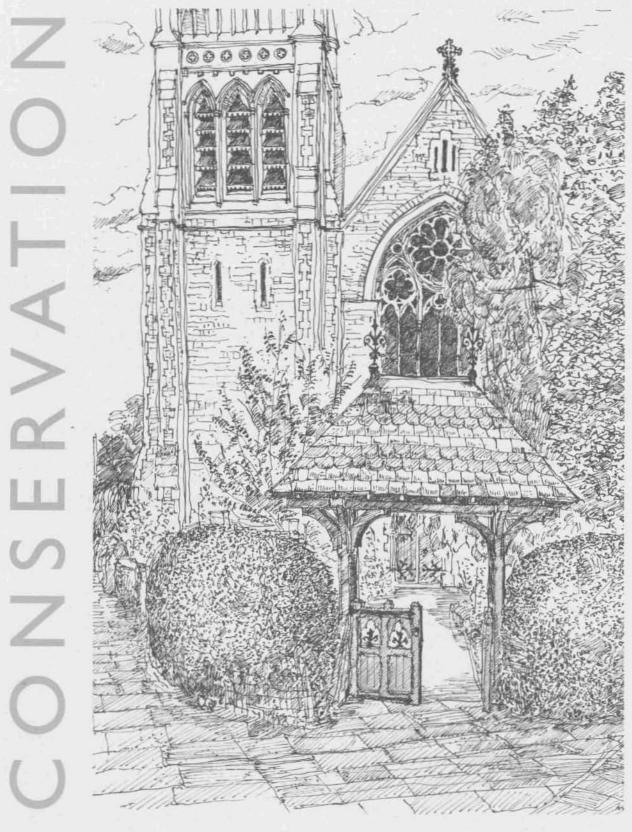
Cambridge Park



LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES
Environment Planning & Review

Area no.

Conservation areas were introduced in the Civic Amenities Act 1967 and are defined as areas of 'special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. Designation introduces a general control over the demolition of unlisted buildings and the lopping of trees above a certain size.

The objective of a conservation area study is to provide a clearly defined analysis of the character and appearance of the conservation area, defensible on appeal, to assist in development control decisions. Further, to address issues, which have been identified in the character appraisal process, for the preservation or enhancement of the conservation area.

It is hoped that the process of the study and the finished document will encourage public participation.

Location

Cambridge Park Conservation Area is situated in East Twickenham. In close proximity to the Thames, the conservation area was originally designated in 1974 as a cohesive area of C19 development between the north east boundary of Marble Hill and Richmond Road. It was extended in 1982 and 1988 to include Sandycoombe Road and Norman Avenue respectively. The area is divided by Richmond Road, with the Sandycoombe Road area to the west of Richmond Road and the Cambridge Park roads to the east.

Origins of development

The course of Richmond Road can be traced back to the Domesday Book, running from Richmond through to Twickenham Village, as it does today. From 1610 the area was best known for Cambridge House and grounds, situated to the east of the conservation area. Cambridge House was an imposing Jacobean mansion and the parkland extended to 74 acres with a river frontage sweeping from Richmond Bridge to the boundary of Marble Hill. The surrounding land to the west, was mainly utilized by farmers, to produce fruit and vegetables. The area would have been moderately undulating agricultural land with the prominent houses

of Cambridge Park and Marble Hill, and their lush landscape to the east, all served by the busy, meandering Richmond Road. Henrietta Pye, in 1767, wrote of the land of Cambridge Park, 'The meadows are verdant, large and beautifully situated all along the riverside - but higher, the ground rises into little hillocks- and the lofty trees in many parts, offering their shade, render it the most beautiful of places.'

Little changed in the area until 1846 when the estate was gradually sold off to developers such as Henry Bevan and Jeramiah Little who developed the area. The map of 1863 indicates the path now called St. Stephen's Passage and the new Cambridge Park. It also includes some of the early mansion houses around Cambridge Park. Sandycoombe Lodge (Turner's House) is evident, with a terrace of small cottages towards the southern end of Sandycoombe Road, all of which contribute to the historic character of Sandycoombe Road today. Richmond Road was also gradually being enclosed by properties which at this time included the 'Rising Sun' public house and adjacent cottages along Richmond Road and 303-305 Richmond Road.

extract from 1863 Ordnance Survey map



Area no.

ambridge Park



Plan from 1896 sale catalogue of Marble Hill House shows adjoining estate of Victoria houses in Cambridge Park

