Bridge and beyond to Vauxhall. Three Assessment Points (18A.1, 18A.2 and 18A.3) are located on the upstream side of the bridge, each with a different orientation. A Protected Silhouette of the Palace of Westminster is applied between Assessment Points 18A.1 and 18A.2.
- 310 The river forms the foreground of the views. The wide and relatively clear stretch of the river in this prospect contrasts with many other views from bridges, in which the river is relatively busy and includes many moored boats and barges. Mature trees along both embankments form important middle ground elements. The axial views in this straight portion of the river focus on an unresolved modern part of the city around Vauxhall Station, seen between the strong vertical elements of the listed Millbank Tower and the smaller Westminster Tower, beyond Lambeth Palace.
- 311 The pinnacles and towers of the Palace of Westminster, and those of Westminster Abbey behind, are seen against the skyline and are key elements of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Westminster World Heritage Site. The prominence of the Strategically Important Landmark is enhanced by the setting provided by the diminishing trees of Victoria Tower Gardens to the south. The trees accentuate the sense of perspective, while also shielding the cliff-like Thames House buildings, and visually separating the World Heritage Site from the Millbank Tower. There is an emphatic culmination of this River Prospect at the foot of the bridge, with the impressive Clock Tower of the Palace of Westminster most prominent in the view.

### Landmarks include:

Palace of Westminster (I) †  
 Towers of Westminster Abbey (I)  
 Westminster Bridge (II\*)  
 Lambeth Palace (I)  
 Lambeth Bridge (II)

### Also in the views:

St Thomas's Hospital (1960s addition)  
 St Thomas's Hospital (Victorian section) (II)  
 St George's Wharf, Vauxhall  
 Millbank Tower (II)

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

- 312 Looking towards the Lambeth bank from just beyond the front wall of the Palace of Westminster, the Victorian turrets of St Thomas’s Hospital are clearly seen against the sky. As in the view from the centre of the bridge, Lambeth Palace can also be seen. The prominence of St George’s Wharf, Vauxhall, indicates how important the further development of this area will be to the composition of the view as a whole.



View from Assessment Point 18A.1 Westminster Bridge: upstream – at the top of the steps from the Albert Embankment (At head of stairs from Albert Embankment, alongside viewing telescope). 530591.9E 179640.8N. Camera height 10.16m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (ventilation tower to south of Central Tower). Bearing 242.0°, distance 0.4km.



### Visual Management Guidance

- 313 The Palace of Westminster is the most prominent feature in most of the views from this Viewing Place. It requires maintenance of an appropriate setting reflecting its Outstanding Universal Value as a World Heritage Site. New development affecting the setting of the Palace of Westminster should be of the highest architectural quality and should be subordinate to the Strategically Important Landmark.
- 314 Development proposals likely to affect the World Heritage Site should pay regard to the guidance set out in the Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan. It is recommended that English Heritage is consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.
- 315 Viewing place 18A includes three Assessment Points. Visual Management Guidance applies equally to all locations, accessible on foot, between Assessment Points 18A.1 and 18A.2. Assessment Point 18A.3 is dealt with as a separate point, being orientated to the south and east.

### *Foreground and Middle Ground*

- 316 No development is anticipated in the foreground and middle ground of this view.

### *Background*

- 317 New clusters of tall buildings are likely to emerge within the Vauxhall/Nine Elms Opportunity Area. These developments offer the potential opportunity to significantly improve the background townscape and skyline to Lambeth Bridge. New development in this area should be of the highest design quality, including tall buildings that contribute to a cluster of compositional value that enhances views from Westminster Bridge. Development on Millbank should respect the predominantly horizontal composition of this section of the view and should not reduce the dominance of the towers of the Palace of Westminster.



View from Assessment Point 18A.2 Westminster Bridge: upstream – at the centre of the bridge (Centre line of bridge above navigation lights). 530463.0E 179650.1N. Camera height 12.20m AOD. Aiming at Thames House (Base of flagpost on east façade). Bearing 195.6°, distance 0.8km.

- 318 The Protected Silhouette should not be altered by development appearing in its background at or between Assessment Points 18A.1 and 18A.2
- 319 The opportunity presented by any new development on the south side of the River in front of Lambeth Bridge to improve the quality of the view would need to be assessed against its impact on Lambeth Palace, the Victorian turrets of St Thomas's Hospital as well as on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

*Management of the Viewing Location*

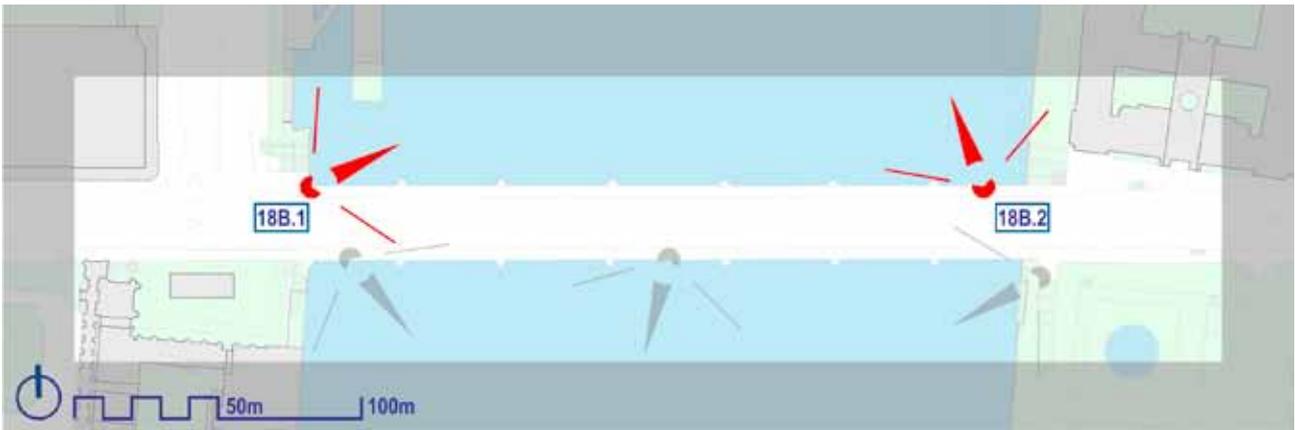
- 320 This is a popular Viewing Place, attracting many tourists owing to its proximity to the Palace of Westminster, the London Eye and other South Bank attractions. Opportunities to improve the Viewing Place, including an effective cleaning strategy, should be taken to ensure that views continue to be enjoyed.



View from Assessment Point 18A.3 Westminster Bridge: upstream – at the Westminster bank (Close to the Westminster bank, outboard of the façade of the Palace of Westminster). 530352.0E 179652.5N. Camera height 10.63m AOD. Aiming at Old St Thomas’ Hospital (SW turret of central Nightingale Ward). Bearing 142.8°, distance 0.4km.



### Viewing Location 18B Westminster Bridge: downstream



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 18B.1 Westminster Bridge: downstream – at the Westminster bank



Panorama from Assessment Point 18B.2 Westminster Bridge: downstream – at the Lambeth bank

**Landmarks include:**

Golden Jubilee/Hungerford  
Footbridges  
The London Eye  
Whitehall Court (II\*)

**Also in the views:**

Norman Shaw North (I) & South (II\*)  
(Formerly Old & New Scotland Yard)  
Ministry of Defence  
Embankment Place  
Shell Mex House (II)  
Flèche of the Royal Courts of  
Justice (I)  
Shell Centre tower  
County Hall (II\*)

**Description of the View**

- 321 The Westminster Bridge downstream location extends across the north pavement of the bridge. Two Assessment Points are located in the place. 18B.1 represents views towards the Lambeth bank, where the London Eye, County Hall and the Shell Centre are prominent. 18B.2 represents views north towards the Golden Jubilee/Hungerford footbridges and beyond to the boundary between Westminster and the City. These buildings and structures create an ensemble within the wider prospect, with the flat plane of the river providing the foreground, County Hall and the London Eye existing in the middle ground, and the Shell Centre being the only significant element in the background.
- 322 Views orientated towards the north bank of the river are quite different. They are notable for the perspective that the Embankment buildings provide, along with the trees, pylons of the Golden Jubilee/Hungerford footbridges, and the structures in the background, including the flèche of the Royal Courts of Justice, the spire of St Clement Danes and the Shell Mex Building. There is a strong sense of formality created by the civic scale of the buildings and their relationship to the river. Particular elements, such as the regular pavilions of the Ministry of Defence and the spires of Whitehall Court contribute to this characteristic.

## Visual Management Guidance

### *Foreground and Middle Ground*

- 323 The foreground is the river and the middle ground is the Embankment, which leads the eye to the various landmark buildings forming it.
- 324 The setting of the group of buildings including County Hall, the London Eye and the Shell Centre, should be carefully considered. New development in the view should contribute positively to that setting and the significance of heritage assets in the view.



View from Assessment Point 18B.1 Westminster Bridge: downstream – at the Westminster bank (At head of stairs leading up from Victoria Embankment). 530339.0E 179677.9N. Camera height 10.36m AOD. Aiming at The London Eye (Western tip of axis of wheel). Bearing 65.0°, distance 0.6km.

### *Background*

- 325 The civic nature of the buildings on the north bank in this view has a clarity that should not be diminished by development in the background.
- 326 New tall buildings at the Waterloo Opportunity Area should contribute to the development of a legible cluster that respects the prominence of County Hall, and does not diminish its role in establishing a horizontally oriented riverfront composition. These buildings should be of the highest design quality, respect the historic environment and should, as part of the cluster, enhance the juxtaposition between the vertical London Eye and the horizontal County Hall. No new building should dominate landmark buildings or diminish their relationship with the river.

*Management of the Viewing Location*

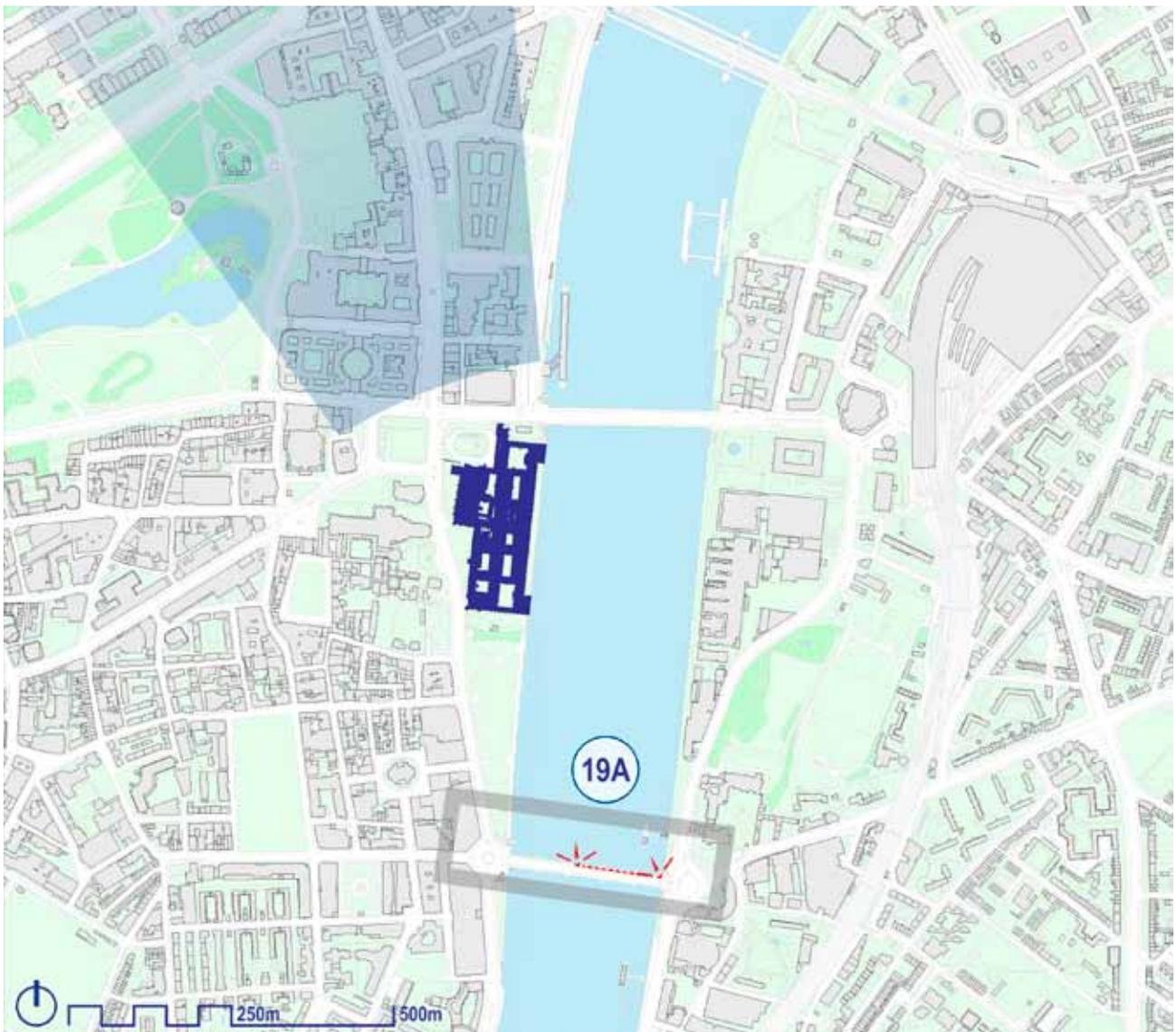
- 327 The quality of the Viewing Location on the downstream side of Westminster Bridge is poor. Opportunities to improve the location, including an effective cleaning strategy, should be taken to ensure that views continue to be enjoyed by its many visitors.



