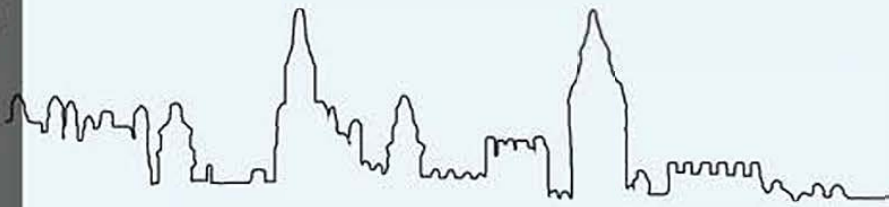


Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan



## The Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church

World Heritage Site Management Plan



# WESTMINSTER WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Atkins / PLB / Barry Stow

# **The Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including St. Margaret's Church**

## World Heritage Site Management Plan

Prepared on behalf of the Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan Steering Group, by a consortium led by Atkins, with Barry Stow, conservation architect, and tourism specialists PLB Consulting Ltd.

The full steering group chaired by English Heritage comprises representatives of:

ICOMOS UK

DCMS

The Government Office for London

The Dean and Chapter of Westminster

The Parliamentary Estates Directorate

Transport for London

The Greater London Authority

Westminster School

Westminster City Council

The London Borough of Lambeth

The Royal Parks Agency

The Church Commissioners

Visit London



## FOREWORD

by **David Lammy MP, Minister for Culture**



I am delighted to present this Management Plan for the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church World Heritage Site.

For over a thousand years, Westminster has held a unique architectural, historic and symbolic significance where the history of church, monarchy, state and law are inexorably intertwined. As a group, the iconic buildings that form part of the World Heritage Site represent masterpieces of monumental architecture from medieval times on and which draw on the best of historic construction techniques and traditional craftsmanship. But it is as the pre-eminent symbol of democratic government and for its continuing spiritual significance that Westminster has exerted its greatest influence, contributing to the development of parliamentary ideals across the globe and serving as a reminder of ideas which are of prime importance to mankind.

The Government is accountable to UNESCO and the wider international community for the future conservation and presentation of this important site. It is a responsibility we take seriously.

This Management Plan has been developed in close co-operation with the organizations responsible for the day-to-day care of the Site, together with the local community and others with a special interest in it. The Plan aims to provide an understanding of the World Heritage Site within its historical and contemporary context and ensure that effective management and conservation strategies are in place to safeguard its very special tangible and intangible qualities for future generations.

I am extremely grateful to the many bodies and individuals who have worked so hard to produce this Plan, in particular the constituent members of the Westminster World Heritage Site Steering Group. I am sure that this Management Plan will help to guide the future of the site and balance the development of its potential with the effective conservation prove to be an invaluable management tool to all those involved in the ongoing conservation and presentation of this very special place.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "David Lammy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**DAVID LAMMY**



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# Introduction

## Westminster Palace and Westminster Abbey

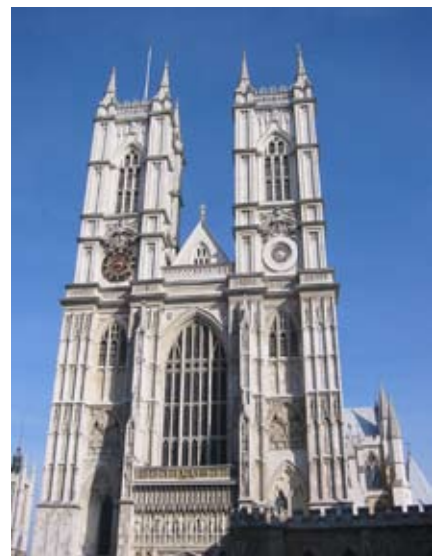
The two institutions housed in Westminster Palace and Westminster Abbey have intertwined histories stretching back over one thousand years. They are the descendants of the royal palace-abbey compound established on Thorney Island by Edward the Confessor in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. But they continue to stand at the centre of British political and spiritual life and to the world they are icons, a result of their supreme influence on the development and history of democracy and Christianity across much of the globe.

Parliament is the means by which Britain is governed. It is composed of the Monarch, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. It makes laws, examines the work of Government (often limiting its power), controls taxation and expenditure, protects individuals through representation by Members of Parliament, debates current affairs and matters of international importance, and is the highest Court of Appeal in the land.

The Abbey's mission is divine worship. As a Royal Peculiar it has no parish in the normal sense of the word. In a sense, the world is the Abbey's parish. At the hub of one the busiest world cities, the unflinching daily services of Matins, Eucharist and Evensong meet the spiritual needs of many. The Abbey continues to provide the calm and contemplation reminiscent of the Benedictine purpose, for regular worshippers and visitors alike. Major ceremonies and events, celebrating and commemorating life and death on behalf of the nation, are broadcast across the world and are attended by international heads of state.

So the two institutions and the buildings they inhabit are not museums. Yet they are major tourist destinations, attracting many thousands of visitors a day. They come to see the buildings which are used by the world's media as emblems of Britain. Welcoming these visitors is also part of the mission of the Abbey and Parliament, since outreach and enlightenment underpin their roles.

The challenge for the Palace, the Abbey and others is to safeguard their heritage – the tangible and intangible qualities passed down from earlier generations of dignitaries, clergy, artists, craftsmen and citizens – while continuing the evolutionary journey of their central purpose and mission.





*c. 17th century. Westminister Hall rebuilt in 1399 by Henry Yevele.*

## Westminster - A unique place

### A masterpiece of human creative genius

Westminster has been the seat of national sovereignty and the focus of national ritual and ceremony since the Saxon period. The materials, scale and quality of the buildings and spaces which have been created here since that time, as well as the use of the major builders and architects of the day, reflect the pre-eminence of the site. Notable early patrons of the site included internationally important historical figures, such as Edward the Confessor and King Henry III. The buildings of both Palace and Abbey employed the pre-eminent architects and craftsmen of their day, from Henry Yevele and Hugh Herland, the mason and carpenter of Westminister Hall, to Sir Charles Barry and AW Pugin of the New Palace, and Wren and Hawksmoor on the later works on the Abbey. Westminster Abbey and Westminster Palace also contain decorative schemes, furniture and fittings, as well as monuments and works of art, of unique and international importance.

### The architectural influence

Westminster Abbey is a unique masterpiece of English Gothic, which drew on the architectural traditions and developments of medieval Europe, especially France.

Westminster Hall, with its internationally famous decorated hammer beam roof, is the finest piece of medieval architectural carpentry in the world.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century Palace of Westminster is also a masterpiece of Victorian architecture, with its internationally recognised form and skyline. The use of the Victorian Gothic style for these buildings had an international influence on the architecture and taste of their day and therefore on the history of architecture and the decorative arts.

### An outstanding example of significant stages of human history

The nature and outstanding quality of Westminster Hall and Westminster Abbey exemplify the stage of history when monarchs sought to symbolise their power and status in permanent monumental architecture and to legitimise their authority by reference to divinity and the saints. Westminster Hall, as a public building in which the early Royal Councils gathered, the courts were located and public trials were held, is a unique architectural survival of the very beginnings of English sovereignty and law. The adoption of the Gothic Style for the new Parliamentary buildings expressed nostalgia for medieval ideals,



*West Towers of the Abbey.*

homage to the early fathers of the parliamentary system and their struggle for representation and liberty from over-powerful monarchs. It re-stated the 'religious calling' of government, as well as the interrelationship of the histories of Parliament and the Abbey.

The archaeological deposits lying beneath the buildings are also unique and irreplaceable evidence of the form and style of buildings, as well as the people, economy and environment of the very earliest days of the occupation of Westminster and the early buildings of both Westminster Palace and Abbey. Also unique is the massive archive of original documents, stretching back to the medieval period, relating to Westminster Abbey and the development of Parliament and the government of the British Isles, the Empire and the Commonwealth.

### The worldwide influence of Westminster and its history

The Westminster WHS is a unique place of parliamentary democracy, common law and the English Church, all of which have had an outstanding influence across the globe.

Westminster Abbey houses the shrine of an English Saint, Edward the Confessor. As the church most closely associated with the English monarchy for a thousand years, it is the focus of national religious occasions and ceremonies. Westminster is the birthplace and cradle of the parliamentary system of democracy. Over the centuries, important British historical figures - citizens, lords, bishops, and monarchs - have given their faith, passion and pride in the service of parliament and its evolution. Closely related to parliamentary authority has been the development, at Westminster, of common law, including the concept of trial by jury. Both systems have been emulated internationally and Westminster is recognised as a symbol of democracy to this day.

The intertwined history, at Westminster, of church, monarchy, state and law, is long and continuing, in some cases in the buildings and apartments in which the history began. This is unique to Westminster. The Palace of Westminster is still the home of the British Parliament and Westminster Abbey continues to provide the Christian setting for key national and royal events.



*Debating Chamber of the House of Lords.*



*Westminster Abbey. A view of Henry VII Chapel.*

## Project details

This is the management plan for the Westminster World Heritage Site, the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church. It has been prepared by a steering group with a consultant team led by Atkins, which includes conservation architect Barry Stow and tourism specialists PLB Consulting Ltd.

The full steering group comprises representatives of DCMS, The Government Office for London, The Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey, The Parliamentary Estates Directorate, Transport for London, The Greater London Authority, Westminster School, Westminster City Council, The London Borough of Lambeth, The Royal Parks Agency, ICOMOS UK, The Church Commissioners and Visit London.

Consultation has played an essential part in the development of the plan. Three workshops were held with key stakeholder groups to identify issues and objectives, focusing on: tourism and the economy; community and user groups; and the public realm and conservation. Wider consultation was undertaken on the Draft Management Plan, including its presentation on the English Heritage and GLA websites.

This World Heritage Site Management Plan has been developed following the Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites (Feilden B and Jokilehto J, 1993), and in accordance with the brief set out by the Steering Group in 2002.



*Fan Vaulting ceiling of Henry VII Chapel in Westminster Abbey.*

## The purpose of the management plan

The forward to *Management Guidelines for World Heritage Cultural Heritage Sites* by BM Feilden and J Jokilehto states:

*The enjoyment of our heritage depends upon its conservation. ... World Heritage demonstrates that the industry, craftsmanship, love and care of past civilisations were given to make their surroundings meaningful. This should never cease to fill us with wonder. The past can speak to us and help us realize where we are going in the future.*

In 1987, in recognition of its outstanding universal value, the World Heritage Committee inscribed the area formed by the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey, including St Margaret's Church, as one of fourteen World Heritage Sites in the UK. The World Heritage Committee requires evidence of 'an appropriate management system' for all World Heritage Sites. In response to this, UK government policy aims to ensure that a management plan is prepared and implemented for all World Heritage Sites in the UK.

An understanding of a site and those elements which make it significant must lie at the heart of any modern approach to the management of an historic place. Without this understanding, any proposals for change or management activities may, at best, miss important opportunities and, at worst, be harmful and misguided. It is also essential to look at a site in its totality, taking an interdisciplinary approach which brings together interests and areas of expertise.

Each stage in the development of a Management Plan is incremental. It builds on the foundation of previous work and is intended to aid both day to day and long-term management of the site. However the Plan is a living document, it must continue to be reviewed periodically, to take into account new knowledge or changes in the condition of the fabric, or simply to reflect changing perceptions of heritage merit.

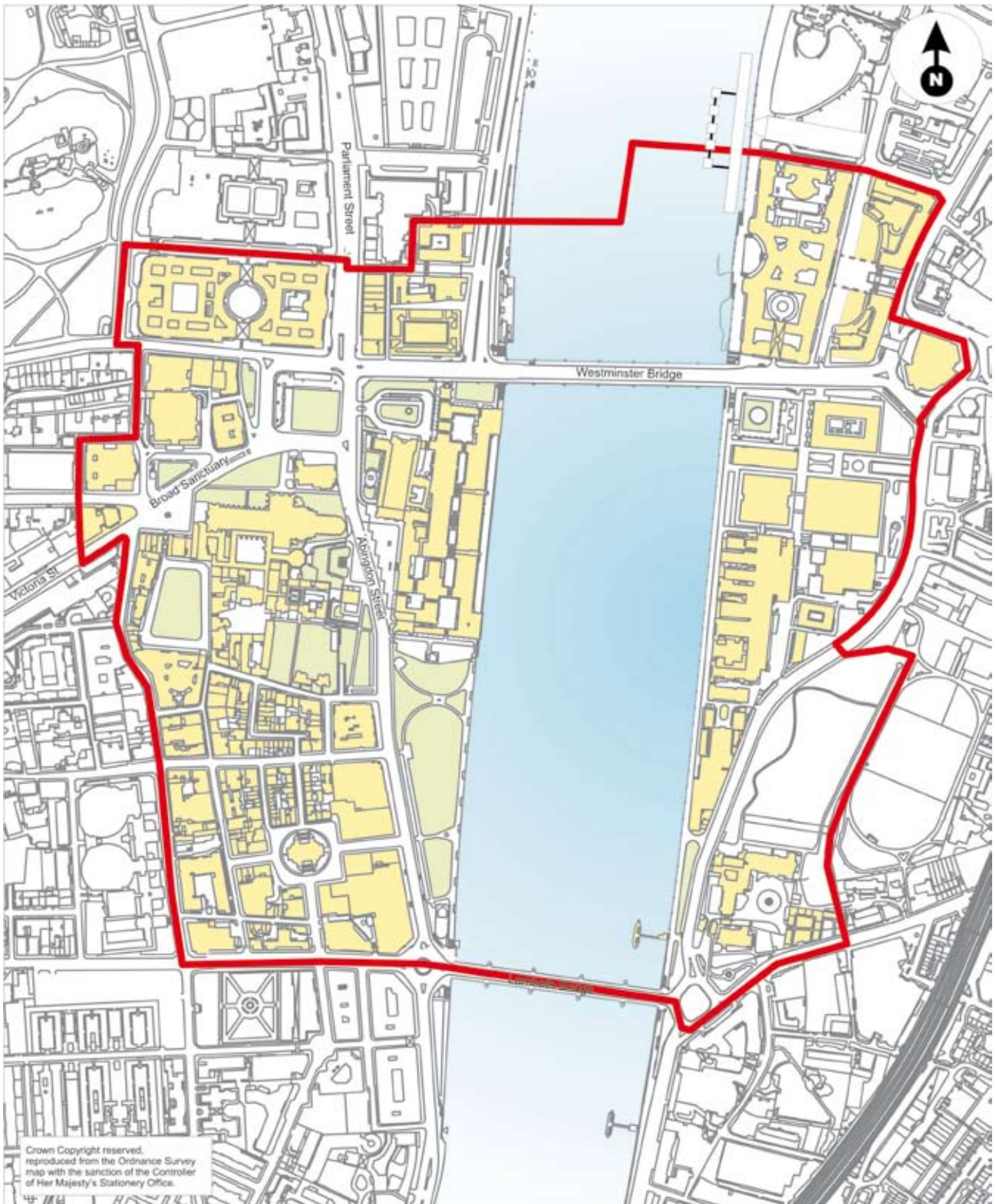
Developed in three stages during 2003 and 2004, the Westminster WHS Management Plan:

- Provides an understanding of the World Heritage Site within its historical and contemporary context.
- Identifies the key features, characteristics and elements of the area, defining the Outstanding Universal Value and cultural significance of the Westminster WHS and the issues which affect the site.
- Enables an holistic view to be taken with regard to the challenges and opportunities for the management and enhancement of the site.
- Establishes the principles to enable the Site to be managed and to safeguard and sustain its significance for future generations, whilst allowing its various parts to be used effectively for their primary functions.

The Management Plan is not prescriptive or binding and it does not impose control on those charged with the management of the WHS. Rather, its mission is to enable: to complement but not supersede the relevant policies set by the site owners and managers, Westminster City Council and the Greater London Authority; to provide guidance for day to day management and long-term strategies; and to set a shared framework, within which the multiplicity of activities, requirements and opportunities can be balanced with the protection of the special qualities of the site.



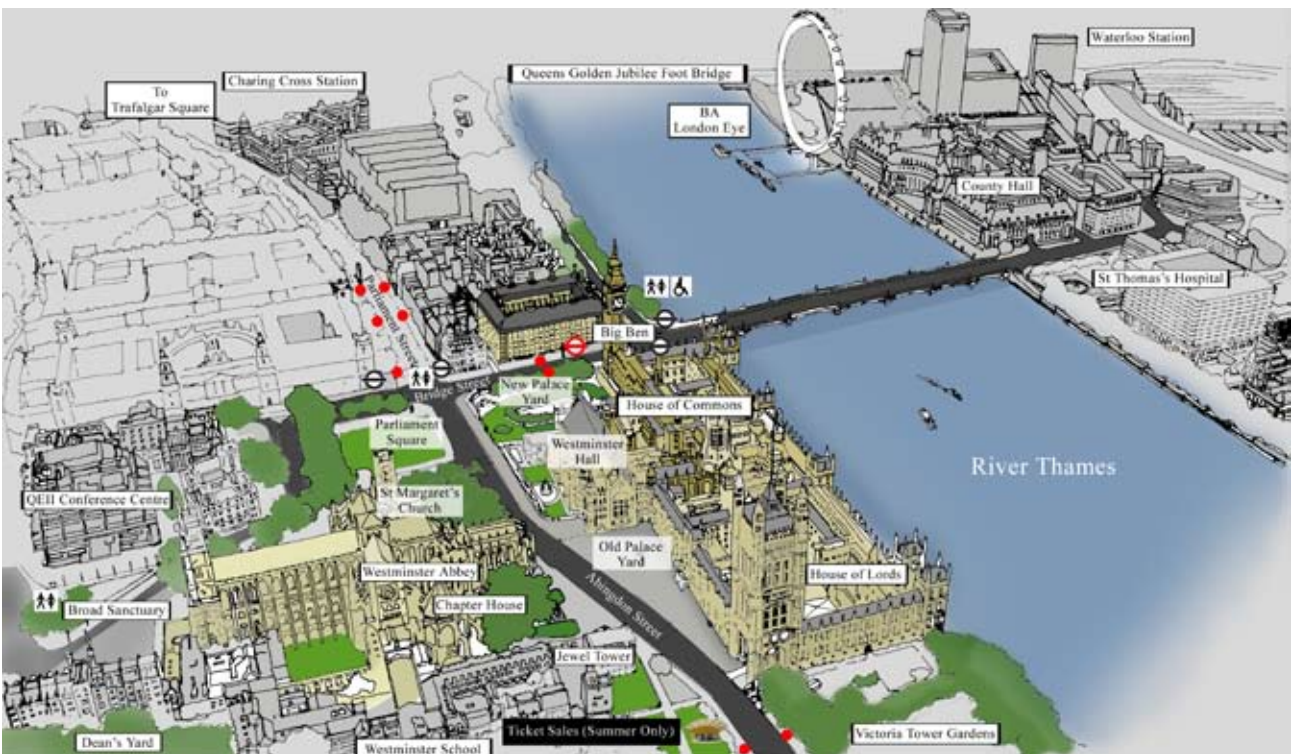
*An example of an existing interpretation board, in this case at the Jewel Tower.*



The study area for the development of the Management Plan

It is hoped that the Westminster WHS Management Plan will help to guide the future of the site, unlocking the potential of its buildings, monuments, public realm and context, for the education and further enjoyment of visitors, tourists, residents and workers, without altering the principal purposes of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.

The Plan begins with a description of the site, summarising the history and development of the institutions and buildings that comprise the WHS and characterising the site as it is today. From the description flows the Statement of Significance, which sets out what is important about the WHS and why. Issues and risks which may now or in the future affect the significance of the WHS are outlined. These concentrate on those areas of concern that may mean that the safeguarding, understanding and enhancement of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site are under pressure, for instance tourism, traffic and public realm issues. A Vision for the WHS summarises the aspirations for how the site should be. This is followed by objectives for the Management Plan and an Implementation Plan, containing projects and initiatives to be undertaken in the coming years.



Sketch Aerial view highlighting keyfeatures in and around the WHS.





# Westminster World Heritage Site Timeline

Political, national and international events		The Palace of Westminster		Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church	
Date	Event	Date	Event	Date	Event
				7 <sup>th</sup> century	(tradition) Sebert, King of East Saxons built a church on the site.
				785	Grant of land by King Offa to 'needy people of God in Thorney'.
				c 960	St. Dunstan, Bishop of London brought 12 Benedictine monks to Westminster.
				c 961	King Edgar granted lands to the Abbey.
		1029	Residential Royal use of the site.	1065	King Harold (Harefoot) buried at Westminster.  Consecration of Edward the Confessor's new church, built next to old one.
1066	Defeat of King Harold at Hastings.			1066	Burial of Edward the Confessor behind High Altar.
				6 Jan 1066	Harold, Earl of Wessex elected Witan and celebrated High Mass in the Abbey.
				Christmas Day 1066	Coronation of William I, beginning the practice of coronations at Westminster Abbey.
				1079	Pyx Chamber built.
1086	The 'Domesday' survey.				
1087	William Rufus crowned.	1097 - 99	Building of Westminster Hall.		
1215	Magna Carta sealed by King John at Runnymede.			late 11th century	First St. Margaret's Church built, dedicated to St. Margaret of Antioch.
1216	Accession of Henry III.				
				1220	Coronation of Henry III at Westminster Abbey. Foundation stone of Lady Chapel and beginning of Henry III rebuilding of Edward the Confessor's Church.
				1222	Award of Papal Judges making Westminster Abbey exempt from Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury and subject directly to the Pope.

Political, national and international events		The Palace of Westminster		Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church	
Date	Event	Date	Event	Date	Event
				1245	Eastern part of C11 Abbey buildings demolished for new Henry III buildings.
				1253	Completion of the Chapter House.
1254	Sheriffs of counties instructed to send Knights of the Shire to advise the King on Finance.				
1265	Parliament met in Westminster Hall, composed of Bishops, Abbots, Peers, Knights of the Shire and Town Burgesses.  Model Parliament – The first representative assembly, 2 knights from each county, 2 burgesses from each borough, 2 citizens from each city				
				1269	Apse, radiating chapels, transepts and choir complete and new shrine received bones of St Edward.
				1272	Death of Henry III.
		1292	Building work on St Stephen's Chapel begun.		
C13	Centralising of the administration of Government at Westminster.	C13	Exchequer took up permanent residence at Westminster.	Late C13	Building of Abbey Nave begun. Nave of St. Margaret's replaced in the perpendicular style.
1341	Commons deliberate apart.				
1352	House of Commons sit in Chapter House of Westminster Abbey.				
		c.1365/1394-99	The Jewel Tower, part of Edward III's Palace of Westminster built. The Great Hall remodelled by Richard II, to include Hammer-beam roof.		
1377	First Speaker elected.				



**Political, national and international events**

**The Palace of Westminster**

**Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church**

Date	Event	Date	Event	Date	Event
1407	Henry IV acknowledged that taxes must originate in Commons.				
				1482	Robert Stowell starts rebuilding of St. Margaret's.
				1503	Henry VII Lady Chapel begun, replacing C13 Lady Chapel.
		1512	Fire gutted the royal residential ('privy') area of the Palace.	1517	Completion of Nave.
		1529	Henry VIII abandoned Westminster, ending 500 years of royal residence.	1523	St. Margaret's Church consecrated.
1536	Wales first represented in House of Commons.				
	Dissolution of the Monasteries.			1540	Abbot of Westminster surrendered the monastery to dissolution. Edward the Confessor's shrine torn down .
		1547	Edward VI gave the Chapel of St. Stephen to the House of Commons as permanent home.		
1556	Accession of Queen Mary.			1560	Elizabeth I designated the Abbey as a Collegiate Church, with a Dean and Chapter of 12 Prebendaries.
1560	Accession of Elizabeth I				
1571	First claim of Parliamentary privilege.				
1605	Gunpowder plot.				
1621	House of Commons asserts 'ancient and undoubted birth-right' of Englishmen to debate any subject in Parliament without fear of unrest or punishment. James I dissolved Parliament.	c.1621	Jewel Tower used as office and record store for the House of Lords until 1864.	1614	Palm Sunday Holy Communion taken by whole House of Commons in St. Margaret's Church.
1640-60	The Long Parliament. 5 <sup>th</sup> and last Parliament of Charles I. Increasing disagreement between the Crown and Commons, leading to outbreak of Civil War in 1642.				

Political, national and international events		The Palace of Westminster		Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church	
Date	Event	Date	Event	Date	Event
1660	Long Parliament dissolved. Convention Parliament, restoring Charles II			1662	Ashburnham House attributed to John Webb built within the Abbey precinct.
1685	Death of Charles II succeeded by Catholic James II			1681	The Speaker's Pew set aside in St. Margaret's Church.
1688-89	Glorious Revolution. Dispute between crown and parliament, regarding Catholic succession and the use of Royal Prerogative without Parliamentary approval. Culminated in the exile of James II, the accession of William and Mary and the Bill of Rights.				
1689	Bill of Rights, incorporating the Declaration of Rights.				
1694	Triennial Act, ensuring regular meeting of Parliament and limiting life-span of Parliament to 3 years, preventing monarchs ruling without a parliament.				
1701	Act of Settlement, providing for Protestant succession.			1698	Sir Christopher Wren appointed Surveyor to the Abbey.
1707	Last Royal veto on a Bill passed by both Houses.				
1707	Union of England and Scotland. First Parliament of Great Britain met October.				
1721	Robert Walpole 'first Prime Minister'.				



Political, national and international events		The Palace of Westminster		Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church	
Date	Event	Date	Event	Date	Event
1721	Robert Walpole 'first Prime Minister'			1730s	The tower of St. Margaret's Church rebuilt in early 18th century Gothic style
				1735	Facade of St. Margaret's Church cased in Portland stone.
				1740	Memorial erected to William Shakespeare.
				1745	Completion of West Towers by Nicholas Hawksmoor, the Abbey Surveyor.
1801	Act of Union. Irish Parliament abolished, in return for representation at Westminster.				
1806	Cobbett's <i>Parliamentary History</i> appeared. Later become known as <i>Hansard</i> .				
1829	Catholic Emancipation Act.				
1832	Reform bill. Electorate increased by 57%. Approx 20% of adult males could vote.				
		1834	Palace of Westminster almost totally destroyed by fire, apart from Westminster Hall and Crypt Chapel. Public competition to rebuild won by Charles Barry, assisted by AW Pugin.		
		1849		1849	Sir Giles Gilbert Scott appointed Surveyor to the Abbey.
		1852	New Houses of Parliament opened.		
		1861	Committee investigating decay of stone in new Houses of Parliament building, concludes decay due to pollution in London and poor stone.		
1867	Second Reform Act, increasing male suffrage.  First debate in House of Commons on women's suffrage.				

Political, national and international events		The Palace of Westminster		Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church	
Date	Event	Date	Event	Date	Event
1911	MPs first paid a salary from central government.			1881	St. Margaret's Churchyard grassed over.
1918	Representation of People Act, extending vote to women and all men over 21. First woman MP.			1888	The west window of St. Margaret's Church by Clayton and Bell installed
				1890s	The west porch of St. Margaret's Church built to designs by J.L.Pearson and restoration overseen by Sir George Gilbert Scott.
				1920	Funeral of the 'Unknown Warrior'.
				1928	St. Margaret's Churchyard used as a Field of Remembrance by the British Legion Poppy Factory.
		1941	Commons Chamber destroyed by enemy action.		
		1950	New Commons Chamber (Giles Gilbert Scott) opened.		
		1965	Lying in State of Sir Winston Churchill in Westminster Hall.	1965-66	900th Anniversary of the Abbey. 'One People' celebration
1968	First sound broadcasting of proceedings.			1966	Piper windows installed in St. Margaret's Church to designs by John Piper made by Patrick Reyntiens.
		1973	Stone Restoration Programme began.		
1989	First televised broadcasting of proceedings.			1984	St. Margaret's Church exterior repaired and interior adorned by appeal organised by the House of Commons and launched by Speaker Weatherill.
				1996	Monument to innocent victims of oppression, violence and war installed adjacent Westminster Abbey and unveiled by HM The Queen.

Political, national and international events		The Palace of Westminster		Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church	
Date	Event	Date	Event	Date	Event
				1998	Martyrs of the 20th century (10 Statues) installed on the west front of the Abbey above the door and unveiled by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.
1999	Devolution of extensive powers transferred to Scottish Parliament and National Assembly for Wales.  House of Lords act, restricting membership of hereditary peers.				
2000	Summer tours of the Line of Route open to the public.	2000	A new Parliamentary building, Portcullis House, completed ensuring the provision of an office for all MPs for the first time.	Late c20	Major restoration of Abbey, including cleaning and restoration of entire exterior, a new gable cross, six new statues and work on the exterior of Henry VII's chapel.

# 1. Description of the World Heritage Site

## 1.1 Location and definition of the site

### 1.1.1 Details

<b>Country:</b>	England, United Kingdom
<b>City:</b>	London (City of Westminster)
<b>WHS Names:</b>	The Palace of Westminster; Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church
<b>Coordinates:</b>	TQ 530000 179000 51° 32' N 0° 05' W

1.1.1.1 The Westminster WHS lies adjacent to the River Thames in London, England. The World Heritage Site comprises three main components: The Palace of Westminster, including the Jewel Tower, Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church and Westminster School. They are recognised internationally both as a group of buildings of outstanding architectural importance and as a symbol of spiritual and democratic ideals throughout the world. The River Thames, Victoria Tower Gardens and Parliament Square are significant public open spaces adjacent to the site.

### 1.1.2 World Heritage Site Boundaries

1.1.2.1 The World Heritage Site is a single site but is divided by a road into two separate areas: the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey, including St Margaret's Church.

1.1.2.2 The Palace of Westminster site is essentially the 'Houses of Parliament', principally Barry's 19th century New Palace of Westminster but incorporating the earlier Westminster Hall, New Palace Yard, half of Old Palace Yard and Black Rod's Garden to the south. The site is contained by the River Thames and its embankment to the east, by Bridge Street to the north and by the Victoria Tower Gardens to the south. Its western boundary faces Parliament Square.



1999 Aerial view of the Westminster World Heritage Site.

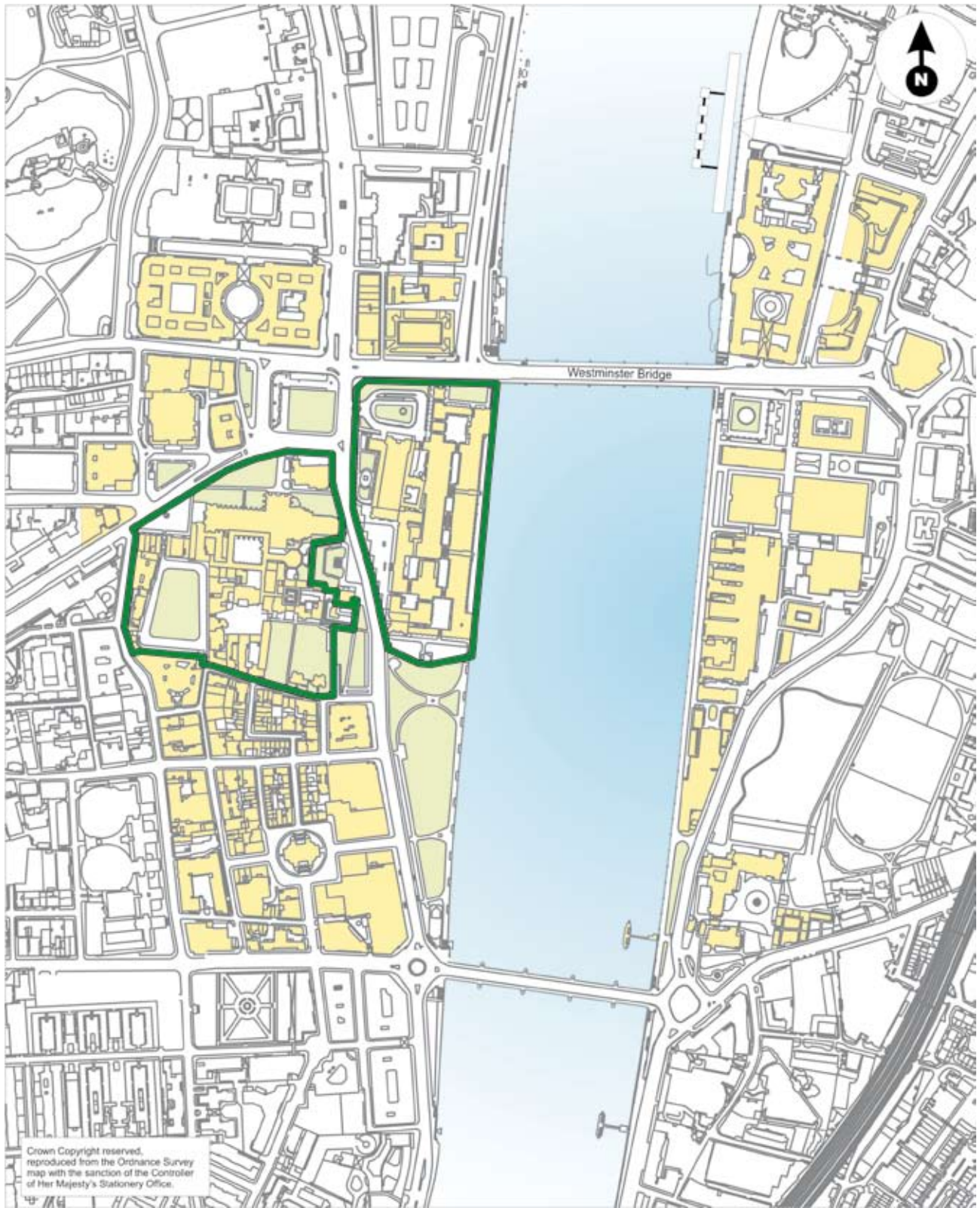




- 1.1.2.3 The Westminster Abbey site comprises the Abbey Church, with its Cloister, Chapter House, Chapels and medieval and later buildings and enclosed gardens. The Site also contains part of the Dean's Yard group of buildings, including some early Abbey offices, some still in use and some occupied by the Westminster School. St. Margaret's Church also lies within the site. The Jewel Tower, a remnant of the medieval Westminster Palace is an important free-standing building within the boundary. The Site is bounded by Broad Sanctuary [Victoria Street] and Parliament Square to the north; by Great Smith Street to the west; Old Palace Yard to the east and by Little College Street to the south.
- 1.1.2.4 It should be noted that the boundaries of the WHS do not currently contain all the elements or buildings associated with the Palace of Westminster. In particular, in recent years Parliament has occupied new buildings north of Bridge Street, including the building of New Parliamentary Offices (Portcullis House), the Norman Shaw buildings, and premises in Parliament Street. These currently lie outside the boundaries of the WHS.

### 1.1.3 Buffer Zone

- 1.1.3.1 At present the WHS does not have a designated Buffer Zone. This plan considers the possibility of defining a buffer zone or similar designated area, which would help to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value and significances of the WHS.



The existing boundary of Westminster World Heritage Site

### 1.1.4 Planning and policy framework

1.1.4.1 The protection of the World Heritage Site at Westminster is assisted by national legislation and local policies. These include at the time of writing:

#### *National*

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 [amended by the National Heritage Act 1983].
- The Planning [Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act] 1990.
- Planning and Policy Guidance Note 15 [PPG15]: Planning and the Historic Environment, The Department of the Environment 1994.
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 [PPG16] Archaeology and Planning, The Department of the Environment 1990.

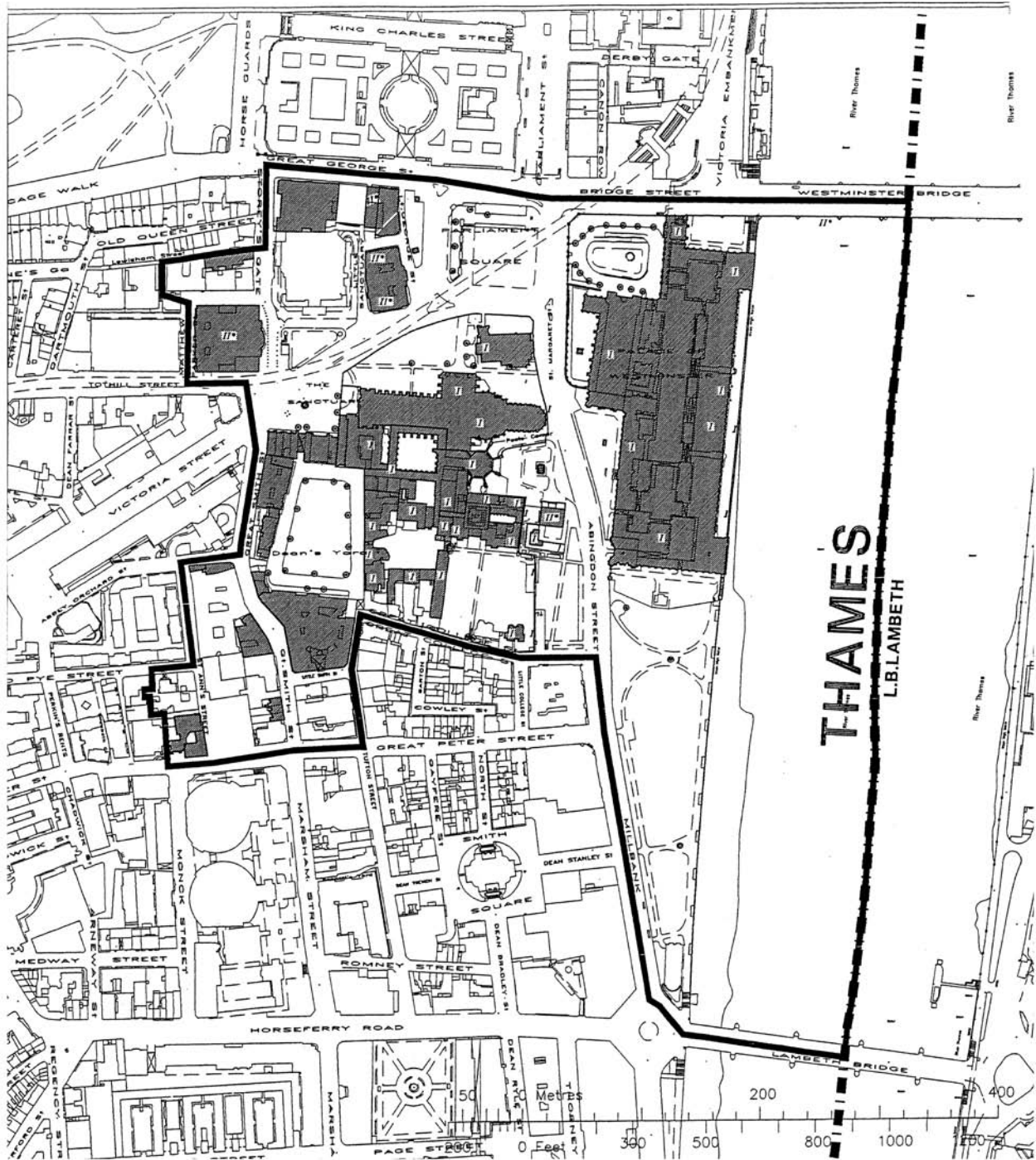
#### *Local*


- The City of Westminster Advertised Unitary Development Plan 1997 [At the time of writing the final replacement version Inspector's Report is under consideration].
- The Replacement City of Westminster Unitary Development Plan [Pre-enquiry Version. At the time of writing the Inspector's report is under consideration] 2002.
- The London Plan, Mayor of London June 2004
- The London Borough of Lambeth Unitary Development Plan.

1.1.4.2 As a Royal Peculiar the Abbey is not included within the Ecclesiastical Exemption Order 1994. However, they benefit from the Ecclesiastical Exemption by having satisfied the Department of Culture Media and Sport that: *"...a procedure for the control of works conforming to the general principles of the ecclesiastical exemption regime..."* has been established respecting the Abbey's status as a Royal Peculiar.

1.1.4.3 The WHS falls wholly within the Greater London borough of the City of Westminster. Planning controls, guidance and designations apply from adopted planning documents and are influenced by the status and stage of the process of revision. At the time of writing the most important documents are under the latter stages of formal review.

**Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Area  
Conservation Area  
Distribution of Listed Buildings**



*Distribution of listed buildings  
Listed buildings / statues shown are listed Grade II unless indicated otherwise  
Listed structures like statues and lampposts shown thus: *

- 1.1.4.4 The area is within the scope of the Mayor of London's Cultural Strategy published in April 2004. The London Plan addresses Culture and Tourism, including the management of the historic environment and World Heritage Sites. Views are also addressed and the forthcoming SPG will include a strategic London View Management Framework.
- 1.1.4.5 The WHS is also subject to the broader context of international and national strategic and regional guidance provided by the European Union and the Government through the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Government Office for London (GoL).
- 1.1.4.6 Westminster City Council's Unitary Development Plan for the borough is the main strategic planning framework (which at the time of writing is at the second deposit stage for replacement of the adopted 1997 version). It contains a number of specific policies relating to tourism, arts and cultural developments in Westminster.
- 1.1.4.7 The London Borough of Lambeth Unitary Development Plan has relevance to the WHS as it contains policies for development in parts of a possible Buffer Zone for the WHS that may particularly influence views into and from the WHS as well as its setting. The plan is currently under review.
- 1.1.4.8 Government tourism policy is set out within *Tomorrow's Tourism*, published in 2002. Tourism policy for Central London is covered by the Mayor's plan for tourism in London, *Visit London*, published in 2002. The Mayor's office also published a consultation draft of the Cultural Strategy for London, *London Cultural Capital*, in June 2003.

## 1.2 The history and evolution of the site

### 1.2.1 Introduction

1.1.1.9 This section sets out a summary of the principal phases of development of the buildings and institutions of Westminster Abbey and the Palace of Westminster.

### 1.2.2 Early origins

1.2.2.1 The origins of the site and its later supremacy owe a great deal to its topographic position. The early River Thames was wide and braided, with a series of gravel islands – Chels-Ey, Bermond’s Ey, and Batter’s Ey – standing proud of the marshy river edge. The core of the WHS is centred on one such island, Thorney, an historic eyot within the delta created by the division of the River Tyburn as it flowed into the Thames. It is also thought it was only here that the Thames was fordable at low tide. The palace and abbey would be thus encircled by a natural moat, with marshes beyond.

1.2.2.2 A Mesolithic flint axe found at New Scotland Yard shows that human habitation in the general area of Westminster stretches back over 7,000 years. Neolithic flints, found in New Palace Yard and Bronze Age and Iron Age features, pits, gullies and ditches, observed in Cromwell Place and Parliament Square, are evidence of sporadic human use of the drier ground afforded by the island throughout the prehistoric periods.

