

Sheen Road Conservation Area 31

Designation

Conservation area designated:
05.07.1977

Location

OS Sheet: 1875

The conservation area includes Sheen Road and the area to the north bounded by the railway line. It adjoins Richmond Hill (5), Central Richmond (17) and St Matthias (30) conservation areas to the South and West.

History and development

Sheen Road is the historic route from Richmond to London and retains high quality buildings including some 18th century development. The area to the northern of the road was developed after the arrival of the railway in 1846.

Character

The area has two distinct elements, the development along Sheen Road which includes a large amount from the 18th and early to mid 19th centuries buildings and the later residential terraces and semi detached houses running up to the railway line to the north.

Sheen Road forms part of the linear development which links Richmond and East Sheen. This is a mixed area with small shops and businesses interspersed with residential use. It holds the concentration of listed buildings in the area and these mostly date from the C18th. Special interest is created by Hickeys Almshouses and Houblons Almshouses, both of which were built in the mid 19th century and whose courtyard form provides a quiet enclave for residents off the busy main road. Houses are mostly set in gardens with mature trees and a strong frontage line is maintained by the buildings or their boundary walls defining the back of pavement. The traditional shop-fronts that remain are important elements. Worples Way splits off from Sheen Road towards the centre of the conservation area with the Red Cow fronting the apex of the junction. At the eastern end of Sheen Road the boundary wall of Christ's School, though outside the conservation area is an important element.

The area to the north of Sheen Road is characterised by rows of large terraced and semi-detached late Victorian houses sometimes with attractively detailed brickwork and slate roofs. Many are designated Buildings of Townscape Merit. The streets provide views down towards the railway and are mostly well planted with trees. The rear gardens of Alton Road and Sheen Park are important areas of green space.

Problems and Pressures

- Loss of traditional architectural features and materials due to unsympathetic alterations
- Loss of front boundary treatments and front gardens for car parking
- Lack of coordination and poor quality of street furniture and flooring
- Domination of traffic and poor pedestrian environment leading to clutter of signage and street furniture
- Loss of original or quality shopfronts and unsympathetic alterations and advertisement

Opportunity for Enhancement

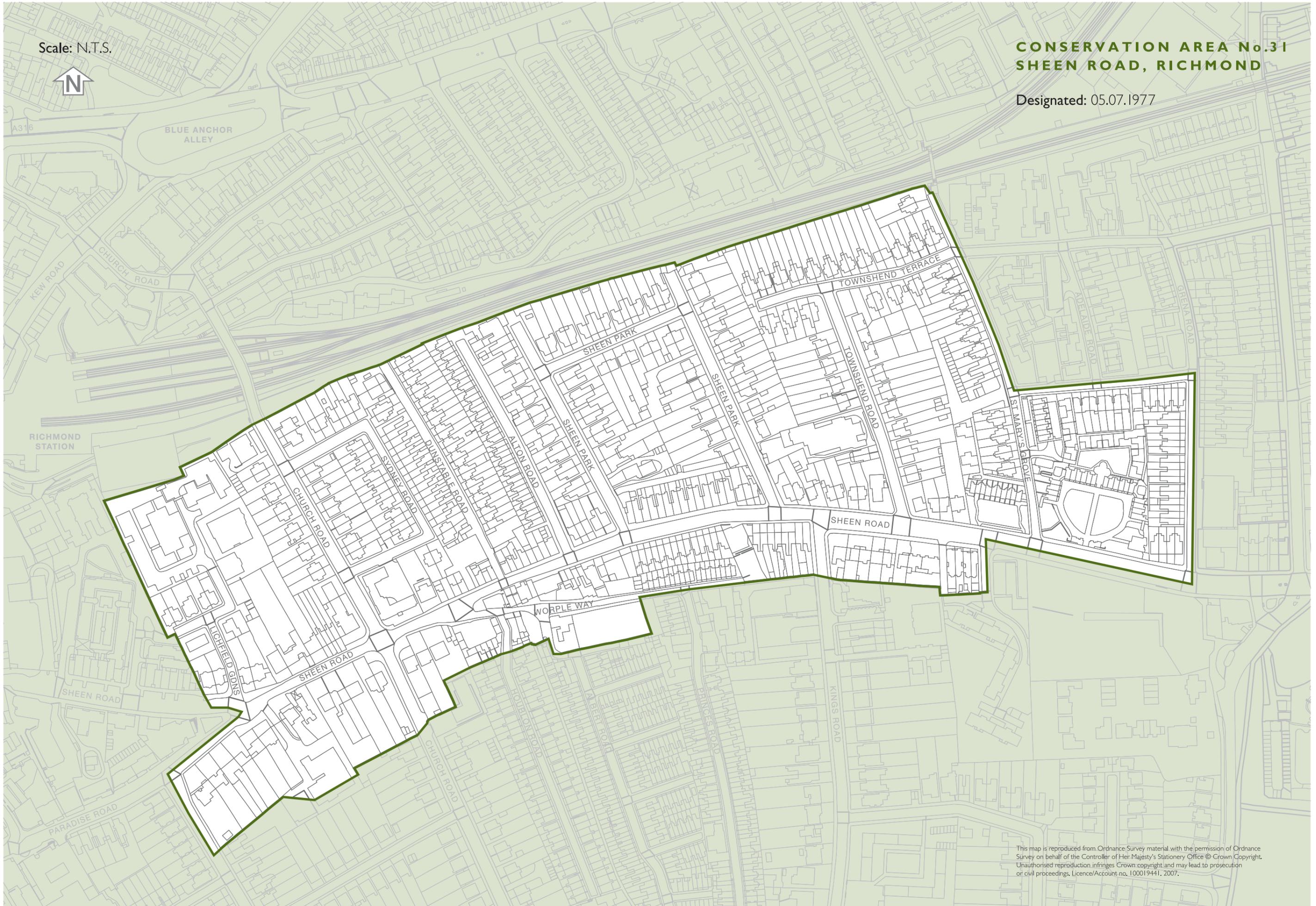
- Preservation, enhancement and reinstatement of architectural quality and unity
- Retain and enhance front boundary treatments and discourage increase in the amount of hard surfacing in front gardens
- Coordination of colour and design and improvement in quality of street furniture and flooring
- Mitigation of impact of traffic and improvement of highways conditions and pedestrian convenience, and rationalisation of existing signage and street furniture
- Retain and improve the quality of shopfronts and advertisement

Scale: N.T.S.



**CONSERVATION AREA No.31
SHEEN ROAD, RICHMOND**

Designated: 05.07.1977



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