From 1860 - 1865 Jeramiah Little built the estate of Victorian houses around Cambridge Park, and St. Stephen's Church was built in 1875 on land given to the parish by the Little family. St. Stephen's Gardens, built by a Mr. Pennington, was not completed until 1899. It was said of St. Stephen's Gardens that Mr. Pennington had added to East Twickenham some of the prettiest houses to be seen. Also during this period surrounding roads to the east of the conservation area, such as Cresswell Road and Morley Road, were developed as the majority of the remaining grounds of Cambridge House were sold. The map of 1896 indicates the position of the large villas and gardens of Cambridge Park, including Cambridge Park Mews. The mews and many of the villas have been demolished. The plan of 1935 shows Cambridge House surrounded by smaller terraces and the villas built in the 1860's of Cambridge Park.

Prevailing former uses

When the estate of Cambridge Park was eventually broken up and sold off, although there was a sad loss of parkland the area began a dramatic geographic change. For 200 years the area had been primarily parkland, but from 1860 onwards development took place and the subsequent Victorian roads of Cambridge Park, Morley, Alexandra, Denton and Cresswell Road were established. By the 1920's the surrounding terraces arrived and a further stage of encroachment occurred during the middle of this century, when some of the large villas of Cambridge Park were demolished to make way for the semi-detached development of Vivienne Close and Roseleigh Close.

Although the loss of parkland was significant, it was felt that the delightful surroundings of the famous mansion encouraged a good class of house in the area; and allowed those people who were not previously privileged to be admitted onto the estate, an opportunity of examining Cambridge House at closer quarters.

Archaeological significance

Before the C19 the area would appear to have been open rural land and the available archaeological evidence does not suggest a significant development.

The setting of the conservation area

The conservation area lies to the north of Marble Hill House and Park, built in 1724 by Prince George for his mistress, Mrs. Henrietta Howard. It is a great landmark along Twickenham riverside with views from Ham and Richmond. From the conservation area there are important panoramic views of the house and park from Richmond Road, Sandycoombe Road and Cambridge Park. The beauty and grandeur of Marble Hill, and its spacious setting lend considerable prestige to the conservation area.

St. Margaret's Road provides the northern boundary to the conservation area. As with Richmond Road, there is constant heavy traffic running to and from Richmond Bridge. The junction of Richmond Road with St.

Margaret's Road in the north-eastern corner of the conservation area is therefore dominated by traffic queues.

The conservation area boundary is an unusual shape, delineating the remaining properties of the Victorian development of Cambridge Park but excluding more recent building on the sites of former villas for example, Haversham Grange, once sited to the north of the Cambridge Park footpath running to the River Thames. When demolished this site gave way to a 60's semi-detached development. There is a stark contrast between the size of the villas and gardens of Cambridge Park and the modern semi-detached properties of Vivienne and Roseleigh Close.

Architectural and historic qualities

Due to the conservation area's division by Richmond Road, it will be considered as two sub-areas, the eastern area of Cambridge Park and the western area of Sandycoombe Road.



Turner's House, Sandycoombe Road

page no.

0 r v a

Area no.



20 Cambridge Park

Cambridge Park area

Two key features, St. Stephen's Passage and the bowling green, have dictated the house types of Cambridge Park. St. Stephen's Passage is a short cut across the corner of Richmond Road leading to Richmond Bridge. The narrow strip of land dictated the necessity for narrow buildings. Tall, semi-detached villas were built, which including the loft space now contain 5 floors. Some have been converted to flats. They have minimal surrounding land and overlook both Richmond Road and St. Stephen's Passage. These are predominantly brick with Italianate detailing featuring strong stucco bays, tripartite windows, eaves brackets and moulded architraves. Both these tall buildings and those on the opposite side of the road provide a strong boundary to Richmond Road.

The properties on the opposite side of St.Stephen's Passage overlook the bowling green, with substantial gardens to the front and rear. Boundary definition is clearly defined with St. Stephen's Passage, and boundary treatment facing Cambridge Park of hedges, mature trees and brick walls. The detailing of the buildings is similar to the above, with an abundance of stucco work, which en masse provides a bright, decorative, elaborate and sophisticated image, particularly at no. 14 which has a rendered ground floor extension with elongated sash windows.