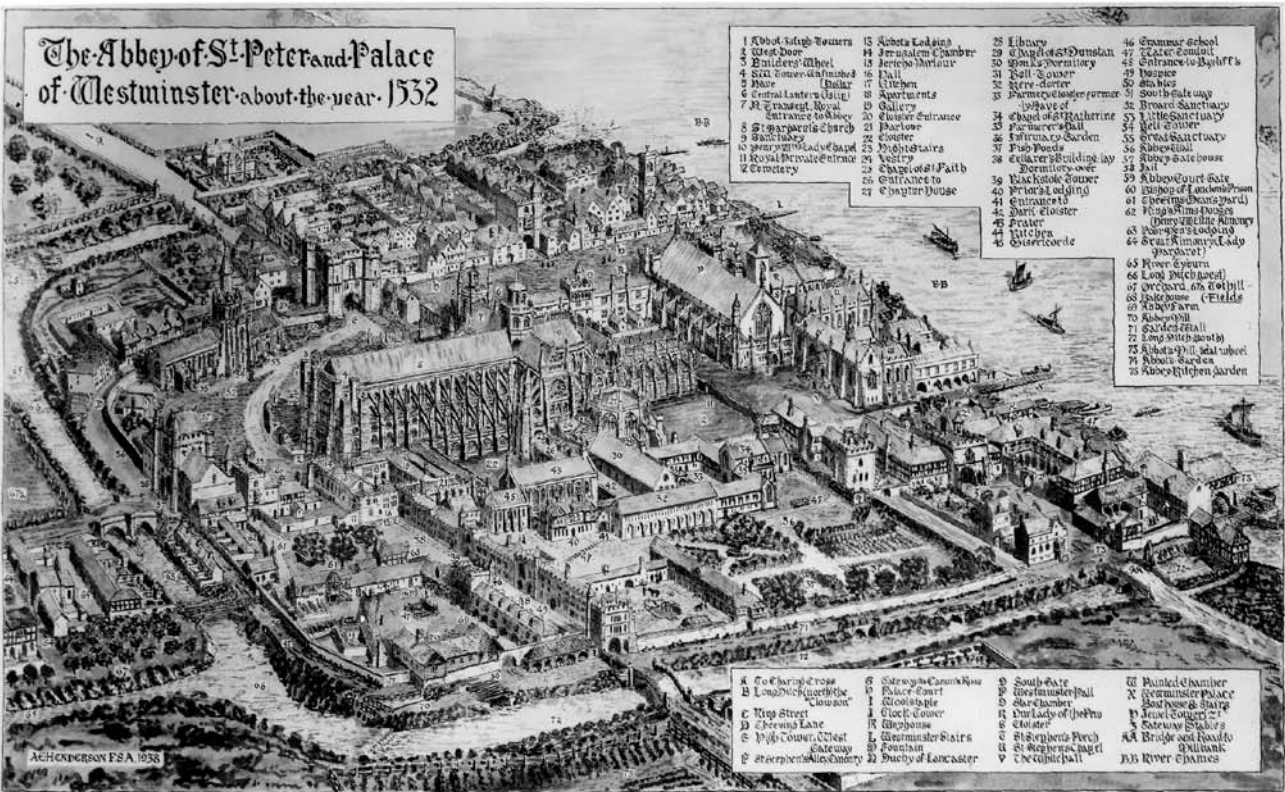
1.2.2.3 Although the site lies upstream from the Roman city of Londinium, a sarcophagus found in the north side of the Abbey and possible Roman walls observed beneath the nave of Westminster Abbey, as well as Roman pottery and walls found in Parliament Square, all suggest that some activity took place here in the Roman period. Indeed the great Roman route of Watling Street, crossed the River Thames here, probably meeting the river on the site of Lambeth Palace on the south bank and at Thorney Island on the north bank.



c. 1100 view (See overleaf).



c. 1100 artist's impression of the Norman Abbey and associated Thameside buildings (by Terry Ball).



c. 1532 artist's impression of the Abbey and Palace complex showing Thorney island, (by A E Henderson 1938).



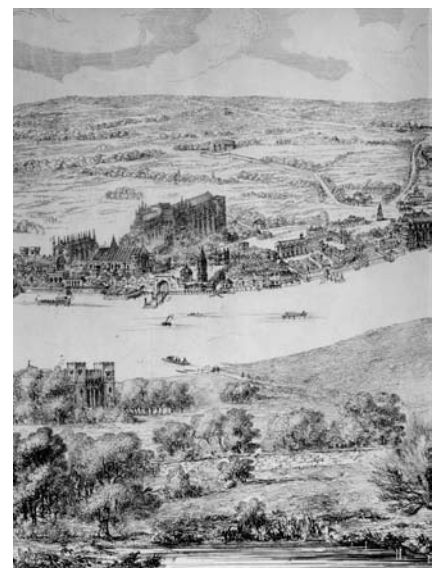
1.2.2.4 Substantial and permanent occupation here seems to have begun in the Saxon period. Thorney Island lay at the southern end of a road leading from the Middle Saxon settlement of Lundenwic. The precise nature of early religious foundations on the site is uncertain, since documentary references before Edward the Confessor are sparse. A minster church was probably founded here around the late 7<sup>th</sup> century. Among the Abbey muniments is a charter (which may or may not be genuine) that records a grant of land around 785 AD by King Offa of Mercia "...to St Peter and the needy people of God in that terrible place called at Westmunster..." The early minster church perhaps served the growing nearby settlement of Lundenwic. Following his appointment as Bishop of London in 957, St Dunstan recovered from King Edgar control over the minster's estates and refounded it as a Benedictine Abbey, at the same time restoring its church and other buildings, some of which were in ruins.

**1.2.3 The Palace and Abbey: Edward the Confessor's foundation, 1065 – 1220**

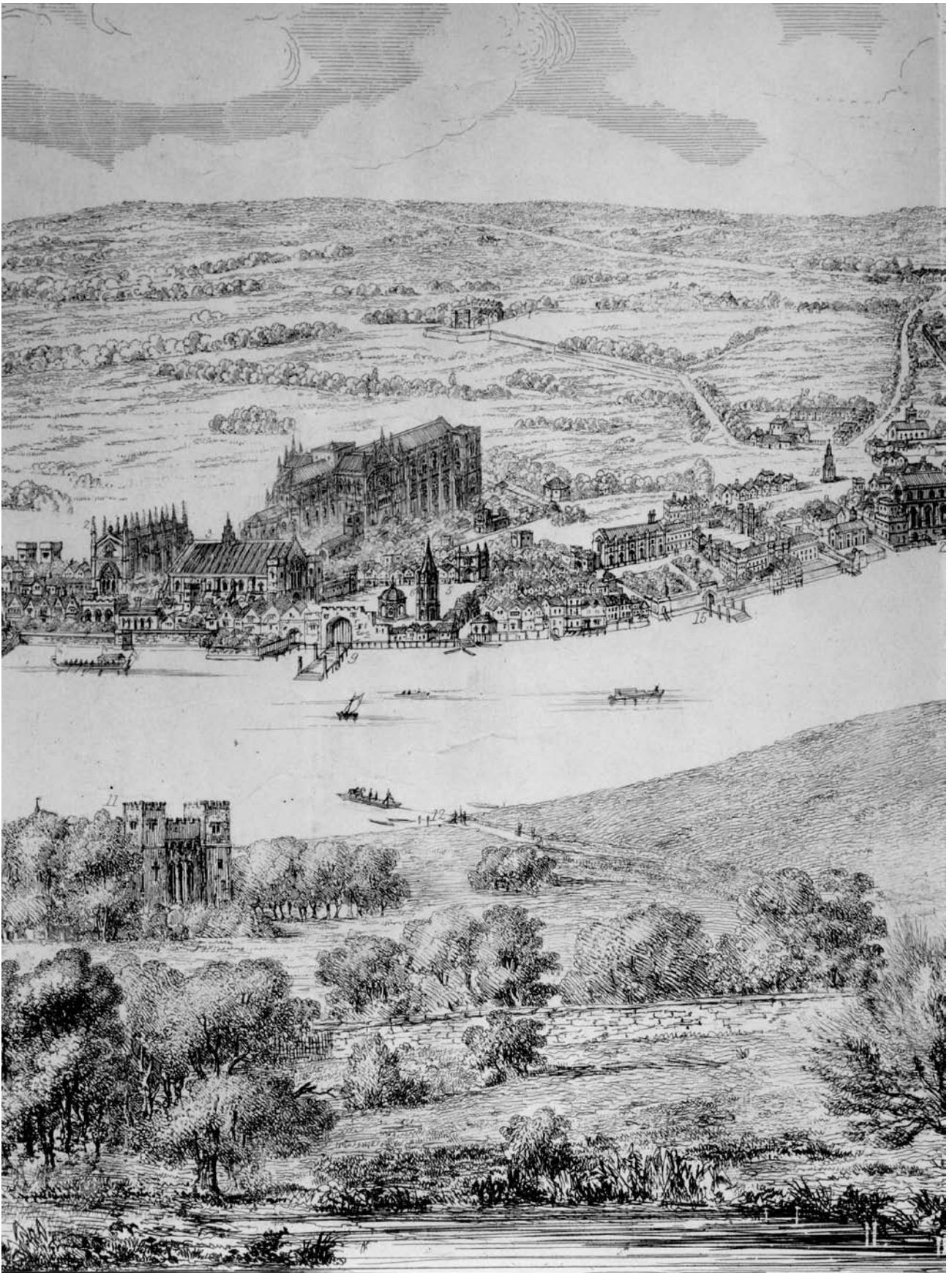
1.2.3.1 Westminster as the site of both the Palace and the Abbey began under King Edward the Confessor (1042-1065). No later than around 1050, Edward hugely increased the endowments of the Benedictine Abbey and began to rebuild the church and conventual buildings. Edward also took up residence in the palace adjacent to the Abbey to oversee the rebuilding and to be close to the emerging commercial metropolis of London. Thus the bonds between Church and State were consolidated, reflecting the sacred and the secular in the person of the King. For the first five centuries of its existence, from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>, the Palace at Westminster was the principal residence of the English monarchy.

1.2.3.2 Little is known of the Confessor's Palace, but it probably included a Great Hall and a series of private chambers for the king himself. The Bayeux Tapestry depicts the Confessor seated in a stylised Palace, almost certainly intended to represent Westminster.

1.2.3.3 The Confessor died at Westminster and was buried in Westminster Abbey on 6 January 1066. On the same day Harold, Earl of Wessex, became the first English king to be crowned at Westminster Abbey, so establishing Westminster as not only the residence and burial place of kings but the site where coronations took place.



1543 view of the Palace and Abbey complex (See overleaf).



1543 view of the Palace and Abbey complex from Lambeth, looking towards St. James's Palace (copied by N. Whittock from original by Anthony van der Wyngaerde).

- 1.2.3.4 After the Norman invasion and the defeat of King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror chose Westminster Abbey for his own coronation on Christmas Day 1066. Having established his first stronghold at the Tower of London, he later took up residence at Westminster Palace.
- 1.2.3.5 William II Rufus, the Conqueror's son, built a new, magnificent Hall at the northern end of the Palace. At 240 feet long, 67½ feet wide, with walls 40 feet high and over 6½ feet thick, the Hall was larger than any comparable building in England at that time, standing parallel to the banks of the Thames in order to fit on the narrow plot. Throughout the Middle Ages, Westminster Hall was a place for feasting, particularly at coronations.
- 1.2.3.6 William I had set about restoring order to his newly won kingdom. There was no Parliament at this time, but it was from the assembly known as the King's Great Council – formed from the leading nobles of the realm and the successor of the Anglo-Saxon Council, the 'witan' – that Parliament was to evolve. The evolution of Parliament was also influenced by its development within the royal palace-monastery at Westminster. By the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, royal justice was administered, as with all mechanisms of government, where the king was. A series of reforms culminated in the signing of the Magna Carta (1215), which decreed that 'common pleas' could be heard in a fixed place. That place was invariably Westminster Hall.
- 1.2.3.7 Edward the Confessor's rebuilt Abbey Church, modelled on Norman examples, was the first great Romanesque building and first cruciform church in England. Built of Reigate stone, it was longer than the major churches in Normandy. The Bayeux tapestry depicts the five completed bays of the nave, the lantern, east end, and transepts, which were consecrated in 1065. Edward died early in 1066 and was buried in front of the high altar of the Abbey church. Work continued on the Abbey however and it was probably completed around 1080. The monastic and collegiate buildings were grouped on the south side of the church. They included the dormitory, forming part of the east range of the cloister, the rear-dormitory, the frater range and the infirmary. In 1161, Edward the Confessor was



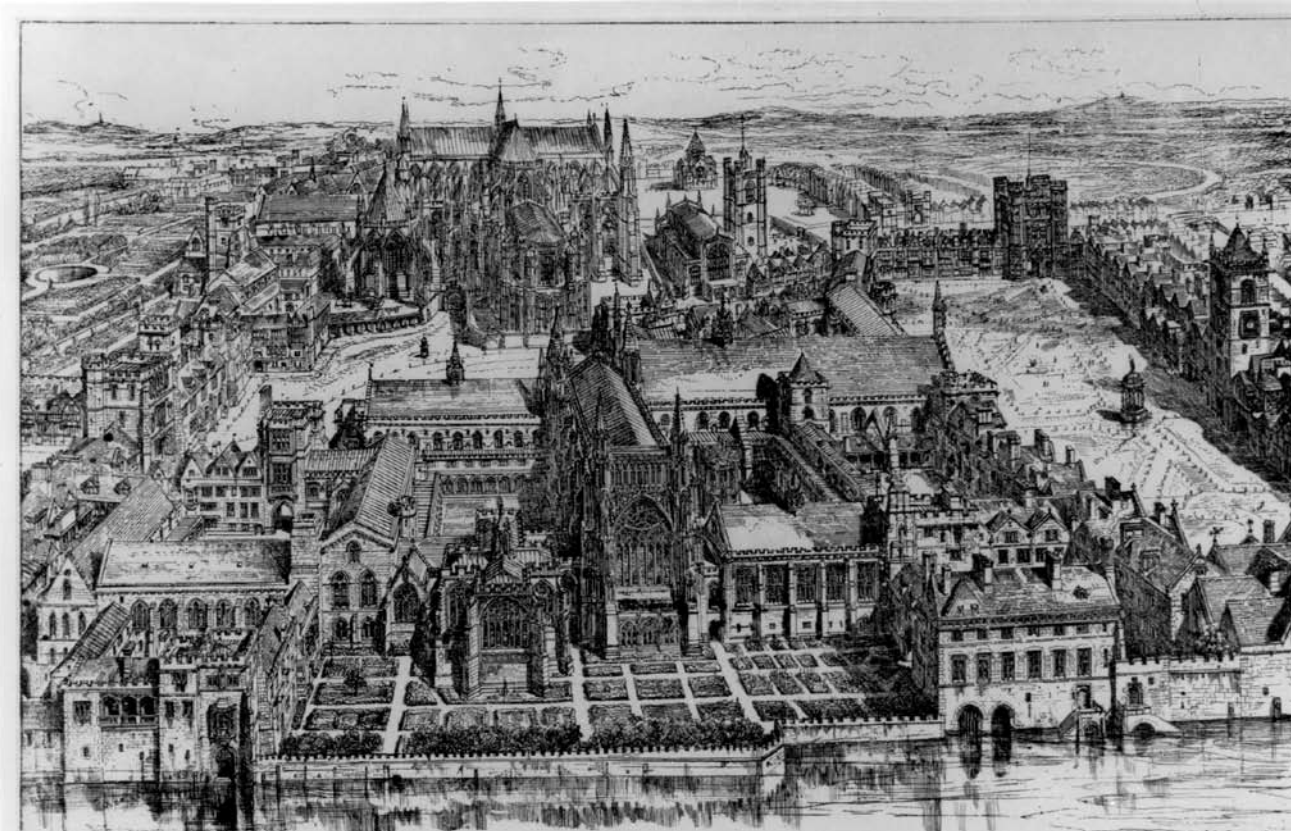
*Westminster Abbey nave looking east.*

canonised and in 1163 Henry II translated his body to the new shrine, now above ground but still in front of the high altar.

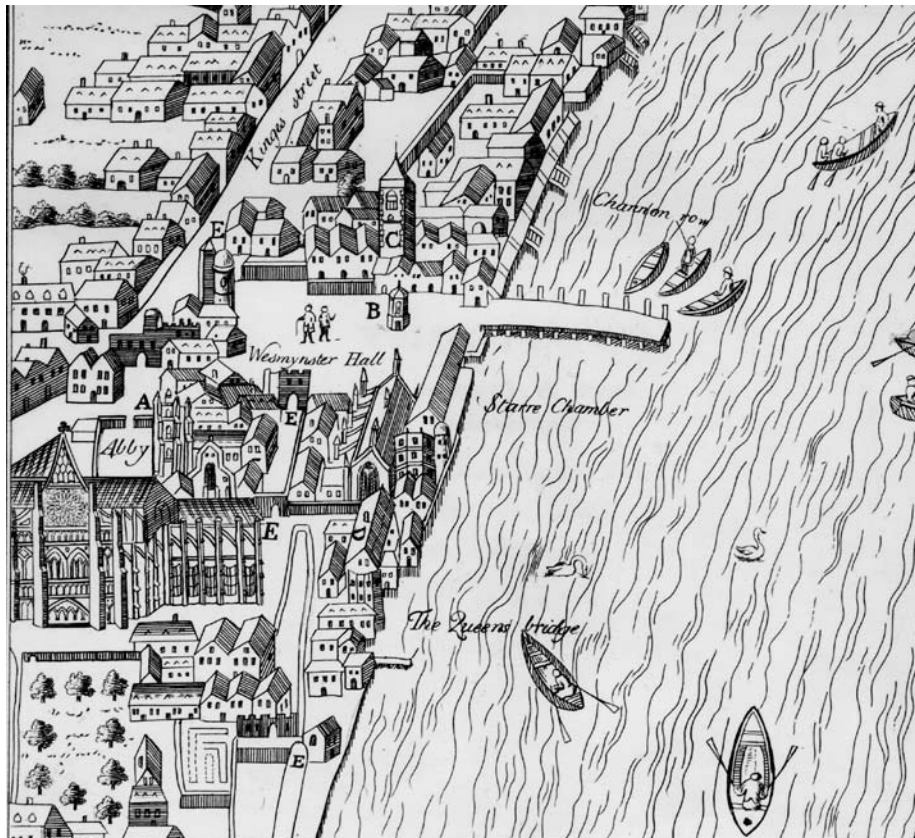
- 1.2.3.8 Very little remains above ground of the early church but archaeological evidence survives below the current pavement and has been examined at different times. Of the cloistral buildings that are thought to have been completed by 1100, there survive important elements of the east and south ranges, especially the vaulted dormitory undercroft and the Pyx Chamber.
- 1.2.3.9 By the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Benedictine Abbey was flourishing, probably housing between thirty and sixty monks. It was now the wealthiest religious house in Britain, largely owing to the huge landed endowment given by Edward the Confessor, but also through its association with the monarch and the revenue gained from the large number of pilgrims who came to visit the Confessor's shrine.
- 1.2.3.10 St Margaret's Church, dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch, a third-century martyr, was built in the latter part of the 11th century, although the precise date is unclear. The church, built in the Romanesque style to the north of the Abbey church, was founded by the monks to meet the needs of the ever-growing population of Westminster and ministry was undertaken by the monks of the Abbey.

## 1.2.4 The Great Rebuilding: the WHS in the Medieval Period 1220-1539.

- 1.2.4.1 Henry III began major reconstruction of Westminster Abbey in 1245 (see below). It reflected the adoption and augmentation by Henry of the cult of St Edward the Confessor, and gave a grander expression to his kingship, by laying claim to the spiritual forces that legitimised the king's authority.
- 1.2.4.2 In 1241, Henry had commissioned the creation of a new magnificent shrine to the Confessor, to be decorated in gold and jewels and housed in a dedicated chapel. Four years later the demolition of the abbey church began. The new building was to be even grander than the last, with Kentish ragstone, Caen and Reigate freestone, marble from Purbeck and lead from Derbyshire. At high season four hundred workmen would be employed. Features such as the rose windows and flying buttresses in the new church were again heavily influenced



Mid 16th century. Artist's impression of the Palace and Abbey from the east in the time of Henry VIII (by H. W. Brewer 1884).



c.1578 Westminster Abbey looking north (after larger map by Ralph Agas c. 1560).



*Interior of the Chapter House.*

by French examples, Italian craftsmanship was employed, particularly for the Cosmati pavement before the high altar and the tomb and Chapel of the Confessor. By 1259 the transepts, apse, crossing and Chapter House were complete and in 1269, with the completion of the quire, consecration of the new building and the translation of the Confessor to the new shrine took place. The event was celebrated with a banquet in Westminster Hall.

- 1.2.4.3 Nearly a century later, work on the Abbey Church resumed and the remodelling, modifications and additions continued until the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. A 'Galilee' porch was added to the north transept in 1362. The remainder of the old nave was pulled down and work on the completion of the new nave began in 1376. The Chapel of St Dunstan was rebuilt in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and a chapel of St Erasmus was added to the Lady Chapel in the third quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. By the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the nave was virtually finished. Henry VII pulled down the chapel of St Erasmus and the Lady Chapel replacing it with the magnificent new Lady Chapel, with its fan vaulting and the figures of one hundred and seven saints lining the walls. It was consecrated in 1509.
- 1.2.4.4 Many of the monastic buildings, including the Frater, Dorter and Infirmary buildings, were destroyed by fire in 1298. They were gradually rebuilt during the 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 1.2.4.5 The Abbey precinct had probably been enclosed by boundary walls and a ditch by around 1180 AD. The total area covered by the Abbey precinct was approximately fourteen acres and it owned many of the houses close by. The precinct was divided into the southern and northern precincts. The southern precinct included the cloister, dormitory, abbot's lodgings, the abbey garden and other private areas of the abbey. The northern precinct was the public space. It included the parish church of St Margaret and the processional routes to the west and north doors of the Abbey Church and was the site of the great October Fair from the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

1.2.4.6 The first St Margaret’s Church survived until the reign of Edward III. Its nave was then replaced with one in the perpendicular style, the chancel still being in good repair at that time. Towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century St Margaret’s Church had fallen into such a state of dilapidation that it needed almost total reconstruction. Robert Stowell began to rebuild the church in 1482. The work continued over many years and the new church was consecrated on 9 April 1523.



*St. Margaret’s Church looking East.*

1.2.4.7 The institutions of government evolved in the Westminster area. In addition to the King’s Great Council, from the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century it became increasingly usual to summon knights from the shires and burgesses from the towns. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century they began to meet together, apart from the Lords, and from this assembly evolved the modern House of Commons. Parliament began to convene on a regular basis at Westminster from the reign of Edward I. The Lords sat in the newly completed Queen’s Chamber but the Commons did not have a permanent home on site and so from 1352 to 1547 they tended to sit in the Chapter House or the refectory of the Abbey. The future architectural development of the Palace was therefore inextricably bound up with its role as the meeting place for both Houses of Parliament and of the Courts of Law.

1.2.4.8 Henry III also remodelled Westminster Palace in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, adding new chambers for the Queen and decorating the Painted Chamber. Edward I completed the decoration of the Painted Chamber. He also founded St Stephen’s College and Chapel and began the two storey Chapel in 1292, although it was not completed until the reign of Edward III.

1.2.4.9 By the late 13<sup>th</sup> century the layout of Westminster Palace resembled many English castles, with its high stone walls and gates. Throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> century the privy and public parts of the Palace at Westminster, now called the Great Palace, continued to develop. Edward III built a high clock tower in the courtyard to the north of the Great Hall, and the Jewel Tower at the south-west corner of the Palace. By the reign of Edward’s grandson, Richard II, the Palace, and particularly the Great Hall, had become the heart of English secular and, to an extent, ceremonial life. Richard’s extensive remodelling of



*Interior of Westminster Hall looking south.*

the Great Hall included the raising of the side walls, the roofing of the whole building in one span, the addition of flying buttresses to support the weight of the roof and the entire rearrangement of the bays and windows. The magnificent roof featured hammer beams, each of which terminated in a carved angel holding a shield with the King's personal coat of arms impaled with that of the Confessor's. The interior was richly and emphatically decorated with Richard's personal emblems, particularly the White Hart. A series of life-size, colourful statues of kings completed the scheme.

- 1.2.4.10 The royal residence came to occupy an area of over 13<sup>1/2</sup> acres, including some land reclaimed from the Thames in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It consisted of the outer court (or New Palace Yard), the middle court (or the Green Yard) and the inner court (or Old Palace Yard) and St Stephen's Court.
- 1.2.4.11 Westminster's status as the centre of Government and law was increasingly consolidated. By the late 15<sup>th</sup> century the main Courts of Law, as they were now known, comprising the Kings Bench, the Court of Chancery and the Court of 'Commons Pleas', were all housed in the Great Hall, whilst the Exchequer had been relocated to an adjoining building.
- 1.2.4.12 State trials were also held in Westminster Hall. Some of the most dramatic events in British history were played out here. Edward II and Richard II were deposed and William Wallace, after powerfully challenging Edward I, was tried in Westminster Hall in 1305. In later centuries individuals such as Guy Fawkes and King Charles I were put on trial in the Hall and it was here that Burke spoke in defence of the American colonies and Wilberforce spoke against slavery.
- 1.2.4.13 By the 15<sup>th</sup> century the Westminster area had attracted and become congested with business activities. With the crowds came disease and crime. Broad Sanctuary retains the name of the religious sanctuary provided for certain crimes. Residential properties and shops even existed within the precincts of Westminster Abbey.



1.2.4.14 In 1512, the royal residential (or 'privy') area of the Palace was gutted by fire. In 1529, although it remained the seat of government, Henry VIII abandoned Westminster as a residence, in favour of the Palace which came to be known as Whitehall. The ruins of the Privy Palace were demolished, thus ending almost 500 years of royal residence. Although it retained the status of a Royal Palace, with coronation banquets being held in Westminster Hall until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Westminster Palace subsequently became devoted to administration and law.



*Norman Undercroft in Westminster Abbey.*

## 1.2.5 The Dissolution and beyond: The WHS in the post-medieval period 1539-1834

1.2.5.1 Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 (see below), the Commons were granted the upper chamber of the deconsecrated St Stephen's Chapel in 1547 as their own assembly chamber. The lower chamber was used by the Speaker. St Stephen's Chapel was long and narrow, with collegiate style stalls facing each other across the chamber. The Commons retained this seating arrangement and raised the Speaker's Chair on the altar steps and installed a central table for the clerks. The layout later was faithfully copied in Barry's New Parliamentary Buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

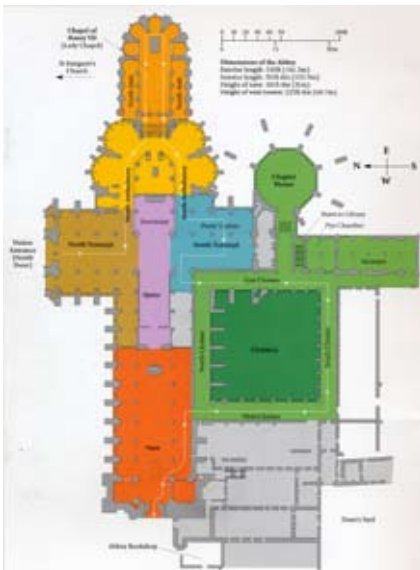
1.2.5.2 Parliament met more frequently in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, but was still dependent on royal summons. The ad hoc arrangements for meetings held on an occasional basis in certain rooms of the palace, gradually evolved into normal patterns of use. The officials who served Parliament (the speaker, the clerks of the two houses), were given permanent residences within the palace. Meanwhile, the senior courts had consolidated their hold on the areas flanking Westminster Hall. Court-rooms were built within the Hall itself, with offices serving them in adjacent wings. Westminster became a scene of regular official business, and gradually coffee-houses, taverns and stalls grew up to serve it. Both Parliament and the higher courts were also generating large volumes of records, and other parts of the buildings, notably the Pyx Chamber and the Chapter House in the Abbey, were adapted as record offices. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, as part of the restoration of the Hall, the courts were re-housed in a new building, designed by Sir John Soane, adjoining the Hall.



1593. View looking west (Norden's plan).



1682 Morgan map.

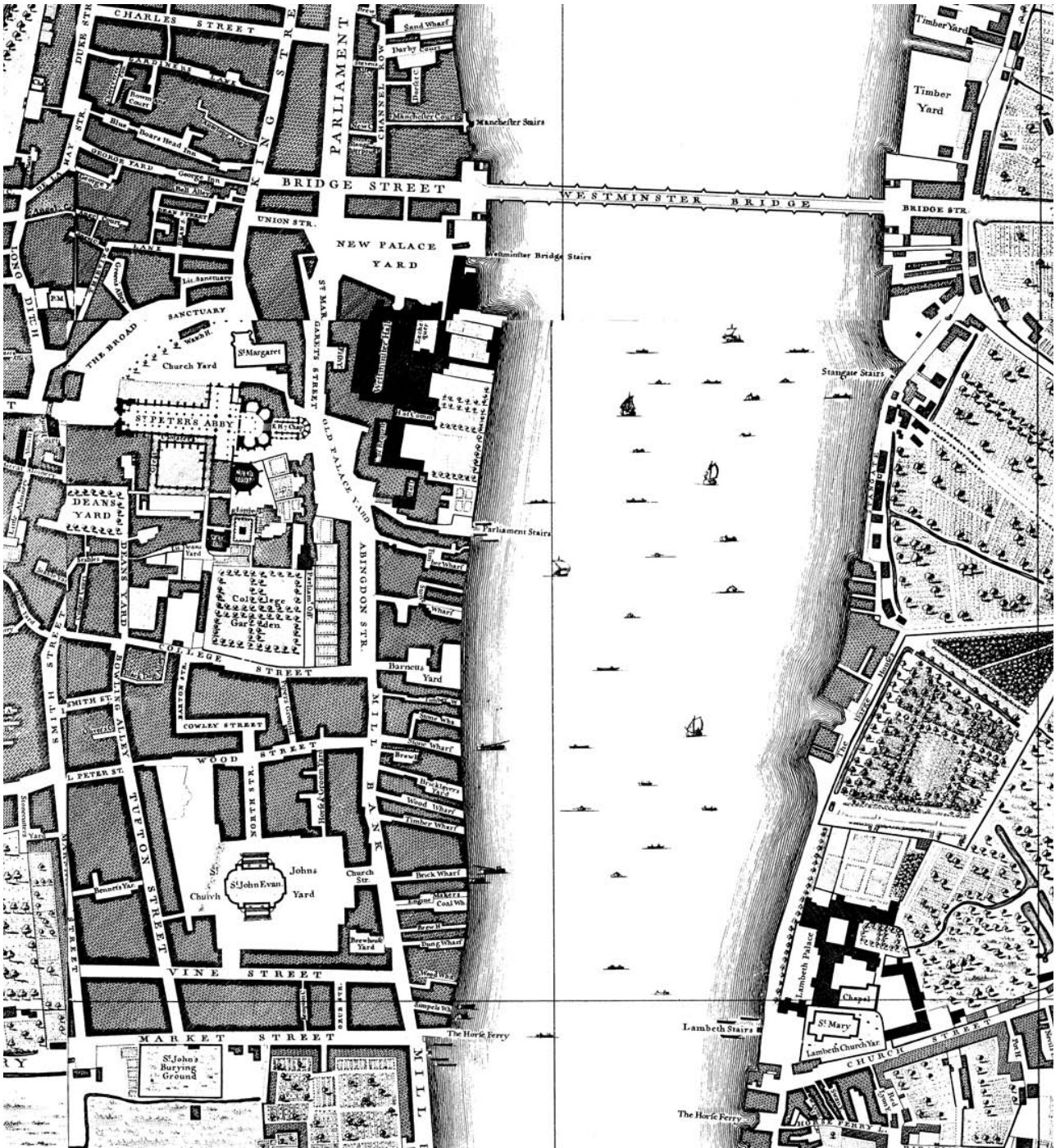


Plan of Westminster Abbey with colours showing key periods of development.

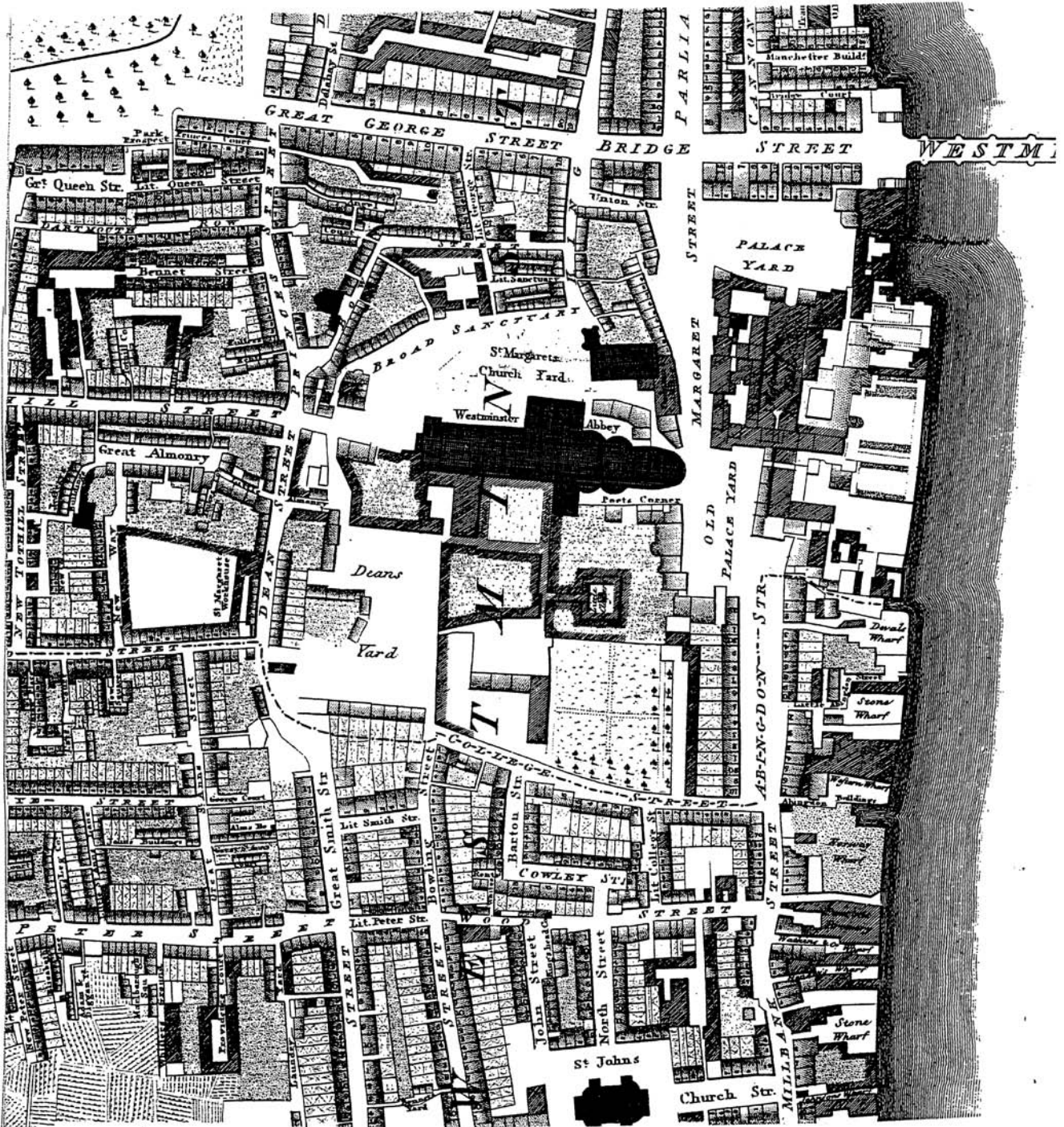
- 1.2.5.3 In 1691 Christopher Wren reported on the poor state of St Stephen's Chapel and members asked William III for a new home for the Commons. When this was refused Wren set about a programme of radical repairs to the medieval building. This included the demolition of the clerestory, the installation of a false ceiling, blocking of the perpendicular windows and lining the chamber with wooden galleries and panelling. As the number of members rose, Wren had to extend the galleries still further. Another petition to the king, this time George II, for a new Parliament House in 1732 was unsuccessful. The murder of the Prime Minister Sir Spencer Percival in 1812 highlighted how the halls and lobbies of the Palace were open to all and members feared for their safety in the tortuous and dark passageways of the old buildings. In 1831 a committee was formed to look into the condition of Parliamentary accommodation but budget considerations led to another refusal, on the part of the government, for an improvement programme. Until 1834 the Palace remained a jumble of medieval buildings, patched and extended in an ad hoc manner, often with wood, tar paper and sailcloth
- 1.2.5.4 The history of parliament is dominated by the issue of the balance of power between Parliament and the monarch. After the Civil War and the Restoration, Parliament was in a position of greater authority and met more regularly. Its authority increased further with the Glorious Revolution (1689), the Act of Union with Scotland(1707), and the Hanoverian succession (1714). From this period, 'party politics' developed at Westminster, with two major groupings, Whigs and Tories, emerging, contesting elections and alternating in power.
- 1.2.5.5 Thus political initiative had passed from the royal court to Westminster, as Britain evolved into a Parliamentary monarchy. It has remained so ever since. Parliament is able to check the power of government and the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the monarch must give assent to pass a law. All three are required to comprise a session of Parliament.
- 1.2.5.6 The Acts of the Reformation of Parliament, including the dissolution of the monasteries, were passed by the House of Commons as they sat in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey, where they had been allowed to assemble for nearly three hundred years. The Abbey was among the last of the monasteries to be dissolved. Shrines,

relics and images were removed and the King took over the Abbey's manors, including Covent Garden. In 1540, the Abbot and monks surrendered the church and monastery, which was by now second only to Glastonbury in riches, to Henry VIII. For much of 1540 the Abbey stood empty, until December when a Collegiate Church, consisting of a Dean and twelve 'prebendaries' was established. In 1553 Catholic rituals were restored by Mary Tudor. The Benedictine monastery was re-established in 1556 and by 1558 there were forty monks at the Abbey.

- 1.2.5.7 Following the death of Mary, the Catholic interlude ended and Elizabeth I again dissolved the religious houses and the Collegiate Church was restored, in accordance with a charter of 1560. It has remained a Collegiate Church, with a Dean and Canons, ever since and is one of the Royal Peculiars, under the direct patronage of the monarch and outside the Episcopal hierarchy. The buildings, all site and compass, were transferred to the Collegiate body.
  
- 1.2.5.8 The Abbot's lodgings became first the Bishop's then the Dean's house and the Infirmary and Cellarer's buildings were transformed into Canon's lodgings. Westminster School used part of the Dorter as a hall from 1599. Various other alterations were made, including the removal of the Frater.
  
- 1.2.5.9 After the transition from monastery to Collegiate Church, the Abbey gradually became the place where the history of the nation was exhibited in pageantry and made permanent in stone. In monastic days only royal personages and high ecclesiastics had been buried in the Abbey, but from the reign of Elizabeth I, the nobility began to acquire vaults and several very large monuments were erected. From the 17<sup>th</sup> century the great English poets, such as Spenser, Dryden and Tennyson were interred in Poets Corner. The burial of people in the Abbey of distinction in other spheres began in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and included Dr Johnson, Garrick the actor, Camden the historian and Tompion the clock maker. Musicians were also represented by Purcell, Croft, Blow and Vaughan Williams. Monuments to great individuals who were buried elsewhere, such as Shakespeare, Milton, Gray and Wordsworth, were also installed.



1746 John Rocque map.



c.1792 Horwood map.



1809 view of Westminster Bridge.

1.2.5.10 Christopher Wren was appointed as Surveyor to the Fabric in 1698. By the time of his appointment, the fabric of the church was suffering from substantial disrepair and decay, not least caused by the pollution from the rapidly expanding city. Wren instituted a programme of repair to large parts of the church, strengthening the crossing tower and renovating the north end of the transept. He devised plans for a central spire but they were never realised.

1.2.5.11 The last major construction project in the Abbey's history was that of Nicholas Hawksmoor's completion of the west towers in 1745.

1.2.5.12 Until about 1820, the Abbey church was poorly attended at service time but Dean Ireland (1816-42) threw open the nave to the public and great numbers of people began to visit the church.

1.2.5.13 The association between St Margaret's Church and the House of Commons began in 1614 when the Speaker led Members of Parliament to the church for a corporate celebration of the Holy Communion. People of note were also buried in St Margaret's. They include William Caxton, the English printer, and Sir Walter Raleigh, buried under the altar after his execution in Old Palace Yard.

1.2.5.14 Despite the long-established river crossing point at Westminster, first a ford and in later times, a horse ferry, for centuries London Bridge was the only bridge across the Thames, providing access to the City and maintaining the City's monopoly on trade. A new bridge linking Westminster and Lambeth was opened on 18 November 1750. Even before it was finished, the bridge structure was affected by inferior foundations. Constant remedial work kept it in service until the present bridge was built in 1862, to a design by Thomas Page. One feature of the bridge was the incorporation of two 2m wide tramways. At the time of its construction it was considered to be "one of the handsomest structures that has ever crossed the waters of the Thames".



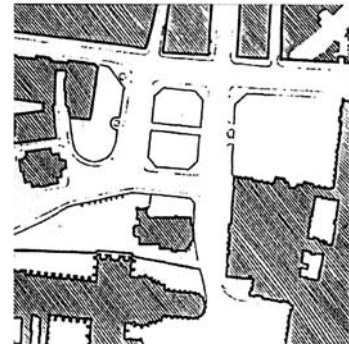
1856 Houses of Parliament under construction seen from the riverside wharves, now the site of Victoria Tower Gardens.



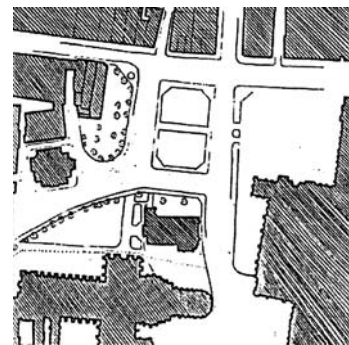
## 1.2.6 After the fire: 1834-1960

- 1.2.6.1 On 16th October 1834, fire virtually destroyed the medieval Palace, save for Westminster Hall and the crypt of St Stephen's Chapel. Charles Barry with AW Pugin won the competition to design the new palace. The site was expanded to about 8 acres, extending into the River Thames by land reclamation. The redevelopment was comprehensive, the original layout being abandoned but for the retention of Westminster Hall, the Crypt and the rebuilt Cloisters.
  
- 1.2.6.2 Costing over £2m, the new parliamentary buildings were finished in 1870. They were in the Perpendicular Gothic style, reflecting the appearance of the Henry VII Abbey church, as well as the nostalgia of the day for all things medieval, English and religious. The adoption of this style was an influence on the design of public buildings such as town halls, law courts, and schools throughout the country and even other capital cities. The large new ensemble towered over the three storey yellow brick terraces and ramshackle half timbered houses of mid Victorian Westminster.
  
