



THE
ROYAL
PARKS

KENSINGTON GARDENS MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016-2029

UPDATED 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document has been prepared from the Land Use Consultants 2007 Draft by the Park Services team in conjunction with the Kensington Gardens Park Management Team, namely; Jane Pelly (Head of Landscape), Lee Heykoop (Horticultural Officer), Andy Williams (Park Manager) and Theresa Short (Assistant Park Manager). This Kensington Gardens Management Plan has benefited from close involvement with specialists from within TRP, including Ian Rodger and Matt Steinmann (Arboriculture); Julia Balfour and Claudia Watts (Ecology); Edward Strickland (Water Infrastructure); Caroline McDonagh (Buildings and Hardworks); Toni Assirati (Education and Community Engagement); Colin Butterly (Director of Parks and Deputy Chief Executive) and Dennis Clarke (Head of Park Services – Senior Park Manager). The contents and process of this management plan mark a new approach towards articulating a more incisive and penetrating text. This has been helped, in addition, by the workshop participation of TRP Park Managers, the Director of Programmes, the Head of Landscape Services, Project Sponsors, Head of Communications and the Sustainability Manager. Many thanks also to comments and appraisal by Richard Flenley. The team would also like to thank the stakeholders – the Friends groups, neighbours and interest groups – who have informed and contributed to the plan-making process. The draft Plan was submitted for comment with key stakeholders and interest groups including Historic England, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the Westminster City Council, South East Bayswater Residents Association (SEBRA), the Kensington Society, the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, the Serpentine Galleries and Historic Royal Palaces. Comments received have been considered by the Royal Parks and, where necessary, fed into this final draft.

GUIDANCE

Development of plan content and process was guided by current best practice and by the expertise developed internally by TRP over the past few decades.

With regard to content particular reference was made to the Conservation Plan Guidance, Heritage Lottery Fund 2012 and Management and Maintenance Plan Guidance, Heritage Lottery Fund 2012.

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

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

PHOTO CREDITS

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UPDATE 2024

As the Park Manager for Kensington Gardens I have been delighted to play a lead role with our landscape team in the development of this five-year review of our Management Plan.

The original 2016 plan was the Royal Parks first management plan to adopt a new assessment methodology for landscape character assessment. Since then, this methodology has evolved further through its application to more recently adopted park management plans. I am pleased to say that the five year review has included the latest methodology, the identification of opportunities (some of which have become new projects), and embedded new changes in branding. It is all the better for doing so.

It is the first five year review that the Royal Parks have undertaken to assess the interim progress and delivery of our Management Plans.

Having planned to conduct this review in 2022, the challenges due to the pandemic pushed several workstreams into the distance. Though we are a couple of years late in this review, all work undertaken in the park during 2022, 2023 and 2024 has fed into our quality assessment of the park's condition and a new fully re-written plan will now come about in 2029/30.

It is rewarding to acknowledge how many projects were delivered in the first period of this plan including the refurbishment of the bandstand, adopting traditional meadow management techniques across Buck Hill,

and raising the quality and presentation of the ornamental lawns to improve the setting of the Grade 1 listed Alert Memorial.

Working collaboratively with staff from across the local park management team, and subject experts from the wider Royal Parks, we have reassessed the condition of the park's character since the plan was first adopted in 2016. This review will enable us to consider targeted opportunities for park improvements over the remaining period of this updated plan.

We undertook on-site empirical observations of each landscape character area supported by detailed and in-depth discussion with colleagues in arboriculture, biodiversity, landscape and works. A new baseline assessment has been developed for each area. Our discussions were made all the stronger through the involvement of Sally Prothero (Sally Prothero Landscape Architecture), an independent landscape consultant, who tested and challenged our views and assumptions.

Of the 23 character areas (and their sub-sets) within Kensington Gardens the overall condition has improved in 5, decreased in 3, with the condition of all other areas remaining the same from the 2016 assessment.

Of 26 character areas, and their sub-sets, 6 are in 'good' condition, 18 are in 'moderate' condition with 2 recorded as 'poor'. Identification of moderate and poor character areas allows us to target resources to ensure areas improve.

We also reviewed and updated the project register. This continues to guide my team in formulating our annual park priorities within the framework of our annual business planning and budget setting cycle.

The new and updated project register carries forward those projects identified in 2016 which remain to be delivered. This includes the long-awaited refurbishment of the Diana Memorial Playground, the first phase of which is being delivered in winter 2025/26 and improvements to the park entrance at Kings Arms Gate.

The updated register also sets out new projects that have come directly from the opportunities identified during this round of landscape character assessment. It includes exciting new enhancements to parkland shrubberies and the Police Box project.

This review sets a clear framework for the park management team's objectives for the next five years supporting our aims to continue to improve the landscape character of Kensington Gardens in line with the strategic aims of the Royal Parks charity.

Andy Williams
PARK MANAGER

1. Buck Hill Gate Lodge.
2. Peter Pan statue.
3. Serpentine Sackler Gallery.



4. Swans on refuge island in the Long Water.
5. Kensington Gardens Allotments.



- 6. Little owl.
- 7. Cettis warbler.
- 8. Nuthatch.
- 9. Starling.
- 10. Fascinated park visitors.
- 11. Waterfowl.
- 12. Waterfowl.
- 13. Physical Energy statue.

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119 Landscape Character		195 Appendix Iv Royal Park Strategies	FSC Field Studies Council GIGL Greenspace Information For Greater London
119 Horticultural Areas		Appendix Iv	GIS Geographical Information Systems HAP Habitat Action Plan
119 Shrubberies		Historic England List Entry	HRP Historic Royal Palaces LBAP Local Biodiversity Action Plan
119 Hedges			LM Landscape Maintenance LMC Landscape Maintenance Contractor
120 Views			MPS Metropolitan Police Service NERC Natural Environment And Rural Communities
122 Biodiversity	144 Introduction		NVC National Vegetation Classification PSA Public Service Agreement
122 Grassland	145 Landscape Character Areas Map Updated		RBKC Royal Borough Of Kensington And Chelsea RBC Royal Botanic Society
123 Trees And Tree Renewal	146 Landscape Character Areas Updated		RPF Royal Parks Foundation RCHME Royal Commission On Historic Monuments In England
124 Trees In Avenues	184 Project Register 2024		SINC Site Of Importance For Nature Conservation SMI Site Of Metropolitan Importance
124 Parkland Trees (Quarters/Non Avenue Trees)			TRP The Royal Parks TRP Ocu The Royal Parks Operational Command Unit (Metropolitan Police)
125 Water Infrastructure			WCC Westminster City Council WWI World War One
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PREFACE

PROCESS

Working from the 2008 Management Plan (LUC), we aimed to improve this plan and make it more relevant to TRP systems of delivery and resource allocation, and to state definite courses of action. To this end we have worked in targeted group sessions with our internal specialists, who have all committed to this extra demand for their expertise. We have also applied a great deal of analytical thought to the content, the structure, and precision of statements made in this plan.

We have held two targeted workshops to test our proposals with involved staff from Park Managers, internal specialists and programmes and projects. And the final draft is sent out to our 'critical friends' so that their comments will add by their knowledge and perspectives.

OBSERVATIONS, COMMENTS AND ADOPTION OF THE PLAN

The Management Plan will have been circulated for comment and observations to the following:

- Central Parks Wildlife Group
- Central Royal Parks Wildlife Group
- The Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens
- Historic Royal Palaces
- Historic England
- The Kensington Society
- Richard Flenley (retired consultant LUC)
- The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Area Planner)
- Safer Parks Panel
- South East Bayswater Residents Association
- The Serpentine & Serpentine Sackler Galleries
- The Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens Cycle Reference Group
- Westminster City Council (Planning with parks remit)

Comments will have been returned in a single marked-up copy from each group of critical friends to TRP and then collated and considered.

If accepted, the text of the Management Plan may be amended to include, or partially include their comments. The Park Management's decisions about including/ excluding/partially including these comments are noted for feedback and available should the groups wish to know.

Finally, the Landscape Portfolio Board will have approved and endorsed the plan.

STATUS OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE OPERATIONS PLAN

The Management Plan has been prepared within the context of The Royal Parks Management Agreement (2012), the Royal Parks Corporate Plan 2013–16, with reference to all the various overarching strategic and policy documents affecting the management and maintenance of the Gardens. The life of the plan is 10 years with a 5 year review.

The Management Plan has been prepared in association with the annual Operations Plan. It provides the strategic direction for the long term future of Kensington Gardens with overall policies and specific aims articulated. The aims are taken forward and developed into specific objectives in the Operations Plan.

The annual Operations Plan is a separate, more succinct, plan, which captures principles, constraints, mode of delivery, and objectives for delivery in that year of park management.

The Operations Plan is reviewed annually and draws significantly from this Management Plan. Both plans are complete as free standing documents and are submitted as part of the Green Flag and Green Heritage applications. They are available on the Royal Parks website to inform external stakeholders and wider interest groups and raise public awareness of park management.



Part 1: CONTEXT AND RESPONSIBILITIES



INTRODUCTION

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."

ROYAL PARKS CONTEXT

Kensington Gardens is one of the eight Royal Parks. The Royal Parks (TRP) has, since 1993, managed the eight parks with delegated powers as a Government Executive Agency (Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)). This status is changing: ministers have agreed in principle to the organisation becoming a public charitable corporation with a Board of Trustees appointed by the Secretary of State (DCMS) and the Mayor of London and with an ex-officio role from the Royal Household.

It is the expectation that the new status will be achieved by the end of March 2017 subject to the agreement of Parliament and the Charity Commission. The new Board will set the strategic direction and oversee the management of the organisation.

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

The Royal Parks are unique both individually and collectively and they are important at the international level scale. They form an unequalled set of green spaces, offering Londoners and tourists and visitors opportunities for tranquillity, recreation, solitude, fresh air, colour and delight. Individually they display a diversity of character and content; each has a particular and inspiring heritage value; and collectively they are, in the main, richer for their reworking and cumulative layers of history.

All the Royal Parks are Grade 1 Listed Historic Landscapes (except The Green Park, which is Grade II) and contain many listed buildings and artefacts. They are greatly valued by the millions of visitors who use the parks each year. The parks are well endowed as major cultural attractions offering tranquil spaces of biodiversity and beauty.

Kensington Gardens is the westernmost of the four connected inner London Royal Parks. It is distinct from and complementary to its neighbour Hyde Park, of which it was originally part. Kensington Gardens evolved as the private pleasure grounds of the Palace, a cultural foundation still perceived by visitors to the park today. The park has a verdant and genteel character created by the strong formal framework of shady tree-lined avenues and lawns, which largely correspond to the 18th Century layout attributed to Charles Bridgeman. These qualities contrast with the more open and informal landscape of the contiguous Hyde Park and tend to favour mainly quiet and informal activities, rather than the more active, sporting and organised group activities associated with Hyde Park. Within Kensington Gardens numerous well known and much loved features provide points of activity and focus, including the statue of Peter Pan, the Italian Gardens, the Round Pond, the Serpentine Gallery, the Serpentine Sackler Gallery, the Albert Memorial and the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Playground.

Kensington Gardens provide respite from and a counterpart to the surrounding urban areas, which comprise the busy shopping areas of Knightsbridge and Kensington High Street, a high residential population and a large number

of tourist attractions, including the Royal Albert Hall and Kensington Palace that lie on the park's boundaries. The Gardens were conceived and laid out as an adjunct to Kensington Palace with their occupation and use developing accordingly. The opening up of the Gardens to full public access since 1837 had been accompanied by a corresponding segregation and partial shrouding of the Palace for security and privacy of the residence. In recent years the landscape to the east of the Palace has reconnected with the Gardens, re-establishing the meaning of the central vista.

The relationship with TRP of both the Royal Household and Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) has been strengthened by collaborative working and this continues to build as an active partnership.

RISKS

The Park Management Team annually review risk as part of its annual business planning cycle. Throughout this management plan landscape risks and issues are not individually explained. This is because the plan addresses them by careful articulation of opportunities and of all necessary aims, by consideration of significance and condition, and by expressing policies. In this way addressing risks, ultimately risks to achieving the park's strategic aims, is built in to this plan's approach.

STRATEGIC AIMS

To deliver the vision, the strategic aims for Kensington Gardens are set out below:

- Conserve, enhance and celebrate the landscape quality and the pattern and spirit of the formal landscape, as one of the finest and most fully executed, extant examples of a Bridgeman landscape in England; while giving full recognition to later additions, particularly the Victorian set-pieces, as well as the underlying archaeological landscape.
- Protect and enhance the refined, verdant, peaceful character of Kensington Gardens, recognising the value of the Gardens for quiet informal recreation in a heritage context and seek, through sensitive management, to deflect more active/boisterous uses which are at odds with this character. Management should continue to respect and reinforce the differences between the more active focus of Hyde Park and the more restrained peaceful ambience of Kensington Gardens.
- Work in partnership with HRP to continue a cooperative approach towards an integrated interpretation of the Gardens and palace areas. Where changes are made, the opportunity will be used to aspire to high functionality, aesthetics and historical sensitivity: in a way that aligns both the organisations and enhances the relationship of Gardens and Palace.
- Attain the high standards of environmentally sustainable management to help mitigate and adapt to climate issues including issues around energy, waste and water.
- Continue to develop the quality and quantity of biodiversity of the Gardens' matrix of acid grassland, meadows, understorey and scrub, shrubberies, trees, water and aquatic margins resources, and wildlife refuge areas. Manage new and existing habitats for optimum nature conservation value in line with local, regional and national biodiversity initiatives. Ensure high quality baseline information on which to base landscape management decisions and monitor effects.
- Conserve and enhance the high quality infrastructure and buildings, monuments, artefacts and water bodies which are integral to the character of Kensington Gardens: and of the high quality horticultural areas, pursuing excellence in horticultural husbandry.
- Realise the full value of the Gardens as an educational and community resource. Develop the audience of the park and recognise the park's value as a national tourist destination as well as a local park for surrounding communities. Ensure high standards of cleanliness, visitor safety and catering facilities.
- Manage Kensington Gardens in an open and transparent manner, for and on behalf of its users and visitors. Seek to work in partnership with the wide range of interested stakeholders both within and external to the Gardens, including the Friends, Historic Royal Palaces, the local authorities and the Serpentine and Sackler Galleries, and ensure appropriate communication mechanisms are in place.
- Maintain to a high standard distinctive cultural events for Kensington Gardens to host: the delivery of outstanding facilities for children as a celebration of childhood: and opportunities that sensitively generate revenue to sustain the long term management and high quality landscape of Kensington Gardens.



LONG TERM VISION FOR KENSINGTON GARDENS

The one hundred year vision is to protect and enhance Kensington Gardens' rich landscape heritage, its royal associations, its connections with children, with wildlife and with the creative culture of arts.

AIMS OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Management Plan:

- Articulates the vision for the park, which directs strategic decision making in the park's management.
- Sets the context for the conservation and enhancement of the character of Kensington Gardens – noting the historical evolution, intrinsic and developed fabric and social developments within the gardens.
- Recognises, through the complexities of layered elements in the subdivision of character areas, the significance of characteristics of the park and collates an assessment of their condition.
- Provides a reasoned long-term framework to guide the management of the park over the next 100 years, whilst prioritising opportunities, policies and aims for guiding short-term actions over the next ten years.

The Kensington Gardens Management Plan describes and evaluates the landscape of the Gardens. The plan's strategic and long term nature sets out the vision for the park with policies and aims to guide management. The vision has been developed from a close understanding of the park; and expresses overarching principles for guiding the many aspects of managing park life. The vision is stated in the introduction to the plan as a touchstone for reading the ensuing chapters.

Knowledge presented in the management plan informs significance of the Gardens and identifies key management policies in order to develop management aims. The final section of the plan looks at implementation and monitoring of management actions.

This information can then be used to prepare detailed objectives and specifications for management, and to allow budget preparation, allocation and work programming as outlined in the (annual) operational plan.

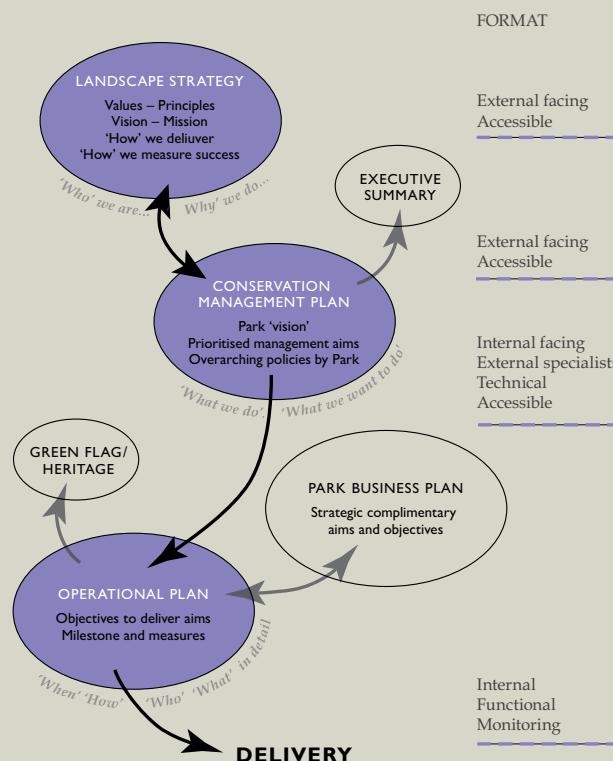
Essentially, this management plan aims to:

- Declare the vision for Kensington Gardens over the next 100 years which will clarify the direction of the Gardens and develop long term aims in conserving and enhancing the essential character
- Articulate the significance and condition of the Gardens' characteristics and features; which will guide priorities and requirements for investment; providing a rationale for budget preparation, resourcing and work programming
- Set policies against which conflicts of interest can be reviewed and resolved
- Set values for proactive management in response to changing circumstances
- Provide a basis for monitoring implementation and progress
- Guide future managers to ensure continuity
- Review and re-evaluate the previous Management Plan

The plan also aims to:

- promote interest in the Gardens and encourage community involvement
- provide a baseline and context for individual studies which may need to be undertaken in resolving specific design, restoration, renewal or enhancement issues

Landscape Management Plan Hierarchy



STRUCTURE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Plan is structured in five parts:

1. Context and Responsibilities: the plan seeks to move logically from an understanding of the history of Kensington Gardens, of the strategic national and local legislative policies and of the overall management scope for the Gardens.
2. Description and Use and Character: this is followed by an appraisal of its natural and built fabric and of activities, education and community activities that make up the Gardens, and identification of opportunities for these aspects.
3. Landscape Character: describes key features and characteristics, and articulates their significance and condition, identifying aims.
4. Management Policies: notes overarching and specific policies.
5. Implementation: briefly describes the mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing the policies and aims marked in this plan.

Sources and references for the management plan are listed in Appendix 1.

METHODOLOGY

It is conventional in landscape management plans to progress through issues, in order to find opportunities; to then articulate aims and policies. However this entails significant repetition (which we wanted to avoid) since issues sit so close to their positive opposites of opportunities and aims. We have chosen to start the sequence for analysing management approaches therefore, with 'opportunities'.

The management plan starts with the history of the Gardens establishing the heritage context, a perennial consideration in management decisions. Following this, the strategic context is outlined. This shows constraints and protections within which park management operates.

Section 4 follows, describing the general and management context giving a brief overview of TRP's organisation as it pertains to park management, stakeholder relationships, and outward facing elements of park life.

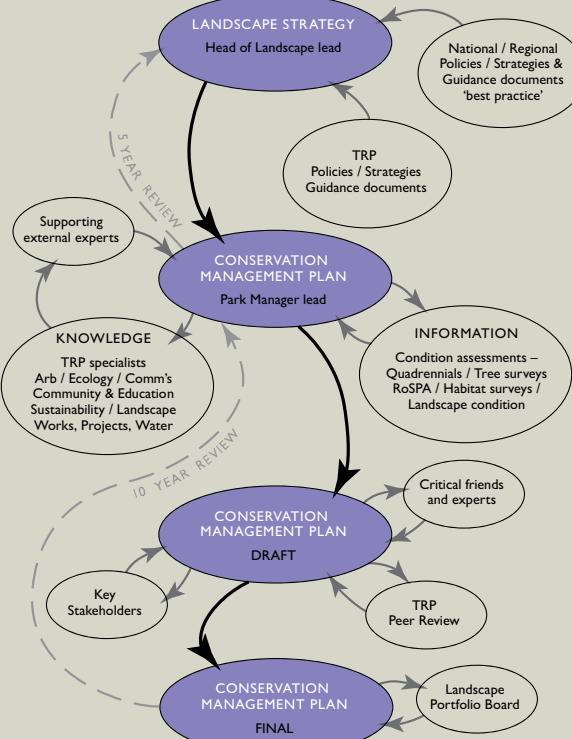
A brief outline of the geology, topography, soils and hydrology – the hard matter for the living species of the park – precedes broad descriptions of the main living elements of the park in Section 6. By the end of section 7's description of the buildings and main structures of the park and section 8's description of the park's interface with its visiting public, all the elements that make up the park have been outlined.

At this juncture, the significance of the Gardens is evaluated. Significance and its meaning as understood by Historic England (and as adopted by other organisations) is expanded upon. The readers' understanding of significance is then drawn into the subsequent landscape character section. This section moves in for a close focus on areas of the park; these are differentiated not only by appearance, but in their requirements for different management techniques. This section develops for each character area, from a description, through to an articulation of significance and condition, to specific aims. All of these aims have been drawn together into a table from which the Park Manager has worked up his Project List for 2016-2021, included at the end of the plan in Section 13.

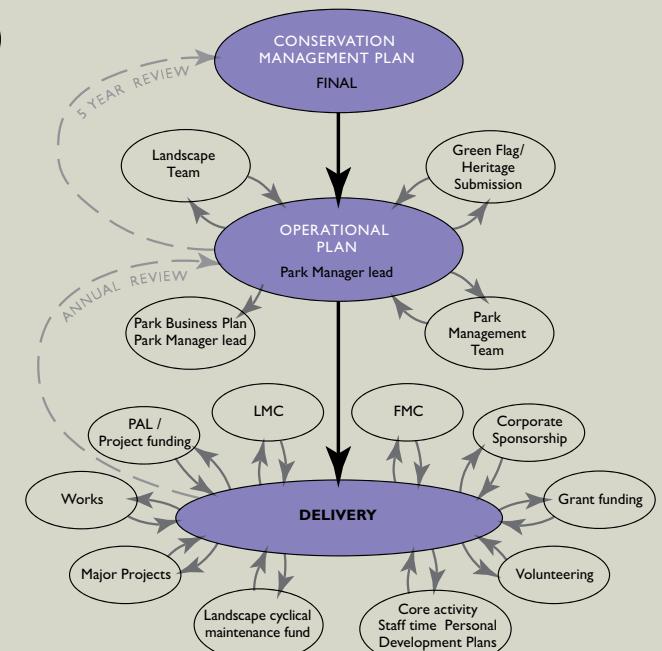
The more overarching park elements that have been described in earlier sections 6,7 and 8 are returned to again in section 11, this time to set out policies that the park management adopts.

The plan ends with sections on how the intended management actions that have been stated through the document are implemented and reviewed.

Plan, Process and Delivery: Part 1



Plan, Process and Delivery: Part 2



- 14. Speke monument.
- 15. Speckled wood butterfly.
- 16. Peacock butterfly.
- 17. Buck Hill.

- 18. Large skipper butterfly.
- 19. Small blue butterfly.
- 20. Meadow brown butterfly.
- 21. Painted lady butterfly.



