Mortlake Green Conservation Area 51

Designation

Conservation Area designated:
14.06.1988

Conservation Area extended:
26.01.1998

Location
OS Sheets: 2075
The conservation area is bounded by the railway line and Lower Richmond Road, and by Sheen Lane and Rosemary Lane. It adjoins Mortlake (33) and Sheen Lane (Mortlake) (70) conservation areas.

History and Development

The Green was donated to the Parish in 1860; previously it had been an open field used to park the brewery's drays. Development near the Green mainly dates from the mid-late 19th century.

Character

This is an area of late Victorian and early Edwardian buildings which have an identifiable industrial character although many are different in style. The area includes a number of terraced properties and the central Green has a sense of place and is the main cohesive element of the area. It includes the Court House, railway station and Rosemary Gardens, all buildings of importance both architecturally and socially. The area was extended to include the remainder of the railway station, to provide a more logical boundary which encompasses the whole of the station, including the platforms.

The conservation area is perceived as three sub-areas: the Green and the buildings forming its boundary, Lower Richmond Road, and the area of groups of terraced housing to the west of the Green dominated by Rosemary Gardens. This area is principally visible from the railway and Lower Richmond Road as there are no routes through it.

The Green
The Green and its trees are valuable as a contrast to, and buffer from, the heavily trafficked Lower Richmond Road and Sheen Lane. It is an informal space, and there are two groups of Buildings of Townscape Merit which are integral to its character nos. 11-27 Sheen Lane including the 'Railway Tavern' as a corner focus, and the distinctive no. 27 with its rendered bands and good brick detailing. Nos. 23-25 are unaltered 19th century cottages. Cromwell Place provides a counterpoint to this group on the opposite side of the Green.

Lower Richmond Road
The two pubs on opposite sides of the road form a 'gate' to the Green. Dignified two and three storey stock brick terraced houses provide a welcome contrast in scale and detail to the massive bulk of the Brewery buildings which dominate the road to the north.

West of the Green
Woodbine Cottage, Eton Lodge and Rosemary Terrace form an attractive group, spoiled, as is Rosemary Terrace, by the rear view of the unattractive block of flats which terminates Rosemary Lane. Rosemary Gardens is architecturally distinctive; a long terrace designed as paired houses, a central block with a raised ridge, tall brick chimneys and paired sash windows, offset by a communal garden which adjoins the railway embankment. Mortlake Station itself forms part of

this sub-area the builder's yard to its north obscures it from view other than from Sheen Lane immediately to the east. The station with its traditional brick and timber detailing and modest scale forms a visually satisfying partnership with Rosemary Gardens.

Problems and Pressures

- Development pressure which may harm the balance of the landscape setting, and the obstruction or spoiling of views, skylines and landmarks
- 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

- Improvement and protection of landscape setting of The Green
- 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

Scale: N.T.S.

CONSERVATION AREA No.51
MORTLAKE GREEN

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Extended: A 26.01.1998

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