- 1.2.6.3 Order was brought to the form of the Parliament Square area with the removal of buildings for major new developments. Clearances of buildings took place in 1810 in order to set out the railed grassed area north of St Margaret's Church. More comprehensive Victorian rebuilding took place. Slum clearance and road infrastructure was developed, notably Victoria Street (1845-51), the second Westminster Bridge (1862) together with the laying out of Parliament Square in 1868 as part of the building of the New Palace.
  
- 1.2.6.4 To the south of the New Palace of Westminster all the old buildings and wharves on the riverside were demolished between 1880 and 1912. Together with reclaimed foreshore, this area comprises today's Victoria Tower Gardens.
  
- 1.2.6.5 The old buildings on the south side of Bridge Street had been demolished in 1866-7 to open up New Palace Yard to public view and to the north of Parliament Square buildings were demolished to make way for the New Government Offices by J.M. Brydon, completed in 1907. The major architectural change, following the completion of

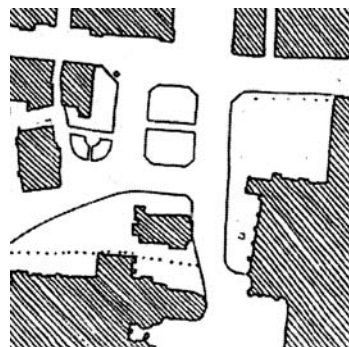
### Parliament Square Evolution



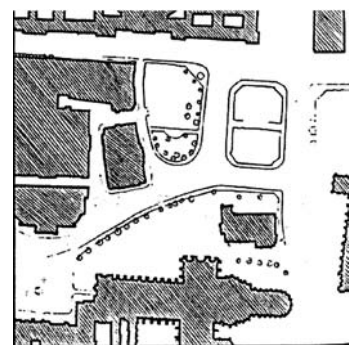
1870 - E.M Barry's Square, the Law Courts of Kent and Vardy showing railings adjacent to the Abbey.



1894-9 - The Law Courts and Abbey railings are now demolished, the Square is otherwise unchanged.



1913 - Brydon's new Government offices enclosing the north side of the Square. King Street disappeared and Parliament Street was widened.



1940's - The Square as it was prior to the redesign by Grey Wornum in 1950. Broad Sanctuary still enclosed by the Westminster Hospital.



1890. Historic photographic view looking towards Old Palace Yard from Parliament Square showing the coordination of street furniture and landscape conceived by Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Palace of Westminster.

the Palace complex, was the removal of the Law Courts building in 1883 which created a new view of Westminster Hall from Parliament Square.

1.2.6.6 By the middle of the 19th century Westminster stood in the midst of an increasingly overcrowded London, which now comprised over 70,000 houses. The very poor sanitary conditions led to a series of cholera outbreaks in the 1840s and 1850s. The River Thames bore the brunt of the pollution, as the city's raw sewage was discharged into it. Putrid mud collected on the foreshore of the river which, still unembanked, was often slow moving. Fish and river fowl no longer survived the pollution. The crisis came to a peak in the 'Great Stink' of the summer of 1858. In the House of Commons, curtains were soaked in chloride of lime to combat the stench and for a time the business of the two Houses was suspended. Legislation was rushed through, resulting in the construction of Bazalgette's great sewage system for London and the Victoria and Albert Embankments.

1.2.6.7 Wartime brought considerable damage to the Abbey and the Palace of Westminster. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1941, the Commons Chamber was destroyed by the bombs of enemy action. The Abbey's moveable treasures had been evacuated at the start of World War II and sixty thousand sandbags were piled around the fixed monuments. But the bombing destroyed the library roof and set fire to the Deanery, houses round the Little Cloister, the old monastic dormitory and the roof of the Abbey church, including the lantern tower above the crossing. A new chamber, adopting Barry's form, was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and completed in 1950.

1.2.6.8 Outside the WHS, institutional and church-related buildings, reflecting the area's proximity to the Abbey and the seat of government, continued to be developed from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These including the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (1896-98), the Methodist Central Hall (1905-11), Middlesex Guildhall (1906-13) and the Institution of Civil Engineers (1912).

1.2.6.9 Georgian Houses along Abingdon Street, which had been widened in 1750, were demolished from the 1940s following bomb damage.

This led to the formation of Abingdon Street Gardens in the 1960s. In 1947 a new landscaped space had been created as the setting of the King George V Memorial adjacent to 6/7 Old Palace Yard and in 1950 the landscape form of Parliament Square was redesigned by the architect Grey Wornum.

1.2.6.10 South of the Palace and Abbey precincts, the existing street pattern is the descendant of late medieval paths, fields and gardens, as altered by 18<sup>th</sup> century residential development. There has been little further change to it since then although it was also affected by World War II bombing. The area is centred on the magnificent St John's Church, Smith Square (restored after bomb damage) which dwarfs the contemporary terraced houses to the north, but has itself been dwarfed by 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings to the south and east. The area north of the church comprises a network of early 18<sup>th</sup> century streets and terraced houses which have survived remarkably well, retaining much of their original character. A number of 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings have been successfully slotted into those streets, such as North House and Gayfere House by Oliver Hill in the 1930s. To the south and east of the church are large scale commercial buildings fronting onto Millbank. At the northern end of this group are the offices of the Church Commissioners by W.D. Caroe (1903) and Corner House, Great Peter Street by Sir Edwin Lutyens (1911). At the southern end are Imperial Chemical House and Thames House. These buildings face the river and dominate views from Albert Embankment, on the South Bank.



*New Palace Yard original lamp column example.*

1.2.6.11 The area has been the focus for a range of innovations in street furniture. For example the railing line between the Henry VII Chapel and St. Margaret's Church includes supporting rings and columns of a form used for early oil lamp lights in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Twenty-two years after its first testing, coal gas was used to light Westminster Bridge in 1814. The first electric lighting in London also appeared on Westminster Bridge in 1858.

1.2.6.12 The first traffic signal, fuelled by acetylene gas, appeared in Parliament Square at the Bridge Street junction in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (although it was the cause of an explosion).

- 1.2.6.13 A number of designs for gas lamp columns and lanterns around the Palace of Westminster can be seen in early photographs from the 1860s. Decorative globe clusters were also used on the piers of the railing line around New Palace Yard until the 1930s and in E.M. Barry's decorative design of Parliament Square from 1868.
- 1.2.6.14 Drawing archives of Barry's designs for lamp columns still exist and show a standard column form and lantern options (some of which may not have been used). Early photographs from the 1880s show that one standard form of clear glass, globe top lantern and barleytwist column was used to define the perimeter and approaches to the Palace, Parliament Square and Old Palace Yard. These columns appear to have been removed in the 1930s, except for the two at the Peers' Entrance (fitted with electric bulbs) in Old Palace Yard. Eddystone decorative columns and Rochester style lanterns were used until the 1950 improvement scheme for Parliament Square. This saw the removal of the last Victorian elements of coordinated furnishings and landscape design.

## 1.2.7 The WHS in modern times

- 1.2.7.1 Less visible work and major building restorations continue on the Palace of Westminster and other historic buildings in the area. An underground car park for MPs took nearly 25 years of planning and consultation to reach completion, finally topped with a garden and Silver Jubilee Fountain in 1977.
- 1.2.7.2 Portcullis House at the corner of Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment was opened in 2001. 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 Extension. The complex engineering feat included the construction of the tracks and the new station around the existing Circle and District line tracks. The station entailed one of London's deepest excavations, some 40m deep. The deep track tunnels run under Great George Street between St Stephen's Tower and St Stephen's House, but due to the constraints of space, lie one above the other rather than side by side.



*St Stephen's Tower popularly known as 'Big Ben'.*

1.2.7.3 The close connection between the House of Commons and St Margaret's Church remains. The front pew on the right hand side is reserved for Mr Speaker, although the House has not worshipped collectively there since the Thanksgiving Services held at the end of the Second World War in 1945 and the opening of the new Chamber of Commons in 1950. Memorial Services for distinguished MPs are normally held here and the links between the Commons and the church have been strengthened in recent years. Winston Churchill was married there on September 1908. The last three Rectors have acted as Speaker's Chaplain and for some years the Rector's Wardens have been Members of Parliament.



Westminster Hall.

1.2.7.4 For nearly a century following its completion, the public had access to the whole of Old Palace Yard unlike the secure New Palace Yard. Existing archive drawings suggest Sir Charles Barry designed permanent railings for Old Palace Yard: a scheme which was never implemented. Temporary crowd control ropes and barriers to mark the edge of the parking area in Old Palace Yard and at St. Stephen's entrance became permanent installations (only removed on State occasions) since the 1970s.

1.2.7.5 From 1994 to 2001 three barrier lines defined the footway and lobby queues. The current arrangement is designed for phased removal in future and is completely removed on State occasions.

1.2.7.6 The current highway lighting around Parliament is achieved by 'Long Parliament Square' columns and lanterns, designed by architect, Grey Wornum as part of the 1950 improvement plan. The 2002 improvements for Old Palace Yard restored the original Sir Charles Barry design of gas lamps around the whole east and west sides of the historic square.

1.2.7.7 The hub of the area is Parliament Square, with its world famous views of the Gothic Revival Houses of Parliament and the Clock Tower. It also provides a setting for a number of statues of former Prime Ministers (including Churchill) and statesmen (including Abraham Lincoln).



*The Jewel Tower*

## 1.3 The WHS today: the built heritage

### 1.3.1 The Medieval Westminster Palace

- 1.3.1.1 The Palace of Westminster stands between Westminster Abbey and the River Thames. The only surviving medieval parts, following the fire of 1834, are Westminster Hall, parts of St Stephen's Cloister, the crypt of St Stephen's Chapel and the Jewel Tower.
- 1.3.1.2 Large parts of the side walls of the 11<sup>th</sup> century Westminster Hall remain but much of the fabric is from the 14<sup>th</sup> century remodelling. The whole of the external, and much of the internal, stonework was renewed in the various restorations of Kent, Soane, Smirke, Barry and Pearson in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Under the superintendence of Barry most of the south wall was removed and replaced by an arch and the two towers flanking the north entrance. The roof has been repaired and rendered safe by steel reinforcement in recent years and the lantern is modern.
- 1.3.1.3 The oak roof is of twelve bays and of the hammer-beam type. All the main timbers are moulded; the main principals are curved and form two-centred arches below the collar beams; the hammer-beams have curved braces beneath and terminate in large figures of angels vested in 'dalmatics', rising from clouds and holding shields of the royal arms. All the spandrels have pierced traceried filling, the large spandrels being divided into lights with trefoiled ogee heads. There is similar filling above the collar-beams.
- 1.3.1.4 The Crypt Chapel, which adjoins the south-east corner of Westminster Hall, is what remains of the two-storied medieval chapel of St Mary the Virgin and St Stephen. The chapel is of five vaulted bays; the vaulting over each bay has moulded main, subsidiary, 'lierne' and 'ridge-ribs' springing from grouped vaulting shafts with carved and moulded capitals and moulded bases; the wall ribs are two centred and trefoiled and the main ribs are enriched on the underside with running fret-like patterns, which are either modern or very much restored; at the intersection of the ribs are carved bosses. The present rich decorations are the work of Edward Middleton Barry (son of Charles Barry) in the 1860s.
- 1.3.1.5 St Stephen's Cloister is of two storeys. The north and south walls are each of five bays, and the east and west walls each of six bays.

Projecting into the court from the fourth bay from the north in the west walk is the "Oratory".

1.3.1.6 The Oratory has a semi octagonal east end. It was greatly damaged in the fire of 1834, and, with the exception of the vaulted roof to the ground floor, has been practically rebuilt. The lower floor is in three bays, with a semi-hexagonal bay at the east end, and has fan-vaulting similar to that of the cloister walks. The upper floor is generally similar to the floor below, but the roof is entirely modern. All the stonework has been repaired, and little of the original work remains.



Principal floor.

1.3.1.7 The Jewel Tower once formed the southwest angle of the Palace enclosure with boundary walls projecting northwards and eastwards. Short sections of the (originally) water filled moat have been excavated and restored to the south and west of the tower. The moat originally enclosed the south side of the Medieval Palace all the way to the river, where a wharf was formed.

1.3.1.8 The Jewel Tower itself is of three storeys. The main walls, though much patched and repaired, are original work of 1365-66. Most of the windows are early 18<sup>th</sup> century replacements. The flat topped parapets and stair-head likewise date from 1718 and replace the battlemented tops of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.



Ground floor.

### 1.3.2 The 19<sup>th</sup> century parliamentary buildings

1.3.2.1 Despite Barry's Gothic Revival building being centuries younger than the Westminster Hall, the ensemble forms a coherent architectural whole. It resonates particularly well with the late Gothic form and detail of the east end of the Abbey church, forming an architectural bond, symbolic of the unity of church and state.

1.3.2.2 The river frontage of the building is the most impressive elevation both by day and when lit at night. It was particularly designed to be appreciated from the South Bank and Westminster Bridge.

1.3.2.3 The New Palace was built on a bed of concrete up to 3m thick. The complex covers an area of 3.3ha, has over 1,100 rooms, 100 staircases and 3.2 km of passages. There are over 300 statues on the main facades of the building, representing saints and sovereigns of



First floor.

England from the Norman Conquest to the reign of Queen Victoria, many of them life size. The many ornate turrets are dominated by the Central Tower and the Victoria Tower at the south end, the Clock Tower at the north end. The largest bell in the clock tower is known as “Big Ben” after Sir Benjamin Hall, First Commissioner for Works 1855-1858. Both the Great Clock and the Clock Tower are often colloquially known as “Big Ben”.

1.3.2.4 The Palace contains eleven open courtyards, with a carriageway joining Speaker’s Court at the north end to Royal Court at the south end. Star Chamber Court (so called from its position which roughly corresponds to the old Star Chamber Building) adjoins the Members’ Entrance to the House of Commons Court and Commons Inner Court complete the courts in the Northern Position of the Palace. The Southern Position has six courts in two parallel lines from south to north: Royal Court, Peers’ Court and Peers’ Inner Court lie parallel to Chancellor’s Court, State Officers’ Court and St Stephen’s Court.

1.3.2.5 The internal plan consists of a north-south spine, which contains all the main rooms; the Queen’s Robing Room, The Royal Gallery, Prince’s Chamber- House of Lords, Lords’ lobby, Central Lobby, Commons’ Lobby and House of Commons. On either side of this central spine are the courtyards of varying sizes. Innumerable smaller rooms branch off the principal rooms and the two main entrances next to the Victoria Tower (Sovereign’s Entrance) and Westminster Hall (St Stephen’s Entrance).

1.3.2.6 The whole Palace is lavishly decorated both externally and internally with the monogram VR (Victoria Regina) and emblems of the historic connections of the Royal Family, the pomegranate of Castile, the lily of France and the portcullis of the Beauforts, within the distinctive deep green, red and gold of Pugin’s neo-Gothic decorative scheme.



Central Lobby.

### **The House of Lords**

1.3.2.7 The Queen’s Robing Room is 16.4m long, 11.2m wide and 7.6m high, with two carved doorways ornamented with fine metal work. An oak dado runs around the room with 18 panels of deep carving, by H. Armstead, portraying stories from the legend of King Arthur.



Above the dado are five large pictures in true fresco illustrating the virtues of chivalry, also from the legend of King Arthur, by W Dyce, RA.

- 1.3.2.8 On a dais at the end of the room is the Chair of State beneath a canopy carved with the Rose of England, the thistle of Scotland, the shamrock of Ireland, and Queen Victoria's monogram. The cloth at the back of the dais was embroidered with the Royal Arms and the Queen's monogram by the Royal School of Needlework in 1856.
- 1.3.2.9 The Royal Gallery through which the Sovereign progresses for the opening of Parliament, is 33.5m long. The side walls are decorated by two large pictures, painted by Daniel Maclise, RA, representing the meeting of Wellington and Blucher after the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, and the death of Nelson at Trafalgar in 1805.
- 1.3.2.10 The Prince's Chamber serves as an ante-room to the House of Lords, and is named after the apartment of that name which adjoined the ancient House of Lords. The bas-relief, executed in bronze by William Theed, commemorates historic events of the Tudor Period. The dominating feature of the chamber is the massive marble statue by J Gibson, RA, of Queen Victoria with flanking figures of Justice and Mercy. The panels of the pedestal represent Commerce, Science and Industry.
- 1.3.2.11 The Chamber of the House of Lords is 59.3m long, 13.7m wide and 13.7m high. It contains The Throne used by the monarch which was designed by AW Pugin.
- 1.3.2.12 In front of the Throne is the 'Woolsack', where the Lord Chancellor sits and two Woolsacks where the judges sit at the State Opening of Parliament.
- 1.3.2.13 At the north end of the Chamber is the 'Bar of the House'. The Commons with their Speaker stand below the Bar on ceremonial occasions such as the opening and prorogation of the Session: a reminder that Parliament was originally a single assembly.
- 1.3.2.14 In the Victoria Tower are stored some three million records of Parliament, including the master copies of all Acts of Parliament since 1497, endorsed in Norman-French.



*Green leather seats are used in the House of Commons and Red in the House of Lords.*

## The House of Commons

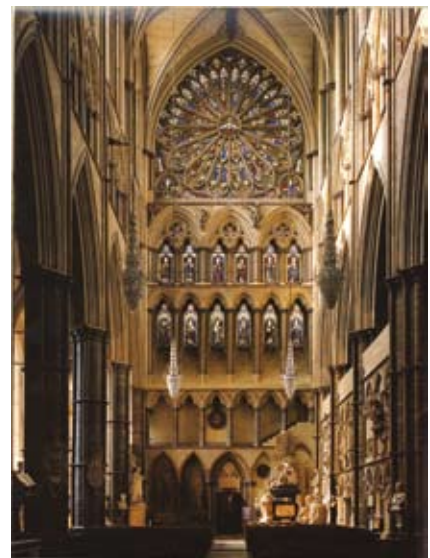
- 1.3.2.15 The Central Lobby is the place where visitors and constituents come to see Members of Parliament. It is an octagonal apartment 23m high and 18m across. The west doorway leads to St Stephen's Hall, the south to the House of Lords, the north to the House of Commons, the east to the dining room and libraries.
- 1.3.2.16 The Chamber for Members of the Commons contains 929 seats of which 427 are for Members, 326 for strangers, 161 for reporters, and 15 for officials.
- 1.3.2.17 The benches, in the backs of which there are now loud speakers, are upholstered in green hide and the floor is covered with a mottled green carpet.
- 1.3.2.18 The red stripes that run the length of the front benches are traditionally two swords length apart, and Members speaking from the front bench must not step over them. The furniture was given by members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.
- 1.3.2.19 The 'Division Lobbies' are at each side of the Chamber. Members voting 'aye' go out of the Chamber behind the Speakers Chair and pass through the lobby on his right. Those voting 'no' go out at the other end of the Chamber into the lobby on the Speakers left. At the farther end of each lobby, clerks record the names of Members and a pair of Members' tellers count them.
- 1.3.2.20 The library of the House of Commons occupies six rooms on the principal floor river front. Next to the library are in succession the 'Smoking Room', the 'Chess Room', the Members' and Strangers' dining rooms and the Pugin Room, the Members' tea room. On the ground floor river front are the 'Strangers' Bar', the Members' Terrace cafeteria, several small rooms for private parties, and a strangers' cafeteria and the Churchill Room.
- 1.3.2.21 On the first floor overlooking the river there are committee rooms of varying capacity, some holding 150 people and others holding only 30 people. Two modern committee rooms have also been provided at the south end of the corridor, overlooking Peers' Court. There is



Example of original sign and wallpaper in the Palace of Westminster.

also a large grand committee room adjoining Westminster Hall. This is a shell of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Court of Exchequer, which has been recased and remodelled. Since 1936 it has been equipped for the showing of films and it was completely refurbished in 1975. In 2000 this was established as the Westminster Hall Chamber, a House of Commons debating chamber which is used in parallel with the main Commons chamber, but for non-contentious debates.

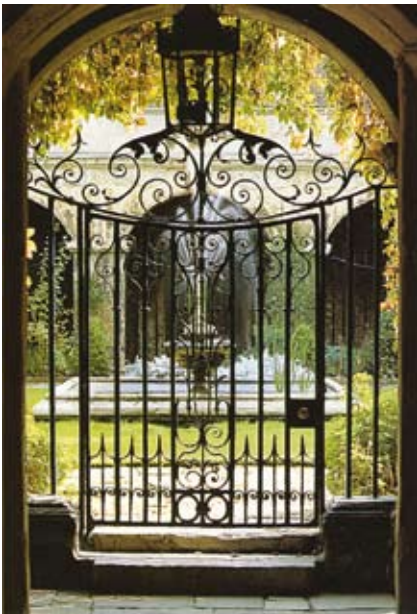
- 1.3.2.22 Amongst the parts of the Palace from which the public is excluded the most notable is the 'Speaker's House' which formed an integral part of the original scheme and which is decorated with the same lavish attention to detail and richness of treatment as other major apartments.
- 1.3.2.23 When the New Palace was built, no MPs or peers expected to have individual offices, but several officials of the two Houses expected to be provided with residences, as they had been in the old Palace. These included the Clerks, Deputy Clerks, and Librarians for both houses, the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Serjeant at Arms for the Commons, and the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod for the Lords. The residences, mostly opening off Speakers' Court and Royal Court, were large, generally rising from the basement, through three or four storeys, to the roof. In the 20th century, with a rising demand for offices for individual MPs, almost all of the residences have been converted: the Clerk of the Commons' Drawing Room, for example, is now the Prime Minister's office. Lateral conversion of the residences for office use has had some odd consequences, and these areas of the building can have a labyrinthine quality, with unexpected changes of level and oddly juxtaposed spaces and staircases. The Speakers' House, always the finest of these residences, is the only one to survive intact and in its original use.
- 1.3.2.24 After the Second World War, as the demand for office space continued to rise, a series of additions were made to the palace, infilling parts of the courtyards (as in Star Chamber Court) adapting attics and roof voids (as over the main river range), or adding extra storeys (as over the Commons Tea Room). These were designed to be invisible from outside the Palace. They are plainer in character, and fitted out to a lower standard, than the historic buildings.



*South transept and its rose window.*

1.3.2.25 The New Palace's interiors, both the official areas and the residences, were originally fitted out to a very high quality, the decoration observing a hierarchy in terms of the importance of the spaces. The huge quantities of joinery, designed by Pugin, were produced by Grissell & Peto, the main contractors, at specially-built workshops in Lambeth. Pugin also designed and supervised the production of a whole range of fittings, including stained glass by Thomas Hardman and Company, brass-work by John Hardman, hand-block printed wallpapers by Crace and Company, and encaustic floor tiles by Herbert Minton and Company. The decoration of the Palace of Westminster had a major influence on mid-Victorian art and design. However, in many parts of the Palace, especially the former residences, the original decoration was painted over or obliterated in the 20th century. In the last 20 years, major progress has been made in researching and restoring the original decorative schemes.

1.3.2.26 Pugin also designed and supervised the manufacture of a great range of furniture for the Palace. Thousands of items were made, ranging from simple chairs to elaborate desks, cupboards and sideboards. Fittings such as clocks, inkstands, sign-holders, and lamps were also specially designed and produced in great numbers. While much of the furnishings have been lost, great quantities remain in the Palace, and in recent years there has been a systematic campaign to catalogue them, and buy back missing pieces where possible. All of this, added to the rich and coherent decorative schemes, combines to give the Palace a peculiarly rich and distinctive visual character.



Entrance to the Little Cloister.

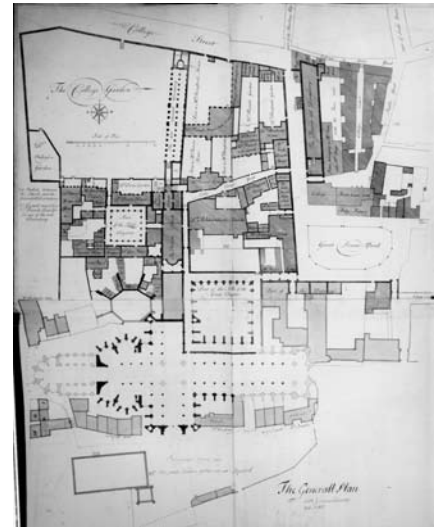
### 1.3.3 Westminster Abbey

1.3.3.1 The church is cruciform in plan, with an ambulatory with four radiating chapels beyond the crossing and sacarium, terminating at the east end with the apsidal chapel of Henry VII. The aisled nave is of twelve bays, of which the four eastern are occupied by the ritual 'quire' and 'pulpitum'. The height of the vault above arcade, 'triforium' and clerestory, is greater than any other major English Medieval church.

1.3.3.2 At the east end of the nave is the screen separating it from the quire, designed by Edward Blore, in 1834 who also designed the gothic-style choir stalls. The crossing, scene of many coronation

ceremonies, has four main piers originally designed to carry up to form the lantern and was extensively repaired after World War II bomb damage. The transepts are similar with east and west arcades, triforium, clerestory and vault. The north transept, with its monuments to great statesman, is popularly known as the Statesmen’s Aisle and the south as Poets’ Corner.

- 1.3.3.3 East of the crossing is the sanctuary where the High Altar stands. The altar and ‘reredos’ behind it were designed by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1867. In front of the altar is a 13<sup>th</sup> century pavement of Cosmati work. Behind the reredos, as the heart of the Abbey and also with a Cosmati floor, lies the chapel of St Edward the Confessor, containing his shrine. The chantry of Henry V consists of a raised platform at the end of the Confessor’s chapel on which stands the tomb itself with the chantry chapel above.
  
- 1.3.3.4 The chancel ends in five sides of an octagon, and is surrounded by an ambulatory with radiating chapels. The Henry VII chapel beyond consists of a nave with aisles of four bays and a polygonal chancel with five radiating chapels, all of uniform rectangular plan with a projecting bay-window on the outward side. The aisle and chapels are fan-vaulted, embellished with Tudor badges and carved pendants. Beneath the windows are 94 of the original statues of saints, placed in richly embellished niches. Beneath these hang the banners of the living Knights of the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, founded in 1725, whose chapel it is. In the centre of the apse, behind the altar, stands the tomb of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. Elizabeth I and Mary I share an elaborate tomb in the north aisle, while Mary Queen of Scots lies in the south aisle.
  
- 1.3.3.5 The Chapter House is an octagonal building with a vault supported on a single slender pillar. Beneath seven windows (one being blind) is a continuous arcade containing medieval wall paintings. Two important pieces of English medieval sculpture, the figures of Mary and Gabriel, are set in aedicules above the entrance doorway.
  
- 1.3.3.6 The Grave of the Unknown Warrior lies at the west end of the nave. Laid in 1920, it commemorates the fallen of the First World War of 1914-1918.



1731 plan of Abbey and environs by Nicholas Hawksmoor.



*Interior view of staircase in Ashburnam House.*

1.3.3.7 The monastic and collegiate buildings, including those of Westminster School, are grouped on the south side of the church. From the Great Cloister there is access through an outer and inner vestibule to the Chapter House. The Chapel of the Pyx forms of the former dorter undercroft. It is vaulted in four bays from a massive central pier. It was a royal treasury from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and today contains two ancient treaty chests.

1.3.3.8 The rest of the long undercroft is now used as a museum. The 11<sup>th</sup> century undercroft is regarded as the most important such surviving structure in England of this date.

1.3.3.9 Beyond the Great Cloister the Little Cloister, Little Dean's Yard and Dean's Yard lie to the south east, south and south west respectively.

1.3.3.10 The Library and Muniment Room houses the extensive and historic collections of books, manuscripts and archives of the Abbey. The collection comprises the archives of Westminster Abbey to the present day, including accounts and records of the Abbey's estates and minutes of Chapter meetings.

1.3.3.11 Ashburnam House is a substantial town house within the Abbey Precinct and is one of the finest buildings in the complex, built for William Ashburnham. The masonry structure and the kitchen and hall walls of the earlier 14<sup>th</sup> century Prior's Lodging are incorporated into the red brick of the later building. The two bay west wing was added 1910 by A.L.N Russell, to create a symmetry that did not exist previously. Internally the plan is not symmetrical because of the need to accommodate the medieval work. The 17<sup>th</sup> century interiors are attributed to John Webb, a successor to Inigo Jones. The interiors are very fine, in particular the superb staircase rising in a spacious open well, top lit by a large lantern and dome. The staircase has a square open well, the upper walls being articulated by Ionic pilasters and attached columns, with one free-standing column on the newel of the upper landing.



*St. Margaret's Church.*

1.3.3.12 The very special quality of the Abbey, together with its unique national and religious significance, have ensured that the buildings

and immediate precinct have been carefully maintained and treated with respect, as can be seen from the sensitivity of most of the adjacent development. The Abbey is distinguished architecturally from its lesser buildings not only in the sense of majesty and scale of the building but also in the use of stone as a construction material, in contrast to the 'domestic' buildings of a later date which are generally of brick and tile. The distinctive characters of the individual buildings and courts have generally been maintained by careful use of materials in repair and reinstatement programmes; the few examples of less appropriately scaled and located development being the exception rather than the rule.



Visitors queue for entrance to the Houses of Parliament

- 1.3.3.13 The Abbey and the precinct buildings to the south preserve the medieval arrangement of closed courts and narrow passages, relatively small in scale and dominated by the great church. The patina of age is very apparent on many of the medieval buildings and walls.
- 1.3.3.14 The later buildings by Scott and others have generally respected this urban grain, the exception being the bulk of the main elevation of Church House, facing onto Dean's Yard, but outside the Site. In contrast, the setting of the Abbey from the north is a very 20<sup>th</sup> century traffic-related environment of wide streets, Parliament Square roundabout and monolithic 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century building blocks.

### 1.3.4 St Margaret's Church

- 1.3.4.1 St Margaret's, Westminster, stands on the north side of the Abbey. Despite restorations in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the structure is substantially of 16<sup>th</sup> century fabric. The church is eight bays long, without any structural division between nave and chancel. The north-west tower has octagonal projecting turrets at the angles, finished with pinnacles and an embattled parapet. St. Margaret's has long been proud to be known as 'the parish church of the House of Commons'. The close connection dates from Palm Sunday, 17 April 1614 when the whole House assembled in the church and took Holy Communion together. The church became part of the Abbey again by virtue of the Westminster Abbey and Saint Margaret Westminster Act 1972. This is the only medieval parish church to survive in the City of Westminster.

## 1.4 The WHS today: The intangible heritage

- 1.4.1.1 In addition to the historic fabric of the WHS, that is the buildings, spaces, monuments, interior decoration and other artefacts, Westminster Palace and Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church embody other elements of heritage. These intangible elements include the continuity of use of most of the buildings since they were first founded or built, the staging of national ceremonies and celebrations, the history of the development of the systems of parliament, British sovereignty and constitutional monarchy and law at Westminster, key historic events and the commemoration of nationally and internationally important individuals in the Abbey.
- 1.4.1.2 Because of this extraordinary continuity of use, the Westminster WHS is not a museum. It is very much a living, working place. Laws are still passed, taxes are still raised, citizens continue to be represented and the governance of Britain and the great issues of the day continue to be debated in the two Houses of Parliament. It remains the seat of sovereignty, the monarch ruling with Parliament, and the Queen always opens the Parliamentary session. Westminster Abbey also remains an important working church, with well attended daily services and regular worshippers. Music remains central to the Abbey's work and the Abbey continues as the site of coronations and the focus of national worship and celebration.
- 1.4.1.3 The people who live, work, study and worship in the WHS continue to develop the history of the place. Many of the events, practices, routines and ceremonies, which are part of the working day here, have been formed by centuries of evolution of the organisations which are housed in the WHS.
- 1.4.1.4 This intangible heritage is inseparable from the fabric of the WHS. It has shaped and has been shaped by the buildings and spaces and the individuals who have created them. The Statement of Significance later in the document further explores the historic and symbolic significance of the Westminster WHS.



## 1.5 The WHS today: Archaeological deposits

- 1.5.1.1 With the long and complex history of building and rebuilding of the Palace, parliamentary, ecclesiastical and domestic buildings on the site, today the WHS lies on a thick palimpsest, composed of interleaved and intercutting archaeological deposits and structural remains. The layers of material, resulting from the activities of over two thousand years, have led to the raising of the ground surface to around 6m above the original natural level. The undulating contours of Thorney Island and the River Tyburn, have been levelled up by layers of occupation debris. The archaeological material has also spread sideways as, in later years, the banks of the Thames were pushed further into the river by land reclamation for the eastward expansion of the Palace.
- 1.5.1.2 Over the last 30 years, a number of small archaeological interventions and watching briefs have demonstrated that remains of all periods from the later prehistoric survive, to a greater or lesser extent, beneath the buildings and spaces that we see today. The courses of the Rivers Tyburn and Thames have shifted over the centuries and the water table has risen and fallen. The resulting alluvium, which both lies at the base of and interleaves with archaeological deposits, is likely to be rich in information about the ecology of the ancient river and the surrounding landscape.
- 1.5.1.3 The actual site of the Late Saxon Palace of Edward the Confessor remains to be located. The Abbey was probably founded on the site of a Middle Saxon minster church. Pottery of this date found within the undercroft of the present Abbey and late Saxon structural remains and ditches and evidence for a timber building, as well as an 8th century sword found on the site of the present Victoria Gardens (now displayed in the Jewel Tower), all suggest that, preserved below ground, there are extensive remains which provide a great deal of information on this little understood phase of Thorney Island's history.
- 1.5.1.4 Of course many of the important Medieval and later buildings survive and are in use today. However the remains of foundations and the lower courses of many of the previous buildings still exist below

ground. The medieval buttresses and foundations found recently in test pits dug against the outside walls of St Stephen’s Chapel, indicate that at the lower levels much of the original chapel fabric survived the 19th century fire and reconstruction. And this is likely to be true of many of the terraces of houses and other buildings that have been built and demolished in the waves of remodelling of buildings and spaces around the core elements of the Abbey and Palace.

- 1.5.1.5 As an important ecclesiastical site, parts of the WHS, such as east of the Chapter House, were also designated graveyards. But it is likely that burials will be found in other parts of the WHS, as with the discovery of the human remains encountered during works on St Stephen’s Chapel undercroft.
- 1.5.1.6 The River Thames is also an area of great archaeological potential. In New Palace Yard, deposits containing prehistoric pottery and flint indicate that the Thames foreshore here was used for early temporary encampments. Significant artefacts, such as a Bronze Age axe and a fourteenth century coin hoard, have been found in the river adjacent to the WHS.
- 1.5.1.7 All this evidence suggests that anywhere within the WHS, even minor groundworks will expose significant archaeological remains, consisting of layers, pits, ditches, wells and foundations and containing much artefactual and environmental evidence. This material is finite and irreplaceable. It can provide information, which is not available from documentary and other sources, on the layout and construction of major buildings, as well as the economy, diet and social life of the people who lived and worked in the area, but who do not feature in the pageants and history books of Westminster.



*Interpretation sign of the College Garden within the Abbey precinct.*

## 1.6 The public realm

### 1.6.1 Introduction

- 1.6.1.1 From the earliest days gardens and yards were important functional spaces for the economy and welfare for the Abbey and Palace, and they were integral elements of the architectural layout. Three original gardens of the Abbey remain today and one, College Garden, has been under continuous cultivation for over nine hundred years.

The Garth, a square of green surrounded by cloisters was and still is a place for gentle exercise and contemplation. The Little Cloister Garden, with its fountain and borders of scented plants, was set aside for convalescing monks. College Garden was the first Infirmary garden, established in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Herbs for medicinal purposes were grown, as well as vines, fruit trees and vegetables. There were also fishponds and beehives. The garden was also a space for convalescing monks and today Abbey residents and staff come here for tranquillity and relaxation.



New Palace Yard.

1.6.1.2 This section describes the ‘townscape’ context of the WHS: the public and private spaces, the works of art contained in them, as well as the views into the WHS and from within it to the city beyond.

## 1.6.2 Spaces

1.6.2.1 There are important spaces adjoining all the principal buildings in the WHS, many with significant historic names reflecting their former functions.

1.6.2.2 Spaces generally publicly viewable or accessible within the Palace include:

- Speaker’s Green comprises lawns at low level, with a public underpass leading to Westminster Underground Station. The terrace and lawn fronts the River Thames to the east and Westminster Bridge to the north and forms an important setting to ‘Big Ben’ when viewed from Westminster Bridge.
- New Palace Yard is a very ancient space dating from the medieval period, its present form, laid out in 1977, is focused on a Silver Jubilee fountain which is an interpretation of the medieval fountain found on this site. The formal layout of decorative Indian Bean trees, lawns and granite setts and retained Charles Barry’s decorative lamp columns, all enclosed by original stone piers and railings to the north and west with Carriage Gates giving vehicle and pedestrian access in particular to Members of the House of Commons and state ceremonial access to Westminster Hall. They are used in the summer recess as a public exit for paying visitors who enter at Victoria Tower to the south to see the principal internal elements of the Palace on the ‘Line of Route’.



Cromwell Green.



*Richard I statue viewed from Old Palace Yard looking towards Henry VII Chapel.*

- Cromwell Green has lawns at low level adjacent to Westminster Hall, bounded to the west and south by a low stone wall, created following demolition of the former Law Courts in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This space forms the setting for the imposing statue of Cromwell which at night is broodingly silhouetted against the floodlit orange illuminated west façade of Westminster Hall.
- St. Stephen's Entrance is a small York stone paved entrance forecourt, bounded by railed enclosures forming main secure access to the Palace of Westminster for all users and those members of the public queuing for the Commons and Lords Visitors Galleries. The railed street furniture, bollards and chains to highway edges, lights and signs are coordinated based on traditional forms and a black painted livery.
- Old Palace Yard (East) is granite paved at highway level (and part main vehicle carriageway), bounded by restored original Charles Barry designed gas lamp columns and to the west a secure railed parking enclosure for members of the House of Lords accessing the Peers' Entrance. The superb equestrian statue of Richard I is sited on the axis of the St. Stephen's Hall window. Highway lighting is achieved with Long Parliament Square lamp columns. All street furniture in Old Palace Yard is capable of removal for state and ceremonial occasions.
- Old Palace Yard (West) is also medieval in origin, it is granite at highway level (and part main vehicle carriageway), bounded by bollards and chains as a pedestrian space, with a Golden Jubilee paved sundial (designed by architect Julian Bicknell) as a new focal point on axis with the fine Portland stone statue of George V which aligns with the Peers' entrance opposite and forms an focal point of the lawn and mature trees fronting the Chapter House.
- Black Rod's Garden and pass office entrance is, at highway level, granite sett paved and is securely enclosed. Security barriers and accessories, together with new kiosks and lodges are generally coordinated in a black traditional livery. Bounded by the embankment of the River to the west and with security fencing and shrub and mature tree border to Victoria Tower Gardens to the south, this area is mainly visible only to those limited to accessing the security pass office entrance.



*The "Knife Edge - Two Piece" which now stands on Abingdon Street Gardens.*

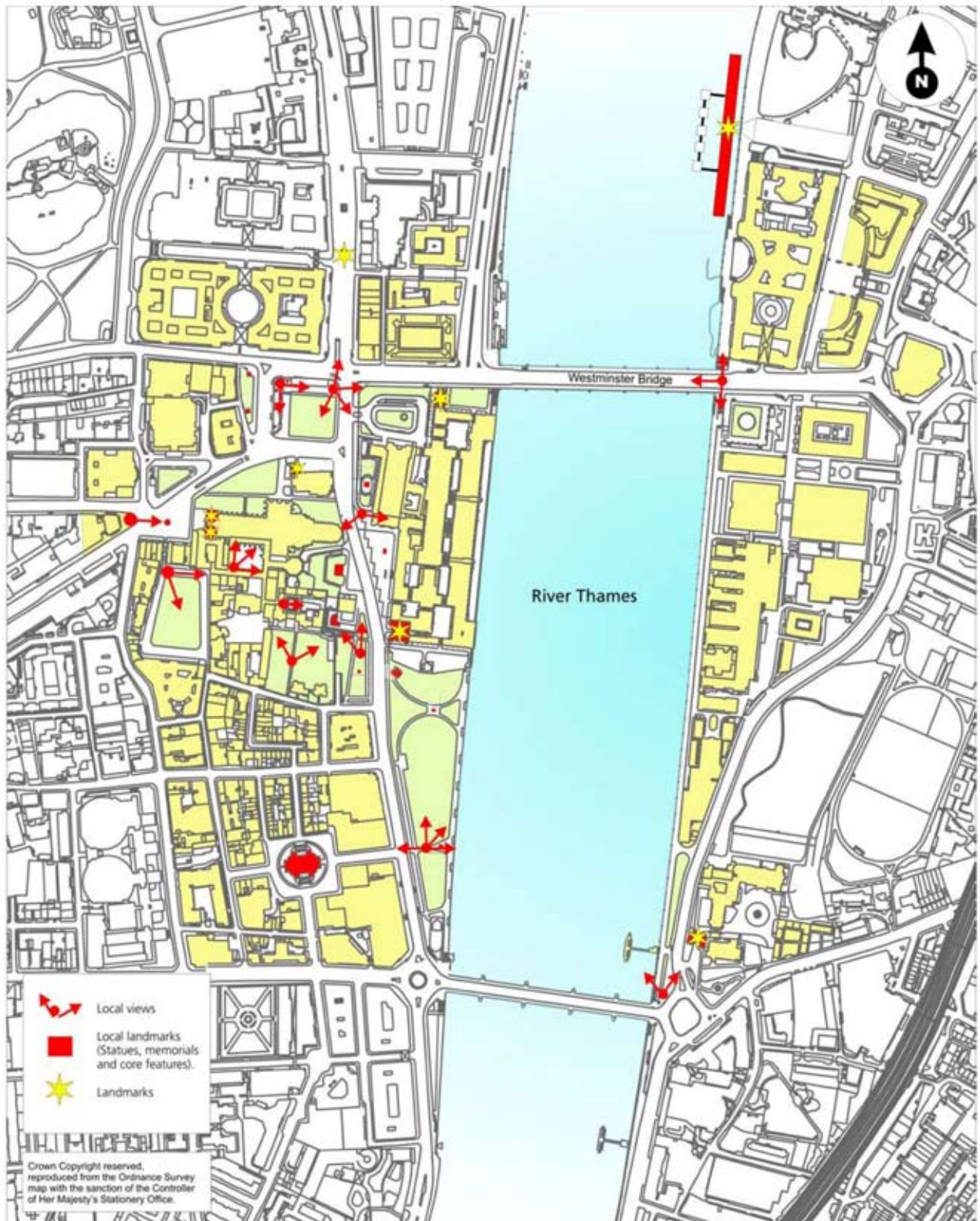
- Victoria Tower Gardens has remained as conceived, framed by the river embankment granite wall and railings on the roadside. Following the completion of the Palace, it was laid out as a Victorian metropolitan scale public open space with mature London Plane Trees. It contains statues, the Suffragette Memorial Wall, the Buxton Memorial, a small childrens’ playground to the south, riverside raised benches and perimeter shrubs and lawns. This space currently lies outside the WHS boundary.
- Abingdon Street Gardens, also known as College Green, is a modern lawned landscape south of the Jewel Tower and opposite Black Rod’s Garden and Victoria Tower. Originally the area was probably gardens lying beyond the Abbey Garden boundary walls. The area became developed with fine houses with gardens in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, forming a narrow approach to the medieval palace. The Georgian terraces lined the approach and formed a contrast in scale with the rebuilt Palace and Victoria Tower in particular. These terraces suffered bomb damage during World War II and the opportunity to widen and improve the alignment of Abingdon Street and provide car parking led to their controversial demolition. In the 1960s an underground car park was established and the current landscape was laid out incorporating the important contemporary sculpture by Henry Moore. The importance of the site today is reflected in its near daily use for media reports as a setting of high quality with the backdrop of the Palace behind to the north. Ticket sales from a temporary structure on the lawns for visitors to the Palace in the summer has confirmed its importance to the WHS.
- Dean’s Yard is glimpsed from the north west through the gateway of the Gilbert Scott designed Gothic offices facing Broad Sanctuary and from the less well known south eastern gateway from Great College Street. Upon entry, the large courtyard is a delightful discovery for casual visitors comprising a perimeter footway and kerbs defined by granite sett channels to a carriageway which surrounds an elegant lawn, ringed with mature chestnut trees. The east side of Dean’s Yard includes the entry to the Abbey Cloisters in the north east corner and further south to Little Dean’s Yard, the whole composition including the Chapter offices and Westminster School comprises a portrait of continuity of ancient fabric and uses. The school has ancient rights of use of the lawn which is not now enclosed although an 1815 print



*Ticket office for summer tours of the Palace of Westminster with the Jewel Tower in the background.*



*Victoria Tower.*



Landmarks and Key Local Views

shows that wooden posts and rails defined the earlier smaller form of the Yard. Church House on the south side, originally designed by Herbert Baker and completed in 1939 replaced earlier buildings and has an important role in national conferences. The statue of Christ above the Dean’s Yard entrance is by Charles Wheeler.

