

**Working chronology in respect of avenue of trees Memorial to the Civilian
Dead killed in aerial bombardment**

- 1926** Royal Fine Arts Commission (fore runner of CABE) in 1926 letter to LCC re Waterloo Bridge was saying of the new proposed Waterloo Bridge "In this case however. The consideration of a special nature must be given " the river frontage must be developed so as to enhance the greatest environmental asset of the Capital city - the river and this enhancement must incorporate the completion of the new river wall and riverside walk and public open space between Waterloo and Blackfriars Bridges." be taken into account. The new bridge cannot be treated in isolation....."
- 1934** LCC promote a bill to develop and open up South Bank
- 1939** Powers granted to develop Thames South Bank/River Wall to "beyond Waterloo Bridge".
National Theatre site agreed for South Bank.
- 16.11.43** Meeting of the Special Committee on the County of London Plan held at Lambeth Town Hall. Discuss River Front and South Bank Scheme. "The plan envisaged public and business buildings along the river front from the Southwark border to Vauxhall Bridge"
- 1945** Establishment of a Comprehensive Development Plan for area
- 17.07.45** LCC approve main principles set out in London plan.
- 18.12.45** NT site reported on in Town Planning Committee (LCC)
- 30.07.45** Letter from Architect to Tyrone Guthrie indicate site of proposed National Theatre on South Bank.
- 1947** Town and Country Planning Act/Tree Preservation Orders/Conservation Areas
- 22.01.47** Hansard Vol. 145 cc 4 -60 Motion which was withdrawn about an Imperial War Memorial for the "people" of the empire. It included discussion about a memorial garden on the South Bank.
(search Memorial South Bank in Historic Hansard 1947)
- 29.07.47** LCC resolved to include in the "redevelopment of the South Bank of the Thames an open space suitably planned as a memorial to the people of London who met their death in the course of the defence of their city and the empire during the late war."

Appendix A

- 10.02.48** Thames Conservancy Board reported in Times as agreeing a 25' strip of land as a public open space along the Thames. (9 Councils and other riparian authorities)
- 09.03.48** General Purposes Committee and Town Planning Reports (23rd and 26th Feb.) referring to the 13th May/July 1947 decision re Memorial. At this it is conceived as a suitably planned open space between County Hall and Waterloo Bridge because beyond this remains an industrially active area. **Appendix B**
- 23.10.50** Item 5 General Purposes Committee Report: refers to 29th July motion and 1947 and Feb. 1948 reports re Memorial Garden on South Bank and goes on to suggest that the whole land from County Hall to Waterloo Bridge might be laid out as a Memorial Garden. **Appendix C**
- 02.11.51** Notes to National Theatre and Young Vic Joint Council: "Trees will be planted in the riverside gardens and then in time fuller mitigate the effect of duality. In fact the planting of trees could be planned with this intention"
- 07.11.50** Proposed Memorial Gardens reported on. (LCC)
Letter to Kenneth Rae Joint Committee of National Theatre and Young Vic from architect, Brian O'Rourke. Concerns that LCC Memorial Garden shouldn't be sited directly on the riverside front of the theatre "though all we can do is I suppose, to express this as a hope."
- 07.12.51** Hansard Vol 494 cc 2766 – 79 Memorial Garden South Bank. Reference made to Abercrombie's vision of a garden running alongside the Thames from Westminster to London Bridge **(search Memorial South Bank in Historic Hansard 1951)**
- 19.02.52** Refusal of permission for NT to develop land. One aspect of refusal had to do with site lines along river.
- 00/03/54** Notes on diagram and plans: of "despite assurances from LCC no space left for tree planting between the theatre and County Hall"
- 1955** LMS Press Release on file but not NT maybe a Tory related group,

regarding theatre funding approaches that would be made to new council includes Open Space and Garden layout comprehensive design embracing gardens and squares in new Thameside development.

National Theatre notes express concern about the importance, but lack of trees for new site.

The Ministry of Works starts opens up discussion about the placement of statues and memorials within the Metropolitan Police District.

- 23.03.61** London's evening press give detailed plans for South Bank and indicate that the LCC was in discussion with the Arts Council about the proposed memorial within the riverside gardens. They describe "new riverside gardens with a continuous promenade through an avenue of trees between County Hall and Waterloo Bridge". (I would suggest you think of Victoria Gardens on north bank to understand their thinking of gardens at this stage)

Appendix D

- 14.06.61** South Bank progress meeting
- 17.10.61** Approval of tender to river wall downstream of Waterloo Bridge and lighting from County Hall
- 1964** Revised scheme shows the river wall complete and riverside garden leading to new residential development.
- 1965** Development of tree bank by GLC who take over from LCC.
- 1970 – 73** Significant planting of trees and shrubs planned and delivered in this period.
- 27.11. 74** Letter to Waterloo Community Development Group (WCDG) from GLC leader**"The Council's long-term intention is for the existing river wall and riverside walk in front of the National Theatre to be extended along the Kings Reach development to the new length adjoining Blackfriars Bridge, so as to give a complete riverside facility between the two bridges, and to reclaim the land behind it probably for public open space. This means that there will not be an irregular- shaped area left as indicated on your map, and as you can appreciate the provision of an enclosed building such**

as a swimming pool elsewhere in this immediate location might seriously intrude into the riverside walk and view.” Appendix E

1976

National Theatre opens on current site: the third proposed site on the south bank.

30.04.85

The Report of the Public Services and Fire Brigade Committee alongside the The Arts and Recreation Committee ask that the council authorise a sculpture to commemorate non-combatant victims of aerial bombardment in WW2 subject to the Public Services and Fire Brigade Committee approving revenue virements to cover full cost. At this stage it is being considered for an East London site and reference is made to women and disabled people in particular as victims of war by the ethnic minorities committee. The consideration for this subsequently changes to a south London site. **AppendixF/ G**

19.02.86

Request received from GLC by Lambeth for erection of commissioned Memorial Statue to Civilian Victims of Aerial Bombing on land adjacent to LWT. It is suggested it needs to be unveiled on 27.03.86. (Last enemy attack on London 27.03.45) "The PADT (Public Arts Development Trust) have indicated the whole avenue along the river is apparently dedicated to the victims of the Polity and so feel that this location would be particularly appropriate." **(Appendix H)**

27.02.86

Lambeth Planning Application Sub Committee

25.03.86

Town Planning Applications Sub-Committee agree to GLC request for sculpture on site adjacent to LWT. **(Appendix J)**

Following information provided by the Henry Moore Trust (May 2017) who hold the PADT Archives Jane Ackroyd was identified as commissioned sculptor. From correspondence with her it is clear that the placement of the sculpture was affected by the closing down of the GLC in March 1986 and the failure of the LRB to deal with the matter. It seems the company who had the sculpture in store went into liquidation and Jane can only assume that the sculpture was destroyed and sold for scrap. She was eventually paid for the Commission. It is the last sculpture listed her website

and marked destroyed.

07.12.88 Queen walks along the Queens Walk opening officially that section of the Jubilee Walk following the earlier opening of the upper section in 1977.

27.02.95 Lambeth Environmental Services Committee/South Bank Development Principles discussion of Master Planning Strategy for the South Bank Centre which has been developed for the South Bank Board by the Richard Rogers Partnership; and seeks approval public consultation on a set of development principles which would, if adopted following consultation, form the basis for the consideration of any planning application. (see below)

03.03.95 **South Bank Centre Development Principles Appendix 1 circulated by Lambeth Council to interested parties for comment. This includes a section on Trees**

“The Council considers it is very important to protect the trees in the vicinity, which provide a valuable foil to the heavily built up urban character of the area. The trees along the river in particular both enhance the natural feature of the river and provide a contrast of the imposing architecture of the buildings. They add to the quality of the experience of the riverside walk, and they are also significant feature when viewed from the north bank, and from the river itself. The double row of plane trees along Queen’s Walk also has an important cultural and historic significance. They were planted as a memorial to civilians killed in the bombing of London in the Second World War.

All the trees within the Conservation area are protected in that any works to them require permission from the Council. In addition the trees along the river are further protected by a Tree Preservation Order (No.170) and would need to be replaced if lost for any reason.

Appendix K