

3.3 Historical Development of Tavistock Square



1795 Cary's New And Accurate Plan Of London And Westminster



1817 Darton's New Plan Of The Cities Of London & Westminster



1827 Greenwood's Map of London

The Parish Map of 1849 clearly shows the formal path with centrally planted oval, perimeter beds, and entrances at the centre of each side of Tavistock Square Gardens which still remain today.

The planting would have been colourful displays of carpet bedding popular in the 19th century with a hedge lining the railings running around the boundary. By 1894 the present trees lining the pathways had been planted.

The square has had many notable residents throughout its history including Charles Dickens in 1851-1860. The Stephens family of novelist Virginia Woolf resided here in 1904, where she met many other notable writers as part of the Bloomsbury Group, and set up the Hogarth Press in 1917.

During the Second World War many of the houses on the southern side of the square were damaged or destroyed by bombing raids, including the Woolf's House. In 1940 the railings which enclosed the square were removed as part of the war effort allowing public access in to the park for the first time.

In 1965 the management of Tavistock Square was transferred to the newly formed London Borough of Camden. In 1995 new railings were erected around the square, while maintaining public access during daylight hours.

The Friends of Tavistock Square was established in 2007 by a committed group of local residents to support Camden Council in its bid for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to refurbish the gardens. While the bid was unsuccessful, funding was later secured through the Section 106 agreement of a nearby development.

The refurbishment work began in 2009, including repairing and repainting the railings, re-surfacing all paths, improving drainage, new perimeter planting, new turf and cleaning all of the square's memorials.

The opening of the newly refurbished Square was opened with a speech by Henrietta, Duchess of Bedford, where she announced her support for a suitable memorial to the victims of the July 7th bombing.

1803-6 East side developed by James Burton

1820s West side built by Thomas Cubitt. North and South sides developed. Basic layout of the gardens with planted border and perimeter path.



1874 A new path crosses the gardens from East to West, central planted oval, semi-circular and crescent shaped planted beds, and gardener's store in North-East corner.



1895 Old Ordnance Survey Map. A new path crosses the gardens from North to the central oval (the path from South to the central oval is post-WWII). In 1940 the railings were removed and reused for WWII.



2009-11 Refurbishment of the square

3.4 Existing Memorials

The proposed memorial will sit amongst five other existing memorials located in Tavistock Square Gardens:

- A. Statue of Mahatma Gandhi (1968) by Polish sculptor Fredda Brilliant
- B. Memorial to commemorate Hiroshima victims (1967)
- C. Memorial to Conscientious objectors (1994) by Peace Pledge Union

D. Transport for London plaque to commemorate victims of Tavistock Square bombing (2006). The plaque is located on the railings outside the BMA, where there is a narrow pavement and no aspect towards the location of the incident in the roadway. The 7/7 Memorial Trust have consulted with Camden and TfL where the proposed memorial is of a higher quality and therefore seeks to replace this existing plaque. The removal of the existing TfL plaque for the proposed memorial has been endorsed by the bereaved family members and the British Medical Association.

E. Sundial memorial to commemorate the Tavistock Square bombing located in the courtyard of the British Medical Association opposite the square. This courtyard is private and therefore not accessible to the public.

F. Bust of Virginia Woolf (2004) (who lived in Tavistock Sq)

G. Bust of Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake (1926) Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and AG Walker

Both the Bust of Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake and Virginia Woolf break into the landscaped border on the perimeter of the square. The former of which is double fronted to address the interior of the garden square as well as overlook the public pavement.



Figure 3.4a Statue of Mahatma Gandhi



Figure 3.3c Memorial to Conscientious objectors



Figure 3.3d TfL plaque to commemorate victims of Tavistock Square bombing.



Figure 3.3f Bust of Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake

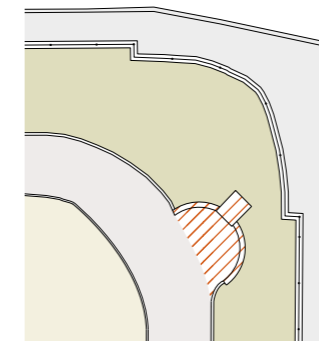


Figure 3.3h Bust of Virginia Woolf disrupts the landscaped border



Figure 3.4b Memorial to Hiroshima victims



Figure 3.3e BMA Sundial Memorial to commemorate victims of Tavistock Square bombing.