**1.6.3 Statues and public art**

1.6.3.1 As befits the national focus of political thought, activity and commemoration, a large number of statues of important persons and other public art, may be found in the WHS. They include famous statesmen, politicians and kings. Parliament Square is mainly dedicated to British Prime Ministers. Old Palace Yard is dominated by King Richard I. A full list of statues and memorials is included in Appendix 1.



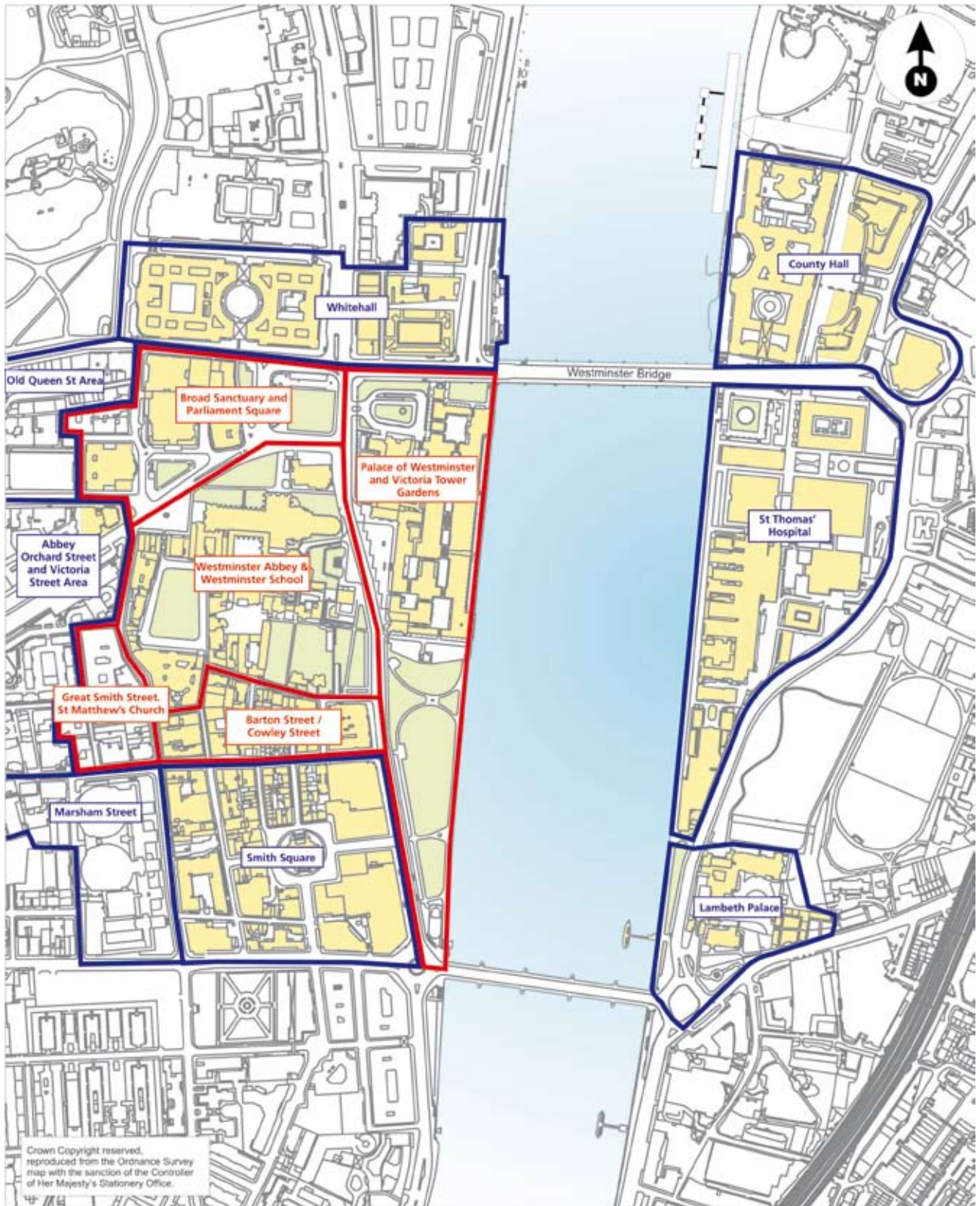
*Sir Winston Churchill statue in Parliament Square facing Big Ben.*

**1.6.4 Views**

1.6.4.1 There are strategic protected views of the WHS. They are in the relevant policies of the Unitary Development Plans for the City of Westminster and the London Borough of Lambeth. The London Plan includes a section on London Views and the Mayor of London has prepared a strategic London View Management Framework as supplementary planning guidance.

1.6.4.2 There are important local views in almost all directions from adjacent public highway or publicly accessible spaces within the World Heritage Site. Other important views beyond the World Heritage Site are also numerous. Particularly famous views of features include:

- The river frontage of the Palace of Westminster from Albert Embankment, Westminster and Lambeth Bridges.
- ‘Big Ben’ from all angles and in particular from Parliament Square, Westminster Bridge and Albert Embankment, and from Trafalgar Square and when travelling south down Whitehall.
- Victoria Tower, at 365 ft, is the highest building element of the World Heritage Site.
- The Richard I statue in Old Palace Yard



The Character Areas



- The Winston Churchill statue in Parliament Square Gardens
- The Cromwell statue with Westminster Hall as background
- The main north door of Westminster Abbey
- The main west door of Westminster Abbey and the Towers viewed from the Tothill Street junction with Broad Sanctuary
- Henry VII Chapel from the north, east and south



*Burgers of Calais sculpture by Auguste Rodin 1915 in Victoria Tower Gardens.*

Less well known or appreciated views from close within the World Heritage Site boundary include:

- St. Margaret's Church from the east, north and west
- The Jewel Tower from the south, east and north
- The Chapter House from the east (obscured when trees in leaf).

1.6.4.3 Wider views include locations and spaces which are beyond the existing boundary of the World Heritage Site but form important public realm components of its setting are:

- From Boudicca Statue on Embankment
- From Parliament Square Gardens
- From Canning Green – west of Parliament Square Gardens
- From Victoria Tower Gardens
- From College Green Abingdon Street Gardens
- From George V Memorial Gardens

1.6.4.4 The main river frontage of the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Bridge as a complete composition can now be appreciated from a viewing platform on new Hungerford Pedestrian Footbridge (from 2 July 2003 as the Queen's Golden Jubilee Bridge).

## 1.7 Outside the WHS: the immediate environs

### 1.7.1 Introduction

1.7.1.1 The WHS today is located within an urban setting of great diversity. As patterns of use have developed and changed, and buildings demolished and replaced, the area today is left with a fascinating variety of historic architecture of the highest quality. Most architectural styles and many major architects are represented here.



*The Methodist Central Hall, Broad Sanctuary.*



*Parliament Square looking north showing flag poles erected for ceremonial events and a long term protest site in the background.*

1.7.1.2 It is important to understand something of the immediate environs of the WHS, not least because this informs the consideration of a Buffer Zone (Defined Local Setting) to protect the setting, as well as the possible revision of the WHS boundaries to ensure that all elements of Outstanding Universal Value are contained and protected within the WHS. The immediate environs are described, as character areas, below.

### **1.7.2 Victoria Tower Gardens**

1.7.2.1 At present the Victoria Tower Gardens to the south is not included in the WHS boundary but forms an important part of the setting. It contains a number of memorial sculptures, in particular the Pankhurst memorial and the Burghers of Calais, by Rodin.

1.7.2.2 The earlier lodge house and gates were part of Barry and Pugin's rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster; the gates are adorned by Pugin with ornate Gothic ironwork.

### **1.7.3 Broad Sanctuary and Parliament Square**

1.7.3.1 This character area is bounded by Great George Street to the north, Parliament Square Gardens to the east, Broad Sanctuary to the south, and Matthew Parker Street, Storey's Gate and Lewisham Street to the west and north west.

1.7.3.2 The area is characterised by monolithic institutional, mostly 19<sup>th</sup> century, buildings which impress their presence upon the open spaces of the north side of Victoria Street, Broad Sanctuary and Parliament Square.

1.7.3.3 To the west the grand buildings of the Methodist Central Hall, Middlesex Guildhall and now the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre sit at angles to Victoria Street and Little Sanctuary.

1.7.3.4 The hub of the area remains Parliament Square, with its world famous views of the Palace of Westminster including the iconic Clock Tower. The square is an almost austere layout of grass, Portland stone, hard landscape of paths and walls and trees. It provides axial vistas to the Abbey and 'Big Ben' and acts as a foil to the architectural variety of surrounding buildings and a setting for a number of statues of former Prime Ministers and statesmen on plinths.

1.7.3.5 The whole of the Parliament Square area is regularly used for formal ceremonial events as well as for major state occasions, such as the State Opening of Parliament, Remembrance Day, Commonwealth Day (when white flagpoles for flags of nations are erected defining the perimeter of the grass square), state visits, the lying in State and funerals of important national individuals, Coronations, weddings at the Abbey including St. Margaret's Church, as well as informal gathering for Big Ben Chimes on New Year's Eve.



Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre.

1.7.3.6 The south side of the Square is dominated by Westminster Abbey, with its complex of ecclesiastical buildings and Westminster School, and the smaller scale St. Margaret's Church. The lawns flanking the north side of the Church and the Abbey are edged in original 18<sup>th</sup> century Portland stone plinths with characteristic railings and intermittent stone obelisks. These can be seen on famous views of the area by artists including Canaletto. To the west are a number of institutional buildings dating from the turn of the century with Canning Green as a landscaped adjunct to Parliament Square in the same palette of soft and hard landscaped treatments with mature London Plane trees, raised lawns and Portland stone edgings as a setting for statues of Canning and Abraham Lincoln. Behind the Guildhall, enclosing the north side of Broad Sanctuary, sits the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (by architects Powell and Moya, 1986). This is one of the few late twentieth century additions to the area, and is composed of an articulated façade of fretted glazing Portland stone, and leadwork roofing. It confidently faces Hawksmoor's western entrance to the Abbey on the east side of Broad Sanctuary. The south side of Broad Sanctuary is enclosed by Sir George Gilbert Scott's terrace of houses (now used as offices) and in the middle stands the Gothic Crimean War and Indian Mutiny Memorial, a pink column also by Gilbert Scott and erected in memory of the fallen of Westminster School.

1.7.3.7 The northern side of Broad Sanctuary comprises a landscape design as part of Powell and Moya's 1986 conference centre composition, with a raised lawn and battered granite perimeter wall, 'cobbled' granite sett access routes including the footways and carriageway of Storey's Gate.



*Office of the Church Commissioners.*

### 1.7.4 Barton Street / Cowley Street

- 1.7.4.1 This is an area typified by its older street pattern, south of and closely related to the medieval developments of Dean's Yard and the Abbey precinct. It is a Georgian town house enclave of particularly fine quality, especially in Barton and Cowley Street. Many of the houses are Listed Grade II\* and retain excellent original detailing.
- 1.7.4.2 Some later buildings in the area include St Edward's Chapel in Tufton Street and The Chapel of St Peter and St John, a freestyle Tudor Gothic Chapel for St John the Evangelist. The chapel interior is an original and sensitive example of early English Neo-Gothic church architecture.
- 1.7.4.3 On the corner with Millbank is the imposing Office of the Church Commissioners, a large island office block designed by Caroe in 1903 in what is described as an 'eclectic yet sophisticated' northern Renaissance style, and with what Pevsner calls 'nice scrolly details'.

### 1.7.5 Great Smith Street/St. Matthew's Church

- 1.7.5.1 With the exception of Nos. 36 to 40 Great Smith Street, a remnant of earlier Georgian development contemporary with Barton Street and Cowley Street, this area is characterised by Victorian and Edwardian architecture, comprising large institutional buildings, public baths and a laundry, a mansion block and a library. The municipal buildings and other buildings are confidently decorative, in red brick, contrasting stone dressings and terracotta work. The largest building, Sanctuary House which spans the entire block between Great Smith Street and St. Anne's Street, is a much more careful but blander 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial development.
- 1.7.5.2 The highpoint of the architecture is the surviving fragment of G.G. Scott's 1849-51 Church of St Matthew on Great Peter Street in a 13<sup>th</sup> century Gothic style, which is paired with an equally confident Clergy House, in a restrained but nicely proportioned 'Arts and Crafts' style in red brick.

## 1.7.6 Whitehall

- 1.7.6.1 The wide avenue of Whitehall connecting Charing Cross to Parliament Square is perhaps one of London's few 'boulevards'. Whitehall Palace developed from York Place, the London residence of the Archbishops of York. Henry VIII took over Whitehall from Cardinal Wolsey in 1512 following the fire at Westminster Palace in 1512 and it became Henry's principal London residence. The Palace straddled the road and was linked by two gateways. It was abandoned in the 1690s and government departments developed there out of the residencies and lodgings of former courtiers and officials. At the present Banqueting House Whitehall narrowed and altered its name simply to 'The Street'. The broad carriageway is now lined with grand government buildings and memorial statues, ceremonial entrances and triumphal arched gateways.
- 1.7.6.2 At the southern end of Whitehall, as it approaches Parliament Square, the street frontage on the east side scales down to terraces of Edwardian shop front properties and a public house. These back onto the rear of Norman Shaw's Scotland Yard North and South buildings, which turn their faces to Victoria Embankment. On the west side the street terminates with John Brydon's 'New' Government Offices of 1898-1907, now the HM Treasury building.
- 1.7.6.3 At the corner of Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment stands Portcullis House, designed by Michael Hopkins and opened in 2001. The building houses offices for 210 MPs around a central courtyard and is built above the new Westminster Underground Station.



*1807 view from Whitehall with Westminster Hall and Westminster Abbey in the background.*

## 1.7.7 Old Queen Street

- 1.7.7.1 The present street pattern of this peripheral area is medieval in origin, the medieval buildings having been replaced with Georgian developments, in particular the large and individually designed houses on Old Queen Street itself. To the south, closer to Tothill Street and Victoria Street, the Georgian developments have themselves been replaced with larger commercial and institutional blocks, spanning the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Georgian mansions of Old Queen Street once presented their backs and mature planted gardens, heavy with trees, to St. James' Park. They are now separated from it by Birdcage Walk and urban traffic.



*View towards St. John's Smith Square from Victoria Tower Gardens.*

### 1.7.8 Abbey Orchard

- 1.7.8.1 The character area to the west of Dean's Yard is dominated by the 20<sup>th</sup> century Department of Trade and Industry building on Victoria Street, one of the several monolithic Government buildings that dominate at the east end of the street.
- 1.7.8.2 The area south of Victoria Street is taken up by the Abbey Orchard Street Estate, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Peabody Trust housing development of brick blocks grouped around internal courtyards.
- 1.7.8.3 A more diverse group of buildings from an earlier period remains on Old Pye Street and Queen Anne's Lane, to the north and west of St. Matthew's Church.

### 1.7.9 Marsham Street

- 1.7.9.1 Until their demolition in 2003, this area was dominated by the three Government owned tower blocks occupied by the Department of the Environment (DoE). They will be replaced by accommodation for the Home Office and mixed commercial development by Architects Farrell and Partners. The new scheme is being designed within a much lower planning 'envelope' imposed by Westminster City Council, intended to moderate the impact of the new buildings on the WHS and its setting.
- 1.7.9.2 Millicent Fawcett Hall was built in 1929 on Tufton Street with an ornate entrance on Marsham Street. The building was named after the President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies who campaigned for women's suffrage for over 60 years. The Hall was acquired by Westminster School in August 2000.
- 1.7.9.3 Other buildings in the character area are of 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial developments, referred to derisively by Pevsner as 'commercial palaces' and Government buildings. They include King George's [Church Army] hostel on Great Peter Street and the Employment Exchange on Chadwick Street. None are of importance and none of them listed.

### 1.7.10 Smith Square

1.7.10.1 This area comprises a formal Georgian residential square, the houses of dark red brick with lighter red brick dressings, segmental arch-headed windows and with many fine original details, including door hoods and decorative elements. Many of the houses are in excellent repair. The grid of streets to the north, south, east and west originally continued the pattern, but now many of the housing terraces, and the west side of the Square, have been replaced with 20<sup>th</sup> century development, including political and government offices. Lord North Street, in particular, and Gayfere Street connecting to Great Peter Street, retain the splendid Georgian terraces, virtually unchanged.



*Smith Square showing Georgian scale townscape around the central Church of St. John's.*

1.7.10.2 The Square and indeed the surrounding area are dominated by the Parish Church of St John, a masterpiece in the English Baroque style. Designed by Thomas Archer and built in 1728 in the centre of Smith Square, originally dwarfing all around it, in architectural grandeur as well as size. The church was damaged in World War II and is now a concert hall, following complete restoration in 1965-68.

1.7.10.3 The tree-lined square provides an enclave with a mixed domestic scale and comfortable spaces near the complex of grander buildings of Millbank and commercial Westminster.

### 1.7.11 Lambeth

1.7.11.1 On the opposite side of the Thames, is the Embankment, linking the Westminster and Lambeth Bridges, which together provide a series of fine viewpoints across the Thames to the river façade of the Palace of Westminster, and to the Abbey beyond. The Embankment Walk is a popular viewing destination for tourists.

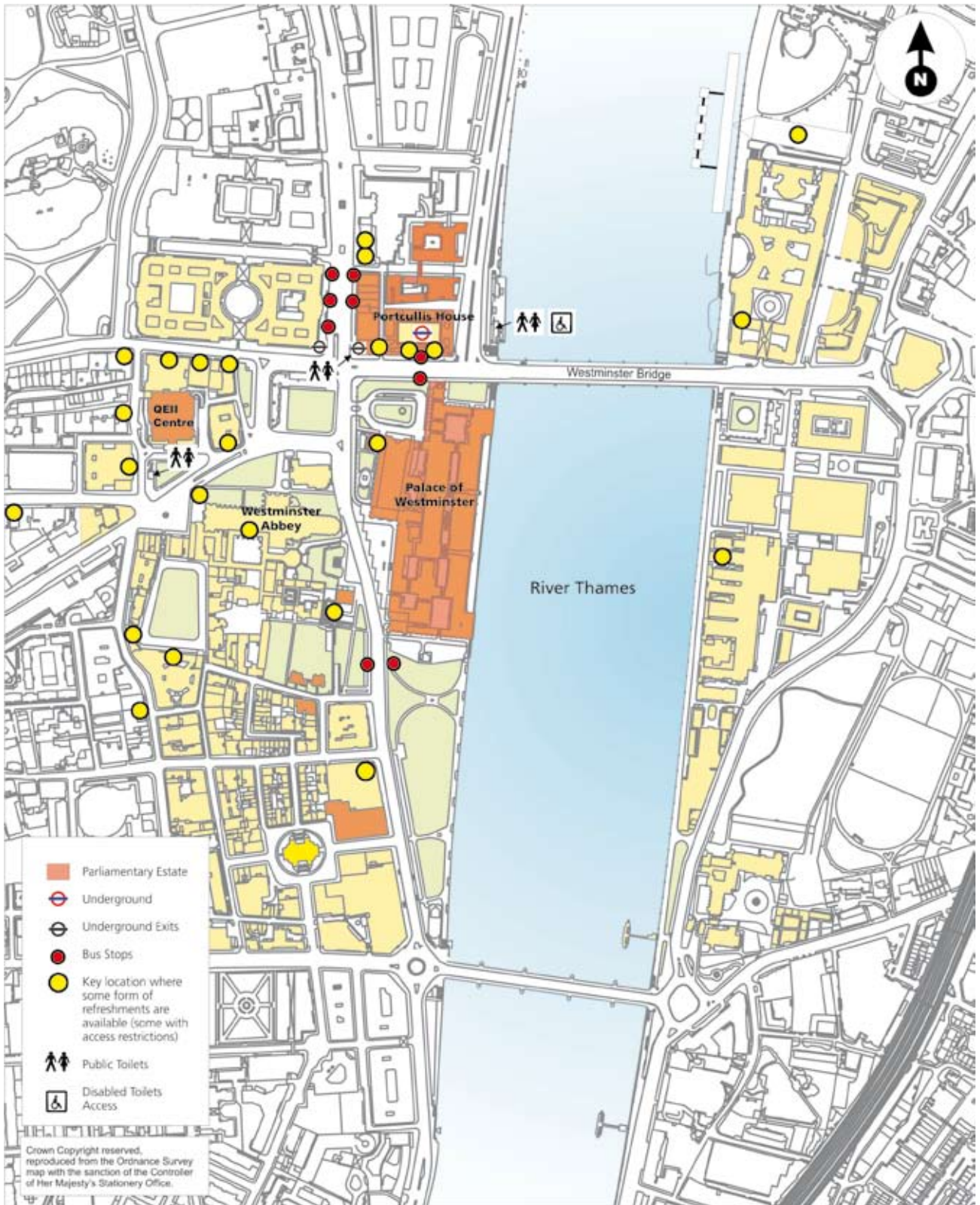
1.7.11.2 Views from the WHS and adjacent riverside embankments to Lambeth are dominated by the tree-lined Embankment and three particular and distinctly individual buildings: County Hall, the complex forming the St. Thomas' Hospital site and Lambeth Palace.

### 1.7.12 Lambeth Bridge

1.7.12.1 The present Lambeth Bridge is a five span steel-arch structure to a design by Sir George Humphreys, with Sir Reginal Blomfield. The



*1647 view of the medieval Lambeth Palace from the river.*



Public facilities in and around the WHS



bridge is embellished with decorative iron-work and obelisks at either end topped by pineapples. Lambeth Bridge is a Grade II Listed structure

### 1.7.13 Lambeth Palace

1.7.13.1 The Palace is the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is a complex of domestic buildings and gardens within a walled enclosure that dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Despite repair after World War II bomb damage, the Palace remains one of London’s most intact medieval buildings.

1.7.13.2 The hall was rebuilt in 1660 – 1663, the original having been destroyed under the Commonwealth. The Chapel was badly damaged in the war and was rebuilt in 1955 by Seeley and Paget. The oldest part of the Palace, the undercroft, dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The principal impression given by the Palace is of warm red brick, the gatehouse having a black brick diaper pattern, stone dressings and turrets, alongside the mellowed ragstone octagonal turreted tower of St. Mary’s Church. The church now serves as the Museum of Garden History. Captain Bligh of the infamous HMS Bounty is buried in the churchyard.

1.7.13.2 The river frontage of Lambeth Palace should be imagined in its original setting, on the Thames shore and approached across the water by boat, the west facing walls acting as a defence against floods. Today the Palace is now divided from the river by the Victorian embankment and Lambeth Palace Road.



Lambeth Pier and Riverside Walk.

## 1.8 The activities within the WHS

### 1.8.1 Introduction

1.8.1.1 Although the Westminster Abbey is no longer a Benedictine Monastery and the Palace of Westminster is no longer a royal residence, the activities that take place in the buildings today reflect the continuous evolution of the institutions within them. This section summarises those activities.

### 1.8.2 Parliamentary activity

1.8.2.1 The Palace of Westminster houses the House of Commons and the House of Lords, together with associated accommodation for



Portcullis House.



*Westminster School, view towards Victoria Tower.*

members and their staff. The buildings are used for the business and ceremonial functions of Parliament, with offices, committee rooms, libraries, bars and dining areas, together with terraces, a chapel and a wide range of service accommodation. The Palace once provided residential accommodation for The Speaker of the House of Commons and Black Rod, among other important officers of the Palace of Westminster. Today the only remaining residences are those of the Speaker and the Lord Chancellor.

- 1.8.2.2 Beneath New Palace Yard is an approximately 600 space underground car park for MPs and outside the House of Lords there is a surface level car park of approximately 60 spaces for members of the House of Lords. Black Rod's Garden is a secure access point for service and delivery functions.
- 1.8.2.3 The Parliamentary Estate includes the Palace of Westminster, Portcullis House and a range of other office buildings in the area. As the principal employer, the two Houses of Parliament employ some 6,500 people (excluding Members of the two Houses) and their staff) within the WHS.

### **1.8.3 Religious worship**

- 1.8.3.1 The Abbey is used for Christian mission and worship, as well as state and ceremonial events, programmes of evening music and other performances. It is supported by a variety of office accommodation and associated facilities for the staff of the Church and its functions. The Abbey, Chapter House and Pyx Chamber are open to visitors and there is a small museum, shop and refreshment facilities.
- 1.8.3.2 Music has always played an important role in worship and celebration at the Abbey. Henry VIII and Elizabeth I both gave funds for the education of choirboys at Westminster School and the first Chorister School was opened in 1848. The choir performs at most services, as well as national events such as coronations and royal weddings. Organ music has been played in the Abbey since the 17<sup>th</sup> century and Henry Purcell, like his father, was the Abbey organist. The Abbey and the events there attracted other musicians and music lovers. Handal's Coronation Anthems were first performed at the coronation of George II and at all subsequent coronations. Charity concerts have been held at the Abbey since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. But it is in the daily services, which have been sung since the earliest days of

the Benedictine Abbey, that music is woven into the everyday fabric and ministry of the church.

1.8.3.3 Westminster Abbey employs around 170 people.

### 1.8.4 Education

1.8.4.1 Westminster School is used for education and includes the full range of accommodation, including classrooms, offices, recreational and dining facilities, together with residences for staff and students.

1.8.4.2 Nearly 700 pupils attend Westminster School and the school employs 200 full and part-time staff.

### 1.8.5 Residential

1.8.5.1 The Westminster WHS lies within the St James's ward of the City of Westminster. The population of St James's is 6,200 people. In mid 1998, (when the ward boundary was slightly different) some 15% of the population was aged under 16, 67% was aged between 16 and 59, and 18% were aged 60 and over. Within the boundary of the WHS permanent residential accommodation is limited. It is estimated that approximately 30 residencies of all types have some form of residential use.

### 1.8.6 Visitors and Tourism

1.8.6.1 London is one of the UK's prime tourism destinations, attracting nearly 30 million tourist trips in 2001. Popular with both domestic and international tourists, London's tourism sector directly contributed some £8,700 million into the regional economy in 2001.

1.8.6.2 Although most tourists to London are from the UK, overseas visitors, who mostly come from Europe and North America, spend nearly three times as long in the capital than domestic tourists and consequently they are responsible for a higher proportion of the overall tourism spend. Summer opening of the Palace of Westminster in 2003 showed that 47% of visitors were British, 26% were European and 27% were from the rest of the world. The gallery statistics for the House of Commons and House of Lords showed that 40% of visitors were British, 20% were European and approximately 40% were from the rest of the world. It may be significant that a rising proportion of those from Asian countries in recent years has



*Tourist visitors queuing for the Houses of Parliament galleries.*



Visitors can purchase timed tour tickets and cross the road to start their tour from the sovereign's entrance.

been from Korea, rather than Japan. In the Abbey 90% of visitors are from overseas of which something under 60% are from North America, although that percentage of the whole is decreasing.

- 1.8.6.3 Although the first four years of this century have shown declining overseas visits to London, overseas tourism to the UK is predicted to rise by an average of 3.4% per annum between 2000 and 2020, albeit with occasional peaks and troughs as international events affect travel and tourism. Growth rates for domestic tourism are lower, at around 2% per annum. This growth in overall tourism activity in London is likely to be reflected in a steady increase in demand for access to the Abbey, Palace of Westminster and adjoining sites within and around the WHS.
- 1.8.6.4 Visitors to the Westminster WHS come to see the views of the 'Houses of Parliament and Big Ben' and to see the interiors and monuments within Westminster Abbey. To a lesser extent, people also visit the accessible areas of the Palace of Westminster, including the Jewel Tower. In 2001, the four main visitor attractions within the WHS recorded around 1.4 million visits, of which some 70% were made to Westminster Abbey, 22% to the Palace of Westminster, 6% to the Chapter House and Pyx Chamber and 2% to the Jewel Tower.

#### *Visitors to the Palace of Westminster*

- 1.8.6.5 As with Westminster Abbey, the Palace of Westminster is a working building. The public visit the Palace to sit in the public gallery of the House of Commons, to meet their MP and on Parliamentary business of other kinds. Many others visit as tourists. Visitors queue for admission to the House of Commons Galleries all year round, or can arrange a tour through their MP or a member of the House of Lords. In the summer, paying visitors can follow a designated route around the Palace.
- 1.8.6.6 Tours arranged by Members and Peers average around 100,000 visitors per annum, and anything between 110,000 and 190,000 people gain access to the House of Commons' and Lords' Galleries during the course of a year. Education groups of all ages are an important part of the visitor mix at the Palace, particularly during the autumn and spring.

1.8.6.7 Public interest in summer tours following the Line of Route is steadily increasing. More than 70,000 visitors toured the Palace during August and September 2002. Since the introduction of summer opening in 2000, peak attendances have shifted from the months of March, June and July, to August and September.



Visitors gathering at the entrance to the book shop adjacent to the west door exit of Westminster Abbey.

1.8.6.8 Capacity on the timed tours along the 'Line of Route' in the Palace is around 2,500 visitors per day (i.e. less than 50% of the nominal peak at the Abbey). Thus there was a potential capacity of around 112,500 visitors for the 2003 season. If this capacity was taken up, then the total level of activity at the Palace over these two months would have seen almost a 50% increase on the 2002 season. Despite being physically constrained, this daily summer figure of people taking the Line of Route tour is considerably higher than the average number attending the Commons' and Lords' Galleries when the House is sitting, which has averaged 950 people per day over the last four years. Summer opening of the Palace thus increases public accessibility to this part of the World Heritage Site.

1.8.6.9 Market research findings provided by the Central Tours Office indicates that key markets for Palace tours during the summer opening period are:

- UK residents (78% of visitors) – mainly day visitors from south east (71%).
- Older people - 49% are aged 55+.
- Rarely accompanied by children.
- Of white or European ethnic origin (94%).

1.8.6.10 These figures indicate that the audience for the summer tours of the Palace of Westminster is not culturally diverse. A review of spending by visitors on the 2001 tours of the 'Line of Route' found a low net average merchandising spend per visitor and a low level of retail penetration compared to most heritage attractions.

### *Visitors to the Abbey*

1.8.6.11 The Abbey is regularly placed as one of the top ten paid-for visitor attractions in London. The number of visits, however, has fallen considerably in recent years, following implementation of 'Recovering the Calm' which aimed to create a calm environment in which the



Example of signage associated with the Jewel Tower which includes an exhibition about the history of Parliament.

Abbey's mission, including its daily services and hourly prayer, could be sustained.

1.8.6.12 Visits to the Abbey are seasonal and appear to exhibit the same pattern year on year. The high season runs from June to September, when visitor numbers are at their highest. Visitor activity peaks in June, and in the last five years has ranged from 130,000 to more than 150,000 (or an average of 4,400 to 5,000 per day). The months from March to May are less busy and the most quiet period is October to February, with visitor numbers at their lowest when the Abbey receives between 50,000 to 60,000 visitors which is equivalent to an average of some 1,800 to 2,150 visitors per day.

1.8.6.13 In the recent past the Chapter House and Pyx Chamber has been visited by only around 10% of the people visiting the Abbey. As with the Abbey as a whole, levels of visitor activity in the Chapter House have been highly seasonal, with the busiest month being July when up to 16,000 visitors visit. The Chapter House is quietest in December, with the low season running from November through to February. June to August is the high season for visits to the Chapter House, and the rest are the 'shoulder' months which have a lower level of visitor activity.

1.8.6.14 The majority of Abbey visitors guide themselves around the building. Only 2% of visitors tour the Abbey with a verger, and only 8% take an audio tour despite the fact that these interpretive opportunities enhance visitors' understanding and appreciation of the Abbey and its Christian heritage.

### *Visitors to the Jewel Tower*

1.8.6.15 The Jewel Tower has seen a 35% decline in visitor numbers in recent years, from over 34,000 in 1998/99 to just under 22,000 in 2002/03. It is the least visited of all of the historic properties within and around the WHS and is the one with the least potential for major growth because of the capacity constraints within the building. Lack of space means that the Tower has a very limited catering operation, and with retailing also restricted, the Jewel Tower, visitors spend little here.

*Visitors to properties immediately outside the World Heritage Site*

- 1.8.6.16 Central Hall, Westminster and the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre lie just outside the WHS but attract large numbers of visitors during the day, many of whom pass through the World Heritage Site en route to their destination.
- 1.8.6.17 Tours of the Central Hall building are free and are offered seven days a week although access to parts of the building such as the Great Hall is restricted during events and conferences. Visits to the top of the Dome are also possible by prior arrangement and on six or seven Open House days each year.
- 1.8.6.18 The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre averages almost one event for each day of the year. With an average of between 300 and 400 people per event, this gives an annual throughput of delegates of between 108,000 and 144,000 per annum. The conference market associated with the QEII centre is estimated to generate between £16.2 million and £21.6 million per annum for the London economy or between 2.5 and 3.5 times the amount that the Abbey, the next highest earner from tourism, is contributing to the local economy.



*Level access for wheelchair users to the Houses of Parliament involves negotiating a series of complex routes which are signed and at key points attended by staff.*

**1.9 Physical and intellectual access to the WHS**

**1.9.1 Physical access**

- 1.9.1.1 Physical access into and around the WHS and to each distinct element of the WHS is fundamental to providing engagement with and understanding of the WHS. The Disability Discrimination Act (1995) provides the legal framework to ensure that disabled people can gain reasonable access to places of work and to public buildings and facilities. Historic buildings and significant sites are not exempt from the requirements of the Act, although the provision should to be made for reasonable access must be assessed in relation to a site’s architectural, cultural and historic significance.



*Detail of information for disabled visitors is under review by the Parliamentary Estates Directorate.*



*Parliament Square is an important traffic junction as indicated by the dominant traffic signage.*

## 1.9.2 Intellectual Access

1.9.2.1 Visitors come to the WHS to see and experience directly the sense of history, ceremony and spirituality that the buildings, spaces and institutions embody. In particular, the continuity of use contained within the WHS enables people to see and experience “the making of a nation’s history”, giving the WHS outstanding relevance to contemporary visitors. Interpretation is a communication tool that enables people to better understand, appreciate and gain new insight into the significance of the WHS.

1.9.2.2 Around the site, Heritage Wardens are employed to patrol on the Parliament Square Gardens, helping guide visitors to sites and to explain a little more about the area’s significance. Etched stainless steel graphic panels are placed at strategic viewing points across the WHS to explain key buildings and streetscape views, which provide useful information and some orientation for visitors.

1.9.2.3 Visitors are able to enjoy a wide range of interpretive media, including web sites and audio visual presentations, graphic panels, printed leaflets and recommended tour routes, illustrated souvenir guidebooks, personal audio guides, artefact displays, and accompanied guided tours. Some foreign language provision is made, primarily in printed form and with foreign language speaking guides.

1.9.2.4 Conversely, the many people who live and work in the WHS need places to gather for recreation and relaxation. In addition, visitors appreciate a welcome contrast to the frequently crowded environment of Westminster. The variety of open spaces in and around the WHS provides a vital ‘restorative’ function for people wanting to picnic, play and generally relax.

## 1.10 Movement, transport and parking

### 1.10.1 Introduction

1.10.1.1 As with any modern capital city, traffic has a major effect on living, working and visiting London. This is particularly acute in the area around the WHS, where public transport brings people to the site but where the heavy traffic can have an impact on pedestrian comfort and safety. This section on movement, transport and parking sets out



the current situation, focusing on traffic, public transport, cyclists and pedestrians.

### 1.10.2 Traffic

1.10.2.1 Five roads converge on Parliament Square: St Margaret Street (which is classified as a strategic road); and Parliament Street, Broad Sanctuary, Great George Street and Bridge Street (which are secondary roads). Parliament Square is thus a heavily trafficked intersection and strategic road. It is a one-way system of up to four lanes around the central open space.

1.10.2.2 St Margaret Street bisects the WHS before it becomes Millbank, to the south of the site, where it connects to Lambeth Bridge (A3203). Lambeth Bridge itself and Millbank to the south of Lambeth Bridge are classified as TLRN roads. Bridge Street becomes Westminster Bridge (A302) to the east of the site. Westminster Bridge is also part of the TLRN. Victoria Embankment road (A3211) which is also classified as part of the TLRN branches from Bridge Street before it crosses the river as Westminster Bridge.

1.10.2.3 During the day, traffic moves quickly and flows tend to be constantly high, with an average of up to 2000 vehicles per hour crossing Parliament Square, passing close to the clock tower, St Margaret’s Church and the north and west fronts of Westminster Abbey. Up to 740 vehicles per hour pass in front of Old Palace Yard and the Jewel Tower as St Margaret Street approaches Parliament Square. The junctions within the immediate environs of Parliament Square are particularly busy.

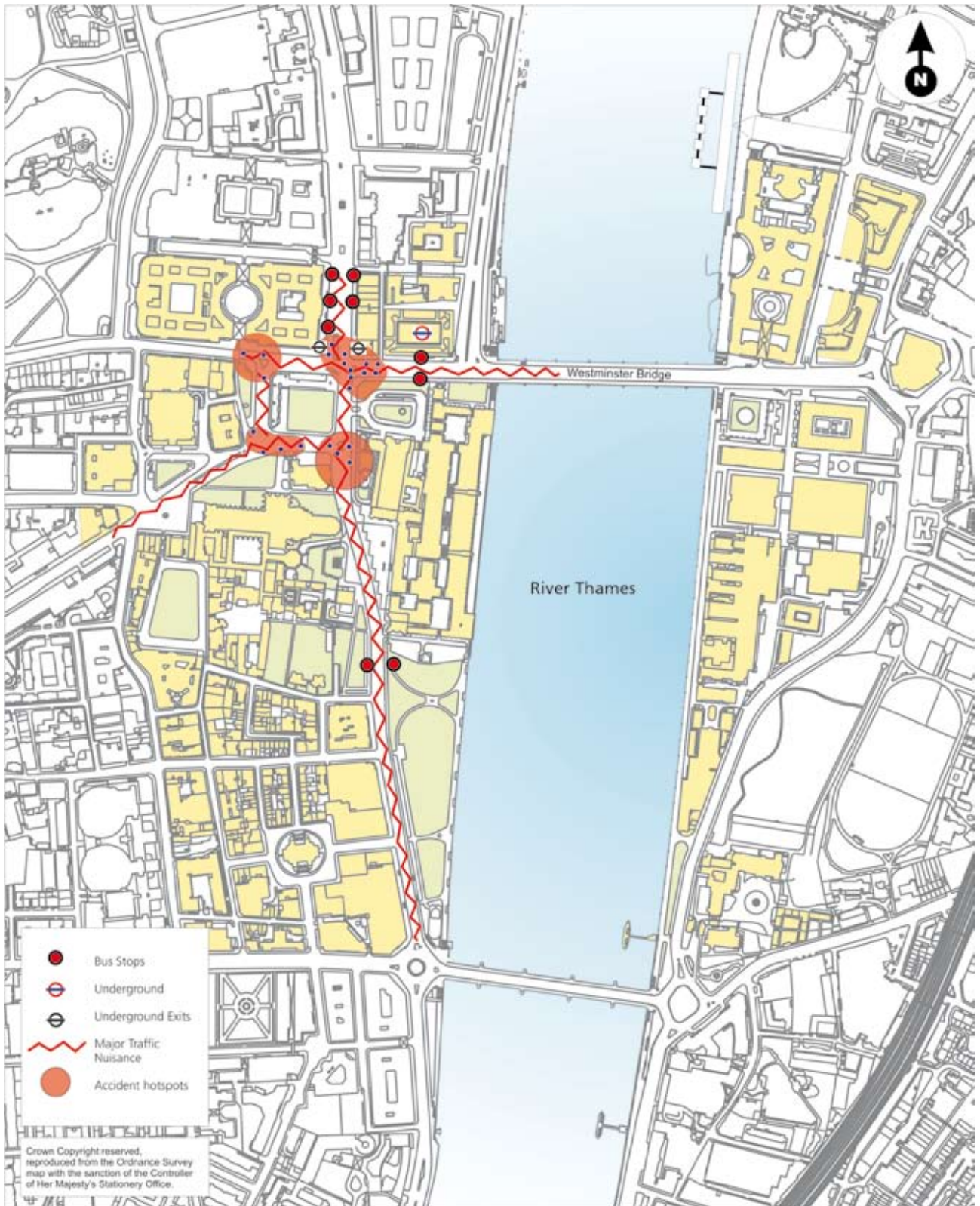
1.10.2.4 The evenings, however, are quieter, as the business of Parliament and general commerce slows down and tourists leave the site.

### 1.10.3 Public Transport

1.10.3.1 There are major public transport links within and close to the WHS. Eleven bus routes serve the area from all directions. A dedicated bus lane runs between Millbank and Parliament Square and there are a number of bus stops in and around the WHS. Buses often experience delays as they move through the area, owing to the general congestion and the number of tourist buses and coaches.



