



HYDE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Royal Parks

2006 - 2016

Updated project register 2014

HYDE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared for The Royal Parks

By

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CONTENTS

PART 1. CONTEXT AND RESPONSIBILITIES	1
1. INTRODUCTION	3
Structure of the Management Plan	5
2. GENERAL AND MANAGEMENT CONTEXT	7
Location	7
Park Management Structure	7
Main Leases, Licences and Warrants	8
Public Access	9
3. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK	11
National Policies and Designations	11
Strategic Planning Advice	13
4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT	15
Significance of Park Evolution	17
PART 2. DESCRIPTION, USE AND CHARACTER	31
5. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	33
6. NATURAL FABRIC	35
Trees	35
Grassland	37
Horticultural Display Areas	38
Ecology and Wildlife	39
7. BUILDINGS AND HARD LANDSCAPE FABRIC	43
Buildings and Structures	43
Boundary Treatments and Entrances	44
Road and Path Network	45
Park Furniture and Signage	46
Other Artefacts, Sculpture and Monuments	47
8. PUBLIC USE	51
Public Access	51
Visitor Profile	51
Events	52
Visitor Amenities	52
Organised Sport and Facilities	55
Informal and Semi-Formal Activities	56
Visitor Satisfaction	56
9. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	59
Views	59

Description of Character Areas and their Management	63	Policy PUB6: Roads and Traffic	109
External Areas	78	Policy PUB7: Car Parking	110
PART 3. LANDSCAPE STRATEGY	81	Policy PUB8: Facilities	110
10. SIGNIFICANCE OF HYDE PARK	83	Policy PUB9: Sport	111
The Statement of Significance	83	Policy PUB10: Events and Entertainment	111
11. KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES	87	Policy PUB11: Orientation AND SIGNAGE	112
12.LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	89	Policy PUB12: Education and Interpretation	112
PART 4. MANAGEMENT POLICIES	91	Policy PUB13: Park Management and Consultation	113
13. GUIDING POLICIES FOR CONSERVATION	93	Policy PUB14: Quality	114
Policy CON1: Landscape Character	93	18. GUIDING POLICIES FOR LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND VIEWS	115
Policy CON2: Historic Landscape	93	AREA 1: Hyde Park Corner	115
Policy CON3: Archaeology	93	AREA 2: The Rose Gardens	115
Policy CON4: Biodiversity	94	AREA 3: The Dell	116
Policy CON5: Sustainability	94	AREA 4: The Serpentine	116
14. GUIDING POLICIES FOR PHYSICAL CONTEXT	97	AREA 5: The Lido	116
Policy PHY1: Geology and topography	97	AREA 6: The Southern Parkland	117
Policy PHY2: Soils	97	AREA 7: Rotten Row	117
Policy PHY3: Hydrology, Drainage And Conduits	97	AREA 8: Great Exhibition Site	117
Policy PHY4: Water	98	AREA 9: West Carriage Drive	118
15.GUIDING POLICIES FOR NATURAL FABRIC	99	AREA 10: Serpentine Road	118
Policy NAT1: Trees and Woodland	99	AREA 11: The Cockpit Lawns	119
Policy NAT2: Grassland	99	AREA 12: The Serpentine Lawns	119
Policy NAT3: Horticultural Display Areas	100	AREA 13: the Little Tyburn Valley	120
Policy NAT4: Ecology and Wildlife	100	AREA 14: Ranger’s Lodge	120
16. GUIDING POLICIES FOR BUILT FABRIC	103	AREA 15: The Nursery	120
Policy BUIL1: Buildings and Structures	103	AREA 16: North West Parkland	121
Policy BUIL2: Roads, Paths and Hard Surfaces	104	AREA 17: Northern Parkland	121
Policy BUIL3: Boundary Treatments and entrances	104	AREA 18: The Reservoir	123
Policy BUIL4: Artefacts and Monuments	105	AREA 19: The Parade Ground	123
Policy BUIL5: Parkland Furniture	105	AREA 20: Speakers Corner	125
Policy BUIL6: Lighting	106	AREA 21: The Broad Walk	125
17. GUIDING POLICIES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND ENJOYMENT	107	AREA 22: Park Lane Boundary	125
Policy PUB1: Visitor Experience	107	AREA 23: The Bandstand Shoulder	126
Policy PUB2: Public Access	107	AREA 24: North Carriage Drive	126
Policy PUB3: Visitor Safety	107	AREA 25: South Carriage Drive	127
Policy PUB4: Control of Animals	108	EXTERNAL AREAS – OUTSIDE RPA RESPONSIBILITIES	127
Policy PUB5: Visitor Circulation	109	AREA 26: Marble Arch	127
		AREA 27: Park Lane	128
		AREA 28: Apsley House	128
		AREA 29: Hyde Park Corner: The Island	128
		Policy CHA30: Views	128

PART 5. IMPLEMENTATION	129
19. MONITORING AND REVIEW	131
Implementation of the Management Plan	131
Monitoring	131
Review	132
20. NEXT STEPS – THE PROJECT REGISTER	133
APPENDICES	135
APPENDIX 1 Hyde Park management plan workshop	137
APPENDIX 2 Selected References	139
APPENDIX 3	
English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Garden Entry	141

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Plan by Henry Wise 1706
Figure 2	Plan by Joshua Rhodes 1769
Figure 3	Plan by John Mann 1840
Figure 4	Ordnance Survey 1867
Figure 5	Ordnance Survey 1894
Figure 6	Ordnance Survey 1916
Figure 7	View of the Parade Ground 1799
Figure 8	Historical views of Hyde Park
Figure 9	RCHME: Medieval features in Hyde Park
Figure 10	RCHME: Post Medieval feature
Figure 11	RCHME: Second World War features (1941-42)
Figure 12	RCHME: Second World War features (1944-45)
Figure 13	Hyde Park: Geology
Figure 14	Hyde Park: Topography
Figure 15	Scenes Historical assembly and events in Hyde Park
Figure 16	Photosheet of public use
Figure 17	Key views from and within Hyde Park
Figure 18	Hyde Park Character areas
Figure 19	Historical Landscape Character of Hyde Park (JC Nattes)
Figure 20	Photosheet: Landscape Character Areas
Figure 21	Photosheet: Landscape Character Areas

GLOSSARY

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (i.e. height above sea level)
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
LEAP	Local Environment Agency Plan.
TRP	The Royal Parks
DCMS	Department of Culture, Media and Sport

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PHOTO CREDITS

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Figures 9,10,11,12 with courtesy from English Heritage for RCHME (from Hyde Park Archaeological Survey October 1994).

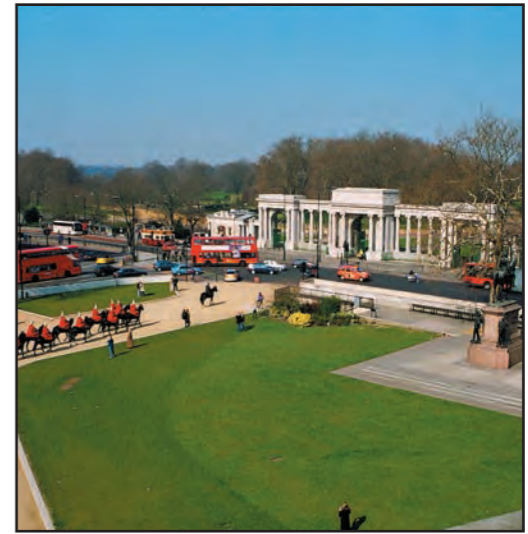
Figures 8, 15 and 18 from TRP Archives (1982) with due acknowledgement to Westminster Libraries.

Richard Flenley, Jane Wilson, Matthew Tickner, Isaac Anim and Matthew Hemmings
for Land Use Consultants

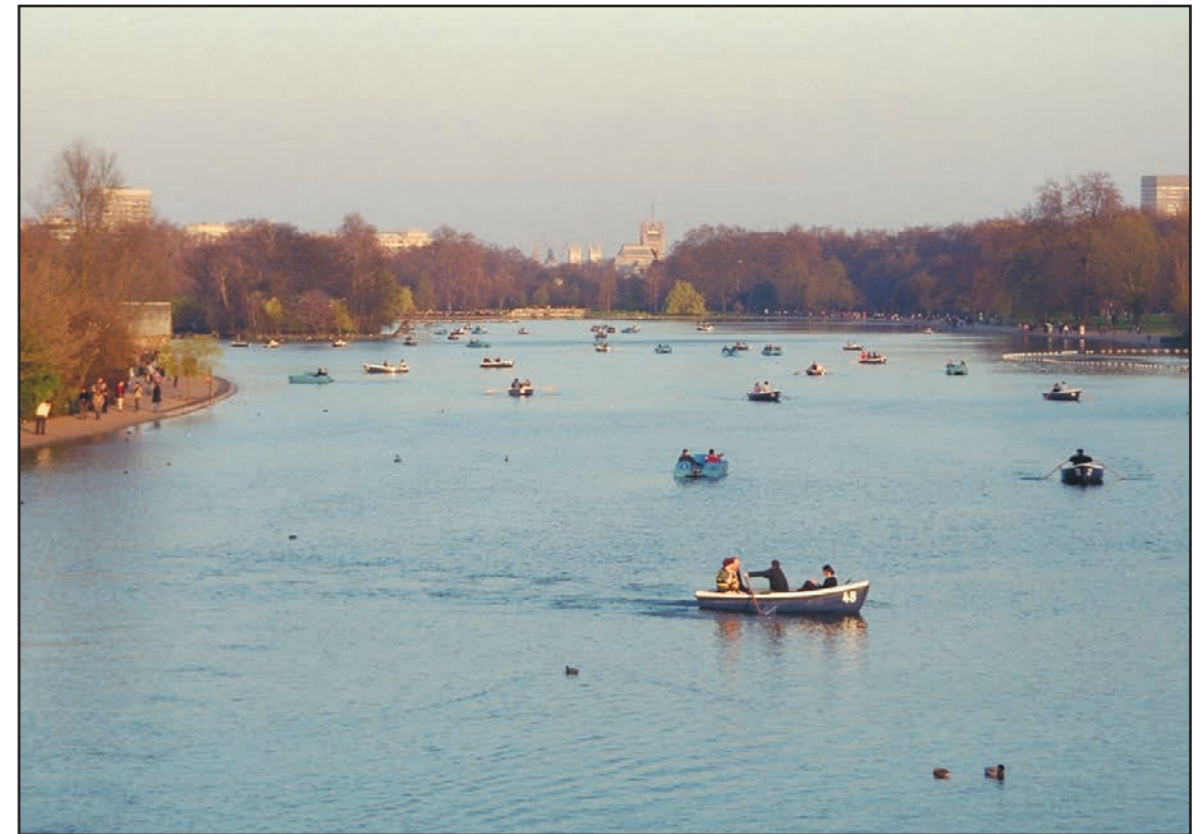
PART 1. CONTEXT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following four chapters describe the context of Hyde Park, and the Park's statutory obligations, the strategic planning context and the background of historical evolution which has shaped the Park into its present form.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 General and Management Context
- 3 Strategic Framework
- 4 Physical Description



Hyde Park Corner

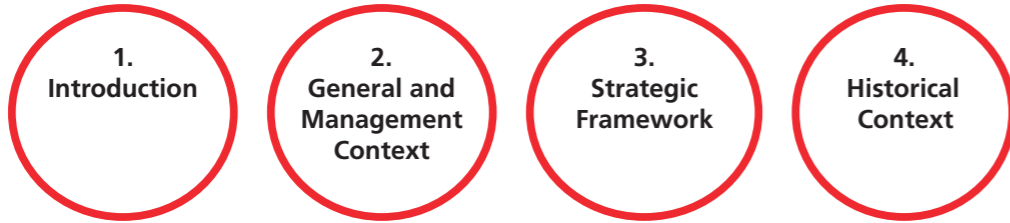


Strategic View: The Palace of Westminster from Serpentine Bridge

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STRUCTURE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

PART 1. CONTEXT AND RESPONSIBILITIES



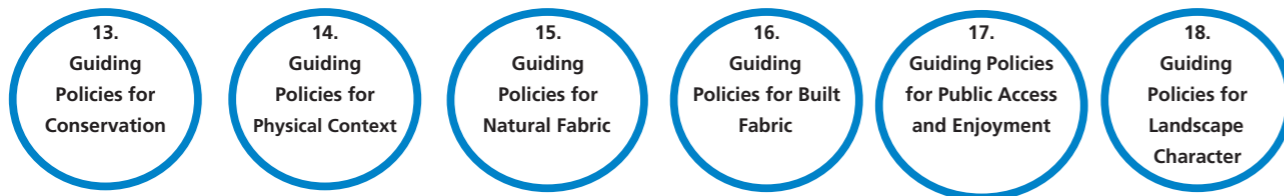
PART 2. DESCRIPTION, USE AND CHARACTER



PART 3. LANDSCAPE STRATEGY



PART 4. MANAGEMENT POLICIES



PART 5. IMPLEMENTATION



Figure 1: Structure of the Management Plan

1. INTRODUCTION



- 1.1 Hyde Park is one of the eight Royal Parks, which are owned by the Sovereign and managed by the Government through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The Royal Parks comprise St. James’s Park, The Green Park, Kensington Gardens, **Hyde Park** and the Regent’s Park-Primrose Hill in inner London with Richmond Park, Bushy Park and Greenwich Park based around river palaces along the Thames in outer London. Hyde Park covers an area of over 139.9 hectares (344 acres) in central London, lying wholly within the City of Westminster. The Park is contiguous on its western side with Kensington Gardens and almost so, through the large traffic island at Hyde Park Corner, with Green Park to the south-east, thereby forming an outstanding corridor of open space and cultural heritage stretching from Kensington Palace to Whitehall.
- 1.2 The Royal Parks are unique both individually and collectively and they are important at the international scale. They form an unequalled set of green spaces, offering Londoners and tourists opportunities for tranquillity, recreation, solitude, fresh air, colour and delight. Individually they display a diversity of character and content; each has a particular and inspiring heritage value; and collectively they are, in the main, richer for their reworking and cumulative layers of history. All the Parks are Grade 1 Listed Historic Landscapes (except The Green Park, which is Grade II) and contain many listed buildings and artefacts. They have an unquantifiable value for the millions of visitors who use the Parks each year. The Royal Parks provide the setting for many of our national and ceremonial events as well as the context of and counterpoint to metropolitan activity. They are a symbol of national image and identity; and to a considerable extent they reflect the well being, pride, confidence and vibrancy of the capital and the nation. They deserve the highest level of protection, conservation and management.
- 1.3 Hyde Park (139.9ha, 344 acres) is the largest and arguably the most well-known of the four inter-connected inner London Royal Parks. It is distinct from and complementary to its neighbouring Royal Parks, providing a transitional link between the formality of Kensington Gardens, the simplicity of The Green Park and the English landscape essay of St. James’s Park. Geographically it is the “middle” park with Kensington, Richmond and Bushy lying to the west; the Green Park, St. James’s and Greenwich lying to the east and The Regents Park with Primrose Hill lying to the north. Similarly in size it is “middle” being smaller than Richmond, Bushy and Regent’s but larger than Kensington, Greenwich, St. James’s and The Green Park.
- 1.4 Hyde Park was, in 1631, the first of the Royal Parks to be opened officially to the public. The continuous and cumulative evolution of the landscape, particularly from the 1860’s, has led to its increasing development as a pleasure ground but without losing its ability to host events, demonstrations, parades and celebrations of national significance which it has done since the days of Elizabeth I. Collectively these wide open spaces, quiet shady corners, the lightly sinuous Serpentine water and the formal avenues create the quality of grand spaciousness that is a defining characteristic of Hyde Park. These qualities, together with its freedom of access, and its use for significant public and popular events, have led to its national perception as being very much the ‘people’s park’.
- 1.5 Under the 1993 Royal Parks Framework Document, powers are delegated to the Royal Parks Agency (established April 1993) which has executive responsibility for managing and policing the Royal Parks. The Agency has undertaken a commitment to produce Management Plans for each of the Royal Parks. Hyde Park has been served by an interim Management Plan (*Hyde Park Management Plan, 1996* prepared by Colvin and Moggridge), and by the Strategic Management Plan (LUC December 1999). The process of reviewing these previous documents and developing the present plan has been informed by discussions with TRP staff, the Park Manager, the Director of the Royal Parks and Senior Park Manager and by a “workshop” of stakeholders and interest groups, held at The Royal Yacht Club (Hyde Park) in December 2002.

- 1.6 The purpose of this Management Plan is to provide background, analysis, vision and policy for the strategic management of the Park, setting also objectives and guidelines for operational management into the future. The operational life of the plan is set at 10 years with biennial reviews, but essentially based on long term vision and informed by the long and recorded process of its evolution.
- 1.7 The Management Plan provides the context of and mechanism for the conservation and enhancement of the character of Hyde Park. It provides a reasoned long-term framework built from stakeholder consensus to guide the management of the Park towards the next 100 years, whilst prioritising issues and guiding medium-term actions over the next ten years. The management approach is holistic – targeting park-wide topic issues (such as circulation, furniture and horticulture) as well as seeking to recognise and manage landscape variety within the Park through a character-area approach which recognises subtleties of historical evolution, current use and visual quality across the Park.
- 1.8 The Management Plan has been prepared within the context of *the Royal Parks Framework Document* (April 1993), the *Royal Parks Corporate Plan 2001–2004*) and the *Royal Park's Citizen Charter*. It has been prepared as part of a continuous management process informed by *Hyde Park Landscape Management Plan* (1996), prepared for Royal Parks by Colvin and Moggridge, and the *Hyde Park Strategic Management Plan* (1999), prepared for Royal Parks by Land Use Consultants. Other consideration has included the independent report of the Royal Parks Review Group (1994) and the discussions at a formal Management Plan Consultation Workshop held in December 2002 with key stakeholders (see Appendix 1). The Plan has been updated as a working document in December 2005.
- 1.9 This Plan needs to be used in conjunction with the Royal Parks Corporate Plan (updated annually) and other supporting documents such as the Events Strategy (adopted 2004).
- 1.10 The condition of the Park clearly varies slightly in response to a combination of variable climatic conditions and levels of use on the ground. It is significant that since work began on this Management Plan, the Park has suffered two particularly dry summers (2002 and 2004); the intensity of use has also increased in this period, not least with the huge – and successful – impacts of Live8 in the summer of 2005. An estimated 210,000 people took part in this latter event which certainly registered positively well beyond the boundaries of the Park and beamed around the world. Hyde Park is expected to deliver! It did so with success and bruises.
- 1.11 The Hyde Park Management Plan forms one of a suite of plans prepared by The Royal Parks since 1999. They have evolved in step with wider thinking on this subject matter but have also sought to retain a reasonable consistency between individual Parks. It is recognised that these documents are largely concerned with matters of policy rather than operational aspects of who does the work and how is such work monitored or reviewed. In going forward to prepare for Green Flag application (Greenwich, Regents and Bushy Parks were submitted in February 2005), it was recognised that these aspects could and should be provided in a companion document – The Operation Plan – which has been prepared accordingly for each park.

Aims of the Management Plan

- 1.12 The Hyde Park Management Plan describes and evaluates the whole landscape resource of the Park, defines management aims and objectives and develops a suite of policies to guide long-term management. It is primarily intended as a tool to be used by the park management team. However, it will also contribute to other functions, such as informing stakeholders and interest groups as well as raising public awareness.

The general aims of this management plan are to:

- clarify the direction of the Park and develop long term aims and objectives in conserving and enhancing the essential character and significance of the Park;

- provide a framework for the future management of the Park;
- provide a context for reviewing and resolving conflicts of interest;
- guide future managers and ensure continuity;
- help managers react proactively to changing circumstances;
- promote interest in the Park and encourage community involvement;
- help evaluate future priorities and requirements for investment;
- provide a rationale for budget preparation, allocation and work programming;
- provide a basis for monitoring progress and performance;
- provide a baseline and context for individual studies which may need to be undertaken in resolving specific design, restoration, renewal or enhancement issues.

Structure of the Management Plan

- 1.10 The structure of the report is illustrated in Fig. 1. The Plan is structured in five sections. It seeks to move logically from an understanding of the history and current status of Hyde Park through to an appraisal of its fabric, key features, character and condition. This process informs significance of the Park and identifies key management issues in order to put forward a vision and management strategy before defining policies applying to (i) specific subjects and (ii) character areas. The final section suggests how these policies can be implemented in both the short and long-term.

2.GENERAL AND MANAGEMENT CONTEXT



LOCATION

- 2.1 Hyde Park is located in the centre of London and lies wholly within the City of Westminster. The Park covers 139.9 hectares (344 acres) and is roughly rectangular in shape, being 1.5km in extent (east-west from Hyde Park Corner to Coalbrookdale Gate) and some 1150m north to south. It is some 5.4km around its outer boundary; it contains the Serpentine of some 11.3ha and has approximately 3500 trees. The Park is contiguous with Kensington Gardens to the west and with The Green Park to the east, forming an impressive series of interconnecting green spaces, some 4km long, in the heart of London.

PARK MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

- 2.2 The Royal Parks are owned by The Queen in right of the Crown and managed by the Government through the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Under the 1993 Royal Parks Framework Document, powers are delegated to the Royal Parks Agency (established on 1 April 1993), which has executive responsibility for managing and policing the Royal Parks. The Agency reports to the Department and the Secretary of State is answerable to Parliament.
- 2.3 The management structure for Hyde Park focuses on the Park Manager who reports to the Senior Park Manager, to the Director of the Royal Parks and to the Chief Executive. The Park Manager is supported by an on site staff of 2 Assistant Park Managers, an Office Manager, and has direct liaison with on site Headquarters staff including Events, Catering and Education officers and officers of the Metropolitan Police within the overall structure of the TRP. Support services are provided through the Landscape Maintenance Contractor (LMC), the Arboricultural Contract, and for technical and design advice on hardworks and building maintenance through Carillon. Landscape advice is available to the Park Manager through the in-house landscape service and the Landscape Term Commission.

Areas of the Historic Park not managed by the TRP

- 2.4 The historic park of the early seventeenth century extended to some 621 acres (251ha) but has been reduced progressively by land taken into Kensington Gardens (between 1689 and 1871) and in the 1960s by the implementation of the Park Lane traffic system which resulted in loss of the East Carriage Drive and Park Lane boundary and several lodges, severance of Marble Arch and part of the original Speakers Corner, and greater severance from The Green Park. These areas have been maintained by Westminster City Council with the involvement of the Highways Agency.
- 2.5 Additionally, land at Hyde Park Corner was purchased by Lord Apsley in 1784 for Apsley House. Although the house and grounds were repurchased “for the nation” in 1820, they are occupied in part by Lord Apsley successors and are administered by DCMS rather than TRP. Further enhancements took place in the area of Hamilton Gardens which were finally separated from the Park by John Hasher’s layout of 1826-28.

Aims of the Royal Parks Agency

- 2.6 The Royal Parks Agency has undergone a process of change over recent years. The 1999 Five Year Review of the Agency highlighted the potential benefits of closer working with local government and more effective consultation with stakeholders. The TRP has adapted its agenda to take in specific DCMS aims of promoting children, community, economy and

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delivery as well as excellence and access. Additionally the Agency recognises key policy themes from the Mayor’s agenda under the GLA to make London an inclusive, sustainable and liveable city.

2.7 The Royal Parks purpose, vision and objectives are set out in the *Royal Parks Corporate Plan (2004/05 - 05/06)*, are:

“Our purpose is to balance our responsibility to protect, conserve and enhance the unique landscapes, environments, heritage and vistas of the eight Royal Parks in London, with active and creative policies to encourage wider access to them and to increase opportunities for enjoyment delight, sanctuary, information, education, creativity and healthy recreation for everyone, now and in the future.”

“Our vision is to try to achieve the perfect balance, where all understand and value the Parks, where everyone finds something in the Parks for them, and where no one’s enjoyment of the Parks is at the unacceptable expense of others, now or in the future.”

2.8. The Royal Parks have set five objectives, to guide programmes of work in order to achieve their vision (Corporate Plan 2004 – 2006):

- To improve the quality and range of services for visitors and users of the Parks;
- To protect, conserve and enhance the natural and historic environment of the Royal Parks;
- To develop policies and initiatives to encourage wider access by priority groups and explore how to bring non-users into the Parks;
- To raise the profile of the Royal Parks, increase understanding of the role and value of The Royal Parks to London and the nation, and consolidate our role nationally and internationally at the forefront of park management;
- To manage the Royal Parks efficiently and effectively, particularly by improving its financial base and developing partnerships across the public, private and voluntary sectors;

MAIN LEASES, LICENCES AND WARRANTS

2.9 The following leases, licenses and warrants are in effect:

Dell Restaurant: the restaurant is on a 2 year concession to Caper Green (to October 2007)

Lido Cafeteria is on a 2 year concession to Caper Green (to October 2007)

Mobile catering: there are 6 units in Hyde Park (plus 6 elsewhere) on a 10 year concession to E.C. Soft Ice (to March 2015)

Boating: Concession on a 10 year concession to Bluebird Boats (to September 2014)

Deck Chairs: Concession under licence to Semmat (to October 2009)

Sports facilities: (tennis courts/bowling greens near Alexandra Gate) known as Hyde Park Sporting Club, administered by Park Tennis Partnership for 7 years from April 2003.

2.10 The underground car park is not under licence through Royal Parks but is managed through the Highways Agency and relates back to The Crown Estate. The car park has surface expression in the form of evacuation stairs and ventilation outlets sited close to Speakers Corner.

PUBLIC ACCESS

2.11 The Park is open from 5.00 am until midnight throughout the week and at weekends. The South Carriage Drive is closed to through traffic between Prince of Wales and the Queen Mothers Gates on Sundays. Public access on foot is unrestricted during “open” hours, in accordance with the Parks Regulations, except for enclosed areas of shrubberies, the Nursery, the Rangers Lodge/Storeyard/Old Police House enclosures and the gardens of other residential lodges.



3. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



NATIONAL POLICIES AND DESIGNATIONS

English Heritage: Historic Park and Gardens Register

3.1 Hyde Park is listed on English Heritage’s Register of Parks and Gardens of Special historic Interest. It is categorised as **Grade 1** entry (registered 1987); that is, of **exceptional historic interest**.

Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)

3.2 English Heritage has confirmed that there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within Hyde Park.

National Monuments Records Sites (NMR)

3.3 A total of 27 entries are listed in the NMR, including part of a Medieval field system, sites of ponds, moat, gravel pits, specific features like Rotten Row and the Serpentine, and a series of Second World War installations (sites of).

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

3.4 A detailed archaeological survey within the Park has been undertaken, and reported in 1994 (RCHME. 1994. *Hyde Park: An Archaeological Survey*).

Listed Buildings

3.5 The listings include 8 Park Lodges, several other buildings and structures – most notably Decimus Burton’s Ionic Screen at Hyde Park Corner (Grade 1) – fountains, sculpture, gates and gate piers and some 70 lamp standards. The full list is:

Reference no.	Name	Grade
88/9	Screen at Hyde Park Corner entrance	I
67/9	Cumberland Lodge, Marble Arch	II
67/18	Lodge opposite Upper Grosvenor Street	II
78/2	Westminster Precinct Conduit House Memorial at the North Head of the Dell	II
77/1, 78/4, 79/100, 88/31	Lamp standards along Serpentine Road and around Bandstand, 8 along road to east of Rangers Cottage and 2 along West Carriage Drive at junction with Serpentine Road	II
78/3, 87/11	13 lamp standards in area surrounding The Dell	II

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87/50, 86/50	17 lamp standards along and to south of Rotten Row	II
77/5	Ranger's Lodge	II
77/6	Ranger's Cottage	II
77/3	Magazine Cottage	II
77/7	Serpentine Lodge (by Serpentine Road south of Ranger's Cottage)	II
79/54	Bandstand on north side of the Serpentine Road near east end of Serpentine Road	II
79/56	The Achilles Statue (off Park Lane to the north of Hyde Park Corner Screen)	II
79/55	The Cavalry Memorial on the north side of the Serpentine Road, west of the Statue of Achilles	II
85/23	Alexandra Lodge at Alexandra Gate	II
85/22	Gates and gatepiers to Alexandra Gate	II
87/1	Gates and gatepiers to Albert Gate	II
86/4a	Gates, gatepiers and railings to Prince of Wales Gate	II
86/5	East Lodge to Prince of Wales Gate	II
86/1	West Lodge to Prince of Wales Gate	II
88/32	Diana Fountain to west of junction of Rotten Row and Serpentine Road	II
88/8	Hyde Park Corner Lodge	II
77/2	WH Hudson Memorial (on the south west edge of the Bird Sanctuary east of the West Carriage Drive)	II
78/1	The Colton Memorial ("Little Nell"): Fountain in Patte d'oe north of east end of Serpentine, Serpentine Road	II

STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVICE

Regional Planning Guidance for London

3.6 Strategic planning guidance for London is currently set out in RPG 3 (1996) although The Greater London Authority is currently developing a Spatial Development Strategy for London, which will supersede this. The draft London Plan was prepared in June 2002 and is undergoing an Examination in Public in March/April 2003. RPG3 supports Annex A:

Supplementary Guidance for London on the Protection of Strategic Views (1991) of the previous RPG which seeks to protect ten strategic views of St Paul's Cathedral and the Palace of Westminster, four of which are within Royal Parks, although none are within Hyde Park. A Draft Strategic View (from Serpentine Bridge to the Palace of Westminster) has been identified and put forward for consideration. This view is identified as a proposed townscape view in the draft London Plan. Policy 4B12 indicates that the Mayor, in collaboration with the Boroughs, English Heritage and others, will prepare a management plan for this view in Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). The City of Westminster should reflect this policy in their UDP. More information on this issue is provided in *High Buildings and Strategic Views in London's Royal Parks* (1998) prepared for the TRP by Colvin and Moggridge.

Greater London Authority Biodiversity Strategy and BAPs

- 3.7 Hyde Park is recognised as one of the largest and most important parks in the City of Westminster and is designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.
- 3.8 The UK Biodiversity Action Plan sets out a national strategy for wildlife conservation, based upon action plans for habitats and species. Local Biodiversity Action Plans have also been prepared for London and for the City of Westminster. Hyde Park contains a number of Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats and can help to achieve specific targets associated with these BAP's. Implementation is being explored further in the Wildlife Management Strategy for Hyde Park (Landscape Design Associates, First Draft May 2002). The Royal Parks Agency has a statutory duty, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to further the conservation of biological diversity in the UK.
- 3.9 In addition to BAP's, the Mayor has published a Draft Biodiversity Strategy. This document encourages the promotion of the management of land for biodiversity, for promoting education, collating and distributing wildlife information and exchanging information on best practice for managing parks for wildlife. Through the Royal Parks Biological Recording Project, and its education objectives and practice, the TRP is developing programmes to achieve the aims of this strategy.

Local Planning Policies and Designations

- 3.10 Hyde Park is Crown land and therefore can pursue notification of planning matters under section 18/84. However, in practice the TRP complies with local authority planning policies.
- 3.11 Hyde Park lies wholly within the City of Westminster. The statutory policies relating to land within Westminster are contained within *The City of Westminster Adopted Unitary Development Plan* (1997) and the revised *Deposit Version* (2001).
- 3.12 The general stance taken by The City of Westminster to Hyde Park is encapsulated in the following paragraph extracted from Chapter 9 of the Adopted UDP:

*'The City Council regards the **Royal Parks** and public and private squares as essential elements of the townscape and will resist any attempts to develop them or adversely affect their integrity or appearance. This will include resisting developments on adjoining land or land in close proximity which would reduce the feeling of spaciousness in the open space or otherwise adversely affect their setting and appearance which may include views from them.'*

- 3.13 The City of Westminster also considers that:

*'Westminster's needs for **Metropolitan and District Parks** are largely met by the Royal Parks. However, they do not contain the full range of facilities required and there is a need for additional provision for active organised recreation in the City. The City Council will encourage the Department of the Environment to make such provision in the Royal Parks while recognising that their particular qualities mean that some activities will be inappropriate..... Any future proposals will have*

to conform to the policies in the Plan, in particular, those which cover listed buildings, strategic views, Conservation Areas, Public Open Space, the Canal, amenity and traffic generation and parking. Therefore, any future major proposal should include a full environmental assessment, which addresses these issues'

- 3.14 The second revised deposit draft of the UDP also provides protection for Hyde Park as policy DES12. The policy refers to development within or adjacent to Royal Parks and safeguards their appearance and setting, historic integrity and views.
- 3.15 Policy ENV13 protects Hyde Park as Metropolitan Open Land. The supporting text notes the range of recreational facilities being introduced by the TRP and supports these improvements. However, it notes that some activities may be inappropriate and may lead to increased traffic generation.

Conservation and Heritage

- 3.16 Hyde Park is designated as a Conservation Area (Policy DES7 and STRA25 of the adopted plan and policies STRA26 and DES9 of the second deposit draft UDP). There are also a number of Conservation Areas adjacent to the Park. The Conservation Area designation protects the built and landscaped environment of the Park and appraisal documents have been published.

Specific **Listed buildings** are further protected by Policy DES 8 [DES10].

There are **Strategic Views** as set out in RPG3 (none affecting Hyde Park) and in the draft London Plan. (Serpentine to the Palace of Westminster now included.)

Open Space and Nature Conservation

- 3.17 Open Spaces (Policy DES11A [DES12]) specifically highlights the Royal Parks but includes all open spaces listed within the borough (the area of Hyde Park is divided between 'Public Parks and Open Spaces Managed by the Royal Parks or the Department of Natural Heritage' (now the Department of Culture Media and Sport) and 'Private Open Spaces in Westminster including Palace Gardens'. The policy seeks to protect their appearance, historic integrity and wider setting. Hyde Park is listed as **Metropolitan Open Land** (Policy STRA 29 Area MOL 1 [STRA 34, ENV13]).

Previous Studies

- 3.18 Two specific studies have provided useful background, briefing and framework information over the past decade. The **Historical Survey** (Land Use Consultants 1982) still provides a useful and accessible record of the Park's history, and evolution as well as an inventory and record of the Park's condition at that time. The main report still serves as a useful source of reference as well as identifying (and at that stage) predicting some of the issues that the Park has faced and is now facing. The inventory is inevitably partly out of date since the Park is constantly changing through ageing and renewal of its vegetation and adaptation of its fabric in the face of pressures and public uses. The great storm of 1987 is one such example, although it had generally less dramatic effect here than in some of the other Royal Parks. The Queen Mother Gates which also enabled TRP to simplify the great arc of fencing and control gates which previously existed at Hyde Park Corner, is an example of the latter.
- 3.19 Subsequently the Royal Parks Review Group under the chairmanship of Dame Jennifer Jenkins, provided an excellent review (1992) of issues affecting the Park. Again many of the issues identified in the Review Group report are carried forward and embodied in this management plan.

