

Platt's Eyot Conservation Area 58

Designation

Conservation area designated:
13.12.1990

Location

OS Sheets: 1368, 1369

Platt's Eyot conservation area is an island in the river Thames located to the South of Hampton Water Works and Hampton village. It is accessed only from the northern Hampton bank by bridge.

History and Development

Platt's Eyot derives its name from Platt of Molesey who used the island for growing withers for the manufacture of fish traps and containers. Thomas Tagg's boatyard was established on the island in 1866, followed by the Immisch Electric Launch and Boat Co. until 1909. From 1900 gravel extracted from Hampton Water filter beds was dumped on the island, raising the height of the west end significantly. The existing boatyard on the East end of the island dates from 1904 onwards and the establishment of Thorneycrofts. Thorneycrofts built over one hundred motor torpedo boats here during WWI and the Miss England, the world water speed record boat of 1932. Industrial development of the island continued through the 20th century.

Character

Platt's Eyot conservation area is an exceptional river island with a distinctive topography rising steeply up to a plateau in the West, and sloping down to the river slipways and boatyard in the East. The island affords a view of Hampton village from its Eastern tip and further wide views of the island and Hampton to and from the river bank and bridge. The bridge forms the gateway to the island. The atmosphere here is peaceful and largely free of motor vehicles due to the limited access of this bridge. The more industrial East end of the island is characterised by the presence and activity of rivercraft at the rivers edge and the wet dock. The key group of industrial buildings here include the three remaining listed boathouses with Belfast trusses of 1916, the Edwardian brick built Tagg's House offices (Building no.14) and ancillary structures such as the former alternator house and working cranes, which all contribute to the very individual character of this island. The distinctive wooden former canteen building at the Eastern prow of the island and the suspension bridge are both landmark structures on the river. The character of the island changes to the West. On the central plateau of the island low rise modern industrial units lie away from the river's edge. At the Western tip of the island a more secluded and naturalistic with heavily wooded steep banks offering a refuge for wildlife. Platt's Eyot is an outstanding example of boatbuilding heritage on the Thames, which continues to contribute to the important river based industry of the Borough.

Problems and Pressures

- Development pressure which may harm the informal character of the island and the balance of the river landscape-dominated setting, and the obstruction or spoiling of views, skylines and landmarks
- Decline in the mixed use and vitality of the island's character
- Poor condition of historic buildings and the loss of traditional architectural features and materials due to unsympathetic alterations

Opportunity for Enhancement

- Improvement and protection of river and landscape setting
- Retain the mixed use and vitality of the island's economy
- Preservation, enhancement and reinstatement of historic buildings, architectural quality and unity
- Areas identified for environmental improvement include: Environs of Tagg's House and Boatyard, Hampton Bank Car Park

Scale: N.T.S.



**CONSERVATION AREA No.58
PLATT'S EYOT**

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WATER WORKS

LOWER SUNBURY ROAD

RIVER THAMES

PLATT'S EYOT

BOAT HOUSE

BOAT HOUSE

WORKS

WORKS

WORKS

BOAT YARD

RIVER THAMES

THE PRECINCT

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