*Bridge Street is a transport interchange between buses, Westminster Underground and Westminster River Pier*



Principal Transport Facilities

1.10.3.2 The closest and busiest underground station serving the WHS is Westminster (Jubilee, Circle and District lines), at the north east corner of Parliament Square, with a number of entrances including Westminster Pier, Houses of Parliament, Victoria Embankment, Bridge Street and Parliament Street. St James's Park (Circle and District line) underground station is a longer walk from the WHS and tends to be less well-used by those visiting the WHS.



*There is significant pedestrian congestion along Bridge Street from Westminster Underground, towards the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.*

1.10.3.3 Taxis have an important role in taking people to and from the area. Call systems for taxis operate in New and Old Palace Yards and Great Smith Street and the waiting of taxis within the Sanctuary is allowed by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

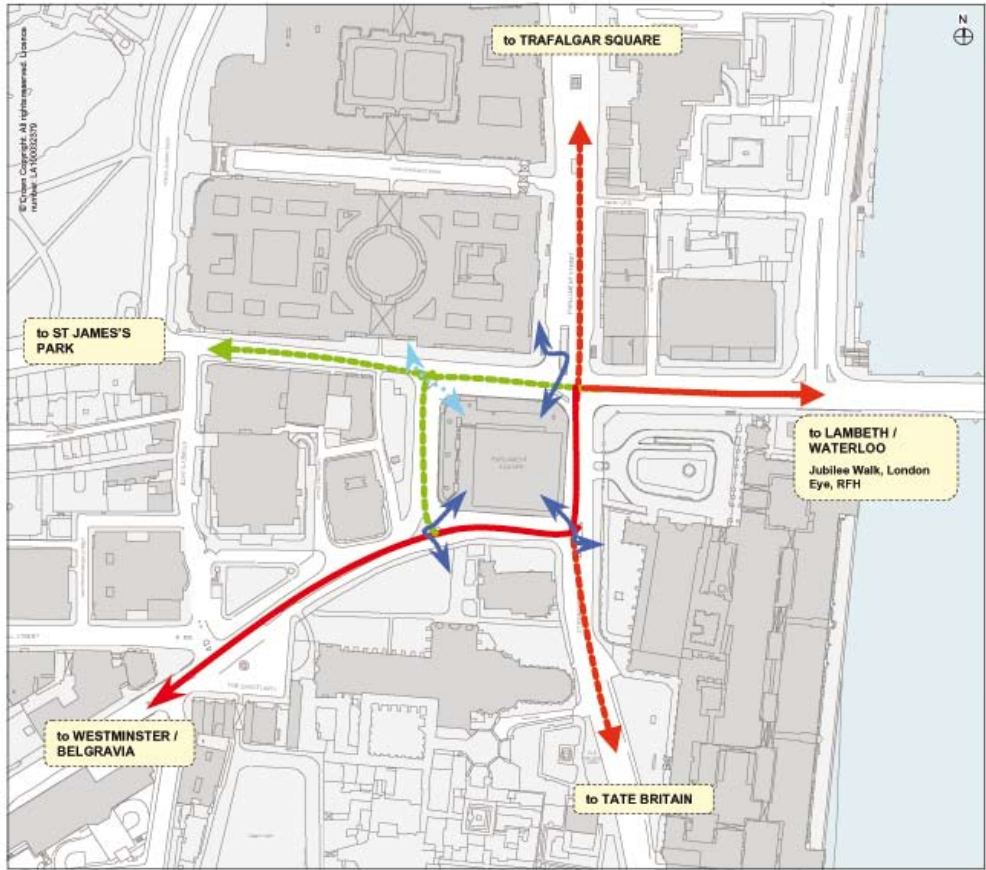
1.10.3.4 For larger groups of visitors there are official tour bus stops provided on Bridge Street adjacent to the Palace of Westminster. Coach set down and pick up arrangements operate at Broad Sanctuary for the Abbey and coach street parking bays are provided in Tothill Street adjacent the Abbey. Long stay coach parking is available further away including bays on Victoria Embankment.

## 1.10.4 Cyclists

1.10.4.1 Despite heavy traffic and relatively high incidence of pedal cyclist casualties there are growing numbers of cyclists in the area. Key routes include Westminster Bridge, Victoria Embankment, Parliament Square, St Margaret Street, Millbank, Whitehall, Great George Street, Birdcage Walk, Lambeth Bridge, Westminster Bridge Road, Lambeth Palace Road, the roundabouts on the south bank of the Thames and, although presently there are a few specific facilities to improve cyclists safety apart from lanes on Lambeth Bridge and Westminster Bridge, tracks, signalised crossings and advance stop areas on the south end of Westminster and Lambeth Bridges. There are signed cycle routes on Great Smith Street, Storeys Gate, Tothill Street and Marsham Street. The immediate area of the Palace of Westminster is presently an exclusion zone for on-street cycle parking. There are public highway bicycle stands on Millbank near Lambeth Bridge.

## 1.10.5 Pedestrians

1.10.5.1 The WHS and its environs attract a large number of pedestrians, who tend to congregate at specific locations, such as Carriage Gates, St. Stephen's Entrance and in summer period the Sovereign's Entrance



- Primary pedestrian routes
- Secondary pedestrian routes
- Access to Parliament Square
- No proper access

**Figure 1**  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
PRINCIPAL PEDESTRIAN  
MOVEMENT - EXISTING

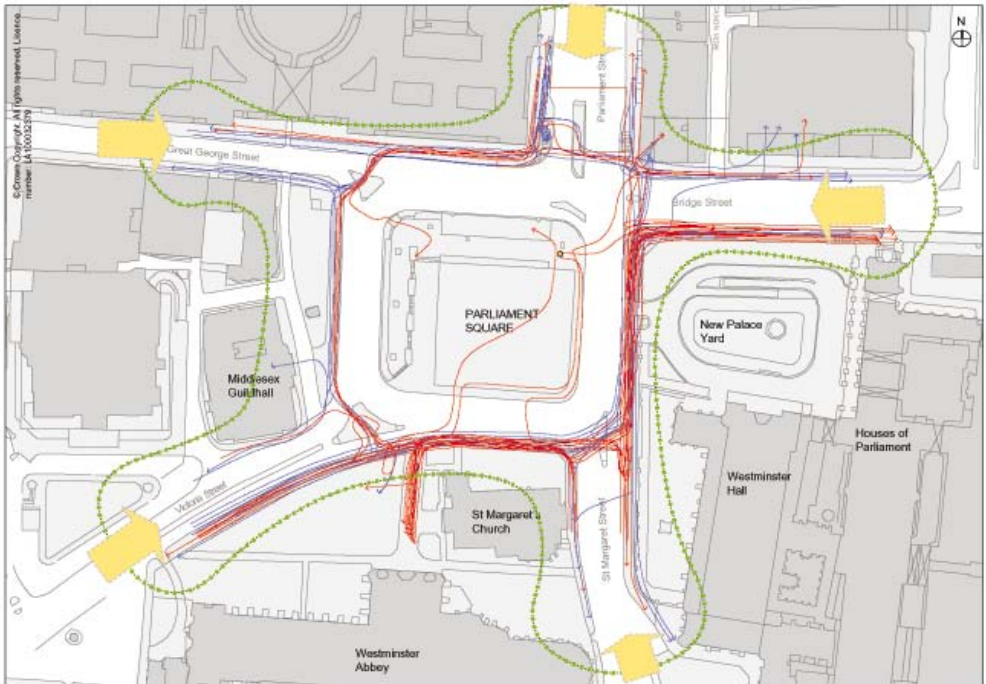
DWG NO. 490/SF/001

**PARLIAMENT SQUARE**  
DRAFT REPORT  
page 3

November 2003

Space Syntax

Illustrations courtesy of Space Syntax (GLA / TfL) showing activity levels around the World Heritage Site.



**2003**

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

Pedestrian routes were recorded in and around Trafalgar Square. Individuals were randomly selected and observed until they left the observation area or stopped for any activity that lasted for more than two minutes.

- Study area
- Starting Point
- Non tourists' routes
- Tourists' routes
- Pedestrians crossing the Square to take photos

**Figure 19**  
PEDESTRIAN TRACES  
ALL  
08:00 to 20:00 - WEEKDAY

DWG NO. 490/OB/007

**PARLIAMENT SQUARE**  
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November 2003

Space Syntax

**KEY FINDINGS**

	Non tourists	Tourists	TOTAL
Total number of people observed	39 (45%)	47 (55%)	86 (100%)
Total number of people who crossed Parliament Square	-	2	2 (2.3%)
Total number of people who stopped and stayed in Parliament Square	-	2	2 (2.3%)

which are entrances to the Houses of Parliament, at the North and West doors of Westminster Abbey and around the edges of Parliament Square. In general the footway widths vary from between 2m to around 3.5m. A pedestrian subway provides pedestrian access to Westminster Underground station from Victoria Embankment, Bridge Street and Parliament Street.

- 1.10.5.2 There are Pelican crossing points on all corners of Parliament Square, however there are no formal crossing points for pedestrians onto the central island of the square. There are further Pelican crossing points on Victoria Street located in the vicinity of Great Smith Street, Old Palace Yard adjacent to Black Rod’s Garden and Great College Street, as well as on Bridge Street.
- 1.10.5.3 A number of Zebra crossing points are also located on Millbank and on all corners of the Millbank/Horseferry Road/Lambeth Bridge roundabout. Further Zebra crossings are in the vicinity of Victoria Street on Tothill Street.

## 1.11 Current ownership and management arrangements

- 1.11.1.1 Ownership and responsibility for the site are shared among a number of bodies in a complex set of long-standing relationships, which have an historical significance in their own right. The Palace of Westminster remains a Royal Palace and the Lord Great Chamberlain exercises control of certain parts on behalf of the Sovereign. Control of the parts occupied by the Commons and the Lords rests with the respective Houses. Parliamentary outbuildings are owned by the Corporate Officer of the House of Lords or the Corporate Officer of the House of Commons. Other parts of the WHS are the responsibility of Westminster School, and English Heritage (in relation to the Jewel Tower) and the Dean and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of St Peter in Westminster.
- 1.11.1.2 Streets and open spaces are the responsibility of Westminster City Council, Transport for London (adjacent routes on the Transport for London Route Network TLRN), the Greater London Authority (Parliament Square Gardens) and the Royal Parks Agency (Victoria Tower Gardens).

- 1.11.1.3 Statutory duties regarding conservation of historic buildings, planning, highways and transport reside with Westminster City Council, Greater London Authority, English Heritage, the Government Office for London and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.
- 1.11.1.4 Tourism and visitor management are concerns of Visit London as well as the City Council and site owners.
- 1.11.1.5 These bodies together with ICOMOS UK and the London Borough of Lambeth, the planning authority for the area directly across the river, are the key stakeholders, making up the Westminster World Heritage Site Steering Group.
- 1.11.1.6 The fabric of the parliamentary estate is managed by the Parliamentary Estates Directorate, which continues to maintain the buildings in good condition through a rolling 10 year programme of works. As with other premises that have Crown Exemption under planning and Listed Building legislation, works to the Palace are exempt from the normal requirement to obtain planning approval but the Directorate consults with Westminster City Council under DOE Circular 18/84 arrangements. This system is now being phased out. It is understood that Parliamentary Estates has never gone against the expressed wishes of the Council. Furthermore, English Heritage are formally consulted over all listed building matters from minor repair to major works. A quarterly meeting is held between Parliamentary Estates and an English Heritage team.
- 1.11.1.7 All works to the building are the responsibility of the Director of Parliamentary Estates and his staff, who answer to Black Rod for House of Lords, to the Serjeant-at-Arms for the House of Commons, and to the Domestic Committees of both Houses. The final authorities are the two Houses themselves.
- 1.11.1.8 Parliamentary Estates employs a Conservation Architect on a permanent basis, to advise and prepare works. A project design is commissioned from external professional practices who are selected in competition under the usual EU Procurement Directives regulations. The Estates Directorate architect carries out cyclical conditions survey and reports 7-yearly. There are annual inspections of health and safety issues and two yearly maintenance inspections.

- 1.11.1.9 The Collegiate Church of Saint Peter in Westminster ('Westminster Abbey') and its Precincts form part of what is known as a Royal Peculiar. The Dean and Chapter as a Corporate Body are, by Royal Charter, responsible only to the Monarch as Visitor for the management of its buildings. As a Church, the Abbey has ecclesiastical exemption from secular controls. Whilst Westminster Abbey, being a Royal Peculiar, is not subject to the control of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England as a result of separate arrangements agreed in 1998 by the DCMS and approved by a Royal Warrant of 2000, it is subject to the control of the Westminster Abbey Fabric Commission ('WAFC'). Under these arrangements learned societies and bodies, including both Westminster City Council and English Heritage, in effect nominate representatives. In addition, the Surveyor of the Fabric and a consultant Archaeologist are appointed in consultation with WAFC and attend its meetings. There is, as a result, external scrutiny of works, both formal and informal, to the fabric of the Church and its ancillary buildings, as in other World Heritage sites in England. Westminster Abbey today receives no outside funding from the Monarch, the State or its associated agencies or the Church of England.
- 1.11.1.10 The Abbey buildings are maintained in good repair under the care of a Surveyor to the Fabric ('the Architect'). In association with the Dean and Chapter and WAFC, the Architect is responsible for all programmes of maintenance and improvement works. The consent of WAFC is formally required for such works. The Abbey has instigated a regime of inspections on a quinquennial basis and the Architect has recently prepared such a report. In addition and in recent memory the Architect has prepared annual reports on the state of the fabric, a process which continues.
- 1.11.1.11 The Chapter House and Pyx Chamber are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and are managed on a day to day basis by the Dean and Chapter under a Management Agreement. English Heritage remains responsible for the maintenance of the fabric.
- 1.11.1.12 The Abbey Church and its buildings are Listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act of 1990. The buildings of Dean's Yard and Little Dean's Yard, historically closely associated

with them, are Listed Grade I or II and are either subject to the normal planning regime or to WAFC.

- 1.11.1.13 The ownership, lease arrangements and maintenance responsibility for the buildings in Dean's Yard and Little Dean's Yard and certain others in Great College Street and Great Smith, are generally divided between the Dean & Chapter, Westminster School and the Church Commissioners on a complex basis, historically and statutorily derived. Generally, and regardless of ownership, the lessee is responsible for the maintenance of the occupied building, in some instances in association with the Abbey Architect, for example at College Hall, which is in the ownership of the Dean and Chapter and used by Westminster School.
- 1.11.1.14 Westminster School occupies many of the buildings in Dean's Yard and most of those in Little Dean's Yard through a long standing association that stretches back to the days of the Benedictine Monastery in 1179. The Public Schools Act of 1868 made provision for separation from and the transfer of church property to the Governing Body of the School in various ways. Generally, buildings are either held freehold, leased under various terms or are 'reverters' (held in title but reverting to the Church Commissioners if the School is removed from the 1868 boundaries of the City of Westminster). Regardless of ownership the School is nevertheless fully responsible, sometimes in association with the Abbey Architect (e.g. over College Hall which is in the ownership of the Dean and Chapter), for the maintenance of its buildings, which are apparently very well managed through the offices of an appointed Inspecting Architect who carries out an annual survey and prepares a forward maintenance report. The School carries out most minor works using its direct Works team.
- 1.11.1.15 The WHS buildings generally continue to be used for the purposes for which they were designed. The current uses do not present significant Conservation issues, although the changing 21<sup>st</sup> century needs may generate new issues, including pressures of tourism, possible changes in pupil numbers and the air, noise and vehicle related pollution which require continuing monitoring and management within the existing Conservation regimes.



## 2. Evaluation of the World Heritage Site

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Inscription on the list of World Heritage Sites depends on meeting one or more of the criteria set by UNESCO in the *Operational Guidelines for Implementation of the World Heritage Site Convention*. A site should also meet the test of authenticity.

2.1.2 This section sets out a summary of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site which was recognised at the time of inscription in the list of World Heritage Sites in 1987. This is followed by a detailed analysis of those attributes, tangible and intangible, which are unique and outstanding. The analysis is presented as a Statement of Significance and it represents the current understanding of the outstanding universal value. Finally the ways in which Westminster meets the test of authenticity are discussed.

### 2.2 The Outstanding Universal Value of the Westminster WHS and test of authenticity

2.2.1 The justification for the inscription for the Westminster WHS put forward by the state party to the World Heritage Committee when the site was nominated, illustrated the key attributes of the cultural property. The justification emphasised the architectural, historic and symbolic significance of the site:

- 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 AW 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

2.2.2 Thus the following UNESCO criteria are met by the WHS:

Criterion (i) represents a masterpiece of human creative genius

Criterion (ii) exhibit 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.

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

### **Westminster Abbey, St Margaret's Church And Westminster Palace Criterion**

**Criterion 1** – Westminster Abbey is a unique artistic construction representing a striking sequence of the successive phases of English Gothic art.

**Criterion 2** – 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 XIX century.

**Criterion 4** – 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.

## 2.3 Statement of significance

### 2.3.1 Introduction

2.3.1.1 This Statement of Significance provides further detail of the current understanding of the cultural qualities which give the site its Outstanding Universal Values. It begins with the key overarching significances, which are followed by detailed discussion of the significant elements.

### 2.3.2 Overarching significances

2.3.2.1 The Westminster World Heritage site is of international importance:

- **As a place where sovereignty has been conferred and exercised continuously for nearly a thousand years**

Almost from their founding by Edward the Confessor c 1050, the Abbey and Palace of Westminster have jointly provided the physical locus of English, later British, sovereignty. At the coronation in Westminster Abbey, where it has taken place since the time of William 1, the authority of the monarch as sovereign is sacramentally validated. At the Palace, sovereignty is exercised, originally by the monarch alone, now by the Queen in Parliament. The sacred and secular aspects of sovereignty are given unique physical expression in the conjunction of the two buildings.

- **In the development of parliamentary government and its transmission around the world**

Parliament came generally to meet at the Palace of Westminster because it was the King's principal London residence. When the King moved out after a fire in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, Parliament remained. When the Palace again burned down in 1834, it was rebuilt as the home of Parliament. It remains so today. The evolution of Parliament was influenced by the physical configuration of the spaces at Westminster in which its two houses met in their formative years.

The law courts developed at Westminster for the same reason. The highest court was the House of Lords presided over by the monarch.

The influence and dissemination of the British parliamentary system across the world came about largely through the medium of empire.

- **As the place from which a significant part of the world was ruled in the 19<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.**

In 1876 Queen Victoria was crowned Empress of India and at the height of the British empire, almost one quarter of the land surface of the globe was governed from Westminster.

- **For the outstanding architectural and artistic value of its buildings and their contents**

These are described in more detail in section 2.3.6

### 2.3.3 Symbolic and spiritual significance

2.3.3.1 Westminster is a contemporary centre of power and high politics and also one of the world's great museum places and repositories of collective memory. It has immense, incalculable symbolic value for the British people and the Commonwealth.

#### *National Symbols*

2.3.3.2 The Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey are among the most famous historical buildings in Britain. The Palace, in particular, is one of the most universally recognised buildings in the world.

#### *The Clock and Bell*

2.3.3.3 The clock tower, the clock, the bell, 'Big Ben' itself, and the sound of the bell's chimes are one of the pre-eminent symbols of Britain, visual and aural shorthand for the whole country.

#### *The Home and Symbol of Parliamentary Democracy*

2.3.3.4 Westminster is the home of the oldest continuously-existing parliamentary government in the world. It has a universal significance of representative democracy, and has at times been of special significance as a symbol of defiance in the face of dictatorship.

#### *The Spiritual Home of the English Crown*

2.3.3.5 The Abbey is the pre-eminent royal church, place of almost every coronation since 1066, shrine of Edward the Confessor, burial place of kings, scene of royal weddings and funerals.

### *The Abbey as National Valhalla*

2.3.3.6 From the 17th century, Westminster Abbey has become a place of burial, or commemoration, for many of Britain's greatest and most distinguished figures. This commemorative tradition continues, and the Abbey is one of Britain's, and the world's, great places of communal memory.

### *A Setting for Ceremonial*

2.3.3.7 Westminster's symbolic importance is regularly reinforced by grand occasions, such as the annual State Opening of Parliament, and the ceremonial joining of both Houses. Solemn events such as the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen in 1952, or the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 2002, could hardly be conceived of elsewhere than at Westminster Hall and Abbey.

### *War Memorials in the Abbey*

2.3.3.8 Westminster Abbey houses the grave of the Unknown Warrior, the most important of national memorials to the fallen of the First World War. The Abbey also houses the Battle of Britain Memorial Chapel, established in 1947.

## **2.3.4 Political significance**

### *The Setting for Contemporary Political Life*

2.3.4.1 Westminster is the focus of national sovereignty and authority in Britain. This naturally manifests itself, in day to day terms, in Westminster's being the principal setting for national political life, familiar from the television news, week after week.

### *The Life of Parliament*

2.3.4.2 The two houses of Parliament, being the sovereign bodies of the United Kingdom, are unique, autonomous institutions. They have a complex culture, governed by rules and traditions, presided over by the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Chancellor.

### *The Voice of the Public*

2.3.4.3 Westminster, as the natural focus of our national political life, is the natural destination of political demonstrations and marches. The Stranger's Galleries, and the frequency of lobbying activities, represent the principle of public access to Parliament.

### *The Mother of Parliaments*

- 2.3.4.4 The 'Westminster model' of parliamentary government has been transmitted around the world. Many countries have legislatures which were inspired to some degree by Westminster, in spirit, in their institutional form, in the details of their style and procedure.

## **2.3.5 Historic Significance**

- 2.3.5.1 Westminster is historically significant in so many ways, that in attempting to define its significance one runs the risk of trying to summarise the history of Britain.

### *The Heart of the State*

- 2.3.5.2 From the 11<sup>th</sup> century to the present, Westminster has been continuously the political centre of the English, latterly the British, state. Westminster is to Britain what Capitol Hill is to the United States, the Kremlin is to Russia, Hradcany Hill is to the Czech Republic, or the Ile de la Cite is to France.

### *The Birthplace of Parliament*

- 2.3.5.3 Westminster has been the home of Parliament since the 13<sup>th</sup> century: the institutions of government have evolved here over seven centuries.

### *The Seat of Parliamentary Government*

- 2.3.5.4 Westminster saw the evolution of Parliament through in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, and the invention of modern party politics. The 'Westminster model' has proved one of the most influential examples for the establishment of representative democratic institutions.

### *The Birthplace of English Common Law*

- 2.3.5.5 Westminster, more than anywhere else, is the birthplace of the system of English Common Law, and Trial by Jury, which have spread around the world.

### *The Abbey as Royal Foundation and Coronation Place*

- 2.3.5.6 Westminster Abbey, rebuilt by Edward the Confessor from c.1050, was the pre-eminent royal religious foundation of medieval England. It has been the pre-eminent setting for royal ceremonial in Britain ever since, having been the scene of every coronation since that of William I in 1066, and that of most royal funerals.

### *The Abbey as Royal Peculiar*

- 2.3.5.7 The Abbey, was re-founded as a Collegiate Church of Dean and Canons by Elizabeth I in 1560, and thus one of the 'Royal Peculiar', ecclesiastical institutions which are independent of the Episcopal hierarchy and owe direct allegiance to the Crown represent the unique relationship between the state and the Church of England. The Dean and Canons stand as a reminder that Westminster's significance is as much about the continuity of historic institutions and faith as about buildings.

### *The Abbey as Royal Mausoleum*

- 2.3.5.8 Westminster Abbey is the burial place of Edward the Confessor (d 1065, and canonised in 1161), whose shrine became a place of pilgrimage. From the reign of Henry III until that of George II, the Abbey as used as the principal royal mausoleum, and as such, is one of the great royal tomb-houses of the world.

### *Westminster Hall as a setting for state occasions*

- 2.3.5.9 Built by Richard II, the Hall has been the setting for historic events, such as the trial of Charles I (1648), the trial of Warren Hastings and the coronation banquet of George IV (1821). More recently, it has been used for the lying-in state of monarchs prior to their funerals. The Hall is also occasionally used for ceremonial, joint meetings of both Houses of Parliament.

### *The Order of the Bath*

- 2.3.5.10 The Order of the Bath, founded in 1399, is England's second Order of Chivalry and has been based in Henry VII's Chapel, Westminster since its re-establishment in 1725.

## 2.3.6 Architectural significance

### *Edward the Confessor's Church*

- 2.3.6.1 The 11<sup>th</sup> century Abbey was one of the first great Romanesque building in Britain: a substantial part of the eastern cloister range remains, together with buried remains of the Confessor's church.

### *The Abbey Church*

- 2.3.6.2 The present church, built by Henry III, c. 1245 – 72, is one of the great gothic churches of Europe, and of special significance as the most direct instance of the influence of the High Gothic style of northern France on English architecture. It is remarkable for its elaboration: in terms of cost per bay, it may have been the most expensive church ever built in medieval Europe.

### *Royal Patronage*

- 2.3.6.3 The rebuilding of Westminster Abbey from 1245 to 1272 was entirely inspired and paid for by Henry III and together with Henry VII's rebuilding of the Lady Chapel between 1502-09, is reckoned to be one of the greatest acts of individual patronage of the arts, whether royal or otherwise, in British history, and one of the greatest in European history.

### *Henry VII's Chapel*

- 2.3.6.4 King Henry VII's Chapel, added to the east end of the Abbey in the place of Henry III's original Lady Chapel in 1503, to the designs of Robert and William Vertue, is the culminating masterpiece of the English Perpendicular Gothic.

### *The Chapter House*

- 2.3.6.5 The Abbey has one of about thirty centrally planned, usually octagonal or polygonal, chapter houses, built in the British Isles between c.1120 and c. 1350. Although much of its appearance is due to restoration by Sir George Gilbert Scott, 1866 – 74, it is also of outstanding significance for architectural history.

### *The Architectural Significance of the Conventual Buildings*

- 2.3.6.6 Westminster Abbey, almost uniquely amongst English monasteries, was never abandoned. The buildings have national significance as a



well-preserved monastic ensemble on a grand scale. Later additions, such as Ashburnham House or the Westminster School Dormitory, are of great significance in themselves.

*The Architectural Significance of the Medieval Palace*

2.3.6.7 Four major elements of the medieval Palace of still stand today, namely Westminster Hall, St Stephen’s Cloister, the chapel of St Mary Undercroft beneath St Stephen’s Hall, and the Jewel Tower. They are significant remains of the most important royal palace of medieval England.

*The Architectural Significance of Westminster Hall*

2.3.6.8 Westminster Hall is the finest secular medieval interior in the British Isles. Its lower walls date from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but its hammer beam roof is the result of remodelling for Richard II, c. 1384 – 1401. The roof, the finest example of its type, represents an outstanding engineering achievement, and is the finest surviving piece of medieval carpentry in the world.

*The Architectural Significance of the New Palace of Westminster*

2.3.6.9 This public building is a masterpiece of 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture, acclaimed for its aesthetics as well as its planning. The Palace’s construction employed various new techniques and materials making the New Palace a valuable case study in the history of construction.

*The Decoration of the New Palace*

2.3.6.10 The Palace is equally famous for its magnificent internal decoration which is usually reckoned as one of the masterpieces of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Gothic Revival. Many great designers contributed to its decoration, and it was immensely influential on Victorian design, in churches, public buildings and houses.

**2.3.7 Works of art, fittings, furnishings and archives**

*The Royal Tombs in the Abbey*

2.3.7.1 Westminster Abbey was established as a royal mausoleum by Henry III, who intended that the shrine of the king-saint, Edward the

Confessor, should be surrounded by the monuments of the House of Plantagenet. The majority of the Confessor's shrine was dismantled at the Reformation, but the other royal tombs survive. They are of outstanding historic and artistic importance, in particular those of Henry III, Eleanor of Provence, Edward III and Richard II, which have life-size bronze effigies.

#### *The Non-Royal Tombs and Monuments in the Abbey*

- 2.3.7.2 Westminster Abbey has the most important assemblage of tombs and funerary monuments in Britain, running almost continuously from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. This is of outstanding importance, for the artistic and historic importance of the monuments. It is also the finest historic assemblage of sculpture in Britain, indicative of the development of the art form through eight centuries.

#### *Medieval Architectural Sculpture in the Abbey*

- 2.3.7.3 At its construction, Westminster Abbey was given probably the richest sculptural embellishment ever applied to a medieval building on this scale. Fine examples include the naturalistic leaf carving, carved capitals, bosses, figures and corbels throughout the church. The Chapter House also boasts exceptional figures.

#### *The Cosmati Pavement*

- 2.3.7.4 The great inlaid floor of the sanctuary is a great work of art, unique in Britain and extremely rare in a European context. Its splendour and imperial origins, relates to the specific role of this place as the setting for the coronation rite.

#### *Medieval Mural Painting in the Abbey*

- 2.3.7.5 The Abbey houses some of England's best surviving medieval mural paintings, notably the panel of St Faith in the chapel dedicated to her (probably late 13<sup>th</sup> century); the panels of St Thomas and St Christopher in the South Transept (probably late 13<sup>th</sup> century); the Last Judgement and Apocalypse paintings in the Chapter House (1375 – 1404).

#### *Medieval Panel Paintings in the Abbey*

- 2.3.7.6 Of the Abbey's paintings, the outstanding survival is the Westminster Retable, an extremely rare survival of a medieval liturgical work of

art of the highest order from any part of Europe. Four more 13th century panel paintings survive on a sedilia, and there is the great portrait of Richard II enthroned, dating from 1396.

### *Medieval Fittings and Furnishings in the Abbey*

- 2.3.7.7 A number of other medieval furnishings survived the Reformation and the Commonwealth, the most outstanding of which is the Coronation Chair, carved in wood and used in every coronation since that of Edward II in 1308.

### *Medieval Sculpture in Westminster Hall*

- 2.3.7.8 Westminster Hall houses an important sequence of medieval stone statues, representing Kings of England commissioned by Richard II.

### *Mural Painting and Mosaics in the New Palace of Westminster*

- 2.3.7.9 The Prince Consort chaired a committee to consider revival of mural painting, and the resulting works span a variety of subjects from the Old Testament to the British Empire. The mosaics in the Central Lobby and St Stephen's Hall are also noteworthy.

### *Furnishings of the New Palace of Westminster*

- 2.3.7.10 Great antiquities of mid C19th furniture made for the palace are retained here, making a vital contribution to its interiors, as some of the greatest set-pieces of 19<sup>th</sup> century decorative art.

### *The Abbey's Muniment Room*

- 2.3.7.11 The Abbey's Muniment Room contains a great historic library collection, and an archive of medieval documents relating to the Abbey that date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards, as well as a number of documents referring to major historical figures.

### *The Parliamentary Collection of Works of Art*

- 2.3.7.12 The core of this is a collection of paintings and sculptures of British politicians of the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. There are also numerous paintings of other kinds, many of them representing special commissions for the Palace. This tradition of patronage of the arts continues to this day.

### *The Parliamentary Record Office*

2.3.7.13 This Record Office has archives and record of both Houses of Parliament from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, including copies of every Act of Parliament from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards and important archives on the history of the Palace itself.

## **2.3.8 Intellectual Significance**

2.3.8.1 With its long history of internationally important individuals, events and development of institutions, the WHS is an unparalleled knowledge resource for school children, students and life-long learning. It contains the complementary resources of buildings, archaeology, documents, artefacts and works of art.

## **2.3.9 Public significance**

2.3.9.1 The significance of Westminster is linked not just to physical artefacts and the way we perceive them, but to the way the buildings and spaces are, through traditional, religious and ceremonial uses, a part of today's living culture.

2.3.9.2 Westminster can offer substantial benefits to visitors through enabling them to understand key national institutions and their role in contemporary society, as well as the way those institutions have evolved over the centuries. It also offers the opportunity to become involved with those institutions through a wide range of activities from church services to observing parliamentary debates

2.3.9.3 The WHS is one of the key tourist attractions for London and Great Britain. It is a place of interest, inspiration and beauty. As the focus of national government and events, it is important that people are able to come to see and experience at first hand the important monuments that they see on television and read about in newspapers. The tourists not only take away their experiences, share them with others and to some extent, continue the democratic process, the revenue brought by their visits provides funds for the conservation of the buildings and monuments within the WHS, providing for their preservation for future generations.

## 2.4 Test of authenticity

- 2.4.1 In addition to meeting at least one of the criteria for inscription as a World Heritage Site, the *Operational Guidelines for Implementation of the World Heritage Site Convention* state that a site must demonstrate that it can:
- i meet the test of authenticity in design, material, workmanship, or setting ...
  - ii have adequate legal and/or traditional protection and management mechanisms to ensure the conservation of the nominated cultural properties or cultural landscapes....
- 2.4.2 The first measure of the authenticity of Westminster WHS is the great predominance of authentic fabric of all periods, particularly in the medieval Westminster Abbey and conventual buildings, Westminster Hall and the Jewel Tower. A second indication is the thick layer of well-preserved archaeological deposits lying *in situ*, both inside and outside the boundary of the World Heritage Site.
- 2.4.3 Like many historic sites, particularly those which remain in constant use over centuries, buildings within the Westminster WHS have been modified or have needed to be rebuilt at some stage in their history. That continuity of use and evolution is a further measure of the WHS' authenticity. Moreover the great majority of modifications, restorations or rebuilding have either used traditional (or long-lasting) materials or, as with the rebuilding of the Parliamentary buildings, have continued the original role and use of the building and remained true to the pre-eminence of the site in the use of eminent architects and craftsmen.
- 2.4.4 The Westminster WHS is a working and living place which continues to live its history, maintaining many of the traditions and practices in both day to day work and ceremonial occasions, while meeting the demands and opportunities of modern life. This continuity and change is a further indication of the authenticity of the tangible and intangible values of the Westminster WHS.

## 2.5 Revising the Outstanding Universal Value

- 2.5.1 Section 5 of the Nomination Document for Westminster World Heritage Site: Justification for inclusion, stressed the historic, architectural and symbolic values of the site and are summarised in

2.2 above. However the analysis of the significance set out above, which includes intellectual and public significance, suggests that the Outstanding Universal Value, as recognised by the World Heritage Committee, should be revised at the appropriate time. This, along with any application to revise the boundaries of the site, will need to be undertaken through DCMS as the state party and will be devised in consultation with owners and stakeholders.

## 2.6 Statutory designations

### 2.6.1 Buildings

2.6.1.1 The Palace and Abbey buildings within the World Heritage Site are Grade I, Grade II\* or Grade II Listed Buildings.

### 2.6.2 Archaeology

2.6.2.2 The whole of the WHS falls within Westminster's Area of Special Archaeological Priority: Lundenwic and Thorney Island.

2.6.2.3 The Chapter House and Pyx Chamber and the Jewel Tower are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

### 2.6.3 Strategic Views

2.6.3.1 Policies to protect Strategic Views include corridor boundaries that include all of the Palace of Westminster section of the WHS and all of St. Margaret's Church and part of the Henry VII Chapel eastern end of the Westminster Abbey section. The corridors are related to Strategic View 2 - from Primrose Hill to the Palace of Westminster and Strategic View 4 - from Parliament Hill to the Palace of Westminster.

### 2.6.4 Conservation Areas

2.6.4.1 The whole of the WHS falls within the Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square Conservation Area (No. 20) and adjoins principal parts of other areas: to the north the Whitehall Conservation Area (No. 19) to the south the Smith Square Conservation Area (No. 21).

2.6.4.2 To the east the whole of the river frontage opposite the WHS and beyond the midpoint of the River Thames and Westminster and Lambeth Bridges falls within Lambeth's Conservation Areas.

### 2.6.5 Parks and Gardens

2.6.5.1 Parliament Square and Victoria Tower Gardens are each included in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

2.6.5.2 The whole of the WHS falls within Westminster's Thames Policy Area and the boundary of Westminster's Thames Floodplain.

2.6.5.3 The Thames Path passes immediately adjoining the eastern section of the WHS along public highway from Victoria Tower Gardens in the South to the Thames Embankment Walk in the north.





## 3. The management issues of the World Heritage Site

### 3.1 Current pressures on the site's Outstanding Universal Value and significance

#### 3.1.1 Introduction

3.1.1.1 There are a number of management issues which need to be addressed if the value for which the site was inscribed is to be safeguarded for future generations. It is important to understand the ways in which the issues closely interrelate and how they may pose threats, both to the Outstanding Universal Value and the appreciation of the value.

- The maintenance of the architectural significance depends on good conservation practice but a poor visitor experience, which is dominated by noisy traffic, congested footpaths and inadequate orientation, will mean that the architectural significance cannot be appreciated to the full and tourism revenue, which helps to fund conservation works, may fall.
- The appreciation of the symbolic and iconographic importance, which depends so much on the setting of the site, the views of key buildings and the dignity of the area, would be undermined by building development which did not respect these qualities in the WHS.
- The political significance, which depends on the many intangible attributes, including the very long continuity of uses and public access to the Strangers' Galleries, would be undermined if security issues forced the closure of buildings or the stopping of public access.
- The historic significance, which depends on the uses of the buildings and their very long continuity, will be undermined if there was to be a radical change in the uses or key activities were to cease. The historic significance also depends on being well understood and communicated to as wide an audience as possible. This will never be

fully realised if the history and culture of the site is not presented and interpreted to a world class standard.

3.1.1.2 Thus the issues, which now or in the future, might undermine the outstanding value of Westminster can be grouped under the following headings:

- Pressures on the architectural significance: the care and protection of the historic fabric
- Pressures on the significance of the symbolic fabric: the setting and views
- Pressures on the historic significance: the activities and uses
- Pressures on the tourism value
- Pressures on the educational value
- Traffic
- Security

### **3.1.2 Pressures on the architectural significance: the care and protection of the historic fabric**

3.1.2.1 The Westminster WHS is a large complex assemblage of buildings and spaces, serving a multitude of purposes. Inevitably it is subject to frequent and ongoing programmes of maintenance, repairs and conservation. Without proper coordination, these works, together with occasional new developments, can combine to cause cumulative impacts on the architectural significance of the site. It is important to ensure that careful consideration is given to the potential impact of all works, however small, on the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.

3.1.2.2 Although the removal of any buildings in the WHS without due consideration is highly unlikely, the intrusion of inappropriate structures may lead to a gradual erosion of the architectural quality of the area. The temporary kiosk on Abingdon Street Gardens for ticket sales during summer access to the Palace is a relatively substantial addition. The design is of high quality and appropriate to the context. However it may be argued that other trading kiosks around the WHS, in their design and siting, do not enhance the setting or dignity of the WHS. The striped awnings on the riverside

terrace of the Palace of Westminster are a large scale example of once temporary features, now considered of significant impact and their design is currently under review.

- 3.1.2.3 A lack of maintenance or poor maintenance and repair techniques could lead to gradual degradation of the fabric and architectural quality. However, the standard of restoration and improvement works for the Palace of Westminster is generally considered exemplary in compliance with Government provisions for Conservation. The Abbey, Chapter House/Pyx Chamber, Westminster School and Jewel Tower buildings suffer considerably more wear and tear from visitors.
- 3.1.2.4 The pressures of increasing tourist numbers on the sensitive fabric of the buildings present a conservation problem that must be considered as part of the normal conservation and maintenance arrangements. Tourist visitors impose wear and tear on the fabric, by direct physical contact, by raising the humidity and temperature in enclosed spaces and by incidental damage and more rarely, by casual vandalism or theft of items. Wear and tear is of particular concern in relation to sensitive floor finishes, such as soft paving stone and memorials and all painted surfaces in smaller spaces. Externally, paving and grass can also suffer serious erosion. Examples of where visitor numbers exceed path capacities and in some cases, due to poor alignments for desire lines, can be seen throughout the area. The Abbey has a particular challenge in that it is dependent on tourist numbers for its income and therefore needs to both increase numbers as far as possible but also control their impact.
- 3.1.2.5 The effects of environmental noise and air pollution on the buildings are complex and constantly changing. The pollution of the late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century, caused primarily by coal smoke has been replaced in part by other industrial effluents and particularly by traffic fumes as well as traffic noise and vibration. There is continuing research into the effects of pollutants on brick and stone buildings but at present the only effective remedies are the traditional ones of routine maintenance of surfaces and joints, drips and flashings. There are no effective chemical shields that can be applied to moderate the effects of chemical pollution and stonework or brickwork that has become eroded must be repaired or replaced when it no longer performs

either as drip moulding or as an effective component of the structural whole. Cleaning to remove surface grime is an undertaking that must be very carefully considered as all the currently available treatments inflict some damage on the surfaces of stone and brick.

- 3.1.2.6 Low frequency heavy vehicle vibration can cause damage to delicate surface fabric and also structural components of historic structures. Continuing work and research is necessary to establish the effects of noise vibration on the fabric of the buildings in the area.

### 3.1.3 Pressures on the significance of the symbolic fabric: the setting and views

- 3.1.3.1 Through television, film, radio broadcasts of the chimes of Big Ben and newspaper reports, the WHS is presented every day to a worldwide audience. Some 150 journalists are accredited to the parliamentary press gallery and many others work from the Millbank media centre. The setting and iconic views of the WHS are a regular backdrop for reports to camera and for press photography. This setting and symbolism could be damaged by inappropriate nearby intrusions.
- 3.1.3.2 There is currently no buffer zone, as defined in the operational guidelines, which would help to sustain the special qualities of the setting of the WHS. Without appropriate consideration of the sensitivities of the WHS and its setting, development beyond the WHS boundary of a large scale may pose risks to this key element of the Outstanding Universal Value. Any changes to the style or backdrop of the WHS from many angles, must be carefully balanced against the need to preserve the iconic value of the site.
- 3.1.3.4 There has been a gradual loss of appreciation of the architecture and spaces resulting from the steadily increasing vehicle traffic, and in the changes that are necessitated in the streetscape without a targeted planning strategy. The impact of the diagonal routes of Abingdon Street/St Margaret's Street between the Abbey and the Palace, Parliament Square and Victoria Street across Broad Sanctuary between the Abbey and the QE II Centre are examples of this issue.

Changes to current landscape setting may result from the proposed traffic management and urban design proposals contained in the World Squares for all Masterplan.

- 3.1.3.5 Street furniture, security and lighting equipment, traffic signals, guardrail, and signage directly related to the architecture and spaces around the WHS combine to give the effect of poorly designed clutter. In the worst examples the effect is to limit or block local views of importance to the buildings and monuments. There is a need for an area-wide approach to reducing street clutter.
  