4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 4.1 A detailed analysis of the history and evolution of Hyde Park is contained in the *Royal Parks Historical Survey – Hyde Park* (Land Use Consultants, 1982). This chapter presents a synopsis of the historic context that identifies the key historical aspects of park development as context to current management initiatives. This is supported by the sequence of plans (Figures 1 to 6) illustrating the evolution of the Park.

Prehistoric and Early History

- 4.2 Hyde Park occupies the shallow valley formed by the River Westbourne, which is further incised by the small dry valley of the Tyburn Brook. In the 11th Century William the Conqueror granted an area of the Saxon manor of Eia lying to the east of the Westbourne, including the Manor of Hyde, to Geoffrey de Mandeville. He subsequently presented it to Westminster Abbey, which already held other agricultural land west of the river. The monks dammed the river to create a series of fishponds and the remaining land appeared to be used for farming, and there is no indication in the valuation for exchange that any of the land was wooded.

Origins as Royal Park and A Mediaeval Hunting Park (1536)

- 4.3 In 1536 Henry VIII acquired the land forming Hyde Park by compulsory exchange. This land included all of the present extent of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. The Park was enclosed with palings following boundaries established by Roman roads (the Via Trinobantium and Watling Street). By 1573 the Park was a popular Royal hunting ground and was also yielding an income from pasture with pannage and browse for the deer. This popularity continued through the reign of Elizabeth I who staged military reviews in Hyde Park, thereby establishing the precedent of royal celebrations and events in the Park. As late as 1634 Charles I built a new hunting lodge in the Park but by this time, a new function for the Park was already emerging.

A Public Park (1630-1737)

- 4.4 A series of 'walkes' existed in the Park as early as 1611 but the Park did not officially open to the public until around 1630. 'The Ring' was created around this time and became a fashionable venue for promenading, indicating the Park's increasing recreational and ornamental use.
- 4.5 In 1652 the Commonwealth sold Hyde Park and the new owners felled many of the trees for a quick profit on what was to be a short-term venture. In 1660 Hyde Park was reverted to the Crown at the Restoration and shortly afterwards Charles II replaced the perimeter boundary with a wall and restocked the Park with deer. The Cheese Cake House was already in use by this time, providing the first public refreshments in the Park. During the reign of William III a royal residence was established at Kensington, which was connected to Westminster in 1690 by a new road – The 'Route du Roi', popularised as 'Rotten Row', which was the first lamp-lit road in the country. Queen Anne further extended Kensington Gardens into Hyde Park until, in 1730, Queen Caroline formally enclosed the gardens with a ha-ha designed by Bridgeman. From this time Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens evolved separate characters and identities and progressively Hyde Park lost territory to Kensington Gardens.
- 4.6 During the early Georgian period deliberate design of the Park commenced, including the planting of numerous avenues. When, in 1735, Rotten Row was superseded by George II's 'King's New Road' (later adapted as the South Carriage Drive), Rotten Row became popular as a fashionable public riding parade – a pursuit that continues today. Between 1730



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and 31, overseen by Bridgeman, the string of monastic fishponds (Figure 1) were flooded and the embankments raised to create the Serpentine and which has ever since been a key focus of Hyde Park.

Public Influence in the Park (1737 – 1823)

- 4.7 Until the 1820's a reactionary, piecemeal approach to park development occurred in response to public demands, which had intensified by the increased residential nature of the park surroundings. The residents of London used the Park for walking; riding, carriage driving, swimming, skating and eating. Other shadier activities took place within the Park during this period including duelling, long after the practice had been generally suppressed, military executions and floggings, the drowning of illegitimate babies, and prostitution. Over 20,000 trees were planted between 1794 and 1807 under the instructions of the Ranger, Lord Euston.
- 4.8 Both the Barracks, (now the site of the Old Police House) and the Magazine, appeared in connection with the greatly increased military presence in the Park in the late eighteenth century which, combined with the grand public spectacles staged under the Regency, placed a great strain upon the fabric of the Park. They also focused public attention upon the run-down condition of the Park, which in turn eventually compelled Government to embark on the major programme of improvements.

The designed park (1823 – 1851)

- 4.9 Contemporaneous with the design and development of St James's Park, Decimus Burton directed a programme of park rejuvenation (1825–1829). Burton re-unified the park through replacement of the perimeter wall with railings, construction of new entrances with coherent classically styled gates and lodges and the creation of an extensive system of rides and walks - including George Rennie's celebrated Serpentine Bridge. Some of the anomalous or obtrusive buildings - such as the riding school and the shooting butt on the north wall were demolished. In 1823 a system of policing was introduced to control the worst excesses of public behaviour in the Park.
- 4.10 The completed scheme provided the structural framework for further additions for the next 20 years. During the 1830's and 40's a new Receiving House was built by the Serpentine, and a brewery and a "night house" made way for two new carriage entrances on the southern boundary, the style of which related closely to Burton's earlier work. Victoria Gate was also constructed to give access to the north west corner of the new Outer Ring, in accordance with Burton's original intentions. Two new houses (Ranger's Lodge and Serpentine Lodge) were located in the central area adjacent to the military buildings.

The Park since 1851

- 4.11 The 1851 'Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations' created international renown for Hyde Park. With the temporary siting of the Crystal Palace in the southern portion of the Park this might have been a period of major change and intrusion. Indeed between the 1850's and 1860's increasing adornment, including seating, drinking fountains, lighting, creation of carpet bedding displays and the addition of numerous monuments and statues, occurred. The growing popularisation of the park meant that further elements were added, such as refreshment facilities, boating, musical entertainment at the bandstand, more roads rides and paths, and extensive gas lighting. Following the 1866 Reform Riots, Speakers' Corner has become an official place for public speaking. The road between the Victoria and Alexandra Gates was connected for vehicles, initially intended as a temporary measure, segregating Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park.

- 4.12 The Victorian conception of a suitable style for the Park bore little relation to its historical precedent. For instance one of the earliest monuments to be erected after the Achilles Statue (1822) was the inconstant Megalith fountain (1862) which was thought to be "more in keeping than the usual carved design". The gothic style of the Magazine Cottage (1862) and the Vizianagram Fountain of (1867) were in contrast to the prevalent classical style established by Burton. Furthermore, the introduction of carpet bedding in the 1860's, the sub-tropical layout of the Dell and the planting of exotic trees in the 1880's were all in direct contrast to the existing character of the Park which still retained some of the qualities of a hunting park.
- 4.13 There were many contentious changes that took place during the Victorian period. The connection of the road between Victoria and Alexandra Gates, originally made to improve access to the 1862 Exhibition in South Kensington, became a major traffic artery of London, even though it was planned to be a temporary measure. The construction of the Albert Memorial on land severed from the park, the construction of the island (1873) from mud dredged from the Serpentine, and the filling in of the ha-ha on the Kensington Gardens boundary at Buck Hill (1868 and 1916) were other issues that were surrounded in controversy.
- 4.14 Between 1900 and 1907 several buildings were constructed including a large police station that is now the headquarters for the Royal Parks Agency. The increased police presence was initiated to control the inevitable increase in petty crime and prostitution, but also to cope with the new phenomenon – the use of the park as a forum for public protest and debate. It was after the Reform League riots of 1866 that Speaker's Corner was given official sanction as a place for public speaking, and also that the park was placed under the supervision of the Metropolitan police. A series of monuments and memorials were erected following the First World War.
- 4.15 George Lansbury, the First Commissioner of Works during the Depression between the wars greatly improved recreational facilities in all of the Royal Parks with funds raised by public appeal in 1929. In Hyde Park he built the Lido and laid out the sports area in the Exhibition Ground. New seats and drinking fountains were put in place in 1937 by his successor, Sir Philip Sassoon. Pavilions were added to the shores of the Serpentine with the East Boathouse being constructed in 1903 replacing an earlier boathouse, and the West boathouse in 1952. Refreshment facilities were gradually extended, notably by the two modern restaurants (1964 and 1965), one of which (The Serpentine Restaurant) was subsequently demolished.
- 4.16 The loss of trees to Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970's, the severance of the East Carriage Drive due to widening of Park Lane and the construction of buildings outside the Park but above the tree-line have had a negative impact upon the perception of Hyde Park in recent times. Events have continued within the park including the famous 'Pavarotti in the Park' spectacle, 'Food and Farming' and the more recent 'Party in the Park'.



SIGNIFICANCE OF PARK EVOLUTION

4.17 The importance and significance of the historic landscape of Hyde Park is summarised below:

- Origins as a Royal Hunting Park and a long history of direct association with Royalty;
- Severance of and consequent differential development of adjoining Kensington Gardens, also considerably reducing total area of Hyde Park;
- Continuous history of public events and spectacle, from Queen Elizabeth 1's military reviews to assemblies, rallies and events of national significance;
- Early example of the 'English' or naturalistic style of landscape design;
- Subsistence of formal imposed design but presence of numerous historical features, buildings, artefacts, monuments and designs creating a relaxed but dignified quality parkscape;
- Mixture of extensive open grassland, traditional parkland and water settings;
- The 'People's Park' in popular imagery.

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Plate 2 Plan of Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park by Henry Wise (circa 1700)

Figure 1 Plan by Henry Wise 1706

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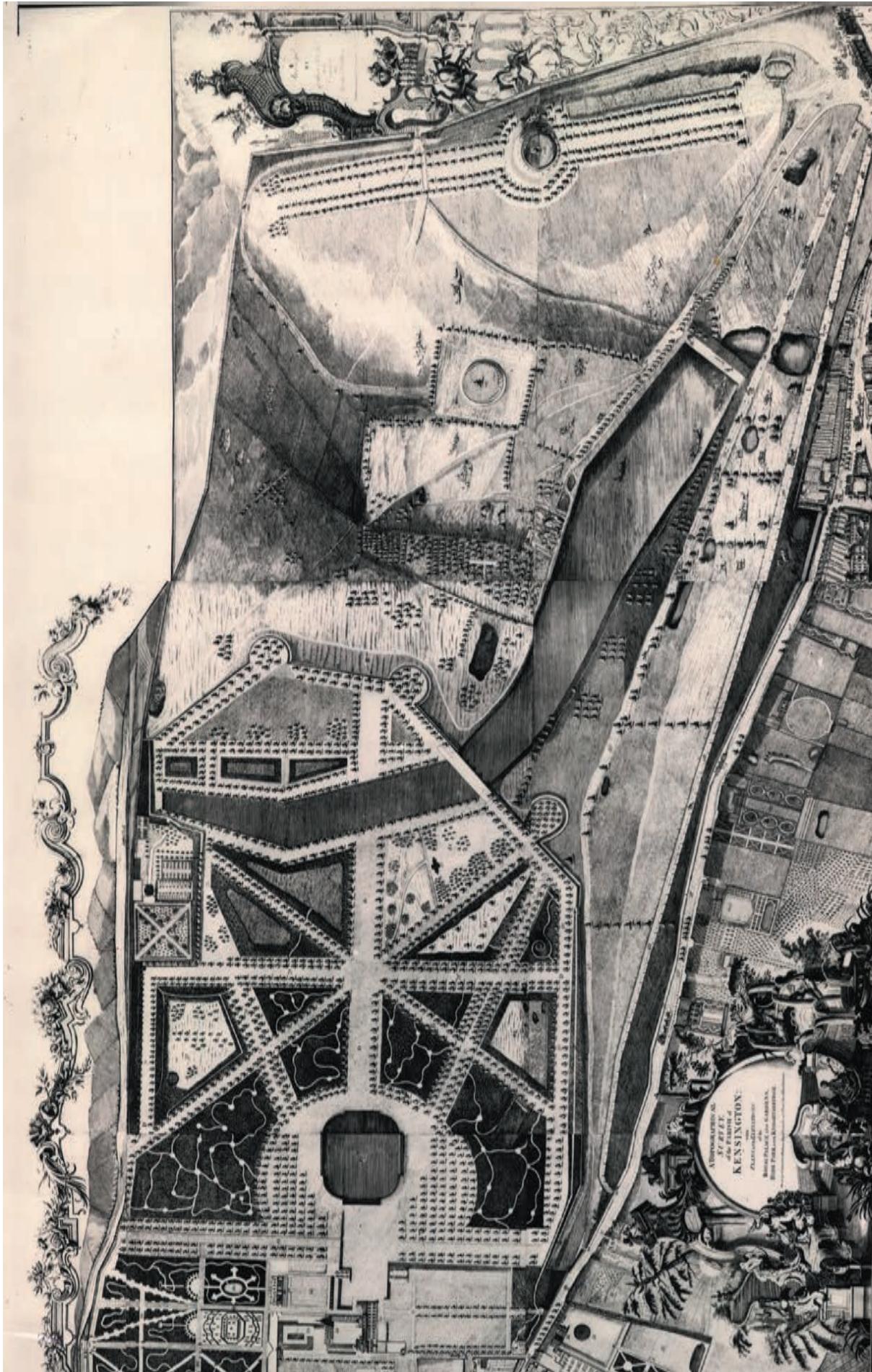


Figure 2 Plan by Joshua Rhodes 1769



Figure 3 Plan by John Mann 1840

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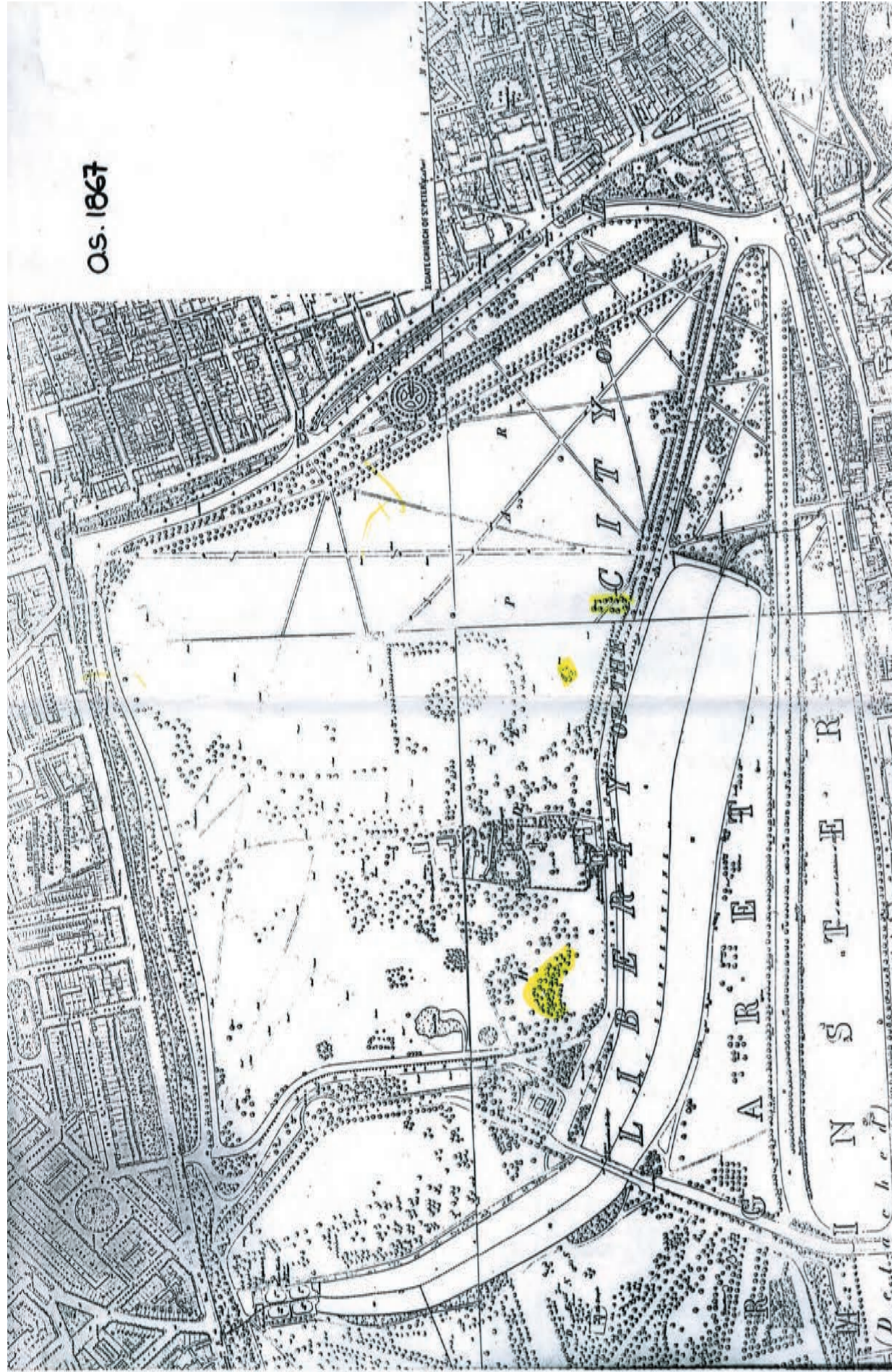


Figure 4 Ordnance Survey 1867

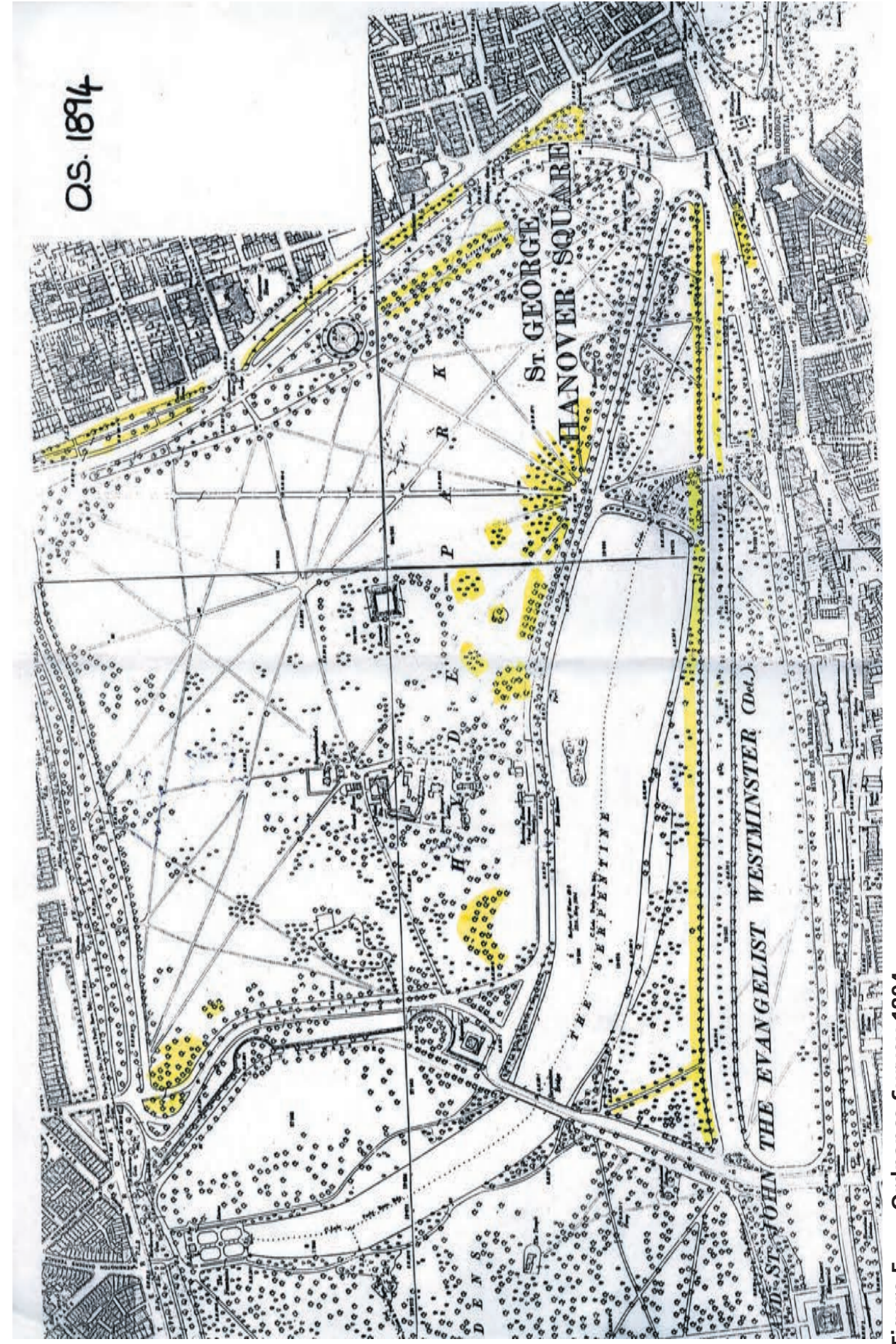


Figure 5 Ordnance Survey 1894

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Figure 6 Ordnance Survey 1916

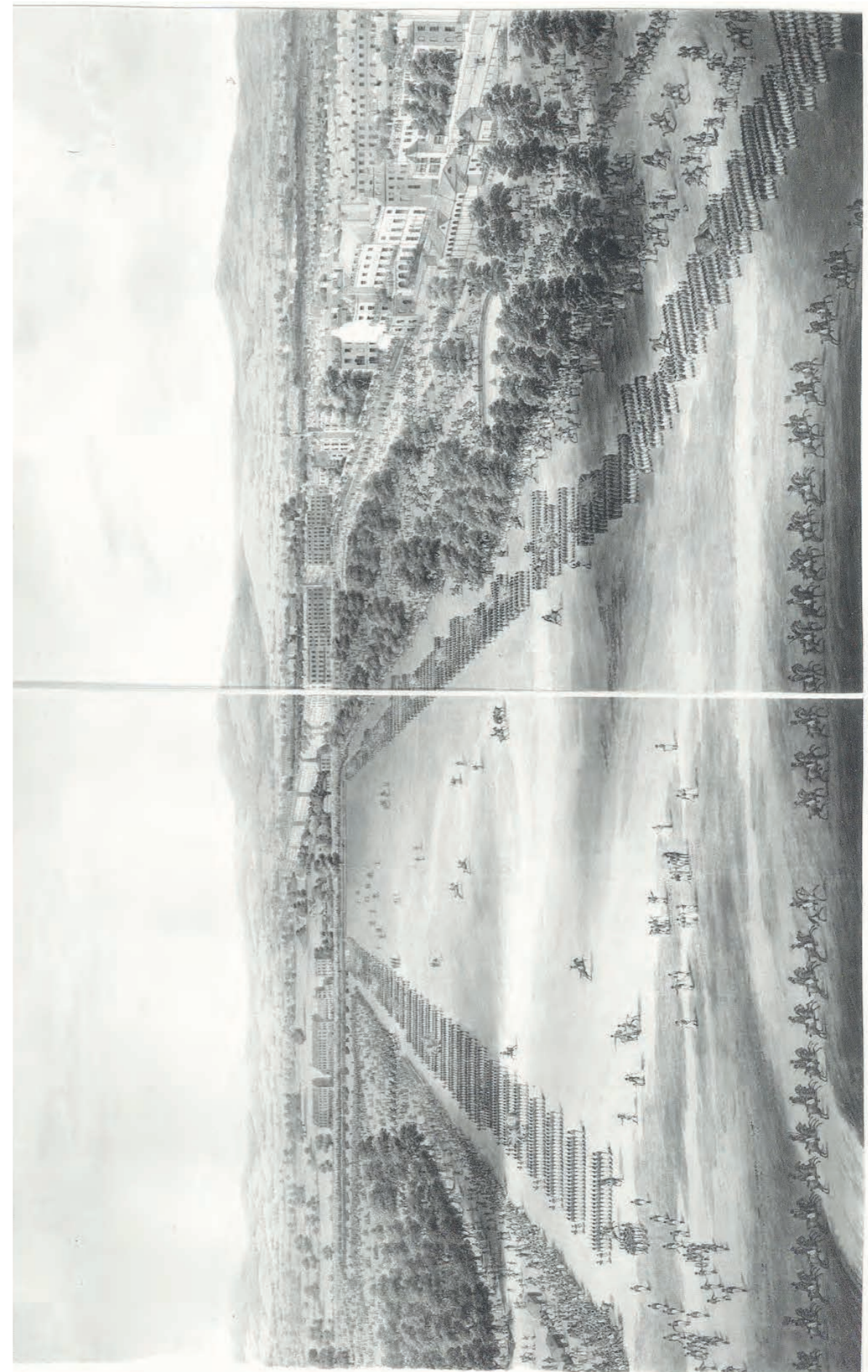


Figure 7 View of Parade Ground

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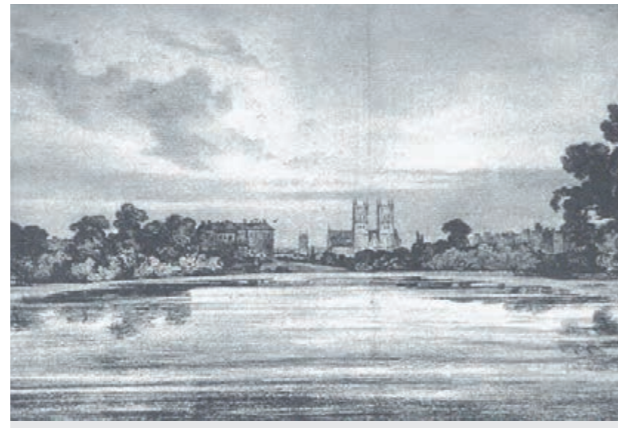
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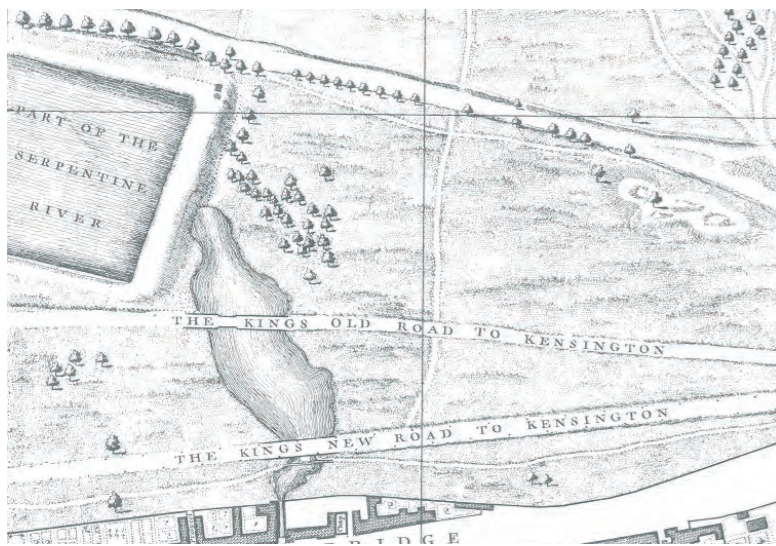
Dickenson: The Cheesecake House 1836
(City of Westminster Library)



G Harley: Hyde Park 1821 (Guildhall Library)



P de Wint: View of the Serpentine River 1807



John Rocque: Plan the cities of London and Westminster and Borough of Southwark 1741

Figure 8 Historical views of Hyde

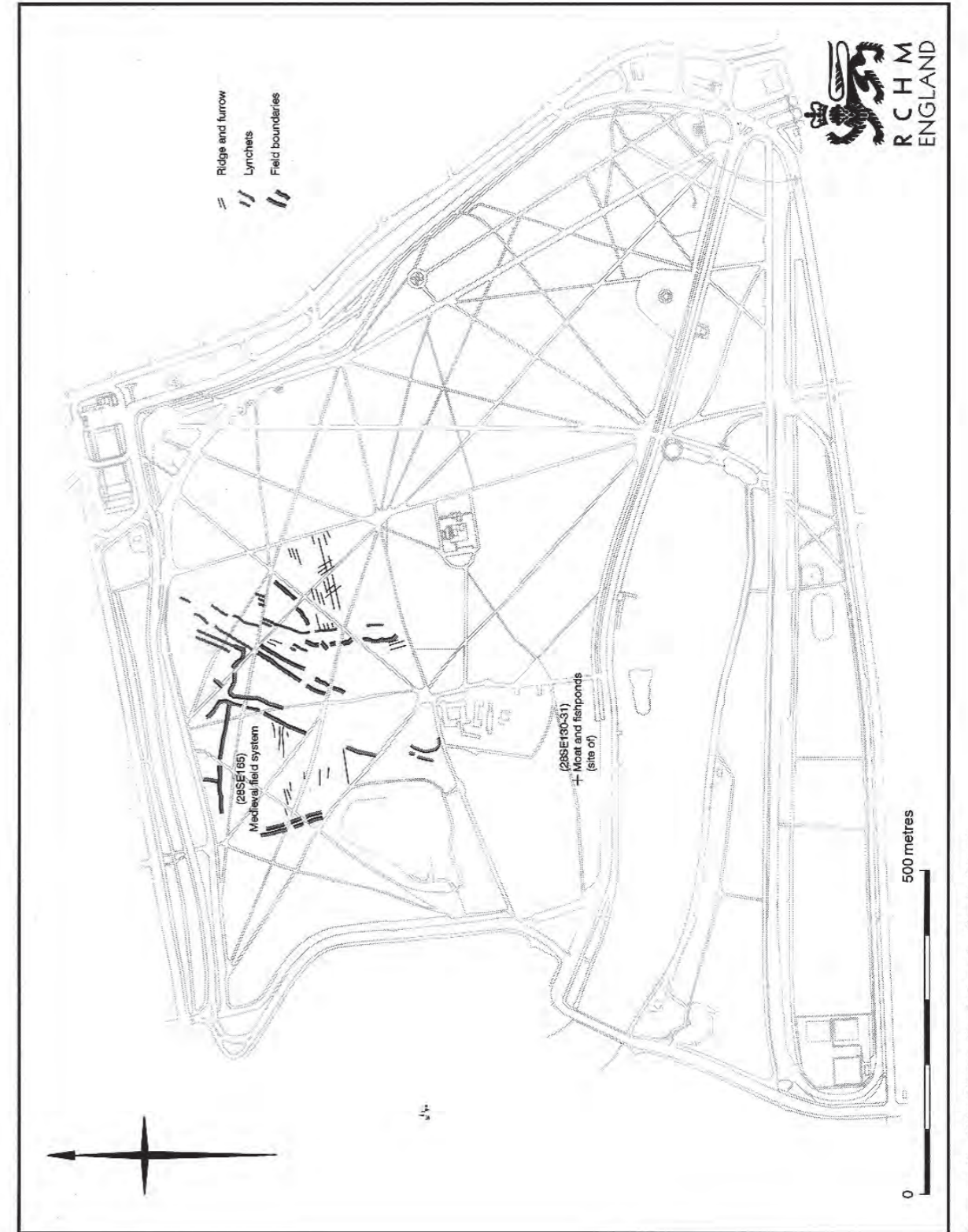


Figure 9 RCHME: Medieval feature

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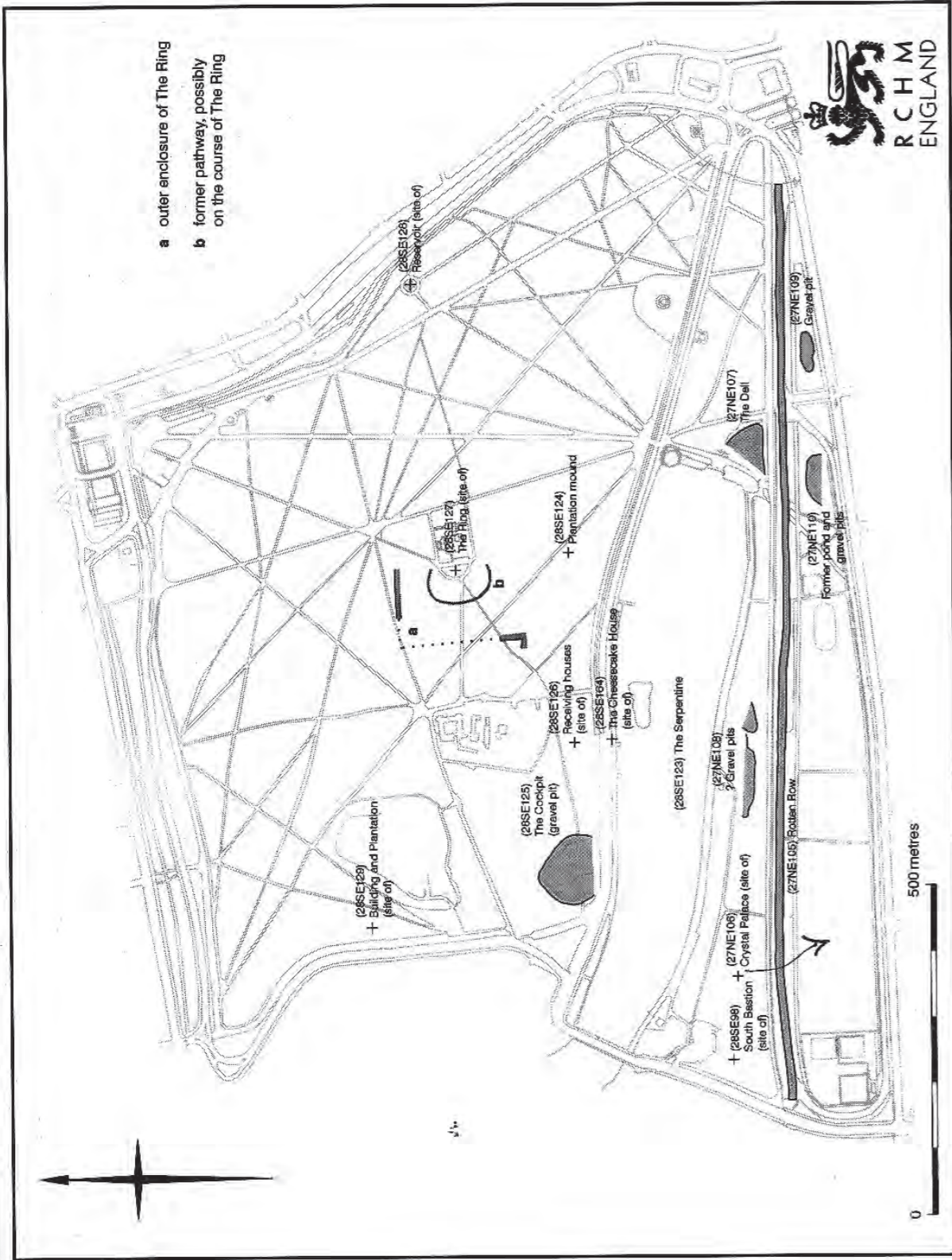


