OSTERLEY PARK AND SURROUNDING AREA
Boundary:  See Map 13
Date of Designation:  19 April 1988
Date of Extension:  None
Additional protection to the area:  Osterley Park House listed grade I; with subsidiary listed buildings, features and boundaries (many listed under the Jersey Road address). Park on the EH Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. The house and its estate is owned and managed by the National Trust. The park is Metropolitan Open Land. Some of the parkland, beyond the motorway, lies in the LB Ealing.

Special Architectural and/or Historic Interest
The main architectural and historic interest is Osterley House, its landscaped grounds and rural setting. Houses surrounding the perimeter of the park are also important to the conservation area because they reflect the suburban character of their time built around the railway, and their integrity of roofs and architectural features, and quality of materials and design form the setting of the Park. Some are older (in terraced form) relating to the earlier railway station and commercial neighbours; there are also relic farm settlement buildings and plot forms.

History
The recorded history of Osterley goes back to the time of Henry III (1216-1272) when the woods of Osterlee were the resort of wild cattle and outlaws. The manor passed through many hands but it was not until Sir Thomas Gresham took it over in 1562 that the present structure of the park began to evolve. Gresham replaced the old farm house (possibly the present west wing of the stables) with a large manor house which it is said stood in the midst of a pleasant park, well-wooded and containing several fishponds. Gresham died in 1579 and over the next 200 years the house changed hands frequently. In 1711 the estate was sold to Sir Francis Child and it was his grandson (also called Francis) who began remodelling the house and engaged Robert Adam as the architect. The park and gardens surrounding the house were extensively altered during the rebuilding, the formal Elizabethan gardens being swept away and replaced by an informal 18th Century park. The design of the park has been attributed to Mrs Robert Child and her steward Mr Bunce, no landscape designer of note is known to have been employed. In 1804 Robert Child’s granddaughter, Lady Sarah Sophia Fane, who inherited the estate, married the 5th Earl of Jersey and thus Osterley came into possession of the Jersey family. The 9th and present Earl, Lord Jersey, gave the house and grounds to the National Trust in 1949.

The Osterley Conservation Area also includes some of the more interesting later 19th and also 20th Century surrounding streets developed after the coming of the railway.

Character Appraisal
Osterley Park House
The conservation area is dominated by the house (Grade I), which stands in serene splendour in its park between the roaring traffic on the M4 and the Great West Road. The present regular exterior is mainly the result of Robert Adam’s alterations of the 1760s-70s. The house consists of red brick wings of three storeys around a raised courtyard, with a taller tower with stone quoins and ogee cap projecting at each
corner. The courtyard is entered through a grand portico on the East side. The present exterior reflects the basic form of an Elizabethan house, but the façade is a later antiquarian creation. The portico is a highly successful adaptation of one of Adam's favourite motifs: a screen of columns to form a double portico, open on both sides, instead of backing onto a solid wall. It stands at the head of a flight of stairs boldly connecting outer space and inner courtyard space. The Portico of Octavia in Rome has been suggested as the classical source. On the opposite side of the house a curved double staircase with a typical Adam balustrade leads down to the garden.

Park Buildings
The brick U-shaped Stable Block (Grade I), North East of house, still looks largely Elizabethan despite later alterations to the doors and windows and the addition of the cupola, with a clock supplied in 1714. The West wing (Grade I) may well have been the original manor house that existed before Gresham's house with a polygonal star-turret in the North East corner. North West of the stable block lies Adam's Garden House (Grade II), designed about 1870, with a semicircular front of five linked Venetian windows. West of this is the Doric Temple of Pan (Grade II), with low Tuscan portico with eight columns, probably by William Chambers. The Chinese Temple in the lake (nearest the house) dates from 1987. Towards Ealing, cut off from the park by the motorway and also in separate ownership is a splendid Bridge (Listed grade II*) designed by Adam, now in a ruinous state. It has one large segmental arch, the central keystones with carved heads; flanking pairs of blocked columns.