- 3.1.3.6 One significant aspect of a WHS's character that is often overlooked is the ambient noise. The quality and level of noise surrounding and penetrating the buildings and open spaces of Westminster is different to that experienced by the area's residents and workers in the past, and therefore has an unnoticed but significant effect on the experience of the WHS. It is the quality of noise rather than the level that is of concern. The City of London has been described in many medieval documents as an astonishingly noisy place, and it is likely that Westminster was little different. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century Thomas Dekker described the noise of London as an incessant din: "...carts and coaches make such a thundering, ...in the open streetes is such walking, such talking, such running, such riding, such clapping too of windows, such rapping at chamber doors, such crying out for drink. The cries of vendors, the wagons, dogs, cattle, horses, pigs, sheep and chickens, the sound of running water in the channels and streams but above all the church bells, rung constantly and indeed in competition between churches to see which could make itself heard furthest away. The effect was a constant reverberating roar in the narrow streets..."
  
- 3.1.3.7 This multifaceted human din has now been obliterated by the constant, and relatively monotone, mechanical roar of traffic, engines and tyre noise on the tarmac roads. According to studies carried out in the past by the British Medical Association, the noise of the city now has an impersonal quality that is both wearying and dehumanising. Instead of a sign of vitality, it can be a deadening monotony.

### 3.1.4 Pressures on the historic significance: the activities and uses

- 3.1.4.1 The WHS is a place of both continuity and change. Continuity, in the status and pre-eminence as the seat of national sovereignty, political debate, worship and celebration. Change, in the constant evolution of the organisations, and systems embodied in the buildings. Fundamental to this tradition and evolution is the character of activities within the site. It is this very evolution that is the source of the symbolic and historic significance of Westminster. Yet some changes, where they affect the activities, may undermine the outstanding values of the heritage of the WHS. For example, the current reforms of the House of Lords and the judicial system may end some of the functions of the Palace of Westminster which have developed there, existed since the medieval period and influenced the development of systems of government and the law across the world.
- 3.1.4.2 Conversely, the practicalities of continuing some activities within the site may also lead to detrimental changes. For example, the increasing pressure on space within the Palace of Westminster may in the future lead to the establishment of peripheral sites, perhaps undermining the coherence and unity of the Parliamentary buildings.
- 3.1.4.3 Other changes are less likely but not impossible. For example, disestablishment of the Church of England might lead to the loosening of the historic ties between the monarchy and Westminster and diminution of the Abbey's function and status as the site of national ceremony. Potential external sources of political change, such as an increase in the role of the European Parliament might lessen Westminster's continuing pre-eminent status as a symbol of democracy
- 3.1.4.4 The control of these real and potential changes must necessarily lie outside the remit of this Management Plan. However it is important to understand and draw attention to the ways in which they may threaten to the historic and symbolic significance of Westminster.

### 3.1.5 Pressures on the tourism value

- 3.1.5.5 Visitors and tourists are one of the key user groups of the WHS, with at least 1.4 million visits being made each year to the area. Moreover, the revenue generated from visitors and tourists makes an important contribution towards sustaining the Abbey's mission, as well as property maintenance costs across the WHS.
- 3.1.5.6 However, it should be noted that the working and student population of the WHS and its environs, estimated at between 8,000 and 9,000, will make over 2 million trips each year into the WHS, a figure some 40% higher than the level of activity generated in the four main WHS buildings by tourists. It is thus important that pressures associated with tourism activity around the WHS are managed as effectively as possible, in order to ensure a sustainable, mixed-use economy within the area.
- 3.1.5.7 Certainly the highly seasonal nature of tourism visits to the area, and the concentration of visitor activity at certain key points within the World Heritage Site, leads to a number of localised pressures. The footpaths around the outside of Parliament Square, and the pavements outside the Palace and Abbey, are often congested and at pinch points, visitors are often in conflict with traffic. Access to the green on Parliament Square, a location which is so important for appreciating the majesty of the site and for taking photographs, is made dangerous by the lack of crossings.
- 3.1.5.8 Parts of the WHS can become extremely busy and crowded and there is evidence from the visitor data of particular daily and seasonal peaks. Long queues can be found at some visitor 'honeypots' in the WHS. This is detrimental to both the historic fabric and enjoyment of the visitor experience. There is also a lack of proper refreshment places within and close to the WHS, a situation partly resolved by the presence of concession vans, although these can undermine the dignity of the area and generate litter which detracts from the site's appeal.

- 3.1.5.9 Thinking in the longer term, the predicted growth in international and domestic tourism to London over the next 20 years is likely to generate an increase in visitors to Westminster, which, without appropriate management, may put at risk the very historic fabric that visitors have come to see.
- 3.1.5.10 At the same time, short-term declines in tourism activity due to global events such as health scares, Foot and Mouth and terrorist acts as well as local events, such as demonstrations in Parliament Square, may decrease income at Abbey and other paid-entry sites, potentially reducing the funds available to spend on conservation and protection.
- 3.1.5.11 Historic sites often pose particular challenges for those with mobility difficulties, such as wheelchair users and those with young children. Around the WHS there are numerous changes in level, uneven surfaces, narrow pedestrian areas, narrow doorways and flights of steps.

### 3.1.6 Pressures on the educational value

- 3.1.6.1 It should be possible for visitors to gain a broad overview of the WHS and its values, with a focussed insight into the historic and contemporary functions and significance of individual buildings within their wider context. Currently, it is not obvious to visitors (or indeed workers and residents) that Westminster is inscribed as a World Heritage Site. Much more could be done to raise awareness of the site's status. However, at present there is no single overall guide to the World Heritage Site and, apart from a display within the Jewel Tower, which presents a brief history of Thorney Island, the WHS is not presented as a unified destination of outstanding significance.
- 3.1.6.2 The involvement of a number of different agencies in managing the key buildings has, to date, worked against the provision of a unified approach to access, presentation and interpretation across the site. This makes it more difficult to access, during just one visit, the



information needed fully to understand the scale and rich complexity of the site and its long history. Variability in the availability of foreign language interpretive materials makes it difficult for some overseas visitors to access information on aspects of the culture and history of the WHS.

### 3.1.7 Traffic

3.1.7.1 Traffic dominates the whole experience of the visiting the WHS quite unpleasantly, particularly around Parliament Square, Broad Sanctuary and on St Margaret Street, undermining the visitor experience, visual appeal and dignity of the site. At busy times, the fast vehicle speeds and weaving traffic is dangerous for pedestrians, particularly where footpaths are too narrow for congregating visitors.

3.1.7.2 The traffic congestion can cause accidents, air and noise pollution, all unpleasant for visitors and other users and potentially dangerous and damaging to the historic fabric.

### 3.1.8 Security

3.1.8.1 The symbolic and international political significance of Westminster means that, as a result of international events, there are increasing security concerns for the historic fabric, as well as workers, visitors and residents. However, the measures needed to increase and maintain security, such as the installation of new CCTV cameras and associated equipment and the temporary concrete road blocks, can also undermine the visual appearance of the site.

3.1.8.2 The two Houses of Parliament are considering the needs for physical security measures, both temporary and permanent. These have already included temporary concrete barriers, temporary security search huts and additional closed circuit television cameras. A permanent Visitor Reception and Security Building is being planned.

3.1.8.3 Large numbers of visitors can sometimes lead to antisocial behaviour, pick-pocketing, random actions of wilful damage and theft, both minor and major, to fabric, collections and public safety.



*Current external security measures around the Palace of Westminster*



## 4. A Vision for the World Heritage Site

### 4.1.1 Introduction

4.1.1.1 The future management of the WHS should not simply be guided by the pressures and threats. A vision needs to be set, which establishes the aspirations for how the site should be, addressing not only how the value will be safeguarded but also enhanced and experienced. In due course the success of this Management Plan, the policies and projects, can be assessed against the extent to which the vision below has been realised.

4.1.1.2 The World Heritage Site of Westminster Palace and Westminster Abbey, including St Margaret's Church, is of outstanding architectural, symbolic and historic significance. The site is the seat and focus of national sovereignty. Although they have evolved over up to a thousand years, many of the magnificent churches and halls, and the modest rooms and offices, continue in the use for which they were originally built. They embody the close connection between Church and State, which characterised the political development of the British Isles. The site is the heart of the capital of the United Kingdom and lies within a modern busy World City. Yet there are places of tranquillity and contemplation, as well as for political debate and lobbying. It is a national focus for worship, ceremony and democracy, as well as reflecting our relationship with the rest of the world.

*The vision for the future of the Westminster World Heritage Site is for it to be:*

- A living, sustainable place, where the Outstanding Universal Value and architectural, symbolic, historic and other significances are safeguarded
- Set within a public realm that is attractive and sensitive to the Outstanding Universal Value and significances of the site
- A place where people can come to work, learn, worship and visit with comfort, safety and enjoyment
- A place where people of all nationalities and abilities can be inspired by its unique character and beauty, and its rich living history.



## 5. Objectives for the Management Plan

### 5.1.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1.1 The objectives set out below reflect the concerns and aspirations of all those organisations represented on the Steering Group regarding the issues raised in the evaluation of the management issues of the site. The objectives flow from: an understanding of the 'living' and diverse nature of the component parts of the site as places of work, prayer, education and residence; from the pressures on the Outstanding Universal Value of the site; understanding its opportunities, and from the vision for its future.
- 5.1.1.2 The objectives begin with the overall objective of the Management Plan. This is followed by objectives raised by the management issues and from the vision for the future which is to the benefit of all those who visit, worship, work, learn and reside within the site. Some objectives, for example those which address the need to safeguard the views of the site, reflect the need for further understanding of the WHS before firm management proposals can be developed.

### 5.1.2 The objectives

#### *The overall objective*

#### **Objective 1**

**To safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value for which the Westminster WHS was inscribed which are embodied in the buildings, spaces, monuments, artefacts and archaeological deposits within the site, the setting and views of and from it, its iconic status and the activities which take place within the WHS. The Management Plan should seek to guide, influence and advise those who are managing the organisations involved in the site.**

*The adoption and implementation of the Management Plan: Achieving appropriate coordination across the WHS*

- 5.1.2.1 Three principal organisations – Parliament, Westminster Abbey and Westminster School - occupy the WHS. While their histories are intertwined, each is independent in its mission, function, administration and requirements. There are also a number of other bodies, such as the GLA, Westminster City Council and English Heritage, that also have an interest in parts of the site. There are a number of issues on the WHS, such as maintaining the working autonomy of the individual institutions, conservation, visitor management and traffic, where the interests of the organisations potentially complement each other or clash.
- 5.1.2.2 There is a desire for a more coordinated mechanism to those issues of common interest. The Management Plan provides the approach to achieve this.

## Objective 2

**To have an effective, accurate and workable Management Plan which will be capable of support by all the organisations represented on the initial Steering Group.**

## Objective 3

**To establish a Liaison Steering Group, under the initial chairmanship of Westminster City Council, to review progress of the implementation of the Management Plan, to share information and discuss issues affecting the World Heritage Site, to review progress of the implementation of the Management Plan, and to review the Management Plan at appropriate intervals to be agreed.**

## Objective 4

**To consider the most effective means of coordinating the implementation of the Management Plan and associated projects and initiatives.**

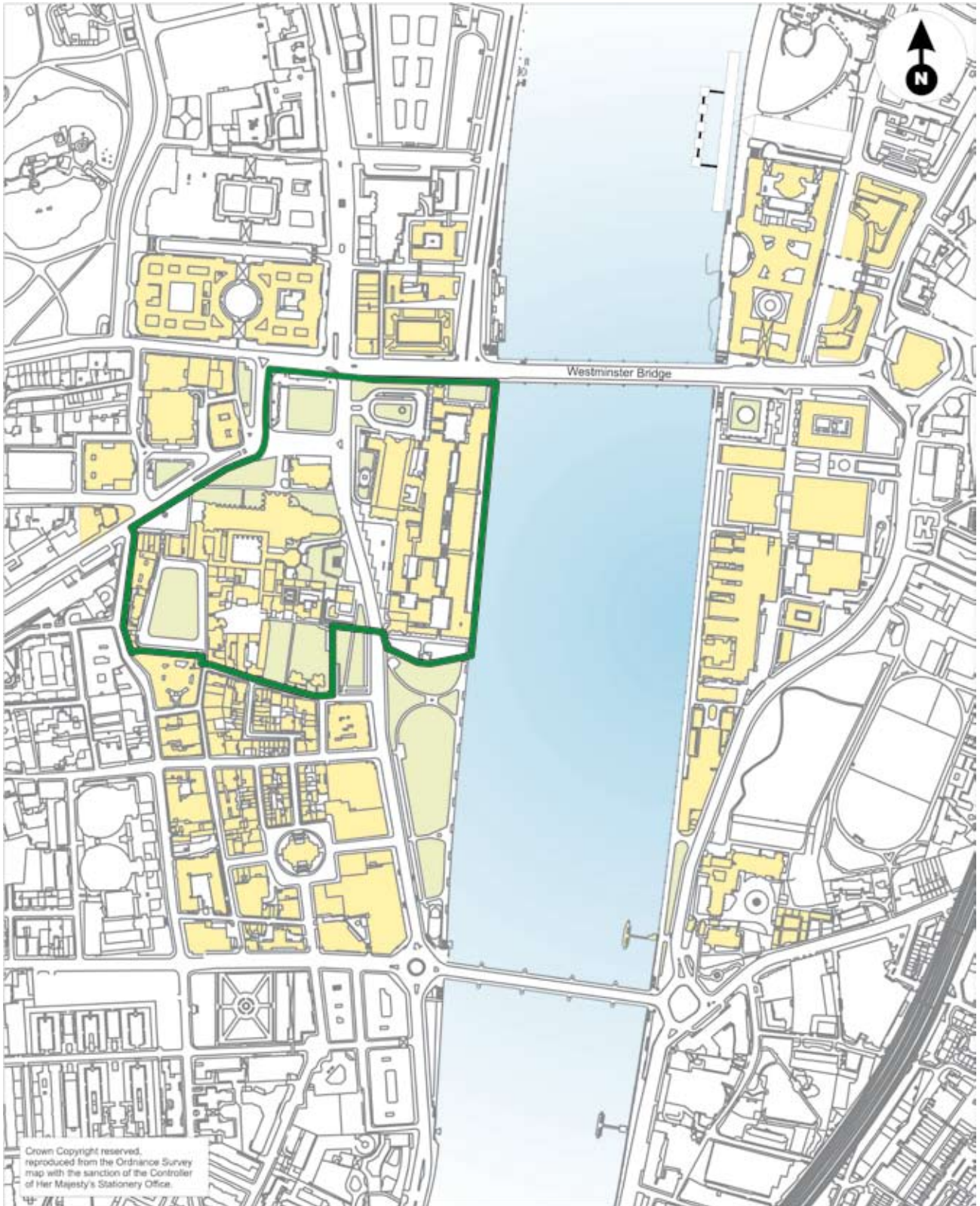
*'A living, sustainable place, where the Outstanding Universal Value and architectural, symbolic, historic and other significances are safeguarded'*

### *Achieving a coherent World Heritage Site within a boundary that reflects its Outstanding Universal Value*

- 5.1.2.3 The existing WHS is contained in two separately bounded areas, on either side of a major traffic route, St Margaret Street/Abingdon Street. This route follows the historic route through the Palace of Westminster, albeit slightly re-aligned for the construction of the New Palace buildings. The road overlies archaeological deposits related to the early periods of the Palace and Abbey.
- 5.1.2.4 In addition, key parts of the Palace of Westminster, notably Portcullis House, are currently excluded from the WHS. Portcullis House is a working part of the modern parliamentary complex, housing the offices of MPs and committee rooms etc. In keeping with the rest of the Palace, the building was designed by internationally renowned architects and was built to last for several centuries. Both Abingdon St and Portcullis House therefore share the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS.
- 5.1.2.5 Other key spaces, which, in addition to their intrinsic significance as historic places, share the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS, are also excluded from the current WHS boundary. They are Victoria Tower Gardens, Parliament Square, Abingdon Street Gardens and part of Old Palace Yard.

## Objective 5

**To seek the immediate integration of St Margaret Street, Abingdon Street, Old Palace Yard and Parliament Square, including Cannon Green within the boundary of the WHS in order to ensure their protection and to create a single unified site.**



*Proposed revised Westminster World Heritage Site Boundary linking both parts of the designated area*



## Objective 6

**In the medium term, to consider an enlargement of the WHS in order to include, and therefore protect, those buildings and spaces associated with the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church, which share the Outstanding Universal Value. Such elements would include buildings spaces and archaeology of particular importance.**

### *Safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS from beyond its boundary*

- 5.1.2.6 The appearance of the site, particularly from outside the WHS boundaries, is a key contribution to the symbolic significance of the WHS and its iconic status. The fine views, from many directions, and from within the site as well as from outside, also enable appreciation of its architectural significance. Moreover, the buildings, streets and spaces which surround the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and Westminster School form the historic and urban context, of which the WHS is an integral part. It is important that the WHS is not seen in isolation from this context, since it has shared in the history and development of this part of London.
- 5.1.2.7 Many World Heritage Sites are surrounded by a designated buffer zone. These zones reflect the sensitivity of the areas within them, both in terms of the importance of buildings and spaces which is increased by their proximity to the WHS and in terms of the need for careful management of change in order to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS are not diminished by development or activities which take place close by. The establishment of buffer zones allow development and other proposals to be assessed with regard to their potential impact on the WHS, including the setting and views of it.
- 5.1.2.8 There is currently no buffer zone (Defined Local Setting) for the Westminster WHS. The identification of a suitable zone is a challenge, not least because so much of the surrounding area and

indeed much of London is itself historically important. Moreover as a dynamic world city, it is inevitable that London and its skylines and panoramas will change in response to social and economic needs. However, it is important that the Outstanding Universal Value of the Westminster WHS is protected from beyond its boundaries. Its iconic status, which derives from its distinctive appearance, needs particular attention to ensure that it is safeguarded.

- 5.1.2.9 Both the Westminster City Council's Unitary Development Plan and the London Plan address World Heritage Sites, views and skylines, as well as the conservation of the historic environment. Policy 4B.13 of the London Plan protects World Heritage Sites and states that settings should be safeguarded and enhanced, where appropriate. There is a list of strategically important London Views within a framework of London panoramas, river prospects, townscape views and linear views. Policy 4B.15 states that this list will be kept under review and this has been incorporated into the London View Management Framework SPD. Policy 4B.8 includes a provision for London Boroughs to identify areas of specific character which may be sensitive to tall buildings. It may be appropriate for WCC to identify the WHS and a designated zone around it, as such an area of specific character.
- 5.1.2.10 It is clear that further study needs to be undertaken not only to understand the views and setting of the WHS but also to determine how best to establish a buffer zone (Defined Local Setting) which will protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS from beyond its boundary.

## Objective 7

**To assess the feasibility of establishing a Buffer Zone, (Defined Local Setting) or similar designated area, within the context of the policies contained in the London Plan, the Westminster City Council Unitary Development Plan, and the Unitary Development Plans or Local Development Frameworks of the other Local Planning Authorities affected, as well as national policies. The establishment of the Buffer Zone (Defined Local Setting) could be preceded by an assessment of the**

key local views affecting the WHS and the characteristics of the immediate setting of the WHS, the variety of scales of adjoining buildings, the River Thames corridor and approaches from all sides, and views especially to and from south of the river. Such studies may assist in informing reactions to development proposals.

### Objective 8

To undertake a dynamic visual impact study of wider views, within, into and out of Westminster World Heritage Site for the purpose of assessing the impact of development proposals (including tall buildings) on the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS.

### Objective 9

To safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS, any proposed developments which might affect this value, whether by impact on its setting or views, may be commented on by the Westminster Liaison Steering Group.

### *Conserving the historic fabric and the archaeological resource*

- 5.1.2.11 The conservation of the historic fabric is well managed at present, by the relevant authorities. While most developments are unlikely to take place without appropriate formal above and below ground archaeological assessment and fieldwork, minor groundworks, for example, the installation or repair of utilities, street furniture or associated with traffic management may well encounter fragile archaeological resources. Prior consultation with the relevant authorities is necessary to ensure that damage to deposits is avoided or reduced as much as possible. If damage to archaeological remains cannot be avoided, the remains will need to be fully investigated and recorded by a professional archaeologist with proper provision made for analysis, publication and curation of the results.
- 5.12.12 Similarly, while visitors and tourists are welcomed to the WHS, at times this visitor pressure can lead to general wear and tear of the historic fabric.

## Objective 10

To consider the impact of visitors on the physical key aspects of the site, taking account of established best practice.

## Objective 11

To encourage the enhancement of the existing conservation, maintenance and repair regimes for the buildings, monuments, artefacts and archaeological deposits within the WHS. Changes to the regime may be assessed against the objectives of the WHS Management Plan.

### *Maintaining the architectural significance of the WHS*

- 5.1.2.13 The buildings of the WHS are individual examples of outstanding design and they exemplify the best of the period in which they were conceived and created. The buildings also comprise a magnificent ensemble, formed by the unique variety of scale, styles and materials but unified by the close interrelationship of the Palace and Abbey.
- 5.1.2.14 The sometimes urgent need for security measures can lead to unplanned installation of features which can be detrimental to the fabric and appearance of the buildings. Likewise the accumulation of small additions such as signs or street furniture can over time be detrimental to the visual quality of the building or the surrounding spaces.

## Objective 12

To consider the feasibility of developing a coordinated response to temporary changes or additions which impact unfavourably on the overall visual qualities of the site or its environs.

## Objective 13

To continue the practice, through those organisations represented on the Liaison Steering Group, of achieving, wherever possible the highest standards of architecture, design and craftsmanship and the use of high quality materials and finishes, when considering proposals for new

**buildings, adaptations of the exteriors of existing buildings and significant visible changes to interiors of unlisted buildings, in order to ensure that they enhance and not diminish the architectural ensemble of the WHS.**

### **Objective 14**

**To seek to ensure that the relevant authorities and agencies will sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS and adhere to the objectives of the WHS Management Plan, and ensure that these are seen as important material considerations in the determination of planning applications and other proposals.**

#### *Sustaining and complementing the existing uses*

- 5.1.2.15 The current life and use of the buildings and spaces maintains the continuity and thus the authenticity of the heritage. These intangible significances are as essential to the Westminster WHS as the historic fabric. The Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS includes the very long continuity of the working history of the site, as the seat of British Parliament, scene of national ceremony, worship and learning at the Abbey and its precincts and the host of formal public events and gatherings.

### **Objective 15**

**To maintain wherever possible and encourage the continuing enhancement where practicable, the present use and activities within the buildings and spaces of the WHS, which relate to the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. Wherever possible or practicable, new activities and uses should be compatible with the individual institutions represented in the site and the existing significance and use characteristics of the WHS.**

#### *Preparing for risk*

- 5.1.2.16 Both the Abbey and the Palace of Westminster address risk preparedness as part of the day to day management of the buildings within the WHS. This activity includes staff training on risks and security, the preparation of risk registers, emergency planning and other mitigation measures.

## Objective 16

**To ensure that the current arrangements for emergency planning and emergency preparedness within the WHS continue, addressing, where appropriate, the risks to the significances and values embodied in the fabric of the WHS.**

*'To be set within a public realm that is attractive and sensitive to the Outstanding Universal Value and significance of the site'.*

### *Improving the public realm within and around the site*

- 5.1.2.17 The existing public realm is characterised by a variety of paving, street furniture, soft landscape and lighting treatments and security features, which have developed in a piecemeal fashion and are of variable design quality, specification and maintenance. The busy traffic dominates much of area and there are a number of kiosks and stalls, catering particularly for visitors, scattered around the site, which, arguably, detract from the architectural significance of the WHS and its dignity.
- 5.1.2.18 The public spaces in and around the WHS are important in themselves. In addition to being the places from which the great buildings can be appreciated and photographed, they are and have been over the centuries, the site of organised and spontaneous public gatherings related to the functions of Westminster Palace and the Abbey. Their management also is addressed in a number of policies related to the public spaces of London.
- 5.1.2.19 It is important to ensure that the public realm context of the WHS exemplifies the Outstanding Universal Value and dignity of the WHS.

### Objective 17

To consider the appropriateness of establishing a public realm strategy for the landscape and streetscapes of the site which would address

- Maintenance, renewal and replacement of trees
- Maintenance and desirable improvement of open spaces
- Desirable improvement to hard landscaping
- Environmental aspects of green spaces
- Physical and visual clutter
- Street furniture and signs

### Objective 18

To seek to ensure that the WHS Liaison Steering Group scrutinises proposals for landscape, transport, traffic management, street furnishing or significant infrastructure projects, within or close to the WHS, in order to encourage such proposals to take into account the significances and value of the WHS and addresses and realises the objectives of the World Heritage Site Management Plan.

### Objective 19

To comment on any design guides utilising existing policies as appropriate and to suggest materials and forms to be used within the WHS, which would be sensitive to the Outstanding Universal Value.

### Objective 20

To consider the feasibility of assessing the overall security needs of the site, in so far as they impact on visible spaces and buildings, in order to identify ways, where practicable, of meeting security needs in the short and longer term, which are sensitive to the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.

## Objective 21

To seek to ensure that future reviews of the City of Westminster Unitary Development Plan or its replacement and the London Plan and policy documents prepared by other organisations with an interest in the World Heritage Site, take account of the significance and values of the WHS and the objectives in the WHS Management Plan.

*'To be a place where people can come to work, learn, worship and visit in comfort and safety'*

### *Balancing traffic and pedestrian access and safety*

5.1.2.20 The 'doorstep' to the WHS is Parliament Square, a major intersection of east-west and north-south routes through central London, and the head of an important crossing of the River Thames. The area is a busy hub of cars, buses, taxis, delivery vehicles and underground trains, which pass through, and occasionally park, within the World Heritage Site. Whilst much of this movement brings people to the WHS, the traffic also vies for space and attention: with visitors; with those who work, learn and worship within the WHS; and with the historic building and spaces. The conflict, between traffic and pedestrians in particular, within the WHS needs to be reduced.

## Objective 22

To comment on proposals for landscape, transport, traffic management, street furnishing or significant infrastructure projects within or close to the WHS in order to encourage such proposals to take into account the significance of the WHS and address and realise the objectives of the World Heritage Site Management Plan including the development of wider traffic management strategies for the site, balancing the needs of the WHS with the needs of residents, workers and visitors.

## Objective 23

To comment on any studies undertaken to assess the feasibility of establishing an overall pedestrian movement strategy for the whole site including; the provision of safe



walking routes around the site, especially from public transport nodes, to reduce the dominance of motor traffic in Parliament Square, Abingdon Street, Old Palace Yard, St Margaret Street and possibly Bridge Street, Parliament Street and Broad Sanctuary, as well as to encourage visitor dispersal away from pressure points.

### *Improving Access for All*

- 5.1.2.21 All historic sites and buildings provide particular challenges for ensuring that people of all abilities can access and enjoy them. The buildings of the Westminster WHS, with their changing levels and other obstructions are no exception. The provision of aids, facilities, communication and training will be required to overcome physical barriers to access but wherever possible, rather than separate those with special needs from the able-bodied, facilities should be accessible for all.

## **Objective 24**

**To assess an integrated approach to sustainable tourism and improved facilities and developing an access strategy for the site. The strategy should assess existing access, consider the constraints on buildings and look at the optimum ways to assist, if necessary, in providing access arrangements within the WHS, for those with special needs and disabilities to ensure that wherever possible they can use and enjoy the heritage of the place in the same way as the able bodied or be given alternative offerings.**

### *Improving visitor amenities*

- 5.1.2.22 Tourism is not the primary mission of Westminster Abbey nor the Palace of Westminster. In the Abbey's case, although visitors are a principal source of income, two thirds of those coming to the Abbey come for its spiritual offering - to attend a church service or to pray. However, the architectural, symbolic and historic significance of the site attracts large numbers of visitors and many come to see the WHS as a whole, to see and understand something of the related history, status and monumentality of the Abbey-Palace complex.

- 5.1.2.23 The aim should be to provide a high quality experience for visitors, that is also sensitive to the working elements of the site, including the dignity and primary functions of the buildings, as well as to the variety of people who visit the site and their purpose. Depending on the different visitor profiles it may be appropriate to consider how visitor management and provision can be co-ordinated between the Abbey and Palace. Good visitor management and attractive facilities might generate increased revenue, a lessening of wear and tear of the fabric and greater educational insight.
- 5.1.2.24 The Palace of Westminster has recently prepared the document *Improved Access for Visitors*, which sets out a number of proposals. These include improved access for those with special needs and disabilities, the reduction of security 'clutter' on important areas of historic fabric, plans for Westminster Hall to become the general public point of arrival to the Palace, improved information facilities and signage, as well as the provision of public lavatories. The report refers to the continuing need to identify additional accommodation for a visitor centre, shop and associated retail provisions for the Palace of Westminster to be sited beyond the Palace complex. At present no site has been identified.
- 5.1.2.25 The potential impacts of the provision of a New Visitor Centre to serve the Houses of Parliament need to be carefully considered. A single new free admission visitor facility, focusing only on the Houses of Parliament, but in the heart of the WHS will raise many visitor management issues that should be fully explored before any final decision is made. There may be merit in the concept of a focal visitor information point, or series of points, serving the whole WHS.
- 5.1.2.26 The WHS would benefit from clear, accessible and more extensive signage and orientation plans that encourages visitors to explore the area. Visitors would gain a greater appreciation of the variety of the character areas that make up the WHS and as it is a relatively compact area, they would quickly acquire an understanding of the relationships and linkages between the individual sites. Visitors could also be encouraged to explore the publicly accessible but slightly 'hidden' areas of the WHS that are less crowded.

- 5.1.2.27 For the organisations within the site, managing their main missions whilst recognising the popularity of the WHS as a tourist destination is highly challenging.

### Objective 25

**To continue to ensure that visitors to the WHS, whatever the purpose of their visit, find their experience to be enjoyable, accessible, inclusive and comfortable. To this end, from time to time it may be appropriate to study the range, type and number of visitors to the different parts of the WHS, as well as to assess the quality of their experience.**

### Objective 26

**To consider the areas and aspects where it may be appropriate to coordinate visitor management and provision across the WHS, including the development of some information for visitors and tourists, which addresses the whole of the site. Such information would enable many visitors to plan their visit to the WHS and make good use of their time.**

*'To be a place where people of all nationalities and abilities can to be inspired by the unique character and beauty of the place and appreciate and learn about its rich living history'*

### *Enhancing intellectual access to the architecture and history of the site*

- 5.1.2.28 Interpretation consists of revealing meaning and making connections. Better explanation of the links between the constituent parts of the WHS would enable greater understanding of the interlocking histories of Westminster Palace and Abbey. Although the WHS comprises distinct elements, it may be helpful to provide a unified approach to common themes and selected interpretive media, to reinforce the importance of the site's inscription and its core values.

- 5.1.2.29 The WHS is very complex and requires an overall Interpretation Strategy that builds upon the Statement of Significance and which aims to promote a holistic understanding of entire site in a unified and coherent manner. The strategy should integrate with and be complementary to other recommended plans for tourism issues, such as access, audience development, education and marketing.
- 5.1.2.30 The WHS is an outstanding educational resource, especially for the topics of history, democracy and citizenship, spiritual celebration, and national ceremony, providing an exemplar of excellence in life long learning provision.
- 5.1.2.31 There is an outstanding opportunity for the WHS operators to work together to provide an exemplar of educational excellence to broaden understanding of Westminster's international significance and its continuing role on the world stage.

### Objective 27

**To consider how a strategy could be developed to optimise and coordinate intellectual access for tourists, school children and other interest groups, as well as for people who live and work in Westminster and its surroundings.**

### Objective 28

**To encourage the preparation of an Education strategy for the site that is in line with UNESCO Education Policy.**

## 6. Implementing the Management Plan

### 6.1.1 Introduction to the 5 Year Action Plan

- 6.1.1.1 The vision and objectives must lead to action if this Management Plan is to succeed. This section sets out how objectives (identified in Section 5) for safeguarding and enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value and significances of the WHS will be realised over the coming years.. The Action Plan begins with initiatives to ensure that the Management Plan itself is adopted, implemented and reviewed at appropriate intervals, including the development of Annual Workplans. Specific projects are then identified, which will address particular issues.
- 6.1.1.2 The historic buildings of the WHS currently enjoy a regime of conservation and maintenance to a very high standard and in accordance with well-established procedures. None of the buildings or features within the WHS currently requires a major conservation effort which has not been already identified and implemented by the relevant agency. The implementation of the objectives for safeguarding the architectural significance, therefore, concentrates on the maintenance of the existing regimes of conservation and preservation. For other objectives, however, such as balancing the needs of traffic and pedestrians and improvement of the visitor experience, specific projects can be identified for implementation over the coming years.

## 1.2 5 Year Action Plan

	Action No	Action	Objective
Year 1	1	Develop a means of monitoring the efficacy of the Management Plan, in its guidance and influencing role.	<b>1</b> To safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value for which the Westminster WHS was inscribed which are embodied in the buildings, spaces, monuments, artefacts and archaeological deposits within the site, the setting and views to and from it, its iconic status and the activities which take place within the WHS. The Management Plan should seek to guide, influence and advise those who are managing the organisations involved in the site.
Year 1	2	All those organisations on the WHS Liaison Steering Group to formally support the Management Plan.	<b>2</b> To have an effective, accurate and workable Management Plan which will be capable of support by all the organisations represented on the initial Steering Group
Year 1	3	Establish a permanent WHS Liaison Steering Group and its remit, to review the progress of the implementation of the management plan.	<b>3</b> To establish a Liaison Steering Group under the initial chairmanship of Westminster City Council to review progress of the implementation of the Management Plan, to share information and discuss issues affecting the World Heritage Site and to review the Management Plan at appropriate intervals to be agreed.
Year 1 and ongoing	4	Prepare Annual Workplans for the realisation of the objectives and implementation of the actions.	
Year 1	5	Develop a procedure for the Group to review and comment on relevant proposals for development as appropriate	<b>8</b> To undertake a dynamic visual impact study of wider views, within, into and out of the Westminster World Heritage Site for the purpose of assessing the impact of development proposals (including tall buildings) on the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS.  <b>9</b> To safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS any proposed developments which might affect the value, whether by impact on its setting or views may be commented upon by the Westminster Liaison Steering Group

	Action No	Action	Objective
Year 1	6	Establish a means of coordination of the implementation of the Management Plan.	<b>4</b> To consider the most effective means of coordinating the implementation of the Management Plan and associated projects and initiatives.
Year 1	7	Examine the feasibility of establishing a Buffer Zone (Defined Local Setting) or similar designated area informed by a Dynamic Visual Impact Study.	<b>7</b> To assess the feasibility of establishing a Buffer Zone, (Defined Local Setting) or similar designated area, within the context of the policies contained in the London Plan, the Westminster City Council Unitary Development Plan, and the Unitary Development Plans or Local Development Frameworks of the other Local Planning Authorities affected, as well as national policies. The establishment of the Buffer Zone (Defined Local Setting) could be preceded by an assessment of the key local views affecting the WHS and the characteristics of the immediate setting of the WHS, the variety of scales of adjoining buildings, the River Thames corridor and approaches from all sides, and views especially to and from south of the river. Such studies may assist in informing reactions to development proposals.
Year 1	8	Undertake an assessment of the overall security needs of the WHS, with regard to safeguarding the values and significances of the WHS, while meeting the practical needs of security issues.	<b>20</b> To consider the feasibility of assessing the overall security needs of the site, in so far as they impact on visible spaces and buildings, in order to identify ways, where practicable, of meeting security needs in the short and longer term, which are sensitive to the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.
Year 1	9	Develop a procedure for influencing the relevant authorities and agencies over a long term period with regard to sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS.	<b>14</b> To seek to ensure that the relevant authorities and agencies will sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS and adhere to the objectives of the WHS Management Plan, and ensure that these are seen as important material considerations in the determination of planning applications and other proposals.

	Action No	Action	Objective
Year 1	10	Develop a procedure for the coordination of responses to temporary changes or additions.	<b>12</b> To consider the feasibility of developing a coordinated response to temporary changes or additions which impact unfavourably on the overall visual qualities of the site or its environs.
Year 1	11	Develop a procedure for monitoring the requirements and arrangements for emergency planning.	<b>16</b> To ensure that the current arrangements for emergency planning and emergency preparedness within the WHS continue, addressing, where appropriate, the risks to the significances and values embodied in the fabric of the WHS.
Year 1	12	Develop a procedure for scrutinising and influencing proposals for landscape, transport, traffic management, street furnishing or significant infrastructure projects. Consideration should be given to how to best link with the World Squares for All Steering Group.	<b>18</b> To seek to ensure that the WHS Liaison Steering Group scrutinises proposals for landscape, transport, traffic management, street furnishing or significant infrastructure projects, within or close to the WHS, in order to encourage such proposals to take into account the significances and value of the WHS and addresses and realises the objectives of the World Heritage Site Management Plan.



	Action No	Action	Objective
Year 2	13	Undertake a review of the boundaries of the WHS with a view to unifying the two parts of the site in the short term and an appropriate enlargement of the WHS in the medium term.	<b>5</b> To seek the immediate integration of St Margaret's Street, Abingdon Street, Old Palace Yard and Parliament Square, including Cannon Green, within the boundary of the WHS in order to ensure their protection and to create a single unified site.
Year 2	14	Prepare and submit a revised statement of significance to the World Heritage Committee via DCMS in preparation for an application for the revision of the boundaries in accordance with the UK State Party review of Statements of Significance.	<b>6</b> In the medium term, to consider an enlargement of the WHS in order to include and therefore protect, those buildings and spaces associated with the Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church, which share the Outstanding Universal Value. Such elements would include buildings, spaces and archaeology of particular importance.
Year 2	15	Prepare an application for revised boundary and possible Buffer Zone (defined local setting) to be submitted to the World Heritage Committee in accordance with the UK State Party boundaries review timetable.	
Year 2	16	Commission a study of the noise and soundscape of the WHS and develop a strategy for the protection for those sounds which form part of the significant elements of the WHS.	
Year 2	17	Develop individual management plans for Westminster Abbey and the Palace of Westminster in the context of the forthcoming Heritage protection legislation.	<b>10</b> To consider the impact of visitors on the physical key aspects of the site, taking account of established best practice.  <b>11</b> To encourage the enhancement of the existing conservation, maintenance and repair regimes for the buildings, monuments, artefacts and archaeological deposits within the WHS. Changes to the regime may be assessed against the objectives of the WHS Management Plan.

	Action No	Action	Objective
		(No specific actions)	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>To continue the practice, through those organisations represented on the Liaison Steering Group of achieving wherever possible the highest standards of architecture, design and craftsmanship and the use of high quality materials and finishes when considering proposals for new buildings, adaptations of the exteriors of existing buildings and significant visible changes to interiors of unlisted buildings in order to ensure that they enhance and not diminish the architectural ensemble of the WHS.</p>
Year 2	18	Review the impact, on the buildings and spaces of the WHS. of the recently announced relocation of the Civil Service.	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>To maintain and encourage the continuing enhancement where practicable the present use and activities within the buildings and spaces of the WHS, which relate to the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. Wherever possible or practicable, new activities and uses should be compatible with the individual institutions represented in the site and the existing significance and use characteristics of the WHS.</p>
Year 3	19	Consider the development of a public realm strategy for the WHS.	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>To consider the appropriateness of establishing a public realm strategy for the landscape and streetscapes of the site which would address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Maintenance, renewal and replacement of trees</li> <li>· Maintenance and desirable improvement of open spaces</li> <li>· Desirable improvement to hard landscaping</li> <li>· Environmental aspects of green spaces</li> <li>· Physical and visual clutter</li> <li>· Street furniture and signs</li> </ul>
Year 3	20	Commission the preparation of a design guide of materials and forms for the WHS.	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>To comment on any design guides utilising existing policies as appropriate and to suggest materials and forms to be used within the WHS, which would be sensitive to the Outstanding Universal Value.</p>

	Action No	Action	Objective
Year 3	21	Commission a study of traffic issues as they relate to the needs of the WHS and its users and visitors, taking into account the emerging plans for the area.	<b>22</b> To comment on proposals for landscape transport traffic management, street furnishing or significant infrastructure projects within or close to the WHS in order to encourage such proposals to take into account the significance of the WHS and addresses and realises the objectives of the World Heritage Site Management Plan including the development of wider traffic management strategies in order to develop sustainable traffic management strategies for the site, balancing the needs of the WHS with the needs of residents, workers and visitors.
Year 3	22	Commission the preparation of a pedestrian movement strategy	<b>23</b> To comment on any studies undertaken to assess the feasibility of establishing an overall pedestrian movement strategy for the whole site including; the provision of safe walking routes around the site, especially from public transport nodes, to reduce the dominance of motor traffic in Parliament Square, Abingdon Street, Old Palace Yard, St Margaret Street and possibly Bridge Street, Parliament Street and Broad Sanctuary, as well as to encourage visitor dispersal away from pressure points.
Year 4	23	The Westminster World Heritage Site Management Plan Liaison Steering Group will review relevant WHS policies in existing and emerging spatial planning documents at appropriate times in their review cycles and put forward suggestions and recommendations to spatial and local planning authorities which may then be incorporated by the relevant authorities into their UDPs and emerging LDFs.	<b>21</b> To seek to ensure that future reviews of the City of Westminster Unitary Development Plan or its replacement and the London Plan and policy documents prepared by other organisations with an interest in the World Heritage Site, take account of the significance and value of the WHS and the objectives in the WHS Management Plan.

	Action No	Action	Objective
Year 4	24	Commission a visitor access strategy for the WHS.	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>To assess an integrated approach to sustainable tourism and improved facilities and developing an access strategy for the site. The strategy should assess existing access, consider the constraints on buildings and look at the optimum ways to assist, if necessary, in providing access arrangements within the WHS, for those with special needs and disabilities to ensure that wherever possible they can use and enjoy the heritage of the place in the same way as the able bodied or be given alternative offerings.</p>
Year 4	25	Consider appropriate areas and aspects for coordination of visitor management and provision across the WHS.	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>To consider the areas and aspects where it may be appropriate to coordinate visitor management and provision across the WHS, including the development of some information for visitors and tourists, which addresses the whole of the site. Such information would enable many visitors to plan their visit to the WHS and make good use of their time.</p>
Year 4	26	Commission the development of interpretation and education strategies for the WHS in order to enhance intellectual access to the WHS.	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>To consider how a strategy could be developed to optimise and coordinate intellectual access for tourists, school children and other interest groups, as well as for people who live and work in Westminster and its surroundings.</p> <p><b>28</b></p> <p>To encourage the preparation of an Education strategy for the site that is in line with UNESCO Education Policy.</p>

	Action No	Action	Objective
Year 5	27	Consider the need for occasional assessment of visitor needs, activities and experience.	<b>25</b> To continue to ensure that visitors to the WHS, whatever the purpose of their visit, find their experience to be enjoyable, accessible, inclusive and comfortable. To this end, from time to time it may be appropriate to study the range, type and number of visitors to the different parts of the WHS, as well as to assess the quality of their experience.
Year 5	28	Develop a means of monitoring the impact of visitor activity on the historic fabric.	<b>10</b> To consider the impact of visitors on the physical fabric of the key aspects of the site taking account of established best practice.



