

# 20 | CONSERVATION AREA AUDIT & MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS WESTMINSTER ABBEY AND PARLIAMENT SQUARE



City of Westminster

PLANNING & CITY DEVELOPMENT

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## PREFACE

Since the designation of the first conservation areas in 1967 the City Council has undertaken a comprehensive programme of conservation area designation, extensions and policy development. There are now 55 conservation areas in Westminster, covering 76% of the City. These conservation areas are the subject of detailed policies in the Unitary Development Plan and in Supplementary Planning Guidance and Documents. In addition to the basic activity of designation and the formulation of general policy, the City Council is required to undertake conservation area appraisals and to devise local policies in order to protect the unique character of each area.

Although this process was first undertaken with the various designation reports, more recent national guidance (as found in Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 and the English Heritage guidance documents) requires detailed appraisals of each conservation area in the form of formally approved and published documents. This enhanced process involves the review of original designation procedures and boundaries, analysis of historical development, identification of all listed buildings and those unlisted buildings making a positive contribution to an area, and the identification and description of key townscape features, including street patterns, trees, open spaces and building types.

Given the number and complexity of Westminster's conservation areas the appraisal process has been broken down into three stages, the first of which is complete. This first stage involved the publication of General Information Leaflets or mini-guides for each conservation area covering in brief a series of key categories including Designation, Historical Background, Listed Buildings and Key Features.

The second stage involved the production of conservation area directories for each conservation area. A directory has now been adopted for 51 of the City's conservation areas and includes copies of designation reports, a detailed evaluation of the historical development of the area and analysis of listed buildings and key townscape features.

The City is now working on a programme to prepare conservation area audits for each of its conservation areas. This will form the third and final stage of the appraisal process. As each audit is adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document, it will incorporate the Directory for that conservation area.

Councillor Robert Davis DL

Deputy Leader and  
Cabinet Member for Built Environment





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# 1 INTRODUCTION AND POLICY CONTEXT

1.1 Conservation areas are ‘areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’. They are areas which are immediately recognisable for their distinctive townscape.

1.2 Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 obliges local authorities to identify which part of their areas are of special architectural and historic interest. The City Council has a statutory duty to review the character and boundaries of its conservation areas. This audit is the third, and final stage of a review process. The overall appraisal strategy is based upon national guidance found in both Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 and the English Heritage publications: *Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals* and *Guidance on Conservation Area Management*.

1.3 The audit describes both the historical development, and character and appearance of the conservation area. It identifies and explains important local features such as unlisted buildings of merit, unbroken rooflines and local views. In addition, the audit also seeks to apply relevant Unitary Development Plan policies to the local context in order to preserve and/or enhance the character and appearance of the area and outlines proposals for the future management of the area.

1.4 This is a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and will supplement Westminster’s emerging Local Development Framework, as well as the saved policies in the Unitary Development Plan, as referred to below. It has been prepared in accordance with the advice contained in PPS12 and the Town and

Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. Consultation has been carried out in accordance with Westminster’s Statement of Community Involvement. A sustainability appraisal and statement setting out how the public have been involved in preparation of the document is set out in the SPD documents, which form an appendix to this document.

1.5 The conservation area audit for Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square was adopted as SPD by the Cabinet Member for Built Environment on 26 September 2008. The Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area was designated on 6 November 1969 and extended on 17 November 1987 and 11 September 2008. The designation reports can be found in the directory at the back of this document.

## POLICY AND FURTHER GUIDANCE

The Unitary Development Plan (UDP) was adopted in January 2007 and is the statutory document setting out planning policies for developing land, improving transport and protecting the environment in Westminster. Relevant policies from the UDP are referred to throughout the audit.

General guidance on additional planning controls in conservation areas can be found in the Council’s Supplementary Planning Guidance: *Development and Demolition in Conservation Areas* and *Conservation Areas: A Guide for Property Owners*.



## 2 LOCATION AND SETTING

2.1 Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area is located in the south-east of the City of Westminster. The northern boundary follows Bridge Street and Great George Street, skirting the north side of Parliament Square. The western boundary is irregular and leads from Storey's Gate to Tufton Street via Great Smith Street and St Ann's Street. The southern boundary runs along Great College Street and follows Millbank as far as Lambeth Bridge.

2.2 The Whitehall Conservation Area lies to the northern side of Bridge Street. The Birdcage Walk Conservation Area extends to the north-west beyond Storey's Gate. The Smith Square Conservation Area reaches to the south, beyond Great College Street and west of Millbank. To the east the conservation area shares a boundary with the London Borough of Lambeth's South Bank Conservation Area, which forms part of the setting for the World Heritage Site.

2.3 The map below at **Figure 1** shows these boundaries.

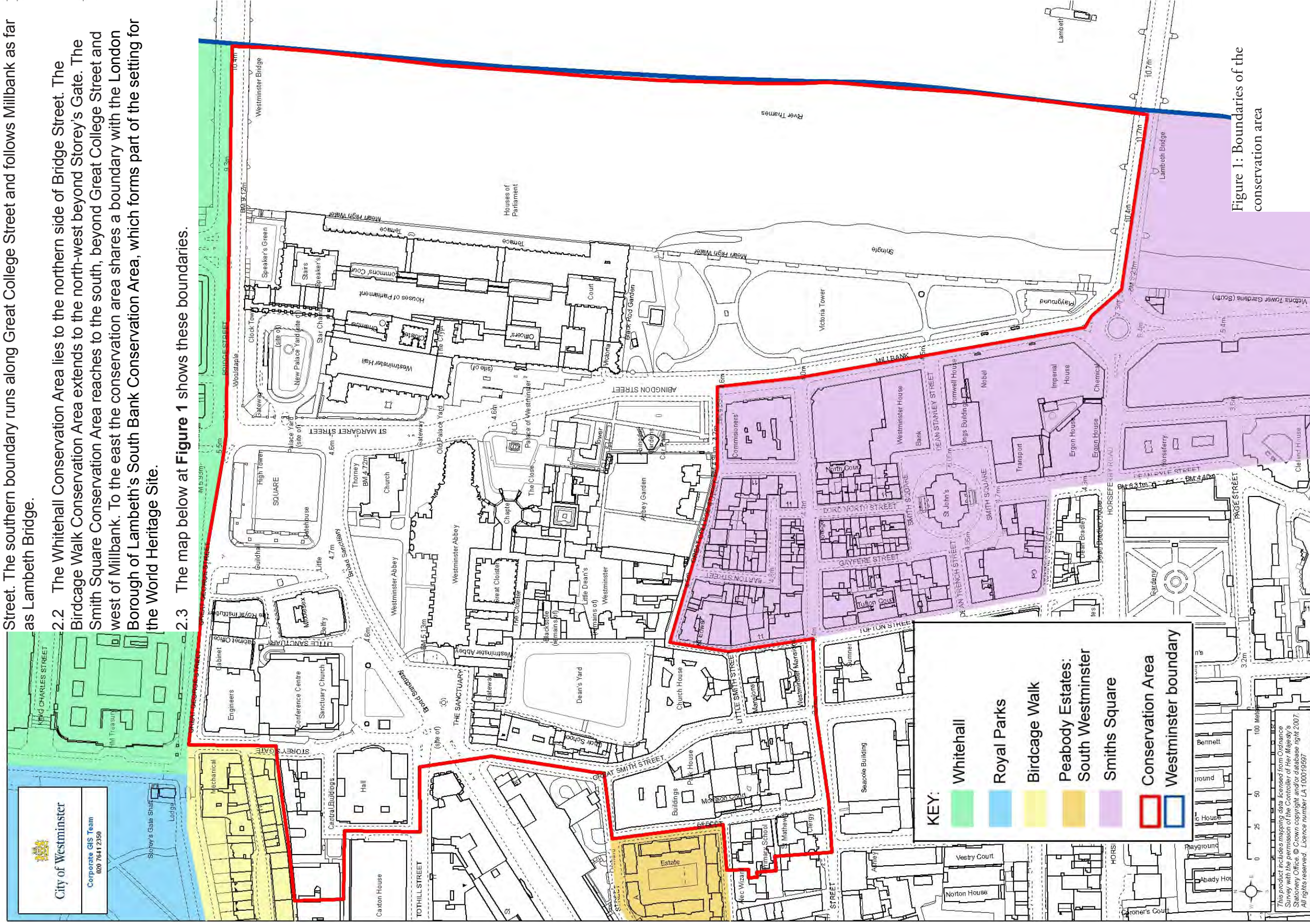


Figure 1: Boundaries of the conservation area



## 3 HISTORY

3.1 The Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area has a complex history, stretching back over a thousand years.

### Thorney Island

3.2 Originally known as Thorney Island, the area was separated from surrounding marshland by two branches of the River Tyburn. The Tyburn divided at the bottom of today's Victoria Street. One branch ran south from there, along the course of Great Smith Street and west along Great College Street. This was the line of the original 'mill ditch' from the Abbey mill. The other branch, known as Long Ditch, ran north along the course of Storey's Gate, turning to join the Thames at Downing Street. The extent of this naturally moated island is roughly that of the present-day conservation area.

### Roman/Saxon Occupation

3.3 There is evidence that the area was occupied from the Iron Age and, although situated to the south of the Roman city of Londinium, there have also been suggestions of Roman activity close to Thorney Island (See Statement of Archaeological Significance).

3.4 The first substantial evidence of occupation of this area, however, dates from the Saxon period, from when the earliest religious associations are likely to date. A charter dated AD 785, from King Offa of Mercia, grants land '...to St Peter and the needy people of God in that terrible place called Westminster...'.<sup>1</sup> Later, St Dunstan, Bishop of London, re-founded a Benedictine Abbey on the site in AD 957.

### Medieval

3.5 The importance of Westminster as a royal and national centre has much to do with St Edward the Confessor, who was responsible for the rebuilding and enlargement of the original Benedictine St Peter's Abbey c.1050. In order to oversee its construction, he took up residence in a palace next to the Abbey. The Abbey was England's first cruciform church and one of the longest and most elaborate Romanesque churches in Europe.

3.6 The Norman kings that followed continued to strengthen the importance of the Palace as a royal residence through further rebuilding of the complex. After William the Conqueror, all subsequent monarchs, except Edward V and VIII, were also crowned at the Abbey. This created a long-standing link between the Abbey and the monarchy.

### Statement of Archaeological Significance

- The Conservation Area lies within the Thorney Island Area of Special Archaeological Priority.
- There is evidence of early settlement of the site in the Mesolithic period, over 7000 years ago. Subsequent archaeological finds have confirmed the sporadic occupation of the area throughout the prehistoric periods.
- The river frontage of the Conservation Area has exceptional archaeological potential.
- The potential for preservation of prehistoric deposits is good. Constant shifting river channels have laid down alluvial material which preserves organic remains well.
- Tothill Street, to the north of the Conservation Area, may have been a Roman route leading to a ford at Westminster.
- The reuse of Roman building materials in the finds of the Saxon abbey demonstrate Roman occupation nearby.

<sup>1</sup>: Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan (2007) : 25

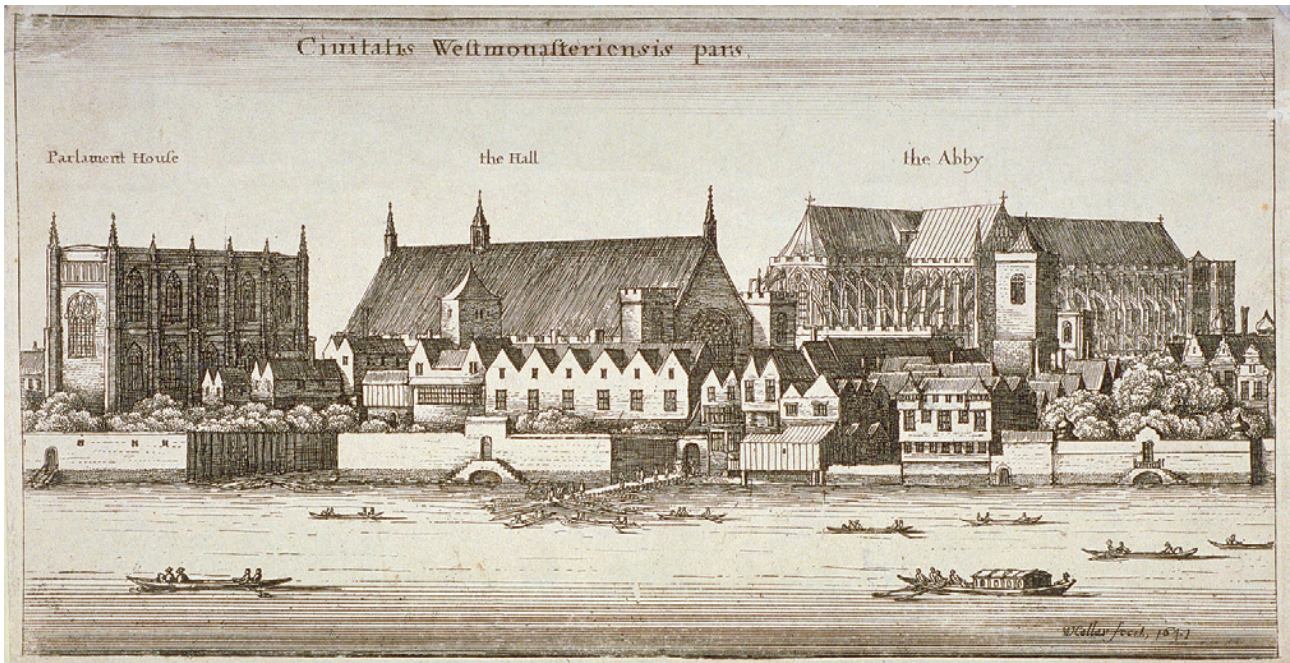


Figure 2: Image of Westminster by Wenzel Hollar dated 1647 (Copyright, Collage- Guildhall Library)

3.7 It was during this period that William the Conqueror's son, William II, built Westminster Hall (1097). This and the Jewel Tower (Henry Yevele: 1365-66), built to house Edward III's personal wardrobe, are the only surviving parts of the medieval palace. The Royal Palace residence occupied over 13 acres (5ha) and consisted of an outer court (New Palace Yard), the middle court (Green Yard), the inner court (Old Palace Yard) and St Stephen's Court.

3.8 Next to the Palace, the Benedictine Abbey flourished and by the 12th century it was the wealthiest religious house in Britain. The Abbey's land consisted of roughly 14 acres (5.5 ha) and was segregated from royal land in the 12th century. The Abbey therefore developed its land independently, creating its own precinct including cloisters, dormitory, Abbot's lodgings and Abbey Gardens. Major reconstruction of the Abbey church took place in 1245 under Henry III, resulting in the Anglo-French Gothic form that exists today. The Lady Chapel, 1220-45, also dates from this period (though was later replaced in 1503-10 by Henry VII's Tudor Gothic Chapel).

3.9 St Margaret's Church was built in the northern precinct of Abbey land in the late 11th century to provide a parish church for the growing settlement of Westminster. The original church of St Margaret's was remodelled in various phases, but by the 15th century it had fallen into such disrepair that it required almost total reconstruction. The present church (c.1482-1523) was rebuilt by Robert Stowell. Although it is no longer officially a parish church, St Margaret's is today known as 'the parish church of the House of Commons'.

3.10 The medieval settlement of Westminster developed around the Abbey and Palace complex but was initially small, confined to the approach roads from the west and north. Services and traders associated with the complex began to colonise the area; an almonry being located to the south of Tothill Street and a wool market on Bridge Street. The Abbey Mill was located just south of the Abbey on Millbank and beyond this, to the south of the conservation area, was the area of open ground known as Tothill Fields.

3.11 The name of the area north of the Abbey and St Margaret's, Broad



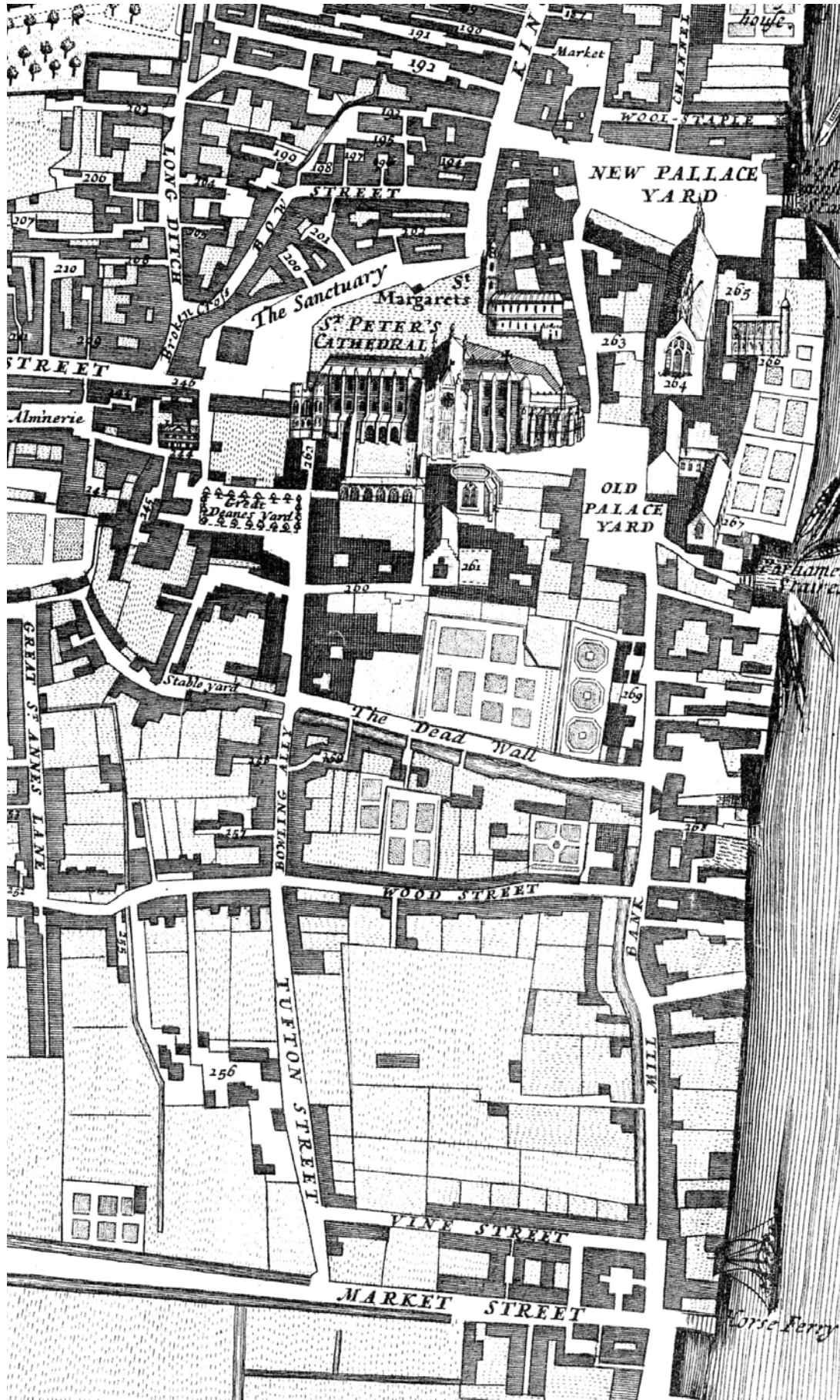


Figure 3: Morgan's Map of 1682. The presence of Westminster Hall, Westminster Abbey and its precinct buildings are clearly illustrated on the map (Copyright, Collage-Guildhall Library Collections)

Sanctuary, relates to the ancient area of religious sanctuary that the Abbey provided here to certain criminals brought to trial at Westminster. To the north was a curved lane called Bow Street or Thieving Lane. The existence of a safe haven for criminals meant that this area gained a bad reputation, but the legal concept of sanctuary survived here until the reign of James I.

3.12 Throughout this time the neighbouring palace, east of Old Palace Yard, developed to become a principal seat of court and government, as well as a royal residence. Edward I held a 'model' Parliament in Westminster Palace, but after this time the Lords met in the palace itself while the Commons resided in the Abbey Chapter House – a situation that continued for three centuries.

### **Early Modern**

3.13 Only in 1512, when fire destroyed most of the royal residential area of the Palace, did this change. Henry VIII abandoned Westminster as a residence in 1529 and moved to Whitehall Palace, leaving the Palace of Westminster to become devoted entirely to the administration of law and the seat of Parliament. The Commons moved into the upper chapel of St Stephen's and the Lords into the Queen's Chamber.

3.14 Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536-39) saw the surrender of the Abbey (1539) and the land taken over by the King. The Abbey's riches were lost and for a number of years the Abbey complex stood empty. However, it was spared destruction after being granted cathedral status (1540) and subsequently a Benedictine monastery was re-established (1556-59) before Elizabeth I granted its charter (1560) as a Royal Peculiar (a place of worship that falls directly under the jurisdiction of the British monarch, rather than a diocese).

3.15 Westminster School has also always

been located within the Abbey Precinct and is believed to have been founded to serve the Abbey in 1179. The school's history can be traced to a mention within the almonry buildings, which lay south-west of the Abbey Close. In 1461 the premises were taken to the east side of Dean's Yard. In the 16th century the school roll expanded and the college was re-founded by Queen Elizabeth I, confirming its royal patronage until it became self-governing under the Public Schools Act of 1868.

3.16 The settlement of Westminster grew and expanded throughout the 16th and 17th centuries and by the time of Morgan's Map of 1682 (Figure 3), the area all around the Abbey, along the river and to the north of the Abbey Precinct was densely built up.

3.17 To the south of the conservation area development was slower. Great Smith Street was laid out in the late 17th century by James Smyth, along the old winding boundary of Thorney Island, running south from The Sanctuary. Great College Street was laid out c. 1720 along the old southern boundary of Thorney Island, which is still defined on the northern side by the stone wall to Abbey Gardens. Gradually, these streets were also bordered by houses and gardens as seen on Strype's Map (Figure 4).

3.18 This growth in population put a strain on the area, bringing a need for improved river connections. During the first half of the 17th century the only way to cross was via the Horse Ferry, some distance to the south of the conservation area. The new Westminster Bridge was therefore opened in 1750, designed by Charles Labelye. By the middle of the 19th century, the bridge was considered structurally unsound and had to be replaced (1862). However, the provision of a river crossing was a significant impetus for the area's development.

3.19 Various new streets were laid out at the same time as the new river crossing.



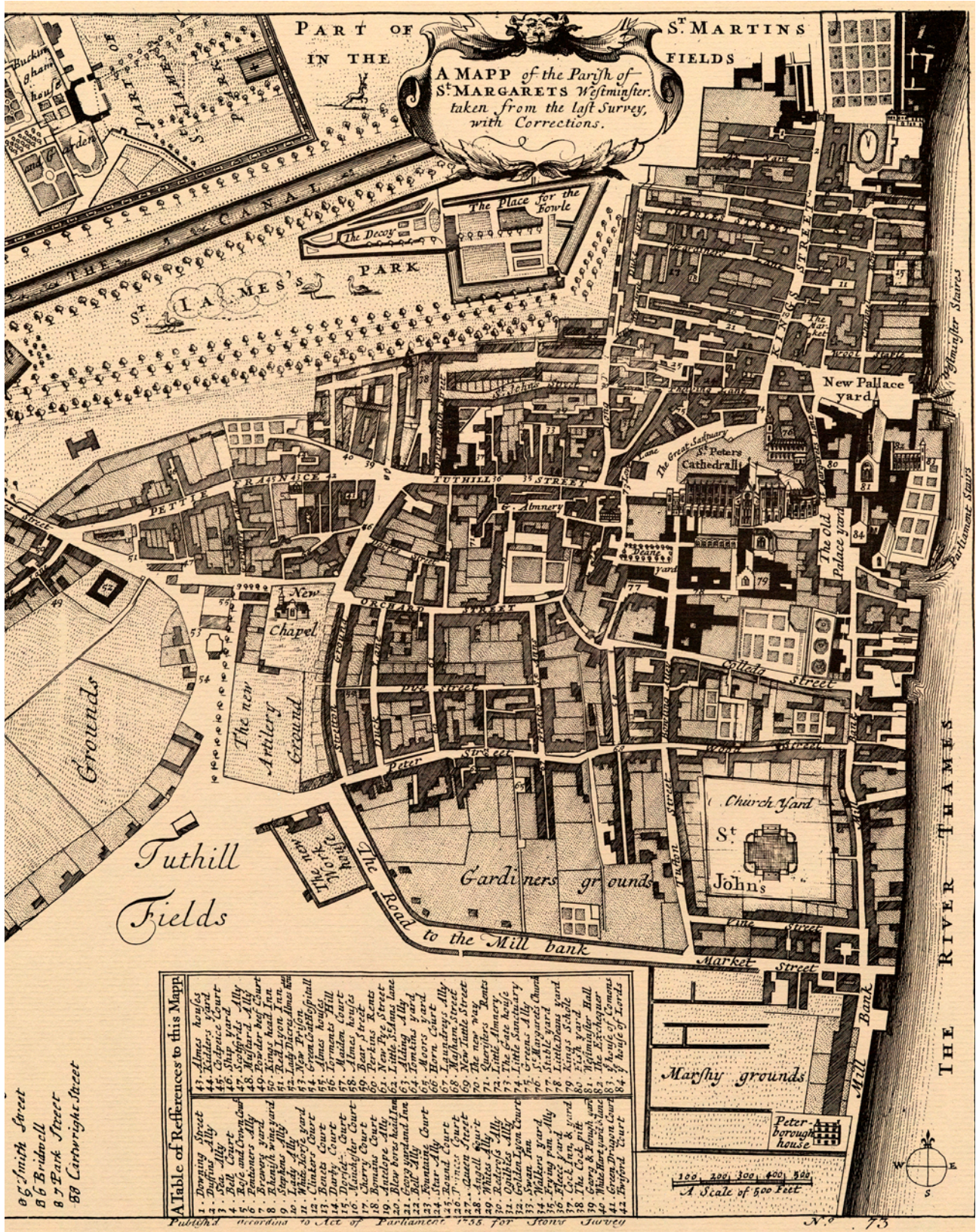


Figure 4: Strype's Map 1755 (Copyright, Westminster Archives)



The new Bridge Street, leading from Westminster Bridge, was continued as Great George Street to St James Park, while Parliament Street was created just to the east of, and later completely superceding King Street. Abingdon Street, running along the line of an ancient lane to Millbank was also widened and renamed and a mason named Abraham Storey was responsible for the development of Storey's Gate, to the north-west of the conservation area.

3.20 Further additions and alterations to the Palace complex continued throughout the 18th century, with contributions from many of the major architects and craftsmen of the day including Nicholas Hawksmoor, James Wyatt and Sir John Soane. The result was a somewhat chaotic mixture of parliamentary and government offices.

### Victorian

3.21 A major fire in 1834 destroyed most of the Palace, sparing only Westminster Hall and the Jewel Tower (Figure 5). A national competition followed. The terms were to design and build a New Palace of Westminster on the same site and in either 'Gothic or Elizabethan' style. The winner was Sir Charles Barry, assisted by A.W. Pugin, and this was announced

in February 1836. The design was Perpendicular Gothic in style. This choice was seen as an early victory in what became known, in the following decades, as the 'Battle of the Styles'.

3.22 Until the 19th century, the area around the Abbey and to the eastern part of St Margaret's churchyard was cluttered with tenements. An Act of Parliament in 1806 allowed the clearing of slums to open up views of the Palace. After the new palace had been constructed this area was laid out by Charles Barry Junior as Parliament Square in 1868. The new square was the site of London's first traffic signals (1868) and gyratory system (1926).

3.23 Victoria Street was also opened in 1852 in order to link Victoria Station with Westminster. This, and the laying of the District Line, in the late Victorian period led to widespread change and slum clearance around Tothill Street.

3.24 Many of the changes and new buildings in the area which date from this period are visible in the 1870s ordnance survey map (Figure 6). Various large new buildings formed significant landmarks in the area. Opposite the Palace, the Westminster Hospital was moved to Broad Sanctuary in the 1830s, housed in a large



Figure 5: Illustration of the Palace of Westminster on fire, 1834 (Copyright, Westminster Archives)



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey map of 1870

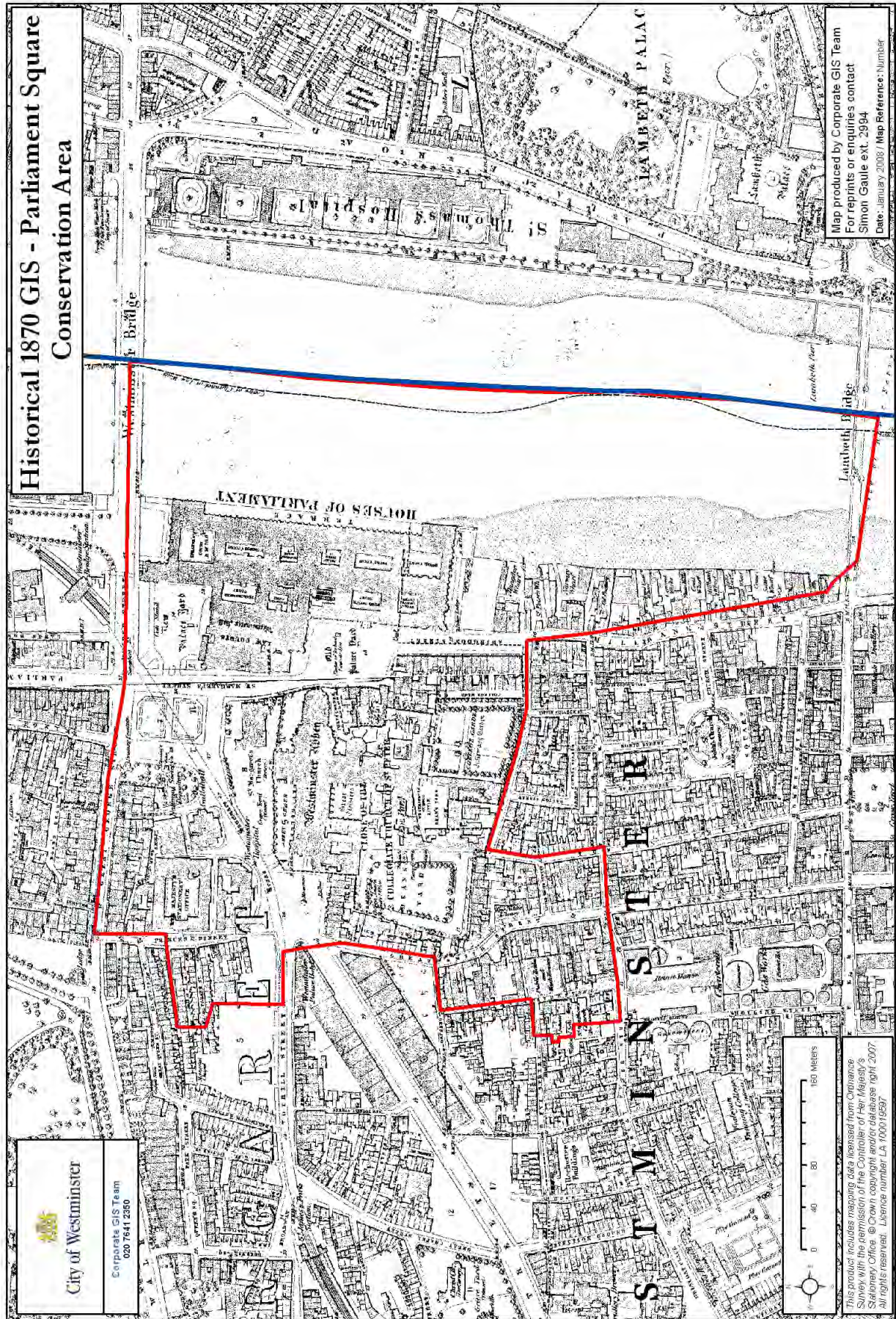
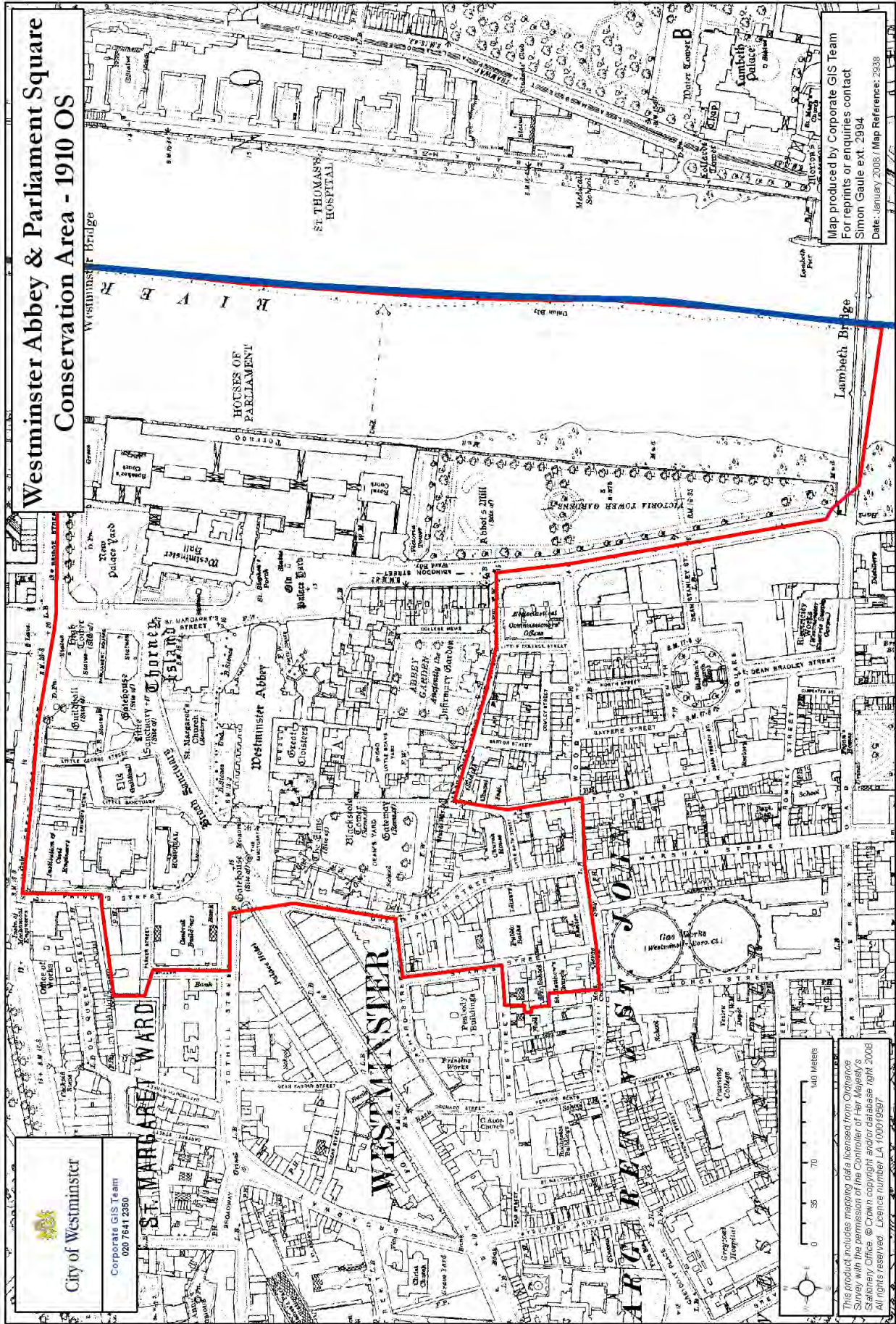




Figure 7: Ordnance Survey map 1910





and prominent Gothic building (demolished in 1951). The giant Westminster Palace Hotel was built the corner of Tothill Street. Another prominent addition to the area adjacent to this was the Royal Aquarium, which was opened in 1876 on a large site at the north-eastern end of Tothill Street, where the Middlesex Guildhall / Supreme Court now stands.

