

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY INCLUDING SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH (UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND) (C426 bis)

1. Executive Summary of the Report

In accordance with Decision **44 COM 7B.161**, the United Kingdom State Party has produced this State of Conservation Report (SOCR) for the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church World Heritage Site (Westminster World Heritage Site).

This SOCR updates the Committee on changes that have been made to planning policies and to the progress of development proposals, which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, since the last report which was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in **December 2020**.

Specifically, in response to the Committee's decision and the report of the 2017 ICOMOS/ICCROM advisory mission, this report provides updated information on the conservation of the Westminster World Heritage Site, policy at local and national levels, the World Heritage Site Management Plan and progress on the recommendations of the 2017 reactive monitoring mission.

The report is structured according to the format provided by the World Heritage Centre. The text of the Committee decision is given first, in italics. The response of the State Party does not use italics and is not indented.

2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 44 COM 7B.161

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
- 2. Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.94 adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
- 3. Welcomes the progress reported by the State Party with the updating of planning and regulatory documents for the property, including addressing and incorporating the findings of the 2017 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission, and the weight afforded to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*

The State Party is pleased that the Committee welcomes the progress that has been made to date. Since the last State of Conservation Report was submitted, the relevant authorities have continued to work collaboratively to bring forward the updates to the planning and regulatory documents for the property that were under review in December 2020.

Further reports in relation to the London and Westminster Plans are included in response to paragraph 4 of the Committee's Decision and in Section 3 of the report below.

In addition, the findings of the 2017 joint Reactive Monitoring Mission are increasingly being used to inform the relevant authorities' approach to production of these regulatory developments. For example, on the advice of Historic England, the Mission report was included in the evidence base for each of the London and Lambeth Local Plans. They will also form an important resource as evidence in the emerging revisions to the Westminster City Plan.

Historic England will also be encouraging Local Planning Authorities to build on progress seen to date by making use of the ICOMOS Technical Review of the London Plan and Westminster City Plan (November 2021) to further inform the emerging planning policy landscape. There is an opportunity for the findings of this report to be considered as part of the plan-making process, particularly given that both the London Borough of Lambeth and Westminster City Council are in the relatively early stages of preparing their site allocations.

4. *Notes the significant progress with the New London Plan and the Westminster City Plan, and requests that:*
 - a) *the monitoring provisions in Chapter 12 of the New London Plan be strengthened to address the World Heritage status of the property and protection of OUV,*
 - b) *the Westminster City Plan be further reviewed to address key potential development sites, and be more-closely aligned with the New London Plan, consistent with the recommendations of Historic England, and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to the finalization and adoption of these important documents;*

a) Monitoring Provisions in New London Plan

Subsequent to submission of the last State of Conservation Report for the property, [the London Plan 2021](#), the Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London, was adopted in March 2021. The plan was the subject of a comprehensive examination process, with Historic England and the London boroughs playing a pivotal role in shaping its policies.

As required by Section 346 of the [Greater London Authority \(GLA\) Act 1999](#), [London Plan Annual Monitoring Reports](#) (AMR) are published regularly and are the most important documents for assessing the effectiveness of the London Plan and its policies. Since the adoption of the London Plan 2021, a new and enhanced AMR framework has been approved by the Mayor as of 31 May 2022.

The updated framework was developed in close collaboration with Historic England, and now includes a dedicated Key Performance Indicator relating to heritage which has been honed to be more effective. Rather than simply reporting on the number and condition of heritage assets across London (as per prior AMRs), the new framework will include more granular analysis based upon the number of approved referable applications with identified benefits or harm to heritage assets (including World Heritage Sites). This will allow for the collection of clear and transparent data to ensure that the London Plan is resulting in a positive trend in the reduction of harm and/or an increase in benefits to designated heritage assets, including the protection and enhancement of the OUV of World Heritage Sites, in approved referable development applications (based on a rolling average).

The first AMR to use the new framework will be AMR 19 for the monitoring period 2021/22, which is expected to be published in March 2023.

