

REACH 08
HAM





— Vista lines



4.08.1 Overview 1994-2012

- Strengthening of the pastoral character of the reach
- Restoration of formal landscape structure seen from the View from Richmond Hill
- Improvements to biodiversity, accessibility, safety and enjoyment of the area.

Launch of London's Arcadia project and funding initiative - The TLS document 'London's Arcadia Final Evaluation', October 2009 has full details and illustrations of achievements. The scope of the Arcadia work in this reach included:

- Restoration of the Grade II* Ham Avenues
- Scrub clearance works establish a greater range of riverside plants and associated wildlife;
- Improvement to the towpath (beyond essential repairs) to improve access and opening up of historic views (such as Ham House, Octagon and Marble Hill House) with landscape improvements and interpretation.
- Repair and replacement of clutter and unsympathetic street furniture, and railings to enhance the historic setting.
- Works to the trees along the terrace and removal of inappropriate chain-link fence to re-open lost views over the Thames;
- Provision of interpretation and new paths through Buccleuch Gardens (Grade II) to connect the foot of Richmond Hill and Petersham Meadows with the river's edge along Richmond Promenade improving access and links with Richmond Park, Ham Avenues, Richmond town, Petersham village with Richmond Hill.
- Landscape improvements to the riverside area and public open spaces linking the historic Orleans Gardens to Marble Hill House and park. Opening up the Arcadian views to Richmond Hill and Ham House by day and night.
- Re-opening of a woodland ride along the line of the Great River Avenue
- Improvements and landscaping to King Henry VIII's Mound, 1995
- Richmond Hill /Terrace Field restoration
- Replacement of Hammerton's Boardwalk to provide dry route from riverside to Ham House during towpath flooding, 2007
- Landscaping of Ham Street riverside car park, 2008
- Restoration of Great South Avenue, 2008
- Restoration of Petersham Avenue 2008
- Restoration of Melancholy Walk 2007
- Douglas Footpath boardwalk and dry link, 2009
- Improvements to Orleans Gardens and the riverside park
- New lighting along the Warren Footpath



Volunteers removing the unsightly chain link fence on Richmond Hill



The Grand Opening of the restored View

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

4.08.2 The Ham Reach curves from the edge of Twickenham to the edge of Richmond. Some of the most dramatic landscape features on

the Thames are concentrated along this mile of the river. Richmond Hill and the wooded escarpment of Richmond Park rise above the lush flood plain of villas, meadows and avenues. The grounds of Orleans House, Marble Hill, Ham House, Douglas House and Petersham Lodge stretch down to the water's edge, uninterrupted by roads or suburban development. And the fine 17th- and 18th-century architecture extends into the little villages of Ham and Petersham, nestled between the park and the river, and into Montpelier Row beside Marble Hill.

4.08.3 The panoramic view from Richmond Hill today sweeps over much the same Arcadian landscape which had such influence on the taste and designs of the 18th century. It is a view that has inspired painters and poets from around the world, and raised such local feeling for the landscape that in 1902 it became the first and only view to be protected by Act of Parliament. From the top of the hill you can see the sun setting over the Chilterns.

4.08.4 2012 Update: Local passion for the View was re-ignited to celebrate the centenary of the View in 2002 leading to the establishment of the London's Arcadia project to restore and open up the landscape on and below the hill.

4.08.5 Looking back from the river, the view glides up the Terrace Field to the strong line of the houses and the spire of St Matthias' Church behind, along the crest of the Hill. The broad hoggin terrace in front of the houses is an extremely popular viewing point, set below the level of the road with plenty of wooden memorial seats, beside a pub and protected by fine Victorian rods and bollards.

4.08.6 2012 Update: A display board explains the View and some of the history of the landscape and a plaque positioned on a stone plinth was installed by the Richmond Society to celebrate the centenary of the Act that saved the View.

4.08.7 The field is managed for hay and wildflowers, creating a natural appearance which links to the water meadow below and in summer provides a popular hill-side for picnickers, spread out on the long grass. In winter, the hillside is a favourite tobogganing slope. The Terrace Field is enclosed by the Wick and the Petersham Hotel to the south, and to the north, by the elaborate Terrace Gardens, a fine example of a manicured Victorian park. The Terrace Gardens are concealed within a frame of mature trees.

4.08.8 2012 Update: The lower section, known as the Wilderness, formerly jutted out into the Terrace Field, (lining the path which leads from the top of the hill to the river with chain-link fencing and the back of a shrubbery) but work carried out as part of London's Arcadia project repositioned the fence to frame and open up the panorama, blurring the boundaries between the meadow and formal garden. The 1896 OS map identified large areas of Ham laid out to orchards, including the Polo Field, part of the Petersham Meadows and Grey Court. Proposals to reinstate some elements of lost orchards are planned.

4.08.9 The straight path is aligned on Orleans House and with



The restored view from Richmond Hill



Knyff's view from Richmond Hill in the mid-18th Century showing the network of avenues around Ham House



Richmond Terrace and the view north to the town centre (also attributed to Knyff)



selective tree pruning across the river it should be possible to glimpse both the Octagon and Marble Hill. Were the trees thinned, the public lavatories relocated and the concrete crazy paving at the bottom of the hill removed, one would also have a fine vista to the river.

4.08.10 2012 Update: Along from the Terrace, the Star and Garter Home for disabled ex-servicemen stands out prominently from the wooded escarpment on the edge of Richmond Park. The building (which is being sold at the time of writing, as the Home is re-locating to new purpose-designed premises) forms the eastern focus of the Great River Avenue. The mass of the huge red brick building is disguised by the oaks around its base. These trees are a critical part of the landscape frame, but where they have grown between Wick House (built for Reynolds to enjoy the view) and the Star and Garter, they have closed the view of the river painted by Turner and Rowlandson. Some minimal pruning could reveal a glimpse again without altering the wooded effect of the hillside. A sealed gravel path between Richmond Park and Nightingale Lane continues the promenade from the town up Richmond Hill to the fine George II gate into Richmond Park. Plans to re-align the roundabout to improve pedestrian movement between the Park and Richmond Hill have not yet been actioned. A line of 'strand' type street lights was installed in 2005 to mark the promenade route up Richmond Hill between Richmond Bridge and the Park.



Ham's embowering walks are as rural now as in the 18th Century



The same view during the spring tide. Long stretches of Ham's towpaths are inaccessible during these regular events

4.08.11 Petersham Meadow (2012 Update: now leased to the National Trust), at the foot of the hill is still grazed by cattle, an amazingly rural scene within the capital. The grasses and wildflowers of the meadow form the critical middle ground to the view between the river and the hill. There is a clumsy concrete flood defence wall around the perimeters of the meadow. The white of Petersham Lodge gleams against the bright green of the meadow and the darker backdrop of cedars and the horse chestnut avenue – now restored - which links the house to the river. The sloping granite set banks covered in low vegetation are attractive and the stone steps are well-used by fishermen. The River Lane slipway is extremely popular with boaters.