22. Henry Moore Arch to
Kensington Palace, Front Walk vista.

23. Small tortoiseshell butterfly.

24. Gatekeeper butterfly.

25. Italian Gardens cafe.

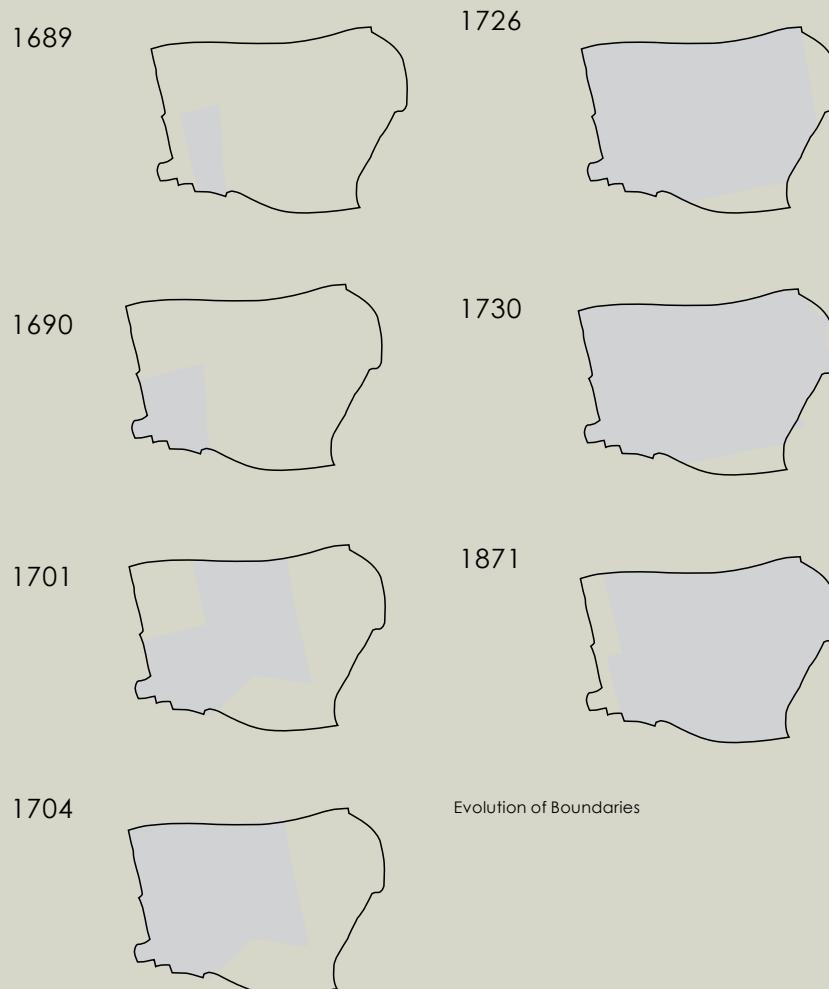
26. Essex skipper butterfly.

27. Small skipper butterfly.

28. The Long Water, sanctuary area.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT



A detailed analysis of the history and evolution of Kensington Gardens is contained in the Royal Parks Historical Survey – Kensington Gardens (Land Use Consultants, 1982). This section presents a synopsis of the historic context that identifies the key historical aspects of park development as context to current management initiatives. The section begins with a brief timeline of prominent interventions in the park's development plus short biographical introductions to the main protagonists.

Timeline

PREHISTORIC AND EARLY HISTORY

Kensington Gardens occupies part of the shallow valley formed by the Westbourne River. The main extent of Kensington Gardens was originally part of Hyde Park and for the greatest part they share the same origins. Hyde Park was agricultural land that was granted to Geoffrey de Mandeville by William the Conqueror in the 11th Century. De Mandeville bequeathed the land to Westminster Abbey and in 1536 Henry VIII obtained the land by compulsory exchange and enclosed it as a Deer Park.

ORIGINS AS THE GARDENS OF A ROYAL PALACE

In 1689 King William III and Queen Mary decided to establish a Royal Residence on the grounds of Nottingham House (which was immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the original

Hyde Park), believing the location to be favourably close to Westminster but sufficiently distant from the polluted air which aggravated the King's asthma. The 'Route du Roi' (corrupted to become known as Rotten Row) was built through Hyde Park to link the Palace to Westminster. Sir Christopher Wren enlarged the residence, which became known as Kensington House, and later Kensington Palace.

English landscape design was, at this time, undergoing rapid transformations which are mirrored in the evolution of Kensington Gardens. Some of the most influential practitioners of the English Landscape Movement who were involved in this process, shaped the development of the Gardens; George London and Henry Wise, Sir John Vanbrugh, Charles Bridgeman, William Kent.

The gardens were initially laid out by George London and Henry Wise for King William and

Queen Mary, using a formal Dutch style, reputedly with clipped yews, holly, and fantastic topiary creations, the area of greatest activity being to the south of the house. By 1691, according to Gibson's account, two years after William and Mary's move to Kensington House, much of the, albeit unexceptional garden scheme, had been laid out. Already a further four or five acres had been appropriated from Hyde Park to enlarge the garden.¹ Wise's work continued with formal geometric planting in the next expansion ten years later in 1701 of a significant portion of what was the north west of Hyde Park, now taken into the Royal Gardens.

Queen Anne's influence was marked first in 1702-03 by changes to the formal design of Dial Walk to the South Garden of Kensington

Palace to which she ordered all box hedging to

1689

The gardens to Nottingham House expand, taking parcels of Hyde Park into the Royal Gardens: Dial Walk formal garden created, designed by London and Wise

William & Mary

The reign of William (1689-1702) & Mary (1689-1694) followed the Restoration period in a diametrically opposed style, both in politics and in the conduct of their lives: the latter a clean-living and domestic life, evidenced in their style of furnishings and gardens. William and Mary have been credited (John Keats, 2015 p. 53) with reviving a love of garden-making in England from the example they set at gardens at Hampton Court and Kensington Gardens.

George London (1640-1714)

From 1675 working for Bishop Compton at Lambeth Palace, encountering new plant introductions arriving from America, London's career developed as garden designer and nursery owner of Brompton Park Nursery. Having reciprocal admiration for John Evelyn, London's designs added variety to formally terraced parterres on his clients' estates with informal tree planting and wilderness gardens. With many prestigious clients all over England, and in partnership with Henry Wise. He became Deputy Superintendent of the royal gardens.



The formal layout of the Gardens in the early Eighteenth Century, from a plate in *Nouveau Theatre de la Grand Bretagne* (publ. 1724)

1702-05

Dial Walk

All box hedging removed: refurbished planting again in a tightly formal symmetrical style.

Queen Anne's Alcove

Commissioned from Christopher Wren, positioned at the southern termination of Dial Walk.

100 acres taken from the west of Hyde Park for Queen's deer and antelopes.

Queen Anne (1702-14)

Sister of Mary, married to Prince George of Denmark (a heavy drinker, died in 1708) was effectively ruling monarch by herself, during a time of parliament's increasing authority. Anne's cold relations with her sister Mary did not hold her back from removing the structural hedging to the formal planting south of Kensington Palace, Dial Walk. Despite 17 pregnancies, Anne had no surviving heir. She was the last Stuart monarch.

1704

The Orangery and Northern Wilderness (with Perk's Field) included a sunken garden and mock Mount

be removed and replaced by 'an English model'. Later in 1705/6 a magnificent new summerhouse was made to Wren's design to provide a visual termination at the south end of the Dial Walk (Queen Anne's Alcove was re-located in 1867 to its present position close to Marlborough Gate).

In 1704-05 Wise was directed to work his design that transformed the thirty acres of gravel pits to the north of the Palace into a formal wilderness garden. A sunken garden was mirrored by an adjacent mock 'Mount'.

The garden comprised four main rectangular sections subdivided by right-angled and diagonal paths. Wise's mount was 'formed' not by earthworks but by a controlled gradation of trees and shrubs that rose from the edges to the centre. The Orangery originated from this time and is still in use today. A further 100 acres were appropriated

from Hyde Park by Queen Anne in 1705 for use as a deer and antelope Paddock.

George I's attention was largely focused on enlarging Kensington Palace 1718-1725. In 1725 the location of alternative water supplies (in Hyde Park) released the square 'basin' reservoir from its function of supplying water for Chelsea, and thus enabled the King to use the Paddock with its water Basin to house his menagerie. The Paddock now kept his exotic animals, for instance, civet cats, tigers and a snailery, and, latterly, tortoises. The end of his reign is notable for a renewed focus on the gardens, setting in motion an intense period of work, 1726 to 1735, initially under the direction of Sir John Vanbrugh.

A recent archaeological watching brief in 2000 was initiated after roots of a horse chestnut tree exposed some built subterranean works, which

are suggestive of an ice house, to the west of the Broad Walk, just south of the Orangery. It is thought that this was a C18 construction, which, conjecturally, may have been part of the works undertaken for George I or George II and Queen Caroline.

Vanbrugh died in March 1726 and his successor, Charles Bridgeman, was appointed in October 1726. When George I died in 1727, George II and Queen Caroline retained Charles Bridgeman and commissioned further ambitious works. The authorship for the design of the main scheme is not straightforward. While Vanbrugh may have been involved in generating this plan, the executed scheme appears to have evolved after his death.²

The timing of Bridgeman's appointment indicates that he may not have been responsible for the whole design. Instead, it seems probable that his

role began with executing the designs of others and, under the auspices of Queen Caroline, adapting and extending the layout.³

Following the 1726 extension of the Gardens, a significant incursion into Hyde Park, a high brick wall was built around the perimeter. The eastern side was altered a few years later when, between 1725 and 1731, the three bastions were built commanding views out across Hyde Park, and replacing George I's wall with a ha-ha. The ha-ha was built in three straight sections of different lengths defining the eastern boundary and extending across the Long Water on an embankment, since replaced by the Serpentine Bridge. The vertical inner face of the ha-ha was built in brick and stone, and backed by an earthen bank: changes in angle of its boundary were accommodated by the three bastions. Small sections of the ha-ha and bastions survive.⁴

Henry Wise (1653–1738)

Worked up from apprentice to partner (in 1694) with George London. He was Royal Gardener for Queen Anne and for George I, and became Superintendent of the royal gardens in 1702.

London and Wise's 1706 book *The Retir'd Gard'ner* (a translation of Francois Gentil's book) illustrates serpentine walks and bosquets, an idea applied to Kensington Gardens.

1725

George I's menagerie with Water Basin. Commissioned Vanbrugh.

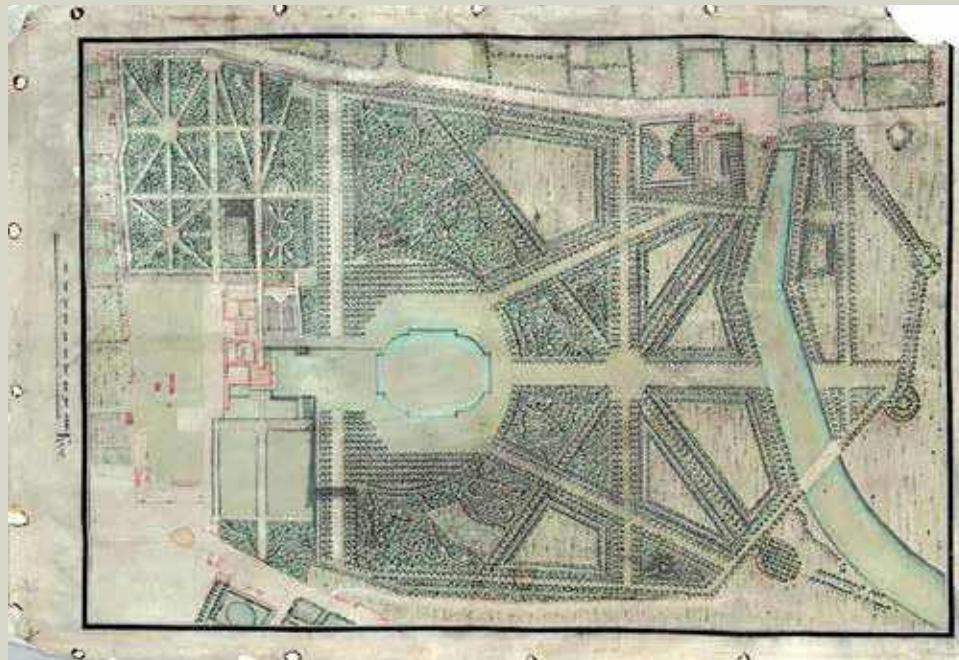
Land extensions and Bayswater House

Sir John Vanbrugh (1664–1726)

Architect and dramatist, politically active with a period as a French political prisoner, his style was bold and became known as English baroque: Castle Howard his most acclaimed work among many other prestigious projects. His strident architectural ideas and Palladian sympathies embedded his house designs into their landscapes. The ha-ha was his innovation, as was, at Castle Howard, inverting man's imposition of order on nature, to designs showing geometrical order as Nature's domain, Nature as inherently ordered.

²
³
⁴

From LUC Historical Survey of Kensington Gardens, 1982, page 13
From LUC 1982, page 14
RCHME 1994, page 13



Attributed to Charles Bridgeman, plan of Kensington Palace Gardens, pen and ink and coloured wash, c.1733. Reproduced from the archive of the Huntington Library, San Marino, California (ref. ST Map 147)

George I (1714–27)

First Hanoverian monarch.

The Gardens' central area became a paddock for his exotic animals.

1726–31

Walled perimeter

Eastern perimeter converted to a ha-ha with three bastions.

These works, mostly under Bridgeman, although designed by Vanbrugh, were part of the phase of lasting structural work making use of the last land extension of the Gardens until 1871.

Wise was not included in the 1728 re-commissioning which went solely to Bridgeman. Extensive and ambitious works followed that respected only the framework laid down under George I.⁵ The menagerie was disbanded and Kensington Gardens became a garden once again. Walks were enlarged and planted with lime espaliers; new winding walks were created in the wooded quarters with a *berceau* or 'walk of shade' at the perimeter of the gardens. The formal gardens of the Dial Walk, south of the palace, in accordance with the fashion of the times, were subsequently removed by Bridgeman and laid to lawn in 1728 with grass terraces and a formal avenue of trees and paths, with the south end of

1728

Bridgeman commissioned: extensive works followed with further land acquisitions.

Menagerie disbanded.

Dial Walk formal plantings removed and laid to lawn terraces with avenues.

Broad Walk avenue planted; substantial further avenue and *berceau* tree plantings.

the garden more densely planted. The Wilderness garden to the north of the palace was retained, although trees were removed to create serpentine walks, while new woodland borders may have made use of replanted trees.

The formal avenues of the Broad Walk which had been the eastern limit of the original land associated with William and Mary's which had been the eastern limit of the original land associated with William and Mary's grounds, was probably undertaken as part of Bridgeman's work in the Gardens from 1726 when the work also commenced on the Round Pond. The Broad Walk makes a considerable descent (13m) from north to south, and part of Bridgeman's work was to form the great plain on which the Round Pond is sited. The landforms along and adjacent to the Broad Walk show the extent to which this was manipulated, with the stronger slope lying to the

south side of the central axis of the Palace.

The Round Pond with its massive associated earthworks was constructed at this time in place of the smaller 'tortoise pond' and a substantial tree-planting scheme was commenced with the laying out of the formal avenues and quarters. Bridgeman framed the setting of the Round Pond with the Great Bow (a double avenue encircling the pond), with the formal grid of trees (the "Feathers") to north and south and the radiating formal avenues that form a *patte d'oie* in front of the Palace. In the original layout of the late 1720's, the Quarters immediately surrounding the avenues of the Great Bow were shown to be densely planted "wilderness" with small serpentine paths – the indications being that these areas were tightly planted and were sown with understorey shrubbery, whereas the further quarters were mainly open or with semi-formal planting arrangements within.

Queen Caroline (d.1737)

Married to George II (1727–60), intelligent and beautiful, benefitted from the educational influences of Queen Sophia Charlotte of Prussia. Surrounding herself with artists, writers and intellectuals, she embraced the arts, including garden art.

1730–32

Major earthworks to Dial Walk for Round Pond construction

Long Water created from five linking fishponds.

The Mount constructed

In 1730–32 the chain of five monastic fishponds that had been formed in the shallow valley of the Westbourne stream, were planned under George I to be joined to form a lake with walks around. One of Bridgeman's first tasks was to create this continuous water body of the Long Water.⁶

The Temple Quarter was adapted by Kent in 1734–35 to provide the Queen's Temple in a new "Arcadian" setting – the Temple commanding a gentle knoll to provide an open view across this informal scene and down the long axis of the Serpentine over the dam crossing, which was set at a lower level, making less of a visual intervention, than the subsequent Serpentine Bridge. Illustrations indicate trees carefully grouped to provide informal framing of the view.

It is likely that Kent also designed the revolving summerhouse on the Mount (near to Mount Walk gate). The Mount, built by Bridgeman in 1730–31

Charles Bridgeman

Charles Bridgeman (appointed 1726, royal gardener from 1728–38): English landscape designer, and a key influential figure in the evolution of the English landscape garden. His friendships that included leading architects, artists and, progressive thinkers were influential to his work. His work is characterised as 'formal, transitional and progressive': formality in parterres, avenues and orthogonal shapes; transitional in mounts, lawns, garden buildings and irregular cabinets and plantings; progressive in ha-has, rides and walks for unfolding views. From *The Oxford Companion to Gardens*, 1986.

(and lasting until its probably by 1784⁷) from Bath stone like the Temple, was a conical earth formation using spoil taken from excavations most likely from the Serpentine, or from making the ha-ha. A spiral path made the ascent up the Mount to the summerhouse, known as the Tower of the Winds.⁸

The Gardens thus demonstrate historical transitions from the Baroque period with traces in the landscape and plan drawings of London and Wise's work; to the arcadian orchestration of the Temple Quarter by William Kent, a style that became one of the distinguishing characteristics of the eighteenth century English Landscape Movement.

Other changes in this period were some relatively minor alterations to the gardens of Bayswater House (acquired in the land extension of

1726; and the use of Bayswater House as the 'Breakfasting House'. The function of these buildings clearly indicate the altered status and use of the landscape as transformed by Queen Caroline, from an animal-oriented paddock to a cultivated garden to walk in or meander through, a landscape in which to discover secluded corners or come upon expansive views, and to find a place to sit and rest at the points farthest from the Palace.⁹

The energy of garden-making faded with the death of Queen Caroline in 1737, and of Bridgeman in 1738. After George II's death in 1760 Kensington Palace was no longer the centre of court life; one outcome of this was that changes and improvements in the Gardens ceased for a period of around 50 years. The Bridgemanic or Georgian, structure of the Gardens remained extant, escaping further radical works.

1734-35

Queen Caroline's Temple and the Temple Quarter.
The Tower of the Winds revolving summerhouse on the Mount.

William Kent (1685-1748)

Predominantly a leading visual artist whose works in architecture and landscape design relied on others to input the required technical knowledge. He is best known for making his English work of and in picturesque landscapes, influenced from his tour of Italian architecture and of painters Salvator Rosa and Claude Lorrain. From *The Oxford Companion to Gardens*, 1986.



Bernard Lens the Younger, drawing of 'the Mount' and Summerhouse at Kensington Palace, 1736. Courtesy Kensington & Chelsea Borough Library

1760

Death of George II Kensington Palace ceased to be monarch's residence; and Gardens subject to no further major changes.



Pump House, Italian Gardens

William Forsyth

Appointed Superintendent of the Royal Gardens at Kensington Palace and St James's Palace in 1779. Scottish horticulturist and author of the very successful *Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit-Trees* (1802). He was the Curator of Chelsea Physic Garden from 1771, during which time he instigated considerable re-planting and exchange of seeds and plants internationally. He was a founder of The Royal Horticultural Society in 1804; the genus *Forsythia* is named in his honour.

Initial opening of the Gardens, which happened around this time, gave access only to selected keyholding members of the public. Retaining some exclusivity from its origins as the private gardens of Kensington Palace, public access was established relatively late with the gardens being opened to the 'respectable public', initially controlled by doorkeepers, every day from the early nineteenth century and retaining a strongly aristocratic visitor presence until the end of the 1930s. This is in contrast to Hyde Park where public access was established as early as the 1630's.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY PARKLAND

Kensington and Bayswater were areas of salubrious growth, and pressure for public accessibility to the Gardens produced the dismantling of the surrounding wall and its replacement with iron railings, the north boundary being completed mid-century. The South Bastion (now an area of

1784

Upper Wilderness fruit tree planting.

Hyde Park) was dismantled by this time also. As the nineteenth century progressed more visitor facilities were added. Drinking fountains, toilets, seating, and in 1855, a refreshment room were introduced. Sunday band playing was short lived: royal permission allowed it initially for one year in 1855; beyond which the bandstand erected in 1869 lasted until it was removed to Hyde Park in 1886; before finally the present Bandstand was located near the Round Pond in 1931. Other activities such as horse riding were not allowed in the Gardens except for the year of the Great Exhibition in 1860 when it was excluded from Hyde Park. Social pursuits in the Gardens have been, historically, relatively subdued and contained.

In response to increased public accessibility, privacy was increased around the Palace, with railings and gates erected along the south front of the Palace creating a divide between the

1790s

Gardens open to key-holding members

(private) palace and (public) gardens. Separate identities were created for the Palace gardens, and events in the main Gardens were kept low-key.

A continuing decline of tree stock, a growing network of footpaths, and the introduction of sheep grazing, brought a loosening to the clarity of the 'Bridgemanic' layout and the identity of the Gardens became less distinctive. Additionally, the Victorian era also made its mark. Statues and monuments were added; Speke (1866) and Physical Energy (1907), both located at points of intersection of the avenues.

A further acquisition of land from Hyde Park in 1870, an area that was formerly part of a tongue of land carrying the western section of the Route du Roi (Rotten Row) extending from Hyde Park, and adjacent to the South Flower Walk that had been created in 1843 in the location of Bridgeman's

perimeter walk¹⁰, was used for the building of the Albert Memorial, a strong Victorian expression within the mainly 18th century framework.

The Italian Fountains (now known as the Italian Gardens) were built in 1861 (comprehensively restored in 2011) at the head of the Long Water, to designs of Banks and Barry; with the marble fountain, Tazza fountain and balustrade by John Thomas. The history behind the development of this major feature of the park is intriguing.

Visitors to The Great Exhibition in 1851 had complained of the stink from the Serpentine and by 1859, the condition of the Long Water had further deteriorated due to sewerage content entering from the Westbourne. Thomas Hawksley designed filter beds to solve the sewerage problem but Parliament objected to his scheme and the filter beds were converted in 1860 into the Italian Garden basins we now know.

1861

Italian Fountains

Addition from Hyde Park of section of Route du Roi and small fragments on the eastern side, including The Magazine.

1800-50

Greater public access and visitor facilities added.

At the same time the (Mid Level 1) sewer was constructed along Bayswater Road severing the Westbourne River from the Long Water and diverting the sewerage east. The sewerage problem was not finally resolved until the addition of the Ranelagh storm relief sewer in 1874.

However the diversion works affected the water supply. The St Agnes Well, originally located just East of the Italian Gardens in front of a curved stone bench), dried up and so a new "St Agnes Well" was constructed in a location now directly in front of the Engine House in the Italian gardens. This well was originally to provide water to local residents, but was deepened and adapted to provide water to the Long Water and new steam beam engines in the Engine house from 1860 pumped water up from this well to the Long Water and on up to the Round Pond. A mains water supply was added in 1868 but decommissioned twenty years later due to being insufficient.

1872

Albert Memorial

Ground water from wells in St James's Park was subsequently pumped to the Italian Gardens until in 1998 a new borehole, 85 metres deep, close to the original St. Agnes Well was installed.

The Engine House building, designed by Banks and Barry modifying an earlier one by Hawkesley, once contained a steam engine that would operate the fountains. The pillar on the roof is a cleverly disguised chimney. A stoker would be employed all Saturday night to keep the engine running and pump water into the Round Pond, to ensure that on Sundays there was enough head of water to run the fountains without the engine working.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY PARKLAND

Kensington Gardens has continued to evolve partly in response to public use. Of the more significant changes, in 1916 the remaining north and middle bastions were buried (and

subsequently partially re-exposed) and the ha-ha infilled in response to nefarious behaviours. In the early 1900s the now internationally famous statue of Peter Pan (1912) was unveiled.

