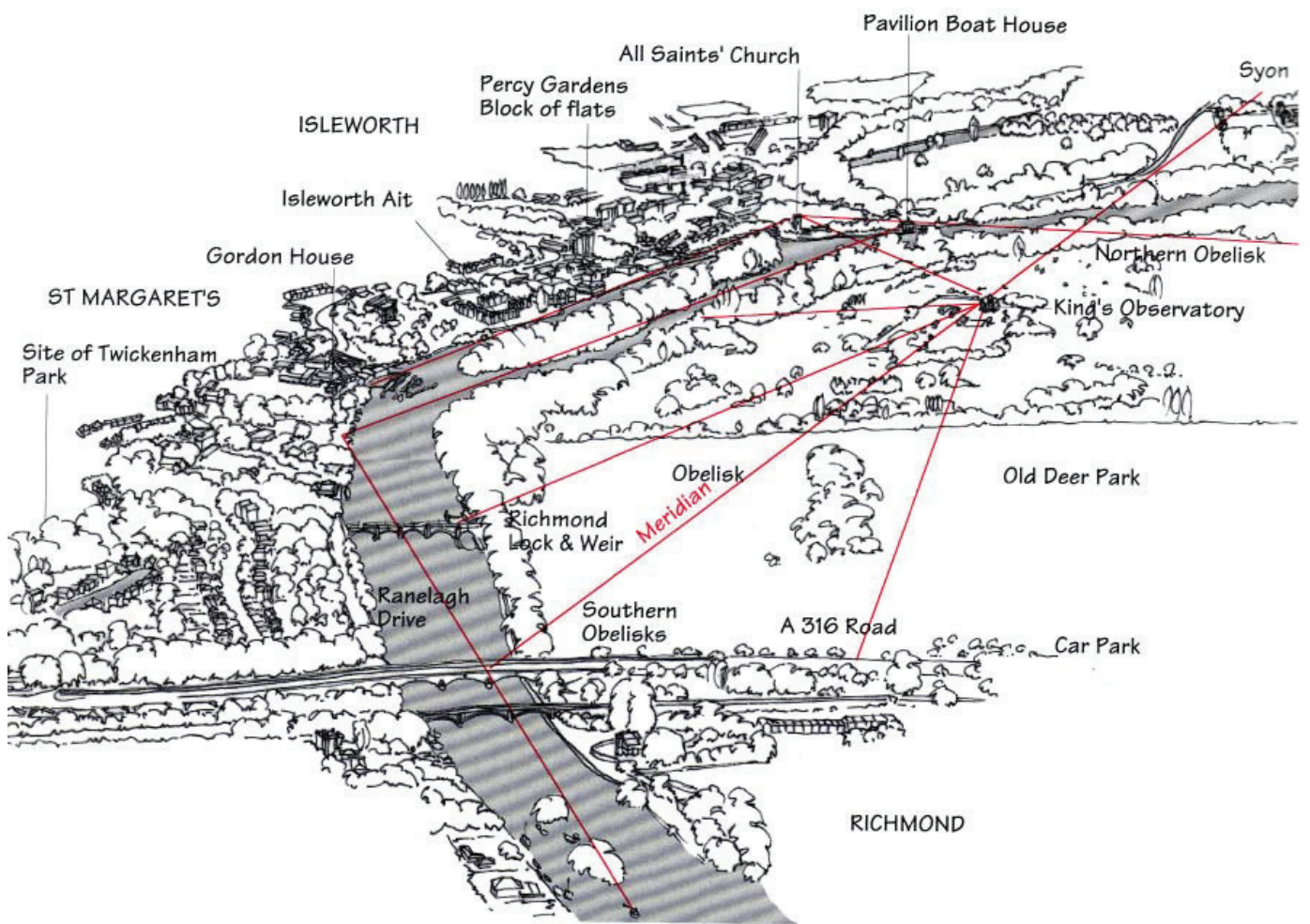


REACH 10
ISLEWORTH





— Vista lines



4.10.1 Overview 1997-2004

- TLS ensured a careful balance between improving management, access and views in order to encourage use of the riverside routes, maintain habitats and retain the frequently wild and isolated character mid-reach on the Surrey side
- There have been good initiatives in opening up views and access, and providing interpretation.
- New development and regeneration of the former Brunel University campus, (now predominantly housing) including the restoration of Gordon House, new riverside landscaping and access routes through the site linking Richmond Road with the river.
- St Margarets Riverfront and Isleworth Promenade: Repair and restoration of railings, interpretation of the views and vistas (eg Kew Pagoda viewpoint), and significant vegetation clearance to connect this space visually and physically with the river, the Old Deer Park, Gordon House, and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.
- Towpath Downstream of Twickenham Bridge – new surfacing, seating and signage including a viewing point to Isleworth.
- Tree planting to form a legible link along the Thames Path between Isleworth and St. Margarets
- Opening of the Kew Meridian in partnership with the Crown Estate
- Willow spiling along the Old Deer Park foreshore
- Landscaping to Isleworth Promenade

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

4.10.2 Isleworth, Syon, the Old Deer Park and Kew ideally need to be seen as a whole; a remarkable 18th century parkland landscape with villas, palaces and riverside villages. It is only relatively recent management practices which have blurred the historical landscape continuum between the two banks and across the royal land from Richmond to Kew. The King's Observatory, which used to act as the focal pivot in the centre of the parkland landscape, has been gradually hidden behind a pen of scrub and planting. The original meridian had been completely obscured, although the 1778 obelisks still survive.