Figure 10 RCHME: Post Medieval features

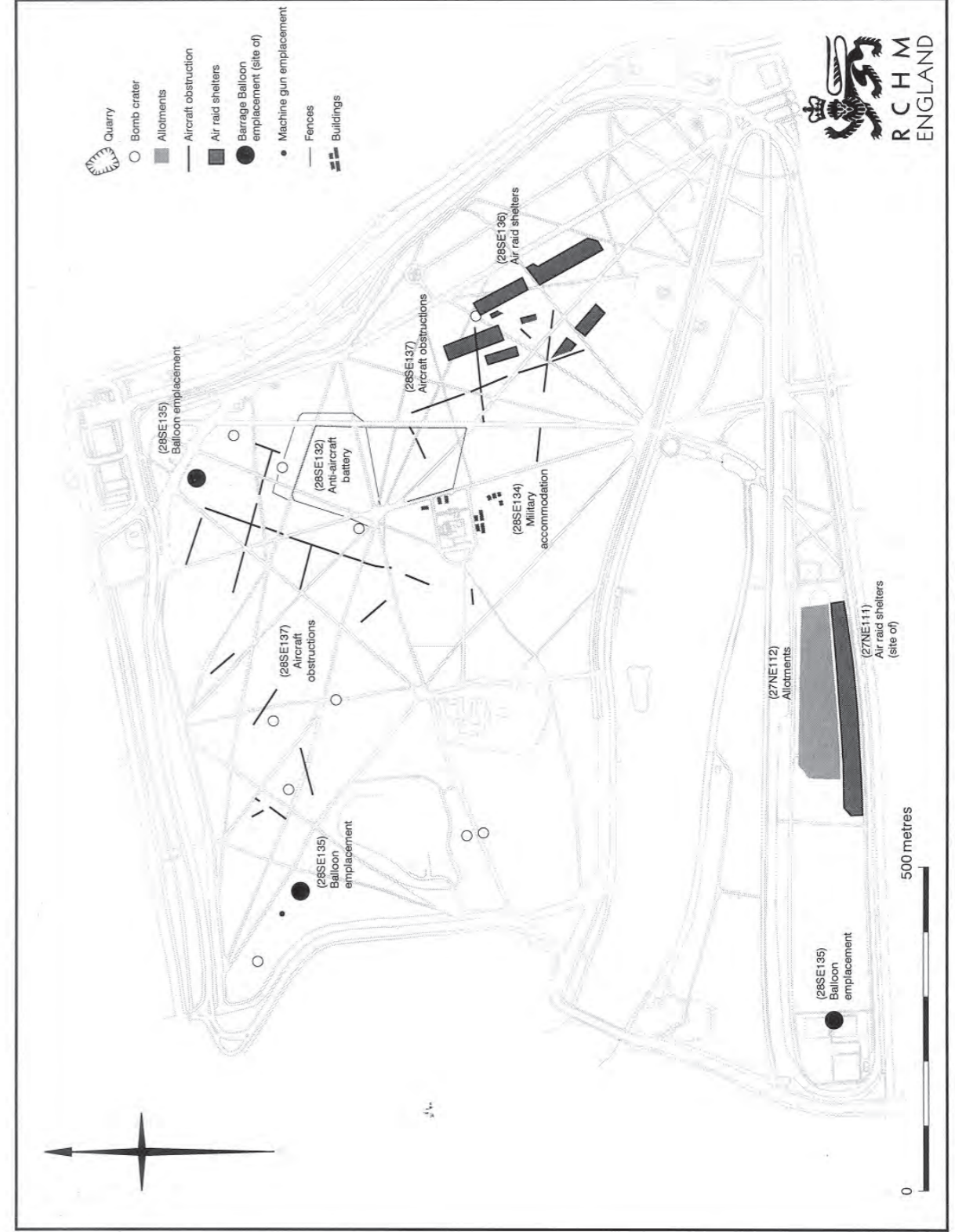


Figure 11 RCHME: Second World War features (1941-42)

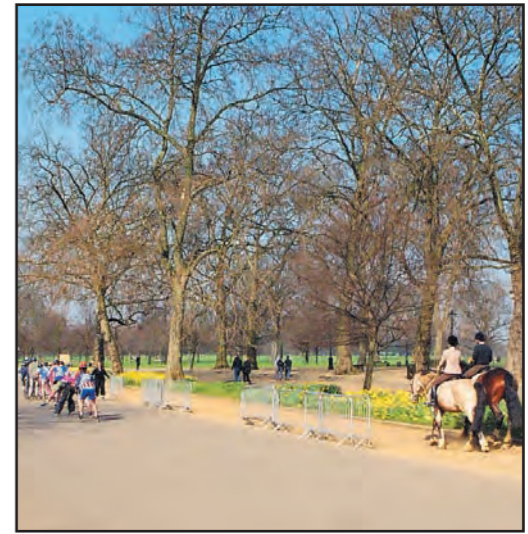
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PART 2. DESCRIPTION, USE AND CHARACTER

This section describes the main elements that make up the physical fabric of the Park, assesses their significance and use, and the way in which these elements influence and shape the Park's character. The range of issues that need consideration and resolution through the management plan process are identified:

- 5 Physical Context
- 6 Natural fabric
- 7 Buildings and Hard Landscape
- 8 Public Use
- 9 Landscape Character



Serpentine Road



The Cockpit Lawns

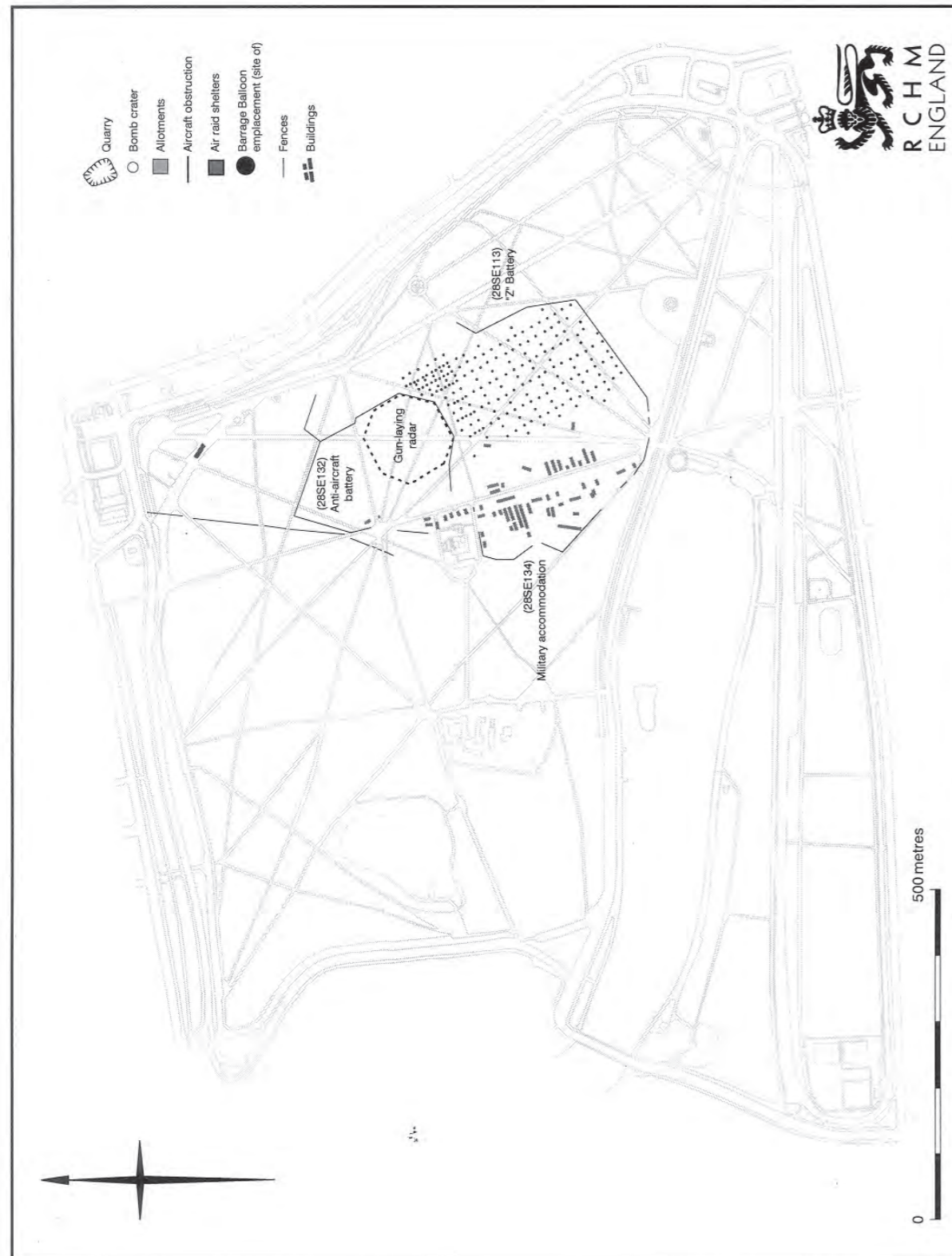


Figure 12 RCHME: Second World War features (1944-45)

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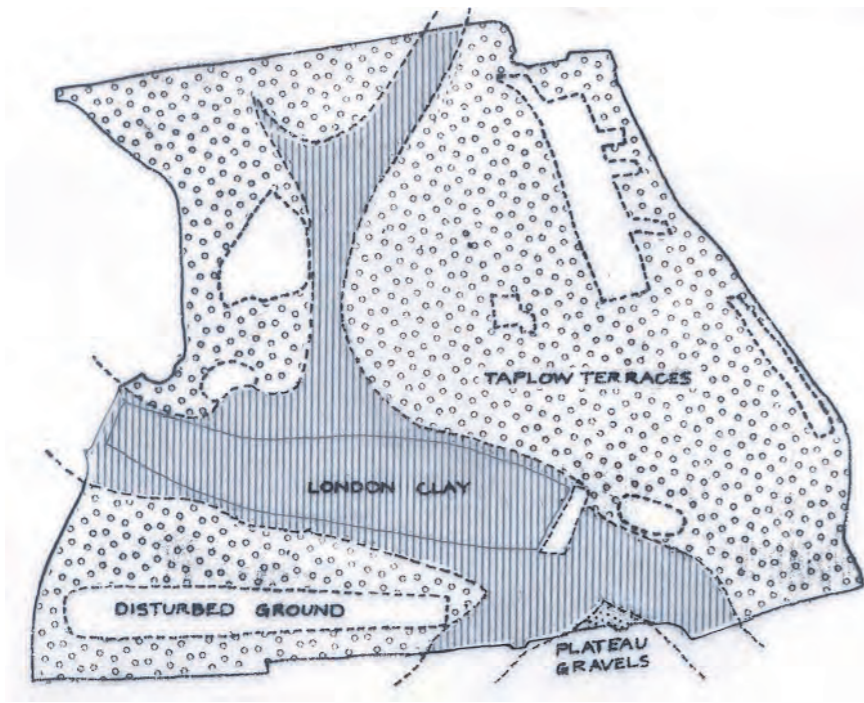


Figure 13 Hyde Park: Geology

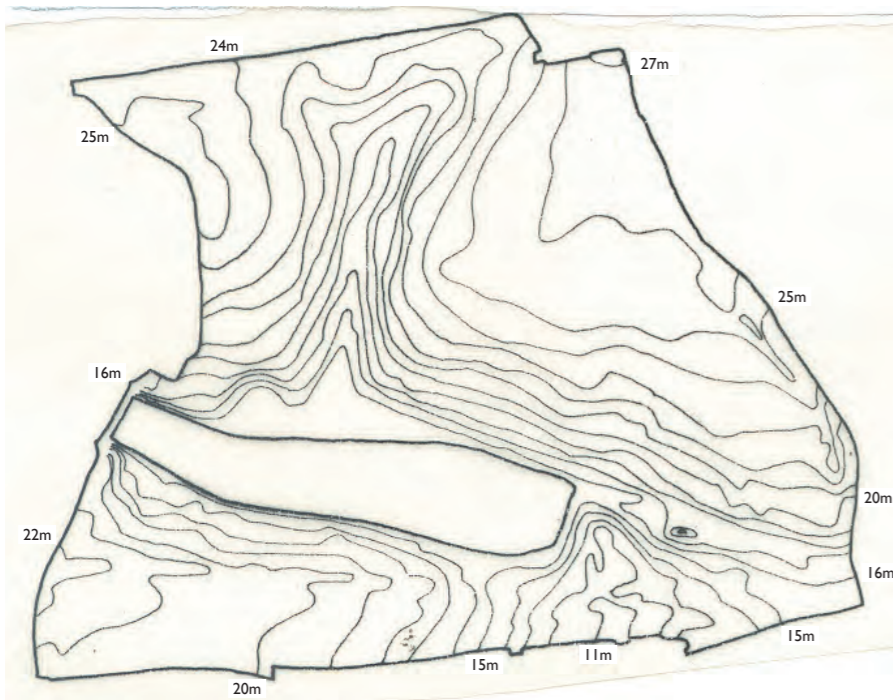


Figure 14 Hyde Park: Topography

5. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Geology

5.1 The geological plan (Figure 13) shows that the Taplow Gravels underlie most of the site although these have been cut through to expose the underlying London clay in the valley of the Westbourne and its northern tributary the Little Tyburn. The gravels have been worked locally and extracted for path making (the Nursery is sited in one such gravel pit and early plans show several other such excavations). Indications from more recent excavations show that where this ground has not previously been disturbed it shows good profiles of mixed hoggins with sands and gravels. The excavations for the underground car park (1960) apparently cut through deep layers of light sand and relatively little hoggin.

Topography

5.2 The lie of the land across Hyde Park is a gentle fall from north to south (Figure 14), most clearly exhibited in the area south of the Reservoir and Parade Ground, with highest point (27m AOD) at Speakers Corner and the lowest close to Albert Gate. However the landform is further articulated by the valley of the Westbourne (now the Serpentine) with its tributary – the Little Tyburn – whose gentle valley form runs down from Albion Gate and behind (to west of) the Old Police House. Groundworks in the 1730s, under Charles Bridgeman’s direction, raised the embankment of the pre-existing lowest of ten fish ponds in order to form the Serpentine. This large artificial landform effectively defines the present Dell with the remainder of the Westbourne stream originally discharging from the Park at the “Knight’s Bridge” but now ignominiously, in culvert to the Thames.

Soils

5.3 The natural pattern of soil development has been greatly modified by the Park’s history of earthworks, gravel pits, building construction and demolition (shown in sample borings by layers of rubble and disturbed soil horizons). This is apparent most detrimentally on the former Great Exhibition site which was filled with blitz rubble and capped with heavy clay soils, and the underground car park beneath the Parade Ground which has a very thin cover of poorly draining soils over the concrete roof of the parking decks. Flower and shrub beds have been improved with imported soils, fertilisers and mulches, etc.

5.4 The soils which are most vulnerable to wear are those with a high clay or silt content with a tendency to become waterlogged. In wet conditions grass cover is lost more rapidly and compaction occurs.

5.5 In summary, substantial areas of the Park have been significantly modified by excavations, filling, reshaping, building, or demolition. In most areas there is no longer a direct relationship between soil types and underlying geology. Where soil type has been critical for horticultural reasons it has usually been imported and ameliorated to suit the particular requirements.

Hydrology and Drainage

5.6 The natural hydrology of Hyde Park has been influenced considerably by human intervention. The land forms part of post-glacial terraces of the Thames which have subsequently been eroded and shaped by surface run-off and the valley forms of the Westbourne and the Little Tyburn. Monastic interventions appear to have resulted in a series of embankments forming the 10 fish ponds which are shown in Henry Wise’s plan of c.1706,

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and later enlarged into the Long Water in Kensington Gardens and the Serpentine in Hyde Park under supervision of Charles Withers (Surveyor General of His Majesty's Woods) and delivered in conjunction with Bridgeman's works in 1730-31.

- 5.7 Subsequently the separating embankment/causeway was removed to link the two separate water bodies when John Rennie's bridge was built in 1823. Other ponds below the Dell were filled in. In 1860 in response to the deteriorating condition and water quality, sewers along the Bayswater Road were diverted, and pumped water was delivered to feed the Long Water supplemented by the construction of the Reservoir (1883) and by additional supply from Duck Island in St. James's Park. The Little Tyburn was subsequently culverted within its valley and delivered into the Ranelagh sewer (running parallel with and on the north side of the Serpentine), although restoration to open the water course remains a future possibility subject to water quality. Through the twentieth century there were generally falling water tables due to London's abstractions, but water tables are now rising again.

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6. NATURAL FABRIC



- 6.1 This section describes the different 'living' components that make up the essential character of Hyde Park – trees, grass, shrubberies, horticultural display areas and water. It seeks to describe how these are important to the physical appearance of the Park for visitors and to determine other contributions which trees make to wildlife habitat value or historical value.

TREES

- 6.2 Trees provide the fundamental framework of the landscape of Hyde Park. They provide, to a large extent, its containment around much of the boundary, partly foiling built development, the main structural lines of historic rows and avenues; and they form groups, occasional masses, and individual free standing celebrities which collectively define spaces, frame views, and yet remain – at ground level – largely permeable to visual and physical exploration.
- 6.3 The collection and arrangement of trees in Hyde Park is worthy and critically important to continuity of the established character. All trees here are, of course, planted by man rather than of natural occurrence; and as a population which extends back to at least the late eighteenth century (and almost certainly echoes, through replanting, some earlier stands and groupings), the inherited pattern represents several layers of history.
- 6.4 The majority of trees are of late nineteenth and twentieth century origin. This is partly explained in the records of history. During the Commonwealth, when the Park was sold by lots into several private ownerships and before recovery at the Restoration, there was some "asset stripping" in the removal of large (and valuable) trees. Hyde Park was described as "a barren field" when returned to Crown ownership in 1660. Nevertheless by about 1800, the Park still possessed numbers of gnarled and ancient oaks and elms – depicted in a series of sketches and watercolours by J.C. Nattes over the period 1794-1807 (see Figure 19). While the illustrations show an essentially picturesque and romantic landscape not unlike that of Richmond Park, the official word was more sharply critical of the impoverished condition of trees in the Park; and although on his resignation from office (1807) Lord Euston claimed to have planted some 25,000 trees in Hyde and St. James's Park during his Rangership (1794-1807), there were similar complaints already being made by John Mann in 1834 when he found Hyde Park "in a bad state of decline and a considerable deal of planting will be required". In the mid century the plane tree was being introduced more firmly to Hyde Park. This was paralleled by a strong campaign by First Commissioner of Works William Cowper and Park Superintendent John Mann to achieve greater diversity in planting as explained by Elinor Wiltshire's fascinating paper "*Trees of the 1860s in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens*". (The London Naturalist no.81, 2002).
- 6.5 Plane trees are now relatively dominant in the Park due to the substantial numbers planted in lines and avenues in the mid to late nineteenth century the apparent "clean up" of old and decrepit oaks and – in several phases – the loss of all the elm – previously the dominant tree in Hyde Park. In the present day the combination of retained "veterans" and young renewal planting is essential for the continuity of pattern and quality of place, while conveying expressions of later historical character and ambience. This diversity of trees (and in places, lack of it) – both in distribution and in species – is also of significance in the habitat structure and biodiversity potential of the Park.
- 6.6 The Historical Survey of Hyde Park (March 1982) provided a comprehensive survey and analysis of all trees at that time. There has certainly been some considerable change since that time with losses (not least in the storms of 1987 and 90) and with new planting. Nevertheless the main findings of that survey are useful indicators of the present picture. The 1982 survey recorded:

- 2984 individually surveyed trees

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- tree canopy covered about 23% of the park
- total of 159 species of which 47 species were represented by more than 10 trees
- 25% of trees were in lines; 75% as individuals, groups or masses
- only 2% of trees estimated to predate 1850
- Plane (26%), Lime (15%), Horse Chestnut (5%) and Oaks (5%) represented the most dominant groups, with the majority of planes in lines/avenues
- some 900 trees had already been lost in the period 1967 to 1981 of which an estimated 800 were elms.

6.7 A considerable amount of replanting has been undertaken since the survey of 1981-82, and some 250 trees were lost as a result of storms in 1987 and 1990; but the supporting detail of this information is not currently available in equivalent form to update plans, schedules and statistics. The need to do so is well recognised as a priority by the management team. Renewal and restoration planting has included missing, lost or weakened features including the rectangular formation of The Ring, replanting the avenue alongside Rotten Row (north side) as Sweet Chestnut, and several other formations and gap fillings.

6.8 “Celebrity trees” of particular stature, form or position are part of the present population, and while it is important that such trees remain a minority in the context of Hyde Park, notable specimens deserve to be recognised and maintained with a high priority given to their management in arboricultural terms including continuity as veterans. Examples include the large Zelkova carpinifolia close to the display gardens and just south of Serpentine Road, a fine Pterocarya fraxinifolia near the Dell/Rotten Row and some large plane trees of particularly fine habit near the Abbey conduit monument/Dell Restaurant.

6.9 Overall and because of their relative longevity and slow growth, trees form an essential and continuing backdrop of perceived permanence in the face of other changes going on around and outside the Park. However there is crucial dependence on appropriate succession – in pattern, distribution and species – to assure long term authenticity and character. Deterioration and decline are generally slow and gradual but occasionally rapid and dramatic (as in the cases of elm loss and storm damage). So while in the main the population of trees conveys a feeling of continuity, even security, and certainly heritage, there is every need to maintain the majority of existing trees as fully and for as long as possible, to anticipate future losses and to plan purposefully for appropriate renewal. Current actions of determining locations, species, and effects, as well as providing the necessary support management for proper establishment and after care, will be critical to the image, character and presentation of the Park in 100 years time.

6.10 In summary the key elements of evolution include:

- The loss of trees during the Commonwealth – recorded at the Restoration as “a barren field”.
- The layout of some lines (Rotten Row), platoons and other formations (the Ring) which are recorded in Wise’s plan of 1706 (Figure 2) and lasted well into the early nineteenth century.
- The romantic and picturesque image of Hyde Park as depicted by J.C. Nattes at c.1800 – gnarled oaks and substantial elms.
- The loss of the Great Walnut Avenue at the end of the eighteenth century.
- Lord Euston’s major plantings up to 1807, although few of these appear to have survived to the present day.

- The diversity of planting promoted by Cowper and Mann in the 1860s – indicated by some of the surviving but storm depleted single genera groupings, (eg. grafted manna Ash on the Serpentine Lawns above the boat landing stage).
- The substantial investment in planes for most of the lines and avenues – giving great prominence to this species in the Park, (it is important to retain most lines as planes for their visual continuity and strength, but some diversification is feasible and desirable).
- Further planting of planes as specimen trees in parkland stands, usually surviving as fine and well formed trees – as near the Dell – but less desirably in the Little Tyburn Valley where they restrict wider biodiversity potential.
- The loss of elm – formerly a majority tree in Hyde Park, effectively giving greater prominence to plane.
- The addition of later, mainly ornamental, planting in specific areas, providing arboricultural interest and landscape variety.

6.11 History, with the deliberate and varied intervention by successive managers at Hyde Park, has dealt a mixed hand in the tree populations as inherited into the twenty-first century. Nature, time, disease, act of God, taste and practical management have modified and altered these cumulative compositions, leaving in effect a mosaic; and recognition of the mosaic and its component pieces is vital in planning for continuity – even planning for “no change” – but preferably planning for a mildly adapted, informed, authentic continuity of heritage, arboricultural and biodiversity interest.

6.12 In 2001, Landscape Design Associates commenced work on the Tree Management Strategy for Hyde Park, initially assessing the general scale of the resource, the requirements of such strategy and identifying objectives for more informed and accessible management as well as recommendations for action. One of the primary conclusions was the need to update the tree survey comprehensively and to provide this in GIS linked format in order to provide key decisions making information to managers. The Tree Management Strategy (October 2002) has now been adopted and is being used on a daily basis in Park Management.

Management issues concerning trees

- Recognition of the range of designed “assemblies” (lines, avenues, specific stands) of historical origin and significance, and need to plan for renewal and/or restoration.
- Need for decisions on restoration of areas of “closed canopy” planting.
- Need for full computerised/GIS linked tree survey and data base.
- High priorities need to be given to managing (and conserving) ageing trees for the increasing value as veterans.
- Higher priority needs to be given to after-care beyond initial planting and establishment of new stock.
- Higher priority needs to be given to assessment of ground treatment for mature trees to relieve compaction/introduce fertiliser.
- Priority given to purposeful siting, choice of species, being compatible with heritage pattern and biodiversity potential.

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GRASSLAND

- 6.13 Grassland covers something just over 100ha (247 acres) and is by far the majority surface of the Park, maintained in a range of regimes from seasonal meadow to fine line. The larger part of grassland is maintained as regularly mown amenity grass and the pressures on use and to some extent cleanliness support this mix. Nevertheless the success of the meadow in the valley of the Little Tyburn has proved to be successful, popular and worthy in terms of biodiversity potential. There is scope for limited extension of such treatment into several other areas as useful, if narrow, margins of seasonally cut grass, carefully related to existing or anticipated patterns of use and connectivity.
- 6.14 Only to a limited extent does the grass cover in Hyde Park appear to reflect underlying soil types derived from the London clay and the terrace gravels. The more dominant influences have been the degree of physical disturbance (through constructions and demolitions, gravel pits, World War II and surface filling), the effect of the tree canopy and extensive reseeded which appears to have been undertaken over the years.
- 6.15 It is possible to identify four basic types of sward:
- In the north-western area of the Park and extending eastwards towards the Ring there are remnants of the formerly more widespread heathland consisting of fine leaved fescues and bents with some weeds and local patches of rye grass usually where reseeded has taken place after stump removal.
 - Over the heavier soils of the tributary valley (north of the Serpentine) growth is more lush but the effect of the semi woodland canopy is greater. Reversion to meadow regime in this area since c.1990 has brought some further diversity and considerable nature conservation benefit.
 - The most extensive areas are of almost pure rye grass sward on disturbed or reinstated soils. There are irregular patches and tussocks of coarse cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and soft grass (*Holcus* sp.). The Great Exhibition site and the Upper Parade Ground (above the underground car park) suffer from compaction and drainage problems aggravated by heavy wear. These areas require major attention in soil reconstruction and drainage as they not only limit the physical potential of the grass areas concerned and its wearability/recovery, but they significantly affect the image of the Park.
 - Limited areas of high quality lawns in defined areas mainly in the south-eastern corner of the Park associated with the enclosed shrub and bedding displays.

Management Issues: Grassland

- Maintenance of an appropriate matrix of grassland types for visual amenity.*
- Amelioration of sward conditions to achieve the high visual level required as setting in horticultural areas.*
- Maintenance of amenity turf to a level appropriate for use.*
- Conservation and local extension of meadow areas and to specifically designated margins of taller, seasonally cut grass for biodiversity potential.*
- Enhancement of major use areas (Great Exhibition site, Parade Ground) including restructuring soil profiles, depths and drainage to support intensive usage.*
- Careful planning of events calendar to anticipate and cater for levels of use and to undertake essential recovery/reinstatement work.*
- Establishment of "Sustainable" maintenance/repair regimes for the Park grassland.*

HORTICULTURAL DISPLAY AREAS

- 6.16 Horticultural areas are an important characteristic of Hyde Park with garden areas focussed mainly in the south-eastern sector of the park towards Hyde Park Corner. In addition to the visual delight the displays provide these also supply an invaluable nectar source for invertebrates. Such areas are being increasingly recognised and compatibly managed for wildlife interest as well as visual/aesthetic amenity.

Management Issues: Horticultural Display Areas

- Maintenance of all horticultural display areas to a very high standard*
- Conserving the distinct characters and individuality of different areas of planting*
- Retaining textural diversity and critical seasonal connectivity for sound ecological management*
- Undertaking horticultural maintenance with minimum interventions of chemical/pesticide control and with use of recycled mulches*
- There is need to review and may be a need to alter the disposition and balance of some shrubbery areas which attract increasing levels of anti-social activities.*

ECOLOGY AND WILDLIFE

- 6.17 Hyde Park is recognised as one of the largest and most important parks in Central London and has been designated as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, with the bird fauna and mosaic of parkland habitats being notable.
- 6.18 Its significance is the greater for being linked with and have connectivity to Kensington Gardens to the west and, via Hyde Park Corner, through The Green Park to St. James's Park. This has accordingly been recognised initially by the London Ecology Unit and subsequently through the City of Westminster in designation as a Site of Metropolitan Nature Conservation Importance.
- 6.19 TRP is in process of developing a **Wildlife Management Strategy** for Hyde Park drafted by LDA October 2003, prepared by Landscape Design Associates. That document makes specific reference to support for the Westminster Biodiversity Action Plan for the following:
- ancient and scattered trees** – identifying the value of mature wildlife habitat associated with long established trees, and recognising the importance of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens in this respect. Hyde Park does not contain any trees of great antiquity, but does include a number of mature trees. These provide features of considerable habitat maturity when considered against the context of more contemporary wildlife habitats that characterise the majority of areas at Hyde Park. The strategy identifies areas of Hyde Park of particular value for mature parkland trees, and provides a series of recommendations for the management of adjacent wildlife habitats to provide a stronger ecological context for the older trees within the Park;
 - planted shrubbery** – identifying the potential habitat value and wildlife interest of ornamental shrub planting. Several areas of established ornamental shrub planting are present within Hyde Park. In some areas, the structure and composition of these areas provide features of some wildlife habitat interest. Elsewhere, however, these features require management intervention to achieve their potential nature conservation value. These measures are reviewed within the strategy;

- **secondary woodland** – recognising the strong semi-natural character that can arise from planted ornamental woodland within parkland contexts, and identifying some of the mature ornamental plantings at Hyde Park as features of particular interest. Noteworthy areas of secondary woodland are generally absent from Hyde Park. However, a number of established ornamental shrub plantings have the potential for development of this habitat type. These opportunities are reviewed in the strategy;
- **flowerbeds, herbaceous borders** – recognising the considerable wildlife value that many ornamental plant species can have. Areas of formal, ornamental herbaceous planting are present at several locations with Hyde Park, and generally provide areas of limited nature conservation interest. Despite this, a series of measures for the enhancement of this interest are reviewed within the strategy;
- **amenity grassland** – noting the generally limited conservation value of this vegetation type, but also identifying the potential value of less intensively managed areas of this grassland type. Amenity grassland is one of the most extensive vegetation types at Hyde Park, and provides few significant opportunities for wildlife due to the intensity of vegetation management for localised enhancement of nature conservation interest within this area;
- **acid grassland** – identifying the fact that semi-natural acid grassland can develop on freely draining sands and gravels within parks on terrace deposits of the River Thames. The Meadow area at Hyde Park is identified as a key location for this habitat type within Westminster, and the strategy identifies a series of measures aimed at enhancing the value of this area for grassland flora and fauna through local modification of current vegetation management;
- **semi-improved neutral grassland, long grass and meadow** – recognising the interest of pastoral grassland habitats, identifying The Meadow within Hyde Park as a notable example within Westminster, and the strategy identifies a series of measures aimed at enhancing the value of this area for grassland flora and fauna through local modification of current vegetation management;
- **tall herbs and rough land** – recognising the nature conservation value of wildflower within rough, unmanaged vegetation. Due to the relatively extensive application of intensive vegetation management at Hyde Park, relatively few areas of tall herb vegetation and rough land have been able to develop. The strategy identifies a number of situations where these vegetation types would provide particular nature conservation interest;
- **open water** – identifying the considerable nature conservation interest of artificial lakes especially for wildfowl. The Serpentine provides an important area of open habitat within Westminster, but its nature conservation interest is characterised by a series of detracting features. These are reviewed within the strategy, and a series of measures to address their effects are described.

6.20 Also noted in the Wildlife Management Strategy, is the need to recognise that ponds are an important – if under represented – habitat within the Park. Several do exist at modest scale – at the Hudson Memorial (south side of the Nursery), in the Dell, (as part of the Serpentine overflow), at the Lookout, within Ranger’s Lodge garden, and (privately) within several gardens of residential lodges. There may also be opportunities to create additional pond features, minor water courses and damp areas with wider biodiversity benefit eg. possibilities of retained wetland at the head of Little Tyburn valley, and perhaps more daringly, opening up part of the Little Tyburn water course. They will be difficult to achieve but would have high value.

Management Issues: Ecology and Wildlife

- Need for a full Phase I and Phase II ecological baseline survey collating data on all species and habitats and undertake subsequent monitoring;
- Need for integrated habitat management appraisal including the creation of a network of formal wildlife corridors through the park and consideration of links to the wider area;
- Further potential for water edge habitat enhancement in specific shoreline sections of the Serpentine;
- Potential to enhance the ecological interest of the grassland through creation and extension of meadowland areas, seeding or spreading hay from forb-rich areas;
- Management of existing bird boxes and bat boxes and creation of new opportunities to increase the distribution and use of bird boxes in the Park;
- Reduction in the level of “manicured” maintenance in some areas (where appropriate) for example reduction of the clearance of leaf litter from shrubberies and retention of standing deadwood and logpiles where safe to do so;
- Management of the waterfowl population to prevent dominant species such as Canada Geese reducing diversity and interest;
- Avoiding use of molluscicides, herbicides, and fertilisers to encourage wildlife;
- Habitat monitoring in line with the recommendations of the Royal Parks Biological Recoding Strategy;
- Integration of these issues and nature conservation enhancements with all other aspects of Park’s maintenance and management.
- Recognise the importance of corridor links between Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens and enhancement possibilities of existing and new conduit connections.

Significance: Natural Fabric

- trees and grassland are the essence of Hyde Park
- the pattern of tree distributions has been derived from cumulative layers of activity and provides useful diversity
- grasslands range in quality from horticultural lawns to seasonally maintained meadows, again providing diversity and habitat
- while much reduced in extent compared with mid nineteenth century, there is still significant horticultural interest, particularly towards Hyde Park Corner
- the Park provides an important range of habitats and is part of the wider connectivity to Kensington Gardens and, via The Green Park to St. James's.

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7. BUILDINGS AND HARD LANDSCAPE FABRIC



BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

- 7.1 Buildings are almost an incidental part of the landscape of Hyde Park in that few dominate the landscape and most have been provided to be subservient and of service to the Park.
- 7.2 This section describes only those buildings and facilities that lie within the Park including:

Ionic Screen (Apsley Gate) 1826-9, Decimus Burton, commissioned by Office of Woods to replace earlier wooden gates. Fluted Ionic screen and entablature in Portland stone, embellished with friezes by John Henning in imitation of the Elgin Marbles. Iron gates originally painted in imitation of bronze.

