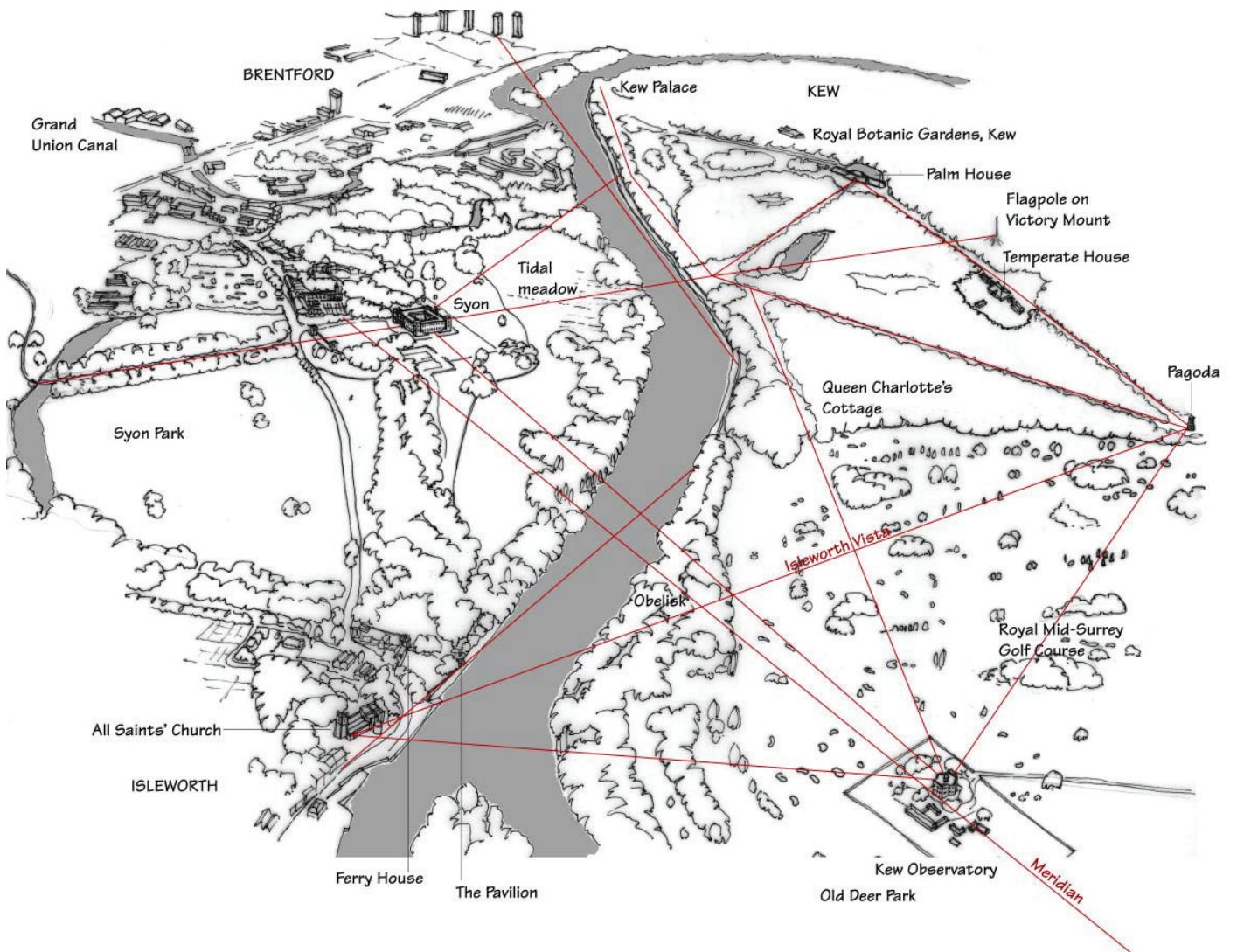


**REACH 11**  
**SYON**





## 4.11.1 Overview 1994-2012

- There has been encouraging progress in implementing Strategy aims with the two major estates that dominate this reach, Syon and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- Syon has re-established its visual connection with the river.
- Kew's master-planning initiatives since 2002 (when it became a World Heritage Site) have recognised the key importance of the historic landscape framework and its vistas, and the need to address the fact that Kew currently 'turns its back on the river'.
- The long stretch of towpath along the Old Deer Park is of concern as a flood risk for walkers, with limited access points to safe routes.
- Development along the Great West Road is impacting long views from within Syon Park.
- Syon House and grounds: major development plan, including re-instatement of Capability Brown landscape: re-connection of house with river (1997), opening vista to Kew Gardens (1996), re-instatement of lakehead in pleasure grounds, restoration of C18th carriage drive, landscaping of car park
- Re-instatement of historic elements of Old Deer Park, including the Kew Meridian, 1997
- Kew Vision, launched, 2008
- Kew World Heritage Site Management Plan and Kew Gardens Landscape Masterplan 2012
- Willow spiling and tree management along the Kew Ha-ha
- Invertebrate spiling and habitat creation works Kew Ha-ha.
- Volunteer riverbank management Syon, Kew

