

5 Furniture





5 Furniture

5.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The main considerations are identified under the different items of street furniture below. Summary issues include:

- Choose street furniture to relate to its location and local distinctiveness, and reinforce a sense of place
- Different items of street furniture should relate to each other in terms of design, siting and colour
- Avoid causing clutter
- Reduce to a minimum 'defensive' street furniture such as railings and bollards
- Retain and refurbish distinctive historic elements of street furniture, such as telephone boxes and milestones.

5 Furniture

5.2 SEATING

Design and general principles

Different types of designs are recommended for differing areas to reinforce the individual character of these areas, although the aim is for a limited range of seats to strengthen the visual character of the Borough and coordinate public space furniture. The designs chosen are periodically subject to change, because occasionally products are no longer made or improved products may be made available. Occasionally there is the opportunity for a one-off design and old distinctive seating should be retained where possible.

Detail

Seating should normally include armrests and backs to assist the elderly. Central armrests should be considered where sleeping on benches is likely to be a problem. Steel seating is sometimes used in circular or curved form where space allows.

Siting

The following considerations need to be taken into account:

- Avoid causing obstruction to main lines of movement
- Consider any possible security implications for adjoining property
- Avoid very isolated seating, or seating where there is a poor view of those approaching
- Avoid locations likely to be used for the consumption of alcohol
- Consider the views. Is there an interesting/attractive outlook?
- Is a seat needed as an incidental stop or a likely waiting area?
- Sunny positions are generally preferable but shaded seating is also needed in summer. If seating is proposed under trees, check that the tree is suitable
- Relate to other items of street furniture if appropriate
- Avoid siting near sources of pollution where possible
- Provide a space near a seat where wheelchairs can be positioned.



Festival for town centres



Festival with wood slats



Kensington

5 Furniture

Commemorative seating

A procedure is in place through the Parks section. More detail is available through the website.

Types

Steel

Festival – for town and local centres as well as more urban locations. Includes wood slats (less urban) and curved variations.

Timber and steel

Scroll – for key town centre locations and urban riverside areas.

Timber

Kensington – for parks and open space, less urban riverside areas and other general locations.

Other

Special designs have been used on the riverside, such as at Champions Wharf Twickenham and elsewhere, such as Elmfield House in Teddington. There will occasionally be a case for something different.

The refurbishment of existing old seats should also be considered, including timber backless benches on iron legs in some rural locations.

Maintenance

Wash annually. Restain timber/maintain paintwork every five years.

Cross references

- Riverscape
- Greenscape
- Conservation
- UDP policies.



Scroll for town centres



Festival for town centres



Champions Wharf

5 Furniture



Signage Urban



Signage Rural



Manchester



Plastic bollards
tend to look cheap

5.3 BOLLARDS

Design and general principles

Bollards are mainly used to restrict vehicle movement on pedestrian areas such as footways and parks access paths (lockable). Occasionally they are used for waymarking or cycle lane signage, avoiding the need for tall posts. The general principles are to use them as sparingly as possible and select a design most appropriate for their setting. The two alternative materials are cast iron (or polymer composite type which looks like cast iron) and timber. There are a number of locations with distinctive cast bollards in the Borough which should be treated as an asset to be retained and refurbished.

Design and siting problems

- Too many bollards leading to 'bollard park' appearance
- Choice of wrong bollard for the location
- Plastic bollards tend to look cheap.

5 Furniture



Blackpool



Spherical cast



Too many bollards

Guidelines

- Restrict use of bollards to a minimum
- Relate style of bollard to its location – see general guidance below
- Restrict choice of bollard to list below. Plastic bollards are not to be used for permanent schemes
- Retain distinctive old bollards and refurbish. Consider additional ones where necessary in the same style by having a mould made
- Consider where possible using tree planting or other items of street furniture to reduce need for and number of bollards
- It may be necessary to reconsider the design concept if there is a need for a large number of bollards
- Consider reinforced slabs and stronger paved areas to reduce the need for bollards
- Siting – should be positioned to the front of the footway to limit obstruction
- Allow 450mm clear space from the front edge of the kerb
- Consider opportunities for fixing signs and waymarks to bollards to avoid use of additional posts
- Consider white bands where appropriate.