3.25 The area of the present Victoria Tower Gardens was cleared in the 1870s and laid out as public gardens by Joseph Bazalgette. The site of Old Palace Yard was levelled in 1895 to open up the view of the rear of the Abbey Chapter House and create the garden that is there today.

3.26 In the southern part of the conservation area, Victorian improvements of a smaller scale included the first free public library in London and the public baths, located on the site now occupied by Westminster Archives (1857). The present building, designed by F. J. Smith, was opened in 1893 on the opposite (west) side. There was also a men's hostel at No. 18 Great Peter Street and a Library for the Blind at No. 35 Great Smith Street.

## 20th Century

3.27 The early 20th century saw the development of a concentration of institutional buildings in the Storey's Gate/Little Sanctuary area, including the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Institution of Civil Engineers on what became known as 'engineer's row'. The L-shaped Matthew Parker Street was also laid out in 1909 behind the Methodist Central Hall to the south of Storey's Gate. By the time of the 1910 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 7), the area had evolved to closely resemble its current form.

3.28 Since the mid-20th century, alterations to the Palace have occurred, though largely in the form of repairs due to bomb damage and deterioration. A World War II bomb in 1941 caused severe damage to the House of Commons,

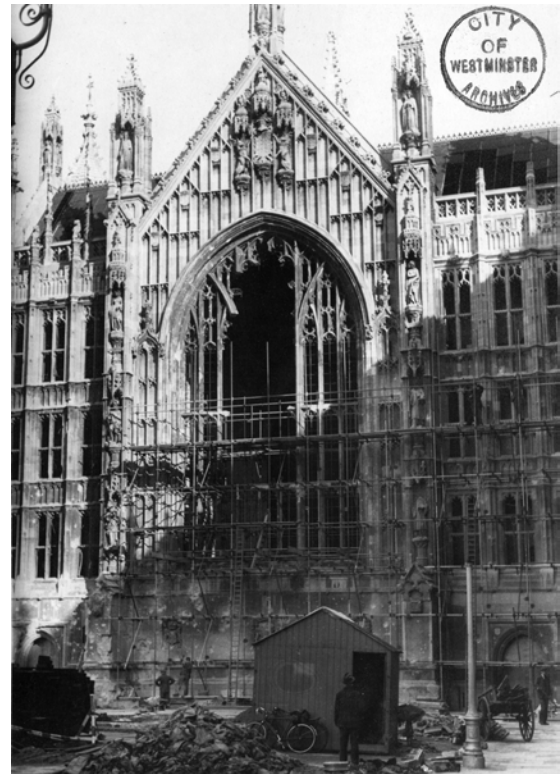


Figure 8: Bomb damage to Palace of Westminster during World War II (Copyright, Westminster Archives)

leading to its redesign by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

3.29 The architect Grey Wornum was commissioned to redesign Parliament Square (1949-50) in order to facilitate the anticipated traffic generated by the Festival of Britain (1951). Wornum's scheme was well received at the time and he was awarded the RIBA Gold Medal for his work in 1952. The scheme capitalised on the demolition of buildings on Canning Green, which enlarged the square to the west by moving the road on the west side of the square further west. This created today's triangular Canning Green, grassing over the old road. The layout of the square has changed little since this reconfiguration due to the range and quality of the original materials used.

3.30 Evidence of evolution within the area can be seen in the modern developments to the south-west and to the north, the most notable building being the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (1981-86) by Powell and Moya. Although just

outside the conservation area, Portcullis House at the corner of Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment which was opened in 2001 is important to the setting of the Houses of Parliament and Parliament Square. Designed by Michael Hopkins and Partners, it houses offices for 210 MPs, as well as a number of committee rooms. The building is founded on the new Westminster Underground Station, which was built as part of the Jubilee Line.

3.31 Most of the current conservation area was designated in 1969, when it formed part of the larger Government Precinct Conservation Area. In 1987, the Government Precinct was divided into smaller areas, one of which was the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area.

3.32 In 1987 much of the conservation area was inscribed within the 'Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey, and St Margaret's Church World Heritage Site' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), recognising the area's significance having been at the heart of the UK state and Church of England for almost 1000 years.



## Timeline

<b>c.960</b>	Construction of the Abbey by Benedictine monks on the area known as Thorney Island (the 'island of thorns').
<b>c.1050</b>	Edward the Confessor rebuilt and enlarged the Abbey.
<b>1066</b>	William the Conqueror crowned monarch and Palace of Westminster became his home.
<b>1097</b>	William II added Westminster Hall to the Palace.
<b>1245</b>	Henry III began to rebuild the Abbey in Anglo-French Gothic style as a shrine to Edward the Confessor.
<b>1365-6</b>	Jewel Tower added to south-west of the Palace complex by Henry Yevele.
<b>c.1394-1402</b>	Westminster Hall rebuilt.
<b>1503-10</b>	Henry VII's Chapel added to replace the 13th century Lady Chapel; it was the greatest single work of Tudor Gothic.
<b>1529</b>	Henry VIII abandoned the Palace as his principal residence and moved to York Palace (renaming it the Palace of Whitehall). Subsequently the empty Palace began to be used for Parliamentary activity; the House of Commons sitting in the upper chapel of St Stephen's Chapel and the House of Lords using the Queen's Chamber.
<b>1539</b>	Following Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536-39) the Abbey surrendered.
<b>1540</b>	The Abbey was given cathedral status by charter, thus sparing it from the subsequent destruction that most English abbeys were subject to.
<b>1556-59</b>	Benedictine monastery was re-established.
<b>1560</b>	Elizabeth I granted its charter as a Royal Peculiar (a place of worship that falls directly under the jurisdiction of the British monarch, rather than a diocese).
<b>Late 17th-early 18th</b>	Laying out of the streets, including Great Smith Street, Storey's Gate, Great College Street and Abingdon Street.
<b>c.1735-1745</b>	The two western towers of the Abbey were constructed by Nicholas Hawksmoor – an early example of Gothic Revival.
<b>1750</b>	Opening of the first Westminster Bridge; this was replaced in 1862.
<b>1750s</b>	Creation of Great George Street, Bridge Street and Parliament Street.
<b>1834</b>	Destruction of the Houses of Lords and Commons by fire. All that survived of the original palace was the medieval Westminster Hall.
<b>1835/36</b>	Architectural competition for the New Palace of Westminster was announced. Charles Barry's Perpendicular neo-Gothic design was chosen as a clear winner.
<b>1852</b>	Clearing of slums and creation of Victoria Street.
<b>1868</b>	Charles Barry Junior lays out Parliament Square.
<b>1870s-90s</b>	Creation of Victoria Tower Gardens and clearing of Old Palace Yard.
<b>1890-1915</b>	Redevelopment of area around Storey's Gate and laying out of Matthew Parker Street.
<b>1941</b>	House of Commons severely damaged by German bombing; redesigned and rebuilt by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1950.
<b>1950</b>	Parliament Square redesigned by Grey Wornum.
<b>1981-6</b>	Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre constructed on the site of the Old Westminster Hospital.
<b>1981-94</b>	Programme of works to the external facades of the Palace.
<b>1987</b>	Designation of World Heritage Site and Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square as Conservation Area.

## 4 CHARACTER OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

### General

4.1 The Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area has a unique and complex character. This has been shaped by its gradual evolution over 1000 years and its role as the seat of the Church and the State.

4.2 The townscape of the conservation area is today dominated by many world-famous landmarks and buildings, making it a busy international tourist destination. Yet, there are other distinctive and more hidden areas beyond this which have a quieter and more private character. The area can therefore be loosely subdivided into four character areas, described below and shown on the map at **Figure 11**.

#### **Area 1: Palace of Westminster and Victoria Tower Gardens**

4.3 The neo-Gothic splendour of the Palace of Westminster dominates the conservation area, and beyond. Standing prominently on the Thames, the Palace is famous for its picturesque composition and delicate roofline of pinnacles and towers. One of London's most famous sites, it is also the area's biggest tourist draw.



Figure 9: The River Thames from Victoria Tower Gardens

4.4 The Victoria Tower Gardens, to the south of the Palace, provide an attractive escape from the busy routes around. This large area of green open space enjoys a riverside location, with expansive views along the Thames and to the Victoria Tower.



Figure 10: View of Clock Tower (*left*), Westminster Hall (*right*) and Parliament Square in foreground

#### **Area 2: Broad Sanctuary, Storey's Gate and Parliament Square**

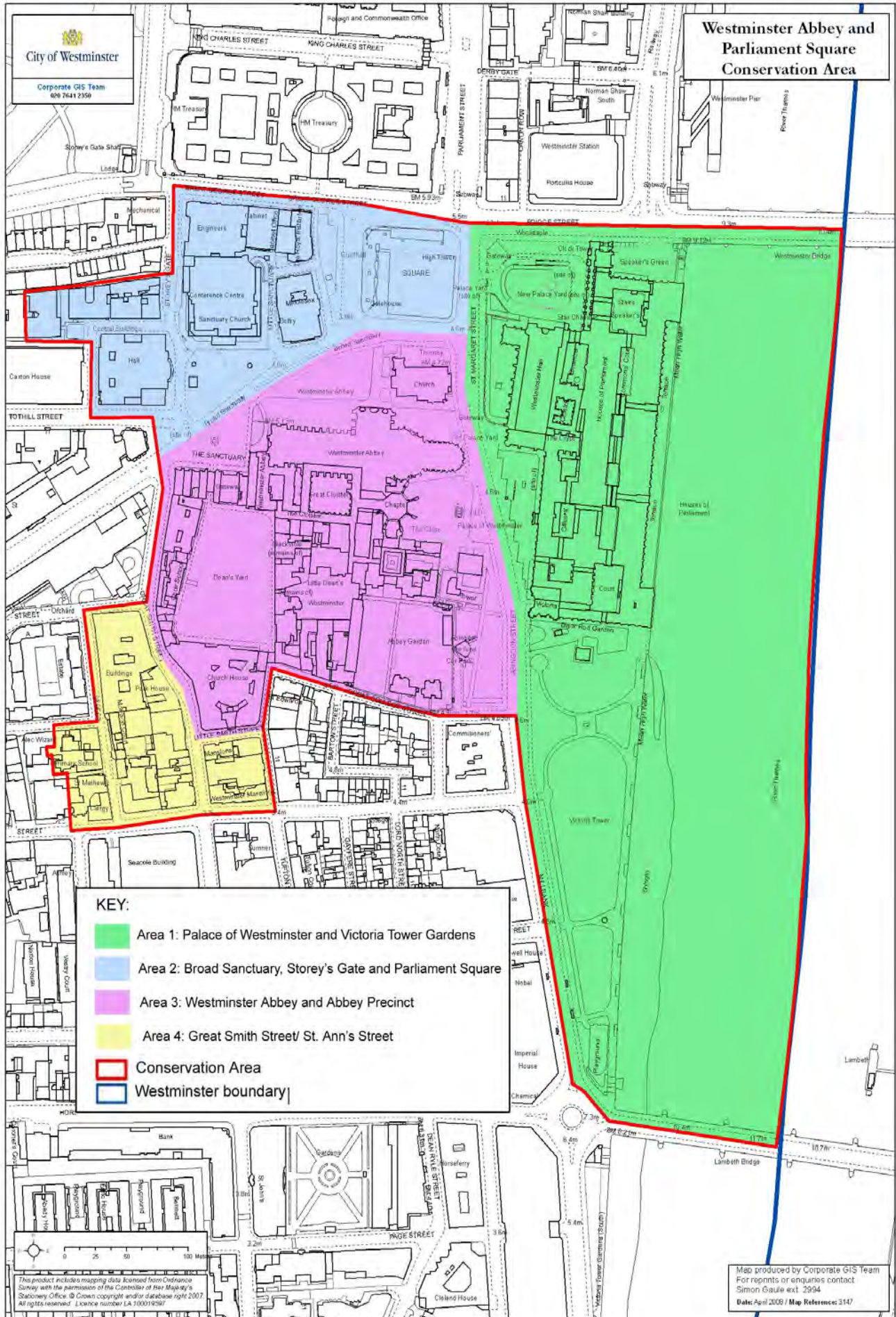
4.5 Parliament Square is of central importance to the area and forms the foreground in the iconic views of the Palace and the Abbey. The central large public space also provides a green and open setting for the surrounding buildings.

4.6 Its symbolic importance as the foreground to Parliament is marked by the number of statues of famous statesmen located around its perimeter. The square is, however, currently dominated by a high volume of traffic and congestion within the area.

4.7 To its north-west corner is an area of large-scale late 19th and 20th century institutional buildings around Storey's Gate. These give a formal character to the open spaces of the north side of Victoria Street, Broad Sanctuary and Parliament Square.



Figure 11: Character areas



### Area 3: Westminster Abbey and Abbey Precinct

4.8 The Abbey is the other major landmark dominating Parliament Square. Along with its precinct buildings, it provides a contrast to the predominantly late Victorian and Edwardian buildings elsewhere. Behind the public face of the Abbey, however, is the monastic arrangement of enclosed courts and narrow passages, which have a quiet and private character.



Figure 12: There are many attractive hidden spaces in the conservation area, including the enclosed cloisters of Westminster Abbey

4.9 The medieval origins are visible in the buildings and cloisters, which are relatively small in scale. Westminster School and Westminster Abbey Choir School are also set to the south of the church, in the enclosed spaces of Dean's Yard and Little Dean's Yard. These uses strongly influence the character of this part of the area, described by Pevsner as strongly resembling a 'cathedral close'.<sup>2</sup>

### Area 4: Great Smith Street/St Ann's Street

4.10 The area to the south-west of the conservation area feels physically separate to the rest of the conservation area. Originally outside the Abbey walls, it did not develop till much later and today its townscape is dominated by a number



Figure 13: Great College Street

of brick Victorian or early 20th century buildings, many of these the result of Victorian improvements and reform.

4.11 The streets of this area have a quieter atmosphere than those around the Abbey–Palace complex and are characterised by a sense of enclosure. The scale reduces to the east of the area, moving away from Victoria Street. The character here is more domestic, strongly related to that of the adjoining Smith Square Conservation Area.

#### Character Summary

- Built environment which has evolved over 1000 years, with buildings of all ages and styles, set around network of open spaces
- Role of area at the centre of Government and Church
- Dominated by World Heritage Site - including the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church
- Importance of River Thames to setting
- Public areas around Parliament Square dominated by traffic
- Larger scale governmental and institutional 19th and 20th century buildings in the north-west
- Quiet enclosed cloisters and courtyards of the Abbey Precinct
- Late Victorian and Edwardian townscape on quiet streets to the south-west

<sup>2</sup> Bradley and Pevsner (2003): London 6: Westminster. p. 200.



## World Heritage Site

4.12 The Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church was inscribed as a cultural World Heritage Site in 1987. This includes a significant proportion of the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area (Figure 14). The designation of this group makes them one of 851 buildings and sites worldwide considered to have outstanding universal value and to be part of the world's cultural and natural heritage.

4.13 The justification for the inscription for the Westminster World Heritage Site (WHS) and its architectural, historic and symbolic significance is as follows:

- The importance, as a group, of the three buildings of the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church.
- The Palace as a supreme example of Gothic Revival and the work of Sir Charles Barry and A.W. Pugin.
- The surviving buildings of the medieval Palace of Westminster, notably the internationally important Westminster Hall and the Jewel Tower.
- Westminster as the site of the development of parliamentary ideals since the 13th century and as the pre-eminent symbol of the democratic institution.
- Westminster Abbey as a major ecclesiastical monument of great antiquity and beauty.
- Westminster Abbey as the place of coronation and shrine of British monarchs since the 11th century and the place where the nation's important statesmen, poets and other individuals are commemorated.
- St Margaret's Church as the church of the House of Commons.

4.14 Therefore, the following UNESCO criteria are met by the WHS:

- Criterion (i) represents a masterpiece of human creative genius.
- Criterion (ii) exhibits an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design.
- Criterion (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.
- Criterion (vi) to be directly associated with events or living tradition with ideas or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

4.15 The way in which the Westminster WHS meets the criteria is set out in the inscription as follows:

- Criterion (i) - Westminster Abbey is a unique artistic construction representing a striking sequence of the successive phases of English Gothic art.
- Criterion (ii) - Other than its influence on English architecture during the Middle Ages, the Abbey has played another leading role by influencing the work of Charles Barry and Augustus Welby Pugin at Westminster Palace, in the "Gothic Revival" of the 19th century.
- Criterion (iv) - The Abbey, the Palace and St Margaret's illustrate in a concrete way the specificities of parliamentary monarchy over as long a period of time as nine centuries. Whether one looks at the royal tombs of the chapterhouse, the remarkable vastness of Westminster Hall, of the House of Lords or of the House of Commons, art is everywhere present and harmonious, making a

veritable museum of the history of the United Kingdom.

4.16 Further information on the unique qualities and significance of the site which have resulted in its designation as of Outstanding Universal Value, as well as key management objectives, can be found in the 'Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan', available to download from the English Heritage website: [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk).

4.17 It is also recognised by the World Heritage Committee that the Westminster WHS may be revised at an appropriate time and any application will need to be undertaken through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in consultation with stakeholders.

## POLICY AND FURTHER GUIDANCE

The WHS designation highlights the outstanding international importance of the site, and this should be a key material consideration to take into account when determining planning and listed building consent applications. Great weight is placed upon the need to protect the site for future generations.

Policy DES16 is the relevant Unitary Development Plan policy relating to the World Heritage Site and states that permission will only be granted for developments that protect and conserve the character, appearance, setting and ecological value of the World Heritage Site.



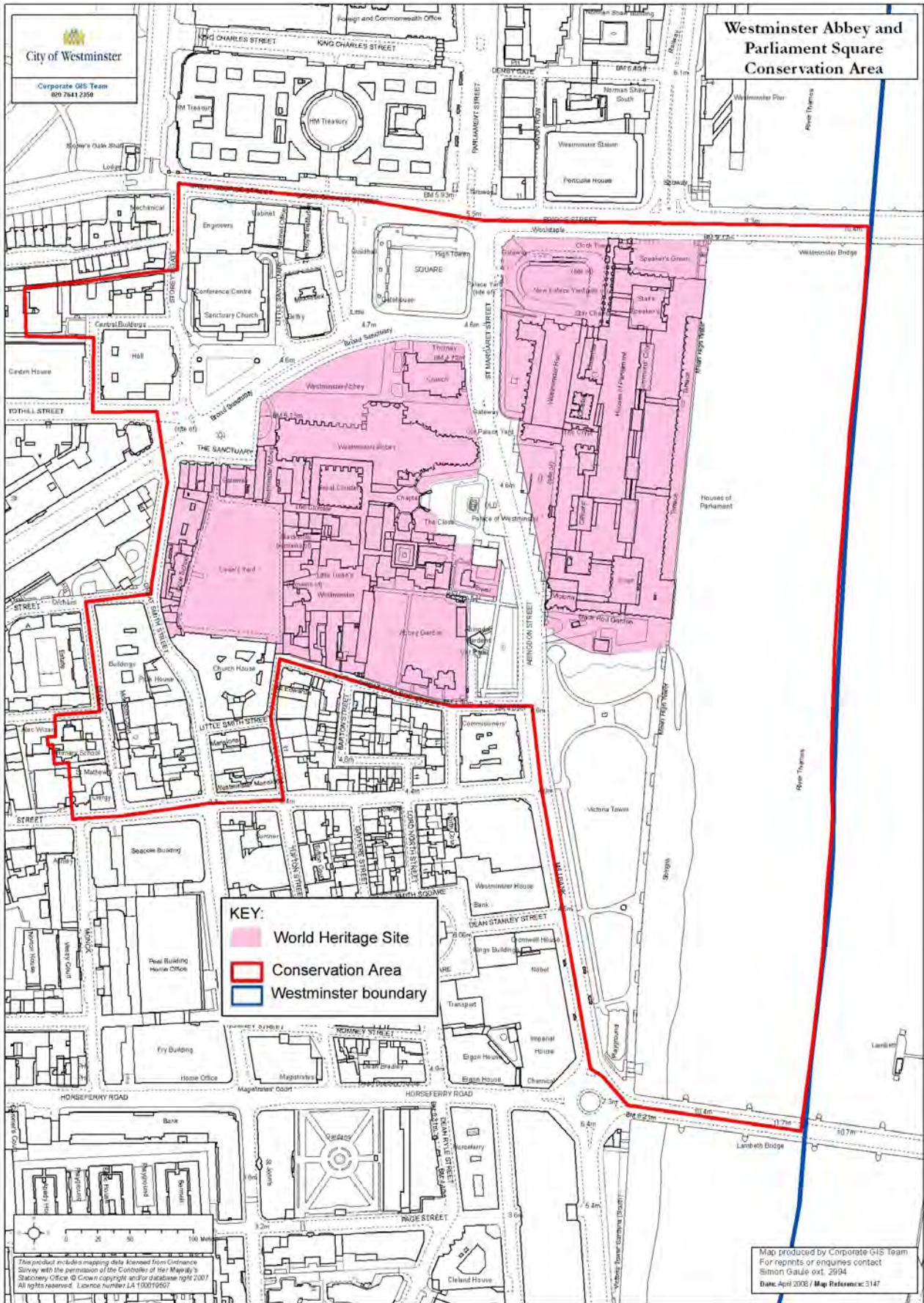


Figure 14: The extent of the World Heritage Site

## Streets and Spaces

4.18 The historic street layout and the relationship of built form to open space define the overall framework of an area. Within this framework, the fine grain of the townscape, including sizes of plots and building lines, are important in establishing the pattern and density of development. This has a significant impact on the character of an area, dictating the scale of development and level of enclosure or openness.

4.19 The pattern of streets and spaces in the area was not planned, but has developed as a result of the gradual historical evolution of the area. The current layout strongly relates to the original medieval buildings and ancient land ownership of the area. It was also strongly influenced by the course of the River Tyburn. However, there have also been significant changes, levelling and widening of ancient roads in subsequent years, particularly during the Victorian era.

4.20 At the heart of the conservation area Parliament Square and specifically its central garden, provide a large area of public open space, initially formed by the clearance of houses in the Victorian era. Main roads lead into the centre of the area from each corner – Victoria Street from the south-east, Whitehall from the



Figure 15: Parliament Square with backdrop of the Palace of Westminster

north, Westminster Bridge from the east and Abingdon Street/Millbank from the south. These streets have a high volume of traffic throughout the day, meaning it is a congested and animated space.

4.21 Parliament Square was created to open up and enhance the setting of the Houses of Parliament and surrounding buildings. At the centre, Grey Wornum's scheme provides a clearly defined landscaped area, which bleeds and connects with surrounding spaces, such as Canning Green, Broad Sanctuary, St Margaret's Churchyard, Cromwell Green and New Palace Yard. The major public buildings and landmarks around the square and adjoining streets are large in scale but many are set back from the street and fronted by areas of green open space. This provides a sense of separation from the major traffic routes.

4.22 To the north-west of the area the institutional buildings occupy large plots and these enclose and shield the comparatively narrow streets (Matthew Parker Street and Storey's Gate) in this section of the conservation area.

4.23 The large open space of Victoria Gardens, to the west of Victoria Tower, was created as part of Victorian improvements and slum clearance and provides a sheltered public garden and an escape from the adjacent busy roads. The gardens are enclosed by an abundance of planting to the roadside and by the Thames to the east. Opposite this is the smaller, more open space of Abingdon Gardens; a modern space, created above an underground car park and bounded by the medieval walls of the Abbey Precinct.

4.24 Although not visible from much of the conservation area, the river to the east is also extremely important as the largest open space in the area, providing an expansive and open setting for the Palace and long views into and out of the area.



4.25 In contrast to these large public spaces, to the south there is also a rich variety of small, enclosed and semi-hidden spaces, as well as intimate courtyards, not all of which are open to the public but which retain the original medieval layout of the area.



Figure 16: (above) Dean's Yard



Figure 17: (Left) Arched entrance to Dean's Yard from Great College Street

4.26 Dean's Yard, immediately to the south of the Abbey, is the largest of these enclosed spaces and has a remarkably calm atmosphere. Accessed through arched openings from Broad Sanctuary and Great College Street, this enjoyable space has a semi-private character shielded from the busy streets beyond.

4.27 Other smaller enclosed and intimate spaces including the Great and Little Cloisters of the Abbey, Little Dean's Yard and Abbey Gardens form some of the most interesting townscape experiences. Other intimate spaces include the numerous courtyards and riverside terrace of the Palace itself, although these are not generally publicly accessible.



Figure 18: The curving enclosed form of Great Smith Street

4.28 The area around Great Smith Street and Little College Street also consists of more intimate routes characterised by a sense of enclosure. Here there is a circuitous street pattern, with roads set along curving lines following the original route of the Tyburn. Buildings generally front directly onto the street and there is a continuous building line, with few open gaps.

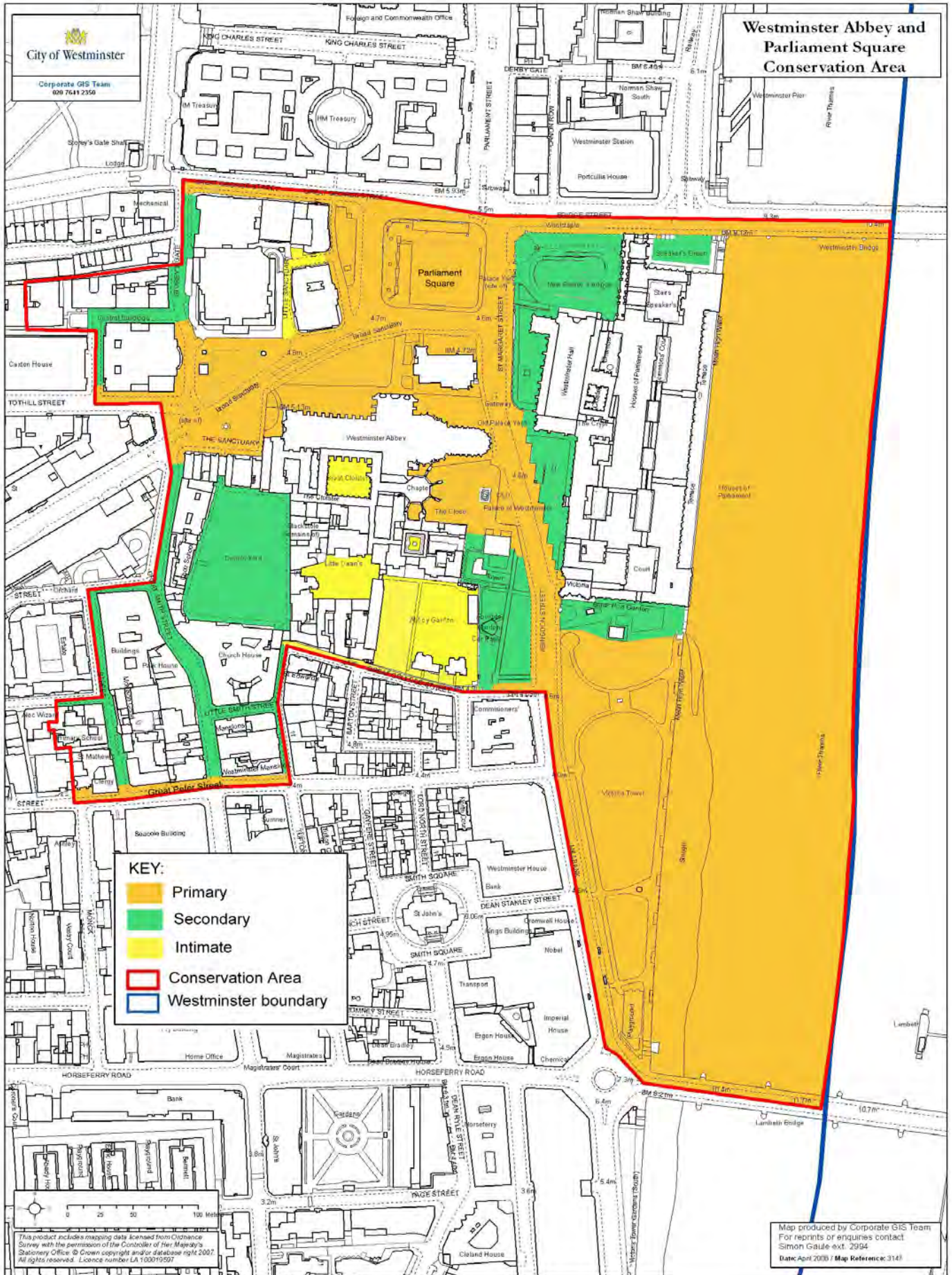
4.29 For the purposes of the Conservation Area Audits, the Council has defined three categories of routes or spaces according to a combined analysis of their scale, level of enclosure and the function they perform within the area. These are defined as Primary Routes and Spaces, Secondary Routes and Spaces and Intimate Routes and Spaces. The map at **Figure 19** shows the hierarchy of routes and spaces within the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area.

#### POLICY AND FURTHER GUIDANCE

Dominant street patterns and the character of spaces should be respected, and where historic patterns remain these should be protected and reflected in any proposed schemes. Policies DES 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 12 should be consulted.



Figure 19: Hierarchy of streets and spaces



# Architecture

## Overview

4.30 The conservation area has an extremely large and diverse range of buildings, dating from the 12th century to modern times. The majority of these are listed, many were designed by some of the most famous architects of their time, and overall the built fabric is of exceptional quality and interest. Yet, while major landmarks and public buildings may seem to dominate the area, buildings of all eras and styles contribute to its character, each providing an insight into the differing phases of the area's development.

4.31 The earliest buildings are within Westminster Abbey and its environs and at Westminster Hall. The complex of courts and cloisters surrounding the Abbey and Dean's Yard retains a medieval character, with many early, rubble-stone buildings, which formed part of the original monastic complex. Many of these have, however, undergone various alterations and, in particular in Dean's Yard, there are a number of larger-scale 19th and early 20th century buildings.

4.32 The entire eastern part of the area, divided by Abingdon Street/St Margaret's Street, is dominated by the giant scale and exuberant architecture of the Victorian Gothic Palace of Westminster. Westminster Hall is less prominent in townscape terms, but forms the foreground in views from Parliament Square. This, along with the Jewel Tower, is of great historic significance and provides an important reminder of the original form of the medieval Palace.

4.33 The north-western part of the conservation area contains a number of monumental institutional buildings with large footprints and a strongly Edwardian character, many in Bath or Portland stone. With some notable exceptions, those buildings in closest proximity to the Palace

and Abbey tend to employ neo-Gothic or neo-Tudor detailing.

4.34 South of Dean's Yard is an area of predominantly brick buildings, many dating from the late Victorian period but interspersed with some larger 20th century buildings. The boundaries of this north-eastern part of the area are formed by the backs of the buildings in Dean's Yard.

4.35 The wide range of building types, styles and materials described above makes a significant contribution to the area's character.

4.36 A map showing approximate building ages in the conservation area can be found at **Figure 20**. It should, however, be recognised that many of the buildings in the area, especially in the Abbey Precinct, incorporate elements from various different periods. Following this map, buildings are described individually in more detail.



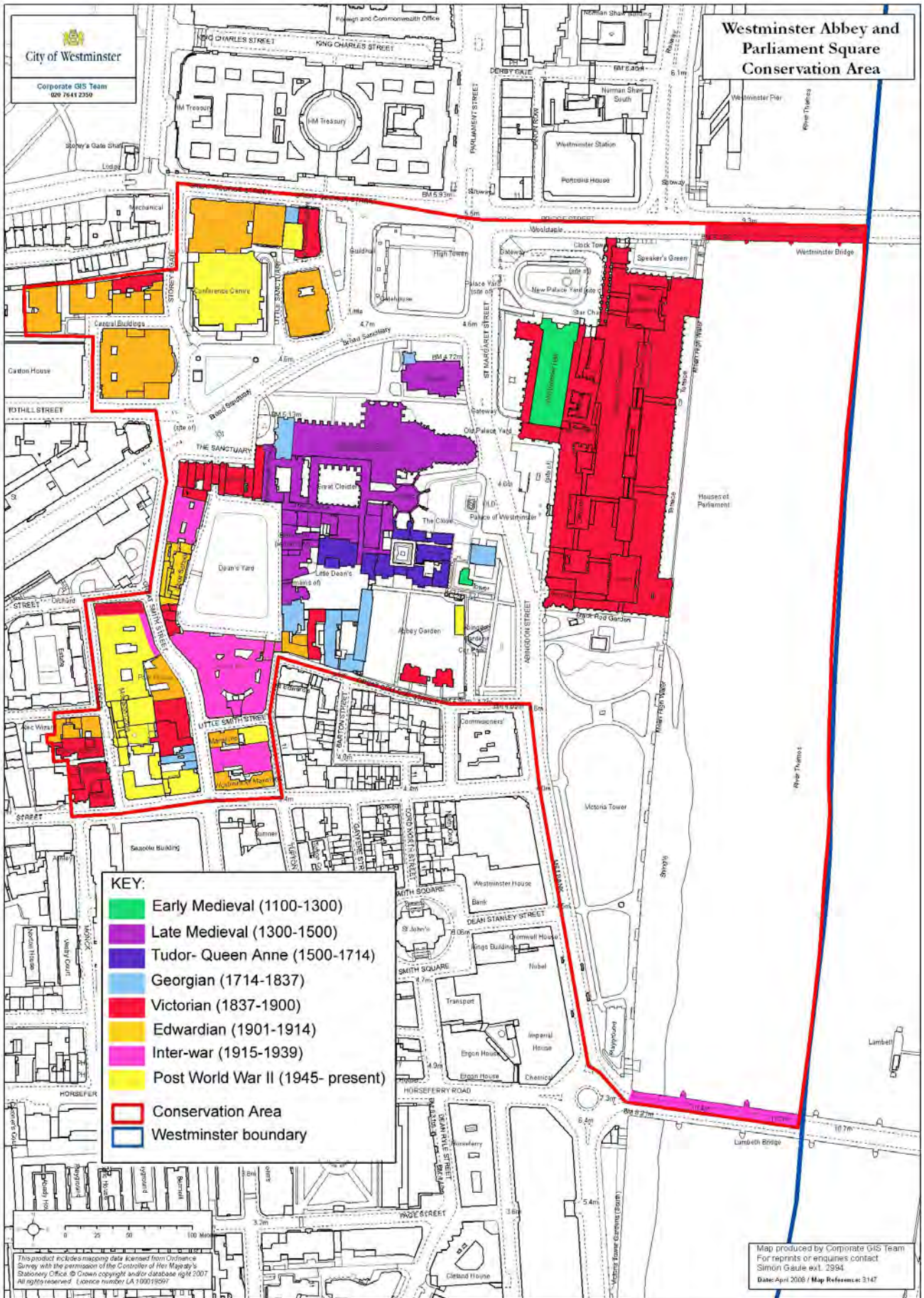


Figure 20: Approximate building ages



## The Palace of Westminster

4.37 Dominating the conservation area, the Palace of Westminster is not only one of the most famous landmarks on London's skyline, but is also of great significance as a masterpiece of 19th century Gothic Revival and a national symbol of government. The whole complex, including the medieval Westminster Hall, is Grade I listed (see list description in the Directory).