In addition to the AMR itself, the GLA also publishes data that it records via its free, open data-sharing portal [The London Datahub](#). The Datahub is a collaborative project between all of the Planning Authorities in London to build a single open data set of development proposals in the planning process to enable monitoring of how the City is changing and develop a shared understanding of the data.

b) Review of Westminster City Plan to address key potential development sites, and align with the New London Plan

Since the last State of Conservation Report was submitted the [Westminster City Plan](#) has been further reviewed and was formally adopted on the 21 April 2021.

As part of its adoption process, the Westminster City Plan was amended to fully address the recommendations of Historic England and ensure consistency with the London Plan. These amendments included removal of references to key development sites in response to Historic England's comments.

Westminster City Council are now undertaking a partial review to the City Plan and as part of this will be incorporating the key development sites previously removed as Site Allocations. The allocations will provide more detailed analysis of major development sites across the city and set out parameters for their future development which may include, for example, the preferred mix of land uses, or scale of development and design requirements. The analysis will include identification of where there is potential for development to impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Westminster World Heritage Site and heritage impact assessment in line with UNESCO's latest guidance in the recently published [Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context](#), where relevant. This is at an early stage currently, but Westminster City Council have started gathering evidence to support the process.

A call for sites was undertaken in January 2022 and the council published its '[Regulation 18](#)' statement in October, formally starting consultation on the partial review to the City Plan. Historic England will remain a key stakeholder as the policies develop and the council has committed to engaging closely with them at every stage. An early engagement meeting with Historic England took place on 03 November 2022.

Following the Regulation 18 consultation, all comments will be considered. This will inform the emerging policies alongside ongoing engagement that will take place throughout 2023 with Westminster City Council's partners and communities, including the members of the World Heritage Site Steering group. The revised Plan is expected to be adopted in 2024/5. The State Party will ensure that the World Heritage Committee is kept updated throughout this process.

5. *Also notes the progress made towards an updated Management Plan for the property and the State Party's confirmation that it will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to adoption;*

The State Party is aware that work to review and update the management plan is in progress. A workshop was held with all stakeholders to consider an initial draft in 2021 and redrafting work has been undertaken in light of comments received. An update was provided to members of the Steering Group at a meeting in November 2022 and a further draft will be presented to the following meeting in March 2023. Formal public consultation is now scheduled for late Spring 2023. The State Party will ensure that, as requested, the Management Plan will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review at this time and prior to its adoption.

A number of other more detailed documents have also been produced which will support and provide evidence to inform the updates to the Management Plan. Details are provided in response to paragraph 6 of the Committee Decision and at Section 3 of this report below.

6. *Further notes the information provided by the State Party regarding major conservation works planned through the Restoration and Renewal Project for the Palace of Westminster, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit details, including the detailed conservation plan for the Palace of Westminster, and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is taken or any approval is issued;*

A number of developments have occurred since the last State of Conservation Report was submitted which explain why the World Heritage Centre has not yet received further details regarding the Restoration and Renewal Project. The State Party has therefore set out the following update regarding progress on the programme since the last report.

As reported in the 2020 State of Conservation Report, the Restoration and Renewal Programme (R&R) has been established to oversee the major refurbishment of the Palace of Westminster. At the time of reporting [The Parliamentary Buildings \(Restoration & Renewal\) Act](#) had received Royal Assent on 8 October 2019 and on 8 April 2020 the Restoration and Renewal Programme Sponsor Board and a separate Delivery Authority were set up to oversee the programme.

Design development took place through 2020 and 2021 and in December 2021 the Sponsor Body and Delivery Authority completed an early-stage assessment of the overall potential cost and schedule of the R&R Programme. In March 2022, the two parliamentary House Commissions sought independent advice and assurance on a different approach to the R&R Programme and in a joint statement, confirmed their commitment to preserve the Palace of Westminster and set out the parameters that would guide a new approach to the work.

The two Commissions concluded that the Sponsor Body should be abolished and replaced by a joint department of both Houses (the Client Team), which would be overseen by a Client Board (the two Commissions meeting together) and a Programme Board, drawn from the Commissions, senior managers in both Houses and independent members with appropriate expertise. The transfer of the responsibilities of the R&R Sponsor Body to a joint department of both Houses is expected to take place over the coming months subject to the passing of secondary legislation to enact this change.