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

4.11.2 The Syon Reach is bordered by two of the most significant designed landscapes in Britain. Royal patronage at Richmond and Kew inspired some of the initial influential works of Bridgeman, Kent and Chambers. The current layouts of Syon and the Royal Botanic Gardens are still basically the work of Lancelot Brown and William Nesfield. Syon Park is still essentially a Capability Brown landscape. The ha-ha, water meadows and tree clumps survive.



Syon House

4.11.3 *2012 Update: Before improvement works to re-connect the house visually to the river in the late 1990s, advancing willow and poplar scrub growth had merged the clumps, obliterating much of the meadow and blocking views to the river. An aerial photograph from as recently as the 1920s shows the 18th-century landscape intact. The imposing house, with the lion silhouetted on the roof, was only revealed by a single narrowing window through the scrub. The channels of the water meadow had become blocked and the clay land drains were steadily eroding away into the Thames. Rural views across the estate have been compromised by recent developments outside the park that can be seen on the skyline.*

4.11.4 *Syon Park Ltd has a landscape masterplan for management of the historic landscape and the layout and organisation of visitor facilities, parking and public access. The recently opened hotel complex at Syon has facilitated the removal of many of the inappropriate post-war buildings and has allowed for the landscaping of the car park that now serves the House, the garden centre and the hotel and the reinstatement of some of the lost Capability Brown features. A Breedon gravel path, installed in 2008, runs alongside the entrance drive and provides a good off-road link for the Thames Path to follow. The hay meadow beyond the entrance drive is full of wild flowers in early summer and is still grazed by a herd of Highland cattle. The Capability Brown lake is used by a local fly fishing club.*

4.11.5 *2012 Update: The route of the Thames Path between Syon House and Brentford deviates from the river via Brentford Town Lock. A proposal to create a new (dawn to dusk) section of path that cuts out this 10 minute detour is proposed. A new access point to link Syon with the existing route would be needed to rejoin the path at the wooden footbridge over the Grand Union Canal to Brentford.*

4.11.6 One of the critical factors in the Syon Management Plan is the re-instatement of the visual links across the river. Lines drawn on the plans of Glover and Kent show an awareness of important sightlines from at least the 17th century. The square of Syon House is arranged on the cardinal points of the compass, to which later designs have responded. The north-south axis relates to the later meridian of the King's Observatory. The east-west axis, through the centre of the House, has been continued along the avenue towards Hounslow to the west and through the centre point of Nesfield's triangle of avenues in Kew towards the flagpole on the mount of the Temple of Victory to the east.

4.11.7 *2012 Update: The significance of the visual links is also being considered by the Royal Botanic Gardens in its Landscape Masterplan and World Heritage Site Management Plan (2012). The Landscape Master Plan provides an overall vision for Kew Gardens with long term aims for 30 years, during which effective policies can be developed. The vision is based upon reinforcing the historic landscape framework, articulating the Gardens' different landscape characters and introducing a new 21st century layer to express the changing role of Kew Gardens and its wider role within the Arcadian Thames.*

4.11.8 Nesfield's triangle of avenues still forms the basic structure of the Gardens, linking the Pagoda, the Temperate House, the Palm House and the window to the Thames, with its cross-vista through the centre of Syon House. The lines of the avenues could be sharpened and the triangular framework made clearer in guides to the Gardens, but the basic organising principle is still there. The relationship between the site and the outside landscape is less clear. The Isleworth Vista, marked on the 1920 OS Map between the Pagoda and All Saints' Church, has been blocked by golf course planting and river edge scrub, as has the Isleworth view from the Observatory.



*The Nesfield Avenues of the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew focus on the Syon vista. This 1920s photo shows the traditional management of Syon Park maintaining the open tide meadow and Capability Brown's tree clumps*



*Joseph Farington's view of Syon from Kew in 1795 showing the integration of the two landscapes*



*Syon Reach*



Xstrata Tree Top Walkway, Kew Gardens

4.11.9 The view from Chambers' Observatory to his Pagoda is being closed by conifers. And the views south from both Queen Charlotte's Cottage and Kew Palace have been obscured by scrub. The Royal Botanic Gardens are sensitive to prevailing winds into the site from the south-west and to the intrusion of high rise buildings in Brentford to the north. For example, an office block across the M4 looms over the north-south Nesfield Avenue as well as dominating the view over Kew Bridge from the Green. The westerly views across to Syon, as shown in the Farington engraving and Turner's sketches, could however be re-opened without affecting screenings to the north or south. The flagpole located on Victory Mount has recently been removed for safety considerations.

