HERITAGE DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Project:	**Richmond Park Wall backing Roehampton Vale**	**Ref/File No:3.1**
Client:	**The Royal Parks**	
Title:	**Heritage Design and Access Statement**	
Date:	**December 2021**	

Figure 1:- General view of the area of wall and plinth scheduled for repairs indicated by orange arrows.

INTRODUCTION:

The following Design & Access and Heritage Statement has been prepared on behalf of the Royal Parks to accompany the application for Listed Building Consent for proposed repair of a section of Richmond Park boundary wall on the southeast side of the Park backing Roehampton Vale houses

The brick plinth of the Wall is collapsed and generally parting from the main structure due to a combination of aggressive plant colonisation (nettles, ivy and buddleia) and mortar failure. The wall here faces to the northwest and being relatively low-lying and sheltered the base of the wall remains damp and supports extensive moss and algal growth. The collapsed section extends for approximately 30 metres, Further sections of some 20-30 metres are partly collapsed or failings at the top of the plinth. Examination of the collapsed brick fabric suggests that the plinth has failed previously and has been rebuilt/refaced.

Rebuilding/refacing the wall is urgent to maintain the structural integrity of the wall and to and the mitigate any further deterioration.

This application is for works to be carried out early in 2022.

HISTORY

Richmond Park was created in 1634 by Charles I when Sheen Park, was united with Mortlake Park. It was enclosed by a brick wall completed in 1637. Retained as a Royal Park until 1904. The modern boundary appears to approximate very closely with that shown on a map of 1637.

The wall has been repaired and rebuilt at various later dates and parts in the northeast side have been replaced by iron railings and a ha-ha and ditch.

Condition and Quadrennial surveys of the wall have shown that it is not a homogeneous element but has developed through time, with much patching, repair work and rebuilding. Very little of the original seventeenth century construction survives and much of the wall shows great variety with changes of brick, mortar, bonding or other detailing over relatively short lengths, as a result of varied and inconsistent responses to maintenance and repair. The result has been to produce, inadvertently, a wall of some variety and interest, although inevitably, with local variation, this process has also produced some bad practices and poor visual results.

DESCRIPTION of Boundary Wall backing Roehampton Vale.

The Wall extending northwards from Chohole Gate to Beverley Brook on the southeast boundary of Richmond Park has been partly rebuilt and extensively repaired since the original construction of the 1640s. It is 2.0 - 2.5 metres high varying with location and is 1.5 bricks(330mm) thick with a plinth. The plinth projects 60mm from the wall face and is 6-8 courses high. The older sections of the wall appear to be generally built with terracotta colour bricks and are plain without piers. More recent sections are constructed with piers and have red-multi and even terracotta colour bricks.

