



GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

MILLBANK Conservation Area

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION. MARCH 1993

Designation: First designated in 1969 covering the octagonal site of Millbank Penitentiary. It was extended in 1990 to include the river embankment and the Westminster half of the Thames between the Vickers Tower and Vauxhall Bridge and Ponsonby Place area.

Historical Background: The Millbank Penitentiary was built in 1812-20 and demolished in 1890. The Tate Gallery was built in 1890, by Sidney R.J. Smith, and placed centrally on the octagonal site of the Millbank Penitentiary. There were additions in 1909, 1937 and 1970's and most recently the Clore gallery by James Stirling in 1984-85. Other development on the site included the Edwardian military medical establishment, the Millbank Estate built 1897-1902 by the London County Council and the mid 19th century houses around Ponsonby Place.

Listed Buildings: The Tate Gallery, Millbank Estate, 47-58 Millbank and the embankment wall with its dolphin lampstandards. (All grade II).

Key Features: The Millbank Conservation Area contains four distinct elements. First, the early 19th century parts of stock brick and stucco terraced housing around Ponsonby Place. Secondly, the Tate Gallery and Army Medical Corps grand buildings to the north. Thirdly, the red brick Arts and Crafts style mansion blocks of flats to the West of the Tate Gallery built between 1897-1902, providing one of the first very large Council housing scheme of working class flats accommodating 4,500 people. The Millbank Estate, by reason of its date and design is a particularly important milestone in the development of local authority housing and the evolution of the Arts and Crafts principles of architecture, applied to large scale housing development. The quality of design, layout and materials set an important standard in the further development of that movement. Fourthly, the embankment wall with its attractive dolphin lamps and a large stretch of the Thames to the south. The open aspect of the embankment provides extensive views along the river. Viewed from the south bank, this Conservation Area is offset by the Vickers Tower (1962) which dominates the skyline in that part of the riverside. Land uses include art gallery, hospital and residential.

Adjacent Conservation Areas: Its riverside extension is adjacent to the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square, to the north east. Regency Street to the west.

Strategic Views: Not affected.

Areas of Special Archaeological Priority: Not affected.

Article 4 Directions: None.

Regulation 7 Areas: None.

Contacts:

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