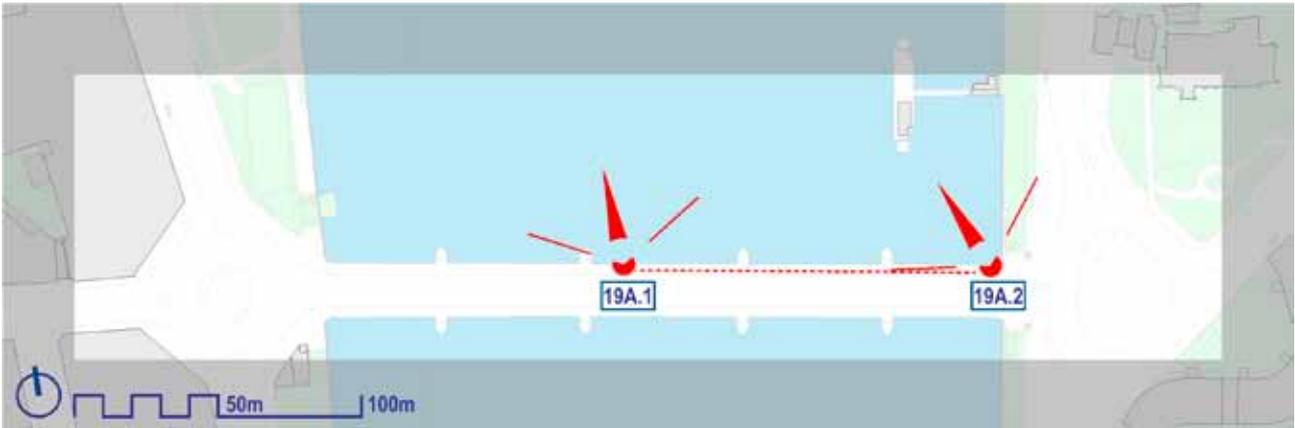
View from Assessment Point 18B.2 Westminster Bridge: downstream – at the Lambeth bank (On Axis of the London Eye). 530573.2E 179673.1N. Camera height 10.70m AOD. Aiming at Embankment Place (Centre of River (SE) Façade). Bearing 341.2°, distance 0.7km.



- 328 Lambeth Bridge is the furthest upstream of the bridges from which River Prospects have been designated. It crosses a straight section of the Thames that runs north south, passing the Palace of Westminster. On the Westminster side of the river, the bridge allows access into the heart of SW1, while on the Lambeth side is Lambeth Palace, the official London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury since 1207.
- 329 There is one Viewing Location at Lambeth Bridge, 19A. It is located on the downstream side of the bridge.



## Viewing Location 19A Lambeth Bridge: downstream



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 19A.1 Lambeth Bridge: downstream – at the centre of the bridge



Panorama from Assessment Point 19A.2 Lambeth Bridge: downstream – close to the Lambeth bank

### Description of the View

- 330 The downstream pavement Viewing Location provides important views to the northwest and towards the Palace of Westminster. Two Assessment Points (19A.1 and 19A.2) have been identified. A Protected Silhouette of the Palace of Westminster is applied between Assessment Points 19A.1 and 19A.2.
- 331 The river dominates the foreground and middle ground of the view, with the Palace of Westminster forming the focus. Other important elements in the view are the mature trees on both sides of the river. The intensity of riverside buildings north of Westminster Bridge and east into the City of London, is secondary in this view to the visually 'semi-pastoral' setting of the World Heritage Site. No development crowds in close to the World Heritage Site, with only the towers of Westminster Abbey interacting with it to the left of the view (the roof of the Abbey also being visible through the trees in winter).
- 332 A group of prominent, similarly sized buildings on the riverfront, which includes Whitehall Court, Embankment Place, Adelphi House and Shell Mex House, can also be seen in this view. These are underscored by Westminster Bridge, while other prominent buildings – including the London Eye, the former County Hall, St Thomas's Hospital are seen on the Lambeth side of the river.
- 333 To the far north-east is the City of London, including Tower 42 and 30 St Mary Axe ('The Gherkin'), making this a Viewing Location with some exceptionally deep views. Centre Point and the BT Tower become visible in the backdrop of the Palace of Westminster in views from certain angles across the bridge.

### Landmarks:

The Palace of Westminster (I) †  
 Towers of Westminster Abbey (I)  
 Whitehall Court (II\*)  
 The London Eye  
 Lambeth Palace (I)  
 Westminster Bridge (II\*)  
 Victoria Tower Gardens

### Also in the views:

BT Tower (II)  
 Centre Point (II)  
 Embankment Place  
 Shell Mex House (II)  
 County Hall (II\*)  
 St Thomas's Hospital (Victorian section) (II)  
 30 St Mary Axe  
 Tower 42

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

### Visual Management Guidance

- 334 Development in the background of the buildings on the river must respond positively to their characteristics and enhance the composition of the view. The visual effect of new development on landmarks should not diminish their status in the view.
- 335 The setting of the Palace of Westminster is largely unaffected by modern development when seen in views from Lambeth Bridge. The qualities of this setting must remain in order that the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, in townscape and visual terms, can be recognised and appreciated by the viewer.
- 336 Development proposals likely to affect the World Heritage Site should pay regard to the guidance set out in the Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan. It is recommended that English Heritage is consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.



View from Assessment Point 19A.1 Lambeth Bridge: downstream – at the centre of the bridge (northern side of bridge, just west of the centre, looking straight downstream.). 530382.3E 178970.2N. Camera height 13.16m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (NE finial on northern most tower of river frontage). Bearing 355.7°, distance 0.7km.

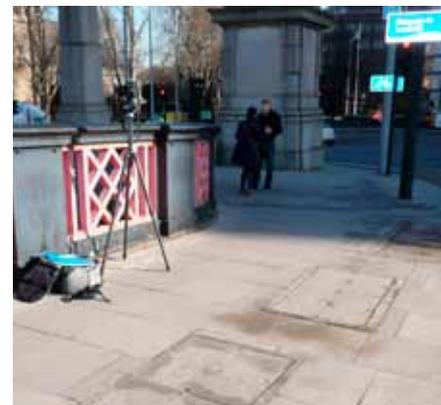


### Foreground and Middle Ground

- 337 Each landmark should remain visible and able to be appreciated by the viewer.

### Background

- 338 It should be noted that a new tall buildings might emerge at the Waterloo Opportunity Area. These should be of high quality, contribute to the formation of a cluster of tall buildings, respect the historic environment, and should contribute positively to views from Lambeth Bridge. The incremental consolidation of the cluster of tall buildings at the City of London is also anticipated.
- 339 The Protected Silhouette should not be altered by development appearing in its background at or between Assessment Points 19A.1 and 19A.2.



View from Assessment Point 19A.2 Lambeth Bridge: downstream – close to the Lambeth bank (Entering bridge from Lambeth Bank). 530508.9E 178952.1N. Camera height 9.68m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (The Central Tower, above the lobby crossing). Bearing 335.6°, distance 0.6km.

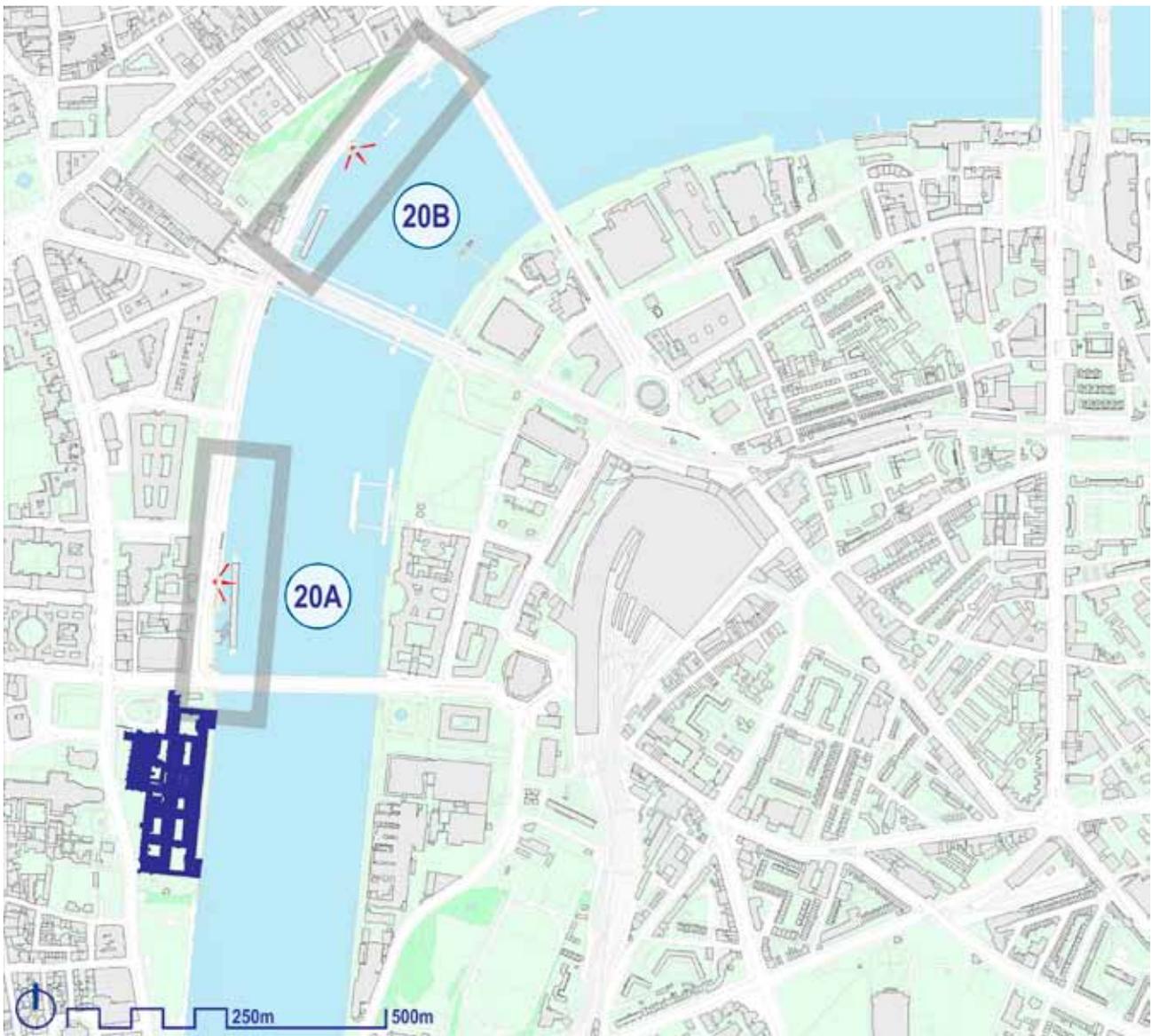
### Management of the Viewing Location

- 340 The Viewing Location consists of a relatively narrow pavement on a heavily trafficked bridge. Viewers would benefit from a reduction in noise and an improvement in general cleanliness at the location.



## 20 River Prospect: Victoria Embankment between Waterloo and Westminster Bridges

341 This River Prospect is a continual experience from Westminster Bridge to Waterloo Bridge. Sir Joseph Bazalgette, the Victorian engineer, embanked the Thames here in 1864-70 providing for the London Underground and upgraded sewers. A broad thoroughfare for vehicles and pedestrians was also created. Gardens were established on the landward side and avenues of trees planted. The Viewing Place provides a promenade when walking between the Palace of Westminster and Somerset House and via Waterloo Bridge to the cultural attractions of the South Bank.



342 There are two Viewing Locations between Waterloo Bridge and Westminster Bridge. The first of these, 20A, is located between Westminster Bridge and the Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges. The second, 20B, is located further north between the Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Footbridges and Waterloo Bridge.

**Viewing Location 20A**  
**Victoria Embankment: between Westminster and Hungerford Bridges**



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 20A.1 Victoria Embankment: between Westminster and Hungerford Bridges – axial to County Hall

### Description of the View

- 343 A single Assessment Point (20A.1) is located at a position axial to the former County Hall.
- 344 The river dominates the foreground. The view is of a series of buildings, which have visual strength as separate objects, rather than continuity. The principal elements are the former County Hall, the Shell Centre, the London Eye and the two bridges. At various positions, prominent background buildings of varying quality appear, including Guy's Hospital, the Shard and, momentarily, St Paul's Cathedral (see also the Linear View from Westminster Pier).