Obelisk - Old Deer Park

4.10.3 *2012 Update: In 1999 a long-term plan to re-open the Meridian was established. The southern vista was opened in 2000 although the sight line had to be shifted by 20 metres from its original alignment due to the construction of the Glaxo SmithKline office block that despite being some distance from the Thames would have been clearly visible if the original C18th line was cleared. The northern vista has now largely been opened by the Crown Estate. Two brushed steel interpretation panels placed on the towpath interpret the Meridian for passers-by and a plaque installed by the Richmond Society tells the historic development of the park.*

4.10.4 The Old Deer Park has evolved into separate compartments under tenancies from the Crown Estate. The southern third is leased for recreation and athletics grounds, divided between sports pitches,

car parking, swimming pools and a playground. The area beside the river is leased to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. A group of beech trees and a playground sit in the middle of a broad expanse of close-mown grass, fringed by riverside trees. Four stone obelisks are set across the space, aligned with the King's Observatory. English Heritage amended the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens to include the Old Deer Park in the Royal Botanic Garden Grade I entry, recognizing the integrity of the whole landscape.

4.10.5 The southern edge of the Old Deer Park has been sliced by the busy A316 road, built in 1933 with Twickenham Bridge to create a new route out of London. The road, parallel to the railway, severed the connection between Richmond Green and the Park. A pedestrian bridge over the railway leads off from the northern corner of the Green, but the footbridge over the road is located down the other end of a car park. Beyond the car park, the space between the road and Richmond is an important area of trees and long grass, viewed from the road, the river and the railway. The ageing ornamental cherries on the northern side of the A316 have been supplemented with more substantial trees, planted by the Friends of the Old Deer Park and the London Borough of Richmond. A second pedestrian link to the Park runs down a rural track and under an arch to the south of the road.

4.10.6 *2012 Update: A native hedge has been planted on the embankment between the Park and the road and the pedestrian route between Richmond Green and the Old Deer Park car park has recently been upgraded.*

4.10.7 Coming into London, spectacular views open from the railway and Twickenham Bridge up and down the river, south to Richmond Hill and north to the Old Deer Park. The King's Observatory can be glimpsed from the bridge in winter. The Observatory is now surrounded by the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course.

4.10.8 *2012 Update: Twickenham Bridge is currently under-going restoration funded by Transport for London.*

4.10.9 The gravel towpath from Richmond to Kew has a remote, rural character which is rare within a city. The informal gravel path makes an appropriate contrast with the paved surfaces of the urban waterfront of Richmond upstream of the railway bridge. Occasional benches have been restored for those wanting to rest or linger on the long walk to Kew.

4.10.10 *2012 Update: The management of the towpath has been designed to strengthen the rural experience - progressively becoming more 'wild' the further the visitor walks from Richmond. On the remotest stretch opposite Isleworth, the dense woodland and the quiet river give the impression of being miles from anywhere before the landscape slowly becomes more formal and open as Kew Bridge is approached. The Old Deer Park ha-ha near Twickenham Bridge finishes at Richmond Lock opening into a wild network of creeks, wetlands and pools that teem with all manner of wildlife. Views into this mysterious habitat add considerably to the 'wild' experience. Where*



Richmond Lock and Weir



Ranelagh Drive



Old Isleworth

trees have fallen, dark, dense wet woodland suddenly gives way to brilliant pockets of standing water shimmering in the sun. Mallards and coot swim on the water whilst small fish can be seen in the crystal clear water. Overhead, kingfishers are a common sight darting above the reeds and yellow flag iris that have colonised the area. The ha-ha is known to be an important habitat for saprophytic invertebrates that feed on the decaying wood that falls into the water.

4.10.11 2012 Update: The Thames Path follows a C20th river wall that rises a considerable height above the water between the lock and the old Isleworth ferry steps. Sycamore and scrub growth on both sides of the path has largely been controlled through the work of volunteers although the reach has now been taken over by nettle and Himalayan balsam that blocks river views throughout the summer months. In several places the revetment walls that support the Thames Path have slumped towards the river. Beyond the ferry steps towards Kew, the river wall that underpins the Thames Path is much lower and subsequently floods on the spring tides. Regular inundation has broken the surface of the footpath that in places is now inaccessible for some people using wheelchairs and buggies although the rough surface does help to slow speeding cyclists along this narrow towpath.

4.10.12 2012 Update: Opposite Syon Park tree growth has been thinned to allow light into the understory. This has helped the growth of the natural willow river wall known as spiling that has been constructed along this reach by volunteers. This living revetment helps to control the impact of boat wash that laps against the semi-natural river bank and provides an excellent habitat for a host of riparian species.

4.10.13 Richmond Lock and the Weir footbridge, restored for the 1994 centenary by the PLA in their original colours, provide an elegant link between the Old Deer Park and St Margarets. The details of the footbridge are carried across into the railway bridge and the railings along Ranelagh Drive promenade, creating an interesting contrast with the rural towpath on the Surrey side.

4.10.14 2012 Update: A PLA interpretation panel helps to inform passers by of the function of the lock and weir in maintaining navigation upstream to Teddington. The Richmond Lock footbridge opens dawn to dusk. An accessible footbridge in a traditional design now crosses to the Old Deer Park from the riverside path.

4.10.15 2012 Update: The railings continue on the Middlesex bank along Isleworth Promenade as far as Railshead Road; restoration of the walkway has been carried out through the London's Arcadia project, together with improved surfaces and seating. Views to the river however, are gradually being obscured by ash and sycamore scrub growing out of the bank.

4.10.16 2012 Update: The former campus of Brunel University with its extensive grounds has been largely replaced by housing development, with the houses overlooking the river in a watered-down Victorian Gothic style. There is public access on a footpath through the site to St Margarets Road. Gordon House, formerly used as offices by Brunel

University, has returned to residential use.

