



OLD DEER PARK, RICHMOND
The Crown Estate Landscape Strategy



**OLD DEER PARK
RICHMOND**
Landscape Strategy

for



**THE
CROWN
ESTATE**

by



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Aerial of the area from Richmond to Kew with Syon in 1998 showing the Old Deer Park outlined in red

SUMMARY

The Old Deer Park is an urban green space of great significance for Richmond, Kew and London as a whole. Sweeping from the edge of Richmond down to the Thames, the Park has evolved from a private royal landscape to a metropolitan open space offering a diverse range of amateur sports – from archery to rugby and golf. The Park is very well served by public transport and forms the edge to the towns of Richmond and Kew.

The riverside landscape between Richmond and Kew has been the setting for a series of royal palaces, with designs by Inigo Jones, Charles Bridgeman, William Kent, William Chambers and William Nesfield. The King's Observatory built by George III in 1769 sits at the centre of the whole Park and on the original Meridian Line. It was however Lancelot Brown's vision of an Arcadian landscape which united Kew Gardens, Syon Park and the Old Deer Park. The three areas are included as Grade I in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens.

The riverside parkland - with its ancient oaks, dry acid grassland and riparian pond, ditches and woodland – provides a series of important nature conservation areas. The Old Deer Park is part of a mosaic of habitats connected by the Thames which include the adjacent Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, the heronry on Isleworth Ait and the SSSI tidal meadow at Syon Park.

Although the Old Deer Park is part of a wider landscape, recent changes in the maintenance regimes of the separate Crown Estate tenancies which occupy the land have overemphasized the divisions between the spaces. The King's Observatory in the central part of the Park has become hidden from the south park. The western edge with the towpath and ditch has become overgrown and neglected and intensification of sports facilities in the eastern part has led to pressure for further development.

The Crown Estate commissioned Kim Wilkie Associates to produce this study to develop estate management policies for their ownership of the Old Deer Park - an area of major national importance as a historic and living landscape. The area requires coherent long-term management policies by the Crown Estate, acting as responsible landowners with a remit to guide and promote good estate management. The Crown Estate will work with all those with an involvement in the Old Deer Park, whether they be the local authority, tenants, amenity groups or residents.

Over the past six months, the Old Deer Park has been surveyed and assessed and extensive discussions have been conducted with national and local authorities and with the Crown Estate tenants and local interest groups. The following general policies, projects and management recommendations have emerged from the study:

Guiding Policies:

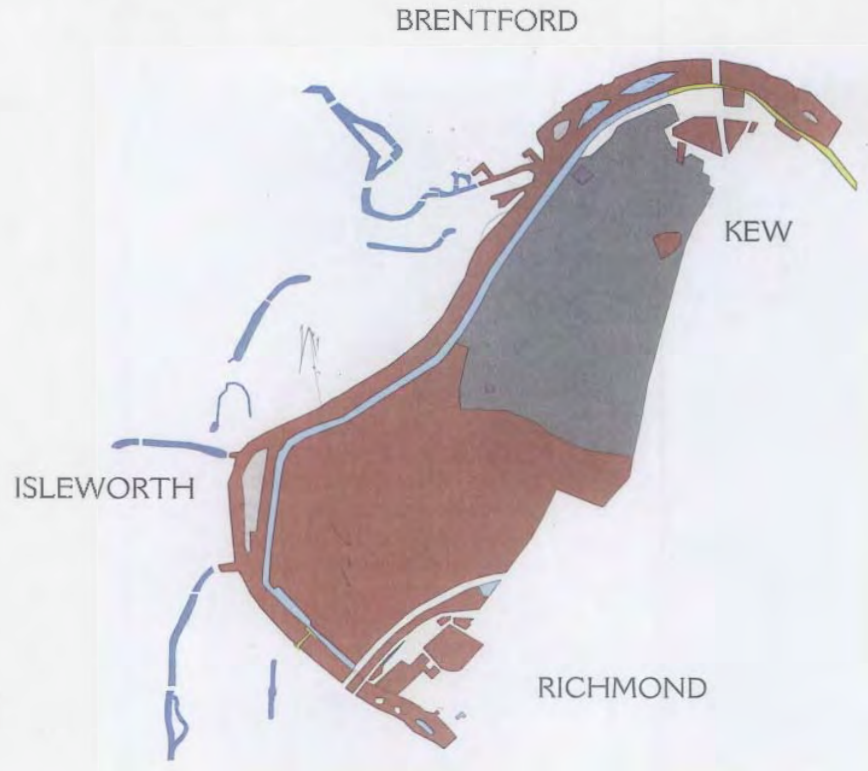
- Conserve and enhance the Old Deer Park as a historic landscape of great significance for metropolitan open space, public amenity and nature conservation.
- Prevent any further built development, where possible remove built intrusions into the Park and concentrate on reinstating the parkland character of the landscape, reopening vistas and connections across the park and removing intrusive elements.
- Encourage the continuing use of the Park for a wide range of amateur, junior and youth sports and refuse professional sport developments.

Principal Projects:

- Reconnect Richmond Green with the Recreation Ground by continuing the public access route along the line of the 1848 railway bridge over the A316 Trunk Road.
- When it is possible to rehouse volunteer groups from their huts in the car park, redesign the south-eastern corner of the park as a clearer, safer and more wooded surface car park, forming a green edge to the town of Richmond.
- Reverse the overplanting of the golf course and its edges, with particular attention to restoring the old pond and reopening the Meridian line and views of the King's Observatory from Richmond and the Thames.

General Landscape Maintenance:

- Change mowing and planting regimes on the Recreation Ground to diversify the sward and create more of a parkland character with groups of trees between pitches.
- Review the management of the Golf Course to conserve dry acid grassland roughs and prevent leachate of fertilizers and pesticides into wilder areas and watercourses.
- Manage the riverside ditch, pond and woodland areas to encourage the habitat established in the south-western corner of the Royal Botanic Gardens to spread upstream.



LEGEND

Land owned by:

Crown Estate	Red
Historic Royal Palaces	Purple
London Borough of Richmond	Light Blue
Port of London Authority	Yellow
Royal Botanic Gardens	Grey

Fig.1 Plan showing the ownership of the Old Deer Park and surrounding areas

OLD DEER PARK, RICHMOND

The Crown Estate Landscape Strategy

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the Study

- 1.1 The parkland between Richmond and Kew is a remarkable stretch of the Arcadian Thames landscape. Over the centuries, the area has been designed as the setting for a series of royal palaces and much of the land remains in the ownership of the Crown Estate. The Old Deer Park, covering 147 hectares (363 acres), is leased out directly by the Crown Estate. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, (132 hectares, 330 acres) are held from the Crown under Old Land Revenue status.
- 1.2 In 1998 the Crown Estate published *Stewardship in Action 2*¹, a succinct update of their 1992 initiative. The idea behind *Stewardship in Action*² is to ensure that the Crown Estate land is managed in a way which integrates environmental considerations and social responsibilities with commercial demands. The Landscape Strategy for the Old Deer Park has been commissioned as part of this concern to manage the land for the long-term benefit of London.
- 1.3 The London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames (LBRuT) is both the planning authority for the area and one of the principal tenants of the Old Deer Park. The LBRuT planning department has produced a Conservation Area Study³ and an Interim Planning Brief⁴ for the park which acknowledge the need for a full landscape strategy. The planning authority have undertaken to review their UDP and policies for the area once the strategy is approved.
- 1.4 The Friends of the Old Deer Park, a local interest group, had prepared a bid in collaboration with the local authority for Heritage Lottery Funding to cover a study of the park in 1997. The Heritage Lottery Fund however advised that the Old Deer Park should be studied as a whole and not be limited to the area of tenancy of the local authority. The Crown Estate as landlord is able to encompass the full holding.
- 1.5 The Thames Landscape Strategy⁵, published in 1994, identified the Old Deer Park and its river frontage as an area of particular historic and visual importance. The strategy for the park has been prepared as a progression from the findings and recommendations of the Thames Landscape Strategy.

2.0 Brief for the Study

- 2.1 Kim Wilkie Associates were commissioned in November 1997 to prepare a landscape strategy for the Old Deer Park. The strategy was to collate previous historical research and background information on nature conservation, planning, recreation and access.
- 2.2 On the basis of the background research, current survey and landscape assessment, the brief for the strategy was to produce general strategic policies, specific projects and long-term management proposals for the Old Deer Park.
- 2.3 The Crown Estate recognizes the sensitivity of the Park and the importance of public consultation in arriving at a final strategy. Kim Wilkie Associates was to talk to Crown Estate tenants, national and local authorities, and local community groups. The draft strategy was approved by the client, and has been circulated more widely for comments. It is expected that the London Borough of Richmond will choose to adopt the strategy as Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- 2.4 This final report has been amended to reflect the comments made by consultees and now forms the basis of the Crown Estate policy for the area.

3.0 Study Methodology

- 3.1 Much of the historical research has been drawn from the work undertaken for the Thames Landscape Strategy by Mavis Batey and David Lambert of the Garden History Society. The work of local historians John Cloake⁶ and Ray Desmond⁷ has been invaluable. We have also consulted with Paul Velluet of English Heritage, Chris Sumner of English Heritage and the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust and John Neale of the Georgian Group.
- 3.2 In parallel with the study of the historic landscape, the nature conservation of the Old Deer Park has been re-assessed. John Archer of the London Ecology Unit undertook the main ecological evaluation of the area in 1993⁸. He has updated his assessment in collaboration with Eve Risbridger of the London Borough of Richmond and Nick Radford of English Nature. Further very useful information has been provided by John Hatto of the London Wildlife Trust and Mark Bridger, Conservation Manager for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Richard Copas has contributed excellent advice on the restoration and management of the river banks and areas of regular flooding.
- 3.3 The Old Deer Park is now extensively used for sport and recreation. Edward Locke, Eve Risbridger and Colin Sinclair of the London Borough of Richmond have explained how their tenancy land is used and managed. David Lawrence of the Sports Council has also given very useful advice on government policy towards sport in the area. Marian Spain and Neil Davidson of the Countryside Commission and Donna Clack, Co-ordinator of the Thames Landscape Strategy, have been very helpful in placing the significance of the Old Deer Park in the wider context of the river and metropolitan landscape.
- 3.4 The planning department of the London Borough of Richmond has already devoted much time to setting policies for the Old Deer Park, particularly the area within the Council's tenancy. We have been helped a great deal by Richard Harbord (Chief Executive), Mick Lowe (Director), Yvonne Trimmer (Head of Planning), Jenny Pearce (Head of Urban Design), Jane Bentley (Development Control), and Marc Wolfe-Cowan (landscape architect). Councillor Nick Carthew, assistant to the Hon. Jenny Tonge MP has explained the attitudes of the local constituency. Joyce Bridges and Gaynor Ross at the Government Office for London have given sound advice on the importance of the public open space in the urban structure of the capital.
- 3.5 The landscape assessment itself was undertaken between April and June 1998 by Kim Wilkie and Eva Henze of Kim Wilkie Associates. The Crown Estate commissioned a separate digital levels and tree location survey from David J Powell Surveys Limited. The survey has been used as a base and overlain with historic maps to understand how the landscape has evolved. The landscape was assessed from vantage points, paths and gateways both within and outside the study area. Extensive photographic records and annotations were made to help understand the character of the landscape as a whole and the relationship between the sequence of sub-areas.
- 3.6 The background research and advice provided an essential frame for analyzing the landscape assessment and arriving at recommendations for general policies, specific projects and long-term management proposals. These recommendations are summarized at the end of each chapter.
- 3.7 Landscape encompasses the use and perception of the land as well as the visual appearance. Conversations with local interest groups and the Crown Estate tenants have been crucial to understanding how the Old Deer Park is used and cherished by the people who surround it. Anthony Bickmore, Stuart Smith and Anthony Denny at the Crown Estate and Bob Clarke of Cluttons, the Crown Estate's managing agents, have been extremely helpful in explaining how the Old Deer Park functions and making contact with the tenants.

- 3.8 Meetings with the tenants themselves have been very revealing. In the central part of the Park, the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, represented by the Captain, Henry Branch, and the Secretary, Tony Perkins, were very co-operative in discussing ways in which the golf course might contribute to the overall landscape of the Old Deer Park. Similarly Mrs Drummond, Office Manager of Belron International, who lease the King's Observatory at the centre of the Park, showed a sophisticated awareness of the wider landscape issues.
- 3.9 We were given frank and clear explanations of the problems and aspirations of the tenants of the east park by Mr Rolley, Operations Director of Whitewater Leisure Limited at Pools on the Park, Mr Hucklesby, Grounds Manager for the Richmond Athletic Association Limited, and Mr Pinnington and Mr Thomas, for the Old Deer Park Partnership at the Richmond Cricket Club.
- 3.10 The issues facing tenants in the southern part of the park were presented by James Young of the London Borough of Richmond Estates Department and by Horace Blackburn of the Post Office.
- 3.11 Local interest groups feel very strongly about the future of the Old Deer Park and some extremely eloquent representations were made by Professor Pat McLean, John Treasure, Lady Attenborough and Stephen Garner of the Friends of the Old Deer Park; by David Church and Jimmy Wyatt of the Richmond Society; by Sue Cole and Robert Lock of the Kew Society; by David Andrews and Janet Allen of the Westerley Ware Association; by Vincent Lane of the Kew Foot Road Residents; by Tom Hosking of the British Astronomical Association; and by Spencer de Grey of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- 3.12 In addition, informative public meetings were attended which were held by the London Borough of Richmond's Old Deer Park Consultation Group and Professional Rugby/A316 Strategy Group and by the Richmond Society.



Fig.2 Consultation with local interest groups and the Crown Estate tenants has been crucial to understanding how the Old Deer Park is used and cherished by the people who surround it.



Fig.3 Sequence of sites of historic royal Palaces between Richmond and Kew

SIGNIFICANCE

4 Royal History

- 4.1 The history of the Old Deer Park is an integral part of the royal occupation of the land between Richmond (or Shene as it was known before it was renamed by Henry VII in 1501) and Kew. It was a favourite royal spot with a number of monarchs, such as Edward III, Henry VII and Elizabeth I, choosing to spend the last days of their lives at the palace by the Thames. The majority of the following history has been summarized from the work of the local historian, John Cloake⁹ and amplified in the Chronology in Appendix 3.
- 4.2 Although Henry I is recorded as having granted the manor of Shene to the Norman family of Belet, from the late thirteenth century the area was largely occupied by the Crown. A series of palaces and associated parks dominated the land between Richmond and Kew, gradually growing into today's remarkable landscape. The royal influence can be described in phases linked to each house of the royal family.
- 4.3 *Plantagenets*: Edward I occupied the manor of Shene in the late 1290s and there is mention of a park associated with the manor. Edward II took Shene back into royal ownership in 1313 and later handed the property over to his wife, Queen Isabella. It was their son, Edward III, who built the first palace at Shene and Edward III's grandson, Richard II, who later ordered its demolition. It is said that Richard II demolished the building out of grief when his wife, Anne of Bohemia, died at Shene from the plague in 1394. The Palace had been their favourite home.



Fig.4 The Plantagenet Palace was demolished following the death of Anne of Bohemia in 1394.



Fig.5 The Lancasterian Palace was destroyed by fire in 1497.

- 4.4 *House of Lancaster*: Richard II's death in turn stimulated the next phase for the area. In order to expiate the sins of his father for his part in the murder of Richard II, Henry V founded a Carthusian charterhouse and a Brigittine convent. In his Agincourt speech, Shakespeare has Henry V proclaim:
- 'and I have built
Two chantries, where sad and solemn priests
Still sing for Richard's soul'*
- The charterhouse land was located on the central section of the current Old Deer Park (now adjacent to the King's Observatory). The origins of the Old Deer Park may be traced back to the 'New Park of Shene', some 50 acres enclosed as a hunting ground and linked by Henry VI to the rebuilt Shene Palace around 1438. The Lancasterian palace was destroyed by fire in 1497.



Fig.6 Moses Glover's 1635 map, facing south, showing Richmond Palace with Twickenham Park across the river. The Charterhouse is illustrated in the middle of the Park and Syon is shown with its raised terrace.



Fig.7 The turreted riverside Richmond Palace built by Henry VII

- 4.5 *Tudors*: Henry VII created a new turreted palace on the riverside site, renaming the place as Richmond after his Yorkshire earldom. He also established a new park on the opposite bank of the river, perhaps embarrassed by the puny size of the hunting ground when entertaining Spanish visitors in 1501. In 1574 this park ceased to be used as a royal hunting ground and Henry's grand daughter, Elizabeth I, granted 'our park of Istelworth otherwise called the Newe Park of Richemonde in our County of Middlesex' to Edward Bacon. In the 1590s the Middlesex side of the park was taken over by Sir Francis Bacon and became known as Twickenham Park. Today the area across the river is a housing estate.
- 4.6 The Syon convent meanwhile had moved to the current site of Syon House in 1431. The house passed in and out of the ownership of the Dukes of Northumberland following Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in 1538 and Mary Tudor's brief revival of the Charterhouse and convent. Elizabeth I dissolved both establishments in 1558 for good. The Charterhouse was turned into 'Sheen House'.
- 4.7 *Stuarts*: James I created a new park by adding most of the monastic land and other royal land to the former enclosure to make a hunting ground of 370 acres. At this point Richmond Lodge was built by Robert Stickles in the centre of the park as a hunting lodge. When Charles I enclosed Richmond Park as a new 2,500 acre deer park – a highly unpopular move which is said to have contributed to his downfall - King James's park became known as the Old or Little Park. Charles I's elder brother, Henry, had been in the process of making plans for a magnificent Renaissance palace at Richmond with Pratolino-style river gods in the Thames, when he died suddenly in 1612.
- 4.8 *Interregnum*: Following Charles I's execution, Parliament sold off Richmond Palace and the Old Deer Park. The palace was largely dismantled for building materials and the park was split up into smaller lots. Improvements were made to Richmond Lodge by William III, and most of the Old Deer Park was gathered together again. The site of the former Charterhouse was developed with several large mansions and became the hamlet of 'West Sheen'.



