

A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, a large tree trunk on the right is covered in moss and has yellow autumn leaves hanging from its branches. A body of water in the bottom left corner reflects the surrounding greenery. A grassy field with several white soccer goals extends towards the background. In the distance, there are more trees and a range of hills or mountains under a clear blue sky.

9 Riverscape



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9.1 INTRODUCTION

The Borough is particularly fortunate in having such an extensive and attractive riverside. It is the only London Borough with land on both sides of the Thames. In order to strengthen its identity and not detract from its appeal, standard solutions to street scene and public space issues may not be appropriate. Issues related to the riverside have also been highlighted under specific items of street furniture, paving and related headings in the previous sections.

9.2 EXISTING POLICIES/PROPOSALS

Reference needs to be made to existing initiatives. Check with Urban Design where appropriate.

- Thames Landscape Strategy: an overall strategy for the riverside between Kew and Hampton
- Thames Strategy: as above from Kew downriver (to Chelsea).

The following initiatives are also ongoing at the time of writing:

- London's Arcadia – a Heritage Lottery Fund supported initiative for riverside (and Richmond Hill) projects between Richmond Lock and Ham and Twickenham
- Teddington Gateway – Environment Agency supported initiative in the Teddington area
- Existing long distance footpath routes – Thames Path and Capital Ring
- Floodscape – Proposals for naturalisation of flood prevention at Ham Lands
- Waterscape – Considering access to and from the water.

Most of the riverside is within conservation areas and many locations contain listed buildings. Most of the riverside bridges are listed structures. Many key views in the Borough are associated with the riverside. Conservation area studies will indicate detailed proposals and policies. Most of these have now been completed for riverside areas.

Ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the river paths and banks are complex and should be checked before projects are advanced. Plans showing the responsibilities are available in the Environment Directorate.

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Pastoral (Petersham Meadows)



Urban parkland (Old Deer Park)

9.3 CHARACTER AREAS

The riverside is not one character area and broad character areas are indicated below, there are however many further nuances:

Types	Where	Examples
a) Pastoral	Landscape dominated semi rural areas Richmond Lock towards Kew Bridge	Petersham Meadows, Ham Lands
b) Urban parkland	Landscape dominated but more urban	Richmond Lock to Water Lane Richmond, Richmond Bridge to Buccleugh Gardens
c) Urban hard	Generally where buildings and hard elements predominate	Hampton Wick Richmond Riverside development Twickenham riverside
d) Residential	Private garden backdrop to river	South of Radnor Gardens to Teddington footbridge

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Urban hard (Richmond riverside)



Residential (Teddington riverside)

9.4 GENERAL GUIDELINES

Care must be taken to

- Avoid blocking riverside views
- Avoid urbanising pastoral areas
- Avoid using 'carriageway' solutions on towpaths and riverpaths
- Coordinate new signage with existing signs
- Relate proposals to the character of the surrounding riverside
eg. urban elements should generally not be used in pastoral areas
- Ensure that historical precedent along the riverfront informs improvements and is incorporated wherever possible
- Reduce the visibility of parked cars and set back car parking from the riverside where possible
- Ensure that riverside locations are wherever possible accessible to all.