4.08.12 2012 Update: The visual connection between the formal gardens at Buccleugh and the meadow were opened by the TLS through the landscaping of Chitty Hole.



Richmond Hill from the Warren Footpath, Sydney R Jones

4.08.13 2012 Update: The character of the Thames Path is particularly pastoral in this reach. This is achieved through a combination of an unbound surface, absence of street lights, minimal signage and extensive vegetation cover. Whilst it may be appropriate for cycling to be formalized on the towpath between Richmond and Teddington Lock, the pastoral character would need to be maintained. The towpath and emerging backwaters in this reach are low lying and undefended from high tides. The path between Petersham Meadows and Douglas Meadow is inundated on at least 230 tides each year affecting recreational use and erosion of the riverbank. Behind the towpath a series of inter-connected wet habitats are developing including the wet woodland in Petersham Lodge Wood and the Sea Scout land, fen vegetation, wet meadowland and tidal creeks.

4.08.14 Behind the towpath and meadow, the village of Petersham clusters picturesquely to the side of St Peter's Church. The fine houses of the village, set along a narrow winding road, are besieged by through-traffic to and from Kingston. The white wooden tower of St Peter's Church and the red brick tower of All Saints' Church stand out as landmarks against the wooded escarpment of Richmond Park. Further to the south of the escarpment, there is a glimpse of the white buildings of Pembroke Lodge. The Lodge, which has undergone major improvements to its fabric and facilities, has a popular public restaurant and a terrace with a fine view over the Thames Valley to Strawberry Hill. Within the grounds of Pembroke Lodge, King Henry VIII's Mound offers both the magnificent keyhole vista of St Paul's Cathedral, 10 miles away in the City to the north east, and to the south west down over Sudbrook Park and Petersham to the river and Marble Hill. Beneath the Mound, Sudbrook Park has been converted to a golf course, but the traces of the great mound, pond and avenues can still be seen in the grounds and ideally features would be restored where they can work with the layout of the course.



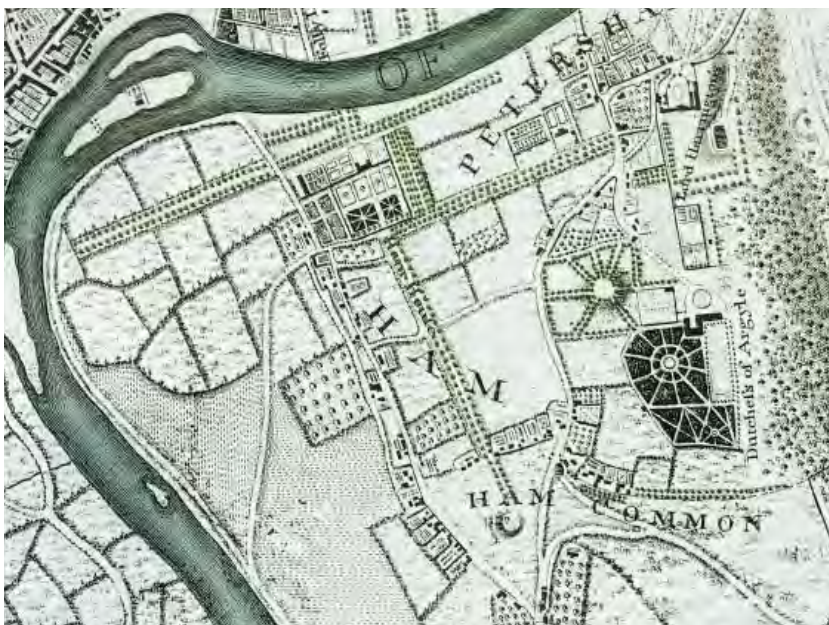
Interpretation, King Henry's Mound

4.08.15 2012 Update: The vista to St Paul's is protected by the London Plan. The area around the Mound has been much improved and better interpretation provided.



Rowing on the Ham Reach

4.08.16 Richmond Park connects to Ham through the wooded ride of Ham Common, opening onto the village green. The green, with the restored village pond, is surrounded by fine houses and crossed by the southern avenue to Ham House, (now replanted as part of London's *Arcadia*). There may have been a mound at the Ham end of this avenue (shown on the 1745 Rocque map), which if re-instated, would form a terminus to the view from Ham House.



John Rocques' map of 1745, showing the network of avenues around Ham House, most of which survive today



Cherry Garden, Ham House



The re-opened vista to Gibb's Octagon at Orleans House



Isabella Plantation

4.08.17 Ham House and its gardens have been meticulously restored by the National Trust. The House's significance in the wider landscape since the 17th century is marked by its lime avenues which extend across the surrounding flood plain. It is remarkable that such a network of avenues and vistas should survive within the capital. In addition to the southern and east-west avenues already mentioned, there is Melancholy Walk, a long quincunx of trees between the eastern edge of the garden and the Polo Ground, (*now partially restored as part of London's Arcadia*). The Walk used to have raised pavilions and vistas across to Douglas House, originally the Ham dower house and now the German School. A further restored avenue links Ham House and Ham Lodge. Ham House was designed to be approached from the river, but for many years was obscured by uncontrolled tree and scrub growth. The axial river avenue has now been replanted, and scrub cleared, and there is a clear view across the river - although the cafe block in Orleans Gardens riverside park opposite is an anti-climax as a terminus to the vista.

4.08.18 2012 Update: The public car park at the end of Ham Street is visible in long views, but new planting and surfacing has improved its compatibility with the rural setting, and the new ash trees will form a canopy to partly screen the glint of glass and metal in views from higher ground without interrupting river views from the car park. The riverside car park is popular and offers an approach to the water (or view of the water from cars) for those unable to walk very far. The car park is also essential for the operation of the Great River Race, which has become an enormously popular annual event in September, starting or (more recently) finishing here. The scene then is wonderfully colourful and crowded, with around 300 boats and their occupants jostling for space, and tents providing refreshments.

4.08.19 From the Ham House river edge, there are fine views to the tower of Radnor School (the tea-merchants house on the former Pope's Villa site), Twickenham Riverside, and to the Orleans Octagon and neighbouring Riverside House. The Orleans Gardens riverside park has some fine waterside horse chestnuts.

4.08.20 2012 Update: Recent clearance has reinstated some of the connection between the gallery and the river, but there is greater scope for managing vistas through the gardens and reinstating some of the Regency setting.

4.08.21 2012 Update: The riverside path known as the Warren Footpath – formerly spoiled by poor fencing, concrete columns with sodium lights and vandalized benches – has been improved as part of Arcadia and selective views opened up to Richmond Hill and Marble Hill House. This has reinstated the original intention for Marble Hill, that it should be seen from the river, framed by a stage-set of trees. The bell-shaped avenue linking Marble Hill House with the river is still to be restored by English Heritage. The grounds of the house are a very well-used public park with sports pitches, a cafe and a popular playground. The re-instatement of the visual connection to the water and tree'd frame to the villa has greatly enhanced the setting of this exceptional building in the wider landscape.

