

# GREENWICH PARK



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



*'Greenwich is unique - a place of pilgrimage, as increasing numbers of visitors obviously demonstrate, a place for inspiration, imagination and sheer pleasure. Majestic buildings, park, views, unseen meridian and a wealth of history form a unified whole of international importance. The maintenance and management of this great place requires sensitivity and constant care.'*

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Greenwich Park is England's oldest enclosed public park, a Grade I listed landscape that forms two thirds of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site.

The park's essential character is created by its dramatic topography juxtaposed with its grand formal landscape design. Its sense of place draws on the magnificent views of sky and river; the modern docklands panorama, the City of London and the remarkable Baroque architectural ensemble which surrounds the park and its established associations with time and space.

Still in its 1433 boundaries, with an ancient deer herd and a wealth of natural and historic features Greenwich Park attracts 4.7 million visitors a year which is estimated to rise to 6 million by 2030. We recognise that its capacity as an internationally significant heritage site and a treasured local space is under threat from overuse, tree diseases and a range of infrastructural problems.

I am delighted to introduce this Greenwich Park Conservation Plan, developed as part of the Greenwich Park Revealed Project. The plan has been written in a new format which we hope will reflect the importance that we place on creating robust and thoughtful plans. Within the plan we have set a course that we believe can address the fundamental issues facing the site in order to satisfy the park's needs in the short and medium term whilst increasing resilience for the next 100 years.

My team always welcome any comments or thoughts on our ambitious plans, we hope you join us in our vision for this significant park.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loyd Grossman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light green background.

Loyd Grossman CBE  
The Royal Parks Chairman

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AOD	Acute Oak Decline
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicities
DEFRA	Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs
DCMS	Department of Digital, Culture Media and Sport
ExCom	Executive Committee
FMC	Facilities Maintenance Contractor
FoRP	Friends of Greenwich Park
FsC	Forest Stewardship Council
FSC	Field Studies Council
GiGL	Greenspace Information for Greater London
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLA	Greater London Authority
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
LLTIs	Limiting Long-term Illness and Disability
LMC	Landscape Maintenance Contractor
LSOAs	Lower Super Output Areas
LUC	Land Use Consultant's
MGWHS	Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
OCGW	Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp
OPM	Oak Processionary Moth
ROSPA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
RPWG	Greenwich Park Wildlife Group
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
TfL	Transport for London
TRP	The Royal Parks
TRP OCU	The Royal Parks Operational Command Unit (Metropolitan Police)
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWI	World War One
WWII	World War Two

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# PREFACE



## THE ROYAL PARKS LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTS

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### THE ROYAL PARKS LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

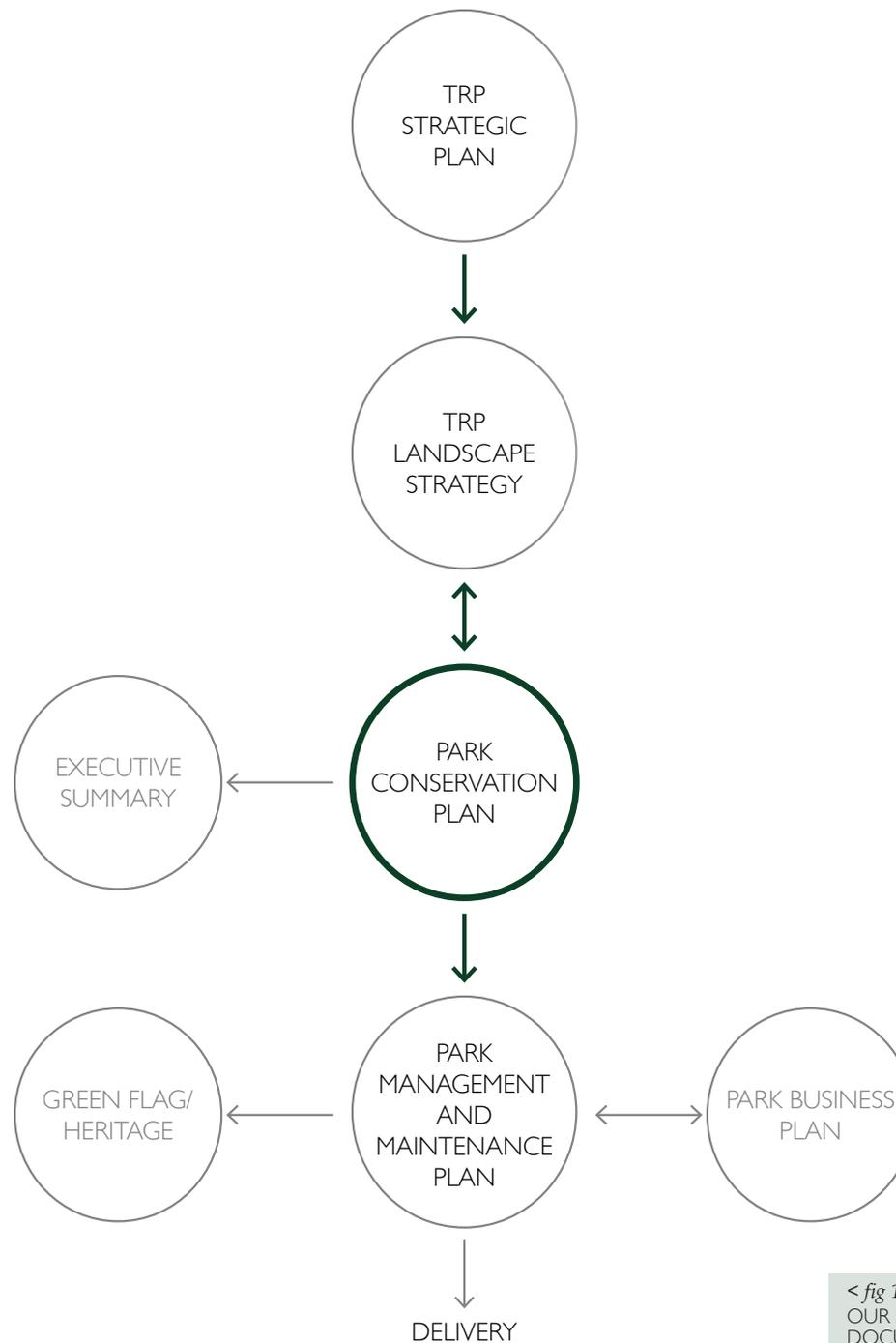
*'Who' are we... 'why' we manage the way we do*  
The Landscape Strategy is a public document which sets out The Royal Park's (TRP) overarching ethos and principles regarding landscape management. It sets the parks within their London context and presents their importance.

### PARK CONSERVATION PLAN

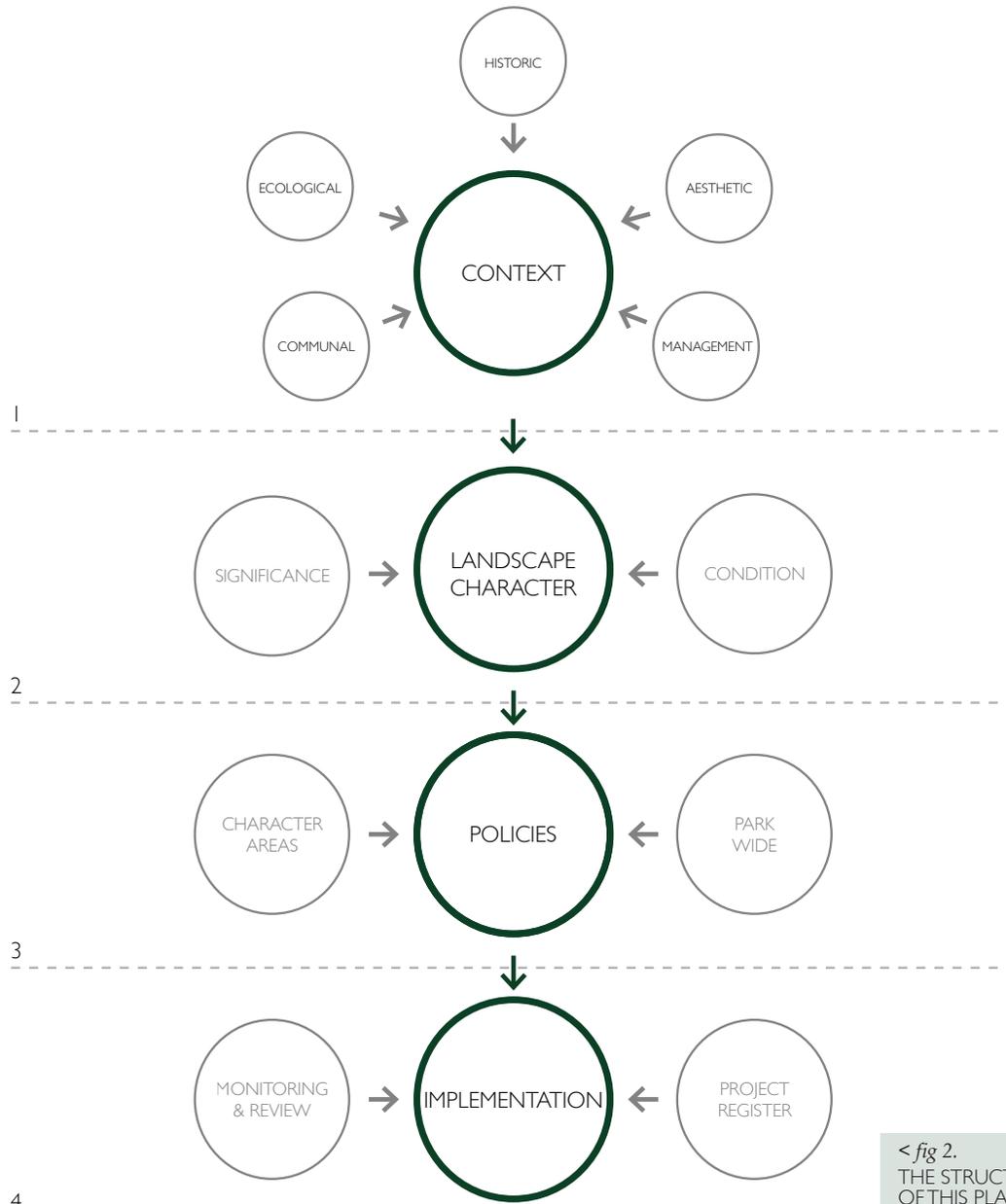
*'What' we will do... 'what' we want to do*  
The Conservation Plan is a 10 year plan which facilitates effective park management. The plan is strategic in nature, setting out the 100 year vision for the park and the broad objectives which will guide its management.

### PARK MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

*'What we deliver... 'when', 'who' and 'how'*  
The Management and Maintenance Plan is prepared every year as the working document for the management of the park. It contains the park's annual Action Plan and Park Business Plan while also records progress made in the previous year.



< fig 1.  
OUR LANDSCAPE  
DOCUMENTS



< fig 2.  
THE STRUCTURE  
OF THIS PLAN

## THE STRUCTURE OF THIS PLAN

### PART 1 - CONTEXT

TRP's view the park's landscape as one which has been developed over many years by natural processes and layers of human interaction. This section brings together key information required to understand the shaping of the park we manage today.

### PART 2 - LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The park is recognised as an entity in its own right with its own character. In this section the park is broken down into Landscape Character Areas. These character areas are a tool for understanding and subsequently helping to determine the management priorities for each distinctive area of the park.

### PART 3 - POLICIES

This section builds on the identification of opportunities and priorities set out in part 2. It brings these together to articulate policies for the park's management as a whole.

### PART 4 - IMPLEMENTATION

This section describes the main mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the delivery of the Conservation Plan's priorities and policies.

It includes the Project Register a dynamic and active component that combines the Character Area Priorities, developed in part 2, and the park wide policies, developed in part 3. The Project Register identifies and lists potential projects which TRP aim to develop and deliver over the next decade subject to availability of resources.

## PROCESS

The development of the Greenwich Conservation Plan has been a collaborative process which began with formulating a new simple framework which required a re-think of the existing document. The Landscape Management Officer led a series of focused workshops which involved the Greenwich Park Management, Landscape, Ecology and Arboriculture Teams. Within these workshops we began trialling a new methodology and process to generate and agree on future management priorities and policies.

A series of targeted consultation events allowed TRP to present and test our proposals to the Friends Group and external specialists incorporating their knowledge and expertise.

A survey was conducted to discover the Friends, volunteers and special interest groups perceptions of 'what is individually valued' within Greenwich Park.

An internal draft was circulated to all Heads of Departments, our Heritage Lottery Fund Mentor and specialist TRP staff members. The draft was then approved by the Landscape Portfolio Board, Project Board and the Executive Committee (Excom) along with the Board of Trustees of the new charity.

A final draft was shared with Natural England and Historic England.

## GUIDANCE

Particular reference was made to government publications and documents, the European Landscape Convention guidance documents, Natural England publications, Land Use Consultant's (LUC) 'Greenwich Park Historical Survey 1984', The Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site Management Plan and the Heritage Lottery Fund Conservation Plan Guidance.

Our approach to assessing heritage values and significance was guided by the methodology set out in Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment, English Heritage 2008 (Historic England).

In assessing landscape condition, reference was made to the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2013), Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment - October 2014, Christine Tudor, Natural England.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan has been prepared by TRP, namely:

Graham Dear - Park Manager  
Michael Loughnane - Assistant Park Manager  
Jane Pelly - Head of Landscape  
Alex Ioannou - Landscape Management Officer (lead)  
Ian Rodger - Arboricultural Officer  
Alister Hayes - Head of Programmes, Volunteering & Conservation  
Richard Flenley - Consultant

We are particularly grateful to Friends, neighbours, interest groups and organisations who have participated in the process - through workshops, events and meetings - to inform and shape the plan.

## PART I

## CONTEXT

The Royal Parks view the park's landscape as one which has been developed over many years by natural processes and layers of human interaction. In this part we bring together key information required to understand the shaping of the park we manage today.



**OUR PARKS**

1. KENSINGTON GARDENS

*'To protect and enhance Kensington Gardens' rich landscape heritage, its royal associations, its connections with children, with wildlife and with the creative culture of arts.'*

2. HYDE PARK

*'To balance the need between conserving the historic landscape and meeting the demands of current and potential visitors and popular events. To respect the vernacular elements of built and natural heritage, boast fine horticulture and be a refuge for a diverse and well protected wildlife.'*

7. RICHMOND PARK

*'To protect, conserve and enhance the deer park's significant landscape as a National Nature Reserve, stewarding the balance between its wildlife, history and visitor enjoyment.'*

5. BROMPTON CEMETERY

*'To celebrate one of the great and most intact Garden Cemeteries of the mid-19th Century. To conserve its environment and built heritage while providing much needed facilities and improving public access.'*

8. BUSHY PARK

*'To protect and conserve the historic layout, avenues and character of the deer park. To ensure its diverse population of trees, its open grasslands, wood pasture, woodlands, waterways are enhanced for wildlife and the enjoyment of its visitors.'*

3. THE REGENT'S PARK AND PRIMROSE HILL

*'To conserve the historic parkland with its unique regency setting offering a broad range of opportunities for sport, wellbeing and culture while enhancing the quality and diversity of wildlife habitats.'*

4. ST JAMES'S PARK AND THE GREEN PARK

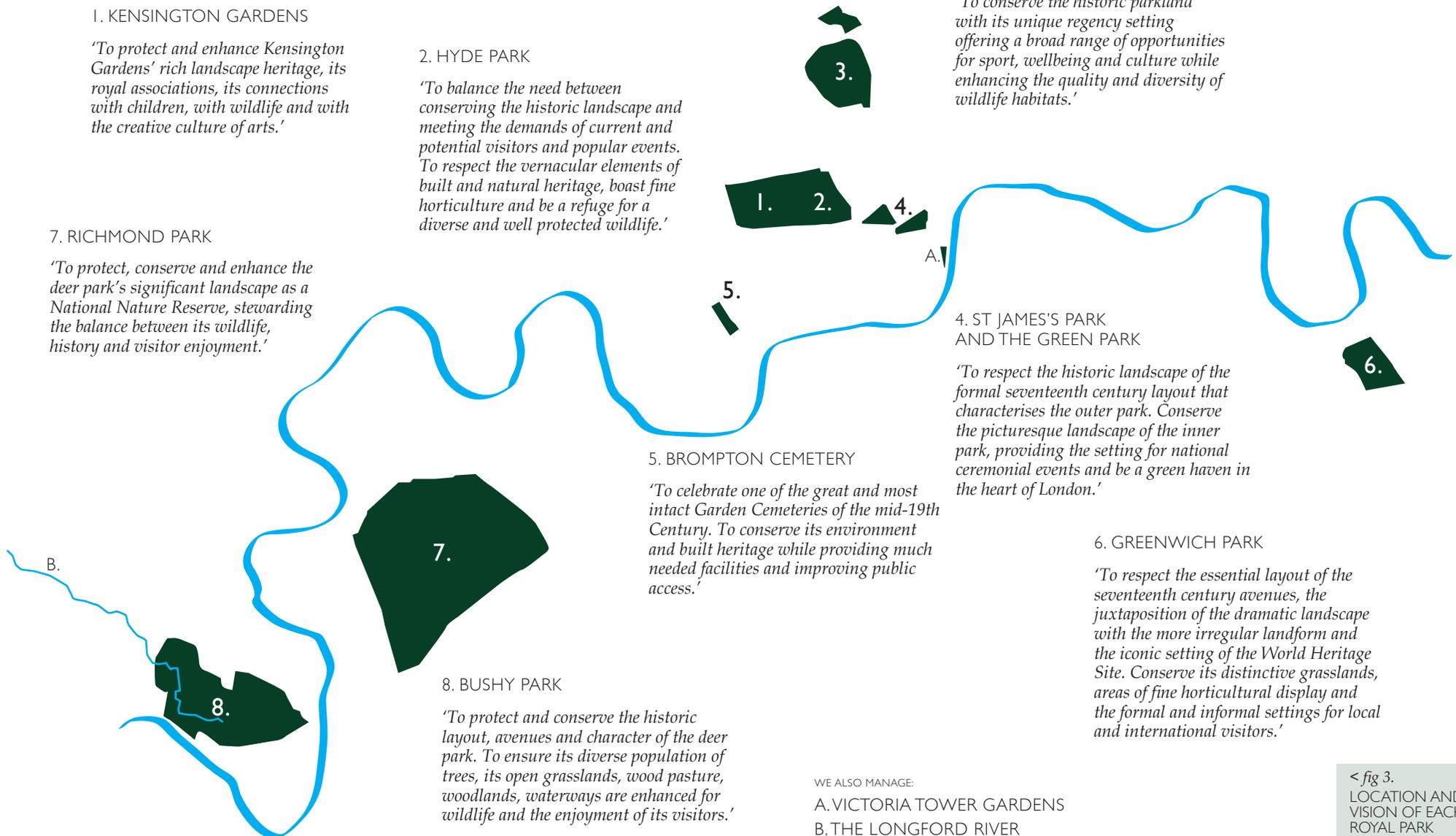
*'To respect the historic landscape of the formal seventeenth century layout that characterises the outer park. Conserve the picturesque landscape of the inner park, providing the setting for national ceremonial events and be a green haven in the heart of London.'*

6. GREENWICH PARK

*'To respect the essential layout of the seventeenth century avenues, the juxtaposition of the dramatic landscape with the more irregular landform and the iconic setting of the World Heritage Site. Conserve its distinctive grasslands, areas of fine horticultural display and the formal and informal settings for local and international visitors.'*

WE ALSO MANAGE:  
A. VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS  
B. THE LONGFORD RIVER

< fig 3.  
LOCATION AND VISION OF EACH ROYAL PARK





REC 1001

LANDSCAPE

## MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

This section outlines the management context which enables us to deliver our set purpose.

*'To manage the Royal Parks effectively and efficiently, balancing the responsibility to conserve and enhance the unique environments with creative policies to encourage access and to increase opportunities for enjoyment education, entertainment and healthy recreation.'*

### THE ROYAL PARKS CONTEXT

The Royal Parks comprise St. James's Park, The Green Park, Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park and The Regent's Park with Primrose Hill in inner London. Greenwich Park, Bushy Park and Richmond Park are linked to historic royal river palaces along the Thames in outer London.

Greenwich Park occupies some 75 ha (186 acres) located on the river terraces and steep escarpment overlooking the Thames on the south east side of London.

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### PARK MANAGEMENT

Park management for a large multifaceted site like Greenwich Park is complex. It involves allocating resources and balancing the requirements of visitors, heritage and conservation.

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### AUTHORITY TO MANAGE

The parks are owned by the Crown with their responsibility resting with the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). TRP charity manages the parks on behalf of the government.

TRP is led by a Board of Trustees, which decides how the charity is run, how we spend money and ensures what we do is for the benefit of the parks and our visitors. The trustees are led by a Chairman, and are appointed for their skills and experience. Alongside some ex-officio roles, others are appointed by the Secretary of State for the DCMS and the Greater London Authority (GLA). They are non-executive and unpaid.

The senior management team oversees the day-to-day running of the Royal Parks. Led by a chief executive, the team recommend parks' policy and strategy to the Board of Trustees, as well as managing an expert and committed workforce of staff and volunteers dedicated to offering free open space in London.

### THE ROYAL PARKS CHARITABLE OBJECTS

- To protect, conserve, maintain and care for the Royal Parks, including their natural and designed landscapes and built environment, to a high standard consistent with their historic, horticultural, environmental and architectural importance;
- To promote the use and enjoyment of the Royal Parks for public recreation, health and wellbeing including through the provision of sporting and cultural activities and events which effectively advance the objects;
- To maintain and develop the biodiversity of the Royal Parks, including the protection of their wildlife and natural environment, together with promoting sustainability in the management and use of the Royal Parks;
- To support the advancement of education by promoting public understanding of the history, culture, heritage and natural environment of the Royal Parks and (by way of comparison) elsewhere;
- To promote national heritage including by hosting and facilitating ceremonies of state or of national importance within and in the vicinity of the Royal Parks.

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### DESIGNATIONS AND COMPLIANCE

Greenwich Park is listed Grade I on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, forms part of the Greenwich Maritime World Heritage Site and is designated within Greenwich Park conservation Area in the Royal Borough of Greenwich local plan.

Management of the park needs to comply with statutory legislation relevant to these designations.

## GREENWICH PARK MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

### Park Manager

Is responsible for the overall strategic and optimal management of the park. They are responsible for managing stakeholder and local planning authority relationships, and approving all commercial and non-commercial contracts. They play an important role in identifying projects and potential development/restoration work, securing funding as required from internal Royal Parks' funds and external funding agencies.

### Assistant Park Managers

Provide support for the Park Manager and are in regular direct communication with the maintenance contractors, pre-planning and adjusting programmes of work. They are involved in building relationships with stakeholders and working with volunteers. They oversee practical implementation of management and maintenance works and carry out inspections, quality checks and assess the service levels of the day to day operations.

### Park Services Team, Ecology Team, Additional Directorates

The various TRP directorates provide technical and specialist skills and support to the Park Management Team. The teams work closely together to ensure that any actions within the parks are done to the highest quality and sensitivity.

### Landscape Maintenance Contractors (LMC)

Landscape and tree maintenance is undertaken by contractors under the direction of the park management team.

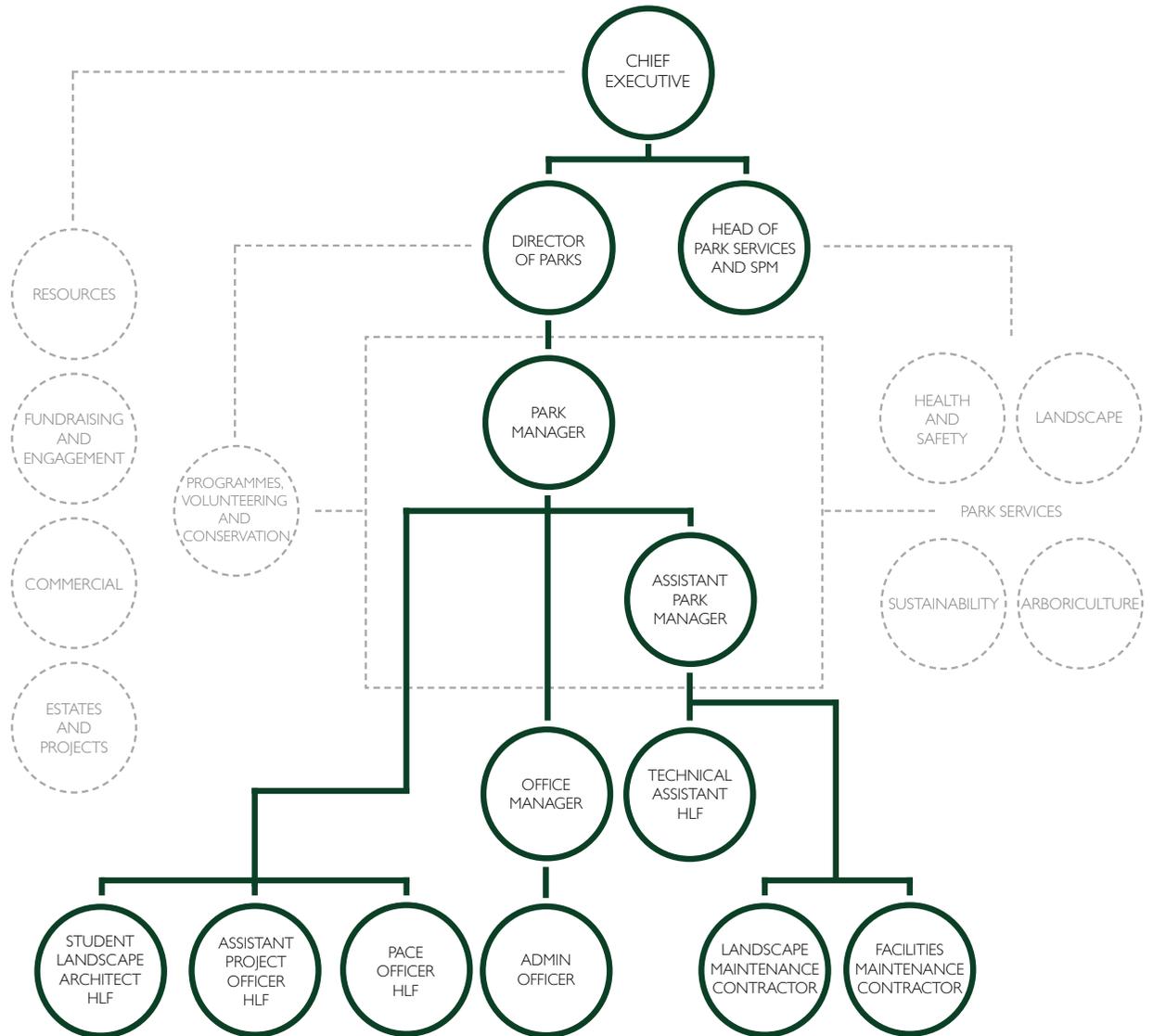
### Facilities Maintenance Contractor (FMC)

Is responsible for the maintenance of the hard landscape areas of the park, services and buildings maintenance. Routine repairs and maintenance are covered under the contract.

Other important contracts include the gate locking, catering concessions, car parking and toilet maintenance contracts.

### Main Challenges:

To manage the park effectively within the economic and human resource constraints whilst at the same time managing visitor numbers that are set to increase.



< fig 4.  
TRP MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

## RESOURCES

In March 2017 TRP charity was created and officially launched in July 2017. We took over the role of managing the parks from The Royal Parks Agency – a former executive agency of the DCMS, as well as fundraising and some education from the Royal Parks Foundation. The two organisations joined forces to create our charity and bring together the best of fundraising, education and park management.

The new Royal Parks charity is expected to become largely self-financing over time as the proportion of government aid continues to decline. The gap in funding has been covered by developing other revenue streams such as; catering, filming and events. This has been challenging but so far successful. In the same period maintenance expenditure has remained constant whilst visitor numbers are increasing.

Grants are incredibly valuable, usually for specific projects such as the Greenwich Park Revealed project. Grant funding from sources such as the HLF comes with certain criteria and some priorities of awarding bodies can differ from the priorities of TRP.

All the Royal Parks, including Greenwich Park are endowed with built assets that are managed to provide reliable endowments and long-term income streams. The park now hosts two mass participation events annually; the London marathon and the BIG Half Marathon Festival. These are well received by visitors and residents. The filming industry often use the park as a location and locate unit bases in the car parks. The two park residential lodges are let at market rents providing a sustainable income stream.

As a charity TRP are now better placed to explore and develop the roles of volunteering, philanthropy and charitable fund raising.

### Staffing

There are currently four members of TRP staff, with all other activities contracted out e.g. grounds maintenance, building maintenance, cleaning, toilet attendants, car parking and catering. TRP provide an apprentice gardener scheme in partnership with the grounds contractor to help train and retain a skilled workforce.

## ENGAGEMENT

Park users work with park staff through stakeholder groups such as; The Friends of Greenwich Park, The Greenwich Society, the Blackheath Society, the Westcombe Society and the Safer Parks Panel.

Park Management consult various stakeholder groups about specific projects and routine work within the park through organised consultation events, quarterly stakeholder meetings and welcomed ongoing communication.

Park management is aware that frustrations can sometime occur when complex issues cannot be resolved particularly if resolutions and resources are difficult to identify. In addition, stakeholders priorities are not necessarily always aligned either with TRP or each other.

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## PRESSURES

Visitors to the park have increased 2-fold in the past 10 years and 4 fold in the past 25 years. Results show that the total number of visits to Greenwich in 2014 was in the region of 4.7 million. The park is highly valued by visitors and provides many benefits to many people by improving wellbeing and quality of life that cannot be overstated.

Greater London Authority Population Projections estimate that the boroughs of Greenwich, Lewisham and Tower Hamlets will see an increase of 235,200 persons between 2019 and 2050. This will make the existing open space increasingly valuable. The way in which people use outdoor space is changing too. Visitors eat outdoors and picnic more. It is even possible to have food delivered to the park using facilities such as Deliveroo. There are increasing amounts of refuse to be collected by the grounds contractor and increasing number of bottles and disposable coffee cups.

Pest and diseases are having a major impact on the horticultural landscape. Since 2000 the advent of bleeding canker of horse chestnut has seen a large number of the parks mature horse chestnut trees die. Oak processionary moth is another example of a new pest species which needs to be controlled for public health reasons and incurs significant costs for TRP. The latter is a financial pressure. Plant

phyto security measures are forcing TRP to source previously imported plant material within the UK, increasing costs. Certain recreation trends can pose problems and challenges. Increasing popularity of dog ownership, 25% adults now own a dog which has increased the user pressure from this sector on the park.

The use of social media makes it much easier for visitors to meet up and organise events. This can be a good thing but can also involve an increase in unlicensed activity which is difficult to manage e.g. doggy meet ups which receive over 100 attendants.

Traffic congestion in the car park at weekends is a major problem and damages visitor experience for all park users. Increasing numbers of commuter cyclists and dog walkers leads to conflict.

In the longer term the impact of climate change on the park environment includes extreme weather conditions and increase threats of pests and diseases.

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## RISK

The Board of Trustees reviews strategic risks and the Park Management Team annually review risk as part of its annual business planning cycle. This plan addresses landscape risks by careful articulation of aims and opportunities, by consideration of significance and condition, and by expressing priorities. Addressing risk is built in to this plan by including them as 'main challenges' under each section.

### Main Challenges:

*To work with all contractors, stakeholders, partners and external bodies to ensure the effective minimising of risk at every stage of management operations by taking actions to address, reduce, mitigate or tolerate risk.*

*To be pro-actively 'horizon scanning' for possible and future risks.*

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Greenwich Park, like the other Royal Parks, is policed by a dedicated unit of the Metropolitan Police Service, based in the park. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between the police and TRP which sets out policing priorities across the estate.

At the present time Greenwich Park does not suffer from significant levels of serious crime, and the nature of offences and disturbances is not, in the main, of serious consequence (although there are of course exceptions).

### *Main Challenges:*

*Like all areas of the MET Police Service, Greenwich Park has seen a reduction in its level of policing.*

*With the increasing visitor numbers park managers need to proactively find ways of communicating Park Regulations as well as educating visitors with regard to acceptable behaviour.*

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## LEASES, LICENCES AND CONCESSIONS

A number of leases, licences and concessions are in effect in the parks through which areas of land or specific facilities are controlled by bodies other than TRP or responsibility is shared. These include:

- The Royal Observatory Greenwich buildings and land in the centre of the park comprising Flamsteed House, Meridian Building and Courtyard, Great Equatorial Building, Altazimuth Pavilion, South Building, Yuri Gagarin Café Terrace, Peter Harrison Planetarium and Terrace are managed by the Royal Museums Greenwich.
- The Reservoir on the plateau near Croom's Hill was built in 1845 for firefighting purposes and covered over in 1871. The structure is licensed to Thames Water.
- Two residential Lodges under private lease, are located within the park, Blackheath Gate Lodge and Vanbrugh Gate Lodge.
- There are four licensed openings into the park from adjacent properties in Maze Hill for which annual

fees are paid. The residents are responsible for the maintenance of doors and gates.

- The catering concessions are licensed to specialist caterers. The tennis courts are licensed to Will to Win.

### *Main Challenges:*

*In the 2018 Ipsos MORI visitor survey 32% of visitors aren't aware that Greenwich is managed by TRP but believe it is managed by the local authority/council.*

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## DATABASE AND ARCHIVE

TRP use CONFIRM software to manage the grounds maintenance contract. Data is held in the CONFIRM database.

The 'Arbortrack' database is TRP's arboricultural risk management system. The system allows tree data to be stored electronically and linked to a mapping system which is compatible with Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

TRP works in partnership with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL), to set up and manage a biological recording system which holds accurate and validated data on species and habitats and environmental information for all of the Royal Parks.

### *Main Challenges:*

*Data monitoring is especially important to better inform management practice and to help meet TRP's statutory obligations to biodiversity conservation.*

*IT investment needed in GIS system to give comprehensive mapping of services; trees; ecology; furniture & artefacts; hard works and soft works features.*

*“Landscape management” means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes.’*

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION



## POLICY

This section describes the key national, regional and local designations, policies and strategies which provide the strategic policy framework for the management of Greenwich Park

### INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICIES

There are a wide range of designations and policies, which influence the management of Greenwich Park. TRP has statutory duties with regard to the following:

- **Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006** Part 3 S.40: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard . . . to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
- **Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981 as amended)**, particularly in relation to management that may affect protected species.
- **Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000** Became part of UK Law in 2003 and requires all water bodies to reach "Good Ecological Status" (GES) or for artificial or heavily modified water bodies "Good Ecological Potential" (GEP) by 2015, 2021 or 2027 depending on feasibility. The objective of GEP is similar to good status but takes into account the constraints imposed by social and/or economic uses. The objective is to achieve GEP by 2027. As a public body, TRP is required to give due consideration to the aims of the WFD in any works they carry out that may impact on water bodies. Proposed works must be assessed to ensure that the requirements of the WFD are met, i.e. that the proposed modification:
  - i) does not deteriorate water body status 'no deterioration'
  - ii) will not compromise the successful implementation of improvement measures; and
  - iii) that WFD objectives will still be achieved. In order to achieve good ecological potential a number of measures and actions need to be implemented to mitigate against the effects of the high level of modification in this water body (see Annexes B and C of the RBMP).  
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/125035.aspx>
- **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979** Conservation of historic buildings and monuments: TRP is obligated to put in place measures to protect and conserve its buildings, monuments, sites and landscapes of historic interest and to regulate operations or activities affecting them.

### WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The whole park, neighbouring properties and part of Greenwich town centre were inscribed onto UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1997. The location of the WHS and its boundaries are shown in Appendix 3.

TRP is a World Heritage Site Executive partner who forms part of the Partnership that meets annually (usually in March) and in accordance with its terms of reference works to uphold the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Site and promote Maritime Greenwich at local, national and international levels.

TRP is committed to working to uphold the nine overarching goals and number of key objectives set out in the Maritime Greenwich Management Plan for the protection, conservation and management of the Site.

The latest The Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site Management Plan can be found by following the link:  
<http://www.greenwichworldheritage.org/about/management-plan>

### NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS

#### Historic England: Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest

Greenwich Park is listed on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. It is categorised as Grade I entry; that is, of exceptional historic interest.

#### Scheduled Monument

The Anglo Saxon barrow cemetery on Croom's Hill and the Romano-Celtic temple near Maze Hill Gate are designated a Scheduled Monument. The Royal Observatory (within the park) and the Queen's House (outside the park) are also designated a Scheduled Monument.

#### Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR)

The GLSMR contains numerous entries relating to Greenwich Park. These include the conduits, evidence of the pre-emparkment agricultural landscape in the form of ridge and furrow, the extant monuments and structures, track-ways and Roman routes and structures relating to World War II.

**The Royal Commission on Historic Monuments in England (RCHME) Survey**

A detailed archaeological survey within the park has been undertaken, which reported in 1994 (RCHME. 1994. Greenwich Park: An Archaeological Survey – published in two volumes). On the basis of this study, the whole park is considered to have high archaeological potential.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVICE**

**The London Plan 2016** (consolidated with alterations since 2011) is the overall strategic plan for London, and it sets out a fully integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of the capital over the next 20-25 years. It forms part of the development plan for Greater London. London boroughs' local plans need to be in general conformity with the London Plan, and its policies guide decisions on planning applications by councils and the Mayor. On 13 August 2018 the Mayor of London published a version of the new draft London Plan that includes his minor suggested changes.

Greenwich Park is one of the smaller Royal Parks in London with a total area of 75 hectares. However it is considered to be the largest green open space in central south-east London and is designated as a **Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation**. It contains ancient parkland with trees, small woodlands managed as bird sanctuaries, a lake and several ponds.

**London Environment Strategy 2018**

This is the first strategy to bring together approaches to every aspect of London's environment, integrating the following areas:

- air quality
- green infrastructure
- climate change mitigation and energy
- waste
- adapting to climate change
- ambient noise
- low carbon circular economy

**National Planning Policy Framework**

This was updated on 19 February 2019 and provides a framework within which this plan was produced.

*Main Challenges:*

*Wide range of regional strategies and plans that must be considered and, where applicable, implemented when determining management policies and guidelines including biodiversity and views.*

*Though not protected by statute the panoramic views of the City, World Heritage Site and Canary Wharf, as well as short distance views to and from the park, should be considered particularly within the setting of the World Heritage Site.*

**LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES AND DESIGNATIONS**

Greenwich Park is Crown Land and TRP complies with standard procedures and local authority planning policies.

Greenwich Park is wholly within the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The boundary with the adjacent London Borough of Lewisham runs across Blackheath, just to the south of the park. The statutory policies relating to the area within Greenwich are contained within Royal Greenwich Local Plan: Core Strategy with Detailed Policies (July 2014). The Borough is required to refer to TRP in the case of all planning applications within 800 metres of the park boundary, which have potential to impact the park amenities.

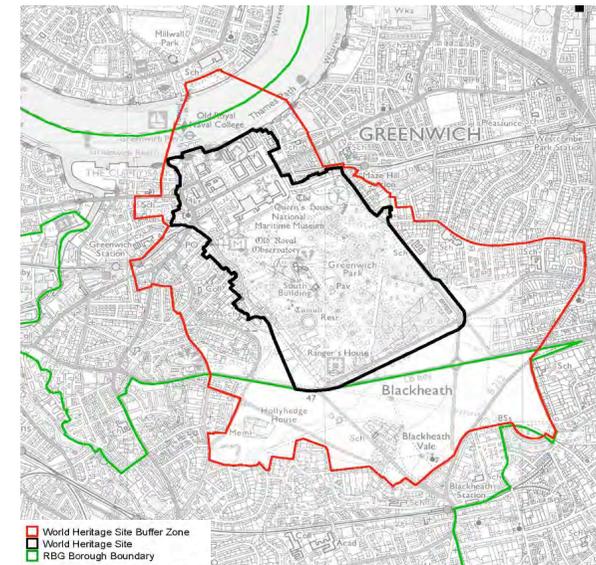
**Conservation and Heritage**

Greenwich Park is designated Greenwich Park Conservation Area. Other Conservation Areas adjacent to the park include Blackheath & Blackheath Park Conservation Area, West Greenwich Conservation Area, and Westcombe Park Conservation Area. The Royal Greenwich Local Plan Core Strategy with Detailed Policies lists policies under section 4.4 covering aspects of Design and Heritage, and under section 4.5 lists policies regarding Open Space.

**Designated London Panorama**

The London Panorama located within Greenwich Park is designated and has St Paul's Cathedral as its focus.

There is one viewing location, 5A, within Greenwich Park that includes two Assessment Points. The view from Wolfe Statue, at Assessment Point 5A.1, takes in the formal, axial arrangement between Greenwich Palace, and the Queen's House. The view also includes Greenwich Reach and the



^ fig 5. WORLD HERITAGE SITE MAP

**LISTED BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES**

v Table 1.

The Standard Reservoir/Conduit House	II*
St Mary's Gate	II
Conduit Head	II
The Bandstand	II
The Boundary Wall (several sections)	II
General Wolfe Statue	II
St Mary's Lodge	II

tall buildings on the Isle of Dogs. The eastern extent of the panorama is towards central London and St Paul's Cathedral. This is best seen from Assessment Point 5A.2, and includes a Protected Vista towards the Cathedral.

The panorama is highly valued because it makes a significant contribution to people's ability to understand and appreciate London as a whole. It allows a viewer to see significant historic and cultural landmarks in their landscape or townscape setting and to understand the relationship between them.

#### Royal Greenwich Local Plan

contains the following pertinent policies (extracts given here):

##### DH3 Heritage Assets

The Royal Borough will protect and enhance the heritage assets and settings of Royal Greenwich, including the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site, preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the 20 Conservation Areas, applying a presumption in favour of the preservation of statutory listed buildings and their settings, giving substantial weight to protecting and conserving locally listed buildings, protecting the three registered parks and gardens, as well as Royal Greenwich's archaeological remains and areas of special character.

##### DH4 Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site

The Royal Borough will protect and enhance the Outstanding Universal Values (the 'Values') of the inscribed Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site (the 'Site'). Development within it should protect and enhance these Values. Development within the buffer zone (as defined on the Proposals Map) and setting should not adversely impact on those Values, including views to and from the Site.

##### DH(g) Local Views

Planning permission will only be given for development which would not have a materially adverse effect on the overall perspective and essential quality of the identified Local Views, which in Greenwich park comprise

1. Docklands panorama from the Wolfe Monument and
2. Wolfe Monument south towards the All Saints Church in Blackheath.

##### DH(h) Conservation Areas

Planning permission will only be granted for proposals which pay special attention to preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. The local scale, the established pattern of development and landscape, building form and materials will all be taken into account. Development on sites in the vicinity of a Conservation Area and which would have a visual effect on its character or appearance, should respect the setting of that area. Demolition of buildings and structures that positively contribute to the character or appearance of a Conservation Area will be resisted.

##### DH(i) Statutory Listed Buildings

###### i) Protection of Listed Buildings

There will be a presumption in favour of the preservation of listed buildings. Listed building consent will only be granted for demolition in exceptional circumstances, and will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. The condition of the building and the cost of repairs relative to its importance.
2. The adequacy of efforts made to return the building to use.
3. The merits of alternative proposals for the site.

###### ii) External or Internal Alterations

Proposals for external or internal alterations or additions to Listed Buildings should respect the integrity of the buildings and harmonise with their special architectural or historical character. Where consent is required for internal alterations, features of interest should be respected and left in-situ wherever possible.

###### iii) Changes of Use

Proposals for changes of use of Listed Buildings will only be granted planning permission if it is no longer in its original or other established historic use and the new use is beneficial to the building and is compatible with its character and features of historic interest. Such a change of use should not conflict with other policies in the Core Strategy.

###### iv) Setting and Proportion

Proposals for development which would detract from the setting and proportions of a Listed Building or group will be resisted.

##### DH(j) Locally Listed Buildings

In considering proposals affecting buildings on the Local List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest, substantial weight will be given to protecting and conserving the particular characteristics that account for their designation. Consequently, proposals for the demolition or unsympathetic alteration of locally listed buildings will be strongly discouraged.

#### Open Space and Nature Conservation

The park is designated as Metropolitan Open Land (Policy OS2 Metropolitan Open Land) and also as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for nature conservation (Table 12: Site NC6, Policy OS4 Biodiversity). The park has been identified as falling within an 'Area of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP)' (Policy DH(m) Archaeology). All designations are shown on Royal Greenwich's Core Strategy Policies Map 2014.

**Cycle Routes:** The borough is providing cycle routes in accordance with the London Cycle Network (LCN) and evolving local network. A cycle route has been implemented within the park running east – west from Vanbrugh Gate to St. Mary's Gate via Great Cross Avenue and The Avenue. (Policy: IM4 Cycling and Walking).

**Riverside Route:** A combined cycle route and pedestrian walk runs along the south bank of the Thames (the route of the National Trail). (Policy: OS3 South East London Green Chain, IM4 Cycling and Walking).

**Green Chain Network:** The extensive Green Chain walk network encompasses much of the open space in the eastern part of Greenwich Borough. It does not, currently, link into the Blackheath/Greenwich Park open space (Policy: OS3 South East London Green Chain). However there are a number of walks in and around the park under the banner of Greenwich Get Active leisure walks.

#### Main Challenges:

*Numerous local policies and designations exist that must be respected by conservation plan policies particularly relating to protection of open space from built development, protection of views, character of the built landscape, trees and nature conservation.*



A large, mature tree with a thick trunk and dense green foliage dominates the left side of the frame. The tree is situated on a grassy slope. In the background, several other trees of varying sizes are scattered across the landscape. To the right, a building with a prominent white dome is visible on a hill. The sky is a pale blue with light, wispy clouds. In the foreground, a few people are sitting on the grass, and a yellow ball is visible on the ground. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

*'Greenwich Park is still potentially the finest interpretation in England of a layout based on that Grand European 17th century conception of design that governed also the grouping of buildings leading to the river.'*

7TH REPORT OF THE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY



## HISTORIC CONTEXT

24

This section begins by presenting the key evolutions of the park's designed landscape and a timeline of key protagonists and historical events that have influenced it.

Then the section goes on to describe the 'built' components that have contributed to the character of Greenwich Park.

### Historic Value:

*the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. Historical understanding that comes from 'reading' the landscape that is observable; it gains in value by completeness.*

*Associative historical values are made through people identifying and connecting a place with cultural heritage; literature, art, music, film, scientific or technological discoveries.*

*Continuing use of a place as is historically appropriate, that 'illustrates its relationship between design and function' also enhances its value.*

### THE EVOLUTION OF THE PARK'S LAYOUT

The topography and geology of the site has had the greatest influence upon the design and layout of Greenwich Park.

The 1660s saw the most significant change of character when the park was transformed from a medieval heath-land hunting park into a formal landscape with a grand garden and avenues during the Restoration. Charles II completed the Queen's House and commissioned Sir William Boreman to supervise improvements to the park.

