

Dear friend,

October 2023

CREECHURCH CONSERVATION AREA CONSULTATION

The City of London is currently consulting on a Conservation Area:
(<https://creechurchconservationarea.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/surveyquestions/step1>)
that acknowledges the importance of the area around Creechurch Lane in terms of its history and its architecture. This plan will help to protect what makes this area so special.



At the heart of the area is the site of Aldgate Priory (Creechurch), which until the 16th century was one of the largest complexes of buildings in the medieval City of London.

There are three alternative options for the Conservation Area. All three acknowledge that the significance of the area is wider than just the site of the former priory. Each also includes areas such as Aldgate Square and St Botolph's Church, as these are linked historically to the priory and also are important to the understanding and the context of the area.

The first two options however exclude the area around Bevis Marks Synagogue, the oldest Synagogue in the United Kingdom, and the oldest in Europe to have been in continuous use, along with parts of the former priory site, significantly impacting on the cohesion of the proposed Conservation Area and the protections that it seeks to bring to what makes the character of our area so special as a community

Within the proposed area there are three Grade I listed Places of Worship and together we wish to recommend to you that **Option 3** is the option that makes most sense in protecting the heritage and respecting the history and context of the area. This option would protect the whole of the site of the priory, the Synagogue, as well as slightly extending the area to acknowledge its context in relation to the adjacent old London Wall.

This option acknowledges the Jewish history of the area by including the historic sites of the Great Synagogue and the Creechurch Synagogue. The importance of these sites is already established by heritage plaques. Additionally, this option includes No 31 Bury Street where there is an application to build a 43-storey tower which would negatively impact on the proposed area and particularly would significantly overshadow the Bevis Marks synagogue, irreparably damaging its setting and affecting the light within the building.

We fully support the creation of this Conservation Area but believe that it is best served by **Option 3** and not by excluding particular buildings and areas in order to limit its scope. We are asking for your support in protecting our local area by commenting on the consultation and making a choice to protect what makes our local area so special as a place where we live, work, and worship. We thank you for your support.

Josh Harris
Priest-in-Charge,
The Guild Church of St Katharine Cree

Shalom Morris
Rabbi,
Bevis Marks Synagogue

Laura Jorgensen
Rector,
St Botolph without Aldgate