4.08.22 The Warren footpath continues to Richmond Bridge forming an accessible link along the Thames and rewarding users with magnificent long views across the Thames to the tree-lined escarpment of Richmond Hill.

4.08.23 Hammerton's Ferry provides a highly popular connection between the Surrey and Middlesex banks. This is the only foot ferry left on the tidal Thames and forms a much-appreciated link for tourists and locals alike between Ham, Marble Hill and Twickenham. The viability of the ferry needs to be safeguarded.

4.08.24 2012 Update: In 2010, a pontoon allowing passenger boats to make a stop here was introduced, improving access to Marble Hill and Twickenham for visitors.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.08.25 The top of Richmond Hill, which has been called England's Frascati, has been a well-known viewpoint for centuries. By the 1650s a seat had been placed overlooking the view. A few cottages were developed on the east side of the road during the 17th century and in the 1620s a windmill was built on the site of the current Richmond Gate Hotel.

4.08.26 From the 1630s onwards, the northern end of the Hill Common, on the slopes above the river, was granted out to tile-makers and a complex of tile-kilns grew up along the Petersham Road. Digging for clay made considerable inroads into what was left of the lower slopes of the common. The first improvement came about in 1700 with the laying out of the Terrace Walk with its double row of pleached trees, and the replacement of a group of cottages by substantial houses on the sites of 1-3 The Terrace. The Star and Garter Tavern was built at the top of Petersham Common in 1738 and the great era of development at the top of the hill followed in the decade 1765-75. During the decade new buildings were added to the Star and Garter, 3 and 5 The Terrace were rebuilt, and Wick House (by Sir William Chambers for Sir Joshua Reynolds), Downe House, Ancaster House and The Wick (by Robert Milne) were all built.

4.08.27 The tile kilns were closed down in 1767 and the land was sold to the Duke of Montagu to extend the pleasure grounds of his house by the riverside. He linked the two parts of his grounds by a grotto tunnel under the Petersham Road and in 1786 acquired some more land when the remaining part of Hill Common was granted by George III and Queen Charlotte to Richmond Vestry - to become the Terrace Field.

4.08.28 The Star and Garter continued to grow during the 19th century until it became the most fashionable place for London society to visit for a day's excursion or for an evening meal. In World War I it became a hospital for disabled servicemen and was replaced in 1924 by the great red-brick Royal Star and Garter Home designed by Sir Edwin Cooper. Below The Wick, on the hillside, a new purpose-built hotel (now called



Poster relating to the purchase of land at Terrace Gardens

the Petersham Hotel,) was erected in 1864 to the design of John Giles.

4.08.29 In the 1870s the grounds of Montagu (later Buccleuch) House were extended into the gardens of the demolished Landsdowne House and the entire hillside grounds were acquired by the Vestry in 1887 to become the public Terrace Gardens.

4.08.30 2012 Update: The Duke of Buccleuch's architect John MacVicar Anderson, at one time President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, designed the distinctively-gabled Three Pigeons public house (now converted to apartments) adjoining the gardens.

4.08.31 In the 1930s Buccleuch House itself was bought by Richmond Council and demolished. Devonshire Lodge, another old mansion which stood by the Petersham Road, was also acquired by Richmond Council and demolished in 1968 and its grounds added to Petersham Meadow to improve the view from Richmond Hill.

4.08.32 The river valley beneath Richmond Hill, with all the elements of an idealised designed landscape, was captured to perfection by JMW Turner (a great admirer of Thomson's *The Seasons*) in his *View from Richmond Hill* in 1819; the pale green foreground of the Petersham water meadows contrasting with the darker groves of 'umbrageous Ham', the wide silver-blue curving river with Windsor Castle (now no longer visible) in the distance and the villas shining through the trees. Goethe's romantic friend Pastor Moritz found the view unforgettable, 'one of the finest prospects in the world... Nothing I had ever seen is to be compared with it'.

4.08.33 Richmond's situation overlooking the curving Thames so impressed the American William Byrd, while he was staying with his friend the Duke of Argyll at Sudbrook, that he gave the name Richmond to the town which he founded in 1733 on the hill above the James River in Virginia.

4.08.34 Down in the valley, many 18th-century tourists commented that the little jewel of a Palladian villa, Marble Hill, gave the Thames a look of the Brenta. Built in 1724 for Henrietta Howard, George II's mistress, Marble Hill soon attracted a circle of courtiers and literati including Pope, Swift, Gay and Dr Arbuthnot. Amateur architects and garden designers had flocked to offer their services when the Prince of Wales advanced the money to build the villa. Colen Campbell's original plan was modified by Lord Pembroke and carried out by Roger Morris.

4.08.35 Lord Islay, later Duke of Argyll, of Whitton Park, who was one of the trustees appointed to take care of Henrietta Howard's allowance, gave expert arboricultural advice and a huge black walnut tree from his nursery, one of the largest in the country, can still be seen. Alexander Pope was 'the contriver' of the Marble Hill garden and he certainly would have advised on the sunken grotto, which has been partially restored by English Heritage. Charles Bridgeman was involved professionally and the garden, as seen on a c1750 Survey, had a green colonnade and theatre, wilderness walks and quincunx groves, which can be compared with the conjectural classical retreat garden, from Castell's

The Villas of the Ancients, with its hippodrome-shaped green and semi-circular arcade of trees. The Heckel drawing of Marble Hill in 1748 shows the neat stepped down effect as seen from a boat on the river. The house is still as described by Henrietta Pye in the 18th century rendered as 'white as snow' and stands out conspicuously in views painted from Richmond Hill. Missing from the river landscape now is the gothic barn designed by Walpole and his Strawberry Hill committee for the Countess of Suffolk, which at least one traveller mistook for a church.

4.08.36 The red-brick house next door, built for Johnston, Secretary of State for Scotland, by John James, had a totally different appearance. All that now remains of the house is the baroque octagon, built by James Gibbs in 1720. Secretary Johnston entertained Queen Caroline in the Octagon when she was visiting by river from Richmond or Hampton Court. The greater part of the house, which later became known as Orleans House when the Duc d'Orléans went to live there in 1815, was demolished in 1926 when sold to the Crane River Sand and Ballast Co. The Octagon and a small adjoining wing, however, were saved by the Hon. Mrs Ionides, who collected many prints and paintings of the area. On her death in 1962 she left the paintings to the local authority. The wing has been converted into a picture gallery adjoining the restored Octagon. 200,000 tons of gravel were extracted from the site which has now grown into a wild woodland area, but there are still traces of the Regency shrubbery type of planting shown in the Pringet watercolour.