#### Landmarks include:

Golden Jubilee and Hungerford  
Footbridges  
County Hall (II\*)  
The London Eye  
Westminster Bridge (II\*)  
The Shard

#### Also in the views:

Shell Centre  
St Thomas's Hospital (1960s  
section) (II)  
St Thomas's Hospital (Victorian  
section) (II)

( ) Grade of Listed Building

## Visual Management Guidance

### *Foreground and Middle Ground*

- 345 Landmarks in the view should not be obscured by foreground elements, including kiosks on the Embankment and moored boats or jetties on the river.



View from Assessment Point 20A.1 Victoria Embankment: between Westminster and Hungerford Bridges – axial to County Hall (On axis of County Hall). 530332.4E 179824.7N. Camera height 7.40m AOD. Aiming at County Hall (Central axis of tower in centre of crescent; tip of tower). Bearing 95.3°, distance 0.3km.



### *Background*

- 346 It is recognised that new development, including within the Waterloo Opportunity Area, may become visible in the background of this view. Such development may be acceptable if it is sensitively designed and does not dominate the horizontal emphasis of the composition provided by landmark riverside buildings, particularly the former County Hall. New development should contribute to the juxtaposition between the vertical elements around the Shell Centre and the horizontal elements of County Hall.

### *Management of the Viewing Location*

- 347 A strategy for cleaning and maintenance should be developed to ensure viewers can enjoy the prospects from this location.

## Viewing Location 20B Victoria Embankment: between Waterloo and Hungerford Bridges



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 20B.1 Victoria Embankment: between Waterloo and Hungerford Bridges – at Cleopatra's Needle

**Landmarks include:**

Waterloo Bridge (II\*)  
 Royal National Theatre (II\*)  
 Royal Festival Hall (I)  
 The London Eye  
 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford  
 Footbridges  
 The Shard

**Also in the views:**

IPC Tower  
 ITV Tower  
 Shell Centre tower

**Description of the View**

- 348 A single Assessment Point (20B.1) is located below Cleopatra's Needle, on the river bank.
- 349 The view is of a series of post-war object buildings, mostly with a strong horizontal massing in contrast with the Shell Tower. The principal elements are the Royal Festival Hall, surrounded by the former Shell Centre Complex, with the Shell Tower standing beyond the landing of Hungerford Railway Bridge. The Shard can also be clearly seen in the view.
- 350 The London Eye and the ITV tower, though towards the periphery of the view, are strong visual elements in the wider townscape. Trees on the South Bank soften the relationship between the river and the buildings.

## Visual Management Guidance

### Foreground and Middle Ground

- 351 New development placed amongst the buildings in the middle ground should be designed to contribute positively to the composition of the group as a whole and should respect the historic environment.

### Background

- 352 It is recognised that new development, including within the Waterloo Opportunity Area, may become visible in the background of this view. Such development may be acceptable if it is sensitively designed, respects the heritage assets in this view and their settings and does not compromise or dominate the composition of the landmark buildings that characterise the South Bank.



View from Assessment Point 20B.1 Victoria Embankment: between Waterloo and Hungerford Bridges – at Cleopatra’s Needle (At Cleopatra’s Needle). 530548.3E 180509.9N. Camera height 5.50m AOD. Aiming at Royal Festival Hall (Centre of River (NW) Facade). Bearing 140.9°, distance 0.3km.

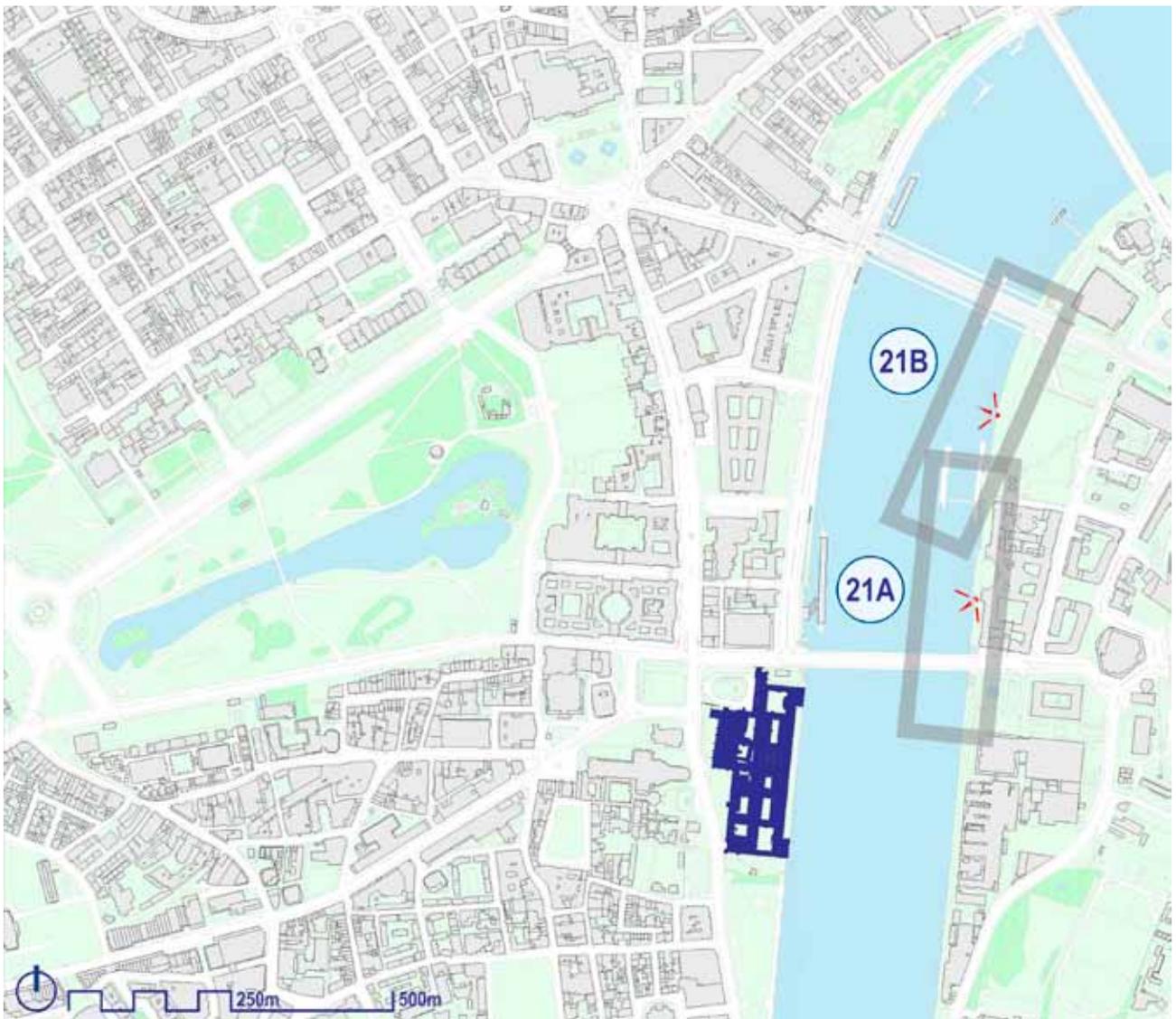
### Management of the Viewing Location

- 353 A strategy for cleaning and maintenance should be developed to ensure viewers can enjoy the prospects from this place.
- 354 It should be noted that the viewing position might not be accessible at high tide.



# 21 River Prospect: Jubilee Gardens and Thames side in front of County Hall

- 355 The views are appreciated along the whole stretch of the Queen’s Walk between Westminster Bridge and the Hungerford Bridge on the South Bank. This is a popular public space, with the London Eye and other attractions encouraging visitors, and the Hungerford footbridges allowing excellent access to the place.
- 356 There are two Viewing Locations on the Queen’s Walk. The first, 21A, is south of The London Eye in front of the former County Hall. The second, 21B, is further north, in front of Jubilee Gardens.



## Viewing Location 21A Thames side in front of County Hall



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 21A.1 Thames side in front of County Hall – close to Westminster Bridge

### Description of the View

- 357 A single Assessment Point (21A.1) is located close to the river wall, in front of the former County Hall.
- 358 Views from this place are orientated towards the Westminster bank of the Thames, and in particular to the Palace of Westminster, which is underlined in the view by Westminster Bridge. The Clock Tower of the Palace of Westminster is the most prominent feature, and the towers of Westminster Abbey combine with the composition in a harmonious way. Buildings on the far side of Parliament Square provide a sense of depth, including the Methodist Central Hall behind the trees.
- 359 Beyond Westminster Bridge, the Millbank Tower provides a landmark of high quality design marking a continuation of the city further south. Lambeth Bridge is visible under the eastern most arch of Westminster Bridge.
- 360 The buildings on the Victoria Embankment are prominent in the view. They are generally of seven or eight storeys and set behind mature trees. They are generally individual objects with glimpses between to Whitehall beyond.

### Landmarks include:

Palace of Westminster (I) †  
Towers of Westminster Abbey (I)  
Westminster Bridge (II\*)

### Also in the views:

Canary Wharf  
Millbank Tower (II)  
Methodist Central Hall (II\*)  
Portcullis House  
Norman Shaw North (I) & South (II\*)  
(Formerly Old & New Scotland Yard)  
Ministry of Defence

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

### Visual Management Guidance

- 361 Development proposals likely to affect the World Heritage Site should pay regard to the guidance set out in the Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan. It is recommended that English Heritage is consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.



View from Assessment Point 21A.1 Thames side in front of County Hall – close to Westminster Bridge (Just West of ticket office outside County Hall, against river wall.). 530597.8E 179758.1N. Camera height 6.70m AOD. Aiming at Westminster Bridge (Top of streetlamp to east of central upstream span i.e. 5th from Westminster Bank). Bearing 234.4°, distance 0.1km.



#### Foreground and Middle Ground

- 362 Built elements, or elements moored on the river, should not be allowed to compromise this clear view towards the Palace of Westminster.

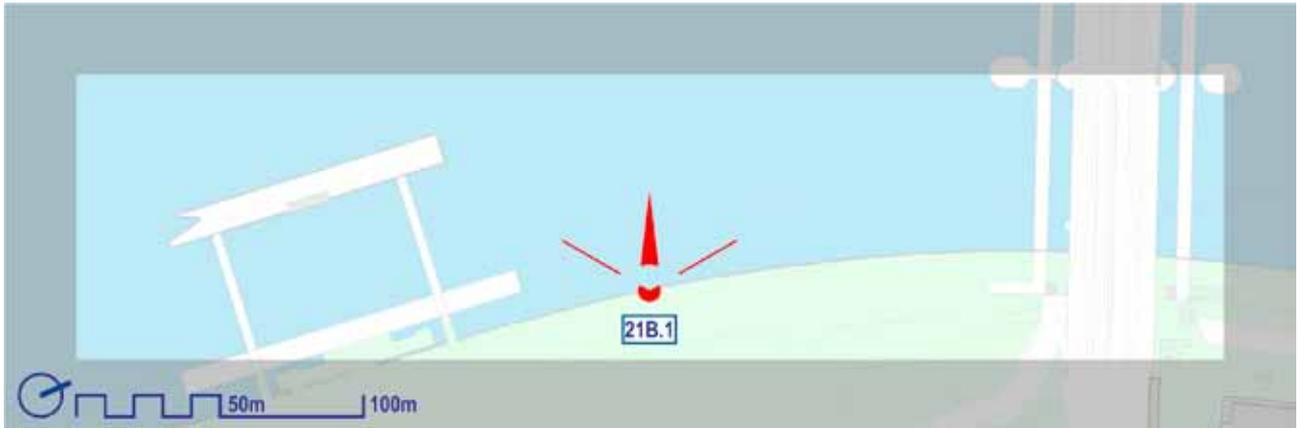
#### Background

- 363 Background development that breaches the roofline of the Palace of Westminster should be refused.
- 364 Other development within the background of the view should enhance the composition of the view and the relationship between landscape elements and landmarks. It should also be of exceptional architectural quality and execution and should not compromise a viewer's ability to appreciate the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. The assessment should also consider viewing positions in the Viewing Location, such as where the towers of the Abbey are seen in the gap between the Clock Tower and Portcullis House.

#### Management of the Viewing Location

- 365 The quality of the viewing environment is varied. A high number of visitors move through the location and there is a daily accumulation of rubbish. Management schemes should mitigate the impact of these problems on the amenity of the Viewing Location.

## Viewing Location 21B Jubilee Gardens



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 21B.1 Jubilee Gardens – opposite Whitehall Court

**Landmarks include:**

Whitehall Court (II\*)  
 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford Bridge  
 Victoria Tower Gardens  
 Victoria Embankment and lamps (II)

**Also in the views:**

Ministry of Defence  
 Embankment Place  
 Shell Mex House (II)

**Description of the View**

- 366 A single Assessment Point (21B.1) is located opposite Whitehall Court.
- 367 The river dominates the foreground of views from this location, and there is constant riverboat activity enlivening the scene. The Victoria Embankment treescape forms an important middle ground, partially screening the buildings. The views are relatively shallow, extending only to the buildings on the riverside. There are limited glimpses between them towards the townscape immediately beyond.
- 368 Whitehall Court is a worthy focus of views from this place. Its spires are reflected in the pylons of the Hungerford Footbridges to the right of the view, while its scale, height and architectural form are reflected in the adjacent, and less exuberant, Ministry of Defence building.