4.11.10 The whole relationship between Kew Gardens and the river could also be improved. Gradually the riverside promenades of Bridgeman and Brown have been planted out. The site of the Castellated Palace and Queen Elizabeth's Lawn have been turned over to parking and workshops (see Reach 12). The Gardens have effectively turned their back on the Thames whilst much of the surviving Georgian buildings associated with Kew Palace are lost within more recent additions.

4.11.11 *2012 Update: The Kew Gardens World Heritage Site Management Plan includes projects that subject to funding should address this, including a new river garden on the site of present car park, the creation of a 'Georgian quarter' centred around Kew Palace, the re-positioning of the Brentford gate and a footbridge to link Kew with Brentford.*

4.11.12 *2012 Update: The river bank itself has been reinforced with massive steep concrete revetments to meet flood threats of pre-Tidal Barrier days, although rising sea-levels and unpredictable weather patterns mean that flooding is still a risk despite the presence of the Barrier, and there is a need for a dry route alternative to the towpath. On the high spring tides walkers are often cut off for considerable periods of time taking refuge on benches and higher stretches of path. This situation is made worst due to the complete lack of access linking the Thames Path with the hinterland along this stretch. A long term proposal to open up a new path linking Kew Road with the Thames Path following the boundary between Kew Gardens and the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course is being considered. Whilst providing a safe dry path for walkers, this potential route would also link the river with North Sheen and Kew, opening the possibility for new circular walking trails.*

4.11.13 *2012 Update: The towpath provides a magical walk between Kew Bridge and Richmond. Although glimpses into Kew Gardens from the riverside path are limited, the long views across the river are magnificently rural – the tree-lined riverbanks framing a great sweep of the Thames. At low tide, large expanses of gravel foreshore are exposed. Several sets of steps lead down to the beaches that are slowly being colonized by native reeds. The towpath, being artificially placed on the top of the high concrete river wall could be softened particularly between the Syon vista and the Old Deer Park. The path surface is unbound and narrows to a width of just over 1m for a considerable*

*distance following the line of a Georgian ha-ha. This helps to re-inforce the rural character and slows passing cyclists. An alternative cycle route linking Kew with Richmond provides an appropriate alternative cycle route.*

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.11.14 Syon's recorded history begins when one of Henry V's chantries, the Syon monastery opposite his Shene Palace, was moved to the present site of Syon House in 1431. Recent archaeological excavations indicate that the site was one of largest in Europe that has yielded considerable artifacts. At the Dissolution, the monastery was given to the Duke of Somerset, the Lord Protector, who built Syon House on the site with the materials of the abbey at the same time as he built his great Somerset House in London in 1547. The Protector of the Realm during Edward VI's minority was king in all but name and even addressed the King of France as brother. In 1552 Somerset was overthrown and executed, one of the accusations of his opponents being that he had raised a great terrace around Syon House as a prelude to fortifying it. The manor of Syon then forfeited to the crown, changed hands many times before the lease was obtained from Queen Elizabeth I by the 9th Earl of Northumberland, whose descendants live there to this day.

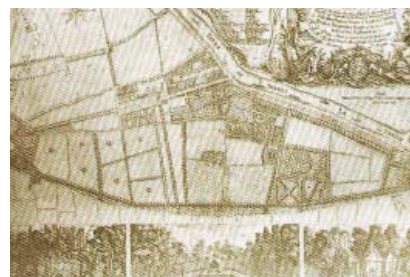
4.11.15 Syon Park has always combined landscaping by the best designers with a long-standing tradition of horticultural skills. The nuns had cultivated walled gardens and orchards and horticultural activity continued under William Turner, called the Father of English Botany, for the Lord Protector. Queen Mary recalled the nuns temporarily but as Fuller records there was difficulty in reassembling the original occupants of Syon Abbey as 'most of the elder nuns were in their graves and the younger in the arms of their husbands'.

4.11.16 The 7th Earl of Northumberland, who inherited in 1748, may have been responsible for the demolition of Somerset's treasonable triangular terrace and the formation of a ha-ha. The formal gardens are shown in Jan Griffier's painting of c1710 and are still there on Rocque's survey of London of 1744 but Canaletto's painting of 1749 shows that they have been removed. When Rocque's map of Middlesex of 1754 was published, the landscape is in place with a 'church Walk', a sinuous shrubbery walk leading from the house to the church at Isleworth. Payments to Capability Brown for one of his earliest commissions began in 1754 and a lake with bridges and Flora's column is described in the Syon entry of the Environs of London in 1761. In 1764 Brown worked, as Royal Gardener, for George III at Richmond Lodge, and was able to unite the landscape on both sides of the river. Richard Wilson painted an idyllic Arcadian scene showing the river landscape of Syon and Richmond gardens as they appeared in the 1760s.