4.10.17 A fine old cedar in the grounds of the former St Margarets House acts as a focal landmark looking south along the reach from Isleworth.

4.10.18 Behind the riverside path, Twickenham Park was replaced in the late 19th and early 20th century by the residential development of St Margarets - an unusual collection of suburban houses of every style from high Victorian to Bauhaus. The remains of the monastery canal, converted into Lucy Bedford's lake, still remains at the centre of the pleasure gardens which are part of the Victorian housing layout of St Margarets Estate.

4.10.19 *2012 Update: The railings and benches along Ranelagh Drive have been restored providing a popular spot to sit and watch the river. The road provides an excellent and accessible place for disabled anglers to use the river.*

4.10.20 At Railshead, boatyards and small factories re-introduce the working character of the river – with the addition of a new office development at the riverside - and continue as far as Isleworth. The redevelopment of Heron Place has opened up an attractive new stretch of Thames Path; however the route between Isleworth and St Margarets is interrupted by the private gardens of Nazareth House and a sea scout centre. These gardens block a significant stretch of riverside access which would connect St Margarets to Isleworth and could eventually help to link a walk from Kew Bridge to Twickenham on the Middlesex bank.

4.10.21 *2012 Update: A row of London plane trees along the route of the Thames Path as it deviates from the river was planted on the St Margarets Road in order to provide a legible and green link between Isleworth Promenade and the village centre.*

4.10.22 The River Crane joins the Thames at Railshead and extensive works have been undertaken by the Environment Agency to shore up the banks and enhance public access. The Duke of Northumberland's River enters the Thames a little further downstream in Isleworth through impressive stone arches. A public path connects up to Silverhall Neighbourhood Park. The tree-lined walk and indeed the whole Isleworth skyline is interrupted by the Percy Gardens block of flats which stand out above the cluster of Isleworth roof tops.

4.10.23 *2012 Update: A series of informative interpretation panels have been installed by the Isleworth Society.*

4.10.24 Isleworth retains a distinct historic waterfront, enclosed down a side-channel of working boatyards located on converted barges moored off the island's tree lined riverbank.

4.10.25 *2012 Update: At low tide, the river channel can empty exposing the muddy riverbed. Stone boardwalks link the Town Wharf with the working boatyards opposite. The old Town Wharf area has*

been considerably redeveloped over the past three decades creating a quiet riverside walk that more than any other centre along the Arcadian Thames retains a distinctly village feel. A steep slipway runs down to the muddy riverbed next to a waterside pub. Connections between the Thames Path and the village centre can be bleak however, with some empty units around the nearby town square. Between the Town Wharf and the outfall of the Duke of Northumberland's River, the Thames Path follows the river, rewarding the visitor with magnificent views towards Kew. The area has been redeveloped for offices and flats. The hard edge, scale and some of the dock machinery have been retained though the uses have changed. Weed growth and some anti-social behavior is a problem.

4.10.26 The tower of All Saints' Church groups picturesquely with the Syon Pavilion Boat House, the waterfront row of 18th-century houses and the London Apprentice pub. The stone embankment and old ferry slipway are popular with fishermen, boaters and drinkers alike. If the ferry can be re-instated as intended, it will provide a popular connection across to the Surrey bank and Kew Gardens. Continuous public access, popular pubs, traffic and parking restrictions and well-maintained spaces have turned the waterfront into a low-key tourist attraction just a stone's throw away from the entrance of Syon Park.

4.10.27 Isleworth Ait, densely wooded with willows and poplars, creates a valuable heronry and screens the old industrial Isleworth waterfront from the Old Deer Park.

4.10.28 2012 Update: The island is managed by the London Wildlife Trust who have established an active volunteer programme to enhance habitats for wildlife. On the Richmond side, tall trees hide the underground workings associated with the Mogden Sewage Works storm outlets - that overflow into the river during heavy downpours.



Lancelot Brown's 1760s plan for the alterations proposed in Richmond Gardens

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.10.29 The Old Deer Park contains much of England's royal history and contributes significantly to the landscape along this stretch of the river. Edward III first converted the Shene manor house into a palace in the 14th century and there was open warren for the chase all the way between Shene and Kew. Henry V, in the words of Thomas Fuller, then 'cut two great callops into crown lands' for building two religious houses (the Brigittine Sion convent opposite Shene Palace and a Charterhouse at Shene,) to expiate his father's part in the murder of Richard II: an act Shakespeare made him ask his Redeemer to take into account as he went into battle at Agincourt:

*'and I have built
Two chantries, where sad and solemn priests
Still sing for Richard's soul'.*

4.10.30 There was a tradition that the royal founder's wishes had been that 'immediately upon the cessation of the service at one convent it should commence at the other and so should continue until the end of

time'. Henry VI made a small 'New Park of Shene' between the Palace and the Charterhouse. The Charterhouse, a model of which by John Cloake can be seen in the Richmond Museum, was the largest in the realm and its building had been supervised by the royal Comptroller as part of the 'kynges grete work' at the Palace of Shene. Its size can be seen on Glover's map of 1635, when it was still in royal use as stables after its final Dissolution in 1559. The Syon monastery on the Isleworth side had moved down stream in 1431 and the land was used by Henry VII for yet another royal deer park. Monastic lands were included in the land granted by Queen Elizabeth to Francis Bacon's family, who built a house there. The two sides of the river were brought back into relationship when Prince Henry was allowed to set up court at Richmond Palace and Lucy, Countess of Bedford, a favourite of the royal family, rebuilt the Bacon house in 1609. The Countess laid out a Renaissance garden at Twickenham Park, complementing the de Caus work for the Prince. Glover's map shows clearly that she had made good use of the old monastery canal in the garden design of her Twickenham Park.