Figure 3.3g Bust of Virginia Woolf

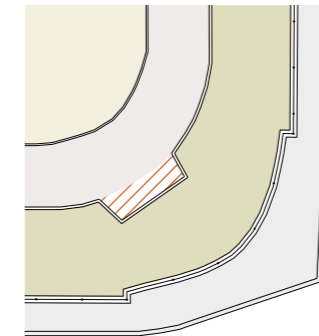
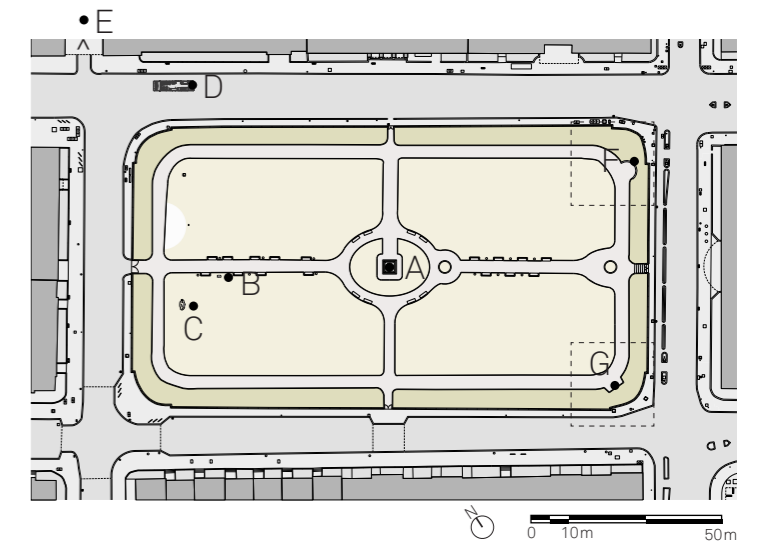


Figure 3.3i Bust of Dame Louisa Aldrich Blake breaks the landscaped border with a seating area and overlooks the public pavement.



3.5 Edge Condition



Figure 3.5a View of proposed memorial location from inside square..

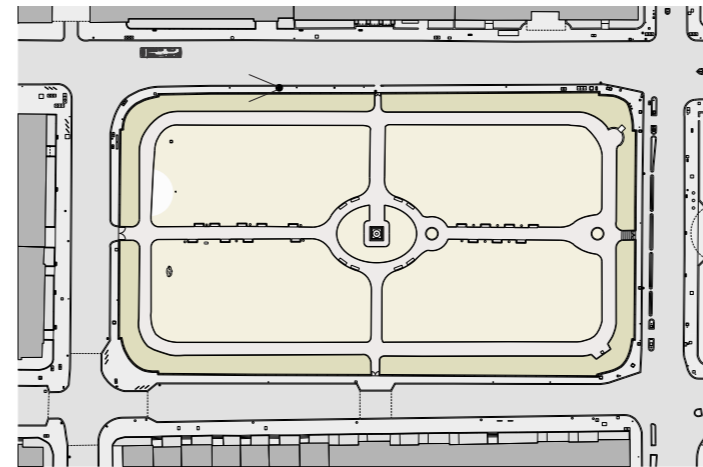
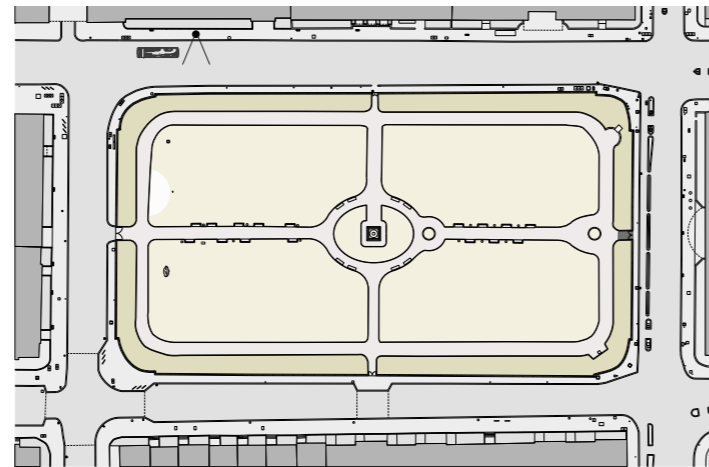
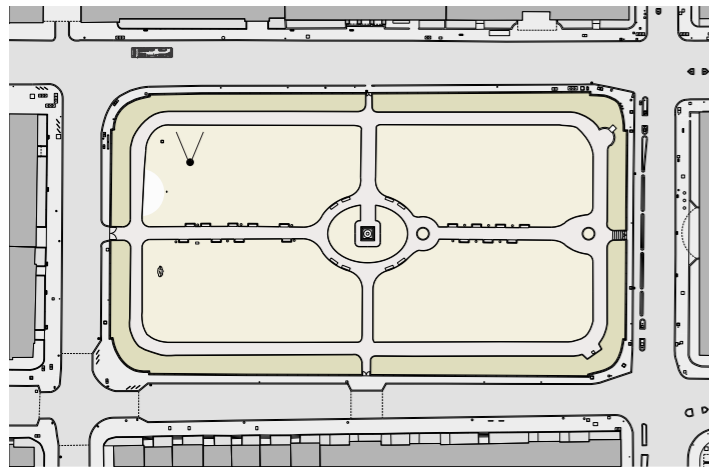


Figure 3.5b View of proposed memorial location from outside square.



