

CITY OF WESTMINSTER			
PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE	Date 12 April 2016	Classification For General Release	
Report of Director of Planning		Ward(s) involved St James's	
Subject of Report	Sites At Rear Of MOD Building Adjacent To National Liberal Club And Opposite Richmond Terrace, Victoria Embankment, WC2		
Proposal	Erection of memorial in recognition of British military forces and UK civilians who served/worked in Iraq and Afghanistan during the periods of conflict in Portland stone with central bronze medallion.		
Agent	Mr Tony Dyson		
On behalf of	Lord Jock Stirrup		
Registered Number	15/11695/FULL	Date amended/ completed	15 December 2015
Date Application Received	15 December 2015		
Historic Building Grade	Unlisted		
Conservation Area	Whitehall		

1. RECOMMENDATION

For Committee's consideration:

Does the Committee agree that the particular circumstances of this proposal constitute "an exceptionally good reason" to justify an exception to the Council's normal guidance approach to memorials in this part of the City and that "exceptional circumstances" exist to justify waiving the Council's normal 10 year rule on monuments, if so:

1. Grant conditional permission subject to the completion of a S106 legal agreement to secure ongoing maintenance of the memorial.
2. If the legal agreement has not been completed within six weeks of the date of this resolution to grant planning permission, then:
 - a) The Director of Planning shall consider whether the permission can be issued with additional conditions attached to secure the benefits listed above. If this is possible and appropriate, the Director of Planning is authorised to determine and issue such a decision under Delegated Powers, however, if not:
 - b) The Director of Planning shall consider whether permission should be refused on the grounds that it has not proved possible to complete an agreement within an appropriate timescale, and that the proposals are unacceptable in the absence of the benefits that would have been secured; if so the Director of Planning is authorised to determine the application and agree

appropriate reasons for refusal under Delegated Powers.

2. SUMMARY

This proposal is for the erection of a memorial to all those service and civilian personnel who served in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. The site is in Victoria Embankment Gardens, which is in the Whitehall Conservation Area and adjacent to the grade II star Ministry of Defence Building. The proposed memorial has been revised during the course of the application reducing its height by 0.75m and its width by 0.5m and modifying some of the detailed design.

This part of Victoria Embankment Gardens is a flat area of grass with minimal tree and shrub planting. There are a number of other memorials and statues in the Garden, the most recent being the Korean War Memorial erected in 2014. The Gardens are leased to and managed by Westminster City Council. The proposed location is in the south-west of the Garden close to three existing C20 memorials to Air Chief Marshal Viscount Trenchard, the Chindits and the Korean War. The memorial consists of a central bronze medallion with sculpted images in relief between two Portland stone concave piers with the outer edges in a textured finish and the rest smooth. The east face will be inscribed with the words IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN and the west face DUTY and SERVICE. The memorial is 5.45m high at its highest point, 3.4m wide at its base, 1.52m deep and the bronze medallion is 1.8m in diameter. The memorial is a substantial size but consistent with many other memorials in the Gardens. The central medallion only is intended to be lit by an adjustable LED light source set within the 55mm gap between the medallion and Portland stone borders. Other memorials in the Gardens are not illuminated, but it is considered that the degree of illumination proposed for this memorial is subtle and would not detract from the park setting at night. The artist is Paul Day who has an international reputation and has carried out many public commissions, including memorials in Westminster. A new yorkstone paved forecourt is proposed to allow people, including those in wheelchairs, to view the memorial from both sides.

Policy Des 7 of the UDP generally welcomes public art and statuary within the City. However, the unprecedented demand for statues and monuments in recent years has led to an over-concentration of memorials in parts of the City and suitable locations are becoming increasingly difficult to find. The Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) "Statues and Memorials in Westminster" provides guidance for the erection of new monuments. It identifies a Monument Saturation Zone covering most of Whitehall and St James's where applications for new statues and monuments will not be permitted unless there is an exceptionally good reason. The site proposed falls within this zone.

The SPD also establishes a 10 Year Principle whereby "no statues or memorials should be erected before ten years have elapsed from the death of the individual or the event commemorated. Only in the most exceptional circumstances will statues or monuments be considered within the ten year period. Neither of the events commemorated would meet this criteria.