In response to the conclusions of the Commissions, R&R has established an options assessment framework and is currently engaged in that process which aims to present a range

of delivery options that respond to the Commissions' parameters set against an agreed set of evaluation criteria, that will be presented to the new Client and Programme Boards in 2023.

The R&R has previously worked to ICOMOS's guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment and will continue to make reference to UNESCO's newly published Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (2022). The State Party will notify the World Heritage Centre in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines when the scoping stage of the HIA is reached.

The State Party is pleased to report, however, that work on the detailed Conservation Plan for the Palace of Westminster has been progressed separately to the Restoration and Renewal by Strategic Estates. There are specific Conservation Management Plans to cover different aspects of the Parliamentary Estate, summarised below:

- Palace of Westminster Conservation Management Plan (summary report)
- Palace of Westminster Conservation Management Plan (full report)
- Palace of Westminster Conservation Management Plan Gazetteer (in progress)

The summary report for the Palace of Westminster Conservation Management Plan is available upon request, as due to security reasons it can only be sent to specified email addresses.

The State Party would seek to reassure the World Heritage Committee that while R&R has been going through the changes described, essential works to the Palace have nonetheless continued to be undertaken by Strategic Estates. These are mostly smaller scale restoration and repair works and a note of these is noted within Section 4 of the report below.

7. *While strongly supporting the concept of a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London, re-iterates its serious concerns that the proposed location in Victoria Tower Gardens, would have an unacceptable adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and therefore, also reiterates its request to the State Party to pursue alternative locations and/or designs;*

On 28 January 2022, the State Party provided the World Heritage Centre with a notification under paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, setting out the status of the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre proposal. This formed an update to the information included in its last State of Conservation Report, submitted in December 2020.

At the time of the last paragraph 172 notification the State Party understood that a challenge had been lodged by one of the parties involved in the earlier public inquiry prior to the application's approval by the Secretary of State in July 2021. Subsequently that challenge was taken forward with a Statutory Review hearing, which took place on 22 and 23 February 2022.

The High Court issued its judgment on this challenge on 8 April 2022 and the Housing Minister's decision to grant planning permission was quashed. The full judgment can be found at the UK Courts and Tribunals Judiciary [website](#).

On 29 April 2022, the Housing Minister (as decision-maker) and the Secretary of State for Levelling-up, Housing and Communities (as applicant) each sought leave to appeal the High Court's judgment. However, permission to appeal was refused. This means that the proposed

scheme currently does not have planning consent.

The planning application now reverts to the designated Minister to retake the planning decision. The Government remains committed to the creation of a new national Memorial and is currently considering next steps in light of the court's judgment. The State Party will notify the World Heritage Centre in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines when there are further updates on the application.

8. *Also welcomes the updated database for tall buildings and advice regarding use of 3D modelling systems and also requests the State Party to advise on how these tools may contribute to the identification, prevention and management of the cumulative impacts of new tower buildings that may negatively affect the OUV of the property, and to the delineation of an appropriate buffer zone for the property;*

Since the last State of Conservation Report was submitted, the London Plan's adoption means that its Tall Buildings policy (D9) now requires boroughs to proactively plan for tall building developments within their areas, marking a major shift to a more plan-led approach. Boroughs, within their Local Plans, are now required to specifically map locations where tall buildings would be considered a suitable form of development as well as height ranges that would be considered appropriate within their existing and planned urban context. There is now a policy presumption that applications for tall buildings outside of these designated locations will be refused. In this way, boroughs are now empowered to ensure that tall buildings are only supported in locations where they play a positive role in shaping the character of an area. In line with Historic England's revised Advice Note on Tall Buildings (see below), the Policy also ensures that cumulative impacts of proposed, connected and planned tall buildings are considered when assessing tall building proposals and plan-making.

To test the effectiveness of the tall buildings policy, the Greater London Authority (GLA) actively monitors the number of tall buildings referred to the Mayor that are approved under its data and performance measures. This includes data on permissions granted and building commencements as well as completions. The data are automatically updated continuously and are made publicly available at regular intervals via the Mayor's open data website '[London Datahub](#)'. The data can be used by 3D model suppliers (such as VU.CITY, mentioned below) to continuously update their models, with the ability to identify consented as well as newly built developments to ensure that cumulative impacts can be effectively assessed.