4.11.17 Kew Gardens as we know them today are the result of the joining of the two adjacent royal estates of Kew and Richmond, formerly divided by Love Lane; ironically named in view of the animosity of the Prince of Wales and his parents. At Richmond Lodge the Duke



*Griffier's view of Syon in 1710 showing the raised terraces and formal gardens*



*Rocque's plan of the House, Park and Hermitage of their Majesties at Richmond in 1736*



*The Royal Court playing at picnicking rustics in 1736 with Richmond Lodge in the background*

of Ormonde had created long avenues from the house to the river and southwards towards Richmond Green. Queen Caroline was the patron of Charles Bridgeman and the new landscaping even before he was appointed Royal Gardener in 1728. As seen on the Rocque map, her Richmond gardens had an ornamental canal, a river terrace, forest walks, an amphitheatre, and diagonal wilderness. William Kent's hermitage and Merlin's cave are also shown. It was in these gardens that Queen Caroline held her mock pastoral revels, based on the *fetes galantes* of Watteau's paintings. Chatelain shows the court playing at being simple rustics crossing to the Syon bank in the manner of Watteau's famous pilgrimage to the Isle of Love.

4.11.18 Capability Brown, commissioned by George III, broke up the Bridgeman avenues and formal groves extending the lawns to the river and letting in frequent views to the interior part of the gardens. He also demolished Kent's famous garden buildings. Richmond had always the advantage of the river, whereas William Chambers, working on the Kew landscape to the east, had an unpromisingly flat and featureless site. As well as the botanical interest already provided for the Princess Augusta by her garden adviser, Lord Bute, and William Aiton, Chambers relied on his garden architecture for inward-looking effect, erecting a mosque, an alhambra, a gothic cathedral, a ruined Roman arch, a Temple of Victory, a classical orangery and the spectacular 10-storeyed pagoda. In front of the White House, he created a lake with a white swan pedal boat, the 'Augusta', made for the future George III's 17th birthday.



*Chamber's pagoda with the mosque and the alhambra in 1736*

4.11.19 When the two gardens were amalgamated in the 1840s, the lake was partially filled in and most of the buildings were removed. New entrance gates were erected on Kew Green when Queen Victoria opened the gardens to the public. The orangery and pagoda, a London landmark, remain as notable Chambers landscape buildings. The only Brown feature allowed to remain was his sunken laurel vale of 1773, now replanted as the rhododendron dell. The gardens we see today are the work of Sir William Hooker, the first Director of Kew, and the landscape architect, WA Nesfield. The designs adapted to the new conditions and opportunities that the amalgamation of the sites, public access and scientific research brought.



*The white swan pedal boat made for the future George III's 17th birthday*

4.11.20 Nesfield made the new Palm House, designed by Decimus Burton, the pivot of his layout with a radiating pagoda vista, a vista of Syon, a broad walk and holly walk roughly along the old Love Lane. Nesfield's parterre round the Palm House was redesigned after his death in 1881, but his vistas remain. Nesfield had formed a new smaller pond in front of the Palm House from the original lake in the Chambers layout and in 1857, when the Temperate House was built, Hooker decided that the pits dug for the gravel for its terrace should be made into a larger, more natural, lake nearer the river, where Queen Caroline's Merlin's cave once stood.



*Palm House, Kew*

4.11.21 The Queen's Cottage, like Kew Palace, is under the control of Historic Royal Palaces within the Royal Botanic Gardens. A cottage orne with a small menagerie was built for Queen Charlotte and the younger members of her family. Fanny Burney often mentions the Queen's delight in retiring there, but when she took up residence at



Kew Palace it was used as an ornamental dairy. In 1806 WT Aiton, who had taken over from his father as superintendent, was asked to design a flower garden in the paddocks of the cottage 'lately occupied by the kangaroos from Botany Bay'. It remained a royal enclosure until 1897 when it became part of Kew Gardens.

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

4.11.22 At the boundary between the Old Deer Park and Kew Gardens, the grassland beside the towpath is dominated by California brome, a North American species which 'escaped' from Kew Gardens in the 1930s and is now common in many places in the area, particularly alongside the Thames. Pellitory-of-the-wall, another plant which has a restricted range within London but is quite widespread locally, grows upon the brick wall in the ha-ha forming the boundary of Kew Gardens. Another special sight along the towpath is the purple hairstreak butterfly. The oak collection in Kew Gardens provides abundant food for caterpillars of the butterfly. This species tends to fly high around the canopy, where it is hard to see, but it will descend to feed on the nectar of bramble flowers which are abundant along the edge of the path.

