

## THE LANDSCAPE STRUCTURE

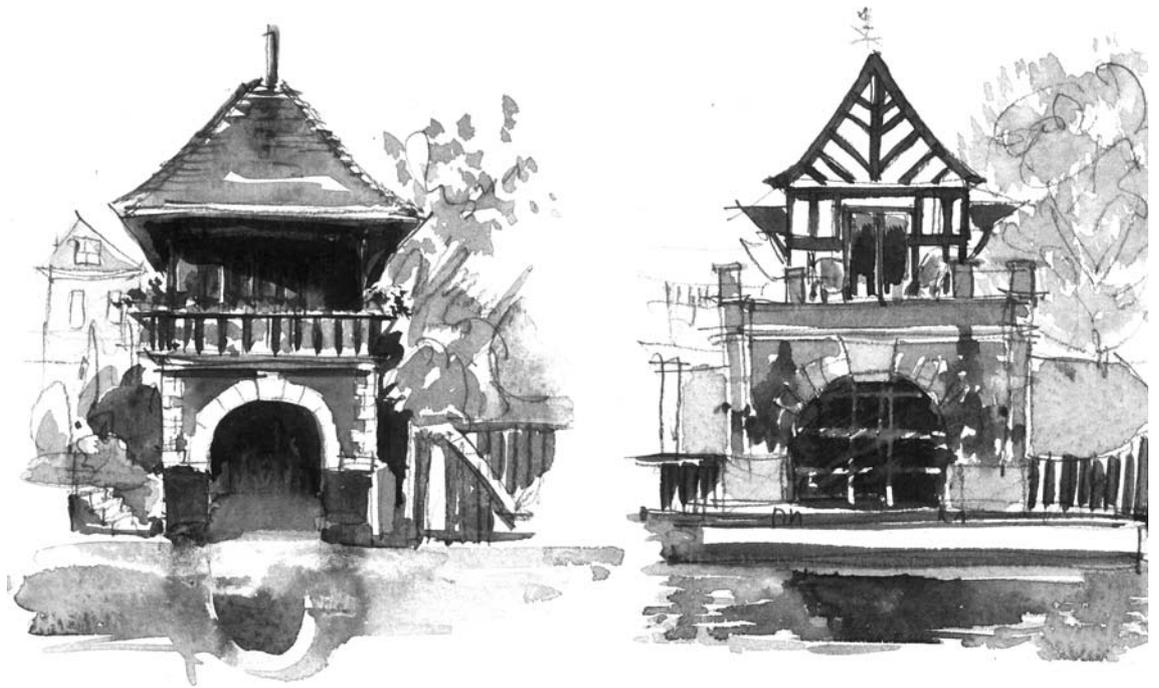
Approach

History and Cultural Associations of the Landscape

The Character of the Landscape

The Natural Landscape

The Recreation Landscape





## 2. THE LANDSCAPE STRUCTURE

### APPROACH

In order to understand the way the landscape works, we have looked at the structure from different angles, seeing how each aspect interacts with others. The historical patterns of settlement, determined by geology, climate and social and economic factors, set the base for the contemporary city. We need to grasp how and why we have the city we have inherited before we can really work with its patterns for the future. And we also need to be aware of the myths and memories evoked by our buildings, parks and place names, conjuring up more than the immediate visual impact.

This chapter therefore first describes the evolution of this part of London around the Thames, then analyses its influence on the present urban landscape and the main riverside issues we are facing. The river between Hampton and Kew is remarkable for the amount of open space defining and complementing the urban environment. This 'natural' landscape, the result of centuries of careful management, creates an unparalleled setting for the built environment, a continuing inspiration for those living along the river and a series of connected habitats for nature conservation. We look at how the natural landscape interacts with the urban landscape.

