

TRUSS'S ISLAND

Truss's Island commemorates the life and works of Charles Truss (born 1728) who represents an important episode in the history of the River Thames.

Truss was appointed Clerk of Works to the Worshipful Committee of Thames Navigation of the Corporation of the City of London in 1774, and it was his task to improve the navigability of the Thames.

The river had developed as an important commercial route and traffic using it increased enormously during the 18th Century, but as a means of transport, particularly for barges, it had many serious defects. These included crude and inadequate locks, discontinuous towpaths and complete uncertainty as to whether there was adequate clearance for boats.

The City was responsible for the Lower Thames from Staines, where a marker stone was erected in 1285, but had failed to maintain and improve this important commercial highway and was in danger of being deprived by Parliament of its immemorial right to control the river. It was determined to take positive action to retain these rights and therefore Truss was appointed to undertake the work necessary to make the river navigable.

Truss reported that, "the Bank of the River has been washed away in many places and new Shoals raised by that Flood so that Barges are laid aground in Places where they used to meet with no Obstruction. The Towing Paths in various Places are become intolerable and in several parts quite taken away".

For 36 years he laboured and, as he expressed it in his letter of resignation, "ever pursued the interests of the Corporation with the same zeal, and perhaps with greater anxiety than if they had been my own; and the more from having been actively employed, first assisting to devise the plans for the conduct of the concern, and secondly in bringing those plans to maturity".

The City was grateful for Truss's years of effort and voted him a pension of £200 a year, which was well deserved at the age of 82! A few years earlier, in 1804, it had expressed its appreciation for the man and the significance of his work in a more permanent fashion by arranging the setting up of the inscribed stone which, after long years of neglect, has been splendidly restored by the Council and stands at the heart of the island.

Since Truss's time the island suffered badly. In 1827 it could be described as "an uninhabited island coveted by him (General Scott) because ... the Ladies of his family find some amusement in landing on this island and planting it with shrubs". By 1991, when the work of restoration began, it had become heavily overgrown and the channel separating it from the shore had completely silted-up. The island is once again an attractive and enjoyable place of resort, but with the difference that now its amenities are open to all, not just the privileged few.



RUNNYMEDE'S RIVERSIDE ATTRACTIONS

RUNNYMEDE PLEASURE GROUNDS Windsor Road, Egham

FACILITIES

Cafe, Children's Play Equipment, Paddling Pool,
Picnic Area, Steamer Point, Car Park.
Handy for Magna Carta and Kennedy Memorials.

CHERTSEY MEADS Mead Lane, Chertsey

FACILITIES

Car Parks, Local Nature Reserve, Picnic Areas,
Riverside Walk, Horse Route,
Area of Ecological Interest.

ABBEYFIELDS - THE ORCHARD off Staines Lane, Chertsey

FACILITIES

Ancient Fishponds, Chertsey Abbey Wall,
Arboretum, Sensory Garden, Play Equipment,
Pitches, Abbey River Walk.
Handy for Chertsey Museum, Windsor Street.

This leaflet was produced with financial assistance from:-



The BMIF exists to serve the interests of all participants in the British Boating Industry - from small local marine businesses to larger national concerns. Helping members pursue the burgeoning business opportunities that accrue from growing public interest in boating; protecting and promoting their freedom to develop and grow; and helping them realise the full potential of their trade.

RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL



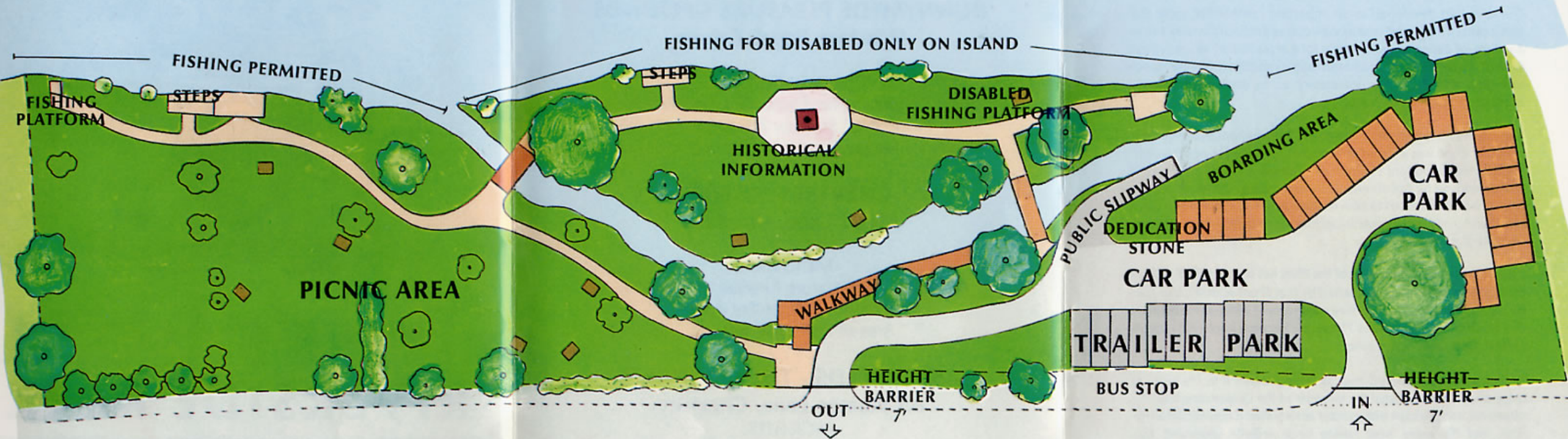
Truss's Island RIVERSIDE PARK



CHERTSEY LANE THORPE

TRUSS'S ISLAND

River Thames



Chertsey Lane

FACILITIES

- PUBLIC SLIPWAY - CAR & TRAILER PARK
- RIVERSIDE PATHS
- PICNIC AREAS & SEATS
- FISHING PLATFORMS FOR DISABLED
- HISTORICAL INFORMATION SIGN
- WOODEN PLAY ANIMALS
- WILDFOWL FEEDING STEPS
- MEMORIAL STONES
- TEMPORARY MOORING



MOORING

MOORING ON RIVER ISLAND FRONTAGE ONLY
4 HOUR MAXIMUM - NOT BETWEEN SUNSET AND SUNRISE
NO MOORING ELSEWHERE

PARKING

FOR VEHICLES & TRAILERS - NOT PERMITTED BETWEEN SUNSET AND SUNRISE

LOCATION MAP