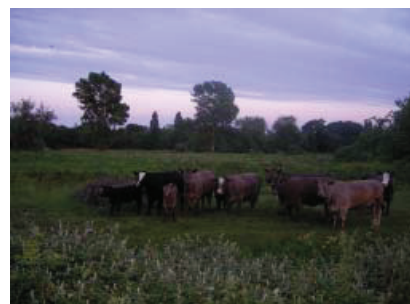
4.11.23 The strip of secondary woodland which runs along the western boundary of The Old Deer Park, adjacent to the towpath, would benefit from woodland management to create a more diverse age structure and to open sunny glades to enhance the woodland habitat, and also the wetland habitat of the ha-ha as described under Landscape Character Reach 10.

4.11.24 Growing in the tidal mud on the Richmond side of the river, is a large stand of sea club-rush. This species is typically a brackish water plant, but the river water at this point is fresh at all times except when the river is exceptionally low and salt water can penetrate further upstream. Associated riparian species here include great yellow-cress, pink water speedwell and marsh ragwort, all of which are rare in London. Purple loosestrife also grow on the intertidal mud but this species is much more abundant on the bank top where it forms bright swathes in summer. The river banks on the Surrey side of the river have cracks and loose areas which have enabled plants to establish making solid walls look considerably more attractive.

4.11.25 *2012 Update: The botanical collections of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew have a global significance. There are also some semi-natural areas, the most extensive of which is the woodland and ecology area around Queen Charlotte's Cottage in the south west of the gardens. Oak is the main canopy tree, beneath which rhododendron provides cover for mammals and birds. Sheets of bluebells in spring, are followed later in the year by quantities of flowers of two naturalised plants: perfoliate alexanders and martagon lily. Much of the grassland in the gardens is now extensively managed to encourage diversity. This has helped to restore the original acidic character. Herbicides are no longer used on the grassland, and it is intended to return much more of the sward to its original character, especially in the arboreta. There are important bat roosts in the gardens, with several species of bat.*



*Bird Hide, Kew Gardens*



*Cows graze on Syon flood meadow*

*The river provides an important feeding ground due to the absence of lighting along the riverbanks. Mink are known to breed in the area.*

4.11.26 Breeding birds include all three British woodpeckers, and spotted flycatchers, and the abundant bird and mammal life is preyed upon by sparrow hawks, kestrels and up to four pairs of tawny owls. Woodcocks, rare birds in London, are regularly seen in winter in the Queen Charlotte's Cottage grounds. Frogs, toads and newts all breed in a small marshy pond within the woodland area, and these provide food for grass snakes which were introduced to the gardens a few years ago.

4.11.27 The tide meadow at Syon Park, scheduled as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, is one of the few remaining Thames-side wetland areas and the only natural riverbank in Greater London. It is particularly unusual because part of the land is inundated twice daily by the tide. There is an interesting gradation of habitat from the river bank inland. In recent years, scrub has encroached on the heavily channeled intertidal mud and invasive Himalayan balsam is a constant problem. The Chinese mitten crab has made the Syon creeks its home, burrowing into the soft mud banks causing considerable damage. The riverbanks are backed by wet grassland and reed beds which are also regularly inundated. In turn this area of grassland is backed by a drier area of grassland extending to the ha-ha fronting Syon House. Apart from the willow woodland, this area had changed little over the past several hundred years until the scrub invasion of the last few decades.



*Tidal creek at Syon*

4.11.28 The scrub encroaching onto the riverside muds consists of a wide variety of willows and poplars, merging with historic clumps of lombardy poplar and swamp cypress. The shrub layer is not very diverse, being mostly elder, but the ground flora taking hold on the thick muds includes cow parsley and hemlock water dropwort. As the woodland is relatively recent, it would be beneficial to reduce its extent but keep some areas for roosting birds, particularly herons. The grazing regime will need to be adjusted to restrict encroachment of the woodland over the grassland areas. The creeks, which are a distinctive feature of the site, extend from the Thames well into the grassland. They are largely devoid of vegetation under the shade of the woodland canopy but are otherwise colonised by a large number of marsh plants, as described below. The reduction of the wooded area over the creeks will increase their floral diversity.

4.11.29 The meadow which is regularly inundated is dominated by reed sweet-grass but with a wide variety of other marshland plants also occurring. Marsh ragwort, yellow flag, marsh foxtail, water mint and meadow sweet are some of the flowers. The drier neutral grassland further inland is dominated by meadow-grasses, rye grass and species of bent. There are large tussocks of tufted hair grass in the transitional zone.

4.11.30 Apart from the tidal meadows, the long lake within the pastures west of the main entrance drive is important for nature conservation. Its margins are normally luxuriously vegetated providing good cover for many waterfowl. Great water dock, galingale and

glaucous bulrush are all species of restricted distribution in London which are found on the lake edge. The surrounding pastures are grazed by cattle. The management regime for the pastures has stopped the use of herbicides or fertilisers resulting in a more diverse sward as the fertility has dropped. A wild meadow strip has established alongside the entrance drive.