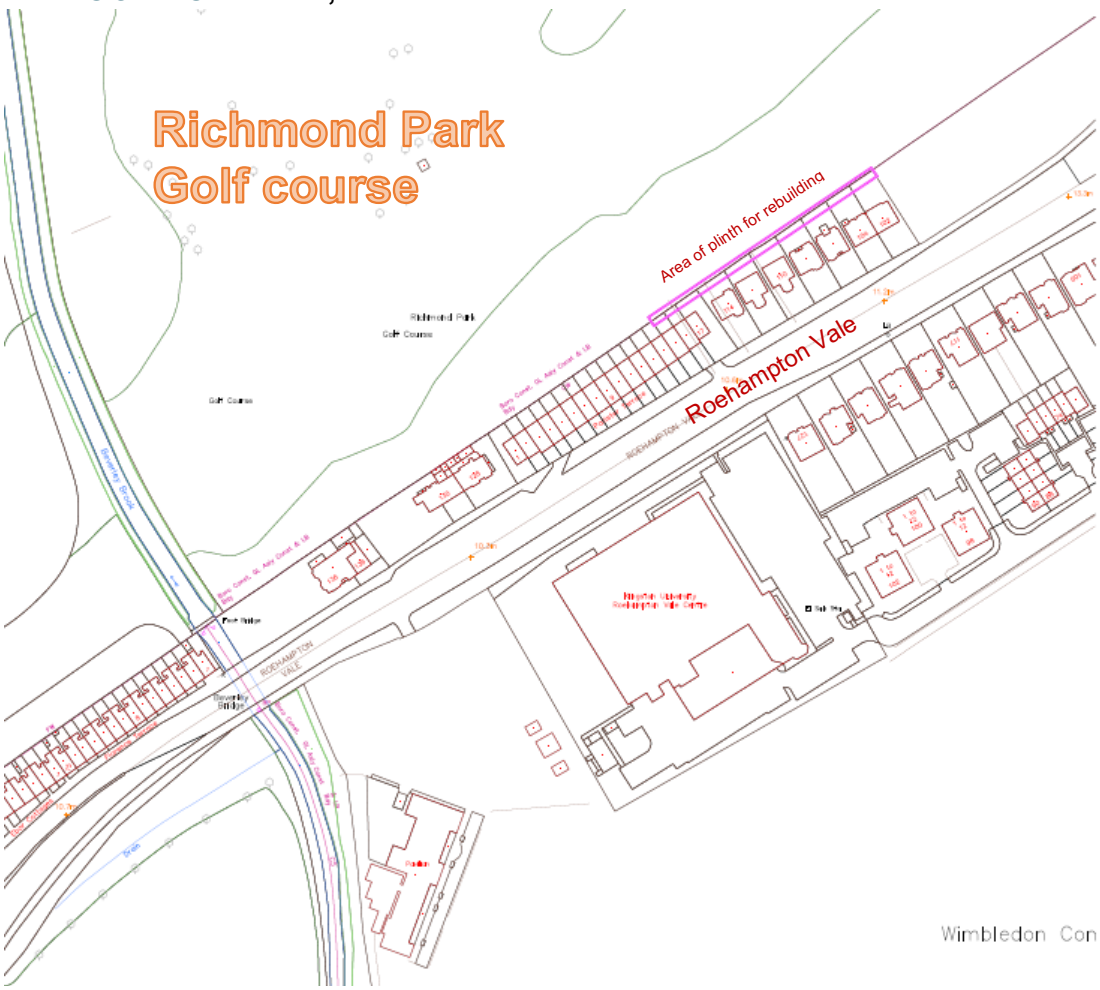
The wall has been recapped with engineering quality saddleback brick cappings.

On the Park side the Wall is constructed in Flemish Bond with bricks (well burnt) bedded in lime mortar and generally repointed with a hard cementitious mortar particularly at the top of the wall. Weathered handmade bricks over the collapsed plinth suggest the fabric here is part on an earlier build dating from the 18c. The sections of Wall immediately to the north and south are 20c rebuilds with terracotta colour bricks after road widening and development on adjacent lands.

The upper courses and capping have been rebuilt and repointed with cement-based mortars probably during the 1950s-60s.

Figure 2;-The mortar bedding in the plinth is completed degraded. The bricks are generally loose but are bound in place by roots and friction.

SITE LOCATION PLAN,



Richmond Park Boundary wall backing to Roehampton Vale NTS.

LISTING;-

LOCATION

Richmond Park

LISTING AND LIST ENTRY NUMBER

Grade II

□□1080049/ 1263364/ 1358450/ 1000828

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

TQ 20851 71944/ TQ 19929 70973/ TQ 19958 71011

QUOTED LISTING

C17 and C18 red and plum brick walls about 8ft high. Richmond Park was enclosed by Charles I who completed the wall in 1637.

C17 origins with later rebuilding. Richmond Park was first enclosed by Charles I. The boundary wall was complete in 1637. About 8ft in height, brown, red and other brick, buttressed in places, with chamfered coping. Extent from Borough boundary south of Ladderstile Gate, to Borough boundary at Beverley Bridge.

Boundary walls to the Park, section to southwest of Kingston Place 1/40 2/40 II.