4.38 Designed by Charles Barry, with decorative detail by A.W.Pugin, the Victorian palace was built between 1840 and 1869, following a major fire in 1834. Perpendicular Gothic in style and axial in plan, it is constructed in a distinctive sand-coloured magnesian limestone from Anston in Yorkshire. Later repairs have been undertaken using limestone from Relton.

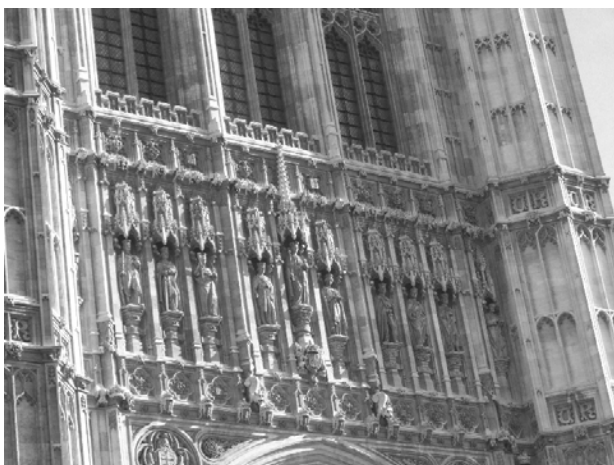


Figure 21: Detailing above the Royal Entrance

4.39 The Perpendicular Gothic detailing, including rhythmic buttresses, open and blind tracery and a wealth of sculpture, carved foliage, crockets, pinnacles and finials, is a result of Pugin's contribution to the design. There are over three hundred statues of monarchs, consorts and bishops adorning the external elevations, many by the sculptor J. Thomas.

4.40 The river-front elevation has a symmetrical composition with two projecting end pavilions. The massing,

however, combines the symmetry of the river-front terrace with the asymmetry of the major vertical accents: Victoria Tower, the Clock Tower (Big Ben), the Central Tower (St Stephen's Tower) and a series of smaller turrets and pinnacles which project above the roofline.

4.41 On the west side, facing Old Palace Yard, is the Victoria Tower, a majestic structure rising to 98.4 metres and topped by large pinnacles. At the time of its construction it was the tallest building in the world. The grand vaulted Royal Entrance is located at its base (Figure 21).



Figure 22: South elevation from Victoria Tower Gardens



Figure 23: River elevation



Figure 24: Nine-light window to St Stephen's Porch



Figure 25: Westminster Hall



Figure 26: Medieval Jewel Tower



Figure 27: View from Whitehall including Big Ben

4.42 The Central Tower was originally designed to act as a great chimney for both vitiated air and smoke from open fires, but designed as a great Gothic spire rising more than 90 metres in the air. The Peers' entrance and St Stephen's porch (Figure 24) are located below the central section.

4.43 The Clock Tower of Big Ben, at a height of 96.3 metres, is the world's largest four-faced chiming clock and was designed by Barry based on Pugin's designs for Scarisbrick Hall in Lancashire.

4.44 The oldest surviving part of the Palace is the spectacular **Westminster Hall** (originally 1097-99; remodelled in 1394-1402 by Henry Yevele) and seamlessly incorporated within the Victorian palace. The hall contains one of Europe's largest medieval unsupported roofs.

#### **Around Parliament Square, Broad Sanctuary and Old Palace Yard**

4.45 The buildings and spaces adjacent to the Palace do not form an architectural set-piece, but were mostly developed following slum clearance in the area. The buildings are therefore in a variety of styles and from various dates. Materials do, however, create an overall feeling of consistency to the townscape, with many buildings constructed in Bath or Portland stone.



4.46 To the northern side of the Square, the buildings lie within the Whitehall Conservation Area, but nonetheless have a significant impact on Parliament Square and its character (see Whitehall Conservation Area Audit for further detail).

4.47 Across from the Palace and around **Old Palace Yard** is an informal grouping of buildings of different ages and styles. The rear of the properties surrounding the Abbey Precinct, including those around the Great and Little Cloister, form the backdrop to this area. These are described in more detail in the section on the Abbey.

4.48 The only other remaining part of the medieval Palace, the 14th century Grade I listed Jewel Tower (Henry Yevele: 1365-66) and its quay, is located here.



Figure 28: View of No 6-7 Palladian style villa, Old Palace Yard



Figure 29: View of St Margaret's Church with Big Ben in the background

It is a scheduled ancient monument. L-shaped and three-storeys, it is constructed of squared ragstone with some ashlar at lower levels. The building's overall appearance is not completely medieval due to changes made by the Office of Works (1718-19), including enlarged round-arched windows dressed with Portland stone, and a plain parapet (see *list description in the Directory*).

4.49 To the south of the yard, No. 6-7 is early Georgian in style and in Portland stone. It dates from 1754-56, is Grade II\* listed, and stands out as one of the few buildings in the area from the period. It is designed to resemble a Palladian villa, with a central pediment.

4.50 In front of the Abbey is the smaller St Margaret's Church, which is Grade I listed (c. 1482-1523) and the only pre-Reformation parish church remaining in Westminster. The tower, heightened and partly rebuilt by John James in 1735-37, is an important example of Gothicism of the time (see *list description in the Directory*); it forms the foreground in many views of the Abbey.

4.51 In the north-western corner of the conservation area, the buildings around **Storey's Gate and Broad Sanctuary** form a coherent group and include a number of institutional and governmental buildings, built in the early 20th century. These are of grander scale and detail, reflecting



Figure 30: Former Middlesex Guildhall



Figure 31: Middlesex Guildhall porch detailing

both their function as important public or civic buildings and their location opposite Parliament. All occupy large plots but use a variety of architectural styles and materials.

4.52 The buildings around Broad Sanctuary each form free-standing, individual architectural entities. The former Middlesex Guildhall, fronting Parliament Square, is by J.G.S. Gibson and Partners and dates from 1912-13. It is in Portland stone and is Grade II\* listed. It combines Art Nouveau curves with Gothic motifs and detailing, with a Gothic tower forming the centrepiece of the front elevation. It has much sculptural decoration of interest, by H.C. Fehr (see townscape detail). At the time of writing it was under conversion into the UK Supreme Court by Fielden + Mawson and SHK Architects.



Figure 32: Methodist Central Hall

4.53 The Methodist Central Hall on Storey's Gate (Lancaster & Rickards, 1905-11) is also Grade II\* listed. Also in Portland stone, it is in a flamboyant Viennese Baroque style, contrasting with the mainly Gothic buildings nearby. The hall is near square in plan and topped by a giant leaded dome. The grand entrance frontage to the west has channelled stone and giant Corinthian orders. It has a significant amount of carving, notably the hieratic angels over the entrance (see townscape detail).

4.54 Between these two buildings, the unlisted Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre dates from 1985 and is the last major work by the famous postwar architectural firm Powell, Moya and



Figure 33: Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre



Figure 34: Sir George Gilbert Scott's neo-Gothic buildings viewed across Broad Sanctuary



Partners. In concrete and steel, the full-height glazing and slatted aluminium screens bind the design together.

4.55 Across the road, the terrace of buildings on the southern side of Broad Sanctuary are by Sir George Gilbert Scott and date from 1852-54. These adopt a neo-Gothic/Tudor style and incorporate the entrance into Dean's Yard through a gatehouse. Faced in Bath stone, the two sides are asymmetrical and varied in roof profile, with crenellated parapets to one side and gables to the other. Turrets frame the gatehouse. The rear of these buildings face onto Dean's Yard, which is described later.



Figure 35: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and neighbouring No. 11 Great George Street

4.56 The stretch of buildings along Great George Street includes a number of institutional buildings of a similar, large scale. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Alfred Waterhouse, 1896-98), located in the east corner of Parliament Square, is Grade II listed and is the only red-brick building fronting Parliament Square. In Franco-Flemish style, it is dressed with Ancaster stone.

4.57 No. 11 is now incorporated into the neighbouring RICS premises and is of an earlier date. It serves as a reminder of the scale of buildings which previously lined this stretch. It is listed Grade II\*.

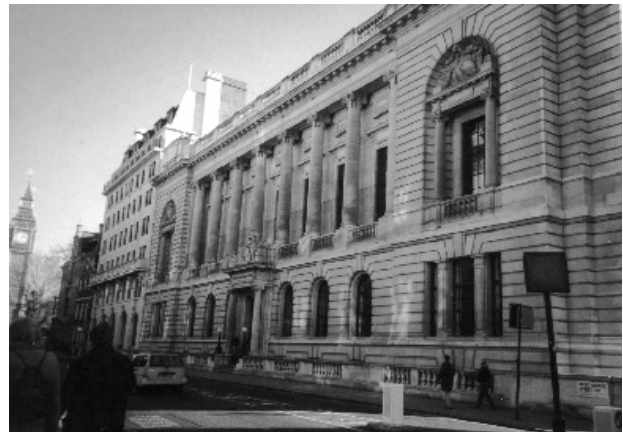


Figure 36: Institution of Civil Engineers

4.58 Nos. 8-10, tall offices for Middlesex County Council (A.C. Blomfield & A.J. Driver: 1930) are constructed in artificial stone using stripped Beaux Arts style. The Grade II listed Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street (James Miller: 1910-13) is a monumental neo-Classical building in Portland stone. An extension to the south-east was made during refurbishment in the 1980s (BDP: 1988-91).



Figure 37: Nos. 8-10 Storey's Gate, with No. 10 (Clutha House) in the foreground and No. 9 (Westminster Arms) to the centre

4.59 Set behind these larger scale buildings, on the west side of Storey's Gate, is a group of buildings with a slightly different character. Here are a number of smaller scale buildings in brick and occupying smaller plots, dating from the late 19th to early 20th century. No. 8 is in bright red brick with Flemish gables (George Gilbert Scott: 1860-70) and No. 9 Westminster Arms, is the only public house in the area.



Figure 38: Edwardian buildings on Matthew Parker Street

4.60 Finally, on Matthew Parker Street are a number of simply detailed Edwardian office buildings in red brick with stone detailing, now mostly converted to residential use.

### Westminster Abbey

4.61 The second major landmark in the conservation area and on Parliament Square is Westminster Abbey, the tallest of any English church at 69 metres. Its internal length, when including Henry VII's Chapel, is 156 metres.

4.62 The Abbey is derived from the French plan, Geometrical Gothic style with aisles, 11-bay nave, transepts and chancel with ambulatory and radiating polygonal chapels. The buttresses and flying buttresses, as well as windows with bar tracery, all suggest French influences, as does the height of the vault with its two tiers of flying buttresses.

4.63 The Abbey's various sections date from the 12th, 14th-16th and early 18th centuries. Yevele's Perpendicular design for the west front and porch is very similar to his Westminster Hall design, slightly projecting between buttresses which align with aisle arcades.



Figure 39: Westminster Abbey: North Entrance



Figure 40: Henry VII's Chapel

4.64 Henry VII's Lady Chapel (1503-10), at the east end, has boldly modelled late Perpendicular detailing. It has a nave, aisles and five radiating east chapels,



and a spectacular fan-vaulted roof. To the exterior, this is expressed through the flying buttresses which are highly decorative and form a prominent structural motif spanning to the clerestory. The roofline has a broad, panelled parapet.



Figure 41: Westminster Abbey, Hawksmoor's west towers

4.65 In the 18th century a further addition was made to the Abbey when the western towers (left unfinished from medieval times) were completed, to a design by Nicholas Hawksmoor. These west towers (1745) blend Gothic verticality with Baroque detailing.

### The Abbey Precincts

4.66 Within the precincts of the Abbey are some of the most attractive spaces and groups of buildings within the conservation area. The cloisters and squares are surrounded by many early buildings constructed for the monastic precinct and which adjoined the Abbey. These have now been incorporated within later structures,

particularly those for Westminster School. Although not all publicly accessible, the buildings are nonetheless visible from throughout the conservation area. Principal buildings of the Abbey Precinct are illustrated at **Figure 44**.

4.67 Immediately adjacent to the Abbey is the **Great Cloister** (John Palterton: 1363-65). Building here began c.1245-50 in the north-east corner and was completed in 1366 with the construction of the south and west walls (restored by Blore and Scott). Each of the four cloisters is approximately 30 metres in length, with various enclosing walls and structures around.

4.68 A number of interesting buildings are located to the east of the cloister. St Faith's Chapel (c.1250) abuts the south transept. Adjacent to this, the Chapter House (Henry of Reynes: c.1245-53, later restored by



Figures 42-43:  
(top) View from West Walk taking in the corner of Great Cloister;  
(right) Great Cloister East Walk





Figure 44: Plan of the Abbey precincts



- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| A: Henry VII Chapel                   | O: 2-3 Little Dean's Yard                                |
| B: The Chapter House                  | P: 1 Little Dean's Yard                                  |
| C: St Faith's Chapel                  | Q: 19 Dean's Yard and Blackstole Tower                   |
| D: Pyx Chapel                         | R: 18 Dean's Yard, Hospice of Treasurer and Monk Bailiff |
| E : Museum                            | S: 17 Dean's Yard  |
| F: St Dunstan's Chapel                | U: 21 Dean's Yard  |
| G: Infirmary Chapel                   | V: The Sanctuary   |
| H: Canon's Houses                     | W: 1 Dean's Yard   |
| I: Jerusalem Chamber and College Hall | X: 3 Dean's Yard, former Queen Anne's Bounty Offices     |
| J: The Gatehouse                      | Y: Westminster Choir School                              |
| K: The Chapter House, 20 Dean's Yard  | Z: 5-6 Dean's Yard                                       |
| L: Ashburnam House                    |  |
| M: Turle's                            |  |
| N: Burlington's Dormitory             |  |



Figure 45: The Chapter House from Old Palace Yard

Scott) is built on an octagonal plan in geometrical Gothic style (Figure 45).

4.69 The dormitory range, terminating in remains of the reredorter, lies south of the Chapter House flanked initially by part of the east Cloister Walk and continued by the Dark Cloister. This now houses the museum, and the rest of the dormitory range, at first floor level, is now occupied by Westminster School. It was refaced in brick by Benjamin Wyatt in 1814 and largely rebuilt after war damage. Some 11th century detailing survives, such as the Norman doorway in the west wall and original window in the east wall.

4.70 On the east side of the dormitory projects the early 16th century St Dunstan's Chapel and the Dark Cloister, the vaulted passage between the surviving walls of the reredorter and the dormitory. The latter is 11th century, with a late 14th century wall on the west side and a long timber window of 20 mullioned lights into Little Dean's Yard.

4.71 The late 14th century **Little Cloister** was the site of the monastic infirmary and is now surrounded by lodgings and the remains of the Infirmary Chapel. The present cloister arcade dates from 1680-81, and is 5 bays by 5, with ashlar piers and segmental arches with original wrought iron gates.



Figure 46: Nos. 7 and 8 Little Cloisters, Abbey Gardens elevation

4.72 The Chapel of St Katherine is the major surviving part of the Infirmary east of the Cloister; the ruined nave and south arcade survive in the garden of the lodgings. The lodgings and offices date from the later 17th century, and incorporate 14th century masonry, with a fragment of the 11th century east wall of the reredorter in the south-west corner. The Clerk of the Works office is in the 14th century Chamberlain's store, and No. 5 includes the Infirmary's Hall. All lodgings are late 17th century above the foundations and were badly damaged in World War II and considerably rebuilt above ground floors.

4.73 The Little Cloister area leads to the College (or Infirmary) Garden, which is overlooked by the backs of the buildings



Figure 47: Nos. 4 and 5 Little Cloisters, Abbey Gardens elevation; Victoria Tower in the background



around the Little Cloister and the buildings of Westminster School. At the southern end are two brick Canons' Houses, now offices (J.L. Pearson: 1882). These are in restrained Tudor Gothic style, in red brick with stone dressings, slate roofs and stone mullioned and transomed iron-framed casement windows. The main and more elaborate elevations face north into the gardens, with a plainer but similar rear south elevation behind the precinct wall.



Figure 48: Stone wall defining southern boundary of Thorney Island

4.74 Burlington's Dormitory (1722-30) is the Grade I listed former school dormitory; it is in Portland stone, with a copper roof and a long main front facing east onto Abbey Gardens. Known as 'College', it was Burlington's first public building (see list description in the Directory).



Figure 49: Lord Burlington's Dormitory, Abbey Garden elevation

4.75 To the rear, the dormitory adjoins **Little Dean's Yard**. This is enclosed and private space surrounded by the buildings of Westminster School – a haphazard mixture of brick buildings mostly dating from the 17th and 18th centuries but built on and incorporating earlier buildings.



Figure 50: Ashburnham House, viewed from Little Dean's Yard

4.76 Ashburnham House (1662) is a substantial, three storey town house to the north of the Yard in red brick with stone detailing and sash windows, a partial rebuild of the late 14th century prior's lodgings. It has shallow projecting wings. The symmetry of the building only dates from 1930 and the second floor was added c.1848. Medieval masonry is exposed on the west side, and the original hipped roof, two-storey appearance survives to the rear elevation.

4.77 Nos. 2 and 3 – House of the Master of the King's Scholars (R.W.F. Brettingham: 1789-90) is Grade I listed, with neoclassical frontage. A symmetrical composition, which originally included the rebuilt No. 1, it is constructed in yellow stock brick with stucco basement and slate roof to No. 2, while No. 3 is tiled.

4.78 Other buildings around the Yard are Victorian and include No. 1 Little Dean's Yard, a Grade II listed school house (1896 by Sir T.G. Jackson) in neo-late Jacobean style in red brick, with tiled roof and Turle's (Pearson: 1883-84) to the east, neo-Tudor and in brick.



Figure 51: Nos. 2 and 3 Little Dean's Yard

### Dean's Yard

4.79 Dean's Yard is a large, enclosed space, surrounded by buildings related to the Abbey and Westminster School. To the eastern side, many of the buildings are medieval and, although substantially altered and 'Victorianised', show their origins in original rubble walls, stone tracery and the irregular groups of small windows and openings. The other sides of the Yard are more late Victorian and Edwardian in character, most using neo-Gothic detailing.

4.80 Perhaps the most attractive grouping

of buildings is in the corner immediately to the south of the Abbey. These date from the 14th century and are in a mixture of rubble stone, with some brick and much later alteration.

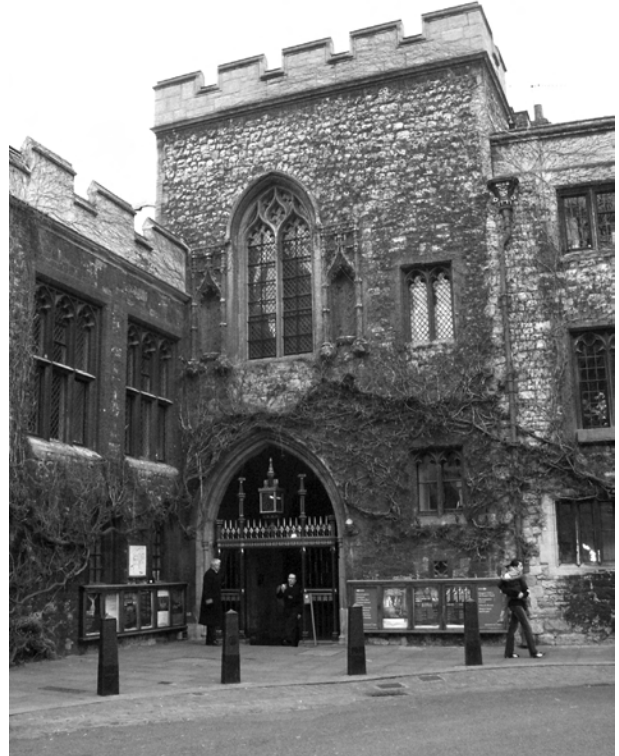


Figure 53: The Gatehouse



Figure 52: View of north-eastern corner of Dean's Yard



4.81 The former Abbot's house forms the north-eastern corner, with an entrance to the Great Cloister through the Gatehouse. It has a three storey crenellated tower over the arched entrance with an 18th century gate. The rubble walls are stone dressed and were much restored in the Victorian era by Scott.

4.82 Nos. 19 and 20, located on the eastern side of the Yard, were the Cellarer's Building and Guest House of the Abbey, built c. 1388-91. These have also undergone much alteration. No. 20 (now the Chapter Office) has rubble stone ground floor with small Gothic windows irregularly grouped and an attractive 18th century Gothic doorway with fanlight and side lights (Figure 57). Upper levels are of mostly 18th century brick construction.



Figure 54: Nos. 20, 19 and 18 Dean's Yard



Figure 55: 19 Dean's Yard

4.83 No.19 – the Guest House – was adapted for Westminster School in 1461. At the north end is the Blackstole Tower which has a carved 16th century pane above the arched entranceway (Figure 56). This joins onto a 5-bay brick back range with flush sashes, added in the late 17th century.



Figure 56: 16th century entrance to the Blackstone Tower



Figure 57: 18th century entrance to 20 Dean's Yard

4.84 No.18, also late 14th century, was originally the Hospice of the Treasurer and Monk Bailiff. It is rubble-faced and was re-Gothicised when adapted for the school in 1886. The left bay is in the form of another, broader crenellated tower with a vaulted

passageway leading to Little Dean's Yard. A small brick-built addition stands on the northern side, with an inserted Venetian window and open-well staircase, c.1765.

4.85 Adjacent to this, No. 17 (1807-09) is a restrained Georgian building in yellow stock brick, built as a canon's house. To its south some 14th century stonework is visible, incorporated into the return of Church House.



Figure 58: 17 Dean's Yard

4.86 Church House (Sir Herbert Bakers & Scott: 1936-40) is quite different in character. It has a more monumental presence; its long elevation occupies the entire southern side of the Yard. Behind this, the building occupies a large site bounded by Great Smith Street, Little Smith Street and Tufton Street. It has a brick façade above a flint-faced ground floor. Its triple arched entrance porch sits below a pediment, reminiscent of the 1750s house formally here. To the far left of the site is a chapel, with big round-arched windows above an arched passage leading into Great College Street.

4.87 On the western side of the Yard there is a mixture of neo-Georgian and neo-Tudor 19th and 20th century buildings. Westminster Abbey Choir School is the tallest of these at Nos. 3b-4 (A.G. Wallace: 1913-15). It is in bright red brick, with simple stone tracery detailing and tall brick chimneys.



Figure 59: Church House frontage onto Dean's Yard

4.88 No. 3, the former Queen Anne's Bounty Offices (Edward Blore: 1847-8), is in yellow gault brick with a crenellated roofline, stone tracery detailing and square bay windows. This was extended to the right (c.1937), serving to replace all but 2 bays of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's neo-Gothic No. 1, built as a school boarding house in 1862. Further extension in 1899-1900 was carried out by H. & P. Currey.



Figure 60: Western elevations to Dean's Yard





Figure 61: Nos. 5 and 6 (G.A. Hall: 1897), part of Westminster School are red brick and are of Free-Jacobean style

4.89 On the north side of the yard, is the rear of Gilbert Scott's buildings to Broad Sanctuary (see above for description). No. 21, the former Chapter Clerk's House (Blore: c.1847) is also neo-Tudor in style, with a porch decorated with Burgesian angel corbels.

**Great College Street/Great Smith Street area**

4.90 The small area to the south-west of the conservation area, around Great Smith Street, contains a mixture of mostly late Victorian and Edwardian buildings, in brick and terracotta. A number of buildings here, including the public library, baths and school, were originally built as part



Figure 62: Former Queen Anne's Bounty Offices



Figure 63: Westminster Abbey Choir School



Figure 64: North side of Dean's Yard

of Victorian improvements, for civic and philanthropic purposes.

4.91 The backs of buildings to Dean's Yard, described above, line the eastern edges to this part of the conservation area, with the vast neo-Georgian Church House being particularly dominant, forming a wall of red brick to one side, with a varied building line and large arched openings to the ground floor helping to reduce its scale.

4.92 The west side of Great Smith Street is also lined by relatively tall buildings of six to seven storeys to the Victoria Street end. These are in a range of free Victorian styles and follow the curving line of the street, dropping off in scale to the south. A number have attractive cut brick and moulded terracotta decoration. Although large in scale, the modelled fronts and



Figure 65 (above): passage to Dean's Yard from Great College Street

Figure 66 (left): Great College Street, looking towards Church House



Figure 67: Church House, Great Smith Street elevation

varied roofs and gables add to a varied streetscene. Moving towards Smith Square the architecture has a more domestic, neo-Georgian character.

4.93 Forming the corner, and of a smaller scale, the Grade II listed No. 14, Orchard House, is in red brick and terracotta. This adjoins the Sanctuary Buildings, a large modern atrium block (Gibberd, Coombes

& Partner: 1988-92) built behind four retained elevations at Nos. 16-26. These include: Nos. 16-18 (H.J.S. Abrams: 1919-20), originally built for the Labour Board and Office of Works and in red brick; No. 20 (Trehearne & Norman: 1925), in yellow stone; and finally Nos. 22-26 Park House (Palgrave & Co: 1904) in pink terracotta made by Hathern, and with much sculptural decoration (Figure 69).



Figure 68: Orchard House, with the Sanctuary buildings behind





Figure 69: Nos. 22-26 Great Smith Street

4.94 Particularly attractive are Nos. 30-32, the former public library and baths (F.J. Smith: 1891-93), which are in red brick with stone dressings. These incorporate original signage and to the baths, there are reliefs of swimmers by Henry Poole, linking the building to its previous use.

4.95 In contrast, Nos. 36-40 (c.1725) are simple 3-storey houses in yellow stock



Figures 70-71: (top) former public baths; (left) former public library



brick, with Georgian detailing. These strongly resemble houses in the adjoining Smith Square Conservation Area.



Figure 72: Nos 36-40 Great Smith Street

4.96 Opposite these houses is Westminster Mansions, a pair of typical Edwardian mansion block in red brick. The blocks have frontages to Little Smith Street and Great Smith Street. Between them, no. 35, (S Tatchell: 1925-7), has a simple, neo-Georgian façade, with stone-faced ground floor and was formerly the National Library for the Blind.

4.97 To St Ann's Street and the corner with Great Peter Street, there is an attractive group of Victorian buildings around St Matthew's Church. The church is Grade II listed (George Gilbert Scott: 1849-50) and in Gothic Revival style, using Kentish ragstone. Following a fire in 1977 a smaller church was created (Donald Buttress: 1982-84).



Figure 73: No. 35 Great Smith Street

4.98 Clergy House, located on the corner of St Ann's Street and Great Peter Street, is also Grade II listed (John Oldrid Scott: 1891). Red brick and gabled, the building is an example of a form much associated with High Church parishes.

4.99 Next to this, St Matthew's Primary School (W.R. Gritten: 1858) is a typical Victorian church school, in stone and of Gothic design. The attractive Old Pye House, 15-17 St Ann's Street, is also part of the school, and is in red brick with a glazed brick ground floor.



Figure 74: St Matthew's Church and Clergy House (right)



Figure 75: St Matthew's and Old Pye House's eastern facades on St Ann's Street

4.100 In addition, there are a number of relatively large late 20th century brick buildings to St Ann's Street and the corner with Great Peter Street including the Salvation Army and the Westminster Archive Centre (Tim Drewitt: 1992-95), which replaced the back of the swimming baths on Great Smith Street. These make a neutral contribution to the area.



Figure 76: Flats fronting Westminster Archive Centre, St Ann's Street

## Bridges

4.101 Finally, the conservation area also includes a stretch of the River Thames, and two bridges are partially within the conservation area.

4.102 The current Westminster Bridge dates from 1862 and is a road and foot traffic bridge over the River Thames between Westminster and Lambeth. It has seven arches and is in wrought iron, with Gothic detailing by Charles Barry. It is the oldest bridge in the central area of the River Thames.

4.103 The bridge is predominantly green in colour, matching the colour of the leather seats in the House of Commons, which is on the side of the Palace of Westminster nearest the bridge. In contrast, the red of Lambeth Bridge matches that of the seats in the House of Lords.

4.104 Lambeth Bridge, opened in 1932, has a five-span steel arch, designed by engineer George Humphreys and architect



Sir Reginald Blomfield. It is a road traffic and footbridge. There are obelisks to either end which are surmounted by stone pine cones, known to be a symbol of hospitality from Roman times.

#### POLICY AND FURTHER GUIDANCE

Any proposal should take into account the character of its context. Policy DES 1 a should be consulted on the principles of development, DES 4 for infill development and DES 5 on alterations and extensions.

Original architectural features, materials and detail are vital to the architectural quality of individual buildings and the character of the conservation area. Policy DES 9C encourages reinstatement of missing traditional features to the original design detail and materials.

Other relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance and Documents are noted throughout the audit.

## Roof Profiles

4.105 Roof profiles are fundamental to the architectural character of any building or group of buildings and, as such, contribute to the character and appearance of conservation areas. Alterations at roof level, including extensions, terraces, telecommunications equipment and roof plant, can have a negative impact on this.

4.106 The Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area contains some world famous roofscapes. The majority of buildings are unique architectural compositions, with highly distinctive roof profiles which are integral to their design.

4.107 The Palace of Westminster, in particular, has a famously picturesque roofscape of spires and turrets, with the Clock Tower and Victoria Tower forming the most prominent vertical elements against the sky. Its silhouette is visible in many long views along the Thames and throughout the conservation area.

4.108 St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey and the adjoining chapels and cloisters have equally intricate and delicate Gothic roofscapes. The Abbey's two west towers give it its distinctive profile and the roofline to Henry VII's Chapel to the rear is especially ornate. The tower of St Margaret's forms the foreground to many views of the Abbey and Palace.

4.109 Many of the other Victorian and Edwardian public buildings in the conservation area also have distinctive roof profiles. These are generally in neo-Gothic or neo-Tudor styles, some with



Figure 77: Roof profile of the north-west corner of Dean's Yard with the Methodist Central Hall in the background



Figure 78: Westminster Abbey roof profile



crenellated parapets and turrets, or others with distinctive Flemish-style gables.

4.110 There has been a substantial amount of upward alteration throughout history, in particular to many of the Abbey Precinct buildings. This has created a distinctive roofscape, in part derived from this mixture of ages and styles. Many of the subsequent alterations to these buildings are of interest in their own right.



Figure 79: Roof profile of Great College Street, where the majority of buildings already have mansard extensions

4.111 The unique character of the roofscapes in the conservation area means the majority of properties within Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area represent the types of buildings where roof extensions would be difficult to accommodate without compromising the area's distinctive roofscape.

4.112 Furthermore, the very high proportion of listed and landmark buildings in the conservation area means that roofs are particularly sensitive to alteration. The roof form, structure and materials of listed buildings are very often of interest, and the fabric of many of the roofs within this area is likely to be of interest.

4.113 Roof coverings consistent with the date of the parent building should also be retained wherever possible. The Council will discourage the use of modern materials such as concrete tiles or artificial slate as they rarely meet the high quality, appearance or longevity of traditional natural materials.

4.114 Roof clutter, such as railings, antennae and satellite dishes, can also have a significant and detrimental impact on the character of an area, affecting both short and long distance views. Careful consideration should be given to the siting of such equipment to minimise its visual impact. All such equipment should be located away from the front facade of buildings or other locations where it may be visually prominent.

#### POLICY & FURTHER GUIDANCE

Policy DES6 highlights instances where roof extensions and other roof structures are unlikely to be acceptable without proper justification.

Further advice is given in the publication 'Roofs: A Guide to Alterations and Extensions on Domestic Buildings' (1995). 'Mews, a Guide to Alterations' explains how these policies apply in mews streets.

## Unlisted Buildings of Merit

4.115 The conservation area contains many buildings of exceptional quality and interest. A very high proportion of these are on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural and historic interest, a significant number being listed the highest grades, Grade I and II\*.

4.116 There are, however, a number of more modest unlisted buildings that also contribute to the character and quality of the local townscape. They are defined in the audits as 'Unlisted Buildings of Merit'. By definition these buildings and structures are considered to be of value to the character and appearance of the conservation area and their demolition or unsympathetic alteration will normally be resisted.

4.117 The largest group of unlisted buildings can be found in the Great College Street, Great Smith Street and St Ann's Street area. Here there are a number of attractive Victorian and early 20th century buildings which are good examples of their type; for example, Westminster Mansions, typical Edwardian mansion blocks, and St Matthew's Primary School, a small Victorian church school.

4.118 In the north-western corner of Parliament Square there are a number of unlisted buildings. Of particular interest is the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre by Powell and Moya, built in 1985 and one of the few high quality modern additions to the area. On Matthew Parker Street and Storey's Gate there is a group of well-detailed brick buildings from the Edwardian era, the Westminster Arms being perhaps the most notable of these.

4.119 There are also some buildings which are neither considered to detract from nor to enhance the character of the conservation area. These are identified as making a neutral contribution. These are buildings which are of limited interest

architecturally, or those that do not relate well to the character of the rest of the conservation area. Only one building within the conservation area has been identified as negative (see Section 7: Negative Features).

4.120 The following buildings have been identified as Unlisted Buildings of Merit. These are shown on the map at **Figure 80**.

- Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre
- Nos. 8-10 Great George Street
- No. 9 Westminster Arms, Storey's Gate
- No.10 Storey's Gate
- Nos. 2 and 3 Matthew Parker Street
- Nos. 26A, 26, 29A, 29 and 30 Great College Street
- Nos. 20-46 Westminster Mansions, Great Smith Street
- Nos. 28-32 & No. 34 Community Centre, Great Smith Street
- St Matthew's Primary School 16-18 Old Pye Street
- Old Pye House, Nos.15-17 St Ann's Street

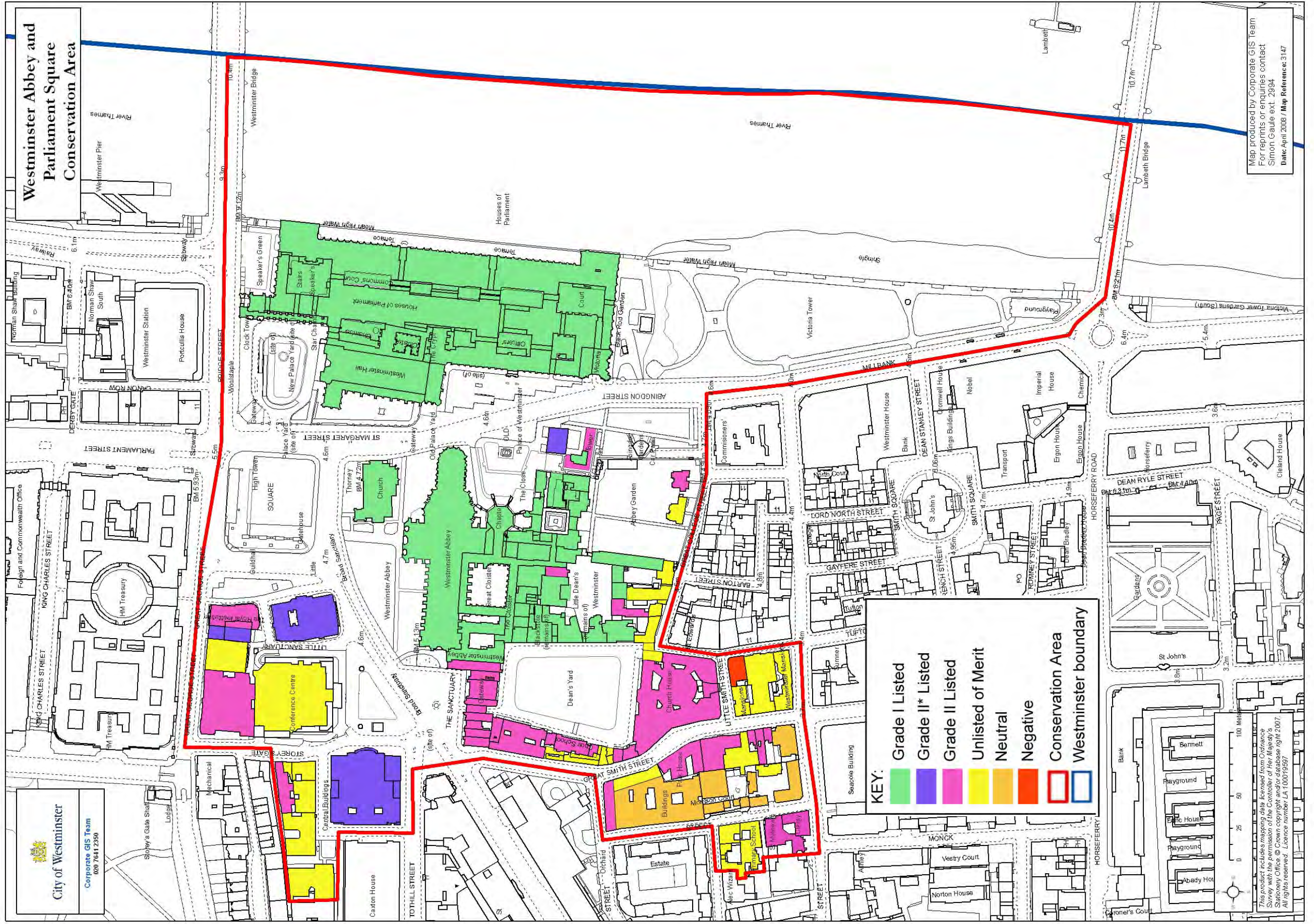
A full list of listed buildings and list descriptions for Grade I buildings can be found in the Directory, at the back of this document.

### POLICY & FURTHER GUIDANCE

Policy DES9 B states that permission will not normally be given for proposals which involve the demolition or substantial demolition of buildings which contribute positively to the character and appearance of the conservation area. Permission will only be granted where it can be demonstrated that the existing building cannot be repaired or adapted so as to extend its useful life and that the proposed development will preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area. The requirement may be balanced against the City Council's other policy objectives.



Figure 80: Map showing Listed and Unlisted Buildings of Merit





## Landmark Buildings

4.121 Landmark buildings are those that due to their height, location or detailed design stand out from their background. They contribute significantly to the character and townscape of the area, being focal points or key elements in views.

4.122 **Westminster Abbey and the Palace of Westminster**, including **Westminster Hall**, are internationally recognised landmarks, synonymous with London, and the UK in general. Their significance relates to their scale, architecture and symbolic function at the centre of national life. They are also widely visible in views across London and form the focus of numerous protected views (see below). These buildings are some of only a small number of such buildings worldwide. The whole of the Palace of Westminster has been identified as a landmark, although individually the Clock Tower and the Victoria Tower are perhaps the most prominent elements.

4.123 In addition to these buildings of international landmark significance, there are other buildings in the conservation area which form the focus of views of national or local significance. Many of



Figure 81: View of Westminster Abbey and its towers set against a backdrop of clear sky



Figure 82: Victoria Tower

these are significant public and institutional buildings, with grand scale and detailing, which makes them stand out as landmarks. These include:

- **Methodist Central Hall.** The giant domed roof of the Methodist Central Hall is a prominent feature in the conservation area, visible in many views.
- **Former Middlesex Guildhall.** Now the seat of the UK Supreme Court, the Middlesex building is a large, free-standing building, prominently sited on Parliament Square, with its Gothic roofline and tower.
- **St Margaret's Church.** With its Gothic towers, St Margaret's Church is visible in many views in the conservation area, forming the foreground to views of the Abbey and the Palace of Westminster

4.124 Landmark buildings are also shown on the map at **Figure 83**.



## Views

4.125 Views make an important contribution to our appreciation of Westminster's townscape and historic character. Important views are protected at both regional and local level. Designated Views of London-wide significance are identified by the Mayor of London in the View Management Framework. The City Council has also identified two categories of views: Metropolitan and Local. These are described in the relevant policies of the Unitary Development Plan.

4.126 The Palace of Westminster forms the focus of many of the Mayor's Designated Views. The following significant views identified in the View Management Framework affect the Palace of Westminster.

### London Panoramas

2B.1 Parliament Hill: east of the summit looking towards Palace of Westminster

4A.2 Primrose Hill: the summit looking towards Palace of Westminster

### River Prospects

15A.1 Waterloo Bridge: the upstream pavement - close to the Lambeth bank - looking at Palace of Westminster

15A.2 Waterloo Bridge: the upstream pavement - close to the City of Westminster bank - looking at Palace of Westminster

17A.1 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford footbridges: the upstream bridge - close to the Southwark bank - looking at Palace of Westminster

17A.2 Golden Jubilee/Hungerford footbridges: the upstream bridge - close to the City of Westminster bank - looking at Palace of Westminster

18A.1 Westminster Bridge: the upstream pavement - at the centre of the bridge

- looking towards Palace of Westminster and Lambeth Palace

19A.1 Lambeth Bridge: the downstream pavement - at the centre of the bridge - looking towards Palace of Westminster

19A.2 Lambeth Bridge: the downstream pavement - close to the Lambeth bank - looking towards the Palace of Westminster

21A.1 Jubilee Gardens: between Westminster and Hungerford bridges - south of the London Eye - looking at the Palace of Westminster

22A.1 Albert Embankment: between Lambeth and Westminster bridges - approaching from Lambeth Palace - looking towards Palace of Westminster

22A.2 Albert Embankment: between Lambeth and Westminster bridges - axial to and looking at the Palace of Westminster

22A.3 Albert Embankment: between Lambeth and Westminster bridges - at the top of the steps onto Westminster Bridge - looking at Palace of Westminster

4.127 Metropolitan Views include both views from Westminster to other boroughs, and views of Westminster's most significant landmark buildings.

4.128 There are many views of the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area, some of which are considered to be of metropolitan importance, due in part to the area's status as a World Heritage Site. The 'Metropolitan View' arrows on the map indicate the general location of the viewpoint and the direction of the view. However, because of the number of potential viewpoints and the wide sweep of the views, it is not appropriate to tightly define the Metropolitan Views of the World Heritage Site. The following Metropolitan Views have been identified:

View 13: Palace of Westminster from Hyde

Park (Serpentine Bridge)

View 14: Palace of Westminster from Lambeth Palace Road/Albert Embankment

View 15 A & B: Palace of Westminster from Queen Elizabeth II Walkway

View 16: Palace of Westminster from Golden Jubilee Bridge

View 17: Victoria Embankment towards the Palace of Westminster Clock Tower

View 31 B: Whitehall views south

View 32 A & B: Trafalgar Square from outside the National Gallery and from its Terrace

View 37: Houses of Parliament from Parliament Square

View 38: Westminster Abbey from Tothill Street/Victoria Street and Broad Sanctuary

View 40: Big Ben Clock Tower from the bottom of Constitution Hill

View 42 B: Westminster Bridge looking upstream

View 43 B: Golden Jubilee Bridge looking upstream

4.129 In addition to the Metropolitan Views, there are many views within the World Heritage Site and conservation area of local importance. While these Local Views may be less familiar, they are all sensitive, important views. The following Local Views have been identified:

Local View 1: Methodist Hall, The Sanctuary, main west doors and towers of Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church viewed from Broad Sanctuary

Local View 2: Westminster Abbey's Towers from Tothill Street/Victoria Street corner

Local View 3: Westminster Abbey from the north side of Victoria Street

Local View 4: Westminster Abbey and

Parliament Square from The Sanctuary

Local View 5: Methodist Central Hall from outside Westminster Abbey

Local View 6: Middlesex Guildhall Hall and World Heritage Site from lawn outside Westminster Abbey

Local View 7: World Heritage Site from north gate of Westminster Abbey

Local View 8: World Heritage Site from west side of Parliament Square

Local View 9: World Heritage Site from corner of Great George Street

Local View 10: World Heritage Site from north-west corner of Parliament Square

Local View 11: World Heritage Site from west side of Parliament Square

Local View 12: World Heritage Site from south-west corner of Parliament Square

Local View 13: World Heritage Site from the west side of Parliament Street at junction with Parliament Square

Local View 14: World Heritage Site from the east side of Parliament Street at junction with Parliament Square

Local View 15: World Heritage Site and Whitehall from the north-east corner of in Parliament Square

Local View 16: World Heritage Site from north gate of Westminster Abbey

Local View 17: Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church from south-east corner of garden in Parliament Square

Local View 18: Parliament Square and Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church from north entrance to the Houses of Parliament on east side of Parliament Square

Local View 19: Houses of Parliament from east end of St Margaret's Church

Local View 20: Westminster Abbey and St



Margaret's Church from the east side of St Margaret's Street

Local View 21: Houses of Parliament from apse of Westminster Abbey

Local View 22: Westminster Abbey Chapel, Westminster Hall and Old Palace Yard from outside Nos. 6-7 Old Palace Yard

Local View 23: Victoria Tower from outside Jewel Tower

Local View 24: Jewel Tower, St Stephen's Porch, Westminster Hall and Victoria Tower viewed from Abingdon Gardens

Local View 25: Dean's Yard viewed from porch of Church House looking north

Local View 26: Dean's Yard viewed from north-west corner

Local View 27: Great Cloisters from south-west corner

Local View 28: Burlington Dormitory and southern buildings of Little Cloisters from south-westerly corner of Abbey Gardens

Local View 29: Little Cloisters from Dark Cloisters

Local View 30: Victoria Tower and southern facade of Palace, and river embankment from Victoria Tower Gardens

Local View 31: Victoria Tower and the southern facade of Palace, Victoria Tower Gardens, the River Thames and the South Bank Conservation Area (Borough of Lambeth) from river embankment

Local View 32: Victoria Tower Gardens, the River Thames and the South Bank Conservation Area (Borough of Lambeth) from Lambeth Bridge

Local View 33: Palace of Westminster from Lambeth Bridge

Local View 34: View up river from Westminster Bridge

Local View 35: View down river from Westminster Bridge

Local View 36: North entrance of Westminster Abbey from north gate

Local View 37: Great College Street, including the Thorney Island boundary wall, viewed from the corner of Little College Street

4.130 Views and the special qualities of existing views can evolve and be enhanced, and new views of importance to the conservation area created. Where new views of value are created these will be identified and managed in the same manner as existing identified views.

4.131 These views are shown on the map at **Figure 83**.

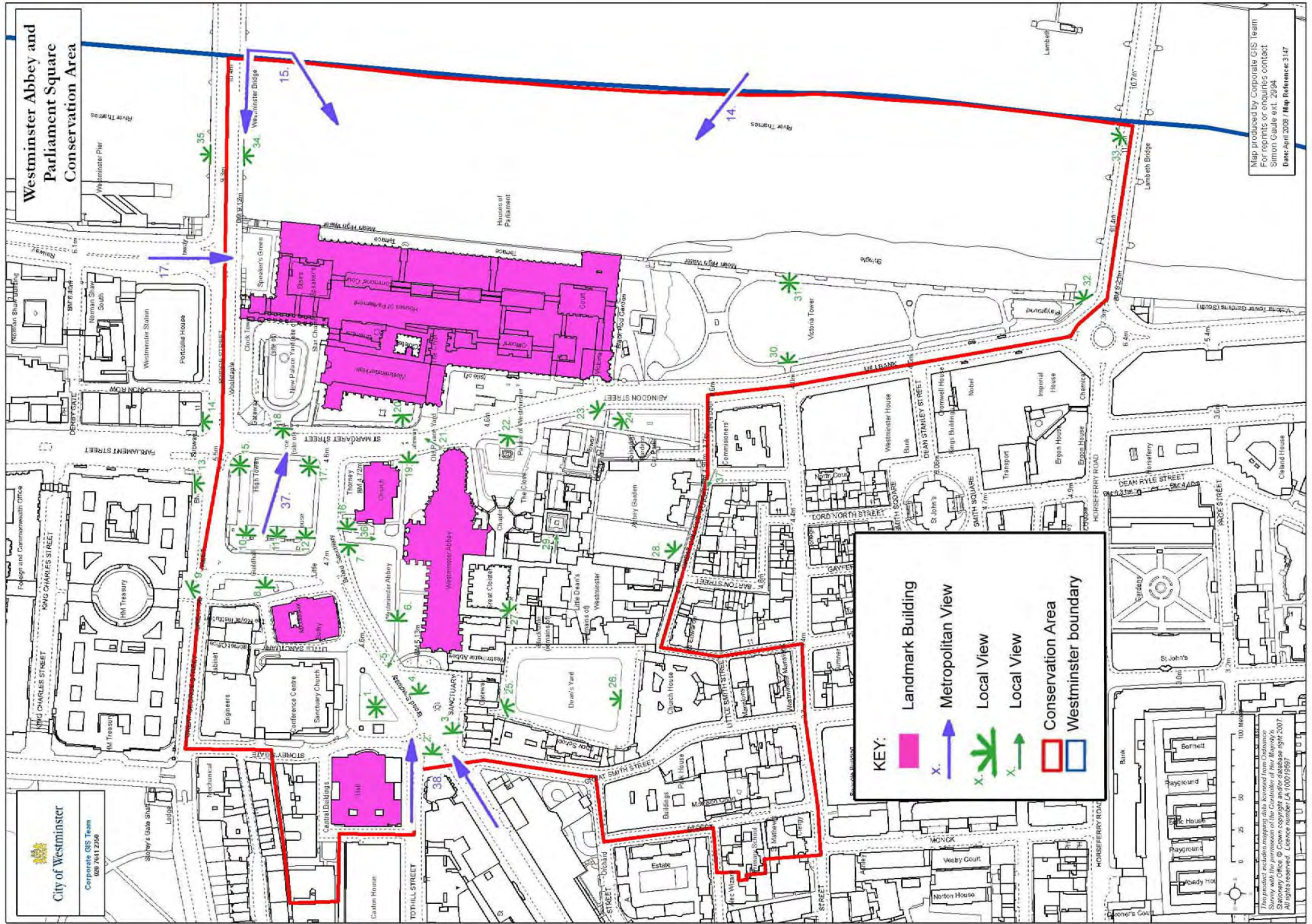
#### POLICY & FURTHER GUIDANCE

In the Unitary Development Plan policy DES15 seeks to protect Metropolitan and Local Views. The application of policies to protect strategic views is set out in the UDP at DES14. DES9 F seeks to protect the setting of conservation areas, having regard to Local Views into and out of the area.

Reference should also be made to the Greater London Authority's View Management Framework and Westminster City Council's Supplementary Planning Document on Metropolitan Views.



Figure 83: Landmarks and views





## 5 Local Townscape Detail

5.1 Other features and details in the townscape also contribute to a sense of local distinctiveness. These can range from distinctive boundary treatments and street furniture, to trees and hard landscaping. Individually and collectively they contribute to the overall quality of the Westminster streetscape as well as enhancing individual areas of character within the City.

### Railings, boundary walls & enclosures

5.2 Railings and boundary walls can contribute significantly to the character of a conservation area. They add interest and variety of scale in the street scene and provide a sense of enclosure, separating spaces of differing character and often marking the boundaries between public and private spaces.

5.3 Within the conservation area there is a wide range of railings and boundary treatments of interest, many of which are listed.

5.4 The boundary gates and railings around the Palace of Westminster are integral to its character. Highly ornate Gothic gates and railings (c.1860-67) surround the New Palace Yard end of the Palace; these were designed by E.M. Barry, son of Charles Barry. Set on a low wall and between giant Portland stone piers with gablet spire caps, the railings are in cast and wrought iron. These are individually listed Grade I.

5.5 To the southern end of the Palace, the gates to Black Rod's Garden are also listed Grade I and are set between octagonal gate piers with Gothic ironwork. Around the rest of the Palace there is a low stone wall fronting Cromwell Green with new railings (Architects Design Partnership: 2007).

5.6 The eastern river-front of the Palace was pushed out into the Thames from 1840, with river gate entrances and a long



Figures 84-85: (*Above*) Railings to Cromwell Green Visitor Entrance (2007) by Architects Design Partnership. (*Below*) Houses of Parliament gates and railings (c.1869). Portland stone and cast iron. Gate piers with gablet-spire caps.



Figure 86: Gates to Black Rod's Garden



Figure 87: Embankment walls in Victoria Tower Gardens



Figure 88: Railings to Victoria Tower Gardens



Figure 89: Jewel Tower railings

central terrace, and an upstanding granite dwarf wall articulated by Grade II listed lamp standards (Barry: c.1848-1860); these form the edge to Victoria Tower Gardens (Figure 87). Post-war anti-flood measures have blocked the gates and caused the terrace wall and its platforms to be raised.

5.7 Other railings in the vicinity are more simply detailed, including the 20th century

railings and gates fronting Victoria Tower Gardens (Figure 88) and plain spike railing to the Jewel Tower (Figure 89). Railings to 6-7 Old Palace Yard are in wrought iron with urn finials.

5.8 The spaces around the Abbey and St Margaret's Church also have a range of railings and boundary treatments of interest. The lawns to the north of St Margaret's Church are edged with original 18th century Portland stone obelisks piers,



Figure 90: Railings to lawns around St Margaret's Church and the Abbey



Figure 91: Abbey gates and railings with ornate lamp columns



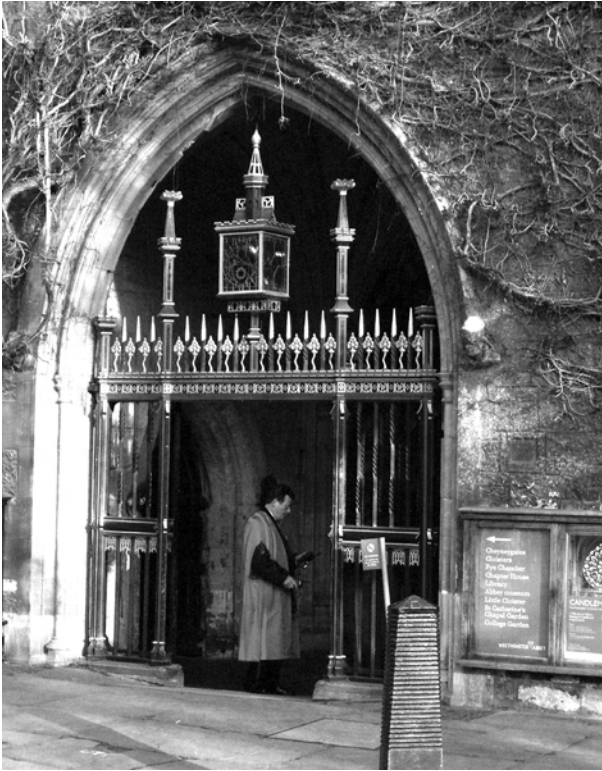


Figure 92: Gate from Dean's Yard to Great Cloister



Figure 93: Medieval stone wall north of Great College Street marking southern boundary of Thorney Island and the Abbey Precinct with cast-iron railings between these. They are listed Grade II. Fronting the Abbey are more decorative Gothic railings. The central gate is painted in red, gold and black, with a lantern to either side (Figure 91). These date from 1882, possibly by W. D. Caroe. The same detail can be found to the railings to the rear of the Abbey.

5.9 The ornate gate leading into the Great Cloisters from Dean's Yard is also painted in red and gold with a central lantern (Figure 92).

5.10 To the south of Abbey Gardens, the ancient land lines of Thorney Island are marked by heavy medieval stone walls. The wall of the Abbey Precinct is listed Grade I (c. 1374) and constructed in Kentish Ragstone, with ashlar below marking the original high-tide level. Various arched doorways lead through from Great College Street to the gardens themselves. Within the Abbey Precincts, there are attractive wrought iron gates to the Little Cloisters (Figure 94).

5.11 The buildings to the north and west sides of Dean's Yard have a mixture of



Figure 94: Gates to Little Cloister



Figure 95: Decorative Victorian Gothic railings, Nos. 2-3 The Sanctuary

railings. Particularly attractive are those to the rear elevation of Sir George Gilbert Scott's Sanctuary buildings, on the north side of Dean's Yard (Figure 95). These elaborately detailed iron railings are by W.D.Caroe. Adjacent to this is a delicate wrought iron railing panel above the stone wall (Figure 96).



Figure 96: Wrought-iron railing panel, Dean's Yard



Figure 97: Elegant railings, No. 3 Dean's Yard

5.12 The variety of railings surrounding buildings in the rest of Dean's Yard also contribute to its character. The railings to the west are all restrained and elegant in form with a mixture of arrowhead, spear and urn detailing to finials. There are original railings to No.17.

5.13 Railings and boundary walls are less characteristic of other parts of the conservation area, particularly in the south-western corner of the conservation area, where buildings tend to front directly onto the street with no intervening boundary treatment. Railings do, however, front some of the buildings from the Victorian era including the former public library



Figure 98: Great George Street



Figure 99: Wrought-iron railings to former public baths, No. 32 Great Smith Street

on Great Smith Street and Westminster Mansions.

5.14 There are also some attractive original railings in the northern part of the conservation area on Great George Street. This includes 19th century spearhead railings to No. 11 and Edwardian railings to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The Institution of Civil Engineers is fronted by a stone bottle balustrade detail.

5.15 Other decorative ironwork of interest includes a number of original cast-iron hoppers with date stamps.

The City Council will seek to preserve and repair boundary features of interest. Council policy in respect of these is DES7 C & D and further guidance can be found in the design guide 'Railings in Westminster: A guide to their Design, Repair and Maintenance.'



## Street Furniture

5.16 Westminster has a fascinating collection of historic street furniture, some of which is listed. The appropriate maintenance and protection of this is important, as is the need to prevent modern street clutter from detracting from its setting.

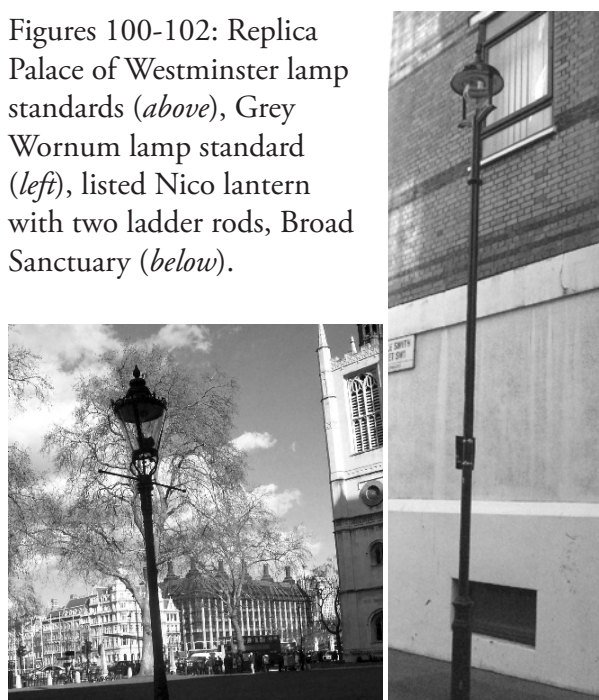
5.17 Lamps, signage and other small elements of street furniture found throughout the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area add considerable interest and variety to the street scene. The majority of this is of high quality; much of it co-ordinated and based on traditional forms and painted in black.

5.18 There is also a large amount of listed street furniture within the conservation area, some dating from the Victorian era. Much of this is of significant historic interest in its own right.

5.19 The conservation area has a range of different lamp standards, many of which are listed individually. The table below shows a complete list of the location and style of listed lamp standards.



Figures 100-102: Replica Palace of Westminster lamp standards (*above*), Grey Wornum lamp standard (*left*), listed Nico lantern with two ladder rods, Broad Sanctuary (*below*).



Location	Number	Date	Description
Central Green of Dean's Yard	10	Mid c.19th	Cast iron slender lamp standards. Nico lanterns with decorative cresting
Broad Sanctuary	5	Mid c.19th	Posts slightly enriched with lanterns of the Nico style with decorative cresting
No. 5A and Church House, Broad Sanctuary	3	Mid/later c.19th	Cast iron, plain shafted in Windsor style with square bases and square finialed lanterns
New Palace Yard, Houses of Parliament	14	c.1860-67	Cast iron with fluted and foliated shafts with crown finialed globe lantern
St Margaret's Churchyard	6	Mid c.19th	Cast iron. Slightly enriched shafts above square bases and with circular lanterns and ornamental cresting; still gas lit

5.20 The lamps around the Palace of Westminster were an integral part of its design. Sir Charles Barry's decorative columns are located around the immediate Palace surrounds and are of distinctive design, topped with globe lanterns and crowns. Originals are located around New Palace Yard with replicas around Old Palace Yard (Figure 100). There are also a number of listed Nico and Windsor lamp standards, most of these located around the Abbey precincts.

5.21 In other parts of the conservation area, lamp standards tend to be the tall Parliament Square Grey Wornum lamp standards, which were designed as part of the setting out of Parliament Square by George Grey Wornum in the 1950s (Figure 101). These now form a prominent feature within the conservation area.

5.22 Throughout the area, there are also a number of attractive wall-mounted lights and lanterns, often integral to the original building design. This includes the mid-19th century Windsor lanterns on the walls at the entrance to Dean's Yard (Figure 105) and the more flamboyant, octagonal, Gothic lanterns to the exterior facade of the Palace of Westminster (Figure 103).

5.23 The lamps to both Westminster Bridge and Lambeth Bridge are also of interest. Westminster Bridge has triple-headed cast iron Victorian lamps, while to Lambeth Bridge there are double lanterns to stone obelisks and between these single cast iron lamps, supported by a fish motif.

5.24 Finally, a number of Edwardian buildings also have wall-mounted lanterns of interest, including those to the Methodist Central Hall and the unusual Globe



Figures 103-105: (*top from left to right*) lanterns on the Peer's entrance, lantern on Westminster Bridge, Windsor lanterns in Dean's Yard. Figures 106-108 (*bottom left to right*), lamps of the Institution of Civil Engineers, lamps on Lambeth Bridge and lamps on Middlesex Guildhall





lanterns on bronze bases to the Institution of Civil Engineers (Figure 106).

5.25 Other small features of interest include traditional red pillar letter boxes. Oval double aperture models are found in various locations (see Figure 126) and these provide a familiar and attractive element to the street scene.

5.26 A number of rare red K2 type telephone boxes (originally designed by Giles Gilbert Scott in 1926) are located along Great George Street, just north of the conservation area, and contribute to the character of the street scene around Parliament Square.

5.27 Street name inscriptions and signs can also be of interest, giving an insight into the history and prior uses of buildings.



Figures 109-110: Double aperture EIIR pillar letter box (*top left*); K2 telephone box (*top right*)



Figure 111: Raised benches in Victoria Tower Gardens

There are a number of locations within the conservation area where original signage has survived. This greatly adds to the character of the area.

5.28 At the top of Great Smith Street there is an old sign with directions to the library, baths and Church House high up on the wall by the junction with Victoria Street (Figure 112).

5.29 There are terracotta and brick relief panels to many Victorian buildings. The former bath house and library retain attractive decorative relief panels above



Figures 112-114: Signage on Great Smith Street (*above*) and to the library and public bath (*below*)



their entrances, indicating their former function, and there is also an inscription built into the side of the Middlesex Guildhall which is taken from the former Tothill Fields Bridewell.

5.30 Bollards are another common form of street furniture within the conservation area, though most are modern. There are a large number around the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre and Methodist Hall, most Westminster style bollards. There are also bollards to Dean's Yard, with the crest of the Abbey.



Figure 115: Modern bollards, walkway of Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

5.31 Most other street furniture in the area is modern, including signage, bus stops, traffic bollards and poles; in places these contribute to a congested street scene. (see Section 7: Negative Features).

#### POLICY AND FURTHER GUIDANCE

Policy DES7 B intends to protect these historic and characteristic features of the street scene.

### Shopfronts

5.32 Shopfronts, including well-designed contemporary ones, can be of great importance in contributing to the character



Figure 116: Shopfront to Orchard House, Great Smith Street



Figure 117: No. 8 Storey's Gate

and appearance of both individual buildings and the conservation area as a whole, and can be of historic and architectural interest in their own right.

5.33 The conservation area has historically been dominated by ecclesiastical or government related buildings, and there is not therefore a strong retail presence in the area.

5.34 The most attractive shopfront in the area is no longer in use as such but forms the ground floor to Orchard House, with an attractive glazed brick surround; its timber display windows are set between pilasters (Figure 116).

5.35 Also presumably once a shopfront but no longer in use as such is the ground floor to No. 8 Storey's Gate (Abbey Buildings).





Figure 118: Church House Bookshop

5.36 There are also several other small shops related to the Abbey - the Westminster Abbey tourist shop and the Church House Bookshop on the corner of Little and Great Smith Street. Both are well detailed, though not of particular historic interest.

5.37 There are also some former shopfronts no longer in use to the base of Orchard House on Great Smith Street.

5.38 The conservation area has only one public house, the **Westminster Arms**, at No. 9 Storey's Gate which



Figure 119: Westminster Arms public house

dates from 1913. Located among the various institutional buildings to the north of the area, it has a well-detailed timber shopfront, set between pilasters with large scrolled console brackets.

5.39 The City Council seeks to retain original shopfronts and shopfront detail wherever possible and new signage should use materials and detailing sympathetic to the age and style of the building and conservation area.

#### POLICY AND FURTHER GUIDANCE

The relevant City Council policy concerning historic shopfronts and the design of new ones is DES5(C). Reference should be made to the design guides 'Shopfronts, Blinds and Signs: A Guide to their Design' (1990) and 'Advertisement Design Guidelines' (1992). Guidance specific to pubs and cafes can be found in 'Food and Drink Premises'.

#### Public Art

5.40 Westminster has a high concentration of public art, both in its streets and open spaces, and integrated into its buildings.

5.41 Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area has a particularly interesting collection of public art, the area having been an important site for sculptural commissions in Britain well into the 19th century. There are many statues of famous statesmen and women, politicians and kings. Due to the volume and importance of public art within the area a gazeteer has been created at the back of this document in Section 9, with full descriptions and images of all those listed below (specific locations can be seen at Figure 126):



Figure 120:  
Churchill statue on  
Parliament Square

### Parliament Square Gardens

1. Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (1973) by *Ivor Roberts-Jones* [Grade II]
2. Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts (1956) by *Epstein* [Grade II]
3. Henry John Temple 3rd Viscount Palmerston (1871-76) by *Thomas Woolner* on a plinth by *E.M. Barry* [Grade II]
4. Lord Edward George Geoffrey Smith Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby (1874) by *Matthew Noble* with reliefs on the base by *Horace Montford* [Grade II]

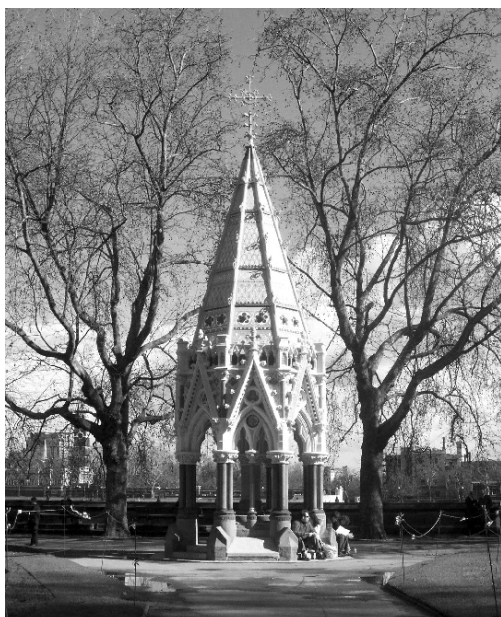


Figure 121: Buxton Memorial Fountain, Victoria Tower Gardens



Figure 122: Bas relief from the former Middlesex Guildhall

5. Earl of Beaconsfield, Benjamin Disraeli (1883) by *Mario Raggi* [Grade II]
6. Sir Robert Peel (1877) by *Matthew Nobel* [Grade II]
7. Nelson Mandela (2007) by *Colin Patterson*
8. David Lloyd George (2007) by *Glyn Williams*

### Canning Green

9. George Canning (1827-32) by *Sir Richard Westmacott* [Grade II]
10. Abraham Lincoln (1920) by *Augustus Saint-Gaudens* [Grade II]

### Westminster Hall

11. Oliver Cromwell by *Sir William Hamo Thornycroft* (1899)

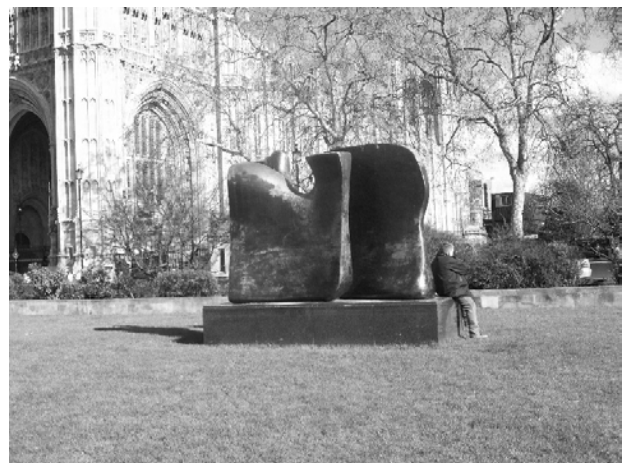


Figure 123: 'Knife Edge: Two Pieces' by Henry Moore



## Old Palace Yard

12. George V (1947) by *William Reid Dick* and *Sir Giles Gilbert Scott*
13. Bronze statue of King Richard I (Coeur-de-Lion) by *Baron Carlo Marochetti* (1851)

## Abingdon Street Gardens

14. Abstract bronze 'Knife Edge: Two Piece' by *Henry Moore*

## Victoria Tower Gardens:

15. Emmeline Pankhurst (1930) by *A.G. Walker*
16. The Burghers of Calais (1915) by *Auguste Rodin*
17. Buxton Memorial Fountain (1865) by *S.S. Tuelon*; this commemorates Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton (1786-1845), MP for Weymouth, who fought for the abolition of slavery in the British dominions and elsewhere and in 1824 became leader of the anti-slavery party.

