

Scheme profile

Scheme code: BS\07\LCN\RIC.10 and RIC.22

Richmond Park and Petersham Gate

LB Richmond upon Thames

Description

The improvements are located on Link 170, a north/south route within the London Borough of Richmond, running between Richmond Town Centre and Petersham Road on the boundary with the Royal Borough of Kingston.

The new shared use path follows a historic desire line for pedestrians and cyclists on the south side of Richmond Park between Ham Gate and Petersham Gate. The need for such a facility was first identified 20 years ago by a Royal Parks committee, and again identified in the CRISP study, undertaken in March 2005. The puffin crossing at Petersham Gate was identified in the CRISP as a location appropriate for a crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists to assist the significant number of pedestrians and cyclists that enter the park, from Richmond Town Centre, and the Thames Path via Petersham Meadows.

The two schemes provide a continuous, safe section of link, as an alternative to Petersham Road, and generally improve the attractiveness and comfort of cycling

within the Richmond Park.

The two key design criteria for the cycle path were resolution of poor site drainage, and a sympathetic character in keeping with the natural setting. A Coxwell Gravel finish was chosen, providing a semi-sealed surface that balances through-drainage with excess water runoff. In order to semi-seal the surface, the material had to be laid and rolled in damp conditions; too dry and the gravel would turn to dust, too wet and the material would not have bound properly. The colours of all raw materials were sympathetic natural tones.

The new path has been deemed as a success by all stakeholders, noted as providing a continuous, high quality surface for both cyclists and pedestrians between Ham Gate and Petersham Gate. It has also significantly improved access to a children's playground at Petersham Gate. Site observations indicate that the path is well used by both cyclists and pedestrians.

Existing conditions

- Informal route, but currently unsightly and unattractive to use, especially for cyclists, and muddy during wet weather.
- Environmentally sympathetic infrastructure, un-sealed surfaces, natural colours.
- Lack of crossing facilities at Petersham Gate posed difficulties for both pedestrians and cyclists trying to cross the busy road with limited intervisibility

Scheme details

The Path in the Park:

- 1.5km shared use path with high quality semi-sealed surface.
- 4m wide.
- Provides link along historic desire line
- Installation of culverts and drainage
- Landscaping

The Toucan Crossing:

- Raised table
- 4m wide
- Extension of start of 20mph zone