Since the publication of the London Plan, the Mayor has also consulted upon draft London Plan guidance which provides further information on how boroughs are expected to meet the requirements of the Plan. The [draft Characterisation and Growth Strategy LPG](#) for instance includes detailed guidance on how boroughs should undertake area assessments and make use of tools such as 3D mapping software to ensure that the tall building locations safeguard and enhance heritage assets as well as local character.

Historic England has also published a revision to its [Historic Environment Advice Note 4 Tall Buildings](#) (March 2022) which highlights the value of three dimensional modelling when it comes to assessing the impacts of tall development upon the historic environment.

The GLA and boroughs adjoining the World Heritage Site are all now using 3D digital mapping systems. These show both consented and built schemes within the vicinity of the

property and allow the visualisation of different proposals together and analysis of their cumulative impacts.

In addition to this to ensure a coordinated approach the GLA have agreed to work with boroughs to fund a joint 3D digital modelling project which will build on work previously undertaken by the London Borough of Lambeth to digitally map height constraints of views that complete a 360-degree setting of the WHS, incorporating significant views identified within the Management Plan. This digital mapping of height constraints combined with the use of 3D modelling of development proposals will provide an effective tool for managing development in the immediate and wider setting of the WHS, identifying where there are proposals. Whilst recognising the Committee's advice regarding delineation of an appropriate buffer zone for the property, it is considered that this will be a more effective tool for the management of large scale development within the setting of the property, considering impacts in both the immediate and wider setting of the WHS.

Whilst the GLA is continuing to explore options for an inhouse model, Westminster City Council has also worked closely with leading 3D model providers such as [VU.CITY](#) as this powerful tool is already being utilised by many boroughs within London.

9. *Further welcomes the role of the national heritage advisor, Historic England, in all levels of decision-making, but particularly in addressing the ongoing threat to this property posed by cumulative impacts, especially from high-rise development projects in the immediate and wider setting of the World Heritage property that may have a negative impact on its OUV, and further requests the State Party to ensure that the legal framework allows for the provided advice to more strongly influence planning decisions in favour of fully protecting the OUV of World Heritage properties;*

The State Party similarly welcomes Historic England's engagement in the statutory planning process, reflecting their role as Government's advisor on relevant international conventions that apply across the UK, including the World Heritage Convention. Their advice, at all stages in which they are involved, adds considerable value to the planning process and supports decision making that avoids adverse impacts on the property's OUV. The State Party advocates (such as through the [Planning Practice Guidance](#) (PPG)) for early engagement with this advice, preferably at pre-application, so that proposals with potential to affect OUV can be discussed as soon as possible and opportunities to avoid harmful impacts identified.

The refreshed [legal framework](#) continues to include a requirement for local planning authorities to consult with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities where they intend to grant consent for proposals affecting World Heritage Sites to which Historic England has maintained an objection. This ensures that any application where Historic England has concerns regarding adverse impacts on the OUV, integrity, authenticity or significance of a World Heritage Site or its setting, including any buffer zone or its equivalent, can be afforded this additional level of scrutiny.

Historic England's advice also contributes to the early assessment of impacts to World Heritage properties through their role as a statutory consultee in the plan-making process, helping to ensure that plans provide a positive strategy for the conservation and protection of the historic environment, including the OUV of World Heritage Sites. Of particular relevance to the Westminster World Heritage Site is early consideration of site allocations to manage future

development on these sites to avoid harm. Historic England will be continuing to engage with Westminster City Council on the emerging plan-review.

Published advice from Historic England can be considered a material consideration in the determination of an application. Of particular relevance to the Westminster World Heritage Site is Historic England's revised [Advice Note on Tall Buildings](#) to which reference was provided above (HEAN 4, 2nd edition, March 2022). A new Advice Note on Managing Change to World Heritage Sites in England is also being drafted. The State Party will ensure that the World Heritage Centre and the Committee's Advisory Bodies are consulted on this draft document during its development and before it is finalised. The State Party is aware that Historic England is also producing forthcoming guidance on the development of World Heritage Site Management Plans.