To the eastern side of the bowling green the buildings remain 3/4 storeys but are detached double fronted mansions. These properties are on a grand scale. Reminiscent of the park land they replaced, the plots are spacious, with long sweeping drives allowing mature gardens to take prominence. They are built in brick with large bays at ground floor level and low slate roofs. Doorways are spectacular with ornate architraves. The modern blocks of flats, nos. 16 and 19, respect the large garden space.

Sandycoombe Road area

The later development within the conservation area is St. Stephen's Gardens; all of the houses in the street have been designated Buildings of Townscape Merit.

The buildings are substantial semi detached Edwardian properties with distinctive detailing, with 'gables, handsome porticos, and red and white sculptured stone most freely used, large balconies, creepers and flowers everywhere' (from 'The Growth of Twickenham' 1899). The overall appearance is striking, with rich red brickwork and strong white features of decorative parapets to the double height bays, window surrounds and doorway detailing with hoods, porticos and corbelling. Creepers and planting are also very evident, contributing to the bright colour of the street. Some fixed upper window panes have stained glass panels.

Sandycoombe Road is a mixture of Victorian and Edwardian houses of elaborate styles. 'Turner's House', Sandycoombe Lodge, dating from 1810-13, and originally called Solus Lodge, is now a listed building. Although a very modest villa it contains many interesting features on a small scale, such as the tiny balconies and iron detailing and overhanging roof. The house was designed by Turner himself. The garden is of great importance; Turner planted many weeping willows, which he used to sketch to develop his skills as a landscape artist. At one time the garden extended to St. Margaret's Road.

The properties opposite Turner's House, 31-51 Sandycoombe Road, are all designated Buildings of Townscape Merit and have high quality Edwardian detailing. Gault brickwork and heavy stucco detailing are set off by stone balustrades, parapet walls and Tuscan columns to the front porch; and small round oeil de boeuf windows protruding from the steep gable end roofs. The whole appearance is a mixture of French and Italian style architecture and quite different from other buildings in the area. Further to the south of Sandycoombe Road, 2-14 are small cottages dating from the early C19 which have small trellis porches as their only embellishment, in contrast to the northern end of the road. They are not dissimilar in design to the listed row of artisans' cottages at 279-293 Richmond Road.

Norman Avenue is of a similar date to St. Stephen's Gardens (1898), semi-detached though to a smaller scale. Red brick frontages with gable ends, slate roofs and decorative, terracotta string courses and finials are common. Tree planting along the pavements is an important asset and provides colour and variety to the street.



Area no.

ambridge Park

Key unlisted buildings

Richmond Road is an important route through the conservation area, consequently the buildings along the road also play a key role. St. Stephen's Church dominates, built in 1874 in Kentish Ragstone, with a later addition of a tower built in 1907. It is a key building within the centre of the conservation area, forming an anchor at the corner of Richmond Road. The covered timber entrance gate to the church is an inviting corner feature; set at an angle it welcomes the visitor into the church from Richmond Road, and acts as a feature at the junction of St. Stephen's Passage and Richmond Road. 307-309 Richmond Road feature high quality red brick detailing, with fancy barge boards and gables, and form a landmark group reinforcing the form of Richmond Road. 79 St. Margaret's Road, the former builder's premises, is a key corner building at the northern end of Sandycoombe Road dating from the mid C19, and is an intriguing historic survival.

The character and relationship of spaces

Facing the south end of St. Stephen's Church a choice of four routes are open to the visitor. Richmond Road, winding its route from Twickenham to Richmond; St. Stephen's Passage, a pedestrian short cut to Richmond Bridge; and Cambridge Park running either side of the bowling green. From this point a wonderful view of Marble Hill House would be evident if the screening of Marble Hill Park was of a less opaque material. This is an important junction, although the wide, low scale of the space is lacking in a focus. The visitor would not be aware that this junction is a main entrance into the Cambridge Park Conservation Area.



79 St. Margaret's Road

The layout of the Cambridge Park properties based around the bowling green makes this space a natural focus of the area, although the views are obscured by overgrown scrub.

From Richmond Road, Cambridge Park winds towards the Thames, although one can only reach the riverside by walking along the public footpath. The path is enclosed, and there is a wonderful element of surprise on suddenly arriving at the river's edge. This walk dates back to 1863 and would have at one time allowed views of Meadowbank and gardens and Haversham Grange, now demolished, to the north.