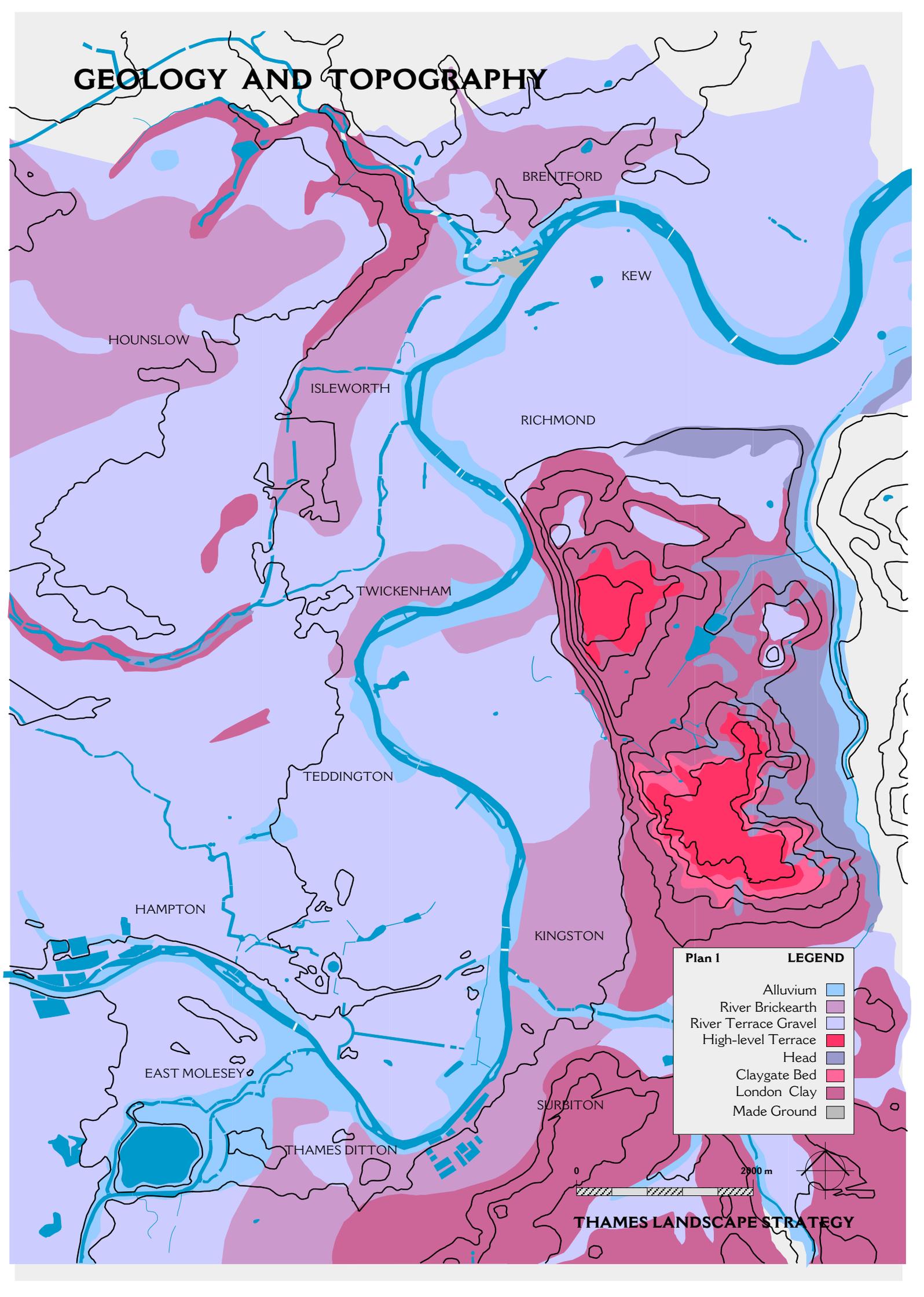


**Barges at Teddington Lock**

At the same time we are conscious that the contemporary vitality of the landscape is a crucial part of the scene. The activity of those who live, work and relax along the river is an essential element in the landscape. The river would not be the same without the boat builders at Eel Pie Island, the fishermen at Teddington, the children at Hurst Park or the houseboats at Kew. The Landscape Strategy does not stray into economic and employment policies, but it explores how the resulting uses of the river affect the character of the landscape. Understanding the environments of work and recreation is the key to keeping the river landscape alive and relevant. Our perception of landscape is determined by the way we carry the complexity of the past into the future, but the river has to work in the present and the purpose of this study is to examine how the landscape legacy can continue to breathe life into the riverside, not suffocate it.

During our survey and consultation, issues have been raised which cover each part of the landscape structure. In this chapter we analyse how the structure functions, examine the issues which have emerged and propose a series of policies to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance and national agency guidelines, before gradual incorporation into Unitary Development Plan reviews.

# GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY



Plan 1		LEGEND	
Alluvium		River Brickearth	
River Terrace Gravel		High-level Terrace	
Head		Claygate Bed	
London Clay		Made Ground	