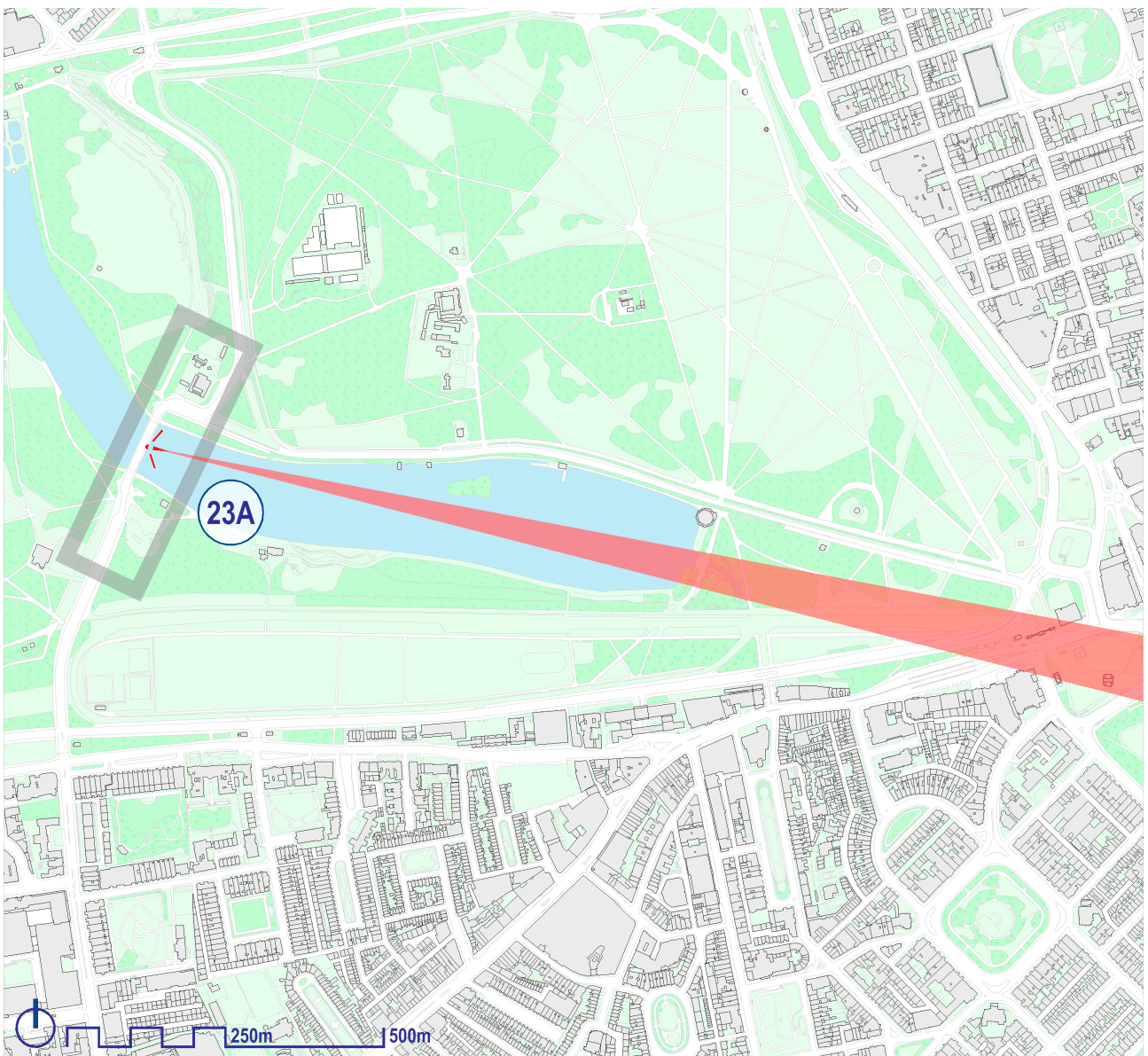
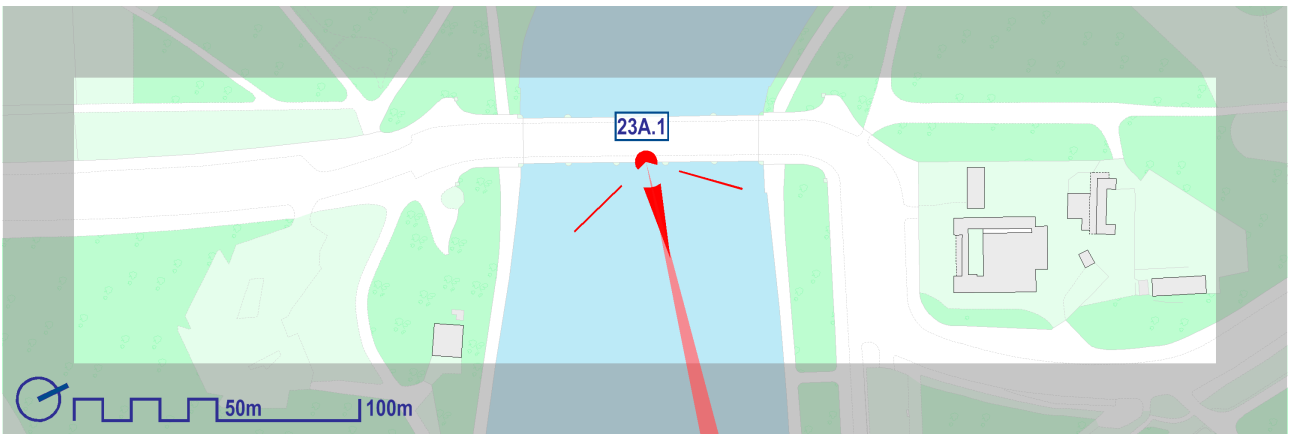