## Visual Management Guidance

### *Foreground and Middle Ground*

- 369 The dominance of the river, river-oriented activities and the backdrop of trees are important elements of the view that should not be compromised.

### *Background*

- 370 New development in the backdrop should be designed sensitively and should not dominate the riverside buildings, or undermine their relationship with the river.



View from Assessment Point 21B.1 Jubilee Gardens – opposite Whitehall Court (Northern end of London Eye). 530630.5E 180044.5N. Camera height 7.00m AOD. Aiming at Whitehall Court (Centre of east façade). Bearing 293.6°, distance 0.4km.

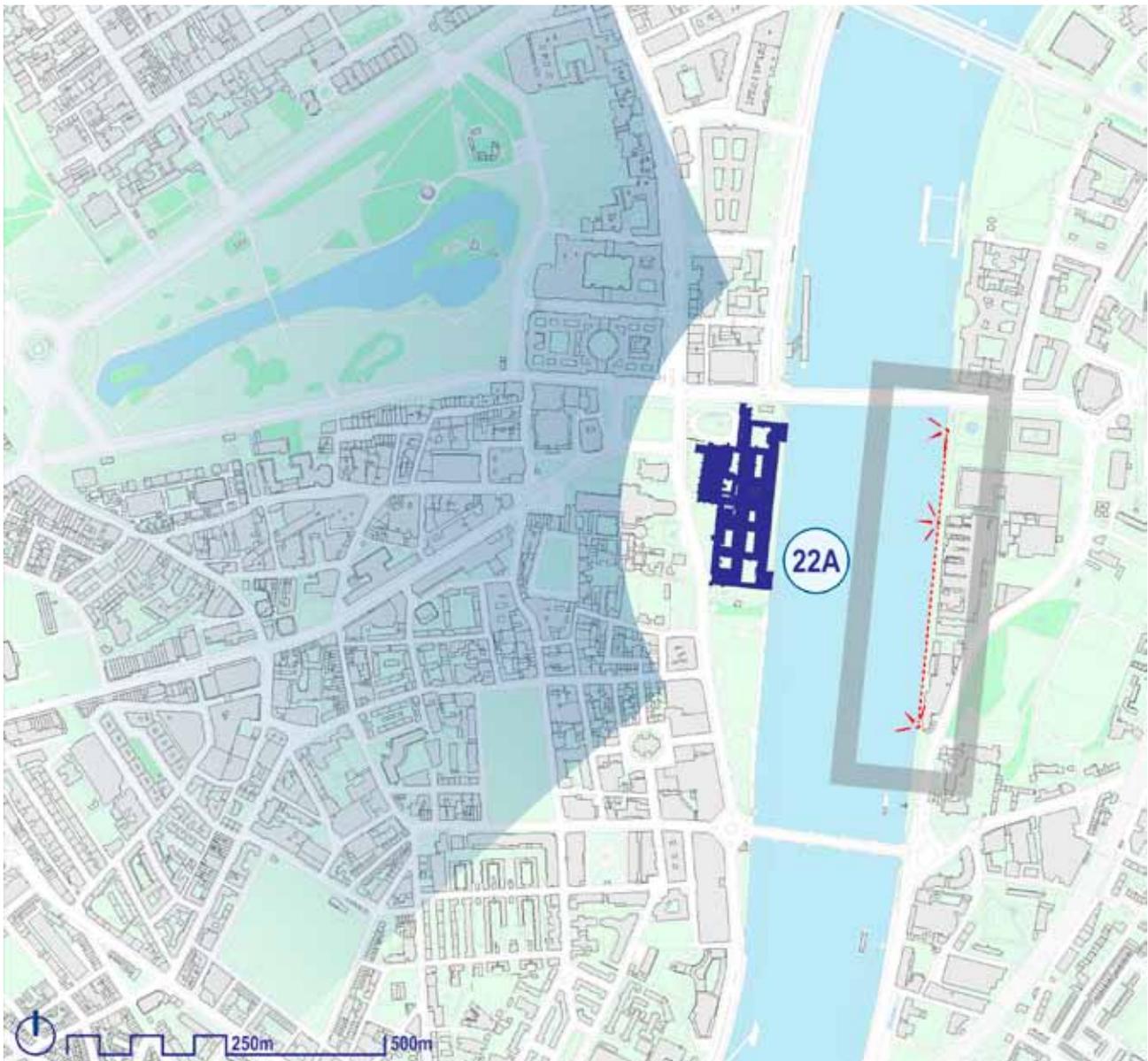
### *Management of the Viewing Location*

- 371 This location should continue to be well maintained and clean.



## 22 River Prospect: Albert Embankment between Westminster and Lambeth Bridges along Thames path near St Thomas' Hospital

- 372 The Embankment was built in 1866-69 by the engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette to accommodate the southern low-level sewer from Putney. Here the Thames flows past in direct relationship to the Palace of Westminster World Heritage Site.
- 373 There is one Viewing Location at Albert Embankment, 22A, consisting of a significant stretch of Albert Embankment.



## Viewing Location 22A Albert Embankment: opposite the Palace of Westminster



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 22A.1 Albert Embankment: opposite the Palace of Westminster – approaching from Lambeth Palace



Panorama from Assessment Point 22A.2 Albert Embankment: opposite the Palace of Westminster – axial to the Central Lobby



Panorama from Assessment Point 22A.3 Albert Embankment: opposite the Palace of Westminster – at the foot of the steps onto Westminster Bridge

### Description of the View

- 374 Three Assessment Points (22A.1, 22A.2 and 22A.3) are located on Albert Embankment. The entire length of the Viewing Location provides primary views of the Palace of Westminster. The angle of view changes as the viewer moves along Albert Embankment, allowing an appreciation of the architecture both on axis and from several angles. A Protected Silhouette to the Palace of Westminster is applied between Assessment Points 22A.1 and 22A.3.
- 375 The foreground is the river, while the viewer's eye is drawn to the fine architectural detail of the monument. Trees along the Embankment to either side of the Palace of Westminster form an important element in the views, partially screening riverside buildings. The prominence of the Palace of Westminster is maintained by the generally limited height of the riverside buildings to its north.
- 376 There is no visual intrusion above the Strategically Important Landmark close to the axial position other than the towers of Westminster Abbey. Distant tall buildings, such as Centre Point, can be seen in the background of views from certain angles from further south along the Embankment.

### Landmarks include:

- The Palace of Westminster (I) †
- Towers of Westminster Abbey (I)
- Westminster Bridge (II\*)
- Victoria Tower Gardens

### Also in the views:

- Portcullis House
- Ministry of Defence
- Embankment Place
- Centre Point (II)

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

### Visual Management Guidance

- 377 The existing qualities of the setting of the Palace of Westminster must remain in order that the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, in townscape and visual terms, can be recognised and appreciated by the viewer.
- 378 Development proposals likely to affect the World Heritage Site should pay regard to the guidance set out in the Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan. It is recommended that English Heritage is consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.



View from Assessment Point 22A.1 Albert Embankment: opposite the Palace of Westminster – approaching from Lambeth Palace (At Orientation board just east of Lambeth Pier). 530538.5E 179140.7N. Camera height 6.17m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (ventilation tower to south of Central Tower). Bearing 318.1°, distance 0.4km.



### Foreground and Middle Ground

- 379 No development or fixed items should be added to the foreground. The temporary structures on the terrace to Parliament should be kept in good order and should not be prominent in the view.

### Background

- 380 The existing skyline of the Palace of Westminster from Albert Embankment, as seen in this view, should not be altered. Development of high quality, which does not dominate the Strategically Important Landmark and that conforms to the prevailing composition of the view, may be acceptable in the areas north of the Strategically Important Landmark. To the south, development should not dominate the tree line of Victoria Tower Gardens, which, from all of the views in this Viewing Place, visually co-join the Strategically Important Landmark.



381 The Protected Silhouette should not be altered by development appearing in its background any position between Assessment Points 22A.1, 22A.2 and 22A.3.



View from Assessment Point 22A.2 Albert Embankment: opposite the Palace of Westminster – axial to the Central Lobby (On axis of Houses of Parliament). 530570.0E 179463.7N. Camera height 6.10m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (The Central Tower, above the lobby crossing). Bearing 275.8°, distance 0.3km.



*Management of the Viewing Location*

382 The Viewing Place is well managed, but the north end, where the Viewing Place is accessed through the pedestrian sub-way under Westminster Bridge, should, in particular, be kept clean and accessible.



View from Assessment Point 22A.3 Albert Embankment: opposite the Palace of Westminster – at the foot of the steps onto Westminster Bridge (Axial to St Stephens Tower, at embankment wall, in line with steps to Westminster Bridge). 530584.1E 179609.7N. Camera height 6.06m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (ventilation tower to south of Central Tower). Bearing 245.7°, distance 0.4km.



# Management Plans: Townscape Views



<b>Townscape Views</b>			
	<b>Designated View</b>	<b>Viewing Locations</b>	<b>Assessment Points</b>
23	Serpentine Bridge	23A The Bridge	23A.1
24	Island Gardens	24A Opposite the Royal Naval Hospital	24A.1 24A.2 24A.3
25	The Queen's Walk	25A The Public Terraces	25A.1 25A.2 25A.3
26	St James' Park	26A The Footbridge Across the Lake	26A.1
27	Parliament Square	27A Southwest corner outside UK Supreme Court	27A.1
		27B North Pavement	27B.1 27B.2

## 23 Townscape View: Bridge over the Serpentine to Westminster

- 383 In 1637 Hyde Park became the first Royal Park to be opened to the public. The Serpentine was created in the eighteenth century by damming the Westbourne River. Hyde Park is included on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest classified as Grade I and is maintained to a very high standard.
- 384 A single Viewing Location, 23A, is on the eastern footway of the Serpentine Bridge.



## Viewing Location 23A Bridge over the Serpentine



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 23A.1 Bridge over the Serpentine – at the centre of the bridge

### Description of the View

- 385 A single Assessment Point (23A.1) is located at the centre of the bridge, representing views eastward towards the far end of the lake and the townscape beyond.
- 386 The foreground and middle ground comprise the lake and the trees along its perimeter. The landscape, between sky and water, converges to a point at the far end of the lake, where certain elements of the Westminster World Heritage Site are visible. The Victoria and Central Lobby Towers of the Palace of Westminster and the western towers of Westminster Abbey form the distant focus of the view. The Victoria Tower is partially obscured by the Ministry of Justice building (formerly the Home Office). The Clock Tower is entirely obscured. Buildings are visible in the middle ground. The dense treescape in summer provides a buffer between the urban environment and the park. Buildings such as the Hilton Hotel and Knightsbridge Barracks, rising above the tree line in the middle ground, make the viewer aware of the city beyond.

### Landmarks include:

Palace of Westminster (I) †  
Towers of Westminster Abbey (I)

### Also in the views:

Lantern of Methodist Central Hall (II\*)  
Ministry of Justice (formerly the Home Office)  
Knightsbridge Barracks

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

**Visual Management Guidance**

- 387 Applicants are encouraged to bring any proposals to change this view to the attention of the Royal Parks Agency at the earliest opportunity.
- 388 Development proposals likely to affect the World Heritage Site should pay regard to the guidance set out in the Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan. It is recommended that English Heritage is consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.

*Foreground and Middle Ground*

- 389 Development proposals that are overly intrusive, unsightly or prominent to the detriment of the view as a whole should be refused. Seen from this



View from Assessment Point 23A.1 Bridge over the Serpentine – at the centre of the bridge (Centre of Eastern side of bridge.). 526927.2E 180167.2N. Camera height 22.00m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (The Central Tower, above the lobby crossing). Bearing 101.4°, distance 3.4km.



Viewing Place, new development should relate well in terms of height, scale, massing and materials, and relationship to other buildings and landscape elements in the view, including the focus of the Strategically Important Landmark and the historic features within the World Heritage Site.

- 390 The line of view crosses Green Park, St James’s Park and Parliament Square, as well as the built-up area to the south-east of St James’s Park. The landscape maintenance regime in the foreground and middle ground, therefore, has a strong influence on the character and composition of the view. It should be reviewed periodically to ensure that the qualities of the view are maintained.
- 391 A Protected Vista is defined from Assessment Point 23A.1 to the Victoria Tower and the Central Lobby Tower of the Palace of Westminster. It also includes the western towers of Westminster Abbey.

392 The Landmark Viewing Corridor extends across the lake and through the city to the south side of St James’s Park. The Ministry of Justice building in the foreground significantly diminishes views of the Westminster World Heritage Site but is not justification for further development that would impact, in a negative way, on the view.

