

Ruskin Avenue and part Defoe Avenue Conservation Area 74

Designation

Conservation area designated:
09.02.2017

Location

The Ruskin Avenue and part of Defoe Avenue conservation area lies within suburban Kew, between Mortlake Road and the National Archives. Its location is bounded by Mortlake Road to the west, the National Archives to the east, the railway line to Kew to the north and Bessant Drive to the south. It adjoins Kew Green (2) conservation area.

History and Development

These roads, named after literary characters, were developed in the 1900s on what had been part of an area of extensive market gardens and large estates. The area began to change rapidly after the arrival of the railway in 1869 and the development of Mortlake Road. Further development of new houses in roads featuring more literary names failed to materialise.

Character

This area is largely composed of attractive medium-sized Edwardian houses of similar design, resulting in a pleasing uniformity. Both sides of the streets are densely lined with buildings but are enhanced with front small gardens, decorative tiled paths, low boundary walls, and street trees.

The houses have a remarkably consistent character and are all rows of double storey paired buildings with distinctive red brick facades and render detailing, pitched roofs with substantial brick chimneystacks, front gables and alternating square and chamfered double height bays windows. The regularity of height, plot-size and palette of materials adds definition. Their elevations are typical of good quality suburban development of this period with details which enliven the character, including decorative tiled porches, glazing and gables. A good number of doors, windows and roof coverings survive but some have been changed to the detriment of the area.

No.68 of c1912 is slightly later in date and has a small cupola forming a terminating flourish at the end of the street.

Problems and Pressures and opportunities for enhancement

The adopted Village Planning Guidance SPD for Kew sets out potential opportunities for enhancement of this area as well as threats and development pressures to the area. The Village Planning Guidance SPD is available for download on the Council's website at

www.richmond.gov.uk/supplementary_planning_documents_and_guidance.htm

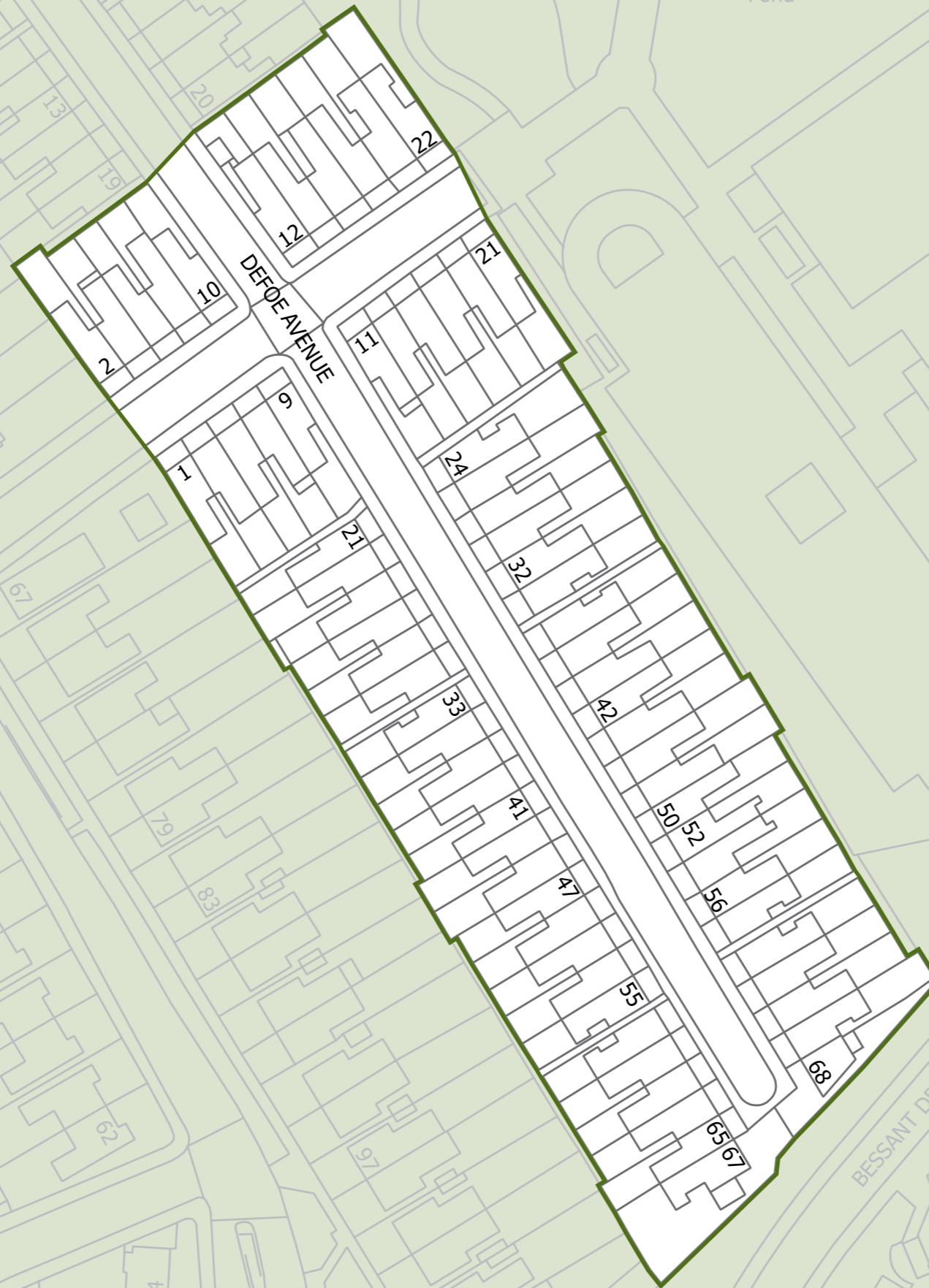
In particular, see Character Area 13 of the Kew Village Planning Guidance SPD.

Scale: N.T.S.



**CONSERVATION AREA No.74
RUSKIN AVENUE &
DEFOE AVENUE**

Designated: 09.02.2017



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