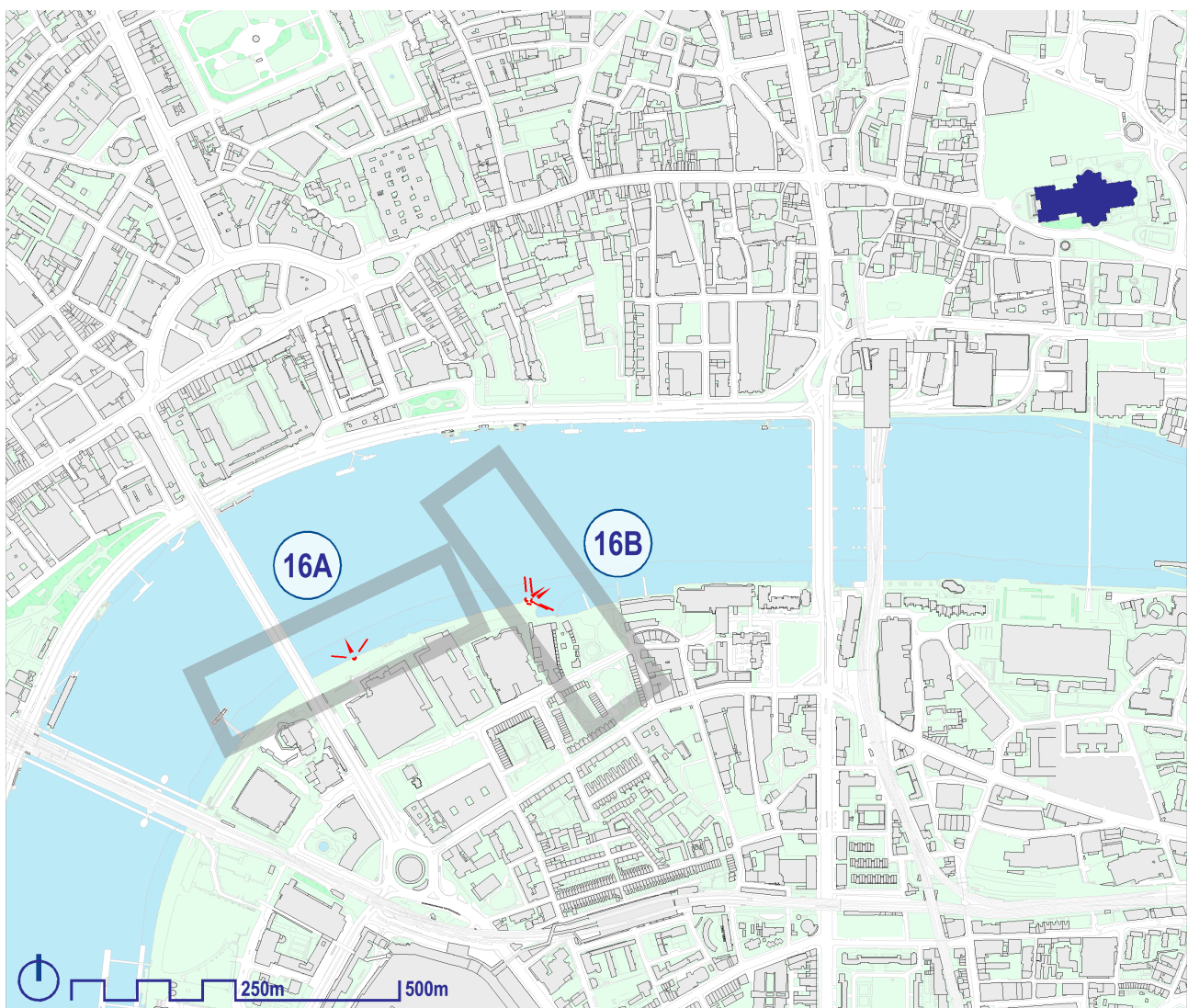
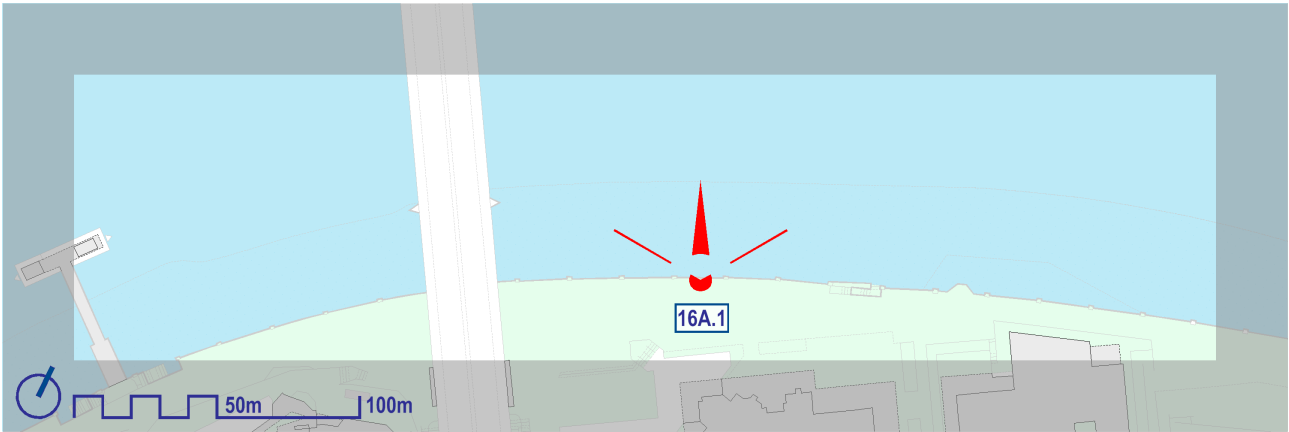


