Joanna Southcote Chapel Conservation Area 41

Designation

Conservation area designated: 10.11.1987

Conservation area extended: 20.09.1988

Location

OS Sheets: 3070, 3071

Joanna Southcote Chapel conservation area is located within suburban Hampton Hill. It lies on the main Uxbridge Road and is contained to the West by Lady Eleanor Hollis School grounds, to the North and East by the Longford River, and to the South by later suburban housing.

History and Development

This group of houses was developed on former farmland from the mid 19th century onwards. They form some of the earliest built development in this area. These houses may have been provided for the workers of the nearby Coles nursery and market gardens, now surrounded by much later suburban development and modern backland development to the rear of the former public house (no.94). This area has been associated with eccentric figure Joanna Southcote (c.1750-1814), a millennial prophetess from Devon who once lived on Staines Road to the North. The former chapel (no. 108) once used by followers of her radical religious teachings survives here.

Character

Joanna Southcote Chapel conservation area is a small cohesive historic group of modest and largely unspoilt terraced and semi-detached cottages. They are set in garden plots with substantial well planted front gardens behind consistent boundary walls and fences to the street. The modest scale and character of this defined group of cottages, their mature gardens and trees, and the wider setting of open green spaces associated with Lady Eleanor Hollis School, Fairlight and the Longford River and drains, provides an exceptional rural village like character to this area. The older cottages on the East side of the busy Uxbridge Road have distinctly large front gardens. Architecturally these houses attractive but simple in appearance of stock brick with traditional timber windows and shallow slate roofs. The slightly later semi-detached houses on the West side of the road are slightly larger in scale and more formal in character. Key buildings include the exceptional former chapel (no.108) in the North and the former public house (no.94) in the South which frame this group of buildings, projecting forward to the building line of the cottages at the centre.

Problems and Pressures

- Loss of traditional architectural features and materials due to unsympathetic alterations
- Loss of front boundary treatments and front gardens for car parking
- Lack of coordination and poor quality of street furniture and flooring
- Domination of traffic and poor pedestrian safety leading to clutter of signage and street furniture

Opportunity for Enhancement

- Preservation, enhancement and reinstatement of architectural quality and unity
- Retain and enhance front boundary treatments and discourage increase in the amount of hard surfacing in front gardens
- Coordination of colour and design and improvement in quality of street furniture and flooring
- Improvement of highways conditions and pedestrian convenience, and rationalisation of existing signage and street furniture

