



Friends of Wimbledon Park

Conservation Management Plan

for

The Grade II* Heritage Landscape

known as

Wimbledon Park



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Section 1 Background, definition and methodology

The Friends of Wimbledon Park ('the Friends') was formed on Thursday 19th January 2012. Included in its Constitution was an object 'to support the implementation of a Conservation Management Plan for Wimbledon Park'. This text is the next stage of that process.

Lancelot "Capability" Brown (1716-1783) designed the Grade II* Heritage Landscape known as Wimbledon Park.

Brown was a landscape architect, described as "England's greatest gardener", with over 170 gardens to his name including Blenheim, Chatsworth and Longleat. Gardens in London¹ designed by Brown include Syon Park, Richmond Palace Gardens (now part of Kew Gardens), St James's Park and the Spencer family's estate at Wimbledon Park.

The first Earl Spencer had an estate of 375 hectares which stretched from Tibbet's Corner south to the present-day Wimbledon Station. The remnant heritage land (61 hectares) is all that is left of the original estate.

Wimbledon Park (the Park) is the Grade II* Heritage registered landscape (c61 hectares) being the open space now surviving of that designed by Capability Brown which is in the ownership of three parties.

- a) The Mayor and Burgesses of the London Borough of Merton own the public park (c27 hectares, including the lake c9 hectares).
- b) The freehold of the Wimbledon Park Golf Club ("the Golf Club") (c30 hectares) is owned by the All England Lawn Tennis Ground Limited and leased to The Wimbledon Park Golf Club Limited.
- c) The Trustees of The Wimbledon Club own the private sports club (c4 hectares) on the west side of the lake.

The Heritage Landscape falls into two London Boroughs. Most is in LB Merton, but the northern parts of the golf course and public park are in LB Wandsworth. This division is important for various regulatory functions, the most important of which is statutory development planning.

Conservation Management Plan

In caring for, or managing change in, historic parks, gardens and other landscapes, there are often many features, historic layers and diverse interests like biodiversity to consider as well as the business and economic viability of the property whether it is a home, agricultural estate, public park, hotel or visitor attraction. Conservation management plans have been developed as a tools to help pull together an understanding of what matters and why, and how to conserve and manage it. From this informed basis, plans are then used to develop programmes of repair, restoration or to draw up proposals for change.

What matters?

Two things stand out. Firstly that the landscape was designed by Capability Brown and secondly that 'This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest. Name: WIMBLEDON PARK; List entry Number: 1000852'.

For registered parks and gardens, Grade II* (two star) indicates that the site is "particularly important, of more than special interest". Both Merton & Wandsworth have just two parks with Grade II*, Wimbledon Park appearing in both boroughs and Cannizaro (Merton) and Battersea (Wandsworth) parks being the others. So Grade II* parks are uncommon. Wimbledon Park clearly matters from its historical interest and the value of its landscape.



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And why?

People value their history and enjoy landscapes. A good conservation strategy will keep it in good condition and add extra interest in its own right. The lake and land spaces should be used for various activities without damaging the intrinsic values of the park. People benefit from a range of activities that can take place within the park.

What to do?

A useful guide on what to do can be gained by looking at the objective of obtaining a Green Flag Award². These awards recognise well managed parks and open spaces for all to enjoy.

- a) The Green Flag Award scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK. It was first launched in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces.
- b) The scheme provides national standards for parks and green spaces across England and Wales. Parks are judged against eight key criteria:
 - i. a welcoming place;
 - i. healthy, safe and secure;
 - ii. clean and well maintained;
 - iii. sustainability;
 - iv. conservation and heritage;
 - v. community involvement;
 - vi. marketing;
 - vii. management.

With three separate owners and two regulatory authorities over the heritage landscape there is a need to bring their representatives into discussions together with all other interests in the park. The Friends was formed to provide this umbrella and develop strategies, so that any particular project can be agreed, programmes can be developed for repairs and restorations, and for drawing up proposals for change.

The Prime Objects

The objects of the Friends are for the public benefit and are to:

- secure the preservation, protection and improvement of the Park as a place of historic and ecological interest and beauty;
- promote the conservation of the natural plant and animal life of the Park and, in particular, its retention as a natural habitat for wildlife;
- educate the public in the history, natural history and other aspects of the Park;
- support the implementation of a Conservation Management Plan for the Park;
- acknowledge that the Park provides valuable resources for active and passive public recreation and that such pursuits can and should exist side-by-side with the heritage values of the Park;
- acknowledge that the Park, through its size, character, accessibility and facilities, has special features which should be enjoyed by people from this part of south-west London.