Figure 3.5c View of proposed memorial location from pavement.

The planted border of Tavistock Square Gardens contains a variety of planting from a small Beech hedge, various perennial shrubs and ground-cover planting at the front edge. For the majority of the year the view from Tavistock Square Gardens towards the street is obstructed by dense foliage (Figure 3.5a).



3.6 Existing and Historic Railings

The existing railings lining Tavistock Square are painted steel. The historic iron railings were removed during World War II; but their lead footings remain visible in the boundary stone (Figure 3.6b).

The reproduction steel railings that were erected in 1995 were not located along the square's historic boundary line, but instead fixed behind the boundary stone in the landscaped bank.



Figure 3.6a Existing railings above proposed memorial location.



Figure 3.6b Existing Georgian kerb stone

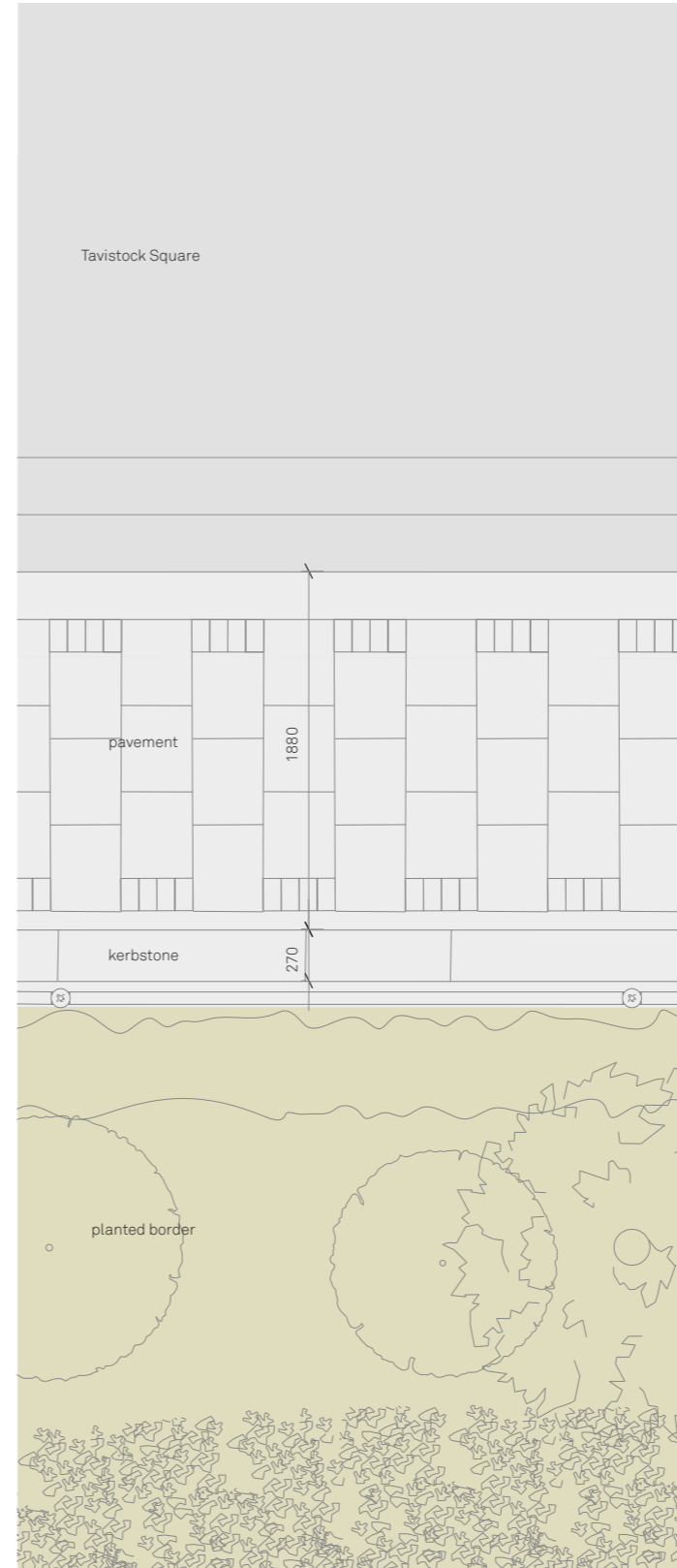


Figure 3.6c Existing plan of railings and pavement in proposed memorial location