5 Furniture

Colour

a) Cast type – See general guidelines on colour (p10)

- Richmond area and some other locations – black. Also dark grey is being trialled as a slightly softer alternative
- Twickenham town centre – dark blue/grey BS18B29
- Richmond Green and selected riverside locations – White
- Elsewhere – dark green BS14C40.

b) Timber type – normally leave in natural finish that will weather to grey

Types

- Manchester cast – urban locations/town centres
- Blackpool/Bury cast – urban locations/town centres
- Timber – less urban locations/riverside/residential areas
- Other – thin steel with cast casing: an alternative where space is very restricted
- Spherical cast – has been used in Richmond town centre.
Feature areas: can be useful to avoid runs of vertical bollards.

Historic bollards – examples of locations with historic pattern bollards

- Richmond Green
- Kew Foot Road
- Cholmondeley Walk and other riverside locations
- Buccleugh Gardens.

Signage bollards

- Urban (cast type)
- Rural (timber type).

Removable/drop down

- Cast or timber.

Maintenance

Wash annually. Repaint painted types every five years.



Buccleugh Gardens



Cholmondeley Walk



Richmond Green



Timber

5 Furniture

5.4 RAILINGS

Design and general principles

There is a key distinction between decorative and functional railings. Decorative railings are an important feature of the townscape and are most usually on private land as boundary treatment. Functional railings such as guardrailing are usually installed on public land to restrict vehicle access and for safety reasons. Their effect can often be less than positive on the street scene. The general principle is to reduce the need for guardrailing and similar features as far as possible.

Problems

- Loss of original railings
- Overuse of guardrailing
- Choice of railing unsuited to location
- Unpainted guardrailing looks ugly
- Painting problems – preparation/durability/colour
- ‘Dogleg’ crossings penned in by railings are very detrimental to the feel of an area and give undue prominence to vehicular traffic. They should be avoided where at all possible.

Guidelines

- Restrict extent of railing as far as possible
- Type of railing to be related to location
- Use an appropriate primer and durable painted finish if metal.

Colour

See general guidelines on colour (p10). Use dark green BS14C40, except in Richmond town centre where black is used and Twickenham town centre where BS18B29 dark blue/grey is used. There are occasional exceptions usually by listed buildings where black would be more appropriate than another colour. Timber should generally be left to weather naturally.

Guardrailing

Harrington

- Town centres and urban areas, eg Twickenham and East Sheen town centres.



Harrington



OKR



Manchester



Visirail

5 Furniture



Steel rail



Timber post and rail



Detail

OKR

- Less urban and more sensitive areas, eg. Church Street, Barnes.

Manchester

- Richmond town centre.

Visirail (Standard steel guardrailing)

- In less sensitive urban locations.

Boundary Railing

Standard steel park railing bounding open areas

- Secure boundary to open areas but allowing views through, eg. Rocks Lane, Barnes; Buccleugh Gardens, Richmond. Consider Health and Safety aspect of uprights, particularly under trees.

Timber post and rail

- Boundary to green areas where required, eg. Barnes Pond.

Low timber post and rail

- Economic low boundary in landscape/less urban areas.

5 Furniture



Timber post and metal rail



Hurdle rail



Low metal rail

Hurdle/Bowtop

- To protect planted areas, eg. Elmfield House, Teddington.

Low metal rail- Anglesey

- Low rail in more urban areas, eg. Hill Rise, Richmond.

Riverside-Harbour 2 rail

- Where riverside railings are needed there may be a local established style, possibly historic, where restoration/replication should be considered
- Harbour railing is also a good simple design, eg. Mortlake towpath.

Historic railings

- Historic railings should be retained and restored where possible. There are occasionally opportunities to install new railings in a historic pattern, eg. Holly Road Garden of Rest, Twickenham
- A dark colour usually works best. A light blue-green has been used on riverside railings at St. Margaret's which relates well to the patinated bronze on Twickenham Bridge.

