

Richmond Riverside Conservation Area 4

Designation

Conservation Area designated:
14.01.1969

Conservation Area extended:
05.07.1977
07.09.1982
07.11.2005

Location

OS Sheet: 1774

Richmond Riverside conservation area extends between Richmond Bridge and Richmond Lock, and across the river onto the Middlesex bank. It is completely enclosed by a number of other conservation areas.

History and Development

The area was developed first in the Middle Ages as part of the Royal Manor House subsequently Shene Palace. In the 18th and 19th century there was further development in the form of large residences including Asgill House (Robert Taylor: 1760-70) and a number of 18th and 19th century houses of merit including St. Helena Terrace, a group of three storey houses with boat builders sheds beneath their approach terrace, and Willoughby House in Bridge Street.

The area has considerable archaeological interest, containing most of the remains of the Tudor Palace of Shene between Old Palace Lane and Friar's Lane. There is infill residential development from the 20th century including Queensbury house and properties along Retreat road and the Richmond Riverside scheme, by Quinlan Terry, dates from the 1980s.

Character

The open corridor of the river running between Twickenham and Richmond with many trees on both banks and, in particular, on Corporation Island creates a scene of national renown. The promenade, boats, boat houses and boat hire and the movement generated along the river have created a recreational water frontage of much interest and a setting to the important buildings. The conservation area includes part of Richmond Bridge and the footbridge at Richmond Lock as well as Twickenham Bridge and the District Line Train bridge. Views in a northerly direction into the conservation area from the A316 and Richmond Bridge reveal a mature townscape with little other than the railway bridge to indicate the 20th century.

The development of this conservation area was dictated by its close proximity to the river. Buildings of a classical pedigree, Asgill House and Trumpeter's Lodge being of particular note, spectacularly exploit the location as does the Richmond Riverside scheme. Adjacent to the later is Willoughby House, the tower of which forms an exceptional feature in conjunction with Richmond Bridge (1777) in views from the south west. Buildings are predominantly of traditional brick construction with some 19th century Stucco frontages.

The boathouses in St. Helena Terrace and at Willoughby House and the walls along Cholmondley Walk constrict and define the riverside walk. Narrow lanes provide entry points and a sense of arrival at the river from Richmond Green, George Street and Hill Street. These routes contain a more modest variety of buildings, including listed buildings, from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries: they remain predominantly residential in use.

The Twickenham river frontage has remained essentially rural in character with the 19th century grid layout of roads of Park House Gardens, Riverdale Gardens and Park Road stopping short of the river on the line of Willoughby Road and Ducks Walk. Park Road contains good examples of ornate Victorian houses, and some early back-to-back dwellings. The red brick mansion block adjacent to Richmond Bridge is the most dominant built element on the Twickenham bank.

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
- Continue the careful coordination of colour and design and improvement in quality of street furniture and flooring, including improvements to floorscape in front of the Richmond Riverside development

Scale: N.T.S.



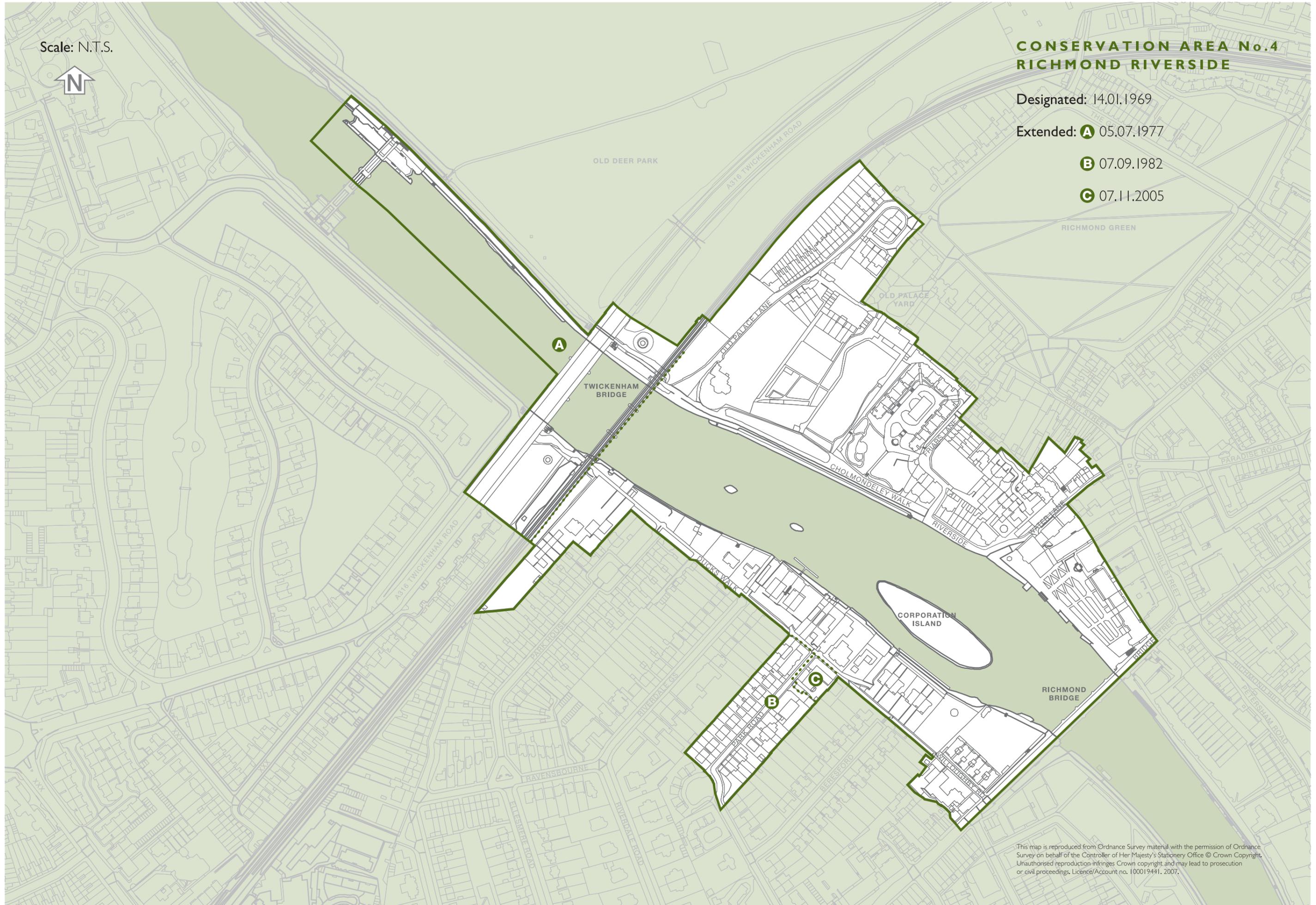
CONSERVATION AREA No.4 RICHMOND RIVERSIDE

Designated: 14.01.1969

Extended: **A** 05.07.1977

B 07.09.1982

C 07.11.2005



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