16 St. Stephen's Gardens

Prevalent and traditional building materials

The buildings of the Cambridge Park area are predominantly gault brick with Italianate detailing featuring stucco bays, tripartite windows, eaves brackets and moulded architraves. The large villas were all designed with heavy moulded architraves around the doors.

St. Stephen's Gardens, Norman Avenue and Sandycoombe Road are predominantly red brick, with heavy timber barge boards and panels of decorative brick and terracotta work. Some properties contain stained glass window features, and others heavy ornate balconies.

49-51 Sandycoombe Road



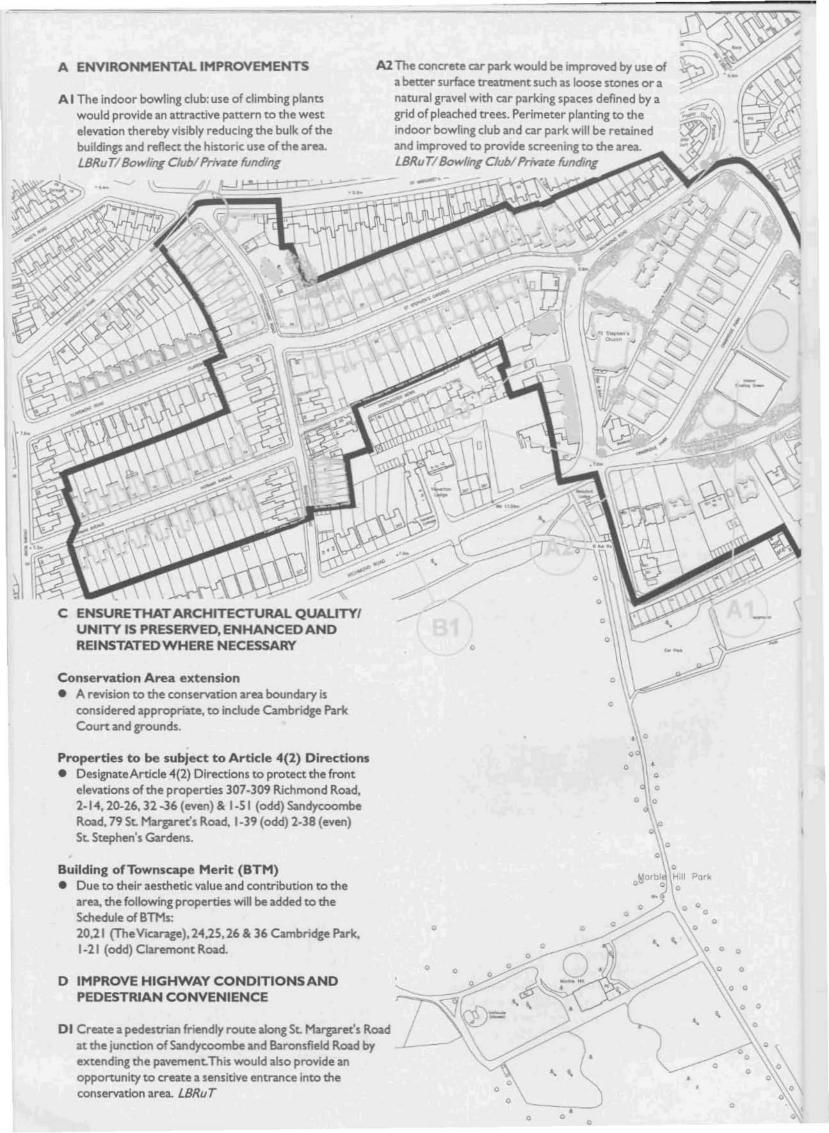
Study

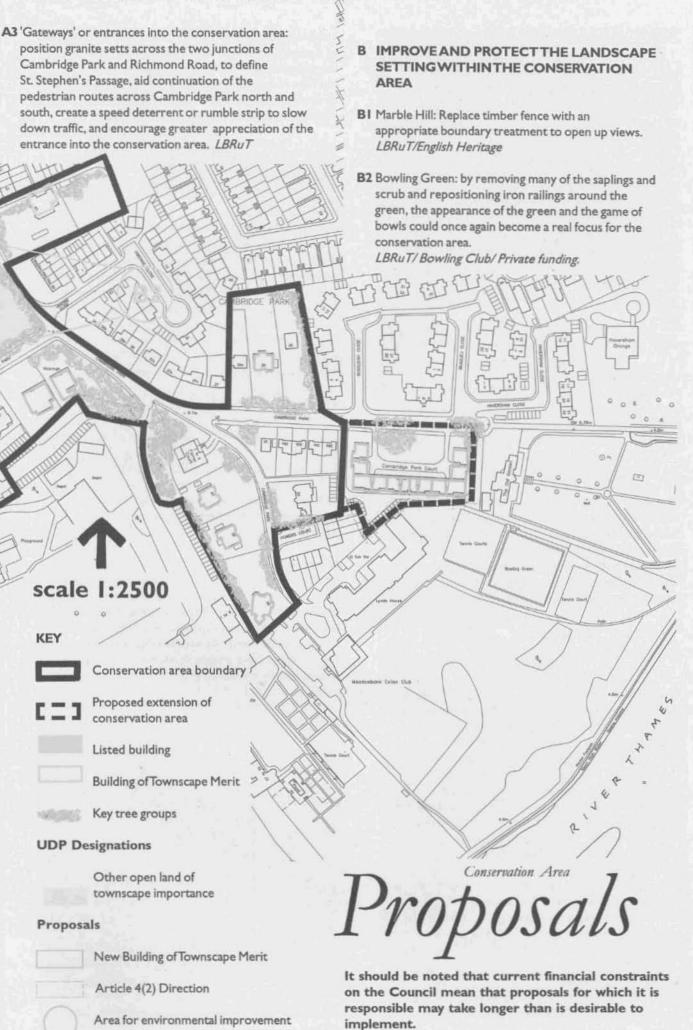
0

2

page no.

Area no. 21





Potential tree planting sites

page no.

7

0

Area no.



View east along Norman Avenue

Local details

The use of stained glass and terracotta wall features is a notable characteristic of St. Stephen's Gardens, Sandycoombe Road and Claremont Road. Bay windows are also a prevalent feature in the conservation area specifically with moulded architraves. The properties of Cambridge Park are all distinguished by their distance from the road, reminiscent of park estates.

The contribution of green areas and planting

Cambridge Park

Gardens tend to be very large within Cambridge Park, with properties set well back. Boundary hedges are high and of privet, yew and holly with an assortment of large conifers and trees, which help retain the park-like character. The bowling green with indoor facilities could add considerable charm and a sense of spaciousness to the conservation area. Currently the green is enclosed by dense self-seeded planting and only in the winter can glimpses of the old pavilion and green be seen. St. Stephen's Passage, although enclosed on both sides by brick walls and a hedge, is also enclosed and shaded by large mature trees from the rear gardens backing onto the passage, which in the summer create movement and light and shade over the route. The church has lost some of the enclosure created by the boundary hedge along Richmond Road.