23 Townscape View: Bridge over the Serpentine to Westminster

- 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

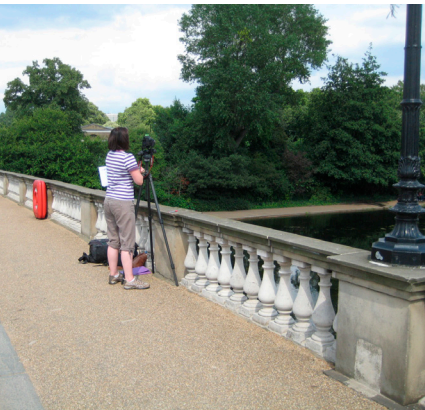
† Strategically Important Landmark

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.

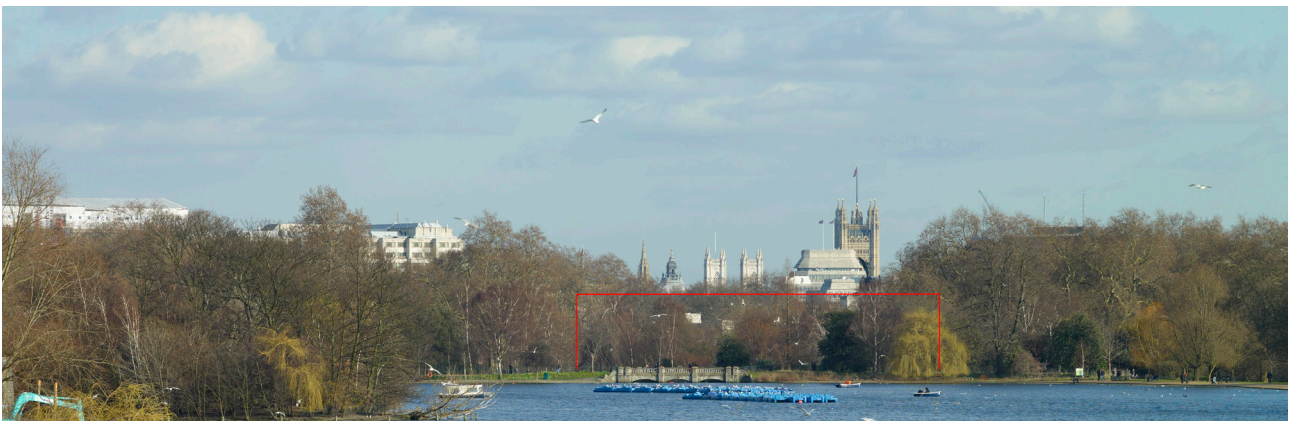
Background

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.

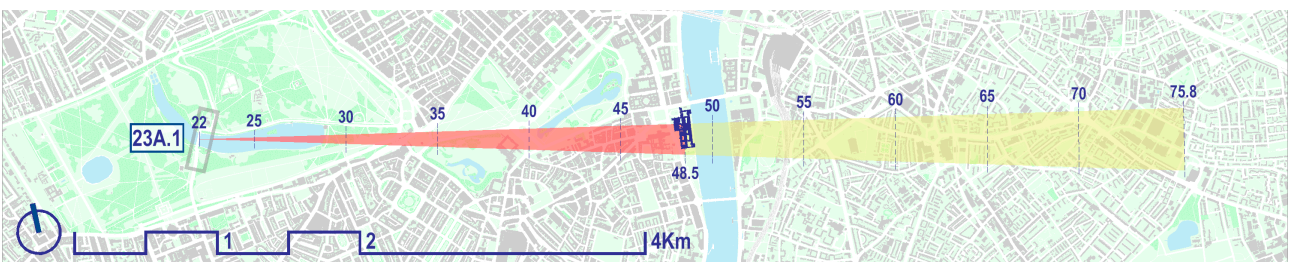
394 Buildings that exceed the threshold plane of the Wider Setting Consultation Area in the background should preserve or enhance the viewer’s ability to recognise and appreciate the Palace of Westminster.

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