*Background*

393 Development in the background of the view should not undermine the relationship between the predominantly parkland landscape composition in the foreground and the landmark buildings at the focus of the view in the middle ground (including the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey). New buildings in the background of the view must be subordinate to the World Heritage Site.

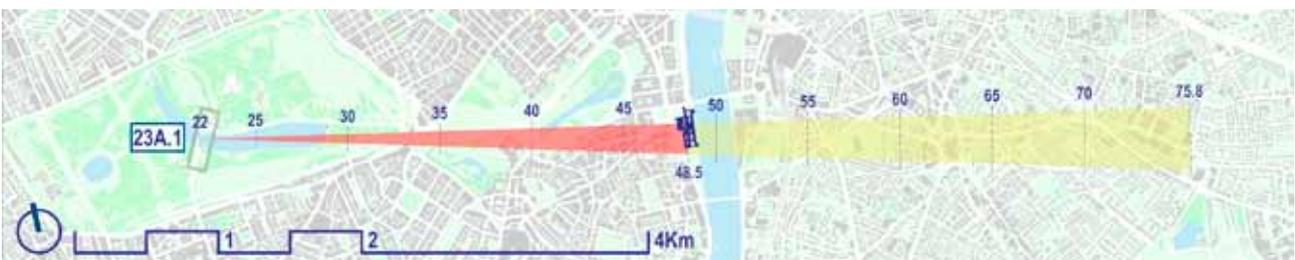
394 Buildings that exceed the threshold plane of the Wider Setting Consultation Area in the background should preserve or enhance the viewer’s ability to recognise and appreciate the Palace of Westminster.

*Management of the Viewing Location*

395 The Viewing Location should continue to be well managed.



Telephoto view of Protected Vista from Assessment Point 23A.1 to Palace of Westminster

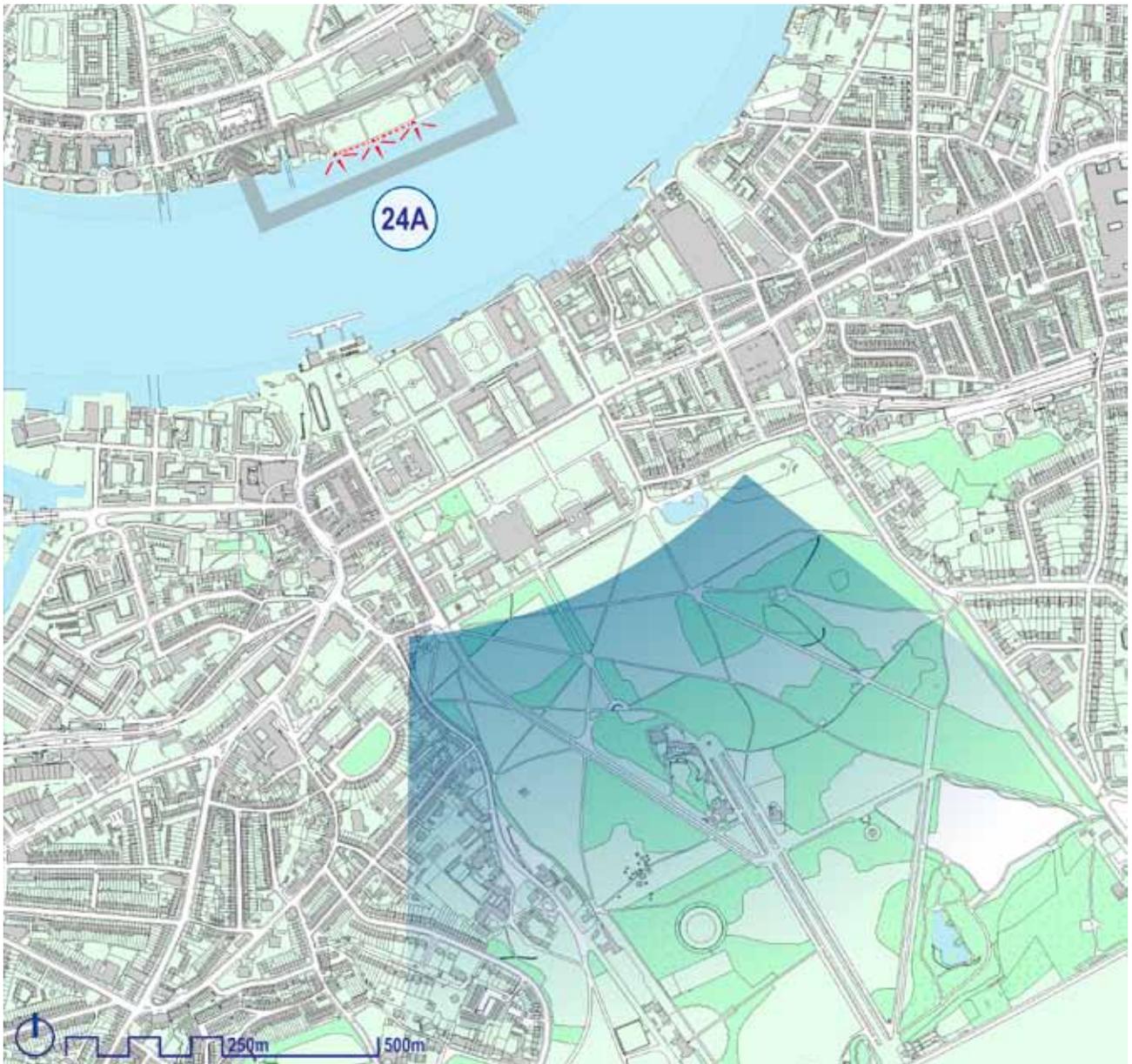


Annotated map of Protected Vista from Assessment Point 23A.1 to Palace of Westminster



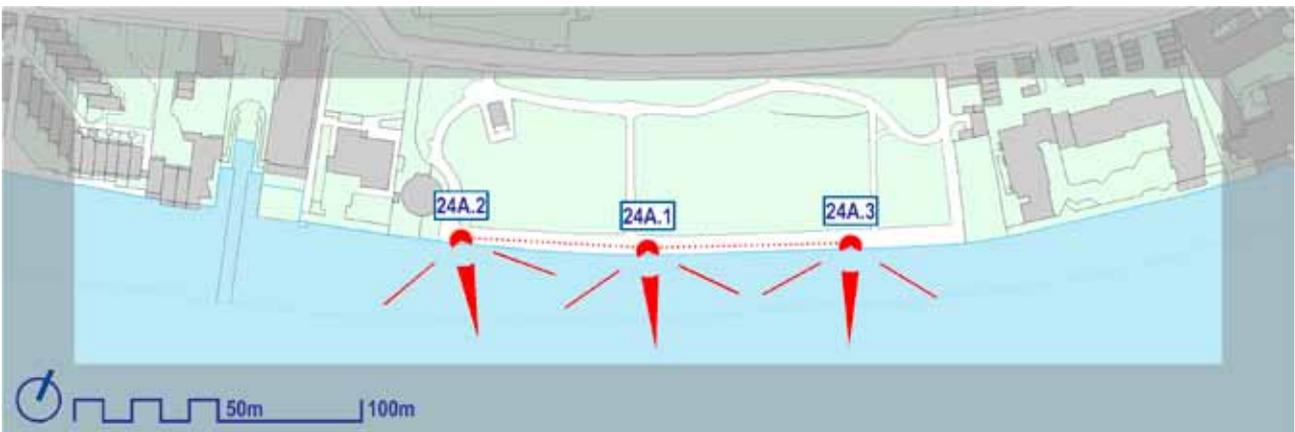
# 24 Townscape View: Island Gardens, Isle of Dogs to Royal Naval College

396 Island Gardens are at the southern tip of the Isle of Dogs, opposite the Greenwich Maritime World Heritage Site. The gardens were purchased by Greenwich Hospital for the purpose of providing a public view to the Royal Naval College. Island Gardens make a generous area for this purpose and provide an axial view through the two Royal Naval College buildings to the Queen’s House, with a backdrop of Greenwich Park. Canaletto’s painting of 1751 captured this view.



397 There is one Viewing Location on the Isle of Dogs: 24A, on the north bank of the River Thames at Island Gardens.

### Viewing Location 24A Island Gardens: opposite the Royal Naval College



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 24A.1 Island Gardens: opposite the Royal Naval College – at the orientation board



Panorama from Assessment Point 24A.2 Island Gardens: opposite the Royal Naval College – western end of gardens



Panorama from Assessment Point 24A.3 Island Gardens: opposite the Royal Naval College – eastern end of gardens

### Description of the View

- 398 Three Assessment Points (24A.1, 24A.2 and 24A.3) are located within the Viewing Location, and encompass almost the full length of Island Gardens. A Protected Silhouette is applied to the Royal Naval College between Assessment Points 24A.2 and 24A.3.
- 399 The formal composition, set in the foreground of the steeply sloping Royal Park, includes Inigo Jones's Palladian centrepiece – The Queen's House – seen between the Baroque King William and Queen Anne wings, by Christopher Wren and Nicholas Hawksmoor.
- 400 The Old Royal Observatory, on higher ground in the park and off axis, is an historical building in its own right. It is visible from points east of the axial view. The building represents British pre-eminence in science during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, culminating in the adoption in 1884, of the Greenwich Meridian and Greenwich Mean Time as a world standard.
- 401 Trees frame the composition of the Old Royal Naval College. In the background large domestic properties on the ridge are visible through gaps in the trees. To the east the riverfront mostly consists of Georgian and Victorian buildings including the Trafalgar Tavern public house. The 19th Century power station is clearly visible. To the west, the dominant features are St Alfege's church tower and the Greenwich town hall clock tower. The Cutty Sark will also be prominent, once it is repaired.

### Landmarks include:

Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site (I, II\*, II)  
 (Cutty Sark – when rebuilt)  
 Greenwich Observatory (II)  
 Greenwich Park

### Also in the views:

London Transport Power Station  
 Trafalgar Tavern (II)  
 Church of St Alfege (I)  
 Former Greenwich Town Hall Tower (II)

( ) Grade of Listed Building

### Visual Management Guidance

- 402 Greenwich Maritime's status as a World Heritage Site means that its setting must be managed with sensitivity to its Outstanding Universal Value. Permanent structures or infrastructure in the view should preserve or enhance the setting of the World Heritage Site. Consideration should be given to advice set out in the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site Management Plan.
- 403 Applicants will be required to demonstrate that proposed development will not damage the setting of the World Heritage Site or other landmarks in the view. Development at the Deptford Creek / Greenwich Opportunity Area in the right of the view should contribute to the view as a whole.



View from Assessment Point 24A.1 Island Gardens: opposite the Royal Naval College – at the orientation board (In front of orientation board). 538392.1E 178295.2N. Camera height 6.70m AOD. Aiming at The Queen's House (Central axis of the house; roof ridge line). Bearing 151.8°, distance 0.7km.



*Foreground and Middle Ground*

- 404 Other landmarks make important contributions to wider views from Island Gardens. New development should be designed so as not to impact on the viewer's ability to recognise and appreciate these landmarks.



View from Assessment Point 24A.2 Island Gardens: opposite the Royal Naval College – western end of gardens (At rivers edge). 538331.0E 178272.7N. Camera height 6.78m AOD. Aiming at The Queen's House (Central axis of the house; roof ridge line). Bearing 146.6°, distance 0.7km.

*Background*

- 405 Development that affects the silhouette of the Greenwich Maritime World Heritage Site will have a negative impact on the setting of the landmark. The Protected Silhouette should not be altered by development appearing in its background from any position at or between 24A.2 and 24A.3.