Fig.9 Richmond Lodge viewed from fashionable court picnics on the river banks

4.9 *Hanoverians*: Princess Caroline, the wife of the future George II, was more than anyone responsible for the revival of the park around Richmond Lodge. Between 1702 and 1715, Richmond Lodge had been enlarged and embellished as a little Trianon by the Jacobite Duke of Ormonde. After the arrival of the Hanoverians, the Duke went into exile on the Continent and Richmond Lodge was leased and later bought by the Prince and Princess of Wales. In 1719 Caroline hosted a landscape gardening conference at Richmond. Guided and inspired by Alexander Pope, Caroline set the English landscape movement in motion.

4.10 Over the next couple of decades, Caroline worked with Charles Bridgeman and William Kent to create gardens around Richmond Lodge. Axial vistas connected the Lodge down to the northern corner of Richmond Green and up to the river, with views of Syon. A riverside terrace linked the Lodge to the Dutch House and other accommodation rented for the royal children and royal retainers in Kew. Extra land was added on the north of the estate. The new gardens were known as 'Richmond Gardens'. The parkland to the south west of the Lodge was left as the Old Deer Park. Caroline, in collaboration with the Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole, spent vast sums on her landscape projects – much to the irritation of her husband. George II referred to Caroline's work on Merlin's Cave as 'nonsense' and 'childish, silly stuff'. Across the river George II's mistress, Henrietta Howard, was also patronizing the landscape school, working first with Alexander Pope and later with Horace Walpole. The King was outnumbered.

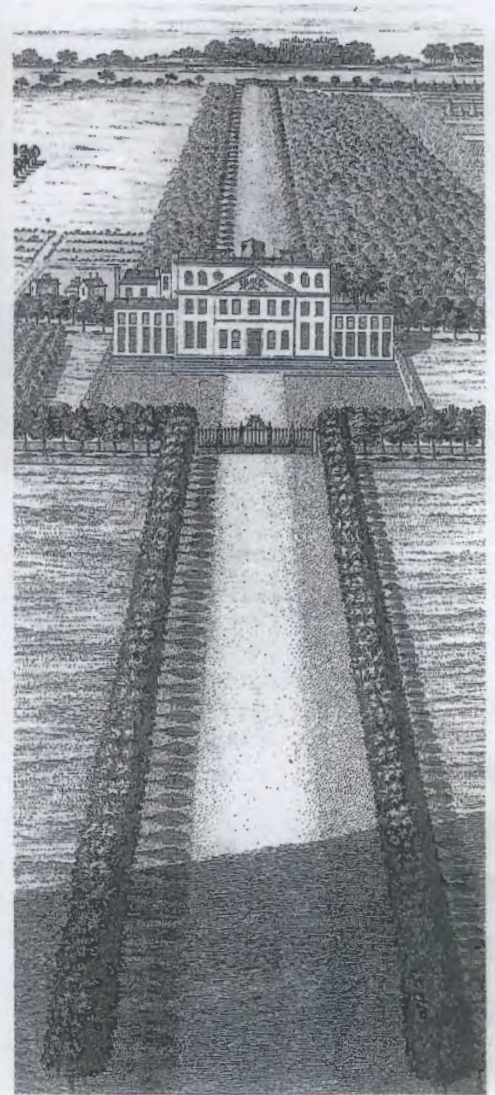


Fig.9 Axial vistas connected Richmond Lodge down to the northern corner of Richmond Green and up the river, with views of Syon



Fig.10 The White House at Kew painted by Kirby in 1763



Fig.11 The Dutch House (Kew Palace) with Frederick and his sisters in the foreground



Fig.13 1771 Richardson Plan showing the Old Deer Park, Richmond and Kew Gardens separated by Love Lane

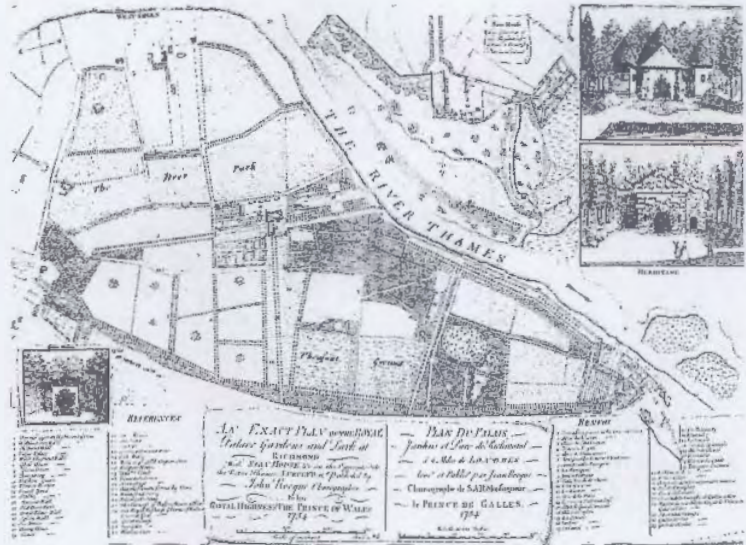


Fig.12 1754 Rocque Plan showing Richmond Lodge and Kent's garden buildings

- 4.11 In 1730, while George II and Caroline were living at Richmond Lodge, their son Frederick Prince of Wales and his wife Augusta rented the White House at Kew. The two quarrelling families were separated by Love Lane. Frederick extended his estate southwards on the east side of Love Lane. He began work on the gardens at Kew creating an Aqueduct, a lake, a mount and a series of garden buildings. Although Frederick died in 1751, Augusta continued work with William Chambers and built a Chinese temple, a mosque, an alhambra, a gothic cathedral, a ruined Roman arch, a Temple of Victory and the Pagoda. In 1759 Augusta also set aside the first 9 acres for the Royal Botanic Gardens.
- 4.12 Augusta's eldest son became George III in 1760. He continued the family affection for the area and appointed Lancelot Brown as royal gardener in 1764. Brown, who had been working for the Northumberlands at Syon House since the 1750s, had a vision of the river landscape as a whole. He replaced Bridgeman's river terrace with a ha-ha and set about opening the views between Syon and Richmond Gardens. It was Brown's concept of a continuous Arcadian landscape which inspired George III to make the flowing connections along and across the river, today encompassed by the Grade I listing in the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.



Fig.14 Chambers' Observatory in the Old Deer Park



Fig.15 1763 Engraving from Sir William Chambers' designs for Kew showing the Alhambra, the Pagoda and the Mosque



Fig.16 Lancelot Brown's Plan of 1764 In today's context



Fig.17 The landscape flowing between Kew Gardens, Syon and Isleworth by Wilson in the 1760s



Fig.18 The same seamless landscape by Farington in 1795



Fig.19 The Castellated Palace from the Thames by Gendall in 1819



Fig.20 The Castellated Palace at Kew by Rowlandson



Fig.21 Turner's view of Syon and the Castellated Palace from the Old Deer Park

- 4.13 Richmond Lodge proved too small and uncomfortable for the burgeoning family of George III and the very fertile Queen Charlotte. Chambers planned a new palace for George and Charlotte just to the north east of the Lodge and Brown designed framing swathes and groups of trees. To open the setting, the remains of the mansions at West Sheen were demolished, but expenditure on Buckingham Palace stopped the Old Deer Park palace short at the foundations. Following his mother's death in 1772, George instead moved into the White House at Kew and the old Richmond Lodge was demolished.
- 4.14 Just before work started on the new palace, George III commissioned Sir William Chambers to design an observatory from which he could follow the transit of Venus in June 1769. The Observatory housed George's collection of clocks and scientific instruments and was used as a scientific academy for the princes. In 1778 Portland stone obelisks were erected across the Old Deer Park on the Observatory Meridian. The King's Time at the Horse Guards and the Houses of Parliament was set from here. Greenwich did not become the official Meridian until the next century.
- 4.15 In 1785 the inhabitants of Richmond and Kew agreed to the King's closure of Love Lane between Richmond and Kew Gardens, and in 1801 the gardens were united by the removal of the old fences.
- 4.16 At the beginning of the nineteenth century, George revived plans for a new palace. The White House was also pulled down and work begun close by on a massive, riverside castellated palace. Paintings by Turner, Rowlandson and Gendall record the impressive structure. George IV however did not share his parents' affection for Kew. He put his energies into the Brighton Pavilion and the Castellated Palace was pulled down in 1828. The small 'Dutch House' remained as the sole surviving 'Kew Palace'. The private royal landscape began its evolution into one of London's most significant green spaces with wider public use and enjoyment.

Recommendations

- 4.17 The Grade I landscape of the Old Deer Park, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Syon has a unique history and design continuity. We recommend that the Crown Estate establish and communicate policies to:

- Policies:*
- * Conserve and enhance the whole Grade I historic landscape as a single design piece.
 - * Conserve and where possible re-open the classic views centred on the Observatory, with particular attention to the Meridian and the views from Richmond and the Thames.
 - * Protect the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Charterhouse and the archaeological remains in the Old Deer Park.
 - * Reduce the impact and intensity of modern buildings and vehicles on the historic landscape.

- Projects:*
- * Encourage national agencies, the local authority, tenants and schools to help people understand the historic landscape, both in supporting literature, such as guides to the Thames Path, and in limited and discreet signs on the ground. A special school's teaching pack could be prepared to explain the rich combination of history, astronomy and nature conservation offered by the Park.

Landsc.

- Maint.:*
- * Adjust mowing and tree planting/felling regimes to retain or restore the historic character of the landscape.



Fig.22 1929 Aerial photograph showing the open parkland golf course with the King's Observatory prominent at its centre and the 18th-century clumps of trees. Note the clarity of the archaeological remains in the Park and the wartime allotments in the Recreation Ground area.



Fig.23 The Richmond Cricket Club in 1895



Fig.24 Archery on the Cricket Ground at the beginning of this century



Fig.25 Golfing lessons at the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course in the 1930s



Fig.26 The Royal Horse Show on the Athletic Ground in 1965



Fig.27 The Horse Show continues at the Recreation Ground to this day



Fig.28 Bowls on the Athletic Ground

5.0 Contemporary Use

- 5.1 The transition from private royal residence to parkland of wider public amenity happened smoothly through the nineteenth century. The first step was the integration of Richmond and Kew Gardens. The Royal Botanic Gardens were then established in 1841 under Sir William Hooker, the first Director. Originally restricted to the small area of Princess Augusta's botanic garden, Hooker's responsibilities were extended to cover most of the old gardens in 1845. William Nesfield redesigned the amalgamated Gardens with a dramatic triangle of avenues which linked the Pagoda, the Palm House and Temperate House with the axial vista across to Syon. More land was added in 1851 and 1897, when the Gardens assumed their present size.
- 5.2 By 1837 the name 'Old Deer Park' had been given to the whole of the southern half of the royal estate, from the river and the town edge of Richmond to the Kew Foot Road and Kew Road. This area remained under the Commissioners of the Woods (later the Crown Estate Commissioners) and was leased out as pasture land.
- 5.3 In 1865 the Richmond Cricket Club leased from the Crown Estate 10 acres of the Old Deer Park adjacent to the old royal laundry. The following year the Cricket Club let out the ground for winter football and the pattern for local sports in the Park was set. Hockey, croquet, archery and athletics were to follow in the next decade. Cricket continued to be played on Richmond Green, but a couple of fatal accidents from errant cricket balls in the 1880s prompted the Richmond Town Cricket Club and Athletics Association to lease the first 9 acres of the current Athletics Ground from the Crown in 1885. As well as cricket, rugby and association football, the Club also brought in tennis, cycling, bowls, quoits and athletics. The pressure was taken off Richmond and Kew Greens and a remarkably diverse range of local amateur sports had found their home in pleasant, flat parkland within easy access of the towns. Richmond Borough Council completed the transition in 1898 when it leased 87 acres of the southern part of the park for football, hockey, cricket, a drill hall for the new Territorial Army and a tea room.



Fig.29 Hockey on the Cricket Ground at the beginning of this century

- 5.4 The farm and parkland surrounding the Observatory was leased by the Royal Mid-Surrey golf club from 1892, providing sufficient land for two generous 18-hole courses. The golf club house was built in 1937 on the south-eastern corner of the course, adjacent to the Athletics Ground.
- 5.5 Meanwhile the King's Observatory became a central observation centre for the New Meteorological Office in 1867, sharing the building with the National Physical Laboratory from 1900 to 1910. Since 1980 the Observatory has been sub-let as an office headquarters, but the astronomic dome still functions and a small museum has been made in one of the side buildings. The museum is open by prior written agreement with Belron and managed by the Richmond Astronomical Society.

5.6 The Old Deer Park also became an open space for special events and war-time emergencies. The events began with the annual Royal Horse Show on the Athletics Ground in 1892 and the Motor Show of 1899. From the First World War until 1932, 18.5 acres of the eastern park were put down to allotments to help grow food for Richmond and Kew. The Horse Show is now held each year in June on the lower flood plain level of the Recreation Ground. Vehicle access via the Twickenham Road Meadow of the Park and under the A316 has proved muddy and congested. The Borough of Richmond is looking at a solution where horse boxes could use the upper route past the Pools on the Park and other visitors could be restricted to using the existing surface car park and walk to the Show.



Fig.30 The King's Observatory - the centrepiece of the Old Deer Park

5.7 The London Scottish Rugby Club moved to the Athletics Ground in 1892 and London Welsh replaced Rosslyn Park as partner with the Richmond Cricket Club in 1957. The use of the Old Deer Park for a wide range of amateur sports continues to this day. The Crown Estate still leases the eastern park to the Athletics Association and the Cricket Ground (Old Deer Park Partnership), the central park to the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club and the southern park to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. The Territorial Army Drill Hall is now leased by the Post Office, though the TA still retains a presence on the ground floor. The Borough of Richmond has sub-let parts of the southern edge of the park to a number of volunteer groups, including the Sea Cadets, St John's Ambulance, the British Legion and the Air Training Corps. The Richmond Swimming Baths, built in 1966 and now listed Grade II, are currently leased by Whitewater Leisure plc.



Fig.31 Temporary huts house volunteer groups in the south park



Fig.32 The Crown Estate tenancies in the Old Deer Park



Fig.33 Advertising hoardings at the Athletic Ground - there is a danger that professional first division requirements could end up overdeveloping the area and pushing out the very people the park has served for the last century



Fig.34 The Royal Mail share the Old Drill Hall with the Territorial Army on the southern edge of the park

5.8 The Sports Council see the diversity and amateur status of sports in the Old Deer Park as exemplary. Although some of the facilities need upgrading to meet modern standards, the Sports Council is adamant that amateur and junior sport should take priority in the Old Deer Park. The success of the Richmond, London Scottish and London Welsh Rugby Clubs ironically pose some problems for the Old Deer Park. There is a danger that professional first division requirements could end up overdeveloping the area and pushing out the very people the park has served for the last century. The Sports Council has said that there is no strategic argument for a stadium of any scale in the park and that it would oppose such a proposal at public inquiry. With the Harlequins' Stoop Ground, Rosslyn Park and Twickenham Stadium all within a 2 mile radius of the Old Deer Park, the Sports Council feel that the area is adequately served by professional rugby facilities. The current solution of first division matches being played away from the Athletics and Cricket Grounds may be a good way of retaining the character and diversity of the Old Deer Park, while still allowing historic clubs to retain a presence and bring on junior teams.