Park
The formal setting shown in Rocque's Survey of London 1741-45 was swept away and replaced by an informal “Landscape Park” of lakes and scattered groups of trees. The series of serpentine lakes to the South and the East of the house were formed by damming a stream. The main approach road to the house from Osterley Lane followed a circuitous route designed to take advantage of various different views of the House through the trees and across the water. The main entrance was through lodges and gates at Wyke Green. Adam originally designed Lodges but these were replaced in the 19th Century, although the original gate piers (1775, Grade II) survive. The bridge across the northern-most lake, now buried in undergrowth, may have been of pedestrian importance as a footbridge connecting the two halves of the northern part of the park. This part of the park was called the ‘Menagerie Park’ after the menagerie situated on the north-western shore of the lake. Mrs Child’s menagerie was a great attraction of Osterley.

Surrounding streets
Jersey Road is the southern boundary of Osterley Park. For some distance the park wall edges the road. Some buildings to the east of the station have been constructed into a long established enclave within the natural boundary line of the park, as seen by the continuation of the enclosing wall. Large, but close-together mock-Tudor style houses make a recent incursion at Hern Close, and houses line the Park along Alderney Avenue.

For most of its length Jersey Road contains buildings of the early 20th century. These are mostly detached or semidetached and often half-timbered in appearance. Most
are good examples of their type although some have been altered or were
developed when the new railway station opened on the Great West Road. They have
larger gardens than others do outside the area, and boundary walls, which
strengthen the country house setting. The larger gardens and low density with trees
continue the open aspect, which makes the opportunity for and sight of trees, and
gaps between roofs, of particular value; and shapes on the skyline important in
general.

Earlier buildings survive particularly around the former District Railway Station of
Spring Grove and Osterley in Thornbury Road on the north side of the Great West
Road. This area was developed around 1883 when the District Line ran between
Hounslow and Acton Town. The character of this area together with its mature trees
is more akin to the Spring Grove Conservation Area but the Great West Road has
significantly separated them. However the small-scale commercial nature of the
buildings lining the Park side of Thornbury Road is not repeated on the south, and
with the old railway building and the rising ground to cross the railway line it has a
particular charm of its own as of a small village street.

The prevalence of woodland and trees increases towards the east, particularly along
road edges and the railway line embankments. The golf course, playing and sports
fields and relic walls and buildings such as those around Wyke Green extend the
historic rural character of Osterley all the way to and including the Grand Union
Canal, with its own special character, on the Ealing side as well as Hounslow's. The
horrific noise blight of the motorway, and the supermarkets (particularly late-night)
and rat-running traffic, are the main intruders into some otherwise remarkably
peaceful places.

Pressures on the area

- Needs for security and statutory requirements in conflict with the historic
  character and fabric of the House
- Need for alterations to improve viability of the House and park (and
  associated buildings) whilst maintaining historic imperatives
- Costs of repairs to Park’s extensive boundary walls
- Motorway blight from noise
- Outside the Park: scale of proposed development because of high values,
  particularly extensions and alterations to rooflines, which can affect vistas and
  settings
- Erosion of setting through poor architectural quality of construction, especially
  pastiche with crude overlarge detailing using unsympathetic materials
- Infill of gardens by proposed development and extensions
- Erosion of the rural edge by increased demand for gates and walls, often
  inappropriate in style and material
- Potential erosion of long-distance views from as well as of the Park
- Loss of trees

Potential

To be evaluated at a later stage, but there is little potential immediately obvious,
without harming the historic integrity of the park, and the character and scale of
properties around. It might include:
Selective, sensitive and high quality design redevelopment, maintaining the characteristic form, spacing and scale, of existing properties that are not architecturally special.

- Enhancing the value of the shopping area by retaining mixed use
- Mending the boundary fabric where this has been eroded for hard-standings and encouraging appropriate edges and replanting
- Street tree planting

**Guiding principles**

In addition to statutory requirements, UDP principles and existing supplementary guidance, the following guidelines special to the area will be included in those to be evaluated:

- Preserve Osterley house
- New development, backland development and large side and roof extensions can have an effect on the park
- Boundary treatments should be carefully considered and not over-formalised
- Thornbury Road has a retail element which provides a village-street character
- Demolition of interesting and well preserved earlier properties in Jersey Road should be avoided
- New development should respect size and scale of the area and consider architectural quality
- Open spaces between buildings and scrub areas form part of the setting.