Hyde Park Corner Lodge 1822, by Decimus Burton, three-bay Greek Doric portico, erected in association with the gate. Now Visitor Centre for the Friends of Hyde Park.

Cumberland Gate Lodge 1857, formerly known as West Lodge and located by the former Cumberland Gate on Park Lane; relocated 1908 and again in 1961. The first gate of this name was erected in 1797 on site of the present Marble Arch. West Lodge is a copy of former East Lodge by Decimus Burton (1826; demolished 1867).

W.H. Hudson Memorial (Rima) 1925, by Jacob Epstein, with carved stone relief of Rima, the goddess in Hudson's novel *Green Mansions* (1904). Lily pond in front with inscription carved in stone by Eric Gill. Landscape designed by Lionel Pearson.

Old Police House 1900-2, on site of previous police accommodation in Magazine Barracks, now headquarters of the Royal Parks Agency.

Ranger's Lodge 1832, on site of the former Guard House.

East Boat House 1903, erected by the Royal Humane Society, to the west of their previous boat house.

West Boat House 1952, for the new chlorination launch, to replace former boat house bombed in 1940.

Bandstand originally erected 1869 in Kensington Gardens, moved to Hyde Park 1886.

Dell Restaurant 1965, by Patrick Gwynne, to replace the Ring Tea House.

Lido Pavilion 1930, under direction of George Lansbury, first Commissioner of Works, in response to requests by the Sunlight League.

Serpentine Bridge 1825-8, by George and John Rennie for the Office of Woods and Forests, contracted to Messrs. Jolliffe and Bankes, five-arch bridge.

Prince of Wales Gate and Lodges West Lodge 1847, East Lodge 1851, by Decimus Burton, for John Elger who built the gate and lodges. East Lodge was built as a police station for the Great Exhibition.

Albert Gate 1842-5, built by Thomas Cubitt at his own expense on the site of the former Cannon Brewery. Incorporates piers with lamps and two stags, formerly at the entrance to the Ranger's House, Green Park.

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The Lookout Shown on 1916 OS map, former police observation post and kennels, converted 1996 to educational activity centre.

Ticket office and pier 1967, pier shown to the west of Bird Island on 1916 OS map.

Serpentine Lodge Shown as a proposal on 1828 map, appears to be in existence by c.1830.

Ranger's Cottage c.1832, formerly the stable block (comprising groom's bungalow and stables), first used as a separate residence 1944.

Letterbox Post 1952, red, oval, double GPO letterbox (outside the Ranger's Lodge)

Storeyard Shown on 1851 map as a yard, some buildings in existence by 1869.

Magazine Cottage 1861-2, originally an office and residence for the stores' foreman.

New Lodge 1877, for the head gardener, north wing destroyed by a bomb 1940, damaged by 1987 storm.

Frame Ground Original glasshouses built 1903-7 when the Frame Ground was moved from Kensington Gardens. Damaged by bombs 1940 and replaced 1951.

Receiving House plaque 1956, to mark the site of the Royal Humane Society's first Receiving House (1794). A second Receiving House damaged by a bomb 1940 and demolished 1954.

Alexandra Gate and Lodge Originally a foot gate, converted to carriage gate for 1862 exhibition. Lodge (1868) similar to Queen's Gate Lodge. Gateway widened 1952.

Victoria Gate and Lodge c.1838. Decimus Burton provided designs for a gate and lodge (approved by George IV in 1827) but alternative design by William Crane implemented c.1838. New ironwork gates and piers 1923 when road was widened. Pets' cemetery founded 1880 by Duke of Cambridge in rear garden.

Speakers' Corner kiosk 1964, provided as camouflage for underground car park ventilation extract duct.

Sports pavilion 1931, erected as part of the sports ground and bowling green development, the gift of Sir H. Frank in response to the Lansbury Appeal.

BOUNDARY TREATMENTS AND ENTRANCES

7.3 The quality of boundary treatment and entrances into Hyde Park is important in creating the 'first impression' for visitors entering the park or crossing between Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

Boundary Treatments: Most of the park enclosure is defined by formal boundary railings mounted on low walling most notably along the full length of the Bayswater Road and down Park Lane. The western boundary – with Kensington Gardens – is also defined by railings. Railings are generally advantageous in providing permeable views into the Park, but with the qualification that they consequently allow views of traffic on adjacent roads from within the Park. Railings also enclose various shrub beds, lodge gardens and maintenance yards, including the Nursery. In some cases railings are supported or replaced by close boarded fencing for screening and privacy.

Gates: There are 29 separate entranceways into the Park – 6 being vehicular (Victoria, Cumberland, Queen Mother, Edinburgh, Prince of Wales and Alexandra), all of which also provide pedestrian access – and a further 23 pedestrian only gates of which 7 serve

Kensington Gardens, 3 access Bayswater Road, 8 serve Marble Arch/Park Lane and 6 serve Knightsbridge/Kensington Gore. The Ionic Screen at Hyde Park Corner also serves as a ceremonial gate in daily use for the Household Cavalry.

Management Issues:

- Maintenance and renewal of boundary railings (including replacement of arrowhead railings with "bullet topped" versions). Particular issues noted at some gates eg. Speakers Corner.
- Maintenance of existing gates.
- Local enhancement of gate settings by careful siting and detailing of signage, traffic hazard markers etc. (e.g. in front of Coalbrookdale Gates).
- Enhancements at Hyde Park Corner in conjunction with "Turning the Corner" strategy.
- Addressing and replacing/repainting the wholly utilitarian railings associated with the underground car park access portals - to be more in keeping with Hyde Park vernacular.

ROAD AND PATH NETWORK

- 7.4 There is a total of just over 3.6km of publicly accessible road within Hyde Park and a further 2km of service road for maintenance (Serpentine Road etc.). 30km of footpath provide access throughout the park and strategic cycle links (Ladies' Walk/Rotten Row and the Broad Walk provide 2.55km of off-road cycleway and a further 3.8km of on road cycle lane along North, West and South Carriage Drives. A further 6.5km of horse ride is provided including the historic Rotten Row.
- 7.5 The three Carriage Drives, although on Crown land and specific to the Park have gradually become integrated as "public" roads. West Carriage Drive is still regarded as such even though 1990s traffic calming measures have reduced the road to two lanes in place of four. The importance of this north-south road as a strategic route was recognised long ago and the London County Council put forward an idea for tunnelling (1943) in order to reinstate the peaceful transition between Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. The idea has been reactivated several times, including by the Royal Parks Review Group in 1994, but without commitment.
- 7.6 South Carriage Drive is now closed to through traffic on Sundays with limited access to the section between Alexandra and Prince of Wales Gates, thereby enabling access to on-street parking. The reduced traffic flows help to favour the use of the cycle lane and Household Cavalry movements. Further restriction of traffic on timetabled basis, or complete closure, would enhance the Park for its main users. In similar manner consideration has in the past been given to closure of North Carriage Drive on a timetabled or weekend basis; trials show the benefits to the Park are positive.
- 7.7 Charged car parking is provided in five locations – the Triangle Car Park at the west end of Serpentine Road, at the south end of Serpentine Bridge (former restaurant car park), along West Carriage Drive, both north and south of the bridge, and at the west end of South Carriage Drive. These are important in providing access for those who would otherwise have difficulty in getting into the Park, but they also serve the public at large.
- 7.8 The majority of the footpaths are surfaced with grey/black tarmac but most have been more suitably upgraded to tar spray and chip with more sympathetic fine buff Thames gravel finish which sits more harmoniously in the parkland setting. Most are in reasonable repair but some require attention for cracks and bumps.

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There are two gated pedestrian tunnels that pass under each side of the Serpentine Bridge, allowing gated access between Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

7.9 Cycling is provided in Hyde Park on indicatively segregated (by line marking, though in practice, shared) paths on strategic routes on the North/South Broad Walk and East-West along Ladies Mile (parallel with Rotten Row). By contrast, Kensington Gardens provides limited cycling on shared paths. Cycling appears to be increasingly popular to the point of some congestion in morning and evening rush hours, and with increasing risk of conflict and accidents with pedestrians, dogs etc. Royal Parks are in the process (2005) of meetings with TfL, Sustrans, the London Cycle Campaign and Westminster City Council regarding priority projects to improve cycling in Hyde Park. These include the crossing of North Carriage Drive to Albion Gate and potential improvements, related to pedestrian movement at South Carriage Drive/Hyde Park Corner.

7.10 Transport for London (TfL) are introducing CCT at points on the eastern side of the Park as part of the westward extension of the Congestion Charging Zone.

Management Issues: Road and Path Network

- Maintaining the widespread network of paths which provides appropriate access in all weathers and has capacity to take intensive usage.
- Opportunities to reduce overall extent of hard surfacing where paths are duplicated or carriageways excessively wide.
- Maintain horse rides, seeking possible improvements at Park Lane boundary.
- Enhance cycleway provision on carriage drives.
- Review potential closure of cycleway on Ladies’ Walk (adjacent to Rotten Row) with alternative route (and key links) on South Carriage Drive.
- Maintain provisions of ceremonial routes as an essential part of park life.

PARK FURNITURE AND SIGNAGE

7.10 Hyde Park provides a variety of park furniture and structures specifically designed and located for the use, safety and comfort of visitors. It is not possible to list each of these features individually. However, the main elements and associated issues are set out below.

Benches and seats: There are over 300 benches in the Park of a variety of styles, mostly of reasonable quality and repair. The majority of benches are the elaborately scrolled O’Brien Thomas style (cast iron and wooden slats in Royal Parks green) which was first introduced at the Great Exhibition in 1851 and has become a standard throughout the Royal Parks. However there are other styles in particular areas including the all timber “Listers” and a few of the cast iron/two plank “Barkers” which are sited on the path by the Dell and were also previously grouped along the gently curving path above Nannies Lawn and north of the Holocaust monument. Restoration of cast iron “Barkers” to this path is strongly recommended, and the reintroduction of the Yates-Haywood version (cast iron/ wooden slats) to other horticultural areas (as used at the Avenue Gardens in Regent’s Park) is also recommended.

Litterbins and dog bins: The litterbins are either black or Royal Parks green with gold trim cast iron variety or a standard timber slatted style. These are supplemented as necessary with large cage baskets for events and demonstrations. In the main the bins are unobtrusive,

although there are cases where they fail to co-ordinate with the benches or other furnishings or are inappropriately located. The management team considers that there is a sufficient number of bins to suit visitor needs.

Lighting: There are some 300 lamp standards in the park, the majority as modern fittings for carriage drives, related to highways standards, but with a significant population of gas lamps of nineteenth century origin (and some listed structures) appropriately distributed along main paths within the Park. These carry on something of the tradition of Rotten Row – having been the first-lighted road in the country – and add to the heritage layers and flavour of respective areas. Many of these gas lamps are also listed (see 3.5 above). Lighting remains important in function as the Park carries much after-dark pedestrian commuter traffic in winter (not least TRP employees getting to and from the Old Police House and Storeyard). The existing level and extent of lamp lit paths is generally acceptable and appropriate, but should not be extended. There are particular concerns about the level of illumination on shared cycleway/footpaths where there is already some level of conflict. This is a further reason for considering the closure of the Ladies’ Walk (Rotten Row) cycleway which is largely duplicated by South Carriage Drive – the latter also being better lit.

Signage: Good quality signage case boards comprising black-painted cast metal cases with adequate space for the display of maps and information have been installed throughout the park. These are generally in appropriate locations by the entrances, at key points of interest and provide a helpful range of information (including display of the Parks Regulations) and initial “welcomes” in several languages. However, the maps themselves are expressionless and cold in their graphics and orientation. In some areas the information is out of date. While there is caution about proliferation of interpretive boards and signs there are specific opportunities at Speakers Corner and at the Great Exhibitions Site where additional ground plaques or interpretive information would be of benefit. Roadside signage is less coordinated and relatively intrusive. Further additions to parkland and pathway signs should be resisted and where possible reduced. A range of signage is used to identify buildings eg. toilets and lodges.

Management Issues: Park Furniture and Signage

- *Some areas suffering from inappropriate styles or inappropriate mixtures of styles of benches.*
- *Need to ensure that bins coordinate with other furnishings such as benches.*
- *Need to encourage use or increase the number of dog bins and ensure that these are well-maintained.*
- *Need to review bin arrangements at key sites eg. Speakers Corner.*
- *Upkeep and maintenance of information signage requires monitoring; and mapboards should be redesigned.*
- *Avoid proliferation of signage and seek to reduce the number of signs on pathways; but consider special cases for interpretation at Speakers Corner and Great Exhibition Site.*
- *Need for coordination of traffic signage with other agencies.*
- *Need for updated and comprehensive signage strategy and cooperation with neighbours eg. at Hyde Park Corner island.*

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OTHER ARTEFACTS, SCULPTURE AND MONUMENTS

7.11 There are a number of other structures and artefacts which have been accrued incrementally by the Park and form an important part of the built landscape. These include historic monuments and memorials, several of which are listed, and a number of ornamental features.

Archilles 1822, by Sir Richard Westmacott, bronze (33 tons) from canon captured in Wellington's campaigns, commissioned by the patriotic, upper-class society known as the Ladies of England. One of five outdoor London commemorations of the 'Iron Duke', Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington (1769-1852).

Queen Elizabeth Gates Opened 1993 by HM the Queen. Central screen by David Wynne, gates in patinated stainless steel designed and made by Giuseppe Lund. Funded by subscription and public appeal.

Joy of Life 1963, sculpture and fountain by T.B. Huxley-Jones, bronze, cast at Peckham Foundry. Commissioned by the Constance Fund, reset and refurbished 2001.

Norwegian War Memorial 1978, Norwegian pre-Cambrian granite, presented by the Norwegian navy and merchant fleet.

Year of the Child drinking fountain 1981, by Theo Crosby, bronze. A tribute to park staff and a memorial to the Great Children's Party in 1979, marking the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

Little Nell 1896, by Robert Colton, replaced in artificial stone 1975. The original described as a 'winged child with fish'; also known as the Colton Memorial.

Cavalry Memorial 1924, sculpture by Adrian Jones, bronze cast from guns captured in the First World War. Originally located at Stanhope Gate, moved to present site in 1961.

Dell megalith 1861, erected as a drinking fountain by John Thomas. Originally of several large blocks of granite, possibly quarried for the purpose at Moorswater, near Liskeard, Cornwall. The fountain abolished 1887; by 1900 only one stone still standing.

Holocaust Memorial 1983, architect Richard Seifert, landscape architects Derek Lovejoy & Partners, granite. Inscribed 'For these I weep. Streams of tears flow from my eyes because of the destruction of my people.' (*Lamentations*).

Abbey Spring Monument 1868, urn. The conduit from this ancient spring supplied the precincts of Westminster until 1861, when it was cut off by the Metropolitan Railways. The conduit house was removed in 1867 and the monument erected the following year.

Queen Caroline Memorial Unveiled 1990 by HM the Queen, urn, to commemorate Queen Caroline's creation of the Serpentine.

Pan 1961, by Jacob Epstein, bronze, presented by Land Securities Investment Trust (the builders of Bowater House over Edinburgh Gate) - due to be re-sited as part of Bowater House redevelopment (2006 onwards).

Household Cavalry Memorial 1985, slate tablet with inscription, in memory of the Blues and Royals of the Household Cavalry division killed in 1982 terrorist bomb attack.

Diana 1906, by Countess Feodora Gleichen, bronze, gift of Sir Walter and Lady Palmer.

Boy and Dolphin fountain 1862, by Alexander Monro, marble. Originally sited in the Sunken Garden near Park Lane; removed to Regent's Park Broad Walk 1960-93; returned to Hyde Park 1995.

Vijianagram fountain plaque 1965. In commemoration of the 1867 fountain erected by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association, the gift of the Maharajah of Vijianagram; demolished 1964 in view of the prohibitive cost of repair.

Letterbox Post 1952, red, oval, double GPO letterbox (outside the Ranger's Lodge).

Pump and trough Before 1869, on site of former spring.

Horse trough 1907, gift of the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association in memory of Mr. A. Reardon. The first of several in the Royal Parks.

Lansbury Memorial 1953, by H. Wilson Parker, erected at the Lido Pavilion when it was reconstructed. Inscribed 'George Lansbury, 1859-1940, who made this bathing shore for our enjoyment.'

J.O. Cooper Memorial 1931, on the wall of the Lido Pavilion, which was built in his memory. Inscribed 'In Proud Memory of Captain J.O. Cooper, Royal Flying Corps. Killed in the Great War, aged 20.'

Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Fountain 2004, designed by Kathryn Gustafson.

Significance: Buildings and Hard Landscape Fabric

- Physical evidence of multi-layered history
- Rich tapestry of celebrated features, events, and historical associations.
- Landmark features within the park, generating landscape interest and local focus.
- Interpretive potential in heightening interest in/enjoyment of the Park.
- Key elements of historic fabric and part of the Park's record of evolution.

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8. PUBLIC USE

8.1 This chapter examines the use of Hyde Park. It considers the volume and profile of park visitors, the range of activities or events that attract users to the park and the level of satisfaction with the visitor experience. The information has been extracted from the most recently published visitor survey available at the time the management plan was being prepared (*Visitor Surveys in the Royal Parks*, WS Atkins, 2001).

PUBLIC ACCESS

8.2 Public access to Hyde Park was established as early as the 1630s.

Hyde Park is open every day of the year, opening at 5a.m. and closing at midnight in summer and winter.

VISITOR PROFILE

8.3 The most recent estimate of the total number of visits made to Hyde Park was made in 1995 and was in the region of 4.7 million. This compares to 5.5 million for St. James's Park and 1.6 million for Bushy Park at that date. From subsequent surveys (W.S. Atkins 2000) more information is available on visitor profile:

Origin of Visitors to Hyde Park

	Hyde Park
Local (within 1 mile radius).	23%
Greater London	24%
Rest of UK	17%
Overseas	35%

8.4 Hyde Park has a spread of visitors from local areas, other areas in London, nationally and from abroad. Almost half of visitors stay for an hour or more and 40% are under 30 years old. Reflecting its good public transport links and central position 47% of visitors reach the park on foot and 27% by tube. A substantial proportion of visitors 38% use the Park at least once a week and 20% visit 5 times a week or more.

8.5 The main reasons for visiting Hyde Park were the peace and quiet and fresh air with exercise, using it en route to elsewhere and sightseeing also significant activities. Only 9% of visitors were accompanied by children.

Management issues: Visitor Profile

- Users local, London-wide and from overseas
- Peace and quiet, fresh air most important activities, exercise and sightseeing also significant
- Very few visitors with accompanying children

EVENTS

- 8.6 Hyde Park is distinctive in having long standing traditions of spectacle, military parades and salutes, major events and public assembly. These traditions reach back into history and include Elizabeth I's review of troops, the Tyburn hangings (until 1783) on the Park perimeter near the present Marble Arch, military parades and musters through eighteenth and nineteenth century, Reform League assemblies and riots, the Great Exhibition of 1851, the acknowledgement of Speakers Corner from 1872 and a whole series of nationally important and celebrated events and rallies through the twentieth century with continuation.
- 8.7 There are also numerous smaller events such as musical performances at the bandstand, jazz, dance performances and classes, sports coaching, children's entertainment, historical walks and talks.
- 8.8 There are continuing pressures to provide and support large-scale events – often of national significance – in Hyde Park, as well as taking many planned and other spontaneous rallies and demonstrations, Hyde Park is a national gathering ground because of its scale and capacity as well as its relative centrality and good public transport connections. However the major area of the Parade Ground has severe physical limitations due to the very thin soil cover over the underground car park which underlines the very flat northern half of this large space. These conditions mean that erosion can be severe, particularly in poor weather; restoration and recovery are more difficult to achieve speedily.
- 8.9 The Royal Parks have prepared and adopted the Events Strategy (2004) which provides guidance on the use of the Park by potential event organisers.

Management Issues: Events

- *Large-scale events are important in tradition, in image and participation to a wider (national) audience and are a source of substantial income potential.*
- *Concern to limit the extent of area used for events in order to protect adjacent habitats and sensitivities of surface archaeology, particularly to north-west side of Parade Ground and North Carriage Drive. (ref. Figure 9)*
- *Concern to protect the Park infrastructure and vegetation from accidental impacts through co-ordinated event and Park management and by design.*
- *Research into Park carrying capacity for events to support investment/maintenance works.*
- *Capacity/recovery could be greatly enhanced by proper investment in improved ground conditions.*
- *There are other opportunities for smaller scale events on the Great Exhibition site (subject again to groundworks improvements).*
- *Good opportunities for small-scale events at the Lido, Dell Restaurant, Cockpit.*

VISITOR AMENITIES

- 8.10 **Refreshment facilities** are provided by Park Café at the Dell Restaurant, at the Lido, and at several mobile outlets. In the 2000 survey 33% of visitors to Hyde Park had or were intending to use the catering facilities whilst a further 25% brought their own food. 13% were unaware of the presence of such facilities.

Toilet facilities of good capacity and reasonable condition are maintained by TRP at

- Serpentine Road,
- the Reservoir/Reformers Tree and
- at the Lido.

- 8.11 Additional (off-site) facilities are available at Hyde Park Corner underground station, Marble Arch, and near Mount Gate and Marlborough Gate in Kensington Gardens. This provides good coverage with most areas of the Park being within 400m of one facility or another, with the most disadvantaged being the playground and the area immediately north of the Nursery being some 800m away from nearest facility.

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Hyde Park Corner 1804
(Published by Richard Phillips)



Volunteer Review in Hyde Park
(Illustrated London News) 1860



Hospital Saturday meeting in Hyde Park
(Illustrated London News) 1874



Rotten Row (Illustrated London News) 1862



Her Majesty distributing the Victoria Cross in Hyde Park
(Illustrated London News) 1857



John Rocque: Plan the cities of London and Westminster and Borough of Southwark 1741

Figure 15 Scenes/ Historical assembly and events in Hyde Park

8.12 A single playground is provided to the east of the Great Exhibition site opposite Knightsbridge Barracks and alongside the manège riding facility. A second manège has been installed close to North Carriage Drive, opposite Clarendon Gate. Both facilities are served by the network of maintained horse tracks, including Rotten Row, which provide some 6.5km in length and the possibilities of different circuit combinations including a complete outer loop and the link along Serpentine Road.

ORGANISED SPORT AND FACILITIES

8.13 Although previously providing formal football pitches under a booking system at the Great Exhibition site, Hyde Park now confines its formal sports to the tennis/bowls/pitch and putt facilities within a hedged enclosure close to Alexandra Gate. The siting of this facility in the east axis of the Albert Memorial is perhaps unfortunate for the wider landscape although it provides some additional contribution to the improved gardenesque setting within the “club” atmosphere.

Current provision (2002) comprises:

- 6 outdoor tennis courts
- pitch and putt golf
- outdoor chess
- boule court
- changing rooms/office
- garden area

8.14 Horse riding is a long standing tradition in the Park, focussing particularly on Rotten Row but with a good provision of other rides (outer perimeter, Serpentine Road) and the two manège facilities near the Barracks and near Clarendon Gate. Although use is not heavy, the image of riding is an important one, and part of the heritage ambience which is enjoyed by the majority of non participants.

8.15 Provision for swimming in a demarcated section of the Serpentine is made at the Lido with changing facilities, diving jetty and enclosed area for sunbathing. Swimming traditions date back to the nineteenth century although the Lido itself originates from the Lansbury Appeal of the late 1920s.

8.16 Boating has been allowed on the Serpentine since 1847 (no longer extended to the Long Water), and continues with boat hire served from the North Shore.

Management Issues: Organised Sports and Facilities

- The existing sporting facilities are adequate and appropriate. Although the licensee would welcome the opportunity to extend and diversify facilities, this would be at the expense of, and partly intrusive into, the wider landscape framework.
- Horse riding is important both as a facility and as part of the Park’s ambience.
- With confirmation of the 2012 Olympics to be held in London it is anticipated that Hyde Park may play host to a limited range of sporting events – such as the Triathlon – and to a range of associated cultural activities which are likely to require temporary accommodation and servicing facilities. This would be a major opportunity to address infrastructure in the improvement of the Park and with upgrade of toilet facilities.

INFORMAL AND SEMI-FORMAL ACTIVITIES

- 8.17 In addition to the formal sports provisions there are also facilities to enhance more passive visitor enjoyment of the parks. These include the boats for use on the Serpentine which can be hired from boating concession and a small launch boat trip both serviced from the Boathouse jetty.
- 8.18 Park Chairs hire deckchairs out for visitor relaxation and enjoyment, mainly concentrated on the south facing lawns immediately above Serpentine Road and west of “Little Nell”.
- 8.19 In recent years the Serpentine Road has become a significant venue in London for in-line skating/roller blading, adding to the animation and character of the Park, if also to its local congestion, and recalling earlier traditions of social display and exercise associated with the Ring in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and Rotten Row in the later nineteenth and earlier twentieth centuries.
- 8.20 Perhaps Hyde Park’s greatest attribute and attraction is its ability to provide space for informal and passive enjoyment in a range of spaces and scales and with great variety of landscape setting, prospect and view. It exudes these qualities as the “peoples park”, inviting spontaneous activity and quiet enjoyment to its many visitors.
- 8.21 Because of its relatively flat/gently sloping nature and substantial network of paths, the Park generally lends itself well to special-needs groups.
- 8.22 Parts of the Park are heavily used for ball games – informally and spontaneously arranged particularly the Parade Ground and “Sports Pitches”. Here ball games are having significant impact in wear and tear (as the same areas are used regularly and intensively) and increasingly in such a busy park, with potential conflict with pedestrians and other casual users. A specific ball games policy and zoning, to minimise such impacts is currently being considered for introduction.

Management Issues: Informal and semi-formal activities

- The quality and diversity of the landscape are fundamental in providing the setting for spontaneous activity and passive enjoyment of visitors.
- Activities like roller blading contribute to the diversity and character of the Park but may lead to local congestion and possible conflicts. More organised uses which could effectively “take over” in such spaces – such as roller blade hockey – add to congestion/exclusion and are not compatible here.
- Need to consider ball games policy and practical implementation.

VISITOR SATISFACTION

- 8.23 The 2000 visitor survey indicated that overall most visitors believe that Hyde Park offers a high quality experience, with average scores of 8.68 out of a maximum score of 10. 92% of visitors to Hyde Park rate the park’s cleanliness as being good or very good.
- 8.24 The challenge for the future will be to anticipate and manage visitor use of the park. New attractions or events will need to be planned with care to ensure that visitors are adequately managed and that the infrastructure of the park is able to withstand the impact of visitor use. Where necessary design improvements will be required to facilitate this. Consideration should be given to dissipating visitor pressure more evenly throughout the park. Adequate budgets will be required to sustain the current high level of maintenance.
- 8.25 There may be some opportunities to increase revenue from park visitors, for example through the sale of Royal Parks merchandise, (interpretative information etc.) and through PFI type schemes related to park themes, such as has been achieved at the Boathouse Café/Gallery.

Management Issues: Visitor Satisfaction

- *Potential to enhance the visitor experience through education, for example raising awareness of the value of parkland for urban biodiversity (PUB12).*

Significance: Public use and Enjoyment

- Large area of greenspace within central London setting providing free access to the visiting public in large numbers.
- Long standing tradition of spectacle and large-scale events.
- Wide range of amenities catering for the physical needs and comfort of visitors.
- Good range of informal recreational opportunities including long standing tradition and imagery of horse riding.
- Visitor satisfaction is high.



-Ladies Mile: increasing risks of conflicting movements



-In-line fun on Serpentine Road



-Revitalised Lido promenade



-Space for ball games - Great Exhibition site

Figure 16 Public Use in Hyde Park

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9. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

9.1 Visual and aesthetic characteristics of the park are considered here in relation to views and vistas - within the park, of the park and from the park – and the variation in landscape character across the park as a whole. In order to tackle this more complex subject of landscape character, which shows considerable variation across the wide acreage, the Park is subdivided into separate character areas. Since ‘character’ is in effect a combination of the different elements that make up the landscape (as described in the previous sections), similar issues inevitably recur. However, this approach is beneficial in highlighting where particular areas of concern occur and indicating where combinations of issues cumulatively impact upon perceived landscape character or quality.

VIEWS

9.2 The visual character of the park is dependent upon the quality and nature of views. This in turn is critically affected by the spatial characteristics of the site, largely determined by the distribution and pattern of planting and to a lesser extent by the “solids” masses formed by buildings and enclosed shrubs plantations which block visibility. The whole is modulated to modest but still significant degree by the effects of topography and also by seasonality. There are four key relationships to consider:

Views of Hyde Park from surrounding area

9.3 Although enclosed to a large extent by built development, which thereby screens much of “second row” views into the Park, Hyde Park has substantial and significant exposure to view from outside its boundaries. This, coupled with its popular and widespread image and iconic name in the national psyche, gives it greater prominence in views and perception. The Park is framed directly by two major roads – Bayswater Road and Park Lane – which have open and largely unimpeded views into the Park all along these boundaries (2.6km). In these views tree canopies are strong, and open visibility through boundary railings is hardly impeded. Additionally Hyde Park Corner – as one of the busiest road junctions in London – announces the presence of Hyde Park at the Ionic Screen; and there are some 25 roads and streets whose orientation is directly towards the Park – each providing a specific “window” view at street level, in which framed views of tree canopies in the Park, and in some cases, major gates, are significant over some 200 to 300m distance from within the townscape.

Views from Hyde Park:

9.4 In reverse the Park affords many views out beyond its immediate boundaries. Some are foiled by intervening tree canopies and most are at least partially contained by the first line of built development (typically 6 to 8 stories along Bayswater Road; 10 to 12 stories or more on Park Lane and Knightsbridge/Kensington Gore). Such development is more or less continuous immediately outside the Park boundaries, and with erratic punctuation of sky space by taller towers beyond. This is a park which is consciously and visibly “in London”. It is still possible to escape to discrete areas where the townscape views are contained and shielded; but for the main, the Park co-exists with and within the metropolis; taller neighbouring buildings like the Knightsbridge Barracks and the Hilton Hotel remain prominent and indeed to some extent form views in their own self importance; and at greater distance, the BT Telecom Tower is a icon from the parkland and in outward views to the north-east.

9.5 One particular view – that of the Palace of Whitehall from Serpentine Bridge – is particularly worthy and well celebrated in writings, illustrations and in popular photography. Hal Moggridge (*High Buildings and Strategic Views in London's Royal Parks, Colvin and Moggridge January 1998*) has referred to this very special view down the axis of the

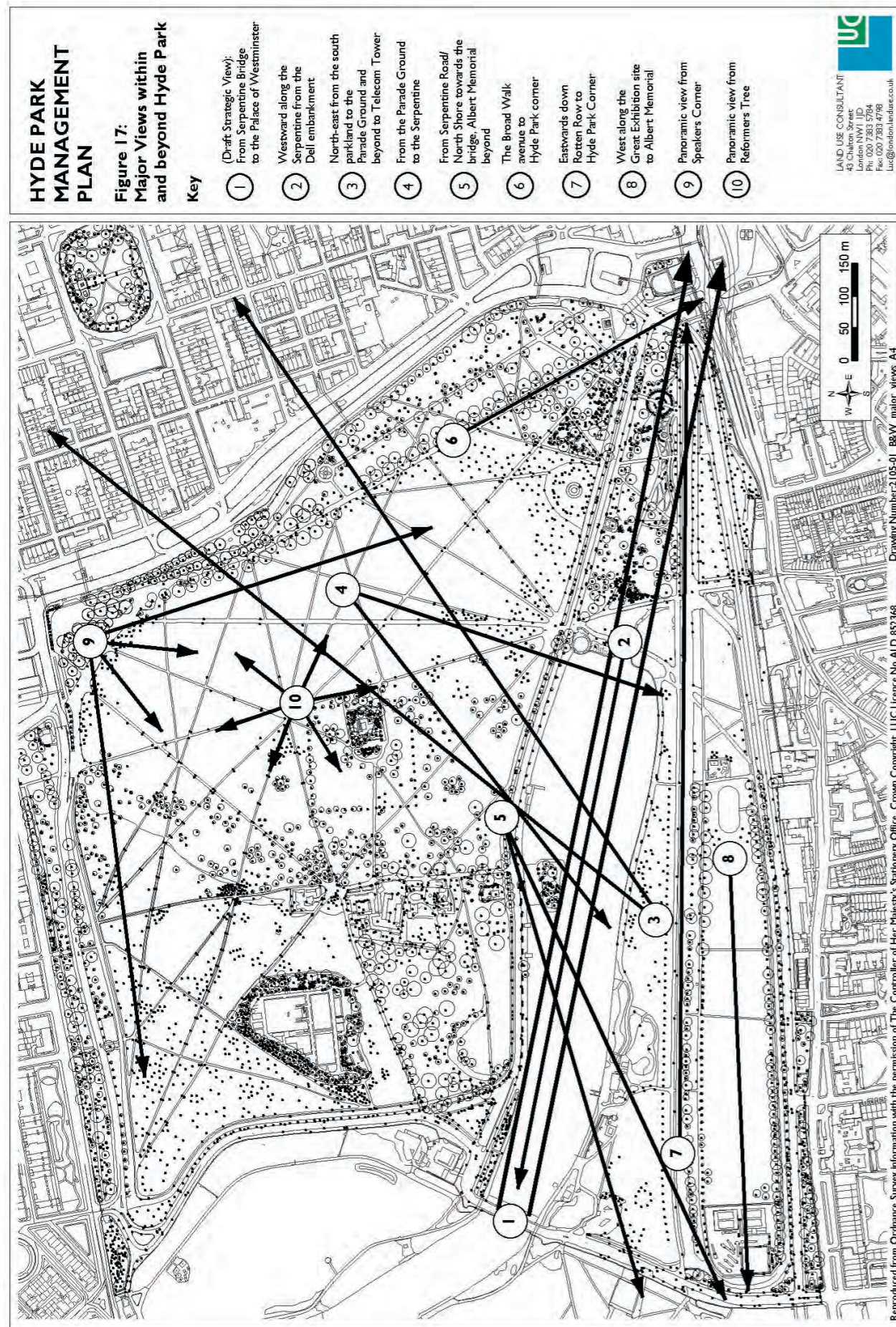


Figure 17 Key views from, within and to Hyde Park

Serpentine as a “Draft Strategic View” with the recommendation that it should be fully recognised and granted protective status. This appears to be confirmed in the draft London Plan.

9.6 The Colvin and Moggridge document also explores the theories of protected skyspace in relation to Hyde Park and puts forward initial guidance on plotting sky space “contours” beyond the Park boundaries in order to assess the impacts and thereby, through planning processes, afford protection of the view-shed which could be significantly affected by future development.

