

Richmond Park Conservation Area 62

Designation

Conservation Area designated:
29.01.1991

Location

OS Sheets: 1872,1873,1971-74,2071-74,2172-73

The conservation area is situated to the south east of Richmond and stretches to Kingston and the edge of Wimbledon. It adjoins Richmond Hill (5), Petersham (6) and Ham Common (7) conservation areas to the West.

History and Development

In 1637, Charles I enclosed the space for the purposes of deer hunting. In the 18th and 19th century hunting lodges and royal country residences were built in the park.

Character

Listed Grade I on English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, 2,500 acres in size and rising to 56m above sea level, Richmond Park is of significant strategic as well as local importance. The park represents a distinct area of unique open space defined by its high 17th century listed boundary walls and historic associations. It is an archaeological priority zone with finds dating from prehistory and is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The plantations were undertaken by Henry Addington who was park ranger 1813-1843, 486 trees have been identified as dating from the original enclosure. The informal layout of planned woodland and residual open spaces flow together as a unified 'natural' landscape. This feel is accentuated by the natural topography of the park which is one of gentle undulations. Its superb mix of natural habitats and species make it of interest both nationally and internationally. Water features include the Pen Ponds and Beverley Brook. 18th informal rides of large mature trees connect Richmond Gate with White Lodge physically and King Henry VIII's Mound with St. Paul's Cathedral visually. The view to St Paul's from King Henry's mound was protected under a Direction made by the Secretary of State for the Environment. Panoramas of London to the east and dramatic views of the Thames Valley to the west also play a significant role in the park's character.

Buildings in the park reflect its long-standing royal connections and are statutory listed. Of particular note, White Lodge (1727), formerly a hunting lodge for George I, is in the Palladian style by Roger Morris and is now home to the Royal Ballet School. Originally the Molecatcher's cottage, Pembroke Lodge also dates from the 18th century. The baroque Sudbrook Park, now Richmond Golf Club, was built in 1726 by James Gibbs for the Duke of Argyll. All the buildings are on a scale which reflects their original status and they now form an integral part of the landscape.

Problems and Pressures

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

Opportunity for Enhancement

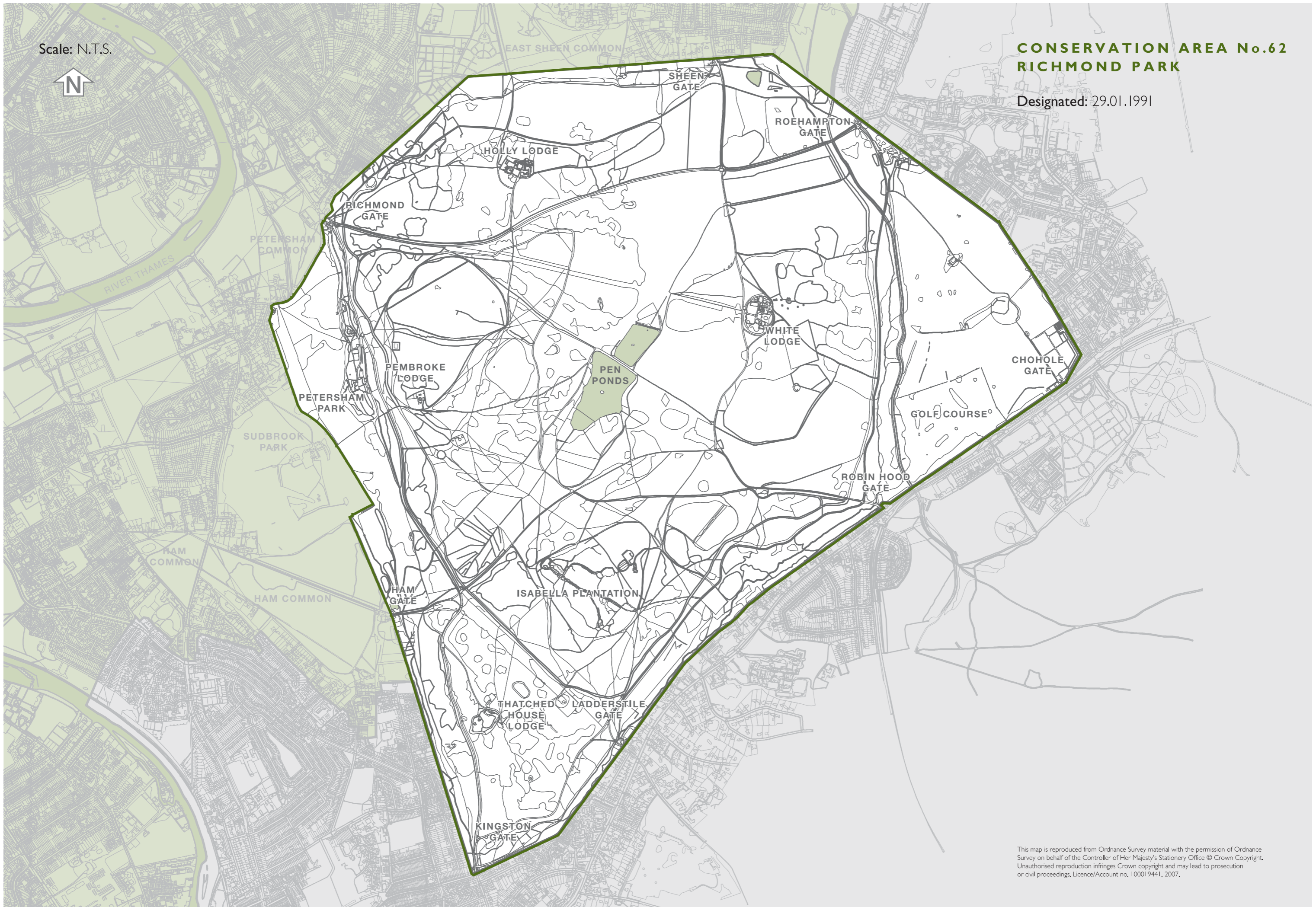
- Improvement and protection of landscape setting

Scale: N.T.S.



**CONSERVATION AREA No.62
RICHMOND PARK**

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