Secretary Johnston's House, later Orleans House

4.08.37 Across the river, the setting of Ham House has hardly changed since Evelyn praised it 'as inferior to few of the best villas in Italy' with its gardens, groves and avenues 'on the banks of the sweetest river in the world'. Built in 1610 for a courtier at the time when Prince Henry was established at Richmond Palace, it was altered in 1671, the date on the urns surmounting the gate piers, for the Duke of Lauderdale, one of Charles II's most powerful ministers. Ham House has been restored by the National Trust and is still 'furnished like a great Prince's' as it was in Evelyn's day.

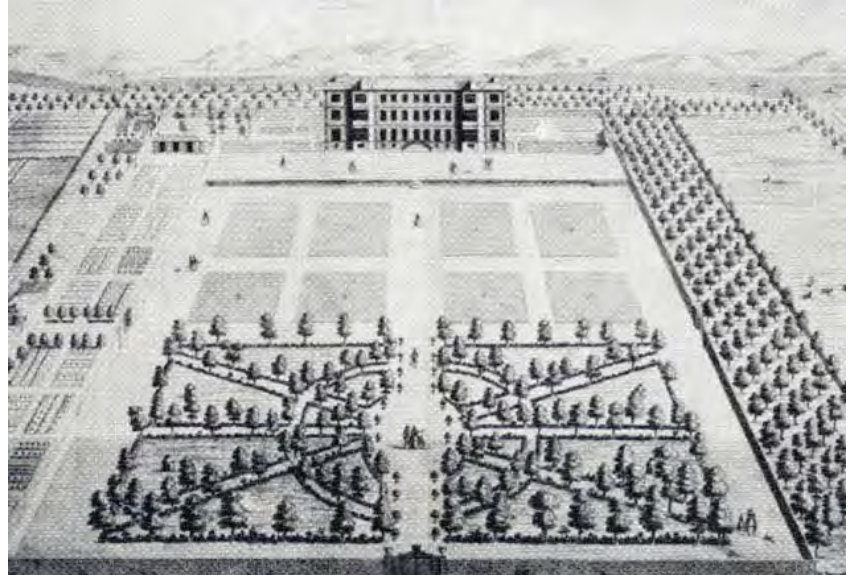
4.08.38 Walpole was dismayed by the walled-in, old-fashioned gardens, still in place in 1770. 'Close to the Thames, in the centre of all rich and verdant beauty, it is so blocked up and barricaded with walls, vast trees, and gates that you think yourself 100 miles off and 100 years back'. The National Trust has been able to restore the gardens to the 17th-century plan hanging in the house, making it, as the virtuoso, Roger North, saw it in 1695 'one of the most beautiful and compleat seats in the kingdom'. The wilderness huts and the cockleshell backed seats seen in the Danckerts painting showing the Lauderdale's walking in the garden have been copied and refreshments can be taken in the original redbrick orangery, with a view of the beds in front planted with a colourful variety of vegetables and flowers. The avenues extending into largely unspoilt countryside preserve a strong feeling of Evelyn's day.

4.08.39 Ham's 'embowering walks' along the river to Richmond are as rural now as when they were first extolled by James Thomson, who struck a new note in the appreciation of natural scenery. In Dr Johnson's

words, 'the reader of 'The Seasons' wonders that he never saw before what Thomson shews him'. The Arcadian Muse had ventured forth from 'Twitnam's bowers' and grottoes and walked into the countryside when Thomson went to live in Richmond:



Ham House, Wilderness Garden



Bird's-eye view of Ham House and avenues 1730s

*Which way, Amanda, shall we bend our course?
The choice perplexes. Wherefore shall we choose?
Say shall we wind
Along the streams? or walk the smiling mead?
Or court the forest-glades? or wander wild
Among the waving harvests? or ascend.
While radiant Summer opens all its pride,
Thy hill, delightful Shene?*

4.08.40 Petersham's 'smiling mead' is, in fact, more rural now than in Thomson's day as the old brick kilns have been removed. The Earl of Rochester's seat at New Park with its great vistas has now vanished and its grounds, known as 'Petersham Park' have been restored to Richmond Park. The mount seen in Kip's engraving, formerly a standing in Henry VIII's Chase, remains with its remarkable vista of St Paul's. The elegant 18th-century out-of-town houses entered from the Petersham Road, Douglas House, Petersham Lodge and Sudbrook Park still remain and their grounds, although mostly in recreational use, still keep the area green and free from development. John Gay spent much of his time in the Queensberry household at Douglas House, where his Beggars Opera was rehearsed and trees were planted to celebrate its success. Much of his writing was done in the summerhouse, now destroyed, which his patrons built for him by the river. Sudbrook Park, styled as a villa in James Gibbs Book of Architecture and built by him in 1726-28, for John, 2nd Duke of Argyll, was probably planted with trees supplied from his brother's Whitton nursery.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

4.08.41 The walled garden of Orleans House has become dominated by woodland, but has long had shrubberies much favoured by birds. In the late 19th century the owner, John Dugdale Astley, 'was not infrequently lulled to sleep by the rippling song of the nightingales, who never deserted the shrubberies'. Woodland birds, such as robins and wrens, are still plentiful.

4.08.42 2012 Update: In 2005, the Orleans House Gardens Management Plan was introduced by the TLS that set out to restore the formal and woodland areas in the spirit of a Regency garden. The woodland has been thinned by local volunteers that has allowed for a shrub layer to emerge and the flower beds restored in the formal sections. Orleans Riverside Gardens have been opened to allow a glimpse between the river and Gibbs' Octagon. The riverbanks have been planted with native riparian species and the over-hanging chestnut trees managed to provide shade over the water.

4.08.43 2012 Update: The riverbed between Glovers Ait and Orleans Gardens is surveyed each November during the annual draw off period to monitor the number of mussels and clams. This unique study has shown a significant increase in alien species that are rapidly colonizing the riverbed including zebra mussels and Asiatic clams, although the native duck, swan and depressed river mussels are still found in large numbers.



Volunteers planting wetland

4.08.44 Marble Hill Park is very different in character from the grounds of Orleans House. The grass is closely mown for sports pitches and edged with mature horse chestnut trees and some fine old oaks and beeches. There are some areas of wildlife interest beside the house where the ornamental shrubberies contain a few native shrubs beneath mature trees providing cover for one or two pairs of robins and blackbirds and around the park's perimeter where grass is allowed to grow longer and native planting has been encouraged.



Towpath with native wildflowers

4.08.45 2012 Update: The riverside meadows at Marble Hill are within an area at risk from tidal and fluvial flooding. Although the Thames Barrier provides some protection against a tidal event it is anticipated that the occurrence of fluvial flooding will increase with time.

4.08.46 2012 Update: Trees along the Warren Footpath have been managed by the London's Arcadia project although they will need to be continually inspected in the future to inform further works. Significant species include poplar, alder, willow, ash and chestnut. Fallen trees have anchored into the mud on the foreshore and now provide a valuable refuge for fish during the high tides and should be retained where they do not cause a hazard to navigation. The TLS Towpath Management Plan for the Warren Footpath sets out to achieve a healthy stock of trees of all ages, whilst maintaining low views to the river as seen from the towpath with several long views across the river to Petersham and the mass of Richmond Hill. A 200m stretch alongside the site of Little Marble Hill has been managed to establish a more natural riverbank with a succession of plantings from the foreshore to the towpath that

has now been colonized by marsh marigold, native reed, willow and purple loosestrife.