Views within the Park:

9.7 The Park provides a continuous and diverse experience of views – long, short, framed by trees, focussed on monuments, buildings, memorials, display beds, or just of the continuing landscape plane which is largely permeable and therefore relatively spacious and long distance at ground level. There are relatively few shrub masses which, where they occur, limit or obstruct longer views; however the main concentration of building groups, enclosed shrubbery and solid fencing in the areas of the Rangers Lodge/Storeyard and Nursery, together with a stronger density of tree planting, forms some separation of the north-western part of the Park. The evolved layout of tree planting – a good proportion of which is in lines and avenues – has a marked effect on the spatial qualities of the site, forming and framing particular views, and with the Serpentine inevitably providing a focal spine through the Park. Particular views of note (Figure 17) include:

1. The eastward view from Serpentine Bridge along the Serpentine and extending out of the Park to the Palace of Westminster (see 9.5 above – Draft Strategic View).
2. The westward views along the Serpentine from the Dell embankment – noting that these show significant variations in moving across the 150m long embankment, so that the truly “serpentine” vantage from Fisherman’s Keep is progressively different from that at the Dell Restaurant.
3. The long views north-east across the Serpentine from the south parkland up the wide open slope of the lower Parade Ground to the Park Lane boundary and the outer skyline (including Telecom Tower).
4. The reverse view down from the Parade Ground across open parkland to and beyond the Serpentine.
5. Lateral views from Serpentine Road/North Shore towards the bridge with the punctuation of the Lido clock tower, and Albert Memorial beyond.

Figure 17: Key Views from, within and to Hyde Park

6. The canopy framed view down the lower part of The Broad Walk avenue to the Ionic screen at Hyde Park Corner.
7. The long view eastwards down Rotten Row (and Ladies’ Walk) with its characteristic dip in the “knight’s bridge” crossing near Albert Gate to Hyde Park Corner.
8. The view west along the Great Exhibition site to Albert Memorial and the reverse view which frames the London Eye between flanking plane trees.
9. The panoramic view of the Park from Speakers Corner – flat and bleak in the foreground of the Upper Parade Ground, but affording a wide and extensive view of the whole Park and its westward extent.
10. The panoramic view from Reformers Tree, wholly embedded in the Park and with diversity of landscapes in view.

11. Many individual and personalised views, varied by season, light and weather.
12. The aggregated experience of absorbed views attained by moving through this landscape which retains great variety of prospect within an overall integrity of place.

Views between Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens:

- 9.8 Although they share a common boundary of some 1100m the views between Hyde Park and Kensington are surprisingly low key and, in the main, not dramatic. The most obvious exceptions are those of the Albert Memorial – seen directly on axis from the Great Exhibition site and more particularly, through Coalbrookdale gates – and the north elevation of the Magazine from the north end of Serpentine Bridge. South Carriage Drive also provides a fleeting view down the southern avenue of the “patte d’oie” lime avenue which runs west to Kensington Palace; and the Serpentine Gallery is prominent in view along the western boundary of Hyde Park. The view of the Long Water from Serpentine Bridge is wonderful in summer foliage – almost exotic – and is surely the way Peter Pan went home!
- 9.9 As postscript to these comments on views, it is interesting to reflect on the views from Kensington Gardens into Hyde Park. Historically these were important, specific and commanding views from the Vanbrugh inspired and Bridgeman executed terraced walk, with its three military style bastions and with clear view over the ha ha into the rude and public Hyde Park. The historical views from Kensington Gardens (Figure 17) included: -
 - (a) the elysian view from the Queen’s Temple (Kent 1732) to the full extent of the Serpentine, subsequently interrupted by Rennie’s bridge, completed in 1828.
 - (b) the south bastion, (the site of which is now within Hyde Park), demolished in 1843 and severed by road works 1868-69, but formerly providing vantage and outlook across the south parkland and the Serpentine (the bastion site is now marked by a loose stand of horse chestnuts and views partly obstructed by the Lido).
 - (c) middle bastion – immediately north of the Magazine and its wider views eastward to the Serpentine.
 - (d) north bastion (and the ha-ha walk) also largely destroyed but still discernible. Formerly commanding views across Hyde Park are now interrupted by the Nursery and Ranger’s Lodge groups and associated enclosing vegetation.

Management Issues: Views

- Press for adoption of Serpentine Bridge to the Palace of Westminster as Strategic View. (now in the draft London Plan 2003)
- Protect other strategic views within the Park by proper consideration of all planting proposals.
- Review local enhancement of views, framing or extending by the active management of specific tree canopies – including crown shaping/crown raising operations.
- Consider most effective means of applying the Colvin and Moggridge “sky space” assessments on continuing basis and in conjunction with local authorities to protect sky space beyond the park and to influence planning processes accordingly

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTER AREAS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

- 9.10 The diversity of Hyde Park can be more fully appreciated by sub-dividing the Park into character areas, which are perceived due to their particular combinations of features, vegetational fabric and facilities. Twenty-five separate and distinctive areas are recognised within the Park for the purposes of this Management Plan, ranging from the formality of Rotten Row to the loose parkland of the Little Tyburn Valley. Four additional areas which relate directly to the historic park are also included. These are shown on Figure 17 Character Areas within and around the Hyde Park. Some of these character areas have well-defined boundaries as a result of a specific features such as a road or fence, whereas the distinction between other areas is less geographically precise (for example in the transition from the Little Tyburn Valley to its plateau parklands both east and west).
- 9.11 Character areas provide a useful basis to appreciate the origins and evolution of the Park and to appraise their presentation and use in the present day. These thumbnail summaries also provide an appropriate foundation from which to review and consider management objectives and to assess specific opportunities for restoration and enhancement.

Area 1: Hyde Park Corner

- 9.12 Historically, the corner stone of the Park, giving access from St. James’s Palace via Upper St. James’s Park (The Green Park) into Henry VIII’s deer chase, serving James I’s hunting lodge and Royal processional route from the palaces (Whitehall, St. James’s and, later Buckingham) as well as being from 1690 en route to and from Kensington Palace via the Old King’s Road (Rotten Row) and the New King’s Road (later South Carriage Drive). The public turnpike crossed the narrow gap between Hyde Park and The Green Park, linking Knightsbridge to Piccadilly and forming the most important gateway into London from the west. It was recognised and celebrated by Decimus Burton’s Ionic Screen and its matching Arch (now Constitution Arch) in its original position forming the entrance into The Green Park. In Burton’s scheme (1825) the area immediately within Hyde Park formed an open concourse linking together the South and East Carriage Drives, the original full extent of Rotten Row, and the important carriage drive of Serpentine Road (which formed the park circuit from West Carriage Drive until 1868-69 when the latter was linked over Rennie’s bridge to the south). Achilles had already been sited by 1822 in honour of the Duke of Wellington and by public subscription. The Broad Walk, which almost aligns centrally onto Burton’s Screen, was added later initially as an open walk (c.1840), later planted with 4 rows of plane trees.
- 9.13 In the present day this concourse has been much altered with the realignment and widening of South Carriage Drive, the insertion of the Queen Elizabeth Gates (1993), the formation of the “green” subdivided by its 3 carriageways up to respective gates in the screen, the closure and removal of the pedestrian subway under South Carriage Drive, and relocation of the pedestrian crossing. The gate lodge provides, through the Friends of Hyde Park, a useful if small scale information centre, although it is relatively inconspicuous and easily missed. The area is always busy with pedestrians and, increasingly, cyclists as well as continuing to serve as a ceremonial route on daily basis for the Household Cavalry; but traffic levels on the oversized South Carriage Drive appear to have reduced rather than increased.
- 9.14 This area is the subject of more detailed examination and potential proposals initially set out in “Turning the Corner” by Kim Wilkie Associates for English Heritage. Dialogue is continuing with joint authorities seeking worthy enhancements and improvements which should serve the Park more positively while respecting historical alignments, setting and functions.

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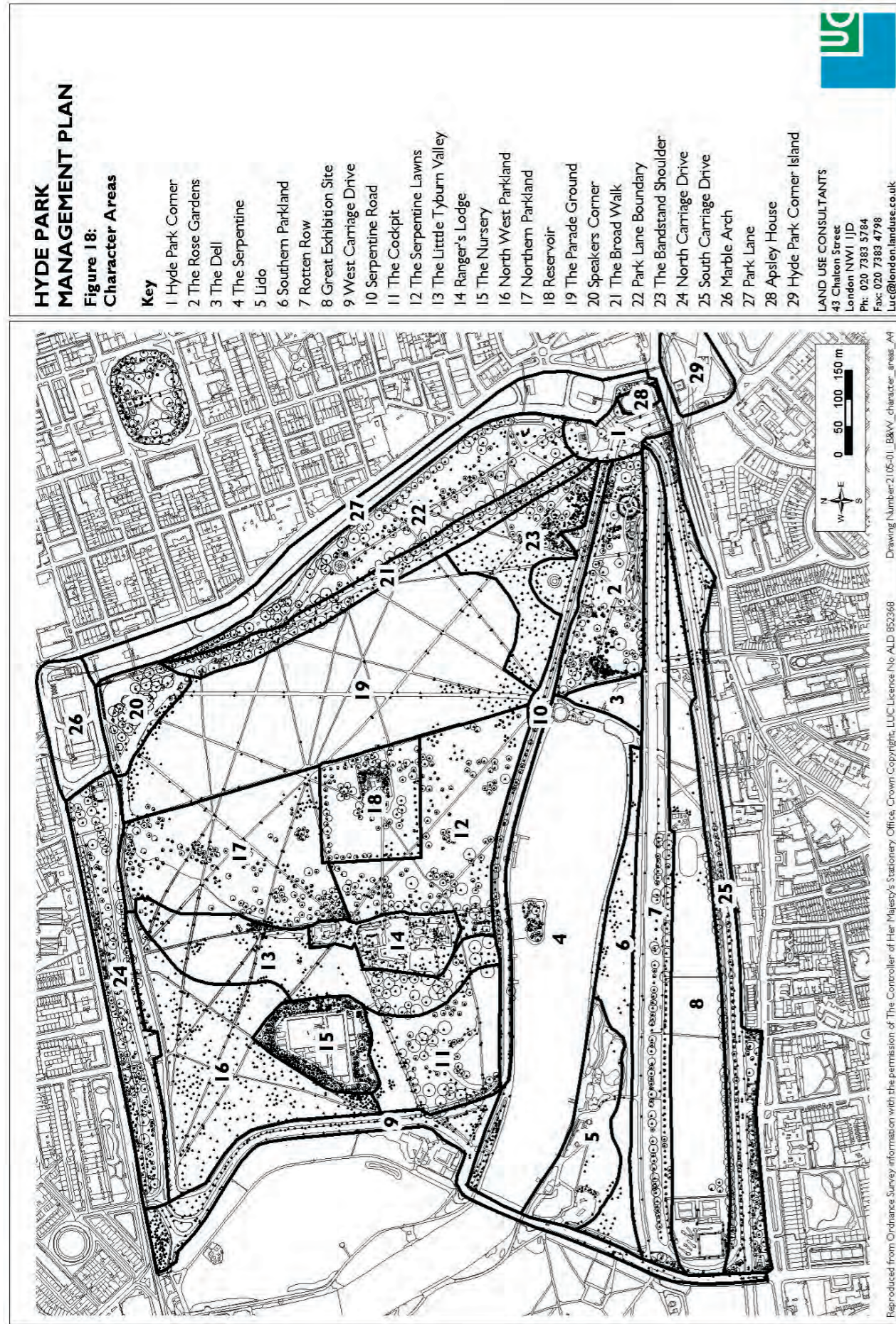


Figure 18 Character areas

Management Issues:

- Enhance entrance to the Park while maintaining key accesses – pedestrian, cycling, ceremonial, horse and carriage, security.
- Careful attention to signage.
- Consideration of access arrangements to Serpentine Road.

Area 2: The Rose Gardens

9.15 This area (roughly 3.5ha) is a gently south facing slope wedged between Serpentine Road and Rotten Row, abutting the Dell on its western side. In practice it contains considerably more than just the Rose Gardens, with other herbaceous and bedding displays redesigned in the 1990s by Colvin and Moggridge in conjunction with The Royal Parks and recalling more extensive and elaborate bedding displays where were introduced in this area in the late 1860s under the direction of the Superintendent, John Mann and continued by his successor John Gibson. Until that time, the area had remained fairly open but it was Mann who introduced more diversified tree planting which is continued and conveys the impression of an arboretum (cf. the fine old *Zelkova capinifolia* and *Pterocarya*) although there is more recent emphasis on birch towards the western end including that around the Holocaust Memorial and next to the open grassy area traditionally known as “Nannies’ Lawn”. Laterly the area has become increasingly used as a “cruising area” with concerns from the police and public about social consequences and environmental damage. This is a difficult and not easy to resolve although some redesign could help to reduce some problems.

Management Issues: The Rose Gardens

- Maintaining high horticultural standards – envy of the world
- Conservation of veteran trees
- Careful attention to furniture styles and siting
- Local redesign to address environmental damage and social issues.

Area 3: The Dell

9.16 A small but highly significant area forming the constructed earth dam (1730) to retain the higher water level which thereby drowned and replaced the string of monastic ponds. This was also the site of Westminster Abbey’s (pre Park) conduit house; and the outfall used to run into a much more substantial pair of lower pools fashioned by Bridgeman (1736–37) in a former gravel pit and known as “The Great Lake”. In 1844 the ponds were infilled by Thomas Cubitt to form the discharge channel and culvert through Albert Gate; and towards the end of the century the Dell was developed as a sub tropical garden. It retains horticultural finesse and interest while also providing the cascade and a remnant Westbourne channel from the Serpentine overflow.

Management Issues: The Dell

- Long term stability of the earth dam and need for regular checks (Panel I Engineer).
- Horticultural quality and diversity.
- Potential for improved visibility of the cascade and enhancement of top (bridge) pool.
- Opportunity for biodiversity enhancements.

Area 4: The Serpentine

9.17 Major water body of 11.34ha, iconic name and associations, created in 1730-31 by Charles Wither (Surveyor General) in conjunction with Charles Bridgeman’s substantial works in Kensington Gardens. The lake is just over 100m wide and 850m long from Serpentine Bridge to the Dell embankment, created by raising the earth dam at the present outfall and “drowning” the five lower fishponds which had survived since monastic ownership. These works caused 105 large oak, elm and willow to be removed from below the new waterline. The Serpentine is now continuous in level with the Long Water. It has been a venue for spectacles, boating, (since 1847), skating, swimming (Serpentine Swimming Club, 1866) and related disasters which had prompted the building of the Royal Humane Society’s Receiving House on the north side. There was public outcry when its picturesque but eroding shores were concreted in 1869-70; the island was constructed in 1872-73 from dredgings and was later popularised as Peter Pan’s “Bird Island”. The shorelines have attracted a range of buildings including the picturesque but long disappeared Cheesecake House, patronised by Pepys, (Patrick Gwynne’s Serpentine Restaurant (1964, now demolished), and Dell Restaurant (1965), several boat houses, two versions of the Receiving House and the 1930s Lido. Both shoreline paths are popular and busy – that on the north side having the informal status of a national promenade and being increasingly animated by roller blading and in-line group skating.

Management Issues: The Serpentine

- Shoreline vegetation enhancements for biodiversity (including protected sections of soft shoreline).
- Careful retention (non interruption) of the serpentine line along south shore.
- Balanced control of water uses and capacities.
- Assimilation of boating office/jetty/mobile catering into a designed entity.
- Control of wildfowl population.
- Management of the island with regard to establishing ground flora and care for smaller water fowl.
- Design / biodiversity opportunity at Fisherman’s Keep/Cascade bridge.

Area 5: The Lido

9.18 Created in 1929-30 under First Commissioner George Lansbury’s direction with a designated area for swimming, changing rooms, outdoor gymnasium and sun bathing lawns, this area has undergone considerable refurbishment and improvement in the 1990s so that it is more purposefully integrated into and accessible within the Park. Chlorination of the water is no longer required and the plant and equipment have been modified in conjunction with the Diana Memorial Fountain and associated enhancement works to the west side of the Lido. Improved public access to the waterside and upgrading catering facilities and lavatories have made this a more popular and worthy area of the Park.

The enormous public interest in the new fountain caused some initial management problems, resulting in the fenced enclosure, other adaptation works and, currently, full-time stewarding. In the period since re-opening in May to October 2005, the fountain has attracted some 600,000 visitors bringing this part of the Park, beneficially, into greater prominence. Budgetting has been adjusted to meet the additional management costs.

Management Issues: The Lido

- Continuing service of the Lido.
- Long term review of visitor management at Diana Memorial Fountain.
- Associated biodiversity opportunities related to shrubberies and grassland.

Area 6: The Southern Parkland

9.19 Gentle north facing slopes between Rotten Row and the Lido/Serpentine, this area originally supported the “platoon” tree formations shown on Henry Wise’s plan of 1706 (and Joshua Rhodes, 1769). These survived in part until at least 1867 (OS) but were progressively replaced by more relaxed planting formations including the walnut group and the short Ailanthus avenue. The South Bastion (of Kensington Gardens) projected into this area but abolished in 1833, its ha-ha filled in, and severed by the West Carriage Drive extension made in 1868-69.

Management Issues: Southern Parkland

- Retaining a careful balance of parkland planting.
- Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement with limited meadow swatches (narrow interlocking bands of meadow with critical attention to convenient “breaks” for pedestrian access / cross flow).

Area 7: Rotten Row

9.20 Yet another national icon – the “Route du Roi” formed in 1790 to link to the newly acquired Nottingham House/Kensington Palace and formed as a lamp lit carriage road extending westward through present Kensington Gardens. The latter territory remained as part of Hyde Park until 1871. Already by 1736, Rotten Row was being superseded by the New King’s Road (later South Carriage Drive) and although it was for some time allegedly notorious for footpads and highwaymen, the Row regained popularity as a social venue for seeing and being seen. Rotten Row was widened in 1853 and reconstructed with a brick base and sand dressing in 1876-78. The area towards Albert Gate/Hyde Park Corner became known as Vanity Fair, while the parallel walk on the north side of the Row became known as Ladies’ Walk. Three rows of trees came to define the Row and the Walk during the nineteenth century (cf. 1867 OS); a fourth row of limes has been added to the North side, and recent planting has replaced the Ladies’ Walk row of trees (formerly elms) with sweet chestnut – completed in 2002 by Her Majesty, The Queen. The impressive extent of railings along this 1500m length was lost to war collection, but gloriously replaced by individual sponsorships in the 1990s.

Management Issues: Rotten Row

- Maintaining the riding surface but retaining its key verges.
- Replacement of railings on south side particularly at main crossing points (from Edinburgh and Albert Gates) and to contain double width section near the
- Control to prevent further erosion of the zig-zag path through the centre line trees.
- Renewal planting of trees.
- Relocation of cycle route to South Carriage Drive because of severe (potentially dangerous) conflicts at main crossing points.

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Area 8: Great Exhibition Site

9.21 These relatively flat fields falling gently towards the Westbourne’s shallow valley-form below the Serpentine (near Albert Gate) remained largely open and informal until 1851 when the western part of the area was selected as the site for the Great Exhibition. Paxton’s design for the Crystal Palace, covering some 18 acres of parkland, had to respond to incorporate and thereby conserve three ancient and several younger elms, one which survived even through to the early 1970s. The Great Exhibition was remarkable in its speed of construction, its content, its attendance (over 6 million between 1st May and 15th October) and its rapid removal (for re-erection and enlargement at Sydenham). Although the ground was successfully restored it suffered subsequent interventions with the development of the tennis courts/bowling enclosure in 1929-30, use in part for allotments as part of the Dig for Victory Campaign in World War II, construction of air raid shelters, extraction of ballast, and disposal of blitz rubble which has left poor ground conditions in the main field area. More recent acquisitions include the manège (riding ring), the playground, and Mountbatten Shrubbery towards Albert Gate crossing. The area is still used for semi-formal sports and training. Its containing line of trees – defining South Carriage Drive and Rotten Row – frames an axial view west to the Albert Memorial and east to the London Eye.

Management Issues: Great Exhibition Site

- Continuation of existing facilities but review of marketing/publicity arrangements for bowling green area.
- Ground improvement of main field area so that it is capable of more active use and occasional events.
- Occasional (ephemeral) markings of the Crystal Palace; permanent interpretive signage.
- Limited meadow strands for biodiversity potential.
- Potential “wallow pond” (with protected enclosure) in lower ground near Mountbatten Shrubbery as biodiversity gain.

Area 9: West Carriage Drive

9.22 This corridor – including road, verges and horse ride – linking Victoria Gate to Alexandra Gate - was laid out in its northern section as part of the works promoted and directed by Decimus Burton with the assistance of the road builder James McAdam in the period 1823-29. The Carriage Drive was extended over the Serpentine Bridge (George and John Rennie 1828) only temporarily for the International Exhibition of 1862 and finally confirmed as the present connecting road in 1868-69. These different alignments – the original connection to Serpentine Road, the extension forming the loop around the south front of the Magazine – created “the triangle” which now houses the north car park. The south car park, at the south end of the bridge, is a survivor from the now demolished Serpentine Restaurant (John Gwynne 1964) which it served. This area includes the interface with Kensington Gardens with eight pedestrian/maintenance gates. Such formerly bucolic transition for pedestrians is now influenced by the movement of traffic, adjacent parking along the carriageway and more recently installed “speed table” crossing points. Traffic vernacular still gains the upper hand even though speeds have reduced and crossings have improved in safety terms.

9.23 At the northern end, the area includes Victoria Gate Lodge and Gate (William Crake 1838), the small display bed of Victoria Gate border and, hidden away, the Pets Cemetery. This area is likely to be affected in the future by Cross Rail proposals. Although works and possibly permanent structures are likely to have more widespread effect on North Carriage Drive (Area 24 below), there is possibility of redirecting the West Carriage Drive to a non historical line in the approach to Victoria Gate. This might also yield beneficial opportunities to incorporate wildlife conduits for connectivity with Kensington Gardens.

Management Issues: West Carriage Drive

- Possibility of the long established idea of tunnelling West Carriage Drive (first proposed 1943) would reduce traffic impacts and allow better pedestrian and landscape integration of Hyde Park with Kensington Gardens.
- Careful renewal of trees without overplanting. (Unlike the other carriage drives this one does not have continuous avenues on its verges).
- Potential long-term redesign of junction with North Carriage Drive.
- Review of pedestrian routes from Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens to West Carriage Drive crossing points.

Area 10: Serpentine Road

9.24 This is the central service artery for the Park, providing the main vehicular access east and west to serve the Storeyard, maintenance functions, the Old Police House (TRP Headquarters), Ranger’s Lodge and, three other residential lodges as well as the boathouse office, the Dell Restaurant, three separate mobile catering outlets, and, more occasionally, the bandstand and Cavalry Memorial. It was established as a service road from the east by the mid eighteenth century (Rhodes 1769), and connected with Burton and McAdam’s carriage drives by 1829. In the present day it has become part of the main promenade with particularly heavy use by cyclists, rollerbladers and pedestrians at weekends and in early evening through spring to autumn. Towards the eastern end, this area includes the bandstand (relocated from Kensington Gardens 1886) and the Cavalry Memorial (by Adrian Jones 1924, relocated from Stanhope Gate, 1961). Both have their specific programmes and ceremonies which contribute to the life of the Park.

Management Issues: Serpentine Road

- Essential service and security access.
- Potential conflicts of congested use at certain times.
- Important vernacular of lighting, site furniture.
- Promote and respect bandstand and memorial events.
- Conserve and restore avenue along the road (limes by Serpentine and plane/lime to east of Dell restaurant).

Area 11: The Cockpit Lawns

9.25 This area includes The Cockpit – an amphitheatre shaped, eighteenth century gravel pit, formerly framed by large elms; but the area identified here extends northwards to the bird sanctuary area of the Nursery enclosure, thereby embracing both lower (Serpentine) and upper terrace levels. It is a fine area of informal parkland with filtered views under tree canopies down to the Serpentine. It also provides the essential “rear access” to the Nursery and the Ranger’s Lodge/Storeyard group.

Management Issues: The Cockpit

- Importance of this as a quiet, informal area with good landform/planting associations.
- Avoid further intrusion of monuments, furniture or additional paths.

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- Retain key service access.
- Potential for biodiversity enhancements by locally modified mowing regimes.
- Gradual reduction of plane trees to favour other parkland species including oak and thorn.
- Restoration of Cockpit edge through planting of oaks.

Area 12: The Serpentine Lawns

9.26 Effectively, this is the topographic continuity eastwards from area 11 beyond the Little Tyburn Valley and Ranger’s Lodge; but it is more open, invariably gregarious in good weather and has become the main deck chair pitch. It is again essentially open parkland with now depleted distribution of trees, having formerly had more single genus stands in circles and clumps interspersed with free standing veterans. The upper plateau merges into the site of The Ring – the social display ground of seventeenth and eighteenth centuries – defined variously, according to plans, but now replanted with an outer line of trees forming a square. The grass quality on the gently sloping “lawn” is generally good and shows up on array interesting lumps and bumps, some of which are earlier planting formations.

Management Issues: The Serpentine Lawns

- Conservation of essential parkland.
- Further interpretation of ground formations.
- Restoration of single genus groups eg. to south west corner of the Parade Ground.

Area 13: The Little Tyburn Valley

9.27 A distinct topographic feature of great value to the parkland setting and extent, particularly in the more physically defined area to the north of the Old Police House. The Little Tyburn was a flowing brook which discharged into the Serpentine, close to the moated Cheesecake House. The valley is shown as well wooded (Rhodes 1769, Mann 1840) in its lower section – a characteristic still retained although partly because of the large canopies of plane trees which (unfortunately) now dominate. The water course is rarely shown on plans and may have been partly seasonal. It was probably intercepted during the 1835 works in diverting the Westbourne into the Bayswater Road sewer or as a result of further diversions of 1859–60. A culverted water course still exists down the valley, and the spring head near North Carriage Drive has become more prominent as spongy ground in recent years. Since 1990, most of this area has also become established as “the meadow” – cautiously so initially but gaining public support and adding considerable nature conservation value to the Park. It appropriately recalls something of the more rural atmosphere associated with the earlier days of emparkment.

Management Issues: The Little Tyburn Valley

- Conservation of the meadow and additional detail of connectivity.
- Possibilities of re-opening the watercourse.
- Need to manage the tree populations towards woodland species (recommended reduction in proportion of plane trees).
- Key visibility/maintained verges/limited mown paths for access/security.

Area 14: Ranger’s Lodge

9.28 The origins of built development here appear to stretch back at least to the mid eighteenth century and probably earlier. A “new magazine” was built by 1805 and a separate Guard House shown on Greenwood’s map of 1827 on the site of the Ranger’s Lodge (1832). The Storeyard (before 1851), Ranger’s Cottage (c.1832, previously the coach house, stables and groom’s quarters) and Serpentine Cottage (c.1828) were added to the south, with Magazine Cottage (1831–32) to the north and the old Magazine replaced (in 1902) by the Police House. New Lodge (1877) belongs with this group but is off-set a little to the north. In combination these remain as a varied and important set of buildings – historically, architecturally, and as places of interest only partly perceived in public view.

Management Issues: Ranger’s Lodge

- Maintain historical buildings and service core.
- Review orchard planting – consider enlarging extent and using historic varieties.
- Protection and enhancement of east–west view across pond and setting of Ranger’s Lodge.
- Enhance public accessibility to the Old Police House as an important part of TRP image and information exchange with the public.
- Use special opportunities to enhance biodiversity and education within Ranger’s Lodge garden in conjunction with this being a special show garden, displaying real horticultural skills and style, and open to public viewing on occasional (eg. yellow book) basis.
- Encourage wildlife/biodiversity opportunities within (private) gardens of lodge residences.
- Maintain appropriate enclosure, privacy and security.

Area 15: The Nursery

9.29 Known also as “the Framground” this area is defined by a railing and screening shrubberies on low mounds, enclosing the area which was laid out from 1903 as the glasshouse nursery. It sits within an old gravel pit (shown on Rhodes 1769, and possibly suggested on Wise, 1706). It has extensive hard surfaced yard and glasshouses with standing-out ground used by the TRP’s Nursery and Grounds Maintenance contractor. However the value of its enclosing shrubbery has long been recognised for nature conservation interest – also referred to as the Bird Sanctuary and, on its southern side, providing the setting for the memorial to the writer and naturalist W.H. Hudson. Nevertheless there are particular and worthwhile enhancement opportunities here for biodiversity, not least at the starkly standing memorial and within the enclosing banks.

Management Issues: The Nursery

- Continuation of nursery and support functions.
- Biodiversity enhancement opportunities in enclosing sanctuary (nectar and berry species, small scale water, dead wood and coarse mulch).
- Possibility of diverting at least part of encircling path away from railings to provide meadow verge continuity.



Area 16: North West Parkland

9.30 A less frequented area of the Park, partly due to its proximity to traffic on two sides, it was formerly an entirely open plateau area which has gained tree populations progressively since about 1840. The RCHME Archaeological survey (see Figure 9) indicates medieval field boundaries and ridge and furrow markings in the eastern part of this area.

Management Issues: North West Parkland

- Importance of maintaining mainly open densities of parkland planting.
- Opportunities for extending meadow grassland regimes because of related benefits in conjunction with adjacent areas.
- Respect for traces of medieval field patterns and other archaeological potential.

Area 17: Northern Parkland

9.31 Similar to the North-West Parkland and, in effect, its counterpart on the east side of the Little Tyburn Valley. The extent of medieval field features indicated by RCHME (Figure 9) survey is stronger here and, according to the sequence of historic plans, tree planting in parkland style was a little earlier. This too is part of the meadow area established c.1990.

Management Issues: Northern Parkland

- Purposeful replacement planting for diversity without increasing density.
- Continuing meadow management with extended opportunities for further connectivity to surrounding features and (new) meadow swatches.

Area 18: The Reservoir

9.32 This area contains the footprint of one of the earliest design features in the Park already in use by 1635, and also known as “the Tour” in Pepys days. By design, it allowed carriage traffic to circulate in both directions – to see and to be seen – until its popularity waned in favour of Rotten Row as the fashionable venue. It is recorded variously in plans of eighteenth and nineteenth centuries but generally defined by an outer square of trees, a wide circular track with inner row of trees and (as shown in some plans), with the centre planted as a clump of trees. The construction of the Reservoir (1882) intruded into the core of this area but there is still some remnant of layout in landform on the west side (RCHME survey – see Figure 10), and in 6 surviving lime trees forming part of an inner row. The outer square, as shown in mid 18th century plans, was replanted c.1986. The reservoir is no longer operational, but part of the enclosure is used for grounds maintenance and storage functions. The former police “Lookout”, with small turret for observing the Parade Ground, has been converted into an important education facility. Toilets are provided on the east side – of particular importance in relation to the Parade Ground.

Management Issues: Reservoir

- Potential restoration of the inner ring (in planting) and limited interpretation.
- Enhanced management of biodiversity potential within the reservoir enclosure.
- Support and promotion for the Lookout Environmental Education facility.

- Removal of temporary storage stockpiles; screening and rationalisation of landscape maintenance uses and storage compatible with biodiversity benefits.
- Long term strategy for the reservoir structure and use.

Area 19: The Parade Ground

9.33 The Parade Ground has been in use for military parades and displays since the times of Elizabeth I and it maintains the traditions through celebratory and official gun salutes as well as through other major events (see Figure 7). The proximity of the Tyburn gallows (last used in 1783) brought popular assembly and spectacle to the Park boundary at the Tyburn gallows, and John Rocque’s plan of 1746 also records “where the soldiers are shot”. These assemblies were prone to spill over into the Park. Assembly for demonstrations was opposed by the authorities (eg. 1855) but the Reform League riots (1866) and other test cases eventually gave way to the rights to assembly and freedom of speech which were recognised in 1872 at Speakers Corner. Thus the Parade Ground became used for assemblies, rallies and demonstrations. The place has come down to present generations to represent more than the Park and more than green space. It stands for principles, common causes, world issues, a strong sense of freedom and justice, and a place in the hearts of millions who visit in mind if not in body. The English did not take the Bastille but they have their Hyde Park.

9.34 The Parade Ground, with its flat and originally well drained surface, was very suitable for major events of national and sometimes international standing. These have included many military parades, and Queen Victoria presenting the first V.Cs from the Crimean War. In latter days they have diversified into popular events and festivals ranging from Pavarotti in the Park to the Great Childrens Party, Food and Farming, the Great Fun Run, Rock Aid and celebrations for Royal Weddings and the Golden Jubilee. All these are special events which reach out to additional and often far travelled audiences who take Hyde Park into their experience. For Royal Parks such events can also represent significant possibilities for revenue which is of importance not only to Hyde Park but can also contribute to funding and enhancement potential in other Royal Parks. However spontaneous events and rallies are also of concern more particularly with increased displacement from Trafalgar Square as another traditional venue. In terms of physical impacts it is preferable to use Hyde Park as an assembly venue rather than as finishing venue.

9.35 Such activity obviously wreaks its apportionment of wear and tear, both in setting up/ dismantling and on event days (which are no stranger to poor weather). The situation is greatly exacerbated the construction of the underground car park (1964) which has rendered much of the flat northern section with only a thin soil cover and inadequate drainage over its concrete roof.

9.36 Even before the car park, this area suffered considerable activity and disturbance, particularly during World War II when an array of aircraft obstructions (to landing), anti aircraft batteries, military accommodation, air raid shelters and barrage balloon emplacement, were constructed, and bomb craters appeared (RCHME Archaeological Study – see Figures 11 and 12).

9.37 On the surface, the parade ground is criss-crossed by many paths, five fanning out from the asymmetrical goose foot at “Little Nell” on Serpentine Road and twelve splicing across from the Broad Walk between Speakers Corner and Achilles and cumulatively creating some 60 intersections. Most are of nineteenth century origin and in the main they form a logical network which serves a series of gates and desire lines. Poor ground conditions over the area of the underground car park make these surfaced paths essential for substantial pedestrian traffic in wet weather. There is some scope for limited reduction in relation to the surviving pattern of gates which generate the paths. Additionally purposeful investment in direct hook up facilities for services (sewers, water, power) would reduce some of the temporary impacts and the need for temporary surface matting to reduce surface trip hazards. However such investment would need to be directly linked to soil, surface and path improvements and should not increase the scale or extent of events.



9.38 Alternative accesses from north and south for maintenance, emergency access and alternative set up for events are key elements of this area; and the distribution of paths also remains important for these purposes. Not only do these function around such events, rallies or demonstrations (with temporary provisions for crowd control) but there needs to be an assured rapid response procedure to anticipate large demonstrations at short notice and to be able to return the Parade Ground into full working order and wearability in accordance with high public expectations of normality.

Management Issues: The Parade Ground

- Frequency and scale of major events.
- Controls and procedures for rallies and demonstrations.
- Restructuring soil and drainage systems over the underground car park to improve wearability and recovery.
- Turf management to minimise wear from informal ball games.
- Provision of essential service/emergency access.
- Rapid response procedure placed on event organisers to achieve early reinstatement.

Area 20: Speakers Corner

9.39 Acknowledged from 1872 and approved by Parliament as a place authorised for public meeting and oratory following earlier suppression (1855, 1866 etc.) the “Corner” has spread and retreated over time so that favoured Sunday morning pitches are now a little further into the Park to avoid competition with traffic. Evacuation stairs and ventilation shafts from the underground car park are accommodated here, the latter in sheep’s clothing of a catering outlet; but despite the more recent planting of trees – hornbeams against the Marble Arch traffic, mixed trees in the fenced enclosure and on the edge of the Parade Ground – this remains a most dismal corner of the vibrant city and world park. A call for design competition in the 1990s produced ideas and imagination ... but no implementation.

Management Issues: Speakers Corner

- Acoustic and townscape design to restructure and re-invigorate the Corner.
- Reconnection to Marble Arch at ground level.
- Review of park furniture design and maintenance.
- Tuning the underground car park portals to respect the park setting.
- Continuing the traditions and displaying the history.
- Cycleway route through the corner is not ideal but still essential.

Area 21: The Broad Walk

9.40 First appearing in 1840 as a walk parallel with the East Carriage Drive and the adjacent “Lovers Walk”, The Broad Walk was planted about 1860 with 4 rows of plane trees giving yet more prominence to this species as a “safe bet” in increasingly polluted London atmosphere. The Broad Walk has effectively taken over some of the grandeur of its forerunner the Great Walnut Avenue which was felled (417 trees) between 1794 and 1802. With the loss of the

East Carriage Drive to Park Lane and the failings of elm which constituted the reservoir walk (later Lover’s Walk) to the east, the Broad Walk has become a strong flank on this side of the Park and one of the main arteries with its shared footpath and cycleway.

Management Issues: The Broad Walk

- Management and gap filling/renewal of all four rows of planes and assessment of need for soil conditioning.
- Opportunity to plan for introduction of other species (eg. Sweet Chestnut) in outer rows to afford some diversity.
- Resolution of junctions at south end (Serpentine Road).
- Maintenance of site furniture (lamps, benches, bins) in related style.

Area 22: Park Lane Boundary

9.41 The area has seen and suffered many changes which have progressively reduced it in scale, prominence and definitive character. Historically it ran right up to the old park boundary on Park Lane (the present southbound carriageway) and this gave space for the extensive double rows of the Walnut Avenue (planting date unknown but shown on Henry Wise’s plan 1706), removed due to poor condition in 1794 to 82. The central circus within the avenue became the site of Chelsea Water Works Company’s reservoir (1725), which had been granted by George I in displacing the company’s earlier reservoir in Old West Hyde Park. In turn this transfer of the Water Works Company gave way for the extension of Kensington Gardens and the creation of the Round Pond there. The reservoir (see Figure 7) also related to the nearby Duke of Gloucester’s Riding School (1768-1824). At termination of the waterworks lease, Park Superintendent John Mann converted the old reservoir site to an Italian-style sunken garden (1862) to which was added the Boy Dolphin Fountain now re-sited (after sojourn of 30 years in Regent’s Park) in the Rose Garden at Hyde Park. Finally, this old reservoir site was redeveloped with the Joy of Life fountain (1963, TB Huxley Jones) which has recently been restored.

9.42 The record shows that in the second half of the nineteenth century this area of Lovers’ Walk and land adjacent to Park Lane were also famous for their bedding displays and horticultural brilliance. Park Superintendent John Mann appointed W.A. Nesfield to advise on planting schemes from the 1860s and this work was continued by his successor John Gibson who was previously instrumental in the laying out and implementation of Battersea Park. The Park Lane bedding schemes which related also to those continuing to the west in the area of the present Rose Garden (see Area 2 above) were finally abandoned at the start of the First World War and never reinstated.

9.43 The area has also suffered badly from loss of its second major avenue – four rows of elms which replaced the southern section of the Walnut Avenue but which succumbed to several phases of Dutch elm disease and were finally extinguished in the early 1970s. Poorly considered gap planting over the last fifty years has left this as a very patchy almost incomprehensible planting formation which does no justice to the Joy of Life axis or its predecessors. This is a priority for action which will require some limited but judicious felling and transplanting; but it will provide opportunity for positive restoration, sound investment in tree planting in the right place and with diversification of species – possibly back to walnut. Some containment on the (new) Park Lane side was provided by the gentle mounding which was thrown up as part of the 1960s road works; and the Silver Jubilee bed was added in 1977. But the mounding affords negligible acoustic protection and in past years the Metropolitan Police have resisted proposals for stronger shrubbery enclosures on this boundary for security reasons.

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Management Issues: Park Lane Boundary

- Careful replanning of the Joy of Life axis avenue, involving some removals/transplants/felling.
- Good opportunities for carefully patterned meadow swatches for biodiversity interest, allowing for pedestrian cross movements.
- Maintaining/supplementing parkland trees with purposeful mixture of native nectar rich and occasional exotic trees.

Area 23: The Bandstand Shoulder

9.44 This is a peculiar and relatively arbitrary character area which is more defined by exclusion from its neighbours than by specific or consistent character. It includes well planted parkland at the southern end of the Parade Ground, the enclosed shrubberies behind the Cavalry Memorial, and the narrowing wedge of ground formed by the junction of Serpentine Road with the Broad Walk. Topographically it is the south facing slope which continues westward into areas 12 and 14 (above) and it contains a number of important cross paths. The enclosures are shown on OS 1916 but the shrubberies appear to have been planted later, and specifically adapted to form the setting of the Cavalry Memorial (1924) when this was relocated from Stanhope Gate in 1960. The area includes a number of more unusual trees such as *Cladastria lutea* and *Tilia* species.

Management Issues: The Bandstand Shoulder

- Biodiversity opportunities within the shrubberies including minor water features, small meadow glades, nature core.
- Retain the settings of bandstand and Cavalry Memorial.
- Maintain diversity and density of trees.

Area 24: North Carriage Drive

9.45 The North Carriage Drive includes the informal band of parkland on its north side up to the Park boundary, the (now varied, informal) line of trees along the southern verge and the recent installation of the north manège (riding ring). Its character has been influenced by two specific episodes – the replacement of the boundary wall by railings, in phases between 1790 and 1830 under pressure from influential neighbours, in order to afford open views from property on Bayswater Road; and the construction of the carriage drives in the period 1823-29. Already by 1840 there were a number of enclosed shrubberies and small plantations with the north verge side as well as a line of trees on the south side. By 1867 (OS) the whole corridor was apparently thickly planted, but it has since become gradually – and perhaps more appropriately – thinned out into mixed parkland with a variety of trees and areas of spring bulbs. At its eastern end was the former site of the Vizzianagram Fountain (1867), a parallel with the Readymoney Fountain in Regent’s Park, but, unlike Regent’s recently restored inheritance; the Vizzianagram was sadly demolished in 1964. Beyond this site (still marked by a ground plaque) is the surviving Cumberland Lodge (1857) which is a copy of Burton’s (now lost) East Lodge, having also suffered 2 relocations (1908 and 1961). This area is likely to be affected by forthcoming proposals for Cross Rail which is likely to affect ground and to restrict access during construction stages and possibly to require some permanent surface and underground fixtures.

Management Issues: North Carriage Drive

- Potential closure of North Carriage Drive to through traffic (identified by the Royal Parks Review Group, 1994).
- Continuity/renewal of the vergeline trees.
- Management of parkland tree density and diversity with some new planting including nectar rich and native species as well as ornamental exotics.
- Development of carefully sited meadow swatches integrated with spring bulb display areas.
- Treatment of Cumberland Gates and underground car park portal railings.
- Seek to protect the area during construction stages of Cross Rail but also exploit compensatory works for benefit of the wider Park.

Area 25: South Carriage Drive

9.46 The equivalent to the North Carriage Drive and with similar evolution, albeit that the presence of the barracks (since c.1795) rebuilt by Sir Basil Spence in 1970s, now casts influence and deep shadow over this central section of the corridor. With reduced traffic flows, the 5 lane carriageway and wide pavements sacrifice considerable acreage to hardscape and this partly erodes the quality of the Park. The corridor is also characterised by its several lines of trees (planes) which also frame the south ride (a loop off Rotten Row) and flanking footpaths. To the south side of the Drive are the Prince of Wales borders with ornamental trees, spring bulbs, and three classical lodges – Alexandra Gate and Lodge (1862, 1868 respectively), and Prince of Wales Gate Lodges (Decimus Burton 1847 and 51). To the east are the contrasting Albert Gate with elegance, presence, and fine ironwork and the shameful and uninspired Edinburgh Gate surmounted by Bowater House (1958-59) with Jacob Epstein’s “Pan” (1961) fleeing for refuge into the Park.

9.47 South Carriage Drive was the scene of the terrorist bomb in 1982 and there are poignant reminders in memorials on the north verge, at Albert Gate crossing and in the daily mark of respect by the Household Cavalry as they pass through to Horse Guards Parade.

9.48 At its eastern end, South Carriage Drive sweeps past visually impressive properties (Hyde Park Hotel, The Royal Yacht Club) which face into and enjoy prospect of the Park as well as maintaining their respective gardens on Park land under licence from R.P. Eastward again are the lightly banked verges around White Horse Gate with its single standing plane and steep retaining wall onto Knightsbridge, with the South Carriage Drive curving away towards its conclusion at the Queen Mother Gates (1993).

Management Issues: South Carriage Drive

- Potential closure of the Drive as a thoroughfare to through traffic (already provided on Sundays).
- Remove cycle way from Ladies Walk (adjacent to Rotten Row) – see earlier.
- Potential reduction in carriageway/footpath widths for restoration to grass, but allowing for continued ceremonial route.
- Management and renewal of avenue trees (noting that there is still one grass verge line adjacent to the south ride which could be replanted) and specific opportunities for additional and much needed tree planting in the south pavement (verge) beyond White Horse Gate.

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- Biodiversity opportunities of Mountbatten hollow and shrubbery and along the grassy bank at White Horse Gate.
- Co-ordinated policy for independently maintained gardens (Royal Yacht Club etc.) which form the freeboard/boundary in order to achieve a more consistent treatment.
- Major redevelopment opportunity of Bowater House could yield potential in-park benefits and enhancements in setting and circulation, related to Edinburgh Gate.
- Review related opportunities for enhancement which may be brought forward from “Turning the Corner” initiative (Kim Wilkie).

EXTERNAL AREAS

9.49 The following areas 26-29 were historically part of or directly related to Hyde Park but are no longer under RP’s control. TRP will seek to liaise with respective authorities for better integration with the Park.

Area 26: Marble Arch

9.50 Originally sited (1828) by John Nash on the Mall and relocated 1851 thereby displacing Burton’s (1828) Cumberland Gate. Marble Arch is another one of London’s premier landmarks, sadly abused by being “islanded” in 1908 and more severely marooned in 1962. It is now much isolated from the Park – the more so because pedestrian access runs the gauntlet of undignified underpasses.

Management Issues: Marble Arch

- Re-establish surface links/crossing.
- Relate setting and landscape to the Park, as part of the Park and responding to upgraded Speakers Corner.
- Re acquire the island and the arch as part of and gateway into the Park.

AREA 27: Park Lane

9.51 Highway robbery in London! The 1958-62 “Park Lane and Piccadilly Improvement Scheme” severed some 8ha of Park land, including the East Carriage Drive, and causing loss and removal of several Decimus Burton’s elegant Stanhope, Grosvenor and Cumberland Gates with associated lodges. The northbound carriageway provides six and, in places, seven lanes of traffic and lines of coach parking and bus stopping along the amended Park boundary. The wide central reserve is largely inaccessible to pedestrians. It provides a surviving but partly isolated and uncertain population of trees, amenity grass with spring bulbs and some bedding displays.

Management Issues: Park Lane

- Contribute to review of Transport for London’s Management Plan for Park Lane central reserve.
- Consider re-acquisition/management by TRP.
- Develop strategies for tree renewal/management related to Hyde Park Tree Strategy and biodiversity action plan.



AREA 28: Apsley House

9.52 Apsley House was constructed in 1784 by Henry, Lord Apsley, who purchased land within Hyde Park. This was followed in 1798 by “further encroachments adjoining Lady Holderness’s” in Park Lane and led to severance of Hamilton Place subsequently confirmed by John Nash’s layout of 1826–28. Apsley House with its south frontage and north side (enclosed) garden still forms a significant relationship with Hyde Park and the area immediately inside Burton’s Screen.

Management Issues: Apsley House

- Issues relating to the setting and relationship with Hyde Park are identified in “*Turning the Corner*” (Kim Wilkie Associates, 2001).

AREA 29: Hyde Park Corner: The Island

Never part of Hyde Park but, as part of the original extent of The Green Park, it forms the link through to Constitution Hill, The Green Park and St. James’s Park. Again the background, issues and opportunities are explored more fully in “*Turning the Corner*”.

Management Issues: Hyde Park Corner

- Continuing dialogue with English Heritage and other key stakeholders for positive enhancement and integration with Hyde Park access and landscape objectives.

PART 3. LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

This section evaluates the significance of Hyde Park and evolves a management strategy based upon these principles. It is presented in three sections:

- 10 The Significance of Hyde Park
- 11 Key Management Issues:
- 12 Landscape Management Strategy



Rotten Row/Ladies Walk



Serpentine Lawns, 2002



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JC Nattes: bridge on Rotten Row 1801.



JC Nattes: 1798



JC Nattes: 1792



JC Nattes: The Old Dipping Well



JC Nattes: The Cheesecake House



JC Nattes: View of the Barracks

Figure 19 Historical landscape character of Hyde Park

10. SIGNIFICANCE OF HYDE PARK

THE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

10.1 The statement of significance explains why the site is unique and what is important or “significant” about it. This becomes the basis for developing policies and management guidelines to ensure that positive aspects of Hyde Park are conserved in perpetuity whilst weak or declining aspects can be restored or enhanced in the most appropriate manner. The stakeholder workshop (December 2002) was particularly valuable on providing a wide range of views on the park’s significance.

The Significance of Hyde Park

Hyde Park represents a landscape of free open space at the heart of the capital and in the heart of the nation.

The Park is large, long established and despite, as much as because of, its Royal patronage it stands today as the people’s Park. As an open space it is multi-layered from history and multi-faceted in terms of what it offers to its visitors – from local regulars and commuters to international tourists.

The Park maintains a diverse and important range of features including vestiges of pre-emparkment field patterns, the seventeenth century Rotten Row, eighteenth century Serpentine, nineteenth century carriage drives, lodges, planting formations and (mainly) twentieth century artefacts, monuments and facilities. It has historical associates with Kings and Queens, a great spectrum of visitors from Pepys to Garibaldi, and with practitioners, artists, sculptors, performers and everyman. It was the venue for the Great Exhibition of 1851, major parades, events, rallies and demonstrations.

Significance is evaluated by its centrality in London, its ready availability with excellent public transport connections and its direct connectivity with Kensington Gardens and The Green Park/St. James’s.

10.2 A summary of the main values of Hyde Park are presented in the following table. This seeks to attribute the main value of each of the principal qualities and features of the Park and to provide a comparative grading of their relative importance (international to local – where possible using recognised designations as a guide or through consensus with consultees), and to indicate any other benefits or values provided by these attributes.



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Summary of Key Significance

Summary Table of Significance with Graded Importance of the Key features. Key features by main value	International	National	Regional	Local	Supporting notes/ other key values.
General values and parkland character					
Royal Park with rich mosaic of historic features.	✓	✓	✓	✓	Local, regional, national and international visitor destination/ All values.
Varied character within the Park.			✓	✓	All values.
Archaeological features/ potential.			✓	✓	RCHME survey. Spiritual, educational.
Topographic variation with important views and vistas to, from and within Park.		✓	✓	✓	Aesthetic, recreational, wider setting.
The value of the historic landscape					
Important historic landscape.	✓	✓	✓	✓	English Heritage Grade I. Recreational, aesthetic, cultural, educational.
Establishment as medieval deer chase still recalled in more open/rural qualities of the Park.		✓	✓	✓	Cultural, educational.
Historic core of Rotten Row, The Serpentine.	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cultural, spiritual, built landscape, wider setting, educational, natural.
Surviving nineteenth carriageways, lodges, avenues and framework of roads.		✓	✓	✓	Cultural, spiritual, recreational, natural, educational, built landscape.
The surviving buildings, and lodges.		✓	✓	✓	Listed Buildings. Group Value, Conservation Area. Cultural, Spiritual, Built landscape, wider setting, educational.
Listed buildings and structures including lodges and monuments.		✓	✓	✓	Cultural, spiritual, aesthetic, built landscape, educational.
The Avenues, lines and 19th century tree group forming a historic framework of vegetation.			✓	✓	Early feature of Public Park Cultural, spiritual, aesthetic, designed landscape, educational.

The Gardens: established Hyde Park as a worthy exemplar in mid-nineteenth century.		✓	✓	✓	Cultural, spiritual, aesthetic, built landscape, wider setting, educational, recreational, natural.
Historic views (Serpentine Bridge to Palace of Westminster) and within the Park.			✓	✓	Cultural, recreational, spiritual, aesthetic, wider setting, educational.
The value of the wider setting					
Important area of open space in busy Central London location			✓	✓	Metropolitan Open Space. Recreational, spiritual, aesthetic, economic.
Part of green link from Kensington to Whitehall.		✓	✓	✓	Natural, ecological, tourist corridor.
Natural and ecological value					
Diverse species and structural framework of over 3,000 trees.			✓	✓	Historic (distribution), aesthetic, recreational, educational.
One of largest areas of habitats in Central London including grassland, meadow, water, tree canopy.			✓	✓	Designated as Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation. Recreational, aesthetic, educational.
Existing bio-diversity and further potential.		✓	✓	✓	Recreational, aesthetic, educational.
The value of the built infrastructure					
Good network of paths and park furnishings.				✓	Recreational, aesthetic, historical.
On site staff housing and HQ presence.				✓	Spiritual (safety).
Range of nineteenth and twentieth century statues and sculptures.		✓	✓	✓	Listed structures and sculptures. Recreational, historical, aesthetic, educational.
Recreational, social and educational value					
Internationally renowned site and recreational venue attracting large number of visitors	✓	✓	✓	✓	Large number of overseas visitors. Economic.
Good public transport links, reasonably.			✓	✓	General, economic.

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Range of opportunities for passive and active recreation.			✓	✓	Aesthetic, spiritual.
Limited range of sporting facilities			✓	✓	
Good range of visitor amenities including children’s play areas, toilets and refreshments.			✓	✓	Aesthetic, built infrastructure.
Attractive horticultural areas.			✓	✓	Aesthetic, natural, ecological, spiritual.
Venue for major events and assemblies.	✓	✓	✓	✓	Spiritual, cultural, historical.
Other events and Activities Programme			✓	✓	Spiritual, aesthetic, built infrastructure.
Aesthetic and spiritual value					
Presence of river Westbourne through the park.				✓	
‘Escape’ from the city environment.			✓	✓	Recreational.
Multi-layered ambience of different historical periods.		✓	✓	✓	Recreational, historic.
Setting of the terraces		✓	✓	✓	Recreational, historic.
Association with historic and/or cultural events or people					
Many Monarchs attending events.	✓	✓	✓	✓	Eminent designer/ association. Educational.
Works by Decimus Burton (Ionic Screen, several lodges, the carriage drives).		✓	✓	✓	Went on to achieve renown and work in further Royal Parks. Educational.
Early Public Park access from.		✓	✓	✓	Educational, spiritual, historical.
Economic Value					
Positive impacts on local and regional economy.		✓	✓	✓	Contributes to attractiveness of London for visitors and residents.
Setting for major events of national standing, some with considerable revenue earning potential.		✓	✓	✓	Sports Clubs, theatre and zoo benefit from connection with well-known location.
High cost of maintenance and conservation.				X	Financial constraint exacerbated by perception as ‘Royal’.

11. KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES



11.1 The previous sections have described and identified a wide number of elements and features within Hyde Park which are of significance to the essential character of the park. Area specific and subject issues which currently affect the quality and appropriateness of the landscape experience for visitors, have also been identified. From this process it is possible to identify the key management issues which management plan policies must address.

Appreciation of management responsibilities and respect for the strategic context.

- Complexity of landscape management responsibilities within the park and the wider historic extent – i.e. Royal Parks Agency, TRP contractors and licencees, the City of Westminster, private interests – creating need for clarity of roles and responsibilities for co-ordination of management.
- Extensive legislation and local planning policy relating to the park and with which the management plan should comply, and the ongoing need to respond to new legislation and initiatives e.g. the potential impacts of congestion charging on traffic use of Park roads.

Conservation, enhancement and respect for the historic landscape.

- Multiple layers of history – traces of medieval field patterns (pre emparkment), deer chase, enclosed parkland opened to public access with its traditions and early landscape features; eighteenth century landscape of the Serpentine, nineteenth century carriage drives, lodges, tree formations, horticultural traditions, public assembly, rallies and parades; twentieth century adaptations, monuments, sculpture, diversity of usage, facilities and major events; twenty-first century of conserving heritage with increased agenda of social inclusion, biodiversity and education.
- Loss of territory to Park Lane traffic systems including severance of Marble Arch.
- Weakening of designed assemblies of trees in specific lines, stands, formations.
- Need to maintain the character and presence of views within and beyond the Park including landscape setting/visibility of individual historic buildings, monuments and surrounding parkland.

Respect for the constraints of the physical context.

- Poor drainage and associated soil structure in key use areas (Upper Parade Ground and Great Exhibition site.)

Maintenance of the natural fabric to a high standard and planning for renewal.

- Lack or inadequate quality of baseline information, for example – need for updated tree survey with location and condition of trees and ecological habitats linked to management prescriptions.
- Need for ongoing management of the tree resource with emphasis on full (post planting) establishment and conservation
- Specific area-based problems such as spacing/succession of trees in lines and avenues as well as continuity/restoration of single general groups and mixed assemblies forming a significant tree collection.

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- Ecological issues – the need to recognise, conserve and enhance the wildlife value of the park, including the possibility of some diversification of grassland and, (contained) shrub thickets and creating ‘interlinked’ wildlife corridors.
- Importance of ornamental horticultural displays and shrubberies in latter-day history of park and the need to maintain these to a high standard.
- Maintenance of water quality to benefit wildlife habitat value and to enable continuity of use and enjoyment by the visiting public.

Maintenance of the visual quality and physical repair of buildings and hard landscape fabric

- Backlog of repairs to paths, walls, buildings, edging, railways, drainage, and other structural elements.
- Need for ongoing co-ordination and sensitive renewal of parkland furniture including benches, bins, signage and lighting.
- Boundary treatments and gateways – some of which require presentational improvements to enhance ambience.
- Importance of localised features – such as sculpture, maintenance of fountains etc.
- Problems of co-ordination between furniture elements

Encouragement of public use and enjoyment.

- Encouraging park visitors of all abilities and backgrounds whilst retaining the sense of spaciousness, particularly encouraging sustainable forms of transport and outreach to under-represented groups and sectors of the community.
- Maintaining the diversity and general informality of visitor experience.
- Health and safety issues including minimising traffic impacts upon the wider parkland landscape.
- Investment in education through the Royal Parks via the Lookout and network linking to other environmental education outlets.
- User conflicts including visitor pressure for cycle and roller blade use within the park.
- Importance and carefully controlled programme for frequency of major events including event sponsors’ commitments to recovery/reinstatement; also for TRP rapid response procedure for rallies and demonstrations.
- Enhanced education and interpretation opportunities including historic landscape, ecology and horticulture.
- Maintenance and enhancement of landscape character and quality

12.LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



12.1 The management plan strategy emerging from this process is based on an understanding of the Park’s context, fabric, qualities and condition. It is further informed the assessment of significance and identification of key threats and management issues. This process informs a long-term vision for the Park in order to confirm the strategy and to target the most important and worthy areas of conservation/enhancement through policies.

12.2 The current character and qualities of Hyde Park are much loved by the visiting public. The long term vision of this landscape is essentially grounded in conservation and enhancement of the existing framework. There is a need for flexibility – recognising that some change is inevitable due to wear and tear on fabric and facilities, the need for renewal of the living components of the parkland as they reach the end of their natural lives, and responding to new pressures and demands placed upon the park by the public – occasionally at odds with the historic fabric. There is also an aspiration for improvement including the desirability of outreach to wider audiences who could share in the enjoyment of the Park.

The Long Term Vision for Hyde Park

The vision strives for balance between conserving of the historic landscape – ambience, layout and authentic features – and meeting the needs and demands of current and potential uses.

The Hyde Park which is inherited into the twenty-second century should still focus around the Serpentine, the open lawns, parkland groupings of fine and diverse trees, the outer framework of carriage drives, perhaps returned to their original purpose and less abrasive condition, with stately rows of trees and historic vernacular of lodges, gates, monuments and memorials without proliferation. Within this, the park can still retain elements of rural ambience and reflect echoes of the former Deer chase. The Park should continue to boast and be worthy of fine horticultural displays; it should be a refuge for a more diverse and better protected range of wildlife, and it should continue to provide opportunity for occasional rather than frequent major events of national importance.

Within all this, the Park should continue to serve a diverse and inclusive public in providing free space for enjoyment, contemplation, inspiration and participation.

Specific Objectives

12.3 In summary the specific objectives for future landscape management are to:

- Maintain the current variety and quality of landscape character within the Park.
- Recognise, respect and restore/reinforce the structural elements of the early nineteenth century layout of carriage drives and day-rooms, monuments, and twentieth century additions.
- Strive for the highest standards of environmentally sustainable **management** and maximise the contribution of the park to wider urban quality of life objectives.
- Conserve and enhance the existing nature conservation value of the park and encourage enhancements of the Park’s biodiversity in line with ongoing local and city-wide biodiversity initiatives.

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- Continue to provide and maintain high quality infrastructure, buildings, landscape and horticulture and promote high standards of cleanliness and visitor safety throughout the park.
- Continue to provide visitor facilities, opportunities and settings within the park, particularly the informal recreational value of the park at all levels, while managing events and assemblies within confined and appropriate areas.
- Promote the Park to a wider range of audiences with emphasis on participation, social inclusion and Access for All.
- Realise the full value of the park as an educational resource.
- Manage Hyde Park in an open and transparent manner, for and on behalf of its users and visitors and, where appropriate, ensure consultation about major proposals or changes in management with stakeholders.
- Seek to recover lost territories of Park Lane and Marble Arch and to integrate them into the landscape and management of the Park.

PART 4. MANAGEMENT POLICIES



The following chapters contain overall management policies covering the different elements of Hyde Park landscape. These general policies address the aims and objectives of the landscape management strategy. They are grouped under six main headings:

- 13 Guiding Policies for Conservation;
- 14 Guiding Policies for Physical Context
- 15 Guiding Policies for Natural Fabric;
- 16 Guiding Policies for Built Fabric;
- 17 Guiding Policies for Public Access and Enjoyment;
- 18 Guiding Policies for Character Areas.



“Morning after” – barrier removal March 03



The Lido from the Cockpit: Sunday afternoon March 2003

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13. GUIDING POLICIES FOR CONSERVATION



POLICY CON1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

CON1: *The park will be managed to conserve and enhance its overall character and locally distinct variations of character areas within, whilst maintaining and complementing the diversity of historical, natural and recreational settings. The key views and vistas to, from, and within the Parks, will be protected and, where appropriate, strengthened. Built features contributing positively to landscape character will be conserved, although the introduction of new features will be carefully considered in relation to impacts on the historic character of the Park.*

Management Guidelines: Landscape Character

- 13.1 Most of the following policies relate, to a greater or lesser extent, to landscape character. Therefore specific management guidelines are not presented here. However the disposition of planting and its renewed/continuity will have a major determining influence on perception, spatial definition and character.

POLICY CON2: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

CON2: *The layout of Hyde Park reflects a complex and layered expression of its evolution through several centuries. Conservation of the landscape is based on recognition of cumulative layers and will seek to protect and renew those of greatest significance.*

Management Guidelines: Historic Landscape

CON2.1: Parkland layout

- 13.2 Preserve the broad spatial arrangement of Hyde Park largely as it exists today, composed of the central spine of the Serpentine the defining arteries of historic roads and carriage drives reinforced by respective lines of trees and counterpointed by other parkland assemblies and features.

POLICY CON3: ARCHAEOLOGY

CON3: *known archaeological remains will be conserved and protected in situ and the potential for archaeological remains will be considered in any future subsurface works.*

Management Guidelines: Archaeology

CON3.1: Baseline document

- 13.3 The RCHME survey of 1994 should be considered as an active document in relation to planning and decision making for new works in order to avoid inadvertent change to known surviving features. The data from RCHME plans (Figures 2 to 5 in the original RCHME report, Figures 9 to 12 as included here) should be incorporated as accessible CAD layers in the Hyde Park base plans for ready use in potential impact appraisal.



CON3.1: Archaeological watching briefs

As there are archaeological remains of known significance and further unknown potential, a watching brief will be prepared for any new works.

POLICY CON4: BIODIVERSITY

CON4: *The existing natural assets of the parkland will be conserved and enhanced. The Park will be managed to realise its biodiversity potential within the constraints of the historic landscape and public use. The aim will be to maintain and, where possible to enhance an appropriate mosaic of habitats (grassland, trees, freshwater, woodland, etc.) and within these to encourage as much structural and species diversity as possible and to maintain the balance of succession. A further aim will be to strengthen links with wider local and regional biodiversity objectives in London and Westminster.*

Management Guidelines: Biodiversity

CON4.1: Ecological survey

Work is in hand to develop the Hyde Park Wildlife Management Strategy (Draft: Landscape Design Associates, May 2002) to be based on full ecological survey and correlated with the Tree Management Strategy.

CON4.2: Recording

The Royal Parks Biological Recording System shall continue to be used to store all ecological data for the Park. All records collated for the Park in the past e.g. specialist surveys, bird records, other fauna/flora surveys and anecdotal wildlife records will be integrated and held in this central system and used to inform management, and as a baseline for monitoring the changes in the biodiversity of the park. Public access to selected information using the biological recording system is also encouraged.

CON4.3: Monitoring

An ecological monitoring strategy will be implemented which aims to collect standardised, repeatable information to allow managers to detect changes in the ecological condition of the park. This strategy should include monitoring wildfowl populations, parkland bird populations, ponds, newly sown, and “diversified” grasslands.

POLICY CON5: SUSTAINABILITY

CON5: *The TRP will strive for the highest standards of environmentally sustainable management throughout the parkland and will support wider sustainability objectives and agendas, including maintaining urban quality of life.*

Management Guidelines: Sustainability

CON5.1: Use of Chemicals

The use of chemicals – insecticides, molluscicides, herbicides, etc. will continue to be kept to the minimum necessary, in compliance with good horticultural standards and requirements for public health and safety.

CON5.2: Water and drainage

The use of water for irrigation will be kept to the minimum possible within the constraints of maintaining high horticultural standards. Wherever possible, SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) will be considered in any new built development or hard surfacing.

CON5.3: Energy and recycling

On site and off-site energy consumption and emissions will be minimised to the greatest extent possible through encouraging sustainable forms of transportation within the park, encouraging public transport to reach the park, and minimising the need for transport of goods and waste to/from the site, for example through on site recycling.



14. GUIDING POLICIES FOR PHYSICAL CONTEXT



POLICY PHY1: GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

PHY1: *The constraints and opportunities created by the physical nature of the landscape.*

Management Guidelines: Geology and Topography

There are no specific management issues, except in relation to particular aspects such as views and drainage, detailed elsewhere.

POLICY PHY2: SOILS

PHY2: *The soil environment will be ameliorated in specific, previously disturbed and heavily used areas to appropriate profile, depth and specification in order to fulfil its function as a substrate for plant growth.*

Management Guidelines: Soils

PHY2.1: A comprehensive programme to strip and reform the full soil construction of the Parade Ground over the underground car park and to upgrade adjacent areas of the Parade Ground to achieve greater wearability. This work would need to be phased over 3 years.

PHY2.2: Similar requirement for upgrade of the Great Exhibition Site for sports play use and smaller events.

POLICY PHY3: HYDROLOGY, DRAINAGE AND CONDUITS

PHY3: *The natural hydrological systems within Regent's Park and Primrose Hill shall be respect and it will be ensured that any discharge from the site meets the requirements of interested agencies.*

Management Guidelines: Hydrology, Drainage and Conduits

PHY3.1: Consider the presence of the former River Tyburn and its tributaries in drainage works and consider long-term opportunities for de-culverting and opening up the watercourse of the Little Tyburn Brook (subject in part to water quality considerations) in conjunction with landscape, biodiversity, and drainage functions.

PHY3.2: Review opportunities for restoring part of Bridgeman's "Great Lake" below the Serpentine outfall including upgrading of cascade and top basin.

PHY3.3: Undertake Panel 1 Engineer inspections of Serpentine embankment.

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POLICY PHY4: WATER

PHY4: *The water environment shall be managed to ensure it meets appropriate standards of water clarity and pollution control and contributes to the character and biodiversity of the parkland landscape.*

Management Guidelines: Water

PHY4.1: Water Quality

Continue to monitor and take action to reduce water pollution, including dredging and sediment control operations, control of wildfowl fouling, and discouragement of widespread feeding.

PHY4.2: Water Margins

Investigate opportunities for creating soft landscape water margins along specific sections of the Serpentine south shore and in particular towards the Dell embankment.

15. GUIDING POLICIES FOR NATURAL FABRIC



POLICY NAT1: TREES AND WOODLAND

NAT1: *The overall structure of tree planting with succession of established and historic lines of trees, informal groups and open assemblies of parkland trees will be maintained through an ongoing planting and tree renewal programme and with purposeful siting, selection and enhanced range of species.*

Management Guidelines: Trees and Woodland

NAT1.1: Tree survey

A new tree survey is required to include of all the trees within the Park their species, location and condition along with any health and safety concerns. This should be linked to GIS baseline map and schedules as identified in the draft Tree Management Strategy (LDA April 02).

NAT1.2: Tree strategy

The findings of the tree survey will be considered against historical data and coordinated with landscape character objectives including views and spatial definition to form the basis for the planting conservation and tree management strategy. Royal Parks will give increased priority to the maintenance of newly planted trees to ensure successful establishment.

NAT1.3: Veteran Trees

Careful consideration will be given to the conservation of veteran trees for their visual, historical and biodiversity interest, with specific arboricultural measures to promote good practice and with due regard to health and safety considerations. Physical protection, deep mulching of root spread (as in Kew projects) and crown lightening may need to be considered in specific and worthy cases.

POLICY NAT2: GRASSLAND

NAT2: *The extent of grassland shall be maintained generally in its current regimes with, necessarily, the majority held as amenity grass. Different mowing regimes including meadow for both the extensive north meadow (Little Tyburn Valley) and localised meadow swatches, will be implemented to ensure that the character of the sward remains appropriate to the nature of each area and its use and to, where possible, contribute to biodiversity targets.*

Management Guidelines: Grassland

NAT2.1: Grassland strategy

A grassland management plan will be prepared as part of the Wildlife Management Strategy. This will include a drawn plan indicating the main grassland types and setting out mowing regimes including mowing heights, frequency and timing of mowing and any specific requirements for amelioration or enhancement.

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POLICY NAT3: HORTICULTURAL DISPLAY AREAS

NAT3: *The current extent of flowerbeds and ornamental shrubberies will be maintained to a very high horticultural standard and design quality. The distinct characters and qualities of the main horticultural areas will be emphasised. Where opportunity permits with enclosed shrubberies further adjustments will be made to form discrete glades framed with native shrubs for biodiversity enhancement.*

Management Guidelines: Horticultural Display Area

NAT3.1: Management of seasonal interest

The horticultural areas will be maintained to provide seasonal interest and variation for the delight of visitors. Accordingly, the condition and nature of the planting will be reviewed regularly and rejuvenated, recognising that plants are subject to growth and aging. The colour of annual bedding schemes will be carefully designed and controlled.

NAT3.2: New Horticultural Areas

There will be a general presumption against the creation of new areas of horticultural display and ornamental planting will 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.

POLICY NAT4: ECOLOGY AND WILDLIFE

NAT4: *In accordance with guiding principle CON4 the ecology of the parks will be conserved and enhanced.*

Management Guidelines: Ecology and Wildlife

NAT4.1: The development of this policy will be informed by current work in hand in preparing the Wildlife Management Strategy (LDA: Draft document; 2002).

NAT4.2: Habitat management and enhancement

Areas of existing habitat value, particularly those that are subject to specific BAP initiatives shall continue to be managed to a high standard.

Trees: The current tree resource shall be managed to create structural and species diversity with a preference for native species of local provenance and with due respect for historical and landscape precedent. The longevity of individual specimens shall be encouraged and, where possible, areas of dead wood will be left in situ to benefit invertebrate communities.

Woodland: The contribution of “woodland” to the park will be increased through appropriate planting and management of the tree, scrub and ground layer within existing areas such as the Nursery banks and adjacent areas and Serpentine Island.

Meadowland: A co-ordinated grassland management strategy will be established throughout the park aiming to achieve a balance between recreational interests and nature conservation. Wildlife shall be considered in the management of all grassland areas, for example through

allowing clippings to stand for 24 hours prior to removal, wherever possible. Appropriate mowing regimes shall be devised to encourage floristic diversity throughout the existing meadows and extended where practical to other margins.

Waterside Ecology: Opportunities will be sought in limited areas to establish soft edge waterside planting whilst respecting historic and landscape values. In particular targeted improvements should be made to the marginal vegetation/macrophytes communities and development of a soft un-engineered bankside edge. In specific sections of the north shore of the Serpentine and at Fisherman’s Keep.

NAT4.3: Habitat Creation

Viable opportunities for habitat creation shall be taken, with particular emphasis placed upon developing connectivity and creating ‘wildlife corridors’. In particular specific opportunities exist for the ecological enhancement within the Nursery banks bird sanctuary with the introduction of managed glades and provision of mini water holes. Management of the Hudson Memorial can be adapted to be more outwardly habitat related; and potential to open up part of the “lost” Little Tyburn stream and to form a small “wallow” pool near the Mountbatten shrubbery.

NAT4.4: Control of Invasive Species

Flora: Invasive plant species (such as sycamore and Japanese Knotweed if occurring) will be sensitively controlled, using hand and mechanical methods instead of chemical methods wherever possible.

Fauna: The populations of invasive species of common fauna (such as Canada Geese) shall be humanely controlled to prevent species dominance threatening populations of more ecologically valuable species. Where, appropriate, this will be supported by visitor education initiatives.

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16. GUIDING POLICIES FOR BUILT FABRIC



POLICY BUIL1: BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

BUIL1: The importance of buildings to the character and historic ambience of the park will be respected and all buildings, particularly listed buildings, will be maintained to a high standard of physical repair, visual quality and usability. There will be a general presumption against the construction of new buildings and use of buildings should relate positively to park visitor or staff needs.

Management Guidelines: Buildings and Structures

BUIL1.1: Existing Buildings

The existing buildings will be used and maintained in a manner appropriate to the Royal Park and occupation of as many park lodges as practicable by key staff of the TRP will be encouraged.

BUIL1.2 Setting of Buildings

The setting of buildings will be designed and managed to create an historically and visually appropriate relationship with the park.

BUIL1.3: New Buildings

Generally there will be a presumption against the construction of additional new buildings and this will only be contemplated when these are considered essential for public use and enjoyment and where no existing building can be used or reasonably adapted for purpose.

BUIL1.4: Mobile Catering Outlets

Careful consideration should be given to the siting and appearance of mobile catering outlets, which need to be positively visible to their clientele, but should not be intrusive or injurious to the parkland context. There are particular opportunities for re-siting that at the west end of Serpentine Road possibly in conjunction with modifications to the adjacent enclosed shrubbery. There is also opportunity to consider a better and integrated relationship between the boat hire office, the landing stage and the adjacent mobile.

BUIL1.5: Speakers Corner venting and vending:

There is some urgency in addressing the catering needs of this outlet in conjunction with maintenance/possible renewal of ventilation for the underground car park.

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POLICY BUIL2: ROADS, PATHS AND HARD SURFACES

BUIL2: The extent of hard surfacing within the parks shall be controlled and where possible rationalised. All hard surfacing shall be maintained to a high standard of physical repair suitable for specific purpose and will be sympathetically assimilated into the parkland setting.

Management Guidelines: Roads, Paths and Hard Surfaces

BUIL2.1: Review of circulation routes

A full review of the existing circulation network of paths and hard surfacing should be undertaken and consideration given to opportunities for reducing superfluous hard surfacing.

BUIL2.2: Existing paths and hard surfaces

The existing surfaces shall be maintained to a high standard, particularly those of historic significance, and in parkland setting, using fixed gravel surfacing that adds to the sense of 'superiority' and distinctiveness in preference to tarmac.

BUIL2.3: Existing roads

Further investigation into timetabled closure of North and South Carriage Drives and potential for road width reduction on South Carriage Drive.

BUIL2.4: New Roads, Paths and Hard Surfaces

There will be a general presumption against increases in the extent of hard surfacing and this will only be permitted where there are specific tangible benefits for public access, safety or needs.

BUIL2.5: Closure of Ladies' Walk/Rotten Row cycleway

In favour of cycle lane provision on South Carriage Drive.

POLICY BUIL3: BOUNDARY TREATMENTS AND ENTRANCES

BUIL3: The Royal Parks will promote an appropriate image and sense of entry through the provision of high quality boundaries and gateways that are functional and reflect the historic character and ambience of the park.

Management Guidelines: Boundary Treatments and Entrances

BUIL3.1: Existing boundary gateways and fencing

The number and security of the existing gateways on boundaries is adequate. However, there is a need to consider improvements to the nature and quality of the finish most specifically at Edinburgh Gate, at Cumberland Gate and with less prominent but effective protection from traffic, at Coalbrookdale

BUIL3.2: Railings

Internal railings should be maintained to a high visual and functional standard, continuing the programme of replacing arrowhead railings with bullet points.

POLICY BUIL4: ARTEFACTS AND MONUMENTS

BUIL4: The number and current disposition of artefacts and monuments within the park shall be retained and these will be maintained to a high physical and visual standard, particularly those that have listed building status. Generally, there will be a presumption against the introduction and proliferation of new permanent sculptures.

Management Guidelines: Artefacts and Monuments

BUIL4.1: New Sculptures and temporary displays

New sculptures, including temporary displays, shall only be introduced when they make a positive contribution to the park landscape. Where permitted they shall generally be restricted to areas with an ornamental character and shall be appropriately integrated into their parkland setting.

POLICY BUIL5: PARKLAND FURNITURE

BUIL5: All parkland furniture shall meet visitor and safety requirements and will be maintained to a high standard and make a positive visual contribution to the park landscape.

Management Guidelines: Parkland Furniture

BUIL5.1: Coordination of Park Furnishings

A full review of the furniture within the Park shall be undertaken from which a coordinated strategy of parkland furniture will be adopted. This should promote harmony between the different elements of furniture, whilst encouraging distinctive themes appropriate to the character of each area. There should also be some co-ordination across the Royal Parks as a whole to make best use of available styles (eg. use of Yates-Haywood cast iron bench types in certain horticultural areas). All furniture will be appropriately sited to ensure it meets user needs and does not detract from the parkland setting.

BUIL5.2: Existing Furniture

The existing level of parkland furniture is thought to be adequate. However, there are localised areas which may benefit from additional benches, dog bins etc. Broken or vandalised furniture will be repaired with speed.

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POLICY BUIL6: LIGHTING

BUIL6: The current level of lighting within the Park will be maintained at existing levels and in existing styles.

Management Guidelines: Lighting

BUIL6.1: Existing Lighting

Existing lamp posts and light fittings – many listed – will be conserved in active use as an inherent part of the cultural landscape.

BUIL6.2: New Lighting

No new lighting will be introduced except where closure to traffic on carriage drives would permit return to traditional styles.

17. GUILDING POLICIES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND ENJOYMENT



POLICY PUB1: VISITOR EXPERIENCE

PUB1: Hyde Park shall continue to offer visitors the ability to experience a peaceful, green landscape with opportunities for casual, spontaneous and passive recreation. Where compatible, within this overall framework a diversity of more formal facilities will continue to be provided to meet the requirements of specific user groups, for example the Sporting Club, Lido swimming, horse riding, environmental education, children's play etc. All facilities shall be safe for use and compatible with the historic setting of the Park.

Management Guidelines: Visitor Experience

PUB1.1: Visitor survey

The TRP will continue to carry out annual visitor surveys of park use and satisfaction and will feedback these findings into park management. Visitor Surveys should extend beyond the park boundary to consider the needs of potential users currently not making use of the park.

POLICY PUB2: PUBLIC ACCESS

PUB2: Free and open access will continue to be provided during the current opening hours to all areas of the Park within control of the TRP, except where this would present a risk to safety, would conflict with current lease arrangements, cause damage to the wildlife resource or where areas are required for park management purpose or where paid entry is established (eg. for boating access on the Serpentine).

Management Guidelines: Public Access

BUIL2.1: Access for all

Access for all will be a priority throughout the park and the needs of physically and visually impaired visitors shall be taken into account in any review of the current infrastructure or new schemes/

POLICY PUB3: VISITOR SAFETY

PUB3: The TRP will aim to provide an environment in which visitors can enjoy the park and its facilities in safety.

Management Guidelines: Visitor Safety

PUB3.1: Health and safety standards

All applicable UK and European health and safety standards shall be enforced throughout the parks, including the repair of infrastructure, water quality, events control, food standards etc.

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PUB3.2: Crime

The TRP will work with the RPC sensitively to maintain the low levels of crime currently enjoyed and to seek opportunities for the further reduction of crime. A policy of community policing shall continue to be pursued.

PUB3.3: Vandalism

The TRP shall ensure that vandalism is kept to the minimum through consideration of potential vandalism in new developments and provision of infrastructure, although this will not be allowed to unbalance other aspects relating to visitor comfort, historical considerations, or visual quality. The removal of visible signs of vandalism will be a priority. Graffiti will normally be removed within 24 hours and other infrastructure repaired at the earliest practicable opportunity.

POLICY PUB4: CONTROL OF ANIMALS

PUB4: The TRP will cooperate with owners to ensure that no animal brought to the park represents a direct or indirect safety hazard for other visitors.

Management Guidelines: Control of Animals

PUB4.1: Type and number of animals permitted

Only safe, domestic animals may be brought to the park by visitors. Dogs will be permitted within the conditions imposed by the Dog Walkers Code of Conduct/Royal Parks Regulations, which limits number of dogs per visitor etc.

PUB4.2: Control of Dogs

Dogs shall be kept under the control of owners and a series of dog-free and dog-leash zones will continue to be enforced to reduce conflict between different park users. Dogs shall be kept within sight and under control at all times and shall continue to be excluded from the children’s playgrounds and from gated ornamental gardens.

PUB4.3: Dog Faeces

The TRP will seek to work with owners to reduce and ultimately eliminate dog faeces within the Park. To this end the TRP will continue to provide an adequate, suitably located number of dog bins. Use of these will be encouraged by a combination of visitor education and enforcement by the Royal Parks Constabulary.

POLICY PUB5: VISITOR CIRCULATION

PUB5: Pedestrian priority will continue to apply throughout the Park.

Management Guidelines: Visitor Circulation

PUB5.1: Pedestrian circulation

Peaceful pedestrian enjoyment of the Park shall be encouraged ranging throughout the Park and considered as priority in relation to other potentially shared uses. The use of rollerblades, non motorised scooters, skateboards etc. will be tolerated only where these do not adversely impact upon the park infrastructure but shall not be separately facilitated. Appropriate safety improvements shall be made, for example on Serpentine Road, to road crossings etc. Further consideration will be given to the impact of jogging paths/desire lines which are becoming increasingly engrained.

PUB5.2 Vehicular traffic

Vehicular traffic (with the exception of essential TRP maintenance vehicles) shall be confined to the carriage drive areas and within operating hours and Sunday closure procedures.

PUB5.3: Cycling

The TRP will support wider initiatives to encourage cycling and will accordingly improve safety provisions for cyclists on the three Carriage Drives, and on the Broad Walk with lane marking provisions. TRP will review the existing provision on Ladies’ Walk (Rotten Row) with view to closure of this route in favour of reasonable alternative provision on South Carriage Drive. TRP will explore opportunities for provision of cycle racks in relation to this existing network to encourage cycling to the park. There will be a presumption against making further provision for cycling in the park (due to concerns for pedestrian safety).

POLICY PUB6: ROADS AND TRAFFIC

PUB6: The TRP will seek to reduce the speed, dominance and intrusiveness of traffic in and around the park.

Management Guidelines: Roads and Traffic

PUB6.1: Carriage Drives

The TRP will consider long-term options for improving the ambience of the park by continuing to restrict the use of roads within the park by combinations of traffic calming and will pursue opportunities for further timetable closing of North, South and eventually West Carriage Drive.



POLICY PUB7: CAR PARKING

PUB7: *There shall be no extension of car parking at the expense of park territory. The current parking provision will be reviewed in order to consider consolidation and possibilities of phased reduction.*

Management Guidelines: Car Parking

PUB7.1: Charged car parking is available with specific timetable limits at five locations and shall be retained in operation subject to further review.

PUB7.2: Transport strategy

The impact of the emerging Transport Strategy for London and congestion charging upon the park generally and parking/traffic issues in particular will be considered in cooperation with surrounding agencies. Methods of ameliorating impacts, e.g. through cordon boundary amendments, will be identified.

POLICY PUB8: FACILITIES

PUB8: *The TRP will ensure that all facilities provided within the Park are of appropriate capacity, are suitably located, of a high standard, cater for a wide range of visitors and provide 'access for all' to the greatest extent possible. Facilities should conform to all relevant health and safety legislation.*

Management Guidelines: Facilities

PUB8.1: Provision of new facilities

There will be general presumption against the provision of new facilities which would alienate park territory to a specific user group.

PUB8.2: Toilets

The current provision of toilets at four locations within the Park (including those associated with the Dell Restaurant and the Lido regarded as adequate given the distribution of other facilities at or close to Park boundaries. Such toilet provision will be maintained to a high standard with the recognition of need for improvements at the Dell.

PUB8.3: Catering

The catering facilities shall be reviewed on an ongoing basis. It is anticipated that the current level of provision will be generally adequate.

PUB8.4: Children's playground

The single playground near Edinburgh Gate is considered adequate given consideration of that which is available at Buckhill in Kensington Gardens near Victoria Gate. The quality and condition of this playground should be monitored with periodic upgrading and renewal of equipment, surfacing and enclosure to meet health and safety objectives and to provide play opportunities for physically and visually impaired children.

POLICY PUB9: SPORT

PUB9: *Hyde Park will continue to provide existing but limited provision of formal sports activities at the Hyde Park Sporting Club close to Alexandra Gate. This will be of high quality.*

Management Guidelines: Sport

PUB9.1: Location of Sports facilities

Sports facilities will be organised to ensure the most effective use of the area devoted to sport whilst promoting flexibility and improving access to these facilities. Opportunities for informal and spontaneous sporting activities is available at the Great Exhibition site. Such use and activity will be monitored and kept under review. Consideration will be given to the introduction of a ball games policy in relation to increasing risks and levels of conflict with pedestrians.

POLICY PUB10: EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

PUB10: *Hyde Park shall continue to promote and facilitate a programme of smaller-scale events whilst ensuring that these are relevant to the park context and physically can be integrated into the parkland setting without long-term impacts or significant visitor conflict. The use of the Parade Ground for infrequent events of national standing shall be reviewed carefully in relation to the approved Events Strategy and the Events Programme. Extent, frequency and duration need to be strictly controlled and related to physical improvements for the carrying capacity and recovery of the ground.*

Management Guidelines: Events and Entertainment

PUB10.1: Nature and magnitude of events and entertainment

The type and scale of event should relate to the Park's setting and capacity of respective sites and in accordance with the approved Events Strategy (2004). The Events Strategy itself shall be subject to review by 2007. The TRP will support and promote small-scale events such as music and children's entertainment including use of the bandstand and opportunities at the Lido.

PUB10.2: Events on the Parade Ground

The frequency of large events should be restricted, and with reference to the Events Strategy, due to the effects of ground disturbance and need for reinstatement/recovery, also taking into account the less predictable impacts and demands caused by use of the Park as a venue for rallies and demonstrations. [Note that in summer 2005, in response to overwhelming public pressures, Hyde Park was the venue for Live8 concert. This replaced the proposed "Party in the Park". TRP waived ground hire fees but recovered basic costs for the event.]

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POLICY PUB11: ORIENTATION AND SIGNAGE

PUB11: *Visitor orientation within the parks shall be of a high quality and effective and will seek to coordinate and complement the orientation signage and provision implemented by adjacent authorities.*

Management Guidelines: Orientation and Signage

PUB11.1: Signage within the park

The level of signage shall be kept to the minimum required to orientate new visitors to and within the park. All proposals for new signage (for example for commemorative walkways or trails) within the park shall only be considered by the Park Management and shall not be provided where this is deemed to be in the interest of the wider visiting public.

POLICY PUB12: EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

PUB12: *The high educational value of Hyde Park will be promoted with particular emphasis placed on interpreting aspects of historic, horticultural and ecological significance.*

Management Guidelines: Education and Interpretation

PUB12.1: Interpretative material

The TRP will continue to explore further opportunities for the provision of interpretation to enhance visitor appreciation and enjoyment of the Parks individually and collectively. This shall encompass provision of themed leaflets, potentially associated with trails; information displays on signboards and sensitively sited and designed in situ interpretation boards, such as the wildfowl interpretation board for specific locations but avoiding proliferation of signage.

PUB12.2: Archive

The TRP will explore opportunities for the creation of a central archive for Hyde Park and to make this accessible through application for study purposes.

PUB12.3: The Lookout

The TRP will continue to promote The Lookout as an environmental education centre for children with related links to use of the Ranger's Lodge Garden and, through the Education Officer, to potential networking into other TRP Environmental Education facilities in other Royal Parks, and in outreach.

PUB12.4: Guided interpretation walks

Small-scale interpretative events and guided walks by TRP and other interested groups such as the Friends will be encouraged.

PUB12.5: Education to minimise management conflict

Information shall be used to inform visitors in order to minimise conflict with management objectives. This will include explaining potentially controversial management decisions (e.g. tree removal) and explaining to the public why their (often well-intentioned) actions are creating management problems such as nutrient enrichment problems associated with duck-feeding or dog fouling in the meadows.

POLICY PUB13: PARK MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

PUB13: *The Royal Parks will continue to pursue its management of Hyde Park in an open and transparent manner for and on behalf of its users and visitors and in accordance with its status as a park of national significance.*

Management Guidelines: Park Management and Consultation

PUB13.1: Staffing resources

The TRP will ensure that staffing resources are sufficient to meet the objectives of the published management plan and obligations set out in other key documents such as the Corporate Plan. Where appropriate, staffing resources should continue to be shared between the Royal Parks. Where additional staffing resources are required or desired the TRP will seek to fill these vacancies with appropriately competent personnel.

PUB13.2: Landscape maintenance, hardworks and specialist contractors

Contractors will be hired as appropriate to fulfil day-to-day and specific projects demanded by the management plan. All contractors shall work in accordance with the plan and shall be answerable to the Park Manager. Contractors must be aware of the Park Management Plan, shall maintain a high standard of behaviour and conduct and shall achieve the quality of work specified in their contract.

PUB13.3: Stakeholder consultation

The TRP will facilitate the participation of stakeholders and interest groups in applying park management objectives and in the consideration of any significant specific projects to enable all groups to work together for the benefit of the parks. Accordingly, regular liaison meetings will be held with key stakeholders.

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POLICY PUB14: QUALITY

PUB14: *The TRP will seek to maintain the high quality of the park experience through procuring appropriate funds and implementing quality management.*

Management Guidelines: Quality

PUB14.1: Finance

The TRP will seek to increase opportunities for income generation and raise additional resources to support the conservation and enhancement of the Park for public enjoyment.

BUIL14.2: Quality Assurance

The TRP will continue to pursue ‘Investor in People’ and ISO 14001 accreditation, and will make specific changes required to reach the standards required. The TRP will also seek to maintain the standards that have led to the award of a Charter Mark on three occasions in the past.

18. GUIDING POLICIES FOR LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND VIEWS



Note: for simplicity of numbering so that CHA policy numbers are consistent with character area reference numbers, the policies related to views are taken at the end of this section from CHA30.1 to CHA30.4.

AREA 1: HYDE PARK CORNER

CHA1: The area of Hyde Park Corner within the Ionic Screen and through to the Serpentine Road and the Broadwalk will be enhanced as the principal entrance into the Park while maintaining key accesses – pedestrian, cycle, horse, horse and carriage, ceremonial and security movements and respecting listed structures.

Management Guidelines: Hyde Park Corner

CHA1.1: TRP will develop these proposals in dialogue with English Heritage and other interest groups identified by and collaborating in “*Turning the Corner*”.

CHA1.2: TRP will seek to limit and eventually exclude through traffic on South Carriage Drive in order to enhance the Park and this setting. TRP will consider access arrangements to Serpentine Road and signage in this area.

AREA 2: THE ROSE GARDENS

The general area of The Rose Gardens character area will be conserved with its principal component features of gardens, display beds, open lawns, promenade walks, and its established tree collection, with potential for specific horticultural enhancements relating to the pergolas and beds.

Management Guidelines: The Rose Gardens

CHA2.1: The lawns and tree collections should not be compromised, giving high priority to the conservation of veteran ornamental specimens.

CHA2.2: The herbaceous bedding layout, the arched pergolas and the display beds are horticultural features of interest and value but their patterns of layout and choices of material should not be regarded as fixed. In the traditions of horticultural display in the Royal Park, these components may be modified or redesigned.

CHA2.3: Closer attention will be given to the selection and siting of benches on Nannies’ path and in the garden areas with reintroduction of cast iron bench types accordingly.

CHA2.4: Local redesign to reduce problems of environmental damage and horticultural activities in this area due to cruising.

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AREA 3: THE DELL

CHA3: The Dell will be maintained as a quiet “window” garden integrating the best of horticultural and biodiversity enhancements.

Management Guidelines: The Dell

CHA3.1: Panel 1 Engineer inspections required for earth dam of the Serpentine.

CHA3.2: Development of garden layout to incorporate biodiversity enhancements, including increasing visibility and performance of cascade, enlargement of pool and other water recycling opportunities, meadow counterpoint to lawn, and native shrubs on upper bank.

AREA 4: THE SERPENTINE

CHA4: The shape, size and flow characteristics of the Serpentine, as a historic water body which is powerfully visible in core of Hyde Park, will be protected and conserved, affording enhancements in specific shoreline sections, while retaining the “serpentine line” of the North Shore.

Management Guidelines: The Serpentine

CHA4.1: Prepare scheme for shoreline enhancements for biodiversity, including protected sections of soft shoreline, with reed replanting in limited areas of South Shore and carefully related to long shore visibility of the “serpentine line”.

CHA4.2: Balanced control of hire boat numbers, types, colours and hire conditions including public behaviour through licence.

CHA4.3: Prepare design feasibility for potential assimilation of boating office/jetty/mobile catering as integrated facility.

CHA4.4: Review management prescriptions for Serpentine Island with view to biodiversity enhancements and control of wildfowl populations.

CHA4.5: Prepare proposals for biodiversity enhancements on east shoreline (Fisherman’s Keep to Cascade Bridge).

AREA 5: THE LIDO

CHA5: The Lido will be maintained as an important facility, providing its existing range of changing, swimming, catering facilities related to the Serpentine and to the new Diana Memorial Fountain.

Management Guidelines: The Lido

CHA5.1: Maintain the existing facilities and seek opportunities for small scale events and entertainment around this venue.

CHA5.2: In conjunction with the Diana Memorial Fountain landscaping, upgrade adjacent shrubberies and grassland for biodiversity enhancements.

CHA5.3: Monitor use (visitor numbers, wear and tear) at and around the very popular Diana Memorial Fountain and consider local adaptations in relation to fence line and planting.

AREA 6: THE SOUTHERN PARKLAND

CHA6: The character of the southern parkland as informal space, with carefully balanced density of parkland trees of varied species and single genus groups, will be respected and conserved.

Management Guidelines: The Southern Parkland

CHA 6.1: Review and plan for appropriate succession of tree populations, maintaining diversity of arboricultural interest.

CHA6.2: Prepare detailed plan for biodiversity enhancements to include narrow bands of meadow swatches, carefully positioned to maintain generous amenity spaces and easy pedestrian movement.

AREA 7: ROTTEN ROW

The historic landscape feature of Rotten Row, with its prepared riding surface, verges related rows of trees, railings, and the adjacent Ladies’ Walk with its own related lines of trees will be respected and conserved.

Management Guidelines: Rotten Row

CHA7.1: Maintain the riding surface to high standard.

CHA7.2: Promote and encourage riding on Rotten Row as an important part of the Park’s image.

CHA7.3: Continue the programme of restoring cast iron railing/bollards to provide additional containment for example to south side (double width) loop section of the riding surface, also protecting south verges, to prevent access wear to zigzag paths and, as priority, to define pedestrian crossing points.

CHA7.4: Continue with gap planting renewal of tree lines including eastward extension of Ladies Walk limes (north side) to east of beyond the Dell.

CHA7.5: In the light of greatly increased cycle traffic and increasing conflict with pedestrians along and across this route, seek to close Ladies Walk cycleway in providing upgraded lane provision on South Carriage Drive. This would have some ramifications for the link to the continuation of the route westward through Kensington Gardens.

AREA 8: GREAT EXHIBITION SITE

CHA8: The Great Exhibition Site should be retained as an important open space, framed by its east-west lines of trees, protecting strategic views to Albert Memorial (west) and London Eye (east), and affording robust (improved) grass surfaces which can support informal sports, games and occasional events, with retained facilities of the Hyde Park Sporting Club, the Menage, and the playground.

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Management Guideline: The Great Exhibition Site

CHA8.1: Ground improvement of main field area so that it is capable of more active use and occasional events.

CHA8.2: Continuation of existing playground, manege and Sporting Club facilities with limited planting to contain but not to obstruct axis views to east and west.

CHA8.3: Occasional events to celebrate the Crystal Palace with ephemeral markings; consider permanent interpretive signage for the Great Exhibition.

CHA8.4: Prepare plan for limited meadow strands for biodiversity potential along some edges but allowing convenient pedestrian passage.

CHA8.5: Prepare feasibility study for potential “wallow pond” (within protected enclosure) in lower ground near Mountbatten Shrubbery as biodiversity gain.

CHA8.6: Prepare marketing and publicity requirements of Bowling Green facilities consideration.

AREA 9: WEST CARRIAGE DRIVE

CHA9: West Carriage Drive will be retained as an essential road serving the Park for public access and for maintenance and security access, but with the longer term possibility of reducing the through route impact – either by tunnelling or by stopping up – in order to favour more comfortable landscape and pedestrian transition between Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

Management Guidelines: West Carriage Drive

CHA9.1: For the time being, vehicular access will be retained to serve car parking opportunities which relate to Park access and facilities. The process of constraining through traffic by design measures and traffic calming will be pursued in order to favour and support safety of pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders.

CHA9.2: TRP will encourage other authorities to investigate tunnelling opportunities if, in the light of the London Plan and related traffic reviews, the north-south route through Hyde Park is considered to be of strategic significance for retention or improvement.

CHA9.3: Long term redesign of junction with North Carriage Drive.

CHA9.4: Pedestrian/cycle connectivity routes and crossings to be considered between Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park.

CHA9.5: Seek to obtain benefits from Cross Rail proposals which may affect this area near Victoria Gate with enhancements on pedestrian access/safety and wildlife connectivity.

AREA 10: SERPENTINE ROAD

CHA10: Serpentine Road will be conserved in its style as one of the Carriage Drives with its associated vernacular of trees, park furniture, lighting, and surfacing to provide the multi-purpose use alongside the Serpentine (North Shore) promenade.

Management Guidelines: Serpentine Road

CHA10.1: Maintain existing surfaces including horse ride (with specific drainage improvements), furniture and fittings, to facilitate essential access and shared use as cycleway.

CHA10.2: In view of increasing popularity for use of the road for roller blading including spontaneous dancing displays, stunts and tag team riding, establish code of conduct with representative interest groups.

CHA10.3: Review possibility and benefits of providing Rotten Row style railings/bollards to particular (congested) areas as at west end (Cockpit) and at Dell Restaurant crossing.

CHA10.4: Prepare detailed plan for renewal of tree planting including provision of tree grilles in paving. (Priority to complete along the Waterside section, continuing subsequently to the east in replacement for former line of elm trees).

AREA 11: THE COCKPIT LAWNS

CHA11: The character of this area will be conserved as grass, trees and historic landform.

Management Guidelines: The Cockpit Lawns

CHA11.1: In conserving the essential parkland character of this area and through the Tree Management Strategy, TRP will seek to modify the composition of tree stock over time to reduce the dominance of plane trees towards to east side (and into the Little Tyburn Valley), to reinforce the band of oaks surrounding the Cockpit landform and to plan carefully for succession including some more unusual species and varieties of trees. [The Friends (of Hyde Park) have recently contributed to the planting of 22 oak trees on the upper slope of the Cockpit semi-circle].

CHA11.2: While the lower “lawns” will remain in amenity grass, meadow grass swathes and swatches will be planned carefully into the upper terrace and valley flank areas, allowing generous access corridors for pedestrian movement.

AREA 12: THE SERPENTINE LAWNS

CHA12: The character of this area will be respected with emphasis on restoring small numbers of specific single genera assemblies of parkland trees, reflecting known historical patterns.

Management Guidelines: The Serpentine Lawns

CHA12.1: Priority given to maintaining this as one of the most well used amenity “lawns”, enjoying south facing orientation and views across the Serpentine.

CHA12.2: Careful planning to restore small numbers of trees in particular planting formations, also giving due recognition to archaeological interest and recording.

CHA12.3: Opportunity (in conjunction with Area 19. below) to reconsider the detailed layout of the splayed footpath junctions (Patte d’oie) at Little Nell (Colton Memorial) with view to reducing overall extent of hard surfacing but also ensuring provision for key desire lines and access to the Parade Ground.

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AREA 13: THE LITTLE TYBURN VALLEY

Conservation of this contrasting area of topography and landscape character as a more remote and rural area of the Park, seeking to re-establish its former water course and to respect existing features of the dipping well.

Management Guidelines: The Little Tyburn Valley

CHA13.1: Priority in keeping to consistent meadow cutting regime (timing) and practice which will gradually enhance biodiversity interest.

CHA13.2: Gradual and selective thinning of (some) trees in lower valley in order to re-establish views to the Serpentine and more interesting understorey as well as introducing further diversity of tree species as woodland flanks.

CHA13.3: Investigation into water source and quality with view to opening up part of the culverted water course (possibly also related to existing off line pond in the lower part of the Ranger's Lodge garden) and making appropriate reconnection to the Serpentine.

CHA13.4: Cheesecake House project to identify original site and form, with consideration of temporary marking (subject to relationship with Serpentine Road, essential accesses, other built structure).

AREA 14: RANGER'S LODGE

CHA14: The group of buildings, comprising the Ranger's Lodge, the Storeyard, the Old Police House and other service and residential accommodation and lodges, will be conserved with appropriate boundary security and privacy as appropriate.

Management Guidelines: Ranger's Lodge and the Old Police House

CHA14.1: Maintain historical buildings and service core functions, ensuring that component pieces of the yard layout – the west archway and the storeyard clock are conserved in any rationalisation.

CHA14.2: Use special opportunities to enhance Ranger's Lodge garden as a showpiece of horticultural capability and design; also making the area available for educational use (nature conservation interest) and for (controlled) public viewing on specific occasions.

CHA14.3: Maintain appropriate enclosure, privacy and security while encouraging wildlife/biodiversity opportunities within (private) gardens of lodge residences.

CHA14.4: Enhance public accessibility to the Old Police House as an important part of TRP image and information exchange with the public.

CHA14.5: Maintain and enhance east/west view across pond and the setting of Ranger's Lodge.

AREA 15: THE NURSERY

CHA15: The Nursery will be retained as an operational support facility. Its enclosing planted embankment will be conserved as the bird sanctuary and managed positively for enhanced biodiversity in conjunction with the Hudson Memorial setting.

Management Guidelines: The Nursery

CHA15.1: Continuation of nursery and support functions may require upgrade of internal layout and facilities.

CHA15.2: Promote biodiversity enhancement opportunities in enclosing sanctuary banks by managing small glades, increasing content of native planting, small scale ponds/water sources, dead wood stacks, and undisturbed coarse mulch heaps.

CHA15.3: Possibility of diverting part of encircling path (north/north-east sector) away from railings which would provide continuity for meadow verge and better relationship with sanctuary banks.

CHA15.4: Undertake subtle upgrade of the Hudson Memorial glade to include meadow fringes and side glades so that the memorial is not so stark and provides more overt biodiversity interest (counterpoint of lawn and meadow; cut back of yew hedge frame).

AREA 16: NORTH WEST PARKLAND

The character of this north western corner of the Park as a remnant of the former deer park will be strengthened by locally increasing the density of native oak planting in some clumps, thereby retaining the parkland feeling while merging towards "wood pasture" on the outer boundaries, also relating to the established densities around the Nursery and extending the meadow into more open areas.

Management Guidelines: North West Parkland

CHA16.1: Respect for traces of medieval field patterns and other archaeological potential.

CHA16.2: Importance of maintaining parkland quality with locally increased planting densities of native species especially oak.

CHA16.3: Opportunities for extending meadow grassland regimes with some amenity glades and with patterns related to adjacent connectivity.

AREA 17: NORTHERN PARKLAND

CHA17: The character of the Northern Parkland will be conserved in its existing form as predominant open parkland with relatively isolated trees and group of trees except around its peripheries, and with care and respect for the known archaeological features and other unknown potential of medieval field patterns.

Management Guidelines: Northern Parkland

CHA17.1: Limited and purposeful replacement planting of native species for diversity without increasing overall density.

CHA17.2: Continuing meadow management for areas on east side of the Little Tyburn Valley, with extended opportunities for further connectivity as (new) meadow swatches, allowing generous amenity swathes for public access.

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Figure 20: Selected Character Areas



Area 10: Cockpit Lawns & Little Tyburn Valley



Area 20: Speakers Corner



Area 13: Meadow in the Little Tyburn Valley



Area 19: The Parade Ground



Area 24: North Carriage Drive



Area 21: The Broadwalk



Area 7: Rotten Row/The Ladies Walk



Area 27: Park Lane

AREA 18: THE RESERVOIR

CHA18: The landscape of the Reservoir will be conserved as a planting incident around the Victorian reservoir structure, with further recognition and restoration of the original layout of The Ring, while also providing the setting and facilities for the Lookout.

Management Guidelines: The Reservoir

CHA18.1: Potential restoration of tree planting associated with the inner (curved) line of The Ring.

CHA18.2: Support and promotion for the Lookout Environmental Education facility and enhanced management of biodiversity potential within the reservoir enclosure.

CHA18.3: Rationalisation and screening of landscape maintenance uses and storage, compatible with biodiversity benefits.

CHA18.4: TRP to review long term strategy for the reservoir structure for conservation and/or re-use.

AREA 19: THE PARADE GROUND

CHA19: The landscape of the Parade Ground will be conserved as the Park's major clear open space and its condition will be improved to be adequately robust for traditional uses and occasional major events.

Management Guidelines: The Parade Ground

CHA19.1: Tree planting will be restrained and contained only to the peripheries of the Parade Ground without expanding the open area.

CHA19.2: The existing layout of paths will be retained but with consideration to eliminate the redundant south-east (4 o'clock) path from Reformers Tree.

CHA19.3: TRP will work to improve turf management to reduce wear and tear particularly from informal sports activities.

CHA19.4: A full feasibility and design study should be undertaken for rationalising path layouts and restructuring the soil profiles over the underground car park and surrounding drainage systems in order to improve carrying capacity/wearability/recovery of the grass surfaced Parade Ground. This needs to be considered carefully in relation to the scale of operations and the potential disturbance/disruption to the Park – possibly phased over 2 or 3 years.

CHA19.5: TRP will work within and monitor against the Events Strategy (adopted 2004) which seeks to balance the beneficial use of the area for major events of national standing, the continued use as one of London's main venues for rallies and assemblies, and the potential disruptions caused by such activities on the "normal" life of the Park.

CHA19.6: In conjunction with the above TRP will review contractual responsibilities to be placed on sponsors and organisers, together with rapid response procedures clearing up and reinstating to normal conditions.

CHA19.7: In planning for the 2012 Olympics, TRP will seek to gain essential infrastructure improvements for the Parade Ground and for toilet provision in order to be able to host cultural/sporting events associated with the build up to and duration of the Games.

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Figure 21: Selected Character Areas



Area 1: Hyde Park Corner



Area 3: The Dell



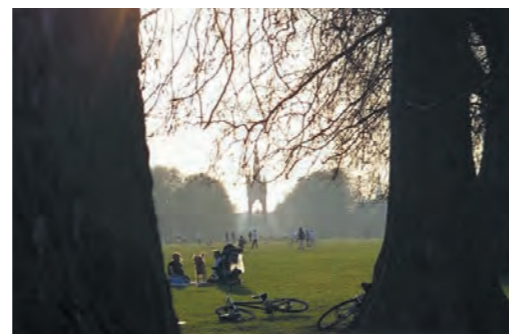
Area 2: Nannies' Lawn



Area 14: The Serpentine



Area 11: Cockpit Lawn to Area 5 Lido



Area 8: Great Exhibition Site



Area 7: Rotton Row



Area 10: Serpentine Road

AREA 20: SPEAKERS CORNER

CHA20: The landscape of Speakers Corner deserves to be upgraded to its status as part of a principal entrance into the Park, a world famous venue in its own right, reconnected with Marble Arch and deserving to be recognised in status equivalent to the World Squares for All initiative. Short term initiatives and landscape enhancements should not deflect attention from this longer term potential and should not be allowed to fossilize acceptance of existing boundaries, surfaces, climate and traffic impacts.

Management Guidelines: Speakers Corner

CHA20.1: Reconnection to Marble Arch at ground level - as achieved successfully at Hyde Park Corner. (Working with Westminster Council and English Heritage)

CHA20.2: Acoustic and townscape design addressing surfaces, railings and signage in order to restructure and reinvigorate the corner; also addressing underground car park portals, railings.

CHA20.3: Upgrade and improvements for ventilation shaft/catering facility.

CHA20.4: Continue the traditions of Speakers Corner and consider provision of interpretive material of history and origins.

CHA20.5: TRP to seek major traffic review initiative in relation to Marble Arch to address its reconnection/inclusion within the Park and as a principal gateway.

CHA20.6: Review design by rationalising tree planting, signage, entrances and paths as part of pedestrian management changes at Marble Arch.

AREA 21: THE BROAD WALK

CHA 21: The Broadwalk will be conserved as a key landscape feature and access corridor with its 4 containing rows of trees, its historic lamp posts and its important path connections to east and west.

Management Guidelines: The Broad Walk

CHA22.1: Management and gap filling/renewal of all four rows of plane trees with priority management to conserve arch of planes for inner rows.

CHA21.2: Resolution of path/road junctions at south end (Serpentine Road)

CHA21.3: Maintenance of site furniture (lamps, benches, bins) in related styles.

CHA21.4: Seek to make more sympathetic relationship in surfacing, including line markings of the cycle lane (consider alternative sympathetic colours)

AREA 22: PARK LANE BOUNDARY

CHA22: The layout and content of this area needs to be modified to restore the formality of the former avenue focussing on the Joy of Life Fountain at its northern end, respecting the boundary line of planes related to the former East Carriage Drive and adapting the planting on the boundary mounds.

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Management Guidelines: Park Land Boundary

CHA21.1: Careful replanning of the historic avenue on the Joy of Life axis, involving some removals/transplants/felling of trees which are crowded in on central axis, restoring and resurfacing the central walk and restoring the Walnut Avenue including local adjustments of Park Lane mounding which currently intrudes at north end.

CHA21.2: Maintaining and supplementing specific range of parkland trees with purposeful mixture of native, nectar rich and occasional exotic trees (to be developed as in the Tree Management Strategy).

CHA22.3: Importance of retaining clear open space between the restored Walnut Avenue and the Broad Walk to Broad Walk.

CHA22.4: Review opportunity to remove two short side paths on west side of restored Walnut Walk.

CHA22.5: Good opportunities for carefully patterned meadow swatches along boundary bank for biodiversity interest, allowing for pedestrian cross movements.

CHA22.6: Undertake review of Draft Tree Management Strategy proposals covering extent of proposed evergreen shrubbery on mounds in view of security concerns and reputable uses.

AREA 23: THE BANDSTAND SHOULDER

CHA23: The existing character of this area will be conserved and sustained with purposeful management of existing trees, local reinforcement of planting but retaining open density, and developing the management of the enclosed shrubberies to optimise biodiversity opportunities of the interior glades.

Management Guidelines: The Bandstand Shoulder

CHA23.1: Maintain diversity and density of trees with priority in conserving existing mature trees and (eventually) veterans.

CHA23.2: Retain the settings of the bandstand and Cavalry Memorial with their respective backdrop of plane trees.

CHA23.3: Biodiversity opportunities within the shrubberies including provision of minor water features, opening up small meadow glades, with interior edges of native shrub planting.

AREA 24: NORTH CARRIAGE DRIVE

CHA24: This area will be managed to reinforce the original identity of the gently curving carriage drive with its planted verges and ornamental north side margins, and with the possibility of closing to through traffic.

Management Guidelines: North Carriage Drive

CHA24.1: Potential closure of North Carriage Drive to through traffic (identified by the Royal Parks Review Group, 1994) reduction in width, retention of use for cycleway and occasional event usage. This may be advanced in relation to Cross Rail proposals, for possible 5 year construction period and permanent installations.

CHA24.2: Continuity/renewal of lime trees along south verge.

CHA24.3: Management of parkland boundary belt with varied tree density and species diversity and with some new planting including nectar rich and native species as well as ornamental exotics.

AREA 25: SOUTH CARRIAGE DRIVE

The South Carriage Drive is an area which deserves attention to restore the scale and dignity of the original carriage drive and its immediate setting of south margins and north verges (with horse ride loop) in place of the dominating thoroughfare character which has evolved. TRP will seek to reduce and eventually eliminate this as a through route and thereby be able to address other environmental benefits for the Park and its vista while respecting key movements and access for the Household Cavalry and for cyclists.

Management Guidelines: South Carriage Drive

CHA25.1: Potential closure of the Carriage Drive as a thoroughfare to through traffic (already implemented on Sundays), leading to potential reduction in carriageway/footpath widths for restoration of grass, while allowing for continued ceremonial route, and secured cycling route. (Moved from Ladies Walk/Rotten Row)

CHA25.2: Management and gap renewal planting of avenue trees along north verge and specific opportunities for additional tree planting in the south pavement (verge restored) to east of White Horse Gate, and along drive alignment towards Hyde Park Corner.

CHA25.3: Biodiversity opportunities of Mountbatten shrubbery and along the grassy bank, with spring bulbs, near White Horse Gate.

CHA25.4: Management and localised reinforcement of south margins between Alexandra Gate and the Barracks with limited mixed native species including thorns, some ornamentals and boundary hedge.

CHA25.5: Undertake design study for addressing the negative environment of Edinburgh Gate including its gates, surfaces, positioning of Pan sculpture, enhanced and more visible flanking shrub beds as “welcome” to the Park. RP also to be sensitive to any redevelopment opportunity at Bowater House which could have great influence on the character, presence, entrance and overall contribution to the Park.

EXTERNAL AREAS – OUTSIDE RP RESPONSIBILITIES

AREA 26: MARBLE ARCH

CHA26: RP will take active part in negotiations to restore the Marble Arch traffic island to the Park as long term objective while seeking to gain early surface crossings and connections.

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AREA 27: PARK LANE

CHA27: TRP will contribute to Transport for London’s landscape management plan for the Park Lane central reserve to ensure that this relates to and contributes to Hyde Park’s historic identity, and with longer term objective of regaining this territory and integrating into the Park.

AREA 28: APSLEY HOUSE

CHA28: Apsley House will remain in its present administration with public access arrangements and relationship to the Park setting as identified in “Turning the Corner”.

AREA 29: HYDE PARK CORNER: THE ISLAND

CHA29: TRP will continue to support English Heritage and other stakeholders in the redevelopment of Hyde Park Corner in line with the concepts set out in “Turning the Corner”.

POLICY CHA30: VIEWS

CHA30: Strategic and important views from, within and to the site will be conserved and enhanced.

Management Guidelines: Views

CHA30.1: Draft strategic view from Serpentine Bridge to the Palace of Westminster. TRP will seek to ensure that this strategic view, which is now identified as such in the draft London Plan, is confirmed and thereby protected

CHA30.2: Protect other strategic views within the Park by proper consideration of all planting and potential development proposals.

CHA 30.3: Review local enhancement of existing views, where appropriate, by framing or extending through active management of specific tree canopies – including crown shaping/ crown raising operations.

CHA30.4: Consider most effective means of applying the Colvin and Moggridge “sky space” assessments on continuing basis and in conjunction with local authorities to protect sky space beyond the Park and to influence planning processes in relation to high buildings which individually or collectively have negative impact on the Park.

PART 5. IMPLEMENTATION

This section describes a framework for monitoring the success of the management plan in meeting the requirements of policies; it establishes a procedure for review and sets out a mechanism for implementing specific projects within the context of the management plan

19 Monitoring and Review;

20 Next Steps - The Project Register;



The Lookout



View across the Serpentine from Rotten Row



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19. MONITORING AND REVIEW



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 19.1. This plan sets out a long term framework for the management of the Park with a series of guiding policies. It includes a more detailed set of management prescriptions for implementation as projects over the next 10 years. The ability to carry such prescriptions forward depends, to a large degree, on financial resources and, to a considerable extent, on human and technical resources in management. It is not simply a shopping list of wishes for new works. Indeed some of the plan's content depends on "resisting, preventing, or avoiding" rather than direct expenditure on new works. Even these however require positive management effort to identify and react to potential threats, and to review, discuss and negotiate where necessary with wide a range of interests.
- 19.2. The plan in itself does not secure financial resources. Annual budgets throughout the Royal Parks Agency have been under great pressure for a number of years and, as perceived by the Royal Parks Review Group in 1995, there is an inevitable backlog of repair and maintenance works, particularly in relation to buildings and structures. The management plan should assist in helping to identify priorities in forward planning, budgeting and expenditure.
- 19.3. It is essential that this management plan is seen as 'dynamic' and is responsive to change. As new information becomes available or circumstances change, consideration may need to be given to modifying or changing prescriptions. Such changes should always be assessed in the light of the management plan framework and the objectives established by this document to ensure that they are sympathetic, in keeping and do not have an adverse impact on the essential character of the park.
- 19.4. This management plan will be circulated to interested parties as identified in the December 2002 workshop. Work is likely to be continuing on the separately instructed Tree Management and Wildlife Strategies which, having reached their respective Draft 1 stages, can now refer more purposefully to and draw from the Management Plan. Any comments received on this management plan through further consultation with interest groups and stakeholders will be considered and incorporated, as appropriate, into the adopted Management Plan.

MONITORING

- 19.5. The Management Plan is a process rather than an end state. Monitoring the application and effects of the management policies and projects is fundamental for the successful use and implementation of the plan. This should relate achievements to policies and should record information on which to base future amendments to the management plan or management policies.
- 19.6. In order to undertake successful monitoring, the baseline information needs to be up to date. In this regard the absence of an accurate up-to-date base plan and tree survey and the absence of a phase 1 habitat survey need to be remedied.
- 19.7. The key areas for monitoring at Hyde Park are:
- Faithfulness to the inherited layout of the Park and its component features.
 - Condition of trees, pattern, including proper recording of losses and gains, also assessing success of the Tree Management Strategy.
 - Social inclusiveness – identified through continuing programme of visitor surveys.

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- Biodiversity enhancements in line with Wildlife Management Strategy goals.
- Improvements to landscape settings – as identified in the Project Register.
- Education – in terms of school visit and other related performance indicators.

REVIEW

- 19.8. The whole management plan should be reviewed at the end of the first five year period by spring 2008. 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 (such as impact of congestion charging);
 - Include the results of monitoring with fine-tuning of projects where necessary;
 - Assess achievements over the first five years in terms of (a) policy (successes and failures) and (b) projects.
- 19.9. Additionally it is recommended that the Park Manager, in accepting the adopted Management Plan, should set up his own annual review in conjunction with the Project Register and discuss with the management team in order to correct any inadvertent directions or shortfalls. These should be recorded in setting targets for early corrective action. This process will not only help to keep the Management Plan process essentially “live” but will help to feed in more purposefully to the 5 year Review.
- 19.10. The review should set out a further detailed schedule of works and a timetable for future plan review. A ten-year review programme may be sufficient in the longer term.
- 19.11. It is fundamental that this management plan is seen as ‘dynamic’. Its policies will provide firm guidance but also have some flexibility and need to be responsive to change. As new information becomes available, consideration may need to be given, through the review process, to modifying policies or adapting prescriptions. Such changes should always be assessed in the light of the management plan framework and the strategy established within this plan. New proposals or changes in practice should not have an adverse impact upon the essential genius loci of Park.

20. NEXT STEPS – THE PROJECT REGISTER



20.1. The Project Register will be developed from the Management Plan in conjunction with the Park Manager and his team. Essentially its purpose is to develop implementation of the Plan as a rolling programme of projects – both capital and maintenance – drawing on the issues, recommendations and guidance provided in the Management Plan. This in turn will relate to and take response from the Agency’s Corporate Plan which necessarily must balance the needs and budgets of all the Royal Parks.

In these terms the Project Register should set out, in streamlined form, the policies, prescriptions and projects identified in the Management Plan, and provide both priority and programme for implementation (which will necessarily be phased). It should be presented in the form of a tracking schedule with outline budgets and reviewed on an annual basis. The Management Plan assumes a minimum life span of 10 years (2003 to 2013) with 5 year review, although it is currently envisaged that most of the essential policies will continue to guide the conservation and informed evolution of the Park through the longer term for future generations.

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20.0 Project Register

Project Register

Projects completed 2011 – May 2014

- **Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain** – footpath resurfacing
- **Gas Lamp Refurbishment** - the meadow area, Policeman's Path, 'Dell' and 'Dell Bridge' area of the park
- **Old Football Pitch** - reinstatement and Improvement
- **Parade Ground** - reinstatement programme
- **The Dell Gardens** – replanting and regeneration
- **Labour railings replaced in 2013**
- **Reservoir toilet refurbished in 2011**
- **Serpentine Bridge Shrub Beds** – replanting of trees and shrubs
- **Volunteering** - working on a corporate volunteering schedule for 2014 with The Royal Parks Foundation.
- **Snowdrops** - working with The Royal Parks Foundation and local schools to Plant 100,000 snowdrops
- **Speakers Corner** - Railing repairs, resurfacing and new tree planting is taking place at Speakers Corner
- **Meadow Yellow Rattle** - 5kg of yellow rattle seeds were sown across the meadow areas to reduce the vigour of the amenity grasses
- **Meadow areas extended southwards toward the Cockpit area of the park, and west of Cumberland Gate Lodge.**
- **Hyde Park Corner Lodge** – Construction works are currently underway to convert the lodge into a catering outlet. The new information/ ticket kiosk has been installed in readiness for opening in Spring 2014
- **Borehole water connection from Italian Gardens to Parade Ground** – we are now able to irrigate the whole of the Parade Ground using borehole water
- **South Carriage Drive main playground**
- **Victoria, Alexandra, Cumberland and Albert Gates refurbished (2011).**
- **Victoria, Cumberland, Prince of Wales (West), Serpentine Lodge, New Lodge** external redecorated
- **OPH** – new 2nd floor windows

Proposed Projects April 2014 -2016

- **Playground kiosk** – South Carriage Drive playground
- **Westbourne Brook** – Meadows ponds/ stream behind Old Police House
- **Victoria Gate Lodge** – refurbishment
- **Cumberland Gate Lodge** – refurbishment
- **Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain** – existing footpath to receive a short extension
- **Bandstand refurbishment**

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX 1 HYDE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP

The Workshop was held on 17th December 2002 at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London.

Attendees

Kenneth Stern, Chairman, Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens
 Mike Jones, Merediths Nursery
 Bob Coe, Central London Partnership
 Roy Sanderson, Central Royal Parks Wildlife
 Tim Owen, Westminster City Council
 Malcolm Haxby, Planning & Transportation, Westminster City Council
 Jan Hewlett, GLA
 Chris Sumner, English Heritage
 Phil Edwards, Contract Manager, Serviceteam
 Andrew Harland, Landscape Design Associates
 Alice Bigelow, Facilitator

Inspector Andy Hasted, Royal Parks Constabulary
 William Weston, Chief Executive, RP
 Mike Fitt, Director of Parks, RP
 Andy McLellan, Director of policy and Chief Operating Officer, RP
 Adam Farrar, Head of Events, RP
 Alison Dickens, Director of Major Projects and Initiatives, RP
 Greg McErlean, Project Manager, RP
 Simon Betts, Director of Estates, RP
 Dennis Clarke, Senior Park Manager, RP
 Sara Lom, Director of Public Affairs, RP
 Simon Lee, Head of Education, RP
 Steve Edwards, Park Manager, Hyde Park, RP
 Lesley Geddes, Administration Manager, Central Royal Parks, RP
 Nick Butler, Park Manager, Kensington Gardens, RP
 Tom Jarvis, Assistant Park Manager, Hyde Park, RP
 Bob Worthylake, Assistant Park Manager, Hyde Park, RP
 Laurent Trenga, Catering Concession Manager

Richard Flenley, LUC
 Matthew Tickner, LUC
 Jane Wilson, LUC



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APPENDIX 3 ENGLISH HERITAGE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDEN ENTRY

CORE DATA

GREATER LONDON

HYDE PARK

WESTMINSTER

GD1808

TQ2780

GRADE I

NOTE

This entry is a summary. Because of the complexity of the site, the standard register entry format would not convey an adequate account of the development or description. The user is advised to consult the references given below for detailed descriptions. Many listed buildings exist within the site, not all of which have been referred to. Descriptions of these are to be found in the List of Buildings of Special Historic Interest produced by the Department of National Heritage.

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC INTEREST OF THE SITE

A royal deer park from C16 to C17 subsequently becoming a public amenity. Major changes and improvements made by Decimus Burton from 1820.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

The agricultural land which became Hyde Park belonged to Westminster Abbey before 1536 when Henry VIII acquired it by compulsory exchange for a priory in Buckinghamshire. Henry enclosed the park in 1540 and used the land to extend his hunting grounds which by this time included the Leper Hospital (later St James Park qv GD1455), Marylebone Park (later Regent's Park (qv GD1156) and the districts around his Palace of Westminster. Military reviews took place from the time of Elizabeth I and from the early C17 limited public access was permitted. Several enduring features were established, these included the Tour, later renamed the Ring, the first ornamental feature of the Park. The Ring is mentioned as the focus of fashionable life by 1635 and its introduction points to the change in emphasis away from hunting and military exercising towards more leisurely pursuits. In 1652 when the Parliamentarians were in control of the country they divided Hyde Park into five parts, totalling c250ha, and sold to three purchasers. Many of the mature trees were felled and when following the Restoration the park was taken back into Royal ownership it was described as a 'barren field'. The grounds were re-opened to the public, a brick wall was built around the park and it was restocked with deer.

Major changes came in the reign of William III who in 1689 acquired Nottingham House at the eastern edge of the Park and began to form Kensington Palace. Development of the Park continued under Queen Anne and Queen Caroline (wife of George II). Between 1690 and 1736 land was appropriated in the western half of Hyde Park for the creation of formal gardens for Kensington Palace and by 1736 these had extended to the present boundary which was defined by the ha-ha wall built by Charles Bridgeman in 1730. The remaining part of Hyde Park had few formal features: a plan c1706 (Wise) shows only the Walnut Avenue at the eastern end, adjacent to Park Lane, the Ring and numerous small rectangular plantations alongside the new King's

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Road, *Route de Roi* (now known as Rotten Row), the formal axis created by William III in 1690. Rides and paths meandered across the Park. In 1725 George I allowed the Chelsea Water Works Company to build an ornamental reservoir inside the central circle of the Walnut Avenue. It was built to meet the anticipated needs of the now greatly enlarged Palace and gardens at Kensington. East of the ha-ha the Serpentine was formed.

During the late C18 and the early part of the C19 the Crown ceased to be interested in the Park and its character was left to develop largely in response to the demands of the public who resorted there to ride, drive, to fish and skate. By the beginning of the C19 the increasing housing developments round the park and the existence of a local community created new demands including the need for easy pedestrian access. Lord Euston, Park Ranger between 1794 and 1807, drew attention to the poor general condition of the Park and it was he who cut down the decaying walnut avenue and planted, according to his claims, 25,000 new trees in Hyde and neighbouring St James Park (qv GD1455). He also constantly complained to the Treasury and to the Office of Works that all the structures in the Park were in an appalling state (LUC 1982).

The improvements carried out in the 1820's were the most extensive programme of works undertaken in Hyde Park. The scheme was designed by the architect Decimus Burton, with the assistance of the road builder, James McAdam, under the overall supervision of the Office of Works. Burton reorganized the Park Lane side of the Park, substituting iron railings and a belt of trees for the former brick wall and creating new entrances and lodges. The scheme of improvements included the resiting of the Marble Arch. Originally intended as a triumphal entrance to Buckingham Palace and the official memorial to the Napoleonic Wars, the arch was moved to the north-east corner of Hyde Park, near the Cumberland Gate entrance, to form an entrance to the top of Park Lane and the west end of Oxford Street (Saint 1997).

The occasion of the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations in 1851 can be seen as the starting point of the development of Victorian Hyde Park (LUC 1982). The exhibition is best remembered for the Crystal Palace, the exhibition hall designed by Joseph Paxton and moved, in 1852, to Sydenham (Crystal Palace Park qv GD1324)

The C20 has seen the Park continue to develop along the lines laid down by the Victorians. George Lansbury, as First Commissioner of Works between the wars, greatly improved recreational facilities in all the Royal Parks, with funds raised by public appeal in 1929.

During the second World War the park was adopted for a number of purposes. Air raid shelters were provided at the eastern edge of Park Lane; anti aircraft defences included three barrage balloon emplacements and an anti aircraft battery operated from 1941-1944. Barracks were constructed along the main ride leading north from the Serpentine Dam and extensive allotments were situated along the south side of the park.

Dutch Elm disease from the 1950's onwards destroyed the remaining old elms in the Park and although much replanting has been undertaken in places this did not reflect the grandeur of the pattern of the original schemes. In the 1960s the area adjacent to Park Lane was subjected to major alterations by road improvements to Park Lane. The doubling in size of the road took 8.5ha out of the Park and destroyed Decimus Burton's and James McAdam's carriage road inside the eastern perimeter.

In 1999 the park remains a public open space and is managed by the Royal Parks Agency.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES AND LANDFORM

Hyde Park is situated in West London immediately to the east of Kensington Gardens (qv GD1284). Regent's Park (qv GD1156), is c1.5km to the north, Green Park (qv GD1799), c250m to the east, and South Kensington c750m to the south. The gently undulating c130ha park falls generally from north to south and is bounded to the north by Bayswater Road. Park Lane provides the boundary to the east by Park Lane and the South Carriage Drive the boundary to the south. Constructed in 1736 as the King's New Road, the South Carriage Drive had by 1827, along with Outer Ring, the East, North and West Carriage Drives, the Serpentine Road and the construction of the Serpentine Bridge, provided a circuit of the Park. The opening up of new entrances around the perimeter of the Park as it became increasingly adopted for use by the public inevitably increased the number of paths. Since 1924 when taxis were first allowed into the Park traffic has been on the increase and has also constituted the chief threat to the actual extent of the Park. On the east side, Park Lane has several times been widened since 1860s.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Numerous gates and lodges provide entrances to the park, the majority of which are listed grade II and date from the C19. The most decorative entrance is Queen Elizabeth Gate constructed in the late C20 and situated in the south-east corner of the park, providing an entrance from Hyde Park Corner and the southern end of Park Lane.

The Park, laid mainly to grass, is crossed by a number of paths which radiate from the gates and from points within the site. Tracks and walks were introduced by the early C17 and by the mid-C17 the Tour (the Ring) was a fashionable venue for riders and carriages in the centre of the Park. The first recorded road was *Route de Roi* (Rotten Row), which runs east-west to the south of the site. Completed in 1690 following the Crown's acquisition of Nottingham House (Kensington Palace) it provided the King with a direct route between the Palace and Whitehall, and was the first lamplit road in England. The Row was itself supplanted by the Kings New Road (South Carriage Drive) in 1736 but continued as a popular public bridle path, now (1999) extended to the east and the north. One of the most controversial changes to the park, associated with the International Exhibition of 1862 which was held in South Kensington, was the southern extension of the West Carriage Drive over the Serpentine Bridge (listed grade II) to provide a connection between Victoria Gate to the north and Alexandra Gate, a new carriage gate, to the south. This required the filling in of the southern section of Bridgeman's ha-ha and subsequently the road line was adopted as the boundary between the two areas, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Although only intended as a temporary measure the road quickly became a major thoroughfare.

The Park focuses on the Serpentine water which lies towards the south-west side of the site. The Park was formerly watered by the Westbourne a minor tributary of the Thames, which flowed from Hampstead. The plan of 1706, attributed to Henry Wise, shows a string of ten pools, these being linked up to form the Long Water in 1727 and the broader, longer Serpentine in 1731. Made under the supervision of Charles Wither, the then Surveyor General of His Majesty's Woods, the Serpentine was separated from the Long Water by a small cascade which was replaced in 1826-28 by the Serpentine Bridge, built by George Rennie. At the east end of the

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water is the Dell, a roughly triangular depression, the southern side formed by an irregular embanked flower bed. This is now, (1999), a picturesque spot where a piece of Cornish Limestone, part of a former drinking fountain erected in 1861 survives. The Dell is situated in a large hollow which is a remnant of a small lake created in 1730. Originally this pool stretched to the present edge of the park and was bridged by Rotten Row and the King's New Road. In 1844 Thomas Cubitt reduced its size by infilling the area to the south of Rotten Row and in the 1880's the Dell was designed with a tropical layout. On the south bank of the Serpentine is the Lido. Created by George Lansbury, First Commissioner of Works, in c1930 in memory of Capt J Cooper to whom a plaque was erected on the Lido pavilion in 1931. The new Lido allowed mixed bathing for the first time and was reconstructed between 1951 -53. At this time the Lansbury Memorial plaque was erected in memory of the founder. Rotten Row runs almost parallel to the south bank of the Serpentine and between the Row and the South Carriage Drive is the site of the Crystal Palace erected as part of the Great Exhibition of 1851. Almost opposite the Lido on the north bank of the Serpentine is the Boathouse. Boating has been allowed in the Serpentine and the adjoining Long Water since 1847. The present Boathouse erected in 1902 by the Royal Humane Society was built to the west of an earlier one.

To the north of the Boathouse is a complex of buildings. These include the Superintendent's House, The Ranger's Lodge (listed grade II) and the Old Police Station. In a secluded hollow to the north of these buildings is a bird sanctuary and to the north again is the parks nursery where bedding out plants for the Central Parks are raised.

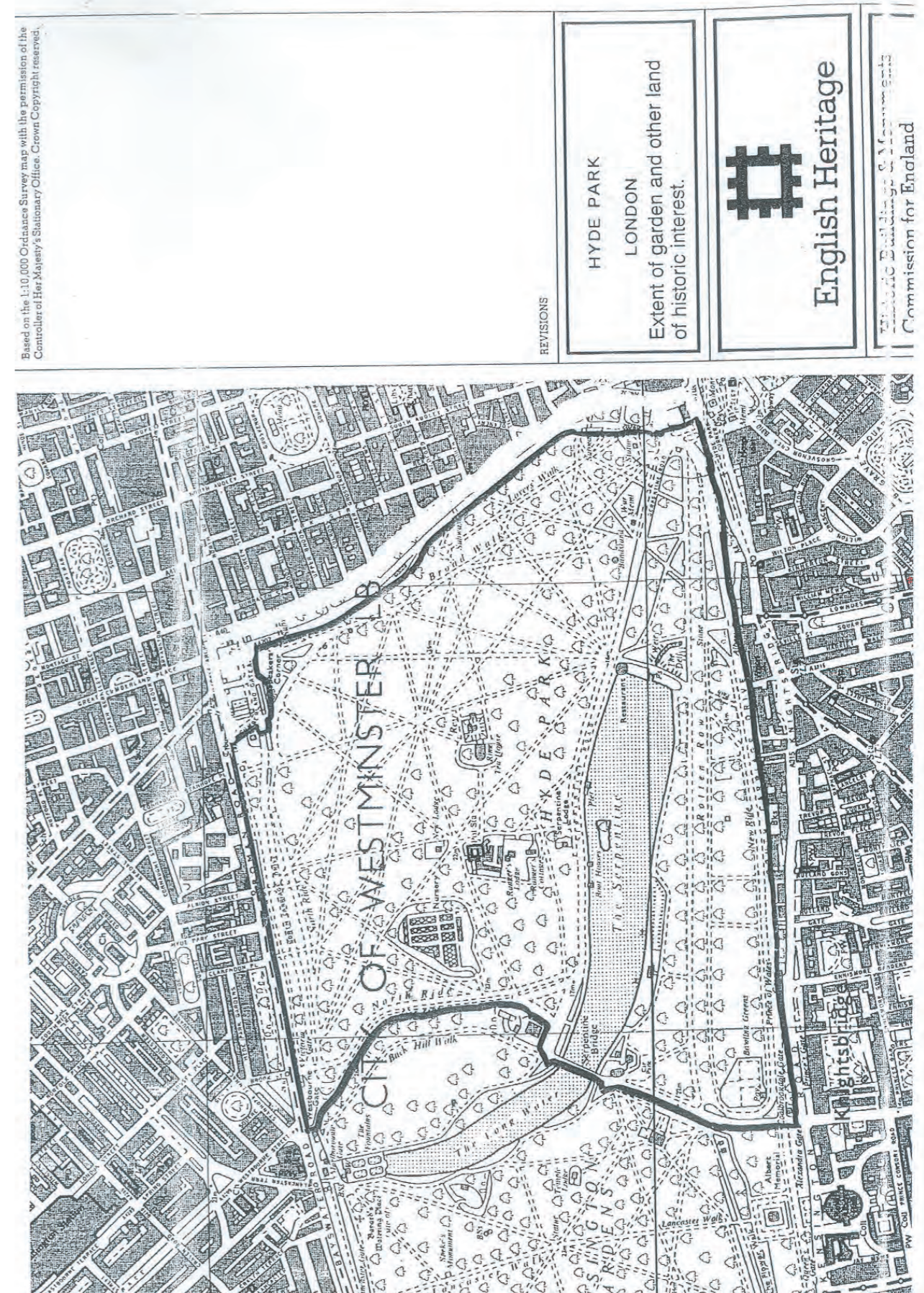
In the north-east corner of the park is Speaker's Corner. It was after the Reform League riots of 1866 that a place in Hyde Park was specially designated for meetings and on Sundays it is still (1999) a popular place for public oratory.

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