4.11.31 *2012 Update: Although predominantly flat and largely within*

#### **Environment Agency TE2100 Recommendations**

**Kew is included in the Environment Agency TE2100 Richmond Policy Area that recommends flood risk management policy P3, to continue with existing or alternative actions to manage flood risk at the current level (accepting that flood risk will increase over time from this baseline), working with others on local measures for key assets and infrastructure.**

**The Environment Agency recognises that the floodplain is narrow and therefore the benefits of improving defences are limited. It also recognises that the area is very environmentally sensitive with much public access to the river, where defence improvements should enhance the landscape and not have adverse impacts. The main sources of flooding in the area are from tidal, fluvial, a combination of both and from local drainage. There are no fluvial flood defences but existing tidal defences provide some protection against fluvial flooding. There are large areas of open space located between the river and the tidal defences. At present the Thames Barrier is used to control tidal flooding and also to control fluvial floods. The Thames Barrier will continue to provide a high standard of protection against tidal flood conditions, but over the next 25 years its use for fluvial flood risk management will be gradually reduced.**

**The TE2100 vision for the Richmond Policy Unit is ‘to provide flood risk management within the constraints of a P3 policy that enhances the landscape and amenity of the area, and involves local communities, businesses and agencies in flood risk management. Suggested requirements are for improved and new defences where public access and views of the Estuary are maintained and enhanced’. It is anticipated that there is up to 25 years to plan and put in place a series of alternative measures for managing freshwater flood risk in vulnerable areas, such as undefended islands and the low-lying floodplain between the defences and the river. Floodplain management measures including resistance and resilience of properties and increased reliance on flood warning and community flood management strategies will need to be identified with localised defences to protect specific properties where this can be justified. An opportunity for wetland habitat restoration has been identified in the TE2100 action plan.**

*the floodplain the predicted areas of flood risk does not seem to include the main fabric of Kew Gardens and areas of listed building although it is recognised that Kew Palace and the Herbarium could be affected if the flood defence wall was to fail. It is anticipated that flood events could affect visitor circulation within the Gardens although vegetation in the flood risk area could withstand temporary inundation. Further research is needed regarding the possible effects of potential prolonged inundation. The Kew Gardens World Heritage Site Management Plan positively embraces the potential to evolve as climate changes proposing measures to adapt to an anticipated increase in flood risk. These measures include the re-contouring of the westerly part of the Syon vista, transformation of the riverside garden into a wetland habitat and the phased introduction of more wetland habitat near to the ha-ha.*

## **PUBLIC ACCESS AND RECREATION**

4.11.32 The Royal Botanic Gardens and Syon are open to the public, with a variety of facilities ranging from conservatories to the museums at Kew and the Butterfly House at Syon. Both gardens have entrance charges. The Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club is private, but access to the King's Observatory and the astronomy museum, in the centre of the course, can be arranged by appointment.

4.11.33 The long rural towpath between Richmond Lock and Kew Gardens is regarded as intimidating by some users, particularly as the route can only be accessed at each end. A reinstated Isleworth Ferry and a potential new footpath linking the towpath with Kew Road would help address these concerns.

4.11.34 There is continuous public access via the Thames Path along the towpath to Kew and tortuous access from the Brentford waterfront up the Grand Union Canal to Osterley. A link from the Canal through Syon to Isleworth, if combined with the re-instated ferry to Kew, would create a popular circular walk and perhaps justify the re-opening of the Isleworth gate to the Royal Botanic Gardens (see Landscape Character Reach No 12).



*The Pagoda, Kew*



*Great Conservatory, Syon*

Boatyards: None

Water recreation: Informal

Land recreation:

- Kew towpath
- Royal Botanic Gardens
- Syon House and Conservatory
- Syon Park
- Syon Butterfly House and Museums
- Thames Path

Landmarks:

- All Saints' Church, Isleworth.
- Flora's Column, Syon

King's Observatory  
Kew Palace  
Orangery, Royal Botanic Gardens  
Pagoda, Royal Botanic Gardens  
Palm House, Royal Botanic Gardens  
Queen Charlotte's Cottage  
Syon Conservatory  
Temperate House, Royal Botanic Gardens  
Syon House

## **LOCAL INTEREST GROUPS**

### Amenity and Local History:

Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens  
Hounslow and District History Society  
Kew Society  
Isleworth Society  
Richmond Local History Society  
River Thames Society (Upper Tideway)

### Nature Conservation:

London Wildlife Trust

## **PRINCIPAL LAND USES**

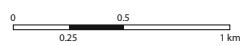
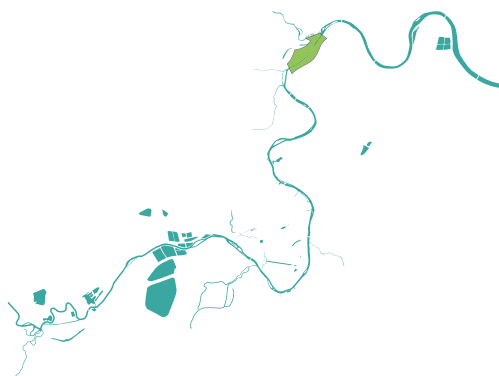
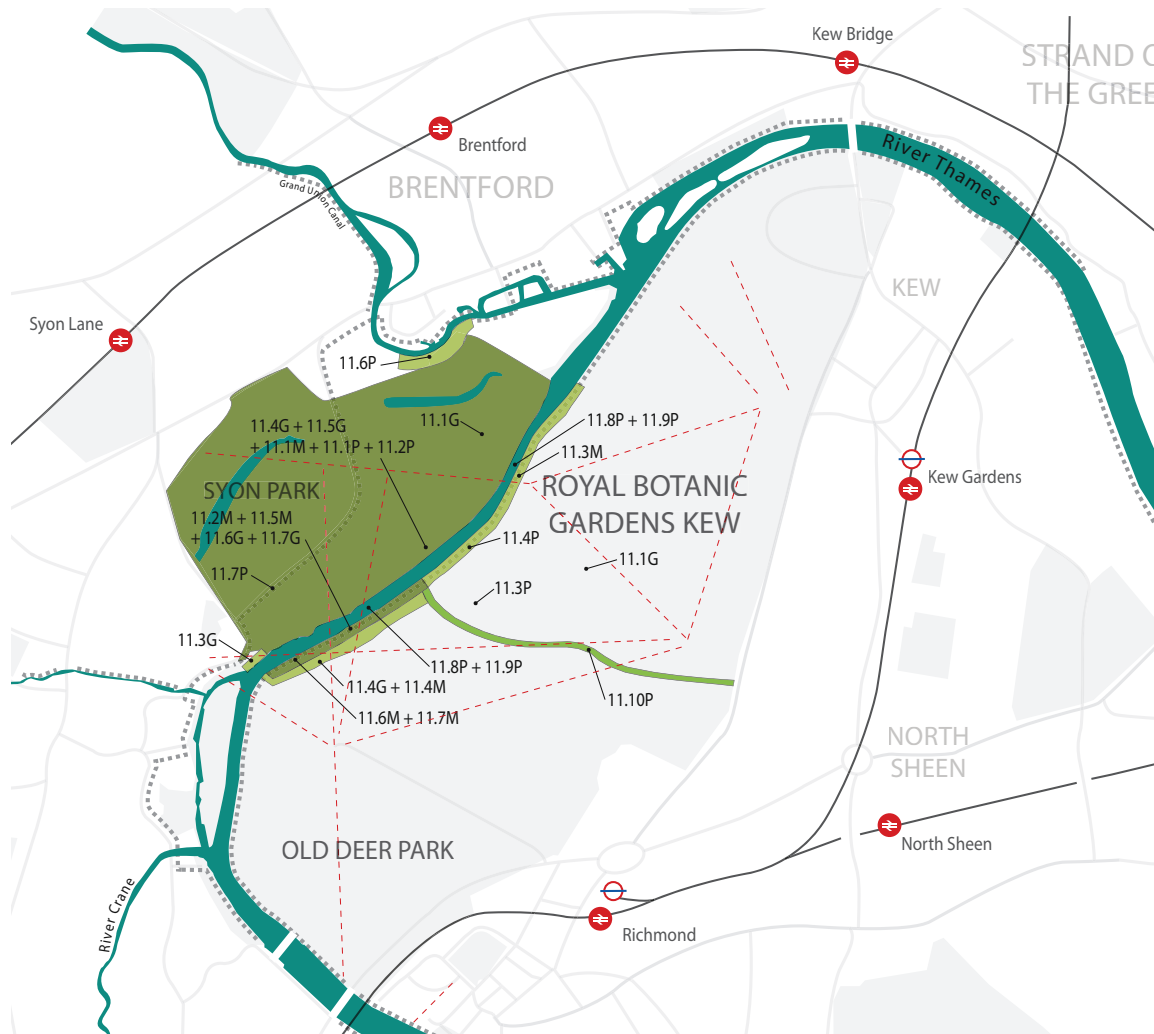
4.11.35 The entire area is still dominated by the historic landscapes of Syon and Kew. The Royal Botanic Gardens, the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course and Syon Park Limited have modified the parkland settings for public enjoyment and research.

