

Richmond Green Conservation Area 3

Designation

Conservation area designated:
14.01.1969

Conservation area extended:
07.11.2005

Location

OS Sheets: 1775

Richmond Green conservation area is situated adjacent to Central Richmond and to the south of the A316 and the Old Deer Park. It is enclosed by a number of surrounding conservation areas.

History and Development

The south west side of The Green was the site of a royal palace from the Middle Ages until Henry II's Tudor Palace was destroyed in the 17th century. Remnants of Tudor buildings survive in Old Palace Yard at the Gate House and the Wardrobe. The royal connection led to the development of substantial houses on the south east side of The Green and, after it had been demolished, on the site of the palace itself. Development spread to the north in the 18th and 19th century reflecting Richmond's status as a fashionable address and there has been some postwar building.

Character

The main central part of the conservation area is a large level open space with uninterrupted views across its wide expanse. The mature landscape is complimented by the quality of the paths and perimeter planting. It is a fine example of an early urban green with a feeling of formal elegance and provides a fittingly grand setting for the houses that surround it. Little built form intrudes into the sky above the surrounding buildings emphasising the inward looking, almost isolated feel of the space.

The south east side consists mainly of good examples of late 17th and early 18th century terraces of brown and red brick townhouses complete with front basement areas, railings and entrance steps directly abutting the pavement. The southwest frontage is less uniform but the buildings, which tend to be larger, are of an equally high quality. The earlier buildings closer to the Palace retain front gardens behind railings and walls.

The north west side was not fully developed to its current form until the mid 19th century. Fronting The Green is a fine group of five symmetrical pairs of large pedimented mid 19th century villas. The north east side of the green contains the most recent buildings including a 1960s development by Manning & Clamp, on the site of the former vicarage, which respects the scale of adjacent housing. This part of The Green is completed by two pairs of 19th century Italianate villas.

The scale of the development surrounding The Green is predominantly two and three storey. Properties have tiled roofs, some with small dormer windows behind parapets or eaves cornices. Varying numbers of bays, bay widths and changes in roof and window levels accentuate the individuality of each building within the whole pattern.

Narrow alleyways leading to George Street in the town centre and to the river provide contrast to the openness of The Green and glimpses outside the area emphasise the relationship with both river and town.

The Green is complemented by smaller spaces of a more intimate nature including the area in front of Old Palace Terrace and Little Green. The former has the character of a small intimate urban square. The Little Green is less formal than The Green and has a more intimate feel. It has had this title since at least the 18th century. The character of the surrounding architecture is of contrasting styles with fine 18th century houses on the north side, and the Richmond Theatre, (Frank Matcham in 1899) and other civic elements such as the church and library facing onto it.

Problems and Pressures

- Development pressure which may harm the balance of the landscape, views, skylines and landmarks
- Domination of traffic and poor pedestrian safety leading to clutter of signage and street furniture
- Loss of original or quality shopfronts and unsympathetic alterations and advertisement

Opportunity for Enhancement

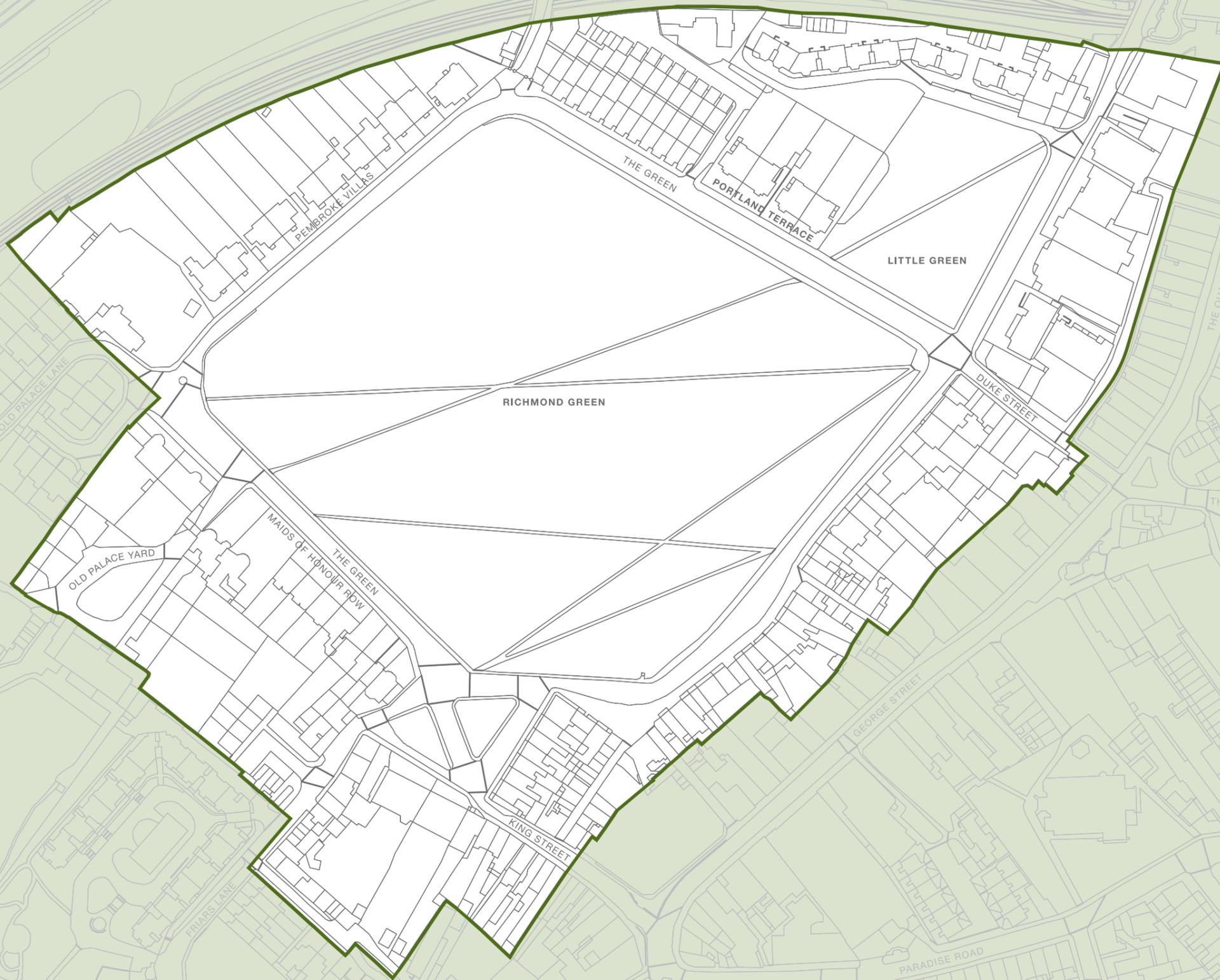
- Improvement and protection of landscape views, skylines and landmarks
- Improvement of highways conditions and pedestrian convenience, and rationalisation of existing signage and street furniture
- Retain and improve the quality of shopfronts and advertisement
- Areas identified for environmental improvement include: View along Quadrant row to rear of shops and area outside Duke street Baptist Church

Scale: N.T.S.



**CONSERVATION AREA No.3
RICHMOND GREEN**

Designated: 14.01.1969



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