The author of Peter Pan, J.M. Barrie, contributed to the cost of a playground to the north of the Palace, so establishing Kensington Gardens' strong association with children. Additional features and facilities were provided as a result of the Lansbury appeal in 1929-30 including the Elfin Oak and a sandpit in the playground. The most recent change has been the redesign of the playground as the Princess of Wales Diana Memorial Playground (2000), one of several memorials to Princess Diana in the Royal Parks.

The First World War saw Kensington Palace Gardens being turned to allotments; and a school of camouflage (a new technique) was set up

on Buck Hill. During the Second World War the aristocratic ambience of the Gardens changed. The Gardens housed air raid shelters to the north of the palace on the Playground and on Wise's Mount Quarters; and south of the palace on the Dials Quarter. There were extensive 'Dig for Victory' allotments on both Albert Lawns, in the Horse Quarter to the north, to the west on Perk's Field, with a small allotment to the east edge of Buck Hill. Buck Hill became the site for training trenches and a camouflage school. A quarry was established on Buck Hill, probably for sand and gravel. As a deterrent to enemy aircraft several long ditches with earth spoil mounds were dug strategically where large flat open spaces presented a vulnerability to enemy aircraft landings. Ground surveys evidence a number of bomb craters in the Gardens. Post war, these temporary functions were remedied, though the 1993 archaeological ground survey was able to identify locations.¹¹

1909

Playground and
'Time Flies' clock tower

JM Barrie (1860–1937)

A Scottish playwright whose best known work is Peter Pan. Strongly associated with Kensington Gardens, which was where he met the Llewelyn family for whose boys the story of was developed, Barrie arranged for the Peter Pan sculpture to be erected secretly overnight for May Morning in 1912. He contributed to the cost of the playground, on the site of what is now the Diana Playground.

1914–18

WWI
Camouflage School

Dutch Elm Disease in the 1950s and 1970s, and storm damage in 1987 and 1990 was responsible for substantial loss of avenue trees. A further decline of landscape structure was exacerbated by a deliberate weakening of the formal layout of avenues and quarters during the 1960s, such that the 1994 RCHME reported that only the framework of the avenue structure survived and the individual character of the quarters had disappeared¹². An ongoing strategy has now ensured that these original features, including the 'Great Bow' are restored.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales in August 1997 resulted in increasing visitor use associated with the Palace, and particularly on the South Front/Dial Walk and more generally on the Gardens. In the 1980's Crowther Gate was moved and installed with replacement ornate railings, which became a focus for floral tributes following the death of Princess Diana.

The major refurbishment project to the East Gardens of the Palace, completed in 2012, re-connected the Palace and Kensington Gardens. The design aimed to follow early C18 principles of a series of gardens around the Palace that relate to and connect with each other and to the park beyond. Sixty four trees, mostly immature, that obstructed this connection were removed (more tree planting was undertaken in the wilderness to the south of Dial Walk). The renewed Palace Lawn, a contemporary layer, gives an outward facing aspect to the gardens.

Simultaneous with the garden refurbishment undertaken by HRP was that of the Round Pond and its Feathers by TRP. This restored the Round Pond's edge treatment to its original configuration, removed the central 'runway strip' and replaced the north and south path from the Round Pond to the Broad Walk.

1916

North and middle
bastions buried

2000

Diana Playground

29. Short-winged conehead.
30. Six-spot burnet moth.
31. Grasshopper.
32. Roesel's bushcricket.



29.



30.



31.



32.

33. The Long Water.
34. Habitat around veteran tree in the Quarters.



33.



34.

35. Mount Walk bandstand.

36. Black tailed skimmer.

37. Common toad.

38. Diana, Princess of Wales,
Memorial Playground.

39. Italian Gardens and cafe.

40. In the Leafyard.

41. Young fox.



STRATEGIC POLICY CONTEXT

This section describes the key national, regional and local designations, policies and strategies relating to Kensington Gardens which provide the strategic policy framework for the management of the Gardens.

The large number of strategic, policy and report documents which inform and direct management are listed in Appendix 1. These documents are continuously reviewed and updated to ensure they respond to changing needs, comply with latest legislation and set targets in accordance with the DCMS Agreement.

NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS AND POLICIES

TRP has statutory duties with regard to the following:

- NERC Act 2006 Part 3 S.40: "Every 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 and requires all water bodies to reach "Good Ecological Status" (GES) or for artificial or heavily modified water bodies "Good Ecological Potential" (GEP) by 2015, 2021 or 2027 depending on feasibility. The objective of GEP is similar to good status but takes into account the constraints imposed by social and/or economic uses. The

objective is to achieve GEP by 2027.

As a public body, TRP is required to give due consideration to the aims of the WFD in any works they carry out that may impact on water bodies; . Proposed works must be assessed to ensure that the requirements of the WFD are met i.e. that the proposed modification: i) does not deteriorate water body status ('no deterioration'); ii) will not compromise the successful implementation of improvement measures; and iii) that WFD objectives will still be achieved.

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979: and 2010 to 2015 Policy Paper (DCMS) Conservation of Historic Buildings and Monuments: (updated May 2015) 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 Park and Gardens Register:

Kensington Gardens is listed on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. It is categorised as Grade 1 entry (registered 1987); that is, of exceptional historic interest.

Conservation Area:

The entire park is designated as a Conservation Area, with relevant policies in the Core Strategies for The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster Council. By virtue of being a Conservation Area, all the trees with the gardens are treated as if they have a Tree Preservation Order.

Listed Buildings:

Kensington Gardens contains a number of listed buildings and monuments (including the Albert Memorial, which is Grade 1). The Gardens provide the setting for Kensington Palace, which is a Grade 1 listed building.

The full list is provided below:

Name	Grade
Elfin Oak	II
Edward Jenner	II
Speke Memorial	II
Albert Memorial	I
Physical Energy	II
Peter Pan	III*
Two Bears Drinking Fountain	II
Queen Anne's Alcove	II*
Queen Caroline's Temple	II
Queen's Gate and Lodge	II
Coalbrookdale Gate	II
Italian Gardens and Pavilion (=Pump House)	II
Thimble Shelters	II

The RCHME Archaeological Survey

There are numerous entries listed on the National Monuments Record (Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park), including part of a medieval field system, sites of ponds, moat, gravel pits, specific features such as the Long Water and a series of Second World War Installations.

Historic England's Archive

(the former National Monuments Record):
This archive contains a variety of reports and photographs available to buy.
[click here to go to historicengland.org.uk]

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTEXT

The National Planning Policy Framework¹³ Statements in the NPPF guide regional and local planning policies. Two particularly relevant clauses are quoted below:

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

132. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting.

Draft Further Alteration to the London Plan (2015) The London Plan was adopted in July 2011 and provides the strategic planning policy context for London. Further revisions have been made, the most recent being the draft FALP 2014. Chapter 7 of the plan describes policies for 'London's Living Places and Spaces'.

The following provide extracts from policies in Chapter 7 which are of particular relevance

to the management of the Royal Parks:

7.4 Local Character

Protection and enhancement of local character including 'visual, physical connection and natural features'

7.5 Public Realm

'London's public spaces should be secure, accessible, inclusive, connected, easy to understand and maintain, relate to local context, and incorporate the highest quality design, landscaping, planting, street furniture and surfaces.'

7.8 Heritage Assets and Archaeology

'London's heritage assets and historic environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.'

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Applications for listed buildings or for development that affects a listed building or its setting, are considered by the local planning authority with special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses. Preservation in this context means not harming the interest in the building, as opposed to keeping it utterly unchanged.

Within the plan Kensington Gardens is designated as:

Metropolitan Open Land (MOL): 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. Kensington Gardens is identified as an MOL in local planning policies.

Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMIs): Under 'Biodiversity and Nature Conservation', the Mayor identifies:

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. Kensington Gardens is identified as one of 140 SMIs across London. It is recognised as one of the largest and most important parks in the borough of Westminster City Council and Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The London Biodiversity Action Plan and Biodiversity Strategy

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan sets out a national 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 then developed the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS), a web based information system to support the conservation community. These initiatives

encourage the promotion of the management of land for biodiversity, for promoting education, collating and distributing wildlife information and exchanging information on best practice for managing parks for wildlife. The London BAP sets out criteria for designating SMI's, the top tier of nature conservation designation in London, of which Kensington Gardens is one. Implementation of the biodiversity strategy and action plans is being explored further through TRP's Biological Recording Project.

LOCAL PLANNING CONTEXT

Local authority planning policy compliance, given the extensive amount of treeworks and associated treework applications, has necessitated that the Royal Parks prepares advance programmes for proposed treeworks.

The Royal Parks are notified by respective boroughs of any planning applications within 0.5km of the park boundary.

Local Development Frameworks

The statutory policies relating to Kensington Gardens are contained within:

- The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Adopted Core Strategy (Dec 2010)
- Westminster City Council Adopted Core Strategy (Jan 2011)

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) Kensington Gardens is identified as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). The overall policy is to resist development on Metropolitan Open Land and protect and enhance its existing uses. For Kensington Gardens the Core Strategy notes the

importance of the skyline of buildings around it and supports the proposals in the Royal Parks Review¹⁴ to preserve and enhance its special character. Specific Policies relating to Kensington Gardens are:

- CL11: To require new buildings and extensions to existing buildings in the Royal Borough, which can be seen from Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park, to be designed so not to exceed the general height of buildings excluding post war blocks and to pay regard to the tree lines.
- CL11: To ensure that new buildings do not impose themselves as an unsympathetic backcloth to Kensington Palace, particularly when viewed from the east across the Round Pond.

Kensington Gardens is Grade 1 listed on the English Heritage Register. The entire park within the Borough is designated, with the adjacent palace as Conservation Area 7: Kensington Palace. The RBKC Core Strategy includes a number of policies directly applicable to Kensington Gardens.

- CL4 Heritage Assets seeks to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and archaeology.
- CL3 Heritage Assets aims protection towards Conservation Areas and historic spaces.
- Others include CR5 which expresses policies on parks, gardens and open spaces; and CR6 with policies on trees and landscape. A Conservation Area Statement has been prepared for Kensington Gardens, which identifies the characteristics that contribute to the special nature of the area and which guides for its preservation and enhancement.

There are a number of listed buildings and monuments within the park in the RBKC.

The council considers their preservation, protection and maintenance of great importance and includes specific detailed policies.

Kensington Gardens (but not the palace gardens) are identified in the Core Strategy as a Metropolitan Site of Nature Conservation Importance.

City of Westminster

The entire park within the Westminster City Council is designated as a Conservation Area described as area⁴¹: Royal Parks covering Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, St. James's Park, Green Park and Buckingham Palace Gardens. Westminster's City Plans set out a series of general policies relating to Conservation Areas that seek to maintain and enhance the value of the park as open space. A Conservation Audit of all Conservation Areas in the city has been undertaken. A short leaflet has been prepared on the Royal Parks covering historical background, listed buildings, key features etc. Parts of the retained UDP policies include policy ENV14 Trees and Shrubs covering trees in conservation areas.

Kensington Gardens is identified as Metropolitan Open Land. Policy ENV 14 in the UDP states that the City Council will support the protection and enhancement of Metropolitan Open Land (the Royal Parks), and their settings including views from them. Permission will not be granted for developments that will harm views into or out of the Royal Parks. Westminster's City Plan indicates

that the borough's needs for metropolitan and district parks are largely met by the Royal Parks. The plan notes that the Royal Parks are administered by TRP and the City Council has no direct control over them.

It refers to the need for regard to policy DES 12 which sets out a criteria based policy in relation to (a) development adjacent to open spaces and (b) development on or under open spaces. Westminster's City Plan: Strategic Policies (Nov 2013) replaces the Core Strategy (2011). Policy S11 Royal Parks, states explicit protection to not harm the parks 'open landscape character; heritage value; nature conservation value; tranquillity; or value as a public open space'.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Local Biodiversity Action Plans have also been prepared for Westminster City Council (2008) and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. (2010-2105). The WCC Biodiversity Action Plan) includes a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Parkland. This states that the six central Royal Parks within Westminster cover nearly 17% of the total area. Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens are considered to form a site of major scientific interest. The Parkland LBAP states that "The Royal Parks are the single most important reservoir of wildlife within Westminster, and anything which enhances the biodiversity of this area will have a positive impact on the whole city."

Kensington Gardens contains a number of Biodiversity Action Plan species and habitats and can help to achieve specific targets associated with these BAP's.

The 2007 update on the UK BAP lists of priority species and habitats (prepared between 1995–99) which remain important and valuable reference sources, have been succeeded by the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework'. The Framework shows how the work of the four UK countries joins up with work at a UK level to achieve the 'Aichi Biodiversity Targets' and the aims of the EU biodiversity strategy.

It identifies the activities required to complement the country biodiversity strategies, and where work in the country strategies contributes to international obligations.

GENERAL AND MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

LOCATION AND EXTENT

Kensington Gardens covers an area of 98 hectares (242 acres) in central London lying within the borough of Westminster City Council and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. To the east it is contiguous with Hyde Park and to the west bounded by private and enclosed garden areas of Kensington Palace, which, with the palace itself, are managed by Historic Royal Palaces. The north and south boundaries are defined by the Bayswater Road to the north and Kensington Road and Kensington High Street to the south.

The extent of Kensington Gardens' land which is managed by the Royal Parks is generally defined by enclosing railings/wall which runs along Bayswater Road, down the interface with Hyde Park alongside West Carriage Drive, along Kensington Road from Alexandra Gate to the Studio Gates and against the private and enclosed garden areas on the eastern front of Kensington Palace. The Gardens no longer include the field areas to the north of the palace which are managed by and for the Royal Household: nor The Sunken Garden and Orangery Garden areas which are now maintained by Historic Royal Palaces.

Existing TRP Management Agreement

TRP is currently a Government Executive Agency of the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). It is however the expectation that it will become a charitable public corporation in Spring 2017. TRP has a Management Agreement with DCMS which sets out TRP's key objectives and the financial framework within which the Agency

operates. Each year Key Performance Targets are agreed by Ministers and the TRP Advisory Board. Performance against these KPTs is reported in TRP's Annual Report. Ministers have agreed in principle to the organisation becoming a charitable public body with a Board comprising members appointed by the Secretary of State (Culture, Media and Sport) and the Mayor of London. It is the expectation that the new status will be achieved by the end of March 2017 subject to the agreement of Parliament and the Charity Commission. The new Board will set the strategic direction and oversee the management of the organisation.

TRP Corporate Objectives as set out in The Royal Parks Management Agreement for 2013–16:

- To conserve and enhance sustainably, for the enjoyment of this and future generations, our world class natural and built historic environment and our biodiversity
- To engage with our visitors, stakeholders and partner organisations and understand their views
- To manage the parks efficiently and secure investment in the parks' assets and services through an appropriate combination of government funding, commercial income and philanthropy
- To be a centre of professional excellence where people want to work

TRP PURPOSE

Our purpose is to manage the Royal Parks effectively and efficiently, balancing the

responsibility to conserve and enhance these unique environments with creative policies to encourage access and to increase opportunities for enjoyment, education, entertainment and healthy recreation.

TRP VISION

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

Our Values

We will:

- Treat everyone with honesty, fairness, equality and respect
- Be open, collaborative and professional
- Be proud of who we are, and strive for excellence in all we do
- Demonstrate integrity in our day-to-day work, trusting and empowering each other

PARK MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Park Manager reports through the Head of Parks Services and Director of Parks, to TRP Headquarters and the Executive Committee: and ultimately, to the Chief Executive of the Royal Parks.

The Park Manager is supported by the Assistant Park Manager, a Playground Manager, a Technical Officer, and an Office Manager and Administrative Officer based in Hyde Park. The

Park Manager, in conjunction with other staff as appropriate, oversee the works of the Landscape Maintenance Contractor (LMC) and the Facilities Maintenance Contractor (FMC), and liaise with Licensees and Concessionaires, contractors, park users, event organisers etc. and the independent bodies controlling adjacent land (e.g. HRP and the Royal Household).

The Head of Education and Community Engagement for TRP, based in Kensington Gardens' office, works with her team of Project officers and Volunteer coordinator to develop, deliver and oversee education and community projects throughout the parks.

The Park Manager can also call on the services of Term Landscape Consultants and centralised Park Services (including Ecology, Arboriculture, Horticulture, Sustainability and Landscape expertise).

The Park Management Team also have responsibility for managing Brompton Cemetery

KEY RELATIONSHIPS, PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Park Management Team collaborate with and support the Hyde Park Management Team to address issues that affect both sites. Neither can work in isolation to each other noting the proximity and layout of both parks.

The Park Manager attends the AGM and all committee meetings of the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens and the quarterly

meetings of the Safer Parks Panel providing regular updates to the Chair of both groups. Additionally biannual updates are presented at corporate stakeholder meetings.

The Park Manager supports the work of the Serpentine Galleries ensuring that this important relationship is well managed.

The partnership with the Royal Parks Foundation provides access to funding and the management of dedication schemes for both trees and benches within the Gardens as well as management support for volunteers.

The Central Royal Parks Wildlife Group provides advice and guidance to Royal Parks' managers on aspects of nature conservation and biodiversity within the central Royal Parks. The group includes TRP Park and Assistant Park Managers, members of the Ecology team, Wildlife Officers and external conservation and biodiversity officers from WCC and RBKC, London Wildlife Trust and the Crown Estate as well as individual subject specialists.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING: HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

Partnership working between The Royal Parks and Historic Royal Palaces supporting the potential for collaboration between the two organisations over aspects of the management of Kensington Palace, its grounds and the surrounding area of Kensington Gardens.

A joint working group chaired by TRP continues to meet to discuss both strategic and operational issues of mutual interest. Areas considered for discussion are arrangements for access across Kensington Gardens, future landscape developments, works, events, marketing and security matters.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

Landscape Maintenance is undertaken by the appointed LMC working to the direction of the Park Manager, though in practice, day-to-day supervision of the LMC is undertaken by the Assistant Park Manager

The scope of works is controlled by the LMC specification and identified in the CONFIRM software. The contract includes grass cutting, horticultural services, litter collection, recycling, sweeping and minor tree works. The contractor, OCS, was awarded a seven year contract that commenced in August 2014 with a possible three-year extension option, due for review in 2021.

The LMC are not responsible for hardworks/facilities (i.e. items such as buildings, hard surfaces, footpaths and lighting) which are the subject of a separate contract and are currently undertaken by Vinci Facilities, employed as Facilities Management Contractors (FMC). There are also a number of specialist contractors including the Nursery Contractor R.A. Meredith & Son (Nurseries) Ltd, toilet attendant and cleaning contractor (Vinci) etc.

The Leaf Pen is a working facility that processes green waste from Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park,

The Green Park and St. James's Park, Brompton Cemetery and Victoria Tower Gardens. The waste is processed under license from the Environment Agency and is managed by the LMC. Material is distributed out to the parks for use as soil ameliorant, mulch, or bulky organic top dressing to parkland areas in conjunction with deep aeration or spiking in amenity grassland areas.

POLICING AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

SUSTAINABILITY

TRP is aware that the relationship of the park to the surrounding area raises wider sustainability issues, including the use of the park by vehicles and access of visitors to and through the park. In accordance with sustainability principles, TRP supports development of improved public transport links to the park and a reduction in vehicles through the park.

TRP will strive for high standards of environmentally sustainable park management. Since 2014 TRP has been re-accredited with the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standard. This will include efforts to minimise energy consumption and emissions, to reduce waste through recycling practices, including composting and to pursue other opportunities for recycling including re-use of water. Application of chemicals will be minimised

in compliance with good horticultural practice and use of water resources will be judicious.

TRP have recently employed a dedicated Sustainability Manager and have developed the TRP Sustainability Strategy 2016. The importance of TRP in meeting wider sustainability objectives, for example in maintaining quality of urban life, will be considered in all aspects of park management and further opportunities for connecting with the wider sustainability agenda will be considered.

AREAS OF THE HISTORIC PARK NOT MANAGED BY THE ROYAL PARKS

The paddock area, Perks Field, immediately north of Kensington Palace (including Henry Wise's Pit, the helicopter field and football pitch) although part of the historic extent of the Gardens, are not accessible to the general public and are managed and maintained by the staff of the Royal Household. The gardens associated with Kensington Palace, including The Orangery and Sunken Gardens are now managed by Historic Royal Palaces (HRP). The Duchess of Teck Garden was handed over to HRP in October 2005.

MAIN LEASES, LICENCES, WARRANTS AND CONCESSIONS

The following leases, licenses and warrants are in effect including some through which areas of land or specific facilities are controlled by bodies other than TRP or responsibility is shared. These include:

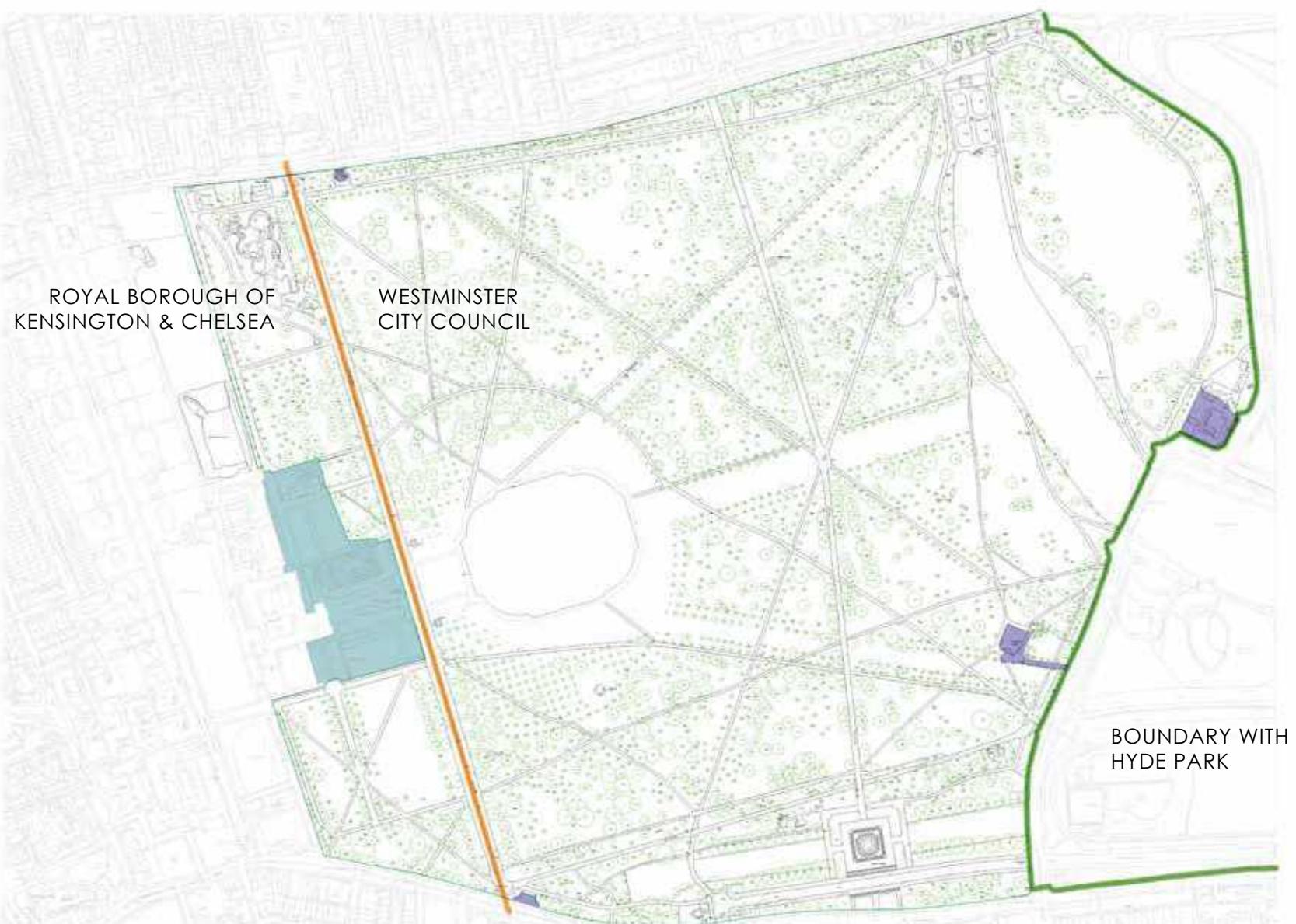
The Serpentine Gallery

The lease for the Serpentine Gallery is part way through a 20 year term from 2009–29. The lease

BOUNDARIES PLAN

KEY

- Under licence from The Royal Parks
- Local Authority Boundaries
- Historic Royal Palaces
- Boundary with Hyde Park



covers the building, with the gallery being responsible for all maintenance and repairs and the garden area, with the Royal Parks remaining responsible for garden maintenance. The garden remains as part of the park and has full public access. TRP receive an annual fee under the current lease arrangements.

