

Castelnau Conservation Area 25

Designation

Conservation Area designated:
15.03.1977

Conservation Area extended:
07.09.1982
18.10.1983
29.01.1991
25.01.1996

Location

OS Sheets: 2276, 2277, 2377

Castelnau is situated to the north of Barnes Village and is bounded by the Thames to the north, Barn Elms Reservoirs to the east and early 20th century housing to the West. It adjoins Barnes Green (1) conservation area to the South.

History and Development

In 1825 Upper Bridge Street was created to connect Barnes Village with the new Hammersmith Toll Bridge. The road was renamed Castelnau, after the family estate of Major Boileau, who was responsible for most of the development of the area following the bridge opening. The earliest development along Castelnau is a group of twenty pairs of classical villas. Other development took place throughout the 19th century.

Character

The original conservation area, which included the Castelnau villas, the villas of Lonsdale Road and the linked village centre, were designated in recognition of the architectural and historic value of the continuous groups of buildings along Castelnau in a setting of fine trees.

There were further extensions made to the conservation area in the north, south and east. These include Nos.203-209 Castelnau, houses in grand Victorian style reminiscent of those in Lonsdale Road, and Edwardian tall purpose built flats opposite were added. All form part of the visual approach to Hammersmith Bridge, a listed structure, half of which is also included in the Conservation Area extension. Riverview Gardens and Clavering Avenue are streets of good Edwardian architecture including unusual arts and crafts styles. The flamboyant high Victorian building of Harrods Depository, located on the riverside, is an important landmark seen particularly during the Boat Race. The extension south down is a road unified by architectural style, form and building line, and completing the set piece design of Castelnau with Hammersmith Bridge at the end of a long vista. Though not as architecturally celebrated as those buildings in the existing conservation area the long sweep of large houses creates a distinctive townscape character. The conservation area was further extended to include Arundel Terrace and the remainder of the Harrods Depository site i.e. the Soap and Candle Factory buildings (1860 and 1899) as a group with the listed river frontage warehouse. The most recent extension included the remainder of Glenthams Road, St. Hilda's Road and Lillian Road, which are residential roads developed in conjunction with the rest of Castelnau in the mid 19th century.

At the southern end of Castelnau the houses are well set back from the road and are often hidden by planting with only the strong repeated outline of the steep pitched gable fronted slate roofs being visible through foliage.

To the north of this group, the centrally located 1842 villas are in the form of semi-detached houses of identical design, two storeys high with basements. Their style is restrained classical. Built in yellow stock bricks they have decorative stucco Ionic pilasters, dentilled cornices, and architraves. Stables of a subordinate scale link many of the villas. This relationship has led to a pronounced rhythm in the building line. Mature trees in the deep front gardens accentuate the sense of enclosure along Castelnau, especially at the point where the road bends. Rusticated gate piers and cobbled pavement crossovers survive.

The more modest villas to the Lonsdale Road junction are characterised by projecting segmental bays, shallow pitched roofs and the central chimneystack a dominant feature. Window heads are cambered arches in contrasting red brick with white key blocks. At this point there are fine-, simple terraces with shops and cottages built around 1851 and 1870 in yellow stock brick and limited stucco enrichment. Boileau Arms (1842) occupies an important position at the junction and forms a focal point. Lonsdale Road was mostly completed by 1860. The 3 to 4 storey grand Italianate and later Gothic villas are made particularly attractive by the mature trees in front of them. Although different in scale and character they relate very closely to the first Castelnau development having been built at the same time and as a direct result of the construction of Hammersmith Bridge. Through the generous spacing of buildings, the retention of many mature trees and common respect for the building line and bulk, a picturesque harmony has been achieved. Extensive use of stucco work and flamboyant varied detailing is more evident than in Castelnau. Dormer windows are subordinate to the original roof structures. North of the Lonsdale Road junction nos. 203-209 continue the flamboyant style of Lonsdale Road, and form an important lead into the setting of the listed bridge, which provides a valuable terminal focus at the end of the long vista.

On the east side is a rich mixture of late 19th century and Edwardian development including red brick mansion blocks in Riverview Gardens and Arundel Terrace. An unusual arts and crafts group in Clavering Avenue (1907) are distinguished by roughcast render with alternating gables and projecting eaves, and leaded heavy-mullion windows. Arundel Terrace contains the earliest residences on this side of Castelnau, originally built for employees of Cowan's Soap Factory in 1858. Along its north side are three storey mansion flats (1898) with strong horizontal checkerboard banding created by painted stone window quoins around the full height bays. Riverview Gardens contains three and four storey buildings of similar design to Arundel Terrace with the notable addition of iron railings and bracket supported balconies and upper gables. Terracotta is employed for banding on the large building. Merthyr Terrace is a uniform designed two-storey terrace with projecting ground floor segmented bays with stucco architraves and cornices. Roofs are concealed behind parapets.