Clearly the emphatic axiality established by the siting of the Queen's House became a dominant factor in the development of the park's layout. Indeed Inigo Jones may well have recognised the potential of the park as a stage set to his composition, and André Le Nôtre's plan appears to respond to it in just this way.

However, the importance of physical opportunities and constraints of the site should be traced back to earlier times, not least to Duke Humphrey's placing of the tower on its strategic location over looking the Thames and conveniently close to the historical mustering ground and reception area of Blackheath. There is some natural axiality about the tower site in relation to the Isle of Dogs; and although this was largely disregarded by the Tudors who developed the Palace of Placentia with its convenient river access and adjacent deer park, this imaginary line became fixed in reality with the orientation of the Queen's House over the Deptford to Woolwich road.

At the time, this siting may not have seemed particularly significant, lying in the shadow of the great Tudor Palace, but it subsequently dictated layouts to North and South, first with the development of the park itself, subsequently through Webb, Wren, Hawksmoor and Vanbrugh and the carefully balanced plan of the Royal Hospital. This axiality has been further reinforced by the building of the East and West wings (1807) and the Colonnades (1807-11), by the siting of All Saints Church (1858) on Blackheath, and most recently by the placing of General Wolfe's Statue (1930).

The force of other lines may also be apparent in the development of the Restoration layout - the particular orientation of the tributary valleys, the historical accident

of the alignment of the park walls, possibly even the focus on particular skyline features beyond the park including St. Alfege Church, the Tower and St. Paul's. Cathedral. It is a further coincidence that this site, which has so many lines and axes, should subsequently have also acquired a line of real international standing; but despite its importance this line of the Greenwich Meridian has, until 1984 at least, remained insignificant in the park itself.

The 1660s pattern has survived to the present day even though its component avenues are largely second, and in some cases fourth generation. The pattern itself is a curiosity; it is probably French in its inspiration but would seem to be unsuited to such a contorted terrain - the dips and hollows frustrating the sense of extending vistas and the natural grain of topography lying obliquely across the central axis of the design. In simple terms, the drawn plan looks as though it was conceived on paper without real consideration of the physical characteristics of the site. Some commentators have tended to presume this to be a weakness of design, and that the layout is, or even was, seen as a failure. On the contrary, it was regarded with high esteem even in its earliest days and consistently during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Indeed during the Georgian period, it survived major changes of taste which were responsible for sweeping away many of its contemporary landscapes.

The evolution of the Restoration plan between 1661 and 1664 does not appear to have been the work of just one man and there are significant contrasts in the setting out of the parts, even though the whole layout was achieved in a three-year period. Furthermore several competing forces are expressed in the design and for this reason it remains, despite inexact setting out and numerous mathematical anomalies, a most interesting study in landscape design.

The pattern, which these various phases of history have left behind, is clearly a composite. The formal design of avenues did not destroy or wholly dominate the pre-existing English spontaneity of the "Pleasance", but simply introduced a creative tension which is still vividly apparent. A further tension, created mainly in the 19th and early 20th centuries, has been achieved through the development of an extensive path network which in some cases do not follow the formal structure of the avenues. During this period the park absorbed considerable fragmentation, diversification,

ornamentation and horticultural displays that provide a very different but enjoyable experience. They contrast strongly with the sweep of open space long promenading avenues of the more formal historic park but are important and fulfil different needs.

As a framework against which to test the present condition and future development of the park, the historical record shows that this composite plan is in itself important. While it is desirable to conserve and maintain the essential structure of the 17th century avenues and the related landforms, the use and management of the park need to reflect the diversity of its history.

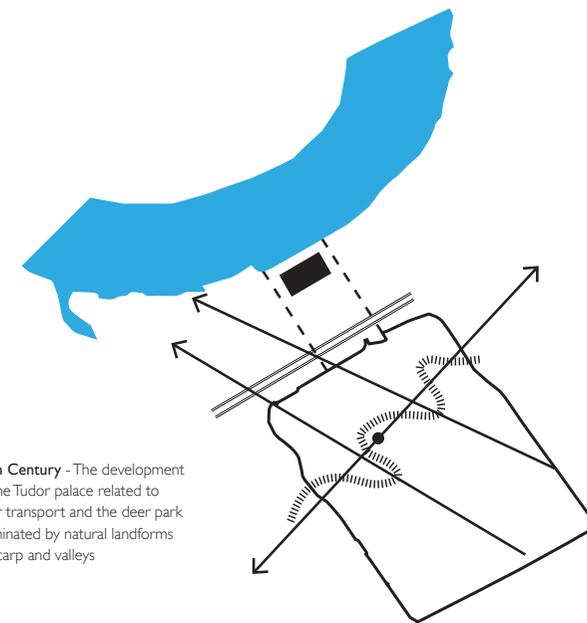
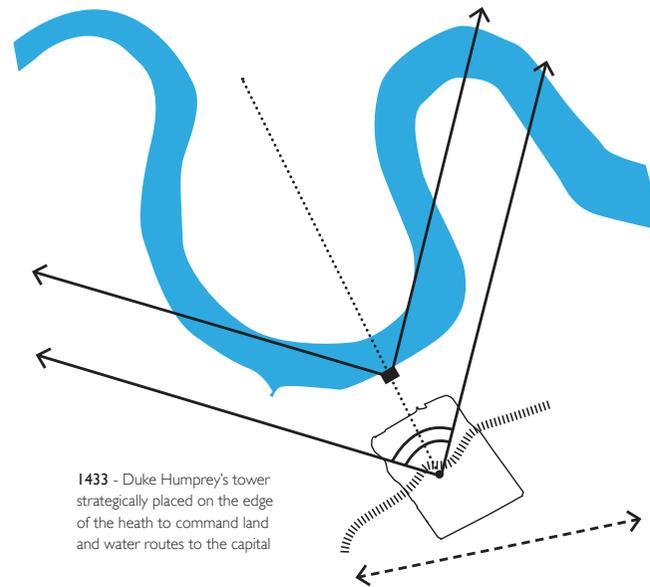
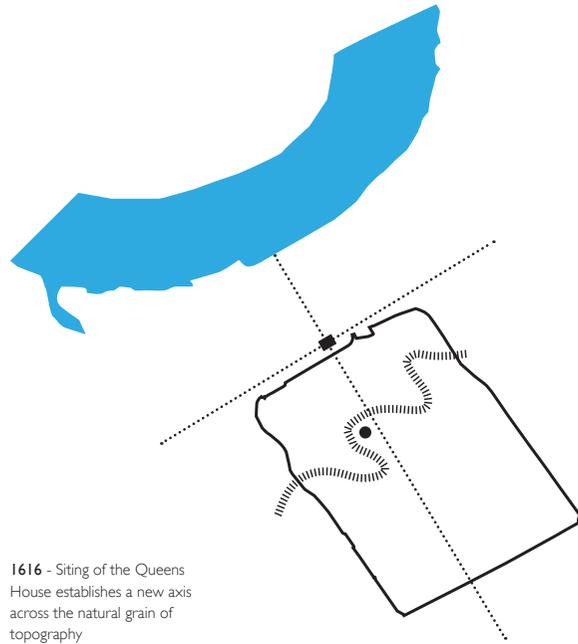
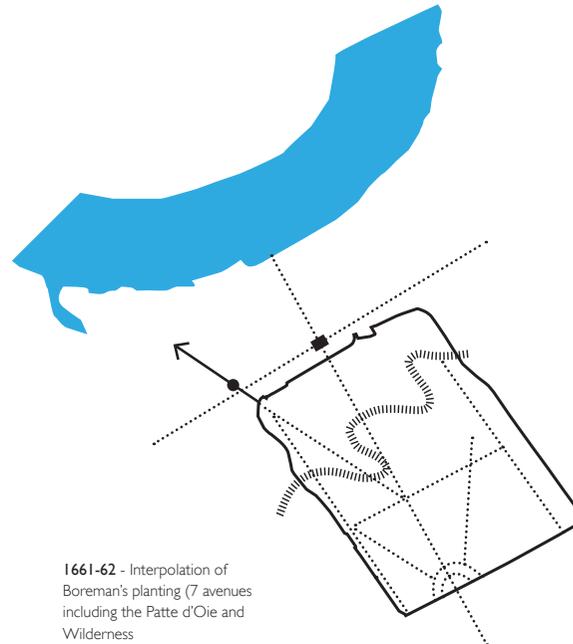


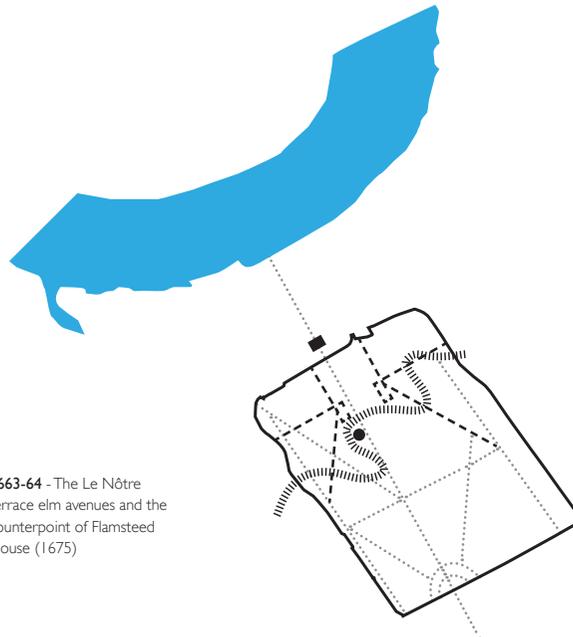
fig 7. >  
EVOLUTION OF  
PARK LAYOUT



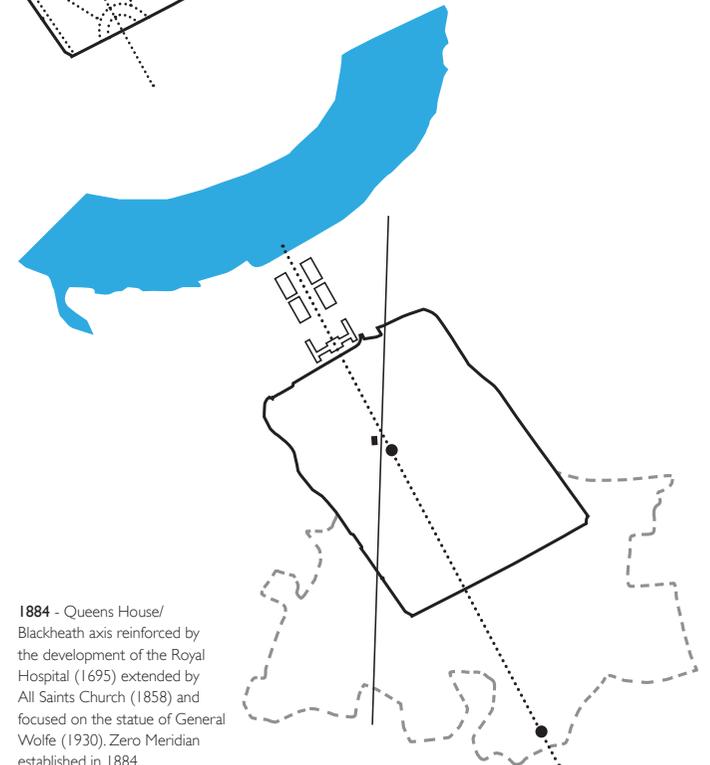
1616 - Siting of the Queens House establishes a new axis across the natural grain of topography



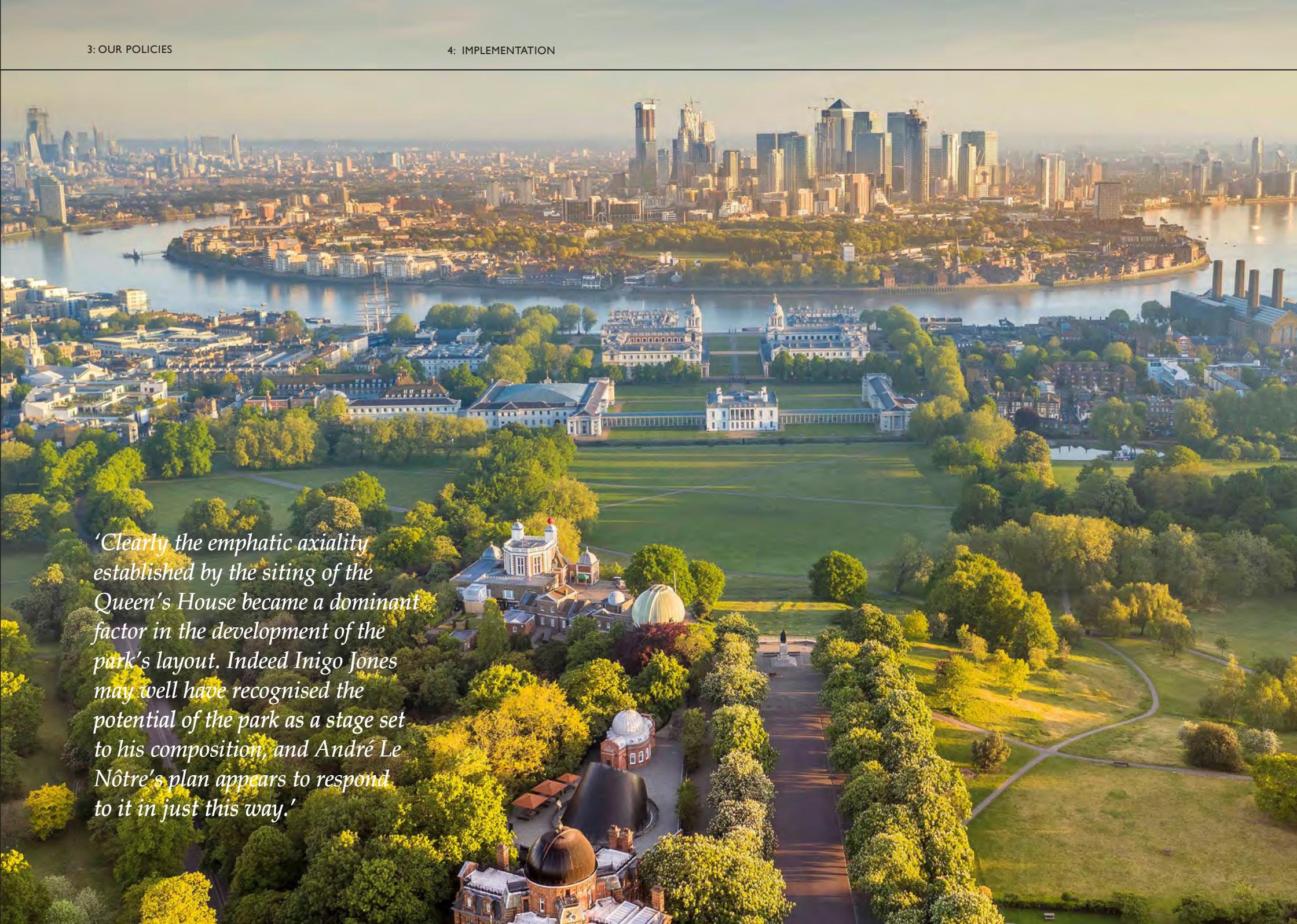
1661-62 - Interpolation of Boreman's planting (7 avenues including the Patte d'Oie and Wilderness)



1663-64 - The Le Nôtre terrace elm avenues and the counterpoint of Flamsteed House (1675)



1884 - Queens House/ Blackheath axis reinforced by the development of the Royal Hospital (1695) extended by All Saints Church (1858) and focused on the statue of General Wolfe (1930). Zero Meridian established in 1884.



*'Clearly the emphatic axially established by the siting of the Queen's House became a dominant factor in the development of the park's layout. Indeed Inigo Jones may well have recognised the potential of the park as a stage set to his composition, and André Le Nôtre's plan appears to respond to it in just this way.'*



This digital reconstruction of how the Roman temple in Greenwich Park might have looked was created by Channel 4's Time Team.

## PRE-1433

## PRE-HISTORY TO ROYAL MANOR

## GREENWICH PARK TIMELINE

The Thames Valley has been a focus of settlement from prehistoric times. The Greenwich area once formed part of the primeval forest of Andread's Weald and the spur of naturally dry ground at Greenwich would have been used by prehistoric communities. Greenwich Park has expressions and remnants of several key periods of history including Roman, Anglo Saxon, Tudor and Stuart.

The important Roman road Watling Street (later diverted by Duke Humphrey) ran just to the south-west of Greenwich Park. By the north-east boundary wall, near the edge of the escarpment is the site of a Romano-British temple, a nationally rare building type of Romano-Celtic temple. Excavations over a number of years show the remains of this main temple, the cella with surrounding ambulatory, and its associated sacred precinct or temenos. Among the findings were rare ivories, inscriptions, a large number of coins and that the temple

*'had tessellated flooring and painted plaster walls...'*, all of which give information about the building's use up to 400 AD and its status. The excavations have produced evidence of a continuous Roman occupation of the site for nearly 400 years.

On the western side of the park, near Croom's Hill Gate is a group of 31 tumuli or barrows dating from the Anglo Saxon period. This is one of only 40 barrow cemeteries in England. Each mound covers a single burial and some of the dead have been discovered to have been buried with their weapons. Almost all the barrows show signs of disturbance during an exploratory excavation in 1784. Works for a new reservoir in 1844 resulted in the levelling of 12 barrows, and there has been further disturbance from tree roots. The place name 'Greenwich' emerged in the middle Anglo-Saxon period suggesting it was a wic or trading settlement, whose importance derived from craft and maritime trade.



An aerial view of the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery today.



Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester  
c.1550s  
(© Encyclopædia Britannica)

1433-1485

### DUKE HUMPHREY, "BELLA COURT" AND THE PARK

The importance of Greenwich seems to have dwindled after the Romans left until it appears listed among the possessions of King Alfred (871-900). He gave this manor of "Gronovic" or "Grenevic"<sup>1</sup> or part of it, to his daughter Elstrudis, wife of Baldwin II Count of Flanders. Baldwin died in 918 and Elstrudis gave the manor to the Abbey of St. Peter's at Ghent. This Flemish connection lasted until the early 15th century when Henry V disallowed alien monasteries and priories (1414) and the Abbot of Ghent's holding reverted to English hands. It is possible that a house, referred to as the "house by the river" and the "Old Court" remained in the possession of the Kings of England from the time of Alfred.

The Domesday Book confirms that King Harold had held a manor at Greenwich but King William had assigned the royal possession to Ghent. However it seems that by about

1. *Saxon for Green Village: Lysons op.cit p.427*

the middle of the 14th century the King of England again held the manor. In 1408 Henry IV was brought in sickness to Greenwich probably to the house known as "Old Court" from where he drew up his will granting Greenwich to Thomas Beaufort, Duke of Exeter. In 1422 Thomas Beaufort was appointed Regent to the young Henry VI but died in 1426 and the manor of Greenwich, along with the Regency, passed to the young King's uncle, Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester.

Until this time the importance of Greenwich Manor and the "house by the river" centred around its strategic position overlooking the two main thoroughfares to London, the Thames and the Roman road from Dover. Duke Humphrey made Greenwich a much more important place than it had been previously. He built a house grand enough to be coveted by the Queen, he made it a centre of the new learning and built up his famous library<sup>2</sup>. He also enclosed a park which became, under the Tudors, a favourite royal playground and deer park.

It appears that Duke Humphrey demolished "Old Court" and was granted a licence "to build a mansion crenelled and embattled"<sup>3</sup> which he called "Bella Court". In 1433 Henry VI permitted him to add to his house by enclosing "200 acres

2. *The foundations of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.*

3. *Lysons p.429*



Duke Humphrey's Tower  
by W. Hollar's c.1637  
(©National Maritime Museum)

enclosing "200 acres of their land, pasture, wood, heath, vurses and gorse thereof to make a park at Greenwich"



Palace of Placentia  
by James Basire the Elder c.1767  
(© National Maritime Museum)



Portrait of Henry VIII (1537)  
by Hans Holbein the Younger  
(©Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool)

of their land, pasture, wood, heath, vurses and gorse thereof to make a park at Greenwich", and "to erect and turrelate a certain tower all in stone and lime within the park".<sup>4</sup> No evidence has come to light of it being enstocked with deer until 1510; but in all likelihood it was enclosed as a deer park in the medieval pattern to provide a supply of venison and instant sport. Little is known of the park's appearance then apart from the "pasture, wood, heath, vurses and gorse" and probably some ancient oaks and thorns. It was enclosed by a wooden fence, bounded on the west by an existing road down Croom's Hill, and to the east by a new road, now Maze Hill.

Duke Humphrey was also given permission to construct a water supply between his new house and "a certain fount called the Stockwell".<sup>5</sup> In doing this he was adding to

4. Chron. 1433

5. Chron. 1434

a system which had existed from at least the 13th century of underground conduits supplying water from the springs of Blackheath to the principal houses on the Thames. These conduits still exist and from time to time have been added to. They no longer supply water but for centuries have performed an "important secondary function as land drains without which the low northern part of the park would become an unpleasant mire".<sup>6</sup>

In 1447 Duke Humphrey fell victim of the new faction surrounding the King. He was taken into custody and died suspiciously some days later. The Queen, Margaret of Anjou, the first of several queens to be closely associated with Greenwich, took over "Bella Court" and the park.

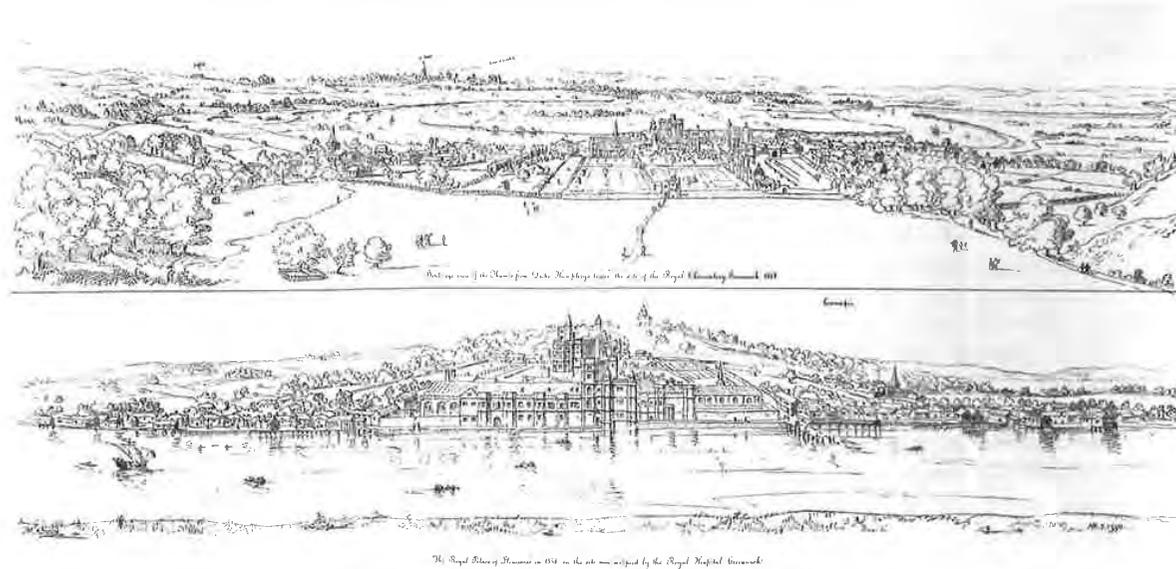
6. *ibid.*

Under the Tudors, Greenwich Palace established its status as the primary royal palace. It was the setting for King Henry VIII's birth and later on the births of his daughters Queen Mary I and Queen Elizabeth I. The Palace became closely linked with the park as it grew to be used as an outdoor stage, and hunting ground.

Soon after his accession in 1485 Henry VII added a new brick front to the palace and renamed it "Placentia"; Henry VIII "bestowed great cost upon Greenwich and made it a pleasant, perfect and princely palace"<sup>7</sup>; he also converted Duke Humphrey's Tower into "a commodious and pleasant residence including a double tower".<sup>8</sup>

7. Lambard Chron. 1510

8. Chron. 1510



Sketches of Greenwich  
by Antonie van den Wyngaerd c.1558  
(from LUC Greenwich Park Historical Survey 1986)

The town glowed with pageantry and royal glamour and the park was a hunting ground, a royal playground and a setting for “Mayday Frolics”, outdoor banquets and tournaments.

In 1486 the first keeper of the park was appointed and in 1510, there is an account of money paid to “Eustace Browne for deer to enstock Greenwich Park.” Again in 1518, 20 “Quick” deer were transferred by Francis Bryan from Eltham to Greenwich, and 60 more in 1520.

In 1559 there was tilting before Queen Elizabeth I who “stood over the park gate” watching from the gallery of a little gate house. And “a goodly banqueting house being set up in the park made with fir poles and decked with birch branches and all manner of flowers both of the field and garden as roses, July flowers, marigolds and all manner of strewing herbs and rushes”.<sup>9</sup>

9. Lysons p.433

This little gate house, where the Queen’s House was later to be built, can be seen in Wyngaerde’s sketches of Greenwich (1558) (fig. 1) the earliest known representations of the park (they are said to have been done for Philip of Spain for espionage). They show the rambling riverside palace “plentifully supplied with towers and gables” with the Tiltyard and Armoury. A pale or fence surrounds the park which, on its northern slope is virtually bare of trees, and wooded on the highest ground. A German traveller, Paul Hentzner, in 1558 spoke of the Queen’s beautiful park stocked with deer and an anonymous painting of about 1600 of the view across the park from the east shows the “commodious” tower on the hill looking down on Placentia Palace over pockets of natural woodland with deer, horsemen and dogs.<sup>10</sup>

10. At the National Maritime Museum



Left: Portrait of King James I of England and VI of Scotland by J. De Critz 1606  
(©National Portrait Gallery)

In the early years of the 17th century, Greenwich appears to have been neglected by royalty, but the presence of the Tudor monarchs had given Greenwich Palace and the park a lasting importance. During James I’s reign two significant happenings took place that greatly impacted the future of the park: the Queen’s House was sited between the old palace and park, so establishing the formal relationship between park, palace and river and setting the axis for the “Grand Plan” of the 1660s; and a brick wall was built around the park (1619-1625) establishing its permanency, reinforcing the privacy of the royal domain, and making control of the deer much easier.

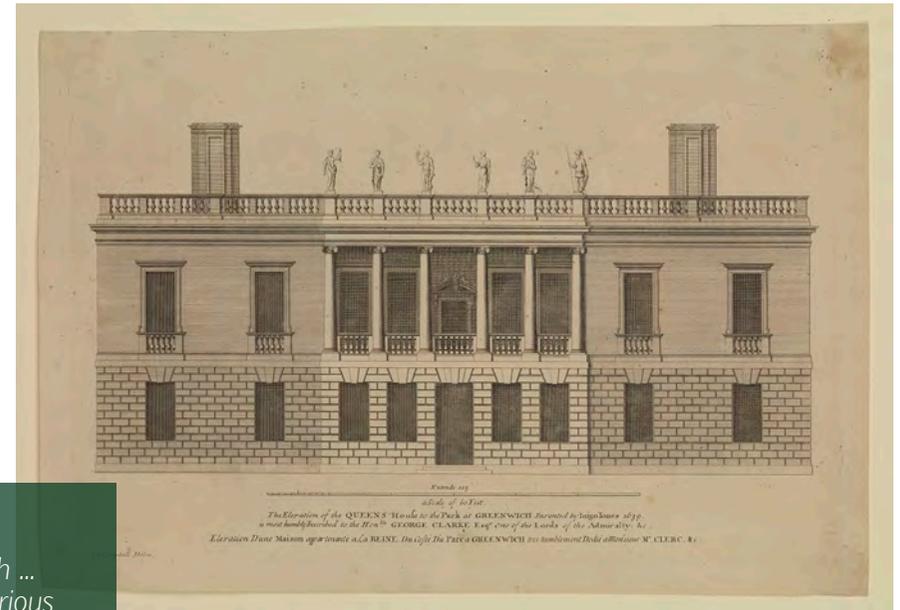
James I did not show great interest in Greenwich Palace and focused more of his attention on the great house at Theobalds. In the early years of the 17th century the main streets of Greenwich were described as “loathsome, dangerous



Anne of Denmark (1605-1610)  
by J. de Critz  
(©National Portrait Gallery)

*"The Queen says she will have the park in spite of me although I bought it with my own money..."*

*"The Queen is building somewhat at Greenwich ... it is said to be some curious device of Inigo Jones"*



The Elevation of the Queens House to the Park at Greenwich Invented by Inigo Jones by C. Campbell 1639  
(©National Maritime Museum)

and infectious".<sup>11</sup> However, Henry Howard later Duke of Northampton, who had been brought up in Greenwich and had a great affection for the place, seems to have established himself in Greenwich Castle which "he much enlarged and beautified". He bought the keepership of the park from one Henry Lanman for £200, as well as acquiring other properties in the town. The King, perhaps suspicious of Howard's territorial ambitions and desirous of pleasing his Queen, granted to her "the capital messuage in East Greenwich called Greenwich House, with the Friars there, the gardens, orchards etc, with Greenwich Park and the houses and lodges within the park". Howard, feeling badly done by, wrote: "The Queen says she will have the park in spite of me although I bought it with my own money..." and "...it might be that her Majesty will not find a servant to keep with so much tenderness as I have done, the ground and the deer and the little wood that is left there".

11. Beryl Platts op.ci p.155

It appears that Queen Anne of Denmark's interest in Greenwich, before commissioning Inigo Jones to build her a new house, centred around the gardens of the palace. In 1617 John Chamberlain wrote to Sir Dudley Carleton: "The Queen is building somewhat at Greenwich ... it is said to be some curious device of Inigo Jones and will cost above 4000". Thus the basis of the "Grand Plan" was set by Inigo Jones, masque and set designer, and architect to the court, conceiving a new house for the Queen in the form of a white Palladian villa, bridging the main Woolwich to Deptford Road, along the northern boundary of the park. Beside the rambling, crenellated red brick Tudor Palace it must indeed have seemed curious. The Queen's House was to be "as a link between the gardens of Greenwich Palace and the royal park, it was the first essay in pure renaissance design in England".<sup>12</sup>

12. Chettle op.cit. p.25

However, Queen Anne died in 1619 before her house had got beyond the ground floor. It remained like that for 10 years until James I showed interest in improving the park and, between 1619 and 1624, built a 12 foot high brick wall around it in place of its pale fence.

Charles I, succeeding James I in 1625, gave the unfinished Queen's House to his wife, Henrietta Maria in 1629, and Inigo Jones resumed work. It does not appear that Henrietta Maria had any plans for the park, but she employed French designers, one of whom was Andre Mollet, to undertake garden alterations. In 1636 the gardens at Greenwich were altered to probably include a wall fountain designed by an anonymous French architect.<sup>13</sup>

13. Drawing at Worcester College, Oxford



The Queen's House today  
 (©The Royal Parks)



Inigo Jones  
 by W. Hogarth 1757  
 (©National Maritime Museum)

### 1642-1651 CIVIL WAR AND COMMONWEALTH

Work was finished on the Queen's House in 1635, which was the first Palladian building in England. However, Queen Henrietta Maria had only a few years to enjoy her "House of Delight" before the Civil War started. She and Charles spent their last night there in February 1642 on the way to Dover to send Princess Mary to safety in Holland.

During the War, Roundhead soldiers were stationed in Greenwich Castle to prevent deer stealing. As far as can be told from scraps of evidence the park did not suffer despoliation during the Civil War or under the Commonwealth.

After the War, at the dispersal of the Kings property, a speculative builder, John Parker of Hackney, was interested in buying the park "of 187 acres, materials of the lodge, white house, woods, 96 deer, stock of conies, rent of the priory, orchard etc. for £5, 778. 10s. 1d". The sale never took place, and the park together with the castle and the Queen's House was reserved for the use of the Commonwealth. It was the palace that suffered particularly; parts were let or sold in various lots, and between 1652 and 1654 it was used to hold Dutch prisoners.

The town of Greenwich suffered unemployment and poverty. Among those who had depended on the palace and court life for their livelihood, and among the sick and injured sailors discharged from the navy with no state provision who frequented the area.



King Charles II (1660-1665)  
by J. M. Wright  
(©National Portrait Gallery)

*“he begged me to write to His Majesty to ask that he would allow him (Le Nôtre) to make the journey to England”*



André Le Nôtre  
(©Encyclopædia Britannica)

## 1661-1669

### THE RESTORATION AND THE GRAND PLAN

Between 1661 and 1669 Charles II's vision of a new royal palace and park grand enough to rank with those of Europe began to take shape. The terraces around the flat grassed parterre to the south of the Queen's House can be attributed to André Le Nôtre. The general layout of radiating avenues may be due to Sir William Boreman, but the palace was never to be completed; by 1669 work had stopped and Charles turned his attention to Hampton Court. For over 20 years Webb's King's House remained a shell and the Grand Plan remained incomplete.

In 1660 Charles II had been restored as monarch after his long exile in France and Holland. He was imbued with continental ideas on art and planning and undoubtedly impressed by the splendour surrounding the Sun King. "Impecunious as he was, the prospect was irresistible" ... and he embarked on projects to embellish his Restoration with

French grandeur. Within a few weeks of his return, work had started on St. James' s Park, with the help of "a skilfull person from Paris", probably Andre Mollet, Le Nôtre's assistant, who was appointed with Gabriel Mollet, as the King's Gardeners in 1661. That year Charles visited his derelict palace at Greenwich, ordered it to be demolished and commissioned John Webb, pupil and relative of Inigo Jones, to design a new palace, and to repair and enlarge the Queen's House.

In August 1661 extension work started on the Queen's House; in July 1662 the Queen mother, Henrietta Maria, landed in England and proceeded to Greenwich; the following summer work started on laying the foundations for the 4 corner pavilions planned by Webb. The first designs for the palace were done in 1662, his first idea being a courtyard open to the river with parallel blocks and a crosswing with a large domed central building, which would have cut off the

Queen's House on the central axis. In 1663 Pepys reported: "At Greenwich I observed the foundation laying of a very great house for the King which will cost a great deal of money". But only the west block known as the King's House or Charles II Block was built. Funds ran out and work stopped in 1669 as it did also on the Queen's House, but it provided the starting point for the great baroque ensemble subsequently built up by Christopher Wren, Nicholas Hawksmoor, and John Vanbrugh.

Meanwhile the park was being remodelled and replanted appropriately. In August 1661 Sir William Boreman petitioned the King to be able to undertake the planting of the park and between September 1661 and June 1662 Boreman's accounts include the planting of 14 coppices, elms, birch, quicksetts, ivyberries, holly berries, digging and trenching, 600 elms for 7 walks, Chestnut trees from Lesnes Abbey, the formation





Samuel Pepys  
by J. Hayls 1666  
(©National Portrait Gallery)



Portrait of John Evelyn (1620-1706)  
after Nanteuil by Swain  
(©Wellcome Collection)

drawn with its 4 corner pavilions designed by Webb probably between 1662 and 1663 but never completed. At the top of the plan, at what would have been the foot of Greenwich Hill is a simple 7 arched feature or grotto. The plan is annotated in 2 hands, one of them said to be Le Nôtre's giving instructions and dimensions for the formation of the terraces. "They will send for me as they did for the terrace (?) and I shall make a little sketch plan as was done for terraces ABC" .. indicates that either this was the second drawing he had been involved with or that this plan was being sent back for the second time, and that he expected to continue working on the scheme and possibly intended to visit.

The layout of the adjoining southern part and the giant steps was by this time already accomplished. His involvement seems to have been limited to the Queen's House Parterre and the planting of the walks on either side which were carried

out between 1662 and 1665. His detailed proposals for the basins, fountains and flower beds were never realised. Possibly with reference to Greenwich, King Charles wrote to his sister Henriette at St. Cloud in October 1664: "Pray lett Le Nostre go on with the model and only tell him this addition that I can bring water to the top of the hill, so that he might add much to the beauty of the descente by a cascade of water". (It is most likely he was referring to Greenwich although it wasn't mentioned by name).

"They will send me as they did for the terrace... and I shall make a little sketch plan as was done for terraces ABC"



Detail of the Le Nôtre, design for a parterre in "Grenuche" by André Le Nôtre c. 1666 (©Bibliothèque de l'Institut de France.)



View from One Tree Hill  
by Jan Griffier c. 1690  
(©National Maritime Museum)

### 1669-1705

#### THE LATE 17th CENTURY AND THE COMPLETION OF THE “GRAND PLAN”

The Royal Palace remained unfulfilled but before a new use was found for the King's House and the impetus gained to complete the “Grand Plan”, Greenwich was assuming a new character independent of the court life that previously had given it identity. The park too acquired a new and dominant feature, Dr. Flamsteed's House, designed by Wren not as a part of the 1660's layout but replacing Duke Humphrey's tower.

By 1669 work on the park and the palace had come to a halt. Queen Henrietta Maria had left the Queen's House and returned to France and Charles is said to have turned his attention to Hampton Court as his principal palace. But others were interested in Greenwich; not only was it away from the plague ridden city, but the beauty of the site and the elegance of the new park attracted speculative building on the “waste” around the park and Blackheath, and elegant

houses were built along the western side. In 1672 Robert Hooke built the Gazebo on Crooms Hill for Sir William Hooker, Lord Mayor of London; it was built as a summer house tall enough to look over the park wall.

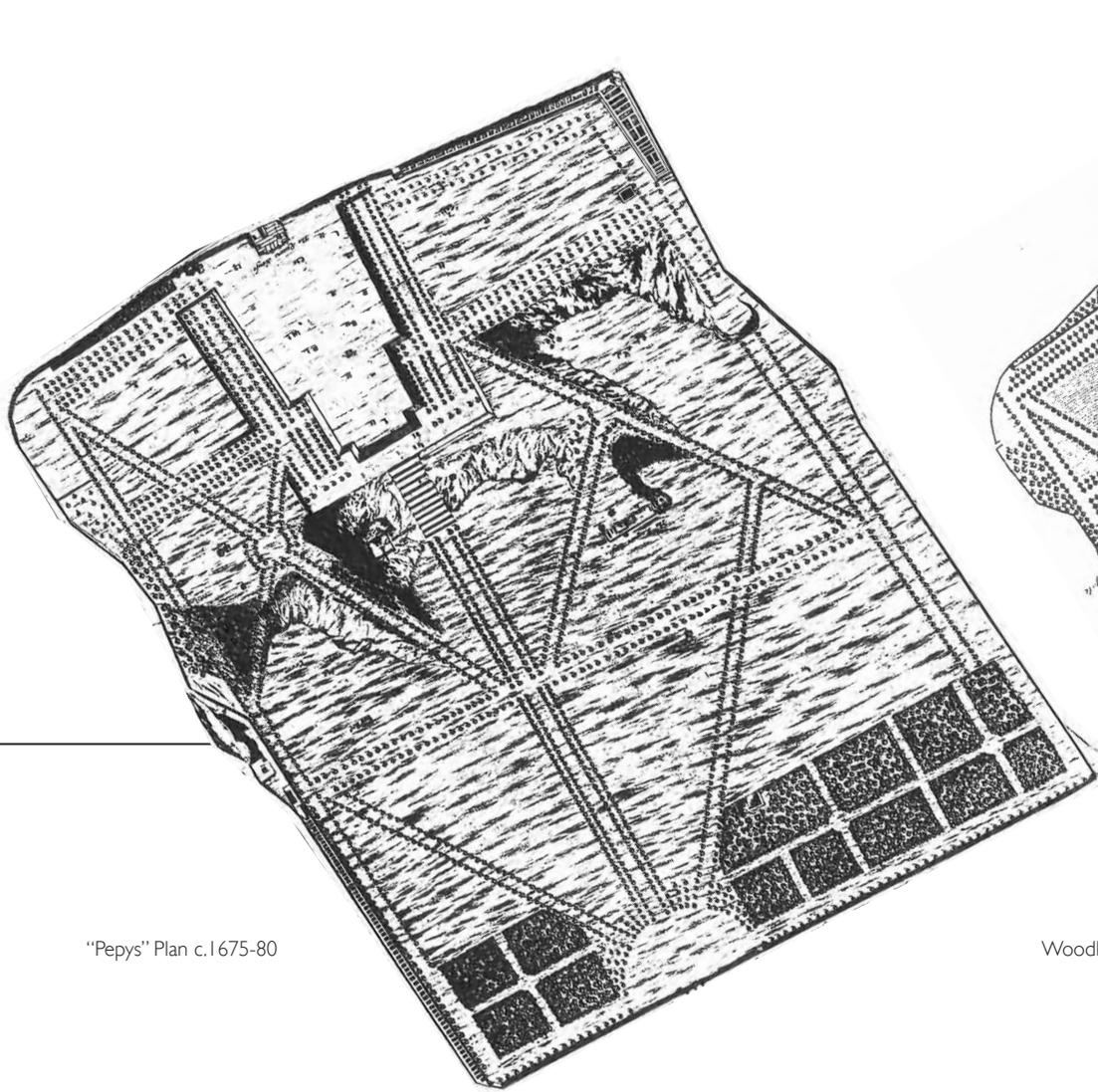
In 1675 the King appointed the Reverend John Flamsteed as the first Astronomer Royal “in order to the finding out of the longitude of places for perfect navigation and astronomy”. The site chosen “for the observator's habitation and a little for Pompe”<sup>17</sup> was on Wren's recommendation and to his design, on the foundations of Duke Humphrey's Tower on the high point of the park. Its opening in 1676 was celebrated by a set of 12 etchings by Francis Place among which is the earliest known map<sup>18</sup> of the replanned and replanted park.

<sup>17</sup>. Wren

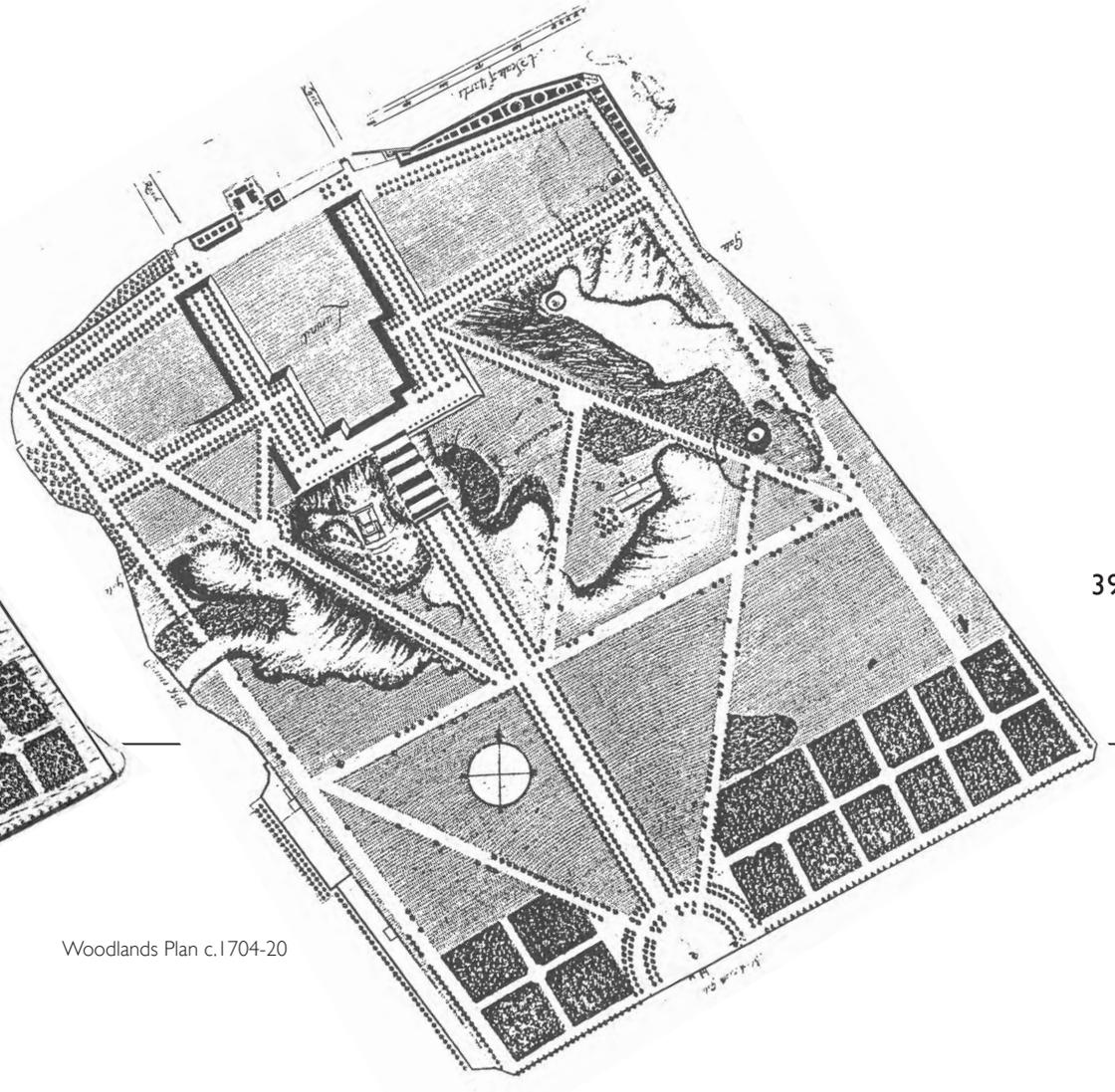
<sup>18</sup>. The map appears to have been done by someone else but a copy is bound with the etchings in the Pepys Library, Cambridge.

This plan shows the formal layout at its most complete, all the principal avenues, the ‘esplanade’ and terrace walks, the patte d'oie and 12 ascents. It appears that these ascents or “giant steps” had to be recut and reduced in number around this time; there are a number of anomalies in the plans and views of the park done between the 1680s and the early 1700s. There is one plan<sup>19</sup> of between 1704 and 1720 which concentrates on the park and shows gaps in the avenues, perhaps a result of the great storm of 1703 or demonstrating the difficulties tree establishment on the pervious and exposed southern plateau.

<sup>19</sup>. The plan is unsigned and undated, at the Greenwich Local History Library; referred to as the “Woodlands Plan”.



"Pepys" Plan c.1675-80



Woodlands Plan c.1704-20



Sir Christopher Wren  
by Sir G. Kneller 1711  
(©National Portrait Gallery)



East prospect of Dr. Flamsteed's House  
by J. Simon c. 1705  
(from LUC Greenwich Park Historical Survey 1986)

## 1705-1780

### THE 18th CENTURY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE PUBLIC PARK

James II who succeeded Charles II in 1685 showed no interest in Greenwich for his own personal use but was 'the first to suggest that the shell of the King's House should be put to some other use. In 1687 it was reported in a newsletter: "the King has given his house at Greenwich to that of the Trinity, to be fitted for the service of impotent sea-cormndanders and others". This idea was taken up by William and Mary and so was founded the institution that was to influence the history and character of the park for the next 200 years.

After the great English naval victory of La Hogue in 1692, the King's House was fitted up as a temporary building for the sick and wounded. 2 years later, Letters Patent vested the building and lands adjoining in Trustees to convert into a hospital modelled on Les Invalides and the Hospital for army pensioners recently opened at Chelsea, with Sir Christopher Wren as principal architect. In 1696 Evelyn

wrote: "with Sir Christopher Wren... I laid the first stone of the intended foundation... Mr. Flamsteed observing the punctual time by instruments". In 1705 the Royal Hospital was opened for pensioners, 42 seamen were admitted and "provided with clothes, diet and lodging and a small allowance for pocket money".<sup>20</sup> By 1796 the inmates numbered 2,350.