# Appendix 1

## Inventory of buildings of special architectural note

### Westminster Abbey

The character area is defined as the Abbey Church and its principal buildings and precinct, including the historic buildings in The Sanctuary to the west and Westminster School to the south, and delineated by Victoria Street to the north, Little Smith Street and Great College Street to the south, and Great Smith Street to the west.

### The Abbey Church

Originally Edward the Confessors church c.1050-65, Grade I

Ref. 92/57 and 101/1 – TQ3079NW and TQ3079

The earliest remaining fabric is of Edward the Confessor's church of c.1050-65, which was substantially rebuilt by Henry III beginning in 1245 and not completed until 1506, excluding the upper part of the west towers. Henry de Reyns was the master mason for much of the work. The Henry VII Chapel of Reigate stone with Huddleston stone was begun as the new Lady Chapel in 1503 and completed as the Chantry chapel c.1519, probably by Robert and William Virtue. The west towers were built between 1735-1745 and are Hawksmoor's design. In addition there were major C.18<sup>th</sup> and C.19<sup>th</sup> by Wren, Henry Keene, James Wyatt, Benjamin Wyatt, Blore, Sir George Gilbert Scott and J. C. Pearson, as Surveyors to the Fabric. The interior has Purbeck marble piers and shafting; quadripartite vaulting with ridge rib and bosses; transverse and tierceron ribs introduced in the nave with Perpendicular details to the bosses in de Reyns's work. There are a few reset C.13<sup>th</sup> stained glass fragments, otherwise it is mostly C.15<sup>th</sup>/C.16<sup>th</sup>; C.18<sup>th</sup>, C.19<sup>th</sup> and C.20<sup>th</sup>; cosmati pavements in Shrine Chapel 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.

### The Great Cloisters

Various dates, Grade I

Ref. 101/5 – TQ3079SW

The Great Cloisters were begun at the north-east corner in c.1245-50, contemporary with the Abbey Church, and completed in 1366 with the

construction of the south and west walls. There are remains of C.11<sup>th</sup> and C.12<sup>th</sup> buildings, and some of Henry III's rebuild in the C.13<sup>th</sup>, and later building elements from the C.14<sup>th</sup>, C.16<sup>th</sup>, and C.17<sup>th</sup> to C.19<sup>th</sup>, including alterations to and restorations of the Collegiate Church and School. Some repair and rebuilding was also necessary after World War II. The C.13<sup>th</sup> and C.14<sup>th</sup> is mostly in Reigate stone and Purbeck marble, the C.17<sup>th</sup> and later work mostly in red brick. The Abbey precinct buildings are now partly in use by the Westminster school.

### **St Faith's Chapel**

The C.13<sup>th</sup> chapel abuts the south transept of the Abbey Church and is noted for its fine blank arcading and rib-vaults with head-corbels.

### **The Chapter House**

The octagonal Chapter House dates from c.1245-53, and is in a very pure Geometric Gothic, with large, innovative 4-light windows, reminiscent of the windows of the nave at Amiens cathedral and the contemporary Sainte Chapelle. The flying buttresses were added in the C.14<sup>th</sup>. The building was heavily restored by Scott in the late C.19<sup>th</sup>, including the rebuild of the cluster shafted central pier and the rib vaulted ceiling, with a lead tent-lantern roof on an iron frame over.

### **Nos. 1 and 2 The Cloisters**

The buildings on the south side of the south Cloister walk, running through to Deans' Yard, incorporate the remains of many earlier Abbey buildings; the Refectory from the C.11<sup>th</sup> with arcaded masonry, the Song School of c.1192 and the north end of the C.14<sup>th</sup> Cellarer's Building. Sections of the east and north walls of the early refectory building form the garden wall of Ashburnham House.

### **The Parlour**

To the west Nos. 1 and 2 The Cloisters flank the south side of the Parlour, which is now the passage that continues from the south Cloister walk into Deans' Yard. The fabric is mostly a later C.14<sup>th</sup> rebuild. Above the passage is a room that was possibly the Abbot's Camera.



## The Dormitory Range

South of the Chapter House, and flanked by the east Cloister walk and the Dark Cloister, the Dormitory range is used today as a museum, with the Pyx Chapel at the north end and with the remains of a C13<sup>th</sup> stair giving access to the Chapter Library. The range retains its C11<sup>th</sup> vaulted undercroft. The remainder of the range is occupied throughout the first floor by Westminster school. It was refaced in 1814 by Benjamin Wyatt, and was largely rebuilt after being damaged in World War II, but retains C11<sup>th</sup> features and a Norman doorway and parts of a window.

## The Chapter Library

Fitted out in 1623 as a college library, the book presses are ornamented with strapwork cresting. The hammerbeam roof is mid C 15<sup>th</sup>.

## The Busby Library

c.1655-60, at the south end of the Dormitory range and incorporating remains of the fabric of the Reredorter, the Library was largely rebuilt after World War II.

## St. Dunstan's Chapel

Early C.16<sup>th</sup>, the Chapel projects from the east side of the Dormitory. The outer east wall of the Dormitory with blocked mediaeval windows is exposed here, in the adjoining school gymnasium. Above the Chapel sits a chamber with a C.18<sup>th</sup> Venetian window.

## The Dark Cloister

C.11<sup>th</sup>, the vaulted passage runs between the surviving walls of the Dormitory and the Refectory. The long C14<sup>th</sup> wall on the west side sports a long timber window of mullioned lights that gives on to Little Dean's Yard.

## The Abbey Precinct

### The Deanery

Various dates, Grade I

Ref. 100/7 – TQ3079SW and TQ2079SE

Formerly the Abbot's Lodging, and mostly dating from c.1370. The residences are built around an oblong court that flanks the west side of the Cloister, with the north range abutting the south tower of the west front of the Abbey. The

south range abuts the Parlour. The entrance to the court is through a passage in the south range, off the Parlour, with a tierceron vaulted arched roof. Above the passage is a chamber with 3- and 4-light stone mullioned windows. The east range of the courtyard is of the earliest date, but with part of the range rebuilt in the late C.17<sup>th</sup> and early C.18<sup>th</sup> in the form of two brick houses. The south part of this range was rebuilt after World War II.

### **College Hall**

The west range of the court is the College Hall [formerly the Abbot's Hall] which dates from the c.1370, but with a C.19<sup>th</sup> battlemented parapet. The Hall has a low pitched king post roof with heavy tie beams on arched braces, the springing points being carved stone angel corbel brackets, and features 2-light windows with tracery similar to that in the windows fitted to the C.14<sup>th</sup> section of the Cloister under Abbot Litlyngton.

### **Jerusalem Chamber**

North of the College Hall is the Jerusalem Chamber, which has exceptional C.13<sup>th</sup> stained glass medallions, reset from the Abbey Church. The Chamber has a low pitched roof with an arched braced tie-beam structure.

### **Jericho Parlour**

Early C.16<sup>th</sup> but incorporating elements of a C.14<sup>th</sup> building, erected by Abbot Islip and forming the north range of the courtyard, with a contemporary 4-centered doorway arch and later external stone stair giving access to the first floor. The interior has many notable features from the C.16<sup>th</sup> and C.17<sup>th</sup>, in particular the principal room on the first floor with linen-fold panelling, and 2 rooms with early C.16<sup>th</sup> moulded ceiling ribs.

### **Little Cloisters**

Various dates, Grade I

Ref. 101/9 – TQ3079SW

Little Cloister is a late C.14<sup>th</sup> Farmery cloister on the site of a C.12<sup>th</sup> Infirmary, with remains of the Chapel of St. Katherine [c.1170]. The cloister arcade is c.1680-81 and the lodgings and offices date from C.17<sup>th</sup>, which is mostly a rebuild incorporating C.14<sup>th</sup> masonry. Badly damaged in World War II, much above the ground floors has been considerably rebuilt. The Farmery cloister is approached by a tunnel-vaulted C.11<sup>th</sup> 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 the garth.

## The Chapel of St. Catherine

This 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.

## Little Cloisters Lodgings

Nos. 1 and 2, 2A, 2B in the north range and Nos. 6, 7 and 8 in the south, incorporate C.14<sup>th</sup> stonework to ground floor, with a fragment of the C.11<sup>th</sup> east wall of the Reredorter in the south west corner.

No. 3 lodging was rebuilt after World War II.

No. 4 is later C.17<sup>th</sup> above medieval foundations, L-shaped in plan, in dark red brick with a tiled gable end roof.

## St Margaret's Church

C.11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>, Grade I

Ref. 92/54 – TQ3079NW

Dates from the C.11<sup>th</sup> and C.12<sup>th</sup> but substantially rebuilt in the early C.16<sup>th</sup>, by the Westminster Abbey masons Robert Stowell and Henry Redman. There was extensive restoration on the C.18<sup>th</sup> and C.19<sup>th</sup>, most of the tower was rebuilt by John James in 1735-37, and the east end Chancel by Walter Tower in 1905, amongst other alterations and additions. There are naturally many fine features; the east window has fine Flemish stained glass commemorating the marriage of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. There are windows of 1966 in an abstract design by John Piper, also known for his work at Coventry Cathedral and many other commissions.

## St Margaret's Churchyard Railings, Obelisks and Bollards

Early C.18<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 91/44 and 92/52 – TQ3079NW and TQ2979NE

Cast iron railings with urn finials, 10 Portland stone obelisk piers and 30 Portland stone bollards forming the boundary to the north and east part of the churchyard.

### **Lamp standards, St Margaret's Churchyard**

Mid C.19<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 92/56 – TQ3079NW

Cast iron lamp standards between the Abbey and the Church and fronting the Church's west porch.

### **Nos. 1-8 The Sanctuary**

1853-54, Sir George Gilbert Scott, Grade II

Ref. 100/5 – TQ2979SE

A terrace of Bath stone buildings, neo-Gothic with some Tudor features, forming the north range of Dean's Yard and incorporating the gateway through to Dean's Yard.

### **No. 21 Dean's Yard [and Abbey Shop]**

c. 1800, Grade II

Ref. 100/3 – TQ2979SE

A 3 storey brick building in the Tudor Gothic style, built as offices for the Dean and Chapter, and flanking the Jerusalem Chamber, and related in style to Scott's buildings, Nos. 1 to 8 the Sanctuary. The north end was altered in 1954/6 by S.E. Dykes Bowyer to create the Abbey shop, resulting in the unfortunate 'Georgian Gothic' fenestration.

### **Crimea War and Indian Mutiny Memorial**

1859-61, Sir George Gilbert Scott, Grade II

Ref. 91/40 and 100/1 – TQ2979SE and NE

The design is in a high Victorian gothic, the main column in a polished red granite surmounted by a lantern cross and a statue of St. George and the dragon.

### **Lamp Standards**

Mid C.19<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 91/50 and 100/6 – TQ2979SE and NE

5 No. cast iron lamp standards with embellished posts and decorative Windsor type crested lanterns, one pair flanking the entrance to the Abbey Church, another pair to the Dean's Yard Gatehouse.

## The Jewel Tower

c. 1365. Grade I

Ref. 92/54 - TQ3079SW

A remnant of Edward III's Palace of Westminster, formerly used as the repository of the King's treasure. It sits within the restored remains of its moated enclosure and the curtilage of the World Heritage Site. From 1621 to 1864 the tower was used as an office and to store records of the House of Lords. When fire engulfed the Palace of Westminster in 1834, only the Jewel Tower and Westminster Hall survived. The Tower is now used as a museum of the History of Parliament and is in the care of English Heritage.

## The Abbey [Canons'] Gardens

No. 1 The Abbey Gardens

1882, J.L. Pearson, Grade II

Ref. 101/23 – TQ3079SW

A substantial detached house, formerly a Canon's house, now converted for use as offices, in a restrained Tudor-Gothic style. The south, rear, elevation sits behind the Precinct Wall overlooking Great College Street.

## Ashburnham House

c.1662, attributed to John Webb, Grade I

Ref. 101/13 – TQ3079SW

A substantial town house within the Abbey Precinct, Little Dean's Yard. The masonry structure and the kitchen and hall walls of the earlier C.14<sup>th</sup> Prior's Lodging are incorporated into the structure. The west wing was added 1910. Internally the plan is not symmetrical because of the need to accommodate the medieval work. The C.17<sup>th</sup> interior is very fine, in particular the staircase rising in a spacious open well, top lit by a large lantern and dome.

## 4 Statues, College Garden

1686, Grinling Gibbons and Arnold Quellin, Grade II

Ref. 101/85 – TQ3079SW

Statues of the Apostles in marble, very heavily weathered, which were originally from the altar of the Queen's Chapel [by Wren] in the former Palace of Whitehall. Better preserved elements are kept at Burnham on Sea.

### **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.18<sup>th</sup> and C.19<sup>th</sup> square headed doorways can be seen.

### **The Abbey Precinct Railings**

C.17<sup>th</sup>/C.18<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 91/47, 92/52, 100/2, 101/2 – TQ2979NE and SE, TQ3079SW and NW

Cast iron railings with decorative standards and urn finials. Situated to the west of the Abbey, to the east end.

### **No. 1 Little Dean's Yard**

1896, Sir T.G. Jackson, Grade II

Ref. 101/16 – TQ3079SW

A school house, the west end of Rigaud's house rebuilt in a late neo-Jacobean style.

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

1789-90, R.W.F. Brettingham, Grade II

Ref. 101/18 – TQ3079SW

The house of the Master of the King's Scholars, No. 2 built and No. 3 a remodelled earlier building, to form a symmetrical composition with No. 1.

### **No. 4 Little Dean's Yard**

1722-30, Lord Burlington, Grade I

Ref. 101/19 – TQ3079SW

The Westminster school dormitory, known as 'College', badly damaged in World War II and rebuilt in 1947. The building was Burlington's first exercise in public architecture and the blind niches that were part of his elegant Palladian style were cut open as windows by T.G. Jackson in 1895.

## Staircase, Little Dean's Yard

1664-9/1734, Grade I

Ref. 101/15 – TQ3079SW

A stone stair to the Dormitory range and the Busby Library from the Yard. The stair and upper doorway date from 1664 and the stone gateway from 1734.

## Turle's House

1844, J.L. Pearson, Grade II

Ref. 101/14 – TQ3079SW

A school house, incorporating fragments of the C.11<sup>th</sup> Abbey Reredorter and built partly over the Dark Cloister. The remains of the Reredorter can be seen in the basement and at first floor level.

## Dean's Yard

Dean's Yard is a sheltered square with a large lawn in the centre, enclosed by a group of buildings of mixed style, and of somewhat varied quality. The space is perhaps too large to suit the smaller scale mediaeval and neo-gothic buildings that face onto it, but is detracted from, above all, by its inevitable use as a parking area for the School and Church offices. At the Yard's south range the earlier mid C18<sup>th</sup> houses have been replaced by Sir Herbert Baker's Church House of 1936-40, a high, stone fronted edifice taking up the entire frontage, rather monolithic and out of keeping with the variety of the other ranges.

## West Range

### No. 1 Dean's Yard

1862, Sir George Gilbert Scott, Grade II

Ref. 100/9 – TQ2979SE

Built by Scott as part of a group for the Church and Westminster School, Scott's building is a neo-Gothic end of terrace house of 3 storeys, with a basement and gabled attic, in red brick with stone dressings and a slate roof.

### Nos. 3 and 3a Dean's Yard

c. 1865, Sir George Gilbert Scott, John Oldrid Scott, Grade II

Ref. 100/8 – TQ2979SE

Westminster School House, a terraced house in the neo-early-Tudor style, the Dean's Yard frontage is 3 storeys, with a basement and dormered attics, of red brick with stone dressings. The Great Smith Street frontage is four storeys of rubble stone walling with ashlar dressings and later slate mansards.

**Nos. 3b and 4 Dean's Yard**

c. 1915, G. Wallace, Grade II

Ref. 100/11 – TQ2979SE

Choir School buildings built in a neo-Tudor 'Jacobethan' style of red brick with stone dressings and a slate roof.

**Nos. 5a and 6 Dean's Yard**

c. 1898-1900, G.A. Hall, Grade II

Ref. 100/13 – TQ2979SE

A pair of houses, four storeys and a basement, built for the School in freestyle 'Jacobethan' of red brick with stone dressings and slate roofs, but made notable by good 'Arts and Crafts' detailing.

**South Range****Church House**

1936-40, Sir Herbert Baker and A.T. Scott, Grade II

Ref. 100/101 – TQ2979SE and TQ3079SW

This unusual pre-war building closes the south range of Dean's Yard, built for the Church of England to serve as an Assembly Hall, Chapel and offices. The building was damaged by bombs in World War II and restored in 1949-50.

**East Range**

Much of the building in the east range of Dean's Yard was originally probably used by the Abbey's monastic school, before 1200. When the Abbey became a Cathedral in 1540 the school became the King's Grammar School, with 40 King's Scholars. The Westminster School was re-founded by Elizabeth I in 1560 and now also occupies the buildings to the south of this range, and the complex of buildings to the east.

**No. 17 Dean's Yard**

Late C.18<sup>th</sup>, Grade I

Ref. 101/17 – TQ3079SW

No. 17 is the Westminster School's Headmaster's House, a rebuilt mediaeval monastic school building, now subdivided into 17 and 17A.



## No. 18 Dean's Yard

C.14<sup>th</sup>, Grade I

Ref. 101/12 – TQ3079SW

Late C.14<sup>th</sup> in origin, the Bailiff's Guest House was part of the west range of the Abbey buildings. Taken over by the Grammar School in 1461 it was substantially rebuilt in a Tudor Gothic style in 1886, probably by T.G. Jackson. The original C.14<sup>th</sup> arched opening to the left of the façade leads through to Little Dean's Yard. The house has many fine architectural features, to the Little Dean's Yard frontage as well as to the main frontage, and is one of the finer buildings in the group.

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

C.14<sup>th</sup> and C.15<sup>th</sup>. 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.15<sup>th</sup> and C.16<sup>th</sup>, and much altered in the C.17<sup>th</sup> and C.18<sup>th</sup>. The group has many fine features from the C.14<sup>th</sup> through to the C.18<sup>th</sup> including the C.14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Lamp Standards

Mid C.19<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 100/12 – TQ2979SE

10 No. slender cast iron lamp standards and decorative Windsor type crested lanterns, symmetrically placed around the green.

## Lamp Standards

Mid to late C.19<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 100/14 – TQ2979SE

3 No. cast iron lamp standards with square finialed lanterns, 2 No. as a pair to Church House steps.

### **No. 7 Tufton Street, Faith House**

1907, [Sir] Edward Lutyens, Grade II

Ref. 101/27 – TQ3079SW

An office and Institute building, originally the St. John's Institute. An early London project by Lutyens described as a 'wittily Georgianized palazzo'.

### **The Palace of Westminster**

Bounded by Bridge Street to the north, The Thames to the east, Parliament Square, St. Margaret Street, Old Palace Yard, Abingdon Street and Millbank to the west and south.

### **The New Palace of Westminster**

1835-60, Sir Charles Barry with AW Pugin, Grade I

with Westminster Hall, 1079-99, and other remaining elements of the Palace of Westminster.

Ref. 92/53 and 101/7 – TQ3079NW and SW

Westminster Hall is the most significant surviving element of the original Palace of Westminster, built in 1097-99 and remodelled in 1394-1401 by master mason Henry Yevele and carpenter Hugh Herland. The Houses of Parliament [or New Palace of Westminster] were designed by Barry in competition with George Gilbert Scott and other eminent Architects. Pugin carried out the interior decoration and furnishings as well as detailing the building fabric. The Palace includes St. Stephen's Chapel, dating from c.1292-97 with additional work in c.1302, and St. Stephen's Cloister and chantry chapel, 1526-29, restored after damage by bombing in World War II.

### **Statue of Oliver Cromwell**

1899, Hamo Thornycroft, Grade II

Ref. 92/55 – TQ3079NW

Bronze standing figure on a Portland stone base, in front of Westminster Hall. Cromwell is depicted with a lion.

### **Statue of Richard I**

1851, Baron Carlo de Marochetti, Grade II

Bronze equestrian figure on granite plinth in Old Palace Yard

## **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.

## **Lampstandards to New Palace Yard, New Palace of Westminster**

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

Ref. 92/48 – TQ3079NW

14 No. cast iron lampstandards, octagonal bases and shafts, the lanterns finialed with crowns, a component of Barry's design for the Houses of Parliament.

## **Victoria Tower Gardens**

Late C.19<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Register of Parks and Gardens Ref. 1841 – TQ3079

The triangular riverside garden to the south of the Palace of Westminster, was created as a public garden in the C.19<sup>th</sup> and extended in 1914. The embankment to the river provides a walk that continues past Lambeth Bridge to the south, and beyond. The garden contains a number of memorial sculptures, in particular the Pankhurst memorial [cf. Millicent Fawcett Hall No 46 Tufton Street] and the Burghers of Calais, by Rodin.

## **Victoria Tower Gardens, the Embankment Wall**

Mid C.19<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 101/58 – TQ3079SW and TQ3078NW

The granite embankment wall is contemporary and continuous with Barry and Pugin's Palace of Westminster, now somewhat battered, and adorned with mooring rings. The southern portion is now isolated by the abutment of Lambeth Bridge.

## **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.

**Statue to Emmeline Pankhurst**

1930, A.G. Walker, Grade II

Ref. 101/24 – TQ3079SW

A bronze figure of the women's suffrage leader, on a stone pedestal, moved to its present location in 1956.

**Statuary Group of the Burgers of Calais**

1915, Auguste Rodin, Grade I

Ref. 101/38 – TQ3079SW

A bronze group of the Calais hostages, on a stone pedestal, repositioned and placed on its present lower pedestal by Rodin.

**Buxton Memorial Fountain**

1865, S.S. Teulon, Grade II

Ref. 101/68 – TQ3079SW

A delicate Gothic octagonal pavilion enriched with polychrome materials, in limestone and granite with an enamelled roof. Moved from its original position in Parliament Square.

**Broad Sanctuary North**

Bounded by Great George Street to the north, Parliament Square [included] to the east, Broad Sanctuary to the south, and Matthew Parker Street, Storey's Gate and Lewisham Street to the west and north west.

**The Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street**

1912, James Millar, Grade II

Ref. 91/28 - TQ2797NE

A monumental corner block in Beaux Arts style, built for the Institute. The building is embellished with rich neo-Palladian and Baroque detailing.

**The Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Great George Street**

1896-98, Alfred and Paul Waterhouse, Grade II

Ref. 92/33 – TQ3079NE

An idiosyncratic institution headquarters by Waterhouse, with later additions by his son, in an eclectic Jacobean, renaissance and Gothic style.

## No. 11 Great George Street

c. 1755/56, Grade II\*

Ref. 92/32 – TQ3079NE

A Georgian town house, formerly part of a terrace, with a good Palladian front

## Parliament Square

c. 1860, Sir Charles Barry, George Grey Wornum, Grade II

Register of Parks and Gardens Ref. 2702 – TQ3079

The Square has been cleared in recent times of its mediaeval streets and later houses to create an open area that was initially laid out as a formal square in about 1851. By 1949 traffic conditions required that the road system be reviewed and Wornum redesigned the Square to the requirements of the Ministry of Transport. The Square is divided into 2 separate areas; the main square to the east and a smaller green in front of Little George Street to the west. In addition to the architecturally imposing buildings that surround it, it is dignified by a number of important statues and sculptures.

## Middlesex Guildhall

1906-13, J.G.S. Gibson with Skipworth and Gordon, Grade II\*

Sculpture by H.C. Fehr

Ref. 92/49 – TQ3079NW

County Guildhall is a freestanding block facing the Palace of Westminster across Parliament Square. The styling is late neo-Gothic with northern European influences, accomplished in its massing and in the confident distribution of carved ornamentation and plain wall faces. The massiveness of the masonry belies that the fact that the building is constructed around a load bearing steel frame. In the basement of the Guildhall the C.17<sup>th</sup> gateway to Tothill Fields prison is preserved.

## Statue of Sir Robert Peel

1876, Mathew Noble, Grade II

Ref. 92/51 – TQ3079NW

Bronze standing figure on a pedestal of polished red granite.

**Statue of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield**

1882, Raggi, Grade II

Ref. 92/50 – TQ3079NW

Bronze standing figure on a pedestal of red granite.

**Statue of Abraham Lincoln**

1920, a copy of Augustus St Gaudens' memorial in Chicago , Grade II

Ref. 92/46 – TQ3079NW

Bronze standing figure on a granite pedestal.

**Statue of George Canning**

1832, Sir Richard Westmacott, Grade II

Ref. 92/44 – TQ3079NW

Bronze standing figure on a granite pedestal, repositioned in Parliament Square in 1867.

**Statue of Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby**

1874, Mathew Noble, Grade II

Ref. 92/45 – TQ3079NW

Bronze standing figure on a pedestal of granite with bronze bas-reliefs depicting scenes from the Prime Minister's life, including interiors of the Old House of Commons.

**Statue of Henry John Temple, Viscount Palmerston**

1876, T. Woolner and E.M. Barry [pedestal], Grade II

Ref. 92/34 – TQ3079NW

Bronze standing figure on a granite pedestal.

**Statue of Field Marshal Jan Smuts**

1876, Jacob Epstein, Grade II

Ref. 92/35 – TQ3079NW

Bronze standing figure on a granite pedestal.

**The Methodist Central Hall**

1905-11, Lanchester and Rickards, Grade II\*

Ref. 91/27 – TQ2979NE

The Hall is the Methodists' principal London Hall, designed for their use. It is a free standing block facing St. Margaret's Church across Broad Sanctuary, in

a French Baroque style and dominated by the massive Corinthian order of the main east front, all surmounted by the dome on a square base. The building is richly embellished throughout, the interior noted for its confident and opulent design by Lanchester.

### **The Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre**

1979-86. Powell Moya and Partners

TQ2979NE

Although not listed, the QEII conference centre is an imposing presence in Broad Sanctuary, facing the north façade of the Abbey Church across the modern vehicle route and urban spaces of Victoria Street. The QEII centre was constructed on the site of the demolished Sanctuary Church that faced the mediaeval gateway, now gone, across Broad Sanctuary, and which gave entrance to Dean's Yard. The principal rooms are named after British figures who have made major contributions to modern society, from Churchill to Caxton.

### **No. 8 Storeys' Gate, Abbey Buildings**

1860-70, Sir George Gilbert Scott, Grade II

Ref. 91/27 – TQ2979NE

Office and chambers building in a Flemish renaissance style, and with terracotta embellishments to the attic windows.

### **No. 1 Barton Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/30 – TQ3079SW

A fine early C.18<sup>th</sup> town house with a later [C.19<sup>th</sup>] refronting; 3 storeys with a basement and a mansard behind the brick parapet. A part of the enclave of similar housing together with Lord North Street and Cowley Street.

### **No. 3 Barton Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/34 – TQ3079SW

As No. 1 but with the original brown brick façade, and tiled roof.

**Nos. 4 to 6 Barton Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/40 – TQ3079SW

As No. 3, but No. 6 has C.20<sup>th</sup> alterations and a stuccoed ground floor. The houses have differing decorative doorcases, all fine and in good condition, and various other period components.

**No. 8 Barton Street**

c. 1909, Horace Field, Grade II

Ref. 101/39 – TQ3079SW

An exercise in C.18<sup>th</sup> town house design, to blend in with the historic terrace, in red brick and Portland stone and with a tiled roof.

**Nos. 9 and 10 Barton Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/35 – TQ3079SW

As No. 3, a pair of terraced houses with doorways to the right.

**Nos. 11 to 14 Barton Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/28 – TQ3079SW

Fine early C.18<sup>th</sup> town houses as Nos. 8 and 10, but with stuccoed ground floor faces and slate roofs. The houses have a continuous painted timber architrave cornice carried across doorways and ground floor windows.

**No. 1 Cowley Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/44 – TQ3079SW

Originally an early C.18<sup>th</sup> town house in brown brick with tiled roof but largely rebuilt. The house is 3 storeys with basements and dormered mansards.

The following Cowley Street houses are part of the exceptional enclave of Georgian housing together with Barton Street and Lord North Street.

**Nos. 2 and 3 Cowley Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/44 – TQ3079SW

A fine pair of early C.18<sup>th</sup> town houses in brown brick with tiled roofs, basements and dormered mansards. The doors are set in early C.19<sup>th</sup> reeded timber architrave case with timber bosses.



### **No. 4 Cowley Street**

1904-5, Horace Field for North Eastern Railway, Grade II

Ref. 101/41 – TQ3079SW

An early neo-Georgian exercise in C.17<sup>th</sup> style, a terraced town house and offices in dark red brick and Portland stone with a tiled roof. The building is a little oversized for the surroundings but has fine Arts and Crafts detailing and much rich ornamentation.

### **No. 13 Cowley Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/53 – TQ3079SW

A fine early C.18<sup>th</sup> town house in brown brick with tiled roof, 3 storeys with basement and dormered mansard.

### **No. 14 Cowley Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/52 – TQ3079SW

As No. 13.

### **No. 15 Cowley Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/58 – TQ3079SW

As No. 13.

### **Nos. 16 and 17 Cowley Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/50 – TQ3079SW

As No. 13.

### **No. 18 Cowley Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/49 – TQ3079SW

As No. 13.

### **No. 19 Cowley Street**

c. 1722, Blow and Billerey, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/48 – TQ3079SW

As No. 13, but extended and restored in 1920, in brown brick with tiled roof.

**No. 16 Great College Street**

c. 1720-22, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/32 – TQ3079SW

A very early Georgian terraced town house, in brown brick with contrasting red brick dressings and with a tiled roof.

**No. 17 and 18 Great College Street**

c. 1720-22, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/31 – TQ3079SW

Contemporary with No. 16, a pair of terraced town house, mirrored in plan, in brown brick with a tiled roof. Of particular interest are the timber doorcases to the right and left, the architrave cases surmounted by projecting cornice hoods, supported on carved console brackets. As with No. 16 the houses retain much of the interior finishes and structure; original fielded timber panelling, box cornices, pilastered archways, dog leg stairs and fine turned balusters.

**No. 19 Great College Street**

c. 1722, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/26 – TQ3079SW

Again contemporary with No. 16, a very early Georgian corner terrace house, in brown brick, although with a C.19<sup>th</sup> stucco ground floor facing, and with a tiled roof. The original timber doorcase with architrave and an over-pediment supported by console brackets. Again the house retains its early wrought iron railings with urn finials and a wrought iron lamp standard. In the interior, most of its original fielded timber panelling to the front rooms and passage remains, and a dog leg stair with turned balusters.

**No. 22 Great College Street,**

**including St. Edward's Chapel Tufton Street and The Chapel of St. Peter and St. John**

1903-5, Edward Burgess, Grade II

Ref. 101/25 – TQ3079SW

Built in freestyle Tudor Gothic as the home of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, the group of buildings is in red brick with stone dressings and a slate roof, and boasts an embattled tower. The chapel interior is an original and sensitive example of Early English neo-Gothic church architecture.

### **Corner House Great Peter Street, No. 11 Cowley Street and 8 Little College Street**

1911, Edward Lutyens, Grade II

Ref. 101/47 – TQ3079SW

A pair of town houses on a corner site, a good example of Lutyens' work of the period; neo-Georgian in style, but with the windows oversized in scale.

They were built for the Hon. F. McLaren and Lady Norman.

### **Nos. 1 and 2 Millbank, The Church Commissioners**

Including No. 3 Great College Street, No. 2 Great Peter Street and Nos. 5 and 7 Little College Street

1903, W.D. Caroe, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/43 – TQ3079SW

This large island office block was designed for the Church Commissioners by Caroe in what is described as an 'eclectic yet sophisticated' northern Renaissance style, and with what Pevsner calls 'nice scrolly details'.

### **Great Smith Street**

#### **Church of St Matthew, Great Peter Street**

1849-51, Sir George Gilbert Scott, Grade II

Ref. 101/17 – TQ3079SW

A large and imposing church in Scott's favoured C.13<sup>th</sup> Gothic style. The building was gutted by fire in 1982 and the interior was reinstated in 1984.

The spire that was intended to sit on the massive south tower was never built.

#### **No. 20 Great Peter Street**

c. 1905, Grade II

Ref. 101/18 – TQ3079SW

The Clergy House for St. Matthew's Church, designed in a restrained 'Arts and Crafts'/domestic Gothic style. It is noticeable for its large central stone portal with moulded jambs and an ornate canopied niche above.

#### **No. 14 Great Smith Street, Orchard House**

1898, Grade II

Ref. 100/S1 – TQ2979SE

Orchard House includes Nos. 1 and 2 Abbey Orchard Street. An ornate shop front property embellished with modelled terracotta work by W.J.

Neatby Birch.

**Nos. 36 to 40 [even] Great Smith Street**

c. 1725, Grade II

Ref. 100/19 – TQ2979SW

Terraced town houses contemporary with Barton Street, Cowley Street, Great College Street and Lord North Street.

**Park House, Great Smith Street**

c. 1904, Grade II

Ref. 100/50 - TQ2979SW

A mansion block from the mid-Edwardian period, with terracotta decorative elements.

**Nos. 1 and 1B Bridge Street**

The St. Stephen’s Club, 1874, John Wichcord, Grade II

Ref. 92/41 – TQ3079NW

Recently demolished to make way for Portcullis House.

**No. 2 Bridge Street**

Extension to the St. Stephen’s Club, 1874, John Wichcord, Grade II

Ref. 92/40 – TQ3079NW

Recently demolished with Nos. 1 and 1b.

**No. 10 Bridge Street**

St. Stephen’s Tavern, 1875, Grade II

Ref. 92/38 – TQ3079NW

A Victorian public house and dining rooms, which has recently been brought back in to use.

**Nos. 11 and 12 Bridge Street**

c. 1900, Grade II

Ref. 92/37 – TQ3079NW

A corner block of offices and shops in Portland stone, included with Nos. 34-36 Parliament Street [Ref. 92/37 – TQ3079NW]. The building is 6 storeys in a northern Renaissance style with a later mansard roof, probably originally gabled.

## No. 37 Parliament Street

c. 1870, Grade II

Ref. 92/36 – TQ3079NW

Adjoining Nos. 34 to 36 Chambers building with a shop front in an eclectic Renaissance style.

## HM Treasury

1898-1901, John Brydon, Grade II\*

Ref. 91/6 – TQ2979NE and TQ3079NW

'New' Government Offices of 1898, a massive island block in the English Baroque revival style, between Whitehall and St James' Park, fronting on to Great George Street to the south. The offices are connected by the Archway Link to Scott's Foreign Office, across King Charles Street to the north. The building was modified by Government Architect Sir Henry Tanner in 1912, but retains all the principal architectural features, including the central circular arcaded courtyard and the grand double branching stair. In the basement are the reinforced concrete in World War II 'War Rooms' and Sir Winston Churchill's flat and office bunker.

## Norman Shaw North Building, Victoria Embankment

Formerly New Scotland Yard

1887-90, Richard Norman Shaw and R. Dixon Butler, Grade I

Ref. 92/19 – TQ3079NW

The old Metropolitan Police headquarters, in Shaw's iconic red brick and stone banding. The building marks Shaw's transition to the later 'grand manner' buildings. The design introduces a defensive element with the use of a substantial granite podium and corner tourelles, the building massing being four square around a central courtyard. On the Embankment elevation is a bronze roundel of Shaw by Hamo Thornycroft.

## Norman Shaw South Building, Victoria Embankment Formerly New Scotland Yard

1896-98, Richard Norman Shaw and R. Dixon Butler, Grade I

Ref. 92/19 – TQ3079NW

Built in 1904-06 as an extension to the old Metropolitan Police headquarters, similar I style to the North building, but on a narrower site, giving the building a stronger vertical emphasis. Joined to the North building by a segmental arched bridge.

### **Gates and Piers to the Norman Shaw Buildings, Victoria Embankment**

1904, Reginald Blomfield and others, Grade II\*

Ref. 92/23 – TQ3079NW

Granite gate piers and ornate wrought iron gates, acquired by Shaw after he saw them on exhibition. Erected between Shaw's North and South buildings.

### **Westminster Bridge**

1862, Thomas Page, Grade II\*

Ref. 92/43 – TQ3079NW

Westminster Road bridge is of cast iron structure, 7 segmental girder arches, with the piers and abutments in granite, the Gothic detailing in keeping with the New Palace of Westminster. The eastern half of the bridge is in the London Borough of Lambeth.

### **Boadicea [Boudicca]**

1850s, Thomas Thorneycroft, Grade II

Ref. 92/42 – TQ3079NW

Statuary group, a romantic Beaux Arts composition in bronze on a granite pedestal, 3 figures in a 2 horse chariot. The sculpture was to a design by Sir T.G. Jackson and erected in 1902.

### **Nos. 9 and 11 Old Queen Street**

c.1690-1700, Grade II

Ref. 91/26 – TQ2979NE

A pair of small terraced house with later shop windows inserted. Restored in the 1970s with neo-Georgian details.

### **No. 20 Old Queen Street**

1909, F.W Troup, Grade II

Ref. 91/16 – TQ2979NE

A small terraced Edwardian house with Arts and Crafts/neo-Georgian detailing.

### **No. 24 Old Queen Street**

C.18<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 91/15 – TQ2979NE

A substantial terraced house, a rebuild of an earlier [c.1690-1700] house.

**Nos. 26 and 28 Old Queen Street**

c.1800, Grade II

Ref. 91/14 – TQ2979NE

Terraced houses, rebuild of earlier houses.

**Nos. 30 and 32 Old Queen Street**

c.1774-80, Grade II

Ref. 91/13 – TQ2979NE

A pair of terraced houses, rebuild of earlier houses.

**No. 34 Old Queen Street**

c.1774-80, Grade II

Ref. 91/10 – TQ2979NE

A terraced house, a rebuild of an earlier house.

**No. 43 Old Queen Street**

C.19<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 91/25 – TQ2979NE

A rebuild of an earlier end of terrace town house, with a shop front.

**Cockpit Steps [adjoining No. 38] Old Queen Street**

Late C.17<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 91/12 – TQ2979NE

A flight of steps from Old Queen Street to St. James' Park, associated with the Royal Cockpit, and rebuilt in 1964 at the same time as Nos. 36 and 38.

**Lampstandards, Old Queen Street**

Early to mid C.19<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 91/24 – TQ2979NE

6 No. cast iron lampstandards, part of a sequence with those in the adjoining Queen Anne's Gate.

**No. 1 Dean Trench Street**

1951-5, H.S. Goodhart-Rendel, Grade II

Ref. 101/73 – TQ3079SW

A rebuild of the original 1912 corner terrace house, also by Goodhart-Rendel.

The building was bombed in World War II and rebuilt in the manner of Norman Shaw as a block of flats, now converted for use as offices. The block is regarded as an interesting exercise in post war design.

**Nos. 2 and 4 Dean Trench Street, 59 Tufton Street**

c. early 1920s, Grade II

Ref. 101/79 – TQ3079SW

This row of 3 neo-Georgian town houses dates from the early C.20<sup>th</sup> redevelopment of the west side of Smith Square.

**No. 3 Dean Trench Street**

1924, Grade II

Ref. 101/77 – TQ3079SW

As with Nos. 2 and 4, this neo-Georgian town house dates from the redevelopment of the west side of Smith Square.

**No. 7 Gayfere Street**

c. 1800, Grade II

Ref. 101/56 – TQ3079SW

A fine example of a modest artisan's house, late Georgian.

**Nos. 10 and 11 Gayfere Street**

c. 1800, Grade II

Ref. 101/59 – TQ3079SW

As No. 7, a good example of a pair of artisan's houses, late Georgian. No. 11 was evidently once a shop front property, as evidenced by the slender timber pilasters supporting a timber entablature to the ground floor elevation.

**No. 12 Gayfere Street and No. 40 Smith Square**

c. 1930, Oliver Hill, Grade II

Ref. 101/66 – TQ3079SW

This fine house on 2 plots is a sophisticated demonstration of infill dating from 1930, in the neo-Georgian 'beau monde' style.

**Nos. 17 to 21 Gayfere Street**

c. 1800, Grade II

Ref. 101/60 – TQ3079SW

As No. 7, a good example of a terrace of artisan's houses, late Georgian, varying in plot dimension.



### **North House and Gayfere House Great Peter Street, Nos. 22 and 23 Gayfere Street**

1930-35, Oliver Hill, Grade II

Ref. 101/54 – TQ3079SW

Gayfere House and North House were built for Lord and Lady Mount Temple and for Robert Hudson respectively. Built in a simple 'Queen Anne' style, both principal houses have spectacular mirror-glass interiors in the Regency style, all by Hill, and in particular, fluted and faceted mirror wall cladding in the bathrooms.

### **Coroner's Court, Horseferry Road**

1893, C.R.W. Wheeler, Grade II

Ref. 105/2 - TQ2978NE

A detached building in an early Arts and Crafts style, incorporating neo-Georgian and Jacobean elements.

### **Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 Lord North Street**

c. 1720-25, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/62 – TQ3079SW

A fine terrace of early C.18<sup>th</sup> small town houses with only minor alterations and additions, although some original houses have been combined, resulting in the apparent 'loss' of Nos. 1, 3, 6 and 9. Most of the interiors have survived remodelling and retain much of their original timber panelling and dog leg stairs with turned balusters.

### **Nos. 14 to 17 and 19 Lord North Street**

c. 1720-25, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/61 – TQ3079SW

Contemporary with the facing terrace. Nos. 13 and 14 have been combined, and Nos. 18 and 19. Both terraces are exceptionally well preserved.

### **Bollards, Lord North Street**

c. 1720-25, Grade II

Ref. 101/67 – TQ3079SW

Granite bollards, contemporary with the buildings and an important element of the exceptionally well preserved streetscape.

### **Ninth Church of Christ Scientist, Marsham Street**

1926-30, Sir Herbert Baker, Grade II

Ref. 101/65 – TQ2979SE and TQ3079SW

An imposing church and Sunday School chapel in Byzantine styled and monolithic dark red brick. The church is in 3 sections; the Sunday School and the Assembly Hall, separated by a narthex. The Hall is circular, approximately 100' in diameter.

### **No 29 Marsham Street, No 46 Tufton Street**

1927-29, Douglas Wood, Grade II

Ref. 1900-/100-101/10003 – TQ297330

Millicent Fawcett Hall was commissioned, designed and paid for by women who led the constitutional campaign for equal political rights. The Hall housed the activities of the London and National Society for Women's Service, now known as the Fawcett Society, who educated and campaigned intensively in support of economic and moral equality for women. The library is reportedly the largest and oldest in Britain devoted to the study of women's issues.

### **Imperial Chemical House, Millbank**

1928, Sir. F. Baines, Grade II

Ref. 101/83 – TQ3079SW and TQ3078NW

An island office block, designed as part of a uniform composition with Thames House. The ornate doors are by W.B. Fagan, panelled and plated in nickel-copper alloy with naturalistic motifs. The statuary is by Jagger.