## Broad Sanctuary

18. Sir George Gilbert Scott's Monument (1859-61); a red granite column, with a shaft-ring from which hang shields, a large Gothic capital, a lantern-cross on top and a statue of St. George and dragon; it stands to commemorate those of Westminster School who fell during the Crimean War. St George is by *J.R. Clayton* and the four monarchs in niches below by *J. Birnie Philip*.

## Abbey Gardens

19. Crucifixion by *Enzo Plazzotta* (1981) given in 1993
20. Four Weather Figures by *Grinling Gibbons* with *Arnold Quellin*, from Wren's great altar of 1686 for King James II's new Catholic chapel at Whitehall Palace

## Other Buildings

5.42 As well as the vast variety of sculptures and monuments within the conservation area there is a significant amount of architectural sculpture specifically on the Houses of Parliament and the former Middlesex Guildhall.

5.43 Many of the Victorian and Edwardian buildings throughout the area incorporate attractive relief panels. This includes those to the public baths and buildings on Great Smith Street.



Figures 124 & 125: Examples of architectural sculpture; (*above*) over west entrance of Westminster Abbey; (*right*) integrated sculpture to Palace facade.

### POLICY & FURTHER GUIDANCE

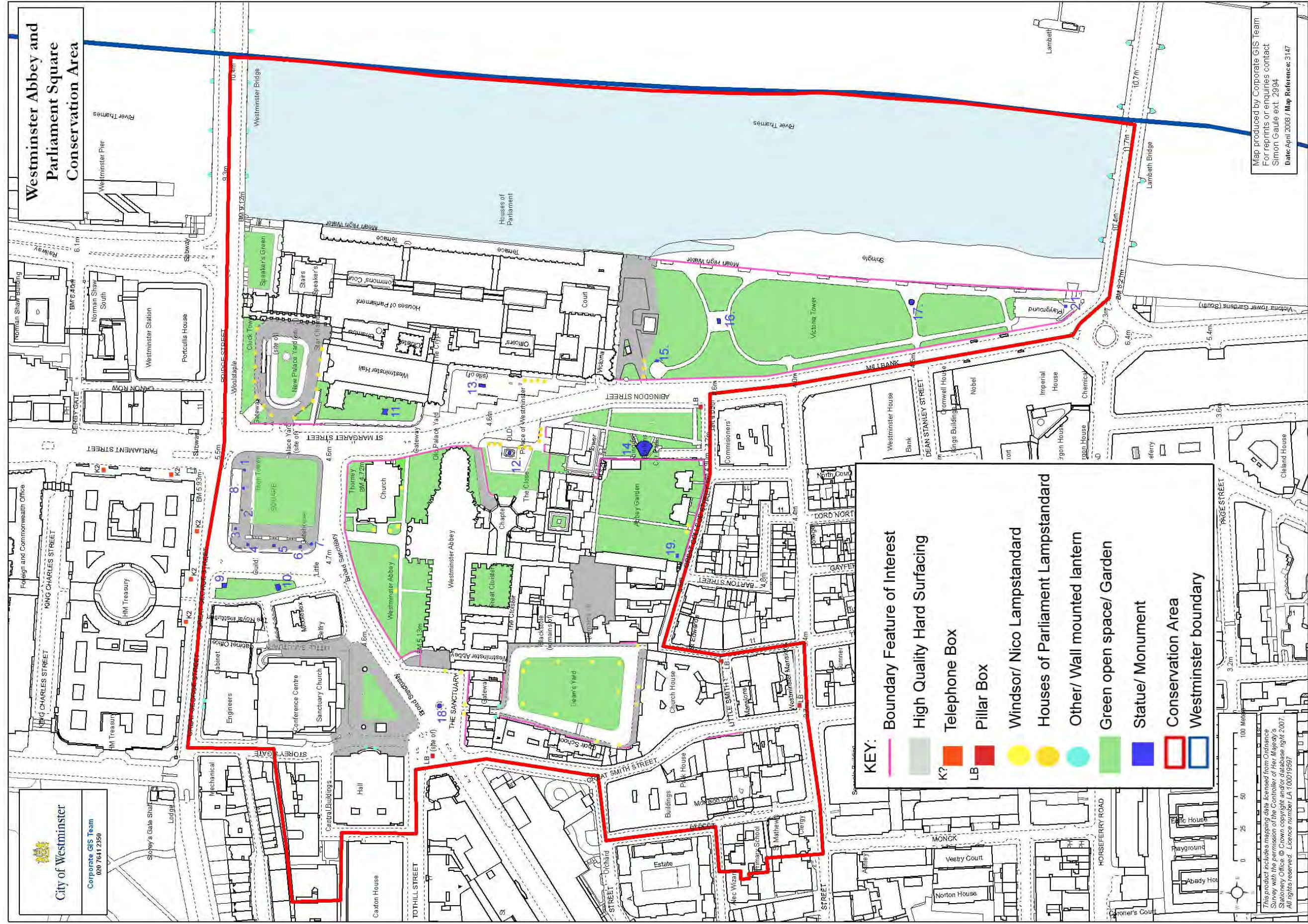
Policy DES7 A in the UDP encourages the provision of public art in association with all large development proposals.

The Westminster Statues and Monuments SPD provides further guidance on statues and monuments in Westminster. This identifies a saturation zone in which the maximum number of statues acceptable in townscape terms has been reached.

Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area falls within this saturation zone; as such, applications for new statues in the conservation area are unlikely to be acceptable.



Figure 126: Public Realm, Street Furniture, Open Spaces and Statues and Monuments





## Hard Landscaping and Original Street Surfaces

5.44 Traditional surface treatments such as setts and paving can also be important elements in the townscape of an area. Paving, if well-designed, maintained and in high quality materials, contributes to the character of an area, providing the backdrop to the surrounding buildings.

5.45 There is a considerable amount of historic street surfacing still intact throughout the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area. This adds significantly to the overall character of the area.



Figure 127: Granite setts behind Westminster Abbey

5.46 Particularly noteworthy are the entrances, forecourts and enclosed courtyards of the Palace entrances including New Palace Yard and Black Rod's Garden, all with a variety of historical paving, specifically granite setts and York stone slabs. St Stephen's Entrance has a small York stone paved entrance forecourt.

5.47 A Golden Jubilee paved sundial by Julian Bickwell is located in Old Palace Yard (west) and acts as a focal point on the axis with the Portland stone statue of George V.

5.48 The Abbey precincts also retain some areas of historic street surfacing. In Dean's Yard, there is some York stone



Figure 128: Golden Jubilee paved sundial by Julian Bickwell, Old Palace Yard



Figure 129: Paving in Little Dean's Yard

to the perimeter footways and the central lawn is defined by granite sett channels and granite kerbs. There are also three decorative coal-hole covers to the northern end of Dean's Yard.

5.49 Little Dean's Yard also retains large areas of original stone paving and some granite setts. There is an area of attractive original granite setts to Abbey Close, behind the Abbey (Figure 127).

5.50 More modern but attractive surfacing is located on the northern side of Broad Sanctuary, by the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. Here there is a battered granite perimeter wall and 'cobbled' granite setts around routes including the footways and carriageway of Storey's Gate.

5.51 The majority of the rest of the conservation area has a mixture of modern surfacing, with some granite kerb stones and areas of York stone paving.



Figure 130: Granite setts of footways and carriageways of Storey's Gate

5.52 Areas which retain historic or modern street surfacing of high quality are shown on the map at Figure 126.

#### POLICY & FURTHER GUIDANCE

UDP policy DES7 E seeks to promote good quality paving materials by the Council and in private schemes.

For guidance on best practice relating to both street furniture and public realm works, the 'Westminster Way' is the Council's emerging public realm manual.

## Trees, Soft Landscape & Gardens

5.53 Trees and soft landscaping are vital to the quality of urban environments in both visual and environmental terms. They contribute significantly to the character and appearance of conservation areas and the local townscape, providing a soft edge within urban landscapes, as well as bringing environmental benefits. Often a single tree can provide a focal point, while avenues or a group of mature trees may

form part of an historic planting scheme or an estate layout.

5.54 Trees and green landscaping contribute significantly to the character of the area. Grassed areas make an important contribution to the area and form the setting for the World Heritage Site (see map, Figure 126).



Figure 131: Parliament Square

5.55 **Parliament Square** is an area to the west of New Palace Yard originally created by Charles Barry Junior (1868) and redesigned by Grey Wornum in the 1950s. It consists of a central square grassy island, the surrounding roads and Canning Green. Its significance is acknowledged through its Grade II listing and its status as an English Heritage Registered Historic Park and Garden. The central island is a landscaped area at the centre of the wider Parliament Square area. It is mostly grass with an L-shaped pavement of Portland stone extending firstly on a north/south axis from opposite the north door to Westminster Abbey, across to the other side of the island and then running west/east. There are seven fine mature London plane trees, which pre-date the Grey Wornum scheme arranged at roughly equal intervals along the full length of the raised Portland stone paved areas, while a raised planted area runs adjacent to the west/east pavement on its south, with two Catalpa trees.



5.56 **Canning Green** is an area of raised lawn and the setting for the statues of Canning and Abraham Lincoln. It is also included in the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens entry for Parliament Square. Soft landscaping includes three London Plane trees and an area of lawn.

5.57 The northern side of **Broad Sanctuary** is the landscape design of Powell and Moya (part of the composition of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in 1986) - it is a raised lawn with battered granite perimeter wall and several Plane trees.

5.58 Around the Abbey and St Margaret's Church there are also large areas of grass, lined to the Parliament Square/ Broad Sanctuary side with ten large London planes around its perimeter.

5.59 **Victoria Tower Gardens**, the largest area of green open space within the conservation area, is located beside the Thames, framed by the river embankment granite wall and stretching from the southern facade of the Palace down to Lambeth Bridge. It was originally laid out as a Victorian metropolitan public space and has an abundance of mature London Plane trees around open lawns and flowerbeds. The area also has a small children's playground to the south and shrubs and lawns around the perimeter of the garden. It is on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, Grade II.

5.60 **Speaker's Green** is a low level lawn with a public underpass leading to Westminster Underground Station. The lawn fronts the River Thames to the east and Westminster Bridge to the north, and furthermore forms an important setting for 'Big Ben'.

5.61 **Cromwell Green** is a low level lawn that acts as the setting for Cromwell's imposing statue. The lawn sits adjacent to Westminster Hall and is bounded to the west and south by a low stone wall.



Figure 132: New Palace Yard

5.62 **Black Rod's Garden** is hard landscaped but bounded by shrubbery and a mature tree border to **Victoria Tower Gardens** to its south.

5.63 **New Palace Yard** is an ancient space dating from the medieval period. However, the present layout dates from 1977. The main focus is the fountain, erected for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, based on the medieval fountain once on this site. The layout is formal with decorative Indian Bean trees, lawns and granite setts.



Figure 133: Dean's Yard central green

5.64 To the western side of **Old Palace Yard** adjacent to the Chapter House and Jewel Tower, there is a small area of green open space. Known as **Abingdon Street Gardens** (or College Green), this is a

lawned area south of the Jewel Tower and opposite Black Rod's Garden and Victoria Tower. The current landscape was laid out in the 1960s when an underground car park was established.

5.65 **Dean's Yard** is a courtyard with a large lawn, ringed with mature chestnut trees.

5.66 The **Abbey Gardens** are located to the south of Little Cloisters. This is a large enclosed green area with a brick path dividing two expansive lawns, bounded by Lord Burlington's Dormitory, buildings of the Little Cloister to the north and a stone boundary wall to the south. There are many trees in the garden, visible from outside the Abbey Precinct.



Figure 134: Abbey Garden

5.67 There are also a number of street trees in the conservation area. A few Crab Apples can be found on St Ann's Street while some Chinese Privet are on Great Peter Street.

5.68 All trees within conservation areas are protected and the City Council must be given six weeks notice of any intention to fell or lop a tree.

## POLICY & FURTHER GUIDANCE

UDP policy ENV 16 seeks to protect trees which make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of a conservation area.

Advice on trees and their protection is given in the City Council design guide: 'Trees and Other Planting on Development Sites.'



## 6 Characteristic Land Uses

6.1 Land uses contribute significantly to the character and appearance of a conservation area. These not only have a direct influence on the building typology or make-up of an area but also on the nature, atmosphere and use of the public spaces and streets. Particular uses may be of historic importance and will have dictated the evolution of an area.

6.2 The character of the Westminster and Parliament Square Conservation Area has very much been shaped by the continuity of historical uses in the area and concentration of large-scale public and institutional buildings housing institutions of the UK.

### Parliamentary Uses

6.3 For almost a thousand years, Westminster has been the seat of national government. The present day Palace of Westminster, accommodating the Houses of Commons and Lords, has the most significant impact on the area's character, bringing in many people, both as a large employer and a tourist attraction.

6.4 The area provides the setting for many ceremonial events, such as the State Opening of Parliament, while the regular presence of television crews on Abingdon Gardens and campaigning protesters contribute to a sense of being at the centre of national events.

6.5 The proximity to Parliament means that many other governmental functions and offices are also located in the vicinity. A number of government departments can be found in the south-western part of the conservation area along Great Smith Street. Other institutions include the new Supreme Court within the Middlesex Guildhall and the European Commission in the UK.

### Ecclesiastical Uses

6.6 Westminster Abbey has great significance in the spiritual life of the nation, with long historical links to the Crown and state. Many of the buildings in the conservation area are owned by the Dean and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of St Peter, and the Abbey is the focus for ceremonial occasions such as coronations, or memorial services and musical recitals. The associated pageant and presence of the clergy all form an important part of the character of the area.

6.7 Other prominent churches in the area include St Margaret's Church, which is the parish church for the Houses of Parliament, and Methodist Central Hall, the centre of Methodism in Great Britain. The small St Matthew's Church is located in the south-west of the conservation area.

6.8 Finally, Church House occupies a large block with frontages to Dean's Yard and Great Smith Street and has a major impact on this part of the conservation area. It is the headquarters of the Church of England and houses the Archbishops' Council and all its Boards and Council, as well as the Church of England Pensions Board and the National Society. It is the meeting-place of the General Synod of the Church of England and includes a conference centre, publishing house and Church bookshop.

### Educational Uses

6.9 Within the conservation area ecclesiastical buildings are also linked to schools. Two are historically associated with the Abbey: Westminster School and Westminster Abbey Choir School. Westminster School has a long history in the area, but is now independent and occupies a large number of buildings around Dean's Yard. Both schools have boarders and therefore include residences and dining rooms as well as classrooms and offices.

6.10 The quiet, cloistered atmosphere of Dean's Yard and Little Dean's Yard derives both from the associations with the Abbey and the continued school use. The presence of Westminster scholars has been a feature of the area since 1179, and forms part of the unique character of the area.

6.11 To the south-west of the area, the small St Matthews Primary School was also established as a Church School, next to St Matthew's Church.

### **Other Public and Institutional Uses**

6.12 A number of other large-scale institutional and public buildings significantly influence the character of the area. This includes various headquarters of professional associations on Great George Street, including that of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and Institution of Civil Engineers on what became known as 'engineer's row.' The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre is another important facility in this part of the conservation area.

6.13 Its proximity to Parliament has also attracted a number of think-tanks and lobbying organisations to the area, including the Adam Smith Institute and the Policy Exchange.

6.14 The area around Great Smith Street was historically occupied by a number of late Victorian civic and philanthropic buildings, which have mostly been converted to other uses. Public uses remain here in the form of the Abbey Community Centre and the Westminster Archives Centre.

### **Public and Tourist Sites**

6.15 Tourism has a significant impact on the character of the area. Westminster Hall, Westminster Abbey and the Jewel Tower are all visitor attractions, bringing many tourists into the area. This has resulted in the need for associated facilities including ticket booths and barriers (see Section 7: Negative Features).

### **Residential**

6.16 While the majority of the area is dominated by public and institutional buildings, there are also some pockets of residential accommodation. The area to the south-west of the conservation area in particular has a number of residential buildings. This includes Westminster Mansions and the Salvation Army Hostel. There is also some residential accommodation in flats on Matthew Parker Street.

### **Other Uses**

6.17 Commercial and retail uses are not characteristic of this conservation area, and there are very few shops and restaurants. The exceptions are the Westminster Arms on Storey's Gate and a restaurant in the former public library on Great Smith Street.

6.18 Much of the conservation area is made up of open spaces, as outlined above. The green open spaces and the river are vital to the character of the area.

6.19 Transportation and a concentration of major routes also has a significant impact on the character of the area (see Section 7: Negative Features).

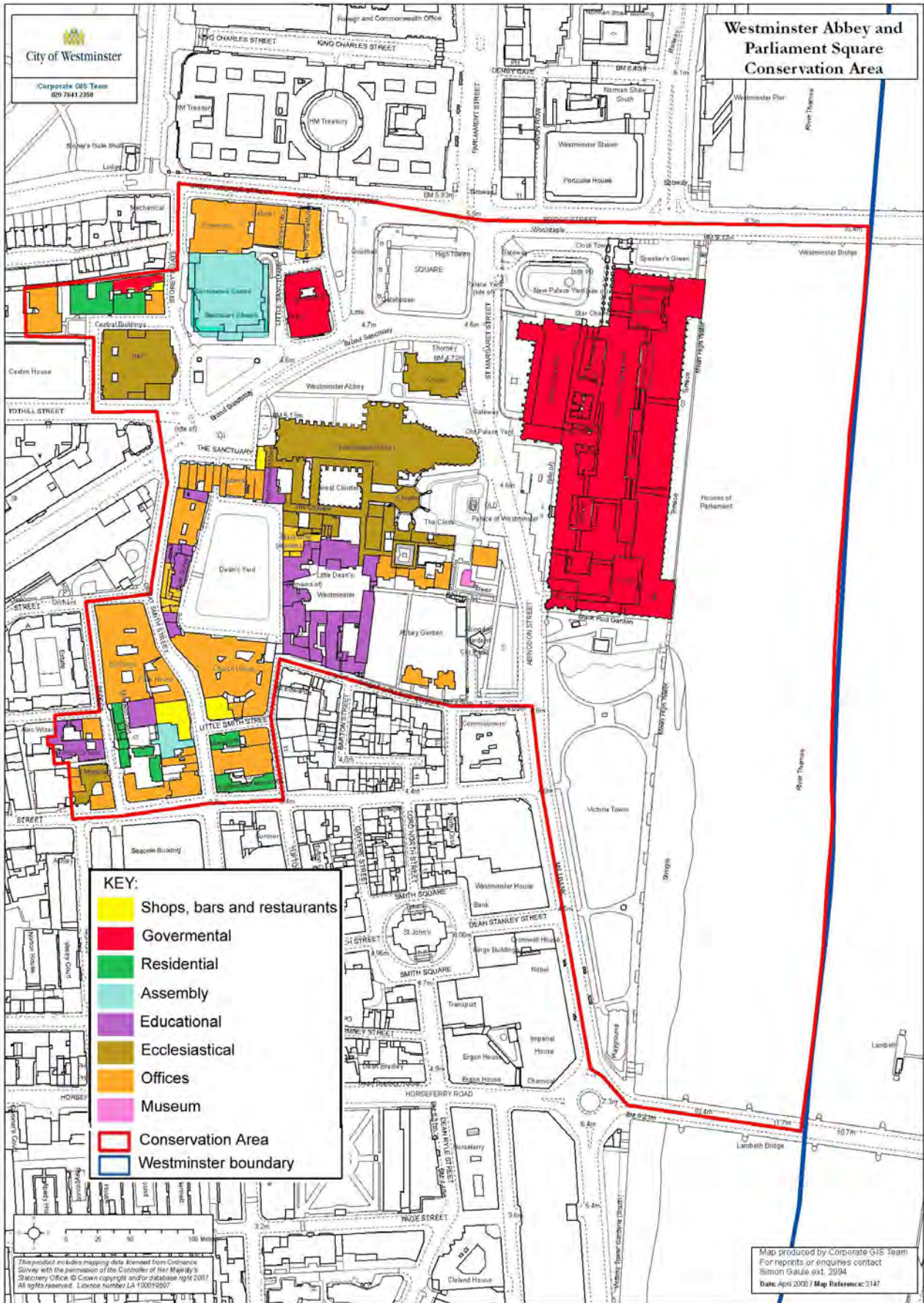
6.20 The conservation area is located within the Westminster Central Activities Zone and the Thames Special Policy Area. A map showing ground floor land uses can be found at **Figure 135**.

### **POLICY & FURTHER GUIDANCE**

The City Council will consider the contribution of existing and proposed uses to the character, appearance and setting of the conservation area. DES9 E is the relevant UDP policy.



Figure 135: Predominant land uses



## 7 NEGATIVE FEATURES & ENHANCEMENT

7.1 Negative features are those elements which detract from the special character of an area and therefore present an opportunity for change. This can include both small features and larger buildings and sites. It may be that simple maintenance works can remedy the situation, or in some cases there may be an opportunity to redevelop a particular site.

7.2 The Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area has an exceptionally high quality of built fabric, with relatively few negative elements. However, the high profile of the area, and significant volume of traffic and visitors, means that there are significant pressures on the area, some of which have a detrimental impact. Certain features within the conservation area are also considered to detract from the special character of the area. Specific areas and buildings, as well as more general features which detract from the character of the area, are listed below:

### Sites and Buildings

7.3 **Parliament Square**- Although of key importance to the setting of the World Heritage Site and a Registered Historic Park and Garden in its own right, it is perhaps one of the most significant negative features in the conservation area due to the quality of the experience in the



Figure 136: Parliament Square

public realm around Parliament Square itself.

7.4 Parliament Square suffers from the high volume of traffic on routes around it. This has an adverse effect both on people using the square, especially the central area, and on the surrounding buildings, thus detracting from the visual amenity of the area and hampering access to its centre.

7.5 Few pedestrians visit the central square, largely due to the lack of crossings. As a consequence, although it has the potential to provide an important viewing place for the World Heritage Site and surrounding buildings, the area is significantly underused.

7.6 In addition to issues of traffic and access, the quality of the public realm in Parliament Square is not in keeping with the importance of the location. The landscaping is, in places, in poor condition and the square is paved with a patchwork of different materials. Dark and pale natural stone survive from Grey Wornum's layout, but these have been patched with ill-matched stone or concrete slabs and poured concrete repairs. Along the south of the square standard large unit concrete paviors have been used, while a small patch at the north-east corner has new high-quality York stone paving.

7.7 The public realm and traffic problems of Parliament Square are being addressed through discussions between the Greater London Authority, Transport for London and the City of Westminster (see Section 8: Management Proposals).

7.8 **Deans' Yard.** Cars also mar the character of Dean's Yard. Parking surrounds the central lawn and detracts from the views across this attractive space (Figure 137).

7.9 **Abingdon Street Car Park.** The Abingdon Street underground car park and its entrance have a negative visual impact





Figure 137: Traffic and tarmac road around Dean's Yard



Figure 138: Abingdon Street car park entrance

on this important area of open space. The utilitarian design, and associated car park signage, are not in keeping with the character of the area.

**7.10 No. 2 Little Smith Street.** There are few individual buildings which detract from the appearance of the conservation area. The exception is No. 2 Little Smith Street. This is a modern building in brick and white render occupying a corner plot. It is of bland design, and poorly detailed and maintained, particularly at ground floor level. The rendered wall and garage doors to the corner of Tuffon Street create a bleak, featureless ground floor. At the time of writing, consent has recently been granted for the demolition and more sympathetic redevelopment of this site for residential use.



Figure 139: No. 2 Little Smith Street

**7.11 Riverside Terraces.** The two riverside terraces to the front of the House of Parliament have striped red and green awnings. These detract from the appearance of the Palace of Westminster in views across the river. Their design is currently under review by the Parliamentary Estates Directorate.

**7.12 Setting of the Conservation Area.** Buildings and development adjacent to the conservation area also have an impact on its character. The large-scale buildings along Victoria Street have a significant and sometimes detrimental impact on views out of the conservation area. The bulk of Scotland Yard and the BERR Building in particular are visible from many parts of the conservation area.

### Other Features

**7.13 Public Realm/Street Clutter.** In some part of the conservation area there has been a proliferation of street clutter, including signs, lighting, traffic signals, handrails and security equipment. A simplified and consistent design strategy would be a great improvement for users of

the area and for the setting of the important listed buildings. A modern telephone box on Storey's Gate, by the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, is also inappropriate to its context.

7.14 Poor street signage is a major concern within the conservation area and has a significant effect on the character of the street scene.



Figures 140-142: Street clutter, including bollards, railings, illuminated traffic bollards, traffic signs and random poles

7.15 There is also a mixture of paving materials throughout the area, with modern concrete slabs, tarmac and incremental alterations giving untidy results in places.

7.16 **Roof Level Alterations.** In a number of locations to the south-west of the conservation area, poorly detailed roof extensions and roof clutter, such as inappropriately sited aerials, telecommunications equipment and railings, has impacted on the roof profile of

the area and ultimately the area's special character.

7.17 As with all additions to buildings, careful consideration should be given to the siting of such equipment, so as to minimise its visual impact.



Figure 143: Looking from Dean's Yard, the roofs of 16 Great Smith Street forming the backdrop

7.18 A large and poorly detailed roof extension at 16 Great Smith Street has a negative impact on the middle ground views of the listed buildings, viewed from Dean's Yard and from surrounding streets, including Great Smith Street and Old Pye Street. The additional roof storeys add height to buildings already out of scale with the buildings of Dean's Yard, and a rooftop enclosure above this forms an even greater intrusion.

7.19 **Plant and Air Conditioning.** The careless placement of external plant and air-conditioning equipment, as well as street clutter such as traffic signs and signalling equipment, can have a negative impact on individual buildings and the wider street scene. The careful siting and choice of materials and colours can significantly reduce their impact.





Figure 144: Air-conditioning unit to the front of Westminster Abbey

**7.20 Other Minor Building Alterations.**

Other buildings in the conservation area have also had minor alterations. On 8-10 Great George Street and Great Smith Street the basement lightwells have been covered with heavy metal grilles, which detract from the appearance of the building.



Figure 145: Modern replacement railings and grilles blocking basement lightwell to 10 Great George Street

**7.21 Security Measures.** Security concerns have necessitated additional physical security measures in recent years, many of which have a negative impact on the appearance of the conservation area, particularly at the Palace of Westminster.

**7.22** To the front of the Palace of Westminster there are a large number of concrete and metal security barriers and fencing. These are detrimental to the character of the area.

**7.23** Security cameras and associated poles, wires and clutter also detract from the area. There are a large number of pole-mounted cameras outside the Palace of Westminster, and a number of cameras are also attached to individual buildings.



Figure 146-147: Security fencing to Speaker's Green and barriers to Old Palace Yard

**7.24 Visitor management.** The high concentration of visitors to the World Heritage Site also means that there is a large volume of visitors.

**7.25** The need for queuing assistance has led to temporary barriers to the Palace of Westminster. These unattractive modern stands, especially in front of Westminster Hall, create foreground clutter, which



Figure 148: Crowd security measures

detracts from the appreciation of the architectural quality of the buildings beyond. These are, however, due to be replaced when the new Visitor Reception building on Cromwell Green opens in spring 2008.

7.26 The placement of kiosks and security huts in and around the World Heritage Site detract from the setting of the many listed buildings in the area.



Figure 149: Food and drink kiosk outside the Abbey

## POLICY AND FURTHER GUIDANCE

The City Council will take appropriate steps to ensure the preservation and enhancement of its conservation areas. Schemes for the improvement and enhancement of conservation areas will be encouraged and initiated where possible. Any proposal will be judged against policies DES1 and DES9.



## 8 Management Proposals

### General

8.1 It is expected that the effective management of the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area can, for the most part, be met through an effective policy framework and the positive use of existing development control and enforcement powers. The analysis of the character and appearance of the conservation area within this audit therefore identifies those elements the Council will seek to protect, as well as negative features which may present opportunities for change or enhancement.

8.2 The strategic importance of this conservation area means that many other organisations are actively involved in its protection. There is therefore already a large amount of documentation in place relevant to the management of the conservation area, published by various organisations. Of particular importance is the World Heritage Site Management Plan for the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church, published 2007. These existing documents, along with the conservation area audit, will provide the framework for management of the area.

8.3 Each section of the audit is linked to relevant policy guidance, which the Council will use in the future management of the area. Other statutory designations and existing controls in place to manage the conservation area are listed in the Directory at the end of this report. This includes a list of guidance, Supplementary Planning Documents and planning briefs relevant to the management of the conservation area.

### Management/Ownership Responsibilities

8.4 For Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square, shared ownership and responsibility for different public open spaces means partnership working is particularly important.

**Parliament Square** is owned by the Crown and managed by the Greater London Authority. The areas around the **Abbey and St Margaret's Church** are owned and managed by the Dean and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of St Peter. **Canning Green** and **Victoria Tower Gardens** are managed by Royal Parks Agency. **Abingdon Street Gardens** is managed by Westminster City Council. A list of statues and monuments is included in Section 9.

### Proposals

8.5 In addition, the following table provides a list of actions the Council will take related specifically to those features identified as 'negative' in Section 7.

## Table of proposals

Issue/Feature	Action
Parliament Square	<p>Work in partnership with the Greater London Authority (GLA), Transport for London and other relevant bodies to promote improvements to the quality of the experience of Parliament Square.</p> <p>Work to develop and agree a framework for action regarding the enhancement of Parliament Square and improved access to the central garden are in discussion.</p> <p>Promote improved signage for the conservation area and World Heritage Site.</p>
Pressures on the special architectural, and historical significance of the World Heritage Site	<p>Work in partnership with all organisations involved in the management of the World Heritage Site, using the forum of the World Heritage Site Steering Group.</p> <p>Implement relevant sections of the World Heritage Site Management Plan and consider its objectives when assessing development proposals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Care and protection of the historic fabric.</b> The Site must inevitably undergo frequent repairs and maintenance programmes. Careful consideration must be taken prior to any works being undertaken to ensure potential impacts do not adversely affect the World Heritage School.</li> <li>• <b>Preservation of the setting and iconic views.</b> There is currently no buffer zone which would help to sustain the special qualities of the setting of the World Heritage Site. Large development beyond the boundary may pose risks to the World Heritage Site. Any changes in style or backdrop should be carefully considered to ensure the preservation of the iconic value of the site.</li> </ul> <p>Have regard to other relevant documents including the Palace of Westminster Conservation Plan, produced by the Parliamentary Estates Directorate.</p>



<p>Setting of the conservation area and protection of views</p>	<p>Work with English Heritage in the development of their Dynamic Visual Impacts study for the World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Develop and adopt Westminster City Council's emerging Supplementary Planning Document on Metropolitan Views.</p> <p>Regular reviews of the existing views will be carried out and any new views of importance to the character or appearance of the conservation area will be identified, characterised and managed in line with this conservation area audit, the Local Development Framework, Westminster City Council's Metropolitan Views SPD and, where necessary, the GLA's London View Management Framework SPG.</p> <p>Any new proposals for development adjacent to the conservation area should be of a high design quality and have regard to its impact on the setting of the conservation area.</p>
<p>Security</p>	<p>Careful consideration should be given to the design and siting of new security structures and equipment, wherever possible integrating this into the design of new or existing street furniture. The security structures should be sited, coloured and designed to minimise its visual impact and meet the high standards of the remainder of the public realm.</p> <p>The removal, redesign or re-siting of poorly designed security measures will be encouraged.</p>
<p>Impact of traffic and parking</p>	<p>The large volume of traffic within the area undermines the visitor experience and visual appeal of the area. The Council will work with partner organisations to improve traffic management and landscaping to mitigate negative impact throughout the area.</p>
<p>Unsympathetic sites and infill development</p>	<p>High-quality schemes for redevelopment/enhancement of sites identified as negative will be encouraged.</p> <p>Any new proposals for infill development should be of a high design quality and reflect the historic plot widths, predominant scale and architectural detail of adjoining buildings within the conservation area. Applications should include an analysis of the character and appearance of the conservation area, making reference to findings within the audit.</p>

<p>Public Realm/ Street Furniture</p>	<p>De-cluttering initiatives to be promoted to reduce street clutter and promote consistent approach to street furniture design.</p> <p>Original street furniture and historic street surfacing of interest identified in the audit is to be retained as part of any future street works or landscaping schemes.</p> <p>Pavement surfaces should be maintained as part of an overall and ongoing maintenance programme throughout the conservation area to ensure that both the historic fabric and character of the area is preserved.</p>
<p>Clutter caused by inappropriate siting of services and other equipment such as plant and air conditioning, flues and wires</p>	<p>Removal, re-siting and re-housing of any redundant pipework, wires and alarms to be sought as part of any new development or refurbishment proposals.</p> <p>Update and prepare new guidance on Plant and Air Conditioning to encourage awareness of best practice.</p> <p>Enforcement action to be taken to secure the removal of unauthorised accretions where possible.</p>
<p>Roof clutter and inappropriate extensions</p>	<p>Improvements to inappropriately detailed roof extensions to be encouraged as part of any future redevelopment proposals. This includes the removal/re-siting of unnecessary and redundant roof clutter.</p>



## 9. GAZETEER OF PUBLIC ART AND STATUARY

9.1 Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area has an exceptional collection of statues, monuments and memorials, due to the symbolic identification of the location with the political heart of the UK.

9.2 Parliament Square has been the location of choice for sculpture for many years- the oldest piece (not including the statuary incorporated into the fabric of Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church) is the equestrian statue of Richard I, which dates back to 1851. The Houses of Parliament were not completed until 1860.

9.3 Two new pieces were unveiled in 2007, the first since Winston Churchill in 1973.

9.4 The majority of the statues in the conservation area are listed - only those of Nelson Mandela and Lloyd George are not protected.