*Management of the Viewing Location*

406 The location should continue to be well managed and accessible.

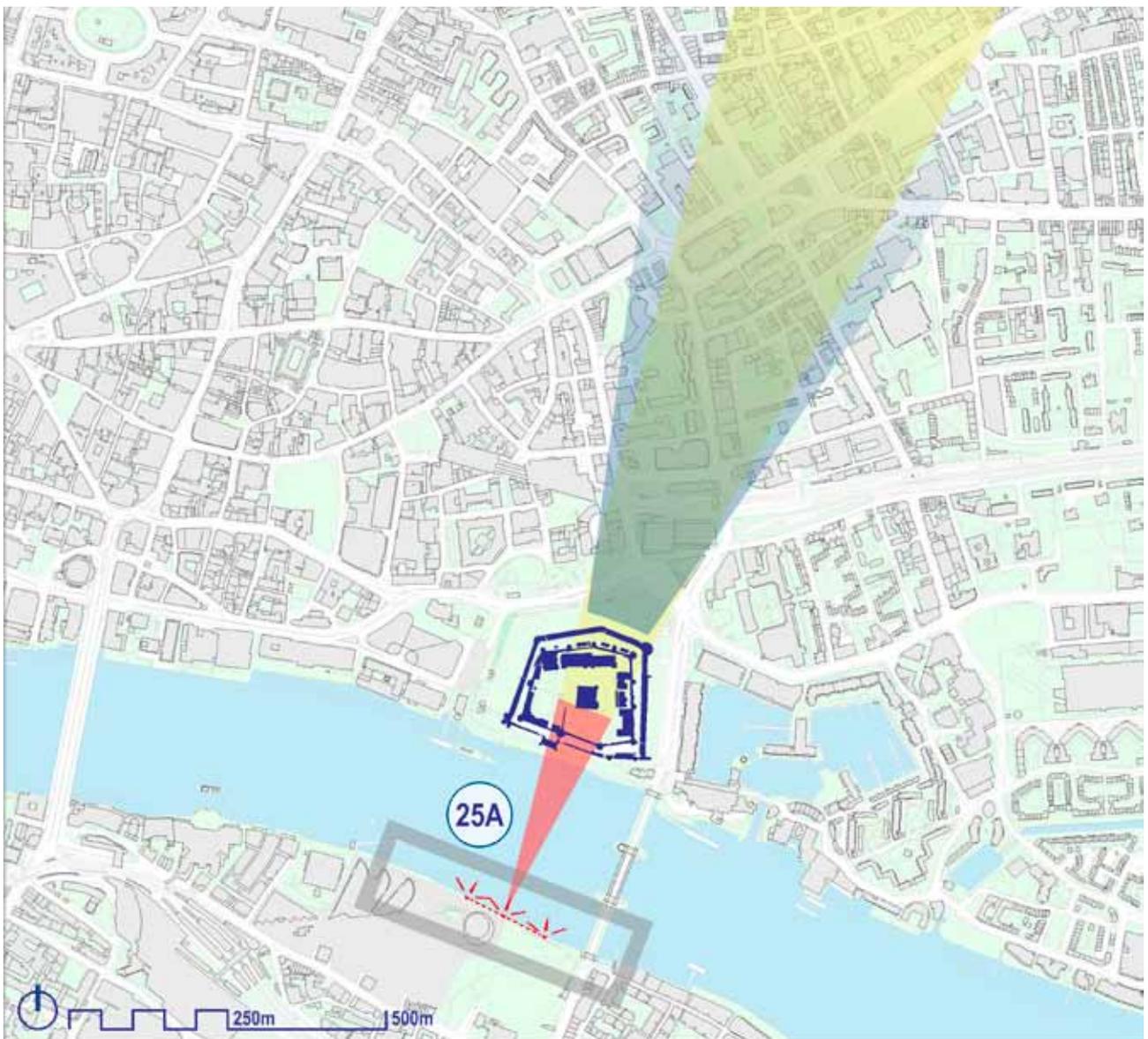


View from Assessment Point 24A.3 Island Gardens: opposite the Royal Naval College – eastern end of gardens (At rivers edge). 538456.3E 178324.9N. Camera height 6.63m AOD. Aiming at The Queen's House (Central axis of the house; roof ridge line). Bearing 157.5°, distance 0.7km.

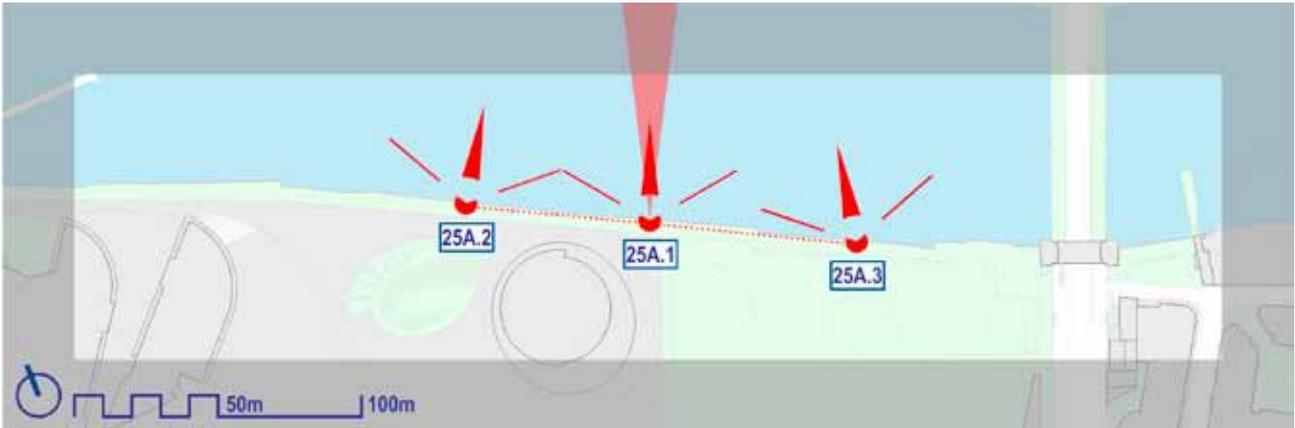


# 25 Townscape View: The Queen's Walk to Tower of London

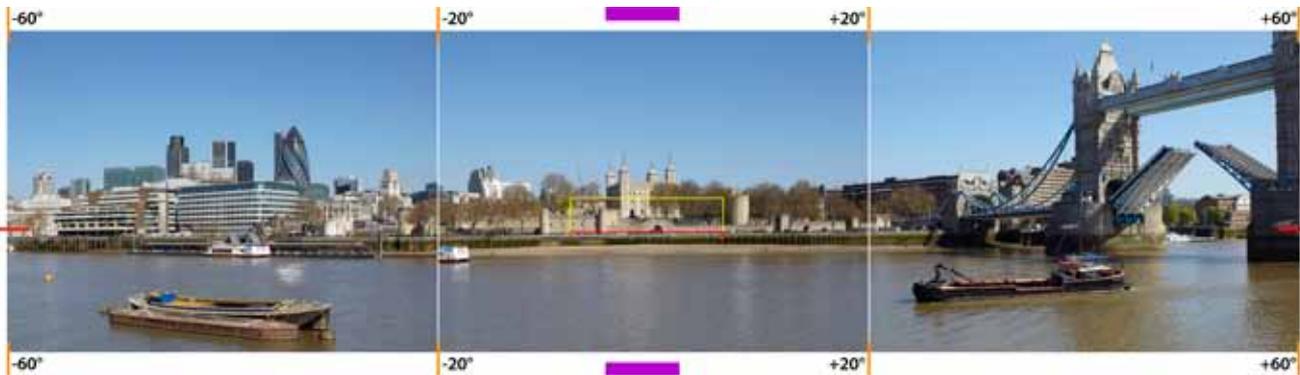
- 407 The view from The Queen's Walk to the Tower of London World Heritage Site is from a stretch of the south bank of the Thames close to the two public open spaces either side of City Hall; to the east a green space known as Potter's Fields Park; and to the west a hard landscaped space including the Scoop, sculptures and water features.
- 408 There is one Viewing Location at the Queen's Walk: 25A. It is located close to the river's edge.



## Viewing Location 25A The Queen's Walk at City Hall



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 25A.1 The Queen's Walk at City Hall – foot of pathway from Potter's Fields



Panorama from Assessment Point 25A.2 The Queen's Walk at City Hall – in front of the public terraces



Panorama from Assessment Point 25A.3 The Queen's Walk at City Hall – close to Tower Bridge

### Description of the View

- 409 Three Assessment Points (25A.1, 25A.2 and 25A.3) are located in this location. They provide good views of the Tower of London, and the relatively clear background setting of the White Tower, in particular. A Protected Vista is included from Assessment Point 25A.1 and a Protected Silhouette is applied to the White Tower between Assessment Points 25A.2 and 25A.3.
- 410 The cluster of tall buildings in the City, the Tower of London and Tower Bridge can all be seen in this view. They reflect over 900 years of London's developmental history. Both Tower Bridge and the mature trees along the northern embankment form important elements in the setting of the Tower of London World Heritage Site.
- 411 The juxtaposition of the World Heritage Site with the modern city is the central characteristic of this view. It includes a rich variety of landmark elements such as 30 St Mary Axe, Tower 42, Heron Tower, the former Port of London Authority building, the Norman White Tower and the Victorian Tower Bridge. The Tower of London was built to dominate the City, and to control the river at its entrance. The City has now grown to encompass the World Heritage Site, the latter retaining only its essential historical relationship with the river and a clear backdrop silhouette to the White Tower from the south-west.

### Landmarks include:

Tower of London (I, II\*, II) †  
 The Monument (I)  
 Tower Bridge (I)

### Also in the views:

Custom House (I)  
 Tower 42  
 30 St Mary Axe  
 Port of London Authority building (II\*)  
 Heron Tower

( ) Grade of Listed Building

† Strategically Important Landmark

- 412 The river dominates the foreground and middle ground in the significant view from Assessment Point 25A.1, located east of City Hall and opposite Traitor’s Gate. This view provides the greatest understanding of the World Heritage Site ensemble where there are clear views of the southern and western faces of the White Tower down to the roof of the Waterloo Block. The clear view of the sky in the backdrop of the White Tower is an important attribute.
- 413 In views further west, generally adjacent the stern of HMS Belfast (from Assessment Point 25A.2), Tower Bridge complements the World Heritage Site, though today their relationship is undermined by the architecture that exists between them in the background. From this Assessment Point the view includes the towers of Canary Wharf, seen through the bridge. The view from the eastern part of the Viewing Location, (from Assessment Point 25A.3), is orientated towards the Tower of London and the cluster of tall buildings in the City. The juxtaposition of built elements from a variety of eras is an aspect of the view. The White Tower generally stands free of background development, but other elements of the Tower complex have a backdrop of development.



View from Assessment Point 25A.1 The Queen’s Walk at City Hall – foot of pathway from Potter’s Fields (On line running through eastern edge of City Hall). 533485.6E 180201.2N. Camera height 6.08m AOD. Aiming at Tower of London (Centre of south façade; base of merlons). Bearing 21.4°, distance 0.4km.



### Visual Management Guidance

- 414 New development in the setting of the Tower of London should be of appropriate height, scale, massing and materials. Its relationship to other buildings in the view and the quality of design is of particular importance when considering the likely impact a proposal will have on views of the Tower of London and the viewer's ability to appreciate the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.
- 415 New development should respect the setting of the Tower of London and should not dominate the World Heritage Site – especially the White Tower. Consideration should be given to advice set out in the Tower of London World Heritage Site Management Plan, published by Historic Royal Palaces (HRP). It is recommended that English Heritage is also consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.



View from Assessment Point 25A.2 The Queen's Walk at City Hall – in front of the public terraces (Based on toISkySpace.3b, adjacent to the end of the Scoop). 533428.1E 180230.1N. Camera height 6.49m AOD. Aiming at Tower of London (Centre of south façade; base of merlons). Bearing 31.8°, distance 0.4km.

### Foreground and Middle Ground

- 416 New development in the foreground should preserve and enhance the relationship between the Tower of London and the river, and its dominance of the townscape view. It is likely that any development in the foreground, in the section of the view in front of the World Heritage Site, would fail to preserve this relationship and should be refused.
- 417 The trees in the middle ground are an important element in the setting of the Tower of London in the view. They should not be dominated by new development in the middle ground of the view.

*Background*

- 418 Development in the background of the view should relate positively to the Tower of London, including all its constituent parts, in views from Viewing Location 25A. From all Assessment Points, the World Heritage Site should continue to dominate its surroundings. It is particularly important that any new development relates positively to the White Tower.
- 419 Elements that become visible in the backdrop of the World Heritage could undermine the ability of the viewer to appreciate the World Heritage Site and its historical significance to the development of London and the nation as a whole. Any development above the Wider Setting Consultation Area in the background of the Protected Vista should preserve or enhance the viewer's ability to recognise the landmark and appreciate its Outstanding Universal Value.



View from Assessment Point 25A.3 The Queen's Walk at City Hall – close to Tower Bridge (Based on tolSkySpace.3c, mid way between Tower Bridge and City Hall). 533550.0E 180168.1N. Camera height 6.03m AOD. Aiming at Tower of London (Centre of south façade; base of merlons). Bearing 10.1°, distance 0.4km.



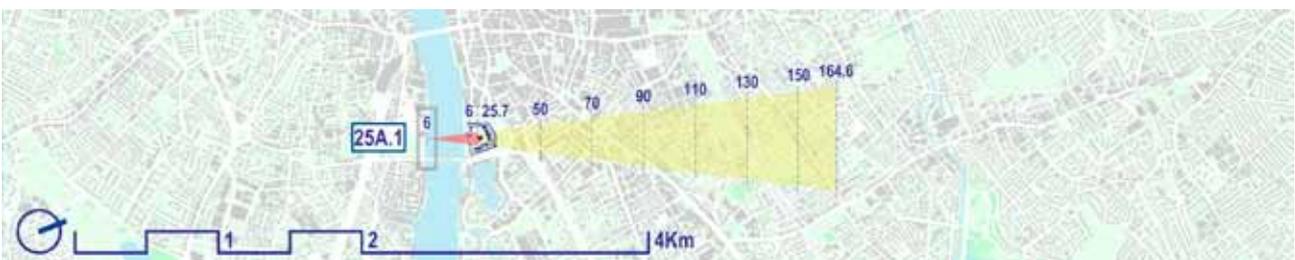
- 420 The Protected Silhouette should not be altered by development appearing in its background when viewed from any point between Assessment Points 25A.2 and 25A.3.
- 421 New buildings in the background of the view must be subordinate to the World Heritage Site and respect its historic significance. They should not contradict the townscape ensemble of the Tower of London juxtaposed against predominantly trees in its immediate setting and buildings that tend to be horizontal in mass and scale further behind and to the sides.
- 422 Early pre-application discussions with the relevant planning authorities and statutory consultees, including the Historical Royal Palaces, are recommended for any proposals regarding tall buildings affecting the wider setting of the Tower of London.

