

Twickenham Park Conservation Area 24

Designation

Conservation Area designated:
03.06.1976

Conservation Area extended:
07.09.1982

Location

OS Sheets: 1674, 1774

The conservation area is situated to the west of St. Margaret's railway station. It adjoins Crown Road (49) to the West, Cambridge Park to the South (21) and Richmond Road (66) conservation areas to the East. St. Margaret's Road and the rear of properties in the road form the southern boundary, whilst streets of later buildings form the remainder of the boundaries.

History and Development

The area was developed mostly in the 1870s with the arrival of the railway.

Character

The area contained within the proposed conservation area boundary is considered to possess a character unique in the Borough.

The character is essentially that of the grand Victorian suburb, in this case composed around the Victorian Gothic house in Riverdale Road, and the high Victorian houses in Rosslyn Road. Until recently the unfashionable appearance and excessive size of Victorian middle class suburban houses made their modification expensive and undesirable; their numbers therefore dwindled to such an extent that those remaining now have a degree of rarity value. For a cohesive group of these houses to have survived redevelopment for so long, as has been the case in Riverdale Road, is an even rarer occurrence. The area also includes a Regency Grade II Listed Building 'Bute Lodge' in Park Road.

This 1870's housing estate, instigated following the opening of the Windsor-Staines and South Western Railway and St. Margaret's Station, at one time (c 1880) included Park Road, Arlington Road, Rosslyn Road, Willoughby Road, Riverdale Road, and The Barons. Only Riverdale Road and Rosslyn Road remain in anything like their original state.

The development within the proposed Conservation Area lies in part of what was once Twickenham Park. This was the private estate of the country seat of the Lords Cavendish, and prior to this it was the grounds of the Bridgettine Abbey. In 1805 the family sold the estate and the Park was progressively divided up into smaller plots. The formally laid out and mature trees are evidence that this is an area having a long history of environmental management before even the building of the Victorian estate.

Riverdale Road forms a complete street of high quality, large 4 storey, free standing Victorian family mansions, recreating today the feel of a street of its period with a grandeur of scale which is uniquely Victorian and if lost can never be replaced. The inter-relationship of buildings, architectural detail, mature trees and streetscape form an important record of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. By virtue of its cohesiveness in terms of architectural style and scale, and the quality of its landscape, the area successfully fulfils the criteria laid down by the Council for designation of a conservation area.

The area was later extended to include the large Victorian terraced and semi-detached mansions in the Barons, reminiscent of character at the core of the conservation area.

The predominant influence on these late Victorian buildings is the Italianate style and several interpretations are evident on the estate. The buildings on the west side of Riverdale are an eclectic form of Victorian Gothic with strong references to Scottish baronial and good polychromatic brickwork. All the buildings are on a grand scale which is complemented by their generally spacious settings and mature landscape. This is a rich townscape with a wealth of architectural detail, and varied skyline.

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 safety leading to clutter of signage and street furniture

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
- Improvement of highways conditions and pedestrian convenience, and rationalisation of existing signage and street furniture

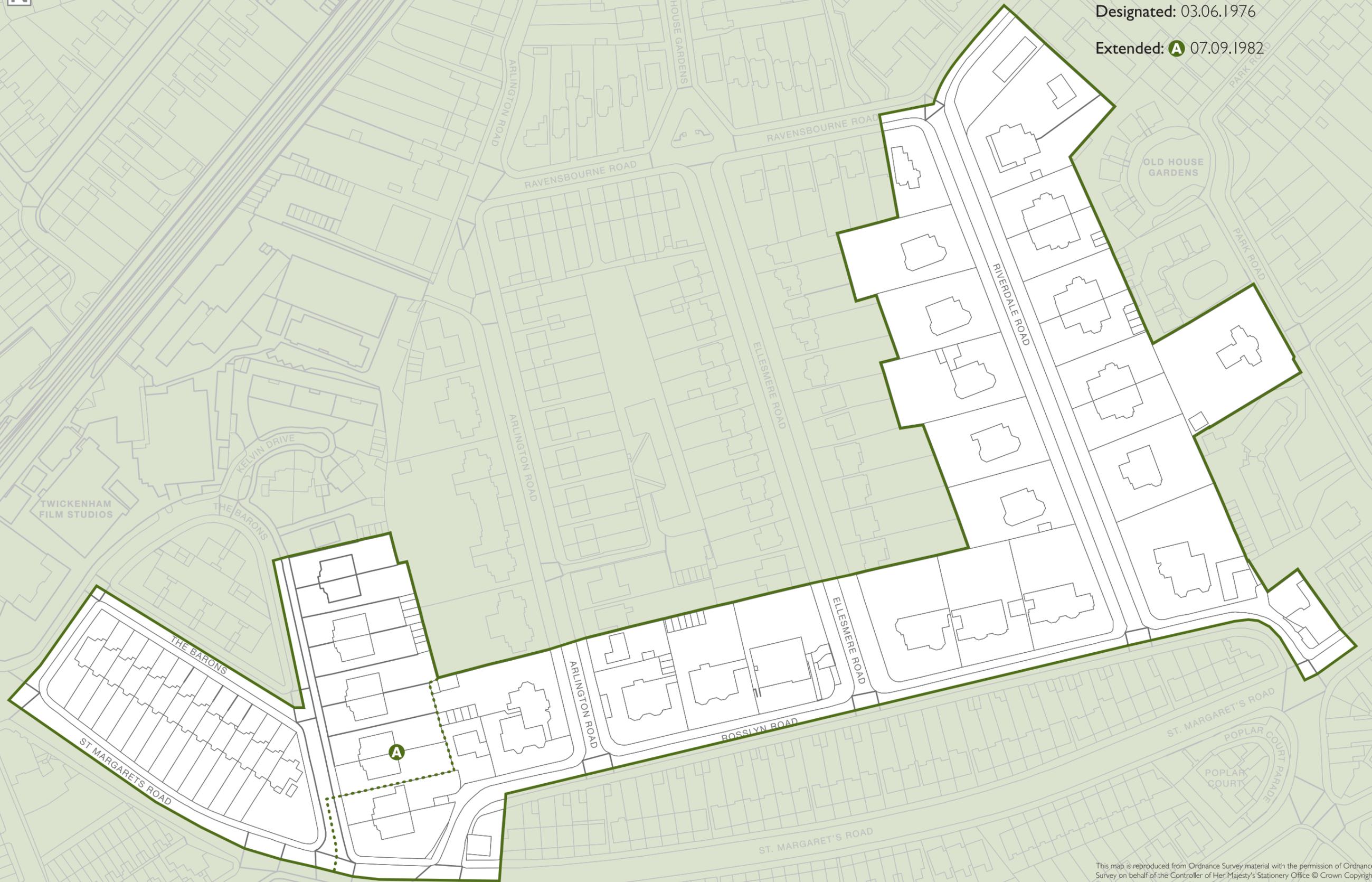
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**CONSERVATION AREA No.24
TWICKENHAM PARK**

Designated: 03.06.1976

Extended: **A** 07.09.1982



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