

Sheen Common Drive Conservation Area 69

Designation

Conservation Area designated:
13.01.2004

Conservation Area extended:
07.11.2005

Location

OS Sheets: 1974, 1975

The conservation area lies between Upper Richmond Road and Sheen Common. It adjoins Christchurch Road (13) conservation area to the East.

History and development

Largely undeveloped until the 20th century, except for a number of large villas with extensive grounds that were built along the western end of Christchurch Road in the 19th century. The core of the conservation area was developed as a large well-planned housing estate in the 1920s on land to the north of Sheen Common.

Character

This core of the conservation area is formed by an estate of detached two storey houses built on open land in the period 1925-1932, a good example of a planned housing estate from the 1920s. This cohesive, triangular shaped area rises from Upper Richmond Road in the north, to the end of Christchurch Road, in the south. One side of the triangle is formed by the backs of houses in Upper Richmond Road, another side by East Sheen Common and the other side by the rears of Stanley Road properties and the properties in Christchurch Road.

It is not only the unity of date, architectural style and materials that distinguishes this area from the surrounding developments, but also the existence of well maintained landscaped verges between the footways and Berwyn Road and Sheen Common Drive. Orchard Rise does not have these landscaped verges but has red brick paved verges with associated tree planting. Landscaped verges were a feature of many estates of large houses of this period but unfortunately few survive.

The design of these houses has some merit, but more importantly the palette of materials used is equally restrained and uniform. These include red plain roof tiles, red / brown bricks, pebbledash, render, tile hanging, casement windows and half timbered first floors. There are remarkably few instances of unsightly roof extensions, poorly designed side extensions or unsympathetic replacement windows. The houses are well maintained with attractively planted front gardens. Sheen Common Drive adjacent to Upper Richmond Road and King's Ride Gate, contain a collection of earlier properties from the Edwardian era.

The boundary of this well-defined conservation area extends to the south east to incorporate four grand 19th century properties, off Longfield Drive and Late Armoury Lane. There were originally 5 houses in this group. However, Hindley Cottage (1882), designed by Ingress Bell for Octavius Leigh Clare MP, was demolished around 1936 and replaced by the development of nos.89-99 Christchurch Road and nos.1-5 Longfield Drive. Of the remaining houses Manton at no.2 Longfield Drive was designed by its owner Sir Montagu Ommanney, the Permanent Under Secretary for Colonial Affairs. Longfield House (1879) by Ingress Bell for J. L. Ovens. Nos.101-103 Christchurch Road (1859) overlook East Sheen Common and contain the core of the Armoury of the 9th Surrey Volunteers, who used part of the common as a Rifle Range. The most important of these houses is Oakdene at 105 Christchurch Road (1884) designed by the Arts and Crafts Architect T. E. Collcutt for James Gandy, unlike the other three properties which have been altered and extended over time, the external appearance of this house has changed very little.

Problems and Pressures

- Development pressure which may harm the balance of the landscape setting
- Loss of traditional architectural features and materials due to unsympathetic alterations
- Loss of front boundary treatments and front gardens for car parking

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

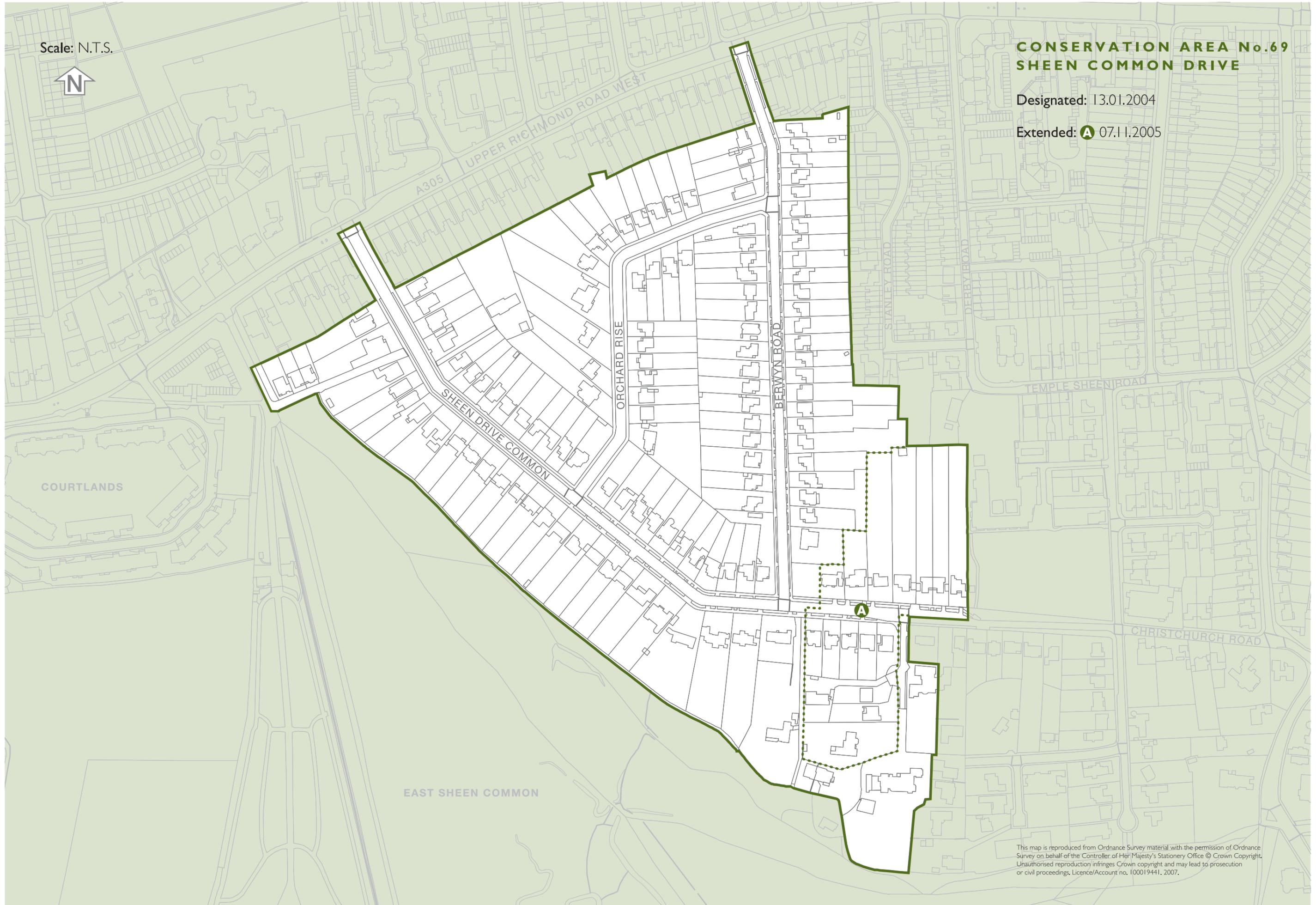
Scale: N.T.S.



**CONSERVATION AREA No.69
SHEEN COMMON DRIVE**

Designated: 13.01.2004

Extended: **A** 07.11.2005



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence/Account no. 100019441, 2007.