Sandycoombe Road

The garden frontages are important to the residential quality of St. Stephen's Gardens, providing these

elaborate houses with further colour and interest. Loss of these front gardens would be very detrimental to the appearance of the street. The pavements of Norman Avenue are lined with mature maple, lime and birch trees and provide colour, movement and enclosure along this relatively narrow road.

The extent of loss, intrusion or damage

Bowling Club

Due to the size and abundance of trees and shrubs, which over the years have grown up around the green, the activity on the bowling green is obscured, and a wall of dense planting now encloses this space. The green, although designed with surrounding trees, is now almost invisible to the visitor or passer-by. Thinning the saplings and allowing the mature well established oaks, sycamores and limes to fully mature would enhance the area of Cambridge Park by providing glimpses of the green through the trees.

The indoor bowling club facility is an obtrusive building with little character including an equally intrusive concrete car park directly to the south of this building.

The boundary treatment to St. Stephen's Gardens, 310-318 Richmond Road and properties 1-14 Cambridge Park are threatened by forecourt parking and the consequent unsympathetic removal of boundary features.

Neutral areas

Neutral areas are those which neither enhance nor detract from the character or appearance of the conservation area, but where there might be some potential for enhancement. 30-30d Cambridge Park, although unobtrusive, do not contribute to the area by way of design or enclosure. Front boundary planting would assist in contributing to the appearance of the area.



Entrance to Cambridge Park Bowling Club

Area no.

ambridge Park

(1) rvati

Area no.

