



GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

STRAND Conservation Area

16



City of Westminster

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND CITY DEVELOPMENT
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SERVICES MAY 2004

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Designation: Initially designated in 1974. Extended in 1990 to include the part of the river between the Embankment, Waterloo Bridge, and the Westminster boundaries to the south and east, and in April 1993 to include the north side of the Strand between Southampton Street and Burleigh Street and the south side from No. 105 to Lancaster Place.

Historical Background: It is likely that the area was originally settled by the Saxons, forming part of the town of Lundenwic (7th to 9th centuries AD), outside the walls of the Roman City. The Strand has been a thoroughfare linking the City and Thorney Island, (later Westminster) since this time, originally running along the river bank. By the 12th century the Strand was lined with several large palaces with gardens running down to the Thames. Arundel House, the palace of the Earl of Arundel, occupied the area around Surrey Street and Arundel Street. The house was demolished in 1678 and these streets were laid out, lined with terraced houses. At a similar time, part of the Essex Estate to the east, was developed by Dr Nicholas Barbon, a famous early speculative developer. The riverside was lined with wharves until the 19th century when further redevelopment took place. Hotels were built in Surrey Street and Arundel Street. Major change occurred with the construction of the Embankment Wall and Victoria Embankment Gardens in 1864-70 (by Bazalgette). In the late 19th century much of the area north of the Strand, containing densely packed slum dwellings, was demolished. From 1862 to 1882 the Law Courts complex was built to designs by G.E. Street. Then, at the turn of the century, the grand thoroughfares of Aldwych and Kingsway were set out and lined with large scale commercial buildings.

Listed Buildings: Somerset House, the Church of St. Mary-le Strand, the Church of St. Clement Danes, the Royal Courts of Justice and King's College are Grade I listed. The Royal College of Surgeons, the Incorporated Accountants Hall, The Public Records Office and Nos. 110-114 Chancery Lane are Grade II* listed. Grade II listed buildings include the centre block of Bush House, Australia House, the Aldwych Theatre, the Waldorf Hotel, Nos. 11, 14 and 30-37 Essex Street, the Strand Theatre, the Embankment Wall, the cabmen's shelter, Temple Place; telephone boxes in Carey Street and Temple Place; lamp standards within Somerset House and various statues and memorials in Victoria Embankment Gardens, Somerset House and on the Embankment Wall.

Key Features: The character of the area is varied. It is centred on the formal layout of the Aldwych and Kingsway. Many of the Edwardian buildings here are listed, including the centre block of Bush House, which closes the view southwards along Kingsway. To the south, the Strand is dominated by the churches of St. Mary-le-Strand (Gibbs 1714-17) and St. Clement Dane (Wren, 1680-82). To the west, Nos. 113-116 Strand is a Victorian commercial building, one of the few survivals of the original street alignment. Opposite these is the Strand Palace Hotel (F.J. Wills, 1925-30) a monumental building which makes a significant contribution to the Conservation Area. South of the Strand lies the grand formal layout of Somerset House and King's College. Somerset House by Chambers (1776-96) and Pennethorne (1853-56); King's College by Chambers (1776-96) and Smirke (1829-35). No. 5 Strand Lane, east of King's College, is loosely referred to as Roman Bath but may not be older than 17th century. Somerset and Globe Houses are the eastern end of a range of classical buildings along the Thames stretching from Thames House, Millbank to Temple Gardens. Adjacent to the Temple (which lies within the City of London) is

Essex Street, an important 17th century street which includes several listed buildings. To the north east lies the Law Courts (G.E Street, 1862-1882). Also included in the Conservation Area is part of Chancery Lane (the remainder lies outside Westminster) and the narrow lanes adjacent such as Bell Yard and Chichester Rents including the Public Records Office (Pennethorne, 1851). The northern part of the area includes the south side of Lincoln's Inn Fields, one of the most important historic squares in London set out in mid 17th century. Between Lincoln's Inn Fields and the Aldwych lies a network of narrow streets and passageways of 18th century (and possibly earlier) origin. The Conservation Area is marred by 1960's redevelopments to Surrey Street and Arundel Street.

Adjacent Conservation Areas: To the north west Covent Garden Conservation Area, to the south west Savoy Conservation Area. The City of London lies to the east and the London Borough of Camden to the north.

Strategic Views: A backdrop to the strategic view from Greenwich Park to St Paul's Cathedral, which affects only Breems Buildings, in the north-east corner of the Conservation Area.

Areas of Special Archaeological Priority: The Lundenwic and Thorney Island area of special archaeological priority covers all of the Conservation Area.

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 having first obtained consent is a criminal offence.

Planning Briefs and Design Guides: No specific guidelines

Spaces protected by the London Squares Act 1931: None

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens: None

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