

Petersham Conservation Area 6

Designation

Conservation area designated:
14.01.1969

Conservation area extended:
07.09.1982

Location

OS Sheets: 1773, 1872, 1873

The conservation area contains the historic core of Petersham village, which lies between Richmond and Ham. It is contained by Richmond Park to the East, the River Thames to the North and Ham House estate to the West. It is surrounded by a number of other conservation areas.

History and Development

'Patricesham' or Petersham village dates from at least the early medieval period. St Peter's Church (listed grade II*) retains 13th century fabric with later 15th century alterations and an 18th century brick bell tower and cupola. During the 17th and 18th centuries the picturesque setting of the village and the proximity of Ham House and Richmond attracted the wealthy and aristocratic to build residences here. Relatively isolated and contained by its parkland setting, Petersham has grown only gradually through the 19th and 20th centuries. All Saint's Church (listed grade II) and village hall was built in the early 20th century.

Character

Petersham conservation area is a distinctive well defined historic settlement. There are important views between the village and the surrounding green space of riverside meadows, parkland and Richmond Hill, a setting which contributes to its exceptional rural character. The village remains subservient to this landscape, its trees and the topography of the hill. There is an important view along Petersham Avenue towards the landmark Ham House. The conservation area can be divided into a number of distinct character areas, although the whole area is unified by its relationship to the historic village centre and its landscape setting.

Petersham Road (North)

Petersham Road is lined with an exceptional group of 17th and 18th century mansions, such as the listed Rutland Lodge, Montrose House and Petersham House. These houses are of two or three storeys, predominately of brick or some rendered and with elegant classical proportions and detailing. They are set in generous grounds with mature trees, behind high brick walls and fine ironwork railings and gates which enclose the street. Landmark buildings include the listed Petersham Lodge, St Peter's Church and Douglas House. After the sharp Southward bend in the road and at the centre of the village is a pair of distinctive 17th century brick lodges and an early 20th century gatehouse. This group announces Petersham Avenue running West to East. River Lane is a quiet retreat from the busy Petersham Road leading to the riverbank. The surviving historic alleyways further contribute to the distinctive village character of this area.

Petersham Road (South)

Petersham Road continues Southwards, lined mostly on the East side with large 18th century or later houses in substantial mature gardens set behind timber fences to the street. By contrast the West side of the road has an eclectic mix of more closely packed detached or terraced houses and cottages. Here more modestly scaled buildings and smaller garden plots are set behind low front boundaries to the street. Nos.209-237 are an important group of largely unspoilt terraced cottages dating from the late 18th and 19th centuries. They form the gateway to the village from the South.

Sudbrook Lane

Sudbrook Lane is another quiet retreat from Petersham Road, its North entrance marked by the eccentric local landmark of no.208 and terminated at its South end by the gate lodge to the exceptional early 18th century Sudbrook Park. The lane is enclosed by fine 18th century houses, of a generally smaller scale than those mansions on Petersham Road, set in well planted gardens behind brick walls enclosing the street.

Bute Avenue

Here an exceptional group of buildings gather around the key landmark All Saint's Church, offering a surprising contrast in style and character to many of the other buildings in the village. The church, village hall and vicarage are unified by their use of deep red brick and terracotta.

Problems and Pressures

- Development pressure which may harm the balance of the landscape-dominated setting, and the obstruction or spoiling of views, skylines and landmarks
- 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

- Improvement and protection of landscape setting
- 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

Scale: N.T.S.

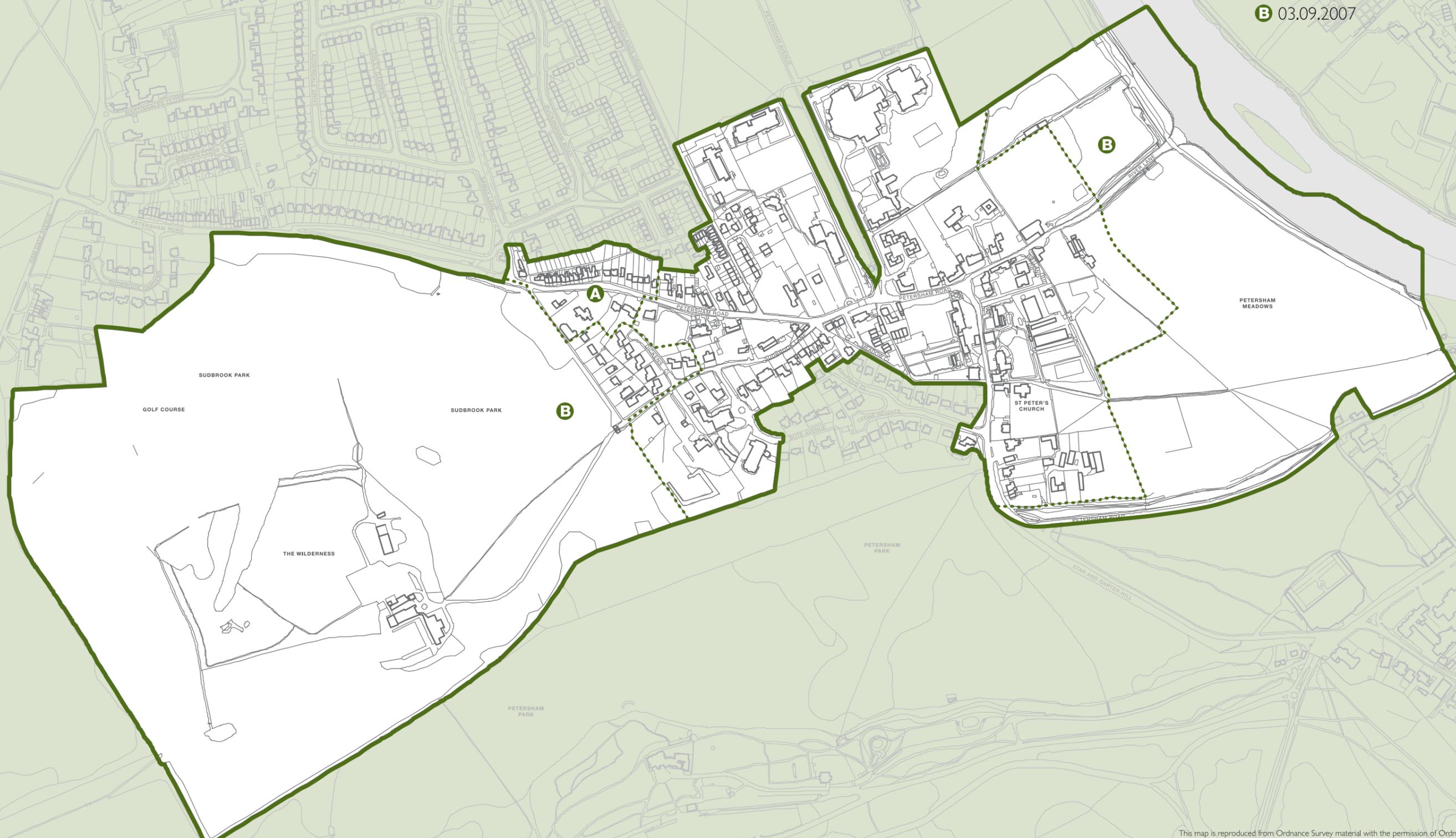


CONSERVATION AREA No.6 PETERSHAM

Designated: 14.01.1969

Extended: **A** 07.09.1982

B 03.09.2007



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