21

Sandycoombe Road Loss of boundary treatment, planting and the introduction of hardstandings are evident along St. Stephen's Gardens, and at 312 - 316 Richmond The introduction of dormer windows and rooflights, although few, detracts from the uniformity and historical value of St. Stephen's Gardens and Sandycoombe Road. Painting of facades has taken place and is damaging to group value The buildings 311-329 (odd) Richmond Road are in a very poor state; some windows are broken,

rendering is flaking and the general appearance is damaging to the conservation area There is some loss of boundary hedging to the

west of St. Stephen's Church which provided a definition of the curve to Richmond Road Views of Marble Hill Park and House from

Richmond Road, Cambridge Park and Sandycoombe Road would be greatly improved by removal of the timber fence to Marble Hill. Marble Hill is a key building, a landmark both historically and visually, and could contribute significantly to the setting of the conservation area if visibility were to be improved

Concrete street lights are unsympathetic to a conservation area. In order to create a sense of the importance of the environment, street furniture such as street lights, bins, and street signs need to be replaced with cohesive components to provide an uncluttered environment



12-14 Norman Avenue



16 St. Stephen's Gardens

Problems and pressures

Cambridge Park

- Richmond Road, St. Margaret's Road and Cambridge Park converge to create a busy junction, unfriendly to pedestrians and cyclists at the northern entrance into the conservation area
- Poplar Court Parade and Poplar Court, a 1930's retail and residential development, retaining many original features, is in need of refurbishment. The Parade which is actually outside the conservation area, provides a weak sense of enclosure to the 'gateway' of the conservation area, the corner of Richmond Road and St. Margaret's Road, through loss of railings and boundary treatment. The shops opposite have unsympathetic shopfronts, and the approach from St. Stephen's Passage, north, is lacking a focus point
- Poor road surface treatments such as seen on Cambridge Park and in the parking area to the south of the bowling green detract from the appearance of the conservation area
- The Bowling Green forms the heart of the Cambridge Park Victorian development. However, it is now over-enclosed, and the car park and indoor bowls building do not enhance the space



Article 4 Directions

The Council is able to control new development through its powers under the planning acts and is always willing to give advice to those who want to undertake new work. There is a range of guidance leaflets available regarding conservation areas, listed buildings and regarding the types of development requiring planning permission. If you are in doubt about the need to obtain planning permission for intended works, you should contact the Environment Planning & Review Department at the Civic Centre.

Where a particularly good group of single dwellings would suffer if work, exempt from planning permission, were to be carried out (e.g. changing windows, demolition of front boundary walls etc.) then the Council may apply an Article 4(2) Direction after consultation with owners. Such directions mean that certain permitted development rights, as specified within the Direction, are removed and owners must then apply for permission to carry out such intended works.

Such an approach has been considered appropriate for

- St. Stephen's Gardens,
- 307-309 Richmond Road,
- 2-14, 20-26, 32-36(even) &
- 1-51(odd) Sandycoombe Road &
- 79 St. Margaret's Road

to restrict the carrying out, in relation to the elevation which faces the highway, of development in the following categories:

 the enlargement, improvement or other alteration of a dwelling house; any alteration to its roof; the construction of a porch; and the provision within its curtilage of a building, enclosure or hard surface; the installation of a satellite antenna

- alteration of a gate, fence or wall within the curtilage
- the painting of the exterior of any part of the dwelling
- (4) the demolition of all or part of a gate, fence, wall or other enclosure within the curtilage.

Buildings of Townscape Merit

The Schedule of Buildings of Townscape Merit (BTMs) is a local list, adopted as supplementary planning guidance in 1983, compiled to recognise the value of those buildings which make a positive contribution to the streetscape but have not been included on the statutory list of buildings of architectural and historic interest. It is hoped that by drawing attention to the historic, architectural and townscape interest of such buildings, owners, developers and others will regard them more carefully when considering any proposals for alteration, extension or replacement. BTM status is a material consideration in all planning applications relating to such buildings. In a conservation area permission will not normally be given for the demolition of BTMs. The Council has produced a planning information leaflet on BTMs which is available free of charge.

Proposed Extension to the Conservation Area

A revision to the conservation area boundary is considered appropriate, to include Cambridge Park Court and grounds. This is a fine interwar residential development adding continuance of quality and interest to the area by way of its special architectural interest. For other Proposals, see pages 6 & 7

Cambridge Park

Notes to Owners and Occupiers of Buildings

Dormer windows

Dormer windows, if used inappropriately, can have a detrimental impact on a buildings original form, and collectively may affect the quality of the overall group. St. Stephen's Gardens is a particularly interesting group of buildings with quite elaborate facades and roofline, particularly with protruding gables facing the road. The use of dormer windows and rooflights to the front elevations both detract from the already intricate detailing of the facades and compete with the gable roofs. Flat roofed dormers are particularly unsympathetic when adjacent to the steep gabled roofs. If dormers or rooflights are to be built, they should be positioned to the rear of the roof.