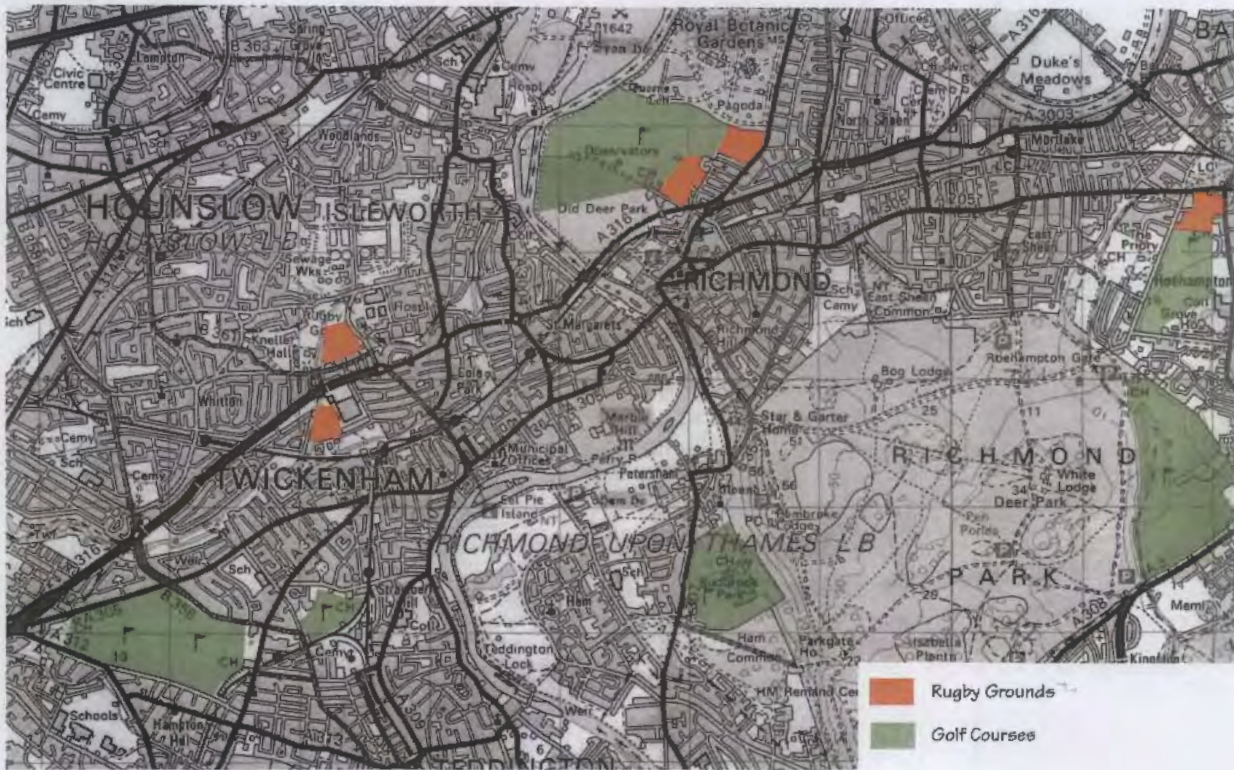


Fig.35 Rugby and Golf facilities in the A316 corridor

5.9 Although public access through the park was reduced when Love Lane was closed in 1785, Hill Common and most of Pesthouse Common were granted to the Vestry as compensation. The grant was twice as large as the request and led to the foundation of the Richmond Parish Lands Charity. The towpath along the river remains open as a public footpath and is now part of the Thames Path National Trail, opened by the Countryside Commission in 1996. The actual causeway along the river edge was built out into the Thames in the eighteenth century and was sold by the Crown to the London Borough of Richmond in 1970. The Sustrans national cycle route runs inland from Teddington Lock to Barn Elms, but the towpath is frequently used by bicycles. Recent invasion of trees and undergrowth have constricted the path, closing the views and leading to conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians. There is an entrance into the Recreation Ground from the towpath near to the Richmond half tide lock and into the Royal Botanic Gardens at the Isleworth and Brentford Gates. The Isleworth Gate is currently closed. The London Borough of Richmond has proposed opening a new footpath from the towpath to the Kew Road along the line of the ha-ha between the Old Deer Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens. The Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club is opposed to the idea.

5.10 When the railway line was constructed across the southern part of the park in 1848, a broad bridge was built over the line to keep Richmond Green connected to the Old Deer Park. Arches under the railway viaduct link through to the towpath and the wet meadow beside the river. The parallel construction of the A316 Trunk Road in 1933 was less accommodating. At that stage the dual-carriageway road was not busy and visitors were able to park on the verge and play in the Recreation Ground. Today the road presents a hostile barrier across the Park and pedestrians crossing the railway bridge from the Green are abandoned in a car park. The narrow metal footbridge over the road to the swimming pool complex is 150 metres away across a confusing car park and hidden behind an assortment of huts and fences. A more welcoming bridge on a more direct route might be considered.



Fig.36 The public footpath follows the river from Richmond to Kew along the western edge of the Old Deer Park



Fig.37 The Isleworth Gate from the towpath to the Royal Botanic Gardens is closed and would greatly improve access if it could be reopened



Fig.38 The path between the Old Deer Park and Kew Gardens is currently not open to the public



Fig.39 The 1868 Ordnance Survey Map showing the open character of the parkland, the central pond and the gentle bridge over the railway, connecting the Green with the Park



Fig.40 The narrow metal footbridge over the A316 to the swimming pool complex is 150 metres away from the Green entrance across a confusing car park and hidden behind an assortment of huts and fences



Fig.41 A more welcoming bridge on a more direct route might be considered

- 5.11 The Recreation Ground itself, tenanted by the Borough of Richmond, is fully accessible to the public, though charges are made for the tennis courts, the car parking and Pools on the Park. The Athletics Association, the Old Deer Park Partnership and the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course are run as private clubs. One has had to pay to enter the Royal Botanic Gardens since 1916.
- 5.12 The area is extremely well served by public transport. Richmond and Kew have both main line and underground stations. The North London Link (now Silverlink) stops at both stations and Richmond is in addition connected to the rapid Waterloo line. Buses run down Kew Road and through Richmond to St Margaret's. Boats stop at the Richmond riverside and Kew Pier and the Isleworth ferry has recently been revived, linking across to the Middlesex bank. The A316 Twickenham Road, by contrast is a busy and congested road. Although this is a Red Route, at rush hour and during major events, such as rugby matches, the traffic on the road and indeed right through Richmond town centre can grind to a standstill.
- 5.13 In general the Old Deer Park meets the needs of a sustainable city in very many ways. The green space provides an amazing range of public sport and recreation facilities within easy walking distance of Richmond town centre and with good connections to buses, underground, railway and cycle and footpath routes. Even the surface car park on the southern edge of the park is safe and accessible. The urban green space provides nature conservation habitats and a mass of vegetation to help clean the air and store flood water. And the open land is critical to the rhythm and structure of the city beside the Thames.



Fig.42 Transport connections

Recommendations

5.14 The Old Deer Park has survived as a major open space for London largely thanks to its history of royal occupation. The very lack of fragmentation makes this unified landscape strategy possible. The gradual transition to recreation during the last century has resulted in a unique diversity of amateur sports with excellent access for local residents and public transport. In order to conserve this special character, balance the impact of recent uses, and make the most of the space we would suggest the Crown Estate establish and communicate policies to:

- Policies:*
- * Maintain the Old Deer Park as a diverse tenancy of amateur sports, serving the local community and particularly junior and youth players.
 - * Restore the open character of the Park, do not permit any increase in built development and where possible reduce the intensity and impact of modern buildings.
 - * Conserve and enhance pedestrian connections to the town and the river.
 - * Refuse uses which might place further pressure on the congested A316 around Richmond.

- Projects:*
- * Extend the railway bridge connection in a smooth ark over the A316 Trunk Road to allow pedestrians to walk on a gentle gradient from Richmond Green to the Recreation Ground. The extended bridge could be linked to the surface car park and swimming pool complex with side ramps.
 - * Consider the LBRuT suggestion for opening a new footpath in the bottom of the ha-ha between the Old Deer Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens when this can be accommodated by the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course.
 - * Encourage the Royal Botanic Gardens to re-open the Isleworth Gate.
 - * Restrict vehicle access to the Horse Show to horse-boxes using the upper route past the swimming pool.

Landsc.

- Maint.:*
- * Selectively clear the towpath of recent undergrowth to allow views of the river and the Park and to reduce the constriction of the path and the conflict between cyclists and pedestrians.

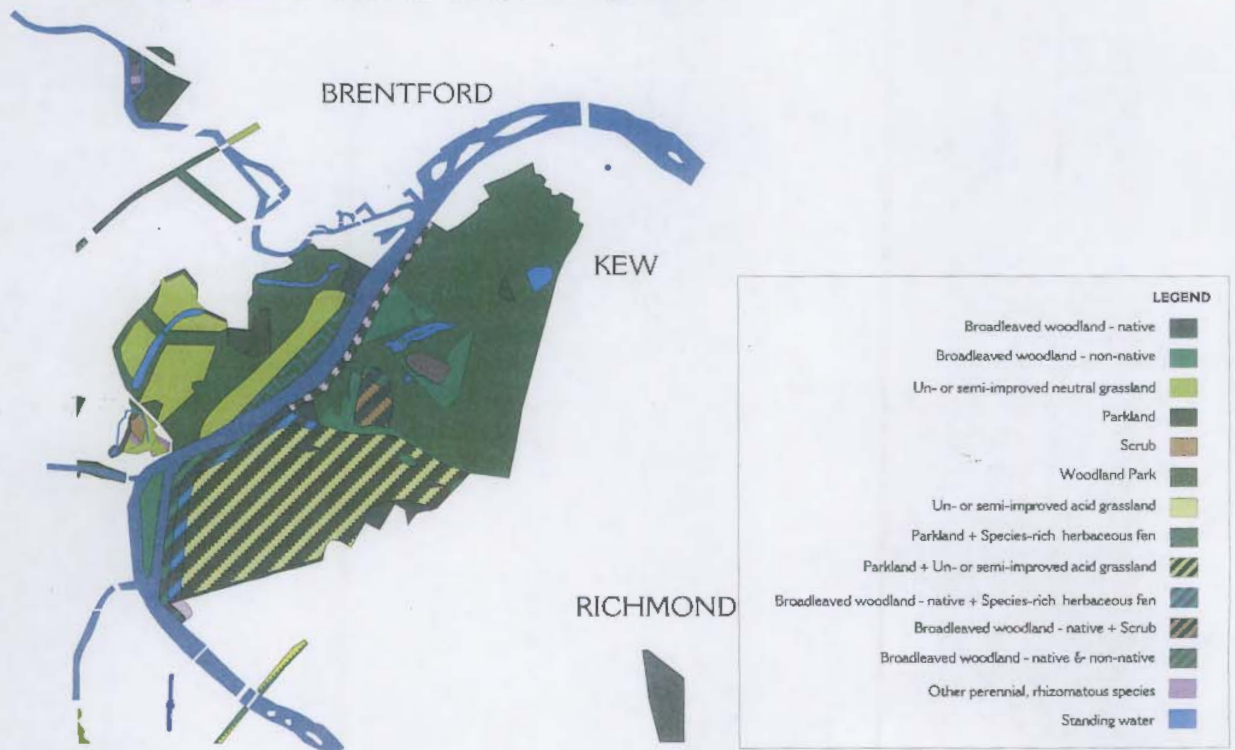


Fig.43 The habitats of conservation value as described by the London Ecology Unit survey



Fig.44 The grassland is the last fragment of flood meadow on the east bank of the Thames and the low-lying south-eastern part of the site still floods at high tide



Fig.45 The strip of grassland with scattered trees covers approximately 2 hectares



Fig.46 Most of the Recreation Ground is close-mown amenity grass of little conservation value

6.0 Nature Conservation

6.1 The Old Deer Park is part of a site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation and links into a network of large historic green spaces, such as Syon Park, Richmond Park, Bushy Park and Home Park. This extraordinary expanse of urban parkland is connected by the Thames corridor (a Site of Metropolitan Importance) to form a riverside habitat of major ecological significance. In nature conservation terms these green open spaces are at their most effective where they support a range of different habitats. The London Ecology Unit conducted a thorough survey of the Old Deer Park as part of its study of the London Borough of Richmond in 1993. The study was updated in June 1998. The Park provides a rich range of habitats:

Twickenham Road Meadow

6.2 This area is classified as a Site of Local Importance and is freely accessible to the public. The strip of grassland with scattered trees covers approximately 2 hectares. It was divided from the rest of the southern Old Deer Park by the Twickenham Road (A316) in the 1930s. The grassland is the last fragment of flood meadow on the east bank of the Thames and the low-lying south-eastern part of the site still floods at high tide. Lack of management and past improvement has led to a loss of much of the floral diversity in the last decade. Docks (*Rumex acetosa*) and California brome (*Bromus carinatus*) dominate the low vegetation. In recent years, disturbance caused by car parking for the Horse Show, has favoured the growth of these invasive species. The trees are mainly oak (*Quercus robur*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), poplar (*Populus nigra*) and horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). Ornamental cherries (*Prunus spp.*) lining the road are reaching the end of their lives.

6.3 The steep embankment of Twickenham Road supports a range of slightly unusual plants such as spotted medick, hoary pepperwort, common mallow and amphibious bistort.

Recommendation

6.4 The London Ecology Unit doubt it is feasible to significantly increase the botanical diversity of the sward and suggest that the Crown Estate tenants:

- * Supplement planting with native willows (*Salix fragilis/alba*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) to create a wet woodland.

Old Deer Park Recreation Ground

6.5 Most of the area is close-mown, amenity grass of little conservation value. However in the north-western corner of the Ground a mixture of crack willow woodland and tall herbaceous fen has developed. The woodland and fen are of considerable nature conservation value. The southern part of this area is dominated by creeping thistle, mugwort, nettles and docks, attracting large numbers of butterflies and other nectar-seeking invertebrates. Further towards the boundary of the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course the area becomes damper and hosts reed grass, reed sweet grass, marsh foxtail, great reed mace and great hairy willow herb as the dominant vegetation. There are further wetland plants in smaller numbers, such as purple loosestrife, marsh ragwort, bittersweet, water plantain, water forget-me-not, great yellow cress, wild angelica and meadow cranesbill. The large bittercress, very rare in London, was found here in 1992 and the area is the only site in London for small-flowered yellow rocket (*Barbarea stricta*), a nationally rare member of the cabbage family. The herbaceous fen provides an ideal habitat for the rare harvest mouse and the willows offer perching and nesting areas for many birds. A further area of nature conservation value is the clump of mature trees in the centre of the Recreation Ground. The clump offers scope for areas of long grass with the trees themselves providing shelter and a feeding ground for many invertebrates and birds.

Recommendations

- 6.6 The London Ecology Unit has suggested that the Crown Estate tenants:
- * Coppice the spreading willow woodland on a 9-year rotation, cutting one third every three years.
 - * Strim tall herbaceous vegetation on a 3-year rotation, cutting one third every year in late summer to prevent further encroachment of woody vegetation.
 - * Make provision for tall herbaceous vegetation to spread further along the north-western edge of the Recreation Ground.
 - * Alter mowing regimes to encourage the establishment of long grass under trees and in areas not used for sports pitches.

The towpath and adjacent ditch

- 6.7 The towpath runs on a kind of raised causeway which was built out into the river in 1766/72, creating an internal ditch separated from the main watercourse of the Thames. The ditch forms the western boundary for the Old Deer Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens. Connections to the Thames in several places kept the ditch tidal but the lower pipes have been blocked in the past few years to retain a constant minimum level of water. When the water is not fully flushed through, it can become stagnant. The problem has been exacerbated by the loss of light from recent encroachment of vegetation over the towpath and ditch. The dense, unbroken belt of trees and shrubs, includes horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with an undergrowth of elm (*Ulmus procera*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and other shrubs.
- 6.8 The eastern bank of the ditch varies with the different uses and management regimes of the adjacent Park. At the southern end, the Recreation Ground's close-mown grassland extends almost right to the edge of the ditch, leaving only a small strip of longer grass under the row of large London planes (*Platanus acerifolia*). The banks of the ditch and the north-western corner of the recreation ground support a more natural vegetation of nettles and docks in the shade of the dense tree and shrub cover. Only where there is a gap in the upper storey does the ground flora show more interesting marginal vegetation, including hemlock water dropwort and great hairy willow herb. A small and narrow island with further horse chestnuts divides part of the ditch into two. The flooded ditch is used by a range of water birds, including herons, mallards, moorhens, coots and even kingfishers.
- 6.9 The wetland extends into the southern part of the Golf Course where it gradually gives way to woodland. The area becomes increasingly drier towards the boundary of the Royal Botanic Gardens. These wooded areas produce so much shade that the ditch beneath has little or no marginal vegetation. Where the tree cover is less dense, common osier, purple loosestrife, marsh ragwort, great hairy willow herb, hemlock water dropwort and the invasive alien giant hogweed, grow on the margins. Aquatic vegetation, such as star wort, is also most vigorous in the areas where more light can penetrate. Adjacent to the golf course increased growth of duckweed (the alien *Lemna minuta*) may have been aggravated by fertilizer leachate from the course.

Recommendations

- 6.10 As the most valuable parts of the ditch are the areas which receive the most light, the London Ecology Unit recommends that the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames:
- * Clear a proportion of the woody vegetation between the towpath and the ditch (particularly sycamore, self-sown young horse chestnuts and regenerating elm).
 - * Where overhanging trees have deposited large quantities of leaves and debris in the ditch, undertake periodic desilting to increase the depth of water and reduce the nutrient level. The desilting should be carried out on a rotational basis, to allow aquatic plants and animals areas of refuge from which they can recolonize the dredged sections.
 - * Remove giant hogweed and duckweed as urgent priorities.



Fig.47 The towpath runs on a kind of raised causeway which was built out into the river in 1766/72, creating an internal ditch separated from the main watercourse of the Thames



Fig.48 The flooded ditch is used by a range of water birds, including herons, mallards, moorhens, coots and even kingfishers.



Fig.49 The golf course covers 88 hectares (217 acres) of the Old Deer Park and some of the finest specimen trees survive on the golf course



Fig.50 Much of the golf course roughs are still covered with rare acid grassland



Fig.51 One of the ponds has become totally covered with duckweed and waterfern (*Azolla filiculoides*)

The Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course

- 6.11 The golf course covers 88 hectares (217 acres) of the Old Deer Park and boasts some of the finest specimen trees of the park, some possibly even pre-dating Lancelot Brown. Much of the golf course roughs are still covered with rare acid grassland, containing plants such as lady's bedstraw, mouse-ear hawkweed, sheep's sorrel and wood groundsel. Acid grassland supports some highly specialized grasshoppers and butterflies.
- 6.12 When the London Ecology Unit surveyed the golf course in 1993, they praised the "sensitive management" of the land. In the survey update of June 1998, English Nature, the London Ecology Unit and the Borough of Richmond were alarmed to note how the restrained management of native grassland in the western half of the course had given way to close-mowing, heavy use of fertilizers and re-seeding. The former fine acid grassland in the roughs has been destroyed. The LEU fears that "the whole area will now probably require irrigation during the summers, where the original acid grassland would not, contrary to the principles of sustainable development."
- 6.13 Some areas in the golf course are thickly covered with woodland or scrub. The most significant strip, dominated by willows, follows the riverside ditch and links through a stand of oak (*Quercus robur*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) to the secondary woodland in Kew. The woodland provides a good nesting ground for a variety of birds, including tawny owls, kestrels, lesser spotted woodpeckers and spotted flycatchers. The dense undergrowth in this area works as a shelter for several species of mammals.
- 6.14 Several ponds along the western edge of the golf course link into the ditch habitat and to ponds in the south-western corner of the Royal Botanic Gardens. This area is being managed as a local nature reserve and provides a breeding habitat for the great crested newt, a protected species. The LEU found that several of the ponds and the ditch "are very close to tees and probably suffer from high nutrient levels due to fertilizers. Pesticides of various types might also get into the water". One of the ponds has become totally covered with duckweed and water-fern (*Azolla filiculoides*).