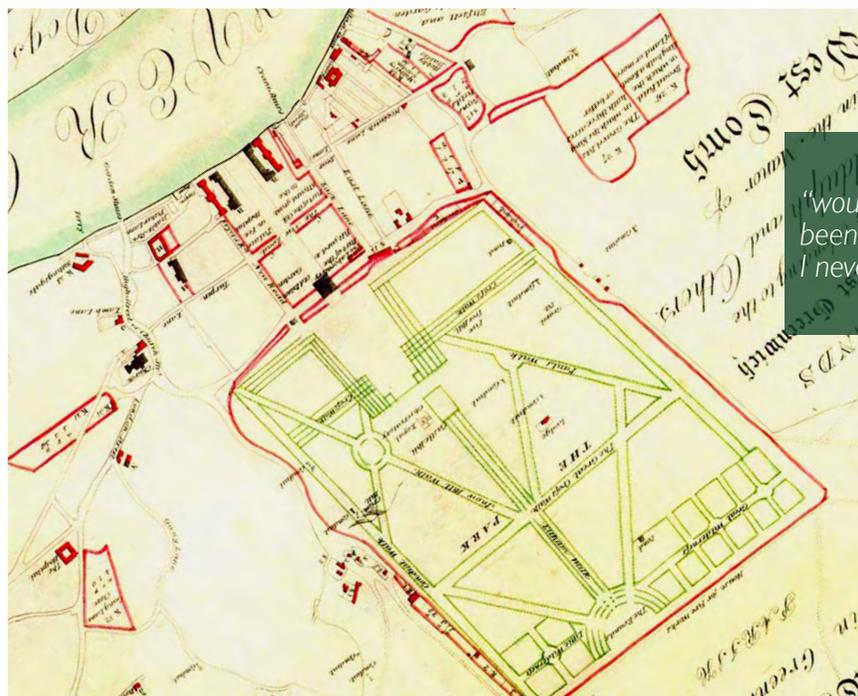
<sup>20</sup> Lysons *op.cit.* p.446

The Grand Plan was completed (between 1661 and 1664) for the benefit of pensioned sailors; these sailors, and the merchants and professional people attracted to live in "renaissance" Greenwich were, early in the 18th century, given access to the park and enjoyed the maturing avenues, "the Esplanades, walks, vistas, and plantations and lines of that beautiful Park".<sup>21</sup>

From about 1700 passes into the park were being issued to local residents and after the opening of the Royal Hospital in 1705, the seamen patients and their friends were probably given free access to it. Soon it became accessible to Londoners generally on holidays and especially popular in mid May and mid October when the Greenwich Fair was held "always remarkable for its riotous and disreputable character".<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Hawksmoor *Chrin.* 1728

<sup>22</sup> Webster *op.cit.* p.20



Samuel Travers Plan  
1695

The 19th century brought an intensification of the pressures of public use. Encroachments on the boundaries, enclosures within the park and other threats against its integrity stimulated local public opinion into organised protest. The main structure of the park, its avenues and plantations, at this time, nearly 150 years old, needed attention.

In the first years of the 19th century in Greenwich, attention was focused on Caroline, Princess of Wales, who lived as Ranger of the park in Montague House and there committed the alleged indiscretions which led to the "Delicate Investigation" into her behaviour. As far as the park was concerned there is no evidence that she involved herself in its administration, but for her own use and as an addition to the grounds of Montague House. In 1806 an area of 15 acres of park was enclosed made up of what had been the south west Wilderness and from then known as the Ranger's Field.

The condition attached was that it would be restored to the park on the first vacancy in the office of Ranger. This however did not happen on the death of the last Ranger, Earl Canning in 1862, but it was finally restored after several public appeals in 1897.

Several other issues concerning the park aroused local feeling and resulted in organised protest to H.M.'s Office of Woods through the Parish Vestry. First there was the yearly increasing nuisance of the Fairs ... "the numbers of the profligate part of the lower orders have been increased".<sup>25</sup> And that scenes commonly witnessed at the Fair "are offending against the best feelings of Christian morality". In 1825 the Parish petitioned unsuccessfully for the Fairs to be stopped. The Booths were set up and the "shows" took place actually outside the park wall on ground allocated to them; but the Ranger, Princess

25. Chron. 1825

Sophia seems to have had a certain sympathy for the Fair-goers and in 1831 ordered the park to be thrown open on Fair days.

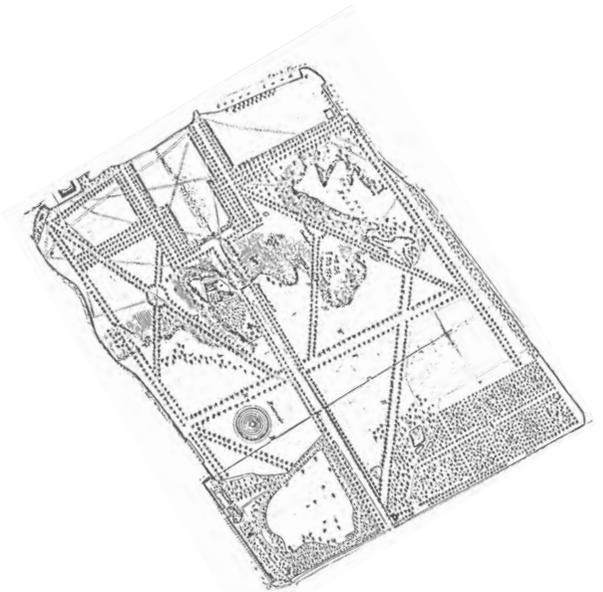
The concept of the park providing for an essential public need was well accepted by the parishioners of Greenwich. They held many protests against potential plans of encroachment on the park. By the 1850's it was stated "That as the public portion of the Royal Park has been so very much diminished, and the increase of population and buildings rendering it more important that the means in existence for the recreation of the public should be strictly preserved..."<sup>26</sup> Their biggest triumph was the battle against the Railway Viaduct which was planned to run across the north of the park following the opening of the London to Greenwich Railway in 1837. In 1878 the railway was put in a vibration proof tunnel under town and park.

26. Chron. 1857



scenes commonly witnessed at the Fair "are offending against the best feelings of Christian morality".

Tumbling on Observation Hill; detail from print by George Cruikshank (Greenwich Local History Library)



Sayer's Plan 1850

1806-1872

### THE 19th CENTURY AND PUBLIC PRESSURE

The Hanoverian monarchs apparently took little interest in the park and there is no evidence of any serious tree planting or replacement. But it was enormously popular especially on Fair days when... "great numbers of people come from London.. diverted themselves with running down the hill that fronts the palace.."23 and on quieter days 18th century prints show aged pensioners and disabled seamen strolling among the lofty trees, women and children with dogs chasing rabbits. Horace Walpole also was delighted by its beauty; in 1755 he wrote "would you believe I had never been in Greenwich Park? I never had, and am transported. Even the glories of Richmond and Twickenham hide their diminished heads".

It has been said that the park suffered a century of neglect from 1730 but map evidence indicates that tree losses were made good. Late 18th century accounts indicate that

23. Chron. 1730

although there were no major replanting schemes there was a considerable amount spent on general maintenance, and on the keeping of order in the park. In 1743 Lady Catherine Pelham was appointed Ranger and appears to have been concerned and active in her role.

Accounts for 1787-8 describe the staffing of the park and their duties that all indicate a continuous maintenance programme. It is difficult to establish exactly who was allowed into the park and when. By the 1780s there were 8 gates "many are useless and have no checks on them"24 and there were many false keys in circulation, so obviously whatever the regulations, the controls were not very effective. It appears that all those living in the neighbourhood had the right to a key and that on special days and holidays the gates were opened to the general public with extra men to guard the

24. Chron. 1788

entrances. In 1790 the underkeeper had to hire an extra man "to help withstand the violence of disorderly persons".

By the 1780s the deer, which according to the Headkeeper were becoming "in bred, small and unsound" were enclosed in the Wilderness during holiday times. No hay was grown in the park and all extra feeding had to be bought in. There was a proposal to cull them heavily and bring in new stock. It is not known if this was done. But somehow in spite of the great numbers of people visiting the park, the deer herd survived and remained at large in the park except for holidays, until Mr. Webster enclosed them in the Wilderness during the winter months for feeding and early summer for fawning. (They were finally permanently enclosed in the 1920s.)



THE PROPOSED GRAVESEND RAIL ROAD.  
OEO LANDMANN Eng. Topogr. OEO SMITH Eng. Architect.

Proposed Railway Viaduct 1837  
 (from LUC Greenwich Park Historical Survey 1986)

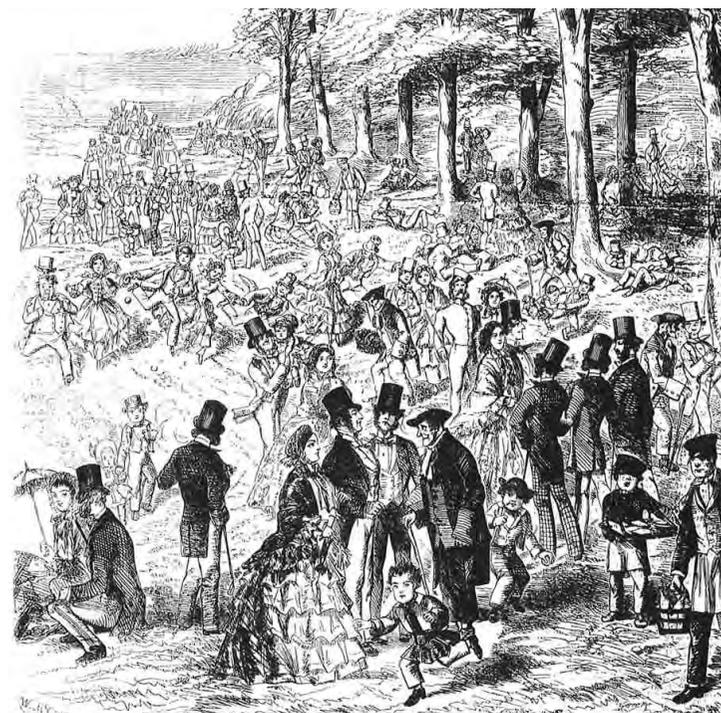
## 1879-2000 THE 20th CENTURY

The sorry state of the trees, fences, gates and benches was fully revealed in a report of 1817 which followed a tree survey of 1812. Of the 2,970 trees standing, only 20 were considered to be in a growing state, the rest were "at maturity, decaying or decayed". Unfortunately no large scale detailed maps of the park have been discovered between the late 18th century and the replanting of the park in the 1820s. The picture seems to be that there were considerable losses after the 1860s, with many trees suffering from atmospheric pollution, and some drastic lopping in the 1870s. By the time of the 3rd edition of the 25 Ordnance Survey surveyed in 1914-15 the main structural lines had been replaced, in the park, except in the southern quarter where there had obviously been a commitment to retaining the 19th century "ornamental grounds". The Rangers Field although now officially returned to the park was still enclosed by a fence.

The latter part of the century saw many improvements and attempts to regularize public admission and behaviour. The Greenwich Fair "*that old market of vice and debauchery*"<sup>27</sup> was closed down in 1857; the same year, the dirty stagnant pond on the east side was filled in; the old Keepers Cottage was demolished (1853) paths were levelled and gravelled. Locks were put on all private gates which were to be shut and locked at the same time as the public entrances.

Since its opening in 1676 the Royal Observatory had been an attraction for visitors and a major feature of the parks landscape. There were sometimes conflicts between the interests of the Astronomers Royal and park management and difficulties because of the status of the Royal Observatory independent of the park authorities. It expanded in the 1790s, several new buildings were added in the 19th century, and a

27. Chron. 1857



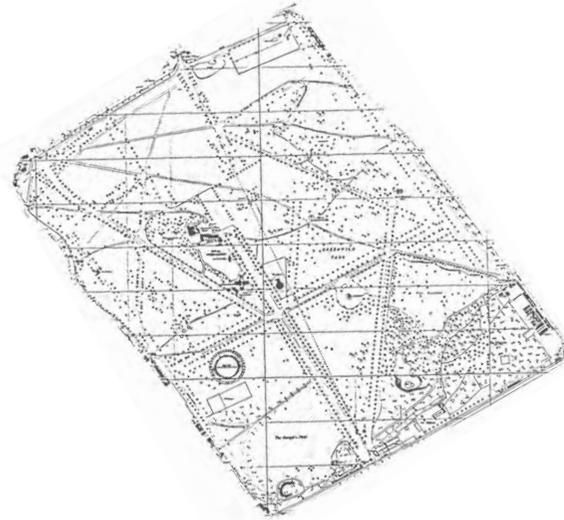
Whit Sunday in Greenwich  
 Park in 1835  
 (Greenwich Local History Library)

new enclosure made in 1897 for the building of a Magnetic Observatory at the junction of Bower Avenue and Lover's Walk. In 1884 the Observatory gained international status with the adoption of the meridian of zero longitude through Greenwich, and the increasing number of visitors caused a committee of the Parish Vestry to protest that the park was entitled to more care and attention in recognition of its importance.

The 1872 Act for the Regulation of the Royal Parks made little real difference to Greenwich Park which had been a truly 'public' park since the 1830s when the introduction of steam ships on the Thames, and the London to Greenwich Railway brought Londoners in great numbers, escaping from the grime and noise of the dense city streets. They came in their thousands to enjoy the fresh air of Greenwich and the avenues of stately trees.



Ordnance Survey Map  
1897



Ordnance Survey Map  
1968



Management Plan  
1998

The 20th century saw three main themes in Greenwich Park. The gradual improvement of facilities and the addition of amenities; the park gradually becoming recognised as an "historic" park; and the park management becoming involved with the restoration and conservation of the historic character. The century also saw conflict between the pressure of public use and access versus the quality of the environment. In the early twentieth century more lavatories were built (two such buildings have since been removed), games pitches and tennis courts were provided as well as a new refreshment kiosk. The playground and boating pond were made. Gates were repaired or replaced and parts of the park wall rebuilt. In the 1930s Queen's House became the National Maritime Museum and the park saw the construction of the Boating Lake. Against this background of rising tourism and historic interest in Greenwich generally (the Cutty Sark was opened to visitors in 1957), the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works

looked at the park with a view to restoring its "historic" plan. Decisions were postponed until the publication of the 7th report of the Advisory Committee on Forestry (1964) which concluded "*...every effort should now be made to restore the plan of the Park as nearly as possible to the layout shown in the 17th century print...Greenwich Park is still potentially the finest interpretation in England of a layout based on that grand European 17th century conception of design that governed also the grouping of the buildings leading to the river.*"

The integrity and quality of the park continued to be monitored by local groups. In 1959 the Greenwich Society was formed and successfully opposed a road improvement scheme through Crooms Hill. The Society helped to get an area including Greenwich Park and Blackheath designated as the first Conservation Area in London in 1967. A proposed 1968 road across the north of the park was also dropped

after local and national opposition. The Friends of Greenwich Park, established in 1992, played a major role in helping to protect the integrity of the park, including supporting several restoration projects. In 1993 the Rose Garden was redesigned with the support of the Friends of Greenwich Park.

The whole park, neighbouring properties and part of Greenwich town centre were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1997.

The closure of the Royal Naval College and its conversion to a charitable trust provided a site for the University of Greenwich and Trinity Laban School of Music. The Cutty Sark station opened in 1999 as part of the Docklands Light Railway extension southward and since it was opened Greenwich has become a significant hub due to the link with the Isle of Dogs financial centre.

## 2000-2018

## THE TURN OF THE 21st CENTURY

In 2011 the Borough gifted the land of the Queen's Orchard to TRP.

In 2012 Greenwich Park hosted the Equestrian, Modern Pentathlon and Paralympic Equestrian events for the London Olympic games.

To this day the park is still given a strong identity by the resilience of the "Grand Plan" design of the 17th century. The striking element of Greenwich is the fusion between the dramatic natural topography of the site and the formal artificial layout of its avenues. Its status as a Royal Park, as well as its integral relationship with the buildings within and adjoining the site gives the historic layout of Greenwich Park special significance, as identified in the World Heritage Site Management Plan.



< fig 8.  
PARK MASTERPLAN  
2018

## CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

A succession of settlers and invaders were attracted to Greenwich: Early British, Roman, Saxon and Danish. The tumuli in the park date possibly from the Bronze Age; a Roman road ran through the park (diverted by Duke Humphrey) and excavations of the Roman remains have produced evidence of a continuous Roman occupation of the site for nearly 400 years.

The historical record of Greenwich Park is rich in visual images, plans and prints from the end of the 17th century onwards. These convey the essential elements of its evolution - the distinctive landform, the pattern of the formal avenues, the vistas and views of the river and the City, the Observatory, the notorious behaviour of crowds at the fair, and the gathering of one-legged sailors and other inmates of the Royal Naval Hospital, in the foreground of one of this country's greatest architectural achievements. And yet the detail of this evolution is not so well recorded. There is relatively little about the form and condition of the Deer Park and its relationship to the Tudor Palace; and even in subsequent developments, written accounts are limited and are often conflicting or contradictory. Despite the wealth of visual material, the history of Greenwich Park still requires a degree of careful interpretation.

Greenwich has particular prestige for its direct associations with Royalty. Henry VIII and Queen Mary and Elizabeth I were born there and it formed the stage for much Royal activity and interest until the Commonwealth. Its architectural achievements involved some of the country's greatest architects. The park, however, although respected and revered was never recognised to be a major work in its own right. It is unusual for being a survivor of the mid 17th century, rather than being an example of good design, but can no longer be seen truly in its original form since it has absorbed so many incremental changes. Nevertheless, the structure has survived and this pattern, with its anomalies and irregularities, remains an important historical record - one which is given even greater force by the ancient specimens of sweet chestnut which still form parts of the avenues.

The park is notable for its association with the great French designer Andre Le Nôtre even though his design related only to a small portion of the park and was only partially

implemented. Had Le Nôtre's parterres, fountains and arches, or Charles II's intended cascade been constructed, then the whole presence of Greenwich might have been altered; the development of the new prestigious palace would possibly not have been shelved and the relationship between the park, the palace and the people would undoubtedly have been different. As it was, Charles's enthusiasm in Greenwich as a palace waned but Royal interest was revived in the separate initiatives of the Observatory and the Royal Hospital and eventually the park passed to the people.

## MONUMENTS AND MAIN ARTEFACTS

There are a number of small-scale structures and artefacts that form part of the built landscape of the park.

**General Wolfe Statue:** was erected in 1930 at the crest of the Giant Steps on the grand axis midway between the Queen's House and Blackheath Gate. It is Grade II listed and is the most significant statue in the park and an important part of the character of Greenwich. The monument is excellently located.

**Henry Moore's sculpture 'Standing Figure; Knife Edge':** erected in 1979 is one of the few modern artefacts within the park. This sculpture is owned by the Henry Moore Foundation and on licence to TRP.

**Fountains:** The park contains several ornamental fountains. The Rustic Fountain near Lovers' Walk is known to have been in existence by 1863. A pink granite drinking fountain (1894) was erected at the junction of Great Cross Avenue and Blackheath Avenue. The Herb Garden fountain was donated by the Friends in 2000. Three drinking fountains, funded by Tiffany & Co via the Royal Parks Foundation were installed in 2013/14 to replace older, utilitarian fountains at Blackheath Avenue, St. Marys Gate and Park Row Gate

### Main Challenges:

*The area that provides the setting for the General Wolfe Statue is the main pivot for visitors to this area of the park. It is in serious need of detailed review and enhancement.*

*A number of small but important artefacts remain poorly presented and deserve better recognition.*

*The setting of the pink granite fountain is at odds with its function.*

*Both the pink granite fountain and Rustic Fountain are easily accessible and are not in working order.*

*Need for controlled layout and location of temporary displays.*

## ARCHAEOLOGY

TRP adopted a Archaeological Management Strategy in 2018 to provide suitable protection for known and poorly understood features using a traffic light system to identify areas of potential archaeological significance.

An analytical field survey of the visible archaeology of the park, complemented by documented research was completed by RCHME in 1994. The work was published as two volumes and includes a gazetteer of monuments located during the field survey. Further archaeological survey work was completed in preparation for the 2012 Olympics which has added to the knowledge about the parks resource. A geophysical survey, LiDAR survey and drone photography have also been undertaken of the site of the Romano-British building and the Anglo-Saxon barrow cemetery. Information on the archaeological resource is therefore good and the park is considered to have some outstanding archaeological monuments. The interpretative potential of the archaeological resource is high and it is recommended that further information is available to the public.

Any proposals for change need consultation with Historic England but the presumption is for no change.

### Main Challenges:

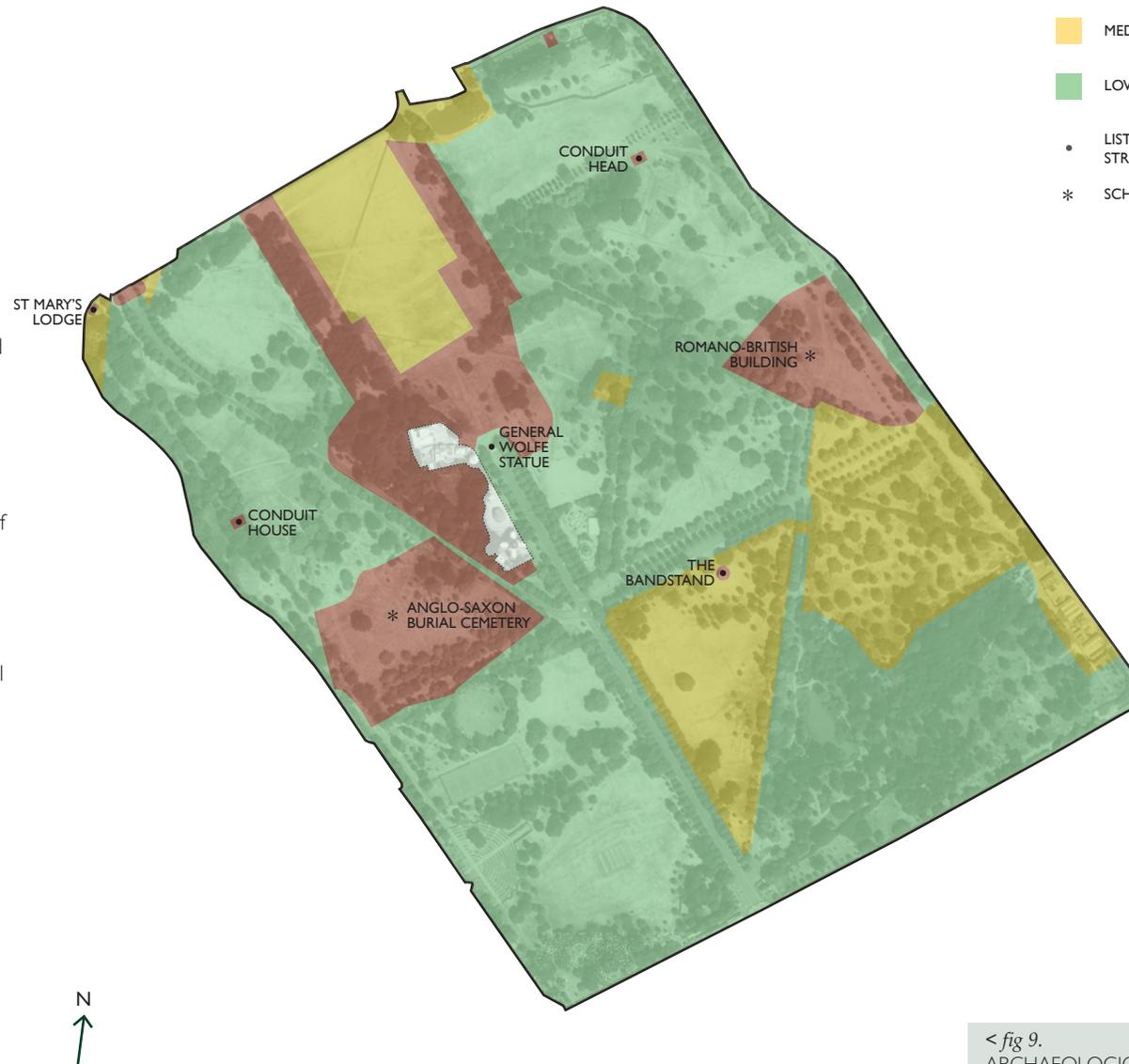
*To work to protect and enhance the historic environment through active engagement and use of the archaeological mapping tools available and give due consideration to the potential effects their works may have on the historic environment.*

*The historic environment is a finite and fragile resource which requires appropriate measures to ensure its preservation for this and future generations. To continue to be at the forefront in protecting and promoting the historic environment within our parks.*

TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM OF HERITAGE POTENTIAL/  
HERITAGE ASSET SIGNIFICANCE

- HIGH** -This is the highest category of archaeological potential or significance, whereby any works should be preceded by appropriate archaeological consultation and assessment and, where works are unavoidable, archaeological mitigation should be agreed. Areas which have been assigned to the Red Category have the greatest known significance or the potential to contain heritage assets of significance or fragility/ sensitivity to change.
  
- MEDIUM** -This category covers most of the known archaeological assets within the parks where there is no demonstrable evidence for prior truncation or disturbance and that heritage assets of significance could exist. Any ground works should have been preceded by appropriate consideration of the archaeological implications and any necessary archaeological enabling works implemented. Known assets may vary in significance or may be resistant to change.
  
- LOW** - This category covers substantial areas of Parks of lower archaeological risk and most works can proceed without archaeological consideration. It comprises areas where there has been substantial prior development or truncation which has removed most potential for heritage assets to exist within the vicinity or prior archaeological investigations have ruled out the potential for heritage assets. Also includes heritage assets which are highly resistant to change.

- KEY**
- HIGH
  - MEDIUM
  - LOW
  - LISTED BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES
  - SCHEDULED MONUMENTS



< fig 9.  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
IMPORTANCE

## BOUNDARIES AND GATES

The enclosing boundary wall is an important part of the historic landscape fabric of the park and is a Grade II listed structure. The walls have a quadrennial condition survey undertaken by a building surveyor. A detailed study of the wall and gateways was completed in 1984 and has subsequently been updated as part of the Condition Survey (Tarmac, 1996). Detailed information on the history of the wall and its construction can be found in the Greenwich Park Historical Survey (Land Use Consultants, 1986). The main points of interest are summarised below.

The overall length of the perimeter is 3.58 km; 2.6 km of this is bounded by the wall, the remainder by railings. The height of the wall varies from 1.8m to over 4m. The areas of railings occur in four sections: along the eastern side between Maze Hill Gate and Maze Hill House Gate; around Creed Place Gate; on the western boundary between Circus Gate and George St. Gate and in a small section just to the north of Croom's Hill Gate. There are thirteen gateways into the park, two of which, Blackheath Gate and St. Mary's Gate, permit public vehicle access. There is also controlled vehicular access direct into the Nursery from Maze Hill and Park Row Gate can be opened if necessary for limited maintenance access. The remainder are pedestrian gates. The number and location of gates as entrances are considered to be sufficient to meet present day needs.

In summary the survey of the wall showed that it is not a homogeneous element but has developed through time, with much patching, repair work and rebuilding. Very little, if any, is the original seventeenth century construction 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 considerable variety and interest, although inevitably, with local variation, this process has also produced some bad practices and poor visual results.

The railings, which form more than one quarter of the boundary length, are almost all modern replicas. They are generally in reasonable condition although some such as those on Croom's Hill are not well detailed. Along Maze Hill the replacement of the wall by railings has had a particularly

detrimental effect; this part of the park lacks a sense of enclosure with views out dominated by passing traffic.

### *Main Challenges:*

*A rolling programme of sensitive repairs and maintenance to boundaries and gates. Any further replacement of the wall with railings should be prevented.*

*Reinforce screening and sense of enclosure by shrub planting along some sections of railings, particularly those on Maze Hill. In other areas it will be important to maintain the views beyond the park and further screen planting will not be appropriate.*

## FURNITURE AND SIGNAGE

A variety of furniture (litter bins, benches and signage) has been introduced into the park to facilitate public use. Litter bins/ dog bins: these are now all box bins which have a fairly uniform distribution throughout the park sited alongside the main paths and roads. The style and capacity of bins is in under review within the park. Repair, replacement and local re-siting of litter bins will require sensitive attention in relation to landscape, landform and vistas.

**Bins:** The cast iron bin whilst of a heritage character are small. There has been a proliferation of poorly sited litter bins in response to increasing visitor pressure and associated refuse. The large number of small capacity bins are a management problem. There is currently no separation of recyclable material on site.

**Benches:** are distributed throughout the park. Most benches are Victorian cast iron type (O'Brien Thomas) although a few timber benches are in the Rose Garden and the Queen's Orchard. While this is appropriate in Blackheath Avenue, the Rose Garden and the Flower Garden. Overall, the number of benches in the park appears to be more than adequate. A trial is in place to replace the painted wooden bench slats with natural finish teak slats. This significantly reduces the maintenance costs and present benches in better condition.

**Railings:** There are several km of railing in the park of varying designs. Most are bow-top or bow-top interlace although estate type railings occur around Castle Hill. New estate railings enclose the elegant building of St. Marys Lodge which

is an improvement on the previous steel-box railings. Some railings have a clear function e.g. around the playground and Flower Garden where they function to exclude dogs but others appear to have no clear purpose. There is a cost to maintain and repair these railings. An audit is required to determine the purpose and value of all railing on site and recommend some for removal.

**Signage:** Within the park there are map and information boards at all the main entrances, direction signs and restrictive signs and traffic management signs. Whilst most signs follow TRP guidelines there are inconsistencies and some directional signs are now dated. As a whole, signage within the park needs to be reviewed.

There are signs relating to traffic in the park including standard highways signage, speed restrictions etc. This has been kept to a minimum and reduced in size while conforming to the required necessary Highways standards. Incremental addition of signing relating to different components of the park and its use can also cumulatively have an adverse impact on the character of the park and effectively present it as a series of uncoordinated and unconnected uses/ facilities e.g. the Royal Observatory Greenwich and National Maritime Museum signs and Royal Park signs or segregated users signage.

This problem may be compounded with the introduction of a further layering of signage in relation to proposed features or facilities. There is insufficient interpretation throughout the park, with interpretation panels at only the Roman Temple, Rose Garden, Queen Caroline's Bath and the herb garden. Of these, only the Roman Temple and herb garden panels are consistent with TRP design guidelines.

### *Main Challenges:*

*Ensuring that signage and furniture is appropriate for its setting.*

*There is a need for a comprehensive signage strategy and on going cooperation with neighbours.*

*Need for a comprehensive audit and review of railings and bins within the park - recycling bins should be explored.*

### ROAD AND PATH NETWORK

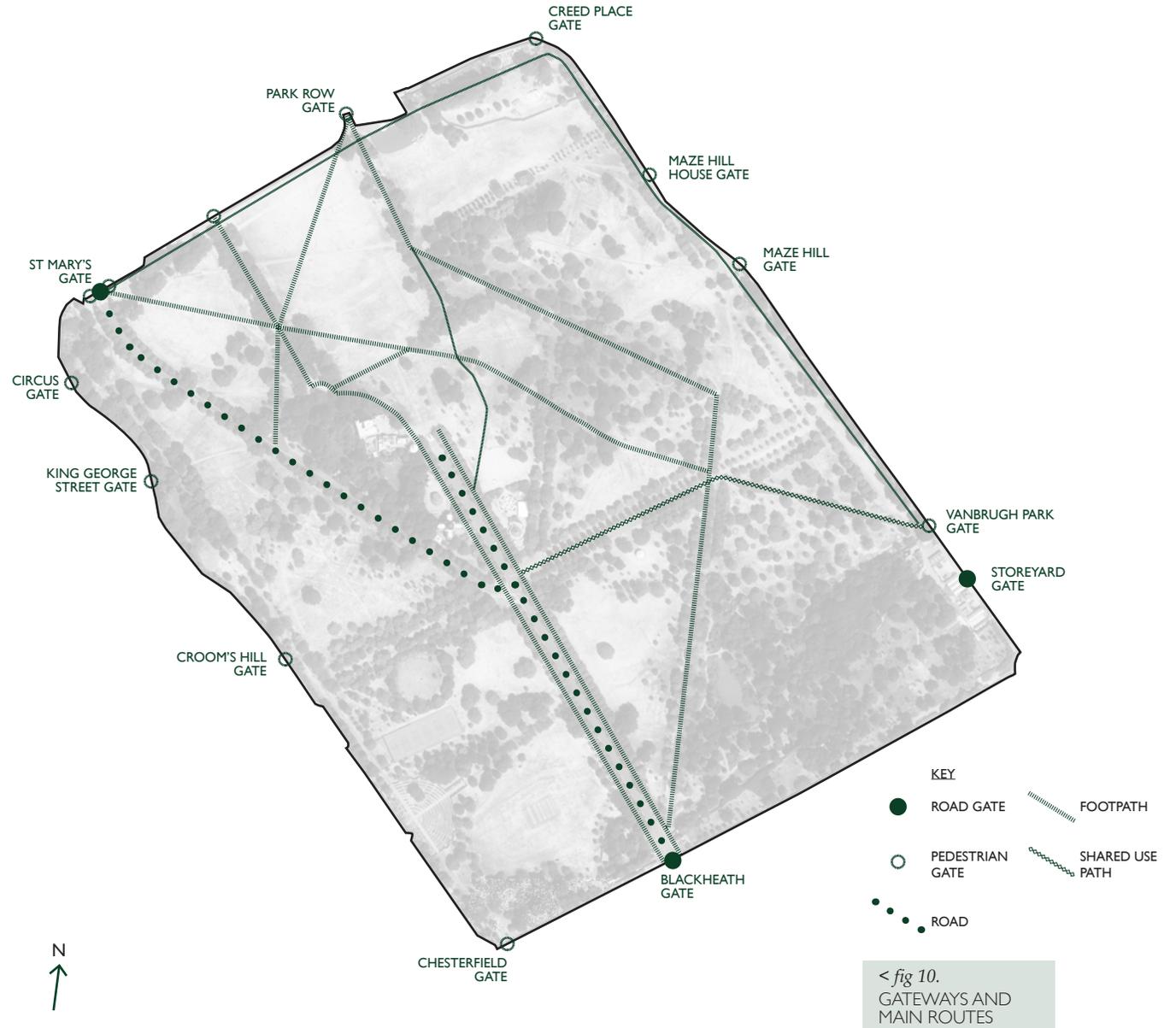
The Historical Survey (Land Use Consultants, 1986) recorded a total of 17.07 kilometres of surfaced footpath and 1.24 kilometres of public carriageway within the park. These varied in width from 15 metres in the case of the Avenue (roadway plus adjacent pavements), to some of the more recent paths in the north-western part of the park which are little more than 1 metre width. Other hard surfacing, which includes the tennis courts and playground amounted to some 2.02 hectares in total.

The public carriageways, surfaced with red asphalt are generally lined on either side by grey tarmac footpaths at the same level as the road, but demarcated by wide dished gutters formed from several rows of granite setts. Car parking is confined to Blackheath Avenue (full length in bays on both sides of the road) and at the intersection with Great Cross Avenue (providing here marked bays for special needs users). The whole of the carriageways and car park were resurfaced in 2013. The majority of the footpaths are surfaced with grey tarmac, with a few local exceptions. Many of the paths are historically long established, although numerous paths have been established during the twentieth century, including most notably, additions and widening of the path from St. Mary's gate to the foot of Castle Hill.

Generally, in functional terms the existing layout works well, providing adequate pedestrian routes between the main attractions in the park. However, in some areas, most notably the lawn in front of Queen's House, diagonal paths cut across the main axis and are visual counterpoint to the axiality of the landscape.

Bower Avenue, having been widened in the late 20th century was reduced to its original width in 2013. This has improved the view along one of the parks finest avenues, setting the trees back in the landscape and improving the root zone beneath the tree canopy. There is also a need to undertake improvements to the viewing area around the Wolfe Statue to meet the anticipated increase in visitor numbers.

The footpath from Croom's Hill Gate to The Avenue crosses the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery cutting into two of the barrows. Historic England has requested the removal of this path.



< fig 10.  
GATEWAYS AND  
MAIN ROUTES

There are two flights of steps on One Tree Hill, both are of an urban construction or tarmac and road kerbs, at odds with the natural landscape setting. Similarly there is a tarmac footpath that bisects the Roman Temple Scheduled Monument that connects Maze Hill Gate to Bower Avenue.

Pedestrian access via Blackheath Gate is a concern where pedestrian footpath opens into a car park leading to conflict at this main access to the park.

#### *Main Challenges:*

*Any change to design of the path system has to be sympathetic to the landscape setting while responding to intensity of use (e.g. start of the London Marathon). Large expanses of hard surfacing are visually intrusive including large areas of tarmac at some entrances and at 'starburst' path junctions (e.g. at the foot of One Tree Hill, below Castle Hill and at Blackheath Gate/Bower Avenue).*

*The footpath network has a number of surface treatments; red tarmac, black tarmac, resin bonded gravel and tar-spray and chip which does not give unity to the park design.*

*Poorly detailed steps on One Tree Hill.*

*Deterioration of structural and visual quality of some paths.*

*Unsatisfactory transitions and poor quality finishes of different surfacing styles and lack of clear character-based rationale for their (piecemeal) distribution.*

## BUILDINGS AND MAIN STRUCTURES

The main buildings within the park excluding the Royal Observatory complex - managed by the Royal Museums Greenwich are predominantly small scale domestic structures, and are generally situated around the periphery of the park.

**St. Mary's Lodge:** (c.1821) is a Grade II listed slightly ornamental cottage located in the north-west corner of the park adjacent to St. Mary's Gate. It has 2-storey central block projecting in a half-octagon with 3 windows with 1-storey, 1-window side wings. It has a low pitched slated roof with hipped ends, an over projection and deep eaves soffit

with curved brackets. On the 1st floor there are stuccoed walls, low segment-headed casement windows with glazing bars. On the ground floor there are round arched windows, replaced casements with bars under radial heads. There is a projecting central porch with a low gable, angle pilasters, a cornice band and a plain modern door.

It was originally provided as residential accommodation for park staff. The small white building in the spirit of a cottage orné is currently converted to provide a café.

**Blackheath Gate (Superintendent's) Lodge:** (c.1850) lies on the east side of Blackheath Gate and is a finely ornamented two-storey Victorian lodge, currently let as a private tenancy. It features on Royal Greenwich's List of Buildings of Local Architectural or Historic Interest (the 'Local List') and is currently let as a private tenancy.

**Office and Storeyard:** is a modern functional group of brick buildings and enclosure located on the west side of the Blackheath Gate entrance. It provides the office accommodation for the Greenwich Park staff, OCU (Police) and buildings maintenance team.

**The Standard Reservoir Conduit House:** (c.1780) is a Grade II\* Listed small brick building located close to the King George Street gate, which holds a water tank and is part of the substantial network of known conduits that underlie the park. This and Conduit Head are thought have been designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, Clerk of Works at Greenwich between 1698 and 1735.

Plan: Rectangular single storey above ground structure with projecting gable ends over a vaulted reservoir:

Exterior: The north and south gable ends have higher projecting gabled walls. The north or entrance front has a central pedimented gable with round-headed arched apsed recess below. Stone plaques above the apse in a raised panel are inscribed "Greenwich Hospital Standard Reservoir". The round-headed arched central entrance has stone impost blocks and a 20th century ledged plank door. There are brick piers at the edges of the pediment with ramped-down sections of brick walling ending in further brick piers which are partially chamfered. The sides have lower brick walls with moulded brick band and circular iron ties. The south end has

a plainer gable with two end piers with pyramidal brick caps and two blocked Tudor-arched window openings. The brick walls of the conduit house, particularly the ends, are heavily covered with graffiti of varying dates and styles spanning two hundred years, from the late 18th century, for example EDWARD 1770; M Pinfold 1775. The earliest inscriptions are in well cut Roman letters, but 19th and 20th century examples are less legible.

Interior: Behind the entrance is a semi-circular niche barring access into the building. The roof structure was replaced in the later 20th century. The above ground structure retains iron tie bars and some cast iron pipes. The basement reservoir has a brick vaulted chamber. The adjoining conduits are not included in the listing.

**Conduit Head under One Tree Hill:** A smaller structure, the Conduit Head, remains to the north of One Tree Hill and is Grade II Listed. Both conduit structures are thought to date to the late 17th or early 18th century. The full extent of the network remains uncertain although some sections have been examined and investigated by RCHME and others.

Plan: A semi-circular shaped brick and stone wall set in sloping ground, originally the entrance to a conduit running north to south under One Tree Hill but now blocked.

Exterior: It comprises a central block, flanked by curving arms which slope downwards to ground level. The central block is 2.2 meters high and 2.2 meters wide. It is constructed of yellow brick in Flemish bond but with some red brick quoins and arch voussoirs. There is a central round-headed arch 1.35 meters high and 0.75 meters wide with a stone keystone and three other stone quoins. A stone band incorporates the keystone and there is a flat stone coping. A stone plaque above the arch has an inscription which is now illegible. The arched opening was blocked in red brick in header bond in the 1980s or 1990s with reused bricks. The arms are of yellow brick in Flemish bond and are butt-jointed to the central block suggesting they are later additions but still 18th century. They have a 20th century concrete coping. Alongside the stone coping the curved brick roof of the conduit can be glimpsed, although the conduit is now inaccessible. In 1902 it was recorded that a branch ran eastwards in the direction of Maze Hill.

Interior: The entrance has been blocked in brick and there is no access. The conduits beneath are not included in the listing.

**The Bandstand:** was erected in 1891. Cast by the Coalbrookdale Company it includes some fine iron work and is a Grade II listed structure.

**The Pavilion Café:** is located in the centre of the park. This octagonal teahouse was constructed in 1906 and is architecturally of interest as its former counterparts in Hyde Park and Bushy Park (of similar vintage and design) have both been removed.

The Pavilion Café is an octagonal stuccoed brick structure capped by a tall, octagonal, peaked roof surrounded by an enclosed porch. The porch enclosure is formed by glazed doors between columns that support the corners of the porch roof. On the north side, the porch extends further northwards surrounding a gable-roofed extension of the main pavilion.

It features on Royal Greenwich's List of Buildings of Local Architectural or Historic Interest (the 'Local List').

**The Old Nursery and Storeyard:** situated in the south-east corner of the park, contains a number of utilitarian structures including workshops and glasshouses. Some of this area is now disused and the buildings lie derelict.

**Cricket Pavilion:** Was originally built in 1966 and extensively refurbished in 2009 and now is less at odds with its setting than formerly. It provides important facilities for clubs when in the park.

**The Boating Lake:** (1930s) a concrete construction now leaking. It has been popular with local visitors for many years.

**The Playground Kiosk:** dating from the 1950s the octagonal brick kiosk provides seasonal beverages and light refreshments.

**Blackheath Gate Kiosk:** A wooden structure, poorly located and historically has not traded well.

**The Wildlife Centre:** This area was once the Police Dog Training Area and the long bulb store building. The bulb store

has been converted into the Wildlife Centre, an education and activity resource, with deer viewing hide, toilet, kitchen and multipurpose meeting room. The wooded area accessible from the rear of the building includes a nature trail. The facility is used by the Friends of Greenwich Park Wildlife Group. Educational visits are delivered in partnership with the Field Studies Council. Despite its value and use the centre provides a poor facility.

**Vanbrugh Lodge:** A lodge located next to Vanbrugh Gate is currently let as a private residence.

**Public Conveniences:** WC facilities are provided in three locations, in the children's playground, at the rockery mound near Blackheath Gate and adjacent to the Observatory Garden. The latter building was constructed in 1907 as the lower store house for the Observatory and was converted as public lavatories in c. 1950. The others are small purpose built buildings.

**Strologo Shelter:** (1938) The wooden shelter Rectangular, hip-roofed shelter of dark-stained wood, set on a concrete slab. With benches facing in four directions. It is situated north of the junction of Blackheath Avenue and Bower Avenue.

**The Reservoir:** This structure was constructed by the Admiralty in 1846 to convey water to Deptford Dock, the Victualling Yards and the Royal Naval Hospital. It was covered over in 1871 and has subsequently developed considerable nature conservation interest.

There are several Grade I listed buildings and structures located within the Royal Observatory Greenwich, all of which are the responsibility of the National Maritime Museum. These comprise Flamsteed House and the Transit Houses, the former Great Equatorial building, the wall and the clock.

*Main Challenges:*

*Exploring the location and landscape around the Blackheath Gate toilet block could be considered to allow the original tree planting plan (The Rounds) to be restored.*

*The Pavilion Tea House store facility is poorly sited and detracts from the historic avenue of trees. Consideration should be given to removing this and incorporating the store into the tea house.*

*The catering kiosk on Blackheath Avenue is poorly sited and could be relocated.*

*Options to retain boating activity, improve the sustainability and biodiversity of the Boating Lake should be explored.*

*The Wildlife Centre provides a poor quality education facility and new spaces for learning and volunteers will be explored.*





*'Where burthen'd Thames reflect the crowded sail  
Commercial care and busy toil prevail  
Whoese murky veil, aspiring to the skies  
Obscures thy beauty, and thy form denies  
Save where thy spires pierce the doubtful air  
As gleams of hope amidst a world of care'*

JOSEPH MALLORD WILLIAM TURNER  
1775-1851

## ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

This section describes the 'living' components that have come to make up the essential character of Greenwich Park.

These different living elements are found across the park and together create the specific and the distinctive character of Greenwich Park.

### Ecological Value:

ecological value is based on the understanding that biodiversity encompasses all the plants and animals that are present within a given place, the habitats they need to survive, and the processes that operate in the natural environment.

For humans, biodiversity is our natural heritage and is what we depend on and can often benefit from. These range widely, providing cultural, social (health and wellbeing) and economic benefits.

## ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The park, has been identified as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation. The main features of nature conservation interest are the veteran trees with their associated invertebrates and acid grassland with importance recognised at national level. The areas of secluded woodland habitat in the Wilderness are also of great interest, as is the grassland that has developed on the covered reservoir. The location of the park on a migration flyway through London ensures that it continues to attract a diverse and interesting collection of bird species. Further detail on the main habitats follow below.

## GEOLOGY AND SOILS

At Greenwich the chalk of the London basin is overlain by later strata belonging to the Eocene epoch. The oldest of these is the Thanet Sands which forms a relatively narrow band running across the lawns on the lower plain in the northern part of the park. Overlying these to the south are the Woolwich and Reading Beds which outcrop along the lower slopes of the escarpment. These beds are composed of a variable series of impermeable clays, loams, sands and pebble beds locally cemented into sandstone or conglomerate. The most extensive deposits capping the whole of the southern plateau of the park are the Blackheath Beds which are composed of pebblebeds and sand often cemented by fossil or siliceous material into conglomerate or puddingstone. The beds have been worked extensively for gravel both on Blackheath Common and the southern part of Greenwich Park. The workings are manifest in the landscape as small hummocks and hollows. The permeable Blackheath Beds are harder and more resistant to erosion and form the high ground and steep scarp slopes within Greenwich Park. The youngest strata are the flood plain gravels, a Pleistocene drift deposit which sits on the Thames flood plain terrace. The gravels extend from the edge of the River under the Old Royal Naval College and the Queen's House and form a narrow band along the northern boundary of the park.