The Serpentine Sackler Gallery

In 2011 the Serpentine Gallery Trust commenced development of the Magazine into a new Art Gallery and event space complete with the inclusion of the Zaha Hadid designed restaurant. The Serpentine Sackler Gallery is held under licence for a period of 20 years and the licensee retains an option to extend the agreement for a further five years. Under the licence the Gallery are responsible for repair and maintenance of the building, boundaries and garden area. TRP receive an annual fee and additionally a fixed Turnover Fee payable annually.

Catering

From December 2016 a catering concession will be licensed to Colicci. Four fixed cafe/kiosk style outlets exist at the Albert Memorial, Broad Walk, Italian Gardens and Palace Gate. The concession also operates up to three mobile units.

Public Conveniences

Two public toilets adjacent to the Garden at Queensway and Palace Gate, are operated by a private company under a lease arrangement with Westminster City Council. Westminster in turn have managed these sites under licence from TRP since circa the 1930's.

Gate Lodges

Black Lion Lodge, Buck Hill Lodge, Orme Square Lodge (North) and Queen's Gate Lodge are under private lease for residential use. Orme Square Lodge (South) is occupied by a former staff member.

Tours

Tour Guides International operate public tours at the Albert Memorial on the first Sunday of the month from March to December. Group tours are also available if booked in advance. These tours run on a not-for-profit basis.

Skating

The Albert Approach Road and Broad Walk are used under licence for skating by a small number of operators.

Dog walking

Kensington is popular with the dog walking community and a number of commercial dog walkers operate under licence throughout the year.

Cycle tours

Guided cycle tours operate across central London. One route takes in the central Royal Parks with specific permission to use Kensington Gardens making use of the shared use pedestrian priority cycle routes.

PUBLIC ACCESS

The park is open every day throughout the year from 6.00a.m. until dusk; dusk being defined as 15

minutes after sunset. The locking of gates is the responsibility of the locking contractor. There are five one-way turnstiles providing exits once the main gates are locked.

Public access on foot is unrestricted during open hours, in accordance with the Parks Regulations (the private gardens of residential lodges excepted).

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

- The Leaf Pen
- The Long Water and its fenced margins
- The Round Pond
- The Storeyard and other contractor accommodation and yard areas

Controlled access areas are:

- The two playgrounds (accessible only to children and carers)
- The allotment (opens daily at 10am and closes just before park closing time)
- The bandstand (accessible to organised groups for booked events)

The Gardens are well served by bus and tube with Lancaster Gate, Queensway, Bayswater and High Street Kensington tube stations in close proximity. Parking is available for disabled drivers at Queen's Gate or along West Carriage Drive in the designated bays. Special initiatives are in place to provide enhanced access for those with restricted mobility.

'Liberty Drives' charity which provides a free transportation service for individuals with disabilities and restricted mobility (along with their carers, family and friends) to visit inside Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. A charitable organisation, it operates from 1 May to 31 October, Monday to Friday, 10:00 am until 4:30 pm. It is operated entirely by volunteer drivers and other volunteer support roles.

Information boards and orientation maps are provided at each of the main gates.

CYCLING

There are two permitted, shared use, cycle routes in the Gardens. The north-south route is along the Broad Walk; and the east-west route extends from Studio Gate to Mount Gate. These routes are classified as considerate cycle routes and are part of the wider London Cycle Grid. Cyclists are expected to follow the TRP pathway code of conduct. This states that pedestrians have priority over all other users of pathways, that cyclists should always act considerately, especially in allowing a safe amount of space when passing and should cycle within designated cycle speed limits.

Access improvement works have been completed recently at Black Lion Gate and at Palace Gate, at the north and south ends of the Broad Walk, to allow greater circulation space so as to minimise conflict between cyclists and other park users.

Recent works on Mount Walk have seen changes to surfaces at junctions and path intersections that

had been identified as key conflict points on this busy shared path. These treatments are used to reinforce the concept of pedestrian priority and to mitigate the excessive cycle speeds that have been identified as an issue along the route.

Young children under 10 years old may cycle on other paths if accompanied by an adult not on a cycle.

VISITOR FACILITIES

Refreshment Facilities

At present, three of the four kiosks operate all year round selling a variety of sandwiches, wraps, flatbread pizzas and paninis, and salads, along with teas, coffee and soft drinks. The new Italian Gardens Cafe opened in June 2016. The Broad Walk cafe has its own children's menu being conveniently located next to the Diana Playground. Mobile kiosks operate seasonally from Easter to the end of October. Each facility has a set minimum opening time throughout the year, generally open from 8am-8pm in the summer and 10.00am-4.00pm in winter. As of the 1 December 2016 the concession holder, Colicci, run two mobile units seasonally located at the Italian Gardens and on the Broad Walk close to the Round Pond.

Playgrounds

There are two playgrounds - Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Playground at the northern end of the Broad Walk and Buck Hill Playground close to Buck Hill Gate. Inspired by the stories of Peter Pan, the Diana Playground is an extremely popular

adventure playground for all children up to the age of 12 and is at the forefront of providing imaginative play encouraging children to explore and follow their imaginations, learning whilst they play. It receives over 1,000,000 visitors each year. In 2015 the park team commenced a comprehensive review of this facility.

Toilets

There are four toilet blocks located roughly at each of the four corners of the park. TRP run general public toilet facilities at Mount Gate and Marlborough Gate. Having been relatively recently refurbished these offer good capacity and are in very good condition. They are attended during all opening hours and open daily at 7am: closing times vary with park opening times, the earliest closing in winter at 4pm, the latest in the summer at 9pm. Children's toilets are located at the Diana Playground. Toilet charging was introduced for all TRP toilets, except in playgrounds, in March 2015. WCC facilities can be found near Palace Gate and Black Lion Gate; these too are chargeable.

Deckchairs

Park Deckchairs run a deckchair concession from April to September during opening hours, weather permitting. Deckchairs can be hired at the Bandstand area and on the slopes of Buck Hill overlooking the Italian Gardens.

VISITOR PROFILE

As of the 2015 Ipsos MORI survey Kensington Gardens' 10.3 million visitors per annum 49% are from overseas, 32% are resident in London and 15% come from other parts of the UK. Visitors are predominantly young and middle aged, seeking quiet relaxation in the open air. Two thirds of visitors comprise adults without children, approximately half coming singly and half in pairs or small groups. The other one third of visitors come with children. Of these, a little less than one third of these children are aged 5 and under, one third are aged between 6 and 15, and more than one third are groups of children.

EVENTS

Any major event held in Kensington Gardens will need to take into account the scheduling of major events in Hyde Park. TRP considers up to four major events in Kensington Gardens per annum. The events which do take place in the Gardens are generally held on the Albert Memorial Lawns, although Buck Hill has been successfully used before for a theatre marquee and we would consider repeating a similar type of event within defined set limits.

Elsewhere in Kensington Gardens we will usually regard major events as inappropriate as they would not be sympathetic to the design and traditions of the Gardens. However, TRP would consider an event if it is a unique or one-off event of a national and/or historical importance.

In the past Kensington Gardens has hosted a series of appropriate events mainly in tented structures on the Albert Memorial Lawns.

In recent years we have hosted Burberry as part of London Fashion Week for both Spring and Autumn shows as well as the Haughton Art Fair. In May 2016 Vogue held their centenary event on the East Albert Lawn. In addition the park supports events hosted in Hyde Park e.g. the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon which makes use of Kensington Gardens for part of the route.

The Serpentine Gallery operate a substantial number of public and private events at both sites. The prestigious Summer Pavilion, a temporary architectural structure built in the grounds of the Serpentine Gallery, is now in its 16th year (2016) and TRP continue to support the Gallery with other innovative approaches to artistic and architectural installations in the landscape. In 2014 and 2015/16 Rock-on-top-of-Rock and Magenta respectively have been installed under license as external landscape artworks making use of a fixed plinth location in TRP managed parkland just south of the Serpentine Gallery. In 2016 an additional 'Summer Houses' exhibition was initiated: four structures, each designed by different architects, were erected close to Queen Caroline's Temple, each referencing the architectural heritage and merit of the Temple.

The Historic Royal Palaces run an extensive and varied public events programme and host numerous private functions throughout the year

at both the Palace and the Orangery. Vehicle access to the HRP estate is through Kensington Gardens via Jubilee Walk requiring partnership working to minimise the impacts on the park. In addition HRP has from time to time requested the use of TRP land to fulfil exceptional events requests. Each request requires careful and considered review by TRP, due to potential impacts and disturbance on the park, before any agreement can be reached.

A large number of small scale events are licensed by TRP and held annually which tend to serve more of a local audience. These include charity walks, concerts on the bandstand, guided walks and talks led by the Royal Parks Foundation. In addition Gorilla Circus run a successful trapeze school on the Picnic Lawn.

The recent Ipsos Mori visitor survey indicated that a small number of visitors would like to see more of the following events and activities in the park: music events/concerts (6% respondents), theatre/open air theatre (4%), children's events/entertainments (4%) and guided walks/talks (5%).

ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS

There are no specific facilities for organised sports. Although informal games do take place, large scale organised sports activities are discouraged in view of the importance of the historic landscape and the desire to maintain a peaceful refuge for people living, working or visiting Central London. Organised ball games can result in damage to young trees and are constrained by the limited expanses of open grassland.

TRP continues to allow and encourage informal use by local primary schools, subject to agreeing voluntary rotation of sites to reduce impacts; additionally TRP will resist and discourage organised use that causes damage to the fabric of the park.

Some work is underway to identify the current groups using the Gardens for sporting and recreational activities e.g. soccer schools and summer schools. The feasibility of granting small scale licences to certain organised groups in appropriate areas will be considered.

The Gardens are particularly popular for sunbathing and picnics in fine weather and the expansive, flat grassed plateaux of the Round Pond continues to be a main visitor focus. The park is popular as a healthy walking route to work for commuters, and paths are used extensively by joggers and runners.

Model yacht sailing is a popular activity at the Round Pond, with the Model Yacht Sailing Association (MYSA) use dating from 1876. The club focuses on the racing of radio controlled 10-Rater, vintage, International One Meter (IOM) and Micro Magic model yachts, making one of the most modern 10-Rater fleets in the country.

Cycling and Roller blading is allowed on the designated shared use footpaths Mount Walk and the Broad Walk as well as the Albert Approach

Road. Licensed skating instruction is permissible on the Albert Approach Road and Board Walk.

The Diana Memorial Walk forms a circuit around the Gardens.

EDUCATION, ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

The Education and Community Engagement team are based in Kensington Gardens. The team includes the Head of Education and Community Engagement; the Volunteer coordinator; and the PACE Officer for BCCP.

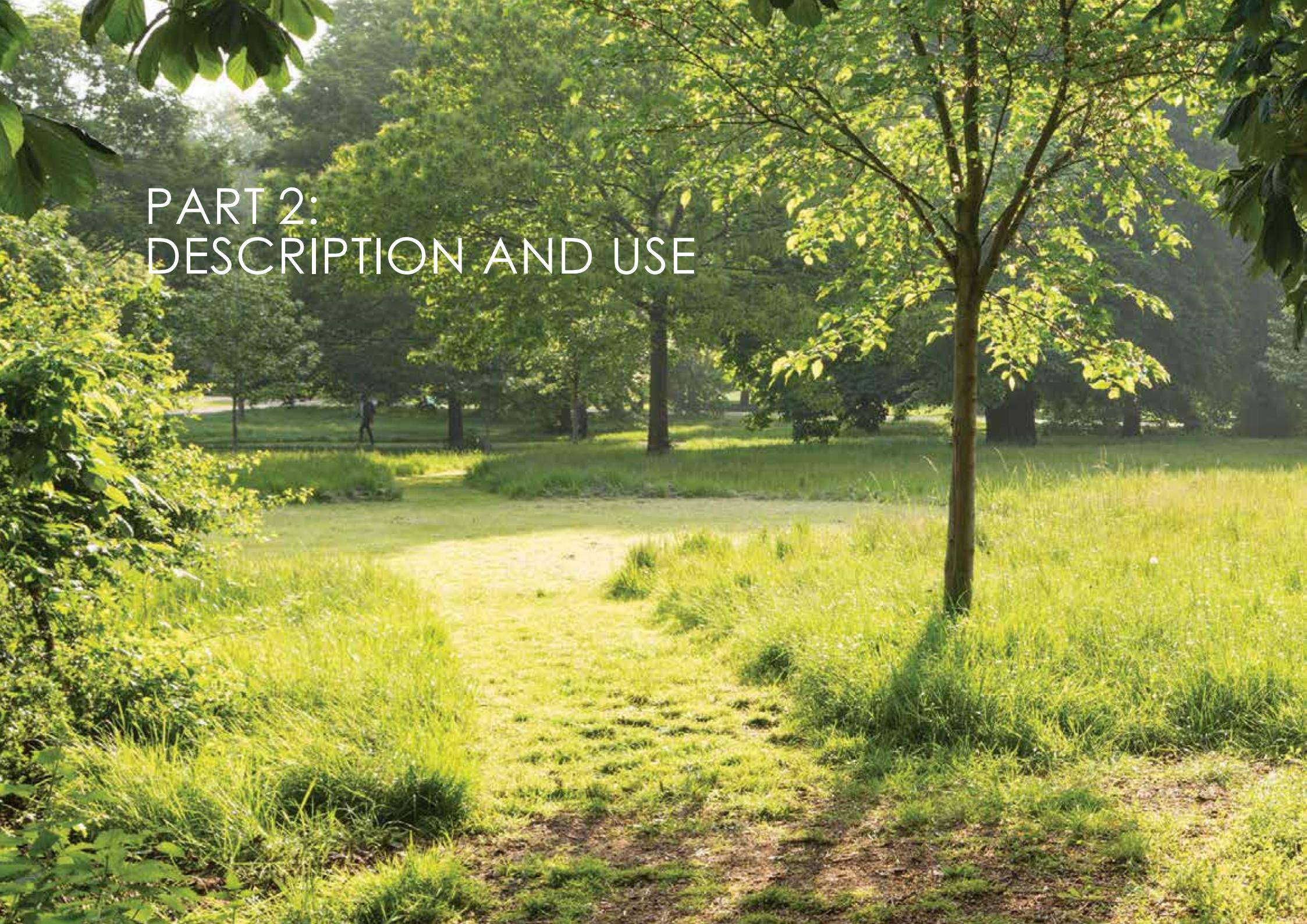
The Royal Parks Foundation are contracted to deliver educational activities in Kensington Gardens, based from their offices in the Hyde Park Lookout.¹⁴

The Park Management Team also support a number of corporate volunteer activities and events that encourage involvement around interests such as wildlife, and heritage.

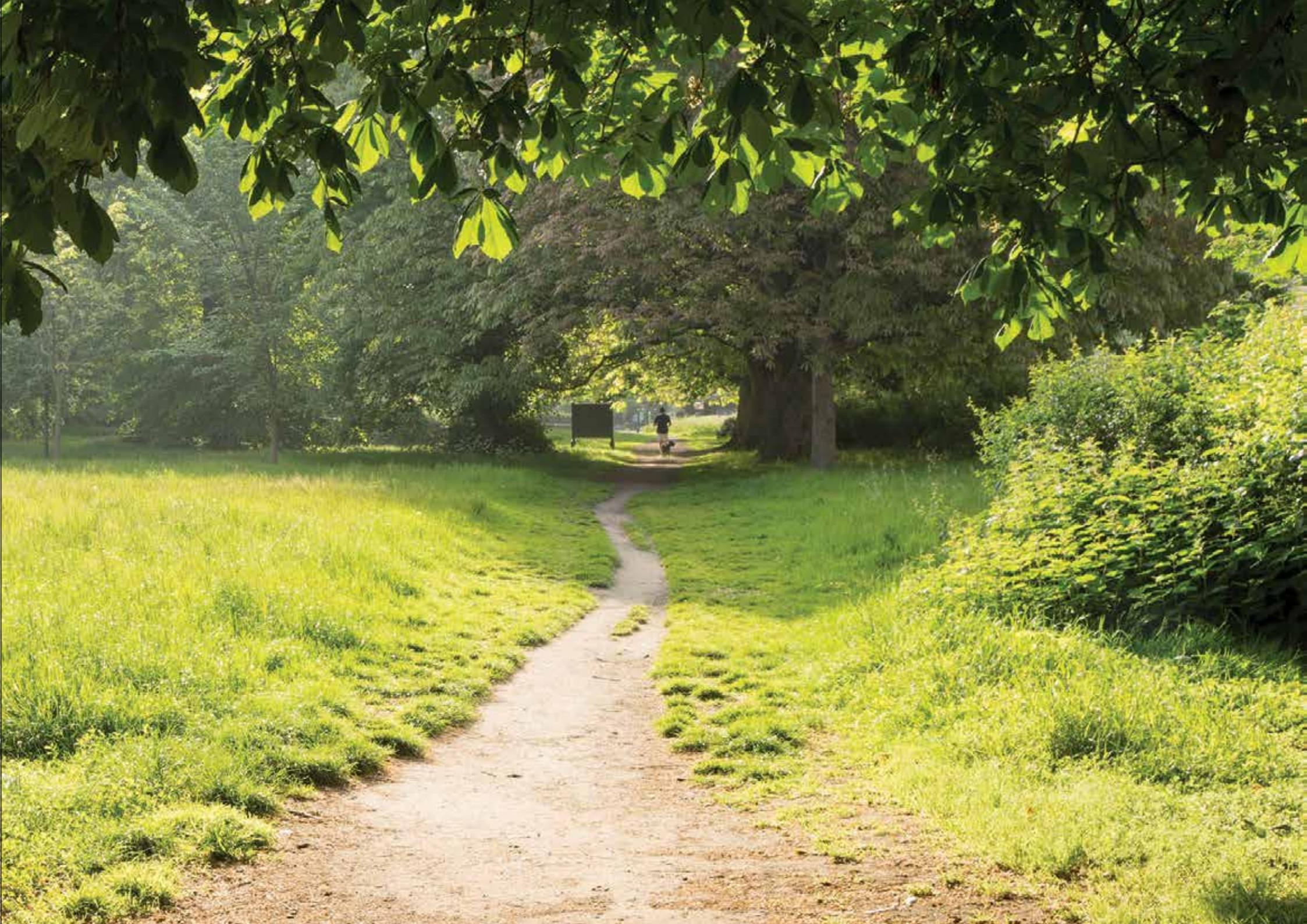
Allotment gardening, adjacent to the park office, is undertaken by an ongoing programme of community volunteers.

Other educational activities are undertaken by the Serpentine Sackler Gallery educational team; and by HRP delivering heritage educational programmes.

Information with park specific educational messages convey key ecological messages regarding themed activities or areas of concern, such as feeding animals, leaving waste and cyclists' respect for pedestrians. Information is also given out on the rationale around any removals of trees, management problems which have been created, and explaining to the public why certain practices are harmful to the environment of Kensington Gardens.

A photograph of a park or garden. The foreground is a bright, sunlit grassy area with some low-lying plants. In the middle ground, a person is walking away from the camera on a path. The background is filled with many trees, their leaves creating a dense canopy. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

PART 2: DESCRIPTION AND USE



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The following short chapter describes the underlying physical features of Kensington Gardens. In summary, the gardens cover some 98 ha (242 acres) and slope gently from north to south forming a roughly rectangular shape extending east from Kensington Palace to the main water body of the Long Water, with a further eastwards extension of the park at Buck Hill across the Long Water. Within the park there is approximately 87 ha (214 acres) of grassland and 4,700 trees. The extent of trees means that in many areas there is almost a complete canopy cover.

Geology

Kensington Gardens lies on two gravel river terraces of the Thames: the Taplow Terrace in the north and the edge of the younger Flood Plain Terrace in the south. Between the two is a narrow strip of the underlying London Clay, which is also exposed in the former valley of the Westbourne (now the Long Water).

Topography

The park lies at a low elevation of between 16 and 29 metres AOD, with the landform dipping gently to the south and to the edges of the Long Water. Many subtle topographic variations relate to the substantial earth modelling undertaken as part of Bridgeman's design which created a flat level terrace fronting to Kensington Palace upon which the formal avenues and the Round Pond could be displayed to dramatic effect. The virtually flat, level expanse of grass framing the Round Pond is a deliberately created plateau landform. Further notable landform features include the relatively steep incline of the southern half of the Broad Walk

and the slope to the south of the Round Pond, the slope of Buck Hill towards the Long Water and the undulations of the ground as it falls away from the Temple.

Soils

Soils are gleic argillic brown earths. They have a mainly sandy loam texture and are mildly acidic. The effects of past earthworks appear to be far less widespread in Kensington Gardens than Hyde Park, due to the earlier layout of the Gardens and the fact that they did not require importation of soil and fill materials. Soil borings on either side of the Albert Memorial, yield deep, dark loams indicating the effects of cultivation of this area during the Second World War. The soil there has been greatly modified from its natural state by human intervention including importation of new soil and amelioration for horticultural reasons and repair.

Hydrology and Drainage

Kensington Gardens sits on natural gravels topped by sand and soils, a perched water table approximately 1.3 to 1.5 metres below ground. A natural springline occurs at the junction of the gravel and clay on the eastern side overlooking the Long Water, which necessitated installation of land drainage in this part of the park in the 1990's.

Before the diversion into the Ranelagh Storm Relief Sewer in 1874, the River Westbourne had flowed into the Long Water. It had been subject to low flows and high sewerage content, flooding periodically during heavy rains, exacerbated by flow from land drains that extend through the eastern parts of the Gardens.

In 1860 the very substantial St. Agnes Well was constructed (approximately in the centre of the Italian Gardens). More recently in 1998, a borehole, working deeper inside St Agnes Well, extracts water that currently feeds the Round Pond and the Italian Gardens.

An ancient spring, once considered to have medicinal properties, is marked today by St. Gover's Well, with its engraved Portland stone cover. However, as the well has dried, it is now supplied by mains water. Surface water still collects along the springline after rain. Otherwise, soils are generally free draining.

NATURAL FABRIC

This section describes the development of the generic 'living' components that have come to make up the essential character of Kensington Gardens – the trees, grassland, shrubberies, horticultural display and water. It also refers to the biodiversity value of these elements.

It is important to note that it is the way that these different living elements come together which create the specific and distinctive character of Kensington Gardens – an essentially genteel, verdant landscape of trees and grass.

The description of individual landscape elements is provided for simplicity and to help identify specific management opportunities. Much more information on each is expressed in Section 8 Policies and Management Strategies, as well as in Section 7 Landscape Character.

Trees And Ecology

Trees provide fundamental frameworks for the landscape of Kensington Gardens, of its ecology and of its historical design. The structure and multiplicity of the historical layout of the avenues provides framed views and a rhythmic engagement with the historic landscape. The avenues are juxtaposed by loose groupings and occasional masses, which collectively define spaces, frame views and contribute to the verdant character.

The main tree framework of the gardens was laid down from the mid 18th century to the late 19th century, although today the majority of the older trees in the gardens are second generation plantings of the mid nineteenth century. Notable design phases are summarised below:

pre 1726: The South Garden to Kensington Palace was laid out to an extravagant formal design by George London and Henry Wise for William and Mary and modified for Queen Anne in 1702 - 03. The Upper Garden with its wilderness, sunken garden and mock mount was also developed by Wise for Queen Anne, although this pattern has now completely disappeared.

1726-33: Initiated under George 1st a massive tree planting scheme, was implemented by Vanbrugh and Bridgeman, including the Great Bow forming a dramatic double avenue around the pond, the Grand (Broad) Walk running north-south and the radiating formal avenues forming a patte d'oie in front of the palace. George II and Queen Caroline retained Bridgeman and instigated a further

ambitious planting scheme including walks with lime espaliers and a 'berceau' or walk of shade at the perimeter of the gardens. Additional formal tree planting included extensive groves of oaks within the formal structure of avenues.

1736: Rocques plan shows the formal avenue extending up and including the areas known today as Buck Hill and the tightly planted bosquets surrounded by the Great Bow contrasting with the more open quarters to the east. These areas known as the 'feathers' consisted of formal staggered rows of trees. The formal gardens to the south of the palace were removed and laid to lawn with an area of more dense tree planting at its southern end.

1760's-1860: Following the death of George II, in 1760 Kensington ceased to be a principal royal palace and many of the designed tree planting features began to be lost: the formal Bridgemanic layout loosened.

1870-1880: A significant new addition to the formal planting structure occurred with the construction of the Albert Memorial and the planting of Lancaster Walk, with an alignment slightly offset from the original avenue, to create a vista terminating at the Memorial.

At the same time an east-west avenue (Albert Memorial Avenue) was created. Together these avenues provide a dramatic setting to the Memorial.

1950-1987: This was a period of considerable tree loss and further weakening of the landscape

structure. Dutch elm disease (1970's) and the great storms (1987 and 1991) both took their toll on the tree population to the extent that the integrity of the historic landscape was at risk. A historic landscape survey (1982) followed by a detailed tree survey provided the basis for addressing past neglect and replanting in line with the historic pattern.

1990 – present: Since 1987 significant time and resources have been invested in the restoration of the tree framework within Kensington Gardens. Over 60 avenue¹⁵ trees have been replanted including restoration of original 18th century elements. A thorough appraisal of the avenues and trees in the Gardens has been undertaken in the Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy 2010, and in the Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy 2014 (which focused on the avenues). The Tree Strategy shows total tree numbers:

	Total number	Number in avenues
Lime	1358	884
Sweet Chestnut	195	108
Horse Chestnut	408	106
Plane	307	224
Oak	246	18
Others*	913	228
TOTALS	3178	1568

*includes maples, hornbeam, Indian horse chestnut, liriodendron and other ornamentals and exotics.

The Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy 2014 sets out nine principles for a ten year action plan. A summary for planting specific areas recommends:-

- Buck Hill Walk and Axis: options for gap planting to help reconstruct the avenues without overly complete formality, of mixed species in short runs.
- Dial Walk (outer row): strategy for judicious removals of 2 liriodendron; to gap up with 1 liriodendron and 4 sweet chestnut and formation of new 'antlers' in sweet chestnut.
- The Dials: replacement of failing horse chestnut with resistant elm cultivars.
- Great Bayswater Walk: options for gap planting of oak, lime and occasional sweet chestnut
- Lancaster Walk: options for gap planting the inner rows with plane, the outer rows with lime.
- North Feathers: options for some infill, and also to restore the front line in oak (*Quercus petraea*), beech, sweet chestnut, lime and hornbeam.
- South Roundabout: options for gap planting in Indian horse chestnut, alder, buckeye and hop hornbeam.
- The Broad Walk: replacement of all Norway maple with sessile oak
- The Great Bow: re-planting has been undertaken in 2015 of 30 lime trees in the southern arc and 12 limes in the northern arc.

The Quarters: a continuation of these tree restoration initiatives affords scope to have more purposeful planting which will strengthen the individual (named) identities of each separate Quarter. The strategy is to strike a careful balance between density of planting and the continuation of Kensington Gardens' essential "grassiness", a

defining characteristic. Approximately half the area of the Gardens is managed as 'meadow' with appropriate Spring and Autumn cutting regimes. Much natural regeneration of trees exists, which will allow for creative management in selecting good specimens in particular locations for recruitment and retention, so as not to lose the meadow areas.

The quarters allow opportunities for retaining veteran trees which are assets both in aesthetic and in ecological terms; and also as investment in new planting and replacing some of the notable late nineteenth/early twentieth century groupings of species.

There is also the opportunity of restoring some "firs" (in reality they were pines) in the "Fir Quarter".

Native woody vegetation has been initiated and encouraged in fenced areas: several stands are in the south wilderness, at the southern end to the Dials and on the north hedge line. These 'break-out' beds have been created to increase biodiversity substance and screening to the otherwise limited depth of the hedge lines.

In 2010-2011, the Historic Royal Palaces HLF funded project provided for opening the east side of the Palace and its immediate setting to reintegrate with the Gardens. Sixty four trees were cleared so as to achieve a seamless boundary. New tree planting was undertaken to compensate for the loss of this tree cover in the wilderness area to the south of Dial Walk.

Hedge laying of the hawthorn hedge in the southern counties style has been undertaken along the park perimeter of Buck Hill alongside West Carriage Drive. This is a traditional woodland craft that dates back many centuries. It is rooted in the principles of managing a stock proof boundary making use of the ability of natural woody species to regenerate from dormant buds. The laid hedge provides aesthetic charm and character, delineates the separateness of Kensington Gardens from Hyde Park and has the purpose of thickening the hedge at its base making it denser, in turn providing a much improved habitat for nesting birds. It is intended to maintain this effort over the coming years to successfully lay other sections of native hedge around the northern and southern boundary of the Gardens.

The Park Manager and TRP arboricultural team make regular tree inspections and instruct arboricultural contractors to implement works and manage the trees, for example, maintenance and safety works. The tree contractor is also employed to respond to emergency tree works. The whole of Kensington Gardens is a Conservation Area and therefore the relevant local planning authorities are notified in advance of all routine and strategic tree works, in accordance with ODPM guidelines.

Management Opportunities:

1. Continue the consideration of tree structure and its relationship to the grassed areas as key to the character of Kensington Gardens; the effect on grasses and forbs e.g. in relation to the management of self sown trees in the Quarters.

MAJOR AVENUES
AND TREE LINES

● Veteran trees



2. Continue to implement recommendations of the 2010 and 2014 Tree Strategies regarding renewal and restoration, respecting the heritage pattern in relation to siting and choice of tree species in further planting (beyond the avenues); and aiming to reinforce the characters of individual Quarters.
3. Continue to implement recommendations of the 2010 Veteran Tree Survey which provides management schedules with a view to optimise the long-term viability for their individual continuity and for their dependent saproxylic habitat.
4. Maintain timely and well resourced management of pests and diseases.
5. Develop natural regeneration of trees: investigate opportunities for TRP nursery to grow on seedlings, with use of veteran and significant trees as a propagation source.
6. Maintain the botanical diversity of trees.
7. Progress and apply techniques for root zone amelioration and de-compaction around trees developing a strategy/plan for long term benefit.
8. Review and update the 2010 Veteran Tree Strategy.

Grassland And Ecology

Grassland is an essential component of the Kensington Gardens covering in the region of 87ha (214 acres) and creating its verdant character. A minority of the grassland is maintained as regularly mown amenity grass sward providing the context and setting for the formal landscape of tree avenues and rides as well as an appropriate 'surface' for informal recreation. In some areas,

such as Buck's Hill, the thin acidic soils over the river terrace gravels are reflected in small remnant areas of acid grassland, which are an important habitat.

Grassland management, for instance the number of cuts per annum and their timings, is informed by the NVC Survey and 2013 Ground Flora Survey. Generally, close mown amenity sward is maintained in the most heavily used and formal areas, for instance around the Albert Memorial, while meadow regimes are maintained in other areas. This management approach has been developed over a number of years and is now considered to be appropriate for the park, with modifications recommended from the 2013 Ground Flora survey for some areas. Measures have been taken that have mainly resolved the issues of heavy wear and tear and compacted subsoil, which had impacted a number of problem grass areas.

Management Opportunities:

1. Continue with meadow mowing regimes and aim to manage grassland for optimum biodiversity where this is consistent with historic landscape objectives.
2. Continue to undertake enhanced maintenance and repair for areas of high wear and tear.
3. Pursue acid grassland restoration activities in targeted areas.
4. Refine mowing regimes under tree canopies within the existing amenity turf.

Horticultural Areas And Biodiversity Garden Areas

The horticultural areas are an important and cherished feature of Kensington Gardens. The ornamental displays are focussed along the South Flower Walk, urns and beds in the Italian Gardens and at the North Flower Walk. The management approach for The North Flower Walk is to arrest its decline, and re-establish improved horticultural interest there. Further information on each is provided within the relevant character area descriptions.

The gardens at Kensington Palace, namely the Sunken Garden and Orangery Garden are maintained by the Historic Royal Palaces (HRP). HRP have considerable horticultural expertise and skills maintaining their gardens to a very high standard.

Horticultural displays in the South Flower Walk provide both visual delight and also supply an important habitat and nectar source. The South Flower Walk is an outstanding set piece comprising a formal walkway flanked by shrub and flowerbed areas, interspersed ornamental trees, including some choice and unusual species. The area is relatively secluded and enclosed from the main part of the Gardens providing contrast and visual appeal; it is intensively maintained and is well used and enjoyed by visitors and, with the Albert Memorial, provides an important approach to the Gardens.

Some areas of the Gardens have swathes of naturalised bulbs, giving added floriferous interest

and increasing the offering of pollen sources early in the year.

Management Opportunities:

1. Aim to implement opportunities to improve planting in focused areas of the Gardens e.g. North Flower Walk; for delight and for biodiversity.
2. Complete the landscape restoration of South Flower Walk.
3. Improve the landscape setting at the Peter Pan enclosure.
4. Ensure complementary maintenance regimes with Kensington Palace.
5. Ensure maintenance of best display areas remains at the highest possible horticultural standards using environmentally sustainable practices that minimise the use of unsustainable pesticides.
6. Consider ecological benefits in the management of all horticultural areas.
7. Identify opportunities to introduce new horticultural/planting features and styles.
8. Increase areas of spring bulb planting, focusing on native bulbs.

Ornamental and Conservation Shrubberies

Shrub plantings take various forms in the Gardens. 'Satellite' beds with a predominantly shrub content are features near the Orangery, the Diana Playground and Orme Square. Borders with a predominantly shrub content make up much of South Flower Walk to Mount Gate and North Flower Walk. Around the Long Water remaining ornamental shrubs and planting combined with an increasing amount of native shrubs make

refuges of transitional habitats between water and meadows. Valuable cover and nesting sites for songbirds are offered by much of this habitat.

Management Opportunities:

1. Ensure management of shrubberies seeks a balance between horticulture, biodiversity and historic landscape objectives and seek to create views and vistas of the Long Water.
2. Recognise the important biodiversity interest of the enclosed shrubbery areas and apply management principles to maintain and enhance this interest.
3. Aim to realise the range offered by shrub content; dense thickets for nesting, elegance and wider spacing for visual clarity and underplanting opportunities.
4. Aim to revitalise and renovate shrubberies on a cyclical basis.

BUILDINGS AND HARD LANDSCAPE FABRIC

The formal landscape design was originally orientated to Kensington Palace which lies to the west of the Gardens. Today, Kensington Palace is managed by Historic Royal Palaces and the Royal Household and does not form part of the territory of the Gardens, and is not the subject of this management plan. However the interrelationship between the Palace and the Gardens both visual and functional is a critical element of the character of the Gardens and is considered as part of this plan.

In addition to Kensington Palace, there are a number of other buildings and monuments which form important landmarks and points of interest

and focus within the Gardens. The following section gives a summary of the main structures that lie within the Gardens.

Buildings And Main Structures

Buildings and structures are an essential and integral part of Kensington Gardens. There are eight main buildings within Kensington Gardens managed by the Royal Parks. These are Buck Hill Lodge, the Serpentine Gallery (under licence), The Serpentine Serpentine Sackler Gallery (under licence; previously the Magazine), Queen's Gate Lodge, Queen Caroline's Temple, Queen Anne's Alcove, the Pumphouse, and the Albert Memorial. There are, in addition, a large number of other structures that are a fundamental part of the character of the Gardens. A summary of the main buildings and structures, their historic origin and current status is set out below.

Bandstand: Listed Grade II, 1931, by J. Markham, said to give better acoustics than the usual round type. The first bandstand (1869) was removed to Hyde Park 1886.

'Time Flies' clock tower: 1909, the gift of Mrs. Galpin. Inscribed 'Time Flies' on clock tower and 'This fountain was erected 1909, in memory of a beloved son and one who loved little children'. The fountain has since been decommissioned.

Pumphouse and Italian Gardens: Listed Grade II, 1860-61, by Banks and Barry. Marble fountain in five basins, Tazza fountain and balustrade by John Thomas. Gardens initially promoted by Prince Albert. The purpose of the Pumphouse is to raise

and supply water to the head of the Long Water. The fine building is in two parts: the rear is fully operational: the front is an open shelter. Railings and balustrades surrounding The Fountains, with kerbstones to pools and statue of Jenner. Portland stone kerbs and balustrades and cast iron railings.

Queen Anne's Alcove: Listed Grade II*, 1705, by Sir Christopher Wren, originally sited against the Park Wall at Dial Walk to the south of Kensington Palace. Re-located 1867-68 to present position at the north end of the Long Water (Marlborough Gate).

Queen Caroline's Temple: Listed Grade II, c.1734, attributed to William Kent. Converted as Temple Lodge 1850s, bomb damaged 1944, restored and lodge removed 1976-77. Queen Caroline's Temple was set within an 'Arcadian' landscape, in a location with views to the Serpentine. There are eighteenth century prints depicting Queen Caroline's Temple "in Arcadia" across the Long Water.

Serpentine Gallery: Listed Grade II, 1934 by Henry Tanner jun., as new refreshment pavilion to replace earlier refreshment room (1855); re-opened 1970 as the Serpentine Gallery.

The gallery is a popular visitor attraction in its own right. It is famous for its annual summer event, including construction of temporary structures in the grounds.

Serpentine Sackler Gallery: Original nucleus c.1764-65 as the Powder Magazine building for storing gunpowder, it was for many years

the base for park management before being converted to an exhibition space in 2013 with annexe, a tensile structure by Zaha Hadid. Date 1805 appears on rainwater heads of central block. Doric colonnade and side pavilions added later (Decimus Burton) and shown in illustrations of 1823.

Coalbrookdale Gates: Listed Grade II, 1851, designed by Charles Crookes, sculpted by John Bell, made by the Coalbrookdale Co., bronze-painted cast iron. Made for the 1851 Great Exhibition; erected at entrance to Lancaster Walk on Rotten Row 1852; displaced and re-erected across South Carriage Drive (now the Albert Approach Road) 1871 (during construction of the Albert Memorial).

Albert Memorial: Listed Grade I, inaugurated 1872, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, in memory of Prince Albert (1809-61). Statue of Prince Albert, 1875, by John Henry Foley (d. 1874, completed by G.F. Thomas). The frieze around the base depicts 169 figures – the world's greatest painters, musicians, architects and sculptors as perceived in the mid-Victorian age. Groundworks included re-siting of Queen's Gate Lodge, re-siting of Coalbrookdale Gate; land taken from Hyde Park into Kensington Gardens; and replanting Lancaster Gate Walk avenues on the new axis of the Memorial. There have been recent improvements to the presentation and setting of the monument; additional conservation work to the full restoration, and new cabling to the lighting. There is continuous conservation work to the marble and bronze statuary.

Queen's Gate: Listed Grade II, 1858, by C.J. Richardson, built by William Jackson at own expense. Original gate pillars supported figures of athletes, replaced 1919 with deer groups given by JLP. Lebegue.

Queen's Gate Lodge: Listed Grade II, 1858, built of Bath stone, with three piers. The Lodge continues to be in private residential use.

Lancaster Gate: Pair of gates brought (1851) from Latimers, Bucks. Named Lancaster Gate from 1861.

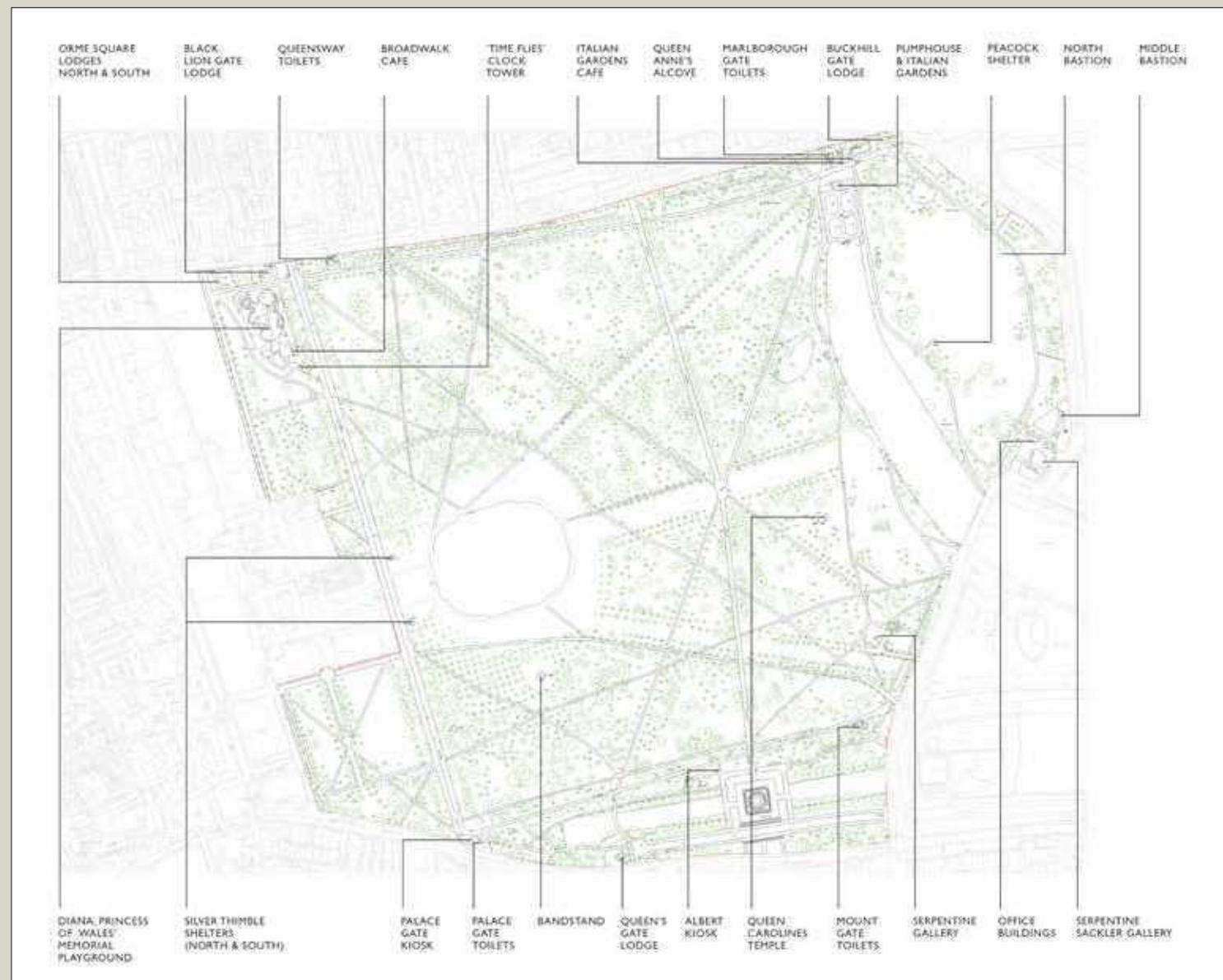
Black Lion Gate: Listed Grade II, 1862 cast-iron carriage gates of two leaves hung from open-work iron piers. Full-height bars with spear-head finials. Piers crowned with royal monogram, date and star of Order of the Garter.

Buck Hill Lodge, Lodge at Westbourne Gate: Listed Grade II, 1852, altered 1888. Formerly occupied by the foreman of Kensington Gardens, it continues to be in private residential use.

Black Lion Lodge: the Lodge was re-built in 1964 after being destroyed in 1942: origin building showing on the Greenwood map of 1827; previously used by the park foreman, now in private residential use.

Orme Square Gate Lodges North and South: built in 1961-1962. Residential lodges, the North Lodge now in private residential use, to replace those demolished by Park Lane Improvement Scheme.

BUILDINGS / STRUCTURES PLAN



Silver Thimble Shelter North and South: listed in 2014 as Grade II, the Silver Thimble seating shelters were erected in 1919 to commemorate soldiers and sailors in WWI. Timber construction. Shingle roof.

North Bastion and Middle Bastion: built in 1725-1731 parts of two bastions and ha-ha that marked the furthermost extent of the Gardens to the east, remain.

Board Walk Cafe: catering building that was redeveloped in 2000-2001 in conjunction the Diana Princess of Wales' Playground.

Toilet buildings: at Mount Gate, Marlborough Gate and Childrens' toilets at the Diana Princess of Wales' Playground; also Queensway and Palace Gate toilets (managed under license by WCC).

The following are now managed by HRP: Studio Gate Alcove: responsibility of HRP. Shown on plan c.1705, possibly by William Talman. Ornamental plastered wood panels possibly from an earlier, 17th-century building.

Management Opportunities:

1. Ensure high standard of maintenance and presentation for all buildings and structures particularly conservation and enhancement of character and setting of listed structures e.g. Queen Caroline's Temple. Maintain the Forward Maintenance Register (FMR) and its cyclical programme of external decorations to all buildings.

2. Ensure a continual replacement of M&E features to keep buildings to a high standard and to minimise unscheduled failures.
3. Pursue the restoration and re-installation of seating into the Silver Thimble shelters.
4. Develop restoration approaches for internal refurbishment of the internal rooms in Queen Anne's Alcove.
5. Explore opportunities to bring the Bandstand into being a more functional and accessible park feature: find a design solution for this underutilised heritage asset being fenced against accidental falls from its platform.

MONUMENTS AND MAIN ARTEFACTS

There are a number of other structures and artefacts that have accrued incrementally by the Gardens and now form an important part of the built landscape. These are mainly 19th and early 20th century layers, which co-exist and help to animate the 18th century layout. They include historic buildings and memorials, several of which have a listed status (section. 3) and a number of ornamental features. These are described below:

Esme Percy Memorial: 1961, by Silvia Gilley, bronze on granite pedestal, a dog drinking fountain in memory of Esme Percy.

St. Govor's well: Located on former well site, Portland stone cover 1976. Inscribed "This drinking fountain masks the site of an ancient spring which in 1856 was named Saint Govor's well by the first Commissioner of Works, later to become Lord Llanover. Saint Govor, a sixth century hermit, was

the patron saint of a church at Llanover which had eight wells in its church yard".

Elfin Oak: Listed Grade II, 1930, designed and made by Ivor Innes from an ancient oak trunk from Richmond Park, the gift of Lady Fortescue in response to the Lansbury Appeal. Restored 1951 and 1996.

Parish boundary markers: Thirteen low stone marker posts of unknown date, located variously along the boundaries between the parishes of St. Margarets, West Paddington (St Mary Abbots, Kensington) and St. Georges, Hanover Square.

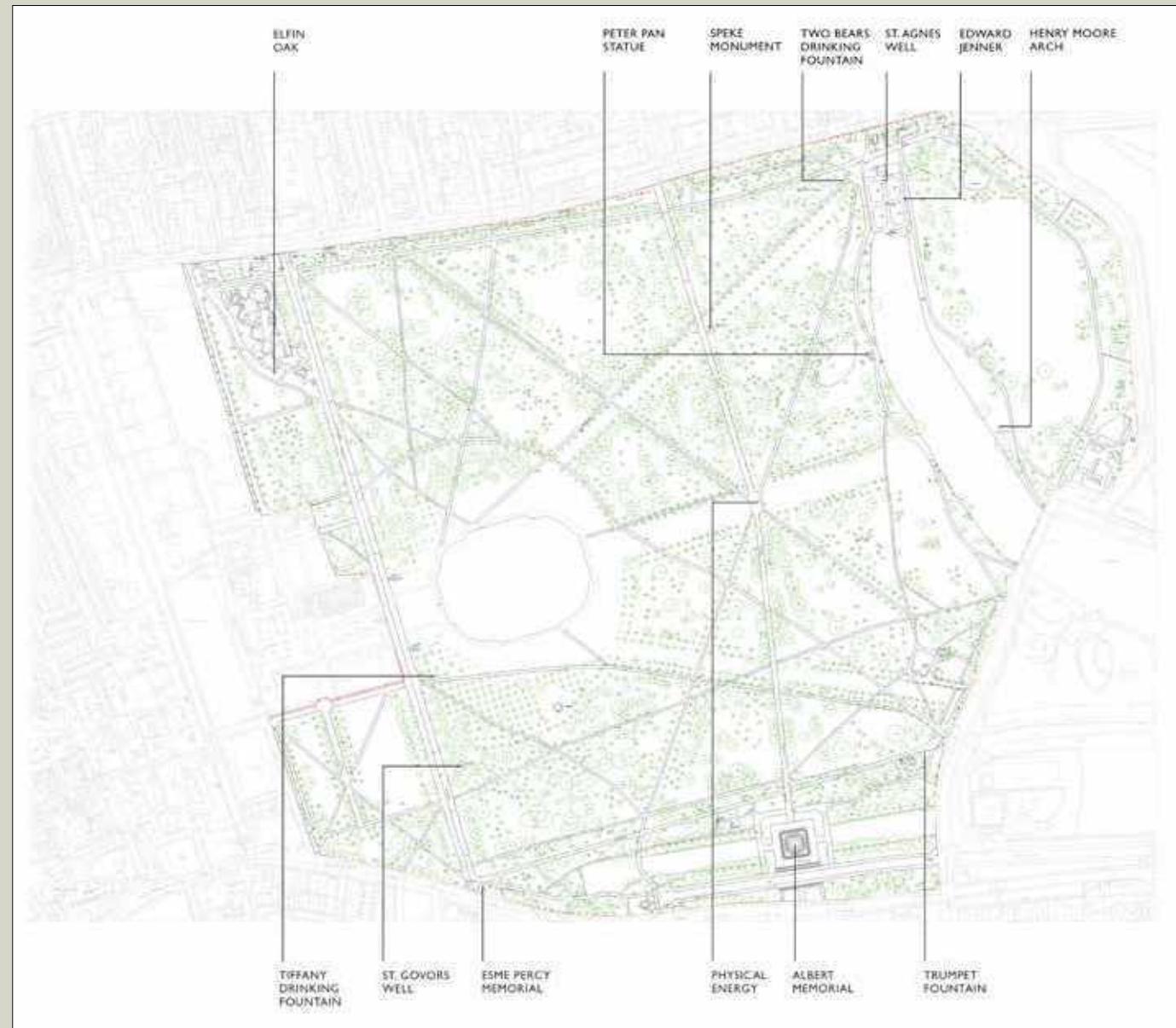
Speke Monument and railings: Listed Grade II, 1866, by Philip Hardwick, erected by the Speke Memorial Committee.

St. Agnes's well: Stone bench, first shown on 1894 OS map on the site previously marked (OS 1869) as St. Agnes' well.

Edward Jenner: Listed Grade II, (1749-1823) 1858, by William Calder-Marshall, bronze. Statue of the physician who invented the smallpox vaccine. Moved from Trafalgar Square 1862 as part of the Italian Gardens works.

Two Bears drinking fountain: Listed Grade II, 1939, Stone baluster supporting basin with bronze group of embracing baby bears, by Kenneth Keeble-Smith, presented by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association to mark its 80th anniversary. Re-cast 1970 to replace bears stolen in 1967.

MONUMENTS PLAN



Peter Pan: Listed Grade II* 1912, by Sir George Frampton, bronze, commissioned by JM. Barrie. Bronze figure of the hero of Sir James Barrie's play surrounded by fairies, birds and animals. Stone base

Physical Energy: Erected 1907, by George Frederick Watts OM, bronze, replica of a section of the Rhodes Memorial on Table Mountain in Cape Town.

Peacock Walk Shelter, Buck Hill: 1930, funded by public response to the Lansbury Appeal.

Arch by Henry Moore: Erected in 1980, a gift of the Henry Moore Foundation. It has been restored and reinstated 2012/2013.

Trumpet Fountain, Broad Walk: 2015, replacing a former fountain, sponsored by The Tiffany & Co Foundation, a bronze drinking fountain designed by Moxon Architects; with integral dog bowl at its base, set in three rings of sandstone with an ornate swirl engraving.

Trumpet Fountain, Mount Gate: 2012, replacing a former fountain, sponsored by the Bulgarian Community a bronze drinking fountain designed by Moxon Architects; at the base an integral dog bowl, set in a single ring of green slate.

Bollard: Listed Grade II, C19. Cast-iron. Ornate version of the cannon type with acanthus ornament to base. Located at south end of the Gardens.

The following are now managed by HRP:

Crowther Gates: Responsibility of HRP. Previously situated to the north side of the State Apartments, held in store until installed at the head of Dial Walk in 1989–90 with ornamental piers.

William II: (1650-1702) 1907, by H. Baucke, bronze. Inscribed "William III of Orange, King of Great Britain and Ireland presented by William II, German Emperor and King of Prussia to King Edward VII for the British Nation. 1907". Pedestal by Sir Aston Webb.

Queen Victoria: (1819-1900) Erected 1893, by Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, marble, presented by the Kensington Golden Jubilee Memorial Executive Committee. The young queen wears coronation robes. The statue is within the area managed by HRP, but is an important visible feature from the Gardens.

Management Opportunities:

1. Recognise important contribution of features (such as the Elfin Oak, Albert Memorial, Peter Pan, Statue of Physical Energy) to the character and identity of Kensington Gardens and ensure a high standard of maintenance of the features and their setting.
2. Limit further incremental addition of small scale artefacts and features.

BOUNDARIES AND GATES

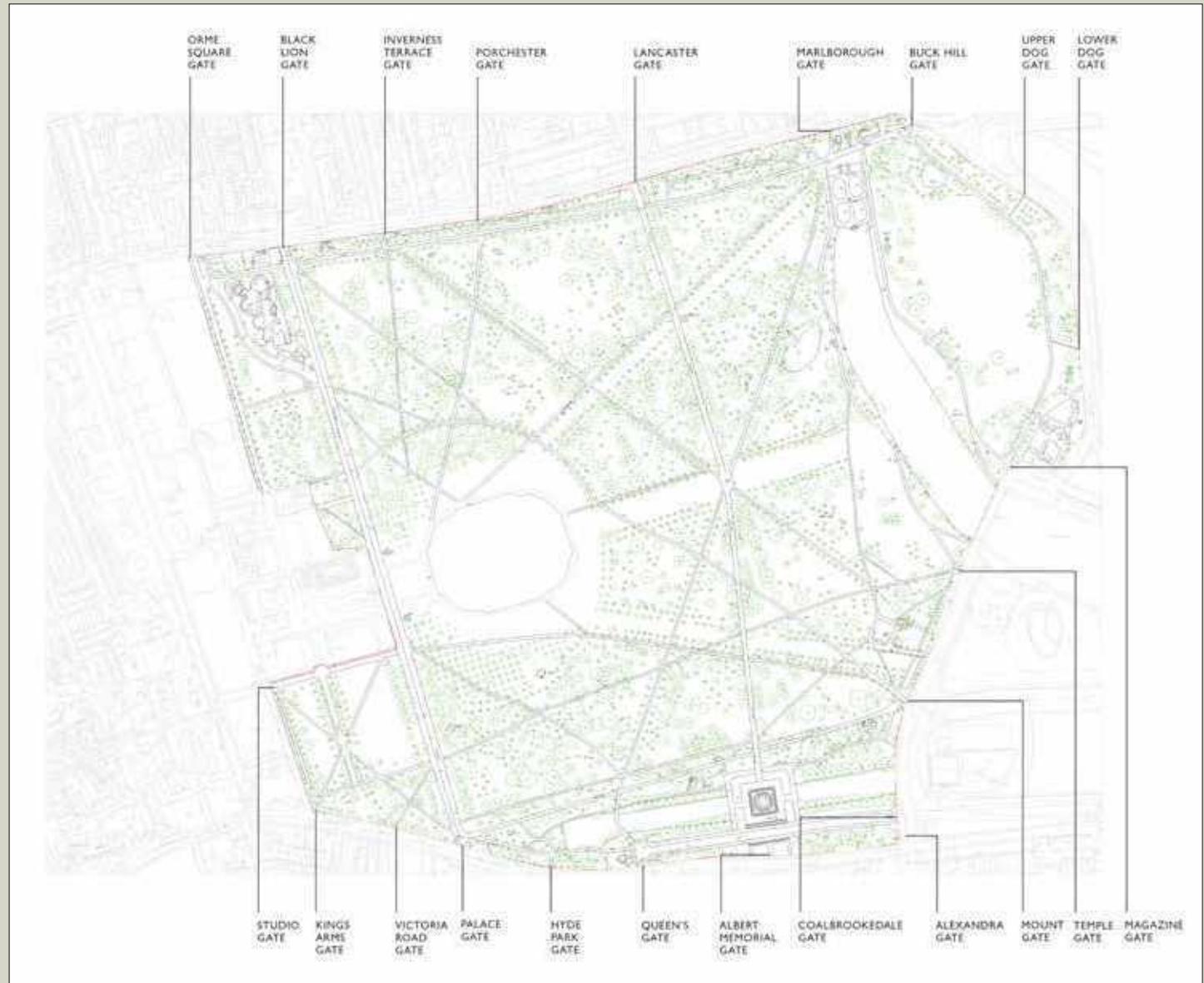
The quality of the boundary treatments and entrances into Kensington Gardens is important in creating the first impression for visitors entering the

park. This includes the relative contrast crossing from Hyde Park into Kensington Gardens as well as the important relationship with the adjacent urban landscape. The following section describes the main components of the boundaries and entrances to the Gardens

Boundaries: The present hard structure boundaries of Kensington Gardens were established by 1871. These included the Buck Hill extension with the north and south bastion and ha ha forming the eastern boundary of the park as part of Queen Caroline's improvements in 1730, and the later addition of the South Carriage Drive (now the Albert Approach Road) added when the Albert Memorial Scheme was approaching completion in 1871. Historically, the Gardens were enclosed by brick walls, providing privacy for occupants of the Palace. Railings subsequently replaced the walls in the early-mid nineteenth century, and survived until 1942 when they were removed for gun metal, leaving the gardens unenclosed for a considerable period. The present iron railings were installed in 1968 – 1970 on a low brick retaining wall. Hedges supplement most of the length of external railings along Bayswater Road. The railings are composed of two main types: spiked mild steel vertical bar railings on the north and south perimeters; arrowhead mild steel vertical bar railings on the eastern perimeter along West Carriage Drive. The latter railing type is also present around the Long Water, and some internal enclosures.

More recently hedges have been added to increase the verdant buffer for the Gardens from outside traffic and to increase biodiversity. Most of

GATES PLAN



the perimeter boundary includes hedging inside the fence boundary.

Gates: The number of points of access into Kensington Gardens have increased since they were first laid out in the eighteenth century, in line with increasing public use. Today, there are a total of 22 gateways into the park, 2 gated openings under Serpentine Bridge, plus more recent supplementary turnstile gates to facilitate exit from the park after closing. Six of the gates are of a more grand, ornamental design and create distinctive entrances into the Gardens, the largest being Coalbrookdale Gate (1852) and Queen's Gate (1858) and the oldest, although least decorative being Lancaster Gate (1851). The majority of the remaining gates were created in the mid nineteenth century, with many of the original gates being removed in World War II, and subsequently replaced with simple iron gates to match the surrounding railings.

The gates all provide pedestrian access. Mount, Studio, Palace, Black Lion and Coalbrookdale Gate allow cycle access to the designated cycle route across the park. The Orme Square Gates are used for vehicle access to the Palace as well as for pedestrians. The gates are opened at six a.m. and locked at dusk. They are evenly distributed along the south, east and north boundaries (with only one on the west boundary reflecting the presence of the Palace and private paddocks. The gates, in the main, are considered to be appropriately located and relate well to the path layout. There are opportunities for improvements to the setting of some gate entrances and specifically to

Victoria Road gate and the King's Arm Gate in relation to the south front of Kensington Palace.

Management Opportunities:

1. Ensure maintenance of gates and railings to a high standard and quality to enhance presentation of the park.
2. Consider adding a turnstile at Magazine Gate.
3. Opportunity to improve setting and presentation of some gateway entrances to achieve consistently significant entrance hierarchies e.g. King's Arms Gate.
4. Need to resolve user conflict (pedestrian and traffic) at Orme Square Gate.
5. Need to conserve and enhance the older ornamental gateways that create distinctive entrances to the Gardens.
6. Seek to maintain appropriate setting beyond the park boundaries.

ROAD AND PATH NETWORK

Within Kensington Gardens the path network (22km) is extensive, convenient and in the main integrated with the historic layout of 1730, with later adaptations to facilitate public use. Roadways (not accessible to public traffic) are present at Albert Approach Road (formerly part of South Carriage Drive) and Jubilee Walk. Pedestrian access has priority on all paths, although some also provide service and maintenance access. In addition, some paths have shared use with cyclists (Albert Approach Road/ Studio Walk and The Broad Walk and Mount Walk.) It is noted that Kensington Gardens, unlike Hyde Park, does not have segregated cycle lane

provision and there are no plans to adopt such an approach. Vehicle access to Kensington Palace is permissible along Jubilee Walk.

Paths range in width from 10m (the Broad Walk) to 1.2m. The majority are less than 4m wide. They are predominantly surfaced with bound gravel of the 'tar and chip' type, though in recent years more resin bonded surfaces have been introduced e.g. beside the Round Pond.

Management Opportunities:

1. Need to manage user conflicts – cycle/ pedestrian/rollerblade/skateboard.
2. Need to manage user conflict, noting at times considerable quantities of traffic to Kensington Palace on Jubilee Walk.
3. Need for a high standard of maintenance of paths and hard surfaces (bound gravel) and matching repairs to avoid 'patchiness'.
4. Need for consistent use of surfacing materials to reinforce distinctive high quality landscape.

PARK FURNITURE AND SIGNAGE

Benches and Seats: There are in the region of 150 benches and seats in the Gardens, mostly of reasonable quality and repair. They are of a wide variety of styles including elaborately scrolled O'Brien Thomas style (cast iron and wooden slats) first introduced at the Great Exhibition in 1851 and now with more recent recasts forming a standard throughout the Royal Parks. Other styles include the all timber 'Listers' and a few of the cast iron/two plank 'Barkers' as well as the 'Yates-Haywood' version of cast iron/wooden slats and Boulton

and Paul teak type bench, plus more modern examples. The benches are widely distributed throughout the gardens, with concentrations in association with particular features. Gifted and commemorated benches, to the style selected by TRP, make important contributions, for instance in the Italian Gardens and South Flower Walk. In addition, deckchairs are available at the Round Pond/Bandstand and Buck Hill/Italian Gardens areas from April to September during daylight hours, weather permitting.

Litterbins and Dog Bins: There are in the region of 125 bins for litter or dog waste within the gardens. This number is considered to be sufficient to meet visitor needs. These comprise four main types: black or Royal Parks green with gold trim cast iron variety, double unit recycling slatted wooden bins, and metal bins plus temporary wire basket receptacles, used during busy periods, supplemented by 26 bins for dog waste. There are in addition three glass recycling bins on a trial basis. 55 new recycling bins were installed in 2015 to encourage recycling and reduce quantities of incineration. Bins are in the most part unobtrusive and appropriately located throughout the Gardens; though there are some that fail to co-ordinate with benches or are inappropriately located.

Lighting: Apart from gas lamps at Queens Gate and lighting for the Albert Memorial, TRP does not have any external lighting. HRP has some lighting restricted to the areas around Kensington Palace, where there are a number of ornamental lamp posts. The park is not intended to provide a 24 hour

facility and therefore further lighting at night time is not required. The Albert Memorial is up lit with ground level lights illuminating the Memorial.

Signage: There are 42 notice boards and map boards within the Gardens. These include standard Royal Parks Information Boards at each of the gates plus local notice and sign boards: the two bird identification paintings along the Long Water, provided by the Friends at the Long Water, and the new wildlife interpretation panels installed in 2015. The Buck Hill bastion board is in poor condition.

Management Opportunities:

1. Ensure consistency in type and co-ordination of benches and bins in key areas adhering to TRP Landscape Design Guide.
2. Recognise and continue high maintenance requirements for park furniture and signage.
3. Local realignments of park furniture – particularly to avoid cluttering of key views and vistas.
4. Encourage gifted benches to TRP selected design and location.
5. Restrict lighting to present levels within the park.
6. Develop interpretation strategy, without proliferation of signboards, to relate and share Kensington Gardens with interested visitors eg. its history, tree species, grassland ecology.
7. Monitor the quality, appearance and appropriateness of information boards updating on a regular basis.
8. Provision of visitor information closely identified with the Royal Parks could be provided at enhanced catering facilities.
9. Reduce the number of temporary notices and signs.

EDUCATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND USER EXPERIENCE

Education And Interpretation

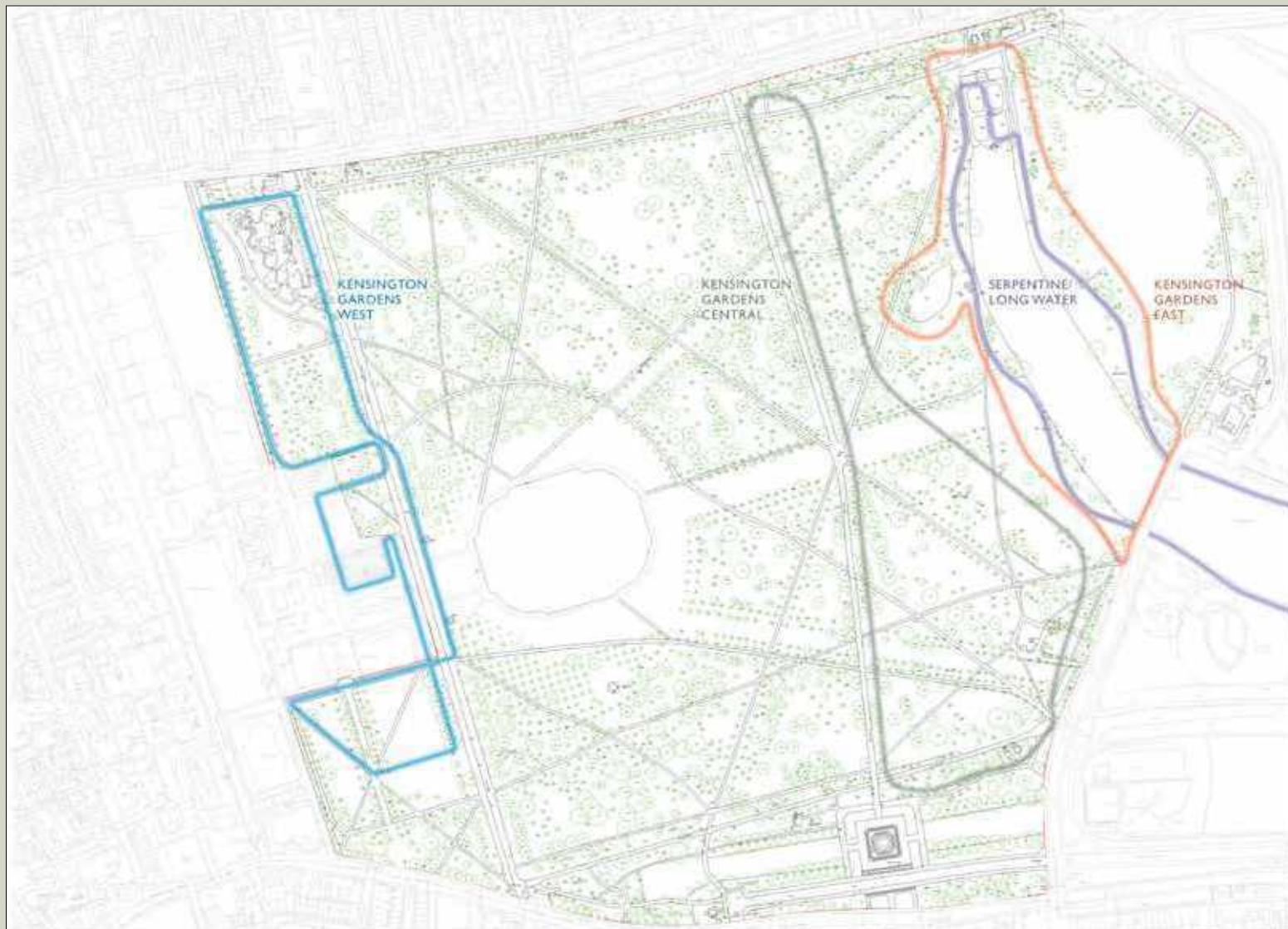
The Royal Parks Foundation Education team: works in partnership work with the volunteer team at the Kensington Gardens allotment. The volunteer coordinator provides guidance and management for volunteer groups who are involved in a wide range of activities in the Gardens and throughout TRP. This provides support and guidance to young people in their knowledge of how to grow foods and life skills in how to take the harvested food and prepare for use.

Serpentine and Serpentine Sackler Gallery Education team: the Park Management Team works co-operatively with both galleries to support the potential of art, exhibitions and associated installations in the landscape

Kensington Palace HRP: the Park Management Team liaises with HRP in their provision of heritage education programmes.

Interpretative Material: Exploring and implementing effective and contemporary ways of meeting information needs about Kensington Gardens', its rich heritage and wildlife, will be a forthcoming focus.

Guided Walks and Small Scale Interpretative Events: The Park Management Team will continue to provide, encourage and support a regular programme of small scale events. Special



STANDARD BIRD SURVEY WALKS

consideration will be given to occasional small community events that seek to widen the audience of the park, for example attracting local residents that currently do not visit the gardens.

Special Projects: opportunities will be developed around important external events; an example of which is the upcoming WW1 three year project which will highlight the military use of Buck Hill area as a camouflage school. This project will engage community and schools in recreating the trenches and experiencing some of the war time training programme.

Management Opportunities:

1. There are a number of opportunities for community involvement, including the active Friends Group.
2. Add interpretation material with South Flower Walk Phase 4 project; with North Flower Walk project; and bird & wildlife information boards.

Engagement And Outreach

Allotment: The 'Grow Your Own' gardening programme in Kensington Gardens illustrates the team spirit between a group of volunteers working closely and identifying with the allotment and Park Management. The volunteers' management of the growth programme, engagement with new members, training and development of new skills is fruitful in their hosting of a popular harvest festival for the local community.

The Royal Parks Guild: RPG gives support to the horticulture programmes and historical park research.

Volunteer bird surveys: The volunteer bird walking routes build standardised data. Recruitment and management of knowledgeable 'birder' volunteers should be continued.

Management Opportunities:

1. Potential for further strengthening links with the local community through activities in the Gardens.
2. Initiate annual citizen surveys on butterflies, invertebrates, bats, mammals and reptiles.
3. Increase the amount of corporate volunteering e.g. on meadow maintenance.
4. Initiate ecological and biodiversity improvement projects that lend themselves to volunteer delivery.
5. Continue to support the nature club initiative successfully trialled during Spring 2016.
6. Continue to recruit and support corporate volunteering e.g. Operation Centaur; shire horses on Buck Hill.

Sports And Active Recreational Uses

Football/Ballgames: Sports, football, and ballgames generally, have become increasingly popular in the Gardens in recent years and resulted in some disturbance within the peaceful ambience of the park and the historic landscape. Such activity can cause damage to new trees and the pattern of structural planting, as well as compaction of grass surfaces. There is an opportunity to consider some limited formalised activity in specific locations. However, there will be a continuation to the approach of not licensing personal trainers nor group trainers such as British Military Fitness.

Pedestrian Priority: Pedestrians will remain top in the hierarchy of different park users. Peaceful pedestrian enjoyment of the Gardens, will be encouraged and considered as a priority in relation to other potentially shared uses.

Non-pedestrian uses: The use of non-motorised scooters, skateboards etc. will be tolerated providing they do not adversely impact on pedestrian users or the park infrastructure. Roller bladers will have shared use of the paths with cycle use and be encouraged to use these routes, with appropriate path surfacing used to control use on other paths. Other non-pedestrian uses will not be given separate provision within the park.

Management Opportunities:

1. Use of the Gardens for formal, organised sports and activities can disrupt the peaceful, historic character of the landscape, though there is an opportunity to consider some formalised activity in some locations.
2. Need to ensure repair and management of landscape fabric for areas with highest visitor pressure. There is potential need for enhancement works to increase the capacity of these areas, simultaneously restricting cycle/roller bladers to designated routes, and ensuring users are aware of the shared character of these paths.
3. There is an anticipated increase in cycling across London due to targets set by Government and the GLA. This is facilitated by the introduction of the TfL Cycle Superhighway in Hyde Park which connects to considerate cycling routes in Kensington Gardens that are on TfL Quietway Cycle Grid maps. Continued

monitoring of visitor behaviours may indicate a need to run campaigns that raise the awareness of the TRP Pathway Code of Conduct.

4. Coordinate approach with Hyde Park Management Team dealing with non-licensed users.
5. Develop relationships with regular users to establish their level of organised use.
6. Develop a supportive management of summer schools using the Gardens, and licensing for group recreational uses of the East and West Albert Memorial Lawns.

Events And Entertainments

Events on the Albert Memorial Lawns: Events will generally be held on the Albert Memorial Lawns. The Royal Parks Events Strategy allows a maximum of four major events per year.

Temporary Structures: The Serpentine Gallery have established a new tradition that began in 2000 of 'pavilion' structures by world renowned architects in the grounds of the gallery as part of the annual summer event. This is a well-known and popular event adding a new (temporary) element to the Gardens in summer.

Events associated with the Serpentine Gallery and the Serpentine Sackler Gallery: The Serpentine Gallery operates the gallery building and surrounding garden area under a lease from the Royal Parks. The Serpentine Gallery hold many events some of which may also involve additional structures. The installation of a concrete plinth adjacent to the Serpentine site now offers the

gallery the opportunity of a regular external art installation in the landscape at Mount Walk.

Events in Hyde Park: Large events in Hyde Park change the use patterns of Kensington Gardens and require change in management practices or infrastructure. Both Park Management Teams work closely to address any issues relating to displacement of visitor and additional pressure on the Gardens at these times.

Events held by HRP: On an exceptional basis HRP may request additional requirements of TRP to assist in facilitating their events programme.

Management Opportunities:

1. Suitable for only 4 major events each year respecting the capacity of Kensington Gardens for events in light of the need to retain the Gardens more peaceful character.
2. A careful balance needs to be struck to ensure that the number of small/medium events and associated temporary structures does not negatively impact upon the more peaceful character of the park.
3. Maintain discussion with the Royal Parks Guild over the potential for a WWI project if funding becomes available.
4. Careful and considerate management of HRP led events requiring non-routine use of TRP land.

Visitor Experience

Visitor Survey: The Royal Parks will continue to undertake visitor surveys of park use and visitor satisfaction and will respond to findings in improvements to park management.

In 2015 Ipsos MORI undertook a series of surveys of park visitors to the Royal Parks. Results show that the total number of visits to KG in 2014 was in the region of 10.3 million. This compares to 12.8m for Hyde Park (greatest) and 2.3m for Bushy Park (lowest).

Questions around the perception of quality found that 97% of visitors to KG rated the quality of the park as either 'excellent' (68%) or 'good' (29%). The safety rating was very positive, 99% of respondents felt the park was very safe. The surveys indicates that 32% of visitors to the park were from London, a further 15% from other parts of the UK with 49% coming from other countries. Means of transport were 54% walking, 37% by public transport, 5% cycling, 2% by car. Most visits, 29% were between one and two hours, 26% between 2 and 3 hours, 19% between 30 and 60 minutes, and 11% between 3 and 4 hours.

When questioned about what people planned to do in the park on the days of the survey 82% of people suggested they came for general reasons such as a walking and enjoying the fresh air, this being 6% above the TRP average. 63% of respondents came for exercise and sporting reasons with 15% for children activities, 14% for planned activities and 10% stated they visited to enjoy nature, plants and animals.

Respondents were asked what, if any, activities they would like to see the park offer. 17% would like to see cultural events and activities, 16% would like to see entertainment activities, 10% sports and exercise and 5% for children's activities.

Management Opportunities:

1. The need to manage the Gardens as a tourist attraction as well as a local park for the surrounding residential community.
2. Maintain an obligation to widen the diversity of visitors and seek to engage with new audiences, notably local communities that currently do not visit the Gardens.
3. Consider opportunities to increase use of the bandstand

Visitor Safety

Health and Safety Standards: The Royal Parks will strive for excellence in health and safety management and, through the provision of beautiful environments and exciting opportunities to engage with and enjoy the parks, promote health and well being in the communities we serve.

Crime: The Royal Parks will work with the Police sensitively to maintain the low levels of crime currently enjoyed and to seek opportunities for the further reduction of crime. A policy of community policing shall continue to be pursued supported by a Dedicated Police Officer and close links with the Safer Parks Panel (SPP).

Vandalism: The Royal Parks shall ensure that vandalism is kept to the minimum through consideration of potential vandalism in new developments and provision of infrastructure, although this will not be allowed to unbalance other aspects relating to visitor comfort, historical considerations, or visual quality. The removal of visible signs of vandalism will be a priority. Graffiti will be removed within 48 hours and other

infrastructure repaired at the earliest practicable opportunity.

Penalties: Fixed penalty enforcements for offences including dog fouling, cycling except where permitted, and litter will be applied.

Safer Parks Panel: The SPP, a group made up from a range of park stakeholders and interest groups, meets quarterly and covers both Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. The Metropolitan Police Service Dedicated Police Officer for Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens reports on incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour for discussion, and the Park Manager presents a park update.

Management Opportunities:

1. The SPP determines the three police priorities for the forthcoming period.

Play

Children's Play: Kensington Gardens has a long association with children and children's play. The two playgrounds at Buck Hill and the Diana Playground are considered to provide excellent facilities, the latter famous for developing a child's awareness of imaginative play. The Diana Playground is a supervised play facility providing a range of formal and informal play experiences for children of all abilities up to the age of 12, and appropriate facilities for their carers.

Play leaders at the Diana Playground: Interact with children and their grown-ups ensuring the management of safe boundaries for children playing. They reunite lost children with their grown-

ups, provide first aid, undertake live head counts. They have a support role for school groups namely meeting each group, checking their bookings and providing induction for school children and carers escorting them to their identified space.

Management Opportunities:

1. Explore improved ways of managing queuing at the Diana Playground.
2. Lean on historical references of wilderness to identify opportunities for play within a playful landscape proposal as part of re-imagining the Old Wilderness.
3. North Flower Walk landscape restoration offers an opportunity for embellished playful art and sculpture and elements of natural play within a managed garden space.
4. Future proof opportunities for challenging and imaginative play within the Diana Playground as part of the playground review.



PART 3: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



SIGNIFICANCE OF KENSINGTON GARDENS

“Sustainable management of a place begins with understanding and defining how, why, and to what extent it has cultural and natural heritage values: – Only through understanding the significance of a place is it possible to assess how the qualities that people value are vulnerable to harm or loss. That understanding should then provide the basis for developing and implementing management strategies (including maintenance, cyclical renewal and repair) that will best sustain the heritage values of the place in its setting.”

Historic England

Before this Plan continues here with Character Areas, in which the significance and condition of each is assessed, this short section seeks to reveal what is meant by those terms.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The statement of significance explains why the site is unique and the qualities and attributes that are important. These qualities and attributes combine to demonstrate the overall significance of Kensington Gardens. The statement of significance becomes the basis for developing policies and management guidelines to ensure that positive aspects of the Gardens are conserved in perpetuity: while consideration of condition in conjunction with significance will guide management actions.

‘A statement of significance of a place should be a summary of the cultural and natural heritage values (evidential value, historic value, aesthetic value, communal, [and biodiversity value¹⁶] currently attached to it and how they inter-relate, which distils the particular character of the place. It should explain the relative importance of the heritage values of the place (where appropriate, by reference to criteria for statutory designation), how they relate to its physical fabric, the extent of any uncertainty about its values (particularly in relation to potential for hidden or buried elements), and identify any tensions between potentially conflicting values. So far as possible, it should be agreed by all who have an interest in the place. The result should guide all decisions about material change to a significant place.’¹⁷

It is recognised that the statement of significance is an informed judgement made from a particular set of data, and applying prevailing perceptions of value, primarily to inform the management of a significant place. The statement will therefore need review in the light of new information, and periodically, to reflect evolving perceptions of value’.¹⁸

MANAGEMENT OF PARK SIGNIFICANCE

Following Historic England’s (HE) articulation of Significance and its values, brings additional clarity to TRP’s approach which is already sympathetic to these values. Below are brief extracts from HE’s definitions of the values which they judge as elements of significance. We have added biodiversity as a criterion of value: this is an important acknowledgement of the value of our flora and fauna, their significance in our parks, and an implied acknowledgement of the significance that biodiversity has for us.

HE guide us towards their values of significance thus: ‘Sustainable management of a place begins with understanding and defining how, why, and to what extent it has cultural and natural heritage values:– Only through understanding the significance of a place is it possible to assess how the qualities that people value are vulnerable to harm or loss. That understanding should then provide the basis for developing and implementing management strategies (including maintenance, cyclical renewal and repair) that will best sustain the heritage values of the place in its setting.’¹⁹

Any single part of the values of significance may hold one, several or all values of significance; they are inter-related. It is important to consider each value so as not to overlook their individual importance. (Quotations are all from Historic England's Conservation and Guidance: Policies and Principles (2008)).

These are:

Evidential value: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity and 'to contribute to people's understanding of the past'. This may be archaeology, geology, landforms, species or habitats.

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

Aesthetic value:²⁰ the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. Something can gain in aesthetic value over time as people's aesthetic values change or develop, as has happened with several art movements. A full spectrum of sensory and cognitive perceptions and associations are instruments of aesthetic

reception, coming together at a scale that engages the person in intense awareness; a 'bodily engagement with the environment, (which) when integrated in active perception, becomes aesthetic.'²¹

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

Biodiversity value: the value of ecosystem processes and of biological integrity. People, not the main recipients, may gain through understanding landscape as being further than solely visual, and through their perception of 'nature' being natural, the sound and activities of insects, of birds, bats and so on.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GARDENS AS A WHOLE

The designs for Kensington Gardens illustrate the transition from Baroque in the earlier plans of London and Wise close to the Palace. The Gardens are, despite slight changes and restorations, a largely extant landscape example of the later work of Vanbrugh, Bridgeman and Kent. There are expressions of each in the Gardens: 'the stage set/military landscape scale of Vanbrugh extending out to the ha-ha and bastions overlooking Hyde Park; the extensive delivery and detail of Bridgeman including substantial earthworks to hold up and present the Round Pond within a plain on a tilted canvass; and an elysian, Arcadian feel of Kent's temple and meadow heralding the emerging style of the English landscape.'²² The significance of the layered work of Vanbrugh and Bridgeman at Kensington Gardens is heightened by rarity value, through the subsequent effacing of their work at Blenheim and Stowe by 'Capability' Brown.

16 TRP added category to HE text

17 HE Conservation Principles, Policies, Guidance 2008, p. 40

18 HE Conservation Principles, Policies, Guidance 2008, p. 40

19 HE Conservation Principles, Policies, Guidance 2008, p. 14

20 Refer to Appendix 2 for a definition of landscape aesthetic

21 Arnold Berleant Living in the Landscape: toward an aesthetics of environment 1997, p. 110

22 LUC 'Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy' 2010, p. 14

SUMMARY OF EXTENT OF SIGNIFICANCE²³

A summary of the main values of Kensington Gardens is presented in the following page.

This seeks to attribute a comparative grading of the extent of significance of each of the principal qualities and features of the Gardens:

● INTERNATIONAL ● NATIONAL
● REGIONAL ● LOCAL

Note: Please refer to Landscape Character areas text, Section 10 for expressions of Significance of individual parts of the gardens.

EVIDENTIAL AND HISTORICAL VALUES

Archaeological features (historical (lost) designed landscape and Second World War features). RCHME survey. ●●●

Kensington Gardens is a Grade 1 Listed Landscape ●●●

Royal usage dating from Henry VIII's deer hunting park (1536); the monarch's residence in the 18th Century; and royals' residence in 20th and 21st Century. ●●●

Landscape design conserved by important landscape designers of the early 18th century, an important period at the start of the English Landscape Movement: Vanbrugh, Bridgeman and Kent; and evidence of the work of London and Wise.

Formal avenues on multiple axes are a fine example of an extant Bridgeman (1730) landscape. ●●●●

The Gardens as landscaped setting for Kensington Palace (Grade 1) and surviving historic buildings: the Queen Caroline's Temple 1734 (William Kent); Queen Anne's alcove 1705, (Sir Christopher Wren); The Orangery 1704-5, (Nicholas Hawksmoor); Victorian set pieces, Italian Gardens, Albert Memorial. Listed Building Status. ●●●●

19th Century water technology supplying water to the Italian Fountains and the Round Pond. Many other important buildings including lodges and gates, plus monuments and statuary with Grade II listing. ●●●

AESTHETIC VALUES

A resonance of nurturing is conveyed in the Gardens towards its inspired design; its multiple axes of tree avenues; its vibrant 'natural' landscape. ●●●

Strong historical ambience; features of importance from previous eras making tangible multi-layers of historical influences. ●●●●

The route of part of the green link from Kensington to Whitehall and the West End. Recognized tourist corridor. Green lung in the heart of the city, special qualities of peace and tranquillity. ●●●

Important parkland in the city environment designated as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) in The London Plan: Spatial Development Strategy for London (2011). ●●●

BIODIVERSITY VALUES

Range of important habitats including acid grassland, meadow, veteran trees, standing open water and marginal habitat including reedbeds, supporting a range of species. 

Site of Metropolitan Importance (SMI) in The London Plan: Spatial Development Strategy for London Westminster BAP. 

COMMUNAL VALUES

Close association with Royalty: the Gardens as the setting for Kensington Palace, a historic royal residence from 1689–1780 and continued close association with royalty in residence. More recently setting for memorials to Diana Princess of Wales (playground and walk). 

Association with several of England's greatest landscape designers – London, Wise, Vanbrugh, Bridgeman and Kent. 

Strong association with themes of 'childhood': Peter Pan (J.M Barrie) and the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial playground. 

Informal recreation resource for tourists, plus cherished recreation asset for local community. 

Community value recognised through strong Friends Group and in the Local Plans. Numerous destinations; Flower Walks, Italian Fountains, Boating Pond etc plus good range of amenities and facilities. 

The gardens' association with style and arts is reinforced with prestigious events such as Art Antiques London, and Burberry. 

CONDITION

Landscape Condition²⁴, TRP have various tools at its disposal to assess overall landscape condition as well as the individual components or elements that make up the landscape.

In terms of overall landscape condition TRP use methodology from landscape character assessment to guide our approach. Assessment of landscape condition (or quality) is based on judgements about the physical state of the landscape, and about its intactness, from visual, functional, and ecological perspectives. It also reflects the state of repair of individual features and elements which make up the character in any one place.

An important consideration of Landscape Condition is the integrity and unity of the landscape that creates a sense of place. In determining landscape condition TRP adopts best practice/ guidance which looks at the pattern of landscape elements, their distinctiveness and coherence and how they are managed and maintained.

For the purposes of its management plans and to facilitate analysis, condition is simply classed as good, moderate or poor.

These are defined as follows:

Good condition = Landscape with a strong coherent character and sense of place, a distinctive place, well managed and well maintained which is generally intact but with some detractors (elements that detract from the overall coherence), not all elements well managed and maintained and may be inconsistent.

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

Poor condition = Landscape character is fragmented and incoherent, lacks distinctive character with a number of detractors, poorly managed and maintained, and lacks a clear sense of management and maintenance.

With regard to component landscape elements TRP has a wide range of surveys, maintenance and health and safety inspection regimes etc that help us to build up a picture of the condition of landscapes including:

- Play equipment: regular maintenance inspections, ROSPA annual inspections
- Buildings and hard infrastructure: regular inspections and quadrennial surveys
- Trees: regular Health and Safety Inspections, disease inspections and detailed analysis of tree stock for strategic work
- Ecology : Phase 1 habitat surveys, full National Vegetation Classification surveys and species specific surveys
- Green Flag/ Green Heritage: feedback annually from a landscape professional's perspective
- Landscape Maintenance Contract and Facilities Management reports

These elements combined with the landscape condition help us to determine overall condition.

LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE VS. CONDITION

We use significance vs. condition as a tool to highlight locations for where management of condition is most important. This assists in developing overall management aims and priorities for each character area and the policies that will guide future management actions.

The table below sets significance vs. condition as an approach to help us determine and prioritise management actions, it uses a simple traffic light system to guide the reader/ Park Manager towards the most significant and critical i.e. highly significant landscape character areas in poor condition and conversely highlighting areas where new interventions/ or opportunities can best be accommodated. In broad terms this sets out the most appropriate approach:

- conserve the best high significance/good condition
- restore the most vulnerable high significance/poor condition
- reinforce the weak low significance/good condition
- create – look for opportunities low significance/poor condition

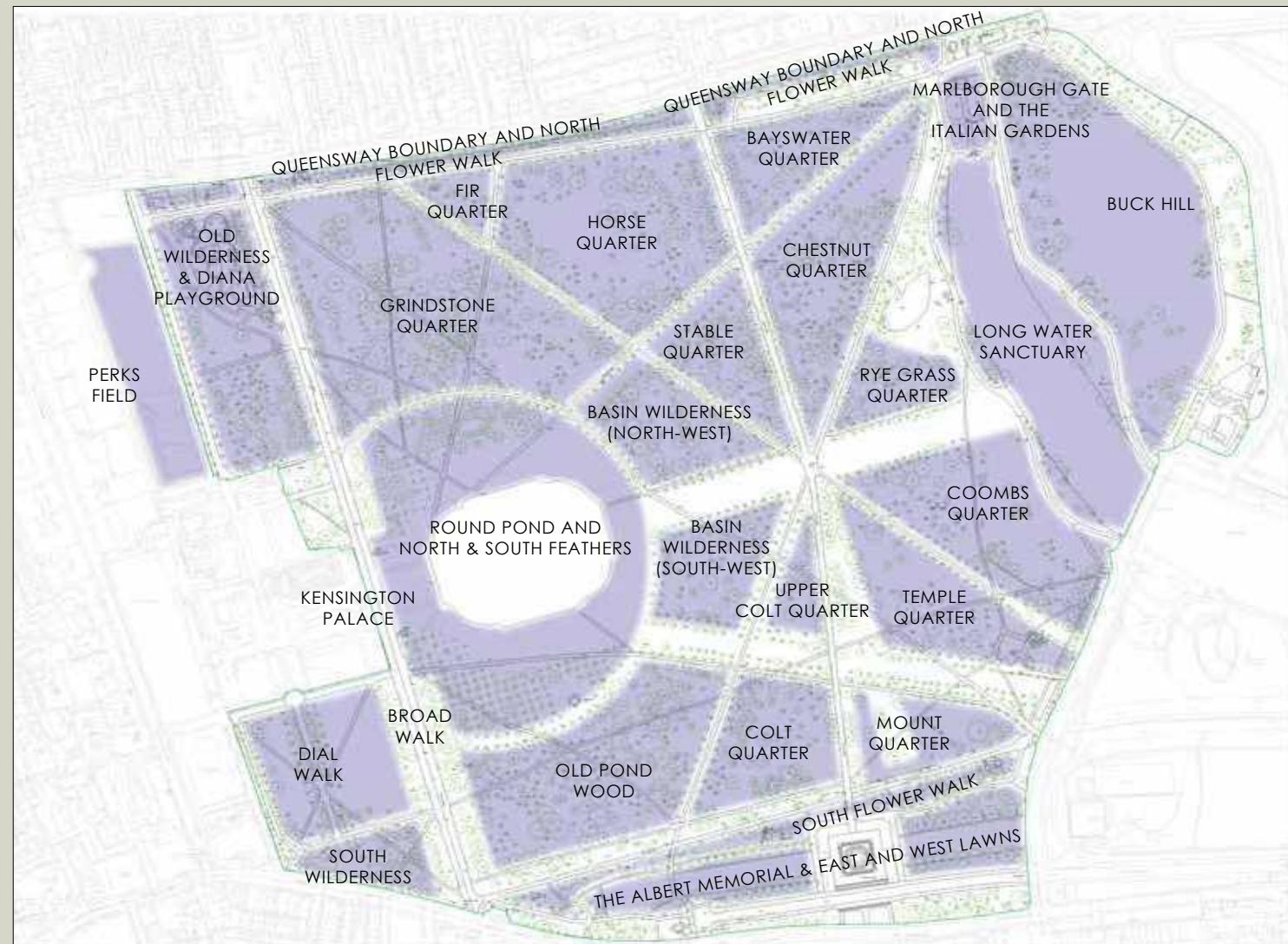
At the end of each Landscape Character area this table gives a visual summary of its condition in relation to its significance. Using the traffic light system is an aid to set priorities and alerts the Park Manager to look closer at the underlying detail so as to progress towards appropriate management decisions.

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

SIGNIFICANCE>

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The gardens have twelve areas of distinctive character, different in their appearance and content and, importantly, in their management. (One of these areas The Quarters is itself made up of fifteen parts). This section collects together for each area a description, expression of its significance and of its condition, guiding policies and aims for actions and aspirational goals.



Buck Hill



Buck Hill is an elevated area forming the north east corner of the park, physically severed from the main part of the Gardens by the Long Water. The sense of separation is reinforced by its elevated landform (the Ranelagh storm relief sewer was open trenched through Buck Hill in 1874 and arisings from the lake dredging were deposited here) and the relaxed informal character contrasting with the formality created by the avenues and walks of the main part of Kensington Gardens. The area formed the eastern limits of the Georgian layout, representing Queen Caroline's extension of the Gardens to the ha-ha and bastions in 1731. The hill provides the termination of the vista along Front Walk from Kensington Palace which will become more emphatic when the young liquidamber tree group have matured. Previously it had continued the avenue of formal planting; notwithstanding, today it continues to provide dramatic reciprocal views back to the Palace. The area has been subject to significant changes and adaptations including filling in of the ha-ha and bastions (and later re-excavation and interpretation of the North Bastion in 1995), the war

time location for a camouflage school, acquisition of the Magazine, now the Serpentine Sackler Gallery and subsequent works/police yards, the Peacock Shelter and children's playground.

Buck Hill's differentiated identity, in addition to those features noted above, is also generated by the loss of much of the formal landscape pattern of tree planting. The area's distinct character is further enhanced by the largely rural skylines, overlooking the Long Water towards a skyline of mature trees, punctuated by church spires, with only an occasional dominant tall building outside the park boundary.

To the north of the area the children's playground is situated on the hillside within peripheral planting. The octagonal Peacock Walk Shelter, also known as Buck Hill Shelter (1930), is a further prominent feature. The thin acid soils of the river terrace gravels have created areas of acidic grassland with a number of characteristic and distinctive species.

The allotment area, situated adjacent to the park offices and the contractor's works yard, has been run by volunteers since 2009. As an education and demonstration garden and a hub for the volunteers, it is open for events and school visits.

SIGNIFICANCE

The historic and pleasing view along the Buck Hill axis to the Front Walk central vista.
Historical/Aesthetic value

A phenomenal and sudden transition of spectacular views including the change in prospect from long straight views down Front Walk vista; to a completely different view as once past the avenue line, the view is slantwise across all avenues; with the effect of looking at a landscape of thousands of trees as if towards a forest.
Aesthetic/Communal value

Traces of the Bastions, and the perimeter ha-ha boundary, an expression of the fashion of a military aesthetic utilised by Vanbrugh. Historical/Communal value

Buck Hill continued



Valuable areas of acid grassland and of transitional acid grassland on Buck Hill. (NVC Map from Ground Flora Survey of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens 2013) In addition to this biodiversity value, the grassland conveys a sense of authentic nature. Biodiversity/Communal value

Peacock Walk provides a popular circular walking and running route around the Long Water and Serpentine. Communal value

CONDITION

The temporary double stacked portacabins serving the landscape contractor degrade views to the south east. TRP assessment Summer 2015

The lower graded ground flora 'unclassified open vegetation' (NVC Ground Flora Survey of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens 2013) of the recent clearance around the Henry Moore Arch results from a stipulation by the Henry Moore Foundation following its re-positioning in 2011, that the Arch is to be set in close cut turf.

The main Front Walk vista is well framed; its terminating liquidambar trees, though too young to yet make much impact, are in good health. TRP assessment Spring 2016

The Buck Hill (Peacock) Shelter is in need of repairs. 35 Condition Survey, David Adams June 2016

Landscape Integrity: Good

POLICY

The policy is to enhance and reinforce the identity and function of Buck Hill as an integral part of Kensington Gardens. A key objective is to restore and reinforce the historic Front Walk axis to Kensington Palace eastwards across the Long Water to exploit the dramatic views to the Palace, and to maintain access to and visibility of the ha-ha and bastions.

For the remainder of the area the looser more informal character, that has developed is considered to be appropriate. The area should continue to function as a quiet tranquil part of the park with a semi-rural character, with its distinctive acid grassland and views to wooded horizons/skyline conserved and enhanced.

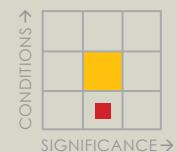


PRINCIPAL AIM

Conserve and create: enhance and reinforce the identity and function of Buck Hill as an integral part of Kensington Gardens: to restore and reinforce the historic Front Walk axis to Kensington Palace across the Long Water. Enhance and reinforce the looser more informal character of the remaining area which should continue to function as a tranquil part of the park with a semi-rural character, with its distinctive acid grassland and views to wooded horizons/skyline conserved and enhanced.

AIMS

1. Reinforce pattern of trees and successional planting: reinforce historic arcing line of trees in upper Buck Hill and impact of focal liquidamber trees on Front Walk axis. Increase the quality and quantity of acid grassland, maximise biodiversity, encouraging locally important species. Enhance habitat structure with islands of native scrub and understorey, on a rotation of cutting, for aesthetic and biodiversity benefits. Extend hedge laying on eastern periphery, reinforcing visibility of the ha-ha and bastions and utilising woodland craft.
2. Remove the temporary maintenance works office buildings, replace with new accommodation. Make timely repairs to Buck Hill Shelter.
3. Upgrade playground and better integrate into setting.



The Queensway Boundary and North Flower Walk:



The North Flower Walk forms a small character area along the north east part of the Gardens, at the boundary with the Bayswater Road. The area has its origins as a nineteenth century feature (present by 1897) lying mainly in the former Bayswater House site. The area is stocked with a range of ornamental trees, including *Pinus nigra*, with more limited shrub and bedding areas and naturalised bulbs in lawns. The area is currently lacking in horticultural interest, noting its horticultural origin, with the shrubs neither forming pattern or display, and with gated access. The Queensway Boundary continues the Gardens' northern boundary with the Bayswater Road westwards to the Broad Walk.

SIGNIFICANCE

North Flower Walk's previous historic identity as part of the 'berceau' or walk of shade; a delicious and appealing place to stroll for the monarch on the way to and as the site of the Bayswater 'Breakfasting House'; this will inform the future development of the space. Links to the botanist William Forsythe, and the plant Forsythia named after him.

Evidential/Historical value

This area serves as a valuable visual and aural buffer to the Bayswater Road.

Aesthetic value

A range of tree species, shrub borders and areas of naturalised understorey contribute to biodiversity. Biodiversity value



CONDITION

The current condition has let go of its connection to the Gardens' historic evolution, supporting an eclectic variety of trees with some dull, overgrown shrubs and with only small colourful interventions. (TRP assessment Summer 2015)

Some fine black pine and London plane trees, also early spring flowering trees, underplanted with spring bulbs; and evergreen trees (Hollies and Evergreen Oaks) offering habitat value in winter. (Arboriculture, Matt Oakley, June 2016)

Quality of surfacing, street furniture and path layout poor. (TRP assessment Summer 2015)

The visual and aural buffer offered by the planting is broken or too thin in places to prevent the intrusion of Bayswater Road. (TRP assessment Summer 2016)

Landscape integrity: Poor. Interface with Italian Gardens, potentially of beautiful shade in contrast to fine sun-basking water gardens, is a poor fit both of quality and execution.

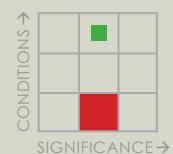


PRINCIPAL AIM

Create and restore: Renovate and rejuvenate the character and quality of North Flower Walk as a major feature beside the two main entrances of Marlborough Gate and Lancaster Gate; support its identity with horticultural interest and diversity.

AIMS

1. Renovation: Plans to renovate the planting in North Flower Walk will be implemented. These include restoration of the North Flower Walk to become established as a destination in its own right; to have a stronger sense of identity, promoting horticultural and landscape excellence; and to relate to a clear theme to re-establish links to its historical past. Consistent path maintenance and palette of furniture (bins and benches) will further reinforce the distinctiveness of this area. Restorative pruning and management of mature shrubs and breakout beds to support the renovation.
2. Develop opportunities to extend the hedge along the railings fronting Bayswater Road to provide a stronger sense of enclosure and reduce the visual/aural influences of the main road.
3. Review and enhance naturalistic bulb plantings along amenity grassed areas along Bayswater boundary.



Marlborough Gate and the Italian Gardens



The Italian Gardens (formerly known as the Italian Fountains) are located in the north-east corner of the Gardens. A stylised formal water garden, they are a Victorian addition installed in 1860–61 at the head of the Long Water, promoted by Prince Albert and designed by Robert Richardson Banks and Sir Charles Barry. The marble fountain, Tazza fountain and balustrade are by John Thomas. The purpose of the Pumphouse was to raise and supply water to the head of the Long Water. The fountains were supplied by St Agnes Well (1860) and cut off the Westbourne stream (diverted to the Bayswater, Ranelagh, sewer), which had become increasingly polluted. From 1915 water was supplied from new wells in St. James's Park until the borehole from St Agnes Well was created in 1998. The Italian Gardens have continued to form a popular feature of the Gardens. Their substantial refurbishment under the 2011 Tiffany project has restored their fabric and appearance.

The area includes Queen Anne's alcove, 1705 by Christopher Wren. This structure was originally sited against the Park Wall at Dial Walk and was relocated to its present position in 1867.

A much frequented entrance to the Gardens is through Marlborough Gate, opposite Lancaster Gate tube station. The gate itself (opened in 1851) is the oldest, although one of the least decorative, public gates into the park) leads to the very popular Italian Gardens, an area which large numbers of people enjoy, milling among the Italian Gardens and congregating on the lower slopes of Buck Hill. A new cafe with stunning views across the Italian Gardens and Long Water offers light refreshments.



SIGNIFICANCE

The Italian Gardens are a distinctive Victorian set piece to which large numbers of the visiting public are attracted. (Evidential/Historical/Communal value)

Evidence of the Victorian technology of beam engines pumping water from St. Agnes' Well: five tunnels, culverts from the Westbourne stream, and a WWII water tank are extant. Pipework evidences Hawksley's aborted sewage filtration scheme. (Evidential/Historical value)

Queen Anne's Alcove a unique and popular feature. (Historical/Aesthetic/Communal value)

The area attracts people for its south facing sheltered aspect, looking down the formal Italian Gardens and informal Long Water; a fine arrangement of both complexity and order, of ornamental water gardens and of 'naturally' edged water. (Aesthetic/Communal value)

Naturalistic planting, mature hollies, yews, evergreen oaks. (Biodiversity value)



CONDITION

The recent Tiffany funded project has upgraded to an excellent condition the fountain statuary and furniture. (TRP assessment Summer 2015)

Continuing investment in water management infrastructure, pump house in good condition. (TRP assessment Summer 2016)

Queen Anne's Alcove in generally good condition; surface renovation treatment needed on oak panelling; oak bench in poor condition. (Quadrennial survey)

Cafe/ Kiosk and associated hedging and planting are new and in fine condition. (TRP assessment Summer 2016)

Good water quality.

Colourful bedding maintained to a high quality. (TRP assessment Summer 2015)

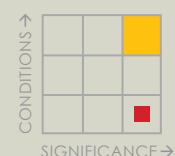
Landscape integrity: Good

PRINCIPAL AIM

Conserve: ensure a high standard of maintenance and presentation, that will conserve and enhance this intact Victorian set piece, of its built components, planting quality, attractive entrance and popular destination point; its water infrastructure and water quality; and its special views overlooking the Long Water.

AIMS

1. Paving should be renovated in certain areas so as to remedy the drainage problems by which areas are prone to some shallow flooding.
2. Undertake renovation of the two internal rooms within the historic building of Queen Anne's Alcove, finding an appropriate after use.
3. Restore the bench in Queen Anne's Alcove and undertake reconditioning maintenance to the oak panelling.



The Long Water Sanctuary



The character area of The Long Water includes the vegetated borders on its east and west sides. It is a major feature of the gardens and is located within a shallow valley, the route of the Westbourne stream and offers a quiet refuge for waterfowl. The outline has subsequently been softened by the addition of waterside planting (1843) and the adjacent sinuous path layout, which only occasionally touches the water's edge. Today, the canal appears as a naturalistic water body following informal lines. The contrast with the formal lines of the Georgian layout is effective and is a recurrent theme in the Gardens with Victorian patterns running across, but still being subservient to, the earlier layout. The enclosed shrubberies surrounding the Long Water have developed considerable nature conservation interest. These wildlife sanctuaries have been developing since the 1970s containing, amongst native planting, residual ornamental planting (*Picea* for instance). In addition the recent (2014) construction of a small gravel island as a loafing area for waterfowl constructed three metres off the north bank has further increased habitat value. An area on the north bank and aligned with the Front

Walk Avenue is home to the Henry Moore Arch, a magnificent artwork, through which the vista continues upwards to Buck Hill. Set back from its south bank is the Peter Pan statue, a destination for many.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Long Water has developed from and evidences the location of the historic Westbourne Stream, and of the monks' subsequent creation of a series of fishponds.

Evidential/Historical value

The Henry Moore Arch is located within the Gardens' Front Walk main vista close to the water; linking contemporary art and historic landscape aesthetics.

Aesthetic/Communal value

Aesthetically, the 'natural' qualities of the Long Water are enhanced by close juxtaposition with the formal control and display of the Italian Gardens.

Aesthetic/Communal value



The Long Water Sanctuary offers undisturbed habitats to wildlife, for instance swans, grebes and cormorants: kingfishers have been seen on a regular basis.

Biodiversity value

In the area to the south east of Buck Hill, beside the Long Water, is the 'most floristically rich' (TRP assessment Summer 2015) part of the Gardens.

Biodiversity value

As a people attractor, the Long Water is a favoured jogging and walking destination, offering an almost circular nature route close to waterside vegetation. The Peter Pan statue attracts many visitors. A further attraction is a spot close by where hand-feeding birds is practised and admired daily.

Communal value

The important view over the Long Water from the Serpentine Bridge towards the Italian Gardens.

Aesthetic/Communal value



CONDITION

A 2014 survey found the water to be 'in good condition from an aesthetic and visual amenity status' with a low health risk to recreational users and wildfowl presented by the levels of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae). (TRP assessment Spring 2016)

Biodiversity improvements have resulted from successful peripheral 'sanctuary' planting. (Quadrennial survey)

Water quality, in 2012 assessed as poor (eutrophic) is being monitored to achieve "Water Framework Directive" "Good ecological status" by 2025. Introduction of reedbeds has helped to control water quality in the Long Water, which is shallow and was last dredged in the 19th Century. (TRP assessment Summer 2016)

The glade setting for Peter Pan in which the statue is set on raised ground of crazy paving, surrounded by mown grass inside of unremarkable shrub and tree boundary, offers a poor presentation for this renowned and much visited statue. (TRP assessment Summer 2015)

The Henry Moore sculpture is in generally good condition following its recent refurbishment: except its white colouration has been discoloured to a shade of orange by absorption of colour from the orange sand ground mulch.

The view from the Serpentine Bridge to the Italian Gardens is now obscured by vegetation growth.

Landscape Integrity: Fair

PRINCIPAL AIM

Conserve and create: Conserve and restore the informal, naturalistic character of the Long Water, a key feature within Kensington Gardens, with rejuvenation of scrub margins, wildlife habitats and sanctuary areas for wildlife, so as to frame the lake and to highlight, rather than hide, the water: to be achieved while including and reinforcing a clear view in the line of the Front Walk Vista.

The Long Water Sanctuary continued

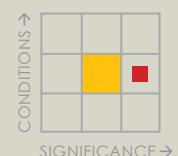


AIMS

1. Renew and manage dense stands of native vegetation surrounding the lake to lift the visual quality of the area and reveal the water, and to restore the view of the Italian Gardens from the Serpentine Bridge. An appropriate palette of waterside trees, coppiced where appropriate (willows, poplar and swamp cypress) should be used, and with understorey with a mosaic of glades of wildflowers where approximately 2/3 shrub/woodland to 1/3 open meadow (with mown lawn on the Front Walk Vista).
2. Manage waterside grass areas to consistent cutting regimes, areas of meadow to provide textural diversity and ecological interest, and with occasional log piles, and areas of mown lawn around the Moore Arch.
3. Eradicate invasive weeds: Japanese knotweed should be controlled by stem injection treatments.

4. Work towards improving water quality through aeration, filtration, and water circulation; improved management of waterfowl to control nutrient loading. Review opportunities for novel and innovative approaches to aquatic water management.
5. Control invasive species such as mitten crab.
6. Improve the area around Peter Pan with accessible surfacing and with a landscape setting composed of appropriately inspired plantings for its subject and context.
7. Around the Henry Moore Arch consider opportunities to remove all orange sand and replace with silver sand; following investigations to ascertain correct treatment.
8. Consider the sensitive implementation of a boardwalk and associated marginal planting/habitat creation to enable visitors to access wildlife; and to make further improvements to biodiversity.

9. Review the extent and quality of the entire Long Water margins to consider further marginal planting including extending and linking existing reedbeds and the creation of further marginal habitat.



The Round Pond and North & South Feathers



The Round Pond (which of course is not round) and its setting, framed by the Great Bow with the formal grids of trees (the 'Feathers') to north and south are part of the original Bridgeman layout. The pond is large in scale and central to the main linear view within the layout of the Gardens. Surviving trees to the north side are mainly 19th century, incomplete in extent. Trees to the south side have been replanted in the 1990s to restore the original pattern, leaving space around the bandstand for its continued use. Recent refurbishment works in 2014 to the Round Pond improved its periphery treatment, including removing the incongruous short path link to the Broad Walk and recreating the north path connections to the palace.

This is a gregarious area and gathering point within the Gardens, the attractions of the waterside, large numbers of swans and waterfowl and a range of paths providing access and suggesting circuits. Traditions of kite flying and model yacht boating are much reduced in comparison with former times;



autumn through to spring are the months which the Model Yacht Sailing Association (MYS) is active, leaving the busy summer months to general recreation activities at the Round Pond. Band concerts have become occasional rather than frequent. Short mown grass and deckchair hire accommodate relaxing behaviour.

Four of the main tree avenues find their focal anchor at the Round Pond. It also creates the main feature of the Front Walk sight line to the Henry Moore sculpture and beyond.

SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, the Round Pond developed in the C18 from an essential watering source for stock, into a purely pictorial feature: one that brought about great earthworks to create a level plain for the water to settle into.

Historical/Aesthetic/Communal value

The extent of its still water attracts many park visitors and lends itself to the special enthusiasm of members of the MYS: a largely weekend pursuit that continues to draw onlookers.

Communal value

The Round Pond and North & South Feathers continued



CONDITION

Trees in the South Feathers and Great Bow have received additions since 1982 of young healthy tree stock; most during recently restoration work to the Great Bow in 2015/16.

(TRP assessment Summer 2015)

The North Feathers has been assessed as being made up of mainly mature trees with some gaps, thus weakening the coherence of the grid.

(Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy 2014, p32, LUC)

The surfacing, shaping and contouring of the path margins and corners of the Round Pond is in excellent condition following recent restoration works.

(TRP assessment Summer 2015)

Leakage on the south side was improved with the perimeter surfacing works; however the downstream outfall culverts are in a poor state. (Edward Strickland, email correspondence, October 2015)

Water quality has improved through the use of borehole water as a means to flush the system but eutrophic conditions are always possible in urban lakes.

Improved engineering now provides consistent levels of borehole water delivered when required to assist in water flushing for managing water quality.

Some damage can occur to close mown amenity turf due to group sports activities.

The Silver Thimble shelters remain incomplete until their seating is restored.

Landscape Integrity: Good



PRINCIPAL AIM

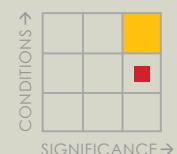
Conserve: Conserve and enhance the integrity and character of the Round Pond: its recently restored alignment of the historic tree pattern and appointed paths, connectivity with the Palace, and twentieth century addition of commemorative Silver Thimbles shelters.



AIMS

1. Following recent replanting in the Great Bow, some adjustments are needed to alignments of other trees in the North and South Feathers: some infill of tree lines in the North Feathers and restoration of the lost, southernmost line of trees, using a mix of species selecting from oak, beech, sweet chestnut, lime, hornbeam.
2. Manage informal groups and games in this area to minimise and prevent damage.
3. Continue to improve sustainable water management to overcome the challenge of its high nutrient levels resulting from duck and geese faeces.
4. Increase borehole water supply from the 'Hyde 2' borehole when this is completed in late 2016.
5. Implement monthly visual observation monitoring of water quality.
6. Restore the Silver Thimbles shelters.

7. Maximise use of the bandstand.
8. Achieve matching swards where intended e.g. improving the soil condition where paths have been removed; and repair grass surfacing in the Front Walk plain.
9. Maintain the integrity of the outfall from the Round Pond into the Long Water. Undertake exploratory surveys to ascertain leaking.
10. Enforce the dogs on leads policy.



The Quarters



The Quarters form the largest extent of the Gardens from the east side of the Broad Walk to the west shore of the Long Water and framed to north and south by the respective Flower Walks. Essentially the spaces between the avenues, there are 14 identified quarters (and some further sub-divisions), almost entirely defined by the radiating, diagonal and cross avenues of Bridgeman's layout. At the centre of the Quarters is the meeting point of eight separate Quarters, and at the crux of these avenues is the Physical Energy Statue, its visual importance reinforced by being situated on the Front Walk vista from Kensington Palace. At the meeting of the Chestnut, Bayswater, Horse and Stable Quarters, the Speke monument is situated just off the avenue alignment, a second focal point where Quarters meet.

The names of the Quarters date mainly from the mid-late eighteenth century, varying somewhat on different plans, although some names – 'Grindstone', 'Horse', 'Chestnut' and 'Temple' Quarter - are consistent and still in use. The pattern of Quarters was modified by the additional cross avenue aligned on the Albert Memorial without removing the original avenues of South Walk, thereby slicing off some of the land from the Colt Quarter. Changes over time have included the Rye Grass Quarter being sub-divided by the siting and enclosure of the sheep-pen (now the Leafyard); the Mount being erased from Mount Quarter; the demise of 'firs' from the Fir Quarter, recently re-introduced, and the infilling and loss of the pond in "Old Pond Wood".

SIGNIFICANCE

The formative materials, types and habitats, of grassland and trees, of the Quarters, are now defining characterful areas of the Gardens, acting as strong counterpoints to the avenues which are their defining boundaries. It is remarkable to walk the desire line, a sign that this is enjoyed by many, in Rye Grass, Chestnut and Horse Quarters, that seems, by its wilder plantings with quantities of crickets and grasshoppers and birds, to be in the countryside, and utterly removed from the city: evidently valued by many.

Historical/Aesthetic/Communal/ Biodiversity value

The Quarters contain some of the more biodiverse area of the Gardens: acid grassland, veteran trees, tree monoliths with associated saproxylic invertebrates, and surrounding habitats and processes. Natural generation of tree stock contributes a self generating stock of local provenance.

Biodiversity value



Historic planting content in the Quarters is evident in their landscapes of different characters that have been the subject of sensitive restorative management treatment in recent years; and of Queen Caroline's Temple with its surrounding Kentian setting. Historical value

All the avenues of the Gardens, except for those on the west side of the Gardens, are boundaries for the Quarters, historic defining and interrelating elements in rhythm and character.
Historic/Aesthetic/Biodiversity values

CONDITION

Determining the character of the areas of the different Quarters is much improved in recent years.

Landscape integrity: Fair



PRINCIPAL AIM

The Quarters – general

Conserve and create: Conserve the overall layout of avenues and continue to regenerate gradations of tree canopies in separate Quarters to reinforce the historically differentiated identities for each of the Quarters; reflect the historic character of openness and meadows in the eastern Quarters.

The Quarters continued



AIMS

1. Manage risks of ageing population of trees: define their composition, risks and projected patterns as a strategic and planned renewal.
2. Enhance the transitional acid grassland so important to the character of Temple Quarter, Coombes Quarter, Rye Grass Quarter, Stable Quarter, the Basin Wildernesses NW and SW Quarters, Grindstone Quarter (east) and Horse Quarter (south); for example by well-timed cuttings, following recommendations in the 2013. (Ground Flora Survey, Farrer Huxley Associates 2013)
3. Support increasing biodiversity: seek improvements in habitat management; in mowing regimes; care to minimise nutrient enrichment and to keep only partial canopy cover.⁶⁰ (From the Kensington Tree Strategy 2010, p3 & p32, LUC)
4. Manage towards reducing the proliferation of ball games in specific quarters e.g. near the Round Pond, Front Walk and Basin Wilderness south-west.
5. The decay of woodland trees brought about large scale re-planting around 1880 which was undertaken without regard to the different characteristics of the Quarters. Following this loss of distinguishing features, recent sensitive management of the Quarters, for instance through areas having lower or higher, or more open or closed, tree canopies, with consequent effects on ground flora and grassland, has influenced different characteristics. Interfaces between the Quarters, especially where there is not a dividing tree avenue, can be subtle, but still markedly felt. Many have developed a meadow grassland with considerable ecological diversity, which complements the wooded groups of trees.
6. Natural regeneration of trees will continue to be encouraged so as to recruit local stock, in particular sweet chestnut and oak. Undertake selective tree and scrub planting and removal of undesirable self sets: control domination of full tree cover with careful management for associated open meadow grassland: undertaken so as to reinforce the Quarters' characters.
7. Reinterpret the historic density of the western Quarters to achieve their distinctiveness with higher canopies, and without dense planting that is unsