

**Written Questions from Dorian Gerhold to Chris Miele:  
Montagu Evans responses**

A. Prestige of location

1. *What makes Victoria Tower Gardens 'the most prestigious location we have in this country' (para 7.88)? Is it more prestigious than Whitehall, Parliament Square or Trafalgar Square?*

Victoria Tower Gardens is referred to here as forming part of the setting of Parliament more generally, and so of a piece with Parliament Square and the southern part of Whitehall. The proximity of Parliament, the Abbey, the seat of government and now the Supreme Court make this general area the most resonant in our country and it has an international profile too. Trafalgar Square is not comparable in this regard.

The proximity of Victoria Tower Gardens to the Palace of Westminster gives it a particular status: it is not separated by a busy road as is Parliament Square, or compromised by traffic passing through, as is Whitehall. The Victoria Tower looms directly above, and the River Thames flows beside the Gardens. These endow it with particular prestige.

B. HMLC and VTG

2. *What proportion of the area to be taken for the Memorial and Learning Centre is currently hard landscaping (paras 6.64, 6.104)?*

Of the 1,429sq.m. area for the UKHMLC that will no longer be freely accessible to the public, 132sq.m. is currently hardscape.

3. *You indicate that being disruptive is part of the Memorial's meaning and intended effect (para 6.6). Does that affect its suitability for a small urban park?*

No, and I refer to Sir David's evidence in chief when he explained what he meant by "disruptive".

4. *Why does the riverside walk need to be 'better defined' (para 6.80)?*

The location of the trees within the hard standing, as part of a single hard paved area, lacks a clear sense of order or delineation. It is not well resolved in its layout. This is not a well resolved piece of landscape design, and has been considerably altered over the decades in a series of small-scale revisions.

5. *Why can a view from a path be enjoyed more than a view from greensward and how are they distinct (para 7.66)?*

A path is more inviting and useable by anyone and in all weathers. Access to greensward is necessarily more limited by footwear and weather: and the need to check one's footing on

greensward more than on a path means that attention is directed downwards, rather than around one.

### C. Monuments

6. *If all other events which are or could be commemorated in Victoria Tower Gardens 'are overwhelmed by the crushingly huge event of the Holocaust', how can there be a commemorative narrative linking the three existing monuments and the proposed one (App 4, para 63)?*

The provision of a Learning Centre makes it possible to draw out the relevance of the Victoria Tower Gardens setting. The monuments already present deal with moral and political issues: the abolition of slavery, clemency in international relations, universal suffrage. The Holocaust Memorial takes its place alongside these thought-provoking tributes, and extends this commemorative narrative in two specific ways. Historically, it invites consideration of an event of unsurpassed wickedness which still has profound moral and political issues. Architecturally, it brings a new form of memorial to Westminster's commemorative landscape audience: one which combines a thought-imposing structure and space with a Learning Centre.

**Montagu Evans**  
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