9.5 This section contains details of the 17 statues and memorials in the conservation area.

### POLICY AND FURTHER GUIDANCE

Westminster's guidance booklet: *Statues and Monuments in Westminster* gives advice on the siting of new work, and discourages new statuary in Parliament Square.



1. Sir WINSTON LEONARD SPENCER CHURCHILL OM and Nobel Prize for Literature (1874-1965), statesman, orator and indomitable wartime leader. Soldier, war correspondent and Member of Parliament, he resigned after the failure of the expedition to the Dardanelles at Gallipoli and rejoined the army in France. In the 1920s and 30s he was often seen as a forecaster of doom, his warnings about the rise of Nazi Germany being mostly ignored. But from 1940 as Prime Minister his inspired leadership, dogged determination and powerful broadcast oratory led the country to victory.

He had already selected this site for a memorial before his death and for Roberts-Jones' 12 foot (3.65 metres) bronze statue, wearing the officer's greatcoat in which he visited troops at the front. The sculptor stated that the two images in his mind while working were Rodin's figure of Balzac and that sculptor's small ancient Egyptian carving of the hawk of Horus.

The statue was erected in 1973 on the north-east corner of Parliament Square and is listed at Grade II.



2. Field Marshal JAN CHRISTIAN SMUTS OM (1870-1950). Three times Prime Minister of South Africa, Smuts was of Dutch origin and became one of the leaders of the Boer army and a noted guerrilla tactician. He later took an important role in setting up the Union of South Africa. In 1914 he became a General in the British army, while during World War II he was one of Churchill's most trusted advisers.

Epstein has him shown thrusting forward, bareheaded, with his hands behind his back as if to display his physical and mental energy; the bronze figure stands on a simple pedestal of South African granite, and was erected in 1956. The statue is listed at Grade II.

North middle side of Parliament Square, Great George Street side.





3. HENRY JOHN TEMPLE 3rd Viscount PALMERSTON (1784-1866). Thrice Prime Minister, and known affectionately as 'Good old Pam', he was greatly concerned with foreign policy. It is said that he 'created Belgium, saved Portugal and Spain from absolutism, rescued Turkey from Russia and the highway to India from France' and mostly he had maintained peace.

Two models were made by Woolner and set up in Parliament Square before the final design was approved with its granite pedestal designed by E.M.Barry. A bronze Palmerston stands in a buttoned-up frock coat, a mantle carried over his arm with his left hand extended as if asking how much was the fare of a hansom cab. The statue is listed at Grade II.

On the north-west corner of Parliament Square on the Great George Street side.



4. EDWARD GEORGE GEOFFREY SMITH STANLEY, 14th Earl of DERBY (1799-1869). He was thrice Prime Minister and twice declined when asked by Queen Victoria to form a Government. Though a gifted orator, he had little political ambition and only served as a duty, which made him an admirable chairman and a pragmatic politician.

He is shown in the bronze standing figure by Matthew Noble (1874), wearing his peer's robes, holding a despatch to his breast. The bronze bas-relief panels by Horace Montford around the pink granite pedestal depict Lord Derby addressing the House of Commons on the subject of slavery in 1833, Derby accepting the Chancellorship of Oxford University in the same year, Derby in Manchester chairing a Central Executive Cotton Famine Relief Committee in 1865, and Derby chairing the Cabinet Council discussing the Second Reform Bill in 1867.

The statue is listed at Grade II.

On the north-west corner of Parliament Square facing the Guildhall.



5. The Earl of Beaconsfield, BENJAMIN DISRAELI (1804-1881) was a British Conservative statesman and literary figure. He served in government for three decades, twice as Prime Minister and was the first and thus far only person of Jewish parentage to do so (although Disraeli was baptised in the Anglican Church at 13). Disraeli's most lasting achievement was the creation of the modern Conservative Party after the Corn Laws schism of 1846.

Before and during his political career, Disraeli was well known as a literary and social figure. He mainly wrote romances, of which *Sybil and Vivian Grey* are perhaps the best-known today. He was and is unusual among British Prime Ministers for having gained equal social and political renown.

The Grade II listed statue is by Mario Raggi (1883), and is on the west side of Parliament Square.



6. Sir ROBERT PEEL BT (1788-1850) Prime Minister and instigator of metropolitan police forces. His main achievement was obtaining the repeal of the Corn Laws, but he is more popularly remembered for his 'peace preservation police' who became known as 'Bobbies' or 'Peelers' and who formed the basis for modern policing.

At first Baron Marochetti was commissioned to make a statue; however, it was thought to be too big and at his own expense the sculptor made a second version. Proving to be unpopular, it was melted down in 1876 and the bronze was used in the present free-standing figure by Matthew Noble. Peel is shown on a pedestal of red granite as if speaking to the House of Commons.

The statue is listed as Grade II.

On Broad Sanctuary junction in the south-west corner of Parliament Square.





7. NELSON MANDELA (b. 1918) is a former President of South Africa, the first to be elected in fully representative democratic elections. Before his presidency, Mandela was an anti-apartheid activist and leader of the African National Congress and its armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe. He spent 27 years in prison for sabotage and conspiracy.

Among opponents of apartheid in South Africa and internationally he became a symbol of freedom and equality, while the apartheid government and nations sympathetic to it condemned him and the ANC as communists and terrorists.

Following his release from prison in 1990, his switch to a policy of reconciliation and negotiation helped lead the transition to multi-racial democracy in South Africa. Since the end of apartheid, he has been widely praised, even by former opponents.

Mandela has received more than one hundred awards over four decades, most notably the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. He is currently a celebrated elder statesman who continues to voice his opinion on topical issues.

This statue, by Ian Walters, was unveiled at the south-west corner of Parliament Square in 2007.



8. DAVID LLOYD GEORGE OM, PC (1863-1945). Lloyd George was Britain's only Welsh Prime Minister, a post in which he served from 1916 to 1922.

Taking up his post in the middle of World War I, an event which had reversed his pacifist tendency, he was extremely popular as the man who led Britain out of the war.

Lloyd George is also remembered for his 'Liberal reforms.' He was largely responsible for old age pensions, unemployment benefit and state support for the sick and infirm.

In this, the newest statue in Parliament Square (2007), Lloyd George is shown leaning into the wind, arm outstretched.

Sculptor Glynn Williams has placed him on a pedestal of Welsh slate between Smuts and Churchill on the north side of the square.



9. GEORGE CANNING (1770-1827) statesman and renowned orator. As Foreign Secretary he encouraged the independence from Spain of the new South American republics and from 1825 his actions shielded Greece from the ambitions of Turkey, but he failed in his desires for reform to the Corn Laws. His term as Prime Minister was interrupted after only four months by his death.

The Memorial Committee's first choice of sculptor was Sir Francis Chantrey, but he declined. Unfortunately Westmacott's bronze figure wrapped in a toga, holding a scroll and wearing outdoor shoes was received with derision. 'Nothing so vile in taste, or so defective in execution, has outraged public opinion for some years' wrote *The Observer*. Certainly the slight figure of Canning as known from painted portraits is hardly reflected in this 'paunch of a Falstaff and the muscles of a Hercules'. The statue is listed at Grade II.

On the north-west of Parliament Square Road opposite Derby on the other side of the road.



10. ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809-1865) first President of United America. Born into humble circumstances, he trained as a lawyer, becoming the most successful practitioner in Illinois and entering politics. In 1860 he was elected as first Republican President and worked for the abolition of slavery. Secession of the Southern States and Civil War were inevitable and, following four years of war, a victory for the North and slaves freed, a fanatic shot Lincoln as he sat in a theatre.

The bronze statue is the gift of the American Government and a replica of that by Auguste Sainte-Gaudens in Chicago. Lincoln stands in front of an elaborate throne-like chair; on the curved back can be seen the American eagle and the word 'PLVRIBVS'. The white granite pedestal bears only his name but is decorated with thirty-two stars. The statue is listed at Grade II.

On the west side of Parliament Square directly in front of the Guildhall.





11. OLIVER CROMWELL (1599-1658) Lord Protector of the Commonwealth. Cromwell was a Protestant enthusiast and a Member of Parliament; when the Civil War broke out he immediately took an active part in the struggle.

He formed his own troop of horsemen who became known as 'the Ironsides'. This troop was to form the basis of Cromwell's 'New Model Army', England's first disciplined regular armed service.

In 1653, four years after he had been active in the prosecution of King Charles, he was created Protector.

This Grade II listed memorial has its base on a lawn far below road level; against this lies a large bronze lion and above a pedestal carries the bronze figure of Cromwell above the road parapet. Sculptor Thornycroft shows him dressed for battle, a drawn sword in one hand and a book in the other with his hat crushed under his arm.

The head, which is supposed to have given the sculptor some problems, has a thoughtful 'almost weary' expression.

On Cromwell Green, opposite St Margaret's



12. KING GEORGE V (1865-1936) George Frederick Ernest Albert was the second son of Edward VII, becoming heir apparent after the death of his brother, whose fiancée he later married. His reign was punctuated with Irish Home Rule troubles, World War I and the financial depression of the 1930s. A gruff sailor with a hidden shyness, he was always regarded with affection by his people, although he was thought to have mishandled the raising of his eldest son.

Sir William Reid Dick presents a very regal stone portrait. Standing on an exceptionally tall pedestal by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, the King's Garter robes flow in great folds behind him, thus revealing his Field Marshal's uniform beneath, while his hands rest lightly on the hilt of the Sword of State with all the appearance of a medieval Templar. The statue is Grade II listed.

In Old Palace Yard between Abingdon Street Gardens and St Margaret's Church.



13. KING RICHARD I (1157-1199) third son of Henry II, became known during the Crusade Wars as Coeur-de-Lion (the Lionheart) and twice fought to within a few miles of Jerusalem. He conquered Cyprus in 1170 and became King of England in 1189 but departed almost immediately on the Third Crusade. Troubles in England called him back, but not before he had forged a thirty-year truce with Saladin which allowed Christian pilgrims to visit Jerusalem. While travelling home in disguise he was captured in Vienna and imprisoned - a huge ransom being paid for his release. Five years later he died from an arrow wound while besieging the castle of Chalus. After his death a great number of romantic myths grew up around his name, principally concerning his troubadour Blondel and that of an association with Robin Hood.

Marochetti's equestrian statue of a chain-mailed and crowned hero with his sword held aloft, was first shown in plaster form at the entrance to the Crystal Palace in 1851. And although the Great Exhibition had been seen as a Congress of Peace, it was proposed that King Richard should be cast in bronze as its memorial, the site being chosen by Prince Albert himself. The large reliefs on the granite pedestal depict the Crusader army in attack on Jerusalem and Richard on his deathbed.

In 1940 the sword was damaged in the air raid on the Houses of Parliament but the High Commissioner for Canada suggested it should not be straightened out, for it demonstrated 'the strength of democracy which will bend but not break under attack', and it was left so until 1947.

The statue is Grade II listed.

In Old Palace Yard.





14. 'KNIFE EDGE' is one of a series of abstract sculptures by Henry Moore which drew inspiration from the shapes of bones. Here two very large bronze pieces are created and composed so that an interaction is set up between them. Placed almost at ground level on a granite base, they are made very accessible to examination. This is the second cast of a work created in 1962.

In Abingdon Street Gardens.



15. EMMELINE PANKHURST (1858-1928). Walker's bareheaded, free-standing bronze figure wears a long coat with a fur collar and holds a lorgnette in its left hand, the other outstretched making an imploring gesture. The statue is on a decorated stone pedestal.

The low semi-circular wall with small pillars at each end were added later; one pillar bears a bas-relief portrait of Christabel Pankhurst and the other a bronze badge of honour. This badge was given by the Women's Social and Political Union to over one thousand women who suffered imprisonment for women's enfranchisement; it shows a broad arrow superimposed on the arms of Westminster.

The memorial is Grade II listed.

At the entrance to Victoria Tower Gardens opposite Westminster Abbey.



16. THE BURGHERS of CALAIS. In 1884 the town of Calais proposed a competition for a memorial to Eustache de St Pierre, the burgher who, in 1374, had delivered the keys of his besieged town to the English king Edward III.

Instead of a single figure, Rodin placed the hero in the company of five other prisoners. The majestic power and turbulent nervous passion of this huge grouped piece shows its participants stumbling and turning towards a chosen imprisonment or death. But it is said that their lives were spared on the intercession of Edward's queen, Philippa of Hainault.

In 1895 Rodin completed nine years' work on what was to be one of his most influential works, for although it has become the symbol of enslaved humanity, it is also a 'tour de force' of kinetic and dramatic sculpture.

Previously on a high pedestal, it is now displayed set near to the ground on a low plinth to accord with the sculptor's wishes. The original cast stands in Calais.

The Burghers of Calais is Grade I listed.



17. The BUXTON MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN commemorates the ending of slavery in 1834 and was erected in 1865 by Charles Buxton MP, in memory of his father, Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton (1786-1845), who succeeded William Wilberforce as head of the anti-slavery party in 1824. Wilberforce, Henry Brougham, Thomas Clarkson, Stephen Lushington and Zachary Macaulay are also remembered.

This small, highly decorative marble structure takes the form of a ciborium. From its octagonal base, eight open Gothic arches rise to support the ribbed spire which is roofed with multi-coloured tiles and surmounted by a cross. There is an abundance of bronze, stone and mosaic decoration including small (replaced in fibreglass) figures of Constantine, Caractacus, Canute, Alfred the Great, William the Conqueror, Henry VII, Charles I and Queen Victoria. Inside, water can issue into four granite basins from terracotta lion's heads and a bowl is provided on the exterior for pets although the fountain is inoperative at present.

The fountain is listed at Grade II\*

In Victoria Tower Gardens.





18. THE CRIMEAN WAR and INDIAN MUTINY MEMORIAL commemorates those members of Westminster School 'who died in the Russian and Indian Wars 1854-1859 on the field of battle or from wounds or sickness'. Their names are inscribed on three sides of the monument, the fourth side having a descriptive statement written by a master at the school.

A red granite column rises to a capital, in whose foliage symbols of the four evangelists are partly hidden; above them the figures seated in niches are Queen Elizabeth, Edward the Confessor, King Henry III and Queen Victoria - the four sovereigns who particularly favoured the school. Surmounting these is Clayton's large figure of St George with sword held aloft ready to strike the dragon, and around the base are four stone lions, said to be by Sir Edwin Landseer.

Part way through building, Scott's design faced opposition and the minister responsible for works was questioned in the House of Commons, to which he replied 'If my assent had been asked, I should have hesitated to sanction the extraordinary incongruity of placing statues in the medieval style on a classical column'.

The memorial stands on the site of the medieval Old Gatehouse Prison, in which Sir Walter Raleigh spent the night before his execution.

In Broad Sanctuary opposite the Great West door of Westminster Abbey.



### 19. CRUCIFIXION (1981)

This powerful life-size sculpture in bronze was created by the Italian-born British sculptor Enzo Plazzotta in 1981. The body of Christ serves as part of the cross from which He hangs.

Located to the south-west corner of Abbey Gardens.



21. STONE SHEEP with a seat and drinking fountains are at the edge of a children only playground. The carved life-sized ram, sheep and lambs are on the end pillars of a stone retaining wall, in front of which is a long wooden resting place. The three drinking fountains, which have carved dolphins, are now inoperative.

Located at the southernmost part of the conservation area, adjacent to Lambeth Bridge.



22. A FRIEZE of HISTORICAL FIGURES by H.C. Fehr around the front entrance to Middlesex Guildhall features scenes depicting the granting of the Magna Carta, the granting of a charter to the Abbey of Westminster, the Great Hall at Hampton Court and Lady Jane Grey accepting the crown of England.

Other decorative sculpture is of individuals, groups of figures, gargoyles and armorial devices.





23. KING CHARLES I (1600-1649). Lead bust of c.1800 in carved niche above doorway to the east end of St Margaret's Church with decorative iron brackets, This lead bust is one of several found in a London builder's yard in 1945 by Hedley Hope Nicholson and is displayed here in an over-door medieval niche.

## 10 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### **Acanthus**

A plant with thick, fleshy, scalloped leaves used on carved ornament such as CORINTHIAN and COMPOSITE CAPITALS and other mouldings.

### **Accretions**

A gradual build-up of small additions and layers.

### **Aedicule**

The framing of a door, window, or other opening with two columns, PIERS or PILASTERS supporting a GABLE, LINTEL, plaque or an ENTABLATURE and PEDIMENT.

### **Architraves**

The lowest of the three main parts of an ENTABLATURE or the moulded frame surrounding a door or window.

### **Art Deco**

From the Paris Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes, 1925. An early 20th century movement in the decorative arts, architecture and fashion. Considered to be an opulent, eclectic style, influenced by a variety of sources. Characterised by use of materials such as aluminium and stainless steel and the use of bold forms, sweeping curves, CHEVRON patterns and sunburst motifs.

### **Art Nouveau**

Meaning 'New Art'. A movement that emerged at the end of the 19th century, which advocated the use of highly stylised nature as the source of inspiration. Correspondingly organic forms, curved lines, especially floral or vegetal.

### **Arts & Crafts**

A major English aesthetic movement, at its height between 1880 and 1910. Inspired by the writings of John Ruskin, a reformist movement searching for authentic and meaningful styles as a reaction to the machine-made production of the Industrial Revolution. Its best known practitioner was William Morris, who founded the SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

### **Balconettes**

A small projecting balcony from a wall, enclosed by railings or BALUSTRADE, more decorative than functional.

### **Baroque**

An architectural style of the 17th and 18th centuries characterised by dramatic and exuberant decoration, using expansive curvaceous forms, large-scale and complex compositions. Used in palaces, churches and national buildings as a means of creating emotional involvement and a dramatic impression.

### **Bay**

A vertical division of the exterior of a building marked by fenestration, an order, buttresses, roof compartments etc.

### **Bay window**

An angular or curved projecting window.

### **Beaux Arts**

Translated as 'Fine Arts'. A classical architectural style taught at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris 1885-1920. Depended on sculptural decoration along conservative modern lines, using French and Italian BAROQUE and Rococo formulas with an impressionistic finish.

### **Bottle balustrade**

A assemblage of bottle-shaped moulded shafts in stone supporting the COPING of a PARAPET or the handrail of a staircase.

### **Butterfly roof**

A roof formed by two gables that dip in the middle, resembling butterfly's wings. The roofs were particularly popular in Britain during the 19th century as they have no top ridges and were usually concealed on the front façade by a parapet. The roof gave the illusion of a flat roof, an essential part of CLASSICAL architecture, but accommodated Britain's wet climate.

### **Buttress**

A mass of masonry or brickwork projecting from or built against a wall to give additional strength.

### **Canopy**

A projection or hood over a door, window etc.

### **Canted**

Architectural term describing part, or segment, of a façade which is at an angle of less than 90° to another part of the same façade.



### **Cantilevered**

A horizontal projection (e.g. a step, balcony, canopy or beam) supported by a downward force. Appearing to be self-supporting, cantilever construction allows for long structures without external bracing.

### **Capital**

The head or crowning feature of a column.

### **Cartouche**

An ornamental panel in the form of a scroll or sheet of paper with curling edges, usually bearing an inscription and sometimes ornately framed.

### **Casement windows**

A metal or timber window with side hinged leaves, opening outwards or inwards.

### **Cast iron**

An iron-based alloy containing more than 2% carbon. The molten iron is poured into a sand cast or mould rather than hammered into shape by a blacksmith. The allows for regular and uniform patterns and a high degree of detail to be represented. The finished product is chunkier, though more brittle, than WROUGHT IRON.

### **Chevron**

A type of moulding forming a zigzag pattern.

### **Chimney stack**

Masonry or brickwork containing several flues, projecting above the roof and terminating in chimney pots.

### **Classical**

A revival or return to the principles of Greek or Roman architecture and an attempt to return to the rule of artistic law and order. Begun in Britain c.1616 and continued in successive waves up to 1930s.

### **Coade stone**

An artificial cast stone with a mottled surface, invented in the late 18th century and used up to the early 19th century for all types of ornamentation.

### **Coal hole cover**

A circular, metal or wooden plate covering a hole in the pavement where domestic coal deliveries were dropped into a vaulted bunker beneath the pavement.

### **Colonnade**

A row of columns carrying an ENTABLATURE or arches.

### **Composite**

A mixed order combining the scroll-like ornament of the IONIC order with the leaves (ACANTHUS) of the CORINTHIAN order.

### **Console**

An ornamental bracket with a curved profile and usually of greater height than projection.

### **Coping**

A capping or covering to a wall, either flat or sloping to throw off water.

### **Corbel**

A projecting block, usually of stone, supporting a beam or other horizontal member.

### **Corinthian**

One of the CLASSICAL orders, which is an enriched development of the IONIC CAPITAL. Featuring stylised ACANTHUS leaves, which sometimes appear blown sideways. Unlike the DORIC and IONIC column capitals, a Corinthian capital has no neck beneath it, just a moulded ring or banding. The Corinthian column is almost always fluted.

### **Cornice**

In classical architecture, the top projecting section of an ENTABLATURE. Also any projecting ornamental moulding along the top of a building, wall, arch etc., finishing or crowning it.

### **Cresting**

An ornamental ironwork finish along the top of a screen, wall or roof.

### **Cupola**

A dome, especially a small dome on a circular or polygonal base crowning a roof or turret.

### **Curtain wall**

A non-load-bearing wall, which can be applied in front of a framed structure. Manufactured from a variety of materials such as aluminium, steel and glass; with sections to include windows and spaces between.

### **Dentil**

Meaning 'tooth'. A small, square decorative block used in series in CORNICES.

**Doric**

One of the CLASSICAL orders. Doric columns historically stood directly onto the flat pavement without a base; fluted and topped by a smooth CAPITAL that carried an ENTABLATURE.

**Dormer window**

A window placed vertically in a sloping roof and with a roof of its own. Name comes from French 'to sleep'.

**Dressings**

Stone worked to a finished face, whether smooth or moulded, and used around an angle, window or any feature.

**Eaves**

The under part of a sloping roof overhanging a wall.

**Edwardian**

Edwardian period refers to the reign of King Edward VII, 1901–1910, although is sometimes extended to include the period up to the start of the First World War in 1914.

**English bond**

A method of laying bricks so that alternate courses or layers on the face of the wall are composed of headers (end) or stretchers (long edge) only.

**Entablature**

The upper part of an order consisting of ARCHITRAVE, FRIEZE and CORNICE.

**Faience**

A type of glazing used on ceramics.

**Fanlight**

A window, often semicircular, over a door, in Georgian and Regency buildings, with radiating glazing bars suggesting a fan. Or any window over a door to let light into the room or corridor beyond.

**Fascia**

The wide board over a shopfront, usually carrying its name.

**Fenestration**

The arrangement of windows on a building's façade .

**Festoon**

A carved ornament in the form of a garland

of fruit and flowers, tied with ribbons and suspended at both ends.

**Finial**

A vertical mounted spike, sometimes with formal ornament, used on railings and on tops of buildings.

**Flemish bond**

A method of laying bricks so that alternate headers (end) and stretchers (long edge) appear in each course on the face of the wall.

**Fluting**

Shallow, concave grooves running vertically on the shaft of a column or PILASTER.

**Frieze**

A decorative band running between the ARCHITRAVE and CORNICE.

**Gable**

The upper portion of a wall at the end of a PITCHED ROOF. Can have straight sides or be shaped or crowned with a PEDIMENT, known as a Dutch gable.

**Gauged brick**

Brick moulded, rubbed or cut to an exact size and shape, for arches or ornamental work.

**Gault brick**

Brick made from Gault Clay – an uncommon clay which, when fired, produces light, almost buff, blue brick.

**Georgian**

The period in British history between 1714 and 1830, the accession of George I and death of George IV. Includes the Regency Period, defined by the Regency of George IV as Prince of Wales during the madness of his father George III.

**Gothic**

A style of European architecture, particularly associated with cathedrals and churches, that began in 12th century France. The style emphasises verticality, with expanses of glass, pointed spires, flying BUTTRESSES, ribbed vaults, pointed arches and sculptural detail. The style focused on letting more light enter buildings than was possible with older styles. A series of Gothic revivals began in mid-18th century England and continued into the



twentieth century, largely for ecclesiastical and university buildings.

**Grille**

A fretted metal band, often in shopfronts, to allow for the flow of air.

**Heterodox**

A six-sided feature.

**Hipped roof**

A roof with sloped instead of vertical ends.

**Ionic**

One of the CLASSICAL orders. The Ionic column is characterised by paired scrolls that are laid on the moulded cap of the column.

**Italianate**

Describes the style of villas which developed in England as a result of the Picturesque Movement of the 1840s. A rebellion against the CLASSICAL styles of architecture. The style includes lavish exterior ornamentation such as extended CORNICE mouldings, QUOINS, PORTICOS and floral designs.

**Keystone**

The central stone of an arch, sometimes carved.

**Lightwell**

A shaft built in to the ground to let light into a building's interior at basement level, allowing below-ground rooms windows and natural light.

**Loggia**

A gallery open on one or more sides, sometimes pillared.

**Mansard roof**

Takes its name from the French architect, Francois Mansart. Normally comprise a steep pitched roof with a shallower secondary pitch above and partially hidden behind a PARAPET wall. The design allows extra accommodation at roof level.

**Mansion block**

A type of high-density housing used in the Victorian era. Exteriors were often red brick with elaborate stone decoration.

**Mews**

A block or row of stables with living accommodation above, and subservient to grander buildings with which they were paired

and serviced.

**Mezzanine**

A low storey between two higher ones.

**Modernism**

A cultural movement that emerged in France before 1914, rejection of 'traditional' forms of art and architecture and a celebration of progress. The most commonly used materials are glass for the façade, steel for exterior support, and concrete for the floors and interior supports. Floor plans were functional and logical and the style became most evident in the design of skyscrapers.

**Modillion**

A small bracket or CONSOLE of which a series is used to support the upper part of a CORNICE.

**Mullions**

A vertical post or upright dividing a window or other opening.

**Oriel window**

A window which juts out from the main wall of a building but does not reach the ground. Often supported by CORBELS or brackets.

**Parapet**

A low wall, placed to protect from a sudden drop – often on roofs.

**Pediment**

A CLASSICAL architectural element consisting of a triangular section or GABLE found above the ENTABLATURE, resting on columns or a framing structure.

**Pentelic marble**

A pure white, fine-grain marble quarried from the Pentili mountain range in Greece.

**Pier**

A solid masonry support or the solid mass between doors and other openings in buildings.

**Pilaster**

A shallow PIER or rectangular column projecting only slightly from a wall and, in CLASSICAL architecture, conforming with one of the orders.

**Pitched roof**

A roof consisting of two sloping halves that form a peak in the middle where they meet.

**Polychromy**

Term used to describe multiple colours in one entity, especially used during VICTORIAN era. Used to highlight certain features or façades.

**Portcullis**

A GRILLE or gate historically used to fortify the entrances to medieval castles. It appears frequently as an emblem in heraldry.

**Portico**

A roofed space, open or partly enclosed forming the entrance and centre-piece of the façade of a building, often with detached or attached columns and a PEDIMENT.

**Portland stone**

A light coloured limestone from the Jurassic period quarried on the Isle of Portland, Dorset.

**Queen Anne**

A revival style popularised in the 1870s by Norman Shaw. Used broad historic precedents, combining fine brickwork, TERACOTTA panels, limestone detailing, ORIEL windows and corner towers, asymmetrical fronts and picturesque massing.

**Quoins**

Dressed stones at the corners of buildings, usually laid so their faces are alternately large and small. From the French word coin meaning corner.

**Romanesque**

The dominant style of the 11th and 12th centuries until the emergence of GOTHIC. Characterised by clear easily comprehended schemes. Adopted as a revival style in the 19th century.

**Rustication**

Masonry cut in massive blocks separated from each other by deep joints. Used in lower parts of exterior walls. Effect often imitated using STUCCO renders.

**Sash window**

A window formed with sliding glazed frames running vertically.

**Soffit**

The exposed underside of any overhead component of a building.

**Stallriser**

A key element in a traditional shopfront, usually wood, which protects the lower part of the shopfront and encloses the shop window and entrance.

**Stucco**

Plasterwork or an exterior render, often finished to imitate fine stonework.

**Terracotta**

Fired but unglazed clay with a distinctively orange/red colour.

**Terrace**

A row of attached houses designed as a unit.

**Triglyphs**

Blocks separating the square spaces in a DORIC FRIEZE.

**Tripartite windows**

A window formed of three elements.

**Turrets**

A small and slender curved tower.

**Tuscan**

One of the CLASSICAL orders. A stocky simplified version of the DORIC order. The column has a simpler base and was unfluted, while CAPITAL and ENTABLATURE are without adornments.

**Venetian windows**

A window with three openings, the central one arched and wider than the others.

**Victorian**

Period often defined as the years of Queen Victoria's reign, 1837-1902, though the Reform Act of 1832 is often taken as the start of this new cultural era.

**Wrought iron**

Made by iron being heated and plied by a blacksmith using a hammer and anvil. Predates the existence of CAST IRON and enjoyed a renaissance during the revival periods of the late 19th century. Wrought iron is not as brittle as cast and seldom breaks.

**Stock brick**

The most commonly used type of building brick



## York Stone

found in London. Its distinctive colour and soft appearance comes from the yellow clay they are made from, found in Kent. In the London atmosphere they weather down to a greyish black colour.

### **York stone**

A natural stone used traditionally in for paving, laid in large slabs or 'flags'.

## 11 DIRECTORY OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AND INFORMATION

- I Designation and Extension Reports
- II List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Merit
- III Other Designations
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- V Further Reading



# I Designation and Extension Reports

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

WESTMINSTER ABBEY AND PARLIAMENT SQUARE CONSERVATION AREA

1. Preliminary designation 8 May 1969

(Government Precinct Conservation Area, previously including area known as Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square)

2. Original designation 6 November 1969

(Government Precinct Conservation Area, previously including area known as Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square)

3. Extension to Government Precinct Conservation Area 30 June 1987

4. Redesignation Report 17 November 1987

(Into four separate conservation areas, including Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square)

5. Designation of extension 11 September 2008

## CITY OF WESTMINSTER

TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE - 8 MAY 1969

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

CONSERVATION AREAS : GOVERNMENT PRECINCT

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

In accordance with a report accepted by the Committee on 29 June 1967, concerning the Civic Amenities Act 1967 and conservation areas, studies have now been made of the area stretching from Trafalgar Square to Smith Square and between St James's park and the River.

Near the great mediaeval Abbey of Westminster which was founded possibly in the seventh century, certainly by the tenth, on a site that had been used in Roman times, the seat of King and government also was established remote from the important and flourishing mercantile capital, the City of London, sometime in the eleventh century. The principal buildings of the Abbey now standing are of the thirteenth century while of the mediaeval Royal Palace of Westminster the most conspicuous survival is Westminster Hall.

The Palace of Westminster remained a Royal residence until Henry VIII moved to the Palace of Westminster, leaving the former as an administrative centre, and he made substantial addition and alteration to his new palace: parts of these works are now embedded in the Treasury Building and his wine cellar is preserved underneath the Board of Trade building.

Throughout the mediaeval period and for long after, the Strand, the road linking the City of London to the Abbey and Palace of Westminster, was a poor mud track beset by thieves; on its south side were established the palaces of bishops and lords. At its western end, Charing Cross, is split north and westwards as well as turning southwards, and it passed through and indeed under the complex of buildings forming the Palace of Whitehall as extended by Henry VIII. He also acquired St James's Park and other lands as hunting land, thus assuring the close relationship which still survives of open space to the royal and government buildings.

The eastern portion of the Palace of Whitehall was a rambling hotch potch, the result of gradual enlargement, and it was the first instalment of a grandiose rebuilding scheme that Inigo Jones' Banqueting House was begun in 1619. It remained isolated and when a great fire in 1698 destroyed almost the whole of the palace east of Whitehall there was no desire to rebuild it as a royal residence.

Thereafter the growth of government services engendered new buildings in and near Whitehall many of which now survive; important among those of the eighteenth century are the Admiralty (by Ripley, 1722-6) with its screen (by Robert Adam, 1759-61), the Horse Guards (built 1750-60 to designs of Kent), next to it Dover House (by Paine 1755-8) with domed fore building (by Holland 1787), Kent's Treasury (1733-6) overlooking Horse Guards Parade and adjoining Dorset House (c.1700-1710, a part of the Treasury Buildings). Together with the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century buildings of Downing Street they form a remarkable complex of official and domestic architecture around Horse Guards Parade. In the nineteenth century building was undertaken on a much larger scale and with increasing grandeur; the south end of the west side of



Whitehall shows this very clearly; the Treasury Buildings towards Whitehall were partly rebuilt by Soane (c.1810-20) and altered and refaced by Barry in 1845 in a classical idiom; the Home and Foreign Offices were built to design by Scott in 1860-73, and a further block of Government Offices at the southern end by Brydon and Tanner (1898-c.1912). These represent neatly the three stages of official Victorian architecture, Early, High and Late.

Quite apart from the characteristic buildings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries so far mentioned in the enormous and astonishing composition of the House of Parliament, where another disastrous fire, in 1834 had destroyed almost the whole of the old, rambling, informal, almost undignified, assortment of buildings which had served for parliament and administrative offices. The new buildings were constructed over the period 1840-60 to designs of Charles Barry with much of the detailing by A W N Pugin.

It was not until the late nineteenth century that Parliament Street was opened up to form the final grand sweep of Whitehall towards the Houses of Parliament and the Abbey and Parliament Square formed by the removal of many fine Georgian houses in an eastward extension of what is now Great George Street; previously the open spaces had been comprised mainly of the churchyard of the Abbey and of St Margaret's (16th Century). Parliament Square is now enclosed on its northern, eastern and southern sides by government offices, Houses of Parliament and the Abbey and St Margaret's already mentioned, and on the western side by two smaller institutional buildings, the more important of these being the Middlesex Guildhall (by Gibson and Partners). 1906-1913 within the background Central Hall (by Lanchester and Rikards, 1905-11). Apart from the last mentioned all the enclosing buildings bear a very informal relationship to the open space and to one another and form an extremely interesting townscape composition.

Whitehall itself although much widened at its southern end (Parliament Street) still retains the feeling of mediaeval irregularity of width and curve.

South of the Abbey Church itself strands the remains of the Abbey complex, partly incorporated in and much added to, to form Westminster School, and further south again stretching as far as Smith Square interesting groups of buildings of the early eighteenth century in Barton Street and Cowley Street as one group and in Lord North Street and the north side of Smith Square with the splendid Baroque Church of St John (by Archer 1713-28) as a second adjacent group. Associated with these two groups are several domestic brick buildings of the beginning of this century of a high quality, some of them by Lutyens.

At its northern end Whitehall narrows as it curves and then opens out in a funnel into Trafalgar Square. Like much of the West End town planning alterations the formation of Trafalgar Square was an idea of Nash's and was carried out in the 1820's where formerly there was only a slight widening of roads meeting. Although there has been an attempt to a formal arrangement, this Square is marred by the indeterminate gaps in its enclosure and the unsatisfactory scale of massing of the buildings. The National Gallery (Wilkins 1832-8) was designed to provide a crowning visual effect but it is not very successful in this; very few of the other original buildings put up for the new square have survived and those on the south side have been replaced by dull Victorian and Edwardian stone buildings. The building on the west side incorporates the principal external features of the Royal College of Physicians (Smirke, 1824-7); on the east side is South Africa House (Sir Herbert Baker, 1935).

St Martin's-in-the-Field was built in 1722-6 to designs of James Gibbs on the site of a mediaeval church; its present relationship to its neighbours is due entirely to the nineteenth

century alterations in the laying out of Trafalgar Square and its enclosure to the north and east also part of Nash's concept.

Facing Victoria Embankment are two further buildings of considerable importance in the townscape; one is Whitehall Court (Archer and Green 1884) whose roofs especially add to the romantic skyline seen from St James's Park; the other is New Scotland Yard (Norman Shaw 1888-90 and 1912).

The principal character of the area is as a government precinct interspersed with various national institutions; as soon as the main squares and thoroughfares are left the character can change rapidly to much smaller scale, often domestic in use or appearance, as in the area of south of the Abbey and in Craven Street. At present all the thoroughfares are full of traffic which often makes it difficult to appreciate the architectural and townscape qualities of the area; studies are being made to improve this aspect of the environment particularly in Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Parliament Square.

The areas described contain a large number of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

In the light of the foregoing remarks it is suggested that the area shown on Map No. CD.R.0016 should be considered for designation as a conservation area.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the area shown outlined on Map No. CD.R.0016 be approved as suitable for designation as a conservation area subject to consultation.
2. That the Greater London Council be consulted.
3. That the Civic Trust, the Georgian Group, The Victorian Society, the Westminster Society and the Westminster Architectural Society be consulted.
4. That the Ministry of Public Buildings be consulted.
5. That the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and Westminster School be consulted.

F G WEST

DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

DECISION

9. Government Precinct Area

- i. Report received and recommendations adopted subject to the eastern boundary of the conservation area being drawn down the centre of the river.
- ii. See report to Council.

(Note for Director of Architecture and Planning - Recommendation 5 of your report should be amended to refer to the 'Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey' and 'Westminster School'.



# CITY OF WESTMINSTER

TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE - 6 NOVEMBER 1969

DESIGNATION OF CONSERVATION AREA

GOVERNMENT PRECINCT

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

1. On 8 May 1969 the Committee considered proposals for the Government Precinct Conservation Area and authorised consultations with the Greater London Council, the Civic Trust, the Georgian Group, the Victorian Society, the Westminster Society, the Westminster Architectural Society, the Ministry of Public Building and Works, the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and Westminster School.

2. Plan No. CD.R.0016A attached to this report shows the boundaries of the area approved by the Committee as amended in the light of observations received; a plan at a larger scale (CD.R.0016) showing this area will be displayed.

### 3. CONSULTATIONS

Replies have been received from the Civic Trust, Westminster Society and Westminster School expressing satisfaction with the proposals, and from the under mentioned with comments as follows: =

a. The Greater London Council (commenting orally) would like to see the following additions:

'1. The large building symmetrical to Horseferry Road known as Thames House, the boundary would then run along Thorney Street and would pick up that small portion of Victoria Embankment on the other side of Lambeth Bridge and keep the whole of that section of the Embankment together.

2. The area between Tufton Street and Marsham Street contains little of any interest but would act as a buffer between Smith Square and new development on the other side of Marsham Street. This land is likely to be redeveloped soon and some direct control from the historic buildings aspect may be desirable, especially to the closing of the vista down Dean Trench Street.

3. If any proposal that the Birdcage Walk area might be extended along Lewisham Street to Princes Street were accepted, I would suggest that the boundary of the Precinct area should run to Lewisham Street behind No. 4 Matthew Parker Street, including that building and then along the boundary of the other conservation area to St James's Park.

4. I would suggest also that the boundary of the north-west corner should include Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 13 Charing Cross Road and Nos. 11, 12, 13, 9 and 10 Irving Street and run across the road from No. 13 to the Garrick Theatre.'

b. The Victorian Society are very pleased in principle and add, 'We wonder if, after designating the conservation area, your Council will oppose the demolition of the many fine buildings which are, or may be, affected by the proposals' (in Sir Leslie Martin's study).

c. The Dean and Chapter of Westminster in addition to supporting the proposals also advocate the addition of area (2) in the Greater London Council's observations.

4. COMMENT (Related to the GLC suggestions)

i. It is accepted that the Embankment Garden and the planning of the axis of Lambeth Bridge should be covered by the conservation area.

2. It is considered that planning control over areas immediately adjoining a conservation area is sufficiently strong and that the inclusion of this area, which cannot be justified on its own merits, is unnecessary.

3. In the report on the Birdcage Walk Conservation Area it is suggested that the whole of Old Queen Street should be included and therefore it seems logical and convenient to take in most of the small group of intervening buildings between Matthew Parker Street and Lewisham Street which is suggested by the GLC.

4. As in 2, control over adjoining buildings makes it unnecessary to include those on the west side of the open space between the National Portrait Gallery and the Garrick Theatre.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the officers be authorised to carry out the Statutory Consultations with the Greater London Council and request its comments within two months and, subject to any observations being received within that period to proceed with the Designation of the Government Precinct Conservation Area as shown on Plan CD.CO.0016.

F G WEST

DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

STATUS : FOR GENERAL RELEASE

COMMITTEE : PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

DATE : 30 JUNE 1987

REPORT OF : ACTING DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT : EXTENSION TO GOVERNMENT PRECINCT CONSERVATION  
AREA - REPORT ON CONSULTATION

WARD : VICTORIA

BACKGROUND PAPERS : LIST ATTACHED

## 1. SUMMARY

At its meeting on 24 March 1987 the Planning and Development Committee agreed in principle to the designation of an extension to the Government Precinct Conservation Area, subject to appropriate consultations. These have revealed public interest in a wider extension being designated. Authorisation is now sought to proceed formally with such a designation. The Committee is also asked to note progress made regarding a sub-division of the overall conservation area into more coherent, smaller areas. This will be the subject of a future report.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That authority is given to proceed with the designation of the area shown on Map No. CD/CO/0016 (on display and attached as Figure 2) as part of the Government Precinct Conservation Area under the provisions of Section 277, Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Consultation letters on the proposed extension of the conservation area (shown at Figure w1) were sent to the following organisations, giving them 28 days in which to comment:

Victorian Society  
Westminster Society  
Georgian Group  
Great Smith Street Neighbourhood Group  
English Heritage (Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission)

3.2 Written responses have been received from the following organisations:

Victorian Society - strongly supports the extension. It sees the unique mixture of types and architectural styles of buildings around Great Smith Street as having '...an identity which should be protected from the characterless monstrosities of Victoria and Millbank.' Rather than seeing the area swept away by redevelopment in the future, the Society hopes that conservation area status would lead to more effort being made to enhance and reuse the existing buildings. It also supports a wider designation being made than that proposed to the Committee on 24 March 1987. (This wider area is shown on Figure 3 attached).

English Heritage - suggests that the extension should include all the properties in the block bounded by St Ann's Street, Great Peter Street, Great Smith Street and Abbey Orchard Street.

Westminster Society - welcomes the proposals in principle.

Great Smith Street Neighbourhood Conservation Group - the Secretary of the Group has written to advise that the proposal is welcomed, and that Orchard House and Sanctuary Buildings should be included in the extension. On the east side of Great Smith Street the Group proposed the inclusion of all the buildings between Little Smith Street and Bennet's Yard, being particularly concerned that the Christian Science Garden should be within the conservation area.

Additionally, a resident at Westminster Mansions has written in support, agreeing with the extension proposed by the Great Smith Street Neighbourhood Group, as well as proposing the inclusion of local shops in Marsham Street and Horseferry Road.

3.3 In the light of the above representations further investigations have been carried out in the Great Smith Street area. Consequently, a broader designation - as shown on Figure 2 attached and Map No. CD/CO/0016 on display - is now proposed. This will incorporate the listed 'Orchard House', Sanctuary Buildings (1920, Trehearne and Norman) together with Westminster Mansions and the old Library for the Blind building on the east side of Great Smith Street. All are thought to be of sufficient architectural quality to merit inclusion in the conservation area, and with the buildings on the southern part of the street block can be seen to form a coherent visual grouping.

3.4 It is not proposed that the Abbey Orchard Street Estate should be included in the designation. The design of this (and the Old Pye Street Estate) is considered to be of a distinct architectural character, quite different from that of the Government Precinct area and therefore not appropriate for inclusion in it. The more modified buildings to the south of Great Peter Street (on the east side of Marsham Street) are not proposed for inclusion. The main building of interest here - the Christian Science Church - is already listed and the minor building which neighbour it are not considered to merit conservation area status.

3.5 In considering the proposed extension at its meeting on 24 March 1987, - Committee also agreed to examine the possible sub-division of the existing conservation area, which at present contains several distinct architectural groupings within its boundaries. These range from the grand formality of the major offices of State in Whitehall to the intimate domestic scale seen in the area of Smith Square. A future sub-division of the designation would enable the City Council to present more coherent design arguments, particularly at planning appeals, directly related to the architectural character of each sub-area. Detailed work on such a sub-division is being carried out. An initial appraisal by officers has resulted in the proposed divisions illustrated in Figure 4 attached. Once detailed building analysis has been carried out a further report will be presented to Committee.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

#### Background Papers

1. Letter from Victorian Society, dated 4.3.87.
2. Letter from Victorian Society, dated 14.4.87.
3. Letter from English Heritage, dated 15.4.87.
4. Letter from Westminster Society, dated 7.5.87.



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

STATUS : FOR GENERAL RELEASE

COMMITTEE : PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

DATE : 17 NOVEMBER 1987

REPORT OF : DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

SUBJECT : REDESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT PRECINCT  
CONSERVATION AREA INTO FOUR SMALLER CONSERVATION AREAS

WARD : ST JAMES'S, VICTORIA AND MILLBANK

BACKGROUND PAPERS : LIST ATTACHED

## 1. SUMMARY

At its meeting on 30 June 1987 the Committee agreed to proceed with the designation of an extension to the Government Precinct Conservation Area and noted that officers were investigating the possibility of sub-dividing the existing designation into smaller, more architecturally coherent areas.

The proposed designations will divide the existing diverse townscape area into smaller, more cogent architectural entities, enabling the City Council to create a clearer design and conservation context.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the following four conservation areas be designated:

- i. Trafalgar Square;
- ii. Whitehall;
- iii. Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square, and
- iv. Smith Square.

Under the provisions of Section 277 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 and that officers be instructed to proceed with the necessary advertising of these designations. These are shown on the map number on display and attached as Figure 1.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The existing Government Precinct Conservation Area was designated in 1969 and comprises a small number of areas, urban spaces and building groups which have distinctly different architectural and functional character. This element of variety sets the existing Government Precinct Conservation Area apart from those designates elsewhere in the City which have a very much more uniform architectural or functional character.

## 4. REDESIGNATION

4.1 This diversity of character leads to difficulties when attempting to apply conservation and urban design policies in a logical and consistent manner. In order to overcome this and to give developers, their agents and the public a better guide to the individual design characteristics of the different parts of the present designation the Committee is asked to agree to the following redesignation:

### i. Trafalgar Square

4.2 The character of the area centred upon Trafalgar Square is largely determined by the architectural character of the Square itself and the important buildings surrounding it. Its surrounding buildings were not constructed to a formal layout or plan but rather were developed in a piecemeal manner. All are characterised by the consistent use of stone as their primary facing material and have an essentially classical theme in their elevational design.

4.3 Dating mostly from the 1880's the majority of the buildings which line Northumberland Avenue have an architectural character which gives the street a distinctly Parisian 'boulevard', 'Second Empire' architectural character.

4.4 A third element of the Trafalgar Square area is the formal entrance to St James's park and the Mall marked by the triple archways of Admiralty Arch, and the northern ending of Whitehall where the buildings are generally of a lesser scale than those in Trafalgar Square and Northumberland Avenue. Nevertheless they relate very strongly in design terms to the Square, and in functional terms mirror the rich fusion of civic and commercial uses seen throughout this area.

### iii. Whitehall

4.5 In contrast Whitehall and Parliament Street have an architectural character dominated by Government and State users. This character derives from the presence of a range of buildings and features of major historic and national importance and the ceremonial and public open spaces - all of national renown and each having a particular character of its own.

### iii. Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square

4.6 The grassed expanse of Parliament Square acts as a piazza setting for several of the most famous and important buildings of both Church and State institutions. The Square has a series of major public buildings which have established its present framework. The architecture is dominated by the gothic of the Abbey and the Houses of Parliament and the quality of the townscape emphasised by the viewing opportunities afforded by the open spaces of Broad Sanctuary, Parliament Square itself of the Victoria Tower Gardens.

### iv. Smith Square

4.7 The character of this proposed designation is substantially shaped by the distinctive and singularly attractive groups, comprising Georgian or Georgian Revival domestic buildings which run between Abbey Gardens and Smith Square. These streets share a character - quite at variance with the remainder of the present Grosvenor Precinct designation, and their function remains overwhelmingly residential.

4.8 Complementing this is a group of very much larger, early twentieth century, mainly commercial buildings fronting onto Millbank.

## 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Redesignation of a conservation area need not involve public consultation of the type normally undertaken with new areas or extensions. It will be sufficient to give notice to the Secretary of State and to give notice of the proposal in the London Gazette and a local newspaper (as required by Section 227(6) and 227(7) of the Town and Country Planning



Act 1971).

5.2 A redesignation of this kind should not result in any addition of the workload of the Department. It should have no effect on applicants except to make clear the context in which their development should be set.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Background Papers

1. Report to Planning and Development Committee of 30 June 1987 entitled 'Extension to Government Precinct Area - Report on Consultation'.



City of Westminster

# Executive Summary and Recommendations

Cabinet Member Report

Date: 17 September 2008

Subject: Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area Audit and Boundary Review

National guidance and advice places the responsibility on the City Council to produce detailed appraisals of each of its 55 conservation areas and to consider the designation of further ones. This report seeks agreement for the adoption of the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area Audit as a Supplementary Planning Document. Once agreed, stakeholders will be notified and a statement of adoption will be published on the Council website. An extension to the area is also proposed and this report also seeks agreement to formally designate this extension.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member for Built Environment resolves to adopt the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area Audit (attached at Appendix 5) as a Supplementary Planning Document.

1. That the Cabinet Member for Built Environment resolves to agree the designation of the extension to the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Conservation Area to include No. 4 Matthew Parker Street, as detailed in the report and map at Appendix 4.
2. That the Director of Planning and City Development be authorised to publish a notice of the designation, specifying its effects, in the London Gazette and at least one local newspaper circulating in the area: to give notice to the Secretary of State and English Heritage and to take any such steps as may be necessary to implement the designations.

Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Built Environment

Date: 17 September 2008

Classification: For General Release

Title of Report: Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area Audit – Adoption as Supplementary Planning Document and Designation of Boundary Extension

Report of: The Director of Planning and City Development



Wards involved: St James's

Policy context: Under section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Local Authorities have a duty to review their conservation areas from time to time and consider whether further designation or extension of areas is called for. PPG15 interprets this responsibility advising local authorities to periodically review existing conservation areas and their boundaries.

Financial summary: No financial implications

Report Author: Jane Hamilton

Contact details: Jane Hamilton

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## 1 Background Information

1.1 The City Council's is undertaking an ongoing and comprehensive review of its 55 conservation areas. This review is a statutory duty and involves consideration of conservation area boundaries and preparation of detailed conservation area appraisal (audit) for each area.

1.2 The draft Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area Audit and boundary review was agreed for consultation purposes on 31st March 2008 and has since been through public consultation.

1.3 The SPD documents form an appendix to the audit and were also the subject of consultation. These include a statement of consultation and sustainability appraisal, as required by the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

## 2 Detail

### Public Consultation

2.1 Public consultation was undertaken in various phases and included letters, site notices, a public meeting and electronic consultation. Prior to commencing the draft documents, and as required by the SPD process, a period of community involvement was undertaken in which general comments from amenity societies, residents and other interested parties were invited to help shape the audit at the earliest stage. Letters were sent to local and national amenity societies, as well as major local landholders and institutions in the area. In addition, information on the forthcoming programme of conservation area audits was made available on the Westminster website.

2.2 Following adoption of the draft document, the main public consultation on both the audit and its sustainability appraisal took place from April to May 2008. This included exhibitions at both the MyWestminster Forums on 24 April 2008 and 6 May 2008. Copies of the document were made available as part of the exhibition along with comments sheets. The meeting was advertised on site notices, on Westminster's website and by writing to local organisations and individuals. A list of attendees and note of the forums is attached at Appendix 2. A letter dated 3 April 2008 invited all interested parties to comment

on the audit. Ward Councillors were also notified. A list of consultees can be found at Appendix 1. The draft document has also been available to download electronically from the Westminster website since April 2008.

## Main Comments Received

2.3 Feedback from the Area Forums was generally positive, with the production of the audit welcomed in principle. Attendees expressed interest in the implementation of the audit and actions the Council would take to overcome the access and traffic flow problems around Parliament Square. There was also concern raised with regards to tall buildings and their effect on views into and out of the conservation area as well as interest in progress of the evolving 'World Squares for All' scheme.

2.4 In addition to the meeting, six written consultation responses were received from Montagu Evans LLP on behalf of Transport for London, the DCLG, English Heritage, the Westminster Society, Hal Moggridge and the Thorney Island Society. These, in principle, expressed support for the audit but also provided detailed comments and suggestions for amendment, which have led to numerous changes to the document.

2.5 Main comments from both the Thorney Island Society and Hal Moggridge related to the significance of Parliament Square and most specifically the 1950s Grey Wornum landscape scheme for the central part of the Square, which they felt was not adequately considered in the audit. Transport for London and the Westminster Society, however, felt that the audit focused overly on the symbolic importance of the Square at the heart of the conservation area and gave too little consideration to the negative impact of traffic on the Square. The DCLG also formally objected to the identification of the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre as an Unlisted Building of Merit.

2.6 Full details of the council's detailed response to these and all other comments can be found in the table at Appendix 3.

2.7 Regarding the proposed extension to the conservation area: support was received from The Thorney Island Society but no further comments or objections were received. It is considered that the building is of architectural and historic interest and should therefore be within a conservation area. Should this recommendation be agreed, the audit will be updated prior to publication with all maps showing the new boundaries. A report on the proposed extension can be found at Appendix 4.

## 3 Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Expenditure costs will be met from existing revenue budgets.

## 4. Legal Implications

4.1 Under Section 69 (1)(a) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990 every local authority "shall from time to time determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' interprets this responsibility by advising local authorities to periodically review existing conservation areas and their boundaries.

## 5. Outstanding Issues



5.1 There are no other outstanding issues.

## 6. Consultation

6.1 A comprehensive programme of consultation has been undertaken, as detailed above.

## 7. Crime and Disorder Act 1998

7.1 The audit does not have any implications Under Section 17 of the Act, a Local Authority has a duty “to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do it all reasonable can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area”.

## 8. Health and Safety Issues

8.1 It is not considered that this report raises any health and safety issues.

## 9. Human Rights Act 1998

9.1 The Human Rights Act came into force in England on 2 October 2000. It gives teeth to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which was ratified by the UK in 1951 and has been in force since 1953. The Act confers the direct protection of English law in relation to Convention rights. For the purposes of the role of a local planning authority the relevant provisions are: Article 2 - right to life, Article 6 – right to a fair hearing, Article 8 - right to respect for private and family life, Article 14 – prohibition of discrimination and Article 1 of the First Protocol - protection of property.

## 10. Reason(s) for Decision(s)

10.1 It is considered that the audit will provide a sound basis for the future stewardship of the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area, meeting the statutory requirements placed on the Council. The audit has been amended as a result of the consultation process and to take into account comments received.

10.2 The proposed extension to the conservation area is also considered to be of architectural and historic interest and its designation will ensure its preservation and enhancement.

## Background Papers

1 Letters from Montagu Evans LLP on behalf of Transport for London, Atisreal on behalf of DCLG, English Heritage, the Westminster Society, Hal Moggridge and the Thorney Island Society

## APPENDIX 1: List of consultees

Title	First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Organisation
Ms	Susan	Denyer		ICOMOS UK
Mr	Ken	Bean	Planning & Housing Division	Government Office for London
Mr	Edmund	Bird	Heritage Advisor	Design for London

Mr	Terry	Clark	Property Services Manager	CityWest Homes
Mr	Ian	Mawson		Citywest Homes
Mr	Mike	Dunn	Central & West London Team	English Heritage
Ms	Camilla	Ween	Interim Head of Land Use Planning, Borough Partnerships	Transport for London
Mr	Paul	Houston		Westminster Property Owners Association
Ms	Francine	Reddaway		Westminster Property Owners Association
Mr	Nick	Dudman	Property Director	The Peabody Trust
Mr	John	McQuaid	Facilities Manager	The Peabody Trust
Mr	Steven	Peter	Diocesan Estates Surveyor	The Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster
Mr	Steve	Melligan	Planning & Development Manager	The Church Commissioners
Ms	Elsbeth	Miller	Head of Central London Estates	The Crown Estate
Mr	Philip	Davies		English Heritage
Mr	Matthew	Salcombe	Deputy Secretary	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
			Casework Advisor	Ancient Monuments Society
Ms	Kathryn	Ferry		The Victorian Society
Ms		Brown	Case Officer for Westminster	The Georgian Group
Ms	Eva		Case Officer	20th Century Society
Mr	Peter	Handley		The Westminster Society
Mr	Barry	Henderson	Chairman	The Westminster Society
Miss	June	Stubbs		The Thorney Island Society
Mr	Micheal	Bird	Portfolios Director	Land Securities
	Ms	Collette	O'Shea	Land Securities
Ms	Lisa	Webb		Moseley and Webb
			Director of Parliamentary Estates	Parliamentary Estates Directorate
Mr	Adam	Watrobski	Conservation Architect	Parliamentary Estates Directorate
Ms	Sue	Hannah		The South Westminster Community Network and Steering Group
Ms	Virginia	Crowe	Chariman	Ashley Gardens Residents Association

Ms	Rowena	Wilson	Vice Chairman	Ashley Gardens Residents Association
Ms	Sandra	Rennie	Resident	Ashley Gardens, Ambrosden Avenue
Mr	Paul	Kurgo	Resident	Ashley Gardens, Emery Hill Street
Mr	Brian	Wadsworth	Resident	Ashley Gardens, Emery Hill Street
Ms	Jane	Mardell	Resident	Ashley Gardens, Ambrosden Avenue
Ms	Elizabeth	Frimston	Resident	Morpeth Mansions
Mr	Jonathan	Gibbs	Resident	Morpeth Mansions
Mr	Stephen	Braddock	Resident	1-3 Morpeth Terrace
Ms	Carole	Philips	Resident	1-3 Morpeth Terrace
Mrs	Gilda	Shipp	Resident	Ashley Court
Ms	Margo	Chalcrow	Resident	Cardinal Mansions
Mr	John	Corbett	Resident	Carlisle Mansions
Sir	Peter	Heap	Resident	Carlisle Mansions
Mr	Peter	MacDonald Eggers	Resident	Carlisle Mansions
Mr	David	Jacob	Resident	Carlisle Mansions
Ms	Agnes	Ellis	Resident	1-3 Carlisle Place
Mr	John	Maynard		
Mr	Pascal	Bates	Resident	Evelyn Mansions
Mr	John	Miller	Resident	Evelyn Mansions
	Michael	Seed		Westminster Cathedral
	Mark	Langham		Westminster Cathedral
Cllr		Nicoll		
Cllr	Danny	Chalkley		
Cllr	Duncan	Sandys		
Cllr	Steve	Summers		
Cllr	Louise	Hyams		
Cllr	Tim	Mitchell		
Mr	Tony	Benton		
Mr	Graham	King		
Ms	Rebecca	Cloke	Parks Project Manager	WCC Parks
	Martin	Low	Director of Transportation	Highways
Mr	Don	Murchie		
Mr	Fergus	Coleman		
Ms	Vivienne	Lukey		
Mr	Mark	Banks		
Ms	Debbie	McMullen	Special Development Strategy Team	Greater London Authority



Mr	Giles	Dolphin	Planning Decisions Unit	Greater London Authority
Ms	Linda	Heighton		London Development Agency
	Barry	Smith		Policy
	Godfrey	Woods		South Area Planning Team
	Paul	Akers		Trees and Landscape
Mr	Alan	Wharton	Property Strategy Manager	Corporate Property Division
Sister	Ellen	Flynn		Passage Day Centre
				Franciscan Friars of the Atonement
Mr	Neil	McLaughlan	Headmaster	Westminster Cathedral Choir School
Mr	J	O'Neill	Headteacher	St Vincent de Paul Primary School
Mr	Colin	Buttery	Director	Royal Parks
			Chairman	The Garden History Society
Mr	Ian	Kennaway		London Historic Parks & Gardens Trust
Mr	Michael	Copeman	Team Leader: Conservation and Urban Design	London Borough Of Lambeth
Mr	Simon	Bevan	Planning and Transport Policy Manager	London Borough of Southwark
Mr	Chris	Silcock	Bursar	Westminster School
Mr	John	Burton	Surveyor of Fabric to Westminster Abbey	Westminster Abbey
				QEII Conference Centre
			Manager	Westminster Arms
Mr	Phil	Ackers	Facilities Manager	Institution of Civil Engineers
				Institution of Chartered Surveyors
			Headteacher	St Matthews CE Primary School
				St Matthew's Church
				City of Westminster Archive Centre
Ms	Anna	Covelli		Cross River Partnership
Mr	Jonathon	Milton	Headteacher	Westminster Abbey Choir School
Mr	Robert	O'Hara		Robert O'Hara Architects
	Ceciel	Delarue	Project Manager: Squares	Greater London Authority
Mr	Graham	Nash		Transport for London

## APPENDIX 2: Consultation Participants

## South Area Forum Attendees

### Noted Attendees:

1. Ms Virginia Crowe
2. Ms Margaret LeFoe
3. Ms Diana Hall
4. David Summerscale
5. Ian Diamond
6. Derek Howard Sudd
7. Sir Peter Heap
8. Barry Henderson

### West End Area Forum: Noted Attendees

1. Verina Glaessner
2. Ian Benson
3. Liz Frimston
4. June Stubbs

### Written responses received from:

Thorney Island Society  
English Heritage  
Westminster Society  
Hal Moggridge  
Monagu Evans on behalf of Transport for London  
Atisreal on behalf of DCLG

## II Statutory List of Listed Buildings

There is a particularly rich mix of listed buildings and structures within the Parliament Square Conservation Area, as set out in the audit. There are 83 in total, of which 33 are listed Grade I, five are listed Grade II\* and 45 are listed Grade II. A list of listed buildings is set out below. List descriptions for Grade I buildings are included in the following pages.

<b>Building</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Westminster Abbey, Broad Sanctuary	I
Little Cloisters, 2A Broad Sanctuary	II
Little Cloisters, 2B Broad Sanctuary	II
Lamp standards - 10 - Central Green of Deans Yard, Broad Sanctuary	II
Lamp standards - 3 - Outside No. 5A and Church House, Broad Sanctuary	II
Ashburnham House, Little Deans Yard, Broad Sanctuary	I
Statues - 4 - Apostles - Abbey Garden, Broad Sanctuary	II
Wall to Abbey Precinct, Broad Sanctuary	I
Railings to Abbey Precinct, Broad Sanctuary	II
St Faiths Chapel, Great Cloisters, Broad Sanctuary	I
Chapter House, Great Cloisters, Broad Sanctuary	I
The Parlour, Great Cloisters, Broad Sanctuary	I
1 The Cloisters, Great Cloisters, Broad Sanctuary	I
2 The Cloisters, Great Cloisters, Broad Sanctuary	I
Dark Cloisters, Great Cloisters, Broad Sanctuary	I
Lamp standards - 5, Broad Sanctuary	II
1 Little Deans Yard	II
2 Little Deans Yard	I
3 Little Deans Yard	I
4 Little Deans Yard	I
Staircase to doorway and gate to school, Little Deans Yard	I
Turle's House, Little Deans Yard	II
The Deanery and Sub-Deanery, Broad Sanctuary	I
1 Deans Yard	II



3 Deans Yard	II
3A Deans Yard	II
3B Deans Yard	II
4 Deans Yard	II
5A Deans Yard	II
6 Deans Yard	II
Westminster School 17 Deans Yard	I
18 Deans Yard	I
19 Deans Yard	I
19A Deans Yard	I
20 Deans Yard	I
21 Deans Yard	I
Westminster Abbey Choir School, Deans Yard	II
Church House, Deans Yard	II
1, Abbey Garden	I
Park House 22-30 Great Smith Street	II
1 Little Cloisters	I
2 Little Cloisters	I
3 Little Cloisters	I
4 Little Cloisters	I
5 Little Cloisters	I
7 Little Cloisters	I
11 Great George Street	II*
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, 12 Great George Street	II
Institute of Civil Engineers Great George Street	II
Statue - Mrs E Pankhurst - Victoria Tower Gardens, Millbank	II
Wall - Embankment - Victoria Tower Gardens, Millbank	II
Victoria Tower Lodge and Gates to Black Rod's Garden, Millbank	I
Statues - Burghers of Calais - Victoria Tower Gardens, Millbank	I
Fountain - Buxton Memorial - Victoria Tower Gardens, Millbank	II
7 Old Palace Yard	II*

Jewel Tower, Old Palace Yard	I
Statue - Richard I Old Palace Yard	II
Statue - George V Old Palace Yard	II
Houses of Parliament, Parliament Square	I
St Margaret's Church, Parliament Square	I
Railings, Gates, Piers to New Palace Yard, Parliament Square	I
Lamp standards - 14 - To Carriage Drive - New Palace Yard Parliament Square	II
Statue - Oliver Cromwell, Parliament Square	II
Railings, Obelisks, Bollards - St Margaret's Church	II
Lamp standards - 6 -St Margaret's Church	II
Middlesex Guildhall	II*
Statue - Sir Robert Peel	II
Statue - Disraeli	II
Statue - Abraham Lincoln	II
Statue - George Canning	II
Statue - Edward Stanley	II
Statue - Viscount Palmerston	II
Statue - Field Marshall Smuts	II
Methodist Central Hall/Central Buildings	II*
8 Storeys Gate	II
4 The Sanctuary	II
7 The Sanctuary	II
8 The Sanctuary	II
1-3 The Sanctuary	II
4-8 The Sanctuary	II
Memorial - Crimea War and Indian Mutiny, The Sanctuary	II
Victoria Embankment Wall, Victoria Embankment	II
Westminster Bridge, Victoria Embankment	II*

TQ 3079 NW and  
SW 92/57  
101/1  
24.2.58  
GV

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

BROAD SANCTUARY SW1

**Westminster Abbey** (The Collegiate Church of St Peter) (Formerly listed under General)

I

Abbey church. Edward the Confessor's church of c.1050-65, rebuilding begun by Henry III, 1245; the chancel, transepts and 5 bays of nave completed by 1269; new nave and west front 1375-1400 by Henry Yevele master mason, completed 1506, excluding the upper part of the west towers; Henry VII Chapel begun as new Lady Chapel 1503, completed as Chantry chapel c.1512, probably by Robert and William Virtue; the west towers 1735-40 by Hawksmoor; major C18 and C19 restorations by Wren, Henry Keene, James Wyatt, Benjamin Wyatt, Blore, Sir George Gilbert Scott and J. C. Pearson, as Surveyors to the Fabric; "anti-scrape" preservation introduced by Micklethwaite and Lethaby. Reigate stone with Huddleston stone for Henry VII's Chapel. Geometrical gothic, exceptionally French in plan with aisled, 11-bay nave, transepts and chancel with ambulatory and radiating chapels, and French in the height of the vault with its 2 tiers of flying buttresses. Specifically English in the distinguishing feature of a full gallery instead of a triforium and in the way in which Yevele's nave respectfully continues the style of the Henry III work. Yevele's Perpendicular appears on the west front and porch, very similar to his Westminster Hall design. Henry VII's Chapel has boldly modelled Late Perpendicular detailing. The west towers have Hawksmoor's individual blending of Gothic verticality with Baroque details. Interior has Purbeck marble piers and shafting; quadripartite vaulting with ridge rib and bosses; transverse and tierceron ribs introduced in nave, with Perpendicular details to the bosses in Yevele's work. Stained glass: a few reset C13 fragments, otherwise C15/C16; C18, C19 and C20; cosmati pavements in feretory and Presbytery, etc. Exceptional furnishing and unique collection of monuments and sculpture, etc. The Abbey is the English St Denis and Reims in one, a unique embodiment of church, state and crown, and national mausoleum.

R. C. H. M.

W. R. Lethaby 1906 and 1923 London. Vol I; N Pevsner



TQ 3079 SW	CITY OF WESTMINSTER	BROAD SANCTUARY SW1(Abbey precinct and Westminster School)
101/12		
24.2.58		<b>No. 18 Dean's Yard</b>

G.V.	I
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School house with archway through to Little Dean's Yard. Later C.14 origin, part of the west range of the Abbey buildings and originally Bailiff's Guest House, taken over by the Grammar School in 1461 with subsequent alterations and much rebuilding in 1886 probably by T.G. Jackson(?). Stone rubble with ashlar dressings, slate roof. Tudor-Gothicised in 1886. 3 storeys. 8 windows wide, the left hand entrance "tower" bay broader and taller. Late C.14 archway to left with tierceron vault leads through to Little Dean's Yard; to its right a pointed arched doorway with drip mould altered as 2—light window. 2 and 3-light mullioned casement windows with cusped heads to lights.; The "tower" has 1st floor oriel with pierced-work parapet. The elevation is" finished off with crenellated parapet, the taller section of the "tower" with a corner polygonal turret. Similar features to rear elevation to Little Dean's Yard.

TQ 3079 SW	CITY OF WESTMINSTER	BROAD SANCTUARY SW1(Abbey precinct and Westminster School)
101/5		
24.2.58		<b>The Great Cloisters</b> , including St Faith's Chapel, The Chapter House, The Parlour, Nos 1 and 2 ' The Cloisters, The Dark Cloisters and Dormitory with the Chapel of St Dunstan ('School' and Busby Library
9.1.70		
G.V.	I	

Abbey precinct buildings, partly in school use. C.11 and C.12 remains; Henry III's mid C.13 rebuild; C.14 and C.16 work; and C.17 to C.19 alterations and restorations for the Collegiate Church and School, with war damage repair/rebuilding. Principally stone with Reigate stone and Purbeck marble for C.13/C.14 work, brick for some of C.17 and later alterations; slate, tile and leaded roofs. The Cloister begun c.1245-50 in north-east - corner-, contemporary with the church, completed in 1366 with the-construction of the south and west walls; restored by Blore and Scott. Quadripartite vaults for the last phase; blind arcading to walls and traceried windows to the garth between buttresses. St. Faith's Chapel abuts the south transept and was built c.1250, 2 bays to west and one to east, very fine blank arcading and rib-vaults with head-corbels; a gallery on tunnel vault at west end formerly linked with the Dormitory over the Chapter House vestibule and the night stair in the south transept. The Chapter House of c.1245-53 (restored by Scott) opens off the east Cloister walk via inner and outer vestibules; very pure Geometrical Gothic, built on an octagonal plan, over crypt, with central cluster-shaft pier carrying rib-vault (rebuilt by Scott); innovatory, large 4-light, quatrefoiled and foiled-circle-crowned windows (cf the nave at Amiens and the virtually contemporary Sainte Chapelle); flying buttresses

added C14; leaded. tent-lantern roof on iron frame by Scott; mid C13 tiled pavement ; blank, Purbeck shafted, arcading with the remains of mid C14 painting; Clayton and Bell glass. Nos. 1 and 2 The Cloisters on the south side of the south Cloister walk running west through to Dean's Yard, incorporate from east to west, remains of the C.II Abbey Refectory, the Abbey Song School of c.1192, and the north end of the C.14 Cellarer's Building; sections of the north and east walls of the Refectory backing the south Cloister walk are exposed south to the garden of Ashburnham House, Little Dean's Yard q.v.; the lower part of the wall of C.II stonemasonry with arcading, the upper part early C.14 with tall, blocked, transomed Y-traceried windows. To the west Nos. 1 and 2 the Cloisters flank the south side of the Parlour, now the passage continuing the south Cloister walk into Dean's Yard: of later C.14 build, in 2 parts each of 2 bays with tierceron vaults; above, what was probably the Abbot's Camera; rubble walls stone dressed with gable end tiled roof to eastern half with partly original windows, 2 to north and one in east gable end; the western half much rebuilt C.18/C.19 in upper parts, has front to Dean's Yard with 3 storey crenellated tower over Parlour entrance, extending to south with lower 3-storey, 3-window wide range: the northern part of the Cellarer's Building (see also No. 20 Dean's Yard, Broad Sanctuary); large shafted 2 centred arched doorway, with C. 18 gate, to the Parlour, large 2-light Y-tracery window above and 2 and 3 light mullioned windows to right. The Dormitory range, terminating in remains of the Reredorter, lies south of the Chapter House flanked initially by part of the east Cloister walk continued by the Dark Cloister. The Dormitory retains its later C.II vaulted undercroft with the Pyx Chapel at the north end and the remainder used as a Museum; at the north end of the range the C.I3 Day-stairs give access, off the south east corner of the Cloister, to the Chapter Library fitted out c.1620 like a college library with presses with some strapwork cresting, the heavy, plain, hammerbeam roof probably C.14. The rest of the dormitory range at 1st floor level is now occupied by "School" of Westminster School, refaced in brick by Benjamin Wyatt in 1814 and largely rebuilt after war damage; it nevertheless incorporates C.II features with Norman doorway in west wall and window remains in east wall; at the south end and partly incorporating remains of the Reredorter, is the Busby Library of c.1655-60, rebuilt after war damage (for staircase and gateway to "School" and Busby Library, see Little Dean's Yard); on the east side of the Dormitory projects the early C.16 St. Dunstan's Chapel above which is a chamber with square headed Perpendicular windows and a C.18 Venetian window; the outer east wall of the Dormitory is partially exposed inside the adjoining school gymnasium with blocked medieval windows of different shapes and date. The Dark Cloister is the vaulted passage between the surviving walls of the Refectory and the Dormitory, C.II contiguous with a late C.14 wall on the west side with a long timber window of 20 mullioned lights, debouching into Little Dean's Yard.

R.C.H.M.

London vol I, N Pevsner

TQ 3079 SW  
101/9

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

BROAD SANCTUARY SW1(Abbey  
precinct and Westminster School)

24.2.58  
(excluding  
Chapel) 9.1.70  
(Chapel only)

Little Cloisters: Lodgings Nos 1, 2, 2A,  
2B and 4 to 7 consec. with the Clerk of  
the Works Office and the remains of the  
Chapel of St Catherine.

G.V.

I

Cloister, lodgings and remains of Infirmary chapel. Late C.14 Farmery cloister on site of C.12 Infirmary with remains of c.1170 Chapel of St. Katherine, the cloister arcade of c.1680-81 and the lodgings and offices later C.17 rebuilds incorporating C.14 masonry, and badly damaged in World War II and considerably rebuilt above ground floors. Stone, C.17 and C.20 brickwork, tiled roofs. The Farmery cloister is approached by a tunnel vaulted C.11 passage from the Dark Cloister. The c.1680-81 arcade has ashlar piers and segmental arches with original wrought iron railings and good wrought iron gate to garth. The Chapel of St. Katherine is the major surviving part of the Infirmary east of the cloister with a c.1371-72, clustered shaft, 2-centred arched doorway off the east walk into the ruins of the chapel (standing in the gardens of the lodgings) with nave and aisles of which the south arcade and part of the south aisle wall with Norman windows survive. The lodgings, Nos. 1 and 2, 2A, 2B in the north range and Nos. 6, 7 and 8 in the south, incorporate C.14 stonework to ground floor giving on to cloister and to east, with a fragment of the C.11 east wall of the Reredorter in the south west corner; the Clerk of Works Office is in the C.14 Chamberlain's store and No. 5 includes the former Infirmary's Hall. Late C.17 and architraved doorways into cloister. Upper floor and roofs with pedimented dormers, rebuilt post-war in late C.17 manner with heavy wooden eaves cornice. No. 4, above medieval foundations, essentially later C.17; dark red brick, tiled gable and roof. L plan. 3 storeys and basement. 3 window wide north wing; south front 5 windows wide to Abbey Garden; recessed glazing bar sashes under flat gauged arches; interior retains panelling and cornices with closed string, turned baluster staircase (No. 3 lodging rebuilt after war damage). See also Precinct Wall entry.

R.C.H.M.

London Voll; N Pevsner



TQ 3079 NW  
and SW

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

PARLIAMENT SQUARE, SW1

The Palace of Westminster

Qo/co;ioi/7 ;  
(east side)

### 5.2.70 Houses of Parliament,

G.V.

I

Houses of Parliament with the surviving parts of the Palace of Westminster. Westminster Hall 1097-99, remodelled 1394-1401 by Henry Yevele with Hugh Herland, carpenter; St Stephen's Chapel "crypt", probably c.1292-97 and c.1320; St Stephen's Cloister and chantry chapel 1526-29 (considerably restored after World War II bomb damage; Houses of Parliament (the New Palace of Westminster). 1835-60 by Sir Charles Barry with detailing, interior decoration and Furnishings by A W N Pugin; offices against side of Westminster Hall, 1888 by J L Pearson; House of Commons and Lobby rebuilt after World War II bombing. Stone with slate roofs and galvanised cast iron plate roofs to Barry's work which also has an internal fireproof construction of iron joists and brick jack-arches. Cruciform, axial spine plan and massing by Barry combining symmetry on the river front terrace with the asymmetry of the major vertical accents: Victoria Tower, Big Ben and the central fleche and turrets above the roof line. Pugin's particular Contribution the Perpendicular Gothic detailing of rhythmic buttresses and bay windows, the close panelling with open and blind tracery and the wealth of sculpture, carved crockets, pinnacles and finials. Great vaulted -Royal— Entrance at foot of Victoria Tower; Lords entrance with buttressed, pinnacled porch in centre of Old Palace Yard range; St Stephen's Po'fc gatehouse across south end of Westminster Hall (giving access to cross-axis of Plan; north entrance to Westminster Hall with great window above and crocketed finialed gable flanked by square battlemented towers (restored 1820); 3 gateways in E M Barry's cloister-arcade to east range of New Palace Yard terminating in virtually free-standing clock tower of Big Ben. Perpendicular fenestration with shallow oriels. The riverside terrace has cast iron ornamental lamps on the buttress-piers of the Embankment wall. Interiors: Westminster Hall has vast hammerbeam roof of exceptionally early date and scale and outstanding late C14 figure sculpture flanking dais arch; St Stephen's Chapel "crypt". though much restored, retains perhaps the earliest surviving lierne vault; Pugin's interiors are the best preserved and most complete example of the quality and ideals of his secular decoration including all details and furnishings and are combined with a complete programme of mid C19 "and early C20 wall paintings;" (Loose items of furniture;. not covered by listing.) The Houses of Parliament; M H Port  
R C H M  
History of the King's Works  
Survey of London: Vol X

## **No. 7 OLD PALACE YARD** (including former no. 6) (formerly listed under nos. 6 and 7)

Grade I

Ref: TQ 3079 SW 101/10

Pair of town houses. C1754-6, built as residences and offices of Clerks of the Parliaments, with alterations of 1793-4. Original design traditionally attributed to John Vardy, the design has been identified with an elevation in a folio of drawings associated with Isaac Ware and other Office of Works architects. 1793-4 alterations now attributed to Sir John Soane. Portland stone front, left side rendered, brown brick to other elevations with patches of stock brick. Slate roof with rendered chimneys. Astylar Palladian elevation with a unified composition. 3 storeys, basement and dormered attic. 7 windows wide with 3-window pedimented centre break. Paired central doorways, one now a window. Ground floor windows and doors all semicircular arched and set in similarly arched recesses with impost band creating blind arcade effect. Piano nobile 1st floor has recessed glazing bar sashes in architrave surrounds, those to centre break with pediments and blind balusters below sills. Square 2nd floor windows. Oculus in pediment. Lead rainwater heads. The ground floor is rusticated with plat band over. Bracketed cornice and pediment, blocking course. Wrought iron area railings with urn finial standards, probably C20 replacements. Interior has vaulted vestibule, attributed to Soane, with lions' head masks as corbels. Semi-circular fanlight and double doors. Further vaulted passage behind with paired lions' head masks and circular plaque with head of Medusa and acanthus leaves. Late CIS well staircase to right hand side with 2 iron balusters to each step and mahogany handrail. Left hand staircase identical except for 1st to 2nd floor flight which retains original 1750s staircase with turned balusters and column newel posts. Basement has quadripartite vault with tooled impost blocks. Ground floor right room has mid C18 panelling with dado rail and marble fireplace with wooden ovolo moulding and blank panel. Cornice with ovolo moulding. 6 panelled door. Ground floor rear right room has late C18 marble fireplace with four-leaved square paterae. Similar cornice with square paterae. Ground floor rear left room has late CIS marble fireplace with triglyph frieze and panel with wreath, 2 crossed staffs and flowers. Moulded cornice. Cambered alcove. First floor front right room has Late CIS marble fireplace with triglyph frieze, panel with urn and oval paterae and wheat ear drops. Mid CIS modillion cornice and ovolo moulding. Rear right room has late C18 marble fireplace with oval medallions, leaves and pilasters. Mid-CIS dado panelling and ovolo moulding. Circular vestibule with curved late CIS 6 panelled door, curved end double doors with fanlight. Front left room has late CIS marble fireplace, cornice with triglyphs and medallions with 2 figures. Double door. Rear left room has late CIS stone fireplace with fluted pilasters, triglyph frieze, panel depicting seated Britannia leaning against a lion and greeting heroic youth laden with baggage and three-masted ship in the background. Cupid to left leans against wheat stack. Cupid to right with barrel. Cornice of roundels and anthemions. 6 panelled door with surround of 6-petalled flowers. Second floor has 6 plain marble fireplaces.

(History of the Kings' Works, vol v; Howard Colvin ed. Catalogue of British Drawings for Architecture etc. in American collections; John Harris.

## **The Jewel House (or Tower) of the Palace of Westminster**

Grade I G.V.

Ref TQ 3079 SW 101/11 5.2.70

Royal Treasure House or repository forming the south west corner of the former Privy Palace. 1364-66, by Henry Yevele, with windows and parapet renewed 1718-19. Principally stone rubble with Portland stone dressed windows. L plan tower, with north polygonal stair turret. 3 storeys. Entrance in re-entrant angle. Round arched windows in the Hugh May (Windsor) or Vanbrugh manner. Interior has tierceron vaults in basement similar to those of the former Cellarer's Building No. 20 Dean's Yard, Broad Sanctuary, q.v. 1st floor has C.17 brick vaulted strong room with iron door dated 1621.

History of the King's Works; Howard Colvin ed.

Archaeological Journal, 1964

## CITY OF WESTMINSTER

### BROAD SANCTUARY, SW1 (ABBEY PRECINCT AND WESTMINSTER SCHOOL)

#### **Ashburnham House**

#### **Grade I**

Substantial town house: Commonwealth, shortly before 1662; attributed to John Webb; partial rebuild and refacing of the later C.14 Prior's Lodging of which the masonry structure and the kitchen and hall walls are incorporated; west wing added 1910. Red brick C.17 facing to the C.14 rubble walls, tiled hipped roof. 3 storeys. 7 windows wide grouped as 5-window centre with 2—window projecting wings. Central square headed doorway in plain rusticated surround with panelled door and fanlight; semicircular arched doorway to right hand east wing. Recessed glazing bar sashes under flat brick arches. Stone plat bands to each floor and stone cornice below Portland stone parapet with terracotta urns. Internally the plan is not symmetrical because of need to accommodate the medieval work partly exposed on the west side and in kitchen; of the fine C.17 interior the most striking feature is the staircase rising approximately on square plan in spacious open well top lit by a large lantern and dome, very ingeniously adapting the irregularities of the site: the closed string stair with substantial baluster and panelled newels rises in 4 irregular flights between landings, the upper part of panelled walls articulated by fluted Ionic pilasters with attached Ionic columns and free standing column at head of stairs; richly stuccoed ceiling with scrolls and flower-enriched garland to large oval opening into lantern clerestory with 4 windows and balustrade with dies surmounted by groups of 3 slender columns carrying cornice with rich garland beneath shallow dome - a lantern gallery treatment reminiscent of Francois Mansart and unique in Britain for its date; heavily carved doorcases with segmental pediments and rich acanthus scrolls; the main 1st floor room also has a stucco ceiling with oval garlanded centre at right angle to the facade. For the exposed remains of the Refectory in the garden see the Great Cloisters, Broad Sanctuary.

R.C.H.M.

London Voll, N Pevsner

Dictionary of British Architects; Howard Colvin.



TQ 3079 SW CITY OF WESTMINSTER LITTLE DEAN'S YARD,  
SW1

101/13

See under Broad Sanctuary, SW1.

### **No. 17 Dean's Yard**

Grade I

Ref 101/17 TQ 3079 SW

Westminster School headmaster's house. Late C.18 rebuild of monastic-school buildings. Yellow stock brick, slate roof. 3 storeys, basement and dormered attic. 4 windows wide with 2 blind windows flanking left hand tripartite window. Entrance to left with panelled door and blind "side lights" framed by architrave pilaster strips with roundel capping blocks, moulded cornice doorhead and semicircular fanlight overall with delicate radial glazing pattern; small doorway with fanlight adjoining. Recessed glazing bar sashes under flat gauged arches, stone sills. Parapet with stone coping. Cast iron geometric pattern balcony across 1st floor. Cast iron area railings with urn finials, flanking lamp brackets and link extinguishers. Interior retains most of original mouldings, cornices etc., and good original geometric staircase with wrought iron balustrade.

R.C.H.M.

Westminster School; L.E. Tanner.

### **No. 18 Dean's Yard**

C.14th, Grade I

Ref. 101/12 – TQ3079SW

School house with archway through to Little Dean's Yard. Later C.14 origin, part of the west range of the Abbey buildings and originally Bailiff's Guest House, taken over by the Grammar School in 1461 with subsequent alterations and much rebuilding in 1886 probably by T.G. Jackson(?). Stone rubble with ashlar dressings, slate roof. Tudor-Gothicised in 1886. 3 storeys. 8 windows wide, the left hand entrance "tower" bay broader and taller. Late C.14 archway to left with tierceron vault leads through to Little Dean's Yard; to its right a pointed arched doorway with drip mould altered as 2—light window. 2 and 3-light mullioned casement windows with cusped heads to lights.; The "tower" has 1st floor oriel with pierced-work parapet. The elevation is finished off with crenellated parapet, the taller section of the "tower" with a corner polygonal turret. Similar features to rear elevation to Little Dean's Yard.

### **Nos. 19, 19a and 20 Dean's Yard**

C.14th and C.15th. Grade I

Ref. 101/8 – TQ3079SW

As with No. 18, part of the west range of the Abbey buildings; the Cellarer's building, the Abbey Guest House and the remains of the Blackstole Tower, all taken over by the Grammar School in the C.15th and C.16th, and much altered in the C.17th and C.18th. The group has many fine features from the C.14th through to the C.18th including the C.14th archway under the Blackstole Tower, the tierceron vaulted passageway to No. 19A and the fine and varied fenestration from many periods. The remains of the Cellarer's building and Abbey Guest House survive in No. 20, showing a tierceron vaulted ground floor with wall shafts and some original fenestration in the east wall. TQ 3079 SW 101/18 24.2.58

G.V.

## CITY OF WESTMINSTER

BROAD SANCTUARY, SW1 (ABBEY PRECINCT AND WESTMINSTER SCHOOL)

### **Little Dean's Yard: Nos 2 and 3**

I

House of the Master of the King's Scholars. No. 2 built and No. 3 remodelled 1789-90 by R.W.F. Brettingham as a symmetrical composition originally including the rebuilt No. 1. Yellow stock brick with stucco basement, No. 2 with slate roof. No. 3 tiled. Neoclassical astylar front. 3 storeys, basement and dormered mansards. Each house 3 windows wide with No. 2 as original centrepiece of composition pedimented. Central entrances approached at right angles by arched steps, doorways square headed and architraved flanked by pilasters carrying bracketed cornice-hoods, panelled doors and patterned fanlights.. Recessed glazing %ar sashes under flat gauged arches, the outer windows ^triptartite. Stone modillion cornice and parapet, the pediment over No. 2 containing lunette window. Bracketed lamp of Nice type over No. 2.

### **No 4 Little Dean's Yard ('College' of Westminster School)**

Grade I

Ref

School dormitory. 1722-30 by Lord Burlington, badly damaged in World War II, restored 1947. Stone, coppered roof. Severe astylar design with restrained use of Palladian motifs. Long range with main front facing east on to Abbey Garden. Originally 2 storeys (floor inserted to upper storey 1906) with ground floor open as a "piazza". 15 bays long and 3 bays deep. Entrance and stair bay built out in brick with stone dressings and quoins to north end of range. Semicircular arched doorway flanked by stone pilasters carrying archivolt; panelled doors with wrought iron fanlight grill. Main east front arcaded ground floor "piazza" with square piers, enclosed and provided with windows in 1846. The upper part, the dormitory, lit high up by square architraved windows with piano nobile level having, originally, blind niches with alternating segmental and triangular pediments, cut open as windows by T.G. Jackson in 1895 (intermediate floor inserted 1906). Pseudo parapet below niches. Entablature with modillion cornice and pulvinated frieze. "College"

was Burlington's first public building and marks the opening victory of his campaign against empirical classicism of the Wren school.

R.C.H.M.

Westminster School; L.E. Tanner.

Earls of Creation; James Lees Milne.

### **The Abbey Precinct Wall**

Early mediaeval and c.1374, Grade I

Ref. 101/13 – TQ3079SW

The wall is the boundary of the Abbey Precinct onto Great College Street to the south and east, about 6½ metres high of Kentish Ragstone with a weathered brick coping. At the base it is of ashlar stonework, indicating that it was a defensive wall against high tides along the former Thames river front. On the Great College Street frontage late mediaeval 5-centred arched doorways and later C.18th and C.19th square headed doorways can be seen.

### **Gates Railings and Gate Piers to New Palace Yard**

New Palace of Westminster

c.1860-67, E.M. Barry, Grade I

Ref. 92/47 – TQ3079NW

Portland stone with wrought iron in the Gothic style, a component of Barry's design for the new Palace of Westminster.

### **Victoria Tower Lodge and gates to Black Rod's Garden**

c. 1850-60, Barry and Pugin, Grade I

Ref. 101/21 – TQ3079SW

The lodge house and gates were part of Barry and Pugin's rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster; the lodge is octagonal, of magnesium limestone and in a domestic Tudor/Gothic style; the gates are adorned by Pugin's hand with ornate Gothic ironwork.



### III OTHER DESIGNATIONS

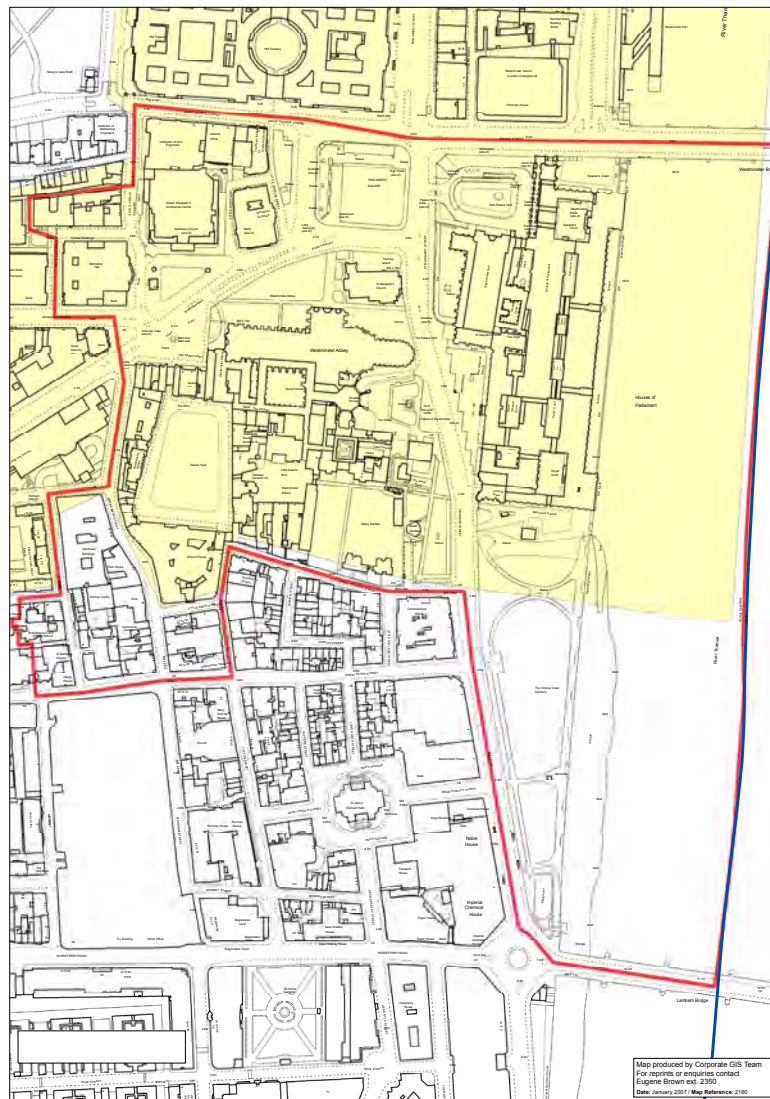
#### Adjacent Conservation Areas

Westminster Abbey & Parliament Square Conservation Area shares its eastern boundary with the Borough of Lambeth's South Bank Conservation Area.

The Whitehall Conservation Area lies to the north side of the conservation area while the Birdcage Walk Conservation Area extends to the north-west beyond Storey's Gate. The Smith Square Conservation Area is located to the south, beyond Great College Street and west of Millbank.

#### Archaeological Priority Areas

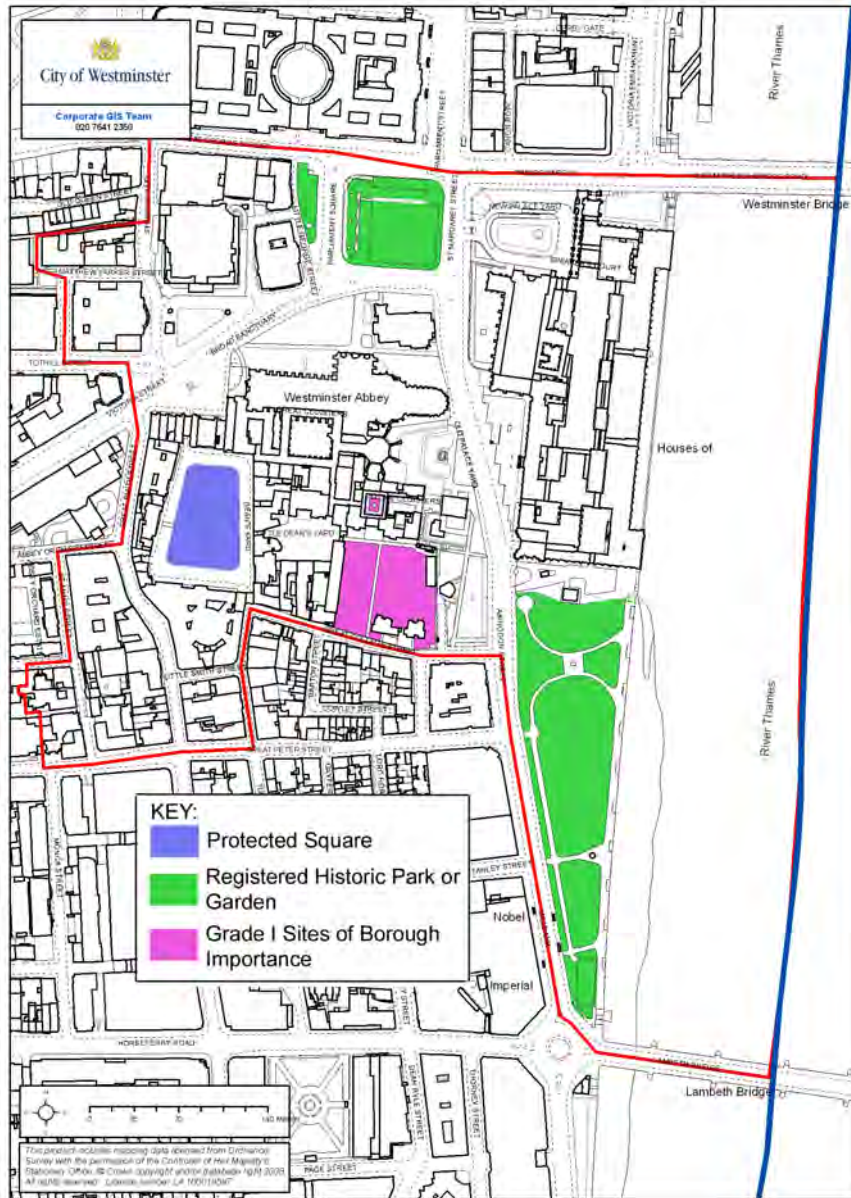
Much of the conservation area is covered by the Ludenwic and Thorney Island Area of Special Archaeological Priority, as shown on the map below.



Map showing area of Special Archaeological Priority

# London Squares Preservation Act

**Dean's Yard** (see map below) is protected under The London Squares Preservation Act of 1931. The act was introduced to provide for the preservation of certain squares, gardens and enclosures of London. The provisions of the Act are to ensure the use of the squares only as ornamental garden pleasure grounds or grounds for play, rest or recreation and to prevent any building or other structures or erection on or over any protected square except such as may be necessary or convenient for or in connection with the use and maintenance of the squares for the authorised purposes.



Map showing location of protected squares, registered historic gardens and sites of Borough Importance.

## Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

**Parliament Square** and the **Victoria Tower Gardens** (*see map below*) are registered as Grade II\* historic gardens. The register was compiled by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England to identify and safeguard gardens and parks which by reason of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments make them of special historic interest. Although no statutory controls follow from the inclusion of a site on the register the effect of proposed development on a registered park or garden or its setting is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application.

## Grade I Sites of Borough Importance

College Garden and the courtyard of Great Cloisters (*see map below*) are considered to be sites of Grade I Borough Importance for nature conservation.

## Designated Views

See main audit text- '*Views and Landmarks*'

## Regulation 7 Directions

None

## Article 4 Directions

None



## IV PUBLICATIONS AND SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

### **Westminster Publications, Policies and Design Guides**

#### Unitary Development Plan

Westminster's Planning Policies are set out in the adopted City of Westminster Unitary Development Plan January 2007. This can also be viewed on the Internet at: [www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk).

### **Design Guides and Publications**

Other Westminster City Council publications, produced by the Department of Planning and City Development are listed below. These are available from One Stop Services (see addresses under 'contact details' or can be viewed on the Westminster City Council website.

1. Conservation areas: A Guide for property Owners
2. Development and Demolition in Conservation Areas
3. Inclusive Design and Access
4. Design Matters in Westminster – Supplementary Planning Guidance on creating Good City Architecture
5. A Planning Guide for Food and Drink Premises
6. Guidelines for the Placing of Tables and Chairs on the Highway
7. Shopfronts, Blinds and Signs
8. Advertisement Design Guidelines
9. Railings on Domestic Buildings in Westminster
10. Roofs: A Guide to Alterations and Extensions on Domestic Buildings
11. Satellite Dishes: A Guide to Installation, Siting and Design
12. A Guide to the Siting of Security Cameras and Other Security Equipment
13. Public CCTV Systems – Guidance for Design and Privacy
14. Designing out Crime in Westminster
15. Façade Cleaning - The removal of soiling and paint from brick and stone facades
16. Stucco: A Guide to its Care and Maintenance.
17. Lighting Up the City - A Good Practice Guide for the Illumination of Buildings and Monuments
18. Public Art in Westminster
19. A Brief Guide to Planning Enforcement
20. Repairs and Alterations to Listed Buildings
21. Metropolitan Views in Westminster.

## **Advice on Sourcing Professional Advice and Building Materials for Historic Buildings**

For lists of specialist historic buildings consultants, building contractors and specialist suppliers of building materials, the Building Conservation Directory can be viewed on-line at: [www.buildingconservation.com](http://www.buildingconservation.com)

## Further Reading

1. Bradley, S and Pevsner N., *The Buildings of England. London 6: Westminster*. Yale University Press 2003.
2. Watson, Isobel (2002) *Westminster and Pimlico Past* Historical Publications Ltd, London
3. English Heritage (2008): *Seeing the History in the View*

## Local History

For information on all aspects of local history contact:

City of Westminster Archive Centre  
10 St. Ann's Street  
London SW1P 2XR

General Enquiries: Tel: (020) 7641 5180

## V WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL CONTACTS LIST

### **General Planning Information**

To find out if a property is listed or in a conservation area or is affected by a Regulation 7 or Article 4 Direction and to obtain copies of design guidance or planning application forms or to report a breach of planning control

Tel: (020) 7641 2513

Fax: (020) 7641 2515

E-mail: [PlanningInformation@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:PlanningInformation@westminster.gov.uk)

Or write to:

South Area Planning Team  
Development Planning Services  
Department of Planning and City Development  
Westminster City Council  
City Hall, 64 Victoria Street,  
London SW1E 6QP

### **One Stop Services**

Where you can view or purchase the Council's Unitary Development Plan and other documents giving advice on access and design matters. The address is:

62 Victoria Street, SW1 (Open 8.30am - 7pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday; 9am - 1pm Saturday)

### **Trees**

For advice on trees, planting, works to trees and tree care and Tree Preservation Orders, tree planting programmes and greening policies:

Tree Section  
Environment and Leisure Department  
Westminster City Council  
City Hall, 64 Victoria Street  
London SW1E 6QP Tel: (020) 7641 2618 or Fax: (020) 7641 2959

### **Further Information**

For contacts regarding other frequently used services refer to the City Council's booklet 'A-Z Guide, Your Guide to Council Services' available from One Stop Services, Libraries and Council Information Points or by contacting: Tel: (020) 7641 8088 or Fax: (020) 7641 2958



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Puede que el inglés no sea su lengua materna y si no tiene un amigo o familiar que pueda traducírselo, nosotros podemos enviarle una traducción. Por favor escriba a la dirección que a continuación figura indicando su nombre, dirección y su lengua materna.

### French

Si l'anglais n'est pas votre langue principale et si vous n'avez pas un ami ou un membre de votre famille qui puisse le traduire pour vous, nous pourrions vous en faire parvenir une traduction. Écrivez à l'adresse ci-dessous en donnant votre nom, adresse, et première langue.

### Portuguese

Talvez Inglês não seja a sua primeira língua, e caso você não tenha um amigo ou parente que possa traduzi-lo para você, nos podemos tomar providências para que uma tradução lhe seja enviada. Favor escrever para o endereço abaixo, dando o seu nome, endereço e a sua primeira língua.

### Chinese

如果英語不是你的母語，而且你沒有親戚或朋友能為你翻譯這份文件，我們可以安排寄給你一份翻譯。請寫信到以下的地址，告訴我們你的姓名，地址和母語。

### Bengali

যদি ইংরেজী আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার কোনো আত্মীয় বা বন্ধু না থাকে, যিনি আপনার জন্য এই ডকুমেন্ট অনুবাদ করতে পারেন, তাহলে আপনাকে আমরা একটি অনুবাদ পাঠাতে পারি। অনুগ্রহ করে নিচের ঠিকানায় লিখুন, আপনার নাম, ঠিকানা ও প্রথম ভাষা উল্লেখ করুন।

### Arabic

إذا لم تكن الانكليزية هي لغتك الأصلية، ولا يوجد لديك من أقارب أو أصدقاء ممن يستطيع مساعدتك في ترجمة هذه الوثيقة، فمن الممكن أن نرتب لك مترجماً. يرجى الكتابة إلى العنوان أدناه مع ذكر اسمك وعنوانك ولغتك الأصلية.

### Urdu

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے، اور آپ کا کوئی ایسا رشتہ دار یا دوست نہیں ہے کہ جو اس دستاویز کا ترجمہ آپ کے لئے کر سکے، تو ہم آپ کے لئے ترجمہ بھجوانے کا انتظام کر سکتے ہیں، برائے سہریانی، اپنا نام، پتہ، اور پہلی زبان جو آپ بولتے ہیں، سچے دئے گئے پتہ پر لکھیں۔

### Farsi

چنانچه انگلیسی زبان اصلی شما نیست و فامیل و دوستی نیز ندارید تا این سند را برایتان ترجمه کند، میتوان ترجمه آن را برایتان ارسال کنیم. برای این کار لطفاً با ذکر نام، آدرس و زبان مادری با آدرس زیر مکاتبه کنید.

### Serbo Croat

Ako engleski nije vaš maternji jezik i nemate rođaka ili prijatelja koji bi mogli da vam prevedu ovaj tekst, mi vam možemo poslati prevod. Molimo vas da napišete pismo na dole pomenutu adresu i da u njemu navedete vaše ime, adresu i maternji jezik.

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