



A plan to widen the Strand at the Savoy

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Plan Proposed for Widening The Strand in the Vicinity of Exeter 'Change. Fifth Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenue 1826.

London: Luke Hansard for the House of Commons, 1826. Coloured. 395 x 450mm.

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A plan to remove a bottleneck in the Strand by removing buildings on the north side between Southampton Street and Wellington Street. This included part of the Exeter Exchange, a collection of small shops, but with a famous menagerie in the upper floors, on the site of today's Strand Palace Hotel. The year of publication attempts to kill the menagerie's elephant Chune, which had been driven mad by toothache, led to protests. The Exchange was demolished in 1829. This proposal was to improve access to John Nash's redevelopment of Charing Cross, which eventually became Trafalgar Square. Another point of interest is the glass-roofed bazaar running from the Strand to Exeter Street.

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