Layered hedge, Nightingale Lane



Restored Petersham Avenue



Restored Orleans House Woodland Garden



Petersham Lodge Wet Woodland

4.08.47 Once part of Ham House grounds, the Copse and Holly Hedge Field is now owned by the local authority. Relics of the old lime avenue can still be found along the northern edge of the field, as well as the old holly hedge which gives the field its name. Much of the field is dominated by cow parsley, but in one area the delicate white flowers of meadow saxifrage can be found; it is a plant of undisturbed grasslands which is rare in London. The ancient oaks of the Copse, their trunks gnarled and twisted, form dense woodland stands in places, while elsewhere they are more widely spaced as wood pasture. The trees provide nest sites for many birds including tawny owls and bats, all of which feed on the large numbers and diversity of invertebrates supported by these stately trees. Many of the insects rely on dead wood. Until relatively recently, the grass under the trees was closely mown, preventing the development of any significant shrub and field layers. This management has now been stopped, allowing elder, bramble and Swedish whitebeam to form a shrub layer.

4.08.48 Once the grounds of Petersham Lodge, Petersham Lodge Wood is now managed by the London Borough of Richmond. The central avenue of horse chestnuts is flanked by many fine mature trees of which a colossal Oriental plane is the most noteworthy, being probably the largest in the country and designated a Great Tree of London. Recent thinning has allowed a diverse shrub layer to establish. The embankment between the woodland and the river has been deliberately breached to facilitate flooding.

4.08.49 2012 Update; Much of the wood floods on the high spring tides. A marvellous wet woodland has been established linked to the trees at Petersham Sea Scouts and beyond through a series of tidal creeks and channels forming an extensive and important habitat..

4.08.50 On the drier parts, spring flowers include lesser celandine and lady's smock while in summer these give way to sizeable populations of meadow-sweet and meadow cranesbill. Management of the site aims to maintain the historic central avenue and open character, while encouraging a shrub layer to develop around the edges.

4.08.51 To the west of the land, wet woodland continues in a strip between the river and the grounds of the Petersham Sea Scout hut. This wet woodland, dominated by crack willow and grey alder, is much more overgrown, with a dense understorey of elder. There is lush growth of damp-loving plants, such as nettles, cleavers, wild angelica, Himalayan balsam and hemlock water dropwort. Similar tall herbaceous vegetation extends beyond the woodland in a narrow strip alongside the river, merging towards the west into horse pasture on Queen Elizabeth's Field.

4.08.52 2012 Update: Increasing inundation has altered the ecology of Queen Elizabeth's Field with new wetland areas emerging. These are linked to the Petersham Lodge Wet Woods by a small tidal creek that

runs below the Douglas Meadow Boardwalk and upstream to Hunter's Pond crossed by the Hammerton's Boardwalk.

4.08.53 Petersham Meadows slope gently down to the river, with cattle grazing on the lush grass and wild flowers, showing how much of London's riverside would have looked as pastoral meadow land. The flora of the meadows is less diverse than it might be, following partial 'improvement' in the past, as is evidenced by the frequency of perennial rye-grass among the sward. A reasonable range of wild flowers is still to be found among the grasses, however, some of them in abundance. Bulbous buttercup produces sheets of golden flowers in spring and early summer, especially in the two smaller fields furthest from the river. The long grass is an ideal habitat for grasshoppers, while the flowers provide nectar for a good variety of common butterflies, such as meadow brown, common blue and small and large skippers. It is important that no fertilisers or herbicides are used. The larger field beside the Thames used to flood in winter until the 1950s when the low wall beside the towpath was erected. Although the field is still damp in places it would be very beneficial for wildlife to re-introduce occasional flooding.

4.08.54 2012 Update; Petersham Meadows are now owned by the National Trust who graze the land.

4.08.55 2012 Update: The Ham towpath is regularly inundated by high tides. It is expected that this inundation will increase with time. The construction of a discrete route on slightly higher ground further inland could link the meadows with the Petersham Lodge avenue, Douglas Meadow Footpath and onto Melancholy Walk providing a dry path for walkers when the tide is high.

4.08.56 2012 Update: The towpath walk is managed to become increasingly rural the further the visitor progresses into Ham Lands. Clumps of trees are managed to frame rather than block long views and elder and elm suckers are controlled on a three year rotational coppice. Black poplars have been planted along the river and a new mowing regime has seen an explosion in native riparian flowering species. Invading balsam is now largely controlled along the riverbank but is still a problem in the backwaters and hedges of Queen Elizabeth's Field. Litter is a problem as much of the riverside in this reach is inundated by the high tides that deposit flotsam and jetsam over large areas.

4.08.57 The river banks along this reach are generally very good for wildlife, particularly adjacent to Petersham Meadows where there is almost a fen-like flora. The towpath becomes more open as it passes Petersham Lodge and Petersham Meadows and this is a particularly good place to watch bats on balmy summer evenings.

4.08.58 2012 Update: Since 2005, volunteers have monitored bat populations along the Ham Reach. It is evident that the area supports a nationally significant population including pipistrelle, noctule, serotine and Daubenton's. The many old buildings and veteran trees in Richmond Park provide valuable bat roosting sites. At dusk the bats navigate their way to the river via the Ham Avenues – earning



Volunteers help restore the Petersham Avenue



The footpath between the Hammerton's and Douglas Meadows boardwalk regularly floods on high tides



Hammerton's Boardwalk

them the title of ‘the bat superhighway’. Once over the river the abundance of food and the absence of any form of street lighting on the Surrey bank provides an ideal habitat for feeding. It was recognized however, that the line of street lights along the Warren Footpath was a significant barrier, disturbing the bats’ feeding patterns. A grant from the BIFFAward allowed the TLS to replace almost two miles of light along the Warren Footpath utilizing state of the art ‘smart’ technology to minimize disturbance to nocturnal animals.

4.08.59 Opposite Petersham Meadows, Glover’s Island is an undeveloped and wooded haven for wildlife. Sycamore, ash and willow cover the island, and herons can be seen roosting in the trees. Nesting rafts nearby are used by great crested grebes. The island would be more attractive to waterfowl if the sheet piling edges could be modified to vegetated gradual slopes. The trees should regenerate successfully without intervention.

