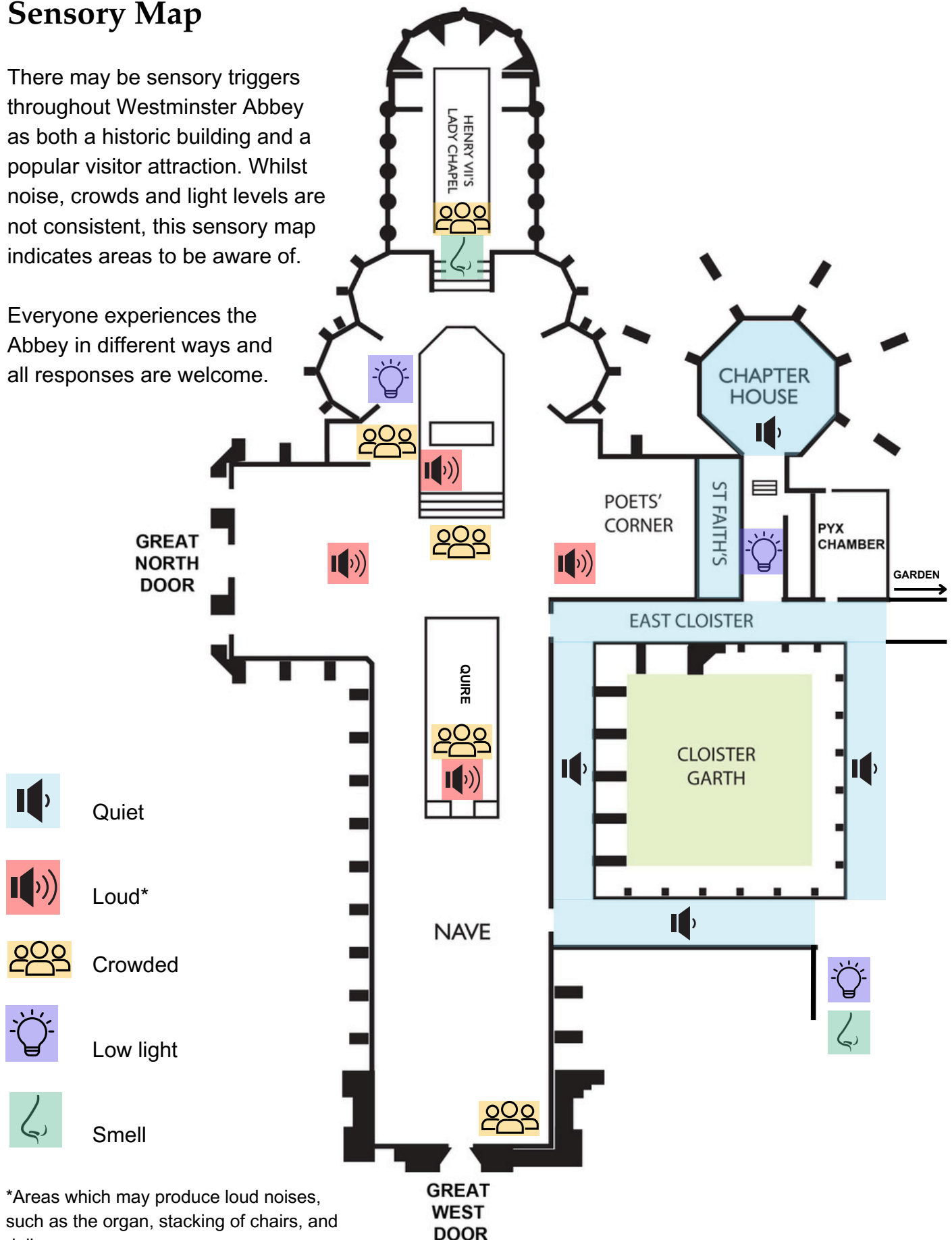




Sensory Map

There may be sensory triggers throughout Westminster Abbey as both a historic building and a popular visitor attraction. Whilst noise, crowds and light levels are not consistent, this sensory map indicates areas to be aware of.

Everyone experiences the Abbey in different ways and all responses are welcome.





Sound

There is a constant low level of noise in the Abbey from people talking, moving around and listening to multimedia guides. On the hour a priest will say prayers which are played through a sound system across the Abbey. Other announcements are sometimes made over the sound system. Late in the afternoon chairs are put out to prepare for our Evensong service, this can cause loud banging. From time to time our organ is tuned during the day. The cloisters, the chapter house, St Faith's Chapel and the garden all have lower noise levels.



Crowds

The Abbey is a popular visitor attraction and can often be busy. Visitor numbers vary but the summer months are particularly busy. Crowds form around objects of interest such as the Coronation Chair and the High Altar. Narrower areas can feel more crowded such as the quire, the north ambulatory and the Lady Chapel.



Light

The Abbey is full of natural light because of the large windows throughout the building. This means light levels can change depending on the weather and time of day. Areas that have limited access to windows and few or no electric lights are darker. Light levels are low in the north ambulatory and parts of the cloisters.



Smell

The stone in the Abbey can produce different smells. You may notice a change in smell as you enter the Lady Chapel. The Abbey uses gas lamps near the cloister entrance and sometimes you can smell the gas. This smell should not cause concern.