### **St. John's Smith Square Concert Hall**

[formerly the Church of St. John the Evangelist]

1713-28, Thomas Archer, Grade I

Ref. 101/751 – TQ3079NW

The Parish Church of St. John occupies the island site in the centre of Smith Square, a bold design in English Baroque and considered a masterpiece of the style. Built in 1728 and restored after damage during World War II, St. John's is also known as Queen Anne's Footstool due to a legend that, when the architect consulted Queen Anne on the design of the new church, she kicked over her footstool and snapped 'like that!' Thus the four towers are said to resemble the legs of an upturned footstool. It is a Greek cross on plan, with the re-entrant corners embellished by projecting quadrants; the four arms are not completely symmetrical but treated as pairs, the north

and south being the entrances, the east and west are blind. The Church was badly damaged by fire in 1742 and the interior was reworked by James Horne, involving the loss of many elements of Archer's design. The Church was burnt out again during World War II and the interior this time restored in 1965-68 by Marshall Sisson to its early C.18th form, and is now used as a concert hall. The Hall is a fine and idiosyncratic element of the exceptionally well preserved Georgian square and, as a concert hall, makes a welcome contribution to the cultural life of the area.

### **Nos. 1 and 2 Smith Square**

1726, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/70 – TQ3079SW

As with all the remaining early C.18<sup>th</sup> terraced houses on Smith Square this pair of houses was an component of Sir James Smith's original development of the Square, although this pair was largely rebuilt after being damaged in World War II. These early houses are part of the beautifully preserved enclave of town houses, together with Lord North Street and Barton and Cowley Streets.

### **Nos. 3, 4 and 5 Smith Square**

1726, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/71 – TQ3079NW

As with Nos. 1 and 2, built as part of Sir James Smith's original development of the Square. At 2<sup>nd</sup> floor level No. 5 has a small stone tablet inscribed "Smith Square 1726". The interiors retain many original elements, despite obvious alterations and restorations, in particular the timber panelling, dog leg stairs and fine turned balusters.

### **No. 6 Smith Square**

1726, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/63 – TQ3079NW

As with Nos. 1 and 2, a corner terrace house built as part of Sir James Smith's original development of the Square.

### **Nos. 7 to 9 Smith Square**

1726, Grade II\*

Ref. 101/64 – TQ3079NW

As with Nos. 1 and 2, built as part of Sir James Smith's original development of the Square.

**No. 34 Smith Square [Thorney House]**

1913, Grade II

Ref. 101/80 – TQ3079NW

A corner terraced house of 3 storeys, in a restrained neo-Georgian style. The central doorway is stone dressed with Ionic pilasters and surmounted by a pediment enclosing a cartouche.

**No. 36 Smith Square**

1911, [Sir] Edward Lutyens, Grade II

Ref. 101/74 – TQ3079NW

A corner terraced house of 3 storeys with a steep dormered mansard roof, designed in restrained William and Mary/neo-Georgian style.

**No. 37 Smith Square**

c.1912, Grade II

Ref. 101/69 – TQ3079NW

A terraced house of 3 storeys in a restrained neo-Georgian style, largely rebuilt after war damage.

**Nos. 87, 89 and 91 Tufon Street, 62 and 64 Horseferry Road**

1912-13, A.E. Hughes, Grade II

Ref. 106/20, 191/200 – TQ3078NW, TQ3097SW

A former shelter for destitute and poor working boys, the building is associated with the movement to 'emigrate' destitute boys in the pre-War period.

**Bollards**

c.1726-28, Grade II

Ref. 101/72 – TQ3079NW

An element of Sir James Smith's original design for the Square, octagonal tapered bollards in Portland stone on the pavement boundary around St. John's Church.

**Lamp Standards**

Early to mid C.19<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 101/82 – TQ3079NW

A later addition to Sir James Smith's design for the Square, 7 No. cast iron gas lamp standards that are a component of a wider pattern of lamp standards throughout the area.

## Lamp Standards, Smith Square

Mid C.19<sup>th</sup>, Grade II

Ref. 101/76 and 101/81 – TQ3079SW

Cast iron gas lamp standards [No. G1] on the corner of Smith Square.

## Lambeth Palace

C.12<sup>th</sup> in origin, with many later additions and alterations, notably by Blore,

C.19<sup>th</sup>, and Seeley and Paget, 1955. Grade I

Ref. 92/53 and 101/7 – TQ3079NW and SW

The Palace is the private residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, a mediaeval complex of domestic buildings and gardens within a walled enclosure. The original river frontage acted as a defence against floods.

The redundant church of St Mary at Lambeth houses the public Museum of Garden History.

## St Thomas' Hospital

1868-71, Henry Currey. 1969-76, Yorke Rosenberg & Mardell. Grade I

Ref. 92/53 and 101/7 – TQ3079NW and SW

The present day building comprises 3 pavilions and a chapel in an Italianate style in brick, a remnant of the original 7 pavilions built by Henry Currey, and with a tree lined promenade facing the Palace of Westminster, and a partially completed scheme by Yorke Rosenberg and Mardell. The YRM scheme is of 13 storey white stone blocks adjacent to Currey's building.

## County Hall

1912-33, Ralph Knott. 1939 and 1950-58, LCC Architects Department,

Grade I

Ref. 92/53 and 101/7 – TQ3079NW and SW

Designed by Ralph Knott on a site that faces across the river to the Houses of Parliament, and with later work by LCC architects. The main façade of County Hall is to the river, a 230m long symmetrical classical composition with a giant colonnaded order featuring in the concave central section and a steeply sloping, green tiled roof.

**Statue information is quoted from the book : “London Statues and Monuments” by Margaret Baker 1995, Published by Shire Publications as follows :**

**Parliament Square Gardens statues :**

The following three statues are outside the existing World Heritage Site boundary but within an option for its future expansion. They are in a formal row (north south) on the west side of Parliament Square Gardens of similar scale and form with traditionally detailed stone plinths.

1 - “...Benjamin Disraeli - 1st Earl of Beaconsfield (1804 - 81), Conservative statesman, man of letters, favourite of Victoria. The statue is by Raggi, 1883. Twice Prime Minister, three times Chancellor of the Exchequer, Disraeli was a meteoric and colourful figure in nineteenth century politics and organiser of the Conservative party on modern lines.”

2 - “...The 14th Earl of Derby (1799 - 1869) , a dull but worthy statesman and with Disraeli, reorganiser of the Tory party, has a statue by Matthew Noble (1874) with panels showing his inauguration as Chancellor of Oxford University. Look at the plinth to see what St. Stephen’s Chapel, the meeting place of the House of Commons before 1834, looked like.”

3 - “....A statue of Sir Robert Peel (1788 - 1850) erected in the year after his death after a fall from a favourite horse on Constitution Hill. The statue is by Matthew Nobel (1818 - 76)...Peel is chiefly remembered now as founder of the modern police force, whose members were nicknamed ‘Peelers’ or ‘Bobbies’ - a name which still sticks today.”

The following three statues of very different styles form a rough east west line on the north side of the Parliament Square Gardens :

4 - “...On the paved walk is Henry Temple, 3rd Viscount of Palmerston (1784 - 1865), by Thomas Woolner, a statue erected in 1876. Palmerston personified Victorian self-confidence at its peak, and although he was accused of ‘jingoism’ (warlike patriotism) his bluff, adventurous foreign policy protected Britain’s interests overseas and built up her prestige....Palmerston kept his diplomatic wit to the end : on his deathbed he was joking : ‘Die, my dear doctor? That is the last thing I shall do’...”

5 - "...The exciting though discordant statue of the South African soldier and statesman Field Marshal Jan Smuts (1870 - 1950) is by Jacob Epstein and is an interesting example of the sculptor's work, erected in 1956.

6 - "...On the corner of the square and half-facing the House of Commons is a statue of Sir Winston Spencer Churchill (1874 - 1965), one of the best know statues in London. Churchill was a many-faceted personality but is best remembered as Britain's wartime Prime Minister and it is this aspect that Ivor Robert-Jones expressed in his 12 foot bronze statue, unveiled by Lady Spencer Churchill in 1973."

The general political theme of substantial bronze statues on traditional stone plinths in Parliament Square forming part of the setting of the existing World Heritage Site boundary is continued in the west as :

7 - "...The statue of Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 65), sixteenth President of the United States of America, is a copy of the fine statue by Augustus Saint-Gaudens at Chicago and was presented by the American people in 1920."

8 - "...Also on the west side in the so-called 'Canning enclosure' [or Canning Green] is a bronze statue of George Canning (1770 - 1827) by Sir Richard Westmacott, erected in 1832. Canning was Foreign Secretary and after Lord Liverpool's death in 1827 George Iv made him Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer. The cost of erecting the statue (£7,000) was borne by public subscription and after being placed in [New] Palace Yard in 1832 it was moved to this site in 1867."

To the east and south of Parliament Square within the existing World Heritage Site boundary are the following statues :

9 - "...The superb statue of Oliver Cromwell (1599 - 1658) is by Sir William Hamo Thornycroft and stands outside Westminster Hall. It was erected in 1899 and shows Cromwell in uniform, bareheaded with his bible and sword, thus succinctly reflecting two modern views of him...Even in 1895 Irish members of Parliament strongly opposed the wish of the Liberal Party to vote £500 towards the erection of this statue and in the end Lord Rosebery, Prime Minister at the time decided to make a gift of it..."

10 - "...At the north end of Old Palace Yard is a magnificent bronze statue of Richard I (Coeur-de-Lion) (1157 - 99), probably England's most popular medieval King, by Baron Carlo Marochetti RA (1805 - 68), who came to England in the Piedmontese Revolution of 1848 and began a large practice which owed much of its success to royal patronage. This statue, considered to be the sculptor's chef d'oeuvre, in which the king holds his sword aloft, was put up in 1851 and well expresses Marochetti's famous flamboyance, which inflamed the critics..."

Outside the existing World Heritage site boundary (and within the principal option of an expanded boundary linking the two halves) but forming an important part of the setting of the Chapter House, Jewell Tower and House of Lords is :

11 - "...Across the road from Old Palace Yard is the national memorial to George V (1947) by Sir William Reid Dick (at one time President of the Royal Society of Sculptors and King's Sculptor in Ordinary) and Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. It was unveiled by George VI on 22nd October 1947 and is a full length figure in the uniform of a field marshal with Garter robes and Sword of State. The scheme for the provision of playing fields throughout the country is in association with the monument."

Beyond the existing World Heritage Site but within a possibly expanded boundary to the south are the following statues and features in Abingdon Gardens and Victoria Tower Gardens :

12 - 'Knife Edge: Two Piece' by Henry Moore.

At the northern entrance of Victoria Tower Gardens :

13 - "...Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst (1858 - 1928), leader of the movement for women's suffrage who was frequently arrested and imprisoned for her beliefs, has a statue with a locket by A. G. Walker, erected in 1930 and unveiled by Stanley Baldwin. Flowers are laid here each year by women who worked for the suffragette movement. Her daughter Dame Christable Pankhurst (1881 - 1958), famous in the same field as her mother, is commemorated by a bronze medallion..."



14 - "...The Burghers of Calais (1915) by Auguste Rodin, a replica of the statuary erected in Calais in 1895. The burghers agreed to surrender themselves to Edward III in 1340 with halters round their necks to save their town..."

15 - "...Further south in the Gardens is the Buxton Memorial Fountain by S. S. Tuelon, 1865, which 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. It was erected by his son Charles Buxton MP in honour of his father's efforts to free colonial slaves..."

Within the existing World Heritage Site boundary adjacent the West door of the Abbey is an important memorial :

16 - "...A red granite column by [George Gilbert] Scott with sculpture by J. B. Philip which commemorates the Old Boys of Westminster School who died in the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny.

On the north west corner of Westminster Bridge, forming an important part of the setting of the existing World Heritage Site boundary and within the optional expansion of the boundary is a substantial sculpture and plinth often photographed with Big Ben :

17 - "...A great group of the British queen Boadicea in her chariot by Thomas Thornycroft (1902. Boadicea, who died in AD 62, was described by the Greek historian Dio Cassius as 'tall, fine-eyed and tawny haired'.



## Appendix 2

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# Appendix 3

## Stakeholder consultations

### Introduction

Consultation has played an essential part in the development of the plan. As a first step (Round 1), three workshops were held with key stakeholder groups to identify issues and objectives, focusing on: tourism and the economy; community and user groups; and the public realm and conservation. English Heritage on behalf of the Steering Group, invited participants to the meetings. Plans and illustrations were prepared and each meeting was facilitated by a member of the consultant team, who ensure that each participant was asked about their views and aspirations for the area. Participants, including those unable to attend the workshops, were invited to submit further comments on a specially prepared questionnaire. Detailed notes recorded the discussions. In addition, consultation meetings were held with a number of individuals with regard to specific issues:

### WORKSHOPS

Set out below are the details of each workshop.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Tourism and economy</b>
<b>Date</b>	17 March 2003
<b>Venue</b>	Cheyneygates, Westminster Abbey, SW1
<b>Attendees :</b>	Peter Heath (facilitator) Atkins (consultant team)
Simon Woodward	PLB Consulting Ltd
Paul Gardner	Transport for London Project Manager
Steven Tomlinson	Transport for London
Juliet West	English Heritage
Victor Launert	Palace of Westminster Central Tourist Officer
Canon David Hutt	Westminster Abbey
David Burden	Westminster Abbey
Phil Evans	GLA Tourism Officer
David Tidley	TfL Street Management
Tim Gould	City of Westminster
Rosemarie MacQueen	Westminster City Council

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Community</b>
<b>Date</b>	18 March 2003, 2pm
Venue	Cheynegates, Westminster Abbey, SW1
Attendees :	Peter Heath (facilitator) Atkins (consultant team)
Simon Woodward	PLB (consultant team)
Graham Tanner	Transport for London
Paul Velluet	English Heritage
Steven Tomlinson	Transport for London
F Platt	Westminster Society
Tim Gould	City of Westminster
Vince Amers	QEII Conference Centre
David Burden	Westminster Abbey
Paul Smith	English Heritage/ Jewel Tower
Ceciel DelaRue	Greater London Authority
Helen Bowes	Greater London Authority
Rosemarie MacQueen	Westminster City Council
John Burton	Westminster Abbey
Janet Miller	Atkins Heritage (Consultant Team)

**Topic Public Realm and Conservation**

<b>Date</b>	19 March 2003, 6.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Cheynegates, Westminster Abbey
<b>Attendees :</b>	Peter Heath (facilitator) Atkins (consultant team)
Simon Woodward	PLB Consulting Ltd
Paul Velluet	English Heritage
Rosemarie MacQueen	Westminster City Council
Juliet West	English Heritage
Timothy Jones	English Heritage
Graham King	Westminster City Council
Gwyn Richards	Westminster City Council
Peter MacBride	Transport for London
Tim Gould	City of Westminster
Gerard Phillips	Greater London Authority
Tim Tatton-Brown	Archaeologist
Steven Brindle	English Heritage
Robert Whytehead	English Heritage
Steven Tomlinson	Transport for London



## Summary of Workshop Discussion

The complexity of the site led to a great deal of overlap in the topics discussed at each workshop. The main areas of interest and concern are summarised below under the broad topic headings.

### Tourism and economy

#### *The benefits and disbenefits of tourism to the WHS*

The principal roles of the Abbey and Westminster Palace are not as tourist attractions. However, all agreed that it is important to welcome visitors and there is a need to balance their interests with the purposes of the institutions of the Westminster WHS. Visitors provide a great deal of income towards upkeep and increased tourism may boost the local economy, although currently most tourist spend is confined to within the WHS itself, particularly within the Abbey, Palace and Jewel Tower souvenir outlets and the specialist Parliamentary bookshop. It was recognised that large numbers of tourists and visitors may also lead to pollution, disturbance, and congestion and particularly to a loss of tranquillity to the Abbey.

Rosemary MacQueen of Westminster City Council explained that WCC has recently begun to address tourism more actively with a view to achieving sustainable tourism, optimising rather than increasing the number of visitors and focussing on four questions:

1. Where does the spend actually occur?
2. What services and facilities such as lunch/ toilets/ signage etc. are there for tourists?
3. What is the relationship between the major strategic traffic network and tourist safety? Fatalities have already occurred within the WHS as a result of traffic
4. What is the impact of tourism on the residential population?  
Residents are already feeling the pressure and are concerned about a possible pedestrianisation of Parliament Square leading to the rerouting of traffic through residential zones.

#### *Intellectual access and orientation*

The tourism experts and a number of respondents observed that despite the importance and magnificence of the buildings, there is little in the way of orientation and interpretation for visitors, in order help them understand the history and nature of the site and to plan their visit. In particular, there

is nothing to indicate the status of the site as a WHS and the significance of this. Some attendees believed that there was a lack of 'unity of experience' for visitors which meant that tourists and others could not appreciate the ways in which the histories of the Palace and Abbey were completely intertwined. Although the proposal for a visitor centre in Westminster Palace was welcomed, there was some concern that this might further the current discontinuity in the approach to interpretation throughout the whole of the WHS. The idea of a passport or dual-ticketing approach to admissions to the Palace and Abbey was raised, similar to the system at Ironbridge and Stratford. The problem is that while Ironbridge is all run by the same organisation, the Westminster WHS houses a number of institutions, each with its own needs and priorities.

Some participants recommended that there should be increased provision of signage and interpretations boards and this might reduce some of the costs currently expended on wardens who provide assistance and guidance around the site. Others feared this would introduce clutter and they valued the vergers, wardens and other guides who comprise the 'people-centred' nature of visitor assistance. The Abbey is particularly proud that everyone working there belongs to the Abbey community and the public seem to appreciate this.

An escorted time tour is the only way to tour the Palace but this has already sold 30,000 tickets in pre-booking.

The possibility of a series of local leaflets on topics such as Statues and Monuments was discussed, as was the question of whether the WHS should have a 'brand'. Some agreed that the WHS logo could be used more around the site. There are a number of empty walls and big spaces within Westminster Underground Station which might be used for display and orientation for the WHS. There is an unused retail outlet in Westminster Underground Station which might be good as a location for ticketing and this might avoid heavy queuing at the Houses of Parliament.

All agreed that the Jewel Tower is a hugely understated attraction. It is a remarkable piece of surviving fabric of Old Westminster and the exhibition in Tower is the only feature illustrating the history and meaning of Westminster as a whole, yet it is not well publicised and tends not to feature on trails and maps. There is limited scope for increasing visitor numbers however, because of the nature of the space.

Some attendees would like to see Westminster Hall open to the public in the summer months

#### *Other facilities for tourists*

The buildings are all iconic. But once the photographs have been taken there remains the question – what do I do now? Unlike many other London ‘attractions’ there are relatively few facilities, such as restaurants, cafes and shops, in the area. While the office workers and others are well-catered for, from 5pm, or when Parliament is in recess, the area is very quiet. Even the public lavatories are not well sign-posted. Some of the food kiosks around the site are operating without permission and, it might be argued, do not enhance the historic character of the area. A number of suggestions were made for alternative sites for places to eat and drink, such as Victoria Tower Gardens and the benefits and impacts of introducing more of a café culture close to the site. Both the Palace and Abbey are limited in their scope for expanding their catering facilities. The Abbey provides chairs in Poets’ Corner and coffee in the North cloister but there is an important need to remember that the Abbey is principally for prayer.

The Palace would like to expand the *range* of people who visit the Houses of Parliament but neither the Lords nor Commons like people queuing outside on the pavement. An area is needed to accommodate this. It was also suggested that the WHS should be seen as part of a tourist trail walking route and visitors thus might be guided towards the Parks area after their visit to the WHS. This would fit in with the Mayor’s aspiration to develop London as one of the world’s great walking cities.

Although the particular challenges of historic buildings were recognised, a number of respondents noted that provision for disabled people could be improved in many parts of the site.

#### *The economy of the area*

The WHS needs to be seen in the context of the economy of the area. There are few prominent hotels featured in the area that might keep tourists within the Westminster area. Retail outlets also seem to find it difficult in the area. There are two shops for rent on the northern side of Victoria Street near Barclays Bank but these have never been occupied. This is an indication of the commercial vibrancy of the area.

There was some concern that the WHS Management plans may have a commercial impact on the QEII Centre, such as by restricting physical access to the conference centre. The activities at the Centre require that exhibition and event related equipment needs to be delivered by large vehicles. The conference centre is used every day and hosts events on most days. It has a capacity of 3,500 to 4,000 people with the Central Methodist Hall having a capacity of 2,000. The majority of delegates arrive by public transport. The combined capacity of the QEII Centre and Central Hall and is approximately 6,000. Thus at peak times there have been many pedestrian and traffic conflicts at Victoria Street and this has resulted in the occasional accident.

## Community

### *Residents*

It is important to remember that parts of the WHS are lived in. South of the Abbey, adjacent to the WHS boundary, the area is residential and quiet and is not knitted into WHS. That is part of its charm, it is an enclave and would wish to remain so. There are other residential areas very close by such as Marsham Street and parts of Whitehall buildings, which are becoming residential as the office spaces become redundant. The residential college is also very unusual in this context and the residential nature of parts of site and immediate surroundings is important and should be valued.

It is important therefore to consider how the heritage of the WHS benefits people and how residents' concerns and needs will be reflected in the WHS plan. There was discussion as to whether interpretation and other facilities have a particular relevance for residents, as well as visitors and ideally local schools should have opportunities to benefit from the WHS. The residents also have other requirements. It is important to maintain and improve bus transportation. Residents could support retail/economic activity but they are nervous about restaurant and cafes as the smells and late night activity can be unpleasant.

While many would like to ensure that residents are not inconvenienced by tourists, much conflict often arises, not between residents and tourists but rather than between workers and tourist. But in fact the biggest conflict is between tourists and traffic and some residents feel that no significant improvements can be made until that is seriously addressed. However it was recognised that this may lead to problems with displaced congestion from the closing of major routes through the WHS.

On the other hand, the difficulties of living within the WHS should not be over estimated. At evenings and weekends it is a very quiet place. But it is at these times that there is 'nothing open' for residents in the immediate area. Most of the principal buildings have in-house facilities for staff e.g food etc. There is no shortage for office workers but it is a desert for residents.

The Westminster Society is not a residents' society but an amenity society for the built heritage for the whole of the old town of Westminster. It is statutory consultee on planning applications but is also an umbrella society which has contacts with other parties.

## Public Realm and Conservation

### *Parliament Square*

There was general discussion of this issue. The square is often used as a focus for protest groups and demonstrations reflecting the nature of Westminster Palace which has an international role as the seat of democracy and dissent. There was some debate as to whether public demonstrations here had a long history. The demonstrations do not cause too much difficulty for the Abbey. But it was generally felt that there is conflict between the need to provide a spacious area for tourists and visitors, while ensuring that demonstrations and protestor activity here is not encouraged. The Mayor wishes to see Trafalgar Square as the place for mass gatherings instead of Parliament Square and the police are uneasy with large gatherings in front of the Palace. It was suggested that any improvement or development here could include a fountain to discourage mass gatherings. The GLA would like to see the Square as a dignified area, as the key information point and viewing area, from which monuments in the WHS could be seen, and to co-ordinate it with other tourist sites. The Mayor developed a vision for Parliament Square which includes the setting of policies and a management plan which will focus on maintaining a dignified setting for the WHS. The Square also has relevance for the Mayor's plans for tourism and World Squares. Filming and promotional events are to be allowed in the policy but public demonstrations will not, despite the pressure to allow them.

The character of the area now relies heavily on 'green areas'. This is relatively new in some areas. Parliament Square, although modern, is designated as an important open space. The surface of Parliament Square was not always soft and consideration might be given to laying a hard surface, particularly if the Mayor's plans for the square increase the pedestrian traffic. However any changes may impact on its current character, the maintenance requirements and noise levels need to be considered. Currently the surface and therefore

character contrasts well with the hard surface of Trafalgar Square and grass improvement should be considered

The GLA is responsible for Parliament Square Garden although Westminster City Council also has some jurisdiction. Therefore the GLA are keen to know the impact of the WHS Management Plan on Parliament Square and the GLA's desire to propose it as an open space, promoting the ecology and as a tourist information site.

#### *Spaces and setting*

There was some desire to resolve the discontinuity of the areas within the WHS and the current character of the site as a disparate series of elements. There was some feeling that the spaces in the area had not been managed as thoughtfully as the buildings and that spaces which make up the WHS need to be linked together again, so that the site should be seen as a whole. This would recapture the qualities of the area which existed until the interventions of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Access to Abbey should be enhanced, to make it more architecturally satisfying and to re-establish the links between buildings. It was felt that with modest measures it was possible to create and recover places and spaces which are desirable to visitors, which are dignified and calming, but which somehow integrate with the livelier activity outside. The setting and environment of Notre Dame or Montmartre were suggested as benchmarks for Westminster – a place to linger. The lighting of key buildings was discussed. Westminster CC has produced a booklet called 'Lighting up the City' and there is an EH policy document currently being prepared on the issues of illumination of buildings in London.

A number of particular issues regarding the public realm were highlighted:

- The Sanctuary at the west end of the Abbey does not provide a suitable setting for the church and the approach to the north entrance also requires enhancement.
- The link between St Stephens Entrance to Houses of Parliament and the Abbey also needs to be re-established. As Westminster Hall is a venue for great state occasions, there needs to be clearer links between that building and the Abbey.
- Improvements to Mason's Yard are being considered by the Abbey. Any changes to items which are listed e.g. railings and layout would need to incorporate a balance between conservation and justification for change and re-establishing links between buildings.

- There is conflict between coaches, cars and car parking in the Sanctuary and this detracts from setting and view of the Abbey for all visitors. The practical issues of users eg taxis and coaches and the need for efficiency should be addressed. There was a feeling that unless this is resolved, visitor numbers may fall
- Monuments and public art outside of the Abbey has been erected without much thought. There was discussion as to whether the City of Westminster's Public Art Strategy sets guidelines for promoting or rejecting work of art. The Strategy looked at grouping memorials strategy, but didn't take on board the political lobbying it would generate. There has been pressure to have more public art since the strategy was commissioned. There are proposals for 2 new statues – Lloyd George and one representative of the suffragette movement. The Burghers of Calais are also going to an exhibition at the Hayward Gallery for a year.
- The area often suffers from demonstration or even energetic violence and is subject to helicopter disruption. A disagreeable level of background noise interrupts the calm of the abbey and evening song.
- Ownership issues make the management of the World Heritage Site quite complicated
- The London Planes trees are all very close in age and their health will eventually decline at the same time.

*Boundaries and Buffer Zone to the WHS*

Many felt that the division of the WHS into two separate areas was unsatisfactory. A revision of the boundary might also include new buildings and encompass underground archaeology. The question of whether Buffer Zone for the WHS should be established was discussed and all agreed that this should be addressed in the Management Plan. The importance of the River Thames to the setting of the buildings was highlighted and it was agreed that it should be addressed along with the consideration of the buffer zone.

*Traffic and transport*

There is a particular clash between pedestrians and traffic. The visitor experience to the site would benefit, in particular, from better crossing points from Westminster underground station and access on and off the grassed area

of Parliament Square, from which photographs of 'Big Ben' and Westminster Abbey are often taken.

Many attendees were keen to see the Management Plan adopt a sustainable transport policy, promoting public transport wherever possible, although some noted that the increase in buses running close to Old Palace Yard had not been welcomed. But Westminster Palace would welcome a decision to confine traffic here to public transport only, because of concerns regarding security. The need for better coach-parking provision was highlighted. Currently, coach parties only stay in the site for a short time, in order to accommodate the poor coach facilities. Other participants however would like to encourage coach parties to expect a short walk from a drop-off point to the WHS and that the drop-off and pick-up points may need to differ. Some felt that a reduction of traffic on Bridge Street and St Margaret Street would improve the area but it was pointed out that TfL would be unlikely to consider the closure of the roads in Parliament Square completely.

#### *Security*

The nature of the Houses of Parliament mean that security issues and the need for emergency planning have a force behind them which can be difficult to manage and reconcile with the historic environment. The long-standing arrangement of temporary barriers to contain protests and the large concrete blocks which now appear to be at least semi-permanent do not enhance the buildings and setting. It was hoped that the Management Plan could help in reconciling the needs of security, conservation and the visitor experience

#### *Conservation*

It was generally agreed that a Conservation-based future for the site is necessary. Restoration work at the Abbey and Palace has been exemplarily. Condition surveys are undertaken regularly and it was hoped that the preparation of Conservation plans could form part of the management approach, not least to ensure that informal interventions, such as utilities installation and maintenance, do not have a negative effect. It was agreed that all interventions should consider the impact on buried archaeological remains as well as the upstanding historic fabric.



Westminster School plans to review its historic buildings and their management.

Paul Smith pointed out that summer ticketing facilities for the Palace of Westminster has an impact on the setting of the Jewel Tower and this needs to be addressed although the ticketing booth does attract visitors to the Jewel Tower. (The ticketing tent at Buckingham Palace could be used a benchmark in terms of the quality of its design). It would be desirable for the Jewel Tower to be illuminated at night. The Plan will need to ensure that access for delivery vehicles for the Jewel Tower and other buildings is maintained, if traffic is to be limited.

#### *The intangible heritage*

The importance of the history of the site and the institutions which have development in it was highlighted.

### **Other consultations:**

#### **Metropolitan Police Representative**

The following points were made

- The only significant crime is pickpocket and opportunist theft with crowds.
- There is relatively little antisocial behaviour, begging or vagrancy in the area, owing to the lack of evening visitors and cash machines.
- There is a need for powers to deal with oversized protests and associated clutter.
- Security concerns are significant around the Palace and for state and VIP uses of the Abbey and St. Margaret's Church.
- There is general support for World Squares for All Masterplan proposals to improve links to the island of Parliament Square as a means of improving pedestrian safety and routing (away from frontage of Palace).
- There is general support for further traffic restriction on St. Margaret Street as means of reducing vehicle terrorist risks.

### Royal Parks Representative

A study of Victoria Tower Gardens has been undertaken on behalf of the Royal Parks Agency. The general scope of the study is as follows :

- Improvement of soft and hard landscape layout and materials.
- Consideration of uses and possible improvements by provision of refreshment facilities.
- Consideration of statues and implications of relocation proposals for the Burghers of Calais.
- Consideration of existing entrances
- Consideration of the retention and improvement of lawned areas.
- Consideration of day and night time character.
- Consideration of information provision.
- Consideration of integration with English Heritage and the GLA's Architecture and urbanism Unit's study of Embankment Gardens in Westminster.

### Thorney Island Society Representatives

The following points were made:

- There is a desire to see traffic intrusion reduced generally.
- There is general support for proposals of the World Squares for All Masterplan (linking island to Abbey etc.).
- There is a desire to see further interpretation information and enhanced appreciation of historical connections (recent involvement in a new blue plaque for Sassoon).
- There is a desire to see the dignity of the spaces generally maintained rather than over-intensified with public gatherings etc.
- There is a desire to retain and enhance the soft landscape.
- A test to see a significantly enlarged WHS designation area.

## Appendix 4

### Glossary

**This glossary provides definitions for architectural and parliamentary terms and some ecclesiastical, heritage management or public realm technical descriptions.**

Act of Settlement 1701	The Act which decided the succession to Queen Anne. All the strongest claimants by blood were Roman Catholic who were not allowed to inherit. The act decided that on Anne's death, the throne should pass to the ruler of the German state of Hanover, who was descended from James I. On the death of Anne in 1714, George of Hanover came to the throne as George I.
Aye and No Lobbies	When there is a formal vote, or division, in the House of Commons, MPs leave their seats and walk into whichever division lobby corresponds to the way they want to vote: the Aye Lobby on the right of the Speaker, or the No Lobby on the left of the Speaker
Ambulatory	Walkway typically at the east end of a church, usually arcaded, sometimes enclosing the apse.
Apse	Semi circular or polygonal space at the end of a hall or chapel, usually referring to the east end of a church or chancel.
Back Bencher	A Member of Parliament who holds no official position in government or in his or her party. Back benchers sit on the back benches in the Chamber.

Bi-cameral system	Literally ‘two chamber’. The parliamentary system of two legislative chambers. The British bi-cameral consists of the House of Lords and the House of Commons.
Bill	A proposal for a new law which is debated by Parliament. A Bill becomes an Act when it has received the Royal Assent.
Bill of Rights 1689	The declaration of Rights presented by the House of Commons to William and Mary in which Parliament aimed to reduce the rights of the Monarch and increase its own authority. The Bill made illegal the suspension of laws by Royal authority without Parliament’s consent; the power to dispense with laws; the establishment of special courts of law; levying money by Royal prerogative without Parliament’s consent; and a standing army in peacetime without Parliament’s consent. It also asserted a right to petition the sovereign, freedom of parliamentary elections, freedom of speech in parliamentary debates, and the necessity of frequent parliaments.
Black Rod	The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod who is sent to the House of Commons to summon MPs to the House of Lords to hear the Queen’s Speech at the State Opening of Parliament. The tradition is that as he reaches the chamber of the House of Commons, the door is slammed in his face. He then knocks three times on the door with the black rod that he carries before being admitted. Black Rod is responsible for accommodation, security and services in the House of Lords
Boss	An ornamental, carved, timber or stone covering to the junction of ribs in a vaulted roof.
Braces	An element of roof structure. A diagonal timber connecting and strengthening two other timbers.

Capital	The decorative headstone of a classical column or pilaster.
Chancel	The east end of a church where the main altar is located. See also presbytery.
Chantry	A small chapel in which masses were sung in pre-dissolution churches, usually for the person who had endowed the chapel.
Church of England	The established Church in England. The Church of England was founded by King Henry VIII and became subject to the English Crown control rather than the control of the Pope. The Monarch is still the head of the Church of England and even now the Church cannot make its own rules without parliamentary approval.
Civil War	Fought in England between the supporters of King Charles I and supporters of Parliament, led by Oliver Cromwell. Lasting for seven years, a number of major battles were fought. In 1645, on June 14th, the Parliamentary side won at the battle of Naseby and the king's side was finally beaten at the Battle of Preston. The King was put on trial for treason and executed in 1649.
Clerestory	[Clearstory] The upper level of arcading of the main walls of a church, pierced by windows.
Constitution	In Great Britain the Constitution is the whole body of public law, customary as well as statutory, which is continually being modified by custom, judgement in the courts as well as by the elected representatives of the country. Whilst it is not written down as a single document, in contrast to other countries, it is considered to be a strong constitution.

Court of Appeal	The Court of Appeal deals with applications to re-examine the decision made by a lower court. It is presided over by the Master of the Rolls, and is part of the Supreme Court of Judicature.
Collar Beam	An element of roof structure. A horizontal timber connecting the upper parts of two rafters.
Cosmati	Decorative inlay work in marble using coloured stones, mosaic, glass, gilding etc. Usually applied to floors in English churches. Commonly used in the 12th and 13th centuries in Italy.
Dissolution	The common term for the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. Dissolution is also the official term for the end of a Parliament. Parliament is dissolved by Royal Proclamation.
Division	The House of Commons votes by dividing, walking through the division lobby. The Speaker calls for a vote by announcing "Clear the Lobbies". Division Bells ring throughout the building and the police direct all Strangers to leave the vicinity of the Members' Lobby. MPs have eight minutes to get to the Division Lobby before the doors are closed. In each lobby Clerks tick Members' names off division lists as they pass through. Members make their way to the Chamber, where Whips are on hand to remind the uncertain which way, if any, their party is voting
Dorter	Monks' sleeping quarters in a monastery.
Eyot	Early English term for 'island'.
Glorious Revolution	The peaceful way in which Parliament asserted its rights over the monarchy in 1688 following James II attempts to repeal the Test Acts (which precluded Catholics from holding office) and his

Declaration of Indulgence suspending religious penal laws. Parliament, the Bishops and the populace protested and William of Orange, the Protestant son-in-law of James, was requested to intervene to save the Church and State. Following James II escape to France, William and Mary assumed the throne. The new parliament issued the Declaration of Rights, which was later embodied in the Bill of Rights passed by Parliament in December 1689.

Great Reform Act 1832	Parliamentary Reform which increased the number of people who had the right to vote. The Act abolished a great number of 'rotten' and 'pocket' boroughs and gave seats in the House of Commons to counties and towns. The franchise was extended to holders of houses worth £10 per year and many more lease holders and tenants of land.
Finial	A decorative embellishment, usually at a pinnacle or the peak of the apex of a gable.
Frater	Monastery dining hall, also called refectory.
Galillee Porch	Porch [or small chapel] located at the west end of a church.
Hammer Beam [roof]	An elaborate type of roof structure, peculiar to English architecture and most commonly used in late Gothic and Tudor buildings.
Infirmary	The hospital accommodation of a monastery.
Lierne	A tertiary vault rib. That is, one that does not spring from the main springing point or the central boss.

Listed	Identified by English Heritage as a building of architectural or historic significance, rated I, II* or II.
Member of Parliament (MP)	A Member of Parliament (MP) is elected by a particular area or constituency in Britain to represent them in the House of Commons. MPs divide their time between their constituency and the Houses of Parliament in London. An MP can ask Government Ministers questions, speak about issues in the House of Commons and consider and propose new laws. There are 659 MPs.
Ogee	An 'S' shaped or inverted 'S' shaped line.
Oratory	A small private chapel of the Oratorian order of St Filippo Nero.
Parliament Act 1911	An act limiting the power of the House of Lords, allowing Bills that had been passed by the Commons in three successive sessions, but rejected by the Lords in all three, to become Law. It reduced the life of a Parliament to five years.
Parliament Act 1949	An act to reduce the powers that the House of Lords had to delay a Bill from becoming law if the House of Commons approved it. Since 1911 the House of Lords had been able to delay legislation for two years. The 1949 Act reduced this to one year
Petition	A formal written request from one or more people to the Sovereign or Parliament. Tradition requires that a petition must be hand-written and must begin with the words, "To the honourable, the Commons of the United Kingdom in Parliament assembled". Petitions have a long



history as members of the public have used them to make their feelings known about issues that concern them.

Pilaster	A flat fronted column set against a wall, usually engaged with the wall.
Prebendary	Strictly, a clergyman or chaplain who receives a stipend [or prebend] from a collegiate church or a cathedral in return for duties. Also used for the house or office he was granted. Canons of Westminster were known as Prebendaries until 1840.
Precinct	The area immediately under the control of a church authority.
Presbytery	That part of a church to the east of the choir and the location of the High Altar.
Privy	Used or owned privately. Sometimes used to refer to the King's private residential area in a palace.
Pulpitum	Pulpit.
Quadrennial[Inspection]	A regime of 4-yearly inspection of [secular] historic buildings, usually in reference to Government owned property.
Quadrefoil	Tracery. A quadpartite group of leaf shaped lobes formed by cusping a circle or an arch.
Queen's Speech	The Queen reads the Queen's Speech at the State Opening of Parliament. Although today the Government prepares the Queen's speech, it is a reminder of times when the monarch actually chose the legislation to be debated in Parliament. Today, the speech details the Bills and policies that the Government will introduce in the next session.

Question Time	Question Time is an opportunity for MPs and Members of the House of Lords to ask Government Ministers questions. These questions are asked in the Chamber itself and are known as Oral Questions. Members may also put down Written Questions. In the House of Commons, Question Time takes place for an hour on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after Prayers. In the House of Lords up to four questions may be asked of the Government at the beginning of each day's business. Questions in both Houses must be written down in advance and put on the agenda and both Houses have methods for selecting the questions that will be asked.
Quinquennial[Inspection]	A regime of 5-yearly inspection of historic [usually] churches.
Reredorter	Monks' latrines in a monastery, usually behind the dorter.
Reredos	'Behind the back'. An ornamental screen covering the wall behind and above the altar.
Representation of the People Act 1918	An act which gave the vote to men over 21 and women over 30. The Act also ensured that all voting in a General Election was to take place on a single day as opposed to over several weeks as it had been previously.  It also introduced a deposit of £150 that was lost if a candidate failed to gain one eighth of the votes cast. Seats were also redistributed to create more uniform constituencies, averaging about 70,000 voters, returning one member each
Respond [bases]	A half pier bonded to a wall, usually the end of an arcade.

Rib	In medieval roof vaulting, the brick or stone arches on the groins or surface of the vault that support thin webs of masonry.
Sanctuary	A church or its precincts where by medieval ecclesiastical law, a fugitive could claim refuge from secular justice.
Sett	A brick sized squared [usually granite] paviour. As opposed to a cobble stone, which is rounded.
Spandrel	The quasi-triangular flat area between two curved arches and a line drawn between their apexes.
Speaker	An MP who has been elected to act as Chairman during debates in the House of Commons and who is responsible for ensuring that the rules laid down by the House are observed, maintains order in the House and acts as the House's representative in its relations with outside bodies. The Speaker is also responsible for protecting the interests of minorities in the House. The Speaker must be impartial in all matters. He or she is elected by MPs in the House of Commons but then ceases to be involved in party politics.
Stages of Legislation	Legislation goes through a number of stages before it becomes law. These are the same in both Houses. Bills (other than Money Bills) may begin in either the House of Commons or the House of Lords. They go through the following stages in each House, though with important procedural differences in both Houses: First Reading, Second Reading, Committee Stage, Report Stage, Third Reading. Once the Bill has completed these stages

in one of the Houses, the process is repeated in the other. After this any amendments from the second House are considered by the first. When both Houses agree on a Bill then it is presented to the Queen for Royal Assent

State Opening of Parliament

The State Opening of Parliament takes place after a General Election and at the beginning of each new session of Parliament. The Queen enters the Palace of Westminster by her own route, the Sovereign’s Entrance, which is under the Victoria Tower. From there she goes into the Royal Robing Room where she puts on her Crown and ceremonial robes. She then processes through the Royal Gallery to take her place on the Throne in the House of Lords. The chamber is full and all of the Lords present wear their Parliamentary robes. Black Rod is sent to the House of Commons to summon MPs to the Lords. When Black Rod arrives at the entrance to the Commons Chamber the door is always slammed in his face, and he has to knock three times on the door before he is admitted - a tradition that symbolises the right of the Commons to debate without interference. MPs then process into the House of Lords but remain behind the bar of the House. The Lord Chancellor hands the speech to the Queen who then reads it out.

Terracotta

Fired clay, moulded masonry product used for wall facing or architectural embellishment. Revived in England in the 19th century, particularly by Waterhouse.

Tracery

Ornamental interesting work, usually stone, in the upper part of a window, screen or panel. Usually refers to arched Gothic windows.

Transepts	The north and south transverse arms of a cruciform church plan.
Trefoil	Tracery. A tripartite group of leaf shaped lobes formed by cusping a circle or an arch.
Triforium	An arcaded wall facing into the nave of a church, above the Arcade and below the clerestory.
Vaulting	Continuous and self supporting arched brick or stone roof structure over a building.