*Management of the Viewing Location*

- 423 The location should continue to be well managed.



Telephoto view of Protected Vista from Assessment Point 25A.1 to the Tower of London

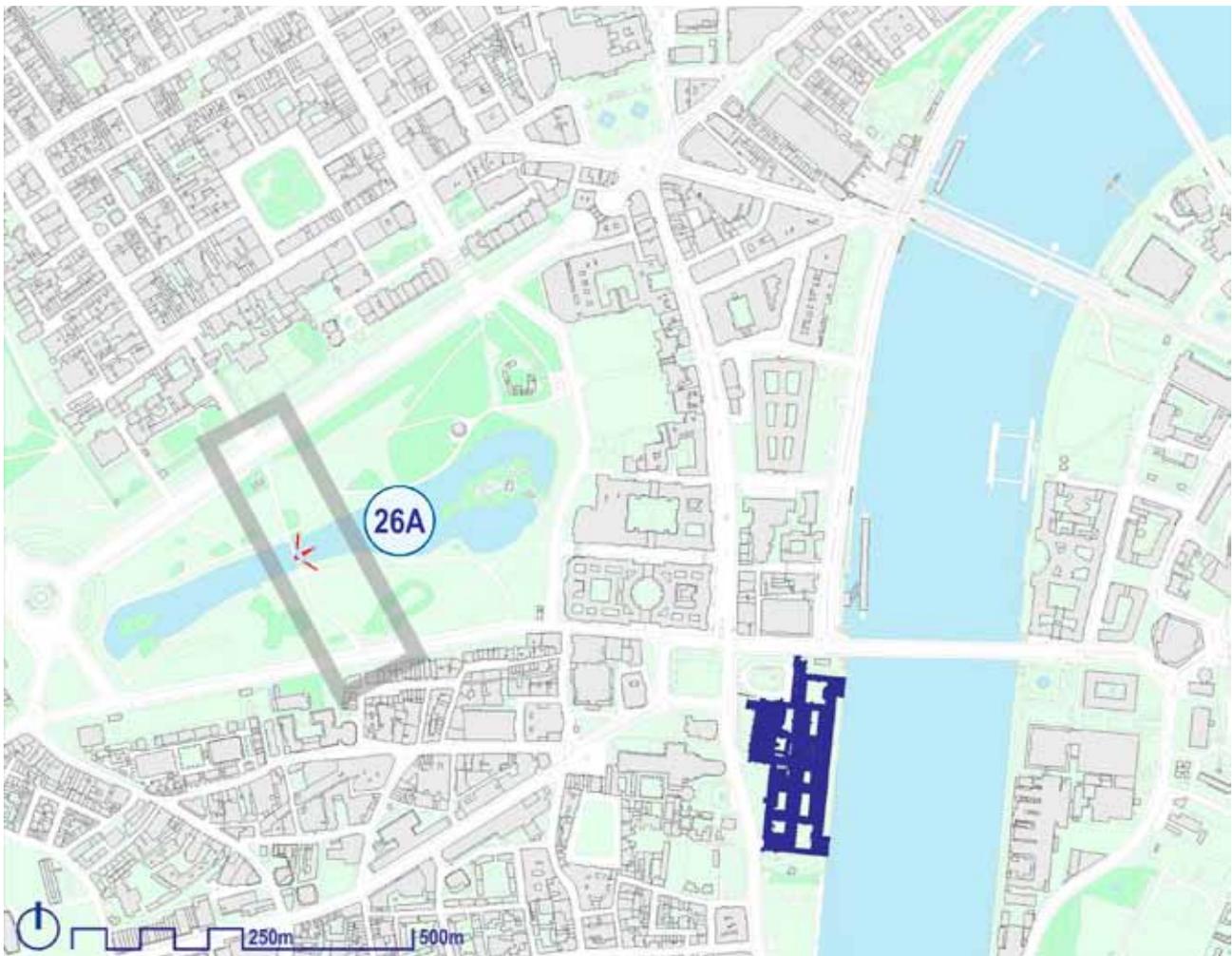


Annotated map of Protected Vista from Assessment Point 25A.1 to the Tower of London



## 26 Townscape View: St James's Park to Horse Guards Road

- 424 The St James's Park area was originally a marshy water meadow, before being drained to provide a deer park for Henry VIII in the sixteenth century. The current form of the park owes much to Charles II, who ordained a new layout, incorporating The Mall, in the 1660s. The park was remodelled by John Nash in 1827-8 and his layout survives largely intact. St James's Park is maintained to an extremely high standard and the bridge across the lake provides a frequently visited place from which to appreciate views through the Park. The landscape is subtly lit after dark. St James's Park is included on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest at Grade I.
- 425 There is one Viewing Location at St James' Park 26A, which is situated on the east side of the bridge over the lake.



## Viewing Location 26A St James's Park Bridge



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 26A.1 St James's Park Bridge – near the centre of the bridge

### Description of the View

- 426 The Viewing Location is on the east side of the footbridge across the lake. The bridge was built in 1956-7 to the designs of Eric Bedford of the Ministry of Works. Views vary from either end of the bridge and a near central location has been selected for the single Assessment Point (26A.1) orientated towards Horse Guards Parade.
- 427 The view derives its particular character from the high quality landscaped setting of St James's Park. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by the lake and surrounding mature parkland. The trees and shrubs enclose the view towards a central element of vegetation known as Duck Island at the east end, with each element of the landscape forming a distinct skyline. Buildings are seen in two groups between trees either side of Duck Island, where they each provide a focus to the view. Moving traffic and pedestrians can be glimpsed in several places between or beneath the blocks of vegetation. There is also a fountain to the left of Duck Island that provides a secondary focus to the view.
- 428 The juxtaposition of the landscaped elements in the foreground and middle ground, and the two groups of important civic buildings, including Horse Guards and Whitehall Court to the left, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as well as the London Eye and the Shell Centre to the right, enable the viewer to appreciate that this is an historic parkland in an important city location. It is essentially a picturesque view dominated by landscape that defines the two distinct groups of buildings, each with different characteristics. The left-hand group includes a skyline of spires and pinnacles, while the right-hand group is one of more strongly geometric forms. The buildings in the view are consistent in their use of Portland stone, with the exception of the London Eye, which stands at 135 metres or 443 feet, is made of steel, is visually permeable and is useful for orientation purposes.

### Landmarks include:

Whitehall Court (II\*)  
Horse Guards (I)  
The Foreign Office (I)  
The London Eye

### Also in the views:

Shell Centre tower

429 The view is enjoyed from every part of the bridge, although a special axis exists from its southern end towards Horse Guards, when in line with the fountain. The views are equally well enjoyed in daylight and when artificially illuminated at night. Within the two groups of buildings, no single building commands a focus; rather, the two groups work together as a layering of architectural detailing against the skyline. The rooftop of Whitehall Court rises behind Horse Guards to the left of centre. The clear skyline above Duck Island separates the two groups and maintains the dominance of landscape. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is seen to the right of centre. The Shell Tower and London Eye are seen on the margins of the view and are of a larger scale.



View from Assessment Point 26A.1 St James's Park Bridge – near the centre of the bridge (4m south of the centre of the bridge). 529529.4E 179798.8N. Camera height 4.67m AOD. Aiming at Horseguards (Central spire). Bearing 61.9°, distance 0.6km.



### Visual Management Guidance

#### *Foreground and Middle Ground*

430 No development is expected in the foreground. The middle ground landscape needs to be managed to maintain its dominance in the view.

### *Background*

- 431 Development in the background of this view should be of a scale, mass or form that does not dominate, overpower or compete with either of the existing two groups of built form or the landscape elements between and either side of them. The way it is lit should not detract from night-time views. Any building proposals that will be visible in the background should relate to one or the other of the existing groups and must be of exceptional design quality, in particular with regard to their roofline, materials, shape and silhouette. New buildings should appear as part of the existing groups of buildings; buildings that appear above the central part of Duck Island would damage the viewer's ability to see these groups of buildings in conjunction with the landscaped foreground and should be refused.

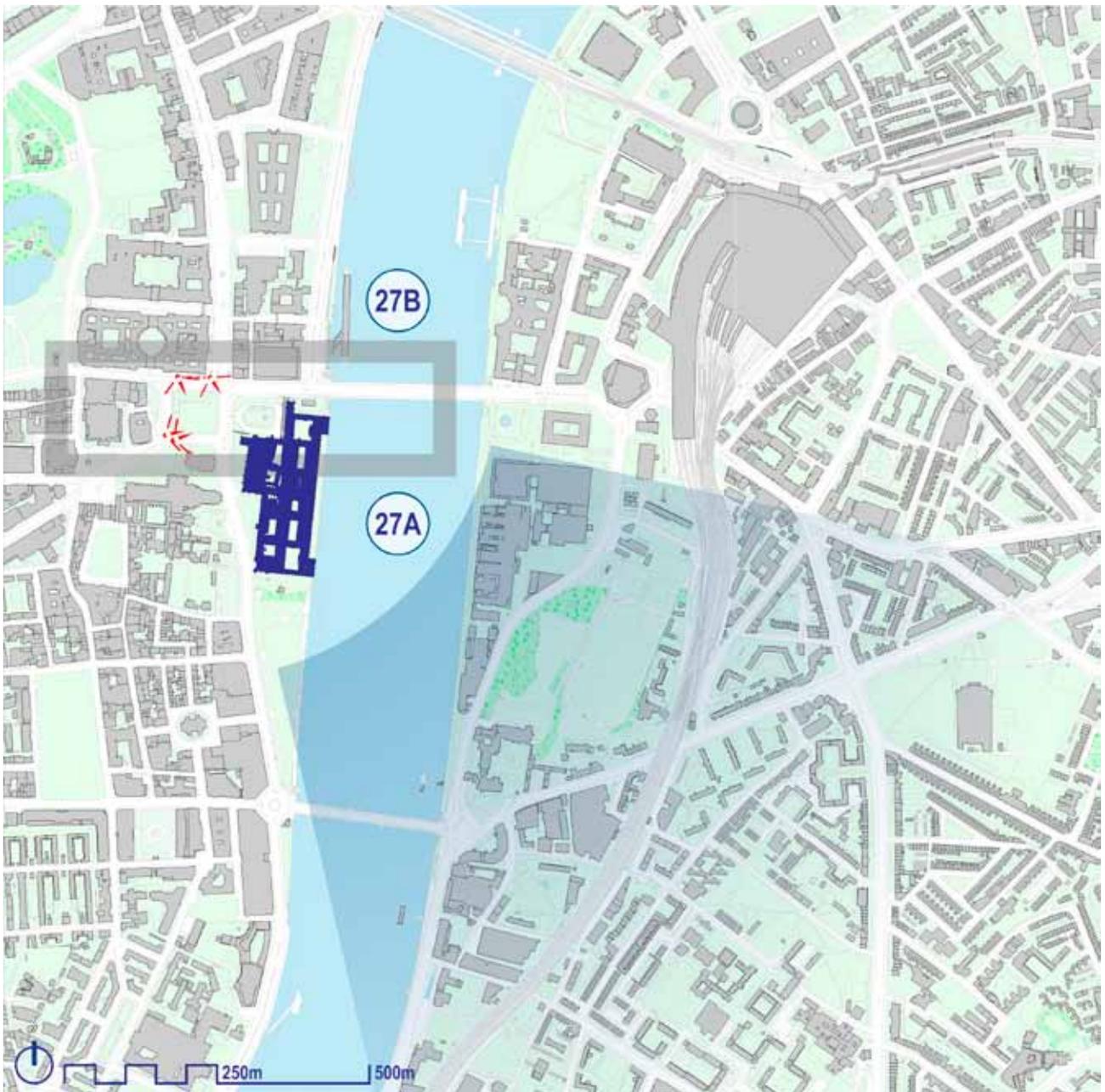
### *Management of the Viewing Location*

- 432 The location should continue to be well managed.