The Secondary Objects

For the benefit of the users of the Park the Friends will:

- Report back at regular intervals to local residents and members on the Park owners' plans for and the upkeep of the Park.
- Seek and maintain a constructive and positive working relationship with the Park owners.

Methodology

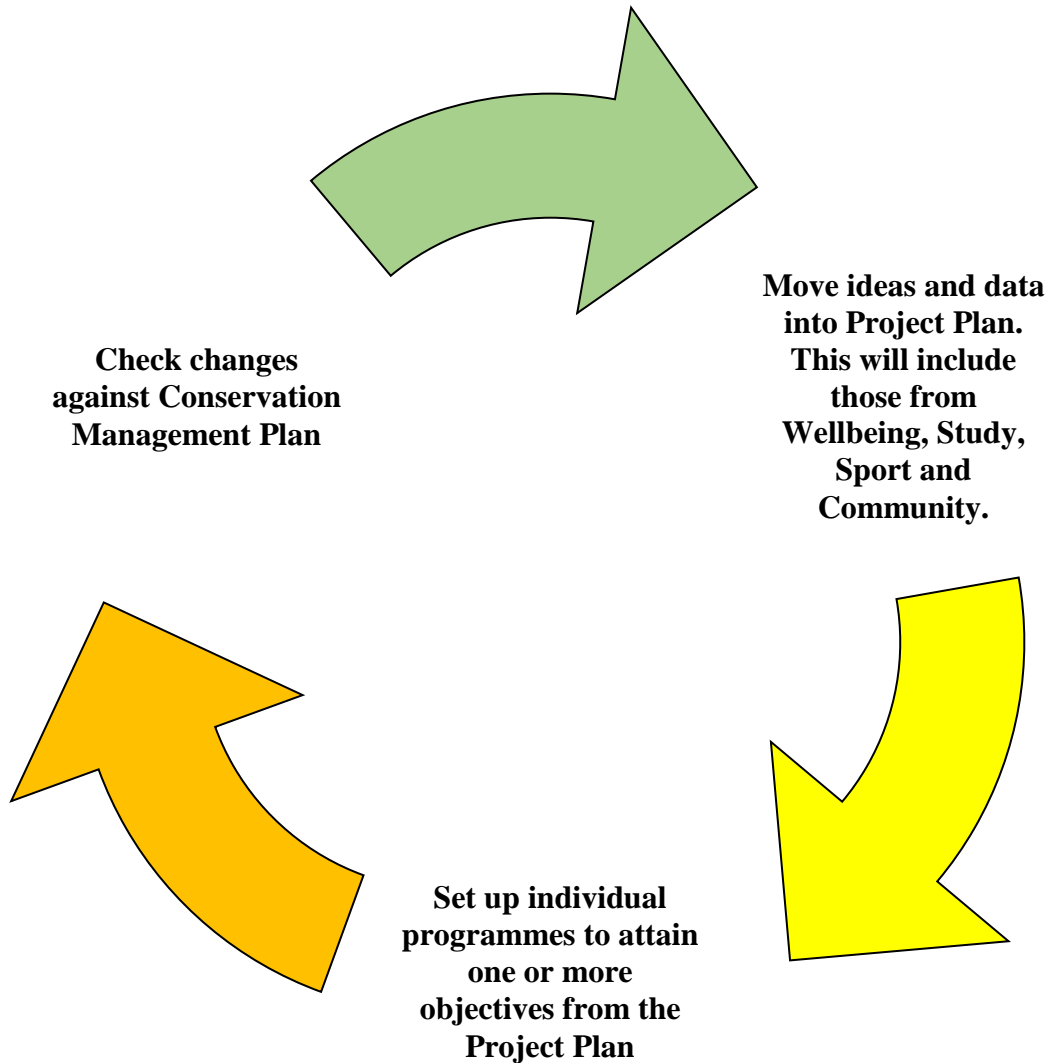
In 2014 the Friends produced their project plan for this historic park. It is a complicated park and a pictorial guide "Wimbledon Park Wheels" (currently version 10) was produced so that it became easier to understand the deeper meanings of what matters and why. The next sections take these 'wheels' one by one.