Historic England also continues to liaise with Government regarding the legal framework which underpins the planning system. For example, they were involved in discussions with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in the development of the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill](#) which is currently at Report stage in its passage through Parliament.

Whilst currently all designated heritage assets are treated equally under the same policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021), it has been recognised that there is no similar parity in legislation. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill aims to address this disparity by introducing a new statutory duty to have special regard to the preservation or enhancement of a wider range of designated heritage assets and their settings. These provisions apply not only to listed buildings and conservation areas as previously, but now also specifically include World Heritage Sites. This is the first time that World Heritage Sites will be afforded statutory protection, and it will ensure that legislation and planning policy are better aligned.

As this legislation is of relevance to many of the UK's World Heritage properties, not just Westminster, the State Party will continue to update the World Heritage Centre separately on its progress.

10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.*

The State Party submits this report in response to the Committee's request.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

In addition to the responses to specific queries under the World Heritage Committee's Decision above, the State Party offers the following wider update on developments to national and local policy of relevance to the property since the last State of Conservation Report.

World Heritage Site Governance and Policy update

Policy which refers to the World Heritage Site and Outstanding Universal Value is now embedded at all levels and will be increasingly embedded into decision making so that it can begin to have greater impact. The results of the revised policies on decision-making will continue to be monitored through the development plan and management plan monitoring frameworks.

London Plan

As discussed earlier in the State of Conservation Report, the adoption of the [London Plan 2021](#) represents a major step forward with regard to recommendations 1-3 of the 2017 joint Reactive Monitoring Mission. The plan is a 20-25 year strategic strategy for the whole capital and carries significant weight in plan-making as well as planning assessments at all levels.

The adopted Plan contains a suite of design and heritage policies which work together to provide an effective, strategic framework for the identification and sensitive management of London's heritage assets and for embedding heritage in the city's growth. In line with UNESCO's Operational Guidelines and requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, the Plan includes detailed policy requirements regarding the effective safeguarding and enhancement of all London's World Heritage properties, including a rationalisation of the assessment approach to ensure that the concept of Outstanding Universal Value is firmly embedded within the system.

As adopted the Plan includes a specific and detailed policy in relation to London's World Heritage Sites (Policy HC2). ICOMOS's Technical Review of the London Plan, dated November 2021, indicated that they considered that this policy taken together with HC3, 'Strategic and Local Views' and HC4, 'London View Management Framework', provided a sound framework.

Westminster City Plan

[Westminster City Plan](#) which provides the local policy framework for the area in which the property is situated has also now been adopted. As noted in the last State of Conservation Report, the Plan includes a specific and detailed policy (Policy 39) on Westminster's World Heritage Site. This policy has been significantly strengthened from the previous version in close consultation with Historic England, and also includes monitoring indicators.

Lambeth Local Plan

In addition to the Westminster City Plan and the London Plan, the revised [Lambeth Local Plan](#) was adopted in 2021 and includes detailed policy on the World Heritage Site for the area directly opposite the property which is in its wider setting or backdrop. They have also recently consulted on a draft site allocations document and work is ongoing with Historic England to help develop the sorts of evidence needed to underpin the proposed allocations, as well as policy criteria and wording. Other partner boroughs in close proximity have also consulted on updated and strengthened policy on the World Heritage Site including the [London Borough of Wandsworth Plan](#) (currently at Regulation 19 consultation stage) and the [London Borough of Southwark Plan](#) (adopted 2022).

WHS Steering Group

Following a period of disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the WHS Steering Group has met in 2022 and will meet again in early 2023. The GLA and Historic England both attend the Steering Group. In addition, the GLA will be reconvening and chairing an

overarching co-ordination group to bring representatives from all of the World Heritage Sites in London together in 2023. These will then continue to be arranged and chaired moving forwards with the aim of coming together to share learning and opportunities as well as to solve common issues faced across each of the properties. In addition, these governance sessions act as opportunities for both the GLA, the WHS and partners to share emerging pieces of work to foster closer collaboration.

Heritage Impact Assessment

The need for applications with the potential to affect World Heritage properties in London, including Westminster, to be supported by detailed and clearly illustrated Heritage Impact Assessments is now enshrined in the London Plan and local borough plans. These plan-led provisions are supported by advice in the National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) which specifically refers to the ICOMOS heritage impact assessment guidance (now integrated with and replaced by the UNESCO Toolkit).