Recommendations

- 6.15 While recognizing the contemporary use of the course, the London Ecology Unit has stressed the seriousness and urgency of the situation. A return to the previous landscape maintenance regime would benefit nature conservation, enhance the landscape and reduce operational costs. It is therefore recommended that the Crown Estate's tenants work with the LEU to:
- * Undertake a full review of the maintenance of the golf course to include the top priority preservation of all acid grassland areas.
 - * Restrict the use of fertilizers and other chemicals to greens and tees and ensure that these areas do not leach into the surrounding roughs and watercourses. A buffer strip of rough grass left between the greens or tees and the wetlands could help.
 - * Return to the very limited mowing of the roughs.
 - * Create a chain of additional ponds, both on the golf course and along the edges of the Recreation Ground.
 - * Wherever possible conserve and expand the genetic strain of the historic trees and remove alien species, such as ornamental cherries and conifers, from the tree clumps and woodland areas.
 - * Protect dense undergrowth in wooded areas as shelter for birds and mammals, except where this conflicts with aims for acid grassland and important views.



Fig.52 1940s aerial showing the original openness of the Old Deer Park as part of the outstanding setting of Richmond and Kew



Fig.53 1990s aerial showing how recent planting within the Old Deer Park has divided the historic landscape into several little pockets, but the link with Richmond Green is still evident

LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

7 Urban Context



Fig. 54 St Matthias's spire on top of Richmond Hill still stands out as the most prominent building which can be seen from the Old Deer Park



Fig. 55 A sense of entrance - from Twickenham Bridge Richmond is set back behind parkland trees and the outpost of Asgill House



Fig. 56 The town edge of Richmond is clearly defined behind the trees and Park wall

7.1 Richmond and Kew, have an outstanding urban setting. The meander of the Thames curves from one town centre to the next and the open parkland on the river banks separates the historic centres. The rhythm of built and open space not only gives the towns a sense of scale and containment, it also allows residents to feel that they belong to a community of a manageable size – one where an individual voice can make a difference.

7.2 The setting of Richmond is particularly special. With the Thames to the west, the Old Deer Park to the north and Richmond Hill and Park to the south, the historic centre of the town in George Street has retained a unique sense of place. Richmond has always been more than a market town and the Green, the river frontage, the Old Palace and St Mary Magdalene's Church give the centre a character which transcends mere commercial functionalism.

7.3 Although the easy connection between Richmond Palace, the Green and the Old Deer Park was breached by the construction of the railway, the Park wall, gates and bridge from the Green to the Park created a clear edge to the town and a graceful transition to the Park. Even when the A316 was cut through the Park, the trees and grassland which survive in the southern Park still managed to create an excellent foreground to the edge of the town. Approaching London over Twickenham Bridge, one has a real sense of entrance. To the right the town is set back behind the parkland trees and the outpost of Asgill House. Richmond Hill rises above the renovated river frontage. To the left, until the vista was recently obscured by vegetation, one used to be able to look across the full extent of the Park through to the King's Observatory.

7.4 It is interesting that St. Matthias's spire on top of Richmond Hill still stands out as the most prominent building which can be seen from the Old Deer Park. Even the buildings on the edge of Richmond Green only show up gently and intermittently at their second storey through the parkland trees on the southern edge of the park.

7.5 The openness of the Old Deer Park is critical to the south-western approach to London. The bridge, the river and the parkland provide a breath of open green space before one reaches the Richmond roundabout. The town edge of Richmond is clearly defined behind the trees and the parkland wall, but the increasing clutter of parked cars, huts, signs and rugby stands has begun to detract from the parkland character and diminish the scene.

Recommendations:

7.6 The landscape character of the Old Deer Park has an important influence on the setting of Richmond town and the whole approach to London off the M3 Motorway. In order to conserve this special setting we would recommend that the Crown Estate establish and communicate policies to:

- Policies:*
- * Conserve and enhance the sylvan character of the parkland between the A316 and the edge of the town marked by the Park wall.
 - * Retain the clear edge of Richmond town behind the Park wall and prevent the temporary buildings within the Old Deer Park Grade I landscape from being replaced by permanent development.
 - * Protect and reopen the views from Twickenham Bridge to Richmond Riverside, Richmond Hill and the King's Observatory.

Projects:

- * Encourage LBRuT, as part of the Conservation Area Studies and UDP review, to undertake a study of the whole Richmond townscape which reflects the importance of the river and Old Deer Park in the setting of the town.



Fig.57 1970s aerial photograph showing an integrated and fluid floodplain parkland, linking directly to Richmond Green

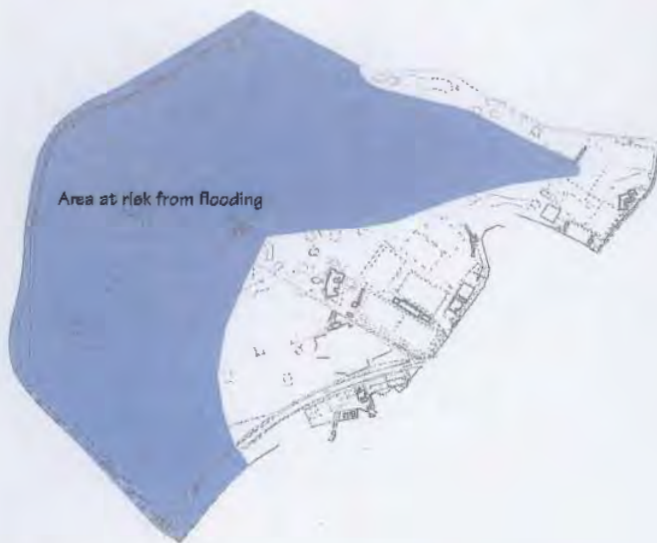


Fig.58 Most of the golf course and Recreation Ground are subject to flooding



LEGEND

Alluvium	■
River Brickearth	■
River Terrace Gravel	■
Head	■
London Clay	■
Made Ground	■

Fig.59 The geology of the river edge is alluvium rising to brickearth approximately 100 metres inland



Fig.60 The landscape flowing between Syon and the Newfield triangle of avenues in Kew in the 1930s



Fig.61 Glimpses to Queen Charlotte's cottage from the golf course provide an important visual link between the Old Deer Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew



Fig.62 1800 Thomas Milne Map showing the extent of open parkland surrounding and defining Richmond and Kew

8 The Landscape of the Old Deer Park

- 8.1 The landscapes of Syon, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Old Deer Park chart some of the most important steps in the evolution of landscape design in Europe. The mediaeval hunting grounds and ecclesiastical enclosures were transformed by Bridgeman and Kent and then by Brown and Chambers to create one of the seminal designed landscapes of the eighteenth century. The vision of Queen Caroline and Alexander Pope, initiated at the 1719 conference in Richmond Lodge, set in motion a new attitude to landscape which was to influence the rest of Europe as far as Russia and across the Atlantic to the Americas. In many ways the eighteenth-century English landscape school still remains the prevailing influence in appreciation of countryside throughout the world.
- 8.2 The configuration of the Old Deer Park and its relation to the Royal Botanic Gardens gradually altered with the relationships between the royal courts during the eighteenth century. The southern and eastern boundaries of the Old Deer Park are marked by high brick walls. The inclusion of Queen Charlotte's Cottage and woodland in the Botanic Gardens in 1897 set the northern ha-ha boundary. The river edge on the western boundary was confirmed by the construction of the new towpath in 1766.
- 8.3 The underlying landscape of the Old Deer Park is determined by its landform and geology. The Park lies within the flat flood plain of the Thames. The geology of the river edge is alluvium rising to brickearth approximately 100 metres inland (see Fig.59). Most of the Golf Course and Recreation Ground are subject to flooding (see Fig.58).
- 8.4 Although changing property lines created a flux of divisions and boundaries within the landscape, a 1930s aerial photograph (see Fig.60) shows a still integrated and fluid flood plain parkland, stretching across the river to Syon – almost according to Lancelot Brown's vision from the eighteenth century. Different management regimes within each of the Crown's tenancies in the Old Deer Park have however led to increasingly marked divisions. These tenancy boundaries have gradually become so pronounced that in many ways the Park can now only be understood as a whole from the air. The Recreation, Athletics and Cricket Grounds and the Golf Course are almost perceived as separate parcels which can be managed or developed in isolation from the whole. Much of the pressure for speculative development within the Old Deer Park has arisen from this misconception.

Recommendation

- 8.5 The special value of the Old Deer Park comes from its relationship to the wider Thames green open space – it is much more than a bundle of sports facility parcels. The landscape as a complete unit has a historic, nature conservation, recreation and urban structure significance which relates to capital as a whole. It is therefore strongly recommended that the Crown Estate use their position and vision as landlords to:
- * Play a pivotal role in the agreement of a broad landscape strategy for the whole area.



Fig.63 Some of the trees can still be traced back to historic plans and vistas could be re-opened to restore the visual links

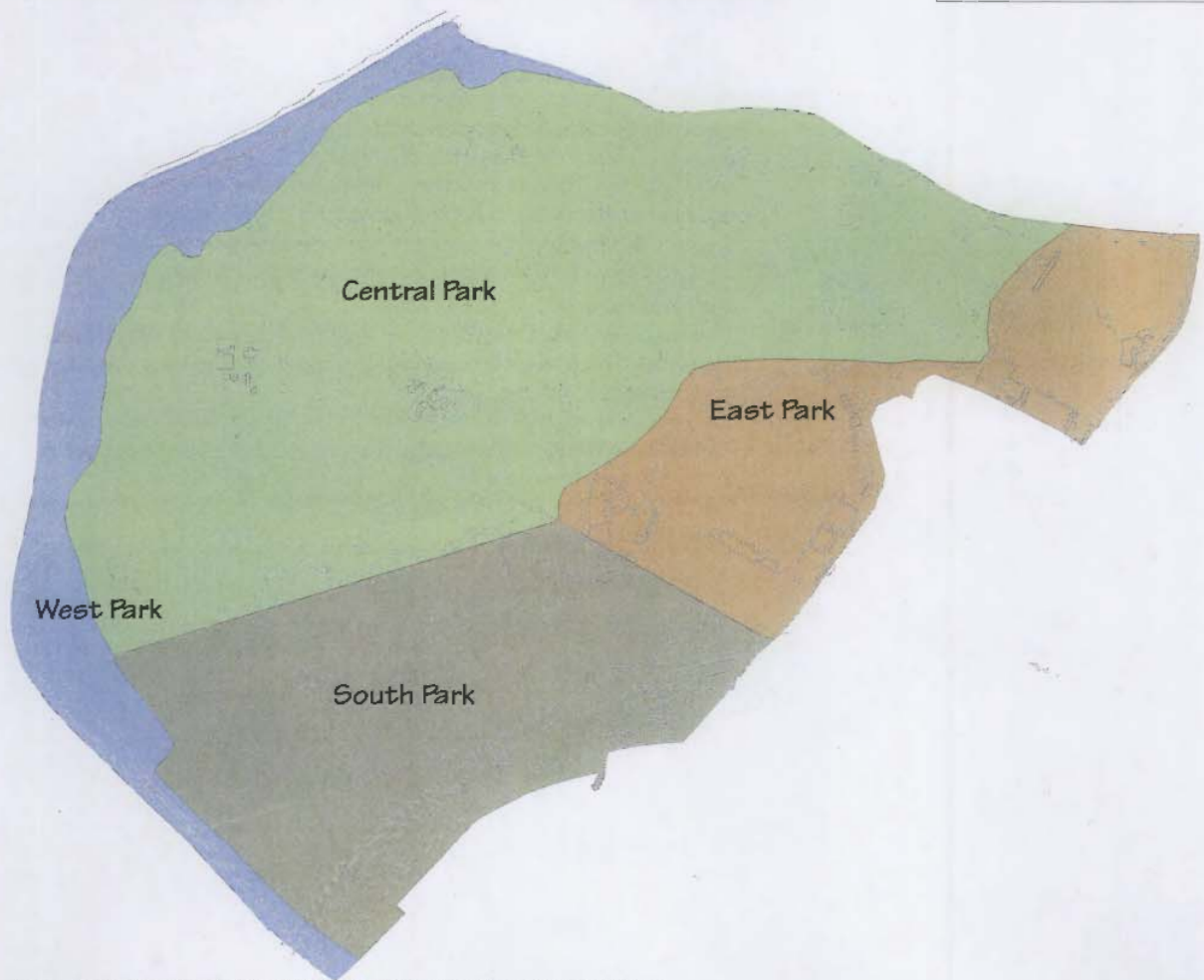


Fig.64 The detailed recommendations for the Old Deer Park can be analyzed in terms of sub-areas



Fig.65 A glimpse of Isleworth church from the Observatory, increasingly becoming obscured by ornamental cherries



Fig.66 One of the maintenance yards is hidden in a Brownian tree clump, but dying trees need to be replanted



Fig.67 Historic trees in the golf course - oaks and a magnificent Cedar of Lebanon



Fig.68 Inappropriate Lawson cypresses compete with Chambers' Pagoda

9.0 Landscape Character Areas

9.1 At the same time as being part of the wider Thames landscape, the detailed recommendations for the Old Deer Park can be analyzed in terms of the character sub-areas:

Central Park

9.2 *Design Evolution:* The central section of the Old Deer Park was laid out by Bridgeman as the setting for Queen Caroline's Ormonde Lodge and then redesigned by Capability Brown as the parkland for the aborted new palace designed by William Chambers for George III. Many of the main woodland clumps and individual trees from George III's time have survived. The archaeological remains of the Charterhouse and the various palaces and structures in the park can still be seen clearly in the 1929 photograph and have been noted in the extensive work undertaken by John Cloake. Today the King's Observatory is the focal building in the centre of this landscape. When the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club first took over the central park in 1892, the golf course was set out within the structure of the historic parkland planting and flowed easily into the landscape of the south park. Views to the river, the Observatory, the obelisks and across to Syon were kept open.

9.3 *Present Condition:* The golf course still enjoys an idyllic, Arcadian setting. The course gives the impression of being in the middle of the countryside, rather than set within the largest metropolis in Europe. The planes landing at Heathrow are the only intrusion which remind players of the surrounding city. Increasingly over the last decades, however, the golf course has planted the area more thickly using a number of inappropriate species, such as Lawson cypress, thuja, ornamental and purple-leafed cherries, glaucous Atlantic cedars, poplars and blocks of conifers. These species were never part of the original parkland landscape and tend to crowd out views, clutter the parkland feel and make the area seem smaller and more suburban.

9.4 The most serious area of recent planting and lack of maintenance is in the strip of trees which has established between the central park and the south park, cutting off the views between the two. Groups of Lombardy poplars, robinia, birch trees and pines now form an impenetrable line. The contours of an old pond which spanned the boundary can still be identified on the ground. Within the woodland strip, lawn-mowing cuttings, sand piles and leaf moulds have been deposited, increasing the nutrients and encouraging brambles, elders, and nettles. This area is signed as a nature reserve and the deposits do not help its ecological condition.

9.5 The eighteenth-century Cedar of Lebanon, oaks and holm oaks are marked on Fig.63. The oaks still provide the main structure of the course and the magnificent old cedar links across to the historic Syon cedars and the specimen cedars in Kew, and south along the Thames to Lebanon Park and Hampton Court. In the middle of one of the George III clumps, the main maintenance yard for the golf course is now hidden. The planting acts as a good screen for the yard, but great attention must be paid not to damage the trees that screen it and to replace dying trees with oaks of the same species for the future.

9.6 The mowing regime over the last five years has been strongly altered. It has been particularly noted by the London Ecology Unit and the London Borough of Richmond (Chapter 6) where the areas of rough and dry acid grassland have been mown out so that the impression of a gang-mown 'desert' with sand bunkers and hillocks has become much more dominant than the looser parkland feel of a decade ago.

9.7 In the centre of the course, the King's Observatory is one of Chambers' masterpieces and works well with his Pagoda. The building has been immaculately restored by the tenants. Its cream colour gleams out as the focal orientation point in the middle of the Old Deer Park. The low single storey buildings to its side do not intrude into the view. The close-board wooden fencing, which surrounds it in a large rectangle however does look somewhat out of place and ornamental planting which has taken place within the ground of the Observatory, together with the new swimming pool and white plastic garden furniture, strike a discordant note in the historic setting.