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Section 2 Iteration

Starting with Capability Brown's legacy, and aiming to preserve and restore the landscape, one can examine the effect all the activities taking place in the park. This is an iterative process as the overall project is split into smaller programmes so that they can be worked on in an economical and timely fashion. Each step is then checked against the Conservation Management Plan and desirable alterations made to the overall project plan with amendments to the programmes. This continuous checking cycle, hence 'wheels', helps achieve proportion: a balance between activities.





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Section 3 Landscape, Biodiversity & Habitat

Landscape consists of all the visible features of an area of land, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal. These features flow into each other, however, when caring for and improving landscapes, it is helpful to consider them in parts. Some of these parts will contain important habitats and others will provide important links between features.

Biological diversity or biodiversity is a term used to describe the variety of life on Earth. It refers to the wide variety of biological communities, or ecosystems, the individual living organisms and their genes.

The main aim of the **Biodiversity Strategy** is to protect and enhance the biodiversity resources that exist in Wimbledon Park. These look at the different biological communities and the opportunities that these hold as habitats for wildlife.

Dave Dawson is taking the lead with his paper 'Special places for nature in Wimbledon Park', which lists and maps the special features of the landscape. This paper should be referred to for the detail. These features are protected through the planning policies of the two London Boroughs, as they are included within Sites of Importance for nature conservation. The features also include Priority Habitats for nature in London as defined in the London Plan: woodland and wetland. In approximate order of decreasing importance the features are:

- Old trees: one ancient oak and 11 veterans, as well as younger trees in succession.
- Old woodland: Horse Close and Ashen Grove Woods.
- Younger woodland & hedgerows, with also a potential to create wet woodland.
- The lake margin: a need to manage wet woodland and lake shallows.
- The lake: a need to protect water quality and enhance the underwater vegetation.
- Ponds and the brook, with potential for the creation of better features.
- Grassland, with remnant value.
- Most of the public park was once arable, so native cornfield annual plants could be introduced there. Should de-silting of the lake be undertaken, there would be an opportunity to provide better shallows and to re-design the margins.

The old trees and old woodlands have priority for their heritage as well as natural value.

He lists the conservation priority designation of species that occur (or may occur) in the park³. Notable here are the European Eel and three species of bat. He also lists species that act as flagships: those that make a greater visual impression.

A supplement concerning the introduction of beneficial water plants has been written by Tony Borkowski on behalf of the Wimbledon Park Angling Club. This note considers the possibility of introducing or re-introducing a range of water plants into the margins of Wimbledon Park Lake and the streams that flow into and out of this body of water. It should be read in conjunction with, and under the guiding principles described by, the document "Special Species and Special Places in Wimbledon Park" written by Dave Dawson.

Capability Brown's park was concerned with long views from the historic house and from drives and walks. The steeple of St Mary's Church is prominent and the Golf Club and the All England Lawn Tennis Club buildings are visible. Unsightly buildings need to be replaced and possibly resited so that views are restored. Park clutter needs to be removed. The lake is a central element of the landscape and the landscape setting around the lake is important. Measures that also need considering are improved circulation, removal of unsuitable trees, new planting and the preservation and restoration of historic view lines.



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Section 4 Activities

The objective of the Green Flag Award scheme is to encourage the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways. We intend to work with the park officers to work towards the attainment of this award in the public park and encourage, where appropriate, its adoption in the private part of the park. Points that we need to keep in mind include:

- Proper thought is given to how children, including the often neglected 10-16 age group, may enjoy the green space.
- Walking is vital to reducing heart disease and health threatening obesity, particularly in young people. The medical evidence is twofold, first all regular exercise has health benefits, second is the health benefits of exposure to green landscapes.
- All types of horticultural wastes should be composted for use as a replacement for peat based products. Brushwood should be chipped and used as mulch.
- Many local conservation groups have been involved in the management of streams and other ecological areas within parks and other green spaces.
- The principles of an environmental management system are being followed.
- Herbicide use should be very circumspect and fully justified.

