



THE  
ROYAL PARKS  
HYDE PARK

PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022–32

# FOREWORD





JASON TAYLOR  
Park Manger  
Hyde Park

Hyde Park is a landscape of free open space at the centre of our great capital city, and the heart of our nation. The park's sense of place draws on its multiple layers of history and offers something for every one of our 17 million annual visitors. These range from local residents walking, exercising and relaxing, and commuters on their way to work to tourists from across the globe.

Despite its ever-changing landscape over nearly five hundred years, the park maintains numerous important historical features including vestiges of pre-emparkment field patterns, the seventeenth-century avenues including the 'Route du Roi' Rotten Row created by William II, the eighteenth-century Serpentine Lake created by Queen Caroline, nineteenth-century carriage drives and lodges created by Decimus Burton, and a range of twentieth-century artefacts and monuments, many of which are Listed by Historic England.

The park has associations with Kings and Queens, famous visitors from Pepys to Garibaldi, artists, performers, and everyday visitors. It was the venue for the Great Exhibition of 1851 and major parades, ceremonial events, rallies, and demonstrations. The park continues to host some of London's most popular and much-loved cultural events including the British Summer Time concerts and Hyde Park Winter Wonderland.

Hyde Park has always been, and continues to be all things to all people, and truly embodies the idea of 'the Peoples Park'. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen demand for public open spaces soar as they have become, for many, an opportunity to engage with nature and enhance our mental and physical wellbeing. The threat posed to the landscape of the park by climate change continues to increase year-on-year accelerating the potential for biodiversity and habitat loss. Vital to the long-term protection of the parks and central to TRP's strategic thinking is the need to strengthen the natural resilience of the ecosystems within the park.

I am delighted to introduce this Hyde Park Management Plan. The plan continues to develop our new format, and involved the Hyde Park Management team, TRP specialists, and key stakeholders led by our Landscape Management Officer, Nicholas Petridis. It reflects TRP's objectives and aspirations for the next decade and beyond. The plan sets a course that will address the fundamental issues facing the park over the coming 10 years, whilst increasing resilience for the next 100 years.

The Royal Parks always welcome any comments or thoughts on our ambitious plans, we hope you join us in celebrating and supporting our vision for the 'Peoples Park'.



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# PREFACE

## GUIDANCE

The development of this management plan is guided by current best practice and expertise within The Royal Parks.

Reference has been made to government publications and documents, the European Landscape Convention guidance documents, Natural England publications, Land Use Consultant's (LUC) 'Hyde Park Historical Survey 1982', Land Use Consultant's (LUC) 'Hyde Park Strategic Management Plan 1991' and Land Use Consultant's (LUC) 'Hyde Park Management Plan 2006–2016'.

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

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This management plan has been prepared and worked on by:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
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| <b>Andrew Scattergood</b>       | Chief Executive                                 |
| <b>David McClaren</b>           | Chief of Staff                                  |
| <b>Tom Jarvis</b>               | Director of Parks                               |
| <b>Jane Pelly</b>               | Head of Landscape                               |
| <b>Nicholas Petridis (Lead)</b> | Landscape Management Officer                    |
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| <b>David Jordan</b>             | Assistant Park Manager                          |
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| <b>Mathew Bonomi</b>            | Head of Transport and Access                    |
| <b>Lucy Kellett</b>             | Interpretation Manager                          |

The following stakeholders provided invaluable feedback on the final draft: Historic England, Westminster City Council, Environment Agency, Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, and The London Gardens Trust.

## ABBREVIATIONS

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>BST</b>     | British Summer Time                                |
| <b>DEFRA</b>   | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| <b>DCMS</b>    | Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport    |
| <b>ExCom</b>   | Executive Committee                                |
| <b>EA</b>      | Environment Agency                                 |
| <b>FMC</b>     | Facilities Maintenance Contractor                  |
| <b>FoHPaKG</b> | Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens        |
| <b>GLA</b>     | Greater London Authority                           |
| <b>HE</b>      | Historic England                                   |
| <b>HPWW</b>    | Hyde Park Winter Wonderland                        |
| <b>LCA</b>     | Local Council Authority (Westminster)              |
| <b>LM</b>      | Landscape Maintenance                              |
| <b>LMC</b>     | Landscape Maintenance Contractor                   |
| <b>LUC</b>     | Land Use Consultants                               |
| <b>MOD</b>     | Ministry of Defence                                |
| <b>MPS</b>     | Metropolitan Police Service                        |
| <b>RCHME</b>   | Royal Commission Historical Monuments England      |
| <b>SPP</b>     | Safer Parks Panel                                  |
| <b>TfL</b>     | Transport for London                               |
| <b>TRP</b>     | The Royal Parks                                    |
| <b>TRP OCU</b> | The Royal Parks Operational Command Unit           |
| <b>WCC</b>     | Westminster City Council                           |

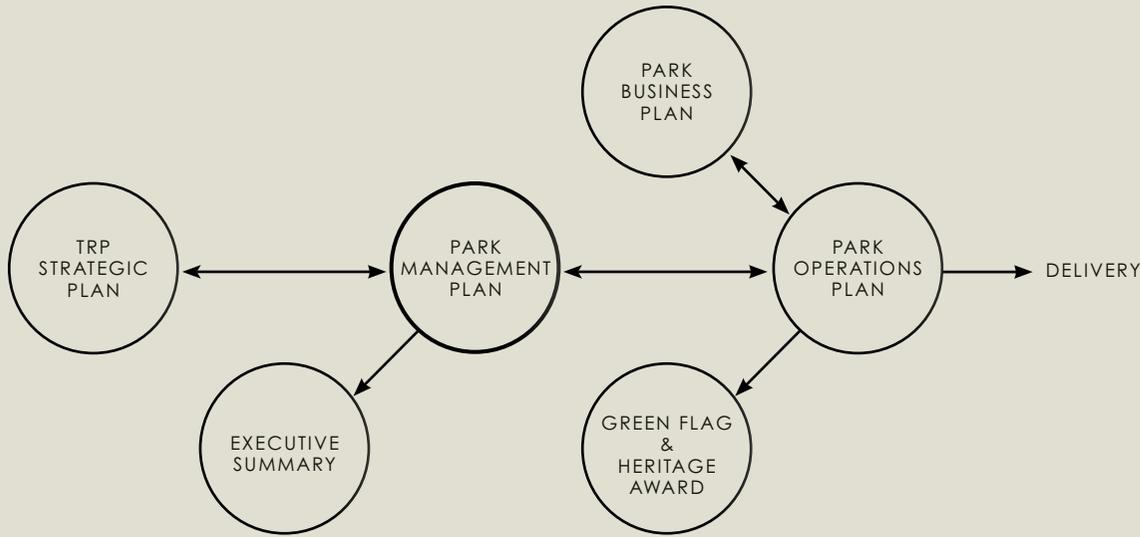


Fig.1 Our Landscape Documents

### OUR LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTS

#### ***Park Management Plan***

‘What’ we will do...  
‘what’ we want to do

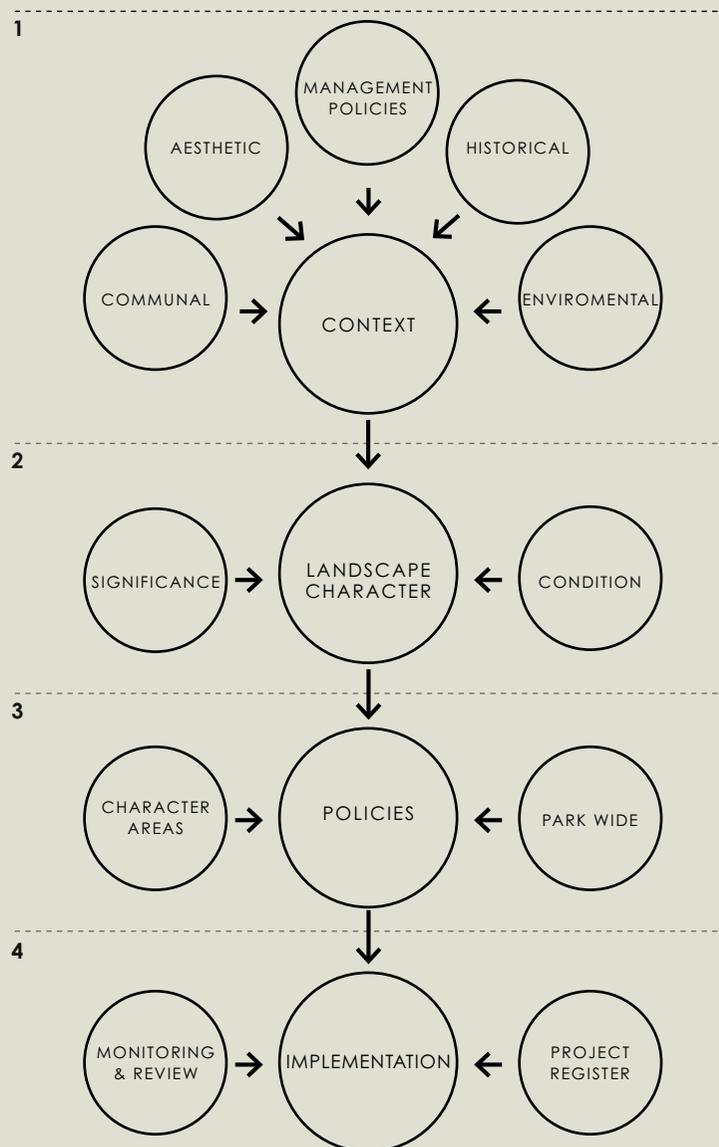
The Park Management Plans are a 10-year plan for each park, which helps direct effective park management. The plan is strategic in nature, setting out the 100-year vision for the park and the broad objectives which guide its management.

#### ***Park Operations Plan***

‘What we deliver...  
‘when’, ‘who’ and ‘how’

The Park Operations Plan is prepared every year as the working document for the management of the park. It contains the park’s annual Action Plan and Business Plan while also recording progress made in the previous year.

Fig.2 Structure of this plan



## STRUCTURE OF THIS PLAN

### 1 CONTEXT

The Royal Parks view Hyde Park's landscape as one which has developed from natural processes and human interactions. This part brings together key information required to understand the shaping of Hyde Park, and what it looks like today.

### 2 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Hyde Park is recognised as an entity with many different characteristics. In this part the park is broken down into ten landscape character areas. These character areas are a tool for better understanding the landscape's significance and condition. Subsequently this helps TRP identify opportunities for improvement, which in turn allows us to prioritise projects in the foreseeable future.

### 3 OUR POLICIES

This part is about setting park wide TRP policies for Hyde Park's management.

### 4 IMPLEMENTATION

This part describes the mechanisms for recording, monitoring, and reviewing the delivery of the management plan's proposed projects and policies.

It includes the Project Register, which is an active component that combines identified opportunities, developed in part 2, and park-wide policies, developed in part 3. The Project Register lists projects that TRP aims to deliver over the next decade and are subject to the availability of resources.

## PROCESS

The development of TRP's landscape management plans is a collaborative process led by the Landscape Management Officer. This process involves a series of workshops with the respective park management team and input from other TRP staff specialists in ecology, arboriculture, sustainability, transport and movement, catering, events, and community engagement.

A select group of 'critical friends' are engaged in the process where their knowledge and expertise is incorporated. Other external specialists and representatives of statutory authorities are also consulted where appropriate.

An online survey is conducted to help discover 'what is individually valued' within Hyde Park by the public, in particular friends, volunteers and special interest groups. Results of these findings are revealed in the Cultural Significance section of this management plan.

Internal drafts are circulated to directors, relevant heads of departments and specialist staff members. The final draft is then approved by the Landscape Portfolio Board and the Executive Committee (ExCom) along with the Board of Trustees of the charity.

Once the final draft was reached, TRP shared the management plan for consultation to Historic England, Environment Agency, Westminster City Council, the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, and the London Gardens Trust.

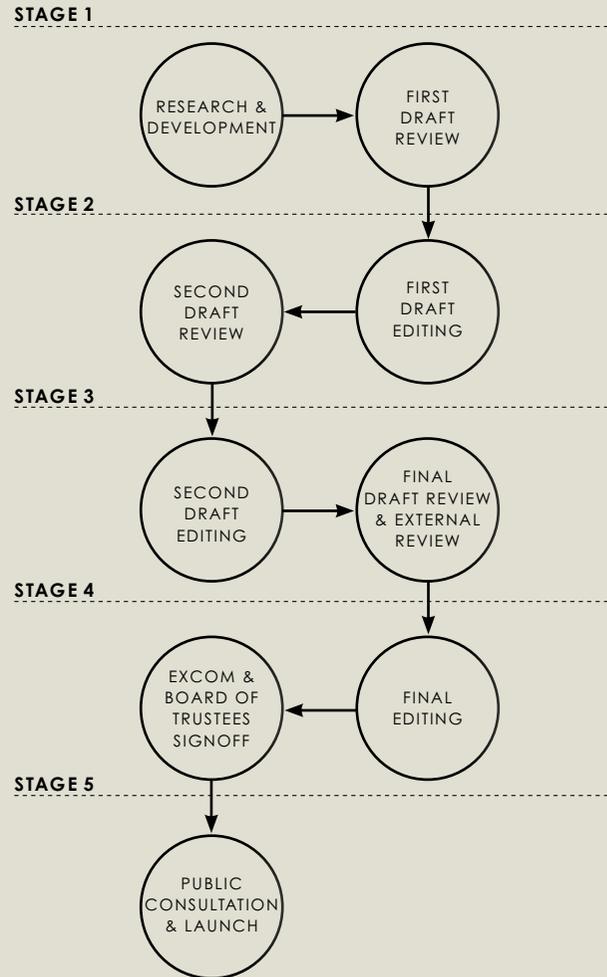


Fig.3 Process of making this plan

10%

of visitors felt the natural environment could be enhanced

2%

of visitors arrive by bicycle

40%

of visitors are from outside the UK

40%

of visitors come to the park alone

43%

of visitors are from London

## VISITOR RESEARCH

Visitor research provides some useful insights into the demographics and perceptions of Hyde Park's visitors. The most recent Ipsos MORI survey (2017-18) showed that 43% of visitors are from London and 40% from outside the UK – chiefly Europe and Asia. As might be expected from the touristic character of Hyde Park, 62% of visitors were infrequent and 38% frequent. Visitors are more ethnically diverse than the Royal Parks average, with 35% identifying themselves as BAME (Black and ethnic minorities). Hyde Park also appeals to a younger audience, with the majority aged between 16 and 44 years old.

In terms of visiting habits, the survey revealed that 52% of respondents use public transport to access the park – higher than the average percentage across all the Royal Parks. Forty-one per cent of visitors walk, and 2% arrive by bicycle. The greatest number of visitors stay for 1-2 hours; a third stay for under an hour, while almost a fifth spend 2-3 hours here. The TRP Visitor Experience Survey (2020) indicated that 40% of visitors, 40% come to the

park alone, contrary to the estate-wide trend of visiting with family; this finding, however, may reflect changing habits during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the survey showed that families still account for a third of visitors, and friendship groups a fifth. Six per cent of people come with organised groups, more than in any other Royal Park.

Visitor satisfaction levels remain high, though the 2017-18 Ipsos survey showed a reduction in overall satisfaction from the 2014 Ipsos survey. Ninety-five per cent of respondents rated the park as 'excellent' or 'good' in 2017-18, though the number rating it 'excellent' was notably below the Royal Parks average. There is considerable approval regarding maintenance standards where:

- 89% consider the quality of the natural environment to be good or excellent
- 91% rate the upkeep of the landscape
- 89% believe the park is tidy and clean

Almost half of people identified 'peace and quiet' as the main purpose of their visit, and 85% believe Hyde Park offers this to a good or excellent degree.

Satisfaction drops considerably when it comes to the displaying of information in the park: only 68% of visitors praise the signposting and maps. Similarly, interpretive information on park features has a 69% approval rating, a drop on 2014 levels. Facilities for children and sports also have a satisfaction rating of 70%. More than a fifth of respondents judge the toilets to be poor or very poor. The 2020 TRP survey revealed the negative behaviours that most impacted visitors' enjoyment of the parks were littering and cycling on unpermitted routes. Loud music and cut-through traffic were also cited as significant problems.

To enhance the visitor experience, the top request in the Ipsos survey was for more entertainment activities, which included concerts, film screenings, children's events, and live theatre. Thirteen per cent of people wanted increased opportunities to play

52%

of respondents use public transport to access the park

89%

of respondents consider the quality of the natural environment to be good or excellent

89%

of respondents believe the park is tidy and clean

94%

of respondents stated that experiencing nature was a 'fairly' or 'very important' part of their visit

72%

of respondents stated that learning about history and heritage was important to them

sport or exercise, and 9% wanted more cultural, educational and arts activities. Over 1 in 10 visitors identified food outlets and seating as other areas requiring improvement, while 6% prioritised better signage. Almost 10% felt the natural environment could be enhanced – a higher figure than the other Royal Parks.

In the 2017–18 Ipsos MORI survey 94% of respondents stated that experiencing nature was a 'fairly' or 'very important' part of their visit to Hyde. Maintaining health and wellbeing was important to 92% of visitors and learning about history and heritage important to 72%.

In the 2020 TRP survey over half of respondents identified nature as the area they would most like to learn more about in Hyde Park. Almost a third wanted more information on the park's history heritage, closely followed by health/wellbeing. More specifically, wildlife and different plant and tree species were ranked as the most popular topic. Buildings and statues, as well as cultural activities

such as art and music, were the favourite topics in the heritage area. For health and wellbeing, the key interests were supporting physical health through personal recreation/exercise and supporting mental wellbeing.

Visitors use a mixture of physical and digital media to gather information about Hyde Park, whether practical or interpretive. Traditional formats such as information boards and self-led walking trails are valued; indeed, three-quarters of people cited the former as a preferred way to access information. Seventy percent of visitors read signs and information boards at entrances, 61% at prominent park features and 22% at catering outlets. But digital methods are also used by many visitors: 57% refer to TRP's website for information and 35% to social media. Almost a fifth of Hyde visitors particularly like interactive and dynamic digital content, such as apps, games, and videos; this is higher than the Royal Parks average.

With regards to brand awareness, the Ipsos survey showed that only 29% of visitors know Hyde is maintained by The Royal Parks – significantly below the Royal Parks average of 43%. Both the Ipsos MORI and TRP surveys also reveal a below-average awareness that TRP is a charity.

As of 2021, a new market research programme is being planned with the aim of improving the frequency, continuity, and depth of visitor insight for the organisation. A mixture of large-scale quantitative surveying and more focused qualitative research will help inform and evaluate initiatives in all the Royal Parks.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Having shaped and been shaped for centuries, Hyde Park's history, culture, habitats, and species are integral to the landscape's character, and sense of place. Hyde Park contributes to Greater London's environmental quality is greatly valued by our visitors, and access to nature provides a wide range of health and wellbeing benefits for our local communities.

Hyde Park landscape's rich biodiversity reflects its management as a Royal Park. We work with volunteers and partners to lead the way in the provision of wildlife rich habitats. We also provide some of London's best opportunities for people to experience and interact with wildlife, and to escape the bustle of the city, whilst the landscapes, habitats and species of the parks form some of London's most iconic views, framing state ceremonies and events which attract visitors from around the world.

Our formation as a charity in 2017 has provided the opportunity to take stock, to consolidate and strengthen how we deliver for biodiversity. The accelerating loss of nature and climate change threaten our quality of life.

The Royal Parks recently declared a Climate Emergency. Although we have been committed to improving our sustainability for many years, we recognise that we must urgently do more to both reduce the impact of how we operate and maximise the delivery of the environmental and societal benefits which the parks provide for London and our visitors, with biodiversity enhancement key.

The Royal Parks' Chief Executive, Andrew Scattergood, recently stated:

*"The environmental challenges we face are significant. Here in the Royal Parks, we are striving to address our impact on climate change in the ways that we operate. We have been committed to improving our sustainability practices for many years, but we must urgently do more. Our parks deliver significant environmental and other benefits to our city and our visitors, such as carbon capture, flood and drought alleviation and cooling for people and wildlife. However, we need to become even greener, reduce our carbon footprint and be an exemplar of good practice."*

There are many pressures associated with the changing climate for Hyde Park, which include:

**Excessive rainfall:** which can cause flooding that may damage habitats, disrupt wildlife, and erode the landscape. Unpredictable weather, such as storms, can cause severe erosion in the parks.

**Increasing drought conditions:** this could dry out our grassland and woodland habitats which places pressure on our landscape's resilience towards becoming more biodiverse while maintaining aesthetically pleasing landscapes for our visitors.

**Increased periods of warmer weather:** may have the effect of increasing the number of visitors to Hyde Park. This can result in more pollution and litter, traffic congestion, accidental fires, and more carbon dioxide emissions.

**Species extinctions:** the parks have been managed more positively for wildlife for the past 30 years. However, we know that some species are declining, for example amphibians due to increased summer drought, whilst pollinator populations are decreasing globally. The relative isolation of the parks increases the risk of local extinctions. We strive to increase the resilience of the parks through targeted management, for example providing forage for pollinators, and increasing water retention of ponds.

**Habitat loss and damage:** The Royal Parks are subjected to several pressures which impact the extent and value of wildlife habitats. For example, ever increasing numbers of visitors during drier periods are eroding and widening footpaths with an associated loss of grassland habitats.

**Wildlife and tree pests and diseases:** tree populations and the character of the parks are being harmed by established and emerging pests and diseases. We are actively tackling Bleeding Canker of horse chestnut, Acute Oak Decline, Massaria fungal disease of London plane and Phytophthora of sweet chestnut, for example. We are working with partners such as Forest Research and DEFRA to monitor such pests and diseases, whilst undertaking and supporting research as to how best to respond in the face of climate change. Similarly, an increasing number of invasive species inhabit the parks, some of which cause harm to habitats and other wildlife. Grey squirrels damage trees; floating pennywort, water fern and New Zealand swamp stonecrop choke waterbodies; whilst oak processionary moth poses a risk to human health and reduces tree vitality.

**Pollution and Contamination:** pollution damages lakes and waterbodies in the parks, harming waterfowl, fish, amphibian, and invertebrate populations, and in some cases posing a risk to the health of visitors. Climate change exacerbates water quality issues with warmer weather encouraging algal blooms whilst flash flooding can flush nutrients from surrounding land into waterbodies. Waterfowl waste and visitors feeding waterfowl further contribute to nutrient enrichment.

*“To play our role to deliver real change, we recognise that we must have clear, tangible outcomes. In the year ahead, we will build an evidence base showing the impact we have and areas where we must make a difference.*”

*We will work together to meet these challenges.”*

ANDREW SCATTERGOOD  
The Royal Parks' Chief Executive

CONTEXT



Hyde Park's landscape is one that has evolved by natural processes and centuries of human interaction. In this part we bring together key information required to understand the shaping of this landscape to help us manage it appropriately for the future.

**HYDE PARK VISION STATEMENT**

“Conserve the historic landscape while meeting the demands of visitors and events. Respect the built and natural heritage. Provide a refuge for biodiversity and protect wildlife. Maintain fine horticulture.”

Fig.4 Our parks



**BAYSWATER**

**PADDINGTON**

**MARYLEBONE**

**MAYFAIR**

**KENSINGTON GARDENS**

**KNIGHTSBRIDGE**

**BELGRAVIA**





22

19

3

31

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**KEY FEATURES**

1. The Serpentine
2. Parade Ground
3. Speakers' Corner
4. Serpentine Lido
5. Old Police House
6. Ranger's Lodge
7. The Look Out
8. Serpentine Bar and Kitchen (SBK)
9. The Dell
10. The Rose Garden
11. Apsley Gate
12. Great Exhibition Ground
13. Hyde Park Sports Centre
14. Hyde Park Nursery
15. Diana, Princess of Wales's Memorial Fountain
16. Rotten Row
17. Reformers Tree
18. Serpentine Road
19. North, South & West Carriage Drives
20. Serpentine Bridge
21. Tyburn Meadows
22. Pet Cemetery
23. Hyde Park Bandstand
24. W.H.Hudson Memorial
25. Serpentine Island
26. Statue of Achilles
27. Serpentine Lido Cafe
28. South Carriage Drive Playground
29. The Joy of Life fountain
30. Hyde Park Horse rides and Manèges
31. Hyde Park Barracks
32. 7th July Memorial



## MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

This section of Part 1 outlines the management context which helps us to deliver our purpose:

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

## THE ROYAL PARKS

TRP is responsible for managing eight historic royal parks in London. These are: Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James’s Park, The Green Park, The Regent’s Park and Primrose Hill, Greenwich Park, Richmond Park, and Bushy Park. We also look after other exceptional green spaces in the capital, including Brompton Cemetery, Victoria Tower Gardens, and the Longford River.

Hyde Park is one of the central Royal Parks that covers an area of approximately 350 acres (140 hectares). It is situated near Oxford Street, Bayswater, Mayfair, Belgravia, Knightsbridge, and South Kensington.

## PARK MANAGEMENT

Park management for historic and internationally known parks such as Hyde Park involves managing the ever-changing demands from key stakeholders, local residents, tourists, and special interest groups. At the same time, it involves meeting statutory requirements from national, regional, and local authorities.

## AUTHORITY TO MANAGE

London’s Royal Parks are owned by Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Crown. Statutory responsibility for their management rests with Government. TRP is the charity that has been contracted to manage and care for the parks on behalf of the Government. The charity has an independent Board of Trustees who oversee the work of the organisation and set its strategic direction. The Board is legally obliged to act in the interests of the charity in line with its charitable objects.

## THE ROYAL PARKS CHARITABLE OBJECTS

Our charitable objects set out the main purpose of the charity, and what we aim to achieve. These are:

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

## COMPLIANCE

Hyde Park is protected for its wildlife, heritage, and landscape character and therefore park management needs to comply with the relevant legislation. Historic England (HE), the Environment Agency (EA), the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS), the Greater London Authority (GLA), and Westminster City Council (WCC), are all statutory authorities who may need to approve certain activities. Hyde Park currently has the following designations that we comply with:

- Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special historic Interest. It is categorised as Grade I entry (registered 1987) that is of exceptional historic interest
- Westminster City Council Conservation Area
- London Metropolitan Open Land (MOL)
- Westminster City Council Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation

Main Challenges:

- C1.** Complying with statutory legislation relevant to the above designations.
- C2.** Ensure TRP is involved/consulted upon any changes to existing designations/new designations.

## FINANCE

The Royal Parks became a charity in 2017, having previously been an agency of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS). The new structure enabled TRP to generate surpluses from commercial income and gave it the flexibility to build up reserves to invest in the parks and generate income, including capital projects and addressing a large and long-standing maintenance backlog. Park management staff, particularly at Hyde Park, have become increasingly involved in managing commercial activities in the Park including events, catering, car-parking, and sports activities. While much of TRP's commercial income is generated in Hyde Park, the finances of the eight royal parks are managed together, not on a park-by-park basis, and income.

As a charity, TRP is also better placed to develop opportunities for volunteering, philanthropy, fundraising, and grant funding. Grants have been invaluable for the delivery of capital improvement projects, habitat enhancement, community engagement and learning in Hyde Park, and these add real value for environmental and community benefit.

Hyde Park has eight residential lodges, two of which house key workers who need to be on-site to respond to urgent issues, including wildlife. The other lodges are let commercially, generating valuable income for the charity.

TRP continues to be supported by a fee in service from DCMS representing about 25% of the charity's annual expenditure.

Main Challenges:

- C3.** Continuing to provide the correct level of on-site support to maintain high standards of stewardship while ensuring staff contractors and volunteers are appropriately supported, trained, and valued.

## INFLUENCES

Hyde Park management team regularly engage with key stakeholder groups. Park users can also make direct approaches to TRP about issues that concern them.

There are several key stakeholder groups for Hyde Park which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens
- Metropolitan Police
- Household Cavalry
- Safer Parks Panel

The Hyde Park management team engages with the following statutory authorities as required:

- Westminster City Council
- Historic England
- Environment Agency
- Greater London Authority
- Transport for London
- The London Gardens Trust

The Hyde Park management team also engage with statutory undertakers for utility services that include gas, electricity, telecommunications, water and etcetera.

### **Green Flag & Heritage Award**

Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag and Heritage Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world. The Royal Parks identifies the Green Flag and Award as a key measure of success. Its purpose and aims are the following:

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve
- To establish standards of good management
- To promote and share good practice amongst the green space sector
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff, and volunteers

Each year, winners receive a Green Flag Award Flag. Those with Green Heritage Site Accreditation also receive a plaque to promote the status. Winning a Green Flag Award visibly demonstrates to the local community that a clear improvement has been made to a site.

As the international standard for parks and green spaces, holding a Green Flag Award brings with it a vast amount of prestige. It is also an excellent

example of civic achievement and provides communities with a great sense of civic pride.

Main Challenges:

- C4.** Balancing the interests from multiple key stakeholder groups with the priorities set out by TRP.
- C5.** Negotiating timing of maintenance/repairs of existing infrastructure in the park and the installation of any new infrastructure.

### **PRESSURES**

#### **Visitor Numbers**

Visitor numbers to Hyde Park have increased four-fold in the past twenty-five years. In the 2018 Ipsos MORI survey 95% of visitors rated the park as excellent or good. This shows that the park is highly valued by visitors and provides benefits for wellbeing and quality of life.

#### **Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Award**

Over the past decade, the annual Green Flag Award has placed Hyde Park as one of the highest scoring parks in the country. These reviews from external auditors indicate that the park is consistently well managed, and we endeavour to continue maintaining and improving this every year.

#### **Royal Parks Reviews**

In 1992, Dame Jennifer Jenkins chaired and published a Royal Parks review on the condition of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Following this, Land Use Consultants (LUC) produced a management plan (2006-2016). Since these two documents were produced Hyde Park has made good progress with the many challenges identified.

This management plan updates these documents and reviews twenty-first century pressures on Hyde Park namely sustainability, biodiversity loss, climate change, population change, income generation, and user expectations.

Main Challenges:

- C6.** There are many changes associated with climate change that include flooding, drought, increase in warmer weather, and pollution.

### **RISKS**

The Hyde Park management team review risk as part of its annual business planning cycle. The key risks that are addressed include:

- Potential deterioration of the collective park assets - loss of environmental, communal, heritage and aesthetic significance
- Pests or diseases which might affect trees and plants, and the Serpentine water quality and wildlife
- Health and safety in respect to public access
- Potential congestion leading to overuse, physical damage, confrontations, and conflict between park users
- Challenges in enforcing rules and regulations, namely responsible litter disposal and cycling in non-designated pathways
- Reduction in income (for whatever reason i.e., COVID-19 pandemic)

Main Challenges:

- C7.** To work with contractors, stakeholders, partners and external bodies to ensure effective mitigation of risk at every stage of park

management operations.

**C8.** To be pro-actively 'horizon scanning' for possible risks.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

Hyde Park, like all Royal Parks, is policed by a dedicated unit of the Metropolitan Police Service, based at the Old Police House. Within the park, there is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Metropolitan Police and TRP, which sets out policing priorities across the park.

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

Policing in the Royal Parks dates to 1872 when the Parks Regulation Act created a force of Royal Park Keepers. Unusually for that time, the Park Keepers were given all the powers of police constables within the parks. In 1974 the Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act was passed, and the Royal Parks Keepers became the Royal Parks Constabulary (RPC).

After a review of the RPC by Mr Anthony Speed, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) took on the responsibility for policing the Royal Parks on 1 April 2004.

The Operational Command Unit (OCU) provides a service to the several million people who visit the Royal Parks every year, drawn not only by the recreational facilities and open spaces, but also

by many of the capital's major tourist attractions. This service is in addition to that provided by the local borough OCUs in which the various parks are located and the numerous specialist departments such as CO11, the Public Order Branch and SO13 the Anti-Terrorist Branch.

The Royal Parks OCU goal is to:

*"provide and be seen to provide the best possible level of policing for the Royal Parks, so as to ensure that they remain free from disturbance and the fear of crime"*.

Main Challenges:

**C9.** With increasing visitor numbers, park managers will need to proactively find ways of communicating park regulations as well as educating visitors regarding acceptable behaviour.

### LICENCES AND CONCESSIONS

Several licences and concessions are in effect in Hyde Park through which specific facilities and events are operated by bodies other than TRP. These include:

- Serpentine Bar and Kitchen Restaurant (SBK) is currently operated by Benugo
- Serpentine Pavilion Café is currently operated by Colicci
- Six mobile catering units spread across the park are also currently owned and operated by Colicci
- The annual Swim Serpentine is currently operated by London Marathon Events Ltd
- Lodge Café at Apsley Gate is currently operated by Spicewell Ltd
- The park's deck chairs are currently operated by Semnat & Associates Ltd (trading as Park Deckchairs)
- Hyde Park Sports Centre is currently operated by Will to Win
- Serpentine Swimming Club have a licence to swim within a designated area in the Serpentine from 5am–9.30am every morning
- Magenta Security currently operate the opening and closing of the park's gates
- The annual Hyde Park Winter Wonderland is currently operated by the International Management Group (IMG)

The Royal Parks are used by people of all ages and of different fitness levels, from lunchtime joggers to Olympic and Paralympic athletes. Being a licensed fitness operator gives you the exciting opportunity of undertaking fitness activities in some truly unique and world-renowned environments.

If instructors wish to use the parks for personal training or to run group fitness sessions, they must be licensed. TRP licence operators to ensure that:

- The park is protected
- Access to and use of public open space is preserved for all visitors
- Park visitors can benefit from, enjoy, and engage in fitness training in a variety of outdoor environments
- Fitness operators hold appropriate qualifications (based on industry best practice) and are fully insured and hold liability for participant's safety

Main Challenges:

- C10.** In the 2018 Ipsos MORI visitor survey 29% of visitors were not aware that Hyde Park is managed by The Royal Parks with the majority unaware of who managed the park.
- C11.** Licence fees to facilitate development adjacent to the park should reflect the benefits and privileges enjoyed by the licensee and the disruption caused to the management of the park.

#### **DATABASE AND ARCHIVE**

Effective management of the park is increasingly reliant on a range of software to enable work programmes to be undertaken. These include:

- Landscape maintenance data (principally an inventory of land use and rates for scheduled work) is held in the 'CONFIRM' database
- The 'Arbortrack' database is TRP's arboricultural management system – it allows tree data to be stored electronically and linked to a mapping system that is compatible with geographical information systems (GIS)
- The Royal Parks work in partnership with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) to manage a biological recording system that holds accurate and validated data on species and habitats and environmental information for all the Royal Parks
- The Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER)

Until 2017, The Royal Parks was part of central government and its records were subject to the Public Records Acts. Considering this most of the historical records associated with The Royal Parks are deposited at The National Archives in Kew. The Royal Parks use an electronic records management system (EDRMS) to store and manage most of its archived records. Some paper records are located at The Old Police House in Hyde Park (TRP headquarters).

Main Challenges:

- C12.** Data monitoring to better inform management practice to help meet TRP's statutory obligations for conserving biodiversity.
- C13.** IT investment into developing a GIS system that provides a comprehensive integrated mapping of services, trees, ecology, furniture & artefacts, hard and soft works features, historical features, topography, and hydrology.

#### **NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS & POLICIES**

There are a range of designations and policies that influence the management of Hyde Park. TRP has statutory duties regarding the following:

##### ***Natural Environment and Rural Communities***

(NERC) Act 2006 Part 3, S.40: "*public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.*"

***Wildlife & Countryside Act*** (1981 as amended), particularly in relation to management that may affect protected species.

***Water Framework Directive 2000:*** the WFD became part of UK Law in 2003 to make artificial or heavily modified water bodies to reach "Good Ecological Potential" (GEP) by 2015, 2021 or 2027 depending on feasibility. The objective of GEP considers the constraints imposed by social and/or economic uses. TRP's objective is to achieve GEP by 2027. Proposed works must be assessed to ensure that the requirements of the WFD are met i.e., that the proposed modification:

- i. Does not deteriorate water body status ('no deterioration')
- ii. Will not compromise the successful implementation of improvement measures; and
- iii. That WFD objectives will still be achieved. To achieve good ecological potential several measures and actions need to be implemented to mitigate against the effects of the high level of modification in this water body (see Annexes B and C of the RBMP).

#### **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act**

1979 Conservation of historic buildings and monuments (updated July 2022). TRP is obligated to put in place measures to protect and conserve its buildings, monuments, sites, and landscapes of historic interest and to regulate operations or activities affecting them.

#### **Historic England's Historic Parks and Gardens Register:**

Hyde Park is listed on the Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. It is categorised as Grade 1 (registered 1987), which means it is of exceptional historic interest.

**Westminster City Council Conservation Area:** The entire park is designated as a Conservation Area, with relevant policies in the Core Strategies for the Westminster City Council. By virtue of being a Conservation Area, all the trees within the Hyde Park are treated as if they have a Tree Preservation Order.

**London Metropolitan Open Land (MOL)** designation is unique to London and protects strategically important open spaces within the built environment. The policy recognises the importance of Metropolitan Open Land and sets the criteria for land designated as MOL. Hyde Park is identified as an MOL in local planning policies.

#### **Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMIs)**

which, in addition to internationally and nationally designated sites, includes land of strategic importance for nature conservation and biodiversity across London. Hyde Park is identified as one of 140 SMIs across London. It is recognised as one of the largest and most important parks in Westminster City Council.

**National Monuments Records Sites (NMR)**, a total of 27 entries are listed in the NMR, including part of a medieval field system such as the parade ground, sites of ponds, a moat, gravel pits, specific features like Rotten Row and the Serpentine.

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

a detailed archaeological survey within the park has been undertaken in 1994 (RCHME, 1994. Hyde Park: An Archaeological Survey – published in two parts).

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVICE**

The London Plan 2021 is the overall strategic plan for London, and it sets out a fully integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of the capital over the next 20-25 years. It forms part of the development plan for Greater London. London boroughs' local plans need to be in general conformity with the London Plan, and its policies guide decisions on planning applications by councils and the Mayor.

#### **The London View Management Framework 2012**

**(LVMF)** states that there is "a single Assessment Point (23A.1) is located at the centre of the bridge, representing views eastward towards the far end of the lake and the townscape beyond."

**London Environment Strategy 2018**, the first strategy to bring together approaches to every aspect of London's environment, integrating the following areas:

- Air quality
- Green infrastructure
- Climate change mitigation and energy
- Waste
- Adapting to climate change
- Ambient noise
- Low carbon circular economy

**The London Biodiversity Action Plan and Biodiversity Strategy**

sets out a strategy for wildlife conservation, based upon action plans for habitats and species. The London Biodiversity Action Plan 'Our Green Capital' was prepared by the London Biodiversity Partnership in 2001. They have since developed the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS), a web-based information system to support the conservation community. These initiatives promote the management of land for biodiversity, education, collating and distributing wildlife information and exchanging information on best practice for managing parks for wildlife.

**Westminster Open Spaces Strategy (WOSS)**

A Partnership Approach to Open Spaces and Biodiversity in Westminster - which sets out why they believe these assets are so valuable, recognising the myriad benefits they bring to Westminster as a place and as a community, and setting out how they, with their partners, will seek to protect, promote, enhance, and make the most of them.

Main Challenges:

**C14.** Wide range of regional strategies and plans that must be considered and, where applicable, implemented when determining management policies and guidelines including biodiversity and views.

**LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES AND DESIGNATIONS**

Hyde Park is Crown Land, and The Royal Parks complies with standard procedures and local authority planning policies.

Hyde Park lies wholly within Westminster City Council. The statutory policies relating to Hyde Park are contained within the Westminster City Plan 2019 2040. Within this plan the park is designated as Metropolitan Open Land and a Metropolitan Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

The plan includes a specific policy (Policy S11) which state:

*"The Royal Parks, their settings, views and tranquillity will be protected from inappropriate development and activity. Developments will only be allowed where they are essential and ancillary to maintaining or enhancing the value of the park as open space, and that do not harm the park's open landscape character, heritage value, nature conservation value, tranquillity or value as a public open space."*

The plan can be found by following this [link](#).

Main Challenges:

**C15.** Numerous local policies and designations exist that must be respected by conservation plan policies particularly relating to protection of open space from built development, protection of views, character of the built landscape, trees, and nature conservation.

**TRP STRATEGIES, PLANS, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

Hyde Park's management team are guided by some of these relevant documents:

- Hyde Park Management Plan 2006-2016 (LUC 2006)
- Hyde Park Historical Survey (LUC 1982)
- Royal Parks Review: Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens (1992)

The Royal Parks strategies, regulations, legislation, and policies are listed on our [website](#).

## HYDE PARK MANAGEMENT TEAM STRUCTURE

### **Park Manager**

Responsible for the overall strategic and optimal management of the park. They are responsible for managing stakeholder relationships, approving all commercial and non-commercial endeavours including those with the local planning authority (Westminster City Council), and they report to the Director of Parks and the Executive Committee (ExCom). They play an important role in identifying projects and potential development/restoration work, and securing funding as required from internal Royal Parks' funds. They manage the staff team and liaise with other park team members daily.

### **Assistant Park Managers**

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

### **Technical Officer**

Carries out a range of park management and technical functions while supporting the Hyde Park management team. The Technical Officer assists in the day-to-day operations of the park, working with contractors and other stakeholders to ensure the smooth delivery of projects, monitoring assets, and responding to issues in the park. They liaise with other park team members daily.

### **Office Manager**

Deals with the day to day running of a busy park office assisting both the Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens Park Managers in the management of the parks. Manages the administration of the Park Office as well as playing an important role in the procurement and development of services and liaising with a wide range of organisations and customers. Monitors the park budgets and assists in the annual corporate planning process. Manages the work of the administration team to ensure that a high standard of customer service is provided for park staff and users. They liaise with other park team members daily.

### **Finance and Administration Officer**

Assists the Office Manager in the delivery and development of the parks' administration and financial services. They assist in monitoring the park budgets and work as part of a team to ensure that a high standard of customer service is provided for park staff and users. They undertake specific administrative and financial functions under guidance of the Office Manager. They liaise with other park team members daily.

