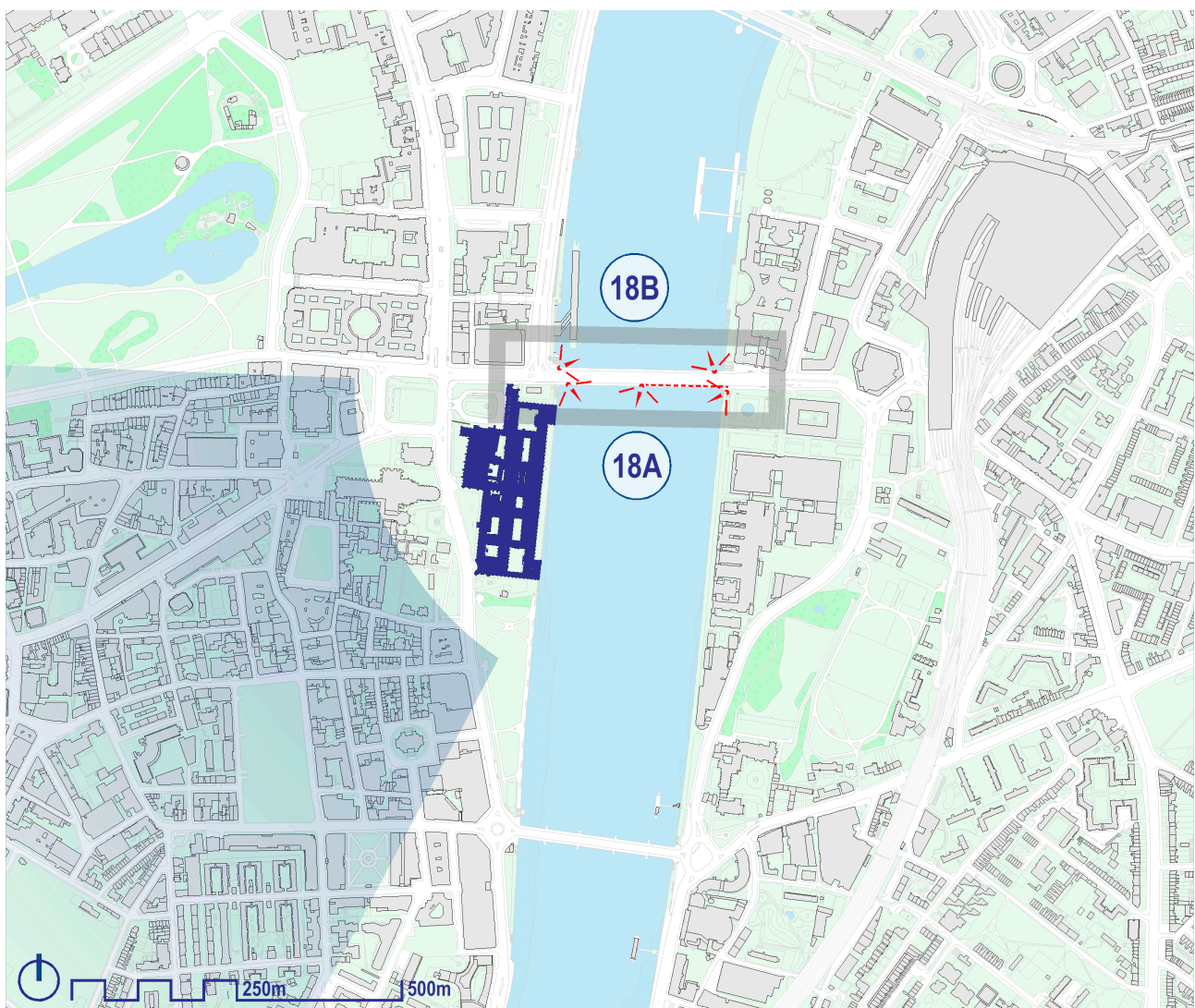
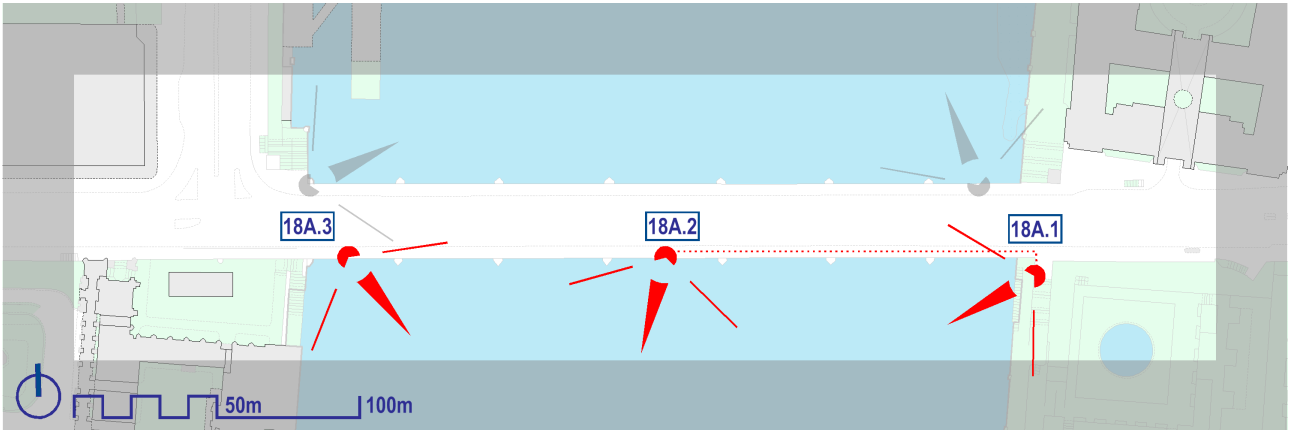