The four topics the Conservation Management Plan must cover in order to be effective are:

- Wellbeing⁴ can be thought of as the result of a dynamic process that gives people a sense of how their lives are going, through the interaction between their circumstances, activities and psychological resources or ‘mental capital’. Another definition⁵ is as a general term for the condition of an individual or group, for example their social, economic, psychological, spiritual or medical state; a high level of wellbeing means in some sense the individual or group's condition is positive, while low wellbeing is associated with negative happenings.
- Sport⁶ is all forms of, usually competitive, physical activity or games which, through casual or organised participation, aim to use, maintain or improve physical ability and skills while providing enjoyment to participants, and in some cases, entertainment for spectators. Recreation can be added here. Sometimes it's termed “informal” recreation, and it's usually not competitive and not necessarily organised. Walking and running come here.
- Study⁷ is systematic research, examination, identification, and understanding of the aspects or factors associated with an activity, event, phenomenon, situation, etc. Often a report is produced at the end of a study that summarizes its findings and may also include recommendations on the next step(s) to be taken. However much study is done for its own sake.
- Community⁸ is a self-organized network of people with common agenda, cause, or interest, who collaborate by sharing ideas, information, and other resources. This would encapsulate all that one might do in the landscape: litter picking and guided walks and community activities.

These are examined in the next sections.



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Section 5 Wellbeing

An entrance to this park should be memorable. This means the change from the cars and buildings to greenery and great views should be abrupt as one enters. A sense of arrival, of entering a different world, raises the profile of the park and heightens expectations. Vehicles should be concealed to help achieve this objective. The Golf Club entrance does this and, to some extent, does the Home Park Road entrance but the other three entrances range from poor to dire.

As the result of a dynamic process, wellbeing is clearly enhanced by a well-managed park. Healthy people is a very desirable objective and green spaces are a great help in its attainment. Facilities for recovery and rehabilitation are also suited in this environment. This suggests that a medical input is desirable, supported by funding to make best use of the asset so that savings are made by either keeping people healthy or by providing quicker recovery.

Activities involved in wellbeing can be grouped into:

- Organised or structured activities where a membership fee or participation fee is levied. Tennis, sailing, golf and athletics are examples.
- Informal activities where no direct charge is made. This would include playgrounds, picnics, walking and kick about.

Both categories support wellbeing of park users by exercising bodies and providing mental uplift.

Structured activities usually have an area set aside for their purpose whilst informal activities have to share their space with other activities. Every valid activity in the park can detract from the enjoyment of others (boating scares off birds, dogs off the lead can frighten children, cyclists can threaten pedestrians, children enjoying the waterfall may cause damage that requires remedy). Multiple uses involve compromise, wear and tear is natural, and others will not necessarily share personal prejudices.

Damage and nuisance from an activity should be assessed and if it contributes to a loss of facility and enjoyment then restricting that activity should be considered. Over time facility and enjoyment should be enhanced and not degraded.



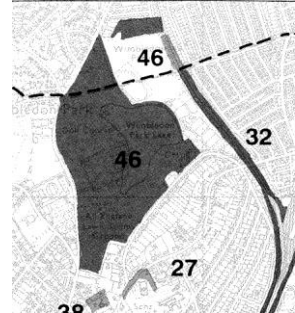
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Section 6 Study

The design and maintenance of the Conservation Management Plan requires research, evidence and sensible application. Study provides the knowledge and skills needed for implementation of the Conservation Management Plan. An example of information from study is the quote on Wildlife.

Wildlife⁹ and homes for nature should be considered across the map of London. However, government guidance seeks special consideration and protection for the best such areas. In London, these are *Sites of Importance for nature conservation*¹⁰. Two such sites were first confirmed in 1998:

1. Wimbledon Park Lake, Woods and Golf Course (indicated on the map above as “46”), a Site of Borough Importance grade I. This includes the Golf Course, Wimbledon Club and Ashen Grove and Horse Close Woods.
2. Railside habitats (indicated on the map as “32”), a site of Borough Importance grade II.



Most study effectively is informal recreation for the participants, however.

Much study is done for its own sake – the seeking of knowledge. Some is purely trivial locally, but a valuable contribution to national monitoring when summed with many others’ efforts. Except where a requirement for formal educational project work, study is generally as much about the recreational needs of the people doing it as it is about the generation of reports to inform planning.

The tercentary of Capability Brown’s birth incentivised further research into the state of the park before, during and after his landscaping. This research will be published along with relevant maps.

The history and its special places make the park a great resource for children to learn and the opportunity for the curriculum to include study in the park. Subjects that are relevant include history, english, arts and sciences. Competitions could be held in writing, painting, photography and other disciplines. Physical assistance (which could include Duke of Edinburgh Award) could be provided for improving or maintaining the park, whilst learning how nature functions.

An educational presence would assist inclusion of park studies in the national curriculum whilst helping with funding of this resource. Currently discussions are taking place with St Cecilia’s school and if successful can be extended to other students.



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Section 7 Sport

There are more than ten organised sports played in Wimbledon Park and run by different groups. Participation requires either the payment of a subscription or a fee. Some clubs are oversubscribed and have long waiting lists whilst others want more to join.

Some sports are of national standard. For example the Wimbledon Club's hockey team are champions of England.

Sports require suitable buildings and specialist surfaces. The bowling pavilion, water activities centre and the stadium in the public park are no longer fit for purpose.

Hockey players need a pitch to play on. A new building replacing the stadium could provide for water sports, athletics and hockey players for example. The option of including educational facilities and a café overlooking the lake are worth considering. The opportunity presents itself of providing other sporting facilities with little further cost and loss of greenspace.

Cricket and golf players are often thwarted by water-logged playing surfaces. This is because of a natural high water table in the gentle slopes near the lake, exacerbated by the high water level of the lake. Over the years silting has reduced the depth and in order to avoid boat grounding on the lake bottom the water level has been raised. De-silting the lake should enable the water level to be lowered thus decreasing the water-logging for golfers and cricketers.

The bowling pavilion needs extensive refurbishment. The relocation of the depot and storage needs consideration. There are three green spaces teams for Wimbledon Park so economies and releasing of space for return to nature are distinct possibilities.

Bird excrement is also causing problems on the golf course and elsewhere.

The Friends regard as important that children have an opportunity to participate in all these sports so that they learn how to compete and gain a knowledge of each specialism.

The Friends are also concerned that there should be a facility whereby children are not debarred on financial grounds and would support a special fund to cover this eventuality.



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Section 8 Community

Community is a self-organized network of people with common agenda, cause, or interest, who collaborate by sharing ideas, information, and other resources.

The Park's community includes a broad range of interests, groups and individuals from across the region and beyond. This ranges from statutory governmental bodies, people who use the Park or venues within it, those with particular interest like sports or wildlife, and those who represent certain groups of users or people. It also includes the employees who work in the park and support workers.

Community provides a sense of ownership and a strong base for volunteering. We can say:

- The Park is first and foremost a place of enjoyment; a resource for people to use and take pleasure from. It is also an area that can deliver positive benefits to a diverse range of individuals and communities.
- Such enhanced wellbeing can have encouraging results on individual, social and community behaviour:
 - ❖ reducing physical and mental problems
 - ❖ building stronger community relationships
 - ❖ reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
 - ❖ developing skills, knowledge and local pride

A hierarchy of open space categories is recognised in strategic planning in London and the latest version is found in table 7.2 of the London Plan¹¹. Wimbledon Park (public section) clearly would be considered to be a Metropolitan (if the lake is included) or District Park in this hierarchy, for which travel distances would be between 1 and 3 kilometres. A site-centred evaluation would show it to be nearest park of such value to a wide area of nearby SW London.

Town centres roughly on the 3 km distance from a park entrance are Wandsworth, Earlsfield, Tooting, Merton, Wimbledon and Putney. There are three significant green spaces within this distance, Wimbledon & Putney Commons, Wandsworth Common and King Georges Park.

Of course Metropolitan and District Parks act as Local Parks also for those who live within some 400 metres.

Events in the park provide or support entertainment as well as supplying extra funds. Two are mentioned here:

- The All England Lawn Tennis championships are a world class event taking place on the other side of Church Road. This fortnight is a celebration of tennis and the whole park is involved in supporting by providing car parks, hospitality, queueing, and camping in the public part. The income from this is significant. The wider area is also involved in this event as blanket and rigid parking restrictions are enforced to avoid traffic congestion.
- Fireworks around 5th November each year in the public park.

Volunteering is an activity which takes place through not-for-profit and community organisations and projects and is undertaken:

- to be of benefit to the community and the volunteer;
- of the volunteer's own free will and without coercion; and
- for no financial payment.

Volunteering can deliver a wealth of benefits including:

- a means of building self-esteem and/or confidence;
- a great way to learn or develop skills and interests;
- a pathway to enhance work experience;



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- enhance your health and get active;
 - a way to meet new people or broaden your social circle;
 - as an expression of your gratitude for help you may have received in the past;
 - an opportunity to support a cause you feel strongly about;
- and
- making a real difference to your community.

