



GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

# BELGRAVIA Conservation Area

# 23



City of Westminster

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND CITY DEVELOPMENT  
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SERVICES MAY 2004

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**Designation:** First designated in 1968 and extended in 1990 to include the part between Ebury Street and Buckingham Palace Road. It lies within an area bounded by Knightsbridge, Victoria, Pimlico and in the west by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

**Historical Background:** The development known as Belgravia was laid out in the 1820's by Thomas Cubitt and Thomas Cundy. Cubitt saw the possibilities of developing the land to the west of Buckingham Palace as a fashionable residential area and leased the land from the Grosvenor Estate. Many of the streets surrounding Cubitt's development are of an even earlier date, from the late 18th century.

**Listed Buildings:** The majority of the properties (approximately 500) in Belgravia are listed Grade II either for their group or individual value. The properties around Belgrave Square are all listed, mostly Grade I. Churches are of particular interest with St. Peter's, Grade II\* and St. Michael's and St. Mary's Grade II.

**Key Features:** There is a high degree of townscape uniformity and a formal layout based on a grid pattern running southeast to northwest of related squares and crescents enclosing central gardens linked by terraced streets. The grander areas are characterised by long stuccoed terraces of uniform mass, height and classical architectural treatment with a variety of detailing. Short entrance streets lead to the main squares and boulevards. These streets consist mainly of brick houses with stuccoed ground floors which retain their original character, scale and unity. Some variety in townscape and character is found in the entrances and terraces of mews houses to the rear of the grander frontage buildings. To the south, centred around Bloomfield Terrace, there is a small area of simple, linked 'villa' type houses and small scale terraced houses of the late 18th and early 19th century.

The area is predominantly residential with some shops on the edges. There are also significant numbers of embassies, diplomatic buildings and institutional headquarters, especially around Belgrave Square.

**Adjacent Conservation Areas:** Grosvenor Gardens to the east, Albert Gate to the north and Royal Parks to the north and north east.

**Strategic Views:** A wide strip of southern Belgravia is within the strategic view cone from King Henry's mound to St. Paul's Cathedral.

**Areas of Special Archaeological Priority:** Not affected.

**Article 4 Directions:** None.

**Regulation 7 Areas:** None.

**Planning Briefs and Design Guides:** The City Council has produced "Wilton Row and Old Barracks Yard, SW1; A Policy for Conservation" which outlines the restrictions relating to alterations to front elevations and roofs and provides design guidance for properties where alterations may be acceptable.

**Spaces protected by the London Squares Act 1931:** Belgrave Square, Chesharn Place, Chester Square, Eaton Square and Wilton Crescent.

**Registered Historic Parks and Gardens:** Belgrave Square (Grade II) and Eaton Square (Grade II).

**Contacts:**

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