The Greenwich Fault follows the line of the northern boundary of the park and forms part of a series faults and disturbances occurring in the neighbourhood. The downthrow is on the northern side and has affected all Eocene Beds.

The fault is overlain by the more recent Pleistocene deposits of flood plain gravels.

The soils reflect the underlying geology and are generally sandy and gravelly. They are generally of low fertility and acidic soil. The soil of the lower ground, the Rangers Field, the Flower Gardens and alongside paths where disturbance (and in some cases imported soils have been used) are 'improved' and are subject to more intensive management and treatments. Most are free draining, particularly those to the south and have a tendency to dry out during summer months. The soils are vulnerable to erosion and compaction. In some places the presence of an iron pan is evident in local flooding after heavy rain.

### Main Challenges:

*Maintenance of appropriate soil moisture levels for the successful and attractive growth of plants to the level of robustness required. Establishment of trees in particular requires careful attention to watering for several years.*

*Underlying permeable Blackheath Beds (pebblestone & sand) with associated drainage issues.*

*How to support biodiversity that is based on the geology and soils but also determined by use of the park by visitors. The density of use in Greenwich Park is greater than most Royal Parks and includes a particularly high usage by dog walkers. Ground nesting birds for instance are absent.*

*Generally across the park the pH levels of the soil are low (acidic) apart from pockets of alkalinity at the Reservoir.*

## HYDROLOGY, DRAINAGE AND CONDUITS

The lack of surface run-off in the park can be attributed to the permeability of the Blackheath Beds and Thanet Sands. Springs emerge from the scarp slopes at the junction of the Blackheath Beds and the Woolwich Beds and have contributed to the formation of the distinctive combe topography. Although elaborate proposals were put forward during the 1660's to develop cascades flowing down the hill in the location of the Giant Steps these were never implemented and water as a design feature has only modest significance within the park. Water bodies are restricted to

the small lake in the Flower Garden developed in the late 19th century from a former gravel pit and the boating pond, constructed in 1930, in the north east part of the park. In 2011 a pond was added in the wildlife area near the flower garden and in 2012 an additional three small ponds were added; one near the deer viewing area of the Flower Garden and two in the Queens Orchard. All ponds are rain water fed.

The water quality of the Flower Garden Lake is poor; the lake suffering from high nutrient load from; tap water, leaf fall and waterfowl. Some floating reed beds were installed in 2012 and have established but water quality and biodiversity are still poor.

From at least the 13th century, the springs have been diverted into underground conduits, to supply water to properties along the Thames frontage. The underground passages were extended and enlarged during the 17th century and later during the 19th to provide a supply of water for the Old Royal Naval College and later for the Admiralty. The extensive networks of underground conduits are a significant archaeological feature.

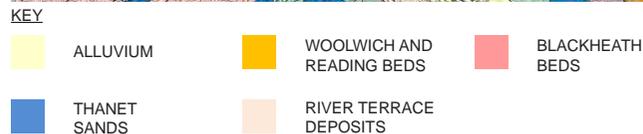
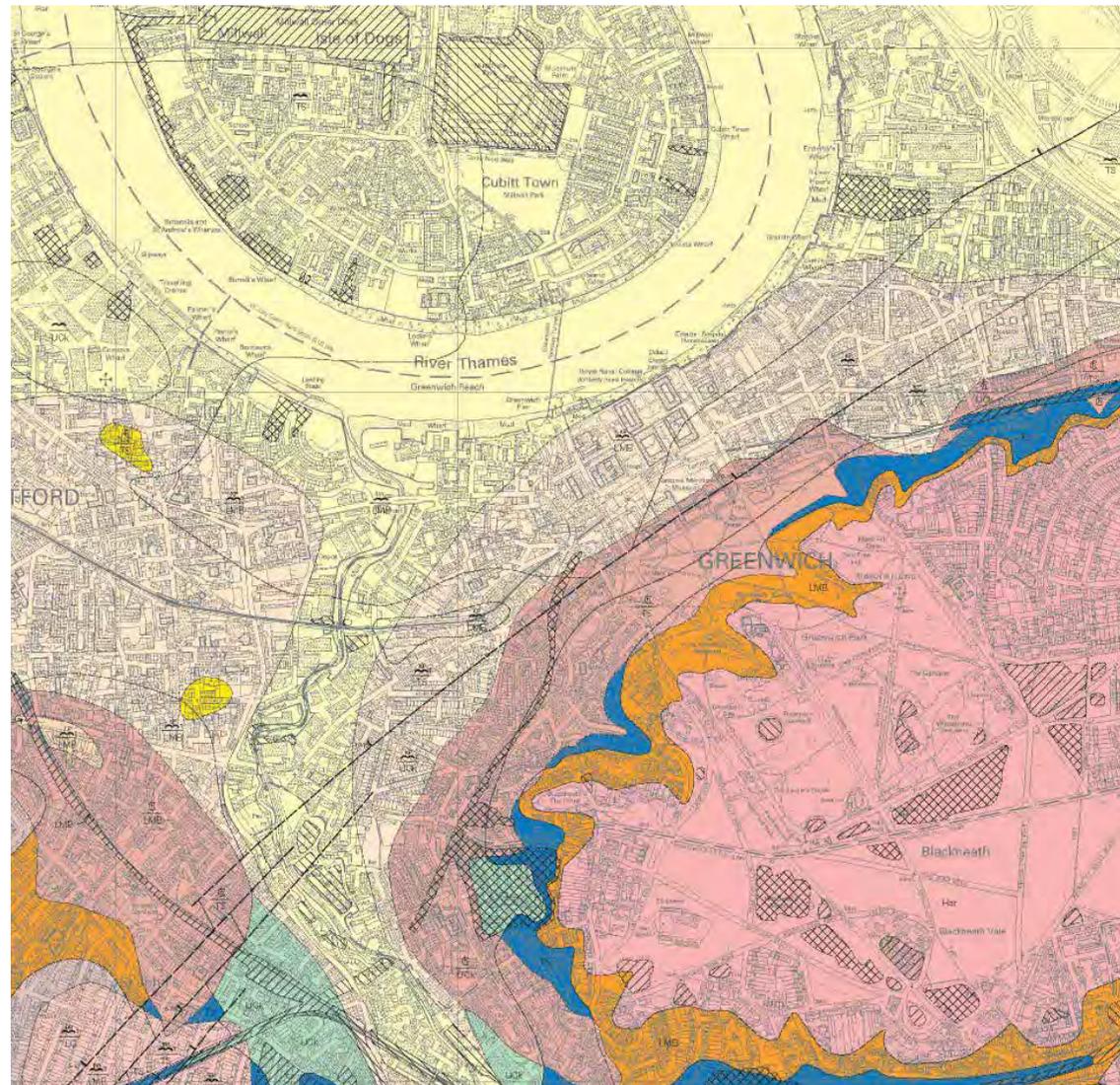
In more recent times compaction and or the development of iron pans in some areas, such as Bandstand Field, results in flooding after heavy rain. This may be rectified by decompaction of the soil by verti-draining. The installation of a borehole in 2014 now supplies non-potable water for the irrigation of the Flower Garden beds, the Rose Garden and the flushing of the Rockery toilets.

*Main Challenges:  
Improvement and repair of drainage systems.*

*Maintenance of irrigation systems.  
The Boating Lake is leaking and needs constant maintenance to reduce water loss. This structure is in need of substantial refurbishment if it is to be retained.*

*The Flower Garden Lake has poor water quality and low biodiversity.*

*Opportunities for sustainable drainage solutions and surface water treatment should be considered. The borehole at the southern end of the park could be used to improve water quality in the water bodies.*



^ fig 11.  
UNDERLYING GEOLOGY

## HABITATS

The main features of nature conservation interest are the avenue and veteran trees, acid grassland, areas of secluded woodland habitat in the Wilderness and the enclosed grassland that has developed on the reservoir. The location of the park on a migration flyway through London ensures that it continues to attract a diverse and interesting collection of bird species.

## GRASSLAND

At the time of the park's enclosure, rough heath, pasture and furze covered the underlying sands, gravels and pebblebeds of the river terraces. Following centuries of use as a public park, fragments of the original acid grassland - a habitat rare in London - can still be found and provide subtle clues to its origin as a medieval hunting park.

Grasslands make up most of the habitats present within Greenwich Park making up around 53.3 hectares (74%) of the 72 hectares site. Amenity grassland and to some extent the Intermediate acid/amenity grassland mosaic habitat are the least valued grasslands for biodiversity within the park. Together they cover some 42.4 hectares (79.5%) of the grassland resource and they are located where the site is largely used for recreation and sports activities. Until relatively recently the role of a park envisaged by the Victorians (the first public park was opened in 1840) was as a place of recreation and leisure for all people to enjoy; as much of a park as possible was managed to provide plentiful space for recreation and amenity. Between the 1950s and 1990s management practices, including frequent mowing and the use of fertilisers had a negative impact on biodiversity. Today over 20% of the grassland resource exists predominantly for the benefit of wildlife, and has been allowed to expand in the last 20 years due to a growing recognition (by managers and park users) that urban parks are vitally important for wildlife. Several different types of wildlife beneficial grasslands exist within the park and are detailed below.

### Semi-improved Acid Grassland

The semi-improved acid grassland habitat (U1f NVC community) and its associated acid mosaic and transition type habitats (U1/Amenity grassland habitat and the U1/OV23 transition community) are arguably one of the most important habitats within Greenwich Park. These habitats have declined considerably across the Greater London area over the last 50 years or so due to a variety of reasons, but largely due to soil enrichment and development.

The semi-improved acid grassland habitat within Greenwich Park is found on the gravel terraces with particularly large areas around the Saxon Cemetery Ancient Monument and north of the Flower Garden, with smaller but no less valuable sections in between. Most of the areas of this habitat fall within the current Hills Cut mowing regime yet several sections fall within the Parkland Cut.

Most of the associated habitats lie adjacent to or adjoin sections of the semi-improved acid grassland habitat and are similarly located on the gravel terraces. Several smaller areas are also found upon the Thames basin and on the Blackheath plateau.

Over-mowing through the Parkland cut, soil enrichment and / or visitor footfall pressures are the main detrimental impacts upon these acid grassland types within the park.

### Other Grasslands

Around the slopes of One Tree Hill are a series of semi-improved neutral grassland communities. These grasslands are on the steeper slopes of the gravel terraces and are largely sitting upon landscaped hills of clays and silts rather than sands and gravels. Although these habitats are common throughout Greater London and beyond they are unusual locally and support grasses and wildflowers species not found elsewhere within the park and thus also attract a variety of invertebrates not found elsewhere within the park too. Three smaller areas are also found on Castle Hill to the west of the Observatory.

On the slopes of the disused covered reservoir forming a ring is the typical MG1 semi-improved neutral type grassland (NVC community) that are indicators of under managed nutrient enriched grassland. This habitat are often to be found along disused roadsides, abandoned fields and other

'waste' ground spaces. They are plentiful in London and support similar species to the One Tree Hill grasslands but are generally less rich in broad-leaved herb species. They are of local biodiversity value.

Conversely on the shallow soils of the covered reservoir top, the neutral grasslands here are rich in a variety of broad-leaved herbs including several London notable species (see section 4.4). They also support a wider range of grasses and flowering species than any other habitat within the park and although clearly of an improved nature (probably sown) have a quality reminiscent of unimproved grasslands. This is certainly due to the presence of the shallow soils sitting on top of the concrete reservoir structure underneath allowing for soil nutrients to leach out. However, they are not managed and in time the current composition and biodiversity richness will be lost without intervention. They are of borough biodiversity value.

The Deer Park grasslands are fairly uniform in composition and are regularly grazed by the red and fallow deer present, however despite this 'conservation grazing' the grasslands are nutrient enriched and have a poor broad-leaved herb composition. Common nettle which is common within the grassland, although good for hiding the young of the deer when they are just born could be a problem in the future by reducing the amount of forage for the resident deer population. This seems likely to be a result of over-grazing but could be related to any supplement feed the deer may obtain or both factors.

#### *Main Challenges:*

*Maintenance of an appropriate matrix of grassland types for biodiversity and amenity.*

*Amelioration of sward conditions to achieve the high visual level required in horticultural areas.*

*Sensitive maintenance and management of acid grassland.*

*Improvement of the ecological quality of meadowland areas including reducing or addressing the impacts of dog-fouling.*

*Shading and grassland erosion by joggers and pedestrians particularly on Crooms Hill and Giant Steps slopes.*



^ fig 12.  
 BROAD HABITAT  
 (PHASE ONE SURVEY 2016)

## WOODLAND AND SCRUB

Woodlands are in three main locations: Castle Hill, One Tree Hill and the Deer Park. All are recent secondary woodlands with a mix of native and non-native tree species and all have a variable ground flora consisting of typical secondary woodland ground cover of ivy, cow parsley, holly and/or bramble with small areas of sparse grasslands and bare soils. All are typical of woodlands and are of local biodiversity value.

The scrub and tall herb habitats that are also found at Castle Hill, One Tree Hill and the Deer Park complement the woodlands, along with the semi-improved grasslands in these areas, producing a valuable mosaic of clinal succession habitats from grassland to tall herb, through scrub to developing canopy woodland.

Collectively these habitats attract a wide range of invertebrates that in turn attract invertebrate-eating species, such as birds like blackcap and common whitethroat, which were formerly not present on site and a variety of bat species. They could also offer foraging and cover for hedgehogs, which are in steep decline in urban London and not currently present. The scrub and tall herb habitats are a new addition to the suite of habitats that are developing within the park and add another dimension to its overall value. They are of local biodiversity value.

### *Main Challenges:*

*There is an increased risk to tree health from soil compaction, fire and vandalism, and the need to carry out more intensive health and safety based tree work. "Stand alone" veteran trees characteristic of this habitat are particularly attractive for picnickers and focal points for summer leisure events.*

### **Veteran and Ancient Trees**

A veteran tree is broadly defined as a tree that is "of biological, aesthetic or cultural interest because of its great size, age or condition".

The terms "ancient" and "veteran" are often used synonymously but are actually two separate definitions. The term veteran has associations with a battle-scarred survivor and this alludes to the features that define a tree as a

veteran – these include cavities, rot holes, deadwood, lightning strikes, loose bark, cracks and splits. A tree can develop veteran features as a result of damage without being very old although the older it is the more likely it is to have developed these features, i.e a veteran tree is often old.

Ancient trees are trees with the features above but they are also chronologically very old for their species and will be at the stage in the ageing process when they are beyond full maturity. This will also result in a very wide girth and hollowing trunk. An ancient tree is always a veteran but a veteran tree isn't always ancient. Furthermore, the age at which a tree is classed as ancient depends on the species – 150 years old is ancient for a birch but relatively young for an oak.

The landscape of the medieval hunting park was transformed during the 17th century by the implementation of the "Grand Plan" to create a formal designed landscape including tree lined avenues and walks. A large number of impressive veteran sweet chestnut trees remain from this period and are more than 350 years old. The trees are a magnificent sight with their huge girth and twisted, gnarled bark. They are of great interest in their own right and are likely to support a rich epiphytic lichen flora and deadwood invertebrate fauna; the park has been recognised as supporting a population of stag beetles, whose presence has been attributed to these ancient trees.

In an increasingly busy park, where risk management necessarily plays an important role, good practice management of these valuable, fragile and often structurally compromised trees, may take the form of restricting access or diverting pathways.

Veteran tree surveys were undertaken in 2007 and 2018 (Treeworks Environmental Practice).

### *Main Challenges:*

*Threat from pest and disease such as phytophthora on sweet chestnut.*

*Managing the balance between public safety and the sustainability of the veteran tree population and its associated habitats.*

## AQUATIC HABITATS AND WETLANDS

Both the Flower Garden and Boating Ponds are highly eutrophic (nutrient enriched) with high levels of organic enrichment from leaf litter (from surrounding vegetation and trees) and the settlement of algae which dies off and decomposes each year. Water quality is poor in both ponds with a 2018 survey revealing high levels of phosphorus and suspended solids and elevated BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand). As a result, the zooplankton and macro-invertebrate communities are impoverished.

## SPECIES

### **Invertebrates**

Monthly surveys of terrestrial invertebrates were carried out across Greenwich Park from March to September 2017. This concentrated on the dead wood and acid grassland habitats. 610 species were identified, a total of 43 species have a conservation designation. Additionally, one species represents the second record for the UK and a first for Kent

The relatively undisturbed herb-rich grassland on the reservoir continued to provide valuable habitat for pollinators and phytophagous species. The ox-eye daisy yielded the Nationally Scarce weevil (*Diplapion stolidum*). There is a long history of limited public access to this area but use for learning will be encouraged.

### **Invertebrates: Arboreal and Saproxylic Habitats**

The Deer Park continues to support important saproxylic species with significant captures including yellow legged clearwing (on the red rotten oak in extreme western corner of the compartment). The UK BAP stag beetle is also breeding in this area.

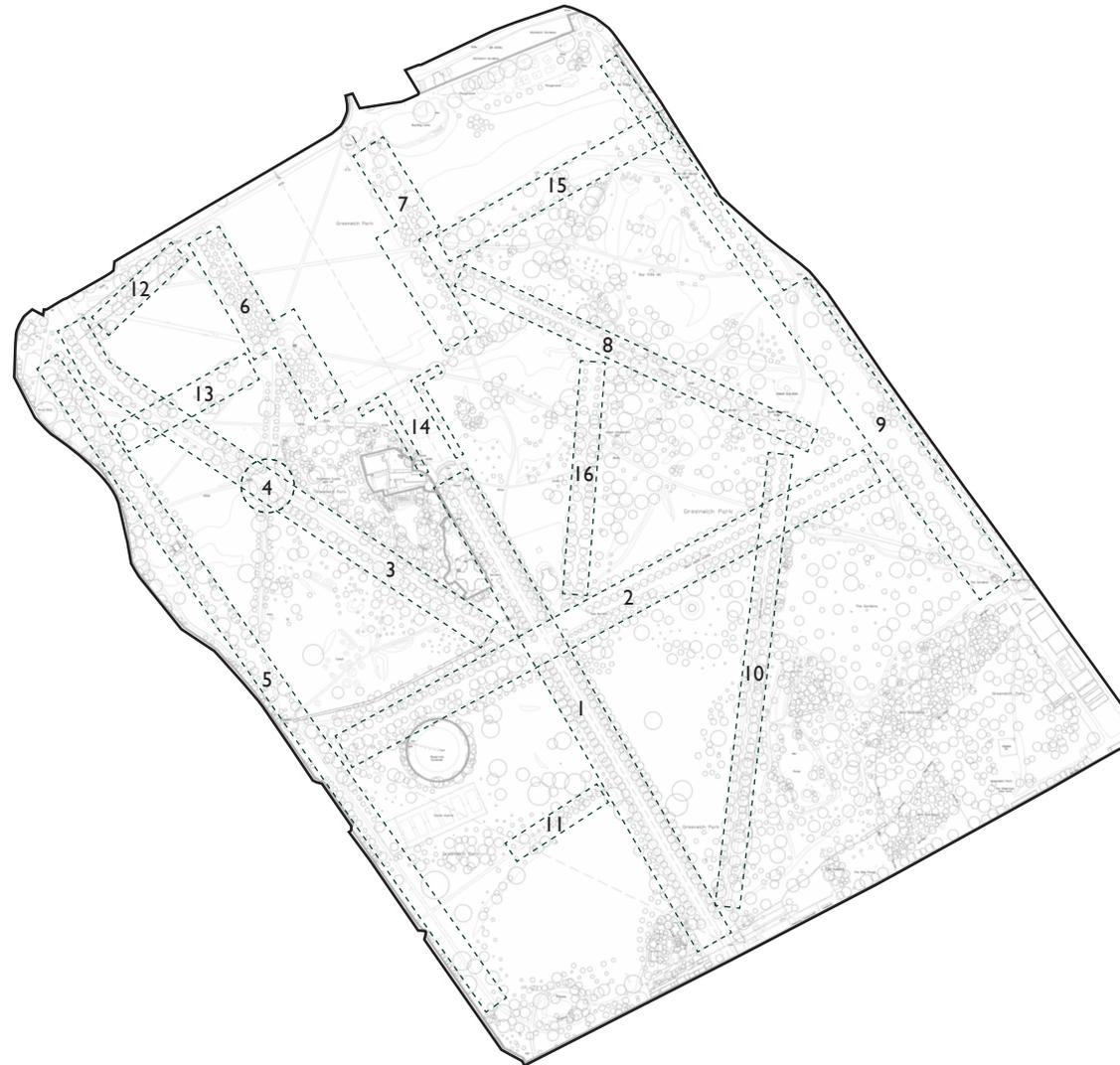
### **Invertebrates: Grassland Habitats**

Most of the acid grassland areas were formerly mown, and are currently recovering as more plants flower. In terms of resources for pollinators, particularly the solitary bees and wasps, the aspect, short sward height and localised erosion coupled with the underlying geology (i.e. predominately

AVENUE PLANTING DATES

v Table 2.

1	Blackheath Avenue	1660s
2	Great Cross Avenue	1660s
3	The Avenue	1660s
4	Brazen Face Circle	1660s
5	Conduit Avenue	1660s
6	West Parterre Bank	1660s
7	East Parterre Bank	1660s
8	Lovers Walk	1660s
9	Maze Hill Avenue	1660s
10	Bower Avenue	1660s
11	Cherry Tree Avenue	1950s
12	Herb Garden Diagonal	1660s
13	Lower Cross West	1660s
14	The Giant Steps	1660s
15	Lower Cross East	1660s
16	Historic Avenue	1660s



< fig 13.  
MAIN TREE  
AVENUES

sandy soils) provides an adequate nesting resource for many species. However, the overall lack of forage resources, in large areas of the grassland limited to yellow flowering composites, diminishes the pollinator diversity in these areas. It is no coincidence that many of the solitary bees recorded actively favour yellow flowering composite flowers such as dandelions (e.g. the notable *Andrena fulvago*).

#### Invertebrates: Walls and Structures

The south facing perimeter wall along the north edge of compartments 15 and 16 has abundant spiders; *Segestria florentina*, as well as other wall specialists such as *Sitticus pubescens*. Walls can also provide nesting opportunities for cavity nesting hymenopterans, such as mason bees (*Osmia*), leaf-cutter bees (*Megachile*) and the flower bee (*Anthophora plumipes*). *A. plumipes* was widely recorded across the site, especially early in the season on lung wort flowers in the old Observatory garden. However, its precise nesting locality could not be located. Here we might expect to find the rare cleptoparasite of this species (i.e. *Melecta albifrons* – not recorded during survey) along with the parasites of other masonry cavity-nesters.

#### Invertebrates: Flower Gardens & Lake

Although pools with large wildfowl collections are invariably very species poor, the emergent vegetation around the lake supports a rich assemblage. The soldier beetle (*Silis ruficollis*) is a very local species primarily of reed beds, the marsh beetle (*Cyphon laevipennis*) is particularly abundant and local and uncommon away from coastal reed beds. The abundant water mint yielded the local weevil (*Datonychus melanostictus*).

In terms of pollinators the gardens mainly attract the larger social species, such as honey bees and various common bumblebees. Other common species, such as the previously mentioned *Anthophora plumipes*, are attracted to accessible garden plants, such as lungwort. The recent heather plantings also attracted a range of common solitary bees and the tawny mining bee (*Andrena fulva*) was noted nesting in the sandy soils about the plants.

#### Invertebrates: Paths and Desire Lines

The sandy soil in the park provides ideal nesting habitat for ground-dwelling invertebrates such as mining bees and digger wasps. These require warm soil which is unshaded by dense vegetation, such as eroded sunny slopes and bare or sparsely vegetated ground. Numerous nests can be found in eroded 'joggers' desire lines beneath avenue trees, on the Giant Steps of the Observatory slopes and on the Saxon burial mounds, which have been colonized by the recently arrived ivy bee *Colletes hederæ*. The ashy mining bee (*Andrena cineraria*) and its associated rare kleptoparasite (*Nomada lathburiana*) are present on the eroded slopes.

#### Butterflies and Moths

22 species of butterfly are regularly recorded in the park, with recent increases in numbers of ringlet, marbled white and brown argus, reflecting the expansion of these species across the London area. Purple hairstreak has been recorded, but only infrequently.

420 species of moth have been recorded in recent years, 24 of which are London species of conservation concern, and including uncommon and local species such as yellow-legged clearwing, red-tipped clearwing and toadflax brocade.

#### Birds

A monthly survey has been undertaken yearly since 2003 using the Standard Walk methodology used nationally. The most numerous species include feral and wood pigeon, crow, ring-necked parakeet, blue tit, robin and blackbird. There have been significant increases in goldfinch, parakeet, chaffinch, stock dove and wood pigeon whilst starlings and magpies have declined. These changes may reflect regional or national influences in addition to those offered in the park.

More than 30 bird species are known to breed in Greenwich Park. Nuthatches, goldcrests, chiffchaffs, blackcaps, coal tits, ring-necked parakeets, song and mistle thrushes and stock doves breed as does a selection of the common woodland species, while one or two firecrests have wintered and a variable number of redwings usually overwinter. During migration, the park sees a much wider range of species, sometimes including less common species. Disturbance through high

visitor numbers and dogs inevitably places restrictions on the number of breeding species and migrants.

#### Deer

There are currently only 5 fallow deer in the enclosure, together with 13 red deer (winter culling is undertaken by the wildlife officers of Richmond Park). These animals are of good quality and are in good condition, with no evidence of disease, injury or compromise of welfare. Both herds are fertile, with red deer calves and fallow deer fawns generated each year.

#### Mammals

Besides the deer in the Deer Park, mammals are restricted to fox, squirrel, rodents and bats. All of these are not confined to the park and may use it for commuting to feeding areas and as their breeding home. The number of squirrels, often supported by additional feeding by visitors, places extra pressure on the park's trees through bark stripping and consumption of seeds and nuts.

TRP commissioned bat surveys at Greenwich Park during summer 2014. The purpose of the surveys was to determine current use of the park by bats and inform habitat management. The key findings of the survey were:

- Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*, Nathusius pipistrelle *P. nathusii*, noctule *Nyctalus noctula*, serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, Leisler's *Nyctalus leisleri* and probable Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* were recorded.
- No roosts were confirmed within the park but common pipistrelle roosts are likely to occur near to the boundaries of the park.
- Mature trees along avenues and treelines/scattered trees in the north-eastern part of the site are likely to provide mating territories/roosts for these species.
- Noctule were seen foraging over the grassland in the north-western part of the site during the August survey. Their use of the site may be timed with the emergence of notable prey resources.
- *Nathusius pipistrelles* were noted during the August and September surveys and it is possible that the site falls within a commuting route for this species.

Notable habitat features used by foraging bats included open water (the Boating Pond and ponds); mosaic habitats that comprised mature trees, shrubs, tall herbs and less intensively managed grassland; and, the avenues of mature trees. Commuting activity was mostly noted along the avenues and boundary of the site. A further survey of bats roosts is also planned.

### Reptiles and Amphibians

There are no recent records of reptiles in the park. Common frog and common newt breed in the two ponds in the Flower Garden. Toads are regularly recorded.

### Fungi

Over 150 species of fungi have been recorded in the park. A survey of grassland and woodland fungi is being undertaken during 2018/19 and is already revealing species uncommon or rare to the country.

### Lichens

A survey was carried out in 2017, results of which were published in The British Lichen Society Bulletin, autumn 2017. The survey produced 85 taxa (lichens and their associated fungi), of which 11 are considered either scarce or rare. *Polycoccum kernerii* was reported for only the second time in Britain and Ireland. The park, like many in London, has suffered throughout the acidification produced during the Industrial Revolution. The switch away from coal from the 1970s is likely to have been more beneficial for lichens, though as expected, pioneer lichen species are more predominant rather than those typical associated with ancient parklands. The species of tree present in Greenwich Park are predominantly ones which support a relatively low diversity of lichens, so scattered specimens of mulberry, hawthorne and ash have the bulk of the more interesting lichens growing on them, with a single mulberry in the Flower Garden colonized by the only foliose lichens found on the site. Poor air quality in the capital has a limiting effect on the diversity of lichens.

### Flora

The flora of Greenwich Park, as anywhere, is expected to change over time irrespective of management activities to

try and maintain certain habitats, as this is a normal process. Therefore, looking at the number of species present and the abundance of those species in any given habitat or vegetation community is not a good indicator of change except when there is a clear trend of continued increase or decrease in number of species over a long period of time and only if the monitoring process used is identical in method and timing or if core species in that community are changing. Rarer species are often monitored to ensure that they are not lost and in general it is good practice to look at any trends for rarer species because their rarity is typically (but not always) related to their sensitivity to change. The London notable species method (see section 4.3) is typically used to identify the rarer plants found within Greater London.

### London Notables

In this survey as total of 12 London notable species were recorded. These were:

- early hair-grass (acid grassland)
- wild garlic (planted in flower garden woodlands)
- parsley-piert (acid grassland)
- nettle-leaved bellflower (covered reservoir shrubberies)
- greater pond-sedge (planted on ornamental lake banks)
- common stork's-bill (covered reservoir top grassland)
- spotted medick (amenity grasslands) N.B. This species is increasing in London and may no longer be a London notable.
- bird's-foot (acid grassland)
- buck's-horn plantain (acid grasslands and associated habitats) N.B. This species is increasing in London and may no longer be a London notable.
- field madder (covered reservoir top grassland)
- clustered clover (acid grassland)
- field pansy (covered reservoir top grassland)
- heather (Castle Hill slope)

Other London notable species recorded recently include thyme-leaved sandwort, little mouse-ear, heath bedstraw, fiddle dock, polypody, spreading meadow-grass,

TRP has an Animal Pest Control Policy (2018), an Integrated Horticultural Pest Management Policy and an Oak Processionary Moth Management Strategy. These adopted policies guide the management of pests throughout the parks.

Prevention and control measures are also monitored as part of ISO14001 particularly relating to the use of pesticides.

### Main Challenges:

*Maintenance of accurate and up-to-date computerised baseline information on tree location, age, species and condition.*

## TREE PESTS, DISEASES AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Tree pest and disease is an increasingly significant and high profile national issue and at a local level has an increasing impact on tree management in the park. It has the potential to impact the way people and animals use the park and the long-term landscape and biodiversity value of the site.

### Oak processionary moth (OPM) - *Thaumetopoea processionea*

A non-native invasive insect pest of oak trees first found in Richmond in 2006. The caterpillars carry toxic hairs which can pose a significant threat to human and animal health, causing severe skin rashes, eye irritation and sometimes breathing difficulties. The caterpillars feed on oak leaves and large populations can extensively defoliate trees, increasing their vulnerability to other pathogens and environmental impacts including climate change. Experience to date has indicated that the human and animal health risk from OPM arises as much from old nests that it has not been possible to remove, as from "active season" summer nests, which are more visible and pro-actively managed.

Resources and budget required to manage the pest are significant and include the arboricultural officer, additional staff and contract personnel, spraying and nest removal by contractors.

### Horse chestnut bleeding canker – *Pseudomonas syringae pv aesculi*

A bacterial disease which kills strips of the bark and cambium of horse chestnut trees, often leading to the rapid decline and unpredictable failure of large limbs and sometimes death of both young and mature trees. Around 75% of horse chestnuts in the park have bleeding canker. Mature trees can sometimes be managed over time with canopy reductions but with

consequent loss of landscape value. Horse chestnuts have structurally weak timber post death making the management of their decline more short term compared to other species. Moribund or dead trees are managed by monolithing or felling, some timber is left on site as valuable deadwood resource, particularly favoured by the stag beetle for which the park is designated a SAC.

### Horse chestnut leaf miner – *Cameraria ohridella*

Pupae of this non-native moth cause severe damage to the foliage of the tree resulting in early season browning and shedding of all foliage. Severity can vary year by year. While not lethal in itself repeat infestation over several years can reduce the biological vigor of the tree increasing vulnerability to other pathogens including bleeding canker. In bad years it can cause severe degradation of visual amenity on a landscape scale. There are no practical measures that can be undertaken in the park to control this pest.

### Oriental chestnut gall wasp (OCGW) – *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*

This insect, of Asian origin, was discovered in the UK for the first time in 2015 and affects European sweet chestnut trees. It was discovered at several sites in Greenwich Park in 2016. Activity by larvae of the wasp cause abnormal growths (galls) to form on buds, leaves and leaf stalks. It is a low impact pest, the wasp posing no threat to people or animals. In high numbers it can weaken the tree, making it more vulnerable to other pathogens, including the more serious sweet chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*). Severe attacks can result in tree decline. Under the advice of the Plant Health Authorities, control to date has involved monitoring of the outbreak.

### Phytophthora - *Phytophthora cinamomei*

Is a fungus-like pathogen called a water mould. It causes extensive damage and death to a wide range of trees and other plants. This disease is causing the loss of sweet chestnut trees with Great Cross and Bower Avenues particularly affected. A research programme with the University of Southampton is trialling different treatments to improve soil conditions for micro-organisms to combat phytophthora infection.

The following tree pest and diseases are likely to become an issue within the 10 year life time of this plan – sweet chestnut blight, chalara ash dieback and *Phytophthora ramorum*. Asian longhorn beetle, emerald ash-borer and xylella are high on the DEFRA pest risk analysis list.

### Animal and Bird Pests

Squirrel damage, particularly to hornbeam, beech, sycamore and field maple can have a significant negative impact on the ability of young trees of these species to establish in the park and can also affect the life expectancy of older specimens, particularly veterans, following pruning works. Parakeets attack and destroy buds and seeds of several species but are particularly damaging to hornbeam, horse chestnut and hawthorn. Measures to control these pests should continue to be investigated and employed.

TRP has an Animal Pest Control Policy (2018), an Integrated Horticultural Pest Management Policy and an Oak Processionary Moth Management Strategy. These adopted policies guide the management of pests throughout the park. Prevention and control measures are also monitored as part of ISO14001 particularly relating to the use of pesticides.

#### Main Challenges:

*Direct risk to human and animal health (eg. from toxic hairs of OPM) and an indirect risk by contributing to decline and sometimes death of trees – these require greater monitoring and tree work intervention to reduce the risk to the public from failing trees.*

*Increased resource requirement for effective monitoring and control of pest and disease – many of these are new in the last 10 years and have greatly increased the amount of staff, contractor time required to manage them.*

*Threat to long-term tree cover, historic avenues of trees, diversity and associated biodiversity due to declining vigour and death of trees.*

*How to manage pests and diseases sustainably with the least impact on other biodiversity in the park eg pesticide spraying for the control of OPM in targeted areas of the park.*

*Ongoing resource requirement to monitor distribution and impact of pest and disease and to contribute to national research efforts. Resource requirement for "horizon scanning" for incoming pest and disease and to develop effective contingency plans, e.g. for *Phytophthora ramorum* or *Xylella*, control of which may include partial closure of the park.*

*Resource requirement for development of TRP Biosecurity Policy and its implementation.*

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## BIOSECURITY

Nationally and locally, risks are posed to our trees from the spread of pest and disease. Global traffic and high levels of international trade with materials potentially containing pest and disease present has increased pathways for pathogen introduction. This, compounded with changing weather patterns, makes it increasingly likely introduced pathogens can survive in the UK. Biosecurity is required on two levels - firstly on the sourcing and buying of new planting stock and then on its internal management once growing in the park. While being an active participant in the national discussion on biosecurity TRP has developed procedures for procurement of new stock. We have developed our biosecurity policy, in line with other organisations. This includes the Arboricultural Association's "Biosecurity in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry" position statement.

#### Main Challenges:

*Through implementing the TRP Biosecurity Policy it has led to challenges in-sourcing material and lead in times*

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

As Climate Change continues to be a considerable future challenge, urban parks will play a significant role in its adaptation and mitigation. TRP acknowledges the need to rearrange, (where practical and not comprise any aspect of social value) existing sustainable systems to further improve air quality and temperature by creating cooling effects and reducing carbon emissions; flooding prevention through drainage and storm water runoff; promoting biodiversity; and many others.

The relationship between parks and air quality is increasingly cited as an economic benefit of city parks and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology is currently working nationally on new, improved estimates. Urban areas experience higher average temperatures because they absorb heat more readily, use more energy and have lower ventilation (Met Office, 2012). Green areas within cities play a role in regulating this effect and they reduce the burden of heat stress during periods of elevated temperature. The overall contribution of London's parks is estimated to be £594 million. This figure is estimated by Doick & Hutchings (2013) who assume that the overall contribution of London's green spaces reduces urban temperatures by 2°C during heat waves. The economic value of cooling is based on the number of lives saved due to cooler peak temperatures, which is monetised through the value of avoiding premature death. Greenwich Park also stores carbon dioxide in the growth of trees and organic matter in soil.

*Main Challenges:*

*There is an increasing focus on mitigating climate change impacts, including extreme weather events, tree health and biodiversity.*

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## SUSTAINABILITY

In our approach to best practice sustainability TRP strives to balance economic, environmental and social factors in a way that will ensure resource conservation and protection of the urban park environment now and for future generations. TRP recognises with increased population density more pressure will be placed on our Green Spaces. Acutely aware that the relationship of Greenwich Park to the surrounding area also raises wider sustainability issues, including increased traffic use and visitor access, a need for reconfiguration of existing infrastructures including improved public transport links and reducing the impacts of road traffic is welcomed

Since 2014, accreditation to the ISO Environmental Management standard, ISO 14001 has meant we've strived further to minimise and eliminate, where possible, all impacts, both direct and indirect to Greenwich Park. We are reducing our dependency on natural resources such as water; land, materials while pursuing every effort to reduce emissions,

increase efficiency in renewable - low carbon initiatives through solar gain, and hybrid fleet technologies while promoting more sustainable practices – in terms of waste management via circular economy models (reuse) and water use via abstraction.

Our 10-year Sustainability Strategy 2015-2025 has four aims which underpin TRP's approach to sustainability.

1. to ensure conservation and protection of our unique landscapes,
2. to mitigate and adapt the impacts of climate change,
3. to provide environmental excellence and financially viable green open spaces to the public while,
4. to continuing to improve wellbeing fairness and education across the communities we serve.

We believe that 'all aspects of our own operation should be carried out in such a way as to have a minimal adverse impact on the environment' and maximise enhancement opportunities. This is ingrained in TRP environmental policy, objectives and targets and reflected in everyday procedures and operations in the Royal Parks. For example, it is TRP policy to ensure that all purchased timber is from a sustainable source such as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

*Main Challenges:*

*Specific challenges, water quality and use, waste management, sustainable procurement, energy management, greenhouse gas emissions.*





*"Landscape provides the context and consequence for all decisions. Landscape is an essential part of a sustainable future and is strongly interrelated to all social, economic and environmental policies."*

NATURAL ENGLAND

## COMMUNAL CONTEXT

This section describes the informal and organised social actions and interactions that occur within Greenwich Park.

### Communal Value:

*'the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, their collective experience or memory closely bound up with associations of historical and aesthetic values (which) tend to have additional and specific aspects.'*

*Commemorative and symbolic values reflect the meaning of a place for those who draw part of their identity from it, or have emotional links with it.*

*...Social value is associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence.' Social values may be actions and happenings that are associated with a place.*

### PUBLIC ACCESS

Greenwich Park is open every day of the year. It is open from 06h00 for pedestrians (all year round) and closes at 18h00 in winter and 21h30 in June, July and August.

The park opens at 07h00 to vehicles, but there is no through traffic from 10h00 to 16h00 each day and the park is closed to through traffic at weekends and bank holidays. Parking facilities at weekends and bank holidays are available via Blackheath Gate.

Some areas of Greenwich Park are not publicly accessible or are accessible only to certain user groups.

#### Areas of the public park from which public are generally excluded:

The Deer Park  
The Nursery Yard  
The Reservoir  
Residential lodges and their gardens.

#### Controlled access areas:

The Queens Orchard.

#### Protected garden areas:

Castle Hill (slopes etc.).

#### Main Challenges:

*Some areas used by TRP have potential for enhanced public access at certain times.*

### EVENTS

TRP Major Events Strategy sets an upper limit of three major events per year, including the London Marathon. The annual London Marathon starts on Blackheath and competitors run the whole of Blackheath Avenue as the first stage of the race. In 2017 it hosted the first BIG Half festival for 13,000 runners. Other events are generally small-medium scale and designed for a local audience.

Greenwich Park does not regularly host the kind of large-scale events that occur, for example, in Hyde Park. However, it did host the Olympic Equestrian, Modern Pentathlon and

Paralympic Equestrian events for the London 2012 Olympics.

Greenwich Park hosts various small events, including popular charity runs (including the London Marathon and BIG Half), and aims not to license such events on consecutive weekends.

#### Main Challenges:

*Suitable as a venue for only a limited number of large-scale events. Blackheath supports major and small events which can create additional pressures on the park.*

*Numerous small/medium events. There is a high demand for these events which is at odds with the local residents wish for quiet recreation and this needs careful management.*

### VISITOR PROFILE

In 2018 Ipsos MORI undertook a series of surveys of park visitors to the Royal Parks. Results show that the total number of visits to Greenwich in 2014 was in the region of 4.7 million. This compares to 12.8 million for Hyde Park and 2.3 million for Bushy Park at that date. Questions around the perception of quality found that 62% of visitors to Greenwich Park rated the quality of the park as excellent, followed by 36% giving a 'good' rating. The safety rating was very positive, 99% of respondents felt the park was very safe or quite safe.

The surveys indicate that 78% of the visitors to the park were from London, a further 5% were from other parts of the UK, 16% coming from other countries. Means of transport were 33% walking and 2% cycling; 32% arriving by public transport; 26% arriving by car. Most visits, 42%, were between one and two hours; 20% between 30 and 60 minutes; 25% between 2 to 3 hours; 7% between 3 and 4 hours.

Reasons for visits were surveyed. 66% came for general reasons such as to get some fresh, relax, meet friends, or as part of their route elsewhere. 37% came for exercise and sport: 17% came for children's activities for instance to visit the playground: 19% had planned to come as part of sightseeing or for a particular event: 7% were motivated by seeing trees, plants, animals and bird watching.

Respondents were asked what, if any, activities they would like to see the park offer: 16% improved facilities; 14% children's

entertainment and adventure playgrounds; 10% more cafés/food/variety.

*Main Challenges:*  
London's projected population growth.

*Importance of 'peace and quiet' and family pursuits to most visitors, in preference to formal activities or specific sightseeing.*

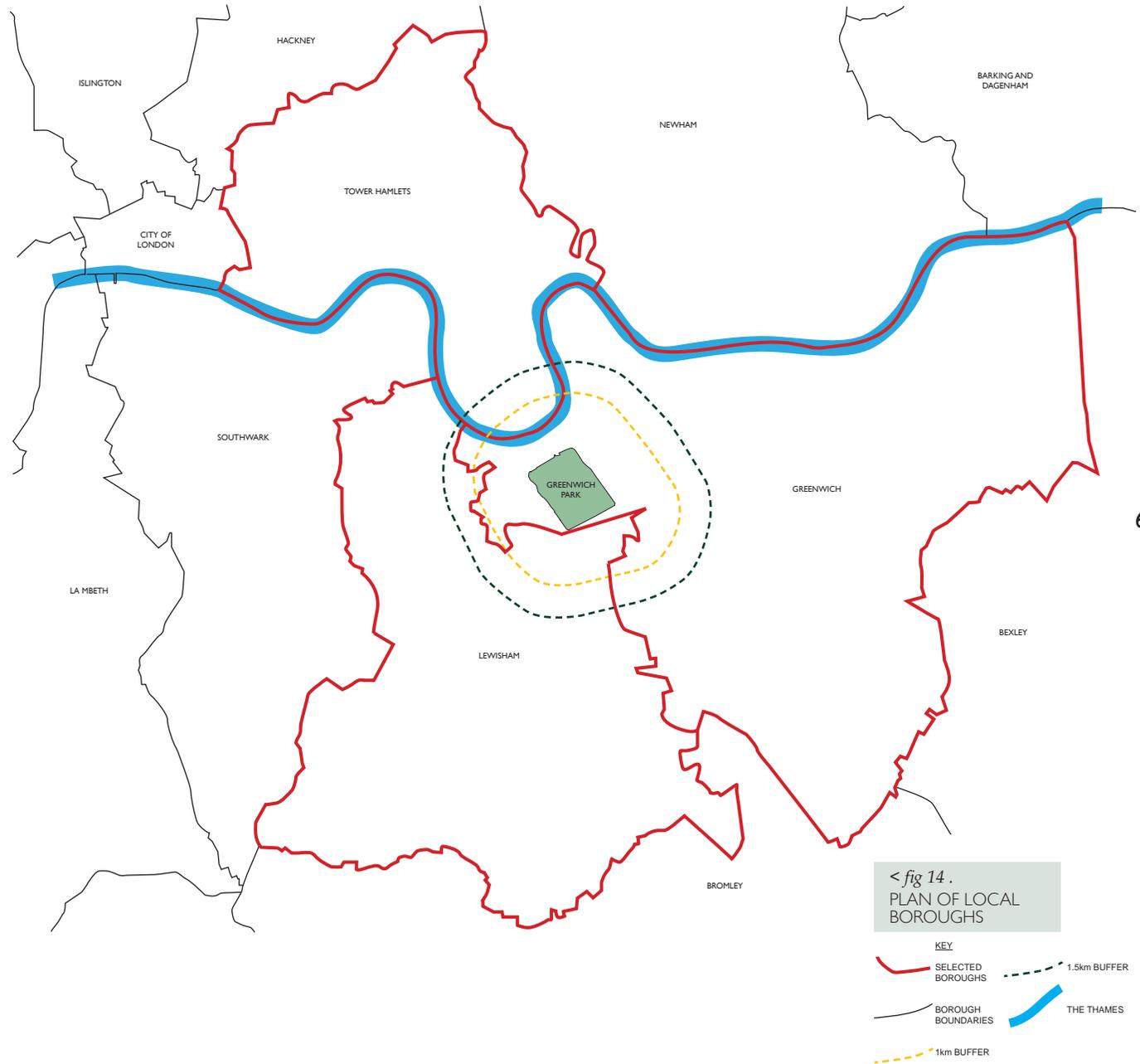
**DEMOGRAPHICS**

In 2016 TRP carried out a demographic analysis of the communities living around Greenwich Park to inform future community development work and as support for funding bids.