Behind the residential streets are important commercial landmark buildings of the terracotta faced Harrod's Depository (1912) and the earlier Italianate banded brick structures of the soap and candle factory.

The character of Glenthams Road, Lillian Road and St. Hilda's Road contrasts greatly with that of adjacent Lonsdale Road. These roads are narrow and lined with high quality terraces of mainly small Victorian cottages. There are no front gardens and doors open onto the pavement reinforcing the intimate scale. There is great variety in the style of individual cottages, many having unusual embellishments and details. There is cohesion in the use of building materials with roofs of grey slate and elevations of brick and stucco.

Problems and Pressures

- Development pressure which may harm the balance of the landscape and river-dominated 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
- Loss of original or quality shopfronts and unsympathetic alterations and advertisement

Opportunity for Enhancement

- Improvement and protection of landscape and river setting
- 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
- Retain and improve the quality of shopfronts and advertisement

Scale: N.T.S.



CONSERVATION AREA No.25 CASTLENAU, BARNES

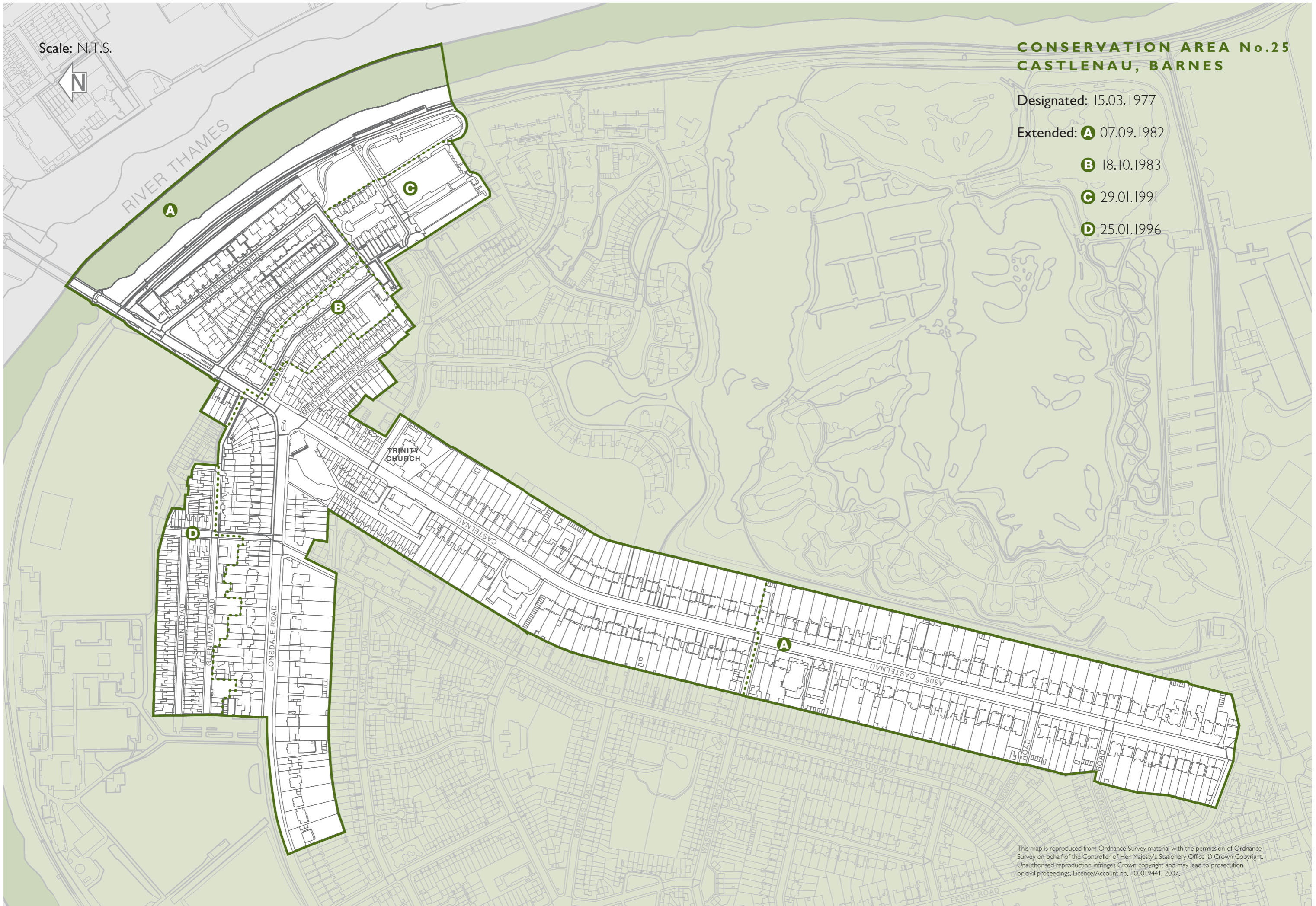
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