4.10.31 The Prince's father, James I, did not forgo the sport Richmond had to offer; he greatly enlarged the park on the Surrey side to over 370 acres by the addition of land once owned by the monastery, and built a lodge in the middle of this 'New Park of Richmond'. It was after Charles I made the great new Richmond Park in 1637 that this park, which had provided sport for kings from mediaeval times, was called the Old Deer Park. King James's hunting lodge at the north-east end of what is now called the Old Deer Park was taken over by the Duke of Ormonde and made into a 'perfect Trianon' with a terrace garden. In 1718 Ormonde Lodge was leased to the Prince of Wales, who had quarrelled with his father George I, and renamed Richmond Lodge. It was here that his wife Caroline began her innovative landscape gardening, while still keeping some of the park as wild ground with broom and furze shelter for hares and pheasants for her husband's shooting and the southern part stocked with deer.

4.10.32 Following King George III's intention to build a new palace in the Old Deer Park, the houses in West Sheen (including that of the statesman-gardener, Sir William Temple), which had been built within the 'ample enclosure' of the Charterhouse, were removed. The palace was abandoned but the King's Observatory was built by Sir William Chambers close to the site of the cleared monastery in time for the observation of the Transit of Venus in June 1769. The Observatory as seen from the river is as fine as any of the Thames-side villas. The King's time for the Houses of Parliament and Horse Guards' Parade in London was originally set from the Observatory until Greenwich took over at the end of the 18th century.

4.10.33 The King continued to use Richmond Lodge until 1772, when his mother died and he moved to the White House at Kew and had the Lodge demolished. Lancelot Brown had been commissioned to design a landscape as the setting for the intended new palace. His plans are undated but improvements in progress were noted in 1765. The Old Deer Park, as seen in the more open part of Brown's plan, was later given over to George III's 'rural amusements' as a farmer. Part of the



The last stand of St Margaret's House in 1829, marooned in gravel workings



Old Isleworth by Sidney R Jones



Moving a decommissioned Concorde, by water, from Isleworth

brick ha-ha, built in 1767 to keep in the King's new Merino sheep, can be seen along the Kew road.

4.10.34 Isleworth, once connected to the Old Deer Park by ferry, is first mentioned as a permanent settlement in an Anglo-Saxon charter in AD 695 as Gislheresuuyrth. It is then reported in the Domesday Book as having two mills, taking advantage of the River Crane. Mediaeval lords of Isleworth owned weirs on the Thames and the Isleworth weir had stakes at its upper end giving it the name of 'Railshead'. The Duke of Northumberland's River, as it was later called, was constructed in the 1540s to increase water power for the mills, when the manor was still in royal hands.

4.10.35 Before 1217 a large area of the present Borough of Hounslow was covered by forest, 'the Warren of Staines' which when cut down created the large barren tract of Hounslow Heath, which dominates the 1635 Moses Glover map. Wharves are mentioned in the middle ages to transport the products of Isleworth's water- powered industries, which progressed later from flour mills to breweries, calico and powder mills, whose dangerous cargo was taken to Woolwich. There was some agriculture in the district but by 1818 most of the open fields were enclosed and market gardening displaced arable farming. Isleworth housed some fashionable courtiers and men of letters in the 18th and early 19th centuries, but in 1860 Kelly's directory noted that Isleworth had declined when the court left Kew and could never compete, in terms of fashion, with Richmond.

4.10.36 JMW Turner lived for a time at the Ferry House, where he compiled his Isleworth sketchbooks with numerous river studies of the working landscape of ferries, mills, osier beds, fishermen, backwaters and wagons. A new link united the two sides of the river 100 years ago when the footbridge weir was built at Richmond Lock, between St Margarets and the Old Deer Park. St Margarets House had been built on the river bank in the grounds of Twickenham Park at the Railshead end and in 1852 an estate, planned by the Conservative Land Society (a sort of political building society enabling owners to meet franchise requirements), was laid out in the rest of the grounds and extended into Twickenham. Gordon House, with its fine 1758 wing by Robert Adam, was used as offices by Brunel University as part of its campus, but with the closing down of this campus, the house was re-converted to residential use.

4.10.37 *2012 Update: In 2011, Turners House in St Margarets was acquired by the Turners House Trust with the long term aim to restore and open up the property as an educational centre.*

4.10.38 St Margarets, which achieved its own railway station in 1876, pre-dated Bedford Park as a garden suburb and had the great advantage of being a riverside site, with its central curving roads backing on to a communal garden in the St Margarets Estate. The canal within these pleasure grounds brings the history of this area together as it is the one Lucy Bedford featured at Twickenham Park, still surviving from the days of Henry V's first Syon monastery.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

4.10.39 *2012 Update: The Old Deer Park's flood defences are set well back from the river's edge following a contour line that snakes its way through the landscape. This leaves large tracts of open space within an area that floods frequently and is inundated by the high spring tides. An illusion of protection is provided by the high revetment walls that run between the Old Deer Park and the river although these were constructed principally to aid recreation and not as a defence against inundation - water simply makes its way around or through the walls via a system of sluices. In the longer term it may necessary to make changes in the way that the landscape is managed to adapt to potential changes in climate. For the period of this plan however, it is anticipated that small incremental modifications are sufficient to allow water to move in and out of the floodplain more easily and to ensure that the land is managed in a way that is appropriate for periods of wet and dry.*

4.10.40 The lower section of the Old Deer Park known as Twickenham Road Meadow is flooded from time to time on the spring tides blocking access to the open space. The current management of the meadow as close mown amenity grassland and past 'improvement' has led this fragment of old water meadow to lose much of its diversity. The north-western part of the site consists of the steep road bank with a slightly better range of wild flowers, including spotted medick which is uncommon in London.