To target and develop new audiences, TRP aimed to greater understand the locations of communities who are not regular visitors to the park from three selected boroughs (fig 14). The analysis focussed on the following key demographic factors:

- Population density
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Deprivation

At borough level, Tower Hamlets, Lewisham and Greenwich boroughs are very different. Although all have young populations compared to the Greater London, Tower Hamlets has the youngest population of the three boroughs, reflected in the low proportions of LLTIs (Limiting Long-term Illness and Disability) and retired residents. The borough is also significantly more densely populated than Lewisham and Greenwich, as well as having the highest proportion of BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicities) residents. In contrast, Greenwich borough has the lowest population density, the oldest population and the smallest proportions of BAME groups. All three are within the top 0 – 20% most deprived boroughs within England, however, Tower Hamlets is significantly more deprived than Greenwich and Lewisham, with higher proportions of residents in social housings or without access to a vehicle, higher levels of unemployment within lone parent families, lower life expectancies and higher crime rates.



Borough demographics are generally reflected at ward level with those in Greenwich borough, and particularly around Greenwich Park, tending to be less densely populated, with older residents who are less likely to be from BAME backgrounds. However, it is worth noting that communities can cross borders and influence nearby areas, even if they are in different borough or ward; both Blackheath and Lee Green wards, although in Lewisham borough, are more like Greenwich wards most likely due to their proximity. Levels of deprivation are also lower around the park and to the south, although some pockets remain particularly in and around Middle Park and Suttcliffe ward to the southeast and in parts of Lewisham.

At LSOA (Lower Super Output Areas) level many of the trends are continued. The areas around the park and to the south in Greenwich borough and parts of Lewisham, are the least densely populated, less deprived and their populations tend to be older and less likely to be from BAME backgrounds. General observations also include that there were higher proportions of Asian/British Asian residents in LSOAs throughout Tower Hamlets as well as more practising Muslims, while more residents around Greenwich Park had no religion.

Also, to the north of Greenwich borough, near the River Thames there is an unusually high proportion of young people, as well as being very densely populated, with high levels of deprivation and one of the highest proportions of BAME residents of all the LSOAs.

Nearby universities, Greenwich and Goldsmiths, may have impacted the population as there will be large numbers of students in the area, which may also be linked to the above average proportions of higher qualifications, as well as the large numbers of Experience Seekers and Metroculturals in the area.

Analysing the population at LSOA level also uncovered some interested trends within the population. Although certain wards or boroughs may have the lowest or highest for certain criteria there is great variation across the areas and levels are not uniform. Most notably, while Tower Hamlets borough was the most deprived, LSOAs to the south of Tower Hamlets are actually the least deprived within the 1.5km catchment.

## VISITOR FACILITIES

Refreshment facilities are provided at the Pavilion Teahouse in the centre of the park, seasonal facilities at St. Mary's Gate Lodge, and at a small kiosk close to Blackheath Gate. In addition to this there is a catering outlet at the playground and the Wolfe Statue Kiosk on Blackheath Avenue by the Wolfe Statue. A catering contract is let to Benugo as a concession lease, currently to October 2020. Mobile catering outside the park (e.g. at Blackheath Gate) is not on Royal Parks' land and is licensed by the borough. Catering provision is considered to be inadequate for the number of persons wishing to use it. A park wide catering strategy was undertaken in 2018. There are no catering facilities in the Flower Garden although a temporary kiosk was trialed there in 2016 and proved very popular.

Toilet facilities of good capacity and reasonable condition are maintained by TRP on the upper section of The Avenue, (close to the Royal Observatory Greenwich) and at Blackheath Gate. Children's toilets and a basic first aid station for playground users are sited in the playground. Toilet charges were introduced in August 2015 for facilities at The Avenue and Blackheath Gate.

The boating concession is let to Bluebird Boats until 2019. It is serviced from a small hut, of poor quality design, which is in need of repair/replacement. The pond is drained off in the winter season and the boats have in the past been put to storage in the Nursery Yard. The Boating Lake is of concrete construction, dating from 1930. It is leaking severely. In 2013 an options appraisal was commissioned to consider its longer term future.

The third phase of the playground's improvements was completed in 2015. The fourth and final phase will be completed in 2019.

### *Main Challenges:*

*There is inadequate catering provision and lack of facilities in the Flower Garden.*

*The leaking Boating Lake is the subject of developing proposals which will be fully consulted on before implementation.*

*Toilet facilities serve current visitors but needs to be reviewed as numbers and distribution of visitors may change.*

## ORGANISED AND INFORMAL ACTIVITIES

Cricket and tennis are played in the park. There is one area (the Ranger's Field) dedicated (since 1898) to cricket with current provision as follows:

- One cricket table (11 wickets) let under annual licences to different clubs; played Saturdays, Sundays and weekday evenings except Mondays and Fridays
- changing accommodation, including showers, in the 1960s pavilion sited in the south east corner of the Ranger's Field, extensively refurbished in 2009
- tennis (6 courts – refurbished 2015) to the south side of the reservoir.

### *Main Challenges:*

*Limiting formal sport activities to designated areas (Rangers Field).*

*Maintaining the cricket pitch and tennis courts to a high standard.*

*Informal running can cause erosion.*

*Retaining areas of 'peace and quiet' where family pursuits can be enjoyed.*

## LEARNING

The Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity providing informative and enjoyable opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to discover, explore and understand the environment.

As one of our current Royal Parks Learning partners across the parks, FSC offers visitors of all ages nature-based learning activities in Greenwich Park, including:

- Hands on sessions linked to the curriculum for primary and secondary school groups

- bespoke activities for youth groups such as Cubs, Beavers, Brownies, and older groups such as Scouts and Guides
- holiday activities for families during half term week, Easter and summer breaks
- nature based day courses such as nature ID skills for adult learners and groups.

In 2016-17, the FSC delivered learning activities to 3,147 learners, including 844 primary and secondary students. Although these activities have a cost for participants, some of these opportunities can be offered for free or at a discounted price, if supported by project grants from external trusts and foundations.

One of these projects has been the Royal Parks Mission: Invertebrate project (MI), a 5-year initiative (2017-2021) aiming to raise awareness of invertebrates and their habitats across the eight Royal Parks. As one of the project learning partners, FSC needs to work closely with TRP's Learning and MI project teams to align project activities and respond to funders needs.

#### Opportunities

- The Greenwich Park Revealed project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund will enable an expanded learning, volunteering and participation programme for local communities, with a focus on:
  - Learning - More people, of a more diverse background, educated in a wider range of park related subjects
  - Volunteering – More people, of a more diverse background, volunteering for a wider range of activities
  - Community – Host more community events, targeting more diverse audiences
  - Financial – Achieve and maintain financial self-sustainability for the expanded education and volunteering service and operation of the new facilities

- Reputation – raise awareness of Greenwich Park as a Royal Park and provider of visitor services and engagement and learning programmes.

#### *Main opportunities and challenges:*

*As part of the Greenwich Revealed Project, TRP identified heritage, mental and emotional wellbeing as well as horticultural skills training as key areas to explore and develop in the coming years:*

- *Heritage: Greenwich Park does not currently offer heritage, history and/or culture opportunities to visitors, other than external programmes delivered by Greenwich World Heritage Site organisations such as the Royal Observatory, the Maritime Museum and Cutty Sark among others.*
- *Mental health and wellbeing: Greenwich Park does not offer visitors and local communities direct opportunities to enhance their mental health and wellbeing. Other wellbeing and health opportunities focus on improving people's physical health are currently offered by external organisations and licensees. These include running events, personal trainers and other sport related activities.*
- *Horticulture skills training: Greenwich Park has an existing horticultural apprenticeship scheme run in partnership with the grounds maintenance contractor, for up to two apprentices per year. There is potential to expand horticulture skills training to wider groups of young people and adults supported by specialised partners.*

*As a new charity, TRP will aim to have a consistent programme offer to its visitors and local communities across all its sites, including Greenwich Park.*

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## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

Greenwich Park has an extensive and diverse volunteer community, which includes the Friends of Greenwich Park, Greenwich Park Wildlife Group, wildlife surveyors, horticultural and conservation volunteers and occasional visiting corporate groups. Volunteers add huge value to the park, supporting projects, delivering events, operating the

Visitor Centre and assisting TRP in delivering labour intensive tasks that extend the capacity of our contractors. These not only benefit the park and enhance visitor experiences but provide the opportunity to discover new skills, learning opportunities and social benefits for those who take part.

### The Royal Parks Guild

The Guild and associates are current and former TRP employees, commercial and political associates and partners who give support to the TRP Horticultural Apprenticeship Programme, carry out historical park research and promote other activities as "ambassadors" of TRP.

### The Friends Of Greenwich Park

The Friends, established in 1992, run a series of community engagement activities which include leading guided walks, bandstand concerts, family events, specialised history and nature courses for members and carry out fundraising for park conservation projects.

### Volunteer Community Ranger Service

TRP have committed resources from 2018 for a 3-year pilot programme to recruit and train a volunteer ranger service which will initially serve Richmond and Bushy Park, followed by Greenwich Park. A full-time co-ordinator will develop training material, recruit volunteers and develop a programme enabling the volunteers to engage with the public regarding their behaviour as well as augmenting the Police by allowing the remaining MPS Officers to concentrate on Regulation enforcement.

#### *Main Challenges:*

*To resource and develop the ability to support and lead volunteers and partners.*

*To ensure that statutory compliance around issues such as safeguarding is delivered seamlessly.*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Greenwich Park Revealed Project

Greenwich Park Revealed is a project that aims to conserve and enhance Greenwich Park's historic and natural heritage, fund a new learning centre and develop training, leisure and volunteering opportunities for a growing and diverse local audience. To fund the project, TRP applied for the Heritage Lottery Fund/BIG Lottery Fund, Parks for People grant programme. The project is aiming to achieve a £7.5 million investment into Greenwich Park with a grant of £4.8 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund.

### *Main Challenges:*

*Maintain and foster a good working relationship and a common vision with all partners.*

### The World War I Project

TRP was awarded a £90,000 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2017 to deliver a 20-month programme of activities relating to the First World War across the Royal Parks. Richmond Park will be playing host to a number of free events designed to explore the park's history and highlight the relationship between the park in wartime and today.

The programme will be an opportunity to engage a broad audience with the way the park has played a central role in national history and in people's lives, both those living locally and from across the world.

The legacy of this project will be the sharing of information and learning resources focussed on Richmond Park in WWI, accessible to all through TRP website, as well as relationships with local stakeholders and the emotional and social impact experienced by participants, whether audience or volunteers, as part of their engagement with the project.

### Mission: Invertebrate

Greenwich Park is part of 'Mission: Invertebrate', a TRP initiative that aims to raise awareness of invertebrates and their habitats in The Royal Parks through family learning days, school sessions, competitions and citizen science projects. The Holly Lodge Centre is currently working with TRP in the implementation of Mission: Invertebrate, a project funded by the People's Postcode Lottery.

*"We aim to promote the use and enjoyment of the Royal Parks for public recreation, health and wellbeing including through the provision of sporting and cultural activities and events which effectively advance the TRP objects"*

THE ROYAL PARKS



## AESTHETIC CONTEXT

This section describes the elements, found within Greenwich Park, that people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from.

### Aesthetic value:

*Something can gain in aesthetic value over time as people's aesthetic values change or develop. A full spectrum of sensory and cognitive perceptions and associations are instruments of aesthetic reception, coming together at a scale that engages the person in intense awareness; a 'bodily engagement with the environment, (which) when integrated in active perception, becomes aesthetic.'*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Berleant, A. (n.d.). *Living in the landscape*. Lawrence, Kan.: University Press of Kansas.

### VIEWS

The park commands a unique position on the only hill flanking London's Thames approaches and offers a unequalled prospect over the river, the docklands and the City of London. Important views include the protected strategic view to St. Paul's Cathedral from the Wolfe monument and the Grand Axis progression from the River to the Queen's House, Wolfe Statue and along Blackheath Avenue terminating at All Saints Church, Blackheath. Integral to the uniqueness of the park is the unfolding sequence of views and panoramas that are revealed by the dramatic changes in the park's topography.

Within the park there are many key views which reinforce the park's historic developments. These views are focused on local landmarks such as steeples, clock towers, the Royal Observatory and other features or buildings in the landscape. The local views out of the park are controlled and restricted by the wall, topography, buildings, railings, trees and hedges. These elements give the park its unique quality and create surprise and delight for the visitor as they navigate their way through the park.

The visual character of the park is dependent upon the quality and nature of views, as highlighted in the London View Management Framework, Important Views and Tall Buildings, London's World Heritage Sites – Guidance on Setting, and in the World Heritage Site Management Plan.

- Visual setting of the World Heritage Site: The park makes up an important part of the setting and context of the WHS buildings and is viewed from the Thames Path in several locations, across the river from Island Gardens and from the water when approached by boat. The preservation of these views is considered important, by the World Heritage Site Partnership, and under threat with recent and proposed developments along the Thames particularly the Greenwich peninsula and Canary Wharf.
- Tower Hamlets, in their South Quay Masterplan document, note how the northernmost view along the Grand Axis of St. Anne church at Limehouse has been obscured since Docklands development in the 1980s, and concede that 'the WHS Conservation Plan seeks that the Grand Axis is recognised and appreciated. This requires a

considered approach to how the views of the WHS site can be managed and enhanced and how the Grand Axis can be understood in the emerging context of South Quay Masterplan.'

- Wolfe Statue appeared against the sky when viewed along Blackheath Avenue but now is seen with tower blocks behind it.
- Key views towards Greenwich Park include the view from the Thames Path and Island Gardens.
- The historic view of Wrens Flamsteed House, the original Royal Observatory and a designated schedule ancient monument when viewed from the north has been lost due to uncontrolled natural regeneration of trees on Castle Hill since the cessation of grazing by deer.

### Main Challenges:

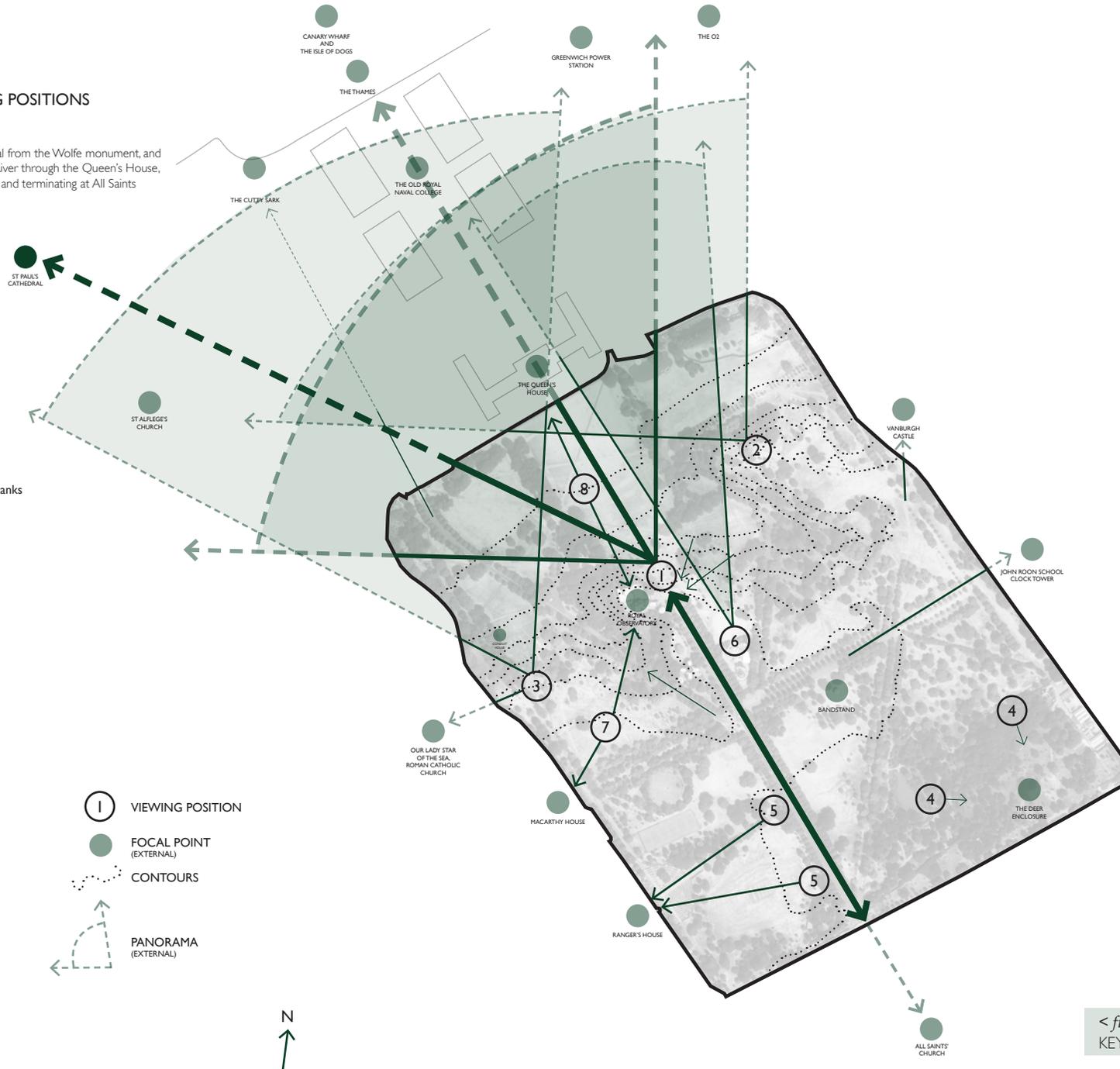
*Sensitive management of trees including limited removal, when appropriate, of self-sown trees that obscure historic views from park to Royal Observatory and Flamsteed House and vice versa.*

*Managing the strategic view to St Paul's Cathedral and to Canary Wharf from General Wolfe Statue. There is a rapid transformation of the Isle of Dogs area that has radically changed and 'dramatised' the backdrop of the General Wolfe Statue.*

*TRP will continue to respond to any planning applications for proposals for development that have a negative impact on the views of the park by external factors, such as new development, sometimes at a great distance from the park.*

LIST OF SIGNIFICANT VIEWING POSITIONS

- ① General Wolfe Statue  
the strategic view to St. Paul's Cathedral from the Wolfe monument, and the Grand Axis progression from the River through the Queen's House, to Wolfe and along Blackheath Avenue and terminating at All Saints Church, Blackheath.
- ② One Tree Hill
- ③ Croom's Hill
- ④ The Deer Enclosure
- ⑤ Ranger's House
- ⑥ The Pavilion Café
- ⑦ The Anglo-Saxon Burial Grounds
- ⑧ Flamsteed House from the Parterre Banks



KEY

- KEY VIEW  
SINGLE DIRECTION (INTERNAL)
- DISTANT VIEW  
SINGLE DIRECTION (EXTERNAL)
- KEY VIEW  
BOTH DIRECTIONS
- PANORAMA  
(INTERNAL)

- ① VIEWING POSITION
- FOCAL POINT  
(EXTERNAL)
- CONTOURS
- PANORAMA  
(EXTERNAL)

< fig 15.  
KEY VIEWS

## TOPOGRAPHY

Greenwich Park has a very distinct topography and is composed of two sharply contrasting sections:

In the northern part of the park are the low-lying flood plain terraces, seen in the flat lawns to the front of the Queen's House. The harder Woolwich and Blackheath Beds are more resistant to erosion and form the distinctive steep escarpment which cuts across the park, rising some 25 metres (80 ft) with slopes ranging from 1:6 to 1:2.

Behind the scarp is the high plateau forming the southern part of the park. The Blackheath Beds are very permeable to rain, although water is prevented from descending lower by the clayey bands within the underlying Woolwich Beds. Springs emerge at the junction of these two beds on the escarpment and have created a characteristic microtopography with the ridge eroded back into a series of coombes and sinuous hollows. These include the coombes on either side of Castle Hill, the west branch of which extends into the Observatory Garden and created the dramatic prominence of Castle Hill, later to become the site of the Royal Observatory. To the west of One Tree Hill is an extensive combe with many ramifications and providing a route for Lovers' Walk.

The particular configuration of the landform with a juxtaposition of the high land and steep escarpment with the low lying river terraces allows magnificent views out from the park. The series of coombes stretching back into the park as secluded hollows and valleys create a very distinctive local character. The interaction of the geological formation and natural erosion has produced landform which is physically and visually interesting and has had a strong influence on the park's development and use.

### *Main Challenges:*

*Management of views and vistas and sense of enclosure to exploit opportunities presented by topography.*

*The Wolfe Statue viewing point and areas of One Tree Hill take advantage of the topography. However, access to these points can be challenging for the less able and the slopes leading to them are prone to erosion (especially along desire lines).*



KEY

— CONTOUR

< fig 16.  
TOPOGRAPHY

## LIGHTING

Apart from lighting in the immediate vicinity of buildings, there is a general presumption against permanent external lighting within the park.

### *Main Challenges:*

*To constantly monitor and enforce park regulations for existing buildings and events.*

*To be aware of changes to the surrounding built fabric and enforce a clear policy for minimising light pollution on the park.*

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## HORTICULTURE

Horticultural areas within Greenwich Park are concentrated in a relatively small number of locations. The majority of these features have been added during the 20th century and provide points of interest and horticultural diversity throughout the park. They include the following:

**The Flower Garden** was originally an open area adjacent to the Wilderness developed at the turn of the 20th century around an earlier collection of (1854 onwards) exotic and native trees. It is the horticultural showpiece of the park and contains a series of some 29 round beds which are used for bedding out and bulbs on a rotation. The cedar lawns and bedding areas are particularly fine and unusual examples of Victorian/Edwardian schemes (the beds appear to have been laid out c.1925). In addition the garden incorporates shrubberies, ericaceous beds, a small lake and woodland walks adjoining the Wilderness. Together they form a quieter and more secluded area within the wider historic park and are extremely popular with local residents. There are nevertheless a number of management issues that need to be resolved including renewal of vegetation, water quality, ornamental planting around the lake, views into and out of the garden and the interface with The Wilderness.

**The Observatory Garden** is located on the west facing slopes below the Observatory. The former kitchen garden and open slopes were enclosed in the 1950's and the terraced slopes planted up with perennials, bulbs and woodland shrubs. It is used by The Friends of Greenwich Park for their annual fundraising jazz concert.



The Queen's House  
Herbaceous Border



The Rose Garden



The Flower Garden

**The Rose Garden** adjoining the Ranger's House, originally created in 1961, was renewed in 1994 with a new and more extensive garden. It is very popular with local residents but there are design issues concerning the choice of roses, which lack scent and have a short season of flowering. Many are old varieties which are no longer commercially available and in need of replanting.

**The Queen's Orchard** opened to the public in 2012, it is a 0.5 hectare walled garden adjacent to the playground and maintained as a demonstration allotment garden and orchard of heritage fruit trees maintained by volunteers.

**The Queen's House Herbaceous Border** was created in 1925 when enclosure of the deer made ornamental planting possible. The ha-ha was built in 1809 (creating a new boundary, established by Royal Warrant 1808, giving an additional 15 metres to what was then the Royal Naval Asylum (later the Greenwich Hospital School); it was partly filled at in 1925 by about 60 centimeters to create level ground for the border which runs along the entire length of the ha-ha. The bed created in 1925 has aroused some controversy. To some it is a much loved and admired feature of the park. To others it is a further intrusion separating and dividing the flow of the open grass landscape on the main visual axis which connects the park and the Queen's House. The border was redesigned by Chris Beardshaw and replanted in 2014 to integrate the landscape elements of the park and Queen's House.

**The American Garden and the Dell** form a partially enclosed area along the south west wall of the park between Blackheath Gate and Chesterfield Gate. They include ericaceous shrubs, rockeries and rhododendrons and were opened up to the public in 1898. The Dell and the rockeries are in need of refurbishment.

**The Pavilion Teahouse Garden** comprises a lawn area, seating area, shrub beds and some herbaceous planting and is enclosed from the main park area by a beech hedge. Adjacent to this is a storage facility for the Pavilion Teahouse catering surrounded by some hedge planting. The storage facility is poorly sited within one of the historic avenues of sweet chestnut and detracts from the setting of the café.

**The Herb Garden** created in the north-west corner of the park, contains a fountain and is a positive attribute to this area of the park. The externally refurbished St Mary's Lodge and landscape area in 2015 has contributed further to the quality of planting in this area.

Entrance shrub beds are located around some of the main gateways into the park.

*Main Challenges:*  
*Maintenance of all horticultural display areas to a very high standard.*

*Refurbishment needed for and Dell garden and rockeries. Renew planting and explore designs to broaden flowering season and provide appropriate setting for Ranger's House.*

*Conserving the distinct characters and individuality of different areas of planting.*

*Renewal of overgrown shrub beds - along boundary wall and park edges.*

*Retaining textural diversity and critical seasonal connectivity for sound ecological management.*

childhood development and for the health and wellbeing of people of all ages.

*Main Challenges:*  
*To make and sustain partnerships with national and regional strategic agencies and organisations with complementary aims.*

*Loss of open green space in London in recent decades resulting from the pressures on land for housing and development exerted by population and economic growth.*

*To foster links to secure more resources, to pilot and showcase new technologies, and to share research findings and good practice in the use of parks for health and wellbeing outcome.*

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## WELLBEING

In London's increasingly crowded and built up environment, Greenwich Park's 183 acres of open green space is a vital resource that impacts positively on the health and wellbeing of Londoners and, to a lesser extent, its many visitors to each year.

Greenwich Park provides one of the most significant green spaces for walking in London. It is an important link within the wider cycle network and is used daily by both commuters and leisure cyclists. By protecting the parks' trees, flora and fauna, wildlife and habitats there is a positive contribution to the health and wellbeing of those who do not participate in active recreation or sports.

The park offers areas and facilities that encourage exploration, for play and for social interaction: key requirements for

*“The Royal Park is a masterpiece of the application of symmetrical landscape design to irregular terrain”*

MARITIME GREENWICH WORLD  
HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN



## PART 2

LANDSCAPE  
CHARACTER

The park is recognised as an entity in its own right with its own character. In part 2 the park is broken down into Landscape Character Areas. These character areas are a tool for understanding and subsequently helping to determine the management priorities for each distinctive area of the park.



### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GREENWICH PARK

Greenwich Park is highly valued by many people (over four and a half million visitors a year). Its significance can be broken down geographically:

International Significance:

- The park makes up a substantial part of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site and provides an important setting for the ensemble of buildings and artefacts of architectural and historic significance and merit.

National Significance:

- Archaeological importance such as the Anglo-Saxon Barrow Cemetery on Croom's Hill and the Roman Temple on Maze Hill are designated as Scheduled Monuments.
- Renowned historic landscape recognised in numerous national historic and landscape designations including the Grade I listing of Greenwich Park on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens, the presence of several listed buildings and a selection of significant artefacts.
- Royal origin and connections (from Royal Observatory, Queens House).

Regional Significance:

- Outstanding views over the city of London. Protected by statute, the views (e.g. from the Wolfe Statue) are a major attraction for visitors and loved by many.
- Diversity, quality and size, including the contrast between the refined ambience of formal areas and avenues with the naturalistic landscape of areas.

Local Significance:

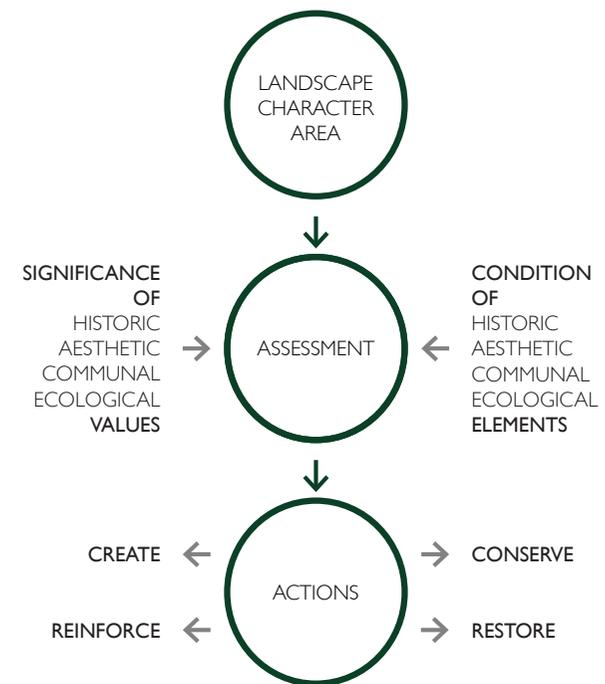
- Acclaim as a centre for horticultural excellence.
- Value as greenspace providing respite from the urban environment of Inner London for people and providing a wildlife refuge within the wider city.

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

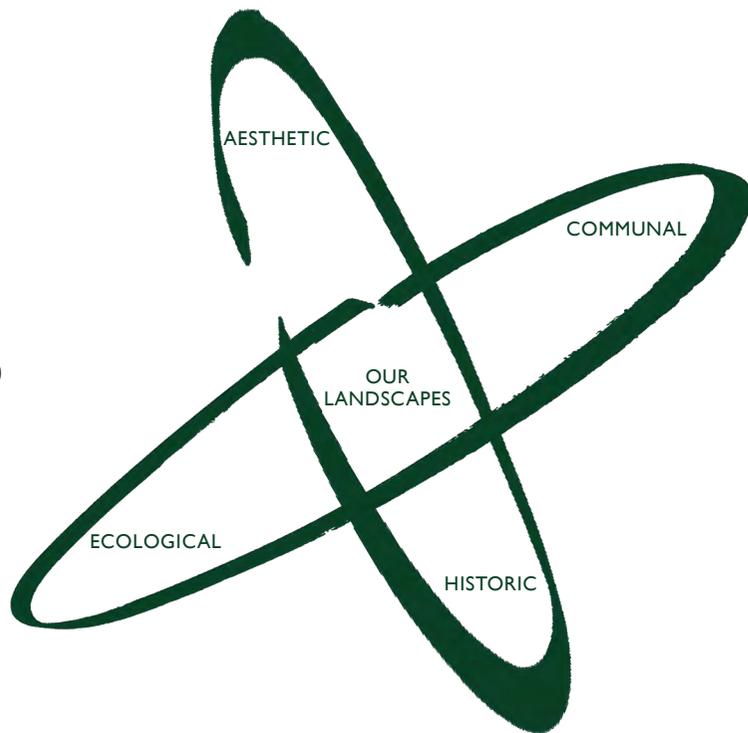
We recognise that Greenwich Park is an entity in its own right, with a distinctive character as a whole. However the park can be divided into a number of distinct landscape character areas identifiable by their geographic, ecological or land use properties. Each one of the character areas host particular identities and a unique 'sense of place'.

In this section of the plan we have subdivided Greenwich Park into character areas allowing us to identify and describe the unique combinations of values and elements which contribute to the variations in character of the park landscape.

Assessing the distinct landscape character areas of the park helps us to identify and understand the management challenges of each particular area.



^ fig 17. ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS



^ fig 18.  
SIGNIFICANCE  
DIAGRAM

## LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE

TRP understands that any landscape is formed by a unique set of natural processes and human interactions.

Using Historic England's assessment of significance as guidance<sup>2</sup> as a basis, we have expanded to create our own set of values that allow us to understand, interpret and devise a set of priorities that help us achieve a holistic approach to managing our extraordinary park landscapes.

These values are:

### Historic Value:

- the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.. Historical understanding that comes from 'reading' the landscape, that is observable, gains in value by completeness. Associative historical values are made through people identifying and connecting a place with cultural heritage; literature, art, music, film, scientific or technological discoveries. Continuing use of a place as is historically appropriate, that 'illustrates its relationship between design and function' enhances its value.<sup>2</sup>

### Aesthetic Value:

- the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. Something can gain in aesthetic value over time as people's aesthetic values change or develop, as has happened with several art movements. A full spectrum of sensory and cognitive perceptions and associations are instruments of aesthetic reception, coming together at a scale that engages the person in intense awareness; a 'bodily engagement with the environment, (which) when integrated in active perception, becomes aesthetic.'<sup>3</sup>

### Ecological Value:

- is based on the understanding that biodiversity encompasses all the plants and animals that are present within a given place, the habitats they need to survive, and the processes that operate in the natural environment.
- it is also our natural heritage that is continually benefiting our way of life, forming our culture, shaping our society and contributing to our economy.

### Communal Value:

- 'the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, their collective experience or memory closely bound up with associations of historical and aesthetic values (which) tend to have additional and specific aspects. Commemorative and symbolic values reflect the meaning of a place for those who draw part of their identity from it, or have emotional links with it. ...Social value is associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence.' Social values may be actions and happenings that are associated with a place.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance. (2017). [ebook] London: English Heritage. Available at: <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesguidanceapr08web.pdf/> [Accessed 28 Sep. 2017].

<sup>3</sup>Berleant, A. (n.d.). Living in the landscape. Lawrence, Kan.: University Press of Kansas.

### LANDSCAPE CONDITION

For the purposes of our management plans and to facilitate analysis each landscape character area condition is classed as good, moderate or poor. These are defined as follows:

**Good condition** - Landscape with a strong coherent character and sense of place, a distinctive place, well managed and well maintained.

**Moderate condition** - Landscape character which is generally intact but with some detractors (elements that detract from the overall coherence), not all elements well managed and maintained and may be inconsistent.

**Poor condition** - Landscape character which is fragmented and incoherent, lacks distinctive character with a number of detractors. Poorly managed and maintained, and lacks a clear sense of management and maintenance.

We have various tools at our disposal to assess overall landscape condition and we have a wide range of surveys, maintenance and health and safety inspection regimes that help us to assess the condition of our component landscape elements.

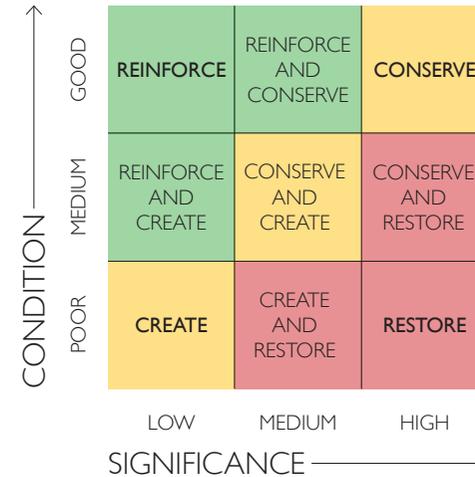
In terms of overall landscape condition we refer to Natural England's Landscape Character Assessment methodology and the Landscape Institutes's Landscape Visual Impact Assessment guidelines to form our approach.

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA ASSESSMENT

We set the **Significance** of an area against an assessment of its **Condition** as a tool to highlight the appropriate management **Actions** for each **Landscape Character Area**.

We use a simple traffic light system to visually correlate each Character Area's significance and condition. This allows us to quickly identify the most significant and critical areas, i.e. a highly significant character area in poor condition should be addressed as a priority, whereas a character area of low significance in good condition would be seen as a low priority.

In response to the **Significance** and therefore the sensitivity of each landscape character area along with its **Condition** we can make a range of management decisions that result in possible **Actions**.



^ fig 19. SIGNIFICANCE VS. CONDITION MATRIX

Definitions of our possible **Actions**:

**Create:**  
...to construct or form a new attribute within a place to generate a desired change.

**Reinforce:**  
...to strengthen a value, or to support a particular element, of a place by assigning additional material, funding or effort in order to enhance its role or impact.

**Restore:**  
...to return a place to a known earlier state, on the basis of compelling evidence.\*

**Conserve:**  
...the process of managing change to a significant place in its setting in ways that will best sustain its heritage values, while recognising opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations.\*

\*adopted from Historic England

*“Exploring and understanding the landscape character of any area requires systematic investigation of the many different factors that have helped to create and influence that location. They include geology and landform, the natural attributes of soils and the vegetation associated with them, and both the historical and current influences of human land use and settlement. The interactions between all these factors create the character of the landscape.”*

THE COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY &  
SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE



## GREENWICH PARK LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 BLACKHEATH GATE                    | 11 BANDSTAND FIELD                             |
| 2 BLACKHEATH AVENUE                  | 12 RANGER'S FIELD                              |
| 3 THE GIANT STEPS AND PARTERRE BANKS | 13 THE ROSE GARDEN                             |
| 4 THE PLAYING FIELD                  | 14 RESERVOIR FIELD                             |
| 5 THE QUEEN'S ORCHARD                | 15 CROOM'S HILL AND THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY   |
| 6 ONE TREE HILL AND THE COOMBS       | 16 CASTLE HILL AND THE OBSERVATORY GARDEN      |
| 7 MAZE HILL FIELDS                   | 17 ST MARY'S FIELDS                            |
| 8 GREAT CROSS AVENUE                 | 18 THE NURSERY YARD                            |
| 9 THE FLOWER GARDEN                  | *19 THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY (NOT MANAGED BY TRP) |
| 10 THE WILDERNESS                    |  |

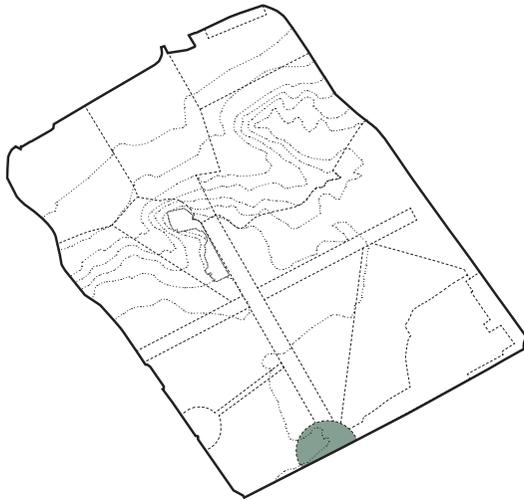


^ fig 20.  
GREENWICH PARK  
CHARACTER AREAS

# I BLACKHEATH GATE



**Blackheath Gate** forms part of the Grand Axis and is the main entrance into the park from the south. The gate is a threshold that leads north-west onto Blackheath Avenue or south-east over Blackheath.



## SIGNIFICANCE

### Historic Value

Blackheath Gate - Reference is made to a gate in an account of the reception of Anne of Cleves in 1540. The "Pepys" plan of c.1680 shows the gate in its present location and appears to have been the main gate.

The Rockery - added to the area known as the American Garden in 1898.

Park Office Complex - The complex has developed from a single building shown on this area on the Sayer plan of 1840. Expansion took place due to increasing staffing and maintenance needs. A plan from the beginning of the 20th century shows stores and a workshop and the earlier building as an ambulance shed. Since then, the buildings have been renovated and house TRP Management Team, maintenance contractors and the police.

Blackheath Gate Lodge - Built in c. 1850 to replace the Keeper's Cottage in the centre of the park which dated from the 2nd half of the 17th century and was dilapidated by the mid 19th century. The present building is highly decorative in detail, employing a wide range of materials and mixture of styles. It is currently leased by TRP on a commercial residential let.

### Ecological Value

Several of the old sweet chestnut trees on the east side of the Bower Avenue, near the Flower Garden gate, appear to be survivors of The Rounds. The Rounds have been an important landscape feature since the "Pepys" plan composed of 4 distinct radiating rows of trees centering off Blackheath Gate.

### Communal Value

Blackheath Gate Toilets - The present building was constructed in 1973 but a latrine has been marked on maps at this spot since the end of the 19th century.

### Aesthetic Value

Blackheath Gate is a highly significant access point and sets the scene for first impressions for visitors.

### CONDITION

#### Historic Elements

Work was carried out on Blackheath Gate to set it back and allow easier access in 2012/13.

#### Ecological Elements

There is a need to introduce a better level of horticultural planting to this area.

Much good work was done in the period 1999-2005 in planting trees. This has helped to reinforce the historical pattern including the laying out of the outer two rows of The Rounds, which had, until 2003, been "lost" for about 100 years.

#### Communal Elements

Pedestrian access to the park suffers from opening into a car park on the western side of the Blackheath Gate leading to conflict between pedestrians and motorists.

There is still pressures and conflicts of access between cyclists and vehicles around Blackheath Gate.

Blackheath Gate Toilets are hidden from view and general orientation for visitors is poor in this area.

#### Aesthetic Elements

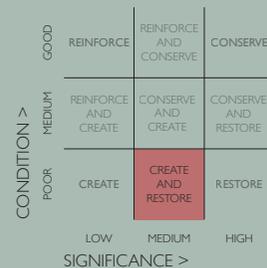
The ambiance of the park plays second fiddle to traffic and car parking. The threshold of the gates leads into an extensive foreground of hard-landscape and parking and there is significant opportunity for improvements.

The sense of arrival for pedestrians on the western side of the gate is particularly poor as they enter the park into a car park.

There is considerable visitor movement from Charlton Way through the gates to the Royal Observatory as parties are dropped off at the coach parking.

### CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>CREATE</b>				
Review visitor arrival and sense experience within this area.	●	●	●	
Seek to re-landscape the area - focussing on dispersal and rationalising parking spaces	○	●	●	○
Blackheath Gate Toilets - Explore possible re-uses for building and re-linking it to its setting.		◐	◐	
<b>RESTORE</b>				
Explore possibilities of extending Blackheath Avenue tree planting to the gates.	◐	●	●	◐
<b>CONSERVE</b>				
Work to maintain an echo of the historic tree layout known as The Rounds.	○	○		○
<b>ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA</b>				
Blackheath Gate (Artefact: 1.1 - Asset Code: GW-24-05-000-040)	Good			
Blackheath Gate Toilets (Artefact: 2.3 - Asset Code: GW-23-02-000-032)	Fair			
Blackheath Gate Lodge (Artefact: 2.1 - Asset Code: GW-27-02-000-004)	Fair			
Park Office Complex (Artefact: 2.2 - Asset Code: GW-23-02-000-023-25)	Fair - Good			

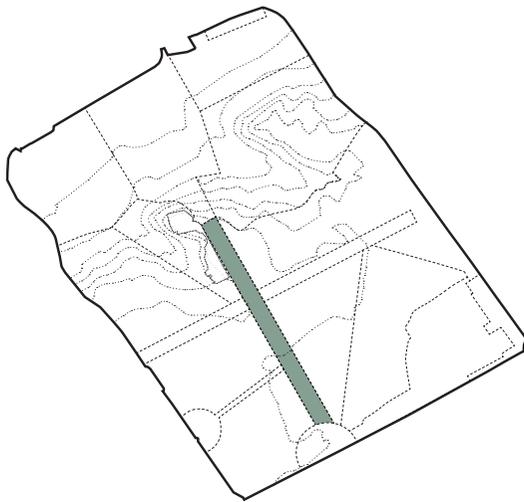


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**POOR**

● High Priority      ◐ Medium Priority      ○ Low Priority

2

## BLACKHEATH AVENUE



**Blackheath Avenue** forms the most notable element of the Grand Axis. Its planting was dictated precisely by the position of the Queens House and it links the Giant Steps up the escarpment to Blackheath Gate at the south-eastern end of the park.

The walk was originally flanked by double lines of trees planted in 1660. Replanting took place in 1818 and further replanting was undertaken in the 1930s with at least two phases of replanting.

Blackheath Avenue is crossed by Great Cross Avenue and other park assets such as the Pavilion Café, the Cherry Avenue and The Royal Observatory are found off the avenue. At the north-western end of the avenue stands the statue of General Wolfe and the viewing platform that provides views out over London.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

Statue of General Wolfe - Situated in a fine position at the crest of the Giant Steps is Grade II listed. General James Wolfe (1727-59) lived in McCartney House, adjacent to Greenwich Park and is buried in the crypt of St Alfege Church in Greenwich town centre. This bronze was sculpted by Dr. Tait Mackenzie and stands on a plinth that is inscribed 'This monument, the gift of the Canadian people, was unveiled on 5th of June 1930 by Le Marquis of Montcalm' (who was a descendant of General Montcalm, whom Wolfe defeated in Quebec).

Blackheath Avenue - forms the backbone of the park's layout, having been set out in 1660 as the main access from Blackheath Gate and sited directly on the axis to the Queen's House to which subsequent phases of development and design have responded in consolidating the Grand Axis. The visual axis has also been extended southwards across Blackheath through the siting of All Saint's Church (1857).

**Ecological Value**

Blackheath Avenue - Extends for 560 meters from the statue of General Wolfe to Blackheath Gate. It is composed of 226 trees - all horse chestnut except for 13 sweet chestnut at the NW outer row, and planted in four parallel, evenly spaced lines.

There are four surviving sweet chestnuts of the original outer line of the avenue close to the Royal Observatory.

**Communal Value**

There is parking for cars and designated disabled parking bays, along both sides of the avenue. Charge is by pay and display with a maximum stay of 4 hours.

A small timber catering kiosk is sited inside Blackheath Gate. It has a limited offer and does not do significant trade considering the high footfall in the area.

Blackheath Avenue is open to vehicular traffic Monday to Friday between 07h00 - 10h00 and from 16h00 to park closing. There is a movement of approximately 1,000 cars daily along this route and several hundred cyclists. It is used as a commuter route, it reduces congestion on the residential roads either side of the park but does have a significant negative impact on the aesthetic atmosphere of the park. Further restriction of the

operating hours may be considered in the future. Opening the road to dusk in summer is not necessary to alleviate traffic congestion.

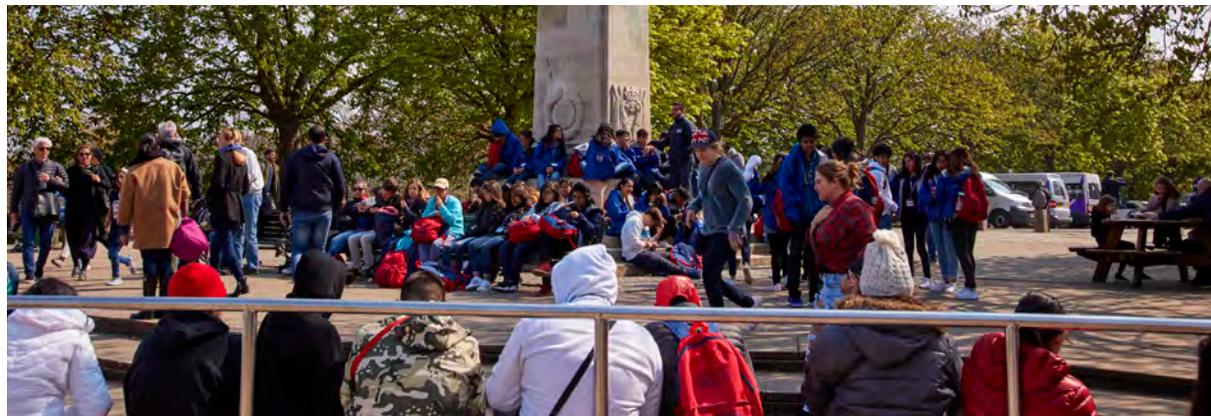
### Aesthetic Value

The Wolfe Statue area is a viewing point of national importance and is a protected view. It is a destination for this dramatic vista to St. Paul's Cathedral and over the river, the docklands and the City of London.

The space in front of Wolfe Statue and the Royal Observatory becomes very congested. The landscape detail and quality is poor and exacerbates the problem.



Wolfe Statue viewpoint 2018  
(Mark Laing)



Wolfe Statue viewpoint 2018  
(Mark Laing)



Statue of General Wolfe 1993  
(The Royal Parks)



Statue of General Wolfe 2014  
(Max A Rush)



Statue of General Wolfe 2019  
(Alex Ioannou)



Blackheath Avenue 1904  
(© Royal Parks Guild Collection)



Blackheath Avenue 1986  
(The Royal Parks)



Blackheath Avenue 2018  
(The Royal Parks)

## CONDITION

### Historic Elements

Statue of General Wolfe - The grandly sited statue forms the central pivot of the Grand Axis. The top of the slope is enormously popular with visitors, heavily trafficked and vulnerable.