Stakeholders have been made aware of the updated guidance and toolkit for HIA and Historic England has produced a [note](#) which has been circulated and raised with the Steering Group. The State Party is aware that the Steering Group is looking to make active use of the newly published toolkit. Reference to this guidance will be incorporated in future policy documents as well as in the Management Plan.

London Urban Archaeological Database Project

The Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service have undertaken a specific project around the World Heritage Site as part of development of a wider London Urban Archaeological Database Project. They have mapped expected survival of archaeological remains in the medieval core of Westminster and Whitehall. This work will provide detailed information on the preservation of archaeological remains contributing to the WHS' OUV, and to inform both development design and decision-making. The reports can be downloaded from the Historic England website¹, and will be made available via the updated Management Plan in due course which this project will also inform.

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity

The State Party provides the following updates on notifiable schemes below which are at an early stage in development.

Ongoing work at Palace of Westminster

A number of minor schemes of repair have been progressed at the Palace of Westminster. The Mechanical, Electrical, Public Health and Fabric Safety Programme (MEPFS) to mitigate failing systems and address urgent fabric issues is nearing completion. The MEPFS scope has included St Stephens Hall ceiling repairs, lift refurbishments, flat roof repairs and fabric repairs to Black Rods Garden and Peers Court. The MEPFS programme will conclude in 2023.

¹ <https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/our-planning-services/greater-london-archaeology-advisory-service/database-project/>

As a response to the MEPFS programme, a new approach to works is being developed to encompass Flat Roofs, Stone Conservation and Mechanical, Electrical, Public Health and Fire Safety (MEPF2). The different project scopes are being progressed to consider long-term solutions to ensure the approach to the repair and reinstatement of lost or defective materials to the external elevations of the Palace of Westminster will meet policy requirements for heritage assets. The delivery strategy will be developed in collaboration with R&R.

The Victoria Tower Project, currently in design development, will repair the stonework on the exterior of the tower to minimise the risk of stone fall. It will also encompass other elements such as conservation works to the window glazing, roof turrets and flagpole. The project carried out site investigation works during the summer recess of 2022 and will continue to conduct further surveys on the tower to inform the design of the enabling and repair works.

After site surveys identified a rapid deterioration of fabric condition a protective scaffold has been erected at the north façade of Westminster Hall to mitigate any health and safety risks. A programme of works for full stone conservation repairs to the north elevation is being developed. The conservation strategy will include options for the repair and reinstatement of salvaged materials as well as consideration of the type and supply of stone material to be used for the repairs.

The Cast Iron Roofs Project (CIR) is a ten-year rolling programme of repairs to all cast iron roofs at the palace. This phased programme of roof repairs is ensuring the building is watertight against leaks to prevent damage to stonework and the historic interiors of the building in advance of the major internal restoration work to be conducted under the R&R programme. The current phase of the CIR project, including Star Chamber Court north, and St Stephen's Porch and Hall, is nearing completion and the scaffold is in the process of being struck. An opportunity to adapt the CIR scaffold and undertake urgent repairs to the south elevation of St Stephen's Hall was completed over the summer of 2022. The next phase of CIR repairs will cover Royal Gallery and House of Lords Chamber roofs.

The State Party will ensure that where applications have yet to be submitted for consent these are notified to the World Heritage Centre at the appropriate time.

Parliament Square Streetscape Project

The Parliament Square Streetscape Project: Concept Development (PSSP) is a proposal to improve the security, safety and public space in and around Parliament Square. The project involves developing conceptual designs for security, public realm and highways enhancements, and establishing future operational requirements. The work will give full consideration to the setting and Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. However, no decision has been considered or taken about taking the project beyond this concept phase. These proposals are therefore still at a very early stage and, should they progress further, will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines at an appropriate stage.

The State Party is not aware of any further potential schemes that have not already been notified to the World Heritage Centre.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

The State Party is content for the full report to be uploaded to the World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System.

6. Signature of the Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'HR' or a similar stylized representation of the name Henry Reed.

**Henry Reed
Senior International Policy Adviser, Cultural Diplomacy
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport**