St Paul’s Heights Study

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Part 3 of 7

The study is divided into 7 parts, all available to download from the City of London Tall buildings and St Paul’s Heights Study page:

Part 1: Policy context and history and form of St Paul’s Heights

Part 2: The History of the St Paul’s Heights Study, Infringing Buildings of the St Paul’s Heights policy and Existing Views - Introduction

Part 3: The Existing Views – analysis of the views (part 1)

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The Existing Views

South-West Sector

Note: The 1978 photograph is not from the same exact assessment viewpoint as the 2015 photograph.

1. This view from the south of Hungerford Bridge gives a good view of the most of the dome and drum as well as much of the southern balustrade and the pediment over the south transept. The listed Unilever House obscures parts of the western towers up to the middle of their peristyles. Broadgate Tower now appears in the background from this viewpoint behind the north-west tower.

Note: The 1978 photograph is not from the same exact assessment viewpoint as the 2015 photograph.

2. This view from the northern end of Hungerford Bridge is very similar to the 1978 view. The listed Unilever House obscures the whole of the western front of the Cathedral. The two towers are obstructed to the base/middle of their peristyles and the dome’s lower drum and peristyle is obstructed, especially on the southern side.
This view from the northern end of Waterloo Bridge shows how the embankment trees obstruct the dome up to its peristyle. The redevelopment of Drapers Gardens in the background has opened up clear sky around the dome as compared to the 1978 view.

From this view from the centre of Waterloo Bridge, the listed Unilever House obscures the peristyle, most of the south tower and some of the north tower. The refurbishment of Unilever House has regularised the foreground obstruction in this view.
From this view from the southern end of Waterloo Bridge, the listed Unilever House obstructs most of the north tower. Most of the dome and south tower is visible but becomes obscured by trees on the South Bank when travelling south along the bridge. Broadgate Tower appears in the background to the dome on the north side. Locations closer to SW4 provide better views.

In 2015, from this point on the South Bank, the dome and south tower is visible between the lamp posts along the riverside. The listed Unilever House obstructs the north tower. Views improve further along the walkway to the east.
In 2015, from this point, more of the balustrade and the pediment over the south transept become visible. Broadgate Tower remains visible in the background to the dome on the north side.

In 2015, further east on the South Bank the dome and south tower are clear of Unilever House and part of the western front additionally becomes visible. The upper part of Moor House has appeared in the background between the two towers.
In 2015 from this point, the north tower has become visible from behind Unilever House. In the background, Moor House remains visible between the two towers over the western front.

In 2015 from Gabriel’s Wharf, the whole upper part of the Cathedral is now visible free from any foreground obstruction. Broadgate tower reappears in the background to the dome on the west side.
In 1978, this view was assessed from the end of the pier at Old Bargehouse Stairs. The pier at this location no longer exists. Views from SW12 on the riverside are similar.

This viewpoint at Old Bargehouse Stairs has changed with redevelopments along the riverside but still gives good views of the Cathedral with the whole of the Cathedral above the balustrade being visible up to Faraday Building in the east. The removal of the Faraday Building (North) infringement has resulted in more of the lower drum, the balustrade and the pediment over the south transept becoming visible in this view.
In 2015, this view from the west side of Sea Containers House shows how the Faraday Building now begins to obscure views of the Cathedral, blocking the view of the south transept and the east side of the Cathedral from this location.

In 2015, from this view from the east side of Sea Containers House, Faraday Building now obstructs much of the drum and peristyle on the eastern side. The roof of the redeveloped Blackfriars Station starts to impact the view beyond this point.
This view from the southern end of Blackfriars Bridge shows how the Faraday Building obscures the dome up to the top of its peristyle. The roof of the new Blackfriars Station also obscures more of the towers.

Both the towers and pediment are visible from this view at the centre of Blackfriars Bridge. However, the Faraday Building obstructs views of the balustrade and the drum and peristyle.
This view from the northern end of Blackfriars Bridge is affected by the redevelopment of Blackfriars Station.