

AtkinsRéalis



UNITED KINGDOM HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND LEARNING CENTRE

Environmental Statement Addendum 2026

Non-Technical Summary

MHCLG

February 2026

This Non-Technical Summary summarises the second addendum (2026) to the Environmental Statement (ES) supporting the planning application for the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens, Westminster. The addendum updates the 2018 ES and the 2019 Addendum, reflecting minor design modifications and changes in policy and legislation since 2019.

Purpose of the ES

The ES assesses likely significant environmental effects arising from the construction and operation of the Memorial and Learning Centre, ensuring that decision-makers understand environmental implications before planning permission is granted. Full planning permission is sought for the construction of a memorial, learning centre, entrance pavilion, large courtyard area and café.

Amendments 2026

The latest design changes ensure compliance with new building regulations and do not alter the conclusions of the 2018/19 assessments. Key modifications include: Revised skylight design; repositioning of the VTG path; adjusted courtyard levels; reduction of step numbers (12 instead of 13 per flight); internal layout changes to comply with 2025 regulations; introduction of a helical staircase; and altered exit route gradient and removal of a door.

These modifications **do not change** the significance of environmental effects previously reported.

Response to House of Lords Select Committee

Six potential design options – relating to playground arrangements, the Buxton Memorial's access, and the refreshment kiosk – were developed to respond to concerns raised at the Select Committee and assessed individually and cumulatively. **None would change the ES findings** or introduce new significant effects.

Summary of Significant Effects

Construction Phase (Temporary)

Several **moderate (significant)** temporary adverse effects remain:

- **Pedestrian Amenity:** Reduced accessible green space and closure of two of five entrances, resulting in disruption for visitors to Victoria Tower Gardens.
- **Population & Human Health:** Temporary closure of Horseferry Playground, reduced recreational space, and disruptions affecting children, adolescents, and low-income groups.
- **Traffic Delay:** Short traffic delays due to construction vehicle movements.
- **Heritage:** Temporary noise, vibration and visual obstruction affecting Victoria Tower Gardens (Grade II) and Buxton Memorial Fountain (Grade II*).
- **Townscape:** Construction activity temporarily harms visual character within the gardens.

All construction effects are **temporary and reversible** once works are completed.

Operational Phase (Permanent)

Two **moderate (significant)** adverse effects remain during operation:

- **Pedestrian Amenity:** Increased footfall reduces amenity for existing park users, although the majority of the gardens remain publicly accessible.
- **Visual Effects:** From Dean Stanley Street, the bronze fins of the Memorial will partially block views to the River Thames. Of 22 views assessed, effects range from **moderate adverse** to **moderate beneficial**.

Recent policy updates change one earlier conclusion:

- A previously identified significant adverse effect on health and wellbeing for park users is no longer considered significant due to updated guidance and design improvements.
- However, a significant impact on pedestrian amenity remains.

Overall Conclusion

With mitigation measures in place, **most environmental effects remain not significant**. The Memorial and Learning Centre will deliver **notable beneficial effects**, including:

- Enhanced heritage value and visual interest
- Increased visitor engagement
- Contributions to social cohesion, reflection, and anti-discrimination
- Wider social, health, and community benefits

The 2026 review confirms that the project remains environmentally acceptable, with no new significant effects arising from design amendments or policy changes.

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