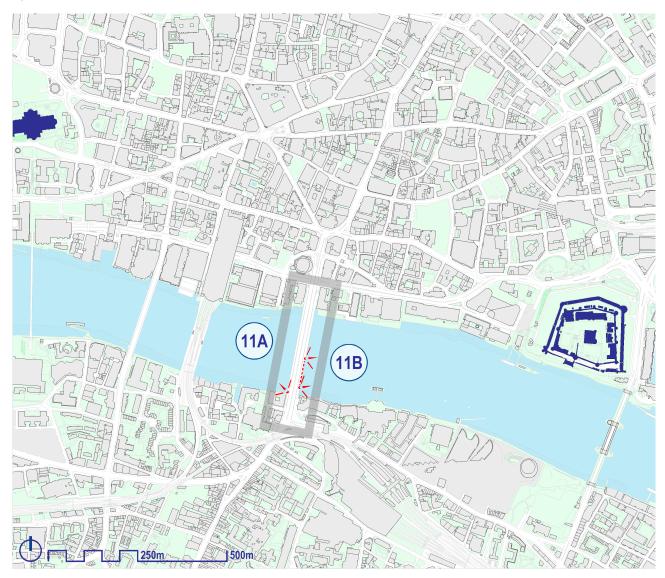
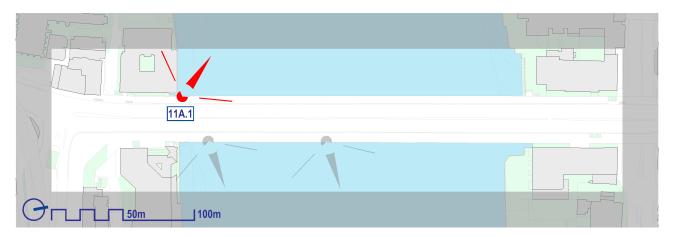
# 11 River Prospect: London Bridge

- London Bridge marks the western extent of the Pool of London, which until the 1970s, was a thriving port. Extensive river prospects are available to the east, as far as Canary Wharf, while those to the west are limited by the Cannon Street Railway Bridge. Protected by St Paul's Heights Limitations, the Cathedral is relatively free of competing development. London Bridge is the oldest of all the London river crossings. The present bridge was completed in 1972.
- <sup>190</sup> There are two Viewing Locations at London Bridge. 11A is orientated upstream and 11B is orientated downstream.



# Viewing Location 11A London Bridge: upstream



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 11A.1 London Bridge: upstream – crossing the Southwark bank

#### **Description of the View**

- <sup>191</sup> Upstream views are foreshortened by Cannon Street Railway Bridge. St Paul's Cathedral and the listed towers of Cannon Street Station interact as the bridge is crossed. Both are seen against clear sky. A single Assessment Point, 11A.1, is located at the southern end of the bridge, where the relationship between these two landmarks is of most interest.
- There are other worthy elements of townscape interest in the view – such as the spire of St Bride's Church and the figure of Lady Justice on the Old Bailey – which appear between the peristyle and western towers of the Cathedral. The upstream views from London Bridge, however, are often incoherent, with considerable potential for improvement. Recently completed buildings are in the foreground of the view, just east of Cannon Street station. They improve the setting of the listed Cannon Street station towers, and other such improvements to the composition of the view will be welcomed.

## Landmarks include:

St Paul's Cathedral (I) † Tate Modern BT Tower (II) St Bride's Church (I) Cannon Street Station Towers (II) The Old Bailey (II\*)

#### Also in the views:

Unilever House (II) Centre Point (II)

( ) Grade of Listed Building † Strategically Important Landmark

#### **Visual Management Guidance**

- 193 The setting of St Paul's Cathedral is important in this view. New buildings can contribute to its setting through design that is sympathetic to the landmarks listed above, the view as a whole and specifically to the relationship between the Cathedral and the Cannon Street Station towers.
- 194 New development should not visually dominate the upper parts of the Cathedral or the space between the dome and its western towers. It also should not diminish the relationship between the dome and the Cannon Street Station towers.



View from Assessment Point 11A.1 London Bridge: upstream – crossing the Southwark bank (South-western end of bridge, over river edge). 532769.2E 180394.3N. Camera height 14.60m AOD. Aiming at St Paul's Cathedral (Central axis of the dome, at the base of the drum). Bearing 316.3°, distance 1.0km.



