

Homebase, Syon Lane: Assessment of additional views taken from inside the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew World Heritage Site

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The Purpose of this report

- 1 This addendum to the Heritage Statement ('HS') and to Chapter 7: Heritage of the Environmental Statement ('ES') prepared in September 2020 (Application ref. P/2020/3099), has been prepared in response to a request by Hounslow Council to further assess the likely significant effects of the Development primarily on the setting of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from three additional viewpoints looking outwards from within the World Heritage Site. This addendum should be read in conjunction the Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment ('TVIA').
- 2 The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is listed Grade I on the National heritage List of Parks and Gardens. The gardens fall within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames' 'Royal Botanic Gardens' Conservation Area.
- 3 This assessment also considers the recent changes proposed to the facade treatment of Buildings B2 and B3.

Additional views

- 4 The three additional views and their sensitivities are described and assessed in detail in the TVIA Addendum. The views are:

Old Isleworth Gate (view 27)
- 5 Situated behind the viewpoint is the Grade II listed 'Isleworth Drawbridge And Ferry Gate' (List Entry Number: 1251963). This is an early to mid-19th century cast-iron drawbridge and gate which was possibly used for boats ferrying passengers to Syon House opposite. This feature is no longer operational. It is not publicly accessible and no longer provides access into the Royal Botanic Gardens. There is a view from here towards Syon House and its grounds.

Thames Path (view 28)

- 6 This viewpoint, sometimes referred to as the 'Canaletto view' references a 1749 painting by Canaletto (Giovanni Antonio Canal, 1697-1768) which is a view of Syon House from the south east, taken from a point on the eastern tow path of the River Thames. The view in the painting is acknowledged to be very approximate with the perspective and distance distorted so as to position the viewer much closer to Syon House than is physically possible. There is a view from this point towards Syon House and its grounds.

Kew Gardens, Woodland Walk (view 29)

- 7 This is a managed woodland area within the Royal Botanic Gardens, on its western boundary parallel to the River Thames. The river and landscape beyond, are screened from view at this point by foliage.

Summary of baseline and sensitive receptors

- 8 Baseline conditions: No changes have been made to the established Baseline Condition since the September 2020 HS (Chapter 3: the heritage significance of the site and its surroundings) and ES (paragraphs 7.64-7.103) were undertaken.
- 9 Sensitive receptors: No changes have been made to the established Sensitive Receptors since the September 2020 HS (Chapter 3: the heritage significance of the site and its surroundings) and ES (paragraphs 7.71-7.012) were undertaken

Summary of effects

- 10 Assessment of Effects: No changes have been made to the conclusion of the Assessment of Effects on the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, both during demolition and construction and for the completed Development since the September 2020 HS (Chapter 5: The proposed development and its effect and Chapter 7: Summary and conclusions) and ES (paragraphs 7.104- 7.121) were undertaken.
- 11 Residual Effects: No changes have been made to the conclusion of the Assessment of Residual Effects on the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, both during demolition and construction and for the completed Development since the September 2020 HS and ES (paragraphs 7.122- 7.123) were undertaken.
- 12 Cumulative Effects: No changes have been made to the conclusion of the Assessment of Cumulative Effects on the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, since the September 2020 HS and ES (paragraphs 7.124- 7.138) were undertaken.

Conclusion

- 13 Having carried out the Assessment of Effects (including Residual and Cumulative) during demolition and construction and for the completed Development, as described in the Methodology of the ES (paragraphs 7.29-7.63); it is the conclusion of this report that no new effect upon the significance of any previously identified heritage assets - and specifically the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew - has been discovered from assessing the three additional viewpoints, over and above those effects already described in the Heritage

Statement and Chapter 7 of the Environmental Statement. Therefore, it remains the case that there is no level of harmful effect from the proposed development upon the significance of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew World Heritage Site and Grade I listed Park and Garden.

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