Volunteers come from the community and are ideally placed to manage and run open spaces and the buildings and assets within them including an input into connecting green corridors.

Given the opportunity volunteers can transform the way things are done in an economical and timely fashion. The volunteer's skills, knowledge and co-operative actions would provide a greatly enhanced outcome for the benefit of the community.



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Section 9 Committee Structure

The Friends Forum facilitates discussion and decision making between all the owners, organisations, groups, employees and individual concerns relating to this historic 61 hectare park. By working together the outcome will be for the public benefit as well as for the benefit of the users of Wimbledon Park. The whole being greater than the sum of its parts.

The Forum is structured to include interested park officers and staff, politicians and individuals with skills that help with management plans. Land owners, leaseholders, regulatory authorities, group leaders and interested individuals are also encouraged to participate and they do.

The Southfields Grid Residents' Association (SGRA), The Wimbledon House Residents' Association (WHRA) and the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association (WPRA) were founder members of the Friends of Wimbledon Park and under the Constitution have a special role as Custodians¹².

The Executive Committee are responsible for managing the Friends. Their focus will be on the **Conservation Management Plan**.

In the future there is a case for a **Trust for Wimbledon Park**. This would be community based. The trust status would qualify for VAT rebates, benefit from direct grant aid and tax credits, and have greater control over its budgets.

The geographical area for identifying the community can be the four wards, West Hill ward, Southfields ward, Wimbledon Park ward and Village ward.

Proposed Trust for Wimbledon Park Governing Body (the Trust)

Broadly this would oversee the work of the Friends Executive Committee who would manage the affairs of the Trust. The current constitution of the Friends lends itself for adoption with a few changes such as that dealing with property and charity status.

Suggest 12 members:

- 1 from LB Merton (appointed)
 - 1 from LB Wandsworth (appointed)
 - 1 from The Wimbledon Club (appointed)
 - 1 from the Wimbledon Foundation (or AELTC) (appointed)
 - 1 from Wimbledon Park Golf Club (appointed)
 - 1 from Southfields ward (elected)
 - 1 from Wimbledon Park ward (elected)
 - 1 from West Hill ward (elected)
 - 1 from Village Ward (elected).
 - 3 nominated by the Forum to provide the necessary skills, knowledge and balance for an effective governing body.
- 1) Term of office to be 3 years with the proviso that if the Trust's annual report is rejected at an annual general meeting then elections, appointments and nominations can be recalled.
 - 2) The governing body will be provided with a paid secretary who will also service the Forum.
 - 3) Each member of the governing body will be required to undertake an induction course prior to taking up their seat.

In setting up a charity¹³ the most common is charitable incorporated organisation (CIO).

There is also a need for a power to regulate (bye-laws).



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Funding is an issue needing careful consideration and our paper¹⁴ on revenue options provides some thoughts on this subject. Involvement of the City of London Corporation (not yet included in this document) could be worthwhile.

Naming of the Trust is set aside until later. Suggestions so far include:

- 'Historic Wimbledon Park Community Trust'
- 'The Community Trust of Historic Wimbledon Park'
- 'Wimbledon Park Capability Trust'
- 'Wimbledon Park Heritage (Community) Trust'
- 'The Wimbledon Park Heritage Community Trust'
- 'Wimbledon Park Management Trust'

Note: Wimbledon Park Community Trust exists elsewhere so isn't available.



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Section 10 Management focus

Introduction

In 2014 the Friends examined the assets¹⁵ and finances in the public part of Wimbledon Park. Comment here is restricted to the major issues that management need to focus on. The Conservation Management Plan would be the guide and the iteration process continuous with the four activities, wellbeing, study, sport and community at the forefront of thinking.

Limitations of this section

Work has been done in some areas and the important ones are mentioned here in some detail to indicate what could be achieved. Other ideas will come along and so it's vital that this section is understood as just what it is - current proposal themes. For example, Dave Dawson's work on Capability Brown points up the opportunity for native cornfield annuals in the public park, the need for clumps of trees and the potential of the hedgerows, avenues and self-established woody vegetation around the periphery of the space to mimic the, now lost, Brownian peripheral wooded belt

Buildings.

Facilities for athletics and water sports aren't fit for purpose and the option of providing shared structures should improve things dramatically without loss of greenspace. In addition the proposal from David Johnson (Chairman, The Wimbledon Club) for hockey & more in the stadium is compelling.