Fig.69 The swimming pool and white plastic furniture strike a somewhat discordant note in the historic setting

9.8 Over recent years, the views to the Meridian, Isleworth church and Syon have become obscured and the only two features which link this part of the Park with its surrounding context are the Pagoda and the Norwegian flagpole in the Royal Botanic Garden. Queen Charlotte's cottage can only be seen from a few points in the golf course.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Crown Estate establish and communicate policies to:

9.9 *Policies:* * Conserve and enhance the historic parkland character of the central park with the King's Observatory at its heart

and agree with tenants ways of achieving projects to:

- Projects:* *
- Reinstate Lancelot Brown's vision of a landscape structure of specimen trees and clumps, where feasible with the course layout
 - * Remove recent introductions of ornamental plantings, such as cherries, maples, robinias, poplars and conifers.
 - * Remove the plantings which have obscured the vistas to Richmond, the Thames, Isleworth Church, the Pagoda and the Meridian obelisks.
 - * Consider re-instating the historic pond along boundary line with the Recreation Ground to allow views through and help link the two parts of the park, without enabling direct access.
 - * Remove cypresses, that have been planted between the Cricket Ground and the golf course and thin dying pines to enable long views and continuity.
 - * Consider a permissive footpath in the bottom of the ha-ha along the northern boundary of the golf course to continue from Kew maintenance access and link through to Thames towpath.
 - * Complete the clearance of the trees around the northern obelisk to reopen the Meridian line right through to the river and across to the clearance which has already been undertaken by Syon Park on the northern side of the river.
 - * Consider replacement of the close board fence around the King's Observatory with a more appropriate boundary treatment.

Landsc.

- Maint.:* *
- Re-direct grass disposal to proper compost heaps and stop burning rubbish underneath trees.
 - * Clear ponds of Azolla and Lemna and control leachate from golf course.
 - * Restore the conservation mowing regime of the dry acid grassland roughs.



Fig.71 Proper roughs provide not only visual guidance but also areas of high nature conservation value



Fig.70 Where dry acid grassland roughs have been cut the golf course has the appearance of a gang-mown 'desert' instead of historic parkland



Fig.72 Recent plantings and lack of maintenance cut off views between the central and the south park



Fig.73 The King's Observatory still gleams out as the focal orientation point in the middle of the Old Deer Park, but recent inappropriate planting is changing the character of the parkland and obscuring historic vistas



Fig.74 The gates to the Old Deer Park from Richmond Green



Fig.75 The bridge over the railway forms a very pleasant and easy link between Richmond town centre and the Old Deer Park



Fig.76 As the path tails off into the car park it becomes confusing and disorienting



Fig.77 Even signs seem unable to resolve the confusion



Fig.78 The recent emphasis of the division between the central park and the south park by planting has blocked views between the south park and the central focus of the park - the King's Observatory

South Park

9.10 *Design Evolution:* The South Park has always formed a critical link between the edge of Richmond and the Old Deer Park. The 1868 OS (Fig.39) shows how a bridge had been constructed from Richmond Green over the new railway line in order to keep a continuous public link between the Green and the Recreation Ground. The railway and the park wall form the boundary which English Heritage have confirmed as the edge of the historic landscape (see Appendix V).

9.11 The area was designed to flow as a green parkland with Brownian clumps, right the way through to the river, the King's Observatory and the views across the Grade I listed landscape of Syon. When the A316 was constructed through the park in 1933 the footbridge was not continued over the road. At that stage the road was less busy and cars were able to park parking along its edges. It is interesting to note in the 1949 map how this area of public open space is delineated by the darker green colour and how the bridge from the railway leads into that entire space.

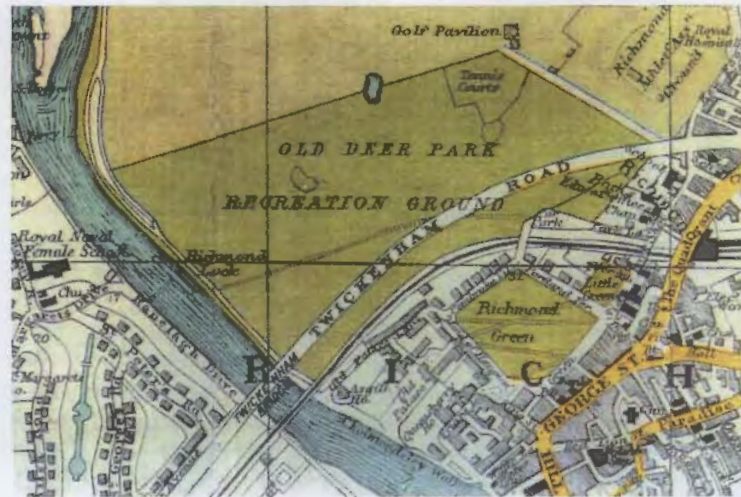


Fig.79 1949 Bacon map showing how the railway bridge provided a link into the entire public open space

9.12 *Present Condition:* The area of landscape shown on the 1949 plan still has a continuity, though this has been interrupted by developments around the swimming pool site and by a series of temporary buildings between the town edge and the road. The recent emphasis of the division between the central park and the south park by planting has blocked views between the south park and the central focus of the park - the King's Observatory. The three obelisks which mark the Meridian line are now hidden from the Observatory itself. Nevertheless the clump of trees which remains in the centre of the south park and the fine parkland trees which survive on the edges of the park retain some of the character of open parkland. The parkland trees in the area to the south of the A316, including the car park, are particularly important.

9.13 The Recreation Ground is now set out for 13 pitches and the whole area is gang mown without differentiation - an expensive and unattractive maintenance regime. The uniformity of surface and lack of middle ground features makes the view seem foreshortened and uninteresting, allowing the road to dominate. The planting of ornamental cherries along the A316, though very popular at the time, has tended to emphasize the line of the road rather than soften and integrate the route into the wider parkland landscape. A new line of lime trees will perpetuate the effect.

- 9.14 Considerable effort has been put into trying to make the car park look as attractive as possible. Nevertheless the planting of small, ornamental and fastigate trees and tall lamp standards do not help the car park to integrate into its parkland context. Similarly the various volunteer group huts, recycling bins, signboards and fences have made the approach to the town from the car park confusing and unattractive.
- 9.15 Across the road, the swimming pool has been thoughtfully integrated into the park. A glass wall opens onto the outdoor pool and beyond through to parkland trees to the rest of the park. The tennis courts and playground, clustered to the north of the swimming pool, are popular facilities which connect into the public area. The high chainlink fence which has recently been erected around the tennis courts and the maintenance equipment stored beside the playground stand out harshly in the parkland scene. Recent plantings of Lawson Cypress hedges may grow quickly, but they will also look incongruous in the parkland landscape.
- 9.16 There are three main entrances to the Park from the town. The 1848 entrance to the Old Deer Park from Richmond Green still passes through the original gate piers and up a gentle slope over the railway bridge (see Figs. 74&75). The gravel surface of the bridge has become somewhat eroded but, with its grass verges, the path immediately feels like part of the Park. As the path tails off into the car park, however, it becomes confusing and disorienting and the route back to Richmond is not well announced from the car park. The second approach from the station takes visitors over a zebra crossing through a pedestrian alley across Park Lane and then straight down past the post office into the eastern end of the car park. This is a very direct and quick route from the station and relatively free from traffic. Nevertheless the actual announcement of the park is confused by car park barriers, a wild variety of signs, parked ambulances and skips. It is similarly confusing to return to the town from the car park. The third main entrance is a narrow alley way along the edge of the Richmond Adult College.
- 9.17 The three gables of the Richmond Adult College, the old Drill Hall and the Post Office form a clear and well established edge to the town. The Post Office building, incorporating the 1898 Territorial Army Drill Hall, lies within the historic park boundary. At the moment the Post Office has no plans to move, but any long-term use of this building needs to respect how its form works with the rhythm of the gables on the town edge of Richmond. Queen Charlotte's Hall and the single storey flat roof extension to the Adult College are in poor repair and require attention. The flat-roofed building would ideally be removed. The Magistrates' Court with its fine brick perimeter wall and the new building constructed opposite Richmond station fit well with the urban fabric of the town.
- 9.18 The subway under the A316 has been identified by the Highways Agency as inadequate to support the loading effects for 40 tonne lorries. The subway is currently locked and decorated with graffiti. The structural repairs could present the opportunity to re-instate the passage as a permanently open footway.



Fig.80 The announcement of the park from the station is confusing and uninviting



Fig.81 The third main entrance is a narrow alley way along the edge of the Richmond Adult College



Fig.82 The town edge is well defined by the three gables of Richmond Adult College



Fig.83 the Drill Hall



Fig.85 The subway is currently locked and decorated with graffiti



Fig.84 and the Post Office



Fig.86 The three dead birch trees at the pool entrance should be replaced with plane trees matching their neighbours



Fig.87 The metal fencing along the split, confusing vehicular access with the golf course collects litter



Fig.88 Maintenance equipment blocks the narrow and obscured entrance to the playground in the south park



Fig.89 The chainlink fencing and maintenance equipment beside the playground stand out harshly in the parkland scene.



Fig.90 The railway bridge would benefit from maintenance

9.19 The swimming pool area is screened from the road by a simple brick wall and established planting of plane trees. The car park is simply laid out with further plantings of plane trees, which shade and soften the area. Unfortunately the three birch trees, which were planted in the pedestrian area at the entrance to the pools complex, have all died and might be better replaced by further plane trees. The split vehicular entrance off the A316 to the swimming pool and the golf course is confusing. The pyracantha hedge and metal fencing along the access road edge collects litter and is repeatedly broken down by rugby visitors parking at the pool and taking the shortest route to the Athletic Ground. The cobbles and the concrete paving under the trees in the car park are deteriorating and the maintenance area and the entrance to the playground is a muddle.

9.20 A thriving community of allotment gardens are tucked away between the southern wall of the park and the railway viaduct. There is a long waiting list for these allotments and they form an attractive and productive green space in this tight sliver of land.

9.21 The southern end of the sliver beside Old Palace Lane has become sadly neglected. The gates and railings have fallen into disrepair and are choked with ivy. Beneath the two fine trees, the boggy ground is now overgrown with rank weeds which are littered with rubbish. On such a prominent corner beside Asgill House at the riverside gateway to Richmond, the land deserves to be better kept.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Crown Estate establish and communicate policies to:

- 9.22 *Policies:*
- * Retain the entire southern section of the Old Deer Park (on both sides of the A316) as an integral part of the parkland landscape. Wherever possible restore the parkland character and re-establish links with Richmond Green.
 - * Retain the English Heritage Grade I listed landscape boundary as the well defined edge of the town.
 - * Retain the thriving allotment gardens between the railway viaduct and the parkland wall.

and agree with tenants ways of achieving projects with:

- Projects:*
- * Co-ordinate plans with the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course to re-open vistas in the boundary and soften the harsh line with tree clumps.
 - * Make a proper connection from the Green right the way across to the Recreation Ground, extending the existing link across the railway over the A316. Consider a design for a sweeping, curving bridge on a direct line from the town to the park on an easy gradient, very much in the character of the approach over the railway. The entrance into the car park from the A 316 will have to be reconfigured as part of the works for the new pedestrian link. The bridge from the car park to the swimming pools is not at the most obvious point and does not provide disabled access. The railway bridge would benefit from repairing and repainting.
 - * Enhance the entrance to the Park from Richmond Green. Consider re-instating the original gates between the entrance piers. Cut back and revive the laurel shrubbery and light the bridge for pedestrians.
 - * Restore the Meridian obelisks and re-instate the bronze plaque on the central stone.

- * Richmond Council has undertaken to look at more appropriate accommodation for all the volunteer groups, currently within the car park. If this can be achieved, it would make it possible to re-design the car park to integrate better into the parkland character. Planting with proper parkland species of oak, beech, plane and ash, would cover the car park in a form of woodland, shade the cars and work with the clear edge of the town. As part of the car park re-design integration of the car park surfaces, the lighting and the signing should be considered. The area of 118 car parking spaces and 3 coach bays to the west of the new connection should be returned to parkland planting with the car spaces relocated to the area where the volunteer group huts have been removed.
- * Enhance the shared entrance off the A316 to the golf course and swimming pool and plant the triangle of land on the edge of the road as woodland.
- * Reconfigure the playing fields so that historic clumps of planting and areas of longer grass can differentiate the space, enhance the nature conservation value, reduce the cost of maintenance and restore the character of the original parkland. This will also make conditions for football and cricket players much more pleasant, reducing wind and clearly marking the pitches.
- * Soften playground and tennis court fences with drifts of native shrubs.
- * Open views from each of the town approaches to the parkland beyond. Attractive interpretation signs could help inform visitors about the history of the area and reduce confusion about possible connections.
- * Encourage LBRuT to incorporate their overgrown corner of land at the eastern end of the south park into a more comprehensive and attractive car park scheme.
- * Plant replacement oaks along the route of the woodland track for future generations and stop using the area as vehicular access to the horse show. All planting in this area should be in parkland groups or clumps rather than lines parallel to the road.
- * Encourage the Highways Agency to re-instate the subway under the A316 as a permanently open footway.
- * Repair the gates and railings along Old Palace Lane, removing the ivy and restoring the sliver of land to mown grass.

*Landsc.
Maint.:*

- * Relocate the maintenance equipment stored out beside the playground and reduce the confusion between the entrance to the maintenance compound and the play area.
- * Repair the cobbled areas and pedestrian surfaces in the swimming pool car park.
- * Keep the land beside Old Palace Lane properly mown and free of litter.



Fig.91 The triangle of mown grass and concrete paths by the A316 could be replanted as woodland



Fig.92 The swimming pool has been thoughtfully integrated into the park



Fig.93 A new bridge could continue right over the A316 from the railway bridge



Fig.94 The 118 car parking spaces west of the proposed connection to the park could be returned to parkland planting once the spaces have been relocated to the east



Fig.95 The corner of land which is in the ownership of Richmond Borough Council could be incorporated into a more attractive car park scheme



Fig.96 The assortment of parked cars, huts, machinery and piles of sand and grass cuttings underneath the horse chestnuts give the area a scruffy appearance



Fig.97 The ha-ha between Kew Road and the Old Deer Park has suffered from decay, damage and the straggling growth of scrub trees along its top



Fig.98 The white plastic fasciae on the club house stand out in the parkland landscape



Fig.99 The Athletic Ground is covered in a bright variety of advertising signs. The unlawful hospitality suites have recently been removed



Fig.100 Unsightly huts and parked cars along the historic park wall at the Athletic Ground

East Park

9.23 *Design Evolution:* This section of the park was laid out in the eighteenth century as grazed parkland for George III's Merino sheep. The ha-ha allowed uninterrupted views across the sheep fields. The north-eastern edge of the park also accommodated the Royal Laundry and various palace ancillary facilities. In 1865 the north-eastern corner was tenanted to the Richmond Cricket Club and further south in 1885 to the Richmond Athletic Ground. The intention was to provide local public recreation facilities within easy reach of the town and within the context of the wider Old Deer Park.



Fig.101 1940s Aerial showing the open flow of the parkland between the Cricket and Athletic Grounds and the golf course. Note the Royal Laundry amongst mature trees

9.24 *Present Condition:* The eastern areas of the Park have become increasingly separated from the Old Deer Park by planting around the golf course and by pressure on the recreation facilities. The Richmond Cricket Ground is now separated from Kew Gardens by a straight asphalt path along the top of the ha-ha bank, leading to the galvanized service gate for the Royal Botanic Gardens. The double line of horse chestnuts which abuts this road has suffered from losses over the past few years and although some sycamore volunteers have come in, there is a gap along this edge. The assortments of huts, machinery and piles of sand and grass cuttings underneath the horse chestnuts give the area a scruffy appearance. The holm oaks along the Royal Botanic Gardens' ha-ha have recently been pollarded, opening views to the Pagoda. The prefabricated concrete garage that has been placed in the north-east corner of the cricket ground is particularly unfortunate with its backdrop of Lawson cypress.

9.25 The Cricket Ground itself is well maintained and the club house links into the copse of planting along the edge of the roadside ha-ha. To either side of the club house the ha-ha between the Kew Road and the Old Deer Park has suffered from decay, damage and the straggling growth of scrub trees along its top. Nevertheless, where the ha-ha remains clear, it keeps an open view from the fine Victorian houses across the road and from the edge of the road into the park. Recent plantings of Lawson cypress around the tennis courts interrupt the flow of the park, but the hard tennis courts have been well integrated behind yew hedging on the edge of houses in the neighbouring road to the south. The planting of golden Lawson cypress around the bowling green is not as sensitive as the yew hedges surrounding the hard tennis courts.

9.26 A concrete stand on the western edge of the cricket ground tucks into trees and the subdued colours and the green seats, acquired from Wimbledon, reduce its intrusion into the landscape. The white plastic fascias on the club house by contrast stand out within the landscape. The white trellis, erected after the construction of new terrace, further emphasizes the main building. The parking along the eastern edge of the park and the cricket club has been well integrated into the trees with a porous surface. The cars at the entrance however give a poor first impression of the Ground.

9.27 The Cricket Ground is a good example of how many amateur sports can be successfully combined in one area. The Athletic Ground is less successful. The Ground is covered in a bright variety of advertising signs and although unlawful hospitality suites and some of the unlawful small buildings have now been removed, a couple of blue containers remain in front of the Pinnacle leisure centre and various huts and portakabins loiter around the 1960s concrete stand. The Pinnacle centre itself, with its white fascia and surrounds, stands out harshly against the landscape. The northern front of the Grade II listed pavilion has been blocked off by a concrete block flat-roofed extension and the concrete stand blocks views from the Twickenham Road into the Park. Some distant views through to the golf course survive, but these are interrupted by an area of close-boarded fencing and rubbish. The scruffy edge continues through to the boundary with the Golf Club house, where tanks and rubbish areas are stacked against the car park fence.

9.28 To the east of the Athletics Ground, the Kew Foot Road still offers a quiet pedestrian link along the edge of the Park. There are good 18th- and 19th-century buildings all the way along the road, with the exception of the 'Tarmac' building, which has been faced with artificial slates. In front of the Royal Hospital the old RB cast iron bollards mark the clairevoie, and created to give views from the former Rosedale House into the Park.

9.29 The hospital now looks into a rough car parking area within the grounds of the Richmond Athletic Association. The rutted surface of the car park, with its brick and concrete huts and sporadic ornamental trees, is unattractive. The car park area is contained within a 2.5m high chainlink fencing compound, associated with the golf driving range to the north and west of it. Parking along the listed seventeenth-century wall has replaced some of the unlawful portakabins. Excavations around the roots of the boundary trees will have damaged their long-term survival prospects.

9.30 The golf driving range, now disused, tucks quite neatly into the woodland edge of the park, but the bright red bricks and white windows of the new developments behind the wall in Tower Rise and Lenton Rise form a harsher edge to the park than the old Royal Hospital in its gentler yellow London brick. The mature trees on the edge of the new development are very important in screening out the development.



Fig.102 The northern front of the Grade II listed pavilion has been blocked off by a concrete extension



Fig.103 In front of the Royal Hospital the old RB cast iron bollards mark where the clairevoie allowed views into the Park



Fig.104 Kew Foot Road still offers a quiet pedestrian link along the edge of the park



Fig.105 The entrance to the various facilities from the A316 is confusing



Fig.106 The advertising boards of the Athletic Ground do not do the historic setting justice



Fig.107 Various huts and portakabins loiter around the 1960s concrete stand



Fig.108 The sign on the right at the Cricket Ground fits in well. The car park at the entrance however gives a poor first impression



Fig.109 The disused golf driving range tucks neatly into the Park's woodland edge

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Crown Estate establish and communicate policies to:

- 9.31 *Policies:*
- * Maintain the remnant parkland character of the sports grounds in the eastern park.
 - * Reopen views from both sports grounds through to the rest of the Park.
 - * Permit no further built development, artificial pitches or lighting.
 - * Reduce commercial car parking.

- Projects:*
- * Remove unlawful concrete huts and portakabins within both grounds.
 - * Improve entrance areas to both grounds. Improve signs and remove the intrusive entrance car parking.
 - * Reface clubhouses in darker, less intrusive material.
 - * Remove the Lawson cypress hedges within both grounds and replace the hedge around the Cricket Club bowling green with yew.
 - * Remove the temporary huts, the equipment, scaffold posts and sand piles along the Kew ha-ha service road. Resurface the service road with tar and chip and replant the double horse chestnut avenue where trees are missing. Remove the concrete garage and Lawson cypresses and substitute yew hedging and holm oaks in their place. Control the parking along the edge of the access road.
 - * Repair the Cricket Ground ha-ha and remove the seedling sycamores and hawthorns, which have established along the ha-ha edge. Bury the services which currently straddle the ha-ha on scaffold poles surrounded by barbed wire.
 - * Clear away all of the unnecessary huts, white hoardings, advertising boards, fencing, tanks and rubbish areas, including grass cuttings in various areas of the Athletic Ground and the Golf Course car park. Parking areas should be laid out in a much more sympathetic and efficient way, respecting the views between the park and the hospital and between the entrance areas and the road.
 - * Consider replacement of the concrete stand and restoration of the old pavilion with a possible relocation of the concrete stand to the area currently occupied by the disused driving range on the understanding that the capacity of the ground could not be increased over its present size and the views onto the Pagoda and the trees along the boundary should not be obscured by any new stand.
 - * Replace poplars planted along the southern and eastern edges of the Athletic Ground as part of a major boundary replanting programme. More appropriate species, such as oak, plane, beech and horse chestnut should be replanted. The line of plane trees from golf course car park could be continued along the length of the entrance drive.
 - * Consider dual use of sports grounds.

Landsc.

- Maint.:*
- * Ensure that Cricket Ground ha-ha is properly mown, cleared of rubbish and maintained.

West Park

- 9.31 *Design Evolution:* This area has traditionally been part of the Thames towpath, with Asgill House marking the entrance to Richmond. The bridges over the towpath (first the railway bridge in 1848 and then the Twickenham Bridge in 1933) provided a series of gateways along the river approaching Richmond from downstream. Originally the towpath ran along the inner edge of the Park but in 1766 a causeway was built in the river leaving a ditch between the Old Deer Park and the Thames. This was followed by the construction of the half tide lock weir in 1894. The towpath and ditch were sold by the Crown Estate to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in August 1970.
- 9.32 The area surrounding Queen Charlotte's cottage was part of the Old Deer Park until 1897. The ha-ha has been reinforced with concrete 'sand bags' and barbed wire. This is one of the most important nature conservation areas within the Royal Botanic Gardens and links into the riverside habitat of the Old Deer Park.
- 9.33 *Present Condition:* The area of the Old Deer Park beside the river is still liable to flooding and the banks have become colonized by rank grasses and overgrown with sycamore and elm. Some fine plane trees and horse chestnuts survive along the river edge. Sluices along the ditch between the towpath and the Old Deer Park have been doctored to ensure that a constant minimum of water keeps the ditch as a form of moat.
- 9.34 Part of the Thames towpath has recently been resurfaced in asphalt giving the path a rather municipal feel. The overgrowth of trees and shrubs has become so dense in most parts that it creates a tunnel effect and leaves some pedestrians feeling threatened along the darker stretches of the path. An attractive iron bridge connects the towpath back to the Old Deer Park, just upstream of the Richmond half tide lock.
- 9.35 The edges of the towpath causeway have been lined with concrete and granite. Wave and root action, combined with vandalism, are gradually eroding and destroying the hard man-made revetments. Recent floods led to the complete destruction of sections of the path. The London Borough of Richmond has combined repairing the paths with the insertion of bigger drains connecting the Thames with the ditch. This should help to speed the tidal flow in and out of the ditch.



Fig.110 Pedestrian links could be opened underneath the railway



Fig.111 The edges of the towpath causeway have been lined with concrete and granite



Fig.112 Willow spilling could be used to re-instate the river edge in further places



Fig.113 Following recent floods, Richmond has introduced bigger drains connecting the ditch and the river



Fig.114 The edge of the ditch could be left as longer grass underneath the canopy of the old plane trees



Fig.115 The northern obelisk still needs to be made more visible and historic views to the observatory should be opened up



Fig.116 The southern obelisk with the pair of larger obelisks in the background



Fig.117 Broken bench on the towpath

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Crown Estate encourage the landowner to:

- 9.36 *Projects:*
- * Liaise with the Environment Agency on the reinstatement of the river edge, using more imaginative and sustainable solutions, such as willow spiling .
 - * Consider linking the ditch back to the Thames at the northern end to allow stagnant water to renew itself and dispose of surplus nutrient contents.
 - * Remove recent undergrowth and weed trees which have blocked the vistas on the Meridian line and connect with the clearance that has already been undertaken by Syon Park on the northern side of the river.
 - * Maintain or open up further views to the river, Richmond Lock, Syon Park and pavilion, the Meridian obelisks, the Old Deer Park, Isleworth Ait and Isleworth Church and riverfront.

Landsc.

- Maint.:*
- * Thin the vegetation either side of the ditch and towpath to improve conditions for the ditch as a nature conservation habitat.
 - * Re-place broken benches.
 - * Clear rubbish out of the ditch and along footpath on a regular basis.

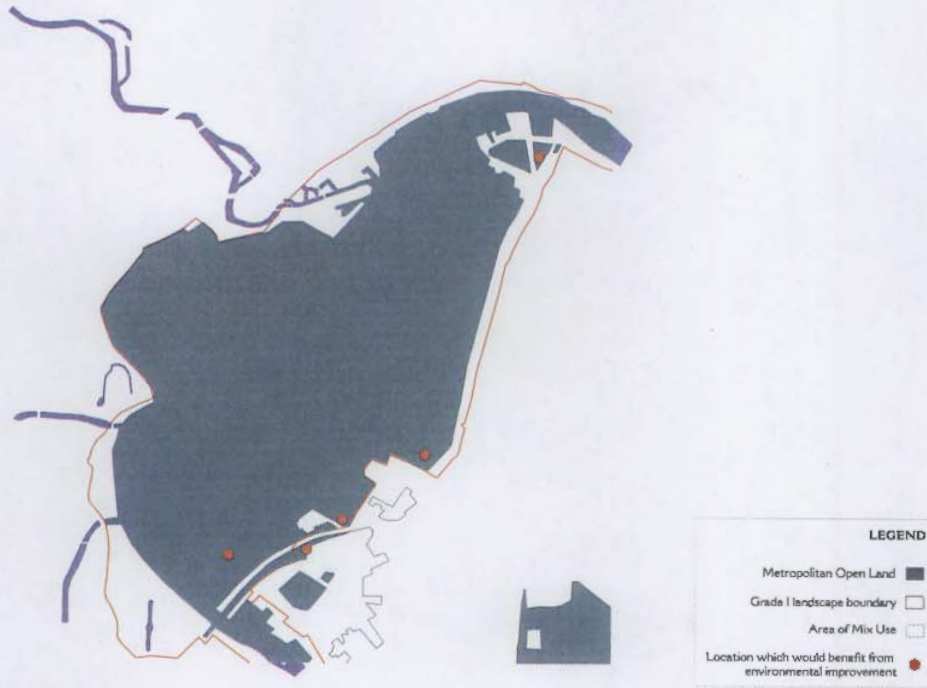


Fig.118 National and Metropolitan designations



Fig.119 Conservation Areas (with numbers) in and around the Old Deer Park

PLANNING POLICIES

10.0 National and Local Designations

- 10.1 The Old Deer Park is covered by a number of national and local designations. These designations (particularly as they relate to the London Borough of Richmond Unitary Development Plan: First Review) are briefly explained in the following paragraphs and shown on figures 118-122:

LPAC Strategic Planning Advice

- 10.2 In the London Planning Advisory Committee's (LPAC) Strategic Planning Advice, Richmond is identified as a centre for consolidation, where development should make a qualitative improvement rather than an extension to the capacity of the centre. The Thames riverside as a whole is mentioned as an area of special character, which should be conserved and enhanced.

English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens

- 10.3 The Old Deer Park is included in the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at Grade I. To the north and west the Park abuts the Grade I landscapes of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Syon Park. To the south the boundary of the Old Deer Park is marked by the Park wall.

Metropolitan Open Land

- 10.4 MOL is open land which is of significance to London as a whole or to a part of London; it can either be publicly or privately owned, and with or without access. Originally defined by the Greater London Development Plan, the criteria for MOL designation by the Boroughs are now defined in the Secretary of State's Strategic Planning Guidance for London (1989), currently under review and being advised upon by LPAC. Policy ENV 3 in the Richmond Unitary Development Plan: First Review aims to keep MOL in predominantly open use. The policy takes into account the visual impact, which development on sites adjoining MOL might have on the character of the open land. The boundary does not accord at present with the southern edge of the Park.

Thames Policy Area

- 10.5 Following the advice of the Strategic Guidance for the River Thames (RPG 3b9b), Richmond has included the designation of Thames Policy Area in its UDP: First Review. For further detail see Chapter 11.

Public open space

- 10.6 These are areas that give the public access to open land. Policies ENV11 in the Richmond UDP: First Review refers to this designation and states that the Council "will resist the loss of any land shown as public open space" and "will seek to protect and enhance the visual quality of areas of public open space". The boundary does not at present accord with the southern edge of the Park.

Conservation Area

- 10.7 Conservation Areas are designated for their architectural or historic interest, with the aim of preserving or enhancing their character and appearance. Although Conservation Area designation is usually associated with the built environment it can also be used for open land. Within its boundaries, Richmond has designated all the major historic open spaces as Conservation Areas. The Old Deer Park is covered as Conservation Area No.57, for which a study has been prepared, although it does not at present reflect the boundary of the Grade I landscape in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Site of Special Scientific Interest

- 10.8 There are no SSSIs within the Old Deer Park, but English Nature has designated the tidal meadow at Syon across the Thames as an SSSI, partly because of the presence of the German hairy snail.

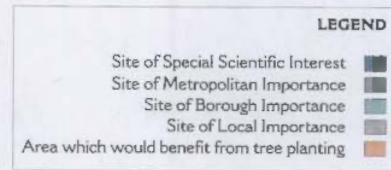


Fig.120 Nature conservation designations

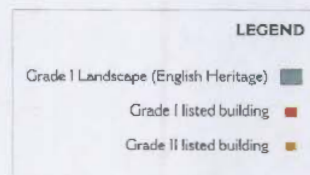


Fig.121 Department of Culture, Media and Sport and English Heritage designations

Other site of nature importance

- 10.9 'Other sites' refer to those nature conservation sites that are of Metropolitan, Borough or Local Importance. The London Ecology Unit publication "Nature Conservation in Richmond upon Thames" and subsequent reports on the area go into more detail about reasons for the designation, findings and management proposals, as referred to in Chapter 6 of their report, and Policy ENV18 in of the UDP: First Review.

Proposed Area for tree planting

- 10.10 Under policy ENV 9 in the UDP: First Review, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRuT) explains its approach to these areas and its aim to promote and grant aid the planting of trees, trees clumps and thickets. The (LBRuT) tree strategy details this policy.

Vista/landmark and view

- 10.11 In policy ENV 4 of the UDP: First Review (LBRuT) promises to protect vistas and views and "seek opportunities to create attractive new views and vistas and, where appropriate, improve any that have been obscured." The UDP highlights the view cone from Twickenham Bridge into the Old Deer Park and stars the King's Observatory and the Pagoda as 'Vista/Landmarks'. The views of Isleworth waterfront and the church are also noted. The Meridian line though still awaits inclusion.

Listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments

- 10.12 Both these designations are made by the Department of Culture, Media and Sports, advised by English Heritage and are shown in the UDP: First Review. As well as preventing demolition, listing requires buildings to be kept in a state of good repair. Listings are reproduced in Appendix V. The Charterhouse is being looked at in the Programme for Scheduled Ancient Monuments and is likely to be included.



Fig.122 Archaeological designations

Proposed Area for environmental improvement

- 10.13 In policy BLT33 of the UDP: First Review, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames explains its general and financial support for improvements to the environment. Sites in the Recreation Ground, the Athletic Ground and Golf Club entrance and the Cricket Ground are starred for environmental improvement.

Area poorly provided with public open space

- 10.14 In policy ENV12 the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames explains its aim to provide new opportunities for public open spaces in poorly provided areas. Ironically one area of Kew adjacent to the Old Deer Park and Kew Gardens is designated under this heading. One of the reasons for promoting a new footpath link to the river along the Kew ha-ha is to meet this deficiency. Other possibilities may lie in the dual use of sports grounds (ENV 15 of the UDP: First Review).

Area of mixed use

- 10.15 The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will seek to concentrate uses which serve the local community or attract visitors in the areas of mixed use. Policies EMP2, TC8, TC6, IMP2, HSG5 and CCE18 of the UDP: First Review explain the designation further. The designation in the southern part of the Old Deer Park overlaps with the MOL and Grade I landscape boundaries.

Primary/secondary road

- 10.16 The A316 is designated as a primary road and a Red Route. Kew Road is a secondary road. Policy TRN 17 states: "New side road, access road or footway crossover access onto the A316 will be opposed. ... Generally for secondary roads, pedestrian crossing facilities will be controlled at grade crossings. New access onto secondary roads will generally be discouraged. Bus priority measures and facilities for cyclists are being pursued".

LBRuT Interim Planning Brief for the Old Deer Park

- 10.17 The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has produced an Interim Planning Brief with the stated aim "To protect and enhance the character and appearance and the unique open, historic, archaeological, visual, and nature interest of the Old Deer Park for present and future generations."
- 10.18 The Brief stresses its interim status and explains that it will be reviewed to take account of the Crown Estate's Landscape Strategy as well as the Borough's Professional Rugby/A316 Strategy and DETR Guidance on Public Safety Zones in relation to Heathrow Airport, when they are finalized.

11.0 Thames Policy Area

- 11.1 The Old Deer Park falls within a number of policy areas which relate to the Thames and its riverside:

Strategic Planning Guidance for the River Thames

- 11.2 The Government Office for London produced Strategic Planning Guidance for the River Thames in February 1997 (RPG3B/9B). The Guidance sets out the Government's planning policies for the River Thames from Windsor to the sea. The Guidance sets a Thames Policy Area from Hampton to Crayford Ness. Special mentions are made of the Thames Landscape Strategy (Hampton to Kew) with direction to local authorities to:

- * "identify and protect ... important views across and along the River, and to important local landmarks; and
- * recognise in their development plans the importance of the River as a strategic open space."

The Thames Landscape Strategy (Hampton to Kew)

11.3 The Thames Landscape Strategy was endorsed by national and local authorities in June 1994 and is in the process of being incorporated into UDP Reviews. The Old Deer Park comes in for special mention (Landscape Character Reach 10) with particular recommendations to re-open historic vistas, re-instate historic parkland planting and enhance the nature conservation value of the towpath and park.

River Thames protection

11.4 The stretch of the Thames parallel to the Old Deer Park is designated in the London Borough of Richmond's UDP policy RIV5 as an 'A' Reach, where "new development will not normally be permitted" and "new pedestrian access will only be provided where it is not prejudicial to the maintenance of ecological interest."

Area at risk from flooding

11.5 Policy RIV 13 of the UDP states "In areas at risk from flooding as defined in the proposals map there will be a general presumption against new development or the intensification of existing development."



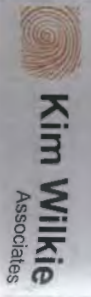
Fig.123 The Old Deer Park and its vista connections as shown within the Thames Landscape Strategy's Character Reach 10

THE OLD DEER PARK, RICHMOND



- █ Listed building
 - █ Building in need of enhancement or removal
 - █ Tree structure
 - █ Water body
 - █ Water body
 - █ Visual line
 - █ Old Deer Park wall
- © The Crown Estate, 1999

THE CROWN ESTATE VISION FOR THE LANDSCAPE





- Landed building
- Other building
- Old Deer Park wall
- Tree structure
- River
- Contours at 0.5m intervals

© The Crown Estate

OLD DEER PARK
EXISTING SURVEY
 Client: The Crown Estate
 Scale: 1:6000
 Drawn: JZ/01/01A
 Date: July 1999



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- 2 Crown Estate: *Stewardship in Action* (London 1992)
- 3 London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames: *Old Deer Park Study - Conservation Area No.57* (Richmond 1990)
- 4 London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames: *Interim Old Deer Park Brief* (Richmond April 1998)
- 5 Kim Wilkie Associates: *The Thames Landscape Strategy (Hampton to Kew)* (June 1994) ISBN: 0 9523596 0 X
- 6 John Cloake: *Richmond Past* (Historical Publications Ltd 1991), and *Palaces and Parks of Richmond and Kew Vols I & II* (Phillimore & Co 1995/6)
- 7 Ray Desmond: *Kew*, (The Harvill Press 1995)
- 8 John Archer and David Curson: *Nature Conservation in Richmond upon Thames* (London Ecology Unit 1993) ISBN: 1 871045 18 5
- 9 John Cloake: *Richmond Past* (Historical Publications Ltd 1991), and *Palaces and Parks of Richmond and Kew Vols I & II* (Phillimore & Co 1995/6)
- 10 John Cloake: *Palaces and Parks of Richmond and Kew Vol II* (Phillimore & Co 1995/6) p43

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Key to sources:

Aerofilms	- Hunting Aerofilms Archive
BL	- British Map Library
Duke of Nthl	- Duke of Northumberland at Syon House
DH	- David Hill, 1993: Turner of the Thames, Yale University Press, London
JC vol. I or II	- John Cloake, 1995/6: Palaces and Parks of Richmond and Kew, 2 vols., Philimore & Co., Chichester
KWED	- Kim Wilkie Associates
MB et al.	- Mavis Batey et al., 1994: Arcadian Thames, Barn Elms Press, London
RD	- Ray Desmond, 1995: Kew - The History of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Harvill Press, London
RLS	- Richmond Local Studies
PR	- Peter Ryde, 1991: Characters & Kings - The Making of the Royal Mid-Surrey
TLS	- Kim Wilkie Associates, 1994: The Thames Landscape Strategy - Hampton to Kew

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Cover	Oblique aerial photograph of the Old Deer Park 1998	KWED
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5	Woodcut showing the burning Shene Palace from the original 1577 ed. of Holinshed's Chronicles	JC vol. I, p.54
6	Extract from Moses Glover's Map of 1635	Duke of Nthl.
7	Wenceslaus Hollar's engraving of Richmond Palace 1638	JC vol. I, p.186
8	Engraving by Chatelain based on Marco Ricci's View from the Middlesex bank of Richmond Lodge	MB et al., p.103
9	Engraving by J. Vander Gucht of Richmond Lodge in the mid-1720s	JC vol. II, p.31
10	Painting of the White House at Kew by Kirby in 1763	TLS
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APPENDIX III

CHRONOLOGY

Date	Owner/Initiator	Landscape
951	Theodred, Bishop of London	Theodred's will is the earliest documentary evidence of Shene.
12th century	Henry I	granted the manor of Shene to the Norman family of Belet, where it remained until the late 13th century.
late 1290s	Edward I	The crown occupied areas of Shene and a park of the manor house is mentioned.
1313	Edward II	Shene came back into Royal ownership and Edward II founded a house of Carmelite (White) Friars in the manor house, but moved them to Oxford only two years later. His wife, Queen Isabella held Shene until her death (1358).
1358-68	Edward III	converted the Shene Manor house into a royal palace with open warren for the chase from Shene to Kew. The palace was moated and for its time rather sophisticated. In 1366-67 a herb garden was created. Edward III died at Richmond in 1377. The palace went to his grandson Richard II.
1394	Richard II	Shene Palace was demolished following the death of Queen Anne of Bohemia at the palace, which used to be the couples' favourite home. Much of the material was used at the Tower of London and the royal manor at Windsor. The demolition was not completed and the gardens still maintained by the end of the 14th century.
1414	Henry V	built the Carthusian Shene Charterhouse (and the Benedictine Isleworth and Brigittine Syon convents) to expiate his father's part in the murder of Richard II and started rebuilding Shene Palace slightly to the south-east of the old palace's site. The Charterhouse was the largest and richest of its kind until the dissolution.
1431	Henry VI	The Syon convent was moved to the present site of Syon House.
c. 1438	Henry VI	aged 18, created the New Park of Shene between the palace and the Charterhouse (Carthusian Monastery of Jesus of Bethlehem of Shene). Further rebuilding and extension of Shene Palace took place throughout the 1430s and '40s, especially in 1444/5 in preparation for Henry VI's marriage with Margaret of Anjou. The site of the former palace was converted into an orchard or garden.
1486	Henry VII	recovered Shene Palace from the widow of Edward IV and added a park on the Middlesex bank, which was often referred to as Isleworth Park, later named Twickenham Park.
1497	Henry VII	Shene Palace (built by Henry V and Henry VI) was burnt down (23 December) Henry VII stayed at Richmond often and died at the palace.
1501	Henry VII	New turreted palace completed and re-named Richmond after Henry VII's earldom in Yorkshire.
early 16th century	Henry VIII	stayed at Richmond frequently before acquiring Hampton Court in 1525. Several of his children were born at Richmond Palace. Richmond became known as the Queen's Palace and after Catherine of Aragon's death, Anne Boleyn's execution and Jane Seymour's death, Princess Mary lived at the Palace. The Palace was given to Queen Anne of Cleves, who returned it to Edward VI after Henry VIII's death.
1538	Henry VIII	The Shene Charterhouse was dissolved.

Date	Owner/Initiator	Landscape
1547	Duke of Somerset	Syon House was built with a raised terrace where the former abbey had been suppressed in 1539. The raised terrace contributed to the Duke being regarded as a traitor and falling out of favour. Botanic Gardens in Syon Park were planned.
1553	Duke of Northumberland	Syon House was presented to John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, and re-built without the raised terrace.
1555	Mary Tudor	The Shene Charterhouse was restored and Mary lived at Richmond for longer periods than at any other palace.
mid 16th century		A foot passenger ferry was established between Isleworth and the Charterhouse site.
1557	Mary Tudor	The nuns at Syon House were recalled only to leave one year later.
1558	Elizabeth I	The Charterhouse at Shene was finally dissolved and turned into a mansion again. Richmond became Elizabeth I's favourite residence and was used more frequently and longer than any other palace.
1574	Elizabeth I	granted 'our park of Istleworth otherwise called the Newe Parke of Richmonde in our County of Middlesex' (87 acres) to Edward Bacon.
1590s	Sir Francis Bacon	occupied "New Park of Richmonde" but referred to it as "Twickenham Park".
1594	9th Earl of Northumberland	The lease of Syon House was granted to Henry Percy, 9th Earl of Northumberland.
1603	Elizabeth I	died at Richmond Palace on 24 March.
1603-7	James I	created a new park - now the Old Deer Park, by adding monastic land to increase the hunting ground to 370 acres. Richmond Lodge was built in the park by Robert Stickles as a hunting lodge. Sir Thomas Gorges, who had given up some land of the Charterhouse, was made Keeper of the "New Park of Richmond".
1604-6	9th Earl of Northumberland	altered Syon House and built gate lodges. In 1609 the battlements were added.
1610	Prince Henry	Richmond Palace was granted to Henry Prince of Wales and plans for a new palace by Salomon de Caux and new gardens were made. Inigo Jones reclaimed the river front to prepare for the new ideas, which were pre-empted by the sudden death of Prince Henry in 1612.
1617	Prince Charles	Richmond Palace was granted to Prince Charles, Henry's brother.
1627	Charles I	granted the palace to his wife Henrietta Maria, who raised her children at the Palace.
1631	A merchant from Flanders	built the Dutch House, later Kew Palace.
1632	10th Earl of Northumberland	Algernon Percy, 10th Earl of Northumberland employed Inigo Jones for alterations at Syon House.
1635-7	Charles I	Richmond Park was created as the new deer park and the mediaeval park near Richmond Palace was re-named Old Deer Park.
1649-50	Henry Carter and others	Richmond Palace and the Old Deer Park were sold off by Parliament, some stone buildings were demolished and a new building (later called Tudor Place) was erected on the site of the former tennis court.
1660s	Lord Lisle	built a new house within the enclosure of the former Charterhouse.
1666	Sir William Temple	took over part of the former Charterhouse and created a garden much admired by Evelyn.

Date	Owner/Initiator	Landscape
1681	6th Duke of Somerset	undertook further alterations to Syon House.
1688	James II	Christopher Wren undertook decoration and minor repairs at Richmond Palace.
c1690	John Drew	built 12-14 Brewer's Lane at Richmond Green.
1692	Virtue Radford	'Old Palace Terrace' built by William Wallins.
1695	William III	King James's hunting Lodge was enlarged and the gardens surrounding it improved. The Broad Avenue was created by George London.
c. 1700	6th Duke of Somerset	Lime avenue planted and a new entrance built at the Brentford end of the estate.
1702-04	Richard Hill	employed John Yeomans to build the Trumpeters' House to replace the old Middle Gate of Richmond Palace.
1702-15	James Butler Duke of Ormond	took over King James's red brick hunting Lodge, enlarged it and made it into a perfect 'Trianon' with a terrace garden. However his estates were lost because of his political affiliations (he was a staunch Jacobite).
1705-8	Alexander Cutting	replaced old lodgings with the Old Court House and Wentworth House.
1710-25	John Price	developed the north-east sides of Richmond Green.
1718	George, Prince of Wales later George II	Ormonde Lodge was leased to the Prince of Wales and his wife Caroline, by the Earl of Arran, the Duke of Ormonde's brother, whom the lodge had been assigned to in 1712.
1719	George, Prince of Wales later George II	bought Ormonde Lodge, the couples' favourite country resort, and renamed it Richmond Lodge. His wife Caroline, in liaison with Charles Bridgeman and Alexander Pope, started the English landscape garden movement from here. Princess Caroline hosted a gardening conference in 1719.
1724-5	Earl of Cholmondeley	The Earl replaced the Palace range facing Richmond Green with the Maids of Honour Row buildings.
1726	George II	enjoyed hunting at Richmond and settled the property on Caroline.
1727-35	Queen Caroline	The Queen enlarged the gardens with Charles Bridgeman r constructing a formal canal, a rectangular duck pond, labyrinthine walks with closely clipped hedges in the woods, a forest oval and amphitheatre. Fields and meadows were incorporated into the design.
1728	Queen Caroline	The Dutch House (Kew Palace) and other houses were rented by the Queen to accommodate her children. The Queen herself was living at Richmond Lodge.
1728	George II	Charles Bridgeman was officially appointed royal gardener.
1729	Queen Caroline	William Kent designed the Queen's Pavilion as the first in a series of buildings for the gardens.
1729-34	Queen Caroline	Charles Bridgeman's extension of the riverside Terrace Walk was started and took five years to complete at the Kew end. The Terrace was grassed, with a retaining wall and a row of elms on the garden side.
1730	Queen Caroline	William Kent designed the Hermitage as a ruin of rough-hewn stones.
1730	Prince Frederick	The White House (then Kew House) and its much admired formal gardens were leased by Frederick, Prince of Wales. In the following years William Kent enlarged the house for the Prince.

Date	Owner/Initiator	Landscape
1733	Queen Caroline	Bridgeman designed a mount near the canal to overlook the gardens and the Thames. The mount still survives today near Queen Charlotte's Cottage in Kew Gardens.
1735	Queen Caroline	William Kent designed Merlin's Cave and the dairy house. A further, elm-covered mount was built by Bridgeman close to the cave.
1736-7	Queen Caroline	The Queen's Private Road was built from Richmond Lodge in the Old Deer Park to White Lodge in Richmond Park.
1737	Queen Caroline	died and George II suspended all further work in the grounds, but still used Richmond Lodge for Saturday suppers in the summer.
1738	George II	Charles Bridgeman died and Thomas Greening, father and son, were engaged as chief gardeners at Richmond.
1740s		Horace Walpole was full of admiration for Bridgeman's design of the park. Sir William Stanhope had the Trumpeters' House enlarged with wings and a portico.
1749-50	Prince Frederick	acquired 42.5 acres of land at the White House (Kew) Gardens (east of Love Lane) and had an Aqueduct, a lake, a mount and the House of Confucius built by the Earl of Bute, who in 1755 became George III's 'finishing tutor'.
1751	Prince Frederick	died leaving Princess Augusta to live around the White House. Her head gardener was John Dillmann with John Stuart, and the 3rd Earl of Bute a very important landscape advisor.
1753	Queen Augusta	Robert Greening, son of Thomas (Richmond Lodge) became head gardener for the pleasure grounds at the White House and designed a 6-acre lake with a 3-acre island, planted an adjacent mount and levelled the meadow between the house and the lake to give better views.
c. 1753	1st Duke of Northumberland	Lancelot Brown re-designed the gardens of Syon House.
1754	Princess Augusta	A Chinese temple and a bell temple were built in the flower garden of the White House.
1757	Princess Augusta	Sir William Chambers was appointed as architect to Princess Augusta and architectural tutor to Prince George. Robert Greening, son of Thomas Greening senior succeeded his father as gardener, but died in 1758.
1757-63	Princess Augusta.	Chambers built a Pagoda, a mosque, an alhambra, a gothic cathedral, a ruined Roman arch, a Temple of Victory and a classical orangery at the east part of the park. Lord Bute and William Aiton acted as garden advisors to provide for any botanical interest in the gardens.
1759	Princess Augusta	founded the Royal Botanic Gardens (c.9 acres) at Kew and Haverfield introduced William Aiton at the garden.
1759		Kew Bridge built.
1760	George III	inherited Richmond Lodge.
	1st Duke of Northumberland	Robert Adam remodelled Syon House and built a Stone Bridge and Gate Lodges for the Duke.
1761-2	George III	William Chambers' Pagoda was built.
1764	George III	Lancelot Brown (appointed royal gardener) re-designed the park around Richmond Lodge. He removed the raised terrace walk from Richmond to Kew and converted the area into lawns reaching down to

Date	Owner/Initiator	Landscape
		the river and connecting across to Syon, also laid out by Lancelot Brown. Kent's buildings were removed and a new palace planned in the grounds. Merino sheep were introduced to the park.
1766	George III	closed the public road that led from the Kew riverbank past Richmond Lodge to Richmond Green. As compensation; he had the towpath from Kew Ferry to Railshead Ferry improved and the road from Kew Bridge secured.
1767	George III	Lancelot Brown replaced the Terrace Walk with a ha-ha. A brick ha-ha was also built between the Gardens to the north and the Old Deer Park to the south to keep sheep in the Old Deer Park.
1768-71	George III	The remaining buildings of the former Charterhouse were demolished.
1769	George III	Sir William Chambers Designed the Kew Observatory to view the transit of Venus (in June that year).
1770	Queen Charlotte	Lord Bute introduced John Hill as another 'director' to the Botanic Garden. It's reputation grew steadily.
c. 1770	Queen Charlotte	Queen Charlotte's cottage was built as a thatched tea-house with a menagerie nearby.
1770-2	George III	A new palace designed by Sir William Chambers in a setting laid out by Lancelot Brown was started though not completed.
1772	George III	moved into the enlarged White House (Sir William Chambers) at Kew after Princess Augusta's death and Richmond Lodge demolished. Sheen Lane was closed and the towpath extended from Railshead Ferry to Palace Lane.
1773	George III	bought fields south of Pagoda.
1774	George III	The road that led to the Charterhouse was closed to the public and Palace Lane improved as the alternative.
1774		Richmond Bridge built to designs by John Paine.
1775		The Royal Gardens were opened to the public with benches in groves and meadows.
1778		3 Obelisks, designed by Edward Anderson, were built in the park to mark the meridian.
1780	George III	Sir Joseph Banks supervised the Royal Botanic Gardens.
1785	George III	Love Lane closed to the public and newly elected Vestry granted the whole of Hill Common and most of Pesthouse Common for a new workhouse and a new cemetery. The land was twice as much as they had asked for and the remainder sparked off the foundation of the Richmond Parish Lands Charity.
1788	George III	First bout of porphyria and convalescence at Kew. From then on, Windsor became more important as the summer retreat.
1800-6	George III	The White House and several smaller buildings were pulled down to make room for the building of the Castellated Palace (designed by James Wyatt) and Kew Palace became a royal residence. Queen Charlotte's Cottage became an ornamental dairy shortly afterwards.
c. 1802	George III	Richmond Gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens were united.
1803	2nd Duke of Northumberland	Robert Mylne built the Pavilion Boathouse at Syon Park.
1806	George III	suffered further attacks and went almost blind so that the work on the

Date	Owner/Initiator	Landscape
		new palace was almost suspended.
1806		W. T. Aiton, son of William Aiton, who had recently taken over as superintendent was asked to design a flower garden in the former menagerie of the Queen Charlotte's Cottage, where at that time kangaroos from Botany Bay lived.
1807	George III	was largely confined to Windsor, and Queen Charlotte only came occasionally to Kew.
1817	3rd Duke of Northumberland	North side of Syon House re-built.
1818	Queen Charlotte	spent the last five months of her life at Kew Palace, which ceased to be used as a royal residence after her death.
1819-26	3rd Duke of Northumberland	Thomas Cundy re-cased Syon House in Bath Stone.
1820	George IV	purchased the Hunter House (now Herbarium in Kew Gardens) and closed the western end of Kew Green three years later.
1827	3rd Duke of Northumberland	Charles Fowler designed a conservatory at Syon Park.
1828	George IV	Castellated Palace at Kew demolished without ever being occupied.
1830s	William IV	Kew Green partially restored as a Green.
1837	3rd Duke of Northumberland	Syon Park opened to the public.
1840		The Observatory, surrounded by open farm land, was threatened with demolition, but the British Association for the Advancement of Science used it as a laboratory for electrical and meteorological experiments.
1841	Queen Victoria	9 acres of the Royal Botanic Gardens opened to the public and Sir William Hooker became the 1st Director.
1842	Sir William Hooker	More land for the Botanic Garden received and new entrance at Kew Gate built.
1843	Sir William Hooker	46 acres added to the Botanic Garden and Decimus Burton was commissioned to plan the Palm House.
1845	Sir William Hooker	The eastern and western part of Kew were amalgamated and several of Chambers' buildings removed. Queen Charlotte's Cottage and the Palace remained outside the Botanic Gardens, which were re-designed by William A. Nesfield.
1847	Sir William Hooker	Further 46 acres were added to the Royal Botanic Garden, Queen Elizabeth's Lawn was made on site of the demolished Castellated Palace and the Kew Palace Gates erected. A museum was opened in the former Hunter House. Decimus Burton built the River Terrace and the ornamental dairy at Syon for the 3rd Duke of Northumberland.
1848	London & South Western Railway	The railway was extended to Staines and Windsor. Old Deer Park southern and eastern boundaries marked by new wall and gates, which now form the boundary of the Grade I historic landscape. A new entrance to the Old Deer Park from Richmond Green was built with a bridge constructed over the railway.
1851		The British Association for the Advancement of Science checked the accuracy of scientific instruments at the King's Observatory.
1851	Sir William Hooker	A Herbarium was opened in former Hunter House.
1857	Sir William Hooker	A new Temperate House was built by Decimus Burton and a lake dug to provide gravel for its terrace. The lake was dug in a more natural style closer to the river, where Merlin's Cave once stood.

