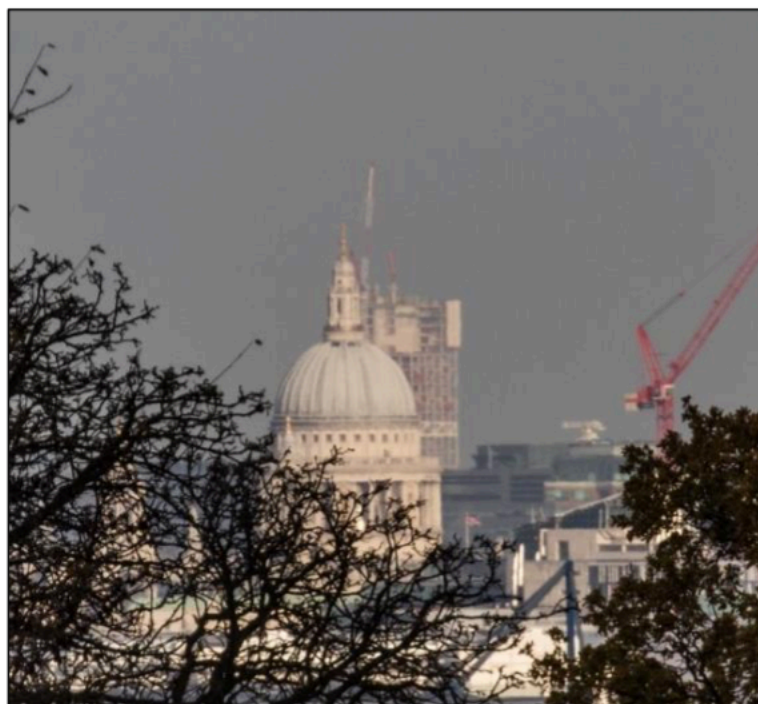


Save the View Campaign – London Mayor's response

The view from King Henry's Mound (KHM) to St Paul's was created over 300 years ago when the cathedral was completed. In 1992 it was granted legal protection from building developments along the sightline, along with 13 other special views in London.

Last November, a 42-storey building, Manhattan Loft Gardens at Stratford, began to appear in the sightline behind St Paul's dome. It transpired that in 2011 developers had received planning permission by exploiting a loophole in the protection that ended 2 miles behind St Paul's and 3 miles short of Stratford. When the protection was created in 1992 no one imagined there would be large-scale development at Stratford.



The Friends quickly wrote to the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, who is responsible for the protected views and started a 'Save the View' campaign, with an online petition that received nearly 9,000 signatures. There was also a 200-strong protest gathering at KHM, addressed by Sarah Olney (*photo*), MP for the Richmond Park constituency, ending with a walk through Sidmouth Wood along the sightline created in 1710.



The campaign received extensive media coverage from the Guardian, Times, Evening Standard, ITV and BBC News. We also had support from St Paul's itself, Historic England, Richmond Council, The Royal Parks, and Tony Arbour, the local London Assembly member.

In mid-December, the campaign won a partial victory when the Mayor responded in the Assembly to a question from Tony Arbour. Making a specific mention of the Friends' campaign, the Mayor committed to extend the protected sightline to Stratford and beyond (and to introduce a similar extension for the other views). He has subsequently confirmed this in writing.

Formal changes to the protection will take time, so we are now investigating whether there are other developments in the pipeline that might affect the view and contacting the Manhattan Loft Gardens developer to find ways to mitigate the impact of the building on the view (unfortunately it will not be pulled down). The campaign continues...

Reporting and photos by Richard Gray and Ron Crompton