4.10.41 *2012 Update: Although the long term aim is to restore the area to grazed wet meadows, in the short term the area could be managed in a way that considerably enhanced its diversity through the re-instatement of a twice yearly hay cut replacing the monthly mow. Native wild flowers that tolerate occasional inundation could be planted whilst paths mown through the meadow during the summer months would make for a fascinating public amenity.*

4.10.42 In the northern corner of the Old Deer Park Recreation Ground, an extensive area beside the flooded ditch has been left wild. The southern end of this rough area consists of tall herbaceous vegetation dominated by creeping thistle. The thistles attract large numbers of butterflies. Further north the ground is clearly damper, and a diverse wetland vegetation has developed, extending beyond the fence in to the golf course. There is a wonderful array of colourful wetland plants, including the small-flowered yellow rocket - a nationally scarce member of the cabbage family.

4.10.43 *2012 Update: The area could be extended into the meadow that would help to soften the boundary between the wetland and the close mown amenity grassland subsequently managed on a three yearly rotation and coppicing of the willows.*

4.10.44 The Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course has several mature trees, both scattered and in small copses. These include several magnificent old oak pollards, which pre-date the golf course. The golf course is managed with nature conservation in mind, though more recent plantings of conifers and exotics detract from the effect. Leaf fall



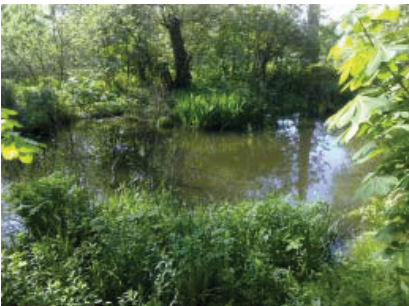
The mouth of the River Crane

from these recent plantings improves the ground beneath, damaging the potential for acid grassland to re-establish. Several areas of thick cover, consisting of elder and willow scrub and stands of tall herbaceous vegetation, have been left between fairways. The roughs on the golf course are remnants of the original acidic grassland, containing typical plants such as heath and lady's bedstraw, and also wood groundsel which is rare in London. Grasshoppers and butterflies abound, the latter including meadow brown, small heath, and small, large and Essex skippers.

4.10.45 *2012 Update: A rare species of cut grass is found near to the boundary with Kew Gardens.*

4.10.46 *2012 Update: It is known that some sections of the Royal Mid-Surrey course (located on the outer nine), are regularly inundated by the spring tides. The Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club is currently considering different options for this area that could include measures that would allow for occasional inundation as an integral part of the golf courses design. This approach would extend the wetland habitat of the ha-ha into the golf course.*

4.10.47 *2012 Update: The water-filled ha ha, which lies between the Old Deer Park and the Thames towpath, is filled during the high tides and partially drained during the ebb. Although a freshwater habitat the wetland is therefore sustained by the tide rather than from rainfall. It is predicted that summer droughts will become more frequent throughout the century - this will undoubtedly have a negative impact on rain-fed wetlands, making any tidally driven backwater a crucial habitat for a host of species to take refuge in during anticipated dry periods. The habitat is particularly important for saprophytic invertebrates that live in the decaying wood and is surveyed every three years for the TLS to monitor any changes. It also contains a number of fish species including bream, rudd, poch, dace and chub.*



The Old Deer Park ha-ha is a rich habitat

4.10.48 Along much of its length the ditch is heavily shaded by trees, and supports little aquatic vegetation. However, recent tree works by the London Borough of Richmond have cleared many sections. Where sufficient light reaches the water, star-wort and Canadian pondweed grow on the water, while dense stands of great hairy willow-herb, yellow flag and many other water margin plants cover the banks. Coots, mallards and moorhens all find nesting cover in these areas, and kingfishers can often be seen. The willow-dominated wet woodland has been designated a nature reserve, and golfers are discouraged from entering.

4.10.49 The River Thames is fully tidal below Richmond Lock, and expanses of mud and gravel are exposed at low tide. Well-established inter-tidal vegetation makes its first appearance in this reach. The river bank beside the Old Deer Park supports a rank, tall herbaceous community of docks, policeman's helmet, reed-grass and hogweed, which grow on the deposited mud and in the cracks of the sloping cobbled wall.

4.10.50 *2012 Update: In recent years Himalayan balsam has spread across the reach and is now starting to creep to the ha-ha and wet woodland beyond. The tree growth on the banks needs to be cut on rotation to ensure that the stability of the river bank is not compromised. Once cut, it is important that volunteer programmes are put in place to keep the spread of Himalayan balsam under control.*

4.10.51 Opposite the Old Deer Park, Isleworth Ait is a large wooded island. The woodland is dominated by very tall sycamore and crack willow. The understorey of the woodland is mostly elder, but includes holly and hawthorn. Ivy dominates the ground beneath the areas of horse chestnut, and, elsewhere, nettle and policeman's helmet form extensive and impenetrable cover. The side of the island facing Richmond has vertical steel-piled banks.

4.10.52 The bank facing Hounslow is natural, though much of it is taken up by a boat yard and moored boats. At the northern end of the island, on the Hounslow side, an area of gently shelving mud supports a small area of willow carr, dominated by common osier, which once provided the raw materials for the local basket-making industry. At low tide, mud and gravel banks are exposed on the Hounslow side of the island and at either end. As well as birds, the mud and shingle is also notable for its mollusc fauna, particularly the rare two-lipped door snail which enjoys life under debris which has collected here, and the equally rare German hairy snail. Many birds roost and nest on the island; bats can often be seen feeding around the island, and roost by day in boxes provided for them.

