

HERITAGE

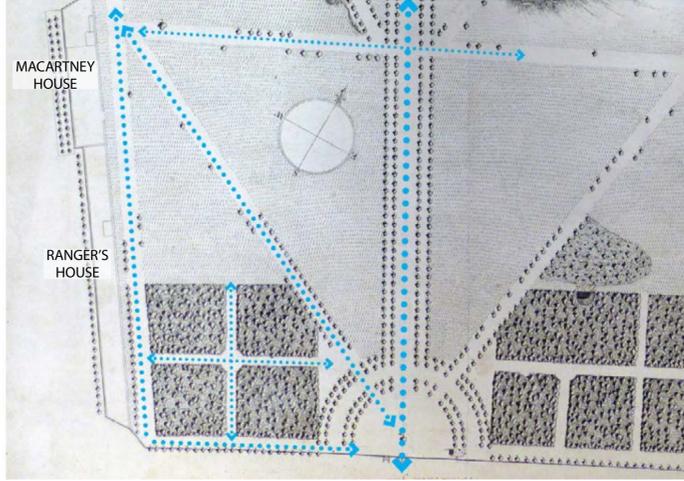
- This southwest quadrant of the park has undergone a series of evolutions over the last 300 years, reflecting the patterns of political and social changes of its day.

- The overall park structure of the French inspired, patte d'oie (goose foot) survives largely intact until the 1790's, with the Little Wilderness steadily being reduced, as shown by the Aslet painting. A number of houses appear and then disappear on the park's west boundary. Most notably Montagu House, residency of Queen Caroline of Brunswick and to the north Macartney House, the home of General Wolfe.

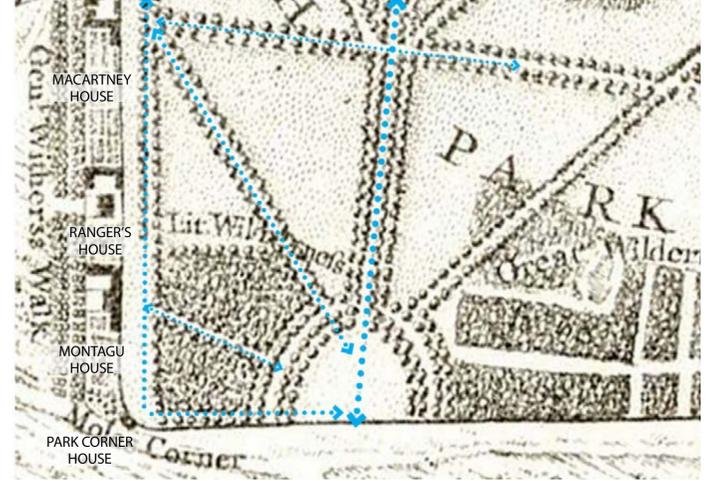
- In the early 1800s the area is significantly changed with the enclosure of Ranger's Field and the introduction of a designed landscape to solely serve the Ranger's House. This removes all of the Snowhill Avenue trees and foreshortens the Conduit Avenue. In 1855 the Reservoir is installed to help provide water to the naval docks.

- After much outcry, the Ranger's Field is returned to public use, when the park is formally opened to the general public in 1897.

- The last 100 years have seen little structural change from then. The grass paths have been tarmaced and much of the Regency shrubberies removed.



Woodlands Plan 1703



Rocque Plan 1746

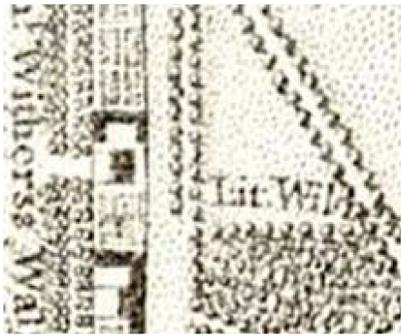


Plan of Royal Park H Sayer 1840



East View of Montagu House, by Aslet c.1799

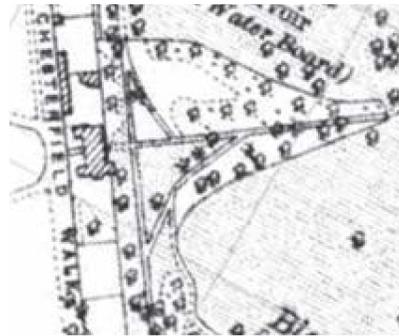
Ranger's House East Garden: Key Changes Through Time



1675-1797 Patte d'Oie
Centre left of the plan is Chesterfield House, later to become Ranger's House. Montagu House (Queen Caroline of Brunswick's residence 1797-1815) is still evident. The Little Wilderness is still a significant landscape element. Conduit Avenue screens the house from the park.



Regency 1797-1897
Montagu House has been demolished in 1815. Section of park wall removed to create south lawn and terrace. Paths emanate from Ranger's House east elevation, shrubberies flank curving pleasure paths. Conduit Avenue is removed to reveal views to Ranger's Field from Ranger's House.



Public Park 1897-1995
Park boundary wall reinstated, the path network is formalised with central alignment of Cherry Avenue in 1930-1950. Conduit Avenue still ends at north boundary. Shrubberies possibly still evident.



Public Park post 1995
Formal Rose Garden introduced in 1995, reflecting the curved stand of trees shown in the c.17th. The secondary footpath network has been removed. Shrubberies also removed and formal yew hedge planted.

Ranger's House East Garden: Some Options for Restoration or Reinterpretation