### **Park Services Team and Other Directorates**

The various directorates provide technical and specialist skills and support to all management teams. The teams work closely together to ensure that any actions within the parks are implemented to the highest quality and sensitivity. The Park Services Team includes ecologists, landscape architects, arboriculturists, traffic and movement experts, sustainability experts, and health & safety experts.

### **Landscape & Maintenance Contractors**

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

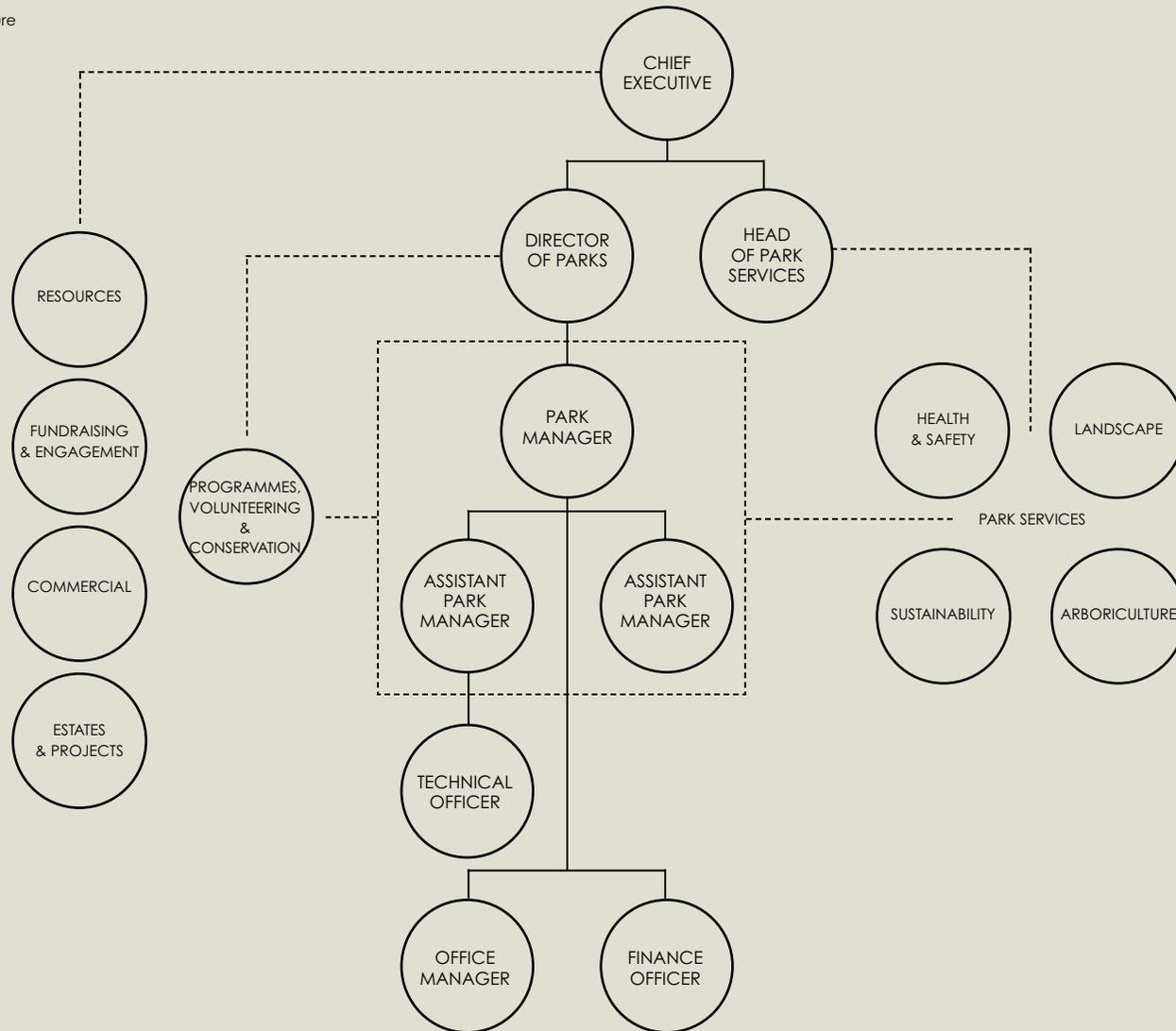
### **Facilities Maintenance Contractors**

Are responsible for the maintenance of the hard landscape areas of the park, services, and buildings maintenance. Routine inspections, repairs and maintenance are covered under the contract. Other important contracts include the gate locking and toilet maintenance contracts.

Main Challenges:

**C16.** To effectively manage Hyde Park within the economic and human resource constraints imposed by commercial contracts while managing impact of increasing visitor numbers.

Fig. 6 TRP Hyde Park Management Team Structure





## HISTORIC CONTEXT

This section of Part 1 discusses the key changes of the park's landscape over time and presents a timeline of historical events that have influenced its identity as 'the people's park'. It also describes the 'built' components that have contributed to the landscape character of Hyde Park.

### **Historic value**

According to Historic England, this means the ways in which past people, events, and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. Historical understanding that comes from 'reading' the landscape that is observable.

Associative historical values are made through people identifying and connecting a place with cultural heritage, literature, art, music, film, scientific or technological discoveries. Continuing use of a place as is historically appropriate, that 'illustrates its relationship between design and function' also enhances its value.

**“Landscape is an essential part of a sustainable future and is strongly interrelated to all social, economic and environmental policies.”**

NATURAL ENGLAND

### **EVOLUTION OF HYDE PARK**

Hyde Park's landscape has been shaped over the past six hundred years with many of its features still visible, while some have been lost. Figure 7 (p.31) is a diagrammatic representation that highlights key developments that formed Hyde Park's landscape over the ages.

The land that is now part of Hyde Park was first recorded in the Domesday Book as having belonged to Geoffrey de Mandeville, who was a Norman Constable at the Tower of London. In the twelfth century, it was owned by Westminster Abbey, who was responsible for developing several dammed ponds from the River Westbourne, to supply water and fish to Westminster Abbey.

In 1536, Henry VIII acquired the land by compulsory exchange for a priory in Buckinghamshire. He famously enclosed this area in 1540 to extend his hunting grounds. Military reviews began during the reign of Elizabeth I, and from the early seventeenth century, public access was restricted. After Charles I became king, the park was opened to the public and several features were established, most notably the Ring, which was the first ornamental feature in the park.

From around 1635, it was fashionable to go horse riding in Hyde Park, which emphasised a major cultural change – from royal hunting and military exercises to leisurely rides for public enjoyment. In 1652, when the Parliamentarians took control, they divided Hyde Park into five sections totalling approximately 250ha and sold them to three purchasers. Apparently many mature trees were

felled and following the Restoration of Charles II it was described as a 'barren field'. Charles II reopened the park to the public and constructed a brick wall around its boundary to help restock the deer population.

During the reign of William III, Nottingham House was acquired in 1689, which marked the beginning of Kensington Palace. This initiated the development of the King's Road, also known as the Route de Roi (now known as Rotten Row), which was the formal axis created by William III in 1690 that connected St James's Palace to the new Kensington Palace. This route became the first oil lit road in the country (300 lamps in total).

Development of the park continued under Queen Anne and Queen Caroline (wife of George II). Between 1690 and 1736 more land was appropriated from the western half of Hyde Park for the expansion of Kensington Palace Gardens.

By 1736, the boundary between Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens was defined by a ha-ha and bastion wall built by Charles Bridgeman in 1730. By this time, Hyde Park exhibited few formal features: The Walnut Avenue at the eastern end adjacent to Park Lane, the Ring, and numerous plantations that meandered around the park. There was also an ornamental reservoir inside the central circle of the Walnut Avenue built to meet the needs of Kensington Palace. More importantly, however, the creation of the Serpentine Lake and Bridge in 1730 at the request of Queen Caroline.

During the late eighteenth-century and early part of the nineteenth-century, the Crown ceased to be interested in the park and its landscape character developed largely in response to public demand who came to the park for horse riding, fishing, and skating. By the beginning of the nineteenth-century, the increase in housing and the development of a community around the park created new demands including the need for easier pedestrian access.

Between 1794 and 1807, Lord Euston (Park Ranger) drew attention to the poor general condition of the park, and it was he who cut down the decaying Walnut Avenue and planted 25,000 new trees in Hyde Park and neighbouring St. James's Park.

The improvements carried out in the 1820s were the most extensive programme of works undertaken in Hyde Park. The scheme was designed by the architect Decimus Burton (1800-81), with the assistance of the road builder James McAdam, under the overall supervision of the Office of Works. Burton reorganised the Park Lane side of the park, replacing the brick wall with railings and trees as well as new gates and lodges. The improvements included the moving of the Marble Arch which was intended to be the entrance to Buckingham Palace.

The Great Exhibition in 1851 is the starting point of the development of the Victorian period in Hyde Park, which is best remembered as the Crystal Palace, designed by Joseph Paxton, and moved, in 1852, to Sydenham (Crystal Palace Park).

The twentieth-century saw the park continue to develop along the lines laid down by the Victorians. George Lansbury, as First Commissioner of Works, greatly improved recreational facilities in all the Royal Parks with funds raised by public appeal in 1929.

During the Second World War, the park adapted to serve several purposes. Air-raid shelters were provided at the eastern edge of Park Lane and anti-aircraft defences. Barracks were constructed along the main ride leading north from the Dell and 'Victory Garden' allotments were situated along the south side of the park.

Dutch elm disease destroyed all the elms in the park from the 1950s onwards and although much replanting has been undertaken in places, this does 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 caused by road improvements to Park Lane. The doubling in size of the road took 8.5ha away, removing both Burton's East Carriage Drive and the Marble Arch from the park.

The park has famously become a world-renowned destination for events in the twenty-first century, providing a stage for some of London's most iconic events. This continues to shape the future of Hyde Park's landscape.

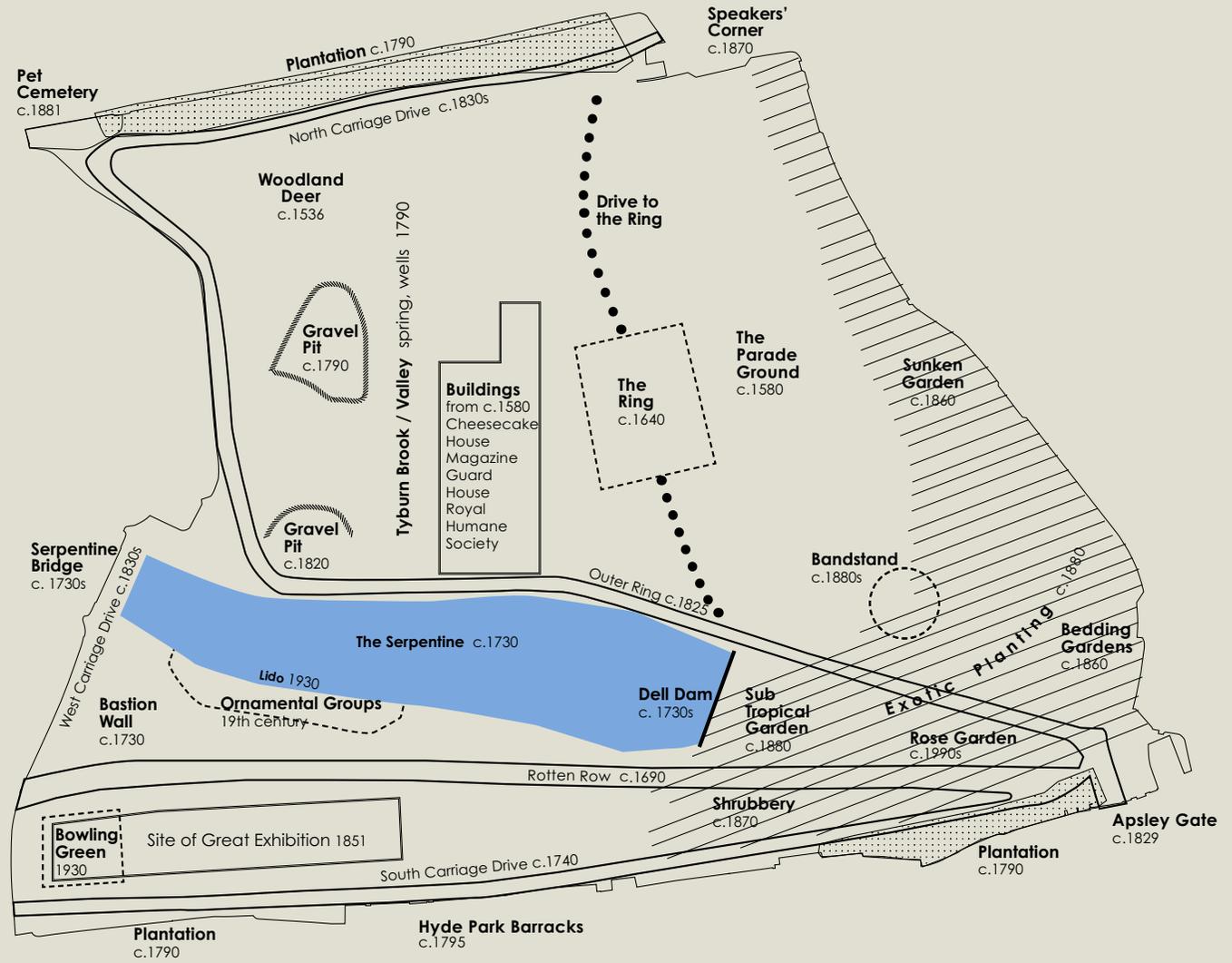


Fig. 7 Historical Influences at a Glance

## HYDE PARK TIMELINE OF EVENTS

A collection of interesting events that shaped Hyde Park's story



### ROMAN PERIOD

The London to Silchester Roman road was a main route between London and the west and may have been aligned on an earlier prehistoric trackway. During the Roman period the road was known as the Via Trinobantia and this area supported mixed farming communities with field systems set out alongside the road – utilising the fertile and well-drained south-facing slopes.

### 11TH CENTURY

The land which formed part of the ancient manor of Eia was given to Geoffrey of Mandeville (1st Earl of Essex) by William the Conqueror in the eleventh-century. Geoffrey wanted to be buried in Westminster Abbey, and therefore bequeathed the land to the Abbey in the hope of persuading the monks to fulfil his desire.

By this time, the monks of Westminster dammed the River Westbourne to create a series of ponds which helped provide a reliable source of fresh water, and fish for the Abbey.

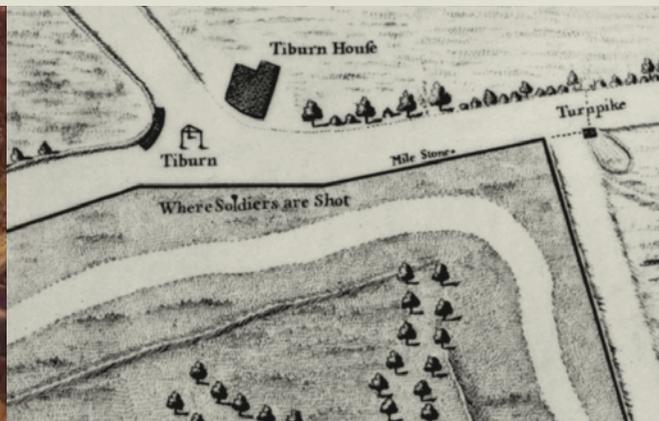
**1536**

Henry VIII seized the land from the Abbey, creating a royal hunting ground that extended from Whitehall Palace to Hampstead. During this time, the area would have consisted of meadows, veteran trees, plenty of game, and several cottages. royal proclamation stated:

*“As the King's most Royal Majesty is desirous to have the games of hare, partridge, pheasant, and heron preserved, in and about the honour of his palace of Westminster, for his own disport*

*and pastime, no person, on the pain of imprisonment of their bodies, and further punishment at his Majesty's will and pleasure, is to presume to hunt or hawk ...”*

To provide more water for game, Henry VIII created more ponds from the River Westbourne. He also organised royal hunts to entertain foreign ambassadors and dignitaries, where visitors watched from grandstands then enjoyed great feasts in temporary banqueting houses.

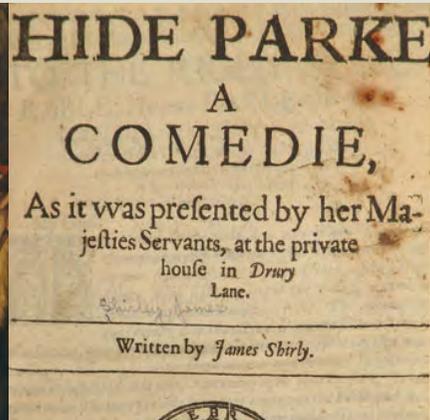
**1537**

Hangings took place at the Tyburn Tree, with the first recorded execution taking place in 1196. Henry VIII used the Tyburn Tree frequently to execute his alleged traitors. In 1537, he executed the ringleaders of the Pilgrimage of Grace, which included Sir Nicholas Tempest, who was one of the northern leaders of the Pilgrimage, and the King's own Bowbearer of the Forest of Bowland.

**1559**

The royal hunting tradition continued with Queen Elizabeth I. She occasionally reviewed her troops in Hyde Park on what is now the Parade Ground.

## THE STUART PERIOD



The Stuart Period lasted from 1603 to 1714 during the dynasty of the House of Stuart

### 1625

The appearance of the park remained the same until 1625 when Charles I became king. He created a circular track called the Ring where members of the royal court could drive their carriages. The park was opened to the public in 1637 and it soon became a fashionable place to visit, particularly on May Day.

### 1632

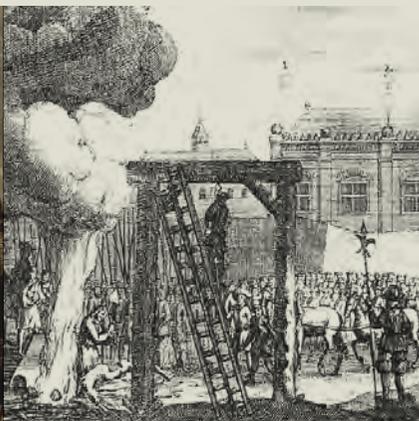
Horse racing occurred and was described in a play by James Shirley, written in 1637 and called *Hide Parke*. It contained some interesting descriptions of the park, with allusions to the singing of birds 'on every tree', including the cuckoo and nightingale.

### 1642–49

During the English Civil War parliamentary troops built forts along the eastern side of the park. These were defensive earthworks to help defend the City of Westminster from royalist attacks. Evidence of these earthworks can be seen in the raised bank next to Park Lane.

### 1654

Oliver Cromwell drove his horse-driven carriage through the park and lost control, where he was thrown from the carriage – but his foot became caught and he was dragged for several minutes. During this time a pistol in his pocket went off, injuring his leg.

**1660**

During the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 Hyde Park became a Royal Park again and the new King Charles II replaced the wooden fence with a brick wall. He also restocked the park with game and organised great carriage parades.

**1661**

After the restoration of Charles II in 1660, the public mood swung against Oliver Cromwell. In January 1661 a mob raided Westminster Abbey in search of Cromwell's remains and these – or what purported to be these – were taken from the Abbey along with those of two other notable Roundheads, Henry Ireton and John Bradshaw. The bodies were symbolically hanged at Tyburn Tree.

**1665–66**

The Great Plague spread death and destruction through London. Many soldiers camped in Hyde Park. At first it seemed as if they would escape the deadly scourge, but they were not accustomed to the rough quarters, and soon succumbed to the disease –

*“Our men began to droop and quail, fell sick, and dy'd, and made us more adoe. At length the Plague amongst us 'gan to spread, when ev'ry morning some were found stark dead; down to another field the sick we t'ane, but few went down that e'er came up again.”*

**LATTER 1600s**

Samuel Pepys wrote about a lodge in the middle of the park that served cheesecakes and fresh milk. The lodge is thought to have been a timber and plaster building that was accessed via a small footbridge. An investigation by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in 1994 found no trace of the building but we know it existed from many drawings and written accounts.

**1690**

William II became king in 1689. He bought Nottingham House on the western edge of the park, and renamed it Kensington Palace – making it the primary royal home in London. A processional route through Hyde Park was created. It was lit by 300 oil lamps and was the first road in England to be lit at night. The road was called route de roi or the King's Road, but the name became known as Rotten Row.

## THE GEORGIAN ERA



The Georgian era is a period in Hyde Park from 1714 - 1836

### THROUGHOUT 1700s

Throughout the eighteenth-century Hyde Park was frequently a place where disputes were settled over a duel, and one of the last duels was recorded here. The Hamilton–Mohun Duel is the most notable duel that occurred on 15th November 1712 in Hyde Park.

### 1728–1730

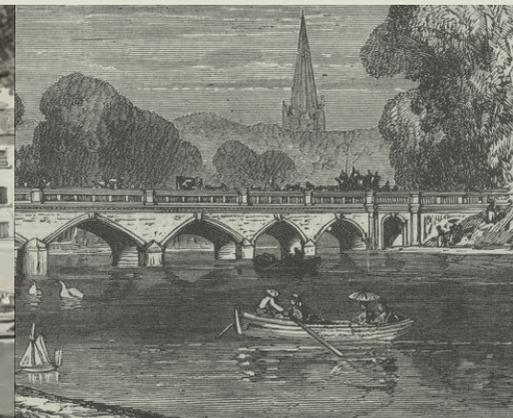
Many of the striking features seen today in Hyde Park were created during the eighteenth-century by a keen royal gardener, Queen Caroline. In 1728, she took almost 300 acres from Hyde Park to form Kensington Gardens, and separated the two with a long ditch, known as a ha-ha. She instructed Charles Bridgeman to create a large lake by damming the River Westbourne, which became the Serpentine – one of the first artificial lakes in England designed to appear natural.

### 1774

The Royal Humane Society is set up. The principal receiving house of the Royal Humane Society was erected on the north bank of the Serpentine on a piece of ground presented to the institution by George III, and subsequently extended by William IV, the patron.

### 1780

Lord George Gordon petitioned for the repeal of the Catholic Relief Act to parliament. A crowd of approximately 60,000 people gathered in Southwark and marched toward Westminster, where they assembled at Palace Yard. In the following days the protestors grew violent, and King George III called out the troops, who encamped in Hyde Park until the rioting stopped.

**1795**

Since 1795 the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment have been based in a barracks on the south side of Hyde Park. The barracks were rebuilt several times over the last 200 years – today it is a modernist tower block, with the regiment's horses stabled on the first floor.

**1814**

An extensive fair is hosted to mark the anniversary of the Victory of the Nile, and the centenary of the accession of the House of Brunswick to the throne. Between 400 and 500 booths were erected and the Battle of Trafalgar was re-enacted on the Serpentine with a band playing the National Anthem while the French Fleet sank into the Serpentine.

**1822**

Statue of Achilles is built as a memorial to Arthur Wellesley, the first duke of Wellington, and his victories in the Peninsular and Napoleonic Wars. It is situated at the south-eastern end of Hyde Park, and is made from canon collected during the Napoleonic War battles.

**1823–29**

Decimus Burton designs a number of gates, four carriage drives and a series of lodges throughout Hyde Park. This included the Apsley Gate in 1825.

**1826**

John Rennie the Younger designed and oversaw the construction of the Serpentine Bridge. The bridge was built to connect the West Carriage Drive, which bounded Hyde Park's four carriage drives.

## THE VICTORIAN ERA



The period of Queen Victoria's reign (1837–1901)

### 1838

Queen Victoria's Coronation Fair was held on the Parade Ground. The coronation fair took place on June 28.

### 1850

The decision was taken to move Marble Arch from Buckingham Palace to its current location at Cumberland Gate where it would form a grand entrance to Hyde Park in time for the Great Exhibition of 1851. The stone by stone removal and reconstruction of the Arch was overseen by architect Thomas Cubitt who completed the entire complex process in just three months.

### 1851

The Great Exhibition was constructed on the south side of the park. The public did not want the building to remain after the closure of the exhibition, and its architect, Joseph Paxton, raised funds for its relocation to Sydenham.

### 1855

The Sunday Trading Riots were held in Hyde Park, which was an organised demonstration against Robert Grosvenor's attempt to ban Sunday trading, including a restriction on pub opening times. Karl Marx observed approximately 200,000 protesters attended the demonstration, which involved jeering and taunting at upper-class horse carriages.



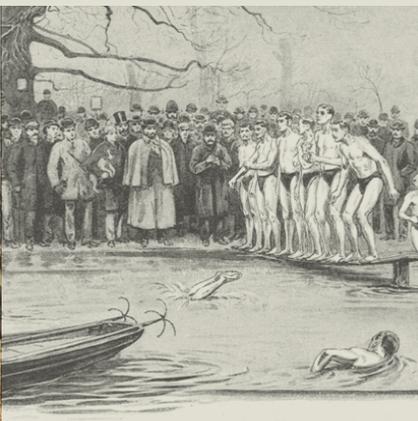
### 1857

The Victoria Cross Investiture was hosted on the Parade Ground. Sixty-two men were decorated by Queen Victoria in the presence of Prince Albert and other members of the Royal Family, including their future son-in-law Crown Prince Frederick of Prussia, later Emperor Frederick III.



### Mid 1800s

The Serpentine became a very popular lake for ice skating. It attracted up to 10,000 skaters per day. An 1839 oil painting (above) from the Museum of London's collection by J. Baber depicts a typically festive scene from these times, with stalls hiring out skates and selling food and drinks, as well as 'Icemen' on standby to rescue skaters when accidents occurred.



### 1864

The Serpentine Swimming Club was found. Records show that the club held its first Christmas Day Race in 1864. This would later become known as the Peter Pan Cup.



### 1866

The Reform League staged a march from their headquarters towards the park. They campaigned for increased suffrage and representation. Though the police had closed the park, the crowd managed to break down the perimeter railings and get inside. This led to the event being dubbed 'The Hyde Park Railings Affair'.



### 1867

The policing of the park was entrusted to the Metropolitan Police, the only Royal Park to do so at that time, which was due to the potential for trouble at Speakers' Corner.

**1868**

Lord Redesdale conceived the idea of turning The Dell into a subtropical garden. It was designed by Markham Nesfield where he introduced suitable planting that included spireas, iris, giant coltsfoot, osmundas, and day lilies, which adorned the water's edge in front.

**1869–70**

The first draining of the Serpentine occurs "The mud is very foul, and its exposure produces a malaria which, in warm weather, must threaten the neighbouring households with fever". The mud and silt build up was formed into one area to create the Serpentine Island.

**1872**

Parliament decreed that the northeast corner of Hyde Park could be used for public speaking on any topic as long as indecent or offensive language was not used. Speakers' Corner became famous all over the world and people still use it to this day as a place for debate and discussion.

**1873**

The co-ordination of health services was in a dire state as lack of nutrition, over-crowding, poverty and ill-health were all very prevalent. A very large demonstration in Hyde Park, appealing for the inauguration of a fund which would help to meet the cost of hospital maintenance. The Hospital Saturday Fund was established as a result.

**1881**

The Pet Cemetery opened in 1881 by accident, a well-preserved little graveyard which offers a touching insight into Victorian London. The idea soon caught on and when Prince, a Yorkshire terrier owned by the Duke of Cambridge (Ranger of Hyde Park) was next to be interred, Hyde Park became the place for wealthy Londoners to bury their beloved companions.



**Late 1800s**

Cycling became increasingly popular in Hyde Park for men and women and there were regular races held throughout the year which made it one of the most popular London parks for the sport.

**1886**

The bandstand in Hyde Park is moved from its original location in Kensington Gardens. It became a popular place for concerts in the 1890s, featuring up to three every week. Military and brass bands continued to play into the twentieth-century.

**1887**

The Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria party was held in Hyde Park where around 26,000 school children were given a free meal as a gift. The Queen and the Prince of Wales made an unexpected appearance at the event. Victoria remained fond of Hyde Park in the final years of her life and often drove there twice a day.

**1889**

The world's first moving pictures were filmed in Hyde Park around Apsley Gate one morning in January 1889 by a British inventor, William Friese-Greene. The film was developed at a studio near Piccadilly.

**1890**

The first major rally marking International Workers' Day in England. Hundreds of thousands turned out in Hyde Park on May 4th 1890 to demand an eight-hour working day. This event forged the path for many May Day protests in years to come.

## THE WAR YEARS



The period in the first half of the twentieth-century (1901–1950)

### 1906

J.M.Barrie wrote *Peter Pan* at Kensington Gardens using the Serpentine and Island as inspiration for the Thrust's Nest:

*"a young poet named Shelley made a paper boat from a banknote, and sent it sailing on the Serpentine. It reached the island at night. It was taken to Soloman Caw, who gave it to Peter to play with".*



### 1907–1914

Suffragette demonstrations were regularly held in Hyde Park. Organised by Emmeline Pankhurst and the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) to persuade the Liberal government to support votes for women. One demonstration known as Women's Sunday was thought to have been the largest demonstration held in the park.



### 1908

The Ring Tea House was erected on the site of the Reservoir and Ring.



### 1914

From the start of WWI the military had an increased presence in the park with the Guards at Hyde Park Barracks using nearby areas for drilling, trench digging and sports.



**1917**

King George V attended a special public investiture on the Old Football Pitches where the Great Exhibition was held. The investiture was used to decorate 350 men (including Victoria Cross recipients) in which there were four posthumous Victoria Crosses given to next-of-kin.

**1918**

On the 4th July, American troops held an American Sports Demonstration in the park. All sorts of athletic events including a Wild West Show were part of the event.

**1918**

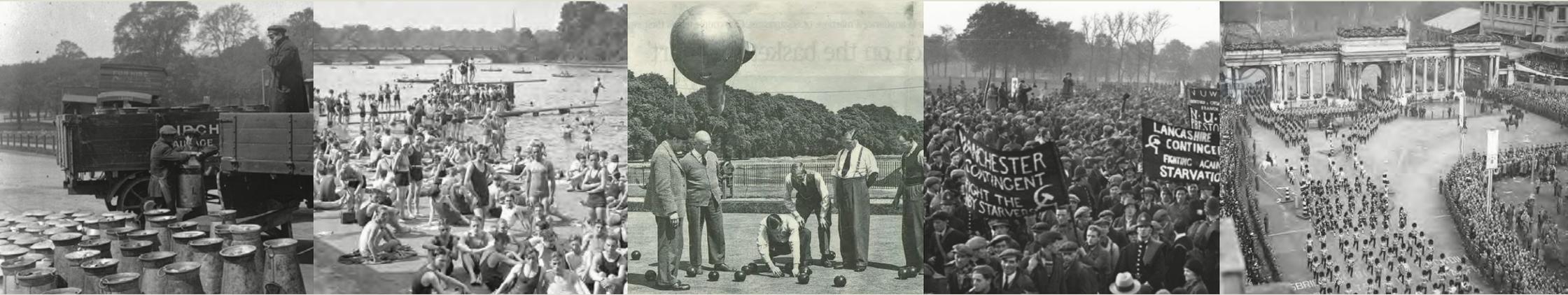
A large flower shrine was erected in Hyde Park to remember those who sacrificed their lives. Twenty thousand people were reported to have attended the service and witnessed the blessing of "a great quantity" of flowers which had been brought by the public and placed on the shrine by the London Volunteer Rifles.

**1919**

End of World War I celebrations occurred with a spectacular display of fireworks above the Serpentine. A crowd of approximately 15,000 people were said to have attended to commemorate the end of the War.

**1925**

The Hudson Memorial Bird Sanctuary was unveiled in 1925, which commemorates the nineteenth-century writer and naturalist, William Hudson; he helped establish the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and also campaigned for wild areas in our parks. The memorial was very controversial at the time.

**1926**

The General Strike led by the Trade Unions Congress in support of the coal miners occurred, which meant that everyday operations in London came to a stand still. Hyde Park was used as the government's main distribution depot for London's milk supply. Local volunteers came to unload churns of milk to keep the city on its feet.

**1930**

The Serpentine Lido and accompanying Pavilion was built by the Commissioner of Works, George Lansbury, and was half funded by a £5,000 (now £318,000) donation from Major Colin Cooper (1892–1938). It still sees regular use in the summer into the twenty-first century. Women are allowed to swim openly for the first time.

**1930**

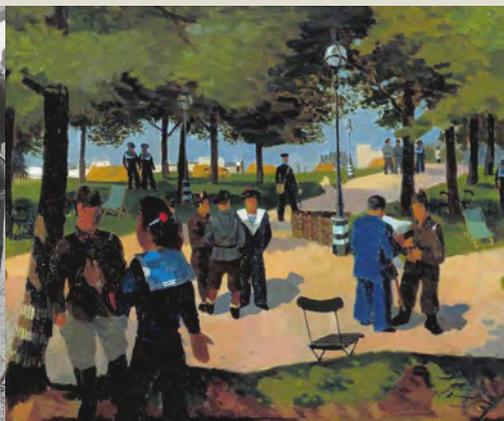
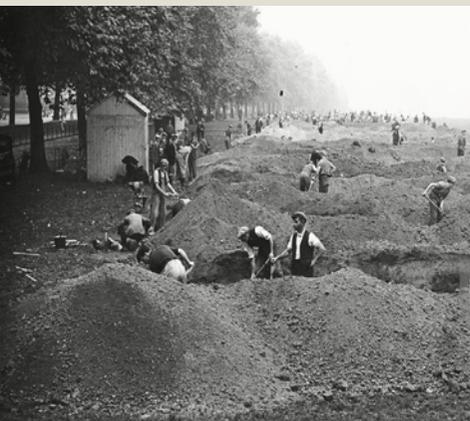
Hyde Park Sports Centre and Pavilion was built in 1930 by the Commissioner of Works, George Lansbury. Lawn bowls became an increasingly popular activity in the Park.

**1932**

The National Hunger March of October 1932 was the largest of a series of hunger marches in the 1920s and 1930s. Hoards of unemployed men and women walked from all parts of the country to hold a mass demonstration in Hyde Park. Over 100,000 people gathered to voice the tension of the nation over increasing unemployment.

**1937**

On 12th May, a procession for the coronation of King George VI went through Hyde Park with tens of thousands of people attending. Hyde Park also became a military encampment during the coronation.

**1938–40**

Workmen dig 7-foot deep bomb shelters in Hyde Park as war seemed inevitable.

**1940**

The landscape of the Park changed dramatically as a result of the Blitzkrieg Bombings. Not only was its surface damaged as a direct result of the attacks, but the Park was used to store rubble from desecrated buildings. Artefacts are still being found in buried rubble like the unexploded bomb that was discovered in the Serpentine (2018).

**1940–42**

Hyde Park's railings were cut down and taken away to help with the war effort. Many accounts suggest these were mostly melted down to create ammunition.

**1942–48**

Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens were invaluable during wartime efforts for its ability to feed the nation during the period of rationing, with land set aside to grow food as part of Britain's 'Dig for Victory' campaign.

**1942–48**

During WWII American soldiers regularly used Hyde Park for ball games. Londoners retreated to Hyde Park on the weekends to watch them play while socialising with all the foreign servicemen and women.

## THE MODERN YEARS



The period in the latter half of the twentieth-century (1950-1999)

### 1953

The coronation procession of Queen Elizabeth II followed a route that was 5 miles (8 kilometres) in length, which passed through Hyde Park to Buckingham Palace. Twenty-nine thousand service personnel from Britain and the Commonwealth marched in the procession.

### LATE 1950s

Sheep were routinely introduced into Hyde Park to keep the grass under control and reduce mowing costs. They were eventually barred from grazing in the city in the late 1950s due to health and safety concerns.

### 1960-62

A major reconstruction programme transformed Park Lane into a three-lane dual carriageway, taking 20 acres (8.1 ha) from Hyde Park's eastern side. East Carriage Drive and Marble Arch island were subsequently removed from the park, as well as several heritage buildings dating back to the early nineteenth-century.

### 1963

The completion of Patrick Gwynne's Serpentine Restaurant happened. This was a canopy like building consisting of concrete terraces with glass pyramid-shaped roofs. It was part of a project which included two new modern restaurants in Hyde Park, the other being the Dell Restaurant (now SBK). The building proved to be very popular, but was demolished in 1990 due to upkeeping costs.

**1965**

The Dell restaurant (now SBK) was built at the eastern end of The Serpentine to the designs of Patrick Gwynne. It is now a Grade II\* Listed Building. It replaced the Ring Tea House, which was subsequently demolished after the Dell Restaurant was completed.

**1967**

Reverend Billy Graham speaks at an open-air rally in Hyde Park near Speakers' Corner during his 'All Britain Crusade'.

**1968**

The park's first big rock concert took place on June 29 with Pink Floyd headlining. The event became known as the Midsummer High Weekend, and was described by the late John Peel as "the nicest concert I've ever been to".

**1969**

The Rolling Stones played a free concert in the park, an event that became known as Stones in the Park. Crowds of 250,000 to 500,000 people were estimated to have attended. The concert was memorable for being the first time people had seen 'The Stones' live for two years.

**1970s**

Dutch elm disease was accidentally imported into the UK from Canada in the late 1960s. It spread quickly, reaching Scotland in just 10 years. The Elm population in Hyde Park was completely decimated by the late 1970s.



### 1971

On 1st July, a crowd of a few hundred people marched from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square, making a stand for gay people everywhere. This was the first ever Gay Pride march in London, which was organised by the Gay Liberation Front (GLF).

### 1976

The last concert held in Hyde Park for a decade, with around 200,000 people turning out to see Queen. The show overran and had to be cut short with the police threatening to lock up Queen's lead singer Freddie Mercury. There was no encore, with the lead singer reportedly saying he didn't want to risk spending a night in a cell in his jumpsuit.

### 1977

Queen's Silver Jubilee Exhibition was held in Hyde Park on the Parade Ground. It was the first exhibition to be held in a Royal Park since the Great Exhibition of 1851.

### 1978

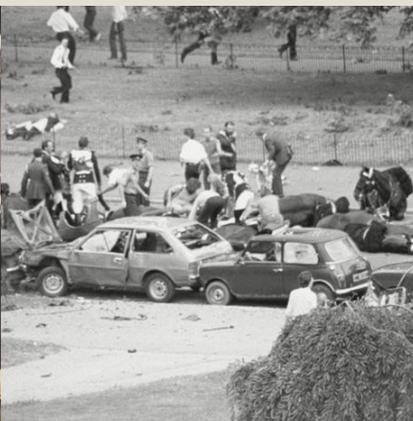
The Sunday Times National Fun Run was first held in Hyde Park in 1979. The event was aimed at runners of all abilities, not only for elite runners in athletic clubs.

### 1979

Around 160,000 children were invited to a fun fair on the Parade Ground. The two-day event was organised to celebrate the International Year of the Child.

**1981**

Several hundred thousand joined the Royal Family and foreign dignitaries in Hyde Park to celebrate the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer on the eve of their wedding. The event included music, fireworks, and the lighting of the first of 100 beacons linking London with the rest in the United Kingdom.

**1982**

On 20 July, two devices linked to the Provisional Irish Republican Army caused the death of eight members of the Household Cavalry and the Royal Green Jackets and seven horses. A memorial was constructed to the left of the Albert Gate to commemorate the soldiers and horses killed in the blast.

**1991**

Over 100,000 people braved the torrential rain to see a free concert from Luciano Pavarotti. The event was to celebrate his 30 years in opera music. It was the biggest outdoor music event held in the park since The Rolling Stones in 1969.

**1994**

The Rose Garden opened and was designed by Colvin and Moggridge Landscape Architects.

**1996**

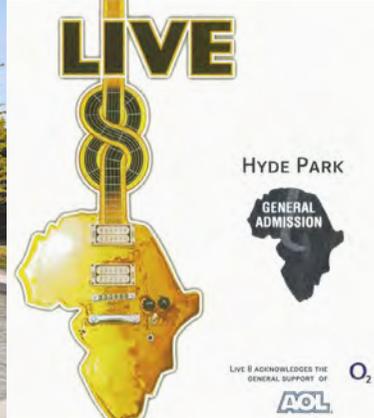
BBC Proms in the Park concerts began in 1996. As audiences grew, Proms in the Park started to have musicians of their own on stage, including the BBC Concert Orchestra.

## THE 21ST CENTURY



### 2004

A unique fountain and memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales was opened by Her Majesty The Queen on 6th July.



### 2005

Live 8 was held in Hyde Park which brought together some of the UK's finest musical talent to mark the 20th anniversary of Live Aid and raise money and awareness for the fight against poverty.



### 2007

Hyde Park Winter Wonderland began as a small funfair operating through the Christmas period at the edge of Hyde Park in the Parade Ground. It is now one of the largest events in London that occurs every year.



### 2008

The Royal Parks Half Marathon was established by the Royal Parks Foundation as an annual fundraising initiative to both raise funds to support the Foundations work in maintaining London's eight Royal Parks and enabling charities to be involved as well. Since its inception, the event has raised over £55 million for more than 1,000 UK charities

The period from the year 2000 until now (2022)



### 2008

Nelson Mandela spoke to a crowd of up to 50,000 people at a concert held in Hyde Park to celebrate his 90th birthday. As well as marking the former South African president's personal milestone, the concert raised funds for his HIV/Aids charity.

### 2009

The 7 July Memorial was unveiled in Hyde Park by Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, in a ceremony attended by senior political figures and the families of the 52 killed, on the fourth anniversary of the disaster, Tuesday 7 July 2005.

### 2012

The triathlon events at the 2012 Summer Olympics were held in Hyde Park. One hundred and ten triathletes from 39 countries competed. The races were held over the "international distance" (also called "Olympic distance") and consisted of 1.5 kilometres (0.93 mi) swimming, 43 kilometres (27 mi) road cycling, and 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) road running.

### 2013

British Summer Time festivals began in Hyde Park (BST Hyde Park), a music festival held over two or three weekends once a year on the Parade Ground. After 44 years since their 1969 performance, The Rolling Stones returned, playing two nights. Tickets for both shows selling out within three minutes of going on sale.

### 2018

The Royal Parks charity opened its £5M hi-tech 'super nursery' in Hyde Park. The nursery is purpose-built to handle the growth of plants and shrubs needed for the world-class garden displays across the charity's eight London parks - including the floral displays in front of Buckingham Palace.

## BOUNDARIES AND GATES

Hyde Park is enclosed on three sides by railings mounted on a low wall, which is seen along the full length of the Bayswater Road, Park Lane, and Kensington Gore. The western boundary with Kensington Gardens is also defined by railings. The railings also surround many shrub beds, lodge gardens and maintenance yards, including the Hyde Park Nursery. In some instances, they are supported by timber board fencing for additional screening and privacy. Many of the railings that existed inside the park were uprooted and melted down for ammunition during WWII and were also used for medical stretchers during the Blitz.

The quality of boundary treatment and entrances to Hyde Park are important in creating a 'first impression' for visitors. There are 29 entrance / exit points to the park alone – six being vehicular (Victoria, Cumberland, Queen Elizabeth, Edinburgh, Prince of Wales, and Alexandra), all of which provide pedestrian and cyclist access. There are a further 23 pedestrian gates of which 7 connect to Kensington Gardens, 3 to Bayswater Road, 8 to Marble Arch/Park Lane, and 6 to the Knightsbridge area. The listed Ionic Screen at Apsley Gate also serves as a gate for the Household Cavalry for the changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace, and for other ceremonial events.

Main Challenges:

**C17.** Making it clear at entrances with appropriate signage and interpretation boards that this is Hyde Park.

**C18.** Local enhancement of gate settings by careful siting and detailing of signage, traffic hazard markers etc. (i.e., in front of Coalbrookdale Gates) considering the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic.

## ROAD AND PATH NETWORK

There are 30km of road and footpaths throughout Hyde Park. At some points these paths are shared and run alongside strategic cycle links (Rotten Row, Serpentine Road, and the Broad Walk which provide 2.55km of cycleway. In 2017, Cycle Superhighway (CSH) saw a further 3.8km of on-road cycle lane along North, West, and South Carriage Drives. This provides cyclists with a safer alternative for commuting around Hyde Park. But this also reduces the need for cyclists to commute through Hyde Park which reduces the risk of conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.

A further 6.5km of horse ride is provided including the historic Rotten Row. There is just over 3.6km of publicly accessible road within Hyde Park and a further 2km of service road for maintenance (such as Serpentine Road).

The three Carriage Drives, although on Crown land and specific to Hyde Park, have gradually become integrated as 'public' roads. West Carriage Drive is still regarded as such even though in the 1990s traffic reduction measures reduced the road to two lanes in place of four.

South Carriage Drive is currently trialling a partial closure to vehicular traffic on weekends with limited access to the section between Alexandra and Prince of Wales Gates, enabling access to on-street

parking around the Great Exhibition Ground area. The reduced traffic flows help to favour the use of the cycle lane and Household Cavalry movements.

North Carriage Drive is trialling a full closure to vehicular movement, and this would see the entire road closed to through traffic but will remain an important accessibility route for service vehicles during major events on the Parade Ground area.

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 very important in providing access for those who would otherwise have difficulty getting to the park such as individuals with a disability. There are 2 gated pedestrian tunnels that pass under each side of the Serpentine Bridge, allowing easier disability access between Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park.

Main Challenges:

**C19.** Resolving issues at Rotten Row and Broad Walk – consider conflict between users during peak hours.

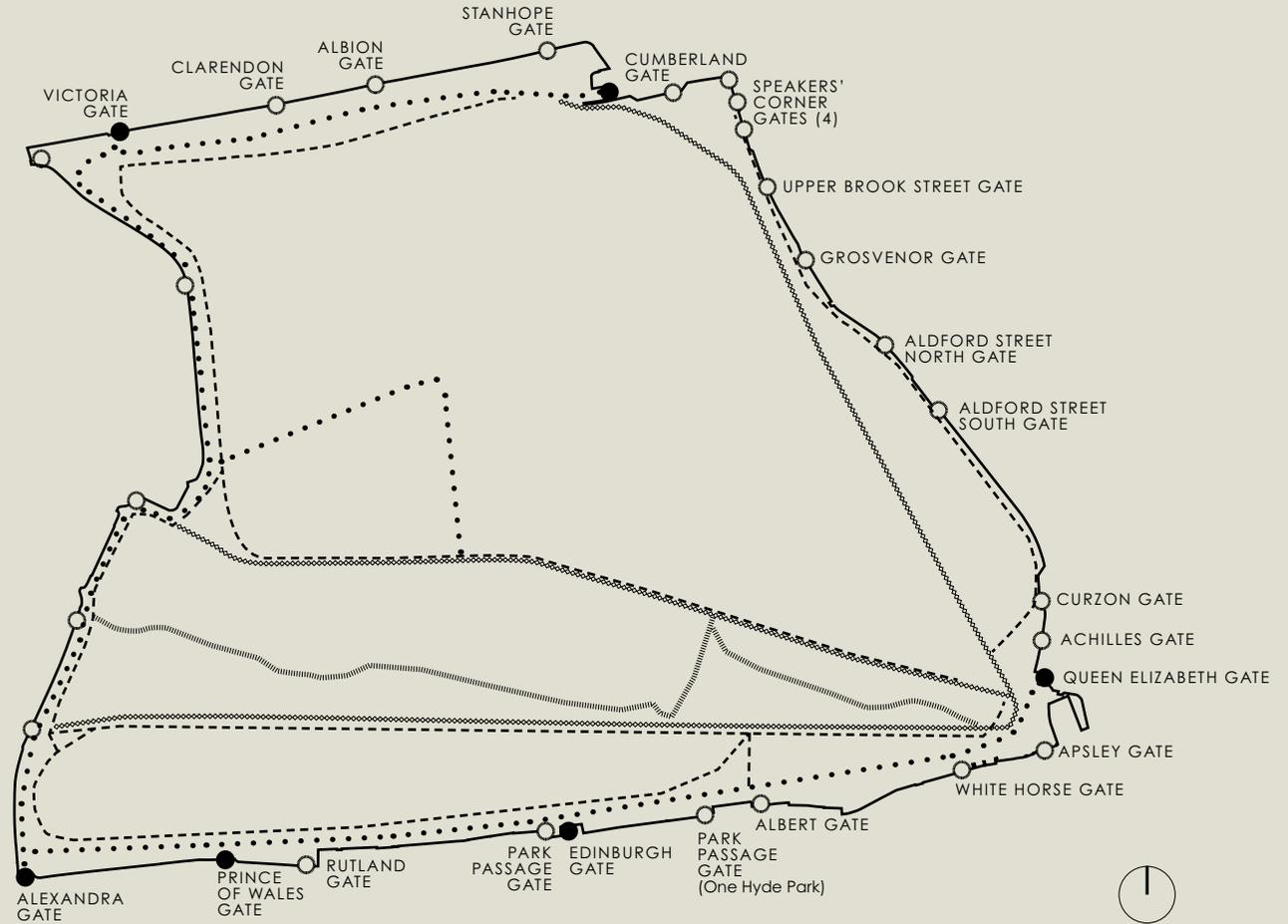
**C20.** Adjusting to new forms of transportation where appropriate.

**C21.** Embracing Hyde Park as a tourist cycling route in collaboration with TFL.

**C22.** Promotion of cycling with clearer signage (areas for cycling should be promoted while areas not for cycling should be made clearer).

**C23.** Ensuring access points are universally accessible and compliant.

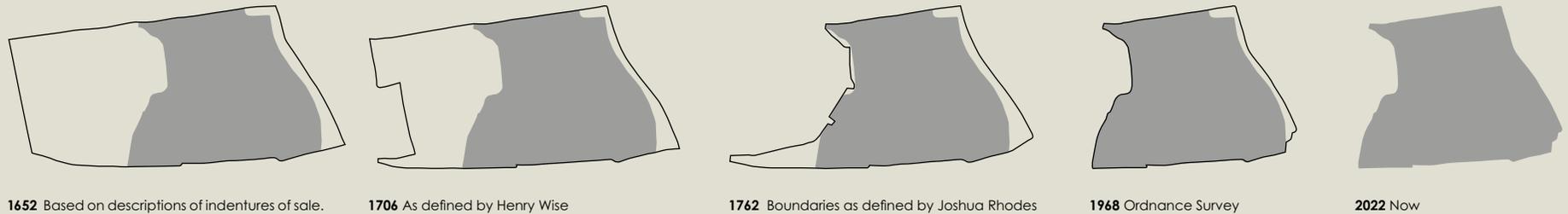
- C24.** Reducing overall extent of hard surfacing where paths are duplicated or carriageways excessively wide.
- C25.** Rationalising and limiting vehicular traffic on North Carriage Drive, South Carriage Drive and West Carriage Drive.
- C26.** Continuing to promote behaviour change and considerate cycling on shared use spaces.
- C27.** Regular maintenance of horse rides, and assessment of the current usage.
- C28.** Reviewing potential closure of cycleway on Ladies' Walk (adjacent to Rotten Row) with alternative route (and key links) on South Carriage Drive.
- C29.** Maintaining functionality of ceremonial routes as an essential part of Hyde Park's history.



**Fig. 9**  
Gateways and  
Main Routes

- Road Gate
- Pedestrian Gate
- ⋯ Main Footpath
- - - Main Shared Use Path
- - - Road

**Fig. 8**  
Evolution of  
Park Boundary



1652 Based on descriptions of indentures of sale.

1706 As defined by Henry Wise

1762 Boundaries as defined by Joshua Rhodes

1968 Ordnance Survey

2022 Now

### FURNITURE, LIGHTING, AND SIGNAGE

Hyde Park provides a variety of park furniture and structures designed and located for the use, safety, and comfort of visitors. The main elements and associated issues are set out below.

**Benches:** There are over 300 benches in the park of a variety of styles. Most benches are the elaborately scrolled O'Brien Thomas style (cast iron and wooden slats in Royal Parks green). These were first introduced at the Great Exhibition in 1851 and has since become a standard throughout the Royal Parks. There are other styles in particular areas including all timber "Listers" and a few of the cast iron/two plank "Barkers" which are sited on the path by the Dell. These were previously grouped along the gently curving path above Nannies Lawn and north of the Holocaust Memorial.

**Litterbins:** There are approximately 80 bins, and these are supplemented as necessary with large moveable bins during events, demonstrations, and popular periods.

**Lighting:** There are some 300 lamp standards in the park, the majority are modern fittings for carriage drives, related to highways standards. There are 199 gas lamps dating from the late nineteenth-century (40 are Grade II listed lamp standards). These are appropriately positioned along main paths within the park. These carry on something of the tradition of Rotten Row - having been the first road lit in the country at night and add to the heritage and character of respective areas. The existing level and extent of lamp lit paths is generally acceptable and appropriate.

**Signage:** Good quality signboards comprising black painted cast metal cases with adequate space for the display of maps and information are located throughout the park. These are appropriately located by the entrances and at key points of interest and provide a helpful range of information.

Main Challenges:

- C30.** Rationalise mixing of different furniture and signage styles and to create a more cohesive TRP style.
- C31.** Upkeep and maintenance of information signage requires monitoring.
- C32.** Monitoring ongoing management of litter.
- C33.** Inadequacy of bins for the number of visitors in the park.
- C34.** Balancing the historical importance of gas lit lamps with maintenance costs and sustainability policies.
- C35.** To be aware of changes to the surrounding built fabric and enforce a clear policy for minimising light pollution on the park.

### ARCHAEOLOGY

TRP works with Historic England and adopted an Archaeology Policy in 2018 to provide suitable protection for known and unknown features using a traffic light system to identify areas of potential archaeological significance as shown in Figure 10.

A compilation of all records completed by RCHME in 1994 were updated by TRP in 2015. This work was published as two volumes and includes a gazetteer of monuments located during field surveys.

Main Challenges:

- C36.** To protect and enhance the historic environment through active engagement and use of the archaeological records available and give due consideration to the potential impacts that works may have on the historic environment.
- C37.** Continuing to be at the forefront in protecting and promoting the historic environment within Hyde Park.
- C38.** Ensuring multiple contractors and agents to statutory services have access to and abide by principles of the TRP Policy while consulting with Historic England and watching briefs as required.

### HORTICULTURE

Shrubs, although now part of the park's fabric, do not appear in the records until the latter part of the eighteenth-century when they are mentioned as "furze". In the early nineteenth century they became part of the under-storey planting, particularly around the perimeter where laurels, privets, and lilacs were introduced. By the mid nineteenth-century they had become an important backdrop for the extensive bedding on the east and south sides. Waterer's Nursery supplied "American" Rhododendrons as demonstration beds along the east end of Rotten Row. This type of planting was continued in this area up to the Great War. Many of the existing shrub borders were planted during the latter half of the nineteenth-century. Then, as now, they were a relatively small component of the park's vegetation, giving some structure to the areas of garden and forming the background to the bedding.

Borders of bedding plants were introduced shortly after the 'Italian' sunken garden was created in 1861. William Andrews Nesfield was consulted, and a series of complex geometric borders were designed along the Park Lane boundary. These were filled with low "carpet" bedding (because patterns reflected those found in carpet); these bright colourful borders spread along the East Carriage Drive and through to the Serpentine along Serpentine Road. The southern section was designed as a subtropical garden by Markham Nesfield consisting of a large rockery constructed in 1868, in the Dell Outfall area.

Towards the end of the nineteenth-century the bedding had evolved to the looser and larger shaped planting patterns which can still be seen today. The bedding in Hyde Park was in the 1880s -1890s recognised to be the foremost in Europe. The borders were reduced during the Great War. All that is left is the planting to the south of the Serpentine Road in the Dell and Rose Gardens area, as well as the Tool Shed Shrubbery (the north-east side of Serpentine Road).

Main Challenges:

- C39.** Maintenance of all horticultural display areas to a high standard.
- C40.** Conserving the distinct characters of different planting areas.
- C41.** Retaining textural diversity and critical seasonal connectivity for sound ecological management.
- C42.** Undertaking horticultural maintenance with minimum interventions of chemical/pesticide control and with use of recycled mulches.

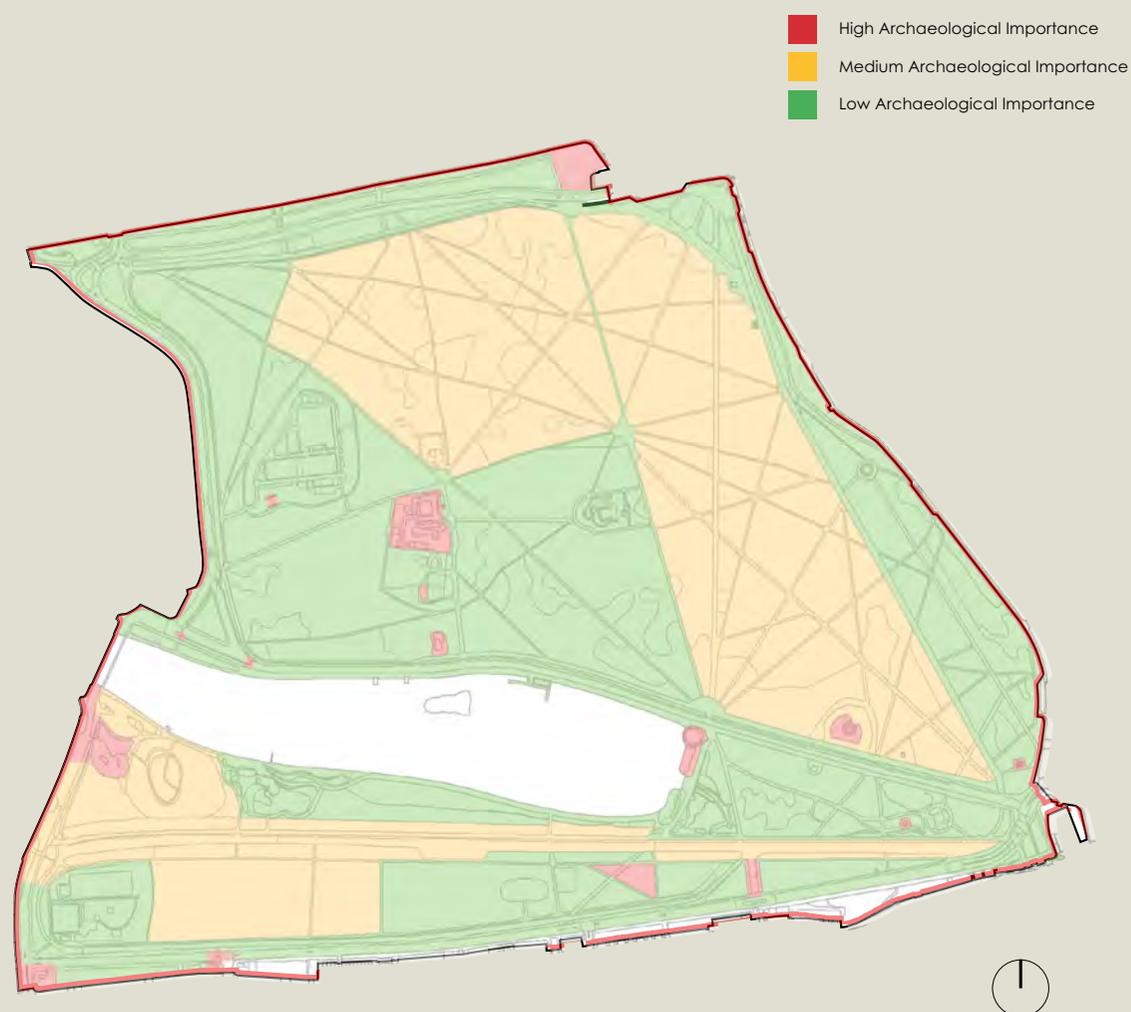


Fig.10 Archaeological importance

## BUILDINGS AND ARTEFACTS

Several artefacts and structures have become important historic features of the park's landscape. These include monuments, memorials, gates, and ornamental features. Brief descriptions are provided for these in the following, which are referenced from the:

**Ionic Screen (Apsley Gate)**, built between 1826-29, designed by Decimus Burton, and commissioned by Office of Woods to replace earlier wooden gates. Restored in 1904-08 and again in 1962-63.

**Hyde Park Corner Lodge**, built in 1822, designed by Decimus Burton, three-bay Greek Doric portico, erected in association with Apsley Gate. Turret clock by Thwaites and Reeds in 1844.

**The Achilles Statue**, built in 1822 by Sir Richard Westmacott. Made from bronze (33 tons) – canon captured in Wellington's campaigns against Napoleon, commissioned by the Ladies of England society. One of five commemorations to the 'Iron Duke'.

**Queen Elizabeth Gates**, opened in 1993 by HM the Queen. Central screen by David Wynne, gates in patinated stainless steel designed and made by Giuseppe Lund.

**Joy of Life Fountain**, built in 1963, sculpture and fountain by T.B. Huxley-Jones, bronze, cast at Peckham Foundry. Commissioned by the Constance Fund to replace the Boy and Dolphin Fountain, which was felt to be out of keeping with the Park Lane expansion scheme.

**Cumberland Gate Lodge**, built in 1857, formerly known as West Lodge and located by the former Cumberland Gate on Park Lane; relocated in 1908 and again in 1961. The first gate of this name was erected in 1797 on site of the present Marble Arch.

**W.H. Hudson Memorial** (Rima), built in 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**, built between 1900-02, on site of previous police accommodation in Magazine Barracks, now headquarters of The Royal Parks.

**Ranger's Lodge**, built in 1832, on site of the former Guard House. Accommodates TRP staff.

**Norwegian War Memorial**, Norwegian pre-Cambrian granite, presented by the Royal Norwegian Navy in 1978. Inscribed 'You gave us a haven in our common struggle for freedom and peace. Worked and shaped by forces of nature for millenia.

**East Boat House**, built in 1903, erected by the Royal Humane Society, west to the previous boat house.

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

**Year of the Child Drinking Fountain**, built in 1981 by Theo Crosby, made with bronze. Tribute to park staff and the Great Children's Party in 1979, marking the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

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

**Hyde Park Bandstand**, originally built 1869 in Kensington Gardens, moved to Hyde Park in 1886. Cavalry Memorial, built in 1924, sculpture by Adrian Jones, base by Sir John Burnet, bronze cast from guns captured in WWI. Originally located at Stanhope Gate; moved to present site in 1961 during Park Lane expansion scheme.

**Dell Megalith**, implemented in 1861, erected as a drinking fountain by John Thomas. Originally there were several large blocks of granite. The fountain was abolished in 1887; one stone remains.

**Holocaust Memorial**, designed by architect Richard Seifert and landscape architects Derek Lovejoy & Partners in 1983. The granite is inscribed with 'For these I weep. Streams of tears flow from my eyes because of the destruction of my people' (Lamentations).

**Serpentine Bar and Kitchen** (Dell Restaurant), built in 1965, designed by Patrick Gwynne, to replace the Ring Tea House. Redeveloped in 1979.

**Abbey Spring Monument**, this is an urn, built in 1868. 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.

**Queen Caroline Memorial**, unveiled in 1990 by HM the Queen Elizabeth II. It is an urn to commemorate Queen Caroline's creation of the Serpentine.

**Lido Pavilion**, built in 1930, under the direction of George Lansbury, first Commissioner of Works, in response to requests by the Sunlight League to allow mixed bathing. Reconstructed in 1951–02.

**Serpentine Bridge**, built between 1825–28 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 was built in 1847, and East Lodge in 1851. Designed by Decimus Burton. East Lodge was built as a police station for the Great Exhibition.

**Pan Statue**, built in 1961 by Jacob Epstein, and presented by Land Securities Investment Trust (the builders of the Bowater Building over Edinburgh Gate).

**Albert Gate**, built between 1842–45, by Thomas Cubitt at his own expense on the site of the former Cannon Brewery. Gates, lodge two houses, with road and arch over the River Westbourne. Incorporates piers with lamps and two stags, formerly at the entrance to the Ranger's House at The Green Park.

**Household Cavalry Memorial**, built in 1985. Slate Tablet with inscription, in memory of the Blues and Royals of the Household Cavalry division who were killed in the 1982 terrorist bomb attack on South Carriage Drive.

**Cavalry Horse Trough**, built in 1892, formerly on Victoria Embankment, relocated and presented to the Household Cavalry in 1985, in memory of horses killed and injured in the 1982 terrorist bomb attack on South Carriage Drive.

**Diana, The Huntress Fountain**, built in 1906, by Countess Feodora Gleichen. Made from bronze and gifted by Sir Walter and Lady Palmer. Restored in 1966.

**Boy and Dolphin Fountain**, built in 1862, by Alexander Munro, made of marble. Originally sited in the Sunken Garden near Park Lane; removed to The Regent's Park Broad Walk between 1960–63; returned to Hyde Park in 1995.

**The Police Lookout**, shown on the 1916 OS map, former police observation post and kennels, converted in 1996 for educational use.

**Vijianagram Fountain Plaque**, built in 1965. In commemoration of the 1867 fountain erected by the Metropolitan Drinking Foundation and Cattle Trough Association, designed by architect Robert Kearle, the gift of the Maharajah of Vijianagram; sited immediately west of Cumberland Gate Lodge; demolished in 1964 in view of the prohibitive cost of repair.

**Ticket Office and Pier** (Boathouse Concession), built in 1967. Pier shown to the west of Serpentine 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**, built in 1832, formerly the stable block (groom's bungalow and stables) to the Ranger's Lodge, first used as a separate residence in 1944.

**Letterbox**, implemented in 1952, red, oval, double GPO letterbox (outside Ranger's Lodge), made by Meadow Foundry co., Mansfield, Notts., marked E11R.

**Storeyard**, shown on the 1851 map as a yard, some buildings in existence by 1869.

**Magazine Cottage**, built between 1861-62, originally an office and residence for the store's foreman.

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

**Pump and Trough**, built before 1869, on site of former spring in Tyburn Meadows.

**Nursery**, originally built between 1903-07 when the Frame Ground was moved from Kensington Gardens (near the orangery). Damaged by bombs in 1940 and replaced in 1951. Revamped in 2017.

**Receiving House Plaque**, built in 1956 to mark the site of the Royal Humane Society's first Receiving House (1794). This was replaced on the same site in 1834 by a new building designed by J.B. Bunning in the style of Decimus Burton. The second Receiving House damaged by a bomb in 1940 and demolished in 1954.

**Horse Trough**, built in 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**, built in 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**, built on the wall of the Lido Pavilion in 1931. Inscribed 'In Proud Memory of Captain J.O. Cooper, Royal Flying Corps. Killed in the Great War, aged 20.'

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

**Speakers' Corner Kiosk**, built in 1964, provides camouflage for underground ventilation extract duct.

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

**Victoria Gate and Lodge**, built in 1838. Designed by Decimus Burton. New ironwork gates and piers built in 1923 when road was widened. Pet Cemetery founded in 1880 by Duke of Cambridge in rear garden.

**7 July Memorial**, built in 2009. Made of 52 stainless steel columns to commemorate the 52 victims of the 7 July 2005 London bombings.

**Serenity**, sculpture inspired by the Egyptian goddess of nature. Designed by S. Gudgeon and installed in 2009. Donated by Halcyon Gallery to help raise funds for the The LookOut. At the base of the sculpture, you can see 1,000 plaques, dedicated to the donors.

**Reformer's Tree Memorial**, a circular black and white floor mosaic to commemorate The Reformers' Tree. The mosaic was unveiled in 2000 by politician Tony Benn.

**The Freeman Family Drinking Fountain**, a public drinking fountain located near Cumberland Gate. Unveiled in 2009, it was the first drinking fountain installed in Hyde Park in 30 years. The fountain is a sphere made from mirror-polished, marine-grade stainless steel.

**Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain**, built with 545 pieces of Cornish granite - each shaped by the latest computer-controlled machinery and pieced together using traditional skills. The design aims to reflect Diana's life, water flows from the highest point in two directions as it cascades, swirls and bubbles before meeting in a calm pool at the bottom.



TABLE 1: LISTED BUILDINGS, ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS

| BUILDING, ARTEFACT OR ASSET               | HE ENTRY NUMBER | TRP ASSET CODE   | GRADE | CONDITION | CH. AREA |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-------|-----------|----------|
| <i>The Achilles Statue</i>                | 1231393         | HY-31-08-010-109 | I     | Good      | 5        |
| <i>Ionic Screen (Apsley Gate)</i>         | 1278089         | HY-26-09-010-123 | I     | Fair      | 6        |
| <i>The Cavalry Memorial</i>               | 1278118         | HY-33-08-020-111 | II    | Good      | 5        |
| <i>Serpentine Bar &amp; Kitchen</i>       | 1251150         | HY-36-02-020-008 | II    | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Magazine Cottage</i>                   | 1231390         | HY-82-02-020-024 | II    | Good      | 2        |
| <i>W.H. Hudson Memorial (Rima)</i>        | 1231572         | HY-44-04-020-067 | II    | Fair      | 2        |
| <i>Ranger's Lodge</i>                     | 1231428         | HY-42-02-020-045 | II    | Good      | 2        |
| <i>Ranger's Cottage</i>                   | 1231453         | HY-84-02-020-044 | II    | Good      | 2        |
| <i>Victoria Gate</i>                      | 1275316         | HY-46-05-020-096 | II    | Good      | 1        |
| <i>Victoria Gate Lodge</i>                | 1275316         | HY-45-02-020-061 | II    | Fair      | 1        |
| <i>Cumberland Gate Lodge</i>              | 1356752A        | HY-78-02-020-007 | II    | Good      | 1        |
| <i>Serpentine Lodge</i>                   | 1231391         | HY-85-02-020-047 | II    | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Serpentine Bridge</i>                  | 1217600         | HY-47-09-020-128 | II    | Fair      | 10       |
| <i>K6 Telephone Kiosk</i>                 | 1236140         | -----            | II    | Fair      | 10       |
| <i>Cattle Trough</i>                      | 1277827         | HY-NA-08-020-110 | II    | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Prince of Wales Gate</i>               | 1231399         | HY-22-05-020-085 | II    | Fair      | 9        |
| <i>West Lodge to Prince of Wales Gate</i> | 1231401         | HY-89-02-020-042 | II    | Good      | 9        |
| <i>East Lodge to Prince of Wales Gate</i> | 1231501         | HY-88-02-020-043 | II    | Good      | 9        |
| <i>Alexandra Gate</i>                     | 1231494         | HY-22-05-020-075 | II    | Good      | 9        |
| <i>Alexandra Lodge</i>                    | 1231396         | HY-22-02-020-001 | II    | Good      | 9        |
| <i>Memorial Horse Trough</i>              | 1248615         | HY-NA-08-020-115 | II    | Good      | 8        |
| <i>The Colton Memorial "Little Nell"</i>  | 1278091         | HY-31-08-020-069 | II    | Good      | 4        |
| <i>Hyde Park Corner Lodge</i>             | 1231506         | HY-26-02-020-011 | II    | Good      | 6        |
| <i>Abbey Spring Monument</i>              | 1356753         | HY-24-08-020-108 | II    | Good      | 7        |
| <i>Boy and Dolphin Fountain</i>           | 1251181         | HY-26-04-020-064 | II    | Good      | 5        |
| <i>Bandstand</i>                          | 1231392         | HY-34-02-020-002 | II    | Good      | 3        |
| <i>Diana, The Huntress Fountain</i>       | 1231505         | HY-20-04-000-065 | II    | Fair      | 7        |
| <i>Albert Gate</i>                        | 1209898         | -----            | II    | Good      | 8        |
| <i>Grosvenor Gate Lodge</i>               | 1067407         | -----            | II    | Fair      | 5        |
| <i>Pan Statue</i>                         | 1431163         | HY-24-08-020-113 | II    | Good      | 8        |

TABLE 2: UNLISTED BUILDINGS, ARTEFACTS AND ASSETS

| BUILDING, ARTEFACT OR ASSET                            | TRP ASSET CODE   | CONDITION | CH. AREA |
|--|------------------|-----------|----------|
| <i>Old Police House</i>                                | HY-39-02-000-051 | Good      | 2        |
| <i>The LookOut Centre</i>                              | HY-37-02-000-013 | Good      | 3        |
| <i>The Police Lookout</i>                              | HY-NA-02-000-050 | Good      | 3        |
| <i>New Lodge</i>                                       | HY-NA-02-000-025 | Good      | 2        |
| <i>Pump and Trough</i>                                 | HY-43-09-000-137 | Good      | 2        |
| <i>The Reformers' Tree</i>                             | HY-37-08-000-118 | Good      | 3        |
| <i>Freeman Family Drinking Fountain</i>                | HY-32-03-000-062 | Good      | 3        |
| <i>Reservoir Toilets</i>                               | HY-37-02-000-046 | Good      | 7        |
| <i>Year of the Child Drinking Fountain</i>             | HY-NA-04-000-063 | Good      | 3        |
| <i>The Serpentine</i>                                  | HY-36-10-000-131 | Fair      | 10       |
| <i>Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Fountain</i>     | HY-20-04-000-066 | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Queen Caroline Memorial</i>                         | HY-24-08-000-117 | Good      | 10       |
| <i>J.O. Cooper Memorial</i>                            | -----            | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Norwegian War Memorial</i>                          | HY-41-08-000-116 | Good      | 2        |
| <i>Lido Leisure Building</i>                           | HY-86-02-000-015 | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Lido Pavilion</i>                                   | HY-86-02-000-016 | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Lido Toilets</i>                                    | HY-86-02-000-017 | Good      | 10       |
| <i>West Boat House</i>                                 | HY-41-02-000-004 | Fair      | 10       |
| <i>East Boat House</i>                                 | HY-36-02-000-005 | Fair      | 10       |
| <i>Boathouse Concession</i>                            | HY-36-02-000-006 | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Serenity</i>  | -----            | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Lutyens Drinking Fountain (North Serpentine)</i>    | HY-21-03-000-134 | Fair      | 10       |
| <i>Lutyens Drinking Fountain (Lido)</i>                | HY-21-03-000-135 | Fair      | 10       |
| <i>Sports Pavilion (Tennis Pavilion)</i>               | HY-22-02-000-012 | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Tennis Court Playground, inc. Senior Playground</i> | HY-NA-06-000-102 | Good      | 10       |
| <i>Queen Elizabeth Gates</i>                           | HY-26-05-000-086 | Good      | 6        |
| <i>Joy of Life Fountain</i>                            | HY-31-04-000-068 | Good      | 5        |
| <i>Speaker's Corner Kiosk</i>                          | HY-32-02-000-049 | Fair      | 4        |
| <i>Police Box Speaker's Corner</i>                     | HY-32-02-000-041 | Fair      | 4        |





## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

This section describes the 'living' components that make up the essential character of Hyde Park.

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

### **Environmental Value**

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

It also refers to the environmental challenges, concerns and issues that are associated with sustainability in the twenty-first century.

Hyde Park is one of Central London's largest parks. It forms a key component of London's network of green and blue spaces, alongside Kensington Gardens, The Green Park and St James's Park, providing connectivity for wildlife through London.

The Park itself supports a diverse range of habitats, including wetland, grasslands, mature trees, scrub, deadwood, ornamental shrubberies, and herbaceous beds. Over recent years these habitats have been increasingly managed to benefit wildlife, with the park supporting a diverse range as a result. The value of this is recognised through its identification by the Greater London Authority as a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation.

The Park receives millions of visitors each year providing an opportunity for people to access, enjoy and learn about nature. The Park provides opportunities for volunteering, including habitat management and wildlife recording while education activities are led by the TRP learning and Mission: Invertebrate teams.

## GEOLGY AND SOILS

Most of the park is underlain by the Taplow Gravels. In places these have been cut through by former watercourses to expose the underlying London clay, namely in the valleys of the River Westbourne (now the Serpentine) and its northern tributary the Tyburn Brook (now culverted).

Substantial areas of the park have been significantly modified by excavations, filling, reshaping, building, or demolition. As a result, most areas no longer have a direct relationship between soil types and the underlying geology. This is particularly the case on the former Great Exhibition site which was filled with rubble caused from the Blitz, and capped with heavy clay soils, and the underground car park beneath the Parade Ground which has a very thin cover of poorly drained soil over the concrete roof of the parking decks. Where soil type is important for optimum horticultural growing, it will have been imported and ameliorated to suit requirements.

The soils which are most vulnerable to compaction and erosion are those with a high clay or silt content which tend to become waterlogged. In wet conditions, grass cover is lost more rapidly, and compaction occurs. Localised surface flooding and wet ground conditions can be found throughout the park, but more so in the Tyburn Valley.

Main Challenges:

**C43.** The park's soils are vulnerable to soil enrichment and compaction.

**C44.** High footfall can quickly lead to rapid erosion.

## TOPOGRAPHY

The lie of the land across Hyde Park has a gentle slope from north to south, and west to east. This is shown in the area south of the LookOut and the Parade Ground, with the highest point (27m AOD) at Speakers' Corner and lowest at Albert Gate. The landform is further articulated by the valley of the River Westbourne (now the Serpentine) with its tributary (the Tyburn Brook). To form the Serpentine in the 1730s, groundworks under Charles Bridgeman's direction raised the embankment of the lowest of the twelve fishponds. This large artificial landform effectively defines The Dell, where the remainder of the Westbourne had originally outflowed from the park at Albert Gate.

Main Challenges:

- C44.** Management of views and vistas and sense of enclosure to exploit opportunities presented by topography.

## HYDROLOGY AND DRAINAGE

The hydrology of Hyde Park is highly complex and must be fully understood to make constructive management decisions.

Hyde Park is reliant on borehole water for the upkeep of major assets that include the Serpentine, and several ornamental gardens. To maintain these assets, systems and regulations are in place to ensure water is used sustainably across the park. Any changes to the management of water within the park are underpinned by sound scientific reasoning and best practice as advised by the Environment Agency. Looking forward, predicted changes in climate will place large amounts of pressure on the park's water resources so adaptations and mitigations will be planned and installed as early as possible to prevent the damage to the landscape.

The water system that we currently see in Hyde Park has not always been this way. Originally the River Westbourne ran through Hyde Park, bringing water from the catchments surrounding Hampstead Heath and Kilburn. Before the park was established, the River Westbourne was divided into twelve monastic ponds by the monks of Westminster Abbey for fishing and water supply, and this was extended by Henry VIII in the 1500s. By 1730 Queen Caroline instructed Charles Bridgeman to deconstruct the ponds for the creation of one large reservoir that provided more aesthetic and recreational interest.

As London grew, the River Westbourne became increasingly polluted, which led to it becoming culverted into the sewer system where it has

remained ever since. This has resulted in a change of water source for The Serpentine, which is now replenished from borehole water where the source is considered to originate from the Chiltern Hills.

The Tyburn Brook, a small seasonal water course once ran through the northern section of Hyde Park, an area now known as the Tyburn Valley. The Brook is now culverted but its presence can be seen in parts particularly during periods of heavy rain, where water naturally accumulates in the Tyburn Valley as shown in figure 12.

Three boreholes now feed water into the Serpentine, as well as other areas for irrigation purposes. One lies in the Italian Gardens in Kensington Gardens, which also sends water up to the Round Pond. The other two are situated by Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain, and the Hyde Park Sports Centre.

There is a computer software installed and programmed by OCMIS, that connects all the boreholes, allowing remote control of water being pumped and channeled across Hyde Park.

### Waterbodies and Wetlands

The Serpentine and Long Water collectively form one of Central London's largest bodies of open water, attracting large numbers of waterfowl. The lake has been enhanced in recent years with the addition of reedbeds, which increases the value for a range of wildlife species.

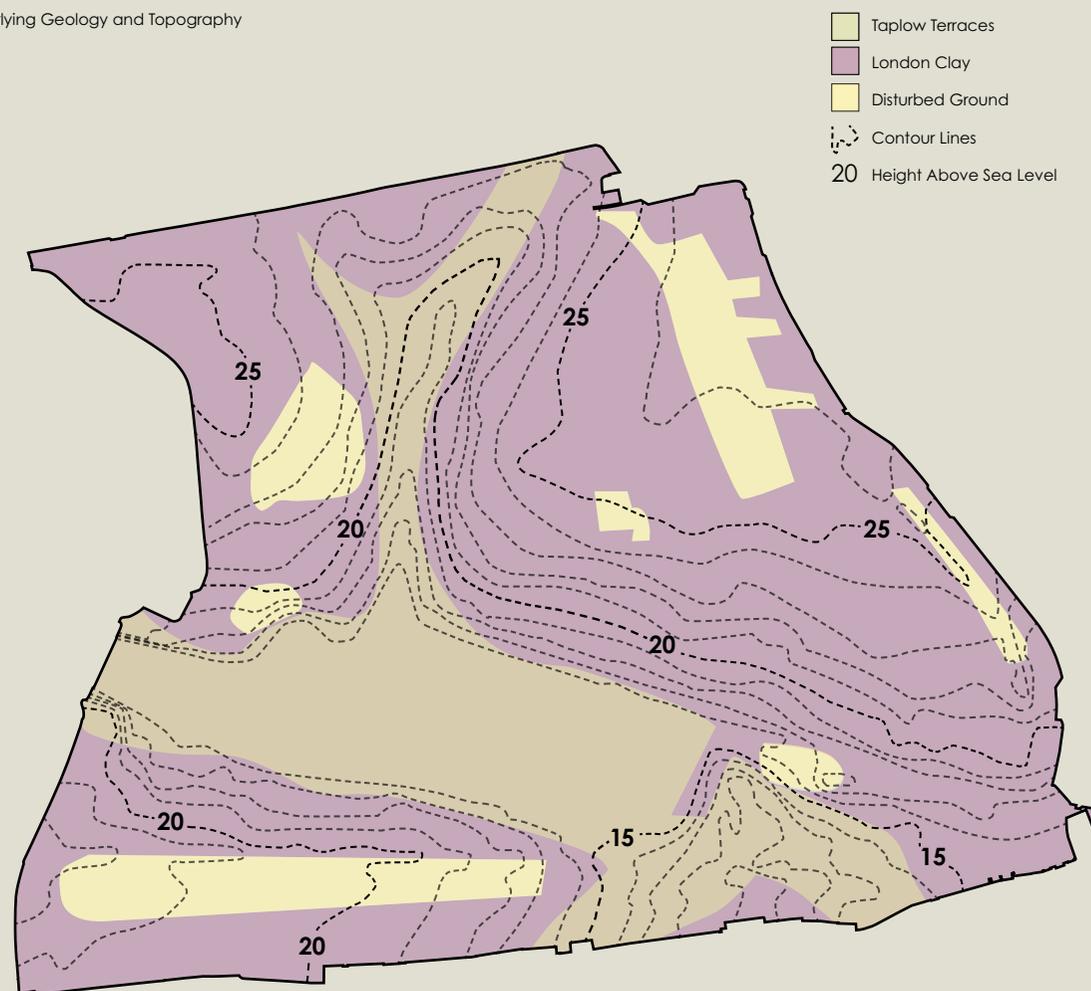
The Park supports several ponds including an educational pond in The LookOut Garden, a pond and associated feeder channel in the garden of the Ranger's Lodge, a pond in The Dell as part of the Dell Outflow, a pond at the W.H. Hudson Memorial, and other garden ponds associated with the park's eight lodges.

An area of seasonally wet grassland is also located to the north of the Old Police House, in the Tyburn Valley along the former alignment of the Tyburn Brook.

### Main Challenges

- C45.** Challenges around water quality of the Serpentine, associated with inputs of nutrients including from waterfowl, bird feeding, adjacent land management and warmer temperatures.
- C46.** High waterfowl numbers impacting grassland habitat quality through grazing and trampling.
- C47.** Management of reedbeds and marginal habitats to maintain value, including to control scrub/tree colonisation.

Fig.12 Underlying Geology and Topography



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Park supports many buildings and other structures (bridges, sculptures, and memorials etc.) that provide opportunities for wildlife, such as bird nesting and bat roosting.

New opportunities have been provided through the installation of bat and bird boxes within trees and on buildings, while living roofs have been incorporated on new buildings to provide additional wildlife habitat. These include a living roof on The LookOut education centre, and on the new catering hub completed in 2019. As well as supporting a diverse flora, the substrates have been chosen to provide opportunities for burrowing and ground dwelling invertebrates.

### Main Challenges

- C48.** Maintenance costs of old buildings, monuments and enhancing sustainability – specifically in relation to conversion to modern standards.
- C49.** Reducing hard standing surfaces for the accommodate the expansion of green space.

## TREES, WOODLAND & SCRUB

Like all our parks, trees are a great natural asset in Hyde Park. They provide a wealth of ecosystem services including flood protection, pollution filtration, carbon storage and habitat for wildlife. Trees characterise and shape the living landscape, providing historic, environmental, communal, and aesthetic value.

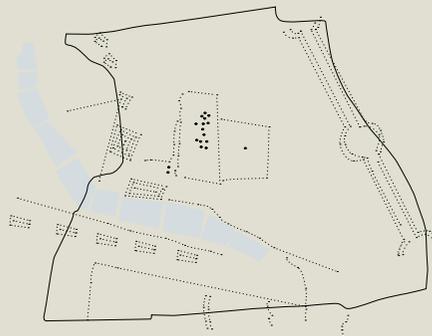
Hyde Park does not support any areas classified as semi-natural woodland or large areas of native scrub, although some ornamental or formally planted areas have developed a woodland character. The Nursery in the centre of the park is surrounded by such habitat, with a dense collection of native and non-native trees and scrub providing a refuge for wildlife from publicly accessible areas of the park.

Other areas which have developed a woodland character include the surrounds of the Queen Caroline Memorial and areas of the Dell, including areas of dense bramble. These areas are relatively undisturbed with no public access. Areas of native scrub have been planted around the manège and playground north of the South Carriage Drive.

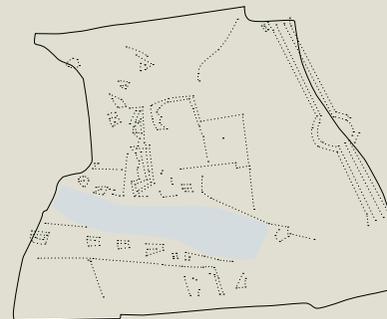
A sustainability driven approach to land and tree management helps to ensure that all natural aspects of Hyde Park are fully protected and enhanced for future tree resilience. The following categories help the Hyde Park management team better understand the park's existing situation so to make the appropriate decisions for future management.

### Tree Species and Diversity

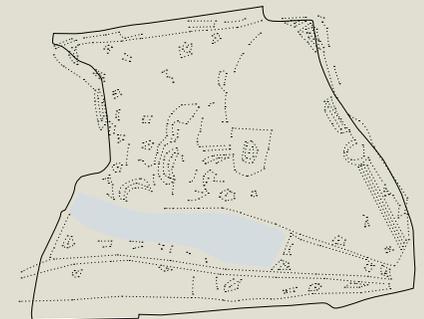
Thirty-seven percent of the 3,180 trees in Hyde Park are London plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*), making it the most common tree within the park. The second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth most common trees are, respectively, common lime (*Tilia x europaea*), sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), English oak (*Quercus robur*), and small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*). These six species accounts for over two thirds of all trees in Hyde Park. They are mostly large, mature trees forming long-lived elements within Hyde Park's landscape.



1706 As defined by Henry Wise



1762 As defined by Joshua Rhodes



1827 As defined by Greenwood

Fig.13 Evolution of Tree Planting

Diversity is an important element of the tree population. Diversity increases overall resilience in the face of various stress inducing factors. A more diverse tree-scape is better able to deal with possible changes in climate, the effects of increased pollution or the outbreak of disease. The tree population in Hyde Park is considered a diverse community given its size, with 104 species of trees from 45 genera identified.

#### **Tree Age and Condition**

By far the most important factor when dealing with any potential pest or disease impact is to consider the age and health of the tree. Tree condition also directly affects the ecosystem services each tree provides. This is regularly monitored by the TRP Arboriculture team, and most trees (98%) within Hyde Park are in excellent or good condition. Size class distribution (or size diversity) helps determine the age of the tree, and is important in managing a sustainable tree population, as this will ensure that there are enough young trees to replace those older specimens that are eventually lost

through old age or disease. The TRP arboriculture team survey trees by their stem diameter at breast height (DBH) at 1.5m. Those trees with smaller stem diameters (less than 15cm) constitute 12% of the total population. Trees with stems greater than 1m represent less than 1% of the population. The most common stem class for semi-mature trees measured in Hyde Park is the 23-30.5cm category (18%).

Hawthorn, ash, and birch are mostly represented in the lower DBH classes. On the other hand, 35.8% of London planes have a stem diameter over 91.5cm.

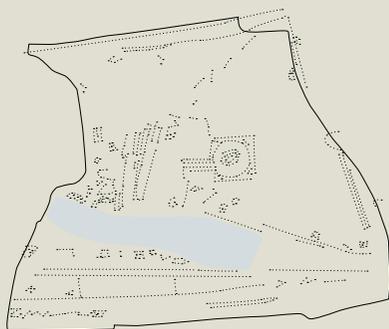
#### **Canopy Cover and Leaf Area**

Tree canopy cover can be defined as the layer of combined leaves, branches and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above. The tree canopies provide forage and shelter for a range of species including bats and birds, and dense movement corridors through the park, forming tree lines and avenue features around boundaries and internal routes, for example, Rotten Row, The Broad Walk and Serpentine Road.

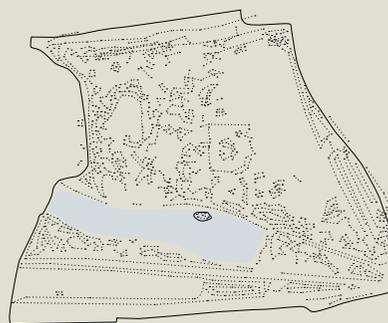
At the most basic level, tree canopy cover tells us how much tree cover there is in a particular area and highlights available opportunities to plant more trees. Tree canopy cover for Hyde Park has been calculated at 34.5%. By way of comparison, the average canopy cover for Greater London is estimated at 20.3%.

Within Hyde Park, the total leaf area is estimated at 2,577,100 m<sup>2</sup>. The total canopy area is 1,420,000 m<sup>2</sup>. If all the layers of leaves within the tree canopies were spread out, they would cover more than 1.8 times the area of the Hyde Park.

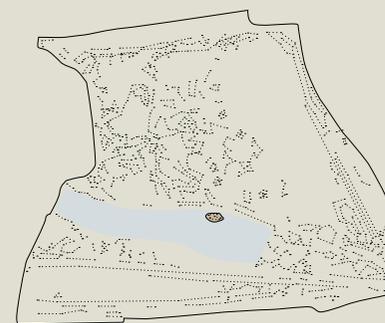
The three most dominant species in terms of leaf area are London plane (72.1%), common lime (6.4%) and horse chestnut (3.4%). The remaining 25% of trees provide the other 18.1% of leaf area. The London plane provides more than twice the leaf area of all other tree species combined.



1846 As defined by Mann



1916 Ordnance Survey



1981 Clyde Surveys

Fig.14 Tree Species and Leaf Area Distribution Survey (2020)

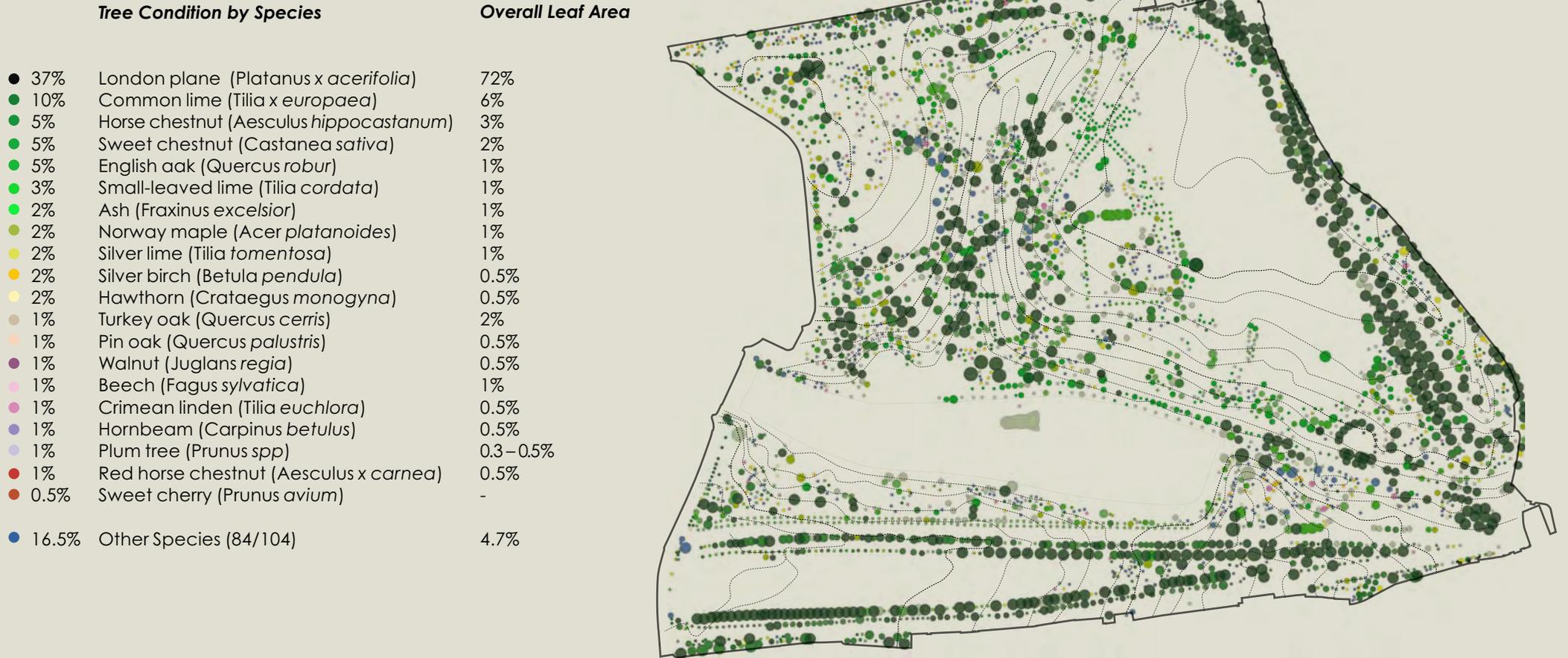


Fig.15 Tree Age and Condition Distribution Survey (2020)



| <b>Tree Age</b> |                   | <b>Overall Tree Condition</b> |             |             |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                 |                   | <b>Excellent</b>              | <b>Good</b> | <b>Fair</b> |
| ● 70%           | Mature Trees      | 79%                           | 19%         | 2%          |
| ● 18%           | Semi Mature Trees | 81%                           | 14%         | 5%          |
| ● 12%           | Young Trees       | 91%                           | 8%          | 1%          |

| <b>Tree Condition by Species</b>                 | <b>Excellent</b> | <b>Good</b> | <b>Fair</b> |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| London plane ( <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> )    | 52               | 48          | –           |
| Common lime ( <i>Tilia x europaea</i> )          | 9                | 10          | –           |
| Horse chestnut ( <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> ) | 91               | 9           | –           |
| Sweet chestnut ( <i>Castanea sativa</i> )        | 93               | 7           | –           |
| English oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )             | 85               | 12          | 3           |
| Small-leaved lime ( <i>Tilia cordata</i> )       | 92               | 8           | –           |
| Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> )                | 75               | 18          | 7           |
| Norway maple ( <i>Acer platanoides</i> )         | 80               | 20          | –           |
| Silver lime ( <i>Tilia tomentosa</i> )           | 91               | 9           | –           |
| Silver birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> )           | 77               | 16          | 7           |
| Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> )           | 78               | 19          | 2           |
| Turkey oak ( <i>Quercus cerris</i> )             | 91               | 9           | –           |
| Pin oak ( <i>Quercus palustris</i> )             | 94               | 6           | –           |
| Walnut ( <i>Juglans regia</i> )                  | 97               | 3           | –           |
| Beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> )                 | 89               | 9           | 2           |
| Crimean linden ( <i>Tilia euchlora</i> )         | 100              | –           | –           |
| Hornbeam ( <i>Carpinus betulus</i> )             | 91               | 9           | –           |
| Plum tree ( <i>Prunus spp</i> )                  | 75               | 25          | –           |
| Red horse chestnut ( <i>Aesculus x carnea</i> )  | 93               | 7           | –           |
| Sweet cherry ( <i>Prunus avium</i> )             | 95               | 5           | –           |
| Other Species (84/104)                           | 83               | 11          | 6           |



3,180

trees recorded in Hyde Park (2020)

37.4%

of Hyde Park's trees are London plane

34%

of Hyde Park is covered by tree canopy

2.7

tonnes of pollutants are removed each year by Hyde Park's trees

**Carbon Storage and Sequestration**

In 2016, TRP collaborated with Treeconomics and published a report documenting the benefits of trees in Hyde Park. It found that the park's trees store 3,872 tonnes of carbon with a value of £880,123.

Of all the tree species inventoried, the London plane stores and sequesters the most carbon, adding 51 tonnes every year to the current London planes carbon storage of 2,938 tonnes. This represents 76% of the total carbon stored by the entire tree stock and reflects the size and population of the plane trees in Hyde Park.

**Air Pollution Removal**

London has particularly high levels of air pollution, so the trees within Hyde Park provide a valuable service. The problems caused by poor air quality are well known, ranging from human health impacts to damage to buildings.

The situation is complicated by the fact that trees also emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can contribute to low level ozone formation. However, integrated studies have revealed that an increase in tree cover leads to a general reduction in ozone through a reduction in the urban heat island effect.

Greater tree cover, pollution concentrations, and leaf area, are the main factors influencing pollution filtration and therefore increasing areas of tree planting have been shown to make further improvements to air quality. Furthermore, because filtering capacity is closely linked to leaf area it is generally the trees with larger canopy potential that provide the most benefits. In total the trees in Hyde Park remove 2.7 tonnes of pollution from the air every year. This is a service worth £183,454 (2015 baseline).

**Stormwater Run-off Removal**

The trees of Hyde Park help to reduce runoff by an estimated 3,584m<sup>3</sup> a year with an associated value of £5,434. This amount is equivalent to 1.4 Olympic swimming pools of stormwater averted every single year. The London plane has an important role in reducing runoff in Hyde Park: the planes intercept more than half of the precipitation, reducing runoff by more than all the other trees put together.

**Amenity Value**

Capital Asset Valuation for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) is a method developed in the UK to provide a value for the public amenity that trees provide. CAVAT includes the addition of the Community Tree Index (CTI) factor, which adjusts the CAVAT value to take account of the greater amenity benefits of trees in areas of higher population density, using official population figures. This adds a further social dimension, placing a value on the tree's visual accessibility and prominence in the landscape.

3,872

tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> are stored in Hyde Park's trees

176

million pounds sterling is the total estimated amenity value of Hyde Park's trees

104

species of trees from 45 genera have been identified in Hyde Park

1.4

olympic swimming pools of stormwater averted every single year.

The relative importance of the mature component of the tree population is clear. Their high CAVAT scores reflect their importance as major elements of the treescape of central London. It also highlights the priority that needs to be placed on securing their continued health and on planting a wide variety of large growing successor species for the future.

The total amenity value for all the trees in Hyde Park is estimated to be £176 million.

#### **Deadwood**

TRP promotes the retention of dead wood either in the tree or on the ground wherever possible. Several monoliths: (dead tree trunks attached to their root system), exist in Hyde Park including one in the Rose Garden. Deadwood increases fungal communities and saproxylic insects. Within this group of invertebrates, several rare Red Data Species, including the cardinal beetle (*Pyrochroa serraticornis*), have been found in the park.

Any wood that is removed from trees in the park is chipped and used as biofuel. As stated in our Biosecurity Policy, there is strict inspection of any wood removed from the park before it is processed to remove the risk of contamination and spread of disease.

#### **Tree Risk Management**

Applicable to all trees in the park is the implementation of The Royal Parks Tree Risk Management Strategy which can be found [here](#) – the programmed cyclical inspection of trees for risk management purposes. The frequency of inspection and amount of detail recorded for each tree is updated on a yearly basis. All inspection data is recorded on the Arbortrack tree management software system. Tree work specified because of the inspections is routinely programmed and takes place predominantly over the autumn period.

Main Challenges:

- C50.** Threat from tree pests and diseases, including massaria disease of London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*), oriental chestnut gall wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*) of sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), and acute oak decline (AOD), impacting tree health and in the long term the tree assemblage.
- C51.** Maintaining deadwood and ruderal communities within the park considering management issues.
- C52.** Management and planting of woodland and scrub habitats to maintain dense and diverse structure, whilst addressing the risk of antisocial behaviour and maintaining attractive landscape features.

## ORNAMENTAL PLANTING

As well as shrubberies, the park supports several herbaceous ornamental beds. The Rose Garden is particularly notable with other planted beds found at the Dell and alongside West Carriage Drive. Planting in these areas aim to benefit wildlife, from the structure of shrubberies to the inclusion of flowering species of particular benefit to pollinating insects. In addition, many grassland areas have been enhanced through bulb planting including those chosen to provide early nectar sources for invertebrates.

## GRASSLAND

### Amenity grassland

Amenity grassland (highly managed grassland) makes up almost 50% of the park. This grassland is generally of low environmental value due to low structural and floral species diversity (usually dominated by perennial ryegrass and fescues with common weed species), and high levels of disturbance because of regular management and public use. The grassland does have potential for enhancement either through relaxation of mowing regimes or enrichment to increase floristic diversity.

### Neutral grassland

Almost a fifth of the park supports longer grassland types which provide a variety of habitats. Some areas such as 'Tyburn Meadows' have been enriched through wildflower seed sowing and plug planting. Yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) has been used as a management tool to restrict the growth of coarse grasses and enhance diversity, with varied success. These longer grassland areas provide

shelter and foraging habitat for a more diverse range of wildlife as opposed to regularly managed grassland. These habitats range from areas of lower floristic diversity and increased abundance of coarse grasses such as cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and false oatgrass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), to those supporting a greater abundance of finer grasses and herbaceous species, such as meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), goat's beard (*Tragopogon pratensis*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). Some pockets developed a community dominated by ruderal species such as creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), which also provide environmental value.

### Acid grassland

Hyde Park supports acid grassland communities of varying condition, from transitional neutral acid grassland to areas more identifiable as acid grassland. These are characterised by a certain number of species, in particular decreased abundance or absence of perennial ryegrass and increased abundance of common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and common cat's-ear (*Hypochoeris radicata*). All areas support a relatively low abundance of species associated with acid grassland, which is likely to be a result of poor soil conditions that are low in pH (moving towards neutral rather than acidic) with high nutrient levels, and past management practices (including improvement of management regimes) favouring neutral grassland communities.

Main Challenges:

**C53.** Visitor pressure and impact of events on habitat quality, including littering, trampling and erosion, noise, lighting, and wildlife feeding.

## BIODIVERSITY

### Invertebrates

As a large open green space in Central London, Hyde Park provides a variety of habitats with potential to support invertebrates including 149 species of moth and 105 spider species which have been recorded and reflect the variety across the park.

The decrease in mowing regimes in recent years has improved invertebrate diversity in the park, with the wildflower areas supporting a diverse assemblage of pollinators and phytophagous species (insects eating on plants). Twenty-four species of butterfly have been recorded in Hyde Park, with grass-feeding species such as meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*), gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*), ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*), small skippers (*Thymelicus sylvestris*) and Essex skippers (*T. lineola*) benefitting from the larger areas of longer grass. Notable species include the rare tephritid picture-winged fly (*Acinia corniculata*) (RDB1) and the Acanthiophilus helianthi (nationally scarce) which both develop in the seed heads of common knapweed. Management of grassland habitats provide a mosaic of habitat types, allowing structural and floristic qualities to flourish throughout the year. This benefits a range of species, including retention of refuge areas over the winter months.

Emergent vegetation and recently created reedbeds in the Serpentine support a range of aquatic invertebrate species, including dragonflies, damselflies, reed beetles and moths. In contrast, the open water is relatively poor with a limited invertebrate assemblage, although there have been recordings of the large haliplid water beetle (*Haliplus flavicollis*), a species of local value which is abundant around the Serpentine and Long Water.

The park's proximity to Kensington Gardens means that while Hyde Park itself does not have veteran trees supporting saproxylic invertebrates (dependent on dead or decaying wood), it contributes to providing essential forage for such species. This includes wildflowers and flowering shrubs, such as bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). These also provide valuable pollen source for saproxylic insects.

Ornamental flowerbeds and shrubberies provide valuable habitats for pollinators with certain plant species selected for their nectar throughout the year, including over winter and spring. Such habitats provide structural diversity and sheltering opportunities for a range of species, such as a layered 'understory' of flowering shrubs under tree canopies, or ferns and tussock grasses.

### **Birds**

With its mosaic of habitats, Hyde Park is an important site for resident birds, of which there are almost 50 species both summer and winter visitors including little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), house martin (*Delichon urbicum*), redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) and blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*). Its proximity to the River Thames means it can be a convenient place to rest for those birds using the river as a migration route, and as a result, unusual species such as the manx shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) and white-winged black tern (*Chlidonias niger*) have been observed using the park as a temporary stop-off ground.

The Serpentine supports large numbers of waterfowl which has implications for managing the water quality of the lake. The wetland habitats support bird species such as grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*). In recent years up to 3 pairs have bred on the Serpentine Island in Hyde Park. Another key species for both Westminster City Council and the park is reed warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), and with further enhancement of existing reedbeds and the addition of cover to adjoining areas, the number of breeding pairs will be boosted.

The introduction of relaxed mowing regimes and addition of wildflower areas in recent years has benefitted several species including the green woodpecker (*Picus viridis*). This species will be further encouraged by leaving some areas of grass undisturbed. This will allow yellow meadow ants (*Lasius flavus*) to establish colonies and form anthills. The combination of long and short grass has attracted blackbird (*Turdus merula*), song thrush (*T. philomelos*) and mistle thrush (*T. viscivorus*). These like to feed on short grass, especially if it is close to taller invertebrate rich grassland. The little owl (*Athene noctua*) also appears to prefer this mixture of grassland habitat and first bred in the park in 2016.

Numbers of ring-necked parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) have increased over the years and there are concerns that this may have an adverse impact on native cavity nesters such as woodpeckers, owls, and nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) as well as bats. Parakeets can also cause extensive damage to trees, stripping buds and seeds of several species, including hawthorn, horse chestnut and hornbeam. Negative impacts, however, are not clear and further monitoring of their impact is required.

### Mammals

Hyde Park supports relatively few mammal species with the most common being the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). The other most common is the non native grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), which is associated with several issues that include debarking of trees through to predation of bird nests.

Less visible are bats, with all UK bat species subject to legal protection including national and London priority species. Bat activity surveys were undertaken across the park in 2016. These recorded high levels of activity, which indicates that the park is a valuable foraging resource for local bat populations.

Five bat species were identified from the recordings: common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), soprano pipistrelle (*P. pygmaeus*), nathusius' pipistrelle (*P. nathusii*), noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) and leisler's bat (*N. leisleri*). Serotine was identified as potentially present. Occasional bat roosts have been recorded in the park, including low status Pipistrelle roosts in mature trees.

### Other wildlife

Other species recorded in the park include common frog (*Rana temporaria*), common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) in the vicinity of ponds, particularly the LookOut and Rangers Lodge, with smooth newt also recorded in the W.H.Hudson Memorial Pond.

Several fish species have also been recorded in the Serpentine, including European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), although fish surveys have not been undertaken for some time.

Main Challenges:

- C54.** Managing grassland habitats to encourage and maintain floristic and structural diversity throughout the year, while maintaining habitat for invertebrate life stages including over-wintering.
- C55.** Retaining standing or fallen deadwood.
- C56.** Managing shrubbery for wildlife refuges while providing attractive shrub displays.
- C57.** Management of grassland and scrub habitats to maintain a diverse range of opportunities for bird species.
- C58.** Potential impact of non-native bird species such as ring-necked parakeet, as well as high numbers of waterfowl impacting habitat condition.
- C59.** Impact of grey squirrel on trees and wildlife.
- C60.** Protecting and conserving bats and their roosts requires consideration during tree and building works.
- C61.** Ensure a robust understanding of the park's biodiversity informs park management success, for example managing appropriate fish populations.
- C62.** Ensuring that not all paths and desire lines are hard surfaced or re-turfed, as these are important nesting areas.
- C63.** Keeping some areas of long grass throughout the winter as a refuge for insects.
- C64.** Leaving patches of nettles and other larval food plants for breeding butterflies and moths.
- C65.** Providing more buttercups, selfheal, speedwell, and etcetera to flower and provide food for pollinators in areas which are otherwise unwelcoming to these species.

- C66.** Working with the B-Lines project while introducing decorative "urban meadows" of pollinator-friendly flowering plants, not necessarily native species, to increase the attractiveness of the parks to both insect and human visitors.
- C67.** Providing high impact floral displays while selecting formal bedding plants according to their ability to provide forage for pollinators, i.e., select single rather than double bloomed varieties.
- C68.** Avoiding new specimens of tree species that deter bumblebee species, such as *Tilia petiolata*.

### PESTS, DISEASES AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Reflective of a global issue, the park is increasingly threatened by a range of pests, diseases, and invasive species. These threats are increasing because of globalisation and trade/transportation of organisms and materials by people, while climate change is increasing the potential for introduced species to thrive.

Trees are particularly under attack from a wide and increasing range of pests and diseases, from grey squirrel to fungal and insect species and associated diseases. As mentioned previously, species such as the Ring-necked Parakeet may also be harming native wildlife populations, although evidence for this is still not clear.

Aquatic habitats are particularly at risk of invasive species, with terrapins, fish species and plant species such as water fern (*Azolla filiculoides*) and Parrot's-feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) being introduced either intentionally by members of the public or accidentally with introduced plants or materials. Introduced crayfish and crab species pose an increasing risk in urban waterbodies.

Although such species may not currently be present within the Serpentine, vigilance is required to ensure that they do not cause an issue to habitat condition and wildlife populations, and act as a source for introductions elsewhere.

Main Challenges

**C69.** Minimising threats where possible, including implementation of TRP's Biosecurity Strategy.

### TREE PESTS, DISEASES AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Tree pests and diseases are an increasingly significant and high-profile national issue, and at a local level have an increasing impact on tree management. They have the potential to impact the way people and animals use the park as well as the long-term landscape and biodiversity value.

#### **Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) - *Thaumetopoea processionea***

The caterpillars carry toxic hairs which can pose a significant threat to human and animal health, causing severe skin rashes, eye irritation, and sometimes breathing difficulties. The caterpillars feed on oak leaves and large populations can extensively defoliate trees, increasing their vulnerability to other pathogens and environmental impacts including climate change.

Experience to date has indicated that the human and animal health risk from OPM arises as much from old nests that it has not been possible to remove, as from "active season" summer nests, which are more visible and pro-actively managed.

Resources and budget required to manage this pest are significant and require additional staff for spraying and nest removal.

#### **Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker – *Pseudomonas syringae pathovar aesculi***

A bacterial disease which kills strips of the bark and cambium of horse chestnut trees, often leading to the rapid decline and unpredictable failure of large limbs and sometimes death of both young and mature trees. Around 75% of horse chestnuts in

the park have bleeding canker. Mature trees can sometimes be managed over time with canopy reductions but with consequent loss of landscape value.

Horse chestnuts have structurally weak timber post death, making the management of their decline shorter term compared to other species. Moribund or dead trees are managed by monolithing or felling, some timber is left on site as valuable deadwood resource.

#### **Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner – *Cameraria ohridella***

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

#### **Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp (OCGW) – *Dryocosmus kuriphilus***

This insect, of Asian origin, was discovered in the UK for the first time in 2015 and affects European sweet chestnut trees. Activity by larvae of the wasp cause abnormal growths (galls) to form on buds, leaves and leaf stalks. It is a low impact pest, the wasp posing no threat to people or animals. In high numbers it can weaken the tree, making it more vulnerable to other pathogens, including the

more serious sweet chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*). Severe attacks can result in tree decline. Under the advice of the Plant Health Authorities, control to date has involved monitoring of the outbreak.

#### **Sweet Chestnut Blight – *Cryphonectria parasitica***

This is a destructive disease of sweet chestnut trees (trees in the *Castanea* genus) caused by the ascomycete fungus (*Cryphonectria parasitica*).

Although first identified in the UK in 2011 it was only found to be present in the population of sweet chestnuts in Hyde Park in 2019. It is suspected that the fungus was present in the trees for a while. However, with other recent pressures such as the gall wasp and increasingly hot summers, the trees have been placed under excessive pressure, resulting in a visible immune response from the trees.

All symptoms on infected trees occur above the ground. *C. parasitica* attacks the bark of European sweet chestnut and enters through fissures or wounds.

#### **Massaria Disease of Plane – *Splanchnonema platani***

Fungal disease of the bark and cambium which affects branches throughout the crown. This causes a rapid soft rot in the sap wood which then leads to sudden branch failure. This disease requires a significant amount of man hours to survey and monitor the dead branch removals by contractors.

There are a significant number of tree pests and diseases that could become an issue within the 10-year lifetime of this plan including Sweet Chestnut Blight, Chalara Ash Dieback and Phytophthora ramorum. Asian Longhorn Beetle, Emerald Ash-borer and Xylella are high on the DEFRA pest risk analysis list.

TRP has a Biosecurity Strategy (2020), an Integrated Horticultural Pest Management Policy, and an Oak Processionary Moth Management Strategy. These adopted policies guide the management of pests throughout our parks. Prevention and control measures are also monitored as part of ISO14001 particularly relating to the use of pesticides.

Main Challenges:

- C70.** Direct risk to human and animal health (i.e., from toxic hairs of OPM) and an indirect risk by contributing to decline and sometimes death of trees – these require regular monitoring and tree work intervention to reduce the risk to the public from failing trees.
- C71.** Increased resource requirement for effective monitoring and control of pest and disease – many of these are new in the last 10 years and have greatly increased the number of staff and time required to manage them.
- C72.** Threats to long-term tree cover, historic groupings of trees, diversity, and associated biodiversity due to declining vigour and death of trees.
- C73.** Managing pests and diseases sustainably with minimal impact on biodiversity in the park i.e., pesticide spraying for the control of OPM in targeted areas of the park.
- C74.** Ongoing resource requirements to monitor distribution and impact of pest and disease and to contribute to national research efforts.
- C75.** Resource requirement for “horizon scanning” for incoming pest and disease and to develop effective contingency plans, i.e., for Phytophthora ramorum or Xylella, control of which may include partial closure of the park.
- C76.** Resource requirement for development of TRP Biosecurity Policy and its implementation.
- C77.** Identifying appropriate species to replace trees that are impacted by current pests and diseases.



## BIOSECURITY

Nationally and locally, risks are posed to our trees from the spread of pests and diseases. Global traffic and high levels of international trade with materials potentially containing pests and diseases present has increased pathways for pathogen introduction. This, compounded with changing weather patterns, makes it increasingly likely introduced pathogens can survive in the UK. Biosecurity is required on two levels - firstly on the sourcing and buying of new planting stock and then on its internal management once growing in the park.

While being an active participant in the national discussion on biosecurity TRP has developed procedures for procurement of new stock. We have developed our biosecurity policy, in line with other organisations. This includes the Arboricultural Association's "Biosecurity in Arboriculture and Urban Forestry" position statement.

### **TRP Plant Purchasing Procedures**

Current practice:

- Source all plants from approved suppliers, nurseries and garden centres with a proven track record and a biosecurity policy.
- Be certain that the supplier has a procedure for managing pests and diseases, both for plants coming in and plants going out.
- Specify exact requirements on our purchase order forms.
- All plants placed in quarantine until inspected by a suitably experienced member of TRP staff.

TRP are working towards the improved tree purchasing procedure below:

- Plant passports should be in place on identified genus with known transferable pest or diseases problems.
- Plant passport types: Normal (N) = supplier to source. Replacement (RP) = Supplier to supplier. Protected zone (PZ) = Protected zone to protected zone.
- No Quercus, Platanus and Castanea should be purchased and imported directly from European suppliers. Require proof from supplier that the plants have been grown on in the UK for over a year and are free from notifiable diseases.
- Do not source plants from unknown suppliers.
- Inform supplier and relevant authorities immediately if any problems are identified and notifiable.
- Plants should be grown in a strictly managed quarantine area for one growing season before being planted out in the park.

Main Challenges:

- C78.** Implementing the TRP Biosecurity Policy and increased cost. Securing resources and managing the lead time required to deliver planting schemes from design to completion.

## SUSTAINABILITY

TRP strives to balance economic, environmental, and social factors to ensure Hyde Park is managed sustainably and continues to provide benefits for present and future generations. With the climate and biodiversity crisis, increasing urban populations and risk of disease, Hyde Park will continue to experience increasing pressure on ecosystems in the future. To adapt and mitigate the impacts of these pressures TRP will seek to adopt best sustainable practice. TRP has a responsibility to the communities of London to ensure its parks are kept to the highest standard while providing a net positive impact to the environment and visitors.

Our 10-year Sustainability Strategy 2015–2025 has four aims which underpin TRP's approach to sustainability and guide our practice within the parks. Each of the following four pillars outline actions to improve the sustainability of the park:

### **Conserve and Enhance the Unique Landscapes, Built Heritage and Biodiversity**

Hyde Park has a wide range of habitats that need to be conserved and enhanced. This is being achieved through biodiversity action plans, minimising the use of pesticides, as well as enforcing the Biosecurity Strategy to prevent the spread of pests and diseases. In addition, peat based compost will be increasingly phased out of the Hyde Park Nursery and bedding to reduce our carbon footprint.

### **Mitigation and Adapting to Climate Change**

Climate change is potentially one of, if not, the greatest threat to the future of the Royal Parks. Rising temperatures and more extreme weather are increasing risk and placing pressure on the park's natural assets. TRP continues to make proactive management decisions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

As the impacts of climate change become increasingly evident, park managers are playing a significant role in mitigating the effects. TRP acknowledges the need to support and sustain ecosystem services to further improve air quality and mitigate the risks of climatic change by creating cooling effects and reducing carbon emissions, reduce flooding through water retention, and promoting biodiversity.

Last year saw the first carbon footprint calculation for each of the Royal Parks, now a legislative requirement for organisations each financial year. Hyde Park was found to emit the most carbon, with the greatest source coming from the gas lamps that line the avenues and pathways. TRP will be looking to convert most of these to electricity (LED) over time. In 2020 the park has switched to a renewable energy tariff from British Gas and EDF. If TRP are to continue reducing their emissions and respond proactively to the UK Government's 2050 net zero target, regular assessments of the park's carbon hotspots are vital.

The overall contribution of London's parks is valued at £594 million in carbon capture and storage (CCS). This figure was estimated by Doick

& Hutchings (2013) who assume that the overall contribution of London's green spaces reduces urban temperatures by 2°C during heat waves. The economic value of cooling is based on the number of lives saved due to cooler peak temperatures, which is monetised through the value of avoiding premature death. Hyde Park stores carbon dioxide in the growth of trees and organic matter in soil.

The relationship between parks and air quality is increasingly cited as an economic benefit of city parks and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology is currently working nationally on new, improved estimates. Urban areas experience higher average temperatures because they absorb heat more readily, use more energy and have lower ventilation (Met Office, 2012). Green areas within cities play a role in regulating this effect and they reduce the burden of heat stress during periods of elevated temperature.

Across Hyde Park, waste is being increasingly recycled and reused. Catering outlets have contributed to this with Colicci now segregating ground coffee and reusing cooking oil. Recycling bins are present in the park, and more work is being done to engage park visitors. There is a push to reduce the waste and increase recycling during events with BST 2019 employing 60 Green Ambassadors per day to educate visitors on sustainable waste disposal.

Green waste is mostly composted on site and efforts are being made to increase the amount of compost used in the park to improve soil health.

### **People, education, fairness and improving wellbeing**

TRP provides a multitude of benefits for people within Hyde Park. Volunteering, horticultural apprenticeships, learning activities, play and sport facilities are provided in the park for people's wellbeing and enjoyment.

### **Sustainable Growth – providing environmentally excellent and financially viable green open spaces to the public**

Events are the centrepiece of Hyde Park and are fundamental to the sustainability of TRP as a charity. TRP works with event providers to improve their sustainable practices. BST and Winter Wonderland have significantly reduced their carbon emissions by using HVO biofuel for their generators and introducing more efficient power management. There is also a proposal working with UK Power Network for an electrical connection to the Parade Ground to help reduce the use of generators.

Main Challenges:

**C79.** Reducing climate change impacts on tree health and biodiversity.



## COMMUNAL CONTEXT

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

### **Communal Value:**

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

## PUBLIC ACCESS

Hyde Park is open every day of the year from 5am to midnight. Some areas of Hyde Park are not publicly accessible and are only accessible to certain user groups. Areas of the park that are not accessible to the public include:

- The Nursery Yard
- The Store Yard
- Residential lodges and their gardens
- Serpentine Island
- The Dell

Controlled access areas:

- The LookOut
- Old Police House
- Serpentine Lido

## EVENTS

The eight Royal Parks have a long and historic tradition of hosting events. We host around 30 major events and hundreds of small events every year.

Hyde Park has hosted some of the most iconic music events in history from The Rolling Stones to Pink Floyd and Pavarotti. We have come a long way since the first concert took place in the cockpit area of Hyde Park nearly 50 years ago.

TRP seeks to strike a balance between the many uses and demands upon the park by permitting the following annual major events:

- British Summer Time concerts
- Swim Serpentine
- Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
- Royal Parks Half Marathon

Hyde Park has a long tradition of accommodating demonstrations and protests, which we continue to respect, in line with the terms and conditions in our long-standing demonstrations and assemblies policy, which can be found [here](#).

Main Challenges:

**C80.** Balancing large-scale events which are a vital source of income for the charity with visitor's peaceful enjoyment.

**C81.** Protecting adjacent habitats and sensitivities of surface archaeology, particularly to north west side of the Parade Ground and North Carriage Drive.

## VISITOR PROFILE

Every four years, we commission research which looks at visitor satisfaction levels across the parks. Conducted by leading research company, Ipsos MORI, the most recent round took place between August 2017 and September 2018, when 2,787 randomly selected park visitors were interviewed in the parks.

Visitors remain extremely positive about the parks, with 96% of all respondents rating the overall quality of the parks as excellent or good. Some of the highlights of the research show:

- 94% rate the quality of the natural environment as excellent or good
- 91% rate the tidiness and cleanliness of the parks as excellent or good
- 99% of visitors feel very or quite safe in the parks

Understanding what it is about the parks that people enjoy and what additional information they would like is invaluable information for us as guardians of these unique spaces. It allows us to plan more effectively, ensure our resources are used in the right way, and balance the needs of our visitors with the sensitive and sustainable conservation of these heritage landscapes.

The surveys indicate that 43% of the visitors to the park were from London, a further 18% were from other parts of the UK with 40% originating from other countries. Means of transport found that 41% walked, 2% cycled, 52% arrived by public transport, and 4% arrived by car. Most of these visits (42%) were between one and two hours, 27% were between 30 and 60 minutes, 17% were between 2 to 3 hours, and 7% were between 3 and 4 hours.

Reasons for visits were surveyed; 79% came for general reasons such as to get some fresh air, relax, meet friends, or as part of their route elsewhere, 36% came for exercise and sport, 3% came for children's activities, 18% came for sightseeing or for a particular event, and 15% were motivated to see trees, plants, and wildlife.

Respondents were asked what, if any, activities they would like to see the park offer; 34% wanted to see improved facilities, 24% wanted more entertainment and adventure playgrounds, 12% wanted more variety for catering.

Main Challenges:

**C82.** London's projected population growth and the impact this could have on the park.

### VISITOR FACILITIES

Refreshment facilities, contracted as concession leases, are provided at the Serpentine Bar and Kitchen (let to Benugo), the Lido Café (let to Colicci), the Lodge Café at Hyde Park Corner (let to Spicewell), and at several mobile outlets (let to Colicci).

In the 2017/18 survey, 48% of visitors to Hyde Park had used, or were intending to use, the catering facilities, while a further 31% brought their own food. Six percent were unaware of the presence of such facilities.

Toilet facilities are in good condition and are maintained by TRP through contractors at the Bandstand Toilets, Reservoir Toilets and Lido Toilets.

The boating concession is serviced from the Boathouse. Boating has been allowed on the Serpentine since 1847 (no longer extended to the Long Water in Kensington Gardens).

Provision for public swimming in a designated section of the Serpentine by the Lido, which has changing facilities, a diving jetty, an enclosed area for sunbathing, and a paddling pool opened from April to September.

Main Challenges:

**C83.** Toilet facilities serve current visitors, but they need to be reviewed as numbers and distribution of visitors may change.

### ORGANISED AND INFORMAL ACTIVITIES

The Hyde Park Sports Centre is located at the western end of the sports field at the junction between West Carriage Drive and South Carriage Drive and is operated by Will to Win Ltd, a company committed to the provision of community sport.

There are six newly surfaced floodlit tennis courts, a six-rink lawn bowling green, a multi-use games area and a padel court, as well as a café and changing facilities. The centre operates a 'pay and play' system for most sports - simply turn up and play, no matter your age or ability.

Many clubs including the Serpentine Swimming Club, Serpentine Running Club, Civil Service Riding Club for people with disabilities and a Tennis Club use the park. It is also regularly used by licensed personal trainers and companies such as British Military Fitness.

Deckchairs are hired out for visitor relaxation and enjoyment, mainly concentrated on the south facing lawns immediately above Serpentine Road and the northern end of the Parade Ground.

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 Hyde Park Barracks and near Clarendon Gate.

The paths and grass areas across the parks are used extensively for walking, jogging, and running. There are numerous running clubs, fitness groups, walking groups and official guided walk programmes, engaging both local communities and international visitors. In recent years Serpentine Road has become a very popular space for in-line skating roller blading.

Hyde Park's greatest attribute and attraction is its ability to provide space for informal and passive enjoyment in a range of areas and scales with great variety of landscape settings, prospects, and views. It exudes qualities that invite spontaneous activity and quiet enjoyment to its many visitors. Due to its relatively flat/gentle sloping nature and its substantial network of footpaths, much of the park is accessible to visitors of all abilities.

Main Challenges:

- C84.** Limiting formal sport activities to designated areas and retaining areas of 'peace and quiet'.
- C85.** The horse rides can be visually dominant in places and can suffer from water-logging and erosion on adjoining parkland.

### **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING**

Hyde Park has an extensive and diverse volunteer community, which includes the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, wildlife surveyors, horticultural and conservation volunteers, and occasional visiting corporate groups.

Volunteers add huge value to the park, supporting projects, delivering events, operating the Information Kiosk, and assisting TRP in delivering labour intensive tasks that extend the capacity of our contractors. These not only benefit the park and enhance visitor experiences but provide the opportunity to discover new skills, learning opportunities and social benefits for those who take part.

#### ***The Royal Parks Guild***

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

#### ***The Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens***

The Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens (FHPKG), founded in 1991, was formed to ensure that the voice of public users of the parks was heard, considering the mounting pressure the parks face to fund their upkeep via commercial events. A group of volunteers supports FHPKG by manning a kiosk at Hyde Park Corner, providing information, and handing out leaflets.

#### ***Volunteer Community Ranger Service***

In 2018, TRP committed resources for a 3-year pilot programme to recruit and train Volunteer Rangers to initially serve Richmond Park, Bushy Park, and Greenwich Park. A full-time co-ordinator develops training material, recruits volunteers, and develops a programme enabling the volunteers to engage with the public regarding their behaviour and providing advice and information for visitors. Hyde Park aims to be included in this programme in the future.

Main Challenges:

- C86.** To resource and develop the ability to support and lead volunteers and partners.
- C87.** To ensure that statutory compliance around issues such as safeguarding is delivered seamlessly.

**PLAY**

Hyde Park has one public free playground known as the South Carriage Drive Playground which is an exciting and adventurous play space that sits on the southern boundary of Hyde Park along South Carriage Drive. The playground sits within a playful landscape that is enclosed with exotic planting.

The playground features climbing structures, swings, and slides, and was refurbished in 2015 to provide a wider range of play features that allow more creative play, while accommodating a greater number of children.

In line with TRP's Play Strategy, we seek to provide playful opportunities throughout the park and play sculptures have recently been installed in the Tyburn Meadows. The TRP Play Strategy can be found [here](#).

**SPORTS AND LEISURE**

Hyde Park has a fleet of rowing and pedal boats on the Serpentine and the UK's first Solarshuttle, a magnificent vessel which glides silently across the lake powered only by the sun. The Solarshuttle carries up to 40 passengers and the pedal and row boats hold up to 6 people each. Boating on the Serpentine is open from April until October, times are from 10am until dusk.

The Serpentine Swimming Club is reportedly one of the oldest swimming clubs in Britain. Members can swim every day in the Lido area between 5am and 9.30am, and the Club holds the famous race on Christmas Day: *the Peter Pan Cup*.

Hyde Park has two specialist horse riding arenas (also known as manèges) located near North Carriage Drive and South Carriage Drive. The Park has several designated routes for horse riding, which are regularly used by the Household Cavalry (Hyde Park Barracks). Horse riding in the park is available to customers and members of local stables, the Metropolitan Police and the Household Cavalry who ride from Hyde Park Barracks.

The Hyde Park Sports Centre is located at the western end of the sports field at the junction between West Carriage Drive and South Carriage Drive and is operated by Will to Win Ltd, a company committed to the provision of community sport.

There are six newly surfaced floodlit tennis courts, a well maintained six-rink lawn bowling green, a nine-hole putting green, a multi-use games area and a padel court, as well as a café and changing facilities. The centre operates a 'pay and play' system for most sports - simply turn up and play, no matter your age or ability.

The Sports Centre also provides football camps and courses that take part on the multi-use games area (Old Football Pitches). This facility is open to pay and play bookings as well as block coaching sessions. Any organised leagues, matches and events on the Old Football Pitches must book in advance at the Hyde Park Sports Centre.

**MISSION: INVERTEBRATE**

Mission: Invertebrate is a People's Postcode Lottery funded project aiming to enrich wildlife in the Royal Parks. Now in its fourth year, the project focuses on

supporting the smaller insect species found in the parks including butterflies, bees, beetles, spiders, and snails. These species account for over 95% of all animals and perform a host of services such as recycling of waste and pest control as well as a major food source for many other species. In addition, Mission: Invertebrate aims to engage and educate people in nature by providing volunteering experiences.

Within Hyde Park, Mission: Invertebrate has proven invaluable to the conservation and promotion of biodiversity and currently has several planned projects in place. This year alone 150,000 bulbs were planted around the park by volunteers and grounds maintenance teams to create spring flowering pollinator pockets. Wildflower seed has been sown in the Tyburn Meadows area to improve the diversity of flora. Native hedging has been planted along the Bayswater and Park Lane boundaries, as well as an enhancement of the Bee Border along West Carriage Drive.

Natural play sculptures have been installed using felled trees from the park to provide an interactive artwork within the Tyburn Meadows. As Mission: Invertebrate enters its 5th year, there is scope to extend the meadow area in Hyde Park and enhance other aspects of the park's natural habitat.

Main Challenges:

**C88.** Maintaining and fostering a good working relationship and a common vision with all our partners.

## LEARNING

Hyde Park provides visitors and local communities of all ages with a variety of learning and engagement opportunities run by The Royal Parks Learning Team and by local partners, based at The Look Out Discovery Centre in Hyde Park.

The Look Out is a state-of-the-art environmental education space opened to the public in 2011 to connect schools, families and adults with the park's nature, heritage, and wellbeing opportunities. In the past 10 years, The Royal Park's Learning programme has reached over 92,000 people, including 15,900 learners in 2019-20 alone through environmental education and cross curricular sessions for schools from Early Years to A level, free Discovery Days for families during half term week and summer and Easter holidays, and an informal adult programme with practical workshops and walking tours inspired by the nature and heritage of the park.

We have also developed innovative projects such as Real Horsepower – an equine therapy initiative for young people in partnership with Operation Centaur - and Speak Up! Debating Challenge for secondary school students by Speakers' Corner, and offer a community access programme for local SEND, BAME and older people groups.

With the COVID pandemic, learning and engagement programmes had to adapt quickly, taking a blended approach with a focus on digital and self-led experiences. These have included a new Learn Online area on the website, fun learning resources for families and adults, virtual Discovery

Weeks, online adult events, and a new Hyde Park Explorer app, that offers a self-led scavenger hunt style walk through the park for visitors. The team also developed the first virtual reality tour of The Crystal Palace of 1851 in Hyde Park, with an augmented reality version to follow in 2021.

With the parks providing respite to Londoners through the COVID-19 pandemic, wellbeing has been firmly placed on the agenda. In the next ten years, we will work closely with wider Royal Parks areas such as Ecology, Volunteering, Communications, and Interpretation. We will continue to raise awareness of climate change and the park's biodiversity, its history, Londoners' shared stories and the benefits of physical and mental wellbeing that Hyde Park provides its visitors. We will do this by providing fun, creative, and meaningful virtual and in-park learning experiences, supported by volunteers and partners.

Main Challenges:

**C89.** Providing a range of high quality content for digital, self-led and in-park programmes for local visitors and tourists.

## WELLBEING

Hyde Park is one of the largest parks in London, with over 350 acres of parkland to help visitors to keep active and healthy. The vast expanse of green space, path networks and open water offers unrivalled opportunities for sports and recreational activities. The park's trees, flora and fauna, wildlife and habitats make a positive contribution to the health and wellbeing of those who do not participate in active recreation or sports.

The network of paths and easily accessible open spaces provide free and level access for those who are less mobile. The Park also offers areas and facilities that encourage exploration, for play and for social interaction: key requirements for childhood development and for the health and wellbeing of people of all ages.

Main Challenges:

- C90.** To make and sustain partnerships with national and regional strategic agencies and organisations with complementary aims.
- C91.** Fostering links to secure more resources, to pilot and showcase new technologies, and to share research findings and good practice in the use of parks for health and wellbeing outcomes.

21%

of respondents identified that the Tyburn Brook was a seasonal stream that once flowed into the Serpentine.

28%

of respondents identified The Parade Ground as a place where Royal Gun Salutes are held to mark special royal occasions.

45%

of respondents identified Hyde Park Winter Wonderland as a culturally significant event.

58%

of respondents identified the Hyde Park Bandstand as a place of cultural significance for music events.

59%

of respondents said that they see history in the landscape with 28% identifying Rotten Row as one example.

### CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In March 2021, TRP conducted an online questionnaire about the cultural significance of Hyde Park. This was shared with our local community stakeholders and residents, with a total of 691 respondents completing the survey within 1 month. It included 19 multiple choice and open questions, which took (on average) 8 minutes to complete. Our respondents identified themselves as the following:

- 85% residents (local)
- 9% members of a special interest group for example, the Serpentine Swimming Club
- 4% employed workers with Hyde Park
- 2% volunteers in Hyde Park

Twenty-nine percent of these respondents said they visited the park daily, with 38% visiting a few times a week. Nineteen percent said they visited once a week, with the remaining 13% visiting once a month.

Given the extenuating circumstances and impacts of Covid-19, we asked our local community if they were visiting Hyde Park more often during the pandemic, with 75% saying they were. We asked if visiting the park enhanced their sense of wellbeing, with 98% of respondents saying it did. These findings reflect the 98% of respondents who said Hyde Park was important to them as an individual, as a group, or as a family. The majority of those who said it was very important (84%) explained that Hyde Park provided access to nature and reprieve from work and/or home life during the pandemic.

We asked what Hyde Park meant to them in three key words. In total our top three responses suggest Hyde Park means nature (100%), exercise (87%), and socialising (72%) to our local community. Fifty nine percent of respondents said they saw history in the landscape with 31% referring to the historical

connection with Kensington Gardens and the creation of the Serpentine by Queen Caroline and Charles Bridgeman. Twenty eight percent of respondents identified Rotten Row as a historical road that once linked Kensington Palace to St James's Palace. Several respondents also acknowledged that the Tyburn Valley once included a seasonal watercourse, which was viewed as a lost piece of history in the landscape. We also asked which of the following did they know about Hyde Park's history:

- 19% said Carriage Drives
- 56% said The Great Exhibition
- 86% said Speakers' Corner
- 28% said Rotten Row
- 66% said The Serpentine
- 21% said Tyburn Brook
- 15% said Apsley Gate
- 28% said The Parade Ground
- 24% said Pet Cemetery
- 12% said Dell Garden

62%

of respondents said they highly valued Hyde Park as a place for meeting friends and family for picnics and socialising.

85%

of respondents said Hyde Park was very important to them, with swimming as their main activity of interest.

86%

of respondents identified Speakers' Corner as a place for regular debate since the nineteenth-century.

88%

of respondents associated music concerts as part of Hyde Park's culture.

89%

of respondents agreed that biodiversity and habitat enhancement was important to them in the park.

Thirty-nine percent of respondents said they were aware of strong cultural associations in Hyde Park. Several examples were given about Hyde Park's association with popular music concerts that have been held since the 1960s, with many suggesting Hyde Park was the first park in London to embrace live music on a large scale.

Other examples were given about J.M Barrie's Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens, referring to the link between Serpentine Island and Neverland. In addition to this point, many identified the cultural tradition of the Peter Pan Cup on Christmas Day.

Around 82% percent of respondents said they have special memories of Hyde Park, with many recalling picnics with friends and family, attending music concerts throughout the years, participating in swimming events, and partaking in debates at Speakers' Corner regarding controversial topics of the day. Finally, 78% of respondents said biodiversity was important to them, with many acknowledging that climate change and pollution is a threat to the park's environment.



## AESTHETIC CONTEXT

This section describes the elements found within Hyde Park that people draw sensory stimulation.

### **Aesthetic Value:**

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

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

## VIEWS

Although enclosed by built development, Hyde Park maintains significant view(s) from outside its boundaries. This, combined with its popular image, gives it greater prominence in perception.

There are some 25 roads and streets that orientate directly towards the park. Each of these provide a unique view at street level, often dominated by the magnificent mature London Plane trees that form the park boundaries on three sides.

### **Protected View**

There is a single protected view as described in The London View Management Framework 2012:

*“from the eastern footway of the Serpentine Bridge. The foreground and middle ground comprise the Serpentine and the trees along its perimeter. The landscape, between sky and water, converges to a point at the far end of the lake, where certain elements of the Westminster World Heritage Site are visible. The Victoria and Central Lobby Towers of the Palace of Westminster and the western towers of Westminster Abbey form the distant focus of the view.”*

### **Views from Hyde Park**

The Park has limited views that look out beyond its immediate boundaries. Some are blocked by tree canopies, and most are contained by the first line of surrounding built environment. Such development is continuous along the park boundary, but there are moments of taller towers beyond in the skyline, many of which are iconic landmarks, for example, the London Eye. Taller neighbouring buildings like

the Hyde Park Barracks and the Hilton Hotel remain prominent and form views which are, in themselves, important. The BT Tower, the Shard, the London Eye, and Palace of Westminster are London icons that can be seen from the park, and from several points. It is still possible to escape the perception of a townscape where it is contained and shielded from outside views.

### **Views within Hyde Park**

The Park provides a diverse range of views – long and short, framed by trees, centred on monuments, buildings, and memorials. There are relatively few shrubs mass planted that obstruct longer views. The main concentration of buildings around the Old Police House, combined with a strong density of tree planting, forms some separation of the north western part of the park. The layout of tree planting, a proportion of which are avenues, has an impact on the spatial quality of the site. These form and frame particular views, with the Serpentine in the centre.

### **Views between Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens**

Although they share a common boundary of some 1100m, the views between Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens are surprisingly low key and not dramatic. The most obvious exceptions are those of the Albert Memorial, seen directly on an axis from the Great Exhibition Ground, and more specifically, 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 flew home.

Main Challenges:

- C92.** Protecting the strategic views within the park by proper consideration of all planting proposals.
- C93.** Review local enhancement of views, framing or extending by the active management of specific tree canopies – including crown shaping/crown raising operations.
- C94.** Continuing to respond to any planning applications for development proposals that have a negative impact on the views of the park.

#### KEY VIEWPOINTS

##### 1. **Serpentine Bridge**

The eastward view along the Serpentine and extending out of the Park to the Palace of Westminster.

##### 2. **Dell Bridge**

The westward views along the Serpentine from the Dell embankment – noting that these show significant variations in moving across the 150m long shoreline.

##### 3. **South Bank of the Serpentine**

The long views north-east across the Serpentine from the south bank up the wide-open slope of the lower Parade Ground to the Park Lane boundary and the outer skyline.

##### 4. **North Bank of the Serpentine**

Lateral views from Serpentine Road towards the bridge with the Lido clock tower, and Albert Memorial beyond.

##### 5. **Parade Ground to the Serpentine**

Across open parkland to and beyond the Serpentine.

##### 6. **The Broad Walk**

The canopy framed view down the lower part of The Broad Walk avenue to the Ionic screen at Hyde Park Corner.

##### 7. **Rotten Row**

The long views down Rotten Row (and Ladies' Walk) with its characteristic dip in the "knight's bridge" crossing near Albert Gate to Hyde Park Corner.

##### 8. **Great Exhibition Site**

The view west along the Great Exhibition site to Albert Memorial and the reverse view which frames the London Eye between flanking London Plane trees.

##### 9. **Speakers' Corner**

The panoramic view of the park from Speakers' Corner – flat in the foreground of the upper Parade Ground, but affording wide and extensive views of the whole park westward.

##### 10. **Reformers Tree**

The panoramic view from Reformers Tree, embedded in the park and with diversity of landscapes in view.



# LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



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**PART TWO**  
**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

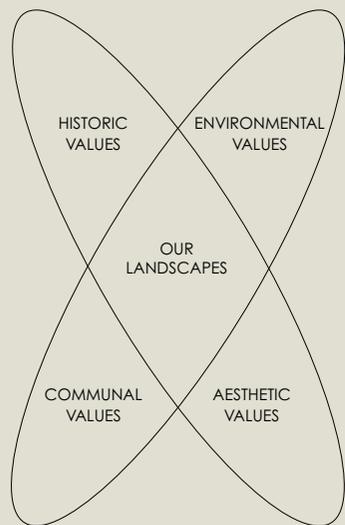
Hyde Park is a diverse, dynamic, and lively oasis close to central London. It is arguably London's most well-known public park, a landscape of free open space at the heart of London since the sixteenth-century. Colloquially it is known as the 'People's Park' hosting important events that have shaped British culture such as the Great Exhibition of 1851-52.

The Hyde Park landscape displays characteristics from different periods. These include seventeenth century tree avenues, a Georgian lake, Victorian carriage drives, several heritages listed lodges, a diverse range of ornamental planting, several kiosks and cafés, and sporting facilities. To preserve its position, Hyde Park's landscape is carefully assessed to establish which areas need conservation and restoration.

In this part of the management plan, we identify areas based on different characteristics. This process involves assessing significant values and understanding the condition of elements within each area. By assessing each area separately, we can identify opportunities for improving the park over the next ten years (2022-2032).

## LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE

Our landscapes are formed over time by processes and interactions, which helps us identify opportunities for our project register in part four of this management plan. Therefore, we work with a set of values adopted from Historic England's Conservation Principles, Policies, and Guidance (2017). By understanding these values, we are in a better position to identify the opportunities for improving Hyde Park's remarkable landscape in the future. We have adapted these values to include environmental value in response to the landscapes in which we operate.



These values are defined as the following:

### Historic Value

- Historic value is the potential of a place to yield evidence (physical remains) about past human activity and the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present (tends to be illustrative or associative). Historical understanding comes from 'reading' the landscape (what can be seen), and gains in value by its completeness.
- Associated historical values are made through people identifying and connecting a place with cultural heritage (literature, art, music, film, scientific or technological discoveries). Continuing use of a place as is historically appropriate, that 'illustrates its relationship between design and function' enhances its value.<sup>2</sup>

### Environmental Value

- Environmental value is based on the understanding that biodiversity encompasses all the plants and animals that are present within a given place, the habitats they need to survive, and the processes that operate in the natural environment. For humans, biodiversity is our natural heritage and is what we depend on and can often benefit from. These benefits range widely, providing cultural, social (health and well-being) and economic benefits.

### Communal Value

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

### Aesthetic Value

- Aesthetic value is the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. Something can gain in aesthetic value over time as people's values change or develop.
- A full spectrum of sensory and cognitive perceptions and associations are instruments of aesthetic reception, coming together to engage the person in intense awareness; a 'bodily engagement with the environment, (which) when it becomes part of our active perception, becomes aesthetic.'

Fig.17 Significance Diagram

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

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

## LANDSCAPE CONDITION

The Royal Parks has developed basic guidelines to understand the ongoing condition of elements in the landscape. The guidance we use for assessing condition includes a wide range of surveys and maintenance assessments that are undertaken regularly.

Natural England's Landscape Character Assessment methodology and the Landscape Institutes's Landscape Visual Impact Assessment are also appropriate tools that TRP uses to help assess landscape condition. They help us formalise our landscape management approach by classifying landscape conditions as good, moderate or poor. These are described as the following:

### **Good condition**

The landscape character is coherent and provides a sense of place. It is distinctive from surrounding areas and is reasonably well managed and maintained.

### **Moderate condition**

The landscape character is generally coherent, but with some detractors (elements that detract from the overall character). Not all features are well managed and maintained to the desired standard.

### **Poor condition**

The landscape character is unclear, requires improvement to its quality because it has several detractors. It requires a clear sense of management and maintenance.

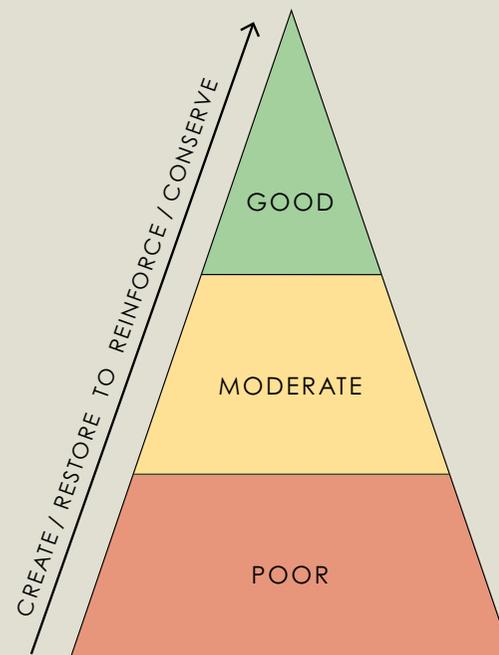


Fig.18 Condition Diagram

**CHARACTER AREA ASSESSMENT**

TRP has created a guide that rates the significance of a landscape area against an assessment of its overall condition. In this guide, we use a simple traffic light system to correlate each character area's significance and condition visually. This allows us to identify the most critical areas, for example, a highly significant character area in poor condition should be addressed as a high priority. In contrast, a character area of low significance in good condition is a low priority.

In response to the significance of each landscape character area along with its condition, we identify a range of management decisions that result in prioritised actions. Definitions of these are the following:

**Reinforce**

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

**Conserve**

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

**Create**

To construct or form a new attribute within a place to generate the desired change.

**Restore**

To return a place to a known earlier state, based on compelling evidence, without conjecture.

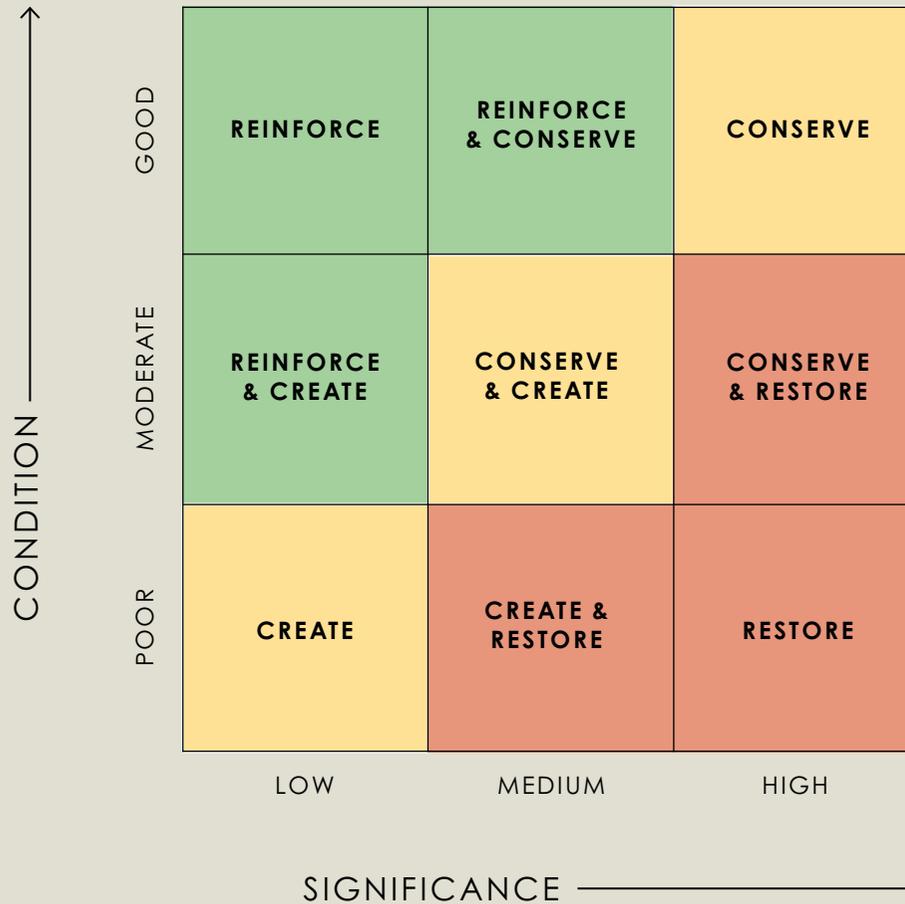
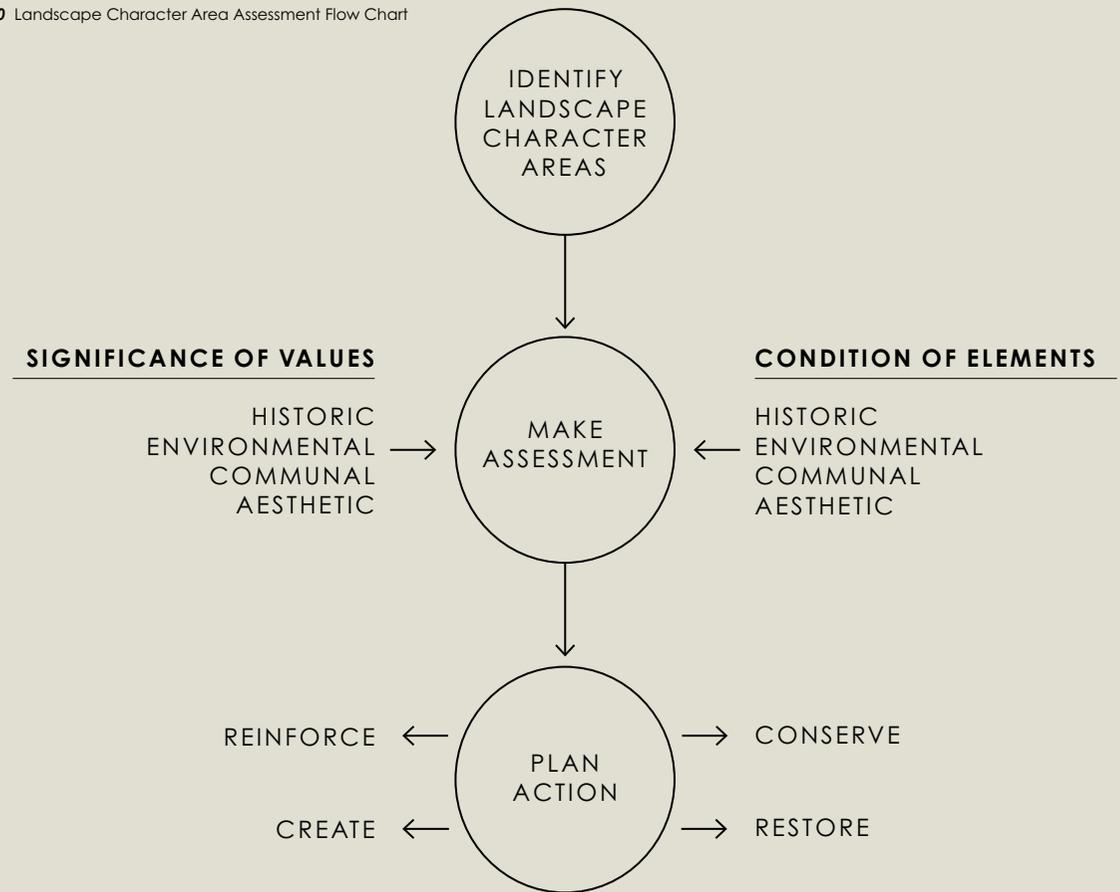


Fig.19 Significance versus Condition Matrix

Fig.20 Landscape Character Area Assessment Flow Chart



## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

### 1. *Bayswater Boundary*

Bayswater Boundary is defined by North Carriage Drive, Bayswater Road, and the horse ride. It includes a variety of mature trees mixed with neutral grassland. Heritage features include several boundary gates, Decimus Burton's North Carriage Drive, a nineteenth-century pet cemetery, and two listed lodges (Cumberland Gate Lodge and Victoria Gate Lodge). The area also acts as an important cycling route from Cumberland Gate to West Carriage Drive and provides vital access for heavy goods vehicles (HGV) during major events.

### 2. *Tyburn Meadows*

Tyburn Meadows accounts for approximately one-third of Hyde Park. It is defined by undulating topography, an abundance of established trees and shrubs, a mixture of acidic and neutral grassland, and plenty of deadwood for wildlife. Several heritage features include the Old Police House, Ranger's Lodge, the Storeyard, Magazine Cottage, New Lodge, the Old Sheep Trough & Water Pump, the W.H.Hudson Memorial, and the Tyburn Brook, now a dry valley. This area also includes the recently rebuilt Hyde Park Nursery.

### 3. *The Parade Ground*

The Parade Ground has been maintained as Hyde Park's primary open space for events. Its use for festivities has been well exercised throughout Hyde Park's history. Its landscape character is defined by the surrounding tree planting pattern, and the density of its footpaths, which criss-cross the area. It plays host to the British Summer Time concerts, and Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, which all support the TRP charity. This area also includes the Hyde Park Bandstand and the LookOut.

### 4. *Speakers' Corner*

Speakers' Corner has been a site for public speeches and debates since the mid-1800s. Historical figures such as Karl Marx, Emmeline Pankhurst and George Orwell were known to use the area to demonstrate their right to free speech. In 1872, an act of parliament dedicated this part of Hyde Park to public speaking. The landscape is defined by several mature London Plane trees and five footpaths that unfurl from the Marble Arch entrance, which collectively create five enclosures of naturalistic grassland.

### 5. *Park Lane Boundary*

Park Lane Boundary is defined by its eighteenth century tree avenues, the Broad Walk, the listed Joy of Life Fountain, native wildflower meadow, several gates alongside Park Lane, the 7th of July Memorial, and the Tool Shed Shrubbery. The area also includes the listed Statue of Achilles, which commemorates Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington. The Broad Walk serves as a popular route for cyclists and pedestrians.

### 6. *Hyde Park Corner*

Hyde Park Corner is the most architecturally outstanding entrance to Hyde Park. It is defined by Decimus Burton's listed Apsley Gate, the listed Lodge Café, the listed Apsley House (English Heritage), and the Queen Elizabeth Gate. The area is commonly used as a thoroughfare and continues to bestow a touch of decadence to Hyde Park.

### 7. *The Dell and Rose Gardens*

The Dell and Rose Gardens area is defined by its horticultural displays that consist of exotic planting, seasonal bedding, a rose arbour walk and semi-shaded lawns. Heritage features include the Holocaust Memorial, The Boy and Dolphin Fountain, the Westminster Precinct conduit house memorial and Diana, The Huntress Fountain.

### 8. *Knightsbridge Boundary*

Knightsbridge Boundary is defined by the eastern half of Rotten Row and South Carriage Drive. It consists of mature London Plane trees, a mixture of shrubbery, and grassland. The area is an essential gateway into the park from Knightsbridge and features South Carriage Drive Playground & Kiosk, Albert Gate, Edinburgh Gate and White Horse Gate, a manège, the Hyde Park Barracks, and the Memorial Horse Trough.

### 9. *Great Exhibition Ground*

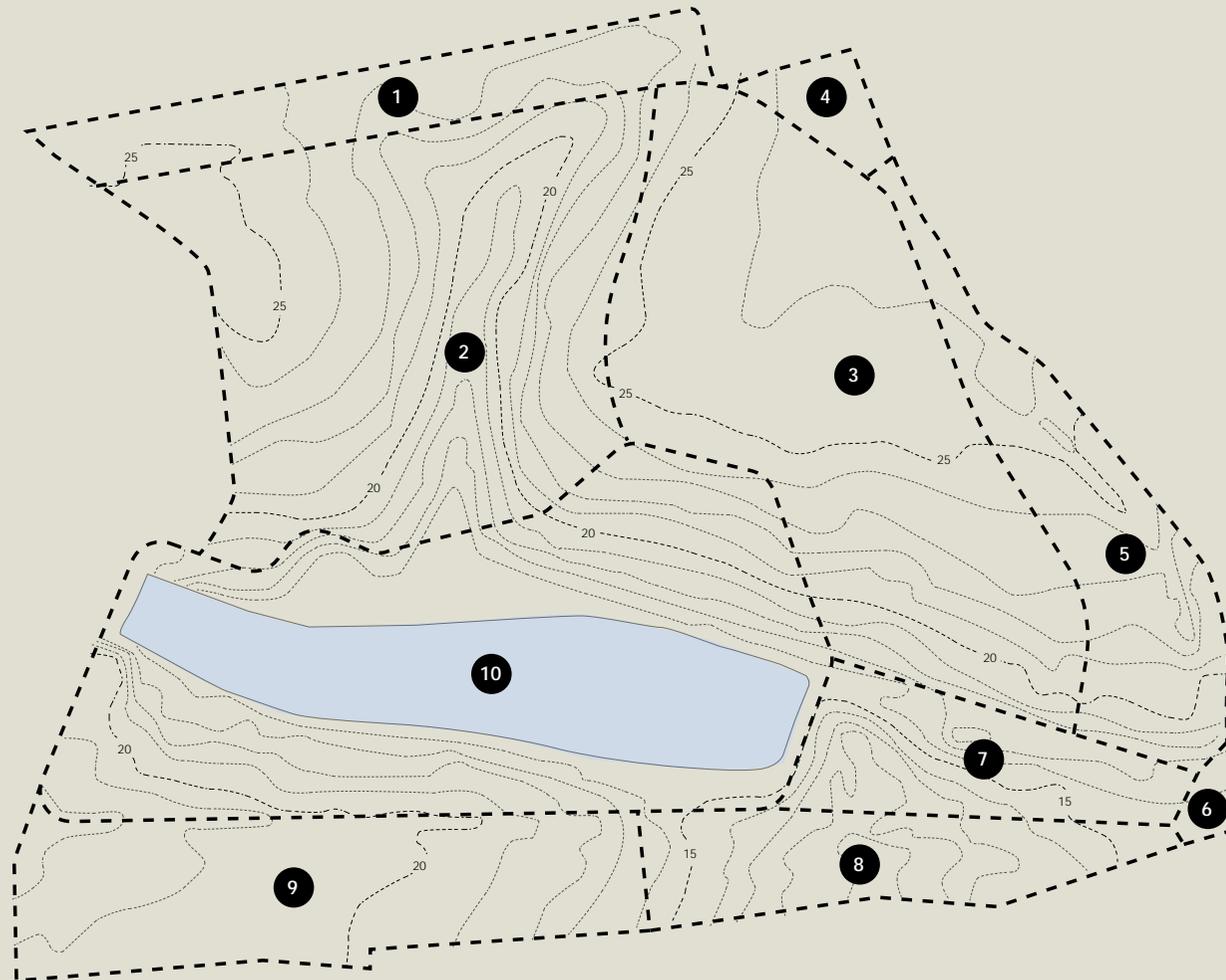
Great Exhibition Ground was the site of the Great Exhibition of 1851-52 and continues to be a valuable open space within the park. The character area is defined by its level ground surface that is ideal for sports activities. It is also defined by its east to west views from the London Eye (east) to the Albert Memorial (west). The area includes the Hyde Park Sports Centre that offers Tennis, Lawn Bowls, and the Pavilion Café. Heritage features include the western half of Rotten Row, Alexander and Prince of Wales Gates and Lodges, mature tree avenues and a mixture of grassland throughout.

### 10. *The Serpentine*

The Serpentine is the jewel of Hyde Park and is defined as the centre of the park. Its shape and size have been protected and conserved throughout history. The area is rich in history, culture, and aesthetic appeal. The landscape includes several heritage features such as the Lido, Lido Pavilion, Diana Princess of Wales' Memorial Fountain, the listed Serpentine Bar and Kitchen (SBK), the Cockpit (made famous by the 1969 Rolling Stones concert), three Boathouses (two of which are listed), the Dell Bridge and outfall, and the listed Serpentine Bridge.

Fig.21 Hyde Park Landscape Character Areas

- 1 Bayswater Boundary
- 2 Tyburn Meadows
- 3 The Parade Ground
- 4 Speakers' Corner
- 5 Park Lane Boundary
- 6 Hyde Park Corner
- 7 The Dell & Rose Gardens
- 8 Knightsbridge Boundary
- 9 Great Exhibition Ground
- 10 The Serpentine





“Exploring and understanding the landscape character of any area requires systematic investigation of the many different factors that have helped to create and influence that location... The interactions between all these factors create the character of the landscape.”

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

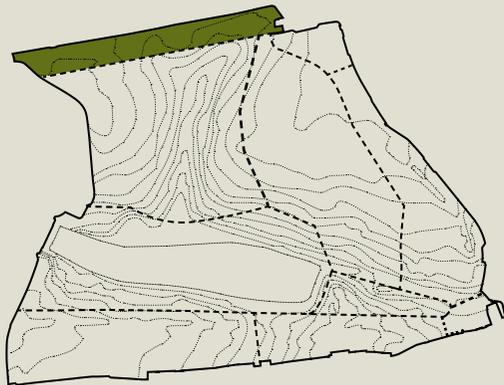


Informational sign with text and a logo at the top.



LOOK LEFT

## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 1 BAYSWATER BOUNDARY



Bayswater Boundary is located between the northern edge of Hyde Park alongside Bayswater Road and the horse ride that runs parallel to it (beside North Carriage Drive). It includes a mixture of ornamental planting that is bounded by mature tree promenades, native and exotic shrubbery, to wild grassland verges and semi-shaded turf.

The area was known for its picturesque carriage drive that was part of Decimus Burton's 'Carriage Drives'. Today, this continues to be a popular scenic walk and ride. The drive now plays a vital role in the installation and dismantling of major events on the Parade Ground and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### *Historical Value*

- This area has been shaped by two historical events. These being the park's boundary wall replaced by railings in 1830 and the construction of the North Carriage Drive between 1823–29.
- The eastern side of Bayswater Boundary includes the Grade II listed Cumberland Gate Lodge. The western side includes the Grade II listed Victoria Gate, and Grade II listed Victoria Lodge.
- Hidden away behind Victoria Lodge is a nineteenth-century pet cemetery which was introduced by the Duke of Cambridge in 1885, who was ranger of Hyde Park at the time.
- Near Stanhope Place Gate is the former site of the Vijianagram Fountain (1867), which was like the design of the Readymoney Fountain in The Regent's Park.

#### *Environmental Value*

- Since 1840 several enclosed shrubberies and tree plantings were established on two boulevards (North Carriage Drive and the adjacent horse ride). Over time the area has gradually thinned out forming a variety of mature trees, shrubs, seasonal bulbs, and grassland.
- A swale was recently introduced to collect rainwater from North Carriage Drive. This retains water while mitigating the risk of flooding on North Carriage Drive. It will also support wildlife biodiversity in this area.

**Communal Value**

- North Carriage Drive serves as a vehicular route between Park Lane and West Carriage Drive that is currently trialing a permanent closure until 2022.
- A TFL Cycleway runs along North Carriage Drive.
- There are five gates in this area exiting to Bayswater Road and Edgware Road. These include Victoria Gate, Clarendon Gate, Albion Gate, Stanhope Place Gate and Cumberland Gate.
- There is a manège located on the south side of the North Carriage Drive, and Clarendon Gate serves as the entry/exit point for public stables in Bayswater.

**Aesthetic Value**

- The area contrasts with West and South Carriage Drives because it is more enclosed by surrounding vegetation.

**CONDITION****Historical Elements**

- There is no interpretation available for the Pet Cemetery and North Carriage Drive.
- Vijianagram Fountain is interpreted by a plaque, but with no illustrations or information about the history of the gothic sculpture.
- Decimus Burton's North Carriage Drive is preserved and well maintained. The existing surface treatment (asphalt) differs from the original Victorian carriage drive surface (compacted substrate).
- The railings and gates throughout the boundary are in good condition and are regularly maintained.

**Environmental Elements**

- Mature tree specimens are in good condition and are regularly maintained.
- Bayswater Road can be intrusive in terms of noise, light and air pollution.
- A swale was completed in October 2020 south of North Carriage Drive.

**Communal Elements**

- To help with the management of events in Hyde Park, North Carriage Drive is regularly used for heavy goods vehicles (HGV). This is maintained for easy ingress and egress during events.
- The horse ride is regularly topped-up with crag sand (ideal horse-riding sand).
- The Pet Cemetery is currently not open to the public. There has been some interest in improving access to this historic feature.

**Aesthetic Elements**

- Views of Bayswater Road from within the park continue to be a subject for debate. At certain points, the road can intrude on the visual landscape of the park.

**IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES**

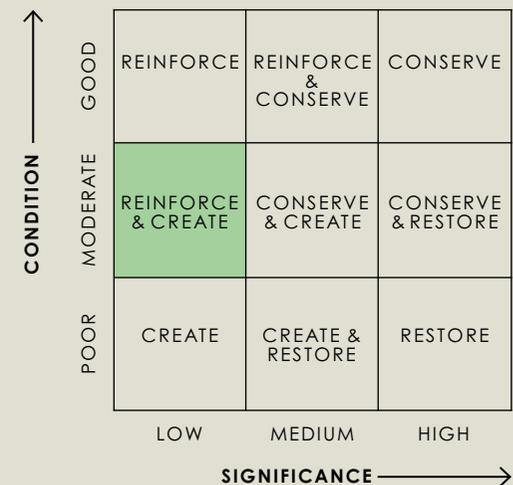
|                      |   | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|----------------------|---|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>No. Reinforce</b> |   |            |               |          |           |
| 1.1                  | Review accessibility to the Pet Cemetery for the public, and consider recommendations.  | ○          |               | ○        |           |
| 1.2                  | Consider interpreting the history and architecture of the Vijjianagram Fountain (1867).   | ○          |               | ○        |           |
| 1.3                  | Consider interpreting the history of the Pet Cemetery and Decimus Burton's North Carriage Drive.                                  | ○          |               | ○        |           |
| 1.4                  | Review the long-term management of the horse ride (park-wide) and manège, and consider recommendations.                           | ●          | ○             | ○        | ○         |
| 1.5                  | Review the outcome of the trial closure of North Carriage Drive, and consider recommendations.                                    |            |               | ●        |           |
| <b>Create</b>        |   |            |               |          |           |
| 1.6                  | Investigate opportunities to permanently close North Carriage Drive to vehicular through traffic.                                 |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| 1.7                  | Proactively find ways to mitigate noise, light and air pollution from Bayswater Road.   | ○          | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| 1.8                  | Planting native wildflower bulbs throughout the area while looking to enhance biodiversity through reduced grassland maintenance. |            | ●             |          | ●         |

● High priority   ● Medium priority   ○ Low priority

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Significance is Medium,  
Condition is Moderate

TRP's assessment recommends opportunities that aim to conserve and create the landscape character.





## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 2 TYBURN MEADOWS



The Tyburn Meadows have established themselves as 'The Meadows', gaining public support and adding considerable conservation value to Hyde Park. It beautifully recalls something of the more rural landscape associated with the park's earlier days as a royal hunting ground.

The meadows account for at least one-third of the park's total area and feature a diverse collection of mature trees and mixed grassland. They are defined by the undulating ground that was influenced by the now dry tributary valley – where the Tyburn Brook flowed into the Serpentine.

The area contains a notable amount of heritage buildings, but these are secondary to the overall landscape character, which consists of naturalised grassland, large established trees, plenty of deadwood, undulating topography, and open woodland.

## SIGNIFICANCE

### *Historical Value*

- The Tyburn Valley was influenced by the Tyburn Brook, a seasonal watercourse that flowed into the Serpentine/ River Westbourne, close to where the Cheesecake House was.
- Many listed buildings that date back to the eighteenth-century exist within this area: the Old Police House and Magazine Cottage (c.1832), The Store yard, Ranger's Cottage, Ranger's Lodge (c.1832), Serpentine Cottage (c.1828), and the New Lodge (c.1877).
- The Hyde Park Nursery has been part of the landscape since the early twentieth-century and supports the day-to-day management of all Royal Parks by supplying bedding plants.
- The area also includes the W.H. Hudson Memorial, a carved stone and garden commemorating the nineteenth-century writer and naturalist, William Hudson.

**Environmental Value**

- The Tyburn Valley is characterised by its vast canopies of trees that dominate the landscape, with naturalised grassland and forest glades throughout.
- It is a distinct topographic feature and is Hyde Park's most valuable area in terms of ecological diversity.
- In recent years, TRP has allowed for the development of more grassland habitat to provide shelter and food for essential pollinators, including our own beehives located at Ranger's Lodge.

**Communal Value**

- There is a sense of privacy where one can appreciate the beauty of nature while observing wildlife within the landscape.
- Visitors use the area as a space for contemplation, less crowded compared to other areas of Hyde Park.
- Several crisscrossing footpaths connect gates with other points of the park.

**Aesthetic Value**

- The meadows are reminiscent of a naturalistic landscape that is associated with the park's history - a royal hunting park.

**CONDITION****Historical Elements**

- There is no interpretation of the Tyburn Brook in the landscape.
- Buildings in this area are in good condition and are regularly surveyed for maintenance.

**Environmental Elements**

- Due to ongoing grassland management improvements, the area is ecologically diverse in comparison with other areas of Hyde Park.
- The Tyburn Brook is buried in the landscape and no longer creates the seasonal riparian habitat that it once did.
- The wooded area around the Nursery can attract litter.
- There is a seasonal flood risk that impacts the criss-crossing pathways, which is caused by a combination of topography, natural springs, and the Victorian drainage system.

**Communal Elements**

- TRP headquarters and the Metropolitan Police Operational Command Unit (OCU) continue to operate in this area.

**Aesthetic Elements**

- The area is visually outstanding and invokes a sense of 'wilderness' in parts. This quality is conserved and expanded where appropriate.
- The burying of the Tyburn Brook has caused a shift in the environmental aesthetic of the area.
- The landscape's sense of place is historically a tributary valley, and this can feel absent in parts.

**IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES**

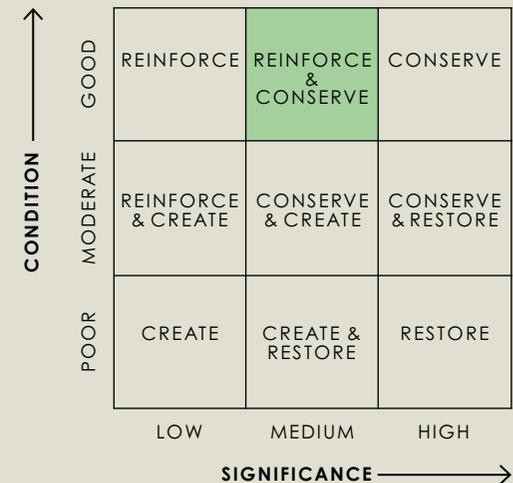
|                      |   | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|----------------------|---|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>No. Reinforce</b> |   |            |               |          |           |
| 2.1                  | Establishment of a grassland / meadow management plan for the long-term conservation of the Tyburn Meadows.   |            | ●             |          | ○         |
| 2.2                  | Consider the landscape and amenity merits of restricting cut through traffic on West Carriage Drive during weekends while allowing Triangle Car Park and Diana Car Park to continue being used. |            | ●             | ●        | ○         |
| 2.3                  | Revive characteristics of the Tyburn Brook in the Tyburn Valley while enhancing biodiversity in the area.   | ●          | ●             |          | ●         |
| 2.4                  | Introduce more opportunities for learning and interpretation of habitats in the Tyburn Meadows.   |            | ●             | ●        |           |
| 2.5                  | Revive the W.H.Hudson Memorial Garden to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the memorial.  | ●          | ○             | ●        | ●         |
| 2.6                  | Improve environmental sustainability practices at the Hyde Park Nursery.  |            | ●             |          |           |
| 2.7                  | Interpret the history of the Tyburn Brook (part of park-wide opportunity).  | ●          |               | ●        |           |
| <b>Conserve</b>      |   |            |               |          |           |
| 2.8                  | Reduce high intensity lighting where appropriate for wildlife conservation (part of park-wide opportunity).   |            | ●             | ●        |           |

● High priority   ● Medium priority   ○ Low priority

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Significance is Medium  
Condition is Good

TRP's assessment recommends opportunities that look to reinforce and conserve the landscape's character.





### LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 3 PARADE GROUND



The Parade Ground area provides ample space for activities and festivities within a framework of trees and criss-crossing footpaths. The ground itself has hosted a wide range of events for centuries that include several military encampments, demonstrations, music concerts, fun fairs, and Royal Jubilees.

Historically, the area has cultural links to the Tyburn hangings, Speakers' Corner, and the Reformer's Tree, which have influenced this landscape's identity as an assembly point for protests, rallies, and public demonstrations. It is also associated with celebratory gun salutes and military parades, hence the name, the Parade Ground. These are still practised today by the Royal Household Cavalry gun salutes on the Queen's official birthday.

The landscape's character continues to be defined as a large open space for cultural, social, and sporting activities such as Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, and the British Summer Time festival.

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### *Historical Value*

- The site of the Parade Ground has been used for public gatherings since the Elizabethan period, and continues to host the Queen's Birthday Gun Salute, as well as other cultural events such as Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, and the British Summer Time Concerts'.
- Its proximity to the Tyburn Hangings (last occurred in 1783) brought large crowds to the boundary of the park, which would often spill over into what is now the Parade Ground. This has influenced the Parade Ground's identity as a popular gathering space for protests and demonstrations.
- The area has become a world-renowned destination for rallies and music concerts that have influenced British culture. Leading examples include Women's Sunday (1908), the Reform League riots (1886), and the Live 8 concert (2005).
- The Reformer's Tree, which was a large oak tree, became a focal point for Reform League protests after 1866. The place is now marked by a ground memorial.
- The Hyde Park Bandstand is Grade II listed and is one of the oldest surviving bandstands in the country (1869), it was originally located in Kensington Gardens (moved in 1886).
- The Year of the Child drinking fountain is Grade II listed and was installed in 1981 to commemorate the Great Children's Party of 1979, an event that marked the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

- The Ring was originally located where the Look Out is. This was one of the first formal features created in Hyde Park (early 1600s) and became a popular horse riding circle for visitors.

#### **Environmental Value**

- Every year 11 hectares (27 acres) of turf needs to be reinstated following Hyde Park Winter Wonderland. Ground compaction, underground utility services and access for park visitors are some key factors that are carefully considered during this reinstatement. The Hyde Park management team supervise this and aim to have it completed in time for the Queen's birthday gun salute.

#### **Communal Value**

- Around 17 million people visit the park each year, with a large portion coming for events i.e., British Summer Time concerts. Events like these contribute significantly to the charity, which in turn supports the maintenance for our parks.
- The bandstand hosts several small events, including jazz concerts, dance performances, and acts as a meeting place for visitors.
- This area features the Look Out, which is an education centre that provides environmental learning activities for school children. It is also available for public hire for events and activities.
- The flat nature of the Parade Ground provides ample space for informal sports and leisure
- The crisscrossing footpaths were introduced in the nineteenth-century and play a vital role in guiding commuters across the Parade Ground while mitigating risks of wear-and-tear to the turf.

#### **Aesthetic Value**

- The Parade Ground's open setting is accentuated by the surrounding tree planting pattern which frames the open landscape.
- The crisscrossing footpaths are the most prominent feature, especially from an aerial perspective. Five paths fan out from Serpentine Bar and Kitchen (SBK), with twelve splicing out along the Broad Walk. These all overlap, creating some sixty intersections in total.
- During Winter Wonderland, the bandstand is the centre-piece of the pop-up ice rink, which provides a festive atmosphere for visitors.

#### **CONDITION**

##### **Historical Elements**

- There is minimal interpretation available regarding the history of the Parade Ground.
- The Parade Ground continues to host public protests, demonstrations, and events. Events such as Hyde Park Winter Wonderland and British Summer Time festival reflect the importance of festivities in Hyde Park while paying tribute to its reputation of being the 'People's Park'.
- The bandstand was an important cultural venue between 1886-1960s and has featured in many historical films in the early to mid-twentieth-century.
- It was recently restored (2016) and continues to be used for small concerts. Its surroundings had previously included permeable surfacing, foldable chairs, a rose garden, and traditional iron railings.

#### **Environmental Elements**

- The underground car park is located around the north-east section of the Parade Ground. Since its development, there have been ongoing challenges regarding drainage during wet weather. This usually results in waterlogging.
- The landscape surfacing around the bandstand is impermeable, compromising tree root health, and becoming increasingly uneven. There are issues with poor drainage and flooding.
- The criss-crossing footpaths play a vital role in allowing people to efficiently move across the area without causing damage to the turf.
- TRP is currently working towards improving environmental performance for major events.

#### **Communal Elements**

- Half of the Parade Ground is out-of-use for 5 months of the year for events and turf reinstatement.
- Heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) are challenging to manage during events because Serpentine Road is normally required for build and break down, and the road is normally popular for pedestrians and cyclists.
- The revenue generated from events on the Parade Ground contributes to the overall running cost of TRP.

#### **Aesthetic Elements**

- The bandstand continues to be a charming focal point for the southern part of the Parade Ground. The quality of the surrounding landscape detracts from the overall significance of the space, and its potential as a focal point for events and activities.

**IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES**

**No. Conserve**

|     |   | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|-----|---|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| 3.1 | Interpret the history of events in the Parade Ground and the Bandstand (part of park-wide opportunity).   | ○          |               | ○        |           |
| 3.2 | Review the ingress and egress of HGVs during events with a view to reducing impact on particular areas of the Park.   |            | ●             | ●        |           |
| 3.3 | Review policies in collaboration with the Metropolitan Police regarding hostile vehicle mitigation regulations (part of park-wide opportunity) around events. |            | ○             | ●        |           |
| 3.4 | Review TRP sustainability targets in relation to events by working with event organisers to reduce the impact of pollution.                                   |            | ●             | ●        |           |

**Restore**

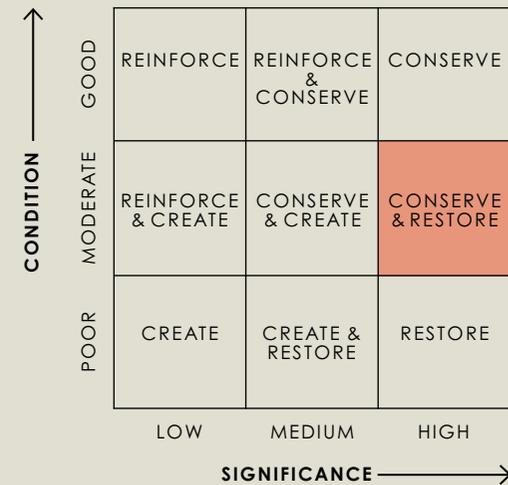
|     |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3.5 | Restore the Bandstand's surrounding landscape by resolving drainage and surface issues, and loss of some historical features. | ● | ● | ● | ○ |
| 3.6 | Promote the use of the Bandstand for regular concerts and events.   | ● |   | ● |   |

● High priority ● Medium priority ○ Low priority

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Significance is High  
Condition is Moderate

TRP's assessment recommends opportunities that look to conserve and restore the landscape character.





## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 4 SPEAKERS' CORNER



Speakers' Corner is located on the north-east corner of Hyde Park toward Marble Arch. It remains one of the park's most historically significant areas, where the tradition of respect for freedom of speech and the right of assembly continues to be upheld today.

The landscape is shaped by five pathways that span out from the main corner gate toward the Parade Ground. These create a series of five naturalised enclosures, known as the five fingers, which are bound by railings and nestled under the canopy of several mature London Plane trees. Recently, bulb planting was introduced inside these enclosures, and this was done to further enhance biodiversity value and year round aesthetic.

Speakers and Hecklers tend to meet in the area every Sunday, attracting crowds from midday until the evening. Everyone is welcome to join the debates and discussions. People are permitted to speak anytime during the park's opening hours, but traditionally this only happens on Sundays.

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### *Historical Value*

- Speakers' Corner is close to the original site of the Tyburn Tree, where public hangings took place between 1196 and 1783. Legend has it that the origins of Speakers' Corner stem from the tradition of the last words spoken by those condemned to execution.
- In 1872, the right of freedom to demonstrate in Hyde Park was legally supported after the Reform League demonstrations of 1866 and 1867 (The Royal Parks and Gardens Regulation Act, 1872). The Reform League continuously defied a government ban to demonstrate in the park, which subsequently led to the Hyde Park Railings Affair (1866).
- Of the estimated one hundred public speaking places established in London from 1855, Speakers' Corner is one of the last to survive.
- Prior to Park Lane's expansion in the early 1960s, Marble Arch was part of Hyde Park, and remains part of Speakers' Corner's historical character.

#### *Environmental Value*

- The five fingers are maintained as a neutral 'shaded' grassland habitat with native bulb planting and mature London Plane trees throughout.

**Communal Value**

- The area is close to Marble Arch Underground, Oxford Street, Mayfair, Edgware Road, and several bus stops. It serves as a primary access point for entering/exiting the park, especially during events.
- Speakers' Corner is widely recognised as a political forum, providing an open platform for the public to speak peacefully about current affairs and issues that concern them.

**Aesthetic Value**

- The Parade Ground located adjacent to Speakers' Corner is the primary backdrop to the landscape area, which allows for larger crowds to overflow onto the Parade Ground.

**CONDITION****Historical Elements**

- Public speaking in the area is still practised and encouraged.
- The Old Policemen's Hut and several old bollards located within the five fingers are retained and remain in good condition.
- The railings and gates were refurbished in 2014.
- There is currently no interpretation of the Old Policemen's Hut, the step for horse riders, and the historical connection with Marble Arch and the Tyburn Hangings.

**Environmental Elements**

- The heavy traffic of Marble Arch and Park Lane cause air pollution, which seeps into the park's landscape, negatively impacting the condition of its environment and overall sensory experience in this area.
- When the park is very busy, litter tends to be left behind, which affects the area's cleanliness and is degrading to the landscape's quality (park-wide issue, but common in this area).
- The ornamental borders along Cumberland Gate/Park Lane are relatively new (2014) and provides a natural buffer between this area and its adjacent roads.

**Communal Elements**

- On The Broad Walk, pedestrian and cycle movement can be problematic, particularly when Speakers setup on Sundays.
- Granite bands providing opportunities for the inscriptions of historical quotes were implemented during the 2014 refurbishment.
- In 2018, three new interpretation boards were installed in the landscape – all of which provide historical information about 'Speakers', 'Hecklers' and the 'Crowd'.
- There are four pedestrian gates that allow easy ingress and egress.
- The Speakers' Corner Kiosk was refurbished in 2018 and is the main point for refreshments in this part of the park.

**Aesthetic Elements**

- The variation in planting provides an inviting atmosphere upon entering the park.
- There is a lack of clarity about the location of the 'Speakers' Corner' entrance to Hyde Park.

**IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES**

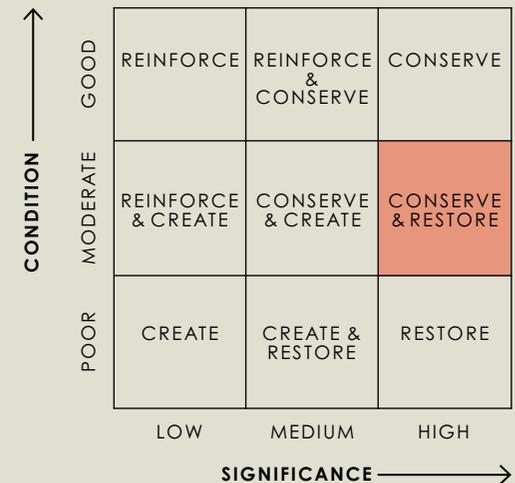
| No.            | Conserve  | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|----------------|---|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| 4.1            | Continue developing a natural screen between the Parade Ground and Speakers' Corner by adding to the area's native tree planting (part of park-wide tree strategy). |            | ○             |          | ○         |
| 4.2            | Interpret historical connection with the Tyburn Tree, Marble Arch and East Carriage Drive (part of park-wide project).  | ●          |               | ●        |           |
| 4.3            | Improve the 'five fingers pockets' with additional native bulb planting.  |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| 4.4            | Review the number of, and location of bins in this area (part of park-wide project).  |            | ●             | ○        | ●         |
| 4.5            | Protect Speakers' Corner tradition of encouraging freedom of speech on Sundays in the area.   | ●          |               | ●        |           |
| <b>Restore</b> |   |            |               |          |           |
| 4.6            | Explore ways for reintegrating Marble Arch back into Hyde Park.   | ○          |               | ○        | ○         |
| 4.7            | Explore options for improving the immediate surface quality around Speakers' Corner, making use of opportunities for inscriptions.                                  | ●          | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| 4.8            | Explore options for enhancing the sense of arrival and sense of place.  |            |               | ●        | ●         |
| 4.9            | Consider the relationship between Broad Walk to the new Park Lane cycleway, which is currently on trial until 2021.   |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |

● High priority ● Medium priority ○ Low priority

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

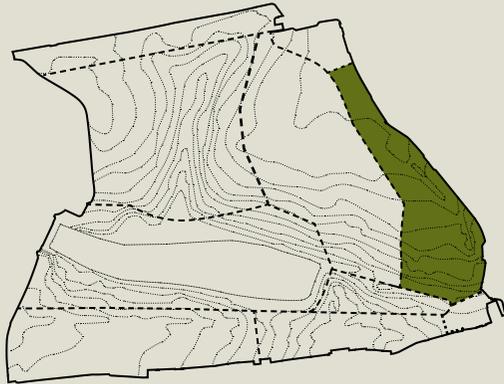
Significance is High  
Condition is Moderate

TRP's assessment recommends opportunities that aim to conserve and restore for the improvement of the landscape area.





## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 5 PARK LANE BOUNDARY



Park Lane Boundary is characterised by its beautiful tree-trimmed avenues, the Broad Walk, the Joy of Life Fountain, and its native wildflower meadow.

The landscape once included East Carriage Drive but has since changed as part of the Park Lane expansion in the 1960s, which saw a substantial amount of parkland squandered.

Today the area is influenced by its relationship to the Broad Walk and Park Lane, both of which are very popular communal routes.

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### *Historical Value*

- The landscape is characterised by its attractive tree-lined boulevards between two Grade I listed gateways: Apsley Gate and Marble Arch. Both are linked by two of the first formal features of Hyde Park that were known as Walnut Avenue and Lover's Walk. This historic layout is maintained; however, the sunken garden no longer exists.
- The Joy of Life Fountain dates from 1963. It was donated by the Constance Fund to replace the Boy and Dolphin Fountain which was moved to the Rose Garden.
- The Grade I listed Statue of Achilles commemorates the 1st Duke of Wellington. It was installed by order of King George III and unveiled in 1822. It is made from melted down canon collected from the battles against Napoleon.
- The 7th of July Memorial is a modern memorial dedicated to the 52 victims of the 7th of July 2005 London bombings.
- The remaining west wing of the Grosvenor Gate Lodge is Grade II listed and is currently sealed up. This was part of Decimus Burton's series of nineteenth century lodges around the park.

#### *Environmental Value*

- Tree-lined boulevards with mature London plane trees date from the nineteenth-century. There is also a small variety of ornamental trees along Lover's Walk.

**Communal Value**

- The Broad Walk first appeared in 1840 as an open walk parallel to the East Carriage Drive and adjacent to Lover's Walk. Four rows of London plane trees were planted in 1860 which allowed it to adopt some of the grandeur of its predecessor, the Walnut Avenue.
- The avenues of trees have supported the area's character as a communal route for walking and cycling that is both functional and attractive.
- The Joy of Life Fountain welcomes visitors arriving from Mayfair and continues to act as a focal point for the area.

**Aesthetic Value**

- In the second half of the nineteenth-century, the area around Lovers' Walk was known for its bedding displays, but these were abandoned at the start of WWI and never reinstated.

**CONDITION****Historical Elements**

- The landscape has reduced in scale, prominence, and definitive character. This was a direct result of the 1958-62 "Park Lane and Piccadilly Improvement Scheme" which cut 8 hectares of parkland space, including several historically significant lodges and landscape features belonging to this area.
- The loss of East Carriage Drive has made the Broad Walk a primary pedestrian and cyclist route in Hyde Park (between Marble Arch and Hyde Park Corner).
- The tree lined avenues are conserved and remain in good condition. They act as a reminder of the park's historical blueprint.

**Environmental Elements**

- The area has moderate ecological value with its abundance of mature London plane trees and mixed grassland habitat.
- There is no boundary planting to help mitigate pollution from Park Lane or to help improve the overall quality of this boundary environment.
- Toolshed shrubbery was originally part of the late nineteenth-century subtropical garden (as part of the Dell) area where exotic show displays were a common occurrence.
- TRP continues to manage Broad Walk and Lover's Walk's tree-lined boulevards to an exceptional standard.

**Communal Elements**

- The Broad Walk remains a vital commuting corridor in Hyde Park with its shared footpath and cycleway.

- 7th of July Memorial is a modern monument that allows visitors to walk around while reading inscriptions placed on each of the stelae as they meander through. There is a yearly 7/7 ceremony to remember those who died.

**Aesthetic Elements**

- Park Lane is busy with vehicular traffic, and this negatively impacts the quality of the area's sensory experience in terms of sound, sight, and smell.

**IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES**

**No. Reinforce**

|   | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|---|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>5.1</b> Review cycle/footpath to better manage commuters and visitors.   |            |               | ○        | ○         |
| <b>5.2</b> Mitigate light, air, and noise pollution caused from Park Lane. This is to improve the Park's environment and habitat conservation.  |            | ○             |          | ○         |
| <b>5.3</b> Incorporate seasonal native bulb planting to improve biodiversity as well as aesthetic interest throughout the seasons, but also for outreach education programmes with local groups to get involved and learn about nature. |            | ●             |          | ●         |
| <b>5.4</b> Enhance Lover's Walk as one of the park's most attractive walking promenades.  |            |               | ○        | ○         |
| <b>5.5</b> Review the Tool Shed Shrubbery area, in particular its relevance to its surrounding character areas.   |            | ○             |          | ●         |
| <b>5.6</b> Undertake further archaeological surveys with regard to boundary mounds and other important historical information.  | ●          |               |          |           |

**Create**

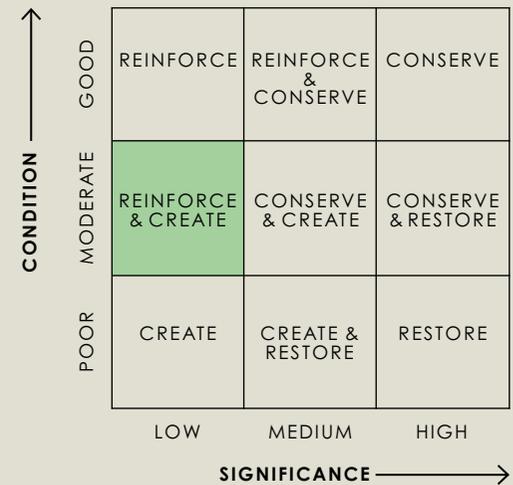
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|--|--|---|---|---|
| <b>5.7</b> Consider planting mixed native hedging along the Park Lane boundary/fence, with small breaks to maintain views into the park. |  | ● | ● | ● |
|--|--|---|---|---|

● High priority   ● Medium priority   ○ Low priority

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

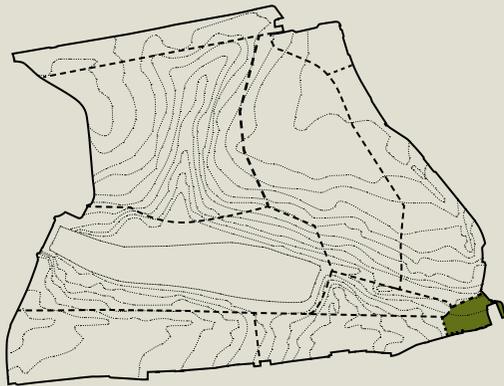
Significance is Low  
Condition is Moderate

TRP's assessment recommends opportunities that aim to reinforce and create for the improvement of the landscape area.





## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 6 HYDE PARK CORNER



This character area is known for its magnificently ornate gateway, where Rotten Row meets the Broad Walk, and features a constant flow of pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicular traffic. Extensive canopies of mature London Planes provide shelter for a naturalistic glade of colourful bulbs.

Decimus Burton's Apsley Gate, built in the late 1820s, remains an architectural gem that provides an extraordinary, classical backdrop to what has always been the most popular entryway to the park. The structure boasts three carriage entrance archways, and fluted Ionic columns.

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### *Historical Value*

- The Grade I listed Apsley Gate and Grade II listed Hyde Park Corner Lodge were designed by Decimus Burton and built between 1826 to 29. The friezes were designed by John Henning and were copied from the Elgin Marbles.
- Queen Mother's Gate is situated behind Apsley House and connects with South Carriage Drive and Park Lane. It was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1993 to celebrate her mother's 90th birthday. The stainless steel and bronze gates, railings and lights were designed and made by Giuseppe Lund. The centre piece, featuring a red lion (England) and a white unicorn (Scotland), was designed by sculptor David Wynne.
- The route formerly known as the King's Road, now Rotten Row, crossed from Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, toward St James's Palace. It was the link between Kensington Palace and St James's Palace.

#### *Environmental Value*

- The landscape is mostly paved with asphalt and Portland stone, exception for the amenity lawn situated beside Apsley Gate.
- There are several stately London Plane trees in this area that also provide habitat for wildlife.

#### *Communal Value*

- A crucial entrance to the park for the many cyclists and pedestrians crossing from Hyde Park to The Green Park & St. James's Park, and also to the Hyde Park Corner Underground station.

- Decimus Burton reinforced the area as a ceremonial entrance for royal parades. Today, it is still a vital entrance and exit point for royal ceremonies involving the Household Cavalry.
- The Visitor Centre is run by the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

#### **Aesthetic Value**

- This listed gateway, with its scroll-topped columns, Greek portico style and a turret clock designed by Thwaites and Reeds is an architectural gem that is very much admired.
- Apsley Gate extends the park's presence beyond its boundaries, to Hyde Park Corner roundabout, as it draws focus to Wellington Arch. Apsley Gate and Wellington Arch were designed to connect Hyde Park to The Green Park.

#### **CONDITION**

##### **Historical Elements**

- The Apsley Gate and Hyde Park Corner Lodge provide a place of historical interest for many visitors.

##### **Environmental Elements**

- The area is frequented by heavy vehicular, pedestrian and cycle traffic, for which hard landscape surfacing is essential.

##### **Communal Elements**

- Hyde Park Corner Underground station continues to serve as an integral transport link to Hyde Park. This part of the park also continues to be served by bus networks and hire bike stands. All of these are maintained by TFL.
- The Lodge café continues to be popular for visitors entering the park.
- The area continues to serve as an important gateway for egress of traffic, especially during events.
- TRP continues to work with TFL and English Heritage to explore alternative solutions for traffic movement in this area.
- Apsley Gate continues to be used daily by the Household Cavalry for the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace.

##### **Aesthetic Elements**

- The first gas lamp in the park to be successfully converted to LED was at Hyde Park Corner next to the Lodge Café.

**IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES**

**No. Conserve**

|  | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|--|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>6.1</b> Conserve the Grade I listed Apsley Gate and Grade II listed Hyde Park Corner Lodge. This includes interpreting its importance in the landscape (part of park-wide project). | ●          |               | ○        |           |
| <b>6.2</b> Seek to build a greater relationship with Apsley House and explore options for better landscape integration with Hyde Park  | ●          | ●             |          | ○         |

**Restore**

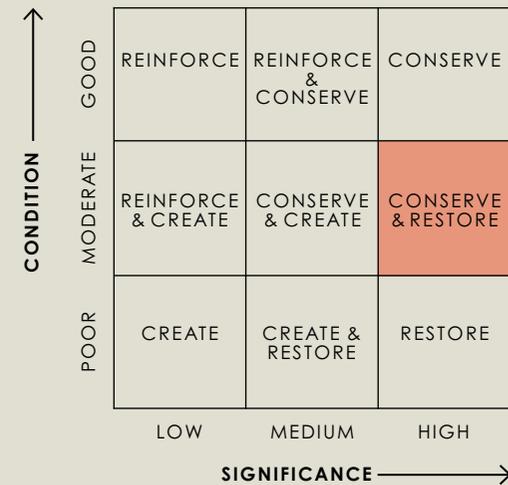
|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b>6.3</b> Review the turfed area near the screen and improve the entire aesthetic of the space. Enhance overall environmental value while establishing a new aesthetic that will boost the significance of Apsley Gate. | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| <b>6.4</b> Review the vehicular, pedestrian and cycle movement through the area, and explore ways for improving flow and connectivity.   |   | ● | ● |   |

● High priority ● Medium priority ○ Low priority

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

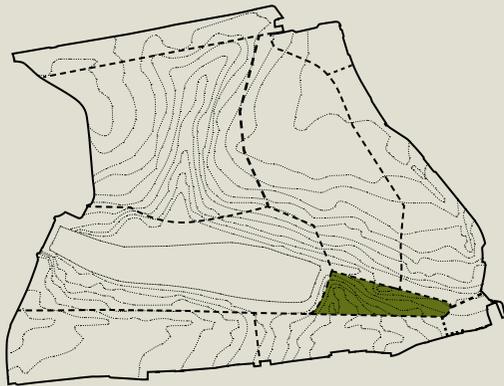
Significance is High  
Condition is Moderate

TRP's assessment recommends opportunities that aim to conserve and restore the landscape character.





## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 7 THE DELL AND ROSE GARDENS



The Dell and Rose Gardens are sheltered, intimate and exotic gardens of roses, herbaceous planting, seasonally rich borders, and soft shrubberies. Their ornamental character dates from the latter half of the nineteenth-century. The soft, south-facing slope allows for the development of the 'subtropical' gardens, traditional displays of carpet bedding with a layout of footpaths established in 1869 and rose pergolas that date from the 1994 Colvin and Moggridge Landscape Architects scheme.

The gardens act as a horticultural gateway for people entering the park from Knightsbridge and Hyde Park Corner. The character area creates a setting for several significant features such as the Holocaust Memorial, Diana, The Huntress Fountain, and The Boy and Dolphin Fountain. Nannies' Lawn houses a collection of exotic tree specimens, such as the 'Upside Down Tree' because of the way its branches descend from its crown resembling roots, and the 'Monkey Puzzle Tree'.

## SIGNIFICANCE

### *Historical Value*

- The Dell was formed by the earth dam and outflow (1730) created to retain the water level of the newly formed Serpentine Lake.
- The Grade II listed Abbey Spring Monument is an urn (1868). It commemorates the conduit from which an ancient spring supplied the precincts of Westminster until 1861, when it was cut off by the Metropolitan Railways. The Conduit House was subsequently removed in 1867 and the urn erected the following year.
- The area of lawn between the Dell and the Rose Garden is known as Nannies' Lawn. It provides a setting for the Holocaust Memorial, which was designed by Richard Seifert and Derek Lovejoy & Partners, and erected in 1983. This was the first memorial of its kind in the United Kingdom.
- The Rose Garden was designed by Colvin and Moggridge Landscape Architects (1994). It includes a mixture of roses and herbaceous planting, and elaborate bedding displays for seasonal interest.
- The Grade II listed Boy and Dolphin Fountain was sculpted by Alexander Munro and dates from 1862. This was originally located at the site of the Joy of Life Fountain.
- The Grade II listed Diana, The Huntress Fountain (1906) by Countess Feodora Gleichen, is made of bronze and was gifted by Sir Walter and Lady Palmer.

- The Dell Megalith was implemented in 1861 and erected as a drinking fountain by John Thomas. Originally there were several large blocks of granite, possibly quarried from Cornwall. The fountain was abolished in 1887 and by 1900 only one stone remained.

#### **Environmental Value**

- The area is renowned for its horticultural displays. The combination of roses and herbaceous planting encourages a diversity of wildlife.

#### **Communal Value**

- The gardens attract many tourists, particularly in the summer months and are popular throughout the year with local residents and workers as a quiet and contemplative place sheltered by attractive foliage.

#### **Aesthetic Value**

- The flower beds are replanted twice a year with spring and summer displays, and structural planting provides colour and interest throughout the seasons.
- The Dell comprises of a rockery and subtropical planting within a sheltered area of the park.

### **CONDITION**

#### **Historical Elements**

- The Dell outflow and dam is maintained regularly to ensure it is safe and structurally sound.
- The planting scheme of the Dell was originally subtropical, and has been supplemented with a variety of other plants over time.

#### **Environmental Elements**

- The diversity of perennials and annuals continue to benefit wildlife all year round.
- There are a number areas that become waterlogged at times, and this is currently being investigated. It is thought to be caused by the natural springs in the area.

#### **Communal Elements**

- The area continues to be very popular for visitors. It provides a sense of enclosure, privacy, and horticultural splendour.

#### **Aesthetic Elements**

- The Dell area has been maintained as a quiet "window" garden bringing biodiversity to the park. This area has been an attraction for many visitors over the years.
- The picturesque nature of the garden, the presence of the Diana, the Huntress Fountain, the Boy and Dolphin Fountain, and the Holocaust Memorial, bring a diverse audience to the area all year round.
- The Dell and Rose Garden is the Park's most intensely managed area in terms of horticulture that offers aesthetic attraction all year round.

**IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES**

**No. Reinforce**

|     |  | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|-----|--|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| 7.1 | Interpret the history of the Dell and Rose Gardens, and the memorials within the area's landscape (as part of park-wide policy). | ●          |               | ○        | ○         |
| 7.2 | Conserve the area as a horticultural highlight, while at the same time look to improve sustainable horticultural practices.      |            |               |          | ○         |
| 7.3 | Create a plan that sustains exotic tree planting on Nannies Lawn.  |            | ○             | ○        | ●         |
| 7.4 | Create a 'Principals for Dell Bridge and Outflow' guideline document in order to provide a long-term maintenance strategy.       |            | ●             |          | ○         |

**Create**

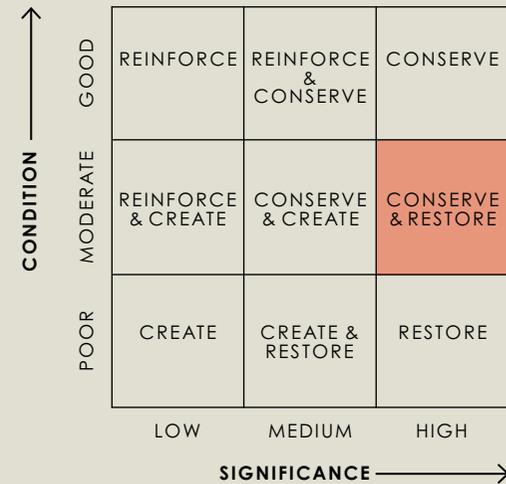
|     |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7.5 | Develop a Dell and Rose Gardens Masterplan for rationalising appropriate planting, and provide a landscape strategy for conserving its character as an enclosed and tranquil place in the park. | ○ | ● | ● | ○ |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|

● High priority   ● Medium priority   ○ Low priority

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

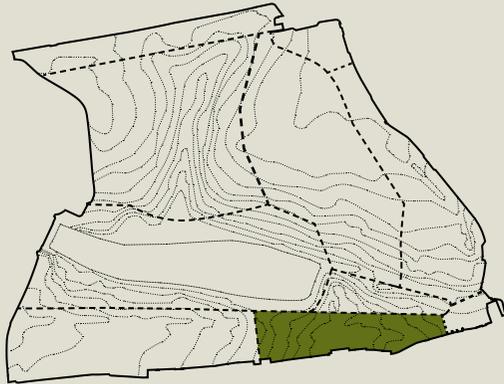
Significance is High  
Condition is Moderate

TRP's assessment recommends opportunities that aim to conserve and restore the landscape character.





## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 8 KNIGHTSBRIDGE BOUNDARY



Characterised by the broad trail of Rotten Row (1689), a processional route between Kensington Palace and St. James's Palace, the first road in England to be lit by 300 oil lamps at night. The name Rotten Row was a corruption of the French word *Route du Roi*, also known as the King's Road.

Knightsbridge Boundary has outstanding layers of hidden history, an example of which are the two bridges that were built to take Rotten Row and South Carriage Drive over the River Westbourne.

This area features dappled, shady areas nestled beneath established London Plane canopies. The area is framed by the decadent terraces of Knightsbridge, broken up by the towers of the Hyde Park Barracks. The area is served by a route from Albert Gate heading towards The Dell.

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### *Historical Value*

- The Grade II listed Pan Statue was sculpted in 1961 by Jacob Epstein.
- The Grade II listed Albert Gate was built between 1842–45 by Thomas Cubitt at his own expense on the site of the former Cannon Brewery.
- The Household Cavalry Memorial was built in 1985. It is a slate tablet that memorialises the Blues and Royals of the Household Cavalry division who were killed in the 1982 terrorist bomb on South Carriage Drive.
- The Grade II listed Cavalry Horse Trough made in 1892 and was formerly located on Victoria Embankment. It was relocated and presented to the Household Cavalry in 1985 to memorialise the horses killed and injured in the 1982 terrorist bomb attack on South Carriage Drive.
- The eastern end of Rotten Row sits within this area, and was a very popular public horse ride for upper-class Londoners. Towards the end of the seventeenth century, William III established *Route du Roi* (Rotten Row) as a safe way to travel between Kensington Palace and St James's Palace. He created this with the introduction of 300 oil lamps that are now powered by gas.
- The eastern end of the nineteenth century South Carriage Drive sits within this area and was part of Decimus Burton's four Carriage Drives, which were very popular for upper class Londoners during the nineteenth century.

**Environmental Value**

- The area is characterised by mature tree avenues and ornamental shrub planting with semi-forest open glades.

**Communal Value**

- The area includes the South Carriage Drive Playground which was refurbished in 2015. It serves as the park's only formal playground area.
- A cycleway was recently constructed along South Carriage Drive which allows for safe cycle passage between West Carriage Drive and Park Lane / Hyde Park Corner.

**CONDITION****Historical Elements**

- Since the River Westbourne was culverted in the late nineteenth century, the area has lost this defining characteristic.
- Rotten Row and South Carriage Drive continue to be two prominent elements along with their frequent use for horse riding by the Household Cavalry.

**Environmental Elements**

- TRP is currently trialling a partial closure of the South Carriage Drive to cut through vehicular traffic.

**Communal Elements**

- Each Sunday, TRP closes South Carriage Drive in Hyde Park to vehicular traffic, giving its visitors a quieter and more enjoyable park experience.

**Aesthetic Elements**

- South Carriage Drive is still being used as a thoroughfare for traffic, and this impacts the overall quality of the space.

**IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES**

**No. Conserve**

|            |  | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|------------|--|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>8.1</b> | Maintain gas lamps along Rotten Row (part of park-wide project).   | ●          |               | ○        | ○         |
| <b>8.2</b> | Undertake further archaeological surveys of the area to understand the historical bridges that passed over the River Westbourne and seek to interpret this information in the landscape. | ●          |               |          |           |

**Create**

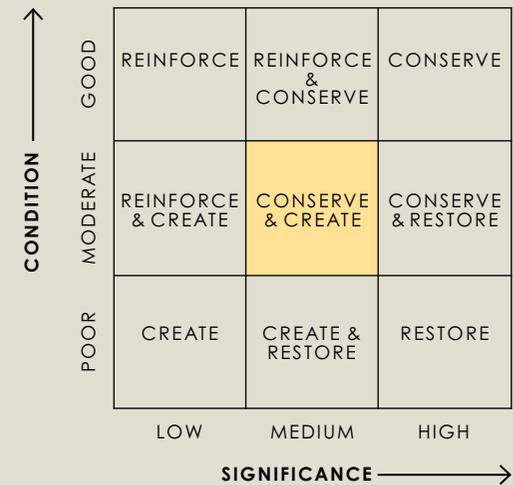
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| <b>8.3</b> | Consider extending closure of South Carriage Drive (between Prince of Wales Gate to Queen Elizabeth's Gate) to cut through vehicular traffic. Look to enhance the area's communal value by providing a safer and more enjoyable promenade for people to enjoy. |  | ● | ● |   |
| <b>8.4</b> | Screen main road along the boundary fence near White Horse Gate to help disguise noise, light and air pollution. Enhance the area's environmental value, and recreate the enclosed quality characteristic of the park, as in the late eighteenth-century.      |  | ● | ● | ● |
| <b>8.5</b> | Plant native wildflower bulbs throughout the area to further improve biodiversity all-year-round.  |  | ● |   | ○ |

● High priority ● Medium priority ○ Low priority

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Significance is Medium  
Condition is Moderate

TRP's assessment recommends opportunities that aim to conserve and create the landscape character.



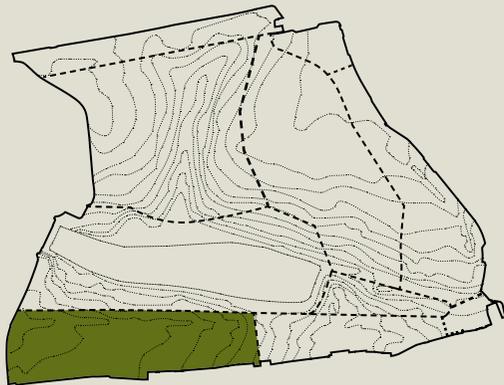


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## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 9 GREAT EXHIBITION GROUND



This area was the site of the Great Exhibition of 1851 – the first in a series of international exhibitions of culture and industry that became very popular in the nineteenth century. The 'Crystal Palace', as it became known, was built to house international exhibits, and was a shimmer of glass-paned windows with cast iron frames. It was described as something out of the Arabian Nights set in a bucolic English landscape.

Although absent from today's landscape, it remains one of Hyde Park's most treasured pieces of architectural history. After the building was moved to Sydenham in Crystal Palace, the area was impacted with rubble caused by the Blitz and became a Victory Garden during WWII. Over time the site has reinvented itself as the park's primary space for organised sports activities. It continues to be a popular communal space for softball, football, rugby, tennis, and lawn bowls.

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### *Historical Value*

- Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, chose this area of Hyde Park to host the World Exposition's inaugural event – The Great Exhibition of 1851.
- The Great Exhibition, also known as 'Crystal Palace', was designed by Joseph Paxton. It was an architectural masterpiece of its time and brought international renown to Hyde Park.
- The exhibition aimed to showcase the best of British industry to an international audience. It was a huge success, encompassing over 100,000 exhibits while attracting more than six million people over five months.
- The Sports Pavilion was built in 1931 and erected as part of the sports ground and bowling green development, the gift of Sir H. Frank in response to the George Lansbury Appeal.
- The Grade II listed Alexandra Gate and Lodge was originally a foot gate, and converted to a carriage gate in 1862. The lodge and gateway were widened in 1952.
- The Grade II listed Prince of Wales' Gate and Lodges were built between 1847 and 1851. They were designed by Decimus Burton for John Elger who built the gate and lodges. East Lodge was built as a police station for the Great Exhibition.

#### *Environmental Value*

- The area is framed by mature avenues of London plane trees and contrasts with a variety of planting schemes ranging from ornamental bedding to mature shrubbery.
- Areas located on the south side of South Carriage Drive are kept as grassland and contained by native hedging and mixed

trees throughout. The grass verges along the boundary of this area contain significant biodiversity value.

- Within the Sports Centre, there is a mixture of herbaceous planting and shrubs.
- Towards West Carriage Drive, the Bumble Bee Border features a meadow rich in biodiversity, offering a range of nectar rich species.
- The sports field area is maintained as amenity turf that is mowed frequently to allow for sports games.

#### **Communal Value**

- The open field, known as 'the Old Football Pitches' is a multi-use sports field used by rugby, softball and football clubs. It is also used by the Household Cavalry for rehearsing events such as Trooping the Colour.
- Each year, this area hosts The Royal Parks Half Marathon which accommodates around 16,000 runners and 60,000 spectators.
- The Sports Centre on the western side has been operated by Will to Win since 2003 and includes tennis courts, padel courts, and a lawn bowling green.
- The Sports Centre provides toilets, showers, changing rooms, and a café. The area also features an outdoor gym, bike racks and a bike tool station. There is also a small outdoor gym designed for elderly people.

#### **Aesthetic Value**

- The avenues of established trees, which define South Carriage Drive and Rotten Row frame the axial view east to the London Eye and west to the Albert Memorial.

## **CONDITION**

### **Historical Elements**

- The historic horse ride that surrounds this area is regularly maintained. It is mostly used by the Metropolitan Police, the Household Cavalry (Hyde Park Barracks) and for public recreation.

### **Environmental Elements**

- The area between South Carriage Drive and Kensington Road is maintained as grassland to enhance biodiversity value.
- The mature tree cover and the prospect of future tree planting is monitored to maintain grassland biodiversity and the impacts of massaria Disease on the London plane trees (park-wide challenge).
- The Sports Centre gardens are challenging to maintain with the changing climate, and demand for increased irrigation. Much of the planting is looking tired and would benefit from renewal.
- The Old Sports Pitches suffer from compaction and poor drainage and are increasingly impacted by climate change and sports field usage.

### **Communal Elements**

- The popularity of the Sports Centre and the broader surrounding area is increasing the pressure on the ground's surface. Golf putting has seen a significant reduction in use in recent years.
- The Hyde Park Barracks continue to use this field as a training ground for routine parade practices. The field condition is often impacted from these practices.
- Amenity turf is regularly maintained for sports field activities and now serves as the Park's primary area for sports related events.

### **Aesthetic Elements**

- The view towards Albert Memorial is an essential characteristic and continues to be maintained, keeping the protected visual link between Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.
- The quality of the Old Football Pitches is challenging to maintain because of the intensive sports activities, half marathon event, and Household Cavalry training.

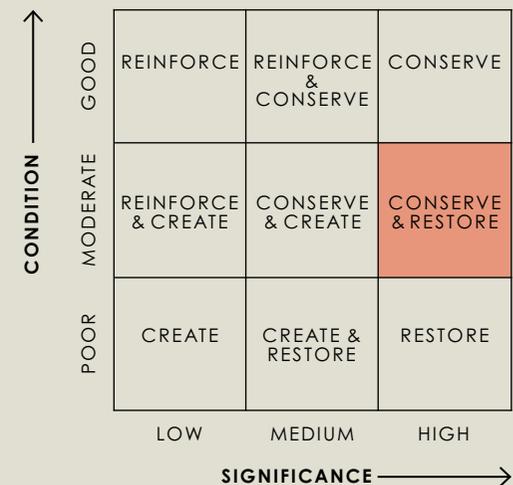
| IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES |  | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|--------------------------|--|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>No. Conserve</b>      |  |            |               |          |           |
| 9.1                      | Maintain a beneficial relationship with the Household Cavalry to improve the horse ride along Rotten Row as well as the manège.                |            |               | ○        | ○         |
| 9.2                      | Maintain views towards Albert Memorial and the London Eye.   | ●          |               |          | ●         |
| 9.3                      | Continue enriching the landscape area with seasonal bulb planting.   |            | ●             |          | ●         |
| <b>Restore</b>           |  |            |               |          |           |
| 9.4                      | Review planting of the Sports Centre area to ensure it is maintained to an excellent standard all year round.                                  |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| 9.5                      | Develop long term strategy for sustainable irrigation.   |            | ●             |          |           |
| 9.6                      | Seek ways to better interpret and celebrate the historic Great Exhibition site in the landscape.   | ●          |               | ●        |           |
| 9.7                      | Identify crucial habitat expansion areas for biodiversity near Mountbatten Shrubbery, grassland boundaries, etc.                               |            | ●             |          | ○         |
| 9.8                      | Develop a sports turf management strategy for the sports field area that will help improve quality for users.                                  |            | ●             | ●        | ○         |
| 9.9                      | Improve ingress and egress, and infrastructure to sports pitches for events.   |            |               | ●        |           |
| 9.10                     | Develop a landscape master plan for the Sports Centre garden that will improve overall landscape quality of gardens and sports infrastructure. |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |

● High priority   ● Medium priority   ○ Low priority

### ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

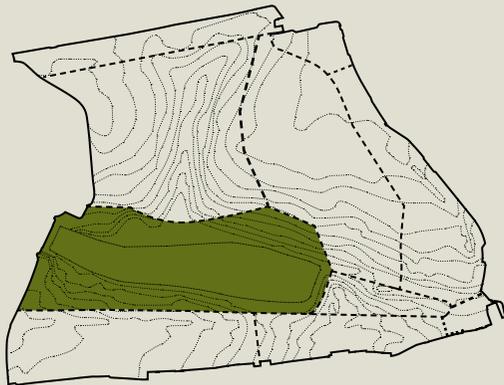
Significance is High  
Condition is Moderate

TRP's assessment identifies opportunities that aim to conserve and restore the landscape character.





## LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 10 THE SERPENTINE



The Serpentine (and Long Water) is a lake that spans both Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. It was created in 1730-31 at the request of Queen Caroline by Charles Wither, the Surveyor-General of His Majesty's Woods. At the same time Charles Bridgeman carried out substantial modifications in Kensington Gardens. This involved the construction of a bastion wall and a ha ha which enveloped the gardens, and subsequently divided Hyde Park into two.

The Serpentine is the jewel of Hyde Park with its open expanse of water and sky. Its scale and surrounding terrain allow for views of the lake from several parts of the park. Its shoreline provides the setting for a number of buildings that include the picturesque, but long gone, Cheesecake House, Patrick Gwynne's Serpentine Restaurant (now demolished), and his Dell Restaurant (now called Serpentine Bar and Kitchen), several boathouses and kiosks, and the 1930's Serpentine Lido and Pavilion.

## SIGNIFICANCE

### *Historical Value*

- The Serpentine, Queen Caroline's project from 1730-1731, when she decreed the damming of the River Westbourne in Hyde Park (and Kensington Gardens).
- Monastic ponds dating from the sixteenth century were merged to create a single lake (Serpentine and Long Water). At that time the River Westbourne filled eleven of these ponds, which provided a reliable supply of fresh water and fish for Westminster Abbey.
- Designed by Charles Bridgeman, the Serpentine was one of the earliest artificial lakes made to look natural.
- The Grade II listed Serpentine Bar and Kitchen (Dell Restaurant) was built in 1965, designed by Patrick Gwynne, to replace the Ring Tea House. It was rebuilt in 1979.
- The Queen Caroline Memorial, unveiled in 1990 by HM The Queen, is an urn to commemorate Queen Caroline's creation of the Serpentine.
- Under the direction of George Lansbury, the Lido Pavilion was built in 1930 in response to requests by the Sunlight League to allow mixed bathing and sunbathing. It was reconstructed in 1951-52.
- The Grade II listed Serpentine Bridge was built between 1825 and 1828 by George and John Rennie for the Office of Woods and Forests, contracted to Messrs Jolliffe and Bankes.
- Author J.M. Barrie wrote that Peter Pan made his perilous journey from Bird Island in the Serpentine to the magical shores of the Long Water in Kensington Garden.
- Serpentine Swimming Club is one of the oldest in the United Kingdom, formed in 1866.

**Environmental Value**

- The Serpentine is replenished with borehole water that is pumped from three separate points. The boreholes supply all the water needed to replenish the lake and maintain water flow.
- The oxygen levels of the water are assisted with 24 aeration pumps that are fixed on the bottom of the lake.
- The Serpentine is one of Central London's largest bodies of open water, attracting large numbers of waterfowl.

**Communal Value**

- The Serpentine has been a venue for numerous events that include boating (since 1847), ice-skating (up until the mid-twentieth century), swimming (Serpentine Swimming Club, since 1866) and related disasters which prompted the building of the Royal Humane Society's Receiving House on the north side (no longer in existence).
- Its shoreline paths are popular today – the north side, having the informal status of a pedestrian promenade (closed off during the 1960s) is increasingly popular for informal recreation, particularly during the summer months.
- Rowboats, and pedalos are available for public hire from April until October.
- The gentle, south-facing slopes at the northern edge of the lake, between The Ring (no longer present) and Serpentine Road known as Boat House Lawns, are accessible for visitors to sunbathe and socialise.

- The Serpentine Bar and Kitchen serves as the focal point for catering with extensive outdoor seating with views over the lake. This becomes very popular during the summer months.
- The Serpentine Lido opens to the public from April to September and is lifeguarded.
- The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain opened in 2004, and was designed by Gustafson Porter + Bowman. It uses the topography to divert the water downhill in two directions and expresses the concept of 'Reaching Out-Letting In'; qualities of the Princess of Wales that revealed her inclusiveness and accessibility.

**Aesthetic Value**

- The protected viewpoint from Serpentine Bridge of the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey within the Westminster World Heritage site, form a distant focal point at the western end of the Serpentine, where the horizon meets the water.
- The trees on either side of the lake shield the surrounding environment, creating a sense of privacy and escape from its urban setting.
- The Serpentine and Long Water is one of the largest expanses of open water in London. This naturally creates an aesthetic of peace and relief from the surrounding metropolis, particularly during summer when the surrounding vegetation is completely flushed.

**CONDITION****Historical Elements**

- The Serpentine still maintains its original outline.
- The Grade II listed Serpentine Bar & Kitchen (SBK) continues to be a notable landmark on the north-eastern edge of the Serpentine. This was restored in 2018.
- The Diana Car Park rests on the nineteenth century site of what was Kensington Garden's south Bastion Wall.
- Serpentine Swimming Club continues to thrive and hosts a one-hundred-yard swimming competition every Christmas morning at 9am. In 1904, author J. M. Barrie awarded the Peter Pan Cup to the winner of the race, a tradition which has continued ever since.

**Environmental Elements**

- Most of the lake's edge is formed by footpaths and concrete edging and has subsequently lost its riparian character.
- Water quality for bathing purposes is assessed by the Environment Agency. For the period of 2016 through to 2021 it was classified as 'sufficient' and requires constant attention to maintain and enhance its quality.
- There have been successful experiments to establish reed beds throughout the Serpentine to increase habitat value for a range of wildlife.

**Communal Elements**

- The closed Serpentine Road creates a vibrant space for a wide range of activities from horse riding to walking, jogging, cycling, and roller skating.
- The Serpentine area accommodates several kiosks and restaurants that serve a range of foods and drinks to the general public.
- The Lido Garden area accommodates a children's playground, paddling pool and changing facilities. These are in moderate condition.
- The facilities at the Lido require a reconfigured layout to improve the building fabric and to provide hot showers and changing spaces that are suitable for all visitors.

**Aesthetic Elements**

- Any future development within Westminster City Council on the Knightsbridge side should not compromise the park's landscape aesthetic screened by the treeline.
- The view of the London Eye from Serpentine Bridge provides visitors with geographical context in terms of its location within London's metropolis and is a popular spot for taking photos by tourists.

| <b>IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES</b> |  | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|---------------------------------|--|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>No.</b>                      | <b>Conserve</b>  |            |               |          |           |
| <b>10.1</b>                     | Explore Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems for retaining stormwater on site, in-line with Environment Agency requirements and use less borehole water.         |            | ●             | ○        | ○         |
| <b>10.2</b>                     | Investigate negative impacts of feeding wild fowl, and create a strategy for educating visitors reminding everyone to dispose of food and waste appropriately. |            | ○             |          | ○         |
| <b>10.3</b>                     | Create the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain Operational Plan, and include a water management scheme.   |            | ●             |          | ●         |
| <b>10.4</b>                     | Review and improve the area around the Serpentine Bridge kiosk with consideration to improving the views over the Serpentine.                                  |            |               |          | ●         |
| <b>10.5</b>                     | Create interventions to manage the structural integrity of the dam in the event of a probable maximum flood (PMF).   |            | ●             | ●        |           |
| <b>10.6</b>                     | Review the Serpentine Lido leisure area and gardens, and improve accessibility and facilities.   | ●          |               | ●        |           |

High priority
  Medium priority
  Low priority

**IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES**

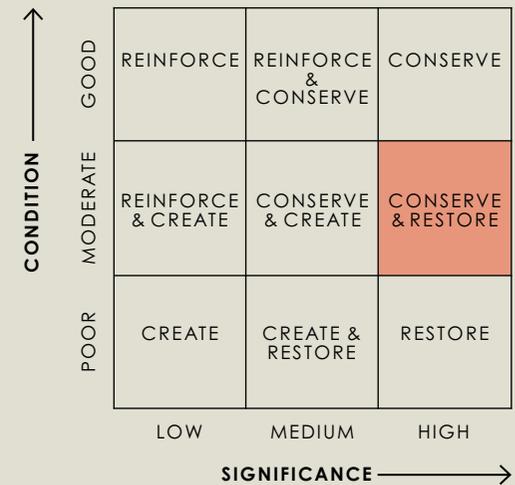
|            |  | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|------------|--|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>No.</b> | <b>Restore</b>   |            |               |          |           |
| 10.7       | Prepare a shoreline restoration scheme that enhances the biodiversity of the lake, including protected sections of soft shoreline, with riparian planting. |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| 10.8       | Look to improve Serpentine Road to reflect its visitor usage and make it less like a closed road.  |            |               | ●        |           |
| 10.9       | Look to bring the boathouses back into use.  |            |               | ●        | ●         |
| 10.10      | Review and explore opportunities to improve the provision of water sports and activities on the Serpentine.  |            |               | ●        | ○         |
| 10.11      | Produce a Serpentine / Long Water Strategy to improve water quality while taking into account the number of users of the lake.                             |            | ●             | ●        |           |
| 10.12      | Look to close Serpentine Bridge on weekends to prevent cut through vehicular traffic during peak days while reducing air pollution.                        |            | ●             | ●        | ○         |
| 10.13      | Review utility services to better manage long term consumption while providing an accurate understanding of usage.   |            | ●             | ●        |           |

● High priority   ● Medium priority   ○ Low priority

**ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Significance is High  
Condition is Moderate

TRP's assessment recommends opportunities that aim to conserve and restore the landscape character.



# OUR POLICIES

A vibrant, sunlit park scene. In the foreground, a dense field of tall green grasses and numerous small white flowers, possibly cow parsley, is in full bloom. To the left, a large, mature tree with a thick trunk and spreading canopy dominates the frame. The background is filled with more green trees and foliage, creating a sense of a deep, wooded park. In the distance, a paved path or road is visible, with a few people and a white van. A small, wooden structure, possibly a gazebo or shelter, is nestled among the trees in the middle ground. The overall atmosphere is bright and fresh, with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

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**PART THREE  
OUR POLICIES**

The landscape policies provide a framework for the delivery of the management plan objectives and the development of specific projects and management actions.

This part articulates a series of policies which aim to achieve the Hyde Park vision. These policies exist to provide context and support for management decisions within Hyde Park.

## MANAGEMENT POLICIES

### MNG.1 Park Management

- TRP will strive to promote, lead and deliver best practice in park management.
- As statutory consultees, we will participate in and advise on planning applications for development that affects the park, ensuring that proposals avoid detrimental impacts on the park, its boundaries and setting.
- TRP will support research where considered appropriate, and share results with partner organisations, interest groups and professionals.

### MNG.2 Risk

- TRP will continue to deliver robust health and safety management, ensuring appropriate risk mitigation measures are in place.

### MNG.3 Safety and Security

- TRP will continue to seek to provide a safe environment for all visitors, trying to maintain current low levels of crime.
- Law and order will be sensitively maintained following the park regulations and implemented by the Metropolitan Police's Royal Parks Operational Command Unit (TRP OCU).

### MNG.4 Main Licences and Concessions

- TRP will continue to balance revenue generation with the best visitor experience, ensuring that all licences and concessions are let through an open competitive tender process and are monitored throughout.

### MNG.5 Partner Organisations

- TRP will continue to consult with Natural England, DCMS, the Environment Agency and Historic England as required.
- TRP will work in partnership with organisations such as the Westminster City Council, Green space Information for Greater London CIC (GiGL), the Metropolitan Police, and Greater London Authority.
- TRP will continue to share knowledge and disseminate information with other organisations and professionals where appropriate.

### MNG.6 Finance & Resources

- TRP will continue to build the commercial capability and practices of the organisation to ensure opportunities are maximised, and presented through commercial contracts.
- TRP will seek to develop new income streams that reflect the intrinsic qualities of the parks.
- TRP will continue to improve the quality of our buildings to maximise their financial value for the charity, and social value to the park visitor.

### MNG.7 Technology, Knowledge & Resources

- TRP will continue to seek to invest in evolving technologies and systems that will aid in more effective and efficient management.
- TRP will continue to store and manage our electronic and physical archives in accordance with best practice.

## HISTORIC POLICIES

### HIS.1 Monuments and Artefacts

- TRP will maintain and enhance the landscape character of the park and ensure that there is a rigorous assessment process for the inclusion of any additional monuments.
- TRP will maintain, protect and celebrate scheduled monuments and artefacts in consultation with Historic England and Westminster City Council.

### HIS.2 Boundaries and Gates

- TRP will sympathetically manage the park boundary and the associated gateways in consultation with Historic England and the Westminster City Council.
- TRP will continue to keep the gate locking times of the park under review.

### HIS.3 Furniture and Signage

- TRP will work towards consistent styles, colour and designs of street furniture and signage that follow TRP guidelines and respect and reinforce the character of the park.
- Permanent signage will be kept to a minimum, and appropriate temporary and digital signage will be used to inform and advise visitors.

### HIS.4 Roads and Pathways

- TRP will seek to reduce the extent of hard surfacing while ensuring permeability is enhanced for all surface types from a 2021 baseline.
- TRP will work towards consistent surface treatments across the park.
- TRP will retain historic horse rides and pedestrian footpaths while seeking to conserve their historic integrity.

**HIS.5 Buildings and Structures**

- TRP will sympathetically manage listed and important buildings and structures in consultation with Historic England and Westminster City Council.
- New buildings will only be considered where essential for operational purposes and improvements to visitor facilities.
- TRP will promote an appreciation and understanding of the park's historic built hydrological network comprising of buildings and reservoirs.

**HIS.6 Archaeology & Cultural Landscape**

- TRP will work to protect and enhance the historic environment through active engagement and use of archaeological mapping tools available and give due consideration to any potential effects works may have on the historic environment.
- TRP will continue to maintain and promote historically significant events that have shaped the cultural landscape of the park.

**HIS.7 Relationship with Kensington Gardens**

- Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park will continue to be intrinsically linked historically and environmentally while being managed by separate TRP teams.
- The park management teams will continue to work together to provide a complimentary and supportive approach to park management.

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES****ENV.1 Hydrology and Drainage**

- TRP will seek to reduce the use of borehole and mains water for irrigation where possible.
- The potential for SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) will be considered in all relevant design proposals including rainwater harvesting.
- Wherever possible, TRP will seek opportunities for stormwater retention and reuse within the park.
- TRP will continue to work to improve the quality of water bodies and their associated habitats.
- In line with Environment Agency guidelines, TRP will ensure sustainable extraction and use of borehole water continues.

**ENV.2 Geology and Soils**

- TRP will seek to reinforce and enhance soil profiles and structures through management techniques, applying best practice to the maintenance of amenity grass for sports and events.
- Surfaces prone to erosion and damage will continue to be identified and remediated where possible.
- TRP will seek to improve soil health to help maintain a high nutrient profile for all living organisms.

**ENV.3 Habitats**

- TRP will consult, as required, with Natural England, DEFRA, the Environment Agency and other relevant environmental organisations with regard to habitat management.
- TRP will seek to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity within the park.

- TRP will aim to support an appropriate range of habitats, and within these, encourage structural and species diversity.
- Areas of existing habitat value, particularly those that are subject to specific BAP initiatives, will be protected and where possible enhanced and increased.
- TRP will work to review mowing regimes across the park in line with the TRP Biodiversity Strategy.

**ENV.4 Grassland**

- The extensive area of grassland is central to the naturalistic character of Hyde Park. TRP will continue maintaining this, and where possible, enhance grassland diversity.
- TRP will seek to reduce the area of amenity grassland across the park, with the exception of areas for sports and leisure activities.
- TRP will continue to apply various mowing regimes to meadow/glade, lawn and amenity grassland.
- TRP will undertake deliberate and selective mowing regimes with the intention to increase biodiversity.
- The environmental value of acidic grassland will be improved and supported with ongoing management to reduce nutrient loading.

**ENV.5 Trees**

- TRP will manage the trees in the park in a manner that recognises their landscape, ecological, historical, cultural and aesthetic value and in the context of increasing pressures of visitor footfall, pest and diseases and climate change.

- TRP will meet our statutory duty of care in tree risk management, in consultancy with Westminster City Council, while recognising and prioritising the critical role trees play in the provision of amenity, habitat and biodiversity.
- TRP will seek to maintain and improve diversity of tree species and age structure throughout the park to enhance resilience in the face of climate change.

#### **ENV.6 Dead Wood**

- TRP will seek to implement a policy of deadwood retention wherever safe and appropriate.
- TRP will continue to retain standing deadwood (monoliths), deadwood in trees, and deadwood on the ground where possible.
- TRP will continue enhancing habitat creation for saproxylic invertebrates (a UK BAP priority species group) and other related species supported by deadwood.

#### **ENV.7 Species**

- TRP will aim to support and increase an appropriate range of native species, working with partners within and surrounding the park.
- TRP will seek to maximise opportunities for strengthening biodiversity in horticultural plantings.
- TRP will seek to enforce park regulations and other legislation to ensure that there is no collection or removal of any flora or fauna unless part of an agreed survey or other scientific studies.
- TRP will deliver species engagement and learning programmes such as Mission: Invertebrate and volunteering events.

- TRP will seek to raise awareness and understanding of species and their habitat requirements through working with partners.

#### **ENV.8 Biosecurity**

- TRP will take a rigorous and proactive approach to the management of pests, diseases and invasive species.
- TRP will monitor, control and remove any known pests and invasive plant species.
- TRP will meet statutory health and safety obligations while seeking to minimise the impact of control methods on biodiversity.
- TRP will work with our statutory partners and other stakeholders to continue to facilitate scientific research, as the key to the future effective management of these threats.
- TRP will continue to explore, support and contribute to research and trials of new organic methods in combating pests, diseases, and invasive species.
- TRP will explore and implement biosecurity measures to prevent introduction of new pests and diseases and their spread.
- TRP will continue to enforce strict criteria for planting, selecting, and sourcing of new plant species to ensure they are not infected or susceptible to diseases as set out in Biodiversity Guidance for TRP Trees.

#### **ENV.10 Climate Change**

- TRP will assess the likely impacts of climate change through monitoring and aim to mitigate the projected impacts on biodiversity, landscape and visitors.

- TRP will aim to manage the park's habitats to optimise ecological resilience in order to buffer perturbations in the climate and to facilitate natural adaptation of wildlife communities.
- TRP will strictly monitor the parks carbon footprint and make necessary reductions in carbon emissions where possible.
- There will be a presumption that all new projects are designed to be resilient in the face of climate change.

#### **ENV.11 Ecological Monitoring and Data Collection**

- TRP will continue to undertake surveys and monitoring following the TRP Biodiversity Strategy to inform management decisions.
- TRP will continue to work closely with partners such as Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL). Ecological monitoring in the park will collect standardised, repeatable information to allow managers to detect changes in the environmental condition of the park. Seeking to provide, where possible, opportunities for volunteering and learning.

#### **ENV.12 Sustainability**

- TRP will seek to deliver our Sustainability Strategy through our approach to park management.
- TRP will maximise opportunities to use and generate renewable energy.
- TRP will embed a sustainable approach into our purchase of all raw materials and aim to reduce the overall impact of the associated emissions directly and through our contractors, concessionaires and event delivery partners.

- TRP will continue efforts to improve recycling and management of waste and reduce waste to landfill.
- TRP will continue to monitor noise levels and seek to minimise its impact on the wildlife and park visitors.
- TRP will continue to work with partners to monitor air quality.
- TRP will seek to maintain a minimum of 98% composting of green waste every year (excluding invasive species or diseased plants).
- TRP will phase out chemical pesticides and use organic alternatives for pest control.
- TRP will only use chemical pesticides where no alternatives can be found.
- TRP will seek to gradually phase out gas lamps and convert to LED where appropriate.
- TRP will continue to ensure it is HSE compliant when using chemical based pesticides for health and safety.
- TRP will phase out peat and seek sustainable alternatives.

#### **ENV.13 Dogs**

- Dogs need to be kept within sight and under control at all times and will continue to be excluded from the children's playgrounds, from internal cafe areas and from gated ornamental gardens, and all water bodies.

#### **ENV.14 Waste**

- TRP will undertake an audit of waste and litter management across the estate seeking to continue to reduce levels of public waste within the parks, increase overall recycling levels and work with contractors to deliver best practice in waste management.

### **COMMUNAL POLICIES**

#### **COM.1 Public Access**

- Access for all and Disability Discrimination Act compliance is an objective for TRP.
- TRP will promote the use of public transport and explore with external partners improved information and links to the park from transport nodes.
- TRP will continue to support the volunteer led Liberty Drives mobility scheme.

#### **COM.2 Cycling and Cycle Routes**

- TRP will seek to maintain and enhance cycling routes.
- TRP will review cycling provision in light of changes that occur outside the park boundary.

#### **COM.3 Vehicular Access and Parking**

- TRP will seek to reduce through traffic on North, South, and West Carriage Drives while maintaining visitor car parking where appropriate.

#### **COM.4 Horse Rides**

- TRP will continue to work with the Ministry of Defence (Hyde Park Barracks) and the Metropolitan Police to maintain horse rides within the park.

#### **COM.5 Pedestrian Circulation**

- Pedestrians will remain top priority in the hierarchy of park users.
- TRP will seek to review pedestrian movement throughout the park, with the intention to mitigate the impacts of desire lines.

#### **COM.6 Events**

- TRP will host a specific number of major events per annum in Hyde Park in line with our strategy: Hosting Major Events in The Royal Parks (2015).
- All event organisers will work by the guiding principles set out in the Major Events Strategy.
- The guide to Small Events in The Royal Parks (2010) sets guidelines regarding the size, location, times and season of small events.

#### **COM.7 Visitor Profile**

- TRP will continue efforts to widen the diversity of visitors and seek to engage with new audiences carrying out a visitor satisfaction survey every four years.

#### **COM.8 Visitor Facilities**

- New facilities within the park will be considered only when a rigorous assessment process is undertaken.
- **Learning:** TRP will seek to improve and increase the provision of learning opportunities.
- **Heritage:** TRP will seek to improve physical access, interpretation and learning of the park's heritage.
- **Catering:** TRP will work alongside concessionaires to ensure that facilities in the park are maintained to a high standard, and cater to a wide range of park visitors. TRP will continue to review the current provision and seek to enhance facilities where possible.
- **Play Facilities:** TRP will continue to improve the play areas and experience, setting and linked facilities while encouraging natural play across the park. TRP recognises the importance of play

in a natural setting, and The Royal Parks Play Strategy (2015) will guide any improvements to play provision.

- **Toilet facilities:** TRP will continue to maintain toilets throughout the park and provide a clean and reliable service.

#### COM.9 Visitor Behaviour

- TRP will promote positive practices to reduce conflict between different user groups.
- TRP will actively work to understand pressure points and seek to improve visitor distribution throughout the park.

#### COM.10 Penalty Notices

Police Officers can issue penalty notices, which carry a £60 fine for the following offences in the Royal Parks:

- Littering
- Cycling outside designated cycle areas
- Failing to clear up after a dog

These powers are already available to police officers in other parks and public spaces across the capital. The introduction of the fines will help the police to deal more quickly and efficiently with these offences. The three offences are all breaches of Royal Park's Regulations.

#### COM.10 Organised and Informal Activities

- TRP will continue to promote the use of Hyde Park as a place that contributes to health and well-being.
- TRP will continue efforts to educate and inform visitors of the need to balance recreation with environmental conservation.
- **Dog Walking:** the TRP leaflet 'Guidance on dogs in the Royal Parks' offers advice and our policies for dogs within the Royal Parks.
- **Informal and Formal Activities:** TRP will continue to provide facilities for sport use including tennis, football and softball. Everyday activities will be encouraged as long as they are in-line with Park Regulations. TRP will continue to allow licensed personal fitness trainers to use the park in line with Park Regulations as specified on our [website](#).
- **Cycling:** In line with TRP's policy statement on Cycling in the Royal Parks, we will seek to appropriately manage the increasing numbers of cyclists. TRP will monitor speeds and behaviours, improve signage, continue to enforce Park Regulations and seek opportunities for engagement.
- **New Activities:** TRP is aware that potential new activities can occur in the park. We will encourage and support appropriate activities and seek to engage users, minimise conflict and continue to enforce Park Regulations.
- **Swimming:** TRP will continue to allow seasonal swimming in the designated area of The Serpentine between the approved hours. The Serpentine Swimming Club will continue to operate all year round.

- **Fishing:** TRP will continue to allow fishing in the designated area of the Serpentine between the approved hours. Fishing licences will need to be sought with the park management team.

#### COM.11 Learning

- TRP recognises that the park has extraordinary potential for outdoor learning, and will continue to explore opportunities.
- TRP will continue to provide opportunities for work experience and apprenticeships, and seek to improve our offer to a broader audience.
- TRP will continue to improve our learning provision within Hyde Park where possible.
- The LookOut Education Centre located within the park will continue to provide educational and learning experiences for a diverse audience.

#### COM.12 Interpretation

- TRP will seek to provide improved interpretation that tells the story of the park's heritage, ecology, and cultural significance.
- TRP will use interpretation that is appropriate to the landscape character of the park.

#### COM.13 Community Engagement

- TRP will continue to engage with our local and broader communities.
- TRP will continue to use social media, and explore new ways of interacting and engaging with our visitors.

**COM.14 Volunteering**

- TRP will continue to work closely with the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens and other volunteer groups.
- TRP will continue to provide and develop volunteering in line with the TRP Volunteering Strategy.

**COM.15 Wellbeing**

- TRP will seek to work with community partners to develop projects and programmes to improve our range of wellbeing activities.
- TRP will continue to promote the use and enjoyment of Hyde Park for public recreation, health and wellbeing, allowing for a balanced provision of sporting, cultural activities and events.

**COM.16 Vandalism**

- TRP will ensure that evidence of vandalism is removed at the earliest practicable opportunity.

**AESTHETIC POLICIES****AES.1 Topography and Landform**

- The natural and human-made landform is essential to the landscape character of Hyde Park, and TRP will continue to conserve and celebrate this.

**AES.2 Views**

- Significant views and vistas within and from the park will be maintained. Visual connections will be conserved and reinforced through appropriate management.
- TRP will support external partners to promote the protection of specific views, including the protected view from Serpentine Bridge that extends beyond the park to the Palace of Westminster.

**AES.3 Lighting**

- Lighting within the park will be kept to a minimum.
- TRP will work to reduce carriage drive lighting when the park is closed.
- TRP will work with adjacent landowners to ensure that there is minimum light spillage into the park from neighbouring properties and activities.
- Lighting for sports activities will be monitored and regularly reviewed.

**AES.4 Horticulture**

- The horticultural areas will be maintained to provide seasonal interest and variation for the delight of visitors.
- The condition and nature of the planting will be regularly reviewed and rejuvenated, recognising that plants are subject to growth and decay.
- The design of new horticultural areas will be carefully considered in response to climate change and sustainable management techniques. This will include consideration of species resilience, biodiversity, colour, and maintenance requirements.
- There will be a presumption against the expansion of horticultural display areas. Planting should be limited to appropriate landscape character areas and not impact the landscape's historical significance.

# IMPLEMENTATION



## PART FOUR IMPLEMENTATION

Part 4 of the management plan outlines the Project Register – a dynamic and active component that combines the landscape character area's identified opportunities developed in Part 2, and park wide policies, developed in Part 3. The Project Register identifies and lists potential projects which TRP aim to deliver. Ongoing park management and maintenance works are addressed in the annual Operations Plan.

The Project Register sets out the prioritisation and allocation of resources for Hyde Park. Where additional resources are required, the park management team will work with colleagues to

decide on priorities and seek funding through grant applications and other fundraising initiatives. Grant applications are considered, but only if the objectives of the grant comply with management priorities. New approaches are considered where appropriate.

TRP strategies and policies will guide park operations and decision making when new opportunities or issues arise. This part of the plan also describes mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the delivery of the management plan. Below is a time-scale indicator for each project on the project register.

-  First quarter (Apr 2022 - Sep 2024)
-  Second quarter (Oct 2024 - Mar 2027)
-  Third quarter (Apr 2027 - Sep 2029)
-  Fourth quarter (Oct 2029 - Mar 2032)
-  Aspirational Projects (no deadline)

## IMPLEMENTING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This management plan sets out a 100 year vision for the management of Hyde Park and is to be used as a source of information and guidance for the future development of the park.

In the 10 year life span of this plan it will support the basis for decision making, guidance for routine park maintenance and for prioritising projects according to the Landscape Character Area opportunities, park wide policies and the project register.

In order to implement these projects and policies they must be included in the following TRP documents:

- Park Business Plans (updated annually)
- The annual Operations Plan
- Individual performance management objectives

## MONITORING

Monitoring of the park's stated management aims and policies may be applied at two distinct levels:

- a) general approaches and focus for priorities.
- b) specific application through projects.

The areas that collate and assess multiple achievements are:

- The Royal Parks Annual Report
- Monthly progress reports from the Park Manager to the Director of Parks – monthly reports to ExCom
- Annual Green Flag and Green Heritage judges' comments

The processes for monitoring the implementation of policies and aims which are stated in this management plan include:

- Park Business Plans (updated annually)
- The annual Operations Plan
- Arbortrack tree management software
- The Built Environment Register of Maintenance Projects
- Landscape Projects Register
- Ecology Projects Register
- Hydrology and utilities projects lists
- Cyclical Maintenance Fund Project Tracker

Monitoring the effects of the management policies and projects is fundamental for the successful implementation of the plan. This process should relate achievements to policies and aims, and provide feedback to shape future amendments to the management plan or its management policies.

The key areas for monitoring in Hyde Park are:

- **Trees:** risk management and tree health.
- **Landscape:** 10 year rolling Character Area Assessments and, ideally, five year reviews of the management plan.
- **Built Environment Register of Maintenance Projects:** quality of presentation hard surfaces, buildings and monuments, furniture, water infrastructure and services.
- **Park Community:** social inclusiveness and accessibility. External audits - including IOS14001, health and safety condition reports and Ipsos Mori or visitor satisfaction surveys (updated every 4 years). Visitor relations are also monitored by the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.
- **Views:** protection and management of views and skyspace.
- **Ecology:** continual enhancements to biodiversity
- **Presentation:** quality and effectiveness of cleansing operations. Key performance indicators are set out in the facilities maintenance contracts and landscape facilities maintenance contracts.
- **Events:** location, frequency and scale of events in relation to the park.
- **Archaeology:** presentation, protection, conservation management and interpretation.

## REVIEW

The management plan will be reviewed at the end of the first five year period. The purpose of this review is to incorporate new information (i.e. visitor surveys, ecological surveys, tree surveys), take changing circumstances into account (security, traffic movements, climate change), and assess achievements over the first five years in terms of policies and projects. The review should set out further aspirations for park management.

It is important that this management plan is seen as a 'dynamic' document that is flexible and responsive to change.

As new information becomes available consideration may need to be given to modify prescriptions. Such changes should always be assessed in the light of the management plan framework and should not have an adverse impact upon the essential spirit of place (*genius loci*) of the park. In keeping with best practice, significant changes of direction should be given careful considering before adoption.

## SURVEY AND INSPECTIONS

- **Play Equipment:** Regular maintenance inspections, ROSPA annual inspections
- **Buildings & Infrastructure:** Quadrennial Inspections by Works department
- **Nursery Stock:** TRP biosecurity strategy guidance, disease inspections
- **Ecology:** Phased habitat surveys
- **Water:** Environment Agency Water Quality monitoring;
- **Visitor Standards:** Ipsos Mori Surveys
- **Catering Provision:** Mystery Shopper Inspections
- **Policing:** Safer Parks Panel
- **Visitor Relations:** Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens

## PROJECT REGISTER

| PROJECT DESCRIPTION   | AREA                            | VALUES   | ACTIONS              | OPPORTUNITIES | POLICIES   | TIMESCALE   |
|---|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------|--|---|
| <p><b>01 North Carriage Drive Closure Review</b></p> <p>Consider reducing vehicular traffic while improving air quality of the park by closing North Carriage Drive to through traffic (currently in trial until March 2022). Consider opportunities for reducing hard surfaces, increased planting, and enhancing pedestrianisation.</p> | LCA: 1<br>Bayswater<br>Boundary | Environmental<br>Communal<br>Aesthetic             | Reinforce<br>Restore | 1.5<br>1.7    | MNG. 2, MNG. 3<br>HIS. 2, HIS. 4<br>ENV. 12<br>COM. 2, COM. 6, COM. 7, COM. 12                                   |    |
| <p><b>02 Pet Cemetery Review</b></p> <p>Consider improving access to and engagement with the Pet Cemetery. Assess and identify the benefits and constraints for providing improved access and interpretation.</p>   | LCA: 1<br>Bayswater<br>Boundary | Historic<br>Communal                               | Reinforce<br>Create  | 1.1<br>1.3    | MNG. 5, MNG. 6<br>HIS. 1, HIS. 5, HIS. 6<br>COM. 1, COM. 4, COM. 5,<br>COM. 9, COM. 10, COM. 12                  |    |
| <p><b>03 Tyburn Brook Restoration Masterplan</b></p> <p>Create a masterplan that considers reintroducing water to parts of the Tyburn Valley (where the brook would have naturally occurred) with a view to improving environmental value, flood management, and opportunities for community engagement and learning.</p>                 | LCA: 2<br>Tyburn<br>Meadow      | Historic<br>Environmental<br>Communal<br>Aesthetic | Create<br>Restore    | 2.3<br>2.7    | MNG. 1, MNG. 5<br>HIS. 1, HIS. 6<br>ENV. 1, ENV. 2, ENV. 3, ENV. 7, ENV. 12<br>COM. 8, COM. 9, COM. 12<br>AES. 1 |    |
| <p><b>04 Hyde Park Nursery Sustainability</b></p> <p>Work with partners to reduce the Hyde Park Nursery's carbon footprint and make environmentally friendly with the intention to phase out diesel, peat, and non-biodegradable plastics.</p>  | LCA: 2<br>Tyburn<br>Meadow      | Environmental                                      | Create<br>Restore    | 2.6           | MNG. 1, MNG. 5, HIS. 1<br>HIS. 6<br>ENV. 1, ENV. 2, ENV. 3, ENV. 7, ENV. 12<br>COM. 8, COM. 9, COM. 12<br>AES. 1 |  |
| <p><b>05 W.H.Hudson Memorial Garden Improvements</b></p> <p>Create a plan that looks to enhance the environmental and aesthetic quality of the garden to celebrate the centenary of W.H.Hudson in 2022.</p>   | LCA: 2<br>Tyburn<br>Meadow      | Historic<br>Environmental<br>Aesthetic             | Create<br>Restore    | 2.5           | MNG. 1<br>HIS. 1, HIS. 6<br>ENV. 1, ENV. 2, ENV. 3, ENV. 7, ENV. 12<br>COM. 8, COM. 9, COM. 12<br>AES. 1         |  |

| PROJECT DESCRIPTION   | AREA                           | VALUES  | ACTIONS                       | OPPORTUNITIES                          | POLICIES   | TIMESCALE   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <p><b>06 Parade Ground Access Review</b></p> <p>Review the network of pathways and roadways which criss-cross the Parade Ground, including the ingress and egress of heavy goods vehicles (HGV) during events, and make recommendations.</p>  | LCA: 3<br>The Parade Ground    | Communal  | Reinforce                     | 3.2                                    | MNG. 1, MNG. 2<br>HIS. 2, HIS. 4<br>COM. 2, COM. 3, COM. 6<br>AES. 1   |    |
| <p><b>07 Bandstand Landscape Restoration</b></p> <p>Create a landscape design proposal and agree on remedial works to the bandstand area. Improvement to surface, drainage, lighting, and overall aesthetic for increasing public usage in the future, and as a venue for events.</p> | LCA: 3<br>The Parade Ground    | Historic<br>Environmental<br>Comunal<br>Aesthetic | Create<br>Restore             | 3.1<br>3.2<br>3.5<br>3.6               | HIS. 1, HIS. 2, HIS. 4, HIS. 5, HIS. 6<br>COM. 3, COM. 5, COM. 7, COM.10,<br>COM. 12<br>AES. 1   |    |
| <p><b>08 Speakers' Corner Landscape Masterplan</b></p> <p>Develop a masterplan for Speakers' Corner that seeks to enhance the safety, enjoyment and appreciation of this historical area within the park.</p>   | LCA: 4<br>Speakers' Corner     | Historic<br>Communal<br>Aesthetic                 | Create<br>Reinforce           | 4.1<br>4.2<br>4.3<br>4.4<br>4.5<br>4.7 | MNG. 1, MNG. 2, MNG. 3<br>HIS. 1, HIS. 2, HIS. 4, HIS. 6<br>ENV. 3, ENV. 5, ENV. 12<br>COM. 1, COM. 6, COM. 7, COM. 9,<br>COM. 10, COM. 12<br>AES. 1, AES. 3, AES. 4 |    |
| <p><b>09 Apsley Gate Enhancements</b></p> <p>Seek ways to improve cyclist and pedestrian flow, and explore opportunity to reopen Apsley Gate (vehicular gate) for redirecting cyclists. Review amenity grass area and look to improve overall aesthetic and environmental value.</p>  | LCA: 6<br>Hyde Park Corner     | Historic<br>Communal<br>Aesthetic                 | Create<br>Reinforce           | 6.1<br>6.2<br>6.3                      | MNG. 2<br>HIS. 1, HIS. 2, HIS. 4, HIS. 6<br>COM. 1, COM. 2, COM. 3, COM. 6<br>AES. 1, AES. 3   |  |
| <p><b>10 Dell and Rose Gardens Master Plan</b></p> <p>Develop a long-term strategy for the Dell and Rose Gardens to improve infrastructure and soft landscaping focusing on promoting biodiversity, sustainability, and best horticultural practice.</p>                              | LCA: 7<br>Dell and Rose Garden | Environmental<br>Comunal<br>Aesthetic             | Conserve<br>Create<br>Restore | 7.2<br>7.3<br>7.5                      | HIS. 1, HIS. 4, HIS. 5, HIS. 6<br>ENV. 1, ENV. 3, ENV. 5, ENV. 7, ENV. 12<br>COM. 1, COM. 2, COM. 12<br>AES. 1, AES. 2, AES. 4                                       |  |

| PROJECT DESCRIPTION   | AREA                              | VALUES   | ACTIONS                                    | OPPORTUNITIES   | POLICIES  | TIMESCALE   |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>11 Sports Centre Landscape Management Review</b><br/>Review the Hyde Park Sports Centre area and produce a management plan for facilities including horticultural management and the Old Football Pitches.</p>  | LCA: 9<br>Great Exhibition Ground | Communal<br>Aesthetic                              | Create<br>Restore                          | 9.2<br>9.4<br>9.5<br>9.10   | HIS.1, HIS.4, HIS.5, HIS.6<br>ENV.1, ENV. 3, ENV. 5, ENV. 7, ENV. 12<br>COM. 1, COM. 2, COM. 12<br>AES. 1, AES. 2, AES. 4   |    |
| <p><b>12 Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Fountain operation plan</b><br/>Review the mechanical operation of the fountain with a view to increase reliability and reduce operating costs. Develop and implement an operation plan for the effective management of this popular visitor destination.</p>   | LCA: 10<br>The Serpentine         | Environmental<br>Communal<br>Aesthetic             | Reinforce<br>Restore                       | 10.3  | MNG. 2, MNG. 3<br>HIS. 1, HIS. 5<br>COM. 1, COM. 4, COM. 5, COM. 6,<br>COM. 7, COM. 12  |    |
| <p><b>13 Serpentine Masterplan</b><br/>Create a masterplan for the Serpentine landscape area that seeks to conserve and enhance all aspects. The following sub-projects are part of this masterplan:</p> <p><b>13.1 Bathing Water Quality</b><br/>Set out a 10 year vision for improvements to the Serpentine and Long Water's quality for bathing purposes.</p> <p><b>13.2 Habitat Enhancement</b><br/>Seek to reduce hard-standing surfacing around the Serpentine while enhancing aquatic habitats with new planting, and improved management practices.</p> <p><b>13.3 Leisure and Sports Activity Strategy</b><br/>Review and make recommendations for the future use of the Serpentine. Include setting out how swimming, boating, and fishing will operate in the long term strategy.</p> <p><b>13.4 Dam - Flood Risk Mitigation</b><br/>Review and make recommendations, and seek to create interventions to enhance the structural integrity of the dam in the event of a 'probable maximum flood' (PMF).</p> <p><b>13.5 Serpentine Road Improvements</b><br/>Review and identify issues and opportunities for improving the environmental, communal and aesthetic qualities of the space for a diverse range of users.</p> <p><b>13.6 Boat Houses</b><br/>Review and agree the future usage of the boat houses to better connect their use with the Serpentine. Seek to make enhancements where possible.</p> | LCA: 10<br>The Serpentine         | Historic<br>Environmental<br>Communal<br>Aesthetic | Create<br>Restore<br>Reinforce<br>Conserve | 10.1<br>10.2<br>10.3<br>10.4<br>10.5<br>10.6<br>10.7<br>10.8<br>10.9<br>10.10 | MNG.1, MNG. 2, MNG. 3, MNG. 5<br>HIS. 1, HIS. 2, HIS. 4, HIS. 6<br>ENV. 3, ENV. 4, ENV. 5, ENV. 7,<br>ENV. 8, ENV. 9, ENV.10, ENV.12<br>COM. 1, COM.4, COM.5, COM.6,<br>COM.7, COM.12<br>AES. 1, AES.3, AES.4 |  |

| PROJECT DESCRIPTION   | AREA                 | VALUES  | ACTIONS             | OPPORTUNITIES   | POLICIES  | TIMESCALE |
|---|----------------------|---|---------------------|---|---|-----------|
| <p><b>14 Cycle Pathway Review</b></p> <p>Review cycle pathway network throughout Hyde Park, and look to prevent cycling in no-cycling zones while improving continuity and clarity of signage, with the view to redirect cyclists to designated cycleways.</p>  | Park wide            | Communal<br>Aesthetic                             | Create<br>Reinforce | 1.5<br>6.4<br>1.6<br>8.3<br>2.2<br>10.8<br>4.9<br>10.12 | MNG.1, MNG.2, MNG.3<br>HIS. 2, HIS. 4<br>COM. 2, COM. 3, COM. 6<br>AES. 1   |           |
| <p><b>15 Review Options to Reduce the Impact of Through Traffic on West Carriage Drive</b></p> <p>Review Options to Reduce the Impact of Through Traffic on West Carriage Drive Consider options to reduce the impact of through traffic on West Carriage Drive while enabling visitor parking to continue. Consider creating traffic-free weekends on the Serpentine Bridge to reduce impact of vehicular pollution in the park.</p> | LCA: 10<br>Park Wide | Historic<br>Environmental<br>Comunal<br>Aesthetic | Restore<br>Create   | 2.2<br>10.12  | MNG. 3<br>HIS. 2, HIS. 4<br>ENV.12<br>COM. 2, COM. 6, COM. 7, COM.12  |           |
| <p><b>16 Hyde Park Interpretation Strategy</b></p> <p>Develop an interpretation project that includes all features and aspects that tell the story of Hyde Park.</p>  | Park Wide            | Historic<br>Communal                              | Reinforce<br>Create | 1.2<br>1.3  | MNG.1, MNG.2, MNG.3<br>HIS.1, HIS.2, HIS.4, HIS.6<br>ENV.3, ENV.5, ENV.12<br>COM.1, COM.6, COM.7, COM.9,<br>COM.10, COM.12<br>AES.1, AES.3, AES.4 |           |
| <p><b>17 Hyde Park Utility Monitoring</b></p> <p>Review and set up efficient monitoring and charging of all utilities in Hyde Park.</p>   | Park Wide            | Environmental<br>Comunal                          | Reinforce<br>Create | 10.13   | MNG.1, MNG.5<br>HIS.1, HIS.6<br>ENV.1, ENV.2, ENV.3, ENV.7, ENV.12<br>COM.8, COM.9, COM.12<br>AES.1 2   |           |
| <p><b>18 Review South Carriage Drive Full Closure</b></p> <p>Consider looking at reducing pollution and improving environmental quality of the park by closing South Carriage Drive to through traffic (part SCD closure currently in trial until 2022). Consider exploring opportunities for reducing hard surfacing and pedestrianisation, and tree planting.</p>   | Park Wide            | Environmental<br>Comunal<br>Aesthetic             | Create              | 6.4<br>8.3  | MNG.3<br>HIS.2, HIS.4<br>ENV.12<br>COM.2, COM.6, COM.7, COM.12  |           |

| PROJECT DESCRIPTION  | AREA      | VALUES                                 | ACTIONS             | OPPORTUNITIES                                 | POLICIES   | TIMESCALE  |  |
|--|-----------|--|---------------------|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>19 Boundary Biodiversity Enhancements</b></p> <p>Improve the Knightsbridge, Park Lane and Bayswater Boundaries both aesthetically and for biodiversity enhancement.</p>  | Park wide | Environmental<br>Aesthetic             | Create              | 1.7<br>1.8<br>4.3<br>5.2<br>5.3<br>5.7<br>6.3 | 8.3<br>8.4<br>8.5<br>9.3<br>9.7<br>10.1  | MNG.1, MNG.5<br>HIS.1, HIS.6<br>ENV.1, ENV.2, ENV.3, ENV.7, ENV.12,<br>COM.8, COM.9, COM.12<br>AES.1 |  |
| <p><b>20 Hyde Park Vehicular Access Review</b></p> <p>Work with relevant partners to audit the current hostile vehicle mitigation infrastructure across the park for both day-to-day operations and during large events. Consider recommendations to park safety and long term security.</p>                               | Park wide | Environmental<br>Communal              | Create              | 1.5<br>1.6<br>3.2<br>3.3<br>6.4<br>10.12      | MNG.1, MNG.3<br>HIS.2, HIS.4,<br>ENV.12,<br>COM.1, COM.4, COM.5, COM.6,<br>COM.7, COM.12,<br>AES.1, AES.3, AES.4 |  |  |
| <p><b>21 Hyde Park Horse Ride Improvements</b></p> <p>Work with partners to rationalise and improve the condition of the horse rides.</p>  | Park wide | Environmental<br>Communal<br>Aesthetic | Create              | 1.4<br>6.4<br>9.1                             | 9.9<br>9.10<br>10.8  | HIS.1, HIS.2, HIS.4, HIS.5, HIS.6,<br>COM.3, COM.5, COM.7,<br>COM.10, COM.12<br>AES.1                |  |
| <p><b>22 Ministry of Defence (MOD) Memorandum of Understanding</b></p> <p>Work with the MOD to develop a memorandum of understanding regarding horse ride usage and future improvements.</p>   | Park wide | Environmental<br>Communal<br>Aesthetic | Create              | 9.1   | MNG.1, MNG.5<br>HIS.1, HIS.6<br>ENV.1, ENV.2, ENV.3, ENV.7, ENV.12<br>COM.8, COM.9, COM.12<br>AES.1              |  |  |
| <p><b>23 Hyde Park Rainwater Harvesting/SUDS</b></p> <p>Conduct a feasibility study that identifies areas of opportunity where rainwater can be captured and used to reduce reliance on borehole water and/or mains water. Find opportunities to reduce stormwater runoff while enhancing water retention in the park.</p> | Park wide | Environmental<br>Communal              | Conserve<br>Restore | 2.3<br>2.6<br>3.5<br>7.5<br>9.5               | 9.10<br>10.1<br>10.5<br>10.8<br>10.11  | MNG.1, MNG.5<br>HIS.1, HIS.6<br>ENV.1, ENV.2, ENV.3, ENV.7, ENV.12<br>COM.8, COM.9, COM.12<br>AES.1  |  |

| PROJECT DESCRIPTION   | AREA      | VALUES  | ACTIONS             | OPPORTUNITIES                   | POLICIES                    | TIMESCALE  |   |
|---|-----------|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <p><b>24 Hyde Park Tree Strategy</b></p> <p>Develop a 10 year strategy with a 100 year vision outlining best practice and approach to planting, maintenance, deadwood management, pest and disease control, and climate change adaptation for the tree population of Hyde Park.</p>                       | Park wide | Historic<br>Environmental<br>Comunal<br>Aesthetic | Create              | 1.7<br>4.1<br>5.2<br>5.7<br>7.3 | 7.5<br>8.4<br>10.4<br>10.11 | MNG.5<br>ENV.3, ENV.4, ENV.1, ENV.2,<br>ENV.3, ENV.7, ENV.12<br>AES.4                                |    |
| <p><b>25 Hyde Park DDA Access Audit</b></p> <p>Conduct a DDA compliance audit and review identified areas of improvement to all areas of the park for universal accessibility, and seek to make adjustments where possible.</p>   | Park wide | Historic<br>Environmental<br>Comunal<br>Aesthetic | Create              | 5.1<br>10.11                    |                             | MNG.1, MNG.2, MNG.3, MNG.5<br>COM.1, COM.4, COM.5, COM.6,<br>COM.7, COM.12                           |    |
| <p><b>26 Hyde Park Waste Management</b></p> <p>Pro-actively review and audit provision for waste and litter management, to identify opportunities to deliver improvements and efficiencies ensuring the delivery of best practice where possible at all times.</p>  | Park Wide | Historic<br>Environmental<br>Comunal<br>Aesthetic | Create              | 2.6<br>3.4<br>4.4               | 9.10<br>10.8<br>10.11       | MNG.1, MNG.2, MNG.3, MNG.5   |    |
| <p><b>27 Hyde Park Lighting Strategy and Gas Lamp Phase Out</b></p> <p>Develop a strategy that seeks to enhance reliability, sustainability and conservation of listed lamp standards. Seek to put in place less obtrusive and more sustainable temporary lighting for events.</p>                        | Park Wide | Environmental<br>Comunal<br>Aesthetic             | Conserve<br>Restore | 1.6<br>1.7<br>2.8               | 3.4<br>5.2<br>8.1           | MNG.1, MNG.5, HIS.1, HIS.6<br>ENV.1, ENV.2, ENV.3, ENV.7,<br>ENV.12, COM.8, COM.9, COM.12,<br>AES.1  |  |
| <p><b>28 Hyde Park Grassland Management Strategy</b></p> <p>Create a long-term meadow management strategy with a 10 year vision including key principles and a maintenance regime that focuses on conservation and biodiversity improvements with the intention to enhance meadow habitat throughout.</p> | Park Wide | Environmental                                     | Conserve<br>Create  | 2.1<br>2.2<br>2.3<br>2.4        |                             | MNG.1, MNG.5, ENV.3, ENV.4,<br>ENV.7, ENV.8, ENV.9, ENV.10,<br>COM.6, COM.8, COM.12,<br>AES.1, AES.4 |  |
| <p><b>29 Events Sustainability Review</b></p> <p>Continue to monitor the environmental impact of events in the park including sustainable waste management, and power supply.</p>   | Park wide | Environmental<br>Comunal                          | Reinforce           | 3.4                             |                             | MNG.1, MNG.2,<br>ENV.12<br>COM.2, COM.3, COM.6   |  |

# APPENDICES



## APPENDIX I: LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1** Our Landscape Documents  
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## APPENDIX II: SELECTED REFERENCES

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### APPENDIX III: MAIN CHALLENGES (COMBINED)

- C1.** Complying with statutory legislation relevant to the above designations.
- C2.** Ensure TRP is involved/consulted upon any changes to existing designations/new designations.
- C3.** Continuing to provide the correct level of on-site support to maintain high standards of stewardship while ensuring staff contractors and volunteers are appropriately supported, trained, and valued.
- C4.** Balancing the interests from multiple key stakeholder groups with the priorities set out by TRP.
- C5.** Negotiating timing of maintenance/repairs of existing infrastructure in the park and the installation of any new infrastructure.
- C6.** There are many changes associated with climate change that include flooding, drought, increase in warmer weather, and pollution.
- C7.** To work with contractors, stakeholders, partners and external bodies to ensure effective mitigation of risk at every stage of park management operations.
- C8.** To be pro-actively 'horizon scanning' for possible risks.
- C9.** With increasing visitor numbers, park managers will need to proactively find ways of communicating park regulations as well as educating visitors regarding acceptable behaviour.
- C10.** In the 2018 Ipsos MORI visitor survey 29% of visitors were not aware that Hyde Park is managed by The Royal Parks with the majority unaware of who managed the park.
- C11.** Licence fees to facilitate development adjacent to the park should reflect the benefits and privileges enjoyed by the licensee and the disruption caused to the management of the park.
- C12.** Data monitoring to better inform management practice to help meet TRP's statutory obligations for conserving biodiversity.
- C13.** IT investment into developing a GIS system that provides a comprehensive integrated mapping of services, trees, ecology, furniture & artefacts, hard and soft works features, historical features, topography, and hydrology.
- C14.** Wide range of regional strategies and plans that must be considered and, where applicable, implemented when determining management policies and guidelines including biodiversity and views.
- C15.** Numerous local policies and designations exist that must be respected by conservation plan policies particularly relating to protection of open space from built development, protection of views, character of the built landscape, trees, and nature conservation.
- C16.** To effectively manage Hyde Park within the economic and human resource constraints imposed by commercial contracts while managing impact of increasing visitor numbers.
- C17.** Making it clear at entrances with appropriate signage and interpretation boards that this is Hyde Park.
- C18.** Local enhancement of gate settings by careful siting and detailing of signage, traffic hazard markers etc. (i.e., in front of Coalbrookdale Gates) considering the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic.
- C19.** Resolving issues at Rotten Row and Broad Walk – consider conflict between users during peak hours.
- C20.** Adjusting to new forms of transportation where appropriate.
- C21.** Embracing Hyde Park as a tourist cycling route in collaboration with TFL.
- C22.** Promotion of cycling with clearer signage (areas for cycling should be promoted while areas not for cycling should be made clearer).
- C23.** Ensuring access points are universally accessible and compliant.
- C24.** Reducing overall extent of hard surfacing where paths are duplicated or carriageways excessively wide.
- C25.** Rationalising and limiting vehicular traffic on North Carriage Drive, South Carriage Drive and West Carriage Drive.
- C26.** Continuing to promote behaviour change and considerate cycling on shared use spaces.
- C27.** Regular maintenance of horse rides, and assessment of the current usage.
- C28.** Reviewing potential closure of cycleway on Ladies' Walk (adjacent to Rotten Row) with alternative route (and key links) on South Carriage Drive.
- C29.** Maintaining functionality of ceremonial routes as an essential part of Hyde Park's history.
- C30.** Rationalise mixing of different furniture and signage styles and to create a more cohesive TRP style.

- C31.** Upkeep and maintenance of information signage requires monitoring.
- C32.** Monitoring ongoing management of litter.
- C33.** Inadequacy of bins for the number of visitors in the park.
- C34.** Balancing the historical importance of gas lit lamps with maintenance costs and sustainability policies.
- C35.** To be aware of changes to the surrounding built fabric and enforce a clear policy for minimising light pollution on the park.
- C36.** To protect and enhance the historic environment through active engagement and use of the archaeological records available and give due consideration to the potential impacts that works may have on the historic environment.
- C37.** Continuing to be at the forefront in protecting and promoting the historic environment within Hyde Park.
- C38.** Ensuring multiple contractors and agents to statutory services have access to and abide by principles of the TRP Policy while consulting with Historic England and watching briefs as required.
- C39.** Maintenance of all horticultural display areas to a high standard.
- C40.** Conserving the distinct characters of different planting areas.
- C41.** Retaining textural diversity and critical seasonal connectivity for sound ecological management.
- C42.** Undertaking horticultural maintenance with minimum interventions of chemical/pesticide control and with use of recycled mulches.
- C43.** The park's soils are vulnerable to soil enrichment and compaction.
- C44.** High footfall can quickly lead to rapid erosion.
- C45.** Challenges around water quality of the Serpentine, associated with inputs of nutrients including from waterfowl, bird feeding, adjacent land management and warmer temperatures.
- C46.** High waterfowl numbers impacting grassland habitat quality through grazing and trampling.
- C47.** Management of reedbeds and marginal habitats to maintain value, including to control scrub/tree colonisation.
- C48.** Maintenance costs of old buildings, monuments and enhancing sustainability – specifically in relation to conversion to modern standards.
- C49.** Reducing hard standing surfaces for the accommodate the expansion of green space.
- C50.** Threat from tree pests and diseases, including massaria disease of London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*), oriental chestnut gall wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*) of sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), and acute oak decline (AOD), impacting tree health and in the long term the tree assemblage.
- C51.** Maintaining deadwood and ruderal communities within the park considering management issues.
- C52.** Management and planting of woodland and scrub habitats to maintain dense and diverse structure, whilst addressing the risk of antisocial behaviour and maintaining attractive landscape features.
- C53.** Visitor pressure and impact of events on habitat quality, including littering, trampling and erosion, noise, lighting, and wildlife feeding.
- C54.** Managing grassland habitats to encourage and maintain floristic and structural diversity throughout the year, while maintaining habitat for invertebrate life stages including over-wintering.
- C55.** Retaining standing or fallen deadwood.
- C56.** Managing shrubbery for wildlife refuges while providing attractive shrub displays.
- C57.** Management of grassland and scrub habitats to maintain a diverse range of opportunities for bird species.
- C58.** Potential impact of non-native bird species such as ring-necked parakeet, as well as high numbers of waterfowl impacting habitat condition.
- C59.** Impact of grey squirrel on trees and wildlife.
- C60.** Protecting and conserving bats and their roosts requires consideration during tree and building works.
- C61.** Ensure a robust understanding of the park's biodiversity informs park management success, for example managing appropriate fish populations.
- C62.** Ensuring that not all paths and desire lines are hard surfaced or re-turfed, as these are important nesting areas.
- C63.** Keeping some areas of long grass throughout the winter as a refuge for insects.
- C64.** Leaving patches of nettles and other larval food plants for breeding butterflies and moths.
- C65.** Providing more buttercups, selfheal, speedwell, and etcetera to flower and provide food for pollinators in areas which are otherwise unwelcoming to these species.

- C66.** Working with the B-Lines project while introducing decorative “urban meadows” of pollinator-friendly flowering plants, not necessarily native species, to increase the attractiveness of the parks to both insect and human visitors.
- C67.** Providing high impact floral displays while selecting formal bedding plants according to their ability to provide forage for pollinators, i.e., select single rather than double bloomed varieties.
- C68.** Avoiding new specimens of tree species that deter bumblebee species, such as *Tilia petiolata*.
- C69.** Minimising threats where possible, including implementation of TRP’s Biosecurity Strategy.
- C70.** Direct risk to human and animal health (i.e., from toxic hairs of OPM) and an indirect risk by contributing to decline and sometimes death of trees – these require regular monitoring and tree work intervention to reduce the risk to the public from failing trees.
- C71.** Increased resource requirement for effective monitoring and control of pest and disease – many of these are new in the last 10 years and have greatly increased the number of staff and time required to manage them.
- C72.** Threats to long-term tree cover, historic groupings of trees, diversity, and associated biodiversity due to declining vigour and death of trees.
- C73.** Managing pests and diseases sustainably with minimal impact on biodiversity in the park i.e., pesticide spraying for the control of OPM in targeted areas of the park.
- C74.** Ongoing resource requirements to monitor distribution and impact of pest and disease and to contribute to national research efforts.
- C75.** Resource requirement for “horizon scanning” for incoming pest and disease and to develop effective contingency plans, i.e., for *Phytophthora ramorum* or *Xylella*, control of which may include partial closure of the park.
- C76.** Resource requirement for development of TRP Biosecurity Policy and its implementation.
- C77.** Identifying appropriate species to replace trees that are impacted by current pests and diseases.
- C78.** Implementing the TRP Biosecurity Policy and increased cost. Securing resources and managing the lead time required to deliver planting schemes from design to completion.
- C79.** Reducing climate change impacts on tree health and biodiversity.
- C80.** Balancing large-scale events which are a vital source of income for the charity with visitor’s peaceful enjoyment.
- C81.** Protecting adjacent habitats and sensitivities of surface archaeology, particularly to north west side of the Parade Ground and North Carriage Drive.
- C82.** London’s projected population growth and the impact this could have on the park.
- C83.** Toilet facilities serve current visitors, but they need to be reviewed as numbers and distribution of visitors may change.
- C84.** Limiting formal sport activities to designated areas and retaining areas of ‘peace and quiet’.
- C85.** The horse rides can be visually dominant in places and can suffer from water-logging and erosion on adjoining parkland.
- C86.** To resource and develop the ability to support and lead volunteers and partners.
- C87.** To ensure that statutory compliance around issues such as safeguarding is delivered seamlessly.
- C88.** Maintaining and fostering a good working relationship and a common vision with all our partners.
- C89.** Providing a range of high quality content for digital, self-led and in-park programmes for local visitors and tourists.
- C90.** To make and sustain partnerships with national and regional strategic agencies and organisations with complementary aims.
- C91.** Fostering links to secure more resources, to pilot and showcase new technologies, and to share research findings and good practice in the use of parks for health and wellbeing outcomes.
- C92.** Protecting the strategic views within the park by proper consideration of all planting proposals.
- C93.** Review local enhancement of views, framing or extending by the active management of specific tree canopies – including crown shaping/crown raising operations.
- C94.** Continuing to respond to any planning applications for development proposals that have a negative impact on the views of the park.

|   | HISTORICAL  | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|---|---|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>APPENDIX IV: IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES (COMBINED)</b> |   |               |          |           |
| 1.1   | Review accessibility to the Pet Cemetery for the public.  | ○             | ○        |           |
| 1.2   | Interpret the history and architecture of the Vijianagram Fountain (1867).  | ○             | ○        |           |
| 1.3   | Interpret the history of the Pet Cemetery and Decimus Burton's North Carriage Drive.  | ○             | ○        |           |
| 1.4   | Review the long-term management of the horse ride (park-wide).  | ●             | ○        | ○         |
| 1.5   | Review the outcome of the trial closure of North Carriage Drive.  |               | ●        |           |
| 1.6   | Consider opportunities to permanently close North Carriage Drive to vehicular through traffic.  |               | ●        | ●         |
| 1.7   | Mitigate noise, light and air pollution from Bayswater Road.  | ○             | ●        | ●         |
| 1.8   | Plant native wildflower bulbs throughout the area while looking to enhance biodiversity through ongoing maintenance and planting.   |               | ●        | ●         |
| 2.1   | Establishment of a grassland / meadow management plan for the long-term conservation of the Tyburn Meadows.   |               | ●        | ○         |
| 2.2   | Consider the landscape and amenity merits of restricting cut through traffic on West Carriage Drive during weekends while allowing Triangle Car Park and Diana Car Park to continue being used. |               | ●        | ○         |
| 2.3   | Revive characteristics of the Tyburn Brook in the Tyburn Valley while enhancing biodiversity in the area.   | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| 2.4   | Introduce more opportunities for learning and interpretation of habitats in the Tyburn Meadows.   |               | ●        |           |
| 2.5   | Revive the W.H.Hudson Memorial Garden to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the memorial.  | ●             | ○        | ●         |
| 2.6   | Improve environmental sustainability practices at the Hyde Park Nursery.  |               | ●        |           |
| 2.7   | Interpret the history of the Tyburn Brook (park-wide).  | ●             | ●        |           |
| 2.8   | Reduce high intensity lighting where appropriate for wildlife conservation (part of park-wide opportunity).   |               | ●        | ●         |

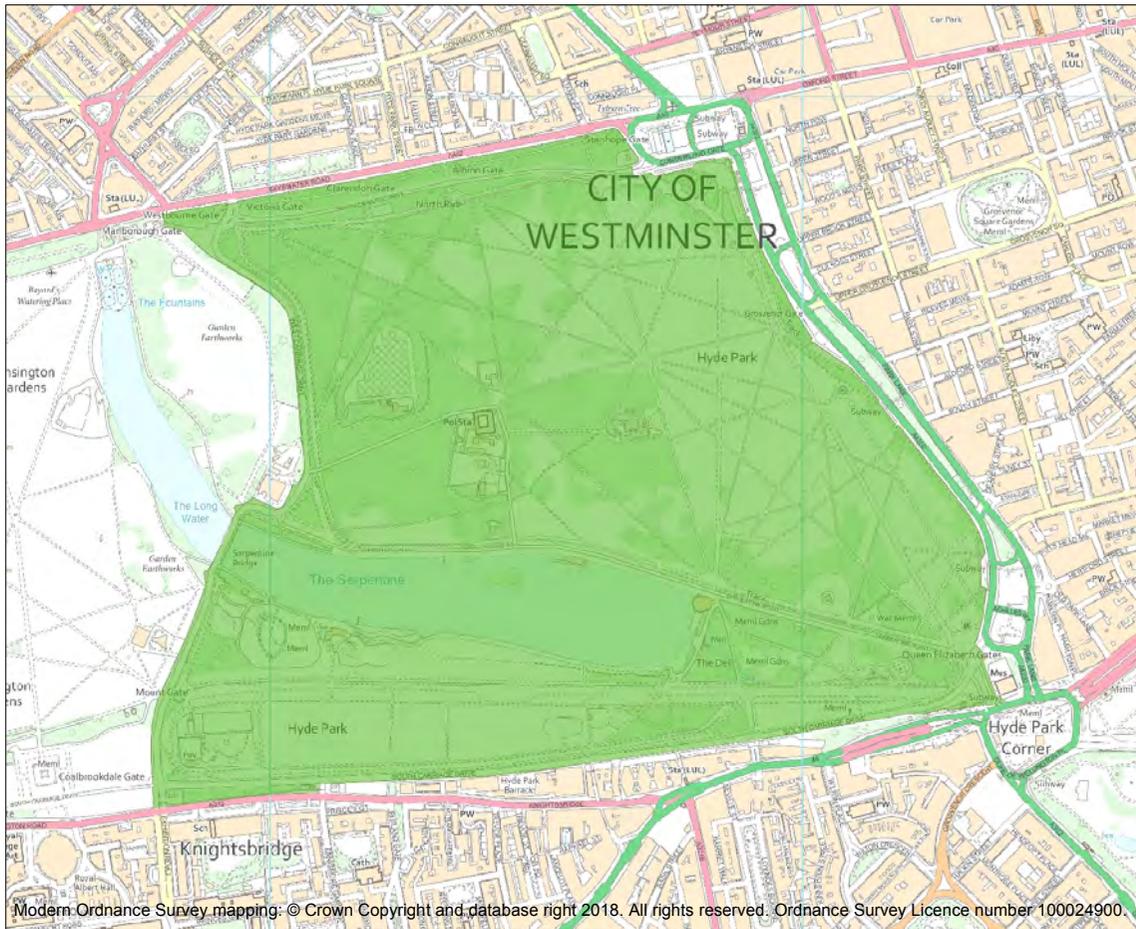
|  | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|--|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>3.1</b> Interpret the history of events in the Parade Ground and the Bandstand (part of park-wide opportunity).   | ○          |               | ○        |           |
| <b>3.2</b> Review the ingress and egress of HGVs during events with a view to reducing impact on particular areas of the Park.   |            | ●             | ●        |           |
| <b>3.3</b> Review policies in collaboration with the Metropolitan Police regarding hostile vehicle mitigation regulations (part of park-wide opportunity) around events.       |            | ○             | ●        |           |
| <b>3.4</b> Consider reviewing TRP sustainability targets in relation to events by working with event organisers to reduce the impact of pollution.                             |            | ●             | ●        |           |
| <b>3.5</b> Restore the Bandstand's surrounding landscape by resolving drainage and surface issues, and loss of some historical features.                                       | ●          | ●             | ●        | ○         |
| <b>3.6</b> Promote the use of the Bandstand for regular concerts and events.   | ●          |               | ●        |           |
| <b>4.1</b> Continue developing a natural screen between the Parade Ground and Speakers' Corner by adding to the area's native tree planting (part of park-wide tree strategy). |            | ○             |          | ○         |
| <b>4.2</b> Consider interpretation of historical connection with the Tyburn Tree, Marble Arch and East Carriage Drive (part of park-wide project).                             | ●          |               | ●        |           |
| <b>4.3</b> Improve the 'five fingers pockets' with additional native bulb planting.  |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| <b>4.4</b> Review the number of, and location of bins in this area (part of park-wide project).  |            | ●             | ○        | ●         |
| <b>4.5</b> Protect Speakers' Corner tradition of encouraging freedom of speech on Sundays in the area.   | ●          |               | ●        |           |
| <b>4.6</b> Explore ways for reintegrating Marble Arch back into Hyde Park.   | ○          |               | ○        | ○         |
| <b>4.7</b> Explore options for improving the immediate surface quality around Speakers' Corner, making use of opportunities for inscriptions.                                  | ●          | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| <b>4.8</b> Explore options for enhancing the sense of arrival and sense of place.  |            |               | ●        | ●         |
| <b>4.9</b> Consider the relationship between the Broad Walk to the new Park Lane cycleway, which is currently on trial until 2021.   |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |

|     |  | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|-----|--|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| 5.1 | Review cycle/footpath to better manage commuters and visitors.   |            |               | ○        | ○         |
| 5.2 | Mitigate light, air, and noise pollution caused from Park Lane. This is to improve the Park's environment and habitat conservation.  |            | ○             |          | ○         |
| 5.3 | Incorporate seasonal native bulb planting to improve biodiversity as well as aesthetic interest throughout the seasons, but also for outreach education programmes with local groups to get involved and learn about nature. |            | ●             |          | ●         |
| 5.4 | Enhance Lover's Walk as one of the park's most attractive walking promenades.  |            |               | ○        | ○         |
| 5.5 | Review the Tool Shed Shrubbery area, in particular its relevance to its surrounding character areas.   |            | ○             |          | ●         |
| 5.6 | Undertake further archaeological surveys with regard to boundary mounds and other important historical information.  | ●          |               |          |           |
| 5.7 | Consider planting mixed native hedging along the Park Lane boundary/fence, with small breaks to maintain views into the park.  |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| 6.1 | Conserve the Grade I listed Apsley Gate and Grade II listed Hyde Park Corner Lodge. This includes interpreting its importance in the landscape (part of park-wide project).  | ●          |               | ○        |           |
| 6.2 | Seek to build a greater relationship with Apsley House and explore options for better landscape integration with Hyde Park.  | ●          | ●             |          | ○         |
| 6.3 | Review the turfed area near the screen and to improve the entire aesthetic of the space. Enhance overall environmental value while establishing a new aesthetic that will boost the significance of Apsley Gate.             | ●          | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| 6.4 | Review the vehicular, pedestrian and cycle movement through the area, and explore ways for improving flow and connectivity.  |            | ●             | ●        |           |
| 7.1 | Interpret the history of the Dell and Rose Gardens, and the memorials within the area's landscape (as part of park-wide policy).   | ●          |               | ○        | ○         |
| 7.2 | Conserve the area as a horticultural highlight, while at the same time look to improve sustainable horticultural practices.  |            |               |          | ○         |
| 7.3 | Create a plan that sustains exotic tree planting on Nannies Lawn.  |            | ○             | ○        | ●         |
| 7.4 | Create a 'Principals for Dell Bridge and Outflow' guideline document in order to provide a long-term maintenance strategy.   |            | ●             |          | ○         |

|   | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|---|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>7.5</b> Develop a Dell and Rose Gardens Masterplan for rationalising appropriate planting, and provide a landscape strategy for conserving it's character as an enclosed and tranquil place in the park.   | ○          | ●             | ●        | ○         |
| <b>8.1</b> Look to maintaining gas lamps along Rotten Row (part of park-wide project).  | ●          |               | ○        | ○         |
| <b>8.2</b> Undertake further archaeological surveys of the area to understand the historical bridges that passed over the River Westbourne and seek to interpret this information in the landscape.   | ●          |               |          |           |
| <b>8.3</b> Consider extending closure of South Carriage Drive (between Prince of Wales Gate to Queen Elizabeth's Gate) to cut through vehicular traffic. Purpose to enhance the area's communal value by providing a safer and more enjoyable promenade for people to enjoy.                |            | ●             | ●        |           |
| <b>8.4</b> Screen main road along the boundary fence near White Horse Gate to help reduce noise, light and air pollution. Hedging would also enhance the area's environmental value, and would recreate the enclosed quality characteristic of the park, as in the late eighteenth century. |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| <b>8.5</b> Plant native wildflower bulbs throughout the area to further improve biodiversity all-year-round.  |            | ●             |          | ○         |
| <b>9.1</b> Maintain a beneficial relationship with the Household Cavalry to improve the horse ride along Rotten Row as well as the manège.  |            |               | ○        | ○         |
| <b>9.2</b> Maintain views towards Albert Memorial and the London Eye.   | ●          |               |          | ●         |
| <b>9.3</b> Continue enriching the landscape area with seasonal bulb planting.   |            | ●             |          | ●         |
| <b>9.4</b> Review planting of the Sports Centre area to ensure it is maintained to an excellent standard all year round.  |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| <b>9.5</b> Develop long term strategy for sustainable irrigation.   |            | ●             |          |           |
| <b>9.6</b> Seek ways to better interpret and celebrate the historic Great Exhibition site in the landscape.   | ●          |               | ●        |           |
| <b>9.7</b> Identify crucial habitat expansion areas for biodiversity near Mountbatten Shrubbery , grassland boundaries etc.   |            | ●             |          | ○         |
| <b>9.8</b> Develop a sports turf management strategy for the sports field area that will help improve quality for users.  |            | ●             | ●        | ○         |
| <b>9.9</b> Improve ingress and egress, and infrastructure to sports pitches for events.   |            |               | ●        |           |

|  | HISTORICAL | ENVIRONMENTAL | COMMUNAL | AESTHETIC |
|--|------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| <b>9.10</b> Develop a landscape master plan for the Sports Centre garden that will improve overall landscape quality of gardens and sports infrastructure.                 |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| <b>10.1</b> Explore Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems for retaining stormwater on site, in-line with Environment Agency requirements and use less borehole water.         |            | ●             | ○        | ○         |
| <b>10.2</b> Investigate negative impacts of feeding wild fowl, and create a strategy for educating visitors reminding everyone to dispose of food and waste appropriately. |            | ○             |          | ○         |
| <b>10.3</b> Create the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain Operational Plan, and include a water management scheme.   |            | ●             |          | ●         |
| <b>10.4</b> Review and improve the area around the Serpentine Bridge kiosk with consideration to improving the views over the Serpentine.                                  |            |               |          | ●         |
| <b>10.5</b> Create interventions to manage the structural integrity of the dam in the event of a probable maximum flood (PMF).   |            | ●             | ●        |           |
| <b>10.6</b> Review the Serpentine Lido leisure area and gardens, and improve accessibility and facilities.   | ●          |               | ●        |           |
| <b>10.7</b> Prepare a shoreline restoration scheme that enhances the biodiversity of the lake, including protected sections of soft shoreline, with riparian planting.     |            | ●             | ●        | ●         |
| <b>10.8</b> Look to improve Serpentine Road to reflect its visitor usage and make it less like a closed road.  |            |               | ●        |           |
| <b>10.9</b> Look to bring the boathouses back into use.  |            |               | ●        | ●         |
| <b>10.10</b> Review and explore opportunities to improve the provision of water sports and activities on the Serpentine.   |            |               | ●        | ○         |
| <b>10.11</b> Produce a Serpentine / Long Water Strategy to improve water quality while taking into account the number of users of the lake.                                |            | ●             | ●        |           |
| <b>10.12</b> Consider closing Serpentine Bridge on weekends to prevent cut through vehicular traffic during peak days while reducing air pollution.                        |            | ●             | ●        | ○         |

**APPENDIX V: PARK AND GARDEN HERITAGE LISTING REFERENCE (HISTORIC ENGLAND)**



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**Name:** HYDE PARK

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Heritage Category:</b> | Park and Garden          |
| <b>List Entry No :</b>    | 1000814                  |
| <b>Grade:</b>             | I                        |
| <b>County:</b>            | Greater London Authority |
| <b>District:</b>          | City of Westminster      |
| <b>Parish:</b>            | Non Civil Parish         |

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|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>List Entry NGR:</b> | TQ 27577 80341 |
| <b>Map Scale:</b>      | 1:10000        |
| <b>Print Date:</b>     | 12 July 2022   |







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