Date	Owner/Initiator	Landscape
1861		Richmond Football Club established and played on Richmond Green.
1862		Richmond Town Cricket Club changed named, though still playing on
1865		10 acres of the Old Deer Park were leased to the Richmond Cricket Club.
1866		Richmond Cricket Club let out ground for winter football.
1867		The King's Observatory became the central observation station for the New Meteorological Office, which remained there until 1980.
1872		The Royal Parks were opened to the public.
1874		Richmond Hockey Club established.
1876		Richmond Croquet and Archery Clubs established. London Athletics Association rented Richmond Cricket Club ground for an athletics meeting.
1880s		Fatal accidents from cricket balls on Richmond Green.
1881		Nesfield's parterre around the Palm House was re-designed after his death, but his vistas remained.
1882		The opening times of the Botanic Garden were extended.
1885		9 acres of the Old Deer Park were leased to Richmond Cricket Club and the Athletics Association Ltd. for cricket, rugby and associated football, tennis, cycling, bowls, quoits and two athletics meetings per year. A pavilion was built in the grounds.
1889		6 more acres were leased by Athletics Association.
1890		Richmond incorporated as a borough.
1891		The Richmond Golf Club leased an area of farmland for a 9-hole golf course for several months, but then moved on to Sudbrook.
1892		The Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club took over all the remaining farmland and created a new golf course. Richmond Royal Horse Show was held for the first time at the Athletic Ground.
1894		London Scottish moved to Athletics Ground. Richmond Lock and the new footbridge were opened on May 19.
1896		Further 8 acres added to Athletics Ground (23 acres in total).
1897		The area around Queen Charlotte's Cottage became part of the Royal Botanic Garden.
1898	Richmond Borough Council	leased the remaining 87 acres of the Old Deer Park for a recreation ground for football, hockey, cricket, a drill hall for the new Territorial Army, a pavilion and a tea room.
1899		Motor Show staged in the Old Deer Park.
1900-10		The National Physical Laboratory was founded at the observatory, but moved to Bushy Park in 1910.
WWI - 1932		18.5 acres of the Old Deer Park were converted into allotments for food production.
1914		New wooden stand erected for Richmond Royal Horse Show.
1916		A penny was charged as entrance fee for the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

Date	Owner/Initiator	Landscape
1921		The gardens were opened to the public from 10am daily.
1933		A316 Trunk Road built through south-park, parallel to railway, and Twickenham Bridge constructed (designed by Alfred Dryland and Maxwell Ayrton). The bridge was opened by the Prince of Wales on 3 July 1933. New stand built at the Athletic Ground.
1935-50		Concrete revetment constructed along Thames bank.
1936-7		The new railway station was built.
1937		New Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course club house built.
WWII		Richmond Green was torn up for use as an air raid shelter, and Kew Green became a warden's post.
1952		The Australian House was opened in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
1957		London Welsh replaced Rosslyn Park as partner with Richmond Cricket Club and built stand designed by G W Glover & Partners. Members' grandstand burnt down in Athletic Ground.
1959		Richmond Cricket Club given notice to quit and returned to Richmond Green.
1960s		800 seater concrete stand built at Richmond Athletic Ground, designed by Manning and Clamp.
1963		Richmond Cricket Ground entrance embellished with gates from Cambridge University observatory.
1965		The Borough of Richmond merged with Twickenham, Barnes and Mortlake.
1964-66		Richmond Swimming Baths built, designed by Leslie Gooday with the engineer Stanley Weddle (listed Grade II in 1996). London Welsh Club House and squash courts built, designed by Frank Saunders & Partners.
1969		The gardens at Kew Palace were replanted, a mount built to view the river and that part of Kew Gardens was opened to the public.
1970	London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	Towpath and ditch sold by the Crown Estate to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
1980		Kew Observatory was converted into offices.
1981		The Butterfly House at Syon Park was built.
1987	Trustees of Royal Botanic Garden, Kew	The Princess of Wales Conservatory built - designed by Gordon Wilson.
1989		Waterslides Company went into receivership and flumes demolished.
1990	Trustees of Royal Botanic Garden, Kew	Sir Joseph Banks Building built at the Royal Botanic Gardens - designers Manning and Clamp.
1994		English Heritage extended the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Grade II listing in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens to encompass the Old Deer Park. Thames Landscape Strategy launched.

APPENDIX IV

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APPENDIX V

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT
AND ENGLISH HERITAGE LISTINGS

LONDON, GREATER
GARDENS, KEW

ROYAL BOTANIC

RICHMOND UPON THAMES

GD1825

TQ1876

I

Botanic gardens of international pre-eminence, founded 1759 by Princess Augusta, and eventually incorporating two C18 gardens, 121ha.

The Botanic Garden at Kew was begun in 1759 with a small area of c.4ha (approximately to the south of Chambers' Orangery of 1757) devoted to botanic collections; the surrounding areas were Royal pleasure and kitchen gardens dating from 1729; those to the south were first designed for Queen Caroline by Charles Bridgeman, and then redesigned by Capability Brown for George III in 1764; at the northern end, the grounds were landscaped by Sir William Chambers for Princess Augusta, Dowager Princess of Wales. The two estates were merged when Princess Augusta died in 1772. While the Botanic Garden was enlarged, many new exotics were brought to the gardens through Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society and botanical advisor to King George III and Queen Charlotte. In 1841, the gardens were made a public research institute; Sir William Hooker was appointed as the first Director, and the gardens were re-landscaped by William Nesfield. Their area was drastically increased to c.100ha. They were administered by the Office of Works, and from 1903-84 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Under the National Heritage Act 1983, a Board of Trustees was appointed, to manage the Gardens.

The area of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is bounded to north-east by the backs of houses facing Kew Green, to east by Kew Road, to south by the Old Deer Park (Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course), and to west and north-west by the Thames. Fine views westwards towards Syon House (q.v.). The ground is virtually level, with slight undulations, some of them artificial, and the result of landscaping. The lake in the south-western part of the gardens was excavated 1845 (and later enlarged), the spoil providing material for mounds and embankments. The pond in front of the Palm House is likewise artificial (1847). While the C18 landscaping of the gardens was mainly the work of Bridgeman, Brown and Chambers, this was largely overlaid or altered by the work of W A Nesfield in the late 1840s, whose 'Walks' or 'Vistas' still form the main avenues or sight-lines through the gardens.

Buildings of historical importance within the gardens include Kew Palace (or the Dutch House) to north-west, built 1634 on the site of a C16 building, and the Queen's Cottage in the south-west corner of the gardens, c.1772, built for Queen Charlotte, possibly to her own design. Several garden buildings by Sir William Chambers survive, built for Princess Augusta: the Orangery, built 1757 (though dated 1761), in the north centre of

the gardens; the Temples of Aeolus (c.1760, rebuilt 1845 by Decimus Burton), Arethusa (1758) and Bellona (1760) along the east side of the gardens; the Ruined Arch (1759-60) further south, and the Pagoda (1761) in the south-east corner of the gardens. King William's Temple (1837) by Sir Jeffry Wyattville is roughly midway between the Palm House and the Temperate House (see below).

Decimus Burton designed both the main entrance gates from Kew Green (1845-46), and the two main glasshouses, the Palm House (with Richard Turner, 1844-48, in restoration 1985-) and the Temperate House (1859-62, extended 1898-99, and restored 1978-82). The small Water Lily House, north of the Palm House, also by Turner, 1852. On the east boundary, and level with the Temperate House, the North Gallery by

James Ferguson, late 1880s, to house the botanical paintings of Marianne North (see also The Mount House, Alderley, in the register for Gloucestershire). New glasshouses representing the best of modern design, material and engineering include the Alpine House, the Tropical Conservatory (Princess of Wales Conservatory), and the Centre for Economic Botany (Sir Joseph Banks Building).

It is not possible to list here the areas of different horticultural or botanic interest. The gardens contain about 50,000 taxa of living plants from all parts of the world, used for research and education. There is a School of Horticulture. In addition, there is a Herbarium of about six million specimens, an extensive collection of anatomical slides, about one million specimens of plant products, and a comprehensive reference library.

In 1965 the Royal Botanic Gardens acquired Wakehurst Place, West Sussex, at a peppercorn rent from the National Trust (see Wakehurst Place, in the register for West Sussex), enabling a wider range of species cultivated out of doors to be maintained than was possible at Kew.

Loss and damage to the trees at Kew in the October 1987 storm was immense. While dead trees may be replaced, it will take many decades before new plantings achieve the maturity of those lost.

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OLD DEER PARK

The registered site includes that area known as the Old Deer Park which lies to the south of the Botanic Gardens, extending down on the east side of the River, to Twickenham Bridge and to

the Twickenham Road which cuts through its southern tip. There has been some encroachment along the eastern boundary, and also the development of a number of sports facilities.

The land formed an integral part of the royal estate from the time of Edward III's palace at Sheen, until the mid C19 when the site was divided into two by means of a haha between the ornamental gardens and the parkland to the south.

A Carthusian monastery, the Charterhouse of Jesus of Bethlehem of Sheen, was established by Henry V, in 1414, on land from the former Royal warren. When a new and larger Royal park was created by James I in 1603, it excluded the former monastery site, but incorporated its lands and the earlier royal park. James erected a lodge which, on the creation of Richmond Park by Charles I, in 1637, became known as the Old Deer Park. While in the ownership of Prince Henry, in the early C17, Solomon du Caus may have worked on the gardens of Richmond Palace.

William III renovated the existing lodge, which stood to the north-east of the present observatory. In 1704, the Duke of Ormonde took over the lodge, making improvements and laying out gardens until his impeachment in 1715. In 1717, it was leased to the Prince of Wales and Princess of Wales, later George II and Queen Caroline, and renamed Richmond Lodge. Caroline continued to favour Richmond Lodge after the coronation and until her death in 1737, and used Charles Bridgeman to carry out extensive landscaping in the northern part of the site, so forming the original Richmond Gardens.

George III acquired the Charterhouse site, demolished the surviving monastic buildings, and commissioned plans from William Chambers for a new residence on the site. Building work started in 1770. West Sheen was bought and demolished to improve the views to the river, and Lancelot Brown was brought in to landscape the grounds. Work progressed slowly, however, and was abandoned in 1772. A Royal Observatory was built to the designs of Sir William Chambers, on the site of the Charterhouse monastery, in time for observation of the Transit of Venus in 1769. This survives, occupying a central position in the park.

On the demolition of Richmond Lodge, the emphasis shifted to the northern half of the site, the area having up until this date been part of one continuous landscape. In c.1841, with the formal constitution of Kew Gardens under William Hooker as superintendent, a haha was constructed dividing the Gardens from the park to the south. However, a visual link continued with a path along the north side of this divide offering views out from the Gardens across the parkland.

The northern half of the park is now used as a golf course by the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, founded in 1892; their clubhouse

stands towards the eastern boundary of the site. At the southern end of the park, close to the river-bank, are a set of three obelisks which date with the Observatory, and were used for adjusting instruments.

The golf course is divided by a fence from the southern park which is designated as a public recreation ground, the land being leased from Richmond Borough Council from the Crown Commissioners. The public have had use of the site since the mid C18, when George III allowed access to the residents of Richmond.



1.
5028

OLD DEER PARK
Kew Observatory

TQ 1775 8/1

10.1.50

I

2.

Designed by Sir William Chambers. Built 1768-9 when Dr Stephen Demainbray, a tutor to the royal family, persuaded George III to take an interest in a transit of Venus. Chambers conceived the design in terms of a small villa with canted bays on the north and south fronts creating a pair of conjoined octagonal rooms on one axis. Apart from the raising of the side roofs to the level of the observing chamber sometime after 1884 the building remains unaltered.

Three storeys, including basement. Stuccoed. Five windows wide; staircase either side of first floor entrance. Basement rusticated. Cornices above first and second floors. Balustraded parapet. Square headed, moulded windows, some pedimented. Dome to roof, carrying observatory equipment.

Interior not seen.

(See - John Harris, Sir William Chambers. 1968. Zwemmer.)

1.
5028

OLD DEER PARK
Three Obelisks on river
bank of River Thames

TQ 17 NE 1/2
TQ 17 SE 4/2

II

2.

1778 by Edward Anderson who in that year was paid £157 for 3 stone obelisks for the observatory at Richmond.

1.
5028

OLD PALACE LANE
No 1. The Virginals
(Formerly Cedar Grove)

TQ 1775 8/5

1.11.63

II

2.

Early C19. Whitened brick. Three storeys. Irregular plan with principal elevation to garden.



SCHEDULE

The following building shall be added:

TQ 1775

22/8/10075

KEW FOOT ROAD

Pavilion at Richmond Athletic Ground

II

Sports pavilion. Built circa 1886, when the Richmond Athletic Ground was established on its current site, with some C20 alterations. The late C20 addition to the west is not of special interest. Ground floor mainly of red brick with filled in verandah to north with timber supports. First floor timberframed, clad with weatherboarding with pantiled roof. Two storeys. Ground floor south side has 9 sashes with cambered head linings with panelled aprons and two similar doorcases divided by pilasters. First floor clad in weatherboarding set diagonally at the top and vertically from the dado. Unusually, there is a verandah on two sides, enabling views over both playing areas. This is supported on Moghul-inspired square piers with bracketed capitals. North side has central pediment with scrolled feature, swags and lettering of organisation. Beneath the overhanging eaves are further panels with swags. Gable ends have eclectic applied framing. Elaborate three and four-light "chinoise" windows and doors. South side has two tiers of columns to verandahs. The pavilion is unusual in not being dedicated to a single sport. The grounds were used for the Richmond Town Cricket Club (from 1886-1958), the Richmond Rugby Football Club (1889 onwards), the London Scottish Rugby Football Club (1894 onwards) and the Royal Richmond Horse Show (1892-1967). The Horse Show was part of the London Season.

Dated: 19 November 1997

Signed by authority of the
Secretary of State

Handwritten signature of T A Ellingford in black ink.

T A ELLINGFORE
Department for Culture, Media and Sport



SCHEDULE

The following building shall be added:

TQ 1775

22-/8/10037

TWICKENHAM ROAD
(north-west side)
Richmond Baths, Old
Deer Park

II

Public swimming pools and lido. 1964-6 by Leslie Gooday with Stanley Weddle, engineer to Richmond UDC, later LB Richmond. Exposed steel frame of I-shaped section, expressed externally, clad in hand-made bricks, with three sides of pool hall largely glazed and with some slate hanging to entrance. Treated copper roof with deep eaves fascia is flat, but steps up over former diving area. 33.3 metre pool and learner pool in single hall facing south-west, with bank of spectator seating set over changing area, part now adapted as cafe area. Outside an open-air pool or lido is linked via steps which rise to sunbathing terrace that continues internally as a bridge; this makes a partial barrier between the two pools. Entrance in wing behind changing area with dance studio area; this separated treatment reduces the volume of the building seen from the Old Deer Park.

14-bay main facade fully glazed under deep fascia, with tripartite steel windows with single low transom that is a particularly elegant design and which continues on returns. The entrance elevation largely blank, with double doors set either side of slate hanging, which bears plaque to Civic Trust Award 1967. The pools and pool hall are clad in white and blue tiling, with some mosaic and some decorative brickwork to ends.

The building is set in a walled enclosure designed as part of the original scheme, carried out with the same bricks and same attention to detail. This gives privacy to the sunbathing area and outdoor pool.

Included as an exceptionally elegant municipal baths.

Source:

Architects' Journal, 1 November 1967.

Dated: 16 January 1996

Signed by authority of the
Secretary of State

TA Ellingford

T A ELLINGFORD
A Higher Executive Officer
in the Department of
National Heritage

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