### Ecological Elements

A large percentage of the horse chestnuts in the avenue are infected with bacterial canker. The age structure and gaps in the canopy will increase year on year. There is a significant change in the condition of the avenue from the 2006 Management Plan when the incidence of bacterial canker was low.

The infection of this key landscape and heritage feature is critical and will require phased replacement of the trees which will be outlined in an Avenue Strategy.

The long term management objective is to maintain the avenue as a full double avenue on each side of the central roadway and avoiding further erosion of verges, or loss of edges to hard surfacing.

There is significant erosion and compaction occurring beyond the barriers at the top of the slope. This is due to visitor numbers and restrictions of space.

### Communal Elements

Wolfe Statue Kiosk - very popular but its current set back position, within the outer row, slightly blocks the pedestrian footpath and does not link with the surrounding landscaped area.

Severe congestion occurs at the Wolfe Statue view and in front of the Royal Observatory entrance. This leads to a poor visitor experience of one of London's finest views.

### Aesthetic Elements

The setting around Wolfe Statue and the viewing point has poor accessibility and circulation which leads to overcrowding.

The identity of the space is encroached by parked cars and weakened by inconsistent railings and furnishing.

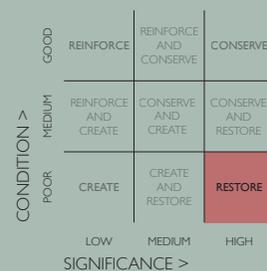
## CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>RESTORE</b>				
Blackheath Avenue - Develop a strategy for replanting and publish within the 'Greenwich Park Avenues Strategy'.	●	●	●	●
Wolfe Statue Public Realm - Rationalise and re-landscape the area	●	●	●	○
Explore possibilities of road and parking management.		◐	◐	◐
Wolfe Statue Kiosk - Upgrade the catering provision to sit within new landscape area.		◐	●	

## CONSERVE

Continue to protect the view of St Paul's Cathedral <i>(Viewing Location 5A+B - London View Management Framework)</i>	●	●	●	
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ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA	CONDITION
Statue of General Wolfe ( <i>HE List entry Number: 1358977 - Artefact 4.10 - Asset Code: GW-19-08-020-057</i> )	Good
Wolfe Statue Kiosk ( <i>Asset Code: GW-19-02-000-022</i> )	Good
Blackheath Avenue ( <i>Asset Code: GW-NA-06-000-053</i> )	Poor - Fair



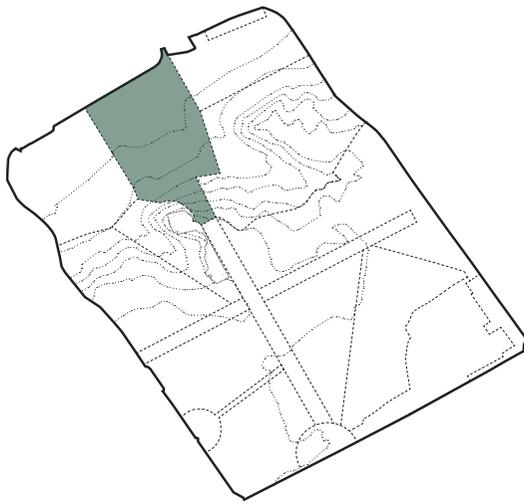
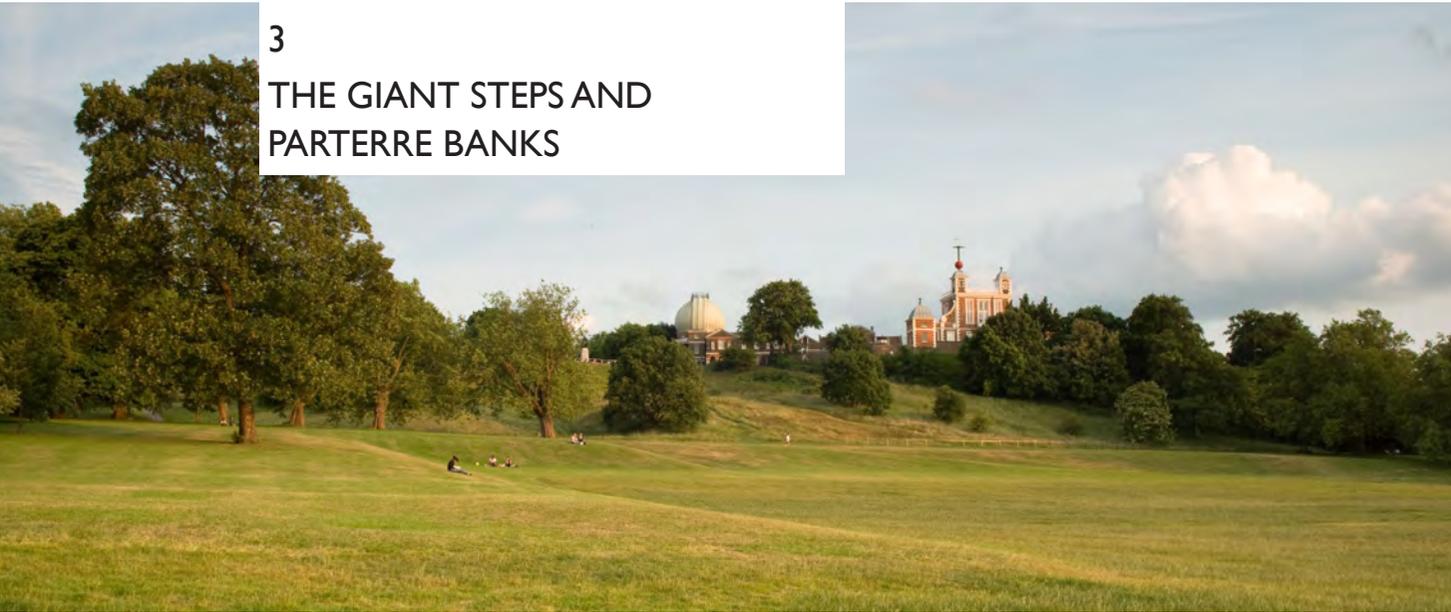
OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**POOR**

● High Priority

◐ Medium Priority

○ Low Priority

## 3

THE GIANT STEPS AND  
PARTERRE BANKS

The Queen's Field is an area of expansive grass that sweeps up **The Giant Steps** and is framed on the three sides by **The Parterres Banks** which are ground modeling undertaken in 1664 to André Le Nôtre's design.

The area includes the framework of formal tree planting on each flank and forms the essential foreground and setting for the Queen's House and for the Giant Steps as part of the Grand Axis. This led the 7th Report of the Advisory Committee on Forestry to state:

*'Greenwich Park is still potentially the finest interpretation in England of a layout based on that Grand European 17th century conception of design that governed also the grouping of buildings leading to the river.'*

The essence here is of architectural form and space on a north facing slope, framed by Le Notre's 'architrave' landform and the (now mixed) second and mainly third generation planting of flanking avenues.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

The Giant Steps - a series of artificial steps, originally referred to as "ascents" but renamed in the early 18th century, were cut into the steep escarpment on the main axis between September 1661 and April 1662. They were a formal link up the scarp slope from the lower ground to the Blackheath Avenue above. In essence the Giant Steps, together with the grandly sited statue of General Wolfe form the central pivot of the Grand Axis.

The Parterre Banks - framed by a double broken architrave with maximum internal dimensions of 220 meters north-west to south-east by 158 meters. The parterre is framed on three sides by a raised terrace walk, originally flanked by multiple lines of trees. There is no evidence that the internal details, drawn on Le Notre's sketch were ever completed.

The Herbaceous Border - was created in 1925 when enclosure of the deer made ornamental planting possible. The border was redesigned by Chris Beardshaw and planted in 2014 to integrate the landscape elements of the park and Queen's House.

The Ha-Ha - Built in 1809 created a new boundary, established by Royal Warrant 1808. It was partly filled at in 1925 by about 60 centimeters to create level ground for the border which runs along the entire length of the ha-ha.

**Communal Value**

In dry weather, the outline of former "Dig for Victory" allotments and air raid shelter bases are visible in the grasslands.

The lawn known as the Queens Field is used for formal events such as the BIG Half marathon festival site and hosted the 2012 London Olympics Equestrian, Modern pentathlon and Paralympic Equestrian events.

Park Row Gate - Known during the 18th and early 19th century as East Lane Gate. A gate has been shown in this location from c.1705, and in the general area from the Pepys Plan of c. 1680.

Jubilee Gate - the gates were renewed for the Silver Jubilee in 1977, historically known as Royal Naval College Gate. It was one of the private gates referred to in records of 1863 and used to give direct access to the Royal Naval College.

**Aesthetic Value**

The Parterre Banks form the setting for the Queens House viewed from Wolfe Statue. Visually and as an informal recreation space it has great aesthetic value.

**CONDITION**

**Historic Elements**

The Giant Steps - Have experienced considerable erosion.

The Parterre Banks - have suffered significant erosion and reinstatement is required. The tarmac footpaths crossing the landforms have compromised the structure.

The avenue plantings on the Parterre Banks, largely date from 1977, have failed on the eastern banks. On the west poor species choice and pest damage has severely affected the avenues.

**Ecological Elements**

The slope of the giant steps and architraves are acid grassland and provide habitat for solitary bees and wasps.

**Communal Elements**

Royal Naval College Gate - Recently been opened for public use, for visitors to access the park from the Queen's House and improve World Heritage Site links.

Jubilee Avenue Dias - The empty plinth at the end of the Jubilee Avenue is an oddity within the landscape and seems unfinished.

**Aesthetic Elements**

The failure of the avenue plantings on the eastern architrave has resulted in a loss of the integrity of the Grand Plan historic landscape.

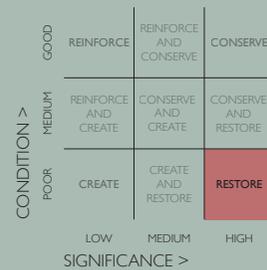
Poorly sited tarmac footpath cuts cross the Parterre Banks damaging the integrity of the historic landscape.

**CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES**

**RESTORE**

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
The Giant Steps - Explore restoration approaches to find an appropriate sustainable solution, considering options from full, and partial restoration to repairing and reinforcing the open landform feature. The vulnerability of the slope to erosion is a consideration.	●	●	●	○
Parterre Banks - Carry out the phased re-shaping and re-sculpting.	●	●	●	○
Parterre Avenues - Explore and begin the process of re-instating the avenue trees.	●	●	◐	●
Jubilee Avenue Dias - Explore possibilities for the junction end.		○	○	

ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA	CONDITION
General Wolfe Catering Kiosk (Asset Code: GW-19-02-000-022)	Good
Park Row Gate (Artefact 1.12 - Asset Code: GW-14-05-000-049)	Good

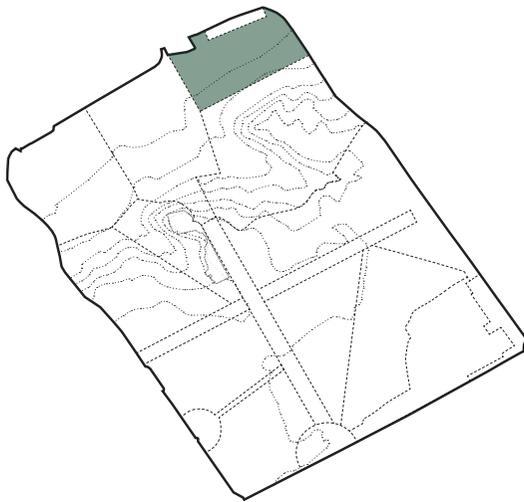
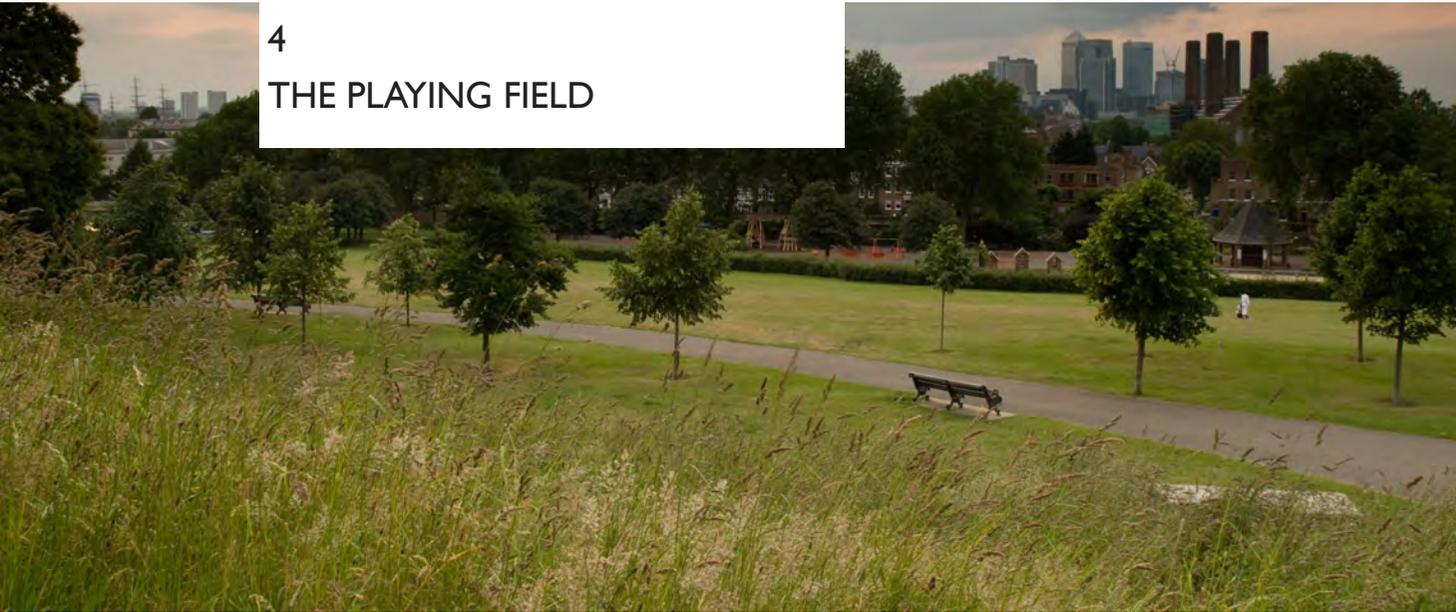


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**POOR**



## 4

## THE PLAYING FIELD



**The Playing Field** is framed by the park wall to north and east, the foot of One Tree Hill to the south and the formal avenues to the west, this area is mainly a north facing grass slope with the playground and boating pool in the lower ground.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

WW2 allotments were packed in around the playground and Boating Lake taking up the field until Lower Cross East Avenue.

**Ecological Value**

Lower Cross East Avenue - A historic avenue that can be seen on André Le Nôtre's sketch plan for the Parterre Banks which is mirrored by the Lower Cross West Avenue.

**Communal Value**

The Playground - Opened in 1930 and was extended in 2012 at the eastern end with new naturalistic play equipment. It includes a refreshment kiosk and public toilets.

The Boating Lake - Originally a paddling pool and sand pit to the east, is still a popular feature but is certainly constrained in terms of landscape fit and water quality.

Creed Place Gate - According to historical sources iron gates were erected here 1699 by Sir Gregory Page, but this does not seem altogether likely as no opening appears to have been made in the inner wall of the orchards until the mid 18th century. It is possible too, that this was the iron gate opposite Mr Kelso's House referred to in 1788. However in 1823, when the cottage in the corner was demolished and the road widened, railings were erected.

Maze Hill Cottage Gate - From 1846, when the buildings were converted into five dwellings there were requests for private doors into the park. There were a number of complaints during the years made of the abuse of the privilege, including the shaking of door mats in the park in 1882, and it was said that if such nuisances were continued the doors would be locked. In 1973 it was resolved that the gates were to be blocked, unless tenants paid a £3 licence fee.

**Aesthetic Value**

The Boating Lake is of a shallow concrete construction. It is filled and in operation between Easter and October but for 5 months is drained presenting a poor landscape feature.

### CONDITION

#### Historic Elements

Up until 2012 the playground was poorly designed and a mixture of old, brightly coloured play equipment which did not sit well in the historic landscape. A phased redesign is being implemented to integrate the playground within the landscape by using timber equipment with better play value and new soft plantings.

#### Ecological Elements

Biodiversity around the Boating Lake could be substantially improved if the concrete seasonal lake is replaced by a permanent natural lake.

The filling of the lake by potable water is not sustainable, costly and has high nutrient levels. Usage of boreholes and more sustainable sources should be explored.

There are opportunities to improve biodiversity by reviewing mowing regimes.

#### Communal Elements

The Playground - The fourth and final phase of the playground's renovation will be undertaken in 2019.

The Boating Lake - The concrete base has been leaking, the water quality has diminished, and its operation has been heavily subsidised by TRP. Feasibility studies have been completed in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

#### Aesthetic Elements

Refurbishment of the playground to a design and standard fitting Royal park has greatly improved this part of the park.

Replacement of the seasonal concrete Boating Lake by a permanent natural lake would greatly improve the area. There is a large amount of tarmac around the Park Row Gate and Boating Lake which could be reduced.

The sun dial is of a poor construction and adds no value to the landscape. Its removal if the Boating Lake were replaced would be beneficial.

### CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>CONSERVE</b>				
Playground - enhancing the experience by completing the fourth phase of re-development.		◐	●	◐
<b>CREATE</b>				
The Boating Lake - The leaking Boating Lake has been the subject of an Options Appraisal. Retain boating activity, improve the visitor entrance, sustainability and biodiversity of the area.	○	○	○	○

ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA	CONDITION
The Boating Lake (Artefact 4.8 - Asset Code: GW-14-10-000-064)	Fair
Creed Place Gate (Artefact 1:14 - Asset Code: GW-14-05-000-043)	Good

CONDITION >	GOOD	REINFORCE	REINFORCE AND CONSERVE	CONSERVE
	MEDIUM	REINFORCE AND CREATE	CONSERVE AND CREATE	CONSERVE AND RESTORE
	POOR	CREATE	CREATE AND RESTORE	RESTORE
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
		SIGNIFICANCE >		

OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**MODERATE**

● High Priority      ◐ Medium Priority      ○ Low Priority

## 5

## THE QUEEN'S ORCHARD



**The Queen's Orchard** opened to the public in 2012, it is a 0.5 hectare walled garden adjacent to the playground and maintained as a demonstration allotment garden and orchard of heritage fruit trees.

Originally part of the park, the land was sold by the admiralty to the Royal Borough of Greenwich in the 20th Century. Following unsuccessful proposals for a housing development in the 1970s the area became overgrown and managed for limited access. In 2002 Borough Council approached TRP with the generous offer of a transfer of the land to be incorporated into the park.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

Plans of 1693 identify that the land had been the last of three 17th century 'Dwarf Orchard' gardens that extended along the north side of the park. This formed the basis of the site's development for heritage fruit trees.

**Ecological Value**

Between 2010 and 2012 it was landscaped to include a traditional orchard of heritage fruit trees, meadow, wildlife ponds and demonstration allotment.

**Communal Value**

The orchard is maintained by a team of volunteers and open to the public seasonally on weekends.

**Aesthetic Value**

The Queen's Orchard provides a popular enclosed space that has a 'secret garden' feel quite different from other parts of Greenwich Park.

### CONDITION

#### Historic Elements

The boundary wall is in good condition and is an important element of the orchard.

A section of wall that abuts and appears to be bonded into the main park boundary wall and has a large vertical stepped crack for its full visible height in line with a large semi-mature tree in a neighbouring garden.

#### Ecological Elements

The two ponds provide good freshwater habitat for invertebrates. The newly sown meadow under orchard trees is on a nutrient rich substrate and suffers from growth of thistle and dock which needs to be controlled.

#### Communal Elements

The Queen's Orchard has a very active community of volunteers for which there is a waiting list. The annual harvest festival attracts up to 1,000 visitors. There will be discussions with the Grounds Maintenance Team for full opening hours from 2019.

Ever since the orchard was created there has been a growth in sense of ownership for the area.

#### Aesthetic Elements

It is an important quiet place in the park where the public can contemplate.

### CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

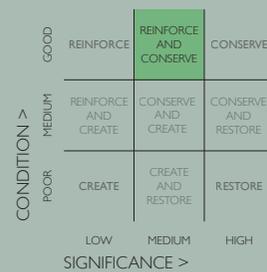
#### REINFORCE

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
Continue to support and develop the volunteering experience within The Queen's Orchard.	○		●	
Continue to maintain and enhance the Orchard's planting and ecological organic approach.	○			◐
Seek possibilities of creating another community growing space within Greenwich Park.			○	○

#### CONSERVE

The Orchard Wall - Resolve the crack in the section of wall that abuts it within the orchard on the western edge.	◐	○		
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ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA	CONDITION
Orchard Gate Asset Code: GW-14-05-000-066)	Good

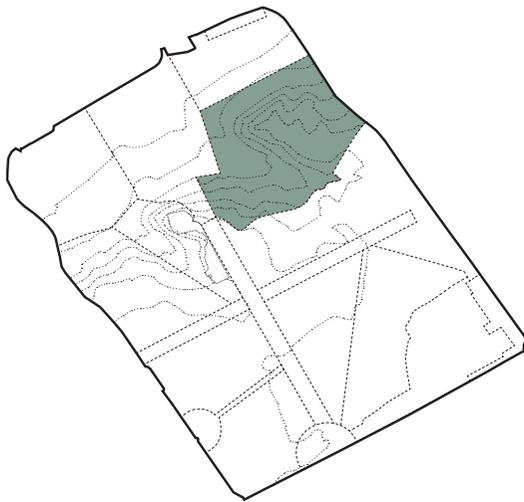


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**GOOD**

● High Priority      ◐ Medium Priority      ○ Low Priority

6

## ONE TREE HILL AND THE COOMBES



**One Tree Hill and the Coombes** are the most prominent landscape element forming the North-West corner of the park. The area includes the scarp slope of the hill, and the plateau above.

One Tree Hill is a narrow, north west facing spur from the main Blackheath plateau that is accentuated by the adjacent coombes that form the west (Lowers Walk) and east (Maze Hill) variations in the topography.

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### Historic Value

The Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England survey of 1990 identifies a feature to the east of the One Tree Hill plateau, it appears as a round flattened space with a boundary ditch.

**The Conduit Head** - On the lower face of One Tree Hill is a Grade II listed structure, part of an important and historically influential system of water gathering grounds within the geological layers, having been of considerable significance in the siting and development of the earlier Tudor palace. It was one of the three known conduit heads or houses which served the Royal Hospital for Seamen.

**Rustic Fountain** - First reference of a fountain on this site occurs in 1863. It is an ornamental, grotto-like fountain of rough stone, set into the earthen bank or cut slope adjacent to a small side path running west off of Lovers' Walk.

**Queen Elizabeth's Oak** - An ancient oak which fell in 1991. Henry VIII is supposed to have danced with Anne Boleyn under the tree. Other stories tell of Queen Elizabeth taking tea inside the hollow trunk and that this space was later used to incarcerate those who contravened the park's regulations. Dendrochronologists contracted by Historic England have dated the tree to 1292.

#### Ecological Value

**Lover's Walk** - is composed of two rows of trees and is of mixed species - mainly mature trees in the southern [plateau] section and with younger hornbeams, planted in early 1980s in the lower/valley section.

#### Communal Value

**Maze Hill House Gate** - Erected between 1903-1905 when the state of the boundary was inadequate to cope with the numbers of people visiting the park so a new gate was designed to match the adjacent railings of the time.

#### Aesthetic Value

The area affords yet another series of fine and panoramic views northwards to the Thames and down to the Queen's House at the very core of the World Heritage Site. There are also fine views of Vanbrugh Castle on Maze Hill to the east; and the park wall is seen to advantage in this section.

## CONDITION

### Historic Elements

The 'Woodlands' plan (c.1703) shows a single (enclosed) tree on the promontory; but by 1780 there was already informal parkland planting around the slopes and on the plateau. The One Tree Hill viewpoint, footpaths and steps are in poor condition. There is a lack of signage and interpretation.

### Ecological Elements

The west facing scarp is rough grass but holds important populations of invertebrates.

The plateau has some remnant acid grassland and the slope of Lovers Walk some of the more extensive rough grassland in the park. The only pair of whitethroat on the park regularly breed in scrub below the north facing scarp. Consideration should be given to extend the area of bramble to reinforce habitat.

Lover's Walk - the trees are badly damaged but retain the appearance of a healthy mature avenue. In combination with pest control it is proposed to pollard trees starting with a trial.

### Communal Elements

There are two flights of steps on One Tree Hill. Both are of an urban construction or tarmac and road kerbs, at odds with the natural landscape setting. More recent impacts of 20th century tarmac paths and crudely detailed steps look harsh in this topographic and varied landscape.

The viewing area is poorly detailed with an urban style seating inappropriate to the natural setting.

### Aesthetic Elements

The steep slopes have in the past suffered severe erosion, and this has been partly reduced by more recent establishment of gorse, currently struggling under the partial shade of mature trees on the slope.

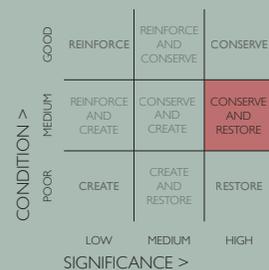
Historically the view from One Tree Hill has been celebrated in art and literature.

The historic view from One Tree Hill is in danger of being lost due to inappropriate tree planting. Consideration should be given to opening up views.

## CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>RESTORE</b>				
Lover's Walk - Investigate proposals for pollarding trees to improve tree health, starting with a trial. Continue pest control.	●◐	○	○	●◐
One Tree Hill - Explore sensitive designs for enhancing the viewpoint's setting - improve circulation and open up views.	●	●◐	●	●◐
<b>CONSERVE</b>				
Rustic Fountain - Explore the potential to re-connect this feature to provide water for visitors.	●◐	○	○	
Queen Elizabeth Oak - Continue to monitor and conserve the artefact. Enhance the interpretation.	●◐		○	
The Conduit Head - Explore ways to interpret and enhance the conduits.	●	○	●	

ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA	CONDITION
The Conduit Head (HE List entry Number: 1393454 - Artefact: 4.3 - Asset Code: GW-14-02-020-006)	Good - Assessed 2018
Rustic Fountain (Artefact: 4.14 - Asset Code: GW-12-04-000-039)	Poor
Maze Hill House Gate (Artefact: 1.17 - Asset Code: GW-21-05-000-048)	Fair
Queen Elizabeth Oak (Artefact: 4.16 - Asset Code: GW-20-08-000-079)	Fair



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**MODERATE**

● High Priority    ●◐ Medium Priority    ○ Low Priority

7

## MAZE HILL FIELDS



**Maze Hill Fields** is an open parkland area. It includes the Pavilion Café, some of the largest veteran trees in the park, (remnants of the original 1660 avenue planting) and it includes the highest density of archaeological features.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

The Romano-Celtic Temple - A nationally rare building type which provides information on Roman London and its territorium. These temples were built to meet the spiritual needs of the communities they served by venerating the god or spirit considered to dwell in a particular place and was regarded as the treasure house of its deity and priests. It comprised a cella, or inner temple chamber; an ambulatory or walkway around the cella, and sometimes annexes or antechambers. The buildings were constructed of a variety of materials, including stone, cob and timber; and walls were often plastered and painted both internally and externally.

The Keeper's Cottage - a temporary structure, poorly built, dating from the 1700s, possibly a viewing area or livestock shed.

The Magnetic Observatory - Was built in this area in 1898 and demolished in 1959. It was also the site of the Christie Enclosure that provide a new home for some of the magnetic and meteorological instruments.

**Ecological Value**

The area has a number of notable veteran trees and areas of acid grassland.

**Communal Value**

The Pavilion Café - Refreshments have been available in the park since at least 1880. A refreshment tent was erected each summer, but had to be replaced every 2 years, so in 1905 the Board of Works decided to build a café. A café design by Boulton and Paul of Norwich was chosen as it had 'more character' and was erected in 1906.

Maze Hill Gate - It was first referred to in 1788 as the 'gate at the top of the other hill'. It is first shown on plan in c.1705, and thus is one of the earliest pedestrian gates and was the only gate on the east side of the park until c.1850. At a count made on a July evening in 1900, 1530 people left by the gate in the hour before the park closed.

**Aesthetic Value**

The area affords a series of fine and panoramic views northwards to the Thames and down to the Queen's House at the very core of the World Heritage Site. There are also fine views of Vanbrugh Castle on Maze Hill to the east; and the park wall is seen to advantage in this section.

### CONDITION

#### Historic Elements

The Romano-Celtic Temple - was built by AD 100 and was in use until about AD 400. Despite some excavation of parts of the main temple building over a number of years, most of this area and virtually all of the temenos is unexcavated, and will contain information about the temple itself and the ancillary buildings, either religious or secular, which were associated with it. The temple has produced a large number of finds, amongst which are rare ivories, inscriptions and a large number of coins which will give information as to the building's use and status.

The Keeper's Cottage - Is shown in this area on the "Pepys" plan of 1676-80, it was demolished in 1853. The resulting three year community archaeology project, starting in 2014, has proved extremely popular.

Between Maze Hill Gate and Vanbrugh Gate there is a high density of archaeological features and veteran trees dating from the 1660s original design. There is evidence of medieval ridge and furrow, park pale, and possibly the original Roman Road know as Watling Street.

#### Ecological Elements

There is a need for continual monitoring and sensitive management of the veteran trees and to continue to explore trial plots for soil amelioration.

There are opportunities to improve the ecological diversity by changing mowing regimes within the area.

#### Communal Elements

The visitor experience at the Pavilion Café and garden should be improved.

Remove and resolve the storage/refuge area as it is sited within a historic tree avenue.

Vanbrugh Gate - is a very busy gate for local residents and also a shared use cycle route well used by commuters.

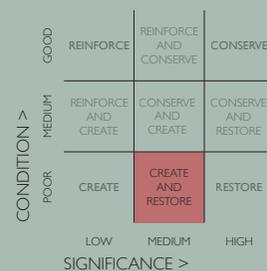
#### Aesthetic Elements

The Roman Temple area is bisected by a tarmac footpath which should ideally be removed however this is a major pedestrian route and it is difficult to see how this might be achieved.

### CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>CREATE</b>				
The Pavilion Café and garden - Seek to improve the visitor offer and secure additional revenue to support enhanced future management of the site.	●	●	●	○
Vanbrugh Gate - Rationalise the public realm inside the gate for safer access to Flower Garden and Nursery Yard		○	●	
Community Archaeology - Seek to engage the public with events and community days.	●		●	
<b>RESTORE</b>				
Historic Avenue - Remove and resolve the The Pavilion Café storage area in order to restore the avenue's integrity and sightline.	●	●		●
<b>CONSERVE</b>				
The Romano-Celtic Temple - Continue to monitor and celebrate the site.	●	●	●	○

ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA	CONDITION
The Romano-Celtic Temple ( <i>HE List entry Number: 1021439 - Artefact: 4.2 - Asset Code: GW-21-01-100-002</i> )	Good - Assessed 2014
The Pavilion Café ( <i>Artefact: 2.14 - Asset Code: GW-19-02-000-078</i> )	Good
Maze Hill Gate ( <i>Artefact: 1.18 - Asset Code: GW-21-05-000-047</i> )	Fair
Vanbrugh Gate ( <i>Artefact: 1.19 - Asset Code: GW-25-05-000-051</i> )	Good

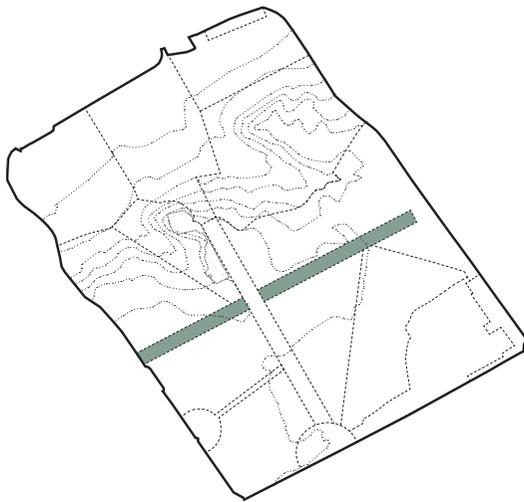
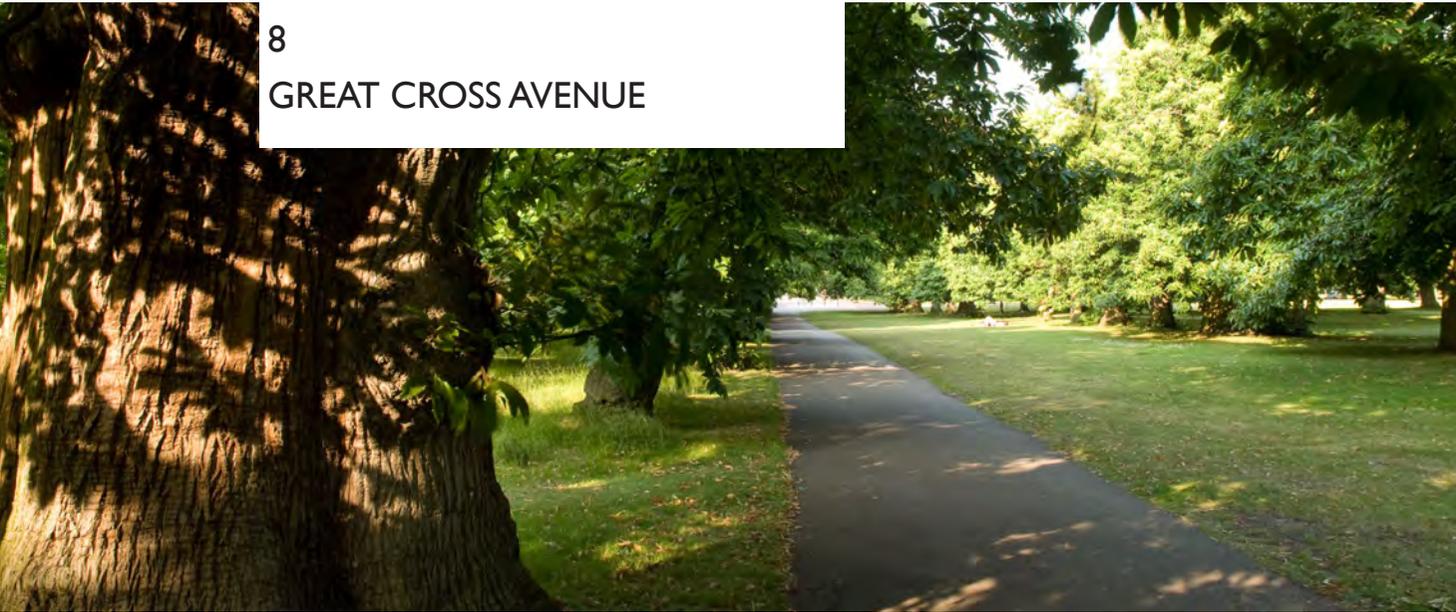


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**POOR**

● High Priority    ● Medium Priority    ○ Low Priority

8

## GREAT CROSS AVENUE



**Great Cross Avenue** was planted as a single avenue of sweet chestnut (two rows of trees) in the 1660 layout, this feature has now been extended by parallel planting of outlier lines to provide eight rows of trees in the west avenue and five on the east side. The original inner rows of the east side have been replaced with limes.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

Great Cross Avenue - Originally planted as a single avenue of sweet chestnut (two rows of trees) in 1660.

Pink Granite Fountain - Erected in 1891 at the junction of Cross Avenue and Blackheath Avenue, it was supplied by Alex McDonald and Co. Ltd. of Aberdeen.

**Ecological Value**

The western section of Great Cross Avenue still contains a number of original veteran trees.

**Communal Value**

There is an opportunity here to reduce the width of tarmac considerably to the benefit of restored grass and the setting of the tree lines while accommodating events such as the London Marathon.

On the eastern side Great Cross Avenue is a wide public space which serves as an event and recreation area. It includes a permitted cycle route heavily used by commuters

**Aesthetic Value**

The historic avenues create a majestic formal feel to the park.

## CONDITION

### Historic Elements

Great Cross Avenue - It was originally flanked by single tree lines, doubled by 1867, this walk currently has quadruple lines on each side. It adopts a straight line along the scarp edge at the first possible point to avoid the finger-like coombes west of Observatory Hill and between Observatory Hill and One Tree Hill.

The Pink Granite Fountain - is poorly sited within the junction of Great Cross Avenue and Blackheath Avenue.

### Ecological Elements

Continue to manage and conserve veteran trees on the western section as priority while still maintaining the younger populations.

On the western side sweet chestnut trees are infected with phytophthora. Trials to improve the soil environment are under way.

There are opportunities to improve the ecological diversity by changing mowing regimes within the area.

### Communal Elements

The former grass, walks, (later gravelled walks), between the inner rows of trees on the east side have become wide expanses of tarmac such that there is now little verge left and a visually harsh quality to the avenue corridor. This is in contrast with the western section of the avenue which remains as a grass ride with outlier footpath. The roadway is of use and convenience for access (to the Bandstand) and, for specific events (such as the London Marathon) and forms part of the cycle network in the park.

### Aesthetic Elements

The intersection with Blackheath Avenue has recently left several visually unsightly features including car parking and the clutter of barriers, bollards and signage associated with the control barrier at the head of The Avenue necessary to restrict through traffic.

## CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

### CONSERVE

Great Cross Avenue - Continue to monitor the trees and their condition.

Phytophthora Studies - Continue and monitor the trial areas.

### CREATE

Pink Granite Fountain - Aim to reconnect the fountain in order to be used by visitors. Explore its re-location to a more suitable area.

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
Great Cross Avenue - Continue to monitor the trees and their condition.	●	○		●
Phytophthora Studies - Continue and monitor the trial areas.	○		●	●
Pink Granite Fountain - Aim to reconnect the fountain in order to be used by visitors. Explore its re-location to a more suitable area.	◐	○	◐	

### ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA

Pink Granite Fountain (Artefact: 4.13 - Asset Code: GW-24-03-000-076 )

### CONDITION

Poor

CONDITION >	GOOD	REINFORCE	REINFORCE AND CONSERVE	CONSERVE
	MEDIUM	REINFORCE AND CREATE	CONSERVE AND CREATE	CONSERVE AND RESTORE
	POOR	CREATE	CREATE AND RESTORE	RESTORE
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
		SIGNIFICANCE >		

OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**GOOD**

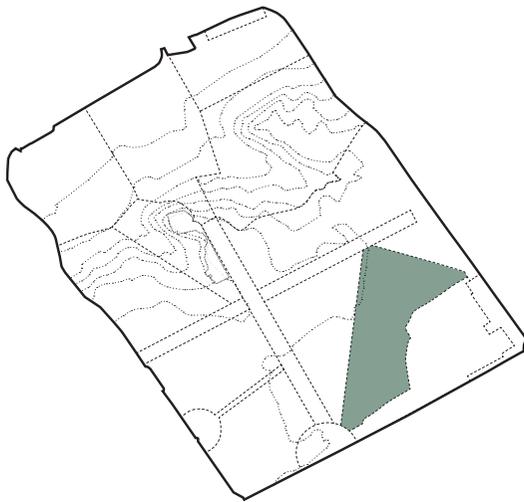
● High Priority

◐ Medium Priority

○ Low Priority

9

## THE FLOWER GARDEN



Part of the **The Flower Garden** was formerly the Great Wilderness – being a formal layout of 11 rectangular 'bosquets' separated by grass rides, laid out as part of the Restoration Plan in 1660 and specifically enclosed from the deer herd which grazed the open park until the early part of the last century. The more northerly triangular portion of the gardens was enclosed from 1898.

The boundaries of the Wilderness became modified in the mid and later 19th century with a phase of ornamental tree planting undertaken on the flat 'lawns' from 1854 and with full enclosure of the present Flower Garden by the end of the 19th century. Much work in creating these gardens was undertaken here by the Park Superintendent A.D. Webster.

*"The greatest attraction from a gardening point of view is the enclosed part known as the Flower Garden. This pleasure ground is arranged quite differently to that commonly adopted in public parks... one would imagine oneself to be in the midst of a beautiful garden attached to some stately home..."* - (The Gardener's Chronicle 1925)

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

The Flower Garden was laid out in the 1890s as one of the horticultural showpieces of Greenwich Park. Magnificent cedar and tulip trees set in fine lawns with seasonal beds of spring and summer flowers thrive in this Edwardian garden. With its lake and Deer Park viewing areas, but without dogs or ball games, the Flower Garden is a favourite spot for parents with small children.

**Ecological Value**

The Wooded Area - is a secluded woodland which provides an important link to the habitats found within the deer enclosure.

**Communal Value**

Very popular with local residents who come as families and those who have small children.

There are paths leading to special viewpoints from which the deer can be seen.

There are informal natural play opportunities within the wooded area between the Garden and the deer enclosure.

**Aesthetic Value**

The gardens are diverse in their structure and display, having been redeveloped incrementally during the 20th century. They remain very popular with predominantly regular and local visitors, more so than tourists. They provide contained contrast with the rest of the open parkland and in their best elements, promote a positive image of horticultural quality.

### CONDITION

#### Historic Elements

It is estimated that the Garden attracts around 300,000 to 400,000 visitors a year; who are predominantly regular and local visitors, rather than tourists.

#### Ecological Elements

Flower Garden Lake - the water quality very poor and needs ameliorating for improved biodiversity and aesthetics.

#### Communal Elements

The deer are an essential part of Greenwich Park's history but viewing opportunities from the Flower Garden for the public are very poor.

Although the Flower Garden is heavily used by parents with small children (there are no dogs allowed) there is a lack of facilities (no toilets, baby change, catering). A temporary catering kiosk trialled in 2016 was extremely popular and traded well.

Enhance the offer of natural play features throughout the garden to provide opportunities for visitors and relieve pressure from the playground.

There are opportunities to improve biodiversity by reviewing mowing regimes.

#### Aesthetic Elements

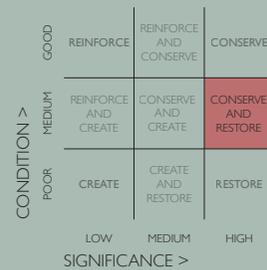
Incremental development and ad hoc renewal has resulted in a garden that has varied quality, this requires some adjustment, repair and, in places, rectification.

The area is physically enclosed, so can feel uninviting.

There are too many trees and the tendency to plant more should be resisted.

### CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>REINFORCE</b>				
The Wildlife Centre - Investigate ways of re-purposing the building and improving the adjacent nature trail.	○	●	●	○
The Wooded Area - Work to maintain the area's features and links into the habitats within the deer enclosure.	◐	○		●
Viewing Areas - Seek to improve the experience and wayfinding to the borders of the deer enclosure.	●	○	●	○
Natural Play - Encourage informal activities by introducing elements throughout the area		○	●	
Strengthen engagement and outreach to educate visitors about feeding squirrels and wildfowl.			●	●
<b>CONSERVE</b>				
Flower Garden - Work to enhance and maintain the qualities of this Edwardian landscape.	●	●	●	◐
<b>CREATE</b>				
Flower Garden Lake - Work to improve water quality by creating a new outflow.	○	●		●
<b>ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA</b>				
Flower Garden Lake (Artefact: 4.9 - Asset Code: GW-19-02-000-078)	<b>CONDITION</b> Fair			

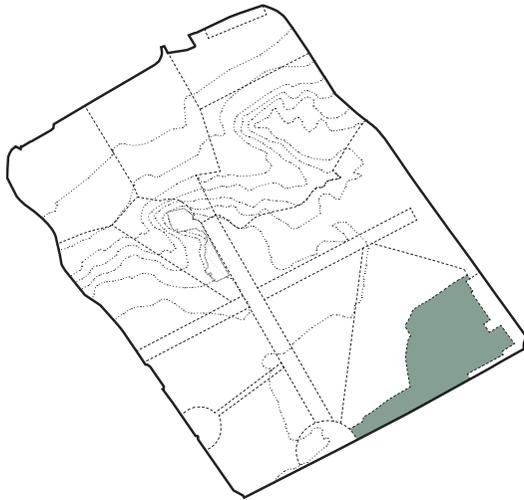


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**MODERATE**

● High Priority    ◐ Medium Priority    ○ Low Priority

10

## THE WILDERNESS



The original **Wilderness** was laid out as coppiced bosquet - in a formal manner - fenced off from the deer. It survived in this form until about 1840. The present Wilderness is predominantly the enclosed paddock with parkland trees maintained as a refuge for the small herd of deer (red and fallow). The area also includes enclosed bird sanctuary copses and is bounded by the former Nursery – the latter being partly the Landscape Maintenance Contractor's yard and the partly abandoned nursery yard and buildings.

The purpose of the Wilderness in the 21st century is as the refuge for the deer and for other wildlife.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

The deer enjoyed the freedom of the whole of Greenwich Park until relatively recently. It appears that during and before 1867 the deer were free to roam the whole park, but by 1892 a sanctuary was made for them in the current location. This arrangement appears to have been the case until 1918 when all the deer were removed. They were re-introduced in 1926, when it seems that they were confined to the wooded southeast corner of the park known as 'The Wilderness', where they have remained.

Vanbrugh Lodge - built between 1945-47 and known originally as the Propagator's Lodge. It is currently a residential let managed by TRP.

The Wildlife Centre - created in 2002 from a derelict building with the support of the Friends of Greenwich Park. It includes educational equipment, a small classroom, a kitchenette and toilets.

**Ecological Value**

The public is not allowed within the enclosure allowing an extent of undisturbed habitats such as acid grassland.

The woodland and ancient trees in there also provide a sanctuary for wildlife: beetles, nesting birds, roosting bats, foxes, wood mice and many other animals.

**Communal Value**

There are two viewing areas where visitors have visual access of the deer population.

**Aesthetic Value**

Views of the Deer Park are poor but it has the appearance of a traditional parkland.

## CONDITION

### Historic Elements

The fencing is of various designs and in varying states of repair.

Vanbrugh Lodge - Re-connect to the park and convert it into a café, providing new facilities and an income stream for the park. Its location, in close proximity to the Flower Garden provides a much desired visitor facility in this part of the park.

The Wildlife Centre - is run with assistance from the Friends Group while educational services are provided in partnership with the Field Studies Council. The building has only one narrow classroom with very poor access. The area to the rear of the centre includes a nature trail which requires modernising.

Exploring possibilities of re-purposing the Wildlife Centre may include provision of visitor such as facilities. Currently the facility is inadequate for teaching purposes offering poor accommodation.

### Ecological Elements

The deer are of good quality and are in good condition, with no evidence of disease, injury or compromise of welfare. Both herds are fertile, with red deer calves and fallow deer fawns generated each year. There is a need to address the herd diversity and work towards creating a single species of fallow deer - the original species of the historic deer park.

The background habitat is acid lowland grassland, typical of the Thames terraces, but the deer enclosure at Greenwich has suffered considerable overgrazing, human interference and degrading. There are opportunities to improve biodiversity by reviewing mowing regimes.

### Communal Elements

The Wilderness is currently under-expressed and/or difficult to access by visitors. There is a need to explore ways in which the deer herd can be celebrated and visual access by visitors can be improved.

### Aesthetic Elements

Parkland trees are protected by wooden tree crates which are of a poor design. Consider replacing with traditional steel tree guards.

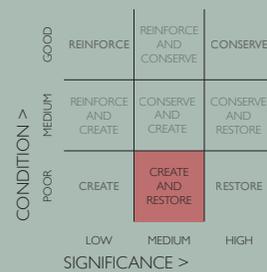
## CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>RESTORE</b>				
The Deer - Address the herd diversity, increase visibility and enhance engagement and learning.	●	○	●	●
The Wildlife Centre - Investigate ways of re-purposing the building and improving the adjacent nature trail.	○	○	●	○
Grassland Habitat - Explore sowing and stripping	○	○		●
Habitats - Seek ways to improve biodiversity and diversifying structure.	○	○		●

## CREATE

Vanbrugh Lodge - Explore options for conversion to café and for provision of much needed facilities.	◐	◐	●	
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ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA	CONDITION
Vanbrugh lodge (Artefact: 4.9 - Asset Code: GW-19-02-000-078)	Fair
The Wildlife Centre (Artefact: 4.9 - Asset Code: GW-28-02-000-036)	Fair
Wilderness Gate (Artefact: 1.20 - Asset Code: GW-26-05-000-052)	Good

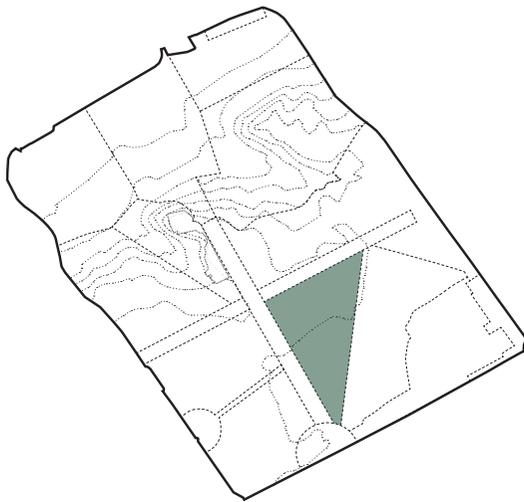


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**POOR**

● High Priority      ◐ Medium Priority      ○ Low Priority

## II

## THE BANDSTAND FIELD



**The Bandstand Field** is an almost entirely flat area, is framed by Blackheath Avenue, Great Cross Avenue, and Bower Avenue, the latter being included as an integral part of this character area (also recognising that its northern end projection runs across Great Cross, through the corner of Area 14 to connect with Lovers' Walk avenue). The Bandstand lies close to The Great Cross Avenue, the extent of hard paving and number of trees enclosing the space having been reduced in recent years. The area also shows signs of former tennis courts in the central area and truncated medieval ridge and furrow marks from the pre-emparkment era.

In many respects this is a simple and uncluttered area which provides important and flexible space, forming a transition between the more intensively managed areas of the Flower Garden and the more varied topographic grain of the scarp.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

The Bandstand - Listed as a Grade II structure; designed and constructed by 1891. The opening performance on the Bandstand was by the band of the Northumberland Fusiliers from Woolwich, taking place on 4th June 1891.

Strologos Shelter - Situated near Blackheath Gate, between Bower Avenue and Blackheath Avenue. It was donated, in 1938, by a Mr. Strologo of Stamley Green.

**Ecological Value**

Bower Avenue - Several of the old chestnut trees on the east side of the Bower Avenue, near the Flower Garden gate, appear to be survivors of the Rounds.

The Bandstand Field is generally limited value amenity grassland.

**Communal Value**

The Friends of Greenwich Park run a very popular programme of summer bandstand concerts.

It is the venue for the annual London marathon start-up, it is also where the Fun Run begins and where Charlton Athletic Community Trust carry out football courses for young players.

**Aesthetic Value**

The centrally located holm oak is a striking feature within the expansive space all year.

## CONDITION

### Historic Elements

The Bandstand - The Friends of Greenwich Park stage their hugely popular series of free concerts at the Bandstand, which take place between June and August every year. The Bandstand is used by the BBC as the focus of its broadcast of the London Marathon start. Currently there is no electric supply to the Bandstand and generators have to be used.

### Ecological Elements

In 2012/13 Bower Avenue was reduced to its original width. Tarmac which had widened the path right up to the trunk of the avenue trees was removed. This placed the trees back in a soft landscape setting and has considerable health benefits for the specimen veteran trees.

There are opportunities to enhance the grassland throughout the area by changing mowing regimes.

### Communal Elements

In many respects this is a simple and uncluttered area which provides important and flexible space, forming a transition between the more intensively managed areas of the Flower Garden and the more varied topographic grain of the scarp.

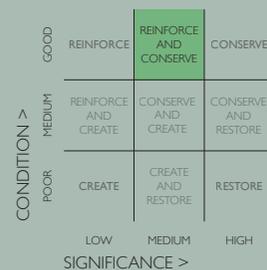
Due to the popularity of the events that take place on the Bandstand, there is an opportunity to enhance the facilities to allow more of a variety of events.

### Aesthetic Elements

The Bandstand Field is an open and expansive parkland area with extensive views and skyspace.

## CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>REINFORCE</b>				
Friends of Greenwich Park - Continue to support, engage and promote the activity of the group within this area.	○		●	
Habitat - Explore ways to improve the grassland habitat.		○		●
<b>CONSERVE</b>				
The Bandstand - Improve facilities by installing electricity.	●	○	●	
Bower Avenue - Conserve and enhance the environment around the veteran trees. Seek to maintain the avenue's structure.	●	●		●
Maintain the uncluttered aesthetic of the character area.	○	○		
<b>ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA</b>				
The Bandstand ( <i>HE List entry Number: 1078999 - Artefact: 4.17 - Asset Code: GW-24-02-020-003</i> )	Fair			
Strologos Shelter ( <i>Artefact: 4.31 - Asset Code: GW-24-09-000-062</i> )	Fair			

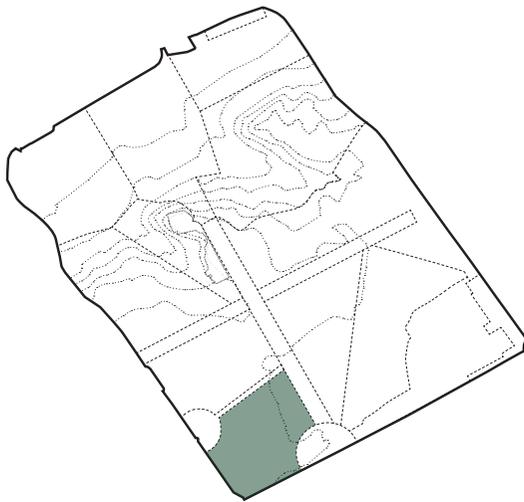
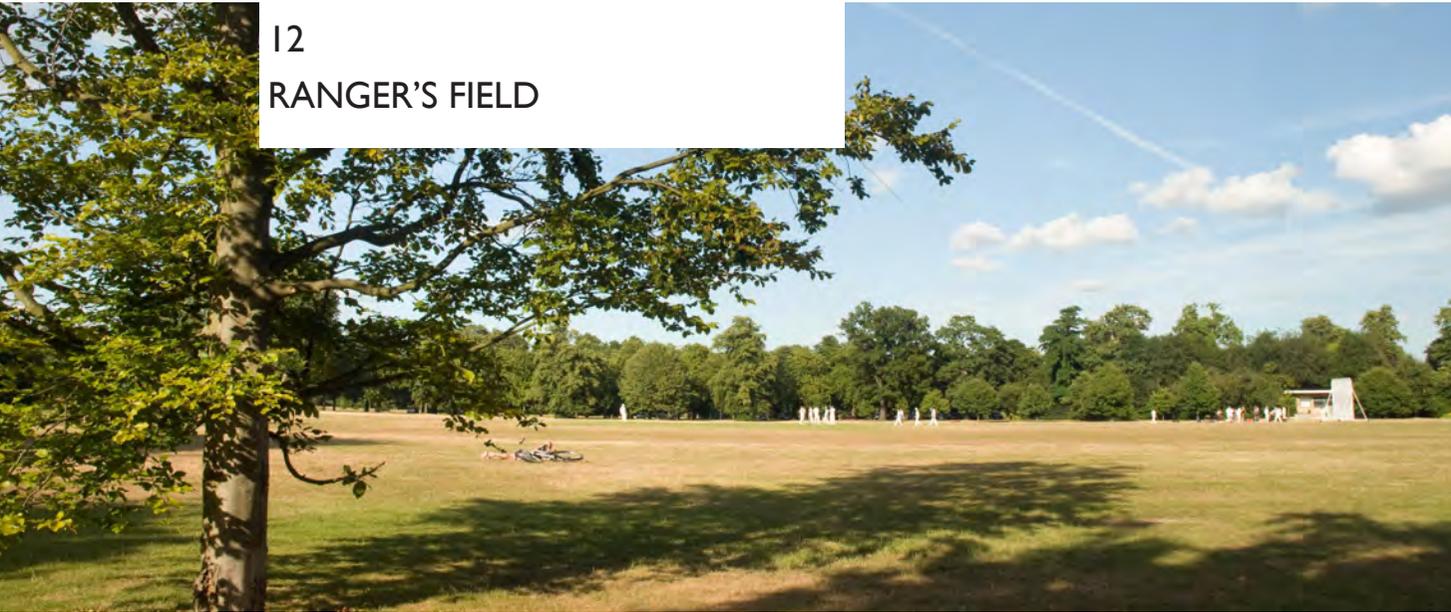


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**GOOD**

● High Priority    ◐ Medium Priority    ○ Low Priority

12

## RANGER'S FIELD



**Ranger's Field** was formerly (from 1660 to 1806) covered by the 4 "bosquets" of the Little Wilderness (west of Blackheath Gate) and was divided by a diagonal avenue leading towards Croom's Hill Gate. A number of houses appeared and then disappeared on the park's west boundary, most notably Montagu House, residency of Queen Caroline of Brunswick. To the north Macartney House, the home of General Wolfe, still exists.

In the early 1800s the area was significantly changed with the enclosure of Ranger's Field and the introduction of a designed landscape to solely serve the Ranger's House. This removed all of the Snowhill Avenue trees and foreshortened the Conduit Avenue.

After much outcry, Ranger's Field was returned to public use, when the park was formally opened to the general public in 1897. From 1907 it became the games field (hockey and football) as the Old Royal Naval College Recreation Ground. It continues to provide for winter games and summer cricket with its pavilion.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

Queen Caroline's Bath - was discovered when an old summerhouse was demolished. The doorway leading from the garden to the bath was bricked up and pulled down. The sides of the bath and steps leading to it were originally covered with small enameled white tiles. A lead pipe 2" diameter conveyed water to the bath. There was no outlet however, and water was probably pumped out, as a small lead lined, cup shaped aperture at one end of the corners would seem to indicate.

Ignatius Sancho's - A plaque to celebrate his life on the only remaining wall of Montagu House within Greenwich Park. It was unveiled by the local MP in 2007 to commemorate the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act 1807.

**Ecological Value**

Conduit Avenue - a historic avenue that ran along the western edge of the park. Since 1675 it screened Ranger's House but from 1815 the avenue was cut back, to end at the north edge of Ranger's House to reveal views out across Ranger's Field.

The Dell - is a former quarry which is now overgrown and presents management issues.

**Communal Value**

Cricket Pavilion - Was originally built in 1966 and extensively refurbished in 2009 and now is less at odds with its setting than formerly. It provides important facilities for clubs when in the park.

The cricket field is a highly valued facility within the park by local clubs and work teams. When the area is not used for cricket it is often populated by dog walkers and visitors playing informal sports.

**Aesthetic Value**

The games field has brought a more local and relaxed identity to this part of the park in significant contrast with the more touristic areas.

### CONDITION

#### Historic Elements

Queen Caroline's Bath - the area around the bath poorly interprets the artefact.

The boundary wall in this part of the park contains some of the original 17th century brickwork.

#### Ecological Elements

Conduit Avenue - explore possibilities to re-instate the avenue .

The Dell - explore the potential of enhancing biodiversity in the planting and management of this area. Consider improved access to the Dell.

There are opportunities to improve biodiversity by reviewing mowing regimes.

#### Communal Elements

Demand for cricket will be kept under review; it is anticipated that provision will remain at current levels as the field is well used by local clubs and works teams.

There are opportunities to enhance the visitor arrival and experience at Chesterfield Gate.

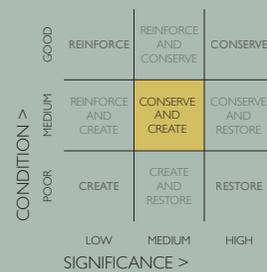
#### Aesthetic Elements

This area could be rejuvenated with thinning out shrubs to help present the component pieces in a more harmonious way and creating filtered views through to connected spaces.

### CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>CREATE</b>				
Queen Caroline's Bath - Seek to improve the interpretation of the bath and its relation to the park.	◐	◐	◐	◐
Conduit Avenue - explore possibilities to re-instate the avenue leaving a viewing window to frame the visual connection between the Grade I Rangers House	●	●		◐
The Dell - explore the potential of enhancing accessibility and biodiversity within this area.	○	◐	○	●
<b>CONSERVE</b>				
Continue to manage the area to facilitate sporting activities as demand requires			●	

ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA	CONDITION
Queen Caroline's Bath (Artefact: 4.18 - Asset Code: GW-23-08-000-059)	Good
Cricket Pavilion (Asset Code: GW-23-02-000-033)	Good
Ignatius Sancho Plaque (Asset Code: GW-23-07-000-085)	Good
Chesterfield Gate (Artefact: 1.2 - Asset Code: GW-23-05-000-041)	Good



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**MODERATE**

● High Priority      ◐ Medium Priority      ○ Low Priority

13

## THE ROSE GARDEN



The Rose Garden was initially planted as a small rose garden at the confluence of paths in front of the Ranger's House in 1960-61, the area was comprehensively redesigned and enclosed as a rose garden in 1993-4 with the support and assistance of the Friends of Greenwich Park. It provides a horticultural aspect to this western side of the park. However there is no historical precedent for a formal garden in this location.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

Ranger's House - It is a Grade I listed building constructed in c.1690 by Andrew Snape on land then belonging to the royal park. In c.1750, the house became the property of Philip, Earl of Chesterfield, and was known thereafter as Chesterfield House. In 1807, the house became the residence of the Duchess of Brunswick, sister of George III, and was renamed Brunswick House. Following her death in 1815, the house became the property of the Crown, and until 1862, served as the official residence of the Park Ranger. In 1902 Ranger's House was bought by London County Council and is now in the care of English Heritage housing the The Wernher Collection.

**Ecological Value**

The cherry tree avenue was planted in the 1950s and is an extremely popular horticultural feature.

**Communal Value**

Extremely popular with local residents the Rose Garden offers a part of the park with formal horticultural feature that provides a relaxed and calm ambiance.

**Aesthetic Value**

The area is a traditional arrangement that is set out in a radial manner. It is an easy space to navigate and find a quiet place.

## CONDITION

### Historic Elements

Appraise potential re-design of Rose Garden to enhance the setting to Rangers House and better relate the area to the wider park.

There is opportunity to develop the relationship between the park and Ranger's House by improving access and flow.

There is the potential to recognise (in a suitable low key manner) the alignment of the meridian passing obliquely through the corner of the garden (from the tennis courts to the Ranger's House).

### Ecological Elements

Although very popular with visitors the rose stock suffers from specific disease problems, i.e. honey fungus and rose replant disease; a lack of seasonal interest; poor colour co-ordination and poor choice of rose varieties; many of which are no longer commercially available.

The cherry trees are aging and require monitoring and replacements.

Opportunities for enhancing the ecological value of the area will be taken to increase biodiversity and habitat, e.g by reviewing mowing regimes.

### Communal Elements

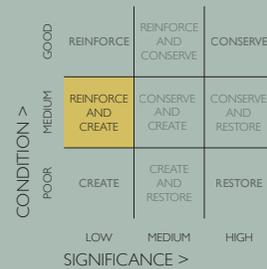
There are number of desire lines that have been created by joggers who circumnavigate the hedge.

### Aesthetic Elements

Due to the seasonality of the rose stock the garden lacks interest for much of the year.

## CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>REINFORCE</b>				
Ranger's House - Work to develop the historical and aesthetic links between the House and the park.	●	◐	○	
Cherry Tree Avenue - Explore the introduction of replacement cherry trees and extending the avenue.	●	●	○	○
Maintain the quiet and contemplative character of this area.		○	○	
<b>CREATE</b>				
The Rose Garden - Explore possible new designs for the rose garden that retain the character of the area.		◐	◐	◐

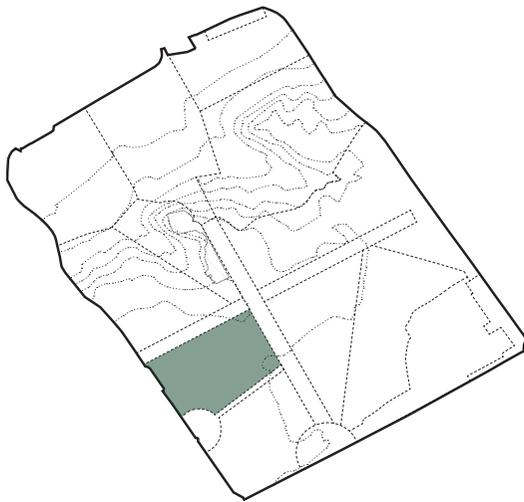


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**MODERATE**

● High Priority      ◐ Medium Priority      ○ Low Priority

14

## THE RESERVOIR FIELD



The Reservoir Field incorporates a reservoir that was excavated and constructed 1841- 1844 and covered in 1871. The tennis courts were constructed in the 1930s and have further truncated the line of the diagonal avenue from Blackheath Gate to Croom's Hill Gate.

In all, this is a relatively anonymous area within the park, dominated by the presence of the tennis courts and the large circular mound of the reservoir partly sections the area off from the rest of the park.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

The Reservoir - Originally constructed in 1844, slightly to the north of its present position, on the site of the tumuli - "interfering with a much frequented entrance to the park, interrupting 2 ancient public footpaths and destroying a cluster of saxon burrows". However, public opinion was so outraged, that the matter was brought before the House of Commons, forcing the site to be changed. The present reservoir dates from 1846 and was constructed by the Admiralty to convey water to Deptford Dock, the Victualling Yards and the Royal Hospital Establishment. It was covered over in 1871 by a roof composed of a series of concentric arches, supported by iron girders and brick piers, covered by turf.

**Ecological Value**

The two grassland types within reservoir area are not managed in any way except by natural processes. As a result the grassland communities are gradually becoming more enriched which in the long term will allow for an increase in certain ranker grass species, tall herbs and scrub to the detriment of many of the broad-leaved herbs currently present.

**Communal Value**

The tennis courts are run by the concessionaire Will to Win.

**Aesthetic Value**

There are some fine specimen trees in this area.

### CONDITION

#### Historic Elements

The Reservoir - It is within licence of Thames Water (TW). It is an impressive Victorian brick structure in good condition and its future (and liabilities) as an operating structure need to be examined in conjunction with TW.

There are a few Anglo Saxon barrows in this part of the park although the majority lie to the north of great cross avenue.

#### Ecological Elements

The grassland located on the reservoir could be enhanced through changes in mowing regimes and careful management.

The existing shrubbery surrounding the area should be maintained as a screen and enhanced as a wildlife shrubbery

There are opportunities to improve biodiversity by reviewing mowing regimes.

#### Communal Elements

The tennis courts serve a significant number of regular users.

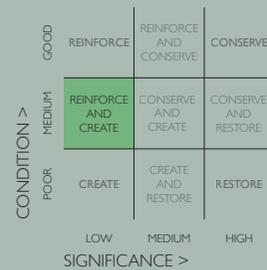
The expanses of grass are used for picnics and ball games.

#### Aesthetic Elements

The Reservoir Field is scattered with clumps of trees and various larger elements (reservoir and tennis courts) that restrict extensive views allowing it to be a more hidden area.

### CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>REINFORCE</b>				
The Reservoir - Work to enhance biodiversity upon and surrounding the structure.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Continue to promote and work with the concessionaire to provide quality tennis facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>CREATE</b>				
The Reservoir - Explore limited access to learning groups onto the structure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**GOOD**

High Priority     Medium Priority     Low Priority

15

## CROOM'S HILL AND THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY



The area is framed by the Great Cross Avenue, the park wall, the toe of the scarp slope and The Avenue. It contains fine acid grassland and 31 visible barrows of the **Anglo Saxon cemetery**, designated a Scheduled Monument in 2011, near the edge of the escarpment. Other barrows were destroyed when works for the reservoir were commenced in this area in 1844. The construction was then interrupted under protest and diverted to the present reservoir site.

The area also contains post-medieval gravel workings and track-ways as identified by RCHME. This was largely an open area of grassland in the 1660s layout with a (partly surviving) diagonal avenue from near Croom's Gate descending to The Avenue and forming a double circle of trees at the intersection. Progressively the area has become more in-filled with loose and informal tree planting over the last 100 years.

## SIGNIFICANCE

### Historic Value

Anglo Saxon Cemetery - Is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and is of national importance. It provides information about the Anglo-Saxon presence in this part of the Greater London area in the 6-8 century AD at a time when Greenwich was emerging as a Saxon 'wic' or trading settlement.

Standard House - Is designated as Grade II\*. It is set into the slopes of the hill and it has many dates carved into its soft brickwork over the past, going back to 1788. It was one of the three related late 17th or early 18th century conduit houses which were part of the earliest water supply for the Royal Hospital of Seamen, now the National Maritime Museum.

### Ecological Value

It is one of the most important areas of acid grassland in the park, the more so in accentuating the fine grain of topography and archaeological surfaces.

### Communal Value

Large Standing Figure and Knife Edge - A sculpture by Henry Moore, cast in Berlin in 1976 and erected in the park in 1979 on the spot chosen by the artist himself.

### Aesthetic Value

Crooms Hill is a popular part of the park for local residents with its own secluded and 'natural' ambiance. The views are some of the best in the park.

## CONDITION

### Historic Elements

Anglo Saxon Cemetery - Whilst there are some 1000 recorded sites of Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials in England, only about 100 to 150 of these are cemeteries of equivalent size to that in Greenwich Park. Although a high proportion of these are barrow cemeteries, particularly in the south east of England such as in Kent and Sussex, it is not common in a national context for upstanding barrows of the quality of those at Greenwich Park to survive.<sup>1</sup>

Standard House - This important landscape feature has little interpretation for the public.

### Ecological Elements

Seek to enhance, protect and where possible extend the grassland habitat within this area.

### Communal Elements

Seek to remove the tarmac path that runs through the Anglo-Saxon Burial Cemetery. Two barrows are suffering significant erosion due to visitor desire lines.

The scarp slope below Large Standing Figure: Knife Edge is an important acid grassland habitat that suffers from erosion caused by joggers. This is currently controlled by seasonal chestnut paling which is effective but undesirable.

The scarp slope provides excellent sledging in winter snow but can be left untidy.

There are opportunities to improve biodiversity by reviewing mowing regimes.

### Aesthetic Elements

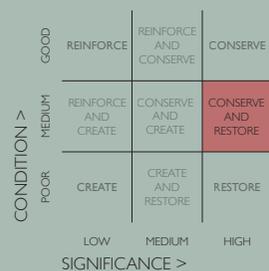
This area affords particularly fine views from the scarp including those across to Flamsteed House.

<sup>1</sup> from Historic England's official record of a Scheduled Monument - List entry Number: 1021440

## CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>CONSERVE</b>				
Anglo-Saxon Cemetery - Continue to monitor the monument and increase interpretation.	●	●	●	○
Large Standing Figure: Knife Edge - Continue to celebrate distinct figures and ties to the park.	○		◐	
<b>RESTORE</b>				
Anglo-Saxon Cemetery - Remove the tarmac path that bisects the area and work to minimise the erosion that results from desire lines.	●	●		●
Grassland Habitat - Continue to enhance, protect and where possible extend the habitat.				●
Standard House/Conduit House - Explore possibilities for interpretation, usage and for future investigations into the conduit systems.	●		●	

ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA	CONDITION
Anglo-Saxon Cemetery (HE List entry Number: 1021440 - Artefact: 4.1 - Asset Code: GW-16-01-100-001)	Good
Standard House/Conduit House (HE List entry Number: 1393455 - Artefact: 2.6 - Asset Code: GW-15-02-020-007)	Good
Large Standing Figure: Knife Edge (Artefact: 4.12 - Asset Code: GW-16-08-000-058)	Good
Crooms Hill Gate (Artefact: 1.5 - Asset Code: GW-16-05-000-044)	Good

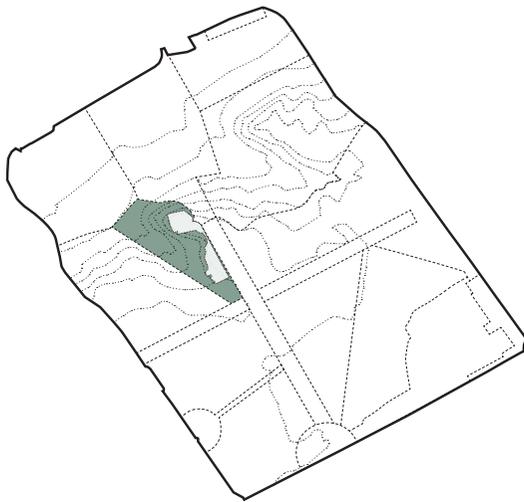


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**POOR**

● High Priority    ◐ Medium Priority    ○ Low Priority

## 16

## CASTLE HILL AND THE OBSERVATORY GARDEN



**Castle Hill** is dominated by the Royal Observatory that commands the skyline. The building was handed over to the National Maritime Museum in the early 1950s and following its renovation opened to the public in 1953.

**The Observatory Garden** has evolved incrementally and without a consistent sense of purpose. The steep slopes of Castle Hill partly planted with ornamental species since the 1950s but there is still an undercurrent of the original heath covered knoll.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

The Royal Observatory Complex - There has been a building on the site since 1433, when Duke Humphrey's Tower was constructed. By Henry VIII's time it had been converted into a 'pleasant and commodious residence'. The site was selected by Sir Christopher Wren and the Royal warrant for its construction ran in order to achieve *'the finding out of the longitude of places and perfecting navigation and astronomy we have resolved to build a small Observatory within our park at Greenwich upon the highest ground at the place where the castle stood with lodging room for an astronomical observer and assistant'*.

**Ecological Value**

Scrub on the western scarp provides one of the few substantial areas of this type of habitat in the park. The south facing slope below Flamsteed House historically was acid grassland (with some remnant heather) but with the cessation of grazing by deer in the 1920s it has regenerated as woodland and was added to by inappropriate planting.

The Brazen Face Circle feature, at the intersection with The Avenue, is shown in historic plans as a double ring of trees (circular avenue).

**Communal Value**

The presence of the Prime Meridian and the promotion of the Royal Observatory as a museum of international importance has made this a much visited, much photographed location at the heart of the park.

There are two strategically important and steep paths – that on Castle Hill conveying the majority of visitors to and from the Observatory from the Parterre Banks; and that via The Avenue climbing round the west side of Castle Hill, past the gateway to the Observatory Garden via Flamsteed Terrace to the General Wolfe Statue and viewing point.

**Aesthetic Value**

The juxtaposition of the tower site in relation to the grand axis, Blackheath Avenue and Wolfe Statue makes this a unique, memorable, and much loved skyline.

### CONDITION

#### Historic Elements

The Royal Observatory Complex is part of the wider landscape. A holistic view to the management and design of this area will allow both entities (TRP and Royal Observatory) to be read as one.

There is a need to manage visitor movements within this character area to relieve the viewing point by Wolfe Statue and to promote dispersal.

The symmetry of Wren's Flamsteed House has been lost by natural regeneration of tree cover and inappropriate plantings. These should be removed between the two 19th century beech trees which neatly frame the view.

#### Ecological Elements

The inaccessibility of large areas of Castle Hill allow for targeted habitat restoration and enhancements.

The Observatory Gardens is a formal landscaped area with terraces and laid paths. The area seems to have been partly quarried in the past to create a cut into Castle Hill. It is a quiet area that provides a hidden contemplative space where the majority of visitors would not visit. The gardens have hosted small events and gathering over the years.

As part of the reinstatement of Brazen Face Circle there is an opportunity to reduce the wide area of tarmac and extend grass parkland.

#### Communal Elements

Half way up The Avenue roadway are the Store House Toilets, that were adapted as public toilets by the early 1950s.

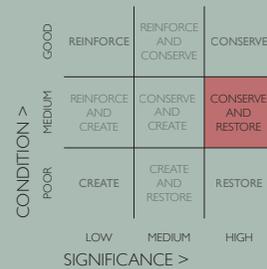
TRP recognises that the steep paths can be difficult for people with lower powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters. A pilot accessibility scheme will be explored in partnership with the Royal Observatory.

#### Aesthetic Elements

The roof line of the Wren building is dramatic, with leaded flats, turrets and domes, on one of which the Time Ball was mounted in 1883, along with weather vane and wind measuring instruments.

### CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>RESTORE</b>				
Work to protect, enhance and where possible extend habitats on Castle Hill and the Observatory Gardens	○	○	○	●
Ensure that The Royal Observatory Complex is included in large scale landscape character management and design thinking.	○	○	○	○
Seek to fully restore the historic view of Flamsteed House from the Queen's Field.	●	●	●	
Reinstate the historic Brazen Face Circle tree arrangement.	●	●	○	○
Explore the potential of the Observatory Garden.	○	○	◐	◐
<b>CONSERVE</b>				
Continue to develop the relationship between The Royal Observatory and TRP.	●	○	●	
Maintain the quiet character of the Observatory Garden.		○	○	

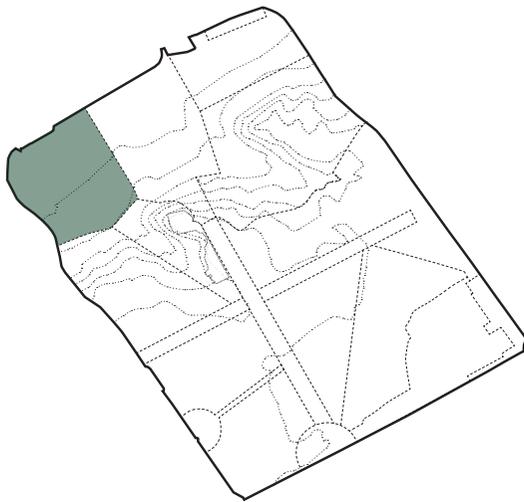
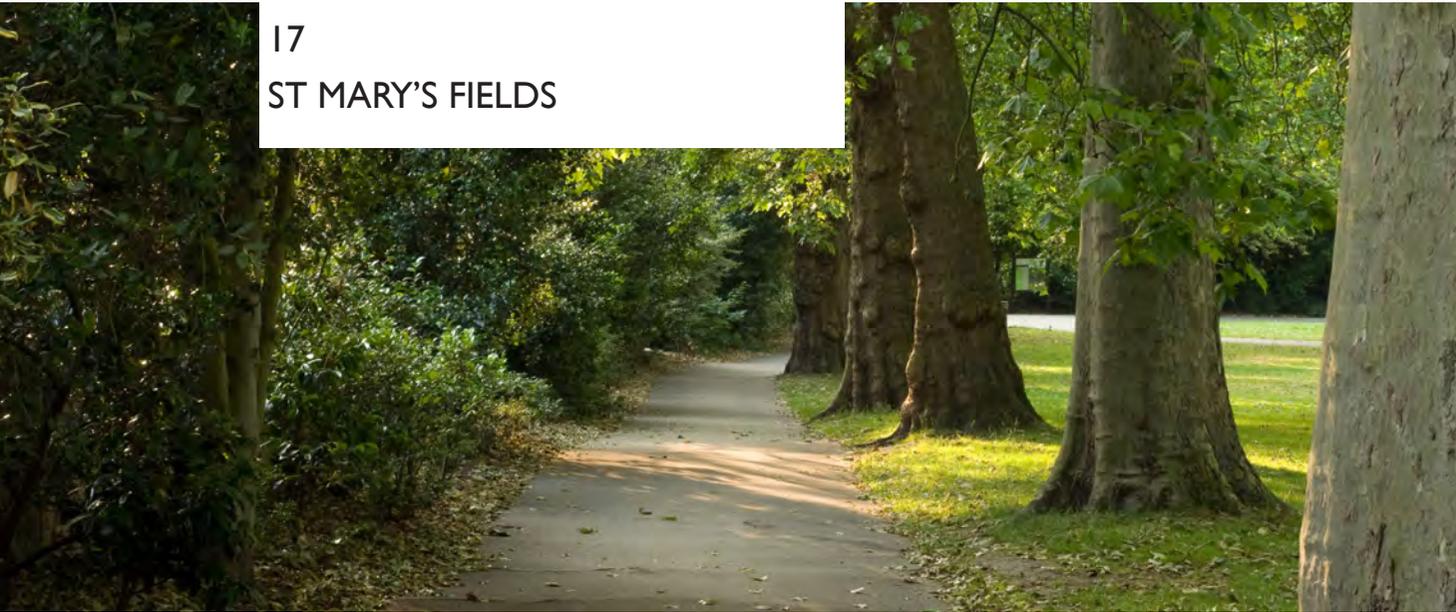


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**POOR**



17

## ST MARY'S FIELDS



**St Mary's Fields** extends considerably beyond the immediate gateway and includes all the land southwards to the foot of the scarp slope, framed to the east by Jubilee Avenue (on the Le Notre terraces) and to the west by the park wall.

St Mary's Gate is one of the busiest gateways, being on the main route from Greenwich Town to the Royal Observatory, and by far the most ornate.

The area is bisected by The Avenue and intersected by two further (incomplete) avenues. The Avenue itself divides at its lower end with the original alignment focussing on the modest and delightful St. Mary's Lodge, while a more recent alignment curves gently to approach St. Mary's Gate. The Avenue is the main vehicular, cycle and pedestrian route through the park that follows the line of an original coombe.

St Mary's Lodge and the Herb Garden are located in the corner of this character area.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

St Mary's Lodge is Grade II listed and originally provided residential accommodation for park staff. The small white building in the spirit of a cottage orné is currently a bijou café.

The original south western entrance to the park behind St Mary's Lodge from Silver Street was replaced by St. Mary's Gate in 1850. An avenue of trees marks the original alignment. The Greenwich Theatre was built and the new Nevada Street replaced Silver Street outside the park boundary.

**Ecological Value**

The Avenue - The Avenue (630 meter length) runs down the slope from the intersection of Great Cross and Blackheath Avenues to St. Mary's Lodge, although the line has been adapted in the lower section into a curve approaching St. Mary's Gate. The lower section is planted mainly with early 20th century limes; the upper section is more mixed in species composition with lime, horse chestnut, plane and a few sweet chestnut.

Lower Cross West Avenue - It is likely that the original lines were of elm, so the surviving trees - mainly limes - may have been gap planting in a formerly more complete pattern. The surviving population now presents itself as informal parkland.

Herb Garden Diagonal - is shown on earlier plans as 4 rows (double pairs) of trees running in a shallow diagonal line from the Queen's House, and reflected on the eastern side of the lower ground in a now single row of planes running through the playground. These are clearly 19th century planes and therefore second generation.

**Communal Value**

This is one of the most heavily trafficked areas of the park in pedestrian terms with a very large proportion of visitors entering at St. Mary's Gate from which 6 main paths radiate into the park. A substantial proportion of visitors (mainly tourists) then take the diagonal route (enlarged footpath) towards Jubilee Avenue and the Royal Observatory Greenwich.

**Aesthetic Value**

The area is enjoyed for its openness with limited punctuation of trees affording shade and shelter - it is heavily used for recreation and picnics.

## CONDITION

### Historic Elements

St. Marys Lodge garden was re-landscaped in 2016. The oak pergola evokes Victorian planting while the resurfacing and outdoor seating arrangements help re-create a garden setting for the Lodge.

There are opportunities to enhance the 'sense of welcome' through signage and interpretation upon entry to the park.

### Ecological Elements

The planting along the boundary wall could be enhanced for biodiversity and for screening. There are opportunities to improve biodiversity by reviewing mowing regimes.

The Avenue - It is well stocked with trees although it is anticipated that a small number of irregularly distributed horse chestnut on the west side/ middle section will need to be replaced as and when these trees need to be removed.

Lower Cross West Avenue - the restoration of this cross avenue in the lower ground is not critical to the presentation of the park and indeed would cause some undesirable screening, reduction of open visibility and recreation space.

Herb Garden Diagonal - There are 14 remnants of the northern pair of rows, the southerly lines having been removed for the creation of the William IV Garden, and later absorbed into the National Maritime Museum territories and accesses. There is potential to explore ways of restoring this avenue.

### Communal Elements

Due to its proximity to the University of Greenwich buildings this area of the park is very popular with students for sun bathing, socialising and informal recreation.

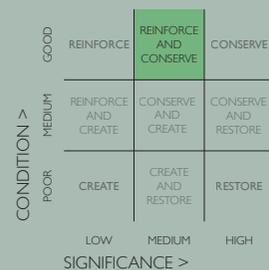
The Avenue is a 'greenway' and there is conflict between cyclists and pedestrians who share gate access when the road gates are closed.

### Aesthetic Elements

The loose grouping of second generation (19th century) trees on the Lower Cross West Avenue alignment conveys a character of English parkland when seen from St. Mary's Gate. Previously greater formality would have been perceived in the 4 rows of trees which would, in summer, partially mask the rising ground beyond.

## CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
<b>REINFORCE</b>				
St. Marys Lodge - Maintain and monitor the structure while enhancing café provision.	○	○	●	○
Continue to rationalise avenues, when losses occur; to echo historic landscape character.	○	○	○	○
Seek opportunities to enhance habitats along boundary wall and reduce visual intrusion and light spillage.	○	○		○
Herb Garden - Continue to maintain and enhance.	○	○	○	○
Investigate design solutions to keep the road gates open, to reduce conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.		○	●	
Seek ways to enhance the 'sense of welcome' upon entry to the park.		◐	●	
<b>CONSERVE</b>				
St Mary's Gate - Explore possibilities for reducing road usage and park traffic opening hours.	●	●	◐	
Continue to protect, monitor and enhance the historic tree avenues that define this character area.	○	○	○	○
Maintain important views within the character area - view to Cutty Sark, view to Standard House/Conduit House	○	○	○	
<b>ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA</b>				
	<b>CONDITION</b>			
St Mary's Gate (HE List entry Number: 1025866 - Artefact: 1.8 - Asset Code: GW-11-05-020-050)	Good			
St Mary's Lodge (HE List entry Number: 1290798 - Artefact: 2.7 - Asset Code: GW-11-02-020-034)	Fair			
King George Gate (Artefact: 1.6 - Asset Code: GW-15-05-000-045)	Good			
Circus Gate (Artefact: 1.7 - Asset Code: GW-11-05-000-042)	Good			

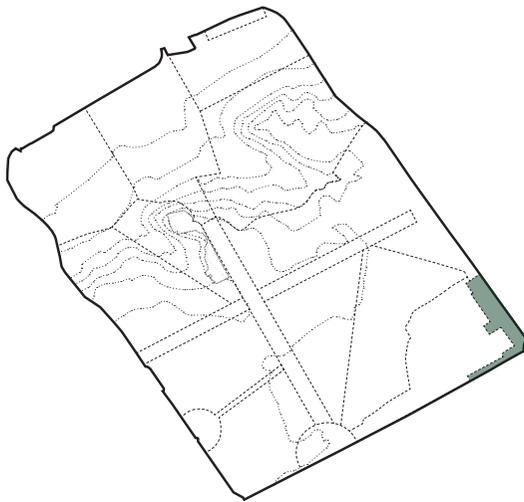
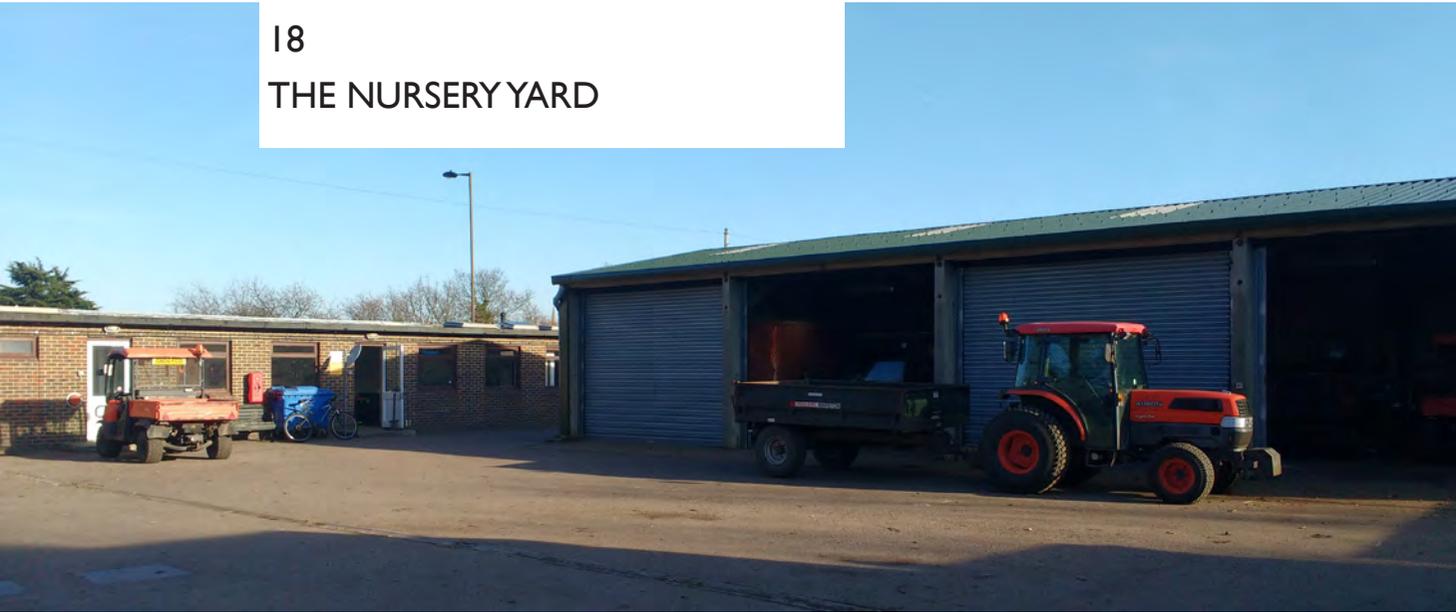


OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**GOOD**

● High Priority    ◐ Medium Priority    ○ Low Priority

18

## THE NURSERY YARD



**The Nursery Yard** is where the Landscape Maintenance Contractor's offices and servicing yards are located. The area provides essential space for delivery and temporary storage of materials and bedding plants. Part of the area is used for leaf storage and mulch recycling.

The layout and size of the Nursery Yard has altered over the years. One of the main positive changes was reclaiming a large section, to the south-western corner, back into the deer enclosure.

## SIGNIFICANCE

**Historic Value**

The Nursery Yard has been a valuable space for the Landscape Maintenance Contractor for many years.

**Ecological Value**

The yard provides valuable space for storing and growing plants for use within the wider park setting.

**Communal Value**

Currently there is no public access into the Nursery Yard.

**Aesthetic Value**

The yard is extensively hard surfaced with various redundant buildings in poor condition e.g. old boiler rooms with asbestos.

### CONDITION

#### Historic Elements

The contractor requires around 50% of the space within the Nursery Yard for their operations. There is opportunity to rationalise the Yard to reduce built elements and increase greenspace.

#### Ecological Elements

Continue to work with the Landscape Maintenance Contractor to develop sustainable and efficient operations e.g. waste management processes.

#### Communal Elements

There is great opportunity for the development of a new learning centre which can provide a base for a range of activities for schools, local communities, visitors and volunteers. This would allow some of the area to become publicly accessible and for the operations of the Landscape Maintenance Contractor to be understood and shared.

The area found between Vanbrugh Gate, the Nursery Yard entrance and the Flower Garden gate has high instances of conflict between pedestrians, cyclists, and grounds maintenance vehicles. A design solution should be developed to re-configure the space and seek to minimise conflict.

#### Aesthetic Elements

The Nursery Yard is only visible as the backdrop to the deer enclosure when being viewed from the viewing areas. Operational elements and equipment can often be a distraction.

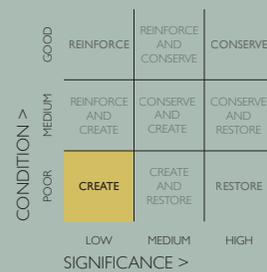
### CHARACTER AREA PRIORITIES

#### CREATE

	HISTORIC	AESTHETIC	COMMUNAL	ECOLOGICAL
New Learning Centre - Explore options for a new building which can deliver an improved and enhanced education programme.	○	●	●	◐
Work with the Landscape Maintenance Contractors to reconfigure the Yard.	○	○	○	○
Seek to minimise conflict in the area between Vanbrugh Gate, the Nursery Yard entrance and the Flower Garden gate.		◐	●	
Explore possibilities for natural screening the Nursery Yard from the deer enclosure.		○	○	○

#### ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA

ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS WITHIN CHARACTER AREA	CONDITION
Boiler House (Redundant)	Poor
Concrete Storage Shed (Adjacent to North Barn)	Fair
Generator House (Redundant)	Poor
Glass House 2 (South)	Poor
Mower Shed	Fair
North Barn (Adjacent to Vanbrugh Gate Lodge)	Fair
Office and Welfare Building	Fair
Potting Shed (Leased by LOCOG)	Fair
Small Office (Previously NSL Occupied - Adjacent to South Barn)	Fair
South Barn (Adjacent to Deer Enclosure)	Poor
Storage Block (South Boundary)	Very Bad
Storage Shelter (Adjacent to South Barn)	Poor



OVERALL LANDSCAPE CONDITION:  
**POOR**

● High Priority      ◐ Medium Priority      ○ Low Priority

## PART 3

# OUR POLICIES

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Part 3 builds on the identification of opportunities and priorities set out in part 2. It brings these together to articulate policies for the park's management as a whole.



## PARK WIDE POLICIES

This section articulates a series of policies which aim to achieve the Greenwich Park vision:

*‘To respect the essential layout of the 17th century avenues, the juxtaposition of the dramatic landscape with the more irregular landform and the iconic setting of the World Heritage Site. Conserve its distinctive grasslands, areas of fine horticultural display and the formal and informal settings for local and international visitors.’*

These policies exist to provide context and support management decisions within the park.

### MANAGEMENT

#### MNG.1 PARK MANAGEMENT

TRP will strive to promote, lead and deliver best practice in park management.

As statutory consultees we will participate in and advise on planning applications for development that materially affects the park ensuring that proposals avoid detrimental impacts on the park and its setting.

We will support research and share results with partner organisations, interest groups and professionals.

#### MNG.2 RISK

TRP will continue to hold a robust risk register:

#### MNG.3 SAFETY AND SECURITY

TRP seeks to provide a safe environment for all visitors, seeking to maintain current low levels of crime. Law and order will be sensitively maintained in accordance with the park regulations and implemented by the Metropolitan Police’s Royal Parks Operational Command Unit (TRP OCU).

#### MNG.4 MAIN LEASES, LICENCES AND CONCESSIONS

TRP will continue to balance revenue generation with providing the best visitor experience, ensuring that all leases, licences and concessions are let through an open competitive tender process and are monitored throughout their respective durations.

#### MNG.5 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

TRP will continue to consult with Natural England, Defra, the Environment Agency and Historic England as required.

We will work in partnership with organisations such as our World Heritage Site Partners, The Royal Borough of Greenwich, Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL), the Metropolitan Police, Greater London Authority, Transport for London, Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage.

We will share knowledge and disseminate information with other organisations and professionals.

### MNG.6 FINANCE

TRP budget for the management and operation of Greenwich Park.

We will seek grant funding where possible to create, reinforce, restore and/or conserve elements in Greenwich Park.

### POLICY

#### POL.1 DESIGNATIONS AND POLICIES

TRP will continue to carry out its statutory duties.

TRP will continue to be informed by strategic and local planning documents.

#### POL.2 WORLD HERITAGE SITE

TRP will maintain and develop relationships with the other statutory bodies and agencies that are responsible for administration of the World Heritage Site.

We will continue to work towards the goals and objectives established within the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site Management Plan, listed within its Action Plan.

### HISTORIC

#### HIS.1 MONUMENTS AND ARTEFACTS

TRP will maintain and enhance the landscape character of the park and there will be a presumption against inclusion of any new monuments unless they have first undergone a rigorous assessment process.

We will maintain, protect and celebrate scheduled monuments and artefacts in consultation with Historic England and The Royal Borough of Greenwich.

#### HIS.2 BOUNDARIES AND GATES

TRP will sympathetically manage the significant park boundary wall and the associated gateways in consultation with Historic England and The Royal Borough of Greenwich.

We will continue to keep the gate locking times of Greenwich Park under review.

### HIS.3 FURNITURE AND SIGNAGE

TRP will work towards consistent styles and designs of street furniture and signage that respect and reinforce the character of the park.

Permanent signage will generally be kept to a minimum and appropriate temporary and digital signage will be used to inform and advise visitors.

### HIS.4 ROAD, PATH NETWORK AND CAR PARKING

TRP will seek to maintain or reduce the existing balance in the extent of hard surfacing with no permanent net loss of green space (by area) from a 2015 baseline.

We will work towards a consistent surface treatment across the park.

We will retain the key vehicular routes and pedestrian footpaths while seeking to conserve their historic integrity.

We will promote the use of public transport and explore, with external partners, improved information and links to the park from transport nodes.

### HIS.5 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

TRP will sympathetically manage listed and important buildings and structures within the park in consultation with Historic England and The Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Where possible, we will seek to remove/replace later structures or buildings that adversely affect the setting or historic integrity of the Grand Plan design, lodges or other areas of historic importance, e.g The Pavilion Café Store.

We will continue to work in partnership with the Royal Observatory to manage and celebrate the relationship between the park and the Observatory's historic built complex.

We will promote an appreciation and understanding of the park's historic built hydrological network comprising of buildings, conduits and reservoirs.

### HIS.6 ARCHAEOLOGY & CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

TRP will work to protect and enhance the historic

environment through active engagement and use of archaeological mapping tools available and give due consideration to any potential effects works may have on the historic environment.

TRP will continue to manage and monitor the two Scheduled Monuments located with Greenwich Park.

TRP will work to enhance efforts and seek to increase public awareness of and interest in Greenwich Park.

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## ECOLOGICAL

### ECO.1 SOILS, SUBSTRATES AND GEOLOGY

TRP will manage and improve its soils and ensure that any soils brought into the park are appropriate and respect the existing soil types.

We will promote an appreciation of the park's geology through learning and interpretation.

### ECO.2 HYDROLOGY AND DRAINAGE

The use of water for irrigation will be kept to the minimum possible within the constraints of maintaining high horticultural standards.

The potential for SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) will be considered in all new built development. Other sustainable possibilities such as rainwater harvesting will continue to be investigated. Wherever possible, water will be dispersed or kept on site in preference to piped systems.

We will continue to work to improve and manage the water quality and its associated habitats.

Borehole water will be used as a sustainable source for irrigation and for maintaining lake levels.

### ECO.3 HABITATS

We will consult, as required, with The Royal Borough of Greenwich and other relevant organisations with regard to habitat management.

TRP will aim to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity within the park. Our aim will be to support an appropriate

range of habitats and within these encourage structural and species diversity.

Areas of existing habitat value, particularly those that are subject to specific BAP initiatives will be protected and where possible enhanced and increased.

We will work to review mowing regimes across the park.

### ECO.4 TREES

TRP will manage the trees in the park in a manner that recognises their landscape, ecological, historic, cultural and aesthetic value and in the context of increasing pressures of visitor footfall, pest and diseases and climate change.

We will meet our statutory duty of care in tree risk management, in consultancy with The Royal Borough of Greenwich, while recognising and prioritising the key role trees play in the provision of amenity, habitat and biodiversity.

The contribution of woodland to the park will be increased through appropriate management of the tree, scrub and ground layer within existing areas such as the Deer Park. This will involve maintaining open rides and planting native woodland shrub and ground flora: where practicable, dead wood shall be retained within woodland.

A new tree planting strategy will be produced following the Greenwich Park Avenue Strategy findings and recommendations.

### ECO.5 VETERAN TREES

TRP will seek to carry out best practice management of veteran trees in order to prolong their lives and protect their associated biodiversity. We recognise the international and national importance of the Greenwich Park tree population and the numerous threats to their longevity.

We will continue to recognise the importance of the lying and aerial deadwood habitat associated with veteran trees, and implement management methods to protect and enhance it.

Future veteran trees will be identified and nurtured with the aim of ensuring the sustainability of the population and the habitats it provides.

An annual survey of all veteran trees will continue to be undertaken.

#### ECO.6 DEER

The deer are an integral part of Greenwich Park being of a historic, cultural and aesthetic important elements and essential to the creation of its unique landscape.

TRP will maintain the deer herd to meet the following objectives:

- deer should be visible to the public
- stocking density should not exceed limits for a healthy deer herd
- deer stocking should not exceed a level where excessive supplementary feeding is required
- deer numbers should provide sufficient grazing pressure to maintain the floristic diversity of the grasslands

We will work towards creating a single species deer herd comprising fallow deer.

#### ECO.7 SPECIES

There is a presumption against species reintroduction in the park, since, if the correct habitat management is undertaken the species should naturally colonise. If a nearby source is not available. The reintroduction of species will need to be carefully considered.

We will seek to enforce park Regulations and other legislation to ensure that there is no collection or removal of any flora or fauna unless part of an agreed survey or other scientific study.

#### ECO.8 PESTS, DISEASES AND INVASIVE SPECIES

TRP will take a rigorous and pro-active approach to the management of pests, diseases and invasive species.

We will monitor, control and remove, where possible, any known pests and invasive plant species.

We will meet statutory health and safety obligations while seeking to minimise the impact of control methods on biodiversity.

We will work with our statutory partners and other stakeholders to continue to facilitate scientific research, as the

key to the future effective management of these threats. We will continue to explore, support and contribute to research and trials of new organic methods in combating pests, diseases and invasive species.

#### ECO.9 BIOSECURITY

TRP will explore and implement biosecurity measures to limit, where possible, the introduction of new pest and disease and its spread, where present.

We will continue to enforce strict criteria for planting, selecting and sourcing of new plant species to ensure they are not infected or susceptible to diseases as set out in 'Biodiversity Guidance for TRP Trees'.

#### ECO.10 CLIMATE CHANGE

We will assess the likely impacts of climate change through monitoring and aim to mitigate the projected impacts on biodiversity, landscape and visitors.

#### ECO.11 ECOLOGICAL MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION

TRP will continue to undertake surveys and monitoring in accordance with the TRP Biodiversity Strategy to inform management decisions. We will continue to work closely with partners such as Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL).

Ecological monitoring in the park will collect standardised, repeatable information to allow managers to detect changes in the ecological condition of the park. Seeking to provide, where possible, opportunities for volunteering and learning.

#### ECO.12 SUSTAINABILITY

TRP will seek to deliver our Sustainability Strategy through our approach to park management.

We will maximise opportunities to use and generate renewable energy.

We will embed a sustainable approach into our purchase of all raw materials and aim to reduce the overall impact of the associated emissions directly and through our contractors, concessionaires and event delivery partners.

We will continue to review efforts on the management,

reduction and recycling of waste aiming to achieve minimum of 40% recycling and reuse across Landscape Maintenance contracts every financial year. We will continue to encourage visitors to take their litter with them.

We will continue to monitor noise levels and seek to minimise its impact on the wildlife and park visitors.

We will continue to, and try to improve, our monitoring of the quality of our air to ensure it remains cleaner (parts per million of CO, NOx, SOx, VOC, PM)

We will seek to achieve zero non-hazardous waste to landfill in all operations year on year

We will seek to maintain a minimum of 98% composting rate of green waste every year (excluding invasive species or diseased plants).

We will keep the use of pesticides to the minimum necessary, in compliance with good horticultural standards and requirements for staff and public health & safety. Aiming to use chemicals least polluting to the environment.

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### COMMUNAL

#### COM.1 PUBLIC ACCESS

Access for all and Disability Discrimination Act compliance is an objective throughout the park and all its constituent buildings.

We will seek to introduce and support a Mobility Scheme within the park.

#### COM.2 EVENTS

TRP will host three major events per annum in the park in accordance with our strategy Hosting Major Events in The Royal Parks (2015). All event organisers will work in accordance with the guiding principles set out in the Major Events Strategy.

The guide to Small Events in The Royal Parks (2010) sets guidelines regarding the size, location, times and season of small events.

We will allow two licensed events per month and will endeavour for them to not occur on consecutive weekends. Runs are limited to one per month.

### COM.3 VISITOR PROFILE

TRP will continue efforts to widen the diversity of visitors and seek to engage with new audiences following the 2017 demographic survey.

### COM.4 VISITOR FACILITIES

New facilities within the park will be considered only when undergone a rigorous assessment process.

- **Learning:** TRP will seek to improve and increase the provision of learning opportunities in the park.
- **Heritage:** TRP will seek to improve physical access, interpretation and learning to the park's heritage.
- **Catering:** TRP will ensure that catering facilities in the park are of a high standard, provide value for money and cater for a wide range of park visitors. We will continue to review current provision and seek enhancement opportunities.
- **Play Facilities:** We will continue to improve the play areas and the play experience, setting and linked facilities while encouraging play accessible across the wider park. TRP recognises the importance of play in a natural setting and any changes to play provision will be guided by The Royal Parks Play Strategy.

### COM.5 VISITOR BEHAVIOUR

TRP will promote positive behaviours to reduce visitor conflict between different user groups, the park environment, and the management processes.

We will actively work to understand locations of use, patterns of use and types of use within the park in order to manage any pressures and disperse visitors across the site.

### COM.6 ORGANISED AND INFORMAL ACTIVITIES

TRP will continue to promote the use of Greenwich Park as a place that contributes to health and wellbeing. TRP will

continue efforts to educate and inform visitors of the need to balance recreation with the conservation of park resources for future generations.

Main activities include:

- **Dog Walking:** The TRP leaflet 'Guidance on dogs in the Royal Parks' offers advice and our policies for dogs within the Royal Parks. TRP will use zoning to control access throughout the park.
- **Informal and Formal Activities:** Facilities will continue to be provided for formal sport use; tennis and cricket. Informal activities will be encouraged as long as they are in-line with Park Regulations.
- **Cycling:** Will be allowed on the permitted cycle network. Children under the age of 12 are permitted to cycle throughout the park
- **New Activities:** TRP is aware that potential new activities can occur in the park. We will encourage and support appropriate activities and seek to engage users, minimise conflict and continue to enforce Park Regulations.

### COM.7 LEARNING

TRP recognises that the park has extraordinary potential for outdoor learning. TRP will maximise the park as a resource for lifelong learning.

We will continue to provide opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships and seek to improve and broaden our offer to a wider audience.

We will continue seeking to improve our learning facilities and offer within Greenwich Park.

### COM. 8 INTERPRETATION

TRP will provide interpretation to enhance visitor enjoyment and understanding of the park, its heritage, ecology and cultural significance.

Any interpretation methods and materials will be appropriate to the landscape character of the park.

### COM.9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TRP will seek greater engagement with the local and wider

communities.

We will continue to explore the use of social media, mobile applications and other new ways of interacting and engaging with our visitors.

### COM.10 VOLUNTEERING

We will continue to work closely with the Friends of Greenwich Park and other volunteer groups whose relationship with the Royal Parks is important.

We will continue to provide and develop volunteering in accordance with the TRP Volunteering Strategy

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## AESTHETIC

### AES.1 TOPOGRAPHY

The natural and man-made landform of the park is essential to the character of the park and will be conserved and celebrated.

### AES.2 VIEWS

Key views and vistas within and from the park will be maintained. Connections will be conserved and reinforced through appropriate management.

We will support others to promote the protection of specific views including the protected view to St. Paul's Cathedral (including its immediate skyspace and beyond the Cathedral dome).

TRP will restore the relationship of key buildings to the park as a whole through re-opening of views, such as the historic view of Flamsteed House, and tree avenue vistas.

### AES.3 LIGHTING

Lighting within the park will be kept to an absolute minimum with no road lighting or reflective markings.

We will work with adjacent land owners to ensure that there is minimum light spillage within and into the park from adjacent properties and activities.

### AES.4 HORTICULTURE

The horticultural areas will be maintained to provide seasonal

interest and variation for the delight of visitors.

The condition and nature of the planting will be regularly reviewed and rejuvenated, recognising that plants are subject to growth and ageing. The colour of annual bedding schemes will be carefully designed.

There will be a presumption against the creation of new areas of horticultural display and ornamental planting should not be allowed to encroach upon areas of informal character or (non-ornamental) historic landscape. New areas may be considered where there is a historic precedent or where such treatments would support visitor education and enjoyment. It must be ensured that any new horticultural areas can be maintained in perpetuity to a high standard.

We will continue our research on peat alternatives with the intention of minimising peat consumption as new products become available, whilst meeting our commitments to production quality.

## PART 4

# IMPLEMENTATION

Part 4 describes the main mechanisms for recording monitoring and reviewing the delivery of the Management Plan's priorities and policies.

It includes the Project Register, a dynamic and active component, that combines the Character Area Priorities, developed in part 2, and the park wide policies, developed in part 3. The Project Register identifies and lists potential projects which TRP aim to develop and deliver over the next decade subject to availability of resources.



## MONITORING AND REVIEW

This section describes a framework for monitoring the success of the Conservation Plan in meeting our priorities and policies; establishes opportunities to review the Conservation Plan and sets out a mechanism for implementing specific projects within the context of the Conservation Plan and wider Royal Parks activities.

### IMPLEMENTATION

This Conservation Plan sets out a 100 year vision for the management of Greenwich Park and is to be used as a source of information and guidance for the future development of the park.

This plan accepts the long term vision and identifies priority projects for the next 10 years following the landscape character area assessments and park wide policies. These form the project register. Ongoing park management and maintenance is addressed in the operational management plan.

Consideration of the allocation of resources takes place in the Project Register. Where additional resources will be required, the park manager will decide on priorities for funding and the selection of the delivery mechanisms. Grant applications are considered but only if the objectives of the grant comply with management priorities. New approaches are considered where appropriate.

TRP strategies and policies will always guide park operations and decision making when new opportunities or issues arise.

### MONITORING

- Monthly progress reports from the Park Manager to the Head of Park Services – monthly reports to Excom.
- Annual Green Flag and Green Heritage judges' comments.
- External audits - including IOS14001, health and safety condition reports and Ipsos Mori reports (every 4 years).

The processes for monitoring the implementation of policies and aims which are stated in this Conservation Plan include:

- Park Business Plans (updated annually)
- The annual Operations Plan
- Arbotrack tree management software
- The built environment register of maintenance projects
- Landscape Projects Register
- Ecology Projects Lists
- Hydrology and Utilities Projects Lists
- Cyclical Maintenance Fund Project Tracker
- Annual Conservation Plan Review

Monitoring the effects of the management policies and projects is fundamental for the successful implementation of the plan. This process should relate achievements to policies and aims, and provide feedback to shape future amendments to the Conservation Plan or its management policies.

In order to understand the success of the Conservation Plan Character Area priorities, park policies and projects it is necessary to maintain up-to-date information.

The key areas for monitoring at Greenwich Park are:

- **Trees:** risk management and tree health
- **Landscape:** Rolling Character Area Assessments and possible re-prioritising exercises.
- **Condition:** quality of presentation in horticultural beds, surfaces, buildings and monuments, furniture and water infrastructure.
- **Park Community:** social inclusiveness and accessibility.
- **Views:** protection and management of views and skyspace.
- **Ecology:** continual enhancements to biodiversity including specific focus on acid grassland among arboreal landscape
- **Presentation:** quality and promptness of cleaning operations.
- **Events:** location, frequency and scale of events in relation to the park.
- **Archaeology:** annual condition survey of SAMS by Historic England
- **Catering:** bimonthly mystery shoppers

REVIEW

The Conservation Plan will be reviewed at the end of 2025. The purpose of this review is specifically to incorporate information newly available (e.g. visitor surveys, ecological surveys, tree surveys), take changing circumstances into account (security, traffic movements), and assess achievements over the first five years in terms of (a) policy (successes and failures) and (b) projects. The review should set out a further aspirations for park management and a timetable for future plan review.

It is important that this Conservation Plan is seen as 'dynamic' document that is flexible and responsive to change. As new information becomes available consideration may need to be given to modifying or changing prescriptions. Such changes should always be assessed in the light of the Conservation Plan framework and should not have an adverse impact upon the essential spirit of place (genius loci) of the park. In keeping with best practice, significant changes of direction should be widely consulted on to gain consensus before adoption.

SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS

Play Equipment	Regular maintenance inspections ROSPA annual inspections
Buildings & Infrastructure	Regular inspections Quadrennial surveys
Tree Stock	Health and Safety inspections Disease inspections Detailed analysis for strategic work
Ecology	Phase I Habitat Surveys National Vegetation Classification Surveys and other numerous surveys
Water	Water Quality Inspections
Landscape Standards	Annual Green Flag & Green Heritage inspections Landscape Maintenance Contract and Facilities Management Reports
Deer	Annual Census and Veterinary Inspections
Visitor Profile	Ipsos MORI Surveys (every 4 years)
Catering Provision	Bimonthly Mystery Shopper Inspections
Footpaths	Monthly condition surveys
Archaeology	Annual survey and review of SAMS by Historic England



## THE PROJECT REGISTER

The Project Register is a dynamic component of the Conservation Plan and sets out potential projects and management actions for the The Royal Parks to act upon over the next 10 years.

The implementation of all future projects and the timescales of delivery are dependent on funding and resources.

### Individual Project Timescale



First Quarter of the Plan



Second Quarter of the Plan



Third Quarter of the Plan



Fourth Quarter of the Plan



Aspirational Projects

## GREENWICH PARK PROJECT REGISTER 19-29

PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
01 <b>Blackheath Gate</b> Improve the setting and the sense of arrival through the gate. Work with The Royal Borough of Greenwich and TfL to improve road safety outside the gate.	Blackheath Gate	Communal	Reinforce	COM.2 HIS.2	
02 <b>Blackheath Gate Toilets</b> Explore possibilities for the building	Blackheath Avenue	Historic Aesthetic Communal	Restore Create	HIS.6 COM.4	
03 <b>Wolfe Statue Public Realm</b> Enhance the public realm around the Wolfe Statue by creating additional space for visitors and by carefully selecting high quality materials, re-defining the relationship between the viewing platform and Observatory entrance.	Blackheath Avenue	Ecological Historic Aesthetic Communal	Conserve Restore Reinforce Create	POL.1 HIS.1,4,6 AES.2	
04 <b>Wolfe Statue Kiosk</b> Renew the Kiosk as part of re-organising the Wolfe Statue public realm.	Blackheath Avenue	Communal Aesthetic	Create Reinforce	MNG.4 HIS.5 COM.4	
05 <b>Blackheath Avenue</b> Restore Avenue by replacing trees that are diseased, in accordance to the Avenue Tree Strategy	Blackheath Avenue	Ecological Historic Aesthetic Communal	Conserve Restore Reinforce Create	POL.2 ECO.3,4,5,8	
06 <b>Dais - Jubilee Avenue</b> Explore possibilities for the dais at the end of Jubilee Avenue.	The Giant Steps and Parterre Banks	Communal	Create	HIS.1	
07 <b>Giant Steps</b> Explore options to reduce erosion and for the interpretation of the historic Le Nôtre landform.	The Giant Steps and Parterre Banks	Ecological Historic Communal Aesthetic	Restore Create	POL.1,2 HIS.1,6 AES.1,2	

## GREENWICH PARK PROJECT REGISTER 18-28

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
08	<b>The Parterre Banks</b> Restore the Parterre Banks and flanking tree avenues to re-express the fundamentals of Le Notre's landscape	The Giant Steps and Parterre Banks	Ecological Historic Communal Aesthetic	Restore Create	POL.1,2 HIS.1,6 AES.1	
09	<b>View of Flamsteed House</b> Restore the historic view of Flamsteed House from the north.	The Giant Steps and Parterre Banks and Castle Hill and the Observatory Garden	Historic Aesthetic	Restore Conserve	HIS.6 AES.2	
10	<b>Playground</b> Continue and complete refurbishment of the playground.	The Playing Field	Communal Aesthetic Ecological	Create Reinforce	COM.4	
11	<b>Boating Lake and Park Row Gate</b> Improve the visitor welcome upon entering the park. Work to improve water quality, deliver bore-hole water to fill lake and enhance habitats for biodiversity.	The Playing Field	Historic Aesthetic Ecological Communal	Restore Reinforce Create	COM.4 ECO.2,3	
12	<b>Sundial</b> Relocate the Sundial from the Boating Lake	The Playing Field	Communal	Restore	HIS.5	
13	<b>Orchard Wall</b> Resolve the crack in the section of wall that abuts it within the orchard on the western edge.	The Queen's Orchard	Aesthetic Historic	Restore	HIS.2	
14	<b>Lover's Walk</b> Investigate proposals for pollarding trees to improve tree health, starting with a trial. Conitnue pest control.	One Tree Hill and The Coombes	Historic Ecological	Restore Reinforce	ECO.4	
15	<b>One Tree Hill Public Realm</b> Explore sensitive designs for enhancing the viewpoint's setting and improve circulation/ accessibility	One Tree Hill and The Coombes	Historic Aesthetic Ecological Communal	Restore Reinforce Create	ECO.3 HIS.4 COM.1 AES.2	

## GREENWICH PARK PROJECT REGISTER 18-28

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
16	<b>The Conduit Head</b> Explore ways to interpret and enhance this feature and the rest of the conduits.	One Tree Hill and The Coombes	Historic Aesthetic Communal	Restore Reinforce Create	ECO.2 HIS.4 COM.1 AES.2	
17	<b>Rustic Fountain</b> Restore the fountain and bring back into general use.	One Tree Hill and The Coombes	Communal Aesthetic	Restore	HIS.1	
18	<b>Vanbrugh Park Gate</b> Create new public realm in this part of the park, rationalising access to the Flower Garden, the Nursery Yard and the wider park.	Maze Hill Fields	Communal Aesthetic Historic	Create	COM.1,5 HIS.2 MNG.2	
19	<b>Pavilion Café and Garden</b> Improve the visitor experience by enhancing the catering offer and setting of the Café. Remove temporary storage compound poorly located within a historic tree avenue	Maze Hill Fields	Communal Aesthetic	Reinforce	COM.4 MNG.4	
20	<b>Pavilion Store</b> Remove the store and structures from within the tree avenue.	Maze Hill Fields	Ecological Aesthetic	Restore	AES.2 ECO.4	
21	<b>Pink Granite Fountain</b> Reconnect the fountain in order to be used by visitors. Explore its re-location to a more suitable area.	Great Cross Avenue	Historic Aesthetic	Restore	HIS.1 ECO.2	
22	<b>The Flower Garden</b> Re-present the qualities of this Edwardian landscape by opening-up views and diversifying planting.	The Flower Garden	Ecological Historic Communal Aesthetic	Reinforce Create	AES.4	
23	<b>Flower Garden Lake</b> Improve water quality, enhance biodiversity better outfall capacities.	The Flower Garden	Ecological Aesthetic Historic	Restore Create	ECO.2,3	

## GREENWICH PARK PROJECT REGISTER 18-28

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
24	<b>The Flower Garden - Deer Enclosure Views</b> Seek to improve the experience and wayfinding to the borders of the deer enclosure.	The Flower Garden	Communal Aesthetic	Reinforce Create	COM.1 AES.2	
25	<b>The Flower Garden - Play</b> Install natural playable elements within this area.	The Flower Garden	Communal Aesthetic	Create	COM.6	
26	<b>The Wildlife Centre</b> Refurbish the current building for new uses.	The Wilderness	Historic Aesthetic Communal	Restore	HIS.5 COM.7,9,10	
27	<b>Vanbrugh Lodge</b> Convert into a café from a private residence, providing new visitor facilities and an income stream for the park.	The Wilderness	Communal Aesthetic Historic	Create Reinforce	HIS.5 COM.6	
28	<b>The Deer Enclosure</b> Improve visual access into the enclosure, reinforce interpretation and explore ways to enhance biodiversity.	The Wilderness	Ecological Communal Aesthetic Historic	Create Reinforce Restore	ECO.3,6 COM.1	
29	<b>The Deer Herd</b> Restore the deer her to the historic composition by removing red deer.	The Wilderness	Ecological Communal Aesthetic Historic	Create Reinforce Restore	ECO.6	
30	<b>The Bandstand</b> Improve facilities by installing electricity.	The Bandstand Field	Communal	Restore Reinforce	COM.4,6	
31	<b>Chesterfield Gate</b> Enhance the entrance to the park.	Ranger's Field	Aesthetic Ecological Communal	Restore Create	COM.1	

## GREENWICH PARK PROJECT REGISTER 18-28

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
32	<b>The Dell</b> Renew planting in the Dell to enhance biodiversity.	Ranger's Field	Historic Aesthetic Ecological Communal	Restore Create	ECO.3 AES.4	
33	<b>Queen Caroline's Bath</b> Seek to enhance the area by re-landscaping.	Ranger's Field	Historic Aesthetic Communal	Restore Create	HIS.1	
34	<b>Conduit Avenue</b> Reinstate the tree avenue along Conduit path where it has been lost, leaving a viewing window to frame the visual connection between the Grade I Rangers House and the rest of the park.	Ranger's Field, The Reservoir Field & The Rose Garden	Historic Aesthetic Ecological Communal	Restore Create	ECO.4	
35	<b>Cherry Tree Avenue</b> Restore and extend the avenue.	The Rose Garden	Ecological Aesthetic	Restore	ECO.4	
36	<b>The Rose Garden</b> Seek to enhance the garden by re-landscaping and enhance its relationship with The Ranger's House.	The Rose Garden	Aesthetic Ecological Communal	Restore Create	AES.4	
37	<b>The Reservoir</b> Work with Thames Water to allow controlled access to the reservoir's roof for educational purposes.	The Reservoir Field	Ecological Aesthetic Communal	Reinforce	COM.1	
38	<b>Anglo-Saxon Cemetery Footpath Removal</b> Remove the tarmac path bisecting the Scheduled Monument and control erosion by desire lines.	Croom's Hill and the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery	Historic Aesthetic Ecological	Conserve	POL.1 HIS.1	
39	<b>Conduit House</b> Explore opportunities to re-purpose structure.	Croom's Hill and the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery	Historic Aesthetic Communal Ecological	Restore	HIS.1 COM.1 HIS.6	

## GREENWICH PARK PROJECT REGISTER 18-28

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
40	<b>Knife Edge</b> Work with the Henry Moore Foundation to retain the sculpture in Greenwich Park.	Croom's Hill and the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery	Historic Aesthetic Communal	Reinforce	HIS.1 HIS.6	
41	<b>Royal Observatory Garden</b> Seek to enhance the garden by re-landscaping.	Castle Hill and the Observatory Garden	Historic Aesthetic Communal Ecological	Reinforce	ECO.3 AES.4	
42	<b>Brazen Face Circle</b> Reinstate missing avenue tree feature.	Castle Hill and the Observatory Garden	Historic Aesthetic	Restore Create	HIS.6 ECO.4	
43	<b>Castle Hill</b> Maintain public exclusion and realign fence line.	Castle Hill and the Observatory Garden	Historic Aesthetic Communal	Conserve	ECO.3	
44	<b>St Mary's Gate</b> Seek ways to improve access and safety at the gate for pedestrians and cyclists.	St Mary's Fields	Communal	Reinforce	COM.1 MNG.3	
45	<b>Learning Centre</b> Build a new learning centre to provide much needed space to deliver a activity and learning programme.	The Nursery Yard	Communal Aesthetic Historic	Create Reinforce	COM.1,2,3,4,5 6,7,8,9,10	
46	<b>Activity Plan</b> Produce an over-arching activity plan to include, education, volunteering, apprenticeships, work experience and audience development.	Park Wide	Communal Ecological Historical	Create Reinforce Conserve	COM.3,7,8,9,10	
47	<b>Community Archaeology Programme</b> Continue to deliver the community archaeology initiative.	Park Wide	Historic Communal	Reinforce Create	COM.7,8,9,10	
48	<b>Signage and Site Furniture Review</b> Review of signage and site furniture.	Park Wide	Historic Communal Aesthetic	Reinforce	HIS.3	

## GREENWICH PARK PROJECT REGISTER 18-28

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
49	<b>Interpretation</b> Tell the story of the park through new site-wide interpretation, including digital and traditional made to inform and engage visitors.	Park Wide	Historic Communal Aesthetic	Create Reinforce	COM.8 HIS.3	
50	<b>Conduit Exploration</b> Explore and map the conduit irrigation system with digital technology and make it available for interpretation.	Park Wide	Historic Communal	Create Conserve	COM.8 HIS.1	
51	<b>Mobility Scheme</b> Introduce a Mobility Scheme to improve access, to the Royal Observatory specifically, but also to the park generally.	Park Wide	Communal	Create	COM.1,9,10	
52	<b>Nursery Yard</b> Rationalise the contractor's space in the Nursery Yard.	The Nursery Yard	Management Aesthetic	Reinforce Create	MNG.1 COM.1	
53	<b>Visitor Water Provision</b> Explore possibilities to provide visitors with potable water at various points within the park.	Park Wide	Management Aesthetic	Reinforce Create	ECO.2	
54	<b>Visitor Dispersal Strategy</b> Develop a Visitor Dispersal Strategy.	Park Wide	Communal	Create	COM.1,8	
55	<b>Grassland</b> Review management of all grassland habitats within the park to promote biodiversity.	Park Wide	Historic Aesthetic Ecological Communal	Restore Reinforce Create	ECO.3	
56	<b>Volunteering</b> Continue to support and improve the volunteering opportunities across the park in accordance with the Volunteering Strategy and Activity Plan.	Park Wide	Communal	Reinforce	COM.10	

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## GREENWICH PARK PROJECT REGISTER 18-28

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
57	<b>Avenue Strategy</b> Develop and implement the strategy.	Park Wide	Historic Aesthetic Communal Ecological	Reinforce	ECO.4,5	
58	<b>Waste Strategy</b> Develop and implement Waste Strategy.	Park Wide	Ecological Aesthetic Communal	Create Reinforce	ECO.10,11,12	
59	<b>Shrub Bed Renovation</b> Renovate and enhance shrub beds, specifically along the park boundary with native planting for biodiversity.	Park Wide	Aesthetic Ecological	Restore Create	AES.4	
60	<b>Education Programme</b> Develop and improve the education programme offered in the park.	Park Wide	Communal	Reinforce Create	COM.7	
61	<b>Work Training Opportunities</b> Work with partners, local education providers to offer training opportunities in Events, Leisure and Tourism.	Park Wide	Communal	Reinforce Create	COM.7	
62	<b>Apprenticeships</b> Offer apprenticeships in Horticulture, Environmental Conservation, Wildlife and Catering.	Park Wide	Communal	Create	COM.7	
63	<b>Internships</b> Offer internships in partnership with local education providers.	Park Wide	Communal	Create	COM.7	
64	<b>Behaviour Change</b> Aim to influence visitors and encourage positive behaviour concerning litter, dog activities and wildlife feeding.	Park Wide	Historic Communal Aesthetic	Reinforce Conserve	COM.5	

## GREENWICH PARK PROJECT REGISTER 18-28

	PROJECT	CHARACTER AREA	SIGNIFICANCE VALUE	ACTION	PARK WIDE POLICY	TIMESCALE
66	<b>Views</b> Continue to monitor encroachments on views within and outside the park in accordance to the views framework.	Park Wide	Historic Aesthetic Communal	Conserve	AES.2	
67	<b>Railing Programme</b> Rationalise the use of railing across the park.	Park Wide	Aesthetic	Restore Reinforce Create	HIS.2	
68	<b>Veteran Tree Survey</b> Conduct a veteran tree survey and implement a 5 year cycle.	Park Wide	Ecological	Reinforce Create Conserve	ECO.5	
69	<b>Traffic Management</b> Keep under review the traffic management arrangements and consult with stakeholders about the commuter route through the park. Explore the idea of car free days.	Park Wide	Communal	Reinforce	HIS.4 COM.1	

## QUOTES

pg20 - <http://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape>

pg27 - *Integrating the European Landscape Convention: part 2. (Natural England 2009)*

pg28 - *A Woodland Life by Edward Thomas*

pg39 - *Bloemers, T., Kars, H. and Van der Valk, A. (2010). The Cultural Landscape & Heritage Paradox. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.*

pg43 - *Thompson, I. H. (2009). Rethinking landscape: a critical reader. London, Routledge.*

pg50 - *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance. (English Heritage 2008)*

pg60 - *Swanwick, C., & Land Use Consultants. (2002). Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland CAX 84, Edinburgh: Countryside Agency, Cheltenham and Scottish Natural Heritage.*

pg108 - *Meinig, D. and Jackson, J. (1979). The Interpretation of ordinary landscapes. New York: Oxford University Press.*

pg112 - *Holden, R. and Liversedge, J. (2014). Landscape Architecture. London: Laurence King Pub.*

## PHOTO CREDITS

Max Rush - [www.maxarush.com](http://www.maxarush.com)

except

pg17, 27, 75, 129, 138 - Greywolf Studios

pg69 - TRP

## APPENDICES

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### APPENDIX 1 SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- Department of National Heritage. 1995. Royal Parks Review: Greenwich Park.
- Friends of Greenwich Park. 2012. The Birds of Greenwich Park 1996-2011.
- Royal Borough of Greenwich. 2013. Royal Greenwich Local Plan: Core Strategy with Detailed Policies.
- Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. 1994. Greenwich Park: An Archaeological Survey (two volumes).
- The Royal Parks. 1996. Corporate Plan. 2014.
- The Royal Parks. 1997. Visitors' Charter.
- The Advisory Committee on Forestry (7th report). 1964. Trees in Greenwich Park.
- The Historical Survey of Greenwich Park: Land Use Consultants 1986 (see also bibliography included in the report).
- The Royal Parks Review: Greenwich Park; March 1995 (Review Group under chairmanship of Dame Jennifer Jenkins).
- Nature Conservation in Greenwich: Ecology Handbook 10 (London Ecology Unit).
- Historic England /Royal Borough of Greenwich 1998: Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site Management Plan.
- Greenwich Park Management Plan 2006 produced by Land Use Consultants
- Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site Management Plan – Third Review 2014

### APPENDIX 2 LISTED BUILDINGS NOT MANAGED BY TRP

#### Listed Buildings within the Park Boundary under the control of the others under licence:

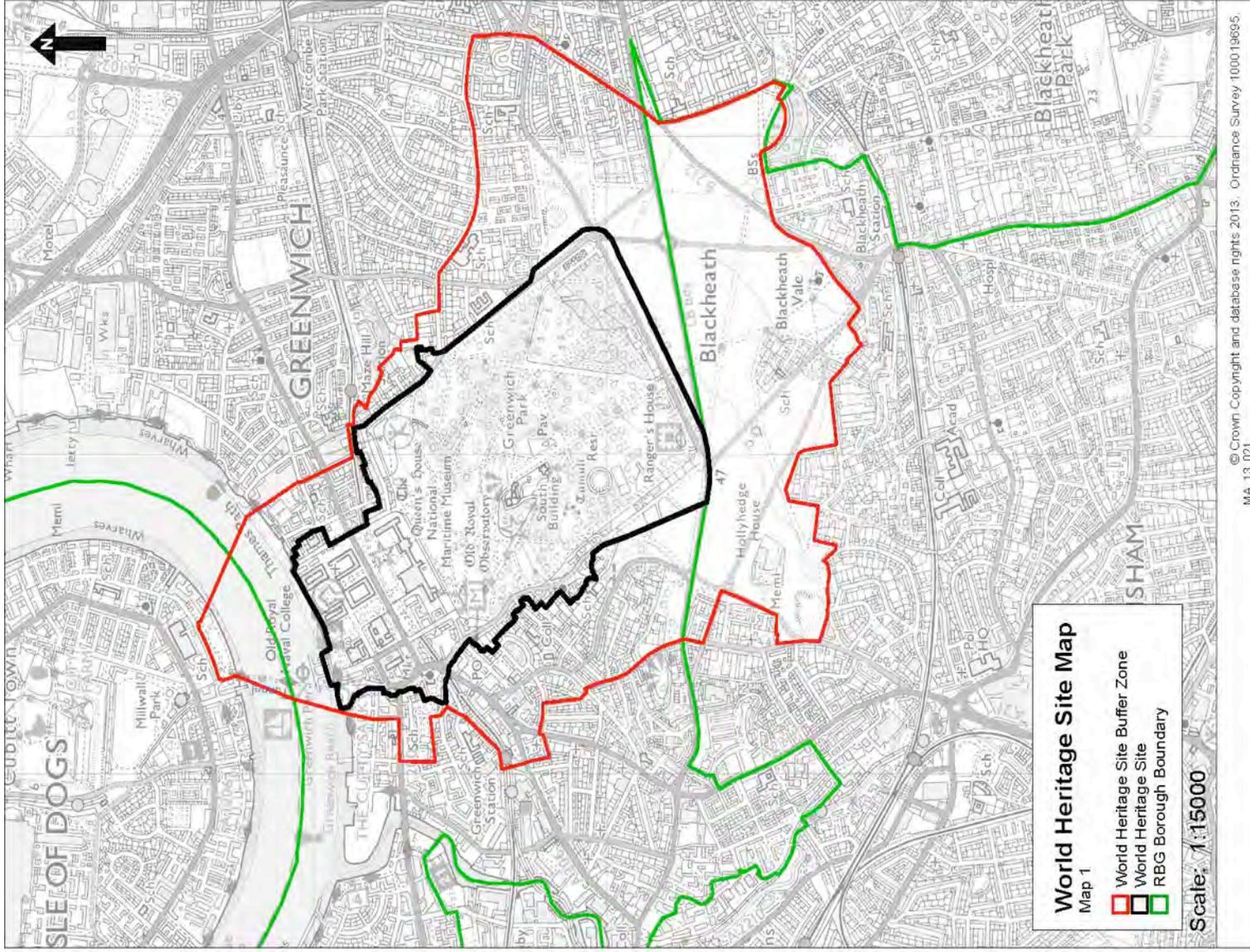
- The Royal Observatory Greenwich
- Flamsteed House

#### Listed Buildings outside the Park Boundary under the control of the Greenwich Foundation (licensed to Greenwich University and others):

- Queens House
- Old Royal Naval College and National Maritime Museum
- Former Dreadnought House (University of Greenwich)
- Devonport pathological Laboratory
- Devonport House and Mausoleum

#### Listed Buildings outside the Park Boundary in private ownership:

- Vanbrugh Castle
- Rangers House
- Macartney House



**This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by Historic England for its special historic interest.**

**Name:** GREENWICH PARK

**List entry Number:** 1000174

Location

Greater London Authority

Royal Borough of Greenwich.

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** I

**Date first registered:** 01-Oct-1987

**Legacy System:** Parks and Gardens

**UID:** 1077

Details

A Royal park with its origins in the C15 and formally laid out in the 1660s. At least part of the mid C17 restoration scheme was associated with the French designer Andre le Nôtre. Home of the Royal Observatory from 1676 to 1953 the park, along with neighbouring properties and part of the town centre, is included on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites.

**NOTE** This entry is a summary. Because of the complexity of this site, the standard Register entry format would convey neither an adequate description nor a satisfactory account of the development of the landscape. The user is advised to consult the references given below for more detailed accounts. Many Listed Buildings exist within the site, not all of which have been here referred to. Descriptions of these are to be found in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest produced by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

**HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT** Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation of the Greenwich Park area is evident from the important Roman road, Watling Street, which ran just to the south-west of the park, the site of a Roman temple within the park, and an Anglo-Saxon barrow cemetery along its western side. Grenevic or Gronovic manor is listed among the possessions of King Alfred (AD 871-900) but in AD 918 the manor passed to the Abbey of St Peter's at Ghent. The manor reverted to Crown lands in 1414. In 1433 Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester was granted a licence to empark 80ha of land to make a park at Greenwich. On the site later occupied by the Royal Observatory, he built a tower, known as Mirefleur and later as Greenwich Castle. Under the Tudors Greenwich was the pre-eminent Royal palace, having been rebuilt in the early C16 by Henry VII and later by Henry VIII, who was born there.

James I gave Greenwich to his Queen, Anne of Denmark, in 1613 and in 1616 Inigo Jones was invited to build a new house for her. He chose the site of an existing 'Lodge Gate' in the wall running along the south side of the Deptford to Woolwich Road. Queen Anne died before the house (Queen's House) was completed. In 1629 Charles I gave Queen's House to his Queen, Henrietta Maria, and Inigo Jones resumed work. The 1660s saw the character of the park transformed from a medieval heath-land hunting park into a formal landscape with a grand garden and avenues. Charles II completed Queen's House and commissioned Sir William Boreman to supervise improvements to the park.

The design reflected the French influence to which Charles II was exposed while in exile. Although others were largely responsible for the formal layout of Greenwich Park, at least part of the restoration scheme is associated with the French designer Andre le Nôtre (1613-1700) who worked on the gardens of Louis XIV at Versailles.

When Charles II lost interest in Greenwich and concentrated his attentions on Hampton Court, he appointed Britain's first Astronomer Royal and engaged Sir Christopher Wren to design an observatory. After this period of activity little royal interest was taken in the park but it became increasingly popular with the public and pensioners from the adjoining naval hospital.

In the C19 Greenwich Park experienced intensified public use, encroachments on its boundaries, enclosures within the park and other threats which prompted organised protests from local residents. A tree survey in 1812 found that of the 2,970 trees standing only twenty were considered to be in a growing state, with the remainder at maturity, decaying or decayed, and there were considerable tree losses in the later part of the century. Conversely, many of the open spaces were infilled with plantings and there was an increase in ornamental species. In 1853 paths were levelled and gravelled, and by the end of the century new features included a bandstand, a refreshment chalet, two drinking fountains, public lavatories, a lake, flower gardens, and shrubberies. Vehicular traffic was first admitted to the park in 1875, restricted to the Blackheath Avenue and The Avenue. The C20 saw a gradual improvement of facilities for the public and at the same time an increasing awareness of the historic importance of the site. In the 1930s Queen's House became the National Maritime Museum.

During the Second World War anti-aircraft defences were constructed in the park to combat aerial assault and at least three air-raid shelters were built, with barrage balloons moored nearby. Allotments established during the 1940s continued in use until at least 1949.

Since the Second World War the park has undergone further changes, including the loss in the 1970s of many trees due to Dutch Elm Disease. According to the 1812 tree survey, nearly half the trees were elm, but by 1976 only 44 remained and all of these had gone by 1999. In 1993 the Royal Parks Agency was established and given executive responsibility for managing and policing the Royal Parks, including Greenwich. In 1997 the whole park, along with neighbouring properties and part of the town centre, was inscribed onto UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

Greenwich Park is now a public open space and continues to be managed by the Royal Parks Agency.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION** Greenwich Park is located in urban south-east London to the south of the River Thames, which at this point curves around the old dockland area of Millwall. Eltham Palace lies c 4.5km to the east, Blackheath c 1 km to the south, and Deptford town c 1.5km to the west. The c 74ha site has a very distinct topography and is composed of two sharply contrasting sections. To the north is the low-lying flood plain, to the south, the harder Blackheath pebble beds, which are more resistant to erosion, form the higher ground. The two are separated by a 25m high ridge running from east to west across the park which marks the edge of the Blackheath pebble beds. The Prime Meridian bisects the site (north/south).

The park is bounded by the National Maritime Museum and Park Vista to the north-west, Maze Hill rising up steeply to the south-east which provides the north-east boundary, and Charlton Way (B210), which marks the boundary to the south-east. The south-west boundary is formed by Croom's Hill (to the north-west) and Chesterfield Walk (to the south-east). Much of the park is enclosed within a red-brick wall which James I had built to replace the park fence. Originally c 3.5m high and c 3km long, the wall, including piers with stone cappings and dressed and moulded angles, is listed Grade II. Parts have been repaired or rebuilt at various later dates and at least one quarter of the boundary is defined by iron railings.

The main entrance to Greenwich Park is to the south, from Charlton Way via Blackheath Gate. The plan made to accompany engravings by Francis Place to celebrate the opening of the Royal Observatory (Pepys' Plan, 1675-80) shows a gate in this position, and it appears to have been the main entrance since that time. Blackheath Gate leads north-west onto Blackheath Avenue, a wide (c 15m), 600m long asphalt drive lined with double rows of horse chestnut trees. That avenue, the main axis of the site, was set out in 1660 and is aligned directly on the Queen's House. Four of the original C17 sweet chestnut trees, part of the outer line of Blackheath Avenue, survive towards the north-west end. The present trees were partly planted in 1820, and supplemented from 1930 onwards. Blackheath Avenue terminates at the bronze statue of General Wolfe (listed Grade II) with the buildings of the Royal Observatory (listed Grade I and II) situated to the west of the statue. Numerous other gates provide entrances around the site, the most notable being the early C19 St Mary's Gate (listed Grade II) to the north-west. St Mary's Lodge (1807-8, listed Grade II), built in the style of a cottage orné, is c 25m to the south-west of the Gate.

The site consists mainly of open parkland, the primary focus of which is the south-east/north-west axis from the Blackheath Gate along Blackheath Avenue down to the buildings of the National Maritime Museum (most of which is listed Grade I). Situated on the north-west boundary of the park, the principal building of this complex is the Queen's House. The building, an Italianate villa, was begun by