(That part in the Royal Borough of Kingston). C17 and C18 red and plum brick walls about 8ft high. Richmond Park was enclosed by Charles I who completed the wall in 1637.

SIGNIFICANCE:-

The Wall defines the perimeter of Richmond Park as created by King Charles 1

Richmond Park a Grade1 registered landscape Grade I for the following principal reasons:

- As a Royal Park enjoyed and modified by kings, notably Charles1 when he brought his court to Richmond Palace to escape the plague in London and turned it into a park for red and fallow deer. However, the royal connections probably go back further, beginning with Edward (1272-1307), when the area was known as the Manor of Sheen.
- It forms the setting for a large number of listed buildings, most importantly White Lodge (now the Royal Ballet School) and Pembroke Lodge formerly the home of Prime Minister, Lord John Russell and later the childhood home of his grandson, Bertrand Russell philosopher and Nobel laureate.
- For the outstanding interest of some of its landscape elements. Richmond Park has been managed as a royal deer park since the seventeenth century, producing a range of habitats of value to wildlife. In particular, Richmond Park is of importance for its diverse deadwood beetle fauna associated with the ancient trees found throughout the parkland. In addition, the Park supports the most extensive area of dry acid grassland in Greater London.
- It is of national and international importance for wildlife conservation, most of Richmond Park (856 hectares; 2115 acres) is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

DESIGN OPTIONS:

Reconstruction of the Wall plinth is urgent to remove embedded rooting plants and mitigate further deterioration at the base of the wall. Also, to maintain the structural integrity and appearance of the Wall.

All works will be carried out “Like-for-Like” to match existing materials, details, dimensions and colours.

The Wall will be rebuilt using the existing bricks which will be saved and cleaned for reuse. New bricks, matching the existing in size, colour and texture will be procured to make up for losses due to breakage or excessive damaged. It is anticipated 60% of the reconstructed plinth will consist of salvaged bricks.

All brickwork will be bedded in Lime mortar. 1:3 mix (NHL 3.5: sharp sand)

PROPOSED WORKS.

Rebuilding of the collapsed and loose sections of the plinth using salvaged bricks with some new matching bricks to make up losses. New and salvaged bricks will be blended to avoid banding variations. New bonding bricks and stainless-steel bed joint reinforcement and ties will be incorporated to improve the bond with the existing. A mortar fillet will top the plinth to mitigate water traps and build-up of seedlings in organic debris.

Partial dismantling and rebuilding of a further 25- 30 linear metres of the top of the plinth required to remove Buddleia plants rooted in the wall fabric to restore the topmost 2-4 courses of the plinth.

Rebuilding the top of the wall as existing in 3no. isolated areas where deeply embedded Buddleia roots are cracking and dislodging the brickwork

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD.

Figure 3;-The bricks in the near plinth are loose as in the previous picture. Further to the right the plinth has fallen away.

Figure 4;- Another example of brickwork failure in the plinth where the brick remain in place held by the plant roots.

Figure 5;- The plinth has completely fallen away on the left of the picture. The expose core of the wall is heavily colonised with green algae.

Figure 6;- Embedded semi-mature buddleia plants in top of the wall above the piers have cracked and loosened the brickwork in the wallhead.

IMPACT

The repairs are essential to remove embedded plants and their roots and to preserve the structural integrity of the wall.

Initially fresh repairs will be obvious although new bricks will be chosen to match the existing. However, the new work will soon weather in and will have no impact on the Wall in the long term.

ACCESS:

The proposed works will not change current arrangements for access.

Traffic management measures, Temporary footpath closures and pedestrian diversions will be required for the duration of the works and will be agreed by the Contractor with the Royal Parks at Richmond Park prior to commencing works.

Access during works will be through Richmond Park.

CONCLUSION:

The works proposed are necessary to maintain Wall fabric in good condition appropriate and to protect the Public. The character and appearance of the listed structure will be unchanged.