## **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



- Landscape Guidance  
1.6G
- Landscape Management  
1.6M
- Project Proposal  
1.6P
- River Thame
- Rail Station
- Main Road
- Thames Path
- Sightline / Vista

Guidance Promoted by the Thames Landscape Strategy and How this Relates to Planning Policy		
TLS Ref.	2012 Guidance	Related Planning Policy Cross Reference
11.1G	Conserve and enhance the Grade I historic landscapes of Syon Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens.	London Plan – 7.19 LBRuT – CP 4, CP 11, DM OS 4, DM OS 5 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, 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)
11.2G	Protect the visual links between: Syon, the river and Kew Gardens Syon and the King's Observatory King's Observatory and Isleworth The Pagoda and Isleworth The Pagoda, the Temperate House and the Palm House Queen Charlotte's Cottage and the Old Deer Park	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
11.3G	Explore opportunities for the re-location of parking currently on the river edge to alternative sites, as appropriate. Where this is not feasible, partners should promote parking that is sensitive to the character of the river and its environment.	LBH UDP Transport Policies, including Policy T.1.4 Car and Cycle Parking and Servicing Facilities for Developments, with reference to conservation and Thames Policy area guidance (ENV-B.2.2 Conservation Areas, ENV-W.1.1 Design in the Thames Policy Area
11.4G	Conserve and enhance the nature conservation interest of the river and its corridor, with particular attention to the tide meadow at Syon Park and the associated wet woodland along the Old Deer Park .	London Plan – 7.19 LBRuT – CP 4, CP 11, DM OS 5 LBH 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),
11.5G	Develop and maintain tree cover in some of the tidal ditches along Syon in order to protect and enhance the fish refuge value the ditches provide	
11.6G	Retain the rural character of the towpath through the use of an unbound surface.	
11.7G	Continue to designate the towpath as a pedestrian path only – routing the main Richmond to Kew cycle path further inland.	

Management and Maintenance Proposals		
TLS Ref.	2012 Proposal	Stakeholders
11.1M	Manage the meadows and pastures of Syon Park by grazing, without applying herbicides or fertilisers.	
11.2M	Manage and control scrub growth on the Kew towpath on a long term rotational basis to allow light to penetrate to the understory and to strengthen the wild character of the reach	LBRuT
11.3M	Manage tree screens to protect the Royal Botanic Gardens from prevailing south-westerly winds and intrusive views from the north.	LBRuT, Landowners
11.4M	Continue to coppice trees in the Kew Meridian to keep the vista open. As existing trees die, they should not be replaced.	Landowners
11.5M	Continue to soften the towpath alongside Kew Gardens particularly at the boundary between Kew Gardens and the Old Deer Park.	
11.6M	Continue to monitor the invertebrate species found in the Old Deer Park haha.	
11.7M	Maintain the willow spiling through local volunteer action	

Project Proposals		
TLS Ref.	2012 Project	Other Stakeholders
11.1P	Maintain invading scrub to conserve the Capability Brown tree clumps on the tidal meadow at Syon Park.	
11.2P	Conserve and where necessary restore the Syon riverbanks and water meadow channels.	
11.3P	Re-open Isleworth vista from the Pagoda.	
11.4P	Re-open Isleworth and Syon vistas from the Observatory.	
11.5P	Re-open views south from Queen Charlotte's Cottage over the hooker ha-ha and from the Nesfield Avenue to the King's Observatory.	RHS - Kew
11.6P	Create a new section of the Thames Path to provide a more direct route between Syon Park and the Grand Union Canal.	
11.7P	Open up a keyhole view in the Syon Meadows wall to allow a glimpse across the haha and water meadows beyond.	
11.8P	Re-instate and promote the intrinsic connections between Kew Gardens and the River Thames.	Landowners
11.9P	Work with Kew and Syon to consider the potential for joint ticketing between Kew Gardens and Syon House.	Landowners
11.10P	Investigate the potential for a new pedestrian link between the Thames path and the Kew Road.	Landowners
11.11P	Install new seats that complement the rural character of the towpath along the Kew Gardens section.	LBRuT
11.12P	Re-instate the Isleworth Ferry and promote the circular walk from Kew to Brentford to the Grand Union Canal and Syon.	Ferry proposal ongoing - boat purchased (TLS / Thames Ferry Trust)
Completed	Conserve and enhance the east-west axial visual line through Syon to Kew, re-instating the Syon Avenue.	Syon works carried out, 2000-2008
	Sharpen the triangle of Nesfield Avenues as the landscape framework of the Royal Botanic Gardens.	Work in partnership with Kew Gardens through the landscape master plan as a long term goal.
	Re-instate the river walk and views in the Royal Botanic Gardens.	Work in partnership with Kew Gardens through the landscape master plan as a long term goal.