4.08.60 On the steep western slopes of Richmond Hill, the Terrace Field consists of grassland of only moderate floral diversity, dominated by meadow foxtail and cock’s foot. Common wild flowers such as meadow vetchling, common vetch and bulbous buttercup provide some colour throughout the spring and summer. The grassland is managed by taking an annual hay cut in late summer, a regime which should encourage a greater diversity of flowers. There are several large trees along the top of the field and additional young trees, mostly field maples, but care should be taken to keep the land as open grassland. Petersham Common lies on London Clay but the steep slope assists drainage, so there is less of a wetland influence on its flora and fauna. The Common was almost completely open and bare of trees until well into the 19th century, except for some scattered trees and scrub on the lower slopes under the Petersham Road. At the top of the slope majestic oaks now tower above a dense and varied understorey containing ash, hawthorn, holly, elder and many other native shrubs. There is also a varied woodland ground flora including Lord-and-Ladies, enchanter’s



The view from Richmond Hill

nightshade, and foxglove. A large clearing behind the Star and Garter Home is vegetated with tall herbs and this sunny spot is a favourite area for butterflies. Further down the slope, the woodland becomes rather more scrubby and is dominated by hawthorn and regenerating elm. The land is owned by the London Borough of Richmond but regulated and managed by the Petersham Common Conservators. Management largely involves periodic thinning of young trees and maintenance of the paths. Richmond Park, scheduled as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve, has an undulating landscape and lies on the London Clay, with superficial deposits of High Level Terrace and River Terrace Gravels forming higher ground and Flood Plain Gravels and Alluvium covering some of the low-lying areas. This mixed geology and topography has given rise to a rich mosaic of dry acidic grassland, marshy and unimproved neutral grassland grading into more improved grasslands and bracken, with areas of woodland and numerous ponds and ditches. The park's acidic grasslands are the most extensive in Greater London and contain many plants which are rare in the capital. Scattered throughout the grasslands are numerous ancient oak and beech pollards, which support a large and unique assemblage of invertebrates, especially beetles, some of which are known nowhere else in Britain. Other rare beetles are associated with deer dung or are found in the park's wide variety of wetland habitats.

4.08.61 Unimproved neutral grassland covers much of Petersham Park (now part of Richmond Park), to the west of Pembroke Lodge. The sward is composed of a wide variety of grasses; hammer sedge is frequent and star sedge, which is very rare in London, can be seen in a few places. Harebells can be found, but generally the neutral grasslands are not particularly herb-rich. There is a detailed management plan for the Park, including individual specifications for each of the 486 ancient oak pollards. As much dead wood as possible will be left to encourage invertebrates.

4.08.62 Adjacent to and contributing to the extent of the Park's grassland, Sudbrook Park Golf Course consists mostly of closely mown grass but the roughs between the fairways and numerous mature trees provide some ecological interest. All that remains of the Sudbrook stream and ponds is a single small waterbody. Management of the roughs with no chemicals or fertilisers and a late summer cut will help to maintain the habitats. Restoration of the stream and ponds would greatly enhance the nature conservation interest of the park. And appropriate planting of trees would contribute to a future generation of large trees.

4.08.63 Ham Common lies on the western edge of Richmond Park and the area immediately adjoining the park is mostly wooded and provides a valuable extension of the park's habitats. The remainder of the common is open, close-mown grassland bordered by trees. The pond supports amphibians and a pair of nesting swans. Ham Common lies on River Terrace Gravels which have produced well-drained, slightly acidic soils, and the whole of the common was once grazed heathland and acidic grassland. However as grazing declined from the latter part of the 19th century, the woodland of birch and oak has colonised. The



Volunteers from the German School help plant trees during the restoration of the Ham Avenues



The Great South Avenue following restoration

fauna of the woodland includes purple hairstreak butterfly and a good variety of woodland birds.

4.08.64 *2012 Update: The Ham Avenues have been much restored over the past ten years guided by a management plan published in 2003. The restoration has successfully balanced the potentially conflicting demands of recreational use with historic considerations and the natural conservation goals associated with such an important green chain. The works have considerably enhanced the rural character of the well-used walks. The gaps in the tree lines have been restored with lime and scrub growth removed from in front of the trees. The strip between the trees and the footpath is mown and managed as grassland. Summer wildflowers are starting to colonise helped by the raising of the avenue tree crowns every two years. The strip of land behind the trees is managed on a three year rotational coppice. This strip forms a key wildlife corridor for all manner of species including badgers that live in the area. Native hedges have been planted alongside the avenues that include a diverse range of hedgerow plants, roses and wild fruit-bearing shrubs such as sloe, damson and elder.*

PUBLIC ACCESS AND RECREATION

4.08.65 This is the most extensive area of public access in the study area. The Thames Path is continuous along both sides of the river, connected by a ferry and linking back to Petersham Meadow, Richmond Park, Ham Lands, Ham Common, Ham House, Marble Hill and Orleans House.



Polo match, Ham

4.08.66 River access is provided by steps on both sides of the river and by slipways at Ham Street car park and River Lane. Informal recreation on both land and water is complemented by public sports pitches and tennis courts at Marble Hill and Ham Lands. Stables at Ham and the Polo Ground at Petersham make use of the extensive network of bridleways, extending through Ham Common into Richmond Park. The Ham Avenues link the river to Richmond Park providing the opportunity for some of the best circular walks in London. Ham House is a natural destination point for when enjoying a walk from Richmond.



Hammerton's Ferry

4.08.67 *2012 Update: Recent improvements to signage and interpretation in Richmond directs users towards Ham although improvements to 'on board' bus announcements would facilitate additional visits. Inundation of the low-lying towpaths has been identified as a considerable barrier to use – both during the flood and afterwards by mud and flotsam and jetsam. The London's Arcadia initiative installed two boardwalks on the lowest lying stretches to navigate users safely away from the river as waters rise. These two structures are linked to each other and the wider network of footpaths and form an enchanting alternative dry route through Ham's embowering meadows, avenues and backwaters. The TLS Restoration of the Lost Floodplain scheme has identified a series of further enhancements.*

Boatyards:

None

Water recreation:

Informal, especially from River Lane
Slipway, and boat hire at Hammerton's Ferry
Ham Car Park jetty

Land recreation:

Fishing from Petersham Meadow edge
Ham House
Ham House Stables
Ham Lands walks and bridleways
Ham Polo Club
Ham Scouts
Orleans House Gallery
Marble Hill
Richmond Golf Club
Richmond Park
Thames Path

Landmarks:

Ham House
Marble Hill House
Orleans House Octagon
Pembroke Lodge
Petersham Hotel
Petersham House
Petersham Lodge
Richmond Terrace (various buildings)
Richmond Park Escarpment
Radnor School (Pope's Villa) tower
St Matthias' Church
St Peter's Church, Petersham
Star and Garter Home
The Wick
Twickenham Riverside (various buildings)

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

Amenity and Local History

Twickenham Local History Society
Cambridge Park Residents' Association
Friends of Marble Hill
Friends of Orleans House
Friends of Richmond Park
Ham Amenity Group
Ham United Group
Ham & Petersham Association
Marble Hill Society
Orleans Group
Richmond Local History Society

Richmond Society
River Thames Society (Upper Tideway)

Nature Conservation
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
Friends of Ham Lands
London Wildlife Trust
Richmond and Twickenham Friends of the Earth
Petersham Common Conservators