# 27 Townscape View: Parliament Square to Palace of Westminster

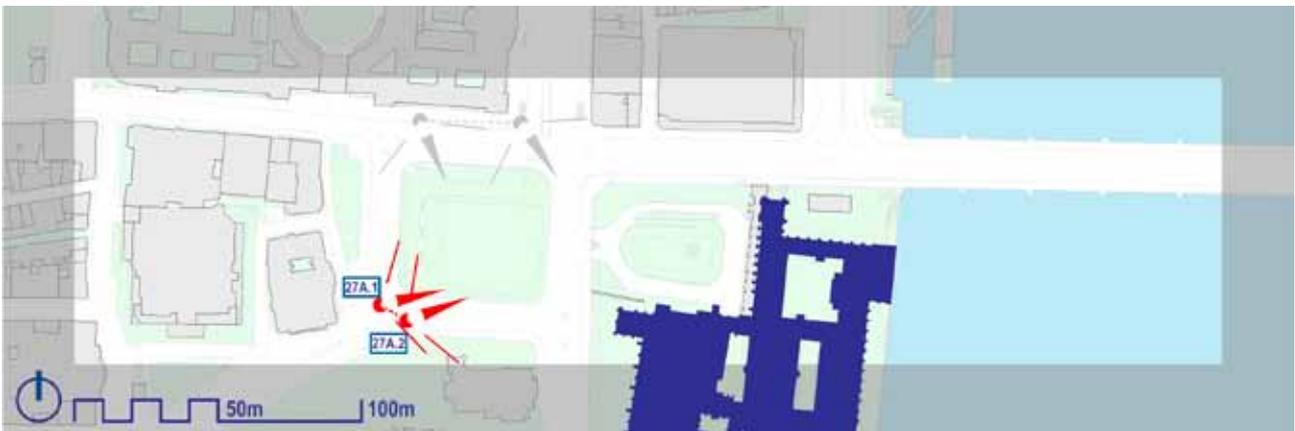
433 The Westminster World Heritage Site, comprising the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey, St Margaret’s Church and other buildings, has come to symbolise the United Kingdom across the world. Taken together, they summarise the intertwined development of monarchy, church, law and parliament as constitutional functions from medieval times to the present.



- 434 Parliament Square regularly provides the setting for formal ceremonial events and major state occasions and is a natural destination of political demonstrations. Surrounded by magnificent architecture in many styles of the previous millennium, key civic buildings of national importance add to the character of the place. It is also a setting for a number of 19th and 20th century listed statues, notably of famous Prime Ministers including Peel, Palmerston, Disraeli and Churchill. The central island of Parliament Square and Canning Green is included in English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.
- 435 There are two Viewing Locations at Parliament Square: 27A and 27B. The former is situated in the south-west corner of the square between the UK Supreme Court and Westminster Abbey and the latter along the north pavement of the square.

### **Viewing Location 27A**

#### **Parliament Square south-west**



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 27A.1 Parliament Square: south-west - the traffic island north



Panorama from Assessment Point 27A.2 Parliament Square: south-west - the traffic island south

### Description of the View

- 436 There are two linked Assessment Points, 27A.1 and 27A.2, located on the pedestrian island in the south-west corner of the square between the UK Supreme Court and Westminster Abbey. From this location the northern parts of the Palace of Westminster are seen very clearly in context with St Margaret's Church and Westminster Abbey.



View from Assessment Point 27A.1 Parliament Square: south-west - the traffic island north (apex of island, north of pedestrian crossing). 530066.5E 179590.7N. Camera height 6.59m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (St Stephen's tower). Bearing 76.2°, distance 0.2km.



**Landmarks include:**

- Palace of Westminster (I) †
- Westminster Abbey (I)
- St Margaret's Church (I)
- The Chapter House
- County Hall (II)
- Portcullis House
- St Stephen's Tavern (II)

**Also in the views:**

- 34-36, 37, 38-39 and 41-42
- Parliament Street (II)

( ) Grade of Listed Building  
 † Strategically Important Landmark

- 437 Traffic and associated street furniture currently disturb the immediate foreground to the view. For the time being, there are no plans to change this aspect of the Viewing Place.
- 438 The strong vertical form of the Clock Tower creates a dramatic focus to the view and leads the eye to the finer scale detailing of the Houses of Parliament whose filigree silhouette can be seen against clear sky. Pugin's High Victorian masterpiece is complemented on the right of the view by the simpler forms and detailing of Westminster Hall and St Margaret's Church.
- 439 To the north of the Palace of Westminster, Portcullis House with its distinctive roofscape frames a sky gap against which the iconic form of the Clock Tower can be instantly recognised and appreciated. The interval between these buildings marks the approach to Westminster Bridge and strengthens the relationship of the World Heritage Site to the Thames and the South Bank beyond. In the background, the former County Hall, with its steep mansard roof and long symmetrical west elevation completes the visual enclosure to the Square.



View from Assessment Point 27A.2 Parliament Square: south-west - the traffic island south (east side of island, south of pedestrian crossing). 530076.3E 179582.4N. Camera height 6.41m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (St Stephen's tower). Bearing 73.3°, distance 0.2km.

- 440 On the left-hand side of the view the important connection to Whitehall is marked by the corner features of two fine sets of Victorian buildings in contrasting styles: the Government offices on Great George Street and the listed buildings on Bridge Street now used as Parliamentary offices.

### Visual Management Guidance

#### *Foreground and Middle Ground*

- 441 Parliament Square should continue to create a formal setting to the Palace of Westminster, St Margaret's Church and Westminster Abbey, and allow the architectural form of these groups of buildings to be appreciated as symbols of the constitutional functions they bring together.
- 442 While development in the foreground is unlikely, changes to buildings or landscaping should be of the highest architectural quality, conserving or enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.

#### *Background*

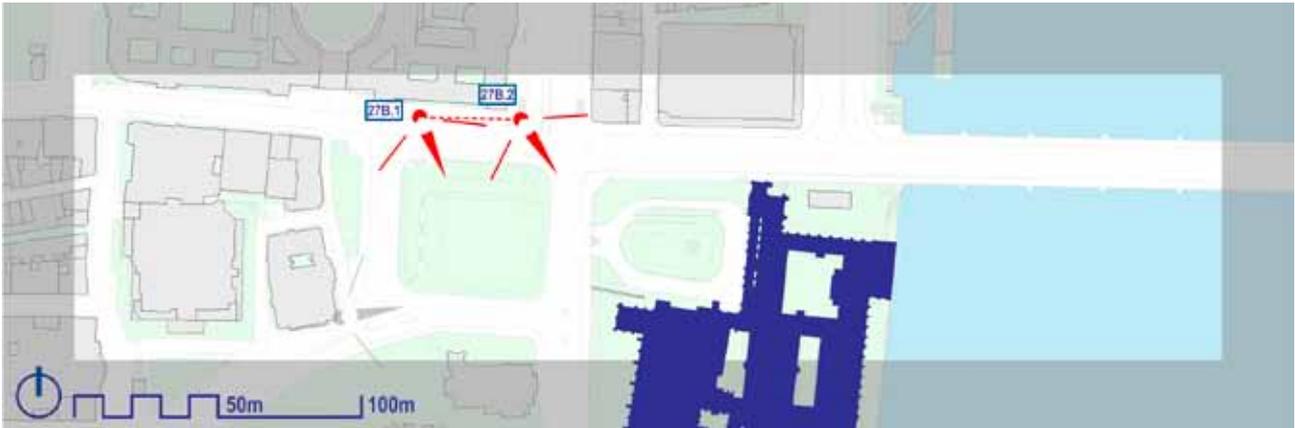
- 443 Any development that appears in the interval between the Clock Tower and Portcullis House should not cause adverse impact to the World Heritage Site and should not compromise a viewer's ability to appreciate the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. It is of critical importance that the Palace of Westminster should continue to clearly seen against clear sky.

- 444 The roofline of the former County Hall and its central flèche form an important part of the visual enclosure of Parliament Square and the contrast between this horizontal form and the rich texture and strong verticals of the Clock Tower ensures that one of London's most iconic emblems can be instantly recognised and appreciated. To ensure this effect, development that would be visible between the Clock Tower and the central flèche of County Hall should be refused.
- 445 Any developments within the Waterloo Opportunity Area, or beyond, visible between the central flèche of County Hall and Portcullis House should be sensitively designed and be of the highest architectural quality; re-reflecting the fact that it will itself form part of the setting of the World Heritage Site,, while signifying positively the continuing development of the capital. The London Eye and indeed Portcullis House itself, indicate how sensitive modern design has contributed beneficially to the setting of the World Heritage Site.
- 446 Background development that would appear above the roofline of the Palace of Westminster should be refused.

### **Management of the Viewing Location**

- 447 Traffic and street furniture heavily dominate the experience of the viewing place. Traffic related issues give Parliament Square the feeling of a route rather than a place or destination. Although there are no current plans to pedestrianise or re-route the traffic, there would be benefit in an area-wide approach to reducing street clutter and improved traffic management.
- 448 Due to Parliament Square's various roles, measures for ensuring appropriate security and safety should be balanced against maintaining the historic fabric, conserving the setting of heritage assets, and enjoyment of the Viewing Place.

## Viewing Location 27B Parliament Square: North Pavement



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 27B.1 Parliament Square: north pavement - entering from St James's Park



Panorama from Assessment Point 27B.2 Parliament Square: north pavement - entering from Whitehall

**Landmarks include:**

- Palace of Westminster (I) †
- Westminster Abbey (I)
- St Margaret’s Church (I)
- The Chapter House
- St Stephen’s Tavern (II)
- The Treasury

**Also in the views:**

- Victoria Tower Gardens (II)

( ) Grade of Listed Building  
 † Strategically Important Landmark

**Description of the View**

- 449 This location provides some of the best overall and internationally renowned views of Westminster World Heritage Site. This location allows the appreciation of the grandeur and dominance of the Clock Tower and Victoria Tower, and for all the major buildings of the World Heritage Site, including Westminster Abbey and St Margaret’s Church to be sharply delineated against clear sky. There are two Assessment Points, 27B.1 and 27B.2. A Protected Silhouette is applied to the Palace of Westminster between Assessment Points 27B.1 and 27B.2.
- 450 The central island in Parliament Square is more clearly visible in these views, allowing the listed statues to be better appreciated, however the traffic and street furniture is still intrusive and dominates the foreground. Trees partially screen Westminster Abbey and St Margaret’s Church, particularly in summer.

- 451 From this Viewing Location, the full composition of the Houses of Parliament can be understood with the long horizontal mass of the buildings framed by the massive verticality of the Clock Tower and the Victoria Tower. Westminster Abbey provides a catalogue to successive phases of English Gothic Architecture and naturally inspired the work of Barry and Pugin on the Palace of Westminster. The stained glass windows and architectural detailing of St Margaret's Church can also be more fully appreciated in this view.
- 452 At night both the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey are lit emphasising their prominence against the night sky.
- 453 Through the visual interval between the Clock Tower and the buildings fronting Bridge Street, Westminster Bridge can be clearly seen. The view is terminated by recent office and hotel buildings in Lambeth whose low profile does not detract from the vertical form of the Clock Tower.
- 454 Looking South from Assessment Point 27B.2, a second visual interval is created between Victoria Tower and Westminster Abbey, leading the eye toward Millbank and the river beyond. Within this area, trees and delicately scaled structures form the skyline.

### **Visual Management Guidance**

#### *Foreground and Middle Ground*

- 455 Parliament Square should continue to create a formal setting to the Palace of Westminster, St Margaret's Church and Westminster Abbey, and allow the architectural form of these groups of buildings to be appreciated as symbols of the constitutional functions they bring together.
- 456 While development in the foreground is unlikely, changes to buildings or landscaping should be of the highest architectural quality, complementing the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.



View from Assessment Point 27B.1 Parliament Square: north pavement - entering from St James's Park (centre of pavement, aligned with statues in square). 530087.0E 179686.5N. Camera height 6.68m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (The Central Tower, above the lobby crossing). Bearing 137.4°, distance 0.3km.



### *Background*

- 457 New development glimpsed in the background of views from this part of Parliament Square should be of appropriate height, scale, massing and materials to allow full appreciation of the buildings forming the World Heritage Site. In the gap between the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey, the existing skyline in these views do not define limits on the heights of new structures, any visible new development should be of the highest design quality and should sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site and its setting. Development should not detract from the clear separation between the major groups of buildings nor compromise the strong vertical emphases of the towers defining the extremities of the Palace of Westminster nor detract from the appreciation of Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church.
- 458 The Protected Silhouette of the Palace of Westminster should not be altered by development appearing in its background, when viewed from any location along the line linking the Assessment Points.

### *Management of the Viewing Location*

- 459 Traffic and street furniture heavily dominate the experience of the Viewing Place. Traffic related issues give Parliament Square the feeling of a route rather than a place or destination. Although there are current plans to pedestrianise or re-route the traffic, there would be benefit in an area-wide approach to reducing street clutter and improved traffic management.
- 460 Due to Parliament Square's various roles, measures for ensuring appropriate security and safety should be balanced against maintaining the historic fabric, conserving the setting of heritage assets, and enjoyment of the viewing place.



View from Assessment Point 27B.2 Parliament Square: north pavement - entering from Whitehall (between traffic bollards, opposite Churchill Statue). 530137.4E 179683.9N. Camera height 7.02m AOD. Aiming at Palace of Westminster (flagpost on Victoria Tower). Bearing 164.6°, distance 0.3km.

