



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

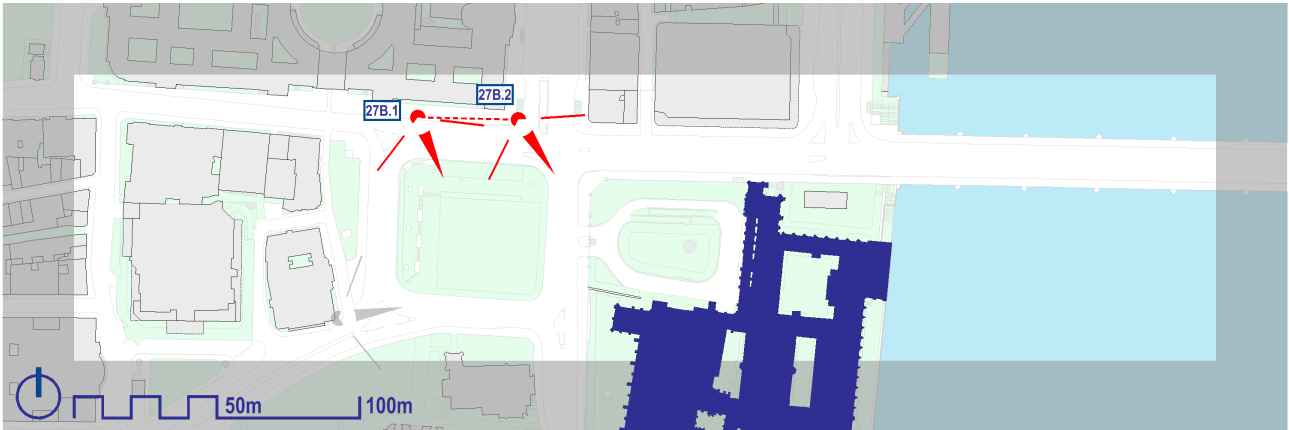
- 443 Any development that appears in the interval between the Clock Tower and Portcullis House should not cause adverse impact to the World Heritage Site and should not compromise a viewer's ability to appreciate the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. It is of critical importance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