4.10.53 The Duke of Northumberland's River enters the Thames opposite the northern end of Isleworth Ait, and the River Crane opposite its southern end. The Duke of Northumberland's River is a particularly rich habitat immediately upstream of the high weir at its entrance to the Thames in Isleworth. In its western section, the river follows the northern edge of a small park, Silverhall Park. It then passes through housing and a belt of sycamore woodland, also containing some fine beech trees, to the weir. Although the river is narrow, with restricted adjacent habitat, the riparian flora of its banks, particularly the northern bank towards the weir, is exceptionally rich. Himalayan balsam has begun to dominate in recent years and should be removed.

4.10.54 The River Crane is tidal for approximately 800 metres, between the bridge at Northcote Road and its confluence with the Thames. The wildlife importance of the tidal section is derived not from its adjacent habitat (there is little of this since much of it is narrowly confined between the back gardens of houses) but from the channel and the fact that it is tidal. Several species of fish enter and leave the channel with each tide and some fish may use the channel for spawning. The richness of the bankside vegetation varies throughout the length of the tidal section, depending on the type of bank; the upper and middle reaches are best. On the muddy banks, aquatic plants include celery-leaved crowfoot, water pepper and gipsy-wort. Although slightly less natural than the upper tidal reaches, the middle tidal stretch is attractive, with its weeping and crack willow overhanging the banks, and many small boats moored at the ends of gardens. From Talbot Road downstream

to the Thames, the lower channel has steep sides and in many areas is heavily shaded by horse chestnuts and sycamores. The river would benefit from removal of some of the trees which shade the banks and water, and from sympathetic wildlife gardening by the residents who own the adjacent gardens. The bank sides should be adapted where necessary to support more vegetation.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND RECREATION



Tree planting in Richmond Road, Isleworth

4.10.55 There is continuous public access along the Surrey bank and across the southern part of the Old Deer Park. The Richmond Weir footbridge links to Ranelagh Drive and the Isleworth promenade on the Middlesex bank, though access to Isleworth is blocked by Nazareth House gardens and the Railshead boatyards. Walks link up the Crane and Duke of Northumberland Rivers to small local parks. The Thames Path follows the Surrey river bank.

4.10.56 *2012 Update: There is a new accessible ramped footbridge link from the river path over the flooded ditch to the Old Deer Park, built as part of the London's Arcadia project but the route across Richmond Lock has to be negotiated via a steep set of steps on both banks.*

4.10.57 *The Old Deer Park is used for a wide variety of recreational activity including football, rugby, tennis, British Military Fitness and swimming. Although the Richmond Royal Horse Show no longer takes place, the open space is often used for showcase sporting events, adding much colour to the park and introducing new audiences to the river landscape. The Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course is run by a private club.*

4.10.58 *2012 Update: On the Middlesex side of the reach, the Thames Path has to divert away from the river at Isleworth and Syon Park. The Isleworth ferry no longer runs, but there are plans to purchase it and to provide a new ferry in partnership with the Thames Wherry Trust. This would be a popular link to Kew Gardens if re-instated. The public slipway is well-used by fishermen and the public launching their boats.*

Boatyards:

- Railshead Boatyards
- Thistleworth Marine

Water recreation:

- Third Osterley Sea Scout Group Isleworth

Land recreation:

- Fishing from Isleworth waterfront
- Old Deer Park sports pitches, playground and pools
- Old Deer Park Athletics Ground
- Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club
- Thames Path

Landmarks:

All Saints' Church, Isleworth
Gordon House
Isleworth historic waterfront
King's Observatory
Nazareth House
Old Deer Park meridian obelisks
Richmond Lock and Weir Footbridge
Richmond Railway Bridge
Syon Park
Syon Pavilion Boat House
Twickenham Bridge



The Kew towpath is remarkably rural

LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS

Amenity and Local History:

Borough of Twickenham Local History Soc.
Friends of the Old Deer Park
Hounslow and District History Society
Isleworth Society
Richmond Astronomical Society
Richmond Local History Society
River Thames Society (Upper Tideway)
St Margarets Estate Residents' Association



Flooded Old Deer Park

Nature Conservation:

London Wildlife Trust
Richmond and Twickenham Friends of the Earth

PRINCIPAL LAND USES

4.10.59 The Surrey bank is covered by the recreation uses tenanted by the Old Deer Park. The King's Observatory is leased as offices although plans to convert the building back to a single dwelling are proposed. The Middlesex side is divided between housing and the offices and pubs of Isleworth waterfront. Isleworth Ait is a wooded nature reserve.



