



COMMUNIQUE: UPDATE

Westminster Ceremonial Streetscape Project

May 2022



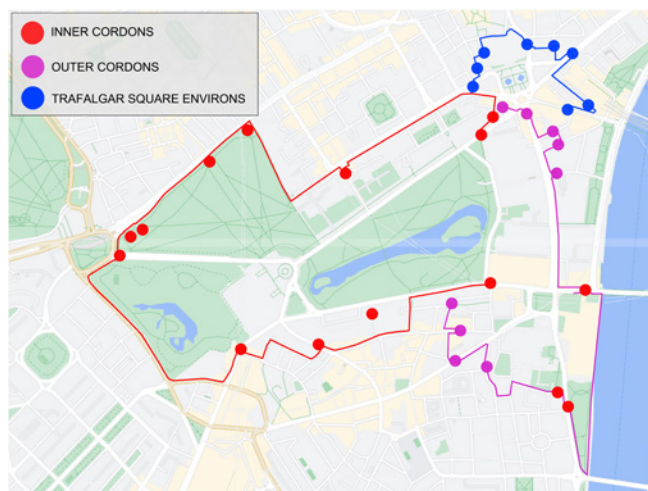
Westminster: A Safer Ceremonial Heart of London

The Westminster Ceremonial Streetscape Project started in 2016. The Autumn 2017 Communique provided a progress update for the project. Design solutions and construction have continued to be delivered in phases to protect the thousands of visitors to the central areas of the Westminster Ceremonial footprint of historic Royal Parks, buildings, streets, events and crowded places.

A second Communique in December 2019 identified nearly half of the then estimated 26 locations of the inner cordon's protective measures had been completed. Now, in 2022, the detailed design of all sites has been completed and 90% of the inner cordon sites are in place.

For the outer cordon sites, all are designed and 3 of the 8 sites are completed and operational with a variety of solutions and public realm benefits. These include the use of permanent walls, railings, a range of bollards, gates of various sizes and all with ease of operation, replacement planting, and other structural street furnishing innovations in various combinations.

This 2022 progress update is the third Communique to stakeholders and partners of the project and demonstrates the achievements and successes that have taken place. There has been a shift from deployment of temporary measures using the National Barrier Asset (NBA) to attractive permanent measures, with more flexibility, product quality and additional public realm improvements for the important heritage, landscape and townscape settings and places.



The cordons of Guard Change and other major event, crowded places are outlined on the map and comprise the Westminster Ceremonial Streetscape Project area and the proposed Trafalgar Square Environs extension of improvements.



Recently completed improvements at College Green with a Westminster Gate style and gilded crest in the open position in the setting of the World Heritage Site.



The Green Park whole northern edge along Piccadilly, is now protected with elegant granite walls and railings, backed along the length by a replanted Holly hedge.



This is one of a number of streets approaching the Ceremonial area with the Westminster Gate style in the open position when events are not in progress.

The Design Process Illustrated

Gate and Bollard Types & Sizes



The alignment comprises four Westminster design gate types with gilded crests, in this wide highway location adjacent to the Houses of Parliament and integrated with footway improvements.



This gate type is used for all the cordon approaches to the Royal Parks and is shown in detail, with the gilded elements, including the central Royal Household crest and roundels.

The project team of specialists and stakeholders has an established process for delivering the work stages at each site on the inner and outer cordons. This includes initial desk research of locations and utilities constraints, potential archaeology and underground structures as well as street level variations of use, footway widths, trees, carriageway requirements for parking and street furniture. Trial hole consents and works are always needed to confirm the practicalities of installations of the new permanent structures and foundations.



There are four principal types of bollard forms that are designed to be sensitive to the townscape, highways and landscape locations.



The single Westminster bollard style in this view is part of the new Limestone clad walling protection line for College Green.

Design solutions are carefully considered to ensure that the security measures are sensitive to the townscape locations and landscape settings, with combinations of mainly permanent and some removable elements. The installation of these permanent measures has been agreed through the relevant highways, planning and design approvals processes.



The permanent new gates replacing the bulky temporary measures are designed to be easily and rapidly opened and closed when needed for major events.

Before and After Case Study Images



Sketches are one part of the initial process for each risk assessed site. When constraints have been identified, technical design solutions are prepared and illustrated, for final stakeholders' approvals.



Examples of sites and Listed Buildings of particularly historic importance where great care has been taken include near Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace, the former site of Whitehall Palace, Government and The Parliamentary Estate Buildings within and adjacent to the Westminster World Heritage Site. Full archaeological and environmental desk research and impact assessments have been carried out for each proposed site for the new permanent security measures. To date the assessments have been successful in determining any areas for concern where more care had to be taken when the works commenced.



Brickwork recorded in this trial hole is thought to relate to the 16th/17th century Whitehall Palace, and has been retained in situ. Other underground constraints include utilities and tree roots.





The completed natural stone clad walls, elegant railings and Doric style bollards are integrated with the improved and protected site and setting of The Green Park and Bomber Command Memorial.

Challenges Overcome

Construction of The Green Park wall posed significant environmental challenges. Engineering constraints, where private basements or other structures such as shallow underground tunnels or utilities have been prevalent at numerous locations.

Landscape sensitivities where times of working and implementation have had to be considered to minimise noise and access disruption.

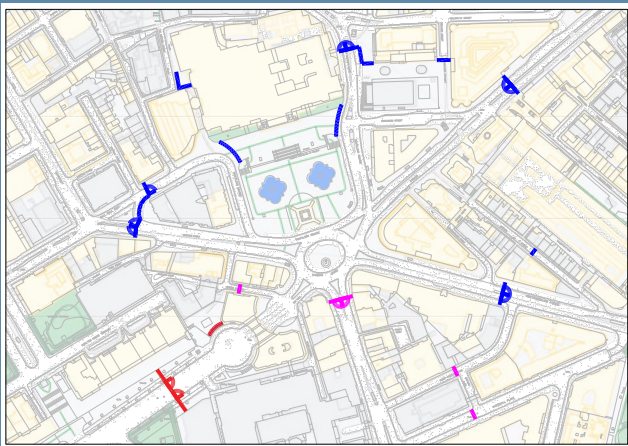
Legal agreements which involve assessing approvals responsibilities, liabilities, costs and specifications for future maintenance and repair arrangements.

Solutions to these challenges have included the development of innovative shallow foundation deployable structures at infrequently used locations.

Benefits and Next Steps

The successful implementation of permanent measures to date, updated completion programmes and financial benefits have already been demonstrated by the reduction in costs and disruption of the original deployments of temporary National Barrier Asset (NBA) measures across London's crowded places.

A Trafalgar Square Environs extension project for a wider area of concern with a new programme of work is underway where feasibility and initial design work is already in progress.



This diagram shows the proposed scope of new sites that can protect the crowded place events of the wider area around Trafalgar Square. It plans to integrate with the Westminster Ceremonial Streetscape Project sites and the high quality permanent and temporary solutions already developed.

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