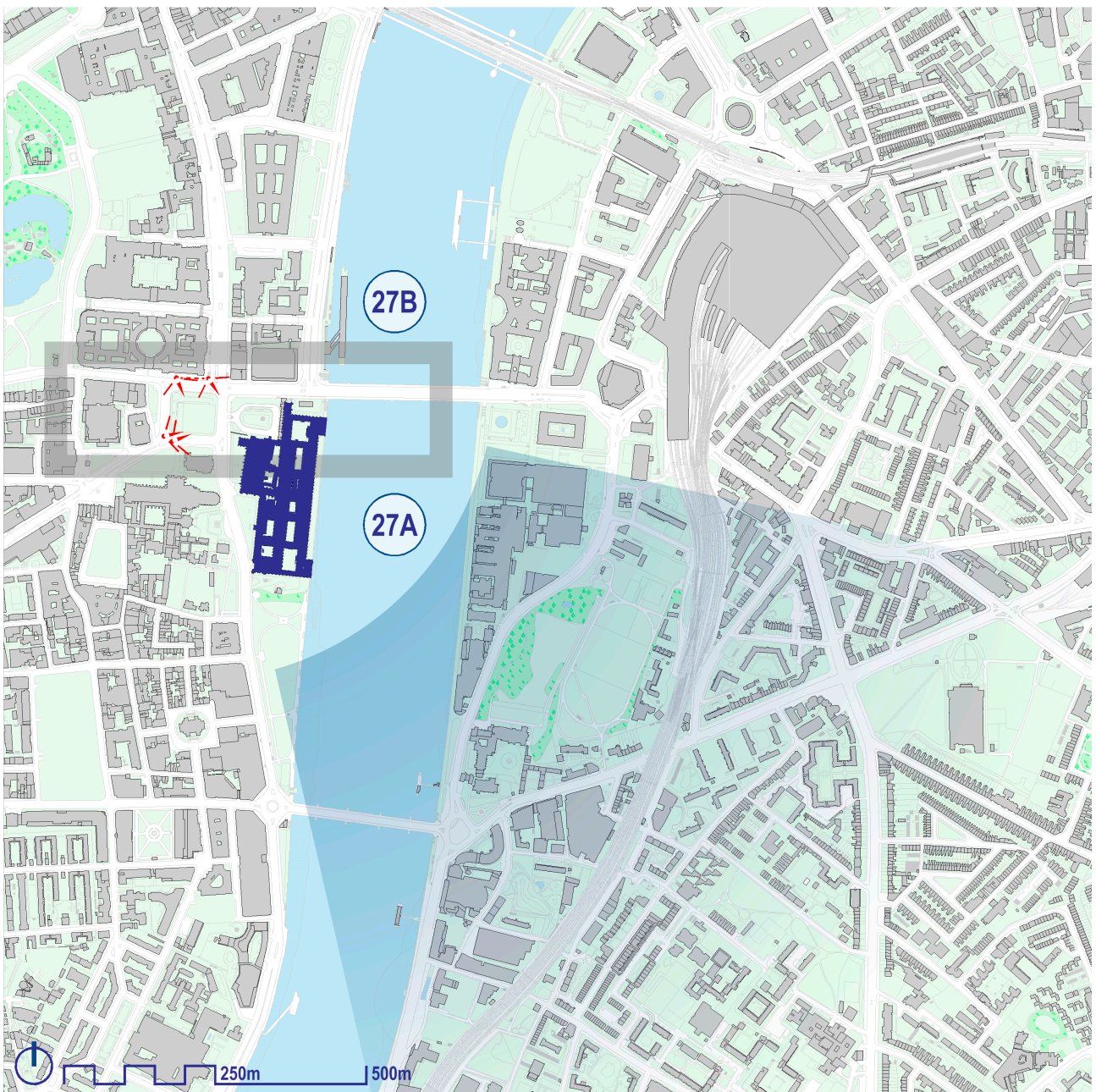


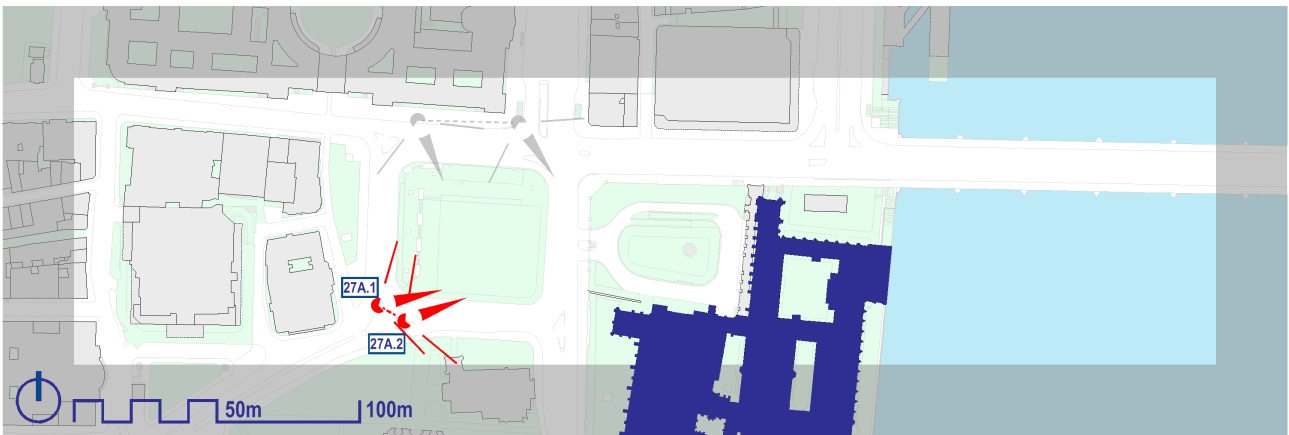
# 27 Townscape View: Parliament Square to Palace of Westminster

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.