PRINCIPAL LAND USES

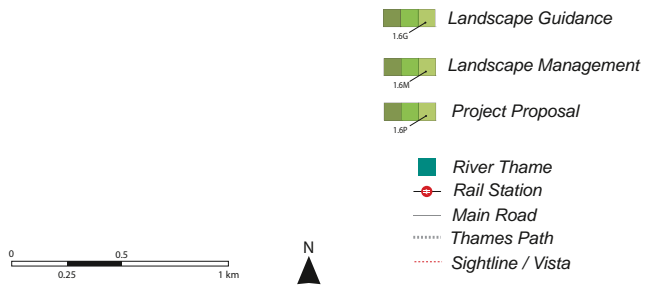
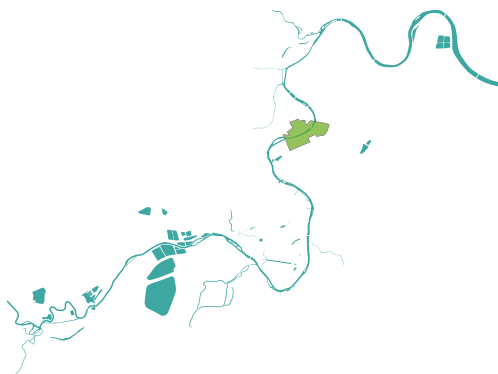
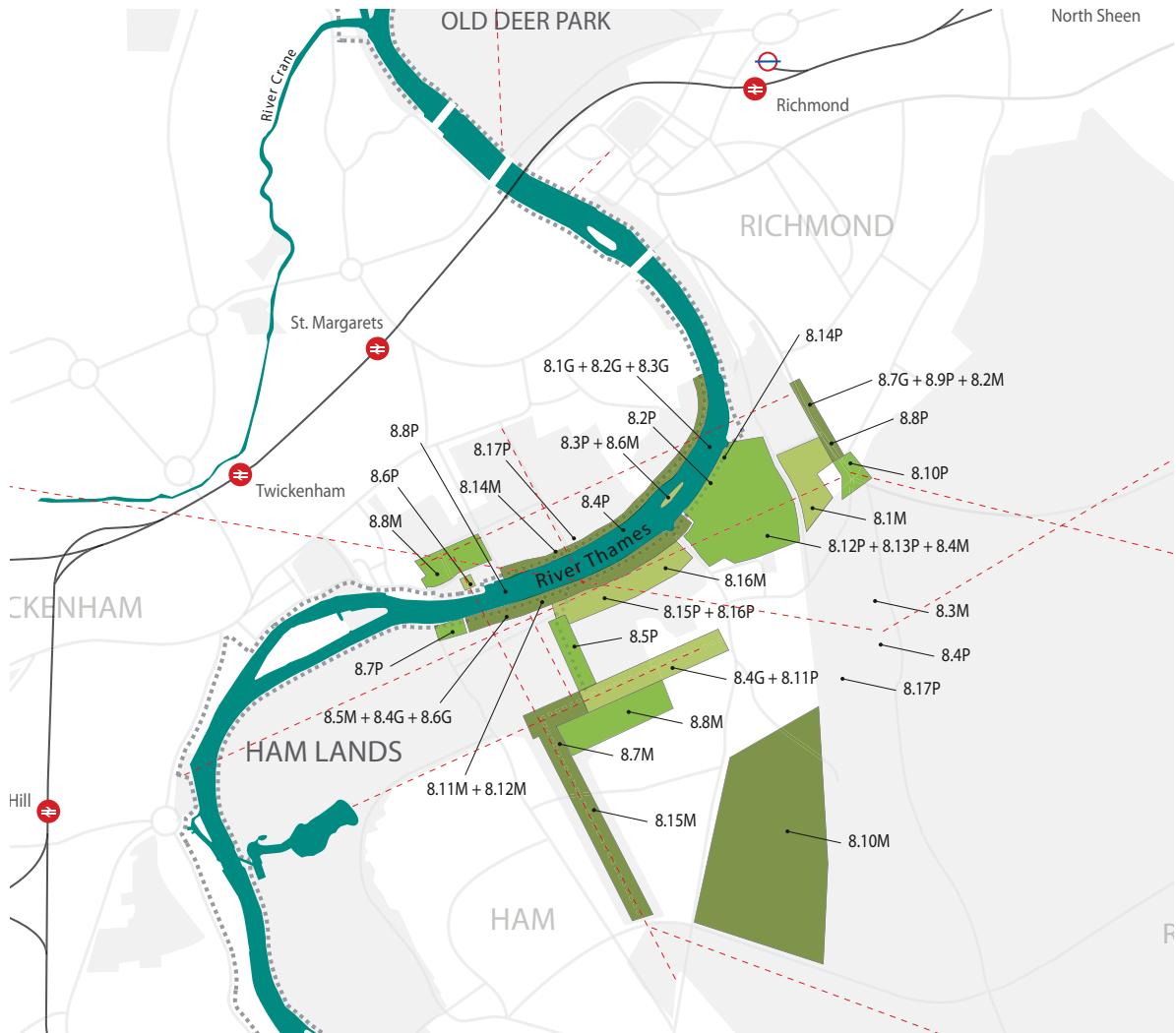
Farming, parkland, commons and golf courses are interspersed with villas, large houses and villages.

Review of Guidance, Project and Management & Maintenance

Projects and management proposals will evolve over time, with details and priorities set in the TLS Annual Action Plan and project briefs. The Action Plan provides greater detail for each project and provides the basis for ongoing monitoring. Please refer to the Appendix for a copy of the 1994 Policy, Project and Management Proposals.

Key: Green: Taken from the 1994 TLS Report with minor amendment where appropriate
Blue: New proposal for 2012 Review
Yellow: Deleted since 1994 due to completion or changing policy or priority

Policy and Project Review



Guidance Promoted by the Thames Landscape Strategy and How this Relates to Planning Policy		
TLS Ref.	2012 Guidance	Related Planning Policy Cross Reference
8.1G	Conserve the remarkable Richmond Hill view and its relationship with the open water meadows, the graceful bend in the Thames and the historic landscape of villas, parks, avenues and villages.	London Plan – 7.12 LBRuT – DM HD7
8.2G	Explore the long-term potential to designate the Arcadian river landscape below Richmond Hill as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.	LBRuT
8.3G	Control moorings in front of historic vistas and reaches of particular rural character and consider the re-instatement of landing stages for river access.	LBRuT, - policy DM OS 13, EA
8.4G	Maintain the views between the Ham Towpath to Marble Hill House and the Ham Towpath to Orleans House Octagon. Open a glimpse between the Petersham Avenue to Marble Hill House	London Plan – 7.12 LBRuT – DM HD7
8.5G	Conserve the pastoral character of the Ham towpath as a rural ramble keeping signage to a minimum, with an unbound surface and no street lighting.	LBRuT – CP 11
8.6G	Maintain the tree lined avenue along Richmond Hill Terrace	LBRuT – CP 11, DM DC 4
Delete	Promote and organise tourism in the remarkable river landscape, linking to public transport and river boat networks and explaining the history and nature conservation.	Delete and add to generic guidance
Delete	Re-align the inner river footpath through the eastern end of the replanted Ham Avenue to provide a dry route at times of high tide.	

