

Old Deer Park Conservation Area 57

Designation

Conservation Area designated:
12.06.1990

Conservation Area extended:
07.11.2005

Location

OS Sheet: 1775

The conservation area is bounded to the south by Richmond, to the north by the Royal Botanic Gardens and the west by the Thames. It is surrounded by a number of other conservation areas.

History and Development

The area was formerly part of the Royal Gardens and Park of the Tudor Palace of Shene, established in the reign of Henry VI. A site of prime archaeological importance, the Old Deer Park contains the site of the 15th century Shene Charterhouse, a scheduled Ancient Monument. It is physically separated from the botanic gardens in the mid 18th century by a ha-ha. The Park is now divided from Richmond by the railway and by Twickenham Road (A316) which enters the Park by way of a listed 1933 concrete bridge.

Character

The Old Dear Park is listed Grade I (along with Kew Gardens) on the Register of historic Parks and Gardens. The Old Deer Park is a well defined and extensive area of open space. The natural landscape generally survives the imposed disciplines of areas maintained for a variety of sports. Many mature trees and areas of relative wilderness survive, in particular along the river frontage. Persistent flooding and the apparent lack of measures to prevent the occurrence, further add to the natural beauty of the area. A ha-ha survives along the Park boundary to Kew Road, attributed to Charles Bridgeman and contemporary with the setting out of Kew Gardens by Queen Caroline.

Uses of the Park are principally for recreation, with a golf course, two enclosed athletic grounds, grandstands, numerous playing fields, three swimming pools contained within a modern leisure complex, tennis courts and an extensive car park. The public swimming pools and lido (1964-6) by the local authority engineer were listed Grade II in 1996.

The Kew Observatory is a Grade I listed building by Sir William Chambers, this was built as a royal observatory for George III in 1768-9, There are also three obelisks, or meridian markers, listed Grade II, which are claimed to mark the rising points from the horizon of various aspects within the firmament.

Problems and Pressures

- Development pressure which may harm the balance of the river and landscape-dominated setting, and the obstruction or spoiling of views, skylines and landmarks
- Loss of traditional architectural features and materials due to unsympathetic alterations

Opportunity for Enhancement

- Improvement and protection of river and landscape setting
- Preservation, enhancement and reinstatement of architectural quality and unity

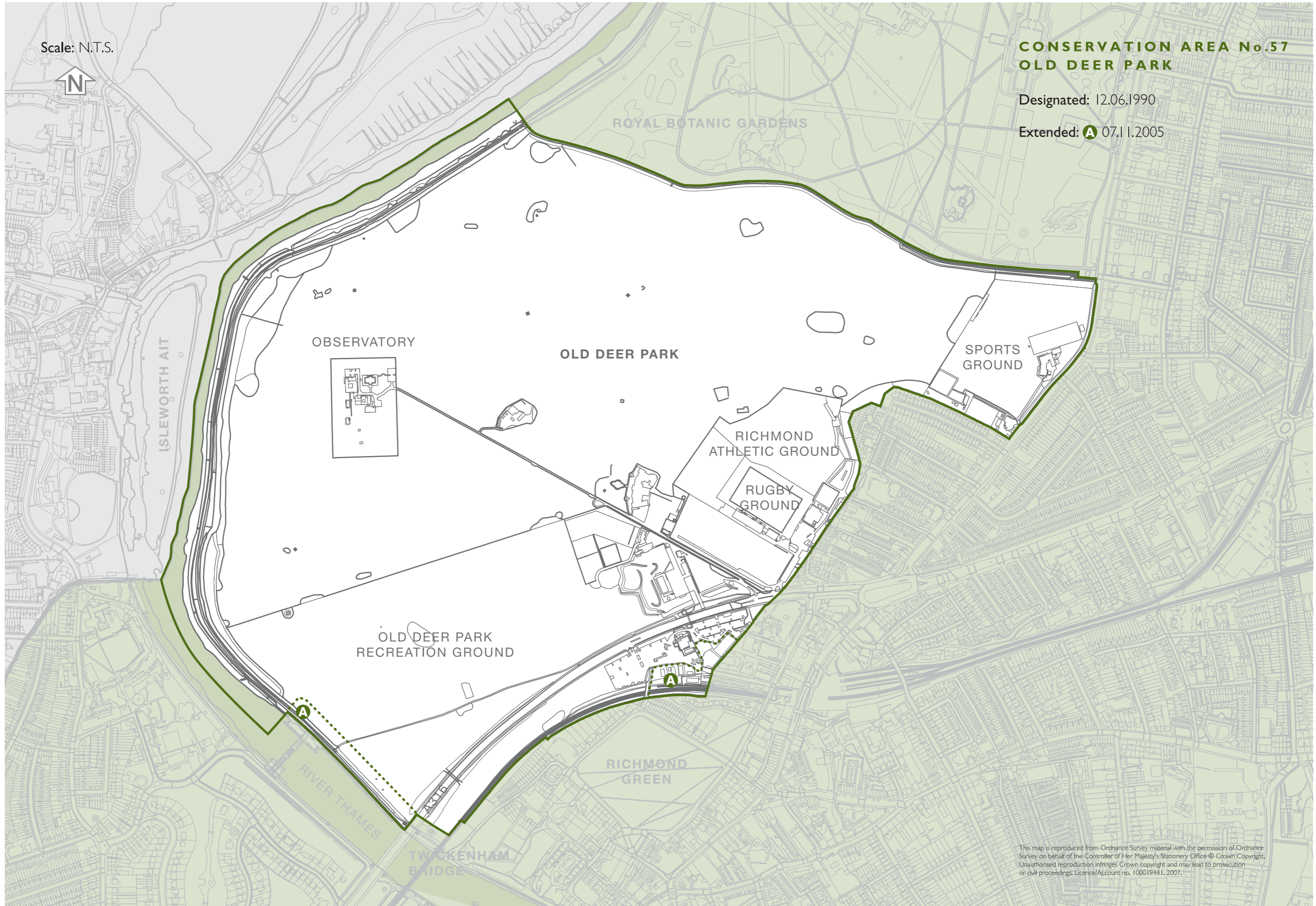
Scale: N.T.S.



**CONSERVATION AREA No.57
OLD DEER PARK**

Designated: 12.06.1990

Extended: **A** 07.11.2005



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