



**HERITAGE STATEMENT**

**MANCHESTER CENTRAL MOSQUE  
PROPOSED BOUNDARY WALL AT  
MANCHESTER CENTRAL MOSQUE, 20 UPPER PARK ROAD,  
MANCHETSER, M14 5RU**

APRIL 2026

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Heritage Statement has been prepared in support of a full planning application for the erection of a replacement boundary wall to the car park adjoining Manchester Central Mosque.

The site lies within the designated Victoria Park Conservation Area, where there is a statutory duty under Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area. The proposal has therefore been developed with careful regard to the historic and architectural significance of its surroundings.

## 2.0 SITE AND HERITAGE CONTEXT

The application site forms part of the wider mosque complex, which is a prominent community and townscape feature along Upper Park Road.

The surrounding area is characterised by traditional boundary treatments, mature landscaping, and a varied but cohesive pattern of late nineteenth and early twentieth century development. Boundary walls are a key component of the Conservation Area, contributing to the sense of enclosure, spatial definition, and visual continuity along the street.

## 3.0 THE FORMER BOUNDARY WALL

The former boundary wall enclosing the car park comprised natural coursed stone with stone copings, reflecting a traditional form of boundary treatment typical of historic development in Manchester. Whilst no original specification for the former wall is available, the use of natural coursed sandstone is characteristic of historic boundary treatments within Manchester Conservation Areas and is consistent with the visual evidence from the site and surrounding context.

Over time, the structural integrity of the wall was significantly compromised due to the presence of mature trees in close proximity. Root growth resulted in progressive cracking, displacement of the masonry, and eventual instability. In the interests of public safety, an application for tree works was approved by Manchester City Council in January 2025 (Ref: 141508/TCA/2024), which facilitated the removal of a number of trees within the car park site, but most notably the two mature trees along the former boundary wall.

## 4.0 CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSERVATION AREA

While the former wall was not individually designated, it made a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. It provided a clear and robust boundary between the public highway and private space, reinforcing the established pattern of enclosure along Upper Park Road. In doing so, it contributed to the visual coherence of the street and enhanced the setting of Manchester Central Mosque.

Its removal has resulted in a temporary loss of enclosure and a diminished sense of definition to the detriment of the overall streetscape.

## **5.0 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The proposed development seeks to reinstate a high-quality boundary treatment, as detailed in the submitted drawing, drawing no. 21/080/EW01. The new wall will be constructed using smooth facing brickwork designed to match the existing boundary wall to the mosque, and will incorporate stone copings, regularly spaced brick piers, and bespoke metal railings. The design has been informed directly by the established boundary treatment already present on the mosque site, as illustrated in the submitted drawing which includes photographs of the existing boundary wall to the mosque.

## **6.0 DESIGN APPROACH AND MATERIALS**

Although the former wall was constructed of natural stone, the proposed use of brick reflects the prevailing material palette of the mosque boundary and ensures a consistent and unified appearance across the wider site. The inclusion of stone copings and metal railings ensures that the design continues to reference traditional boundary detailing, maintaining a strong visual connection with the character of the Conservation Area.

This approach represents a considered and contextually appropriate response, balancing the desire to reflect the historic form of enclosure with the practical benefits of durability, maintainability, and visual cohesion with the existing mosque boundary.

## **7.0 PROPOSAL JUSTIFICATION**

The proposed boundary wall is necessary to address a number of functional, safety, and heritage considerations. The removal of the previous wall has left the site open and undefined, resulting in unrestricted access to the car park and increasing the potential for conflict between vehicles and pedestrians. The absence of a clear boundary also detracts from the safe and effective management of the site, particularly during periods of high usage associated with the mosque.

The erection of a new wall will restore a secure and clearly defined perimeter, prevent unauthorised access and protect both users and property. In addition, the proposal will reinstate the sense of enclosure that is characteristic of the Conservation Area, thereby improving the overall appearance of the street. The use of high-quality materials and detailing will further enhance the visual amenity of Upper Park Road and reinforce the established character of the area.

## **8.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT**

The proposal has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework, which places great weight on the conservation of heritage assets. Paragraphs 205 to

208 emphasise the importance of preserving or enhancing the significance of designated heritage assets, including Conservation Areas, and require that any harm be clearly justified.

In this instance, the proposal gives rise to no harm. Instead, it reinstates a lost feature that previously contributed positively to the character of the area and delivers a clear enhancement to the streetscape.

At the local level, the proposal accords with the objectives of the Manchester Core Strategy, particularly Policy EN1, which requires development to respond positively to local character and history, and Policy EN3, which seeks to preserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings.

The design approach, material selection, and overall form of the development have been carefully considered to ensure full compliance with these policies.

## **9.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The proposed development will preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. By reinstating a strong and coherent boundary treatment, it will restore the sense of enclosure along Upper Park Road and improve the setting of Manchester Central Mosque. The overall impact is therefore considered to be positive.

## **10.0 CONCLUSION**

The proposed boundary wall represents a necessary and well-considered response to the loss of the original structure. It addresses safety and security concerns, reinstates an important element of the streetscape, and enhances the character of the Conservation Area.

Through the use of high-quality materials and a design that reflects the established boundary treatment of the mosque, the proposal achieves a cohesive and contextually appropriate outcome. It aims to be fully compliant with both national and local planning policy and should be considered acceptable by the Local Authority.