

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Conservation Area 63

Designation

Conservation Area designated:
29.01.1991

Location

OS Sheets: 1876,1877

The area of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is bounded to the north-east by the backs of houses facing Kew Green, to the east by Kew Road, the south by the Old Deer Park and to the west and north-west by the Thames. It is enclosed by a number of other conservation areas.

History and Development

The land was originally enclosed in the mid 18th and the buildings date from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The Royal Botanic gardens have evolved from the private estates of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and that of George II and Queen Caroline. When Frederick died in 1759 his widow Augusta started a small botanic garden which has been extended to cover some 300 acres.

Character

Kew Gardens was inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites by UNESCO on 3rd July 2003 in recognition of its uninterrupted contributions to botanical and environmental science since 1759, its unique collection of plants from all over the world, and its international influence on the history of landscape and garden. The area is also designated Grade I on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. Of international importance as a botanic garden and research establishment, Kew Gardens also features the landscape designs of Charles Bridgeman, Capability Brown, William Chambers and William Westfield. There are a number of high quality listed buildings in the gardens including Kew Palace, the Temperate House, the Palm House, Queen Charlotte's Cottage and the Japanese Gateway.

The high wall enclosure and gates on Kew Road are also of excellent quality. The 'walks' and 'vistas' of William Westfield (1840) are a key feature of the garden, still forming main avenues and/or sightlines through the gardens. Links between the Palace and the entrance to the Grand Union Canal and views from the towpath to St. George's Church and the Steam Museum tower exist as well as the finely framed view towards Syon House. Chambers' 163ft tall pagoda of 1761 is a focal point of architectural distinction visible above the many rare trees obscuring the remainder of the otherwise level site.

The riverside wall outside the Garden grounds is of great value and forms one of the more remarkable stretches of the 213 mile long distance 'Thames Path' from Gloucestershire to the Thames Barrier at Woolwich. The soft landscape and absence of motor vehicles and buildings, adds to the quality of experience for riverbank users.

Problems and Pressures

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

Opportunity for Enhancement

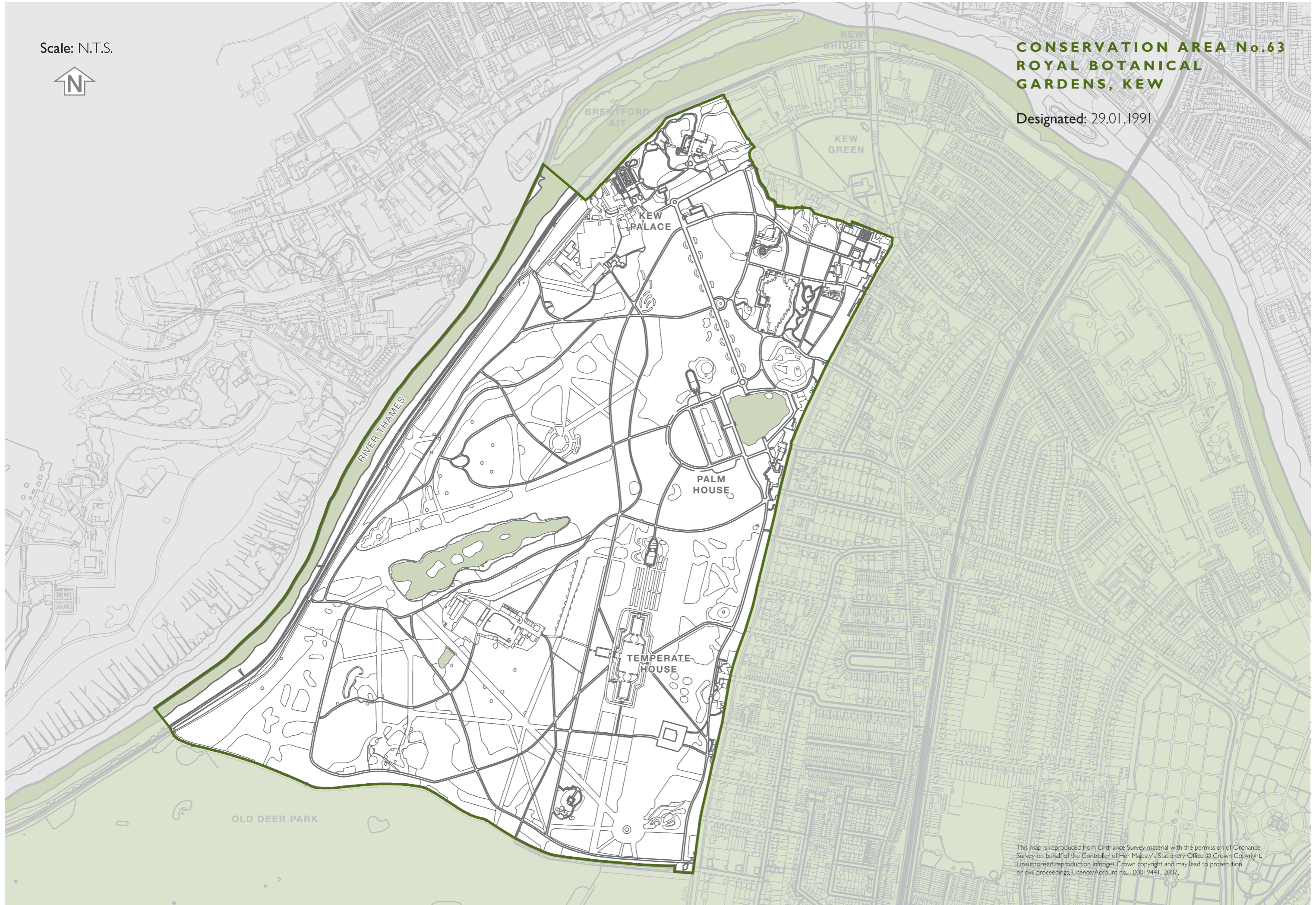
- Improvement and protection of river and landscape setting
- Refer to Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Management Plan and Site Conservation Plan

Scale: N.T.S.



**CONSERVATION AREA No.63
ROYAL BOTANICAL
GARDENS, KEW**

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