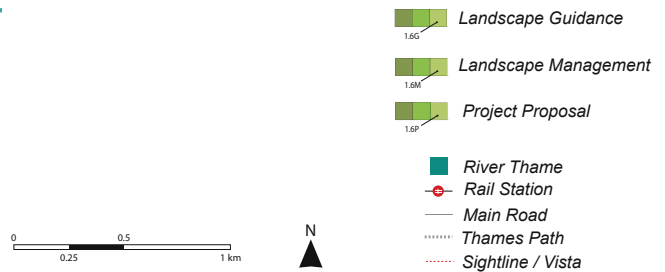
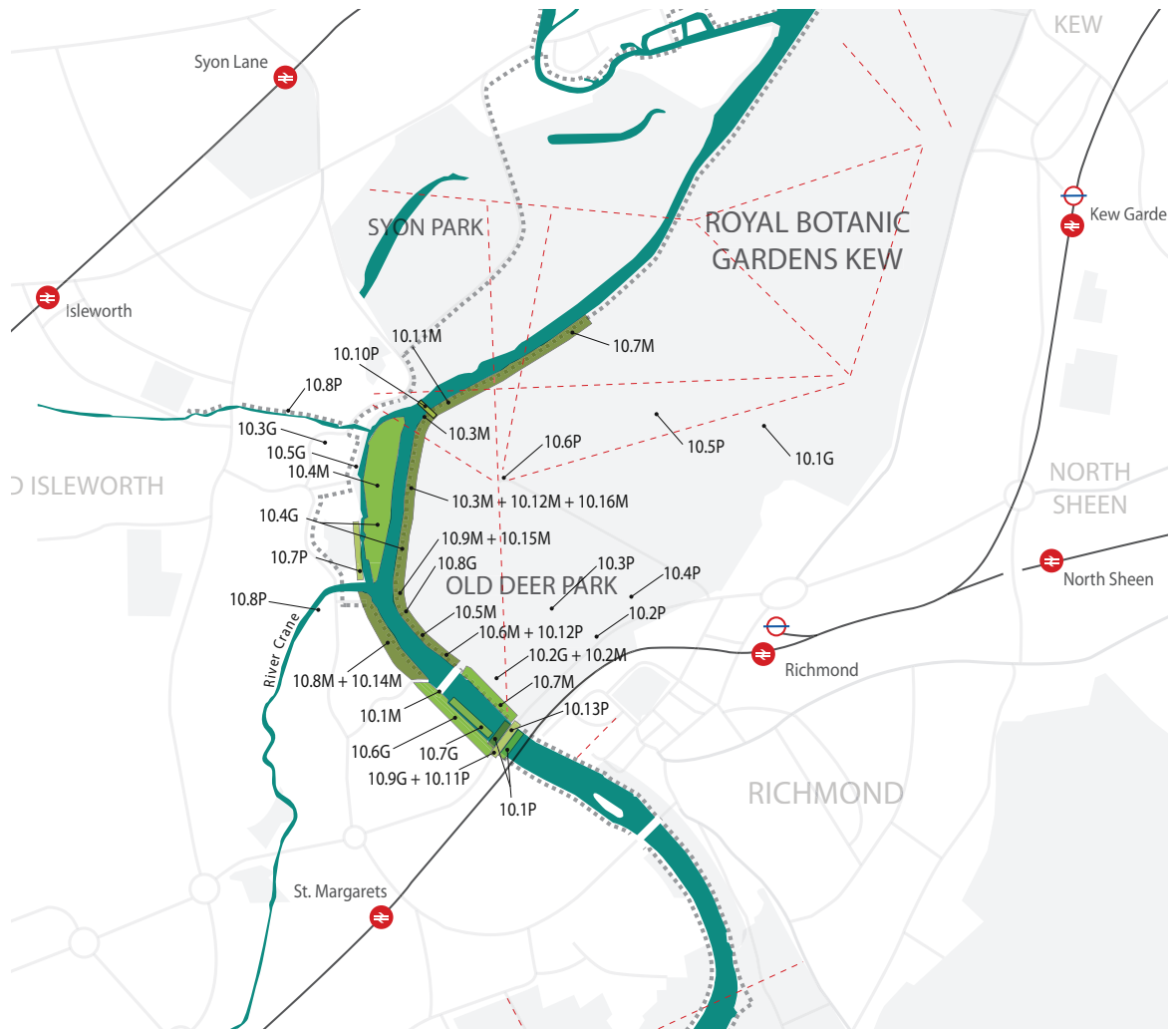
New riverside development at St Margarets

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
10.1G	Restore the open character of the historic parkland landscape, linking Isleworth, Syon, the Old Deer Park and Kew.	London Plan – 7.29 LBRuT – CP 11, DM OS 11, DM OS 12 LBH UDP (2003) Policies ENV-N.1.5 Protection of Metropolitan Open Land, ENV-N.1.15 Heritage Land and ENV-N.1.16 Historic Parks and Gardens
10.2G	Protect the visual links between: King's Observatory and the southern part of the Old Deer Park King's Observatory and the meridian obelisks King's Observatory and Isleworth King's Observatory and Syon Park King's Observatory and Twickenham Bridge Twickenham Bridge and Richmond Hill	London Plan – 7.12 LBRuT – DM HD7 LBH UDP (2003) Policies ENV-N.1.16 Historic Parks and Gardens, ENV-B.2.8 Views and Landmarks , ENV-W.1.3 Important Views and Structures in the Thames Policy Area
10.3G	Retain the domestic scale of buildings on the Middlesex bank, with particular concern for the Isleworth skyline. As redevelopment opportunities arise, high buildings should be replaced with lower structures which complement the surrounding town and landscape	LBRuT – CP 7, DM DC 3 LBH UDP (2003) Policies ENV-B.1.1. New Development, ENV-B.1.2 High Buildings or Structures Affecting Sensitive Areas
10.4G	Conserve and enhance the nature conservation interest of the river and its corridor, with particular attention to the flooded ditch, wet woodland and Isleworth Ait.	London Plan – 7.19 LBRuT – CP 4, CP 11, DM OS 5 LBH UDP (2003) Policies ENV-N.2.1 Sites of National Nature Conservation Importance and ENV-N.2.2 Sites of Regional / Local Nature Conservation. Hounslow Biodiversity Action Plan (2011-2016)
10.5G	Retain the floating dry docks and boat repair yards located off Isleworth Ait	LBH UDP (2003) Policies ENV-W.1.6 River Related Infrastructure and Other Facilities
10.6G	Replace the riverside light source on Ranelagh Drive, Isleworth Promenade, the Town Wharf and Isleworth Riverside with a soft white LED. Discourage any flood lighting along the river.	
10.7G	Investigate the suitability for public visitor moorings to be installed along Ranelagh Drive	LBRuT, EA,
10.8G	Manage the Surrey towpath to enhance the rural character of the reach- progressively becoming more wild as the user moves towards the Isleworth Meridian marker.	LBRuT
10.9G	Retain the two Thames Water kiosks located between the bridges.	