Project Proposals		
TLS Ref.	2012 Project	Other Stakeholders
8.1P	Conserve the wooded escarpment around the Star and Garter, pruning a glimpse of the river as painted by Turner and others.	Landowners
8.2P	Consider the long-term possibility of replacing the Petersham Meadow concrete flood wall with an earth bund and returning the meadow to a regime of flooding.	LBRuT, EA
8.3P	Investigate the possibility of modifying the banks of Glover's Island to enhance the nature conservation value.	Landowners
8.4P	Further enhance Mound with ornamental gates and other works to mark tercentenary of St Paul's Cathedral (Royal Parks)	Royal Parks Agency
8.5P	Work with the Ham Polo Club to interpret the former quincunx of limes along Melancholy Walk	Landowners
8.6P	Consider the re-location of the Orleans Gardens café when opportunity arises	LBRuT
8.7P	Install water and electricity supply to Ham Car Park to be used for the great River Race	LBRuT
8.8P	Identify a suitable position for a new trip boat stop to service Ham, Marble Hill and Orleans House Gallery.	LBRuT, EA, Potential Operators
8.9P	As funding allows restore the railings and retaining wall on Richmond Hill	LBRuT
8.10P	Landscape the Richmond Park Gate in line with the Kim Wilkie design	Royal Parks Agency

8.11P	Plant a native hedge along the Petersham Avenue and Melancholy Walk.	LBRuT
8.12P	Maintain the estate fencing around Petersham Meadow	Leaseholders
8.13P	Create an accessible dry route to the rear of Peterhsam Meadow	Landowners
8.14P	Re-surface the towpath alongside Petersham Meadow using a sealed gravel surface	LBRuT
8.15P	Install a discrete dry route between River Lane and Douglas Meadow boardwalk. Improve the dry route between Douglas Meadows and Hammerton's Boardwalk across Queen Elizabeth's Field.	Landowners
8.16P	Survey and enhance the wet habitats between Petersham Lodge Wood through Queen Elizabeth's Field to Ham House Meadow .	Landowners
8.17P	Restore the C18th bell-shaped avenue that linked Marble Hill House with the river.	Landowners
8.18P	Investigate the potential to open up a glimpse to the river from Pembroke Lodge Terrace	Landowners
8.19P	Reinstate some of the lost orchards	
Delete	Re-align the inner river footpath through the eastern end of the replanted Ham Avenue to provide a dry route at times of high tide.	
Delete	Restore the Petersham Lodge avenue of horse chestnuts and re-instate meadow management, cutting the area at least annually and maintaining woodland edges to keep the site sheltered. Consider re-instating John Gay's riverside summerhouse.	Done
Delete	Remove the remains of the redundant Petersham water works and re-instate the site as meadow	Done
Delete	Extend the Terrace Field through part of the Terrace Gardens, relocating the fence & public lavatories, and thinning trees at the foot of the hill to reveal a glimpse of the water and the view to Marble Hill and Orleans House. Thin some of the trees in the Terrace Gardens to reveal the downstream view from the Terrace.	Fence relocated and trees at foot of hill thinned to open up view.
Delete	Enhance public facilities and the viewing terrace at Pembroke Lodge. Royal Parks Crown Estate	Done. Improved public café and terrace operating successfully.
Delete	Remove the remains of the redundant Petersham water works and re-instate the site as meadow	Done
Delete	Extend the Terrace Field through part of the Terrace Gardens, relocating the fence & public lavatories, and thinning trees at the foot of the hill to reveal a glimpse of the water and the view to Marble Hill and Orleans House. Thin some of the trees in the Terrace Gardens to reveal the downstream view from the Terrace.	Fence relocated and trees at foot of hill thinned to open up view.
Delete	Enhance public facilities and the viewing terrace at Pembroke Lodge. Royal Parks Crown Estate	Done. Improved public café and terrace operating successfully.
Delete	Consult on the long-term re-planting of the southern Ham Avenue to Ham Common on the correct alignment, improving the boundaries and fencing. Investigate the possibilities of re-instating a focal mound at the end of the avenue.	Partially completed.

Management and Maintenance Proposals		
TLS Ref.	2012 Proposal	Stakeholders
8.1M	Continue to manage the Terrace Field for hay and wildflowers	LBRuT
8.2M	Continue to maintain the Terrace hoggin, fences and seats in good condition and manage the trees and scrub which formally obscured the view.	LBRuT
8.3M	Conserve and maintain the escarpment woodland	LBRuT
8.4M	Continue to graze Petersham Meadows, controlling thistle and nettle invasion and considering the long-term possibility of restoring management as a flood meadow.	leaseholders
8.5M	Control scrub growth/litter between the Ham Lands footpath and the river	LBRuT
8.6M	Manage the willows on Glover's Island for nature conservation and to maintain the wooded appearance.	Landowners
8.7M	Manage the Ham Avenues in line with TLS Towpath Management Plan as a series of country walks with short grass and wild flowers between the footpath and the tree line and scrub behind the trees cut on a 3 year rotational coppice.	LBRuT, landowners
8.8M	Manage the Ham Copse and Holly Hedge Field to allow ground vegetation to re- establish and to encourage regeneration of the oaks	LBRuT
8.9M	Manage Orleans House gardens in the spirit of a Regency garden as set out in the TLS Orleans Gardens Management Plan.	LBRuT
8.10M	Manage the Richmond Golf Course roughs as a hay crop, clearing around the pond and re-instating historic landscape features where these can work with the layout of the course.	Landowners
8.11M	Manage scrub growth on the tight bends of the towpath to open up long views to improve public safety.	LBRuT
8.12M	Maintain a diverse layer of riparian flowering vegetation between the towpath and the river through a bi-annual hay cut. Maintain a one metre strip each side of the towpath.	LBRuT
8.13M	Control Himalayan balsam in the backwaters and along the Warren Footpath.	LBRuT
8.14M	Manage the stock of trees along the Warren Footpath retaining existing views across the river.	LBRuT
8.15M	Continue to plant and manage native fruit trees along the Ham Avenues and footpaths	LBRuT, landowners
8.16M	Maintain the Petersham Lodge avenue of horse chestnuts and reinstate meadow management, cutting the area at least annually and maintaining woodland edges to keep the site sheltered.	LBRuT, landowners
Delete	Liaise with Royal Parks in their 5 yearly management for Richmond Park to achieve further improvements such as new shared use path between Petersham Gate and Ham Gate and access for disabled people, and a sand martin nest bank at Pen Ponds	Completed