Forecourt Parking

The creation of hardstandings is in many cases achieved without consideration for its effect on the surrounding environment. With a little thought the visual impact of such parking can be reduced. London Borough of Richmond upon Thames provide a leaflet entitled 'Design Guidelines for Car Parking in Front Gardens' upon request. (UDP policy BLT28)

Cambridge Park Bowling Green

Detailed guidance

The proposals generated by this study affect the following: -

- Public areas including parks, gardens, highways and paths usually owned by the Council or other statutory bodies
- Private property. Some alterations may require planning permission and are therefore ultimately controlled by the Council but some alterations will be classed as 'permitted development' and will be under the control of the householder

For the study to be successful everyone involved in property ownership, tenancy, and management in both the public and private sector needs to contribute to achieving the proposals. The Council will strictly apply Unitary Development Plan policies and also the detailed proposals listed in the study in order to preserve or, where possible, enhance the special interest of the conservation area.

Much minor work to private houses is 'permitted development'; as no planning permission is required, it is the responsibility of owners to consider the quality of the street and the area, when carrying out work. Often there are alternative ways of achieving the same end, which will not damage the character of the house and the street. Council conservation staff can give advice. When considering works which may require planning permission, the best approach is to contact the Environment Planning & Review Department for advice.

onservation Are Stud

page no.



Landscape and planting

Trees above a certain size in conservation areas which are not already subject to a Tree Preservation Order, are protected automatically by the requirement that six weeks' notice must be given to the Council before any proposed work is carried out. Generally this requirement applies to trees with a trunk diameter greater than 75mm at a point measured 1.5m above ground level. The Council has published planning information and design guidance leaflets regarding landscape and trees which are available free of charge.

Implementation

The Council will implement those proposals under its control as opportunities arise and when funds become available and will give advice on grants and action that can be taken by other groups and individuals. The Council will monitor the effectiveness of any Article 4(2) Directions and will review the progress of enhancement proposals on a regular basis.

Acknowledgements

The cooperation and input of all individuals and organisations who took part in the consultation process for this study is gratefully acknowledged by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. The illustrations for this study were produced by Howard Vie for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

This study was approved by the Council's Environment Committee in February 2001.

The Article 4(2) Direction has been implemented.

Front cover illustration of St. Stephen's Church.

Other Publications

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has also published the following information.

Planning Information Leaflets

- no. I Conservation Areas
- no. 2 Listed Buildings
- no. 3 Historic Buildings
- no. 4 Historic Buildings: Maintenance and Repair
- no. 5 Trees: Legislation and Procedure
- no. 6 Buildings of Townscape Merit

Design Guidance Leaflets

- no. I Design Guidelines for Shopfronts and Shopsigns
- no. 2 Design Guidelines for Car Parking in Front Gardens
- no. 3 Design Guidelines for External Alterations to Houses
- no. 4 Design Guidelines for House Extensions
- no. 5 Trees: Landscape Design, Planting and Care
- no. 6 Design Guidelines for Small Housing Sites
- no. 8 Design Guidelines: Wildlife in Gardens
- no. 9 Design Guidelines for Nature Conservation and Development
- no. 10 Security by Design
- no. 11 Design Guidelines for Shopfront Security

Street Design Guide

Tree Strategy

Conservation Area Studies

Studies for the other conservation areas in the Borough are available or are in preparation.

These leaflets and documents are available from the Environment Planning & Review reception on the 2nd floor of the Civic Centre

If you would like a copy of this leaflet in Braille,
large print, on audio tape, or in a community language,
please contact the

Communications & Media Unit on 020 8891 7162

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

Environment Planning & Review
2nd Floor, Civic Centre
44 York Street, Twickenham
Middlesex , TW1 3BZ
Tel: 020 8891 1411 Fax: 020 8891 7702 Minicom 020 8891 7349

Produced by the Policy & Design Group, Environment Planning & Review Printed on recycled paper. Published May 2001

Cambridge Park

Area no.