- 269 The South Bank River Prospect is the wide and pleasantly shaded section of the Queen's Walk between Waterloo Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge. The Viewing Place has a distinctly late 20th Century character, with a few remnants of Victorian industrial history. The Royal National Theatre is the most 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\*)

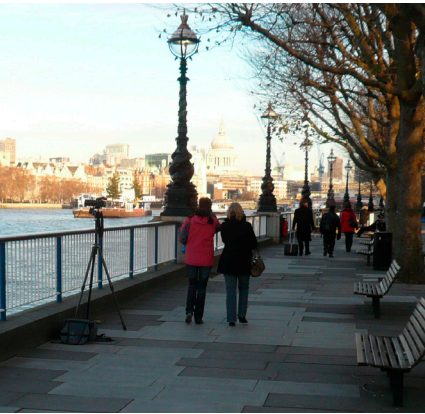
#### Also in the views:

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*

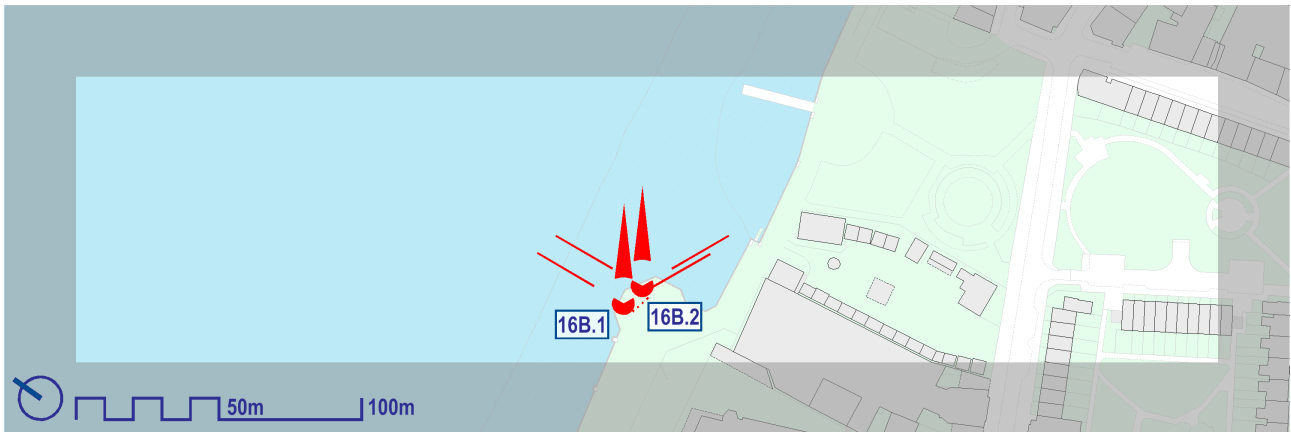
- 274 Development in the background of Somerset House should not dominate the landmark. Improvements to the setting of the landmark are encouraged through appropriate, high-quality design that respects Somerset House as the principal building in the view. The skyline of the view could be improved by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

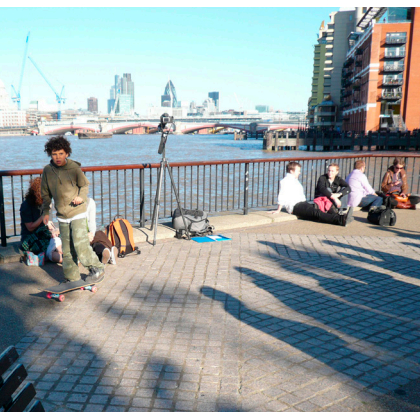
### Background

- 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.

