

EAST SHEEN AND MORTLAKE



Description

Bounded by the Thames to the north and Richmond Park to the south, this is a diverse area with large houses and gardens south of the A205 (park side) and much smaller housing units north of the A205 in Mortlake and parts of Sheen. Although well provided with open space in general, with a large part of Richmond Park in the area, the north - part is much more densely packed and separated from the southern part by the railway and A205. Part of the area is also recognised as a social exclusion area.

This area should be considered with: Kew, Richmond and Barnes and with London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham across the Thames.

Characteristics - Facts and Figures

- Population 21,470
- Open space 447.33 hectares
- Bounded by the Thames to the North
- Socio-demographic – parts of Mortlake are identified as a Social Exclusion Priority Area.

Maps

The accompanying area maps show analysis of:

- Hierarchy – the location of open spaces categorised according to the London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) size based hierarchy.
- Function – the main functions or types of open space e.g. parks and gardens; recreation ground; cemetery; allotment etc.
- Quality – an assessment of the overall quality of the open space, considering landscape quality, condition etc.
- Opportunities – identifies opportunities to improve access to open space, restore views, remove barriers to access etc.

Audit of Current Provision

NAME	AREA	FUNCTION	LPAC	PRIORITY
RIVERSIDE OPEN SPACE (JUBILEE GARDENS)	0.27	Open Space	S	80
TANGIER GREEN	0.21	Open Space	S	55
MULLINS PATH OPEN SPACE	0.04	Open Space	S	54
TAPESTRY COURT	0.04	Open Space	S	35
SHEEN CEMETERY DRIVE	0.04	Open Space	Linear	24
MORTLAKE GREEN	1.63	Rec. Ground	S	90
SHEEN COMMON CONSERVATION AREA	16.00	Semi-natural	D	24
SHEEN COMMON OPEN SPACE	4.01	Sports Ground	D	48
THAMES TOWPATH – BARNES RAIL TO KEW RD	2.09	Semi-natural	Linear	21
THAMES BANK CHISWICK BRIDGE (PARKS)	0.18	Semi-natural	Lin	21
RICHMOND PARK (PART)	405.70	Semi-natural	R	
SHEEN LANE CENTRE	0.50	Civic Space		108
PALEWELL PLAYINGFIELDS/COMMON	14.11	Sports Ground	L	36
PALEWELL PLAYING FIELD PLAYGROUND		Playground	PG	36
MORTLAKE GREEN PG		Playground	PG	90

NAME		AREA	FUNCTION	LPAC	PRIORITY
MULLINS PATH PLAYGROUND			Playground	PG	84
TANGIER GREEN	PLAYGROUND		Playground	PG	45
MORTLAKE CEMETERY		1.54	Cemetery	Not LPAC	21
THE PRIORY		1.42	Allotment	Not LPAC	80
HERTFORD AVENUE		1.22	Allotment	Not LPAC	80
PALEWELL PAVILLION		0.27	Allotment	Not LPAC	60
PALEWELL FIELDS			Allotment	Not LPAC	49
THE TRIANGLE INC IN	HERTFORD	0.00	Allotment	Not LPAC	42

Analysis of access to parks and open spaces

- 100 % of the area is within 3.2 km of a metropolitan/regional park, Richmond Park.
- 99.9 % of the area is within 1.2 km of a district open space.
- 92% (plus Tangier Green) of the area is within 400m of a local open space
- 82% of the area is within 400 metres of an equipped playground
- 78% of the area is within 500 metres of an area of nature conservation interest

Note this analysis does not take into account GLA advice that recommends that a 10 minute rail journey or 15 minute bus journey can also increase the catchment area of larger parks.

Commentary

There are very limited pockets within this area, which have no immediate access to a public open space. Within the main small area of limited open space is Mortlake Cemetery, which is open to the public from dawn until dusk and helps fulfil an open space function. Other areas are very close to the boundary of Richmond Park and are only just beyond the 400-metre radius of local park catchments. In addition Dukes Meadow is accessible across the River Thames at Chiswick/Barnes Bridges.

Barriers to access are marked on the area plan. These include:

- Limited river crossings; A316/A205; railway lines
- Access into and around sites and buildings for disabled people/people using buggies and prams.

Local Considerations and Issues

- There is some social deprivation in the more densely populated Mortlake area. Although of limited size, Tangier Green is important in the centre of an area which would otherwise lack open space. Hammersmith and Fulham's cemeteries and access to the Thames offer extra access to open spaces.
- The need to consider access to and enjoyment of the Thames as a key open space experience, unique to the Borough.
- The towpath stretch is relatively unpopulated which causes concern about personal security.
- Lack of opportunity for informal sports and games.
- Providing positive diversionary activity for young people to reduce crime.

Opportunities to address issues

- Create pleasant walking and cycling routes between sites particularly to and from the Thames towpath – as proposed on the plan
- Staff Key Parks to improve feelings of safety.
- Improve knowledge of open space opportunities through marketing/signage improvements.
- Consider open space improvements as part of local planning negotiations i.e. Section 106 agreements, particularly to create ball play/sports areas.

Recommendations/Priorities for East Sheen and Mortlake

Following analysis the following sites/priorities have been identified:

- Create pleasant walking and cycling routes between sites – as proposed on the plan.
- Carry out priority improvements identified by the Disability Access Audit.
- Improve Mortlake Green - a well used site with infrastructure which is in need of investment and in an area which is identified as relatively socially deprived with signing, improvements to playground and paths. Consider treating it as a Key Park in the future, subject to provision of a base for staffing.
- Identify opportunities to create additional pocket parks for ball/informal games play, perhaps shared with schools.
- Treat Sheen and Palewell Commons as Key Parks.
- Improve knowledge of open space opportunities through marketing/signage improvements. Add to signage scheme.