Maintenance

Wash annually. Restain timber/maintain paintwork every five years.

5 Furniture

5.5 LITTER BINS

Design and general principles

The provision of litter bins is entirely functional but can have a considerable impact on the appearance of the street or location. It is therefore not considered appropriate that one single style can be used in all environments, but that there should be a restricted range related to location.

Problems

- Poor design
- Poor siting/location – obstructions, spoiling views etc.
- Embellishments drawing too much attention to bins
- Servicing problems.

Guidelines

- Some particularly isolated locations work better without bins
- Bins should be chosen from agreed range
- Ensure siting does not detract from riverside or other views
- Relate to other street furniture
- Avoid unnecessary embellishments – eg. gold bands tend to look tawdry and clash with other street furniture
- Ashtrays should not be provided although unobtrusive cigarette stubbers may be used
- Street bins, and bins on towpath/riverside locations should have lids.



Pierhead



Timber



Big Ben



Dog bin

5 Furniture

Types

- General – Heritage type (black)
- Pierhead – Twickenham (dark blue/grey BS I 8B29), Richmond Riverside, Kew Station, Kew Village, Twickenham riverside and other key locations (black).

Parks and green spaces

- Big Ben (dark green BS I 4C40)
- A-24 (dark green BS I 4C40)
- Dog bin (dark green BS I 4C40).

Maintenance

Wash annually. Repaint painted types every five years.



Heritage



Avoid bands/ashtrays



Poor siting

5 Furniture



Teddington



Tokyo shelter

5.6 CYCLE STANDS, PARKING AND SHELTERS

Design and general principles

- Cycle parking is provided by shops, stations, public buildings and similar areas
- The type of stand proposed is largely standardised although distinctive designs have been used in specific areas.

Problems

- Maintenance problems of painted stands
- May add to street clutter and obstruction
- Redundant 'cycle' parking signs.

Guidelines

- Consider linear cycle parking parallel to the kerb
- Standardise on brushed stainless steel finish
- Relate to other street furniture
- Can be set out in radial pattern in some schemes
- Can be used to replace bollards
- Allow about 1m between stands

5 Furniture



Sheffield



Heath Road

- Look best grouped rather than in isolation
- Remove remaining 'cycle parking' signs
- Where appropriate, fix legs on slab joints
- Avoid obstructing pedestrian movement.

Types

Sheffield type

- Brushed stainless finish or through coloured is being phased in
- Painted finish is being phased out because of paint maintenance problems.

Teddington type

Stands with a similar finish and distinctive design have been used in the Teddington area.

Cycle shelters

- Opportunities sometimes arise in relation to station schemes
- Appearance and siting important as well as function.

Tokyo type – Stations.

5 Furniture

5.7 BUS SHELTERS

Design and general principles

Bus shelters form an important element in the street scene and the Council is trying to encourage the use of improved designs over standard products where possible. London Buses has responsibility for the type of shelter and its maintenance, but the Council can influence decisions on the type and finish of shelters.

The recent use of Landmark shelters in Twickenham has given a visual lift to the town centre. There is an existing Bus Stop Policy.

Problems

- Mediocre design of standard shelter
- Poor colours for some environments
- Advertising can obscure townscape and cause security problems
- Poor siting of shelters and signage
- Vandalism.



Landmark

5 Furniture

Guidelines

- Giving essential information to bus passengers is an important part of the design
- Consider local maps in relation to bus shelters
- Consider timber shelters in less urban, sensitive locations
- Take into account usual siting considerations for street furniture
- Relate colour to the setting – urban colours tend not to work well in less urban settings
- Seek better designed shelters as widely as possible
- Consider implications of advertising proposals
- Particular care needed siting shelters by open spaces
- Lighting must be provided for personal safety.

Types

Landmark shelter – Twickenham (and to expand to other appropriate locations).

Heritage shelter – Richmond town centre. Consider use in other appropriate locations.

2000 shelter – (not being expanded).

Standard shelter – Colour considerations: colours of structure and seat can be altered.



Heritage