- 307 Westminster Bridge has an east west orientation, across the Thames. The Bridge was constructed in 1854-62 to the designs of Thomas Page and Sir Charles Barry. The bridge makes a visual connection between two of London's historic civic buildings, the Palace of Westminster and the former County Hall. 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.



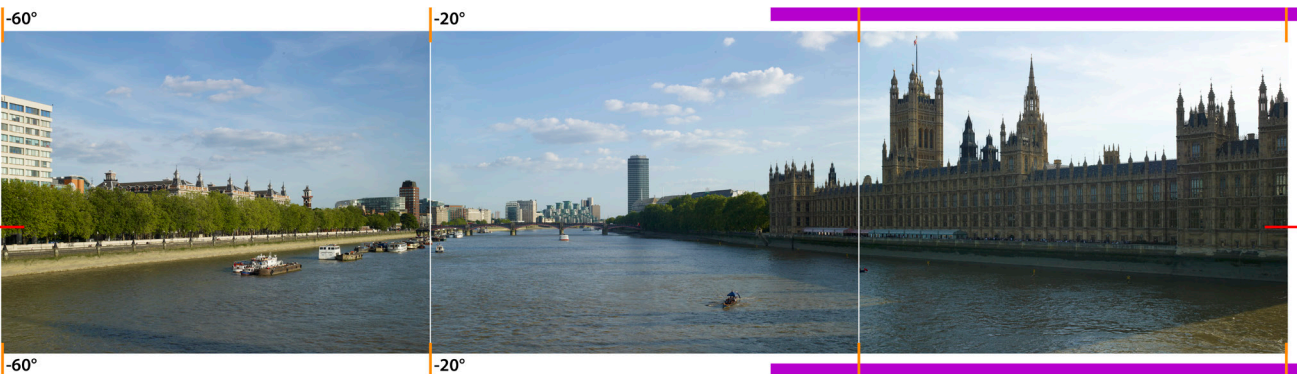
Viewing Location 18A Westminster Bridge: upstream



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.