#### Foreground and Middle Ground

- 195 Other landmarks make an important contribution to this view. They should not be blocked by development in the foreground.
- 196 The St Paul's Heights Limitations should be observed in order to maintain maximum visibility of the Cathedral. However, within this constraint, building proposals should not be overtly horizontal in emphasis. Modest roof top design features that provide a more interesting skyline without obscuring significant parts of the Cathedral might be acceptable.

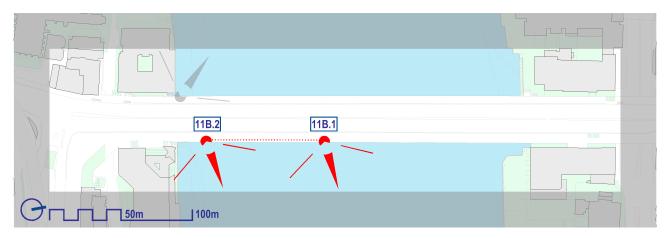
## Background

197 New development should not dominate the space between the dome of the Cathedral and its western towers.

#### Management of the Viewing Location

The upstream side of London Bridge suffers as a Viewing Location owing to the environment created by heavy traffic and a lack of focus for viewing positions. There is considerable scope for improvement to the Viewing Place, to improve accessibility for the enjoyment of views.

# Viewing Location 11B London Bridge: downstream



N.B for key to symbols refer to image 1



Panorama from Assessment Point 11B.1 London Bridge: downstream - at the centre of the bridge



Panorama from Assessment Point 11B.2 London Bridge: downstream - close to the Southwark bank

+60°

Landmarks include: Tower of London (I, II\* and II) † Tower Bridge (I) HMS Belfast

#### Also in the views:

Old Billingsgate Market (II) Custom House (I) Port of London Authority Building (II\*) Canary Wharf

#### **Description of the View**

- The downstream pavement provides views to the Tower of London World Heritage Site, Tower Bridge, and beyond, to the rising ground at Greenwich and the cluster of towers at Canary Wharf. The best views are experienced between the Southwark bank and the centre of the bridge, and two Assessment Points (11B.1 and 11B.2) are located there.
- 200 The river dominates the foreground and middle ground. Trees along the northern embankment are an important element in the views. The focus of the views is Tower Bridge, dominant over the Tower of London. The City, to the left of the view, expresses variety in its grain and character. Adelaide House, the former Billingsgate fish market and the Custom House, all listed, add formality to the foreground. The Southwark riverside buildings direct the view to the profile of Tower Bridge. HMS Belfast adds considerable interest to the view.
- 201 The tall buildings at Canary Wharf mark the path of the river as it continues further east. The best view of the Tower of London is from close to the Southwark bank.

( ) Grade of Listed Building † Strategically Important Landmark

#### **Visual Management Guidance**

202 Tower Bridge should remain the dominant structure in the view when seen from the centre of London Bridge (Assessment Point 11B.1). The viewer's ability to easily recognise its outer profile should not be compromised.



203 Development proposals likely to affect the World Heritage Site should pay regard to the guidance set out in the Tower of London World Heritage Site Management Plan published by Historic Royal Palaces (HRP). HRP manages the Tower of London. It is recommended that HRP and English Heritage are consulted on all relevant proposals at an early stage.

# Foreground and Middle Ground

204 There are opportunities to insert innovative new development into the riverside on the north and south banks. Development here should contribute positively to the settings of the existing historic riverside buildings seen in the view and in particular should not compromise a viewer's ability to appreciate the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site



View from Assessment Point 11B.1 London Bridge: downstream – at the centre of the bridge (Approximate centreline of bridge). 532819.2E 180487.5N. Camera height 16.70m AOD. Aiming at Tower of London (Centreline of NW Turret of The White Tower; top of dome). Bearing 84.4°, distance 0.8km.

## Background

205 From the south side of London Bridge (Assessment Point 11B.2) there is a clear backdrop of sky to the White Tower's four turrets and castellations. Development 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 by unacceptably imposing on the Tower, or have a negative impact on a person's ability to recognise and appreciate this Strategically Important Landmark.



View from Assessment Point 11B.2 London Bridge: downstream – close to the Southwark bank (Creating clear space between White Tower and Mint Square). 532803.4E 180406.2N. Camera height 15.14m AOD. Aiming at Tower of London (Centreline of SW Turret of The White Tower; top of dome). Bearing 81.0°, distance 0.8km.



# Management of the Viewing Location

<sup>206</sup> The downstream side of London Bridge suffers as a Viewing Location owing to traffic noise and a lack of appropriate viewing positions. There is considerable scope for improvement of this Viewing Place in order to make it more accessible for the enjoyment of views.