Project Proposals		
TLS Ref.	2012 Project	Other Stakeholders
10.1P	Clean Twickenham Bridge and repaint Richmond Railway Bridge.	Landowners
10.2P	Plant further large-scale trees along the edge of the A316 road through the Old Deer Park to match the mature trees along the river edge and reduce the impact of traffic on the park.	LBRuT, Crown Estates
10.3P	Re-instate the Lancelot Brown tree groups in the Old Deer Park, where not in conflict with playing fields, and around the Pools Complex and car parks	Leaseholders
10.4P	Gradually replace exotic planting on the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course with native plantings following Brown's original designs. Plantings must work with the layout of the course and the long cross vistas.	Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club
10.5P	Consider less intrusive fencing around the King's Observatory	Landowner
10.6P	Negotiate a public permissive path along the river edge of Nazareth House gardens and beyond to link Isleworth with St Margarets along the water.	Planning permission at Nazareth House includes improvements to public access along the river path. The permission is yet to be implemented (March, 2012). Improvements to public access on riverside paths are similarly being made at neighbouring sites, such as Heron's Place.
10.7P	Enhance the connecting walks up the Duke of Northumberland and Crane Rivers. Encourage adjacent garden owners to create a native riparian strip close to the river's edge; encourage bankside vegetation by modifying the steep walls of the lower stretch.	Landowners
10.8P	Restore the steps and chalk foreshore boardwalk associated with the Isleworth Ferry	
10.9P	Re-open the Isleworth Ferry to encourage cross river connections and circular walks between Syon, Isleworth, Richmond and Kew.	
10.10P	Install a discrete interpretation panel to tell the story of the two Thames Water kiosks located between the Twickenham and Richmond Railway bridges.	
10.11P	Extend the wetland vegetation on the northern edge of the Old Deer Park recreation ground. Soften the boundary of the wetland with adjacent close mown grass areas.	Leaseholders
10.12P	Investigate the potential for the abandoned allotments between the Twickenham and Richmond Railway bridges to be opened up and managed for the public to enjoy.	Landowners
10.13P	Enhance Isleworth Promenade through the use of sealed gravel and upgraded paving, lighting and street furniture.	
10.14P	Install eel pass at Kidds Mill Sluice.	EA
Completed	Re-open the views between the King's Observatory, the Old Deer Park, Twickenham Bridge, Isleworth and Syon.	Done but need to be kept open so moved to management section
Completed	Resurface the towpath between the railway bridge and Richmond Lock with fine grade hoggin.	Done
Completed	Relocate the playground closer to the swimming baths.	Delete - completed

Completed	Re-open the original meridian vista through the King's Observatory between the riverside obelisks to the north and south.	Done
Delete	Open sunny glades in the scrub clogging the flooded ditch and coppice tree growth in panels along the edge of the towpath.	Move to management section.
Completed	Re-instate the short stretch of riverside cast-iron railings missing opposite the Eel Pie Studios at the end of Ranelagh Drive.	Done – part of London's Arcadia
Completed	Remove the ash and sycamore scrub obscuring the views from the Gordon House riverside park.	Done – to be maintained

Management and Maintenance Proposals		
TLS Ref.	2012 Proposal	Stakeholders
10.1M	Continue maintaining Richmond Lock, the Weir footbridge and the Ranelagh Drive railings in the original 1894 paint colours.	PLA, owners
10.2M	Limit the areas of close-mown grass in recreation areas, to increase nature conservation interest.	LBRuT
10.3M	Control scrub growth between the Old Deer Park footpath and the river.	LBRuT
10.4M	Maintain the willow carr on Isleworth Ait and allow the woodland to regenerate naturally.	Landowners
10.5M	Maintain the wetland vegetation on the northern edge of the Old Deer Park recreation ground by cutting every 2-3 years and coppicing the willows.	Lessees
10.6M	Consider ways to extend and connect the wet habitats alongside the Old Deer Park further into the park and golf course - particularly wet woodland, standing water and wetland planting.	LBRuT, Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club
10.7M	Establish a three year rotational coppice to maintain the re-opened views between the King's Observatory, the Old Deer Park, Twickenham Bridge, Isleworth and Syon.	Landowners
10.8M	Manage the Surrey riverbank from Richmond Railway bridge to Railshead as low mixed riparian planting with occasional trees framing rather than blocking long views.	LBRuT
10.9M	Manage the Surrey riverbank between Railshead and the Isleworth ferry steps as a mixed area of standard trees and grassland ensuring that views to the river are maintained.	LBRuT
10.10M	Maintain the riverbank opposite All Saint's Church as low grass to allow views across the river.	LBRuT
10.11M	To encourage saprophytic invertebrates, the wetlands alongside the Old Deer Park should not be dredged. Where deadwood blocks the flow of water however, it should be placed to the edge of the ha ha. Fallen trees should be removed from the mowing zone along the towpath to the wildlife habitat beyond.	LBRuT
10.12M	Maintain a healthy stock of riverside trees of all ages managed in a way that allows for low views across the river to be enjoyed.	LBRuT
10.13M	Protect overhanging trees close to the foreshore as they create great habitat and refuge for fish at high tide. Establish a monthly foreshore volunteer tidy group to remove riverborne litter caught in the trees.	LBRuT
10.14M	Introduce a seven year rotational coppice to the trees along Isleworth Promenade ensuring that long views to the Syon summerhouse and Richmond Lock are always maintained.	LBRuT
10.15M	Open more sunny glades in the scrub clogging the flooded ditch and coppice tree growth in panels along the edge of the towpath.	Landowners
10.16M	Encourage more willow spiling along the semi-natural river banks	LBRuT