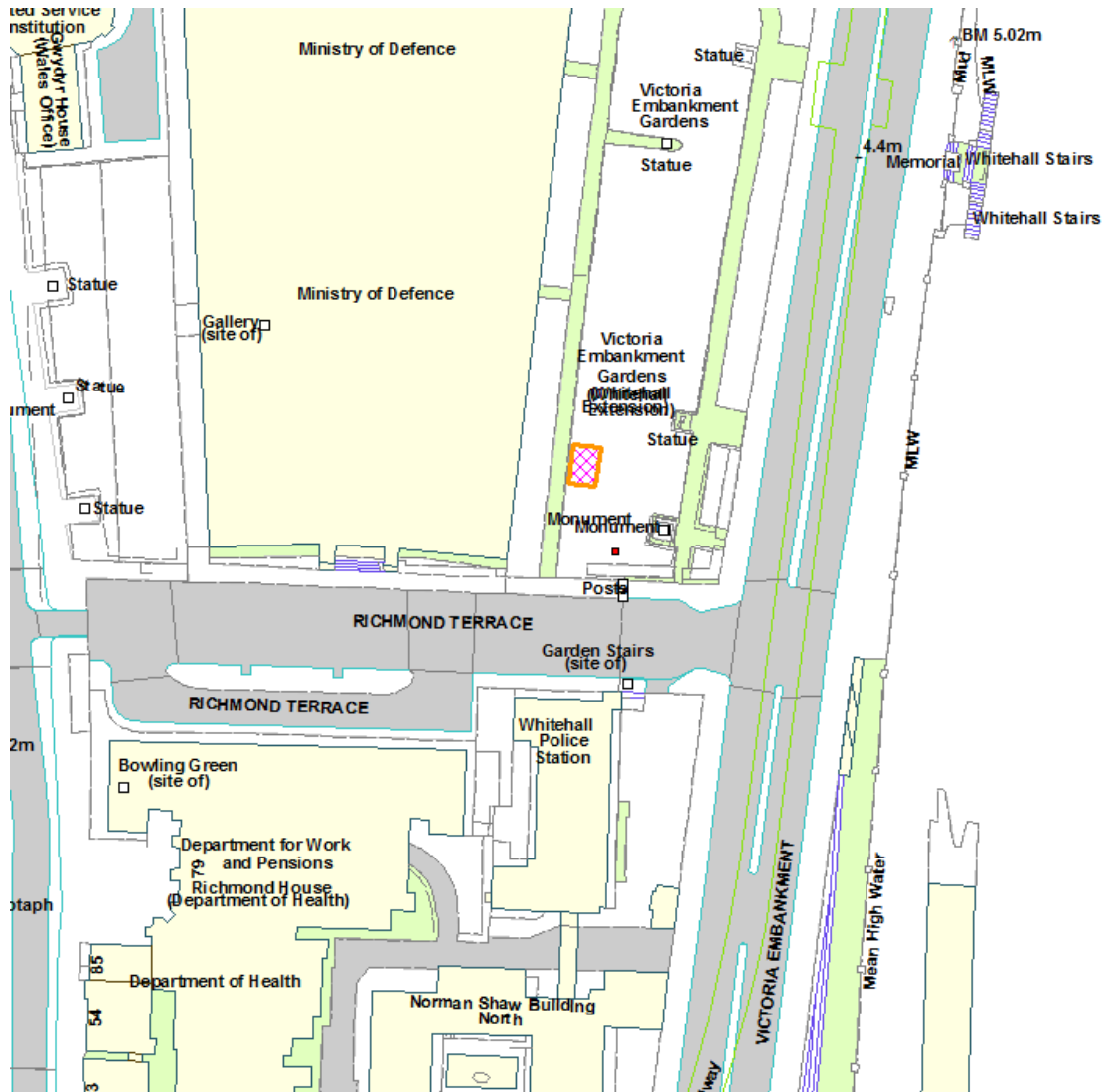
The proposed memorial should therefore only proceed if there is an "exceptionally good reason" to justify its location in the Monument Saturation Zone and that "exceptional circumstances" justify the waiving of the 10 year rule. It is considered that, in this case, the site chosen is one of the few locations within the Monument Saturation Zone that could accommodate a memorial of this size. The site has geographic, historic, political and military associations by virtue of the other nearby memorials, the adjacent Ministry of Defence, the nearby Cenotaph and the government offices of Whitehall itself. The monument itself is considered to be well-designed and appropriate in scale to both its setting and the nature of the subject being commemorated. The events commemorated are significant within the recent history of this country and are worthy of remembrance. Therefore, it is considered that there is

an “exceptionally good reason” for this memorial to be located on this site within the monument saturation zone.

With regard to the 10 year rule, Members must decide whether they consider there are “exceptional circumstances” to this proposal that would justify waiving this part of the Council’s SPD guidance.

Four letters of support have been received. The Westminster Society objected to the height and scale of the first proposal, but withdrew their objection to the revised scheme which reduced the overall height and bulk of the memorial. Historic England have raised no objection to the proposal and due to the shallow depth of workings on made-up ground, Historic England do not have any concerns over archaeological impact.

3. LOCATION PLAN



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4. PHOTOGRAPHS



5. CONSULTATIONS

Ward Councillors for St James's
No reply received

Westminster Society
Objection made to the size of original proposal. Further to the revisions to the scheme, no objections made.

Historic England (Listed Builds/Con Areas)
Authorisation to determine application.

Historic England (Archaeology)
No objection, no need for archaeology conditions

Council For British Archaeology
No reply received

The Georgian Group
No reply received

Ancient Monuments Society
No reply received

Society For The Protection Of Ancient Buildings
No reply received

Ancient Monuments Society
No reply received

Twentieth Century Society
No reply received

The Victorian Society
No reply received

The Gardens Trust
No reply received

Transport For London
No objection

London Historic Parks and Gardens
No reply received

The London Society
No reply received

Department of Culture Media & Sport
No reply received

Metropolitan Police Service (for Licensing)
No reply received

Natural England
No objection

Arboricultural Section - Development Planning
No response received to date.

Highways Planning - Development Planning
No objection

Designing Out Crime
No reply received

ADJOINING OWNERS/OCCUPIERS AND OTHER REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

No. Consulted: 191
Total No. of replies: 4
No. of objections: 0
No. in support: 4

Four letters of support received agreeing that the memorial is a fitting tribute and that the location is appropriate.

PRESS ADVERTISEMENT / SITE NOTICE: Yes

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Application form
2. Response from Westminster Society, dated 26 January and 24 February 2016.
3. Response from Natural England dated 21 January 2016
4. Response from Historic England dated 26 January 2016
5. Response from Highways Planning Manager dated 27 January 2016.
6. Response from Transport For London dated 1 February 2016
7. Response from Historic England (Archaeology), dated 8 February 2016
8. Response from Council for British Archaeology dated 15 March
9. Letter from occupier of 8 Upper Lodge Mews, Bushy Park, dated 2 February 2016
10. Letter from occupier of 3 Turner Place, College Town, dated 23 January 2016
11. Letter from occupier of Winterwood, Glentorr road, dated 14 February 2016
12. Letter from occupier of 55 Goodby Road, Moseley, dated 29 January 2016

Selected relevant drawings

(Please note: All the application drawings and other relevant documents and Background Papers are available to view on the Council's website)

Item No.

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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS REPORT PLEASE CONTACT KIMBERLEY DAVIES ON 020 7641 5939 OR BY EMAIL AT southplanningteam@westminster.gov.uk

7. KEY DRAWINGS

West Elevation, facing the MoD building and accessed from the West footpath.

Sculpted relief images on the circular bronze medallion bridging the gap between the two standing stones.

The images on this side of the medallion will represent the civilian effort towards development and lasting peace in both countries. Because the images will be seen at close quarters, the composition will show activities in more detail.

Inscriptions on the two Portland stone standing stones.

Arranged diagonally relative to the circular bronze medallion, left-hand-side: DUTY, right-hand-side: SERVICE

Lighting.

It is proposed that only the circular bronze medallion is illuminated, using masked temporarily adjustable LED light sources, set back in the 50mm gap between the outer edge of the medallion and the inner edge of the concentric circular bevelled Portland stone borders, either side of the central gap. The masking of the light sources will ensure the light catches the high points of the bronze relief, without spilling over on to the white/gray of the bevelled Portland stone borders.

Client	MoD
Project	MoD
Location	Victoria Embankment Gardens, SW1
Contract	MoD
Drawn	MoD
Checked	MoD
Approved	MoD
Date	2023
Scale	1:50
Sheet	P
Total	C

Job Title IAMP Proposals, MoD section of Victoria Embankment Gardens, SW1

Drawing Title PROPOSALS: West (MoD) Elevation, North Elevation and Section B - B

Donald Inshall Associates	
Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers	
17 Grosvenor Street, London W1R 0AA	
Tel: 020 7492 2888 www.donaldinshall.co.uk	
Project	IAMP
Date	2023
Scale	1:50
Sheet	P
Total	C

- Detailed confirmation of the texture proposed for the Portland stone surfaces of the North and South elevations of the scheme submitted for planning consent (changed from the heavy texture shown on the side elevations of the second clay model).
- The proposed incorporation into the paving layout (as submitted for planning consent) of an inscribed bronze plate centred on the bronze plaque recording the unveiling.

CHANGED:
Heavy texture on sides of moulded clay model (superficial) shown at 1:50 scale.

North & South elevations at 1:50 scale showing the revised texture proposed for the Portland stone surface.

PLAN, Scale 1:50

Pea-gravel, 300mm wide (as existing memorial settings)

Grass, as existing

Showing the proposed inscribed bronze plate and plaque recording the unveiling.

The paved setting for the memorial is to be in York stone (sawn finish), with the slabs around the footprints of the Portland stone ones being darker in colour. The 2.0m (minimum) width of the paving on all four sides will allow the comfortable passing of two self-propelled wheelchairs.

In the centre of the paving, on the west footpath side, a bronze plaque recording the unveiling ceremony will be set flush with the paved surface.

To encourage visitors to move around the memorial, an inscription on a bronze plate 150mm wide (lettering 90mm high, see below front - 'FIANAN INDI REGILAS CAU') will sit on the right-hand side of the bronze plaque recording the unveiling ceremony, continue round the perimeter and finish on the left-hand side of the plaque. The sections of this inscribed bronze plate will also be set flush with the paving (following the falls on each side) and be fixed in place using threaded rods welded to the back.

Part-plan of bronze plate at full-size, showing lettering 90mm high.

Inscribed bronze plate patinated finish to match that of the bronze reliefs above.

Note: whether lettering is to be raised by 2mm or recessed is still under discussion.

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Approved	MoD
Date	2023
Scale	1:50
Sheet	P
Total	C

Job Title IAMP Proposals, MoD section of Victoria Embankment Gardens, SW1

Drawing Title PROPOSALS:

- Confirmation of the revised texture proposed for the Portland stone surface of the North and South elevations.
- To encourage visitors to move around the memorial, the proposed incorporation (into the paving layout already submitted) of an inscribed bronze plate centred on the bronze plaque recording the unveiling.

Donald Inshall Associates	
Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers	
17 Grosvenor Street, London W1R 0AA	
Tel: 020 7492 2888 www.donaldinshall.co.uk	
Project	IAMP
Date	2023
Scale	1:50
Sheet	P
Total	C

DRAFT DECISION LETTER

Address: Sites At Rear Of MOD Building Adjacent To National Liberal Club And Opposite Richmond Ter, Victoria Embankment, London, SW1A 2JL,

Proposal: Erection of memorial in recognition of British military forces and UK civilians who served/worked in Iraq and Afghanistan during the periods of conflict in Portland stone with central bronze medallion.

Reference: 15/11695/FULL

Plan Nos: 4000, 4010, 4011 D, 4013, 2022 C, 2023 C, 2021 E, 1020 A, 1021 C, 1022 and SK 130

Case Officer: David Clegg

Direct Tel. No. 020 7641 3014

Recommended Condition(s) and Reason(s):

- 1 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the drawings and other documents listed on this decision letter, and any drawings approved subsequently by the City Council as local planning authority pursuant to any conditions on this decision letter.

Reason:

For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

- 2 You must apply to us for approval of samples of the facing materials you will use, including paving, and elevations and plans annotated to show where the materials are proposed to be used. You must not start work on these parts of the development until we have approved what you have sent us. You must then carry out the work using the approved materials.

Reason:

To make sure that the appearance of the building is suitable and that it contributes to the character and appearance of this part of the Whitehall Conservation Area. This is as set out in S25 and S28 of Westminster's City Plan: Strategic Policies adopted November 2013 and DES 1 and DES 5 or DES 6 or both and paras 10.108 to 10.128 of our Unitary Development Plan that we adopted in January 2007. (R26BE)

Informative(s):

In dealing with this application the City Council has implemented the requirement in the National Planning Policy Framework to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive way. We have made available detailed advice in the form of our statutory policies in Westminster's City Plan: Strategic Policies adopted November 2013, Unitary Development Plan, Supplementary Planning documents, planning briefs and other informal written guidance, as well as offering a full pre application advice service, in order to ensure that applicant has been given every opportunity to submit an application which is likely to be considered favourably. In addition, where appropriate, further guidance was offered to the applicant at the validation stage.

Please note: the full text for informatives can be found in the Council's Conditions, Reasons & Policies handbook, copies of which can be found in the Committee Room whilst the meeting is in progress, and on the Council's website.