Of particular importance is his letter to Stephen Alambritis (Leader, Merton Council) on 19th March 2013 outlining their proposal for hockey in the stadium and the sharing of facilities with the Hercules Wimbledon Athletics Club. His letter included:

- a. I would like to emphasise at the outset that we are not looking for either ownership or exclusive use of such a facility. We believe that it could be the catalyst for a significant improvement in the sports offering to a very wide range, including local schools and disabled sportsmen and women.
- b. This is a significant and expensive project and it is impractical to cover all its ramifications at this point. We are convinced that it is deliverable and can be delivered in such a form that all stakeholders will benefit, including many who currently make no use of the Athletics Stadium facilities at all.
- c. The Wimbledon Club, through its management, full and part-time staff and hockey coaching staff, would undertake to be part of the management structure of the Stadium's activities in order to ensure their success. We would also expect to play a major part in the delivery of the project.

Since then an undertaking to provide a director of athletics and the indication that no extra parking facilities would be needed add further incentive to commence discussions on this proposal. Spin offs such as a café overlooking the lake and a boardwalk linking with Church Road would be great additional assets.

The Bowling Pavilion is in disgraceful condition and needs restoration. The area behind used for storage should offer opportunity for better uses.

The Lake is a prime focus:

- a. There's no point in de-silting without considering the options for future use.
- b. An authoritative view on what are the main sources of silt is needed, so that measures can be taken to slow the future rate of siltation (if possible). Various ideas are promoted, but it's not known which are both valid and important: excess input of food from public feeding of waterfowl; excess input of ground bait and other fish food by the anglers; input from geese feeding elsewhere defecating in the water; and the sediment load of the two main feeder brooks. To this can be added atmospheric deposition (analogous to house dust) and



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incomplete decay of vegetation (both "macrophyte" and planktonic). Following from this, there may be a need for design features to minimise future siltation.

- c. The lake supports underwater macrophytes (the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust report is erroneous in this regard); Rigid hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*; Horned pondweed *Zannichellia palustris*; and Small pondweed *Potamogeton berchtoldii* abound in the lake. These are typical of eutrophic, neutral or slightly alkaline waters. This water quality will continue in future as that's the nature of relatively shallow lakes in the SE, but expert advice will be needed on how to establish a better range of underwater plants after de-silting.
- d. The lake is visited regularly by Common Terns, for which the nearest breeding site is the Wetland Centre. At present they sit on the floating structures but are prevented from breeding by other waterfowl and water sports people. If a raft of the right design were provided, the lake could support a breeding pair of this attractive species. The Wetland Centre could advise on this.
- e. Almost all of the lake margin is bordered by vertical shuttering, so there are no shelving shores. This limits severely the range of water's edge vegetation and consequently waterfowl, insects, fish, birds, etc supported by the lake. Some of the silt should be employed to create some shelving edges to overcome this limitation.
- f. Before the pollution incidents the lake used to have extensive beds of water lilies and similar plants. There should be plans made to re-establish these. The two water lilies native to the SE would be a good start.
- g. The breeding success of desirable waterfowl (coots, native ducks, grebes, moorhen and mute swans) is severely limited by poor cover on the terrestrial margins of the lake and by the fish (both as predators on hatchlings and as competitors for food). Provision of better vegetation cover both on the terrestrial margins and as beds of dense emergent vegetation would ease this position somewhat.
- h. It's fashionable to create "kingfisher banks" for this bird to tunnel for nesting. The lake may not be quite large enough to support a breeding pair of kingfishers, but no harm would be done by providing such a bank. The RSPB or Wetland Trust could advise on this one.
- i. There are perceived problems at the sports club from high ground water levels. It's incorrect to attribute this to the level of silt in the lake, except indirectly; ground water in the surrounds is driven by what flows downhill in the soil towards the lake from the surrounding land and by the level of water in the lake. This level is controlled by the outflow weir. Any indirect effect is a consequence of the outflow weir being set high to maximise depth for water sports. So, it's important to design the restored lake to an agreed normal water level.
- j. The habitat creation could all be achieved without a significant impact on existing use by the fishing club and water sports people as neither activity presently extends right into the shallow extremities of the lake. Indeed it's very rare to see more than half of the fishing stands in use.
- k. From a practical and safety perspective the formal zoning of the lake for designated uses would be appropriate. This would limit potential conflicts between the different users - anglers - sailing - canoeing - and the wildlife (e.g. bird nesting sites).
- l. An underwater viewing area could be incorporated together with information on the fish, birds and other fauna and flora that rely on the habitat for their survival.
- m. Eel populations are in decline so their preservation here should be helped.
- n. Fishing rights could be extended to allow for day licences, child classes and training
- o. Water sports to include swimming, jumping in water facility and triathlon.
- p. Bird watching; to include a cliff face for sand martins, kingfisher bank and tern raft.

Southern extension of lake

- q. ---- Extension of the lake¹⁶ to its historic limit is possible without compromising the layout of the golf course.

Streams

- r. ---- Thought could be given to removal of tunnels for streams flowing into the lake thus opening them up to nature.



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Special species and special places for nature

Work on a biodiversity strategy would be continuous.

Funding

As an independent asset for the community which needs funding some could be provided by Merton and Wandsworth Councils.

During 2015 the Friends met Michael Murray from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) who said Wimbledon Park was an interesting and historic park, which perhaps should be on the English Heritage At Risk register. He gave the Friends detailed advice as to how proceed with project. This included: "A project would need to be a partnership bid with all the operators/land owners of the park and the Friends to be truly effective in sustaining the level of changes needed for the park".

Other sources of funding would include the Sports Council, Education Authorities, NHS and of course donations.

Events

The staging of events is also a source of funding and can be an added attraction in the park. There is a need to provide a balance between obtaining revenue, enjoyment of groups and individuals and the loss of facility and the doing of harm.

Staff

Relationships with staff and their working conditions would be a priority concern.

LDA Design

The consultants appointed to draw up a master plan for the public part of the park are due to report shortly. We anticipate some useful ideas and information which could be incorporated into our Conservation Management Plan.

References

¹ The London list is of gardens more or less extant, whereas the Heritage Site is only about 15% of the original extent of Brown's Park (61/375)

² <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>

³ The master list of conservation designations kept by Defra: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3408> is not comprehensive, so other sources have also been consulted. One such is the list of BAP priority species: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5717>. Generally, species are listed because of a significant decline in distribution or population, or risk of local extinction. "BAP" = Biodiversity Action Plan. "IUCN" = International Union for the Conservation of Nature"

⁴ <http://www.nationalaccountsofwellbeing.org/>

⁵ Wikipedia

⁶ Wikipedia

⁷ <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/study.html#ixzz48cdNcOup>

⁸ <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/community.html#ixzz48cgJl3xR>

⁹ Special places for nature in Wimbledon Park, D Dawson 2016

¹⁰ Developed by the London Ecology Unit and continued by the Mayor of London. These sites are selected through an even-handed comparison across a search area of all candidate sites and so represent the best available for the purpose. They include internationally and nationally important sites, but also others important to London, individual London Boroughs and smaller localities. These are protected through the London Plan (Policy 7.19 and paragraphs 7.59-7.62) as reflected in the policies of the local plans, here the LB Merton Core Planning Policy 21g and Sites and Policies Plan policy DMO2 and the LB Wandsworth Core Policy PL 4f and Development Management policy DMO4.

¹¹ (<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/LP2011%20Chapter%207.pdf>).

¹² 6) CUSTODIANS



Friends of Wimbledon Park

- (i) The founding members of the Friends are the Southfields Grid Residents Association, Wimbledon House Residents Association and Wimbledon Park Residents Association. These are the Custodians.
- (ii) At least one member of each of these Associations shall be on the Executive Committee.
- (iii) They have a special role as Custodians in ensuring the continuity, stability and fairness in the running of the business of the Friends.
- (iv) In exceptional circumstances the three founding members have a special power to jointly call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Friends in order to remedy threats or problems relating to the continuity, stability or fairness in the running of the Friends.

¹³ There are four main types of charity structure:

- charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
- charitable company (limited by guarantee)
- unincorporated association
- trust

¹⁴ Wimbledon Park: Revenue Options for the public park 04. (Note two important points from this paper 'LBM rely on the income generated by Wimbledon Park to help fund other green spaces most of which have no income'. And that 'income from the NHS in recognition that prescribing activity in open spaces is a cost-effective health measure' may be an opportunity.

¹⁵ Wimbledon Park; Its Assets and Finances 04 'the Friends' 2014

¹⁶ Wimbledon Park Restoration Proposals. Glasspoole Thomson March 1998. Chapter Five 23 of 25