



GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

# HANWAY STREET Conservation Area

# 39



City of Westminster

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND CITY DEVELOPMENT  
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SERVICES MAY 2004

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**Designation:** The Hanway Street Conservation Area was designated in 1990.

**Historical Background:** Hanway Street is an ancient lane cutting behind the major crossroads of Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street. It dates back to at least 1600 and by the mid-18th century was completely built up and closely associated with the coaching inns which congregated at the crossroads.

Little of this early development appears to survive today as the area was comprehensively rebuilt between c. 1850 and 1920. This redevelopment was of a mixed character - small shops on Hanway Street, large shops, offices, commercial buildings and the Oxford Music Hall (later rebuilt as the Cannon Cinema) on Oxford Street and semi-industrial buildings on Rathbone Place.

**Listed Buildings:** Nos. 6, 34-36 and 54-62 Oxford Street and 11 Rathbone Place are Grade II listed buildings.

**Key Features:** The Hanway Street Conservation Area can be divided into three distinct parts. First there is the Oxford Street frontage, largely made up by late Victorian and Edwardian commercial buildings. These are of good quality (three of them are listed) but their setting is somewhat adversely affected by unsympathetic modern infills. Nos. 54-62 Oxford Street, an early work by Charles Holden, is particularly remarkable. In general the emphasis placed on high quality architecture in this part of Oxford Street at the turn of the century, should be noted.

The second distinct part of the area is Rathbone Place. The east side of this street is included in the Conservation Area and is made up largely of small scale, semi-industrial Victorian buildings, probably built to serve the commercial buildings on Oxford Street .

Finally, Hanway Street is an ancient, curved thoroughfare. At its eastern end it forms the rear facade of the MGM Cinema. This is built on the site of the old Oxford Music Hall (1860-61) and the rear elevation appears to survive from the 1860-61 building rather than the 1921 rebuild. At the west end of Hanway Street is a short but attractive terrace of small scale late Victorian buildings.

**Adjacent Conservation Areas:** Hanway Street adjoins the Soho Conservation Area along Oxford Street. To the

north and east it adjoins the Bloomsbury Conservation Area (London Borough of Camden).

**Strategic Views:** The Parliament Hill to Palace of Westminster strategic view cuts across the west half of the Conservation Area.

**Areas of Special Archaeological Priority:** None.

**Article 4 Directions:** None

**Regulation 7 Directions:** The whole area is affected by the requirement that any advertisement for the sale or letting of land (including estate agents' boards advertising shops, houses, flats or offices) must be given consent by the City Council as local planning authority. Displaying an advertisement without first obtaining consent is a criminal offence.

**Planning Briefs and Design Guides:** No specific guidelines for this Conservation Area.

**Spaces protected by the London Squares Act 1931:** None

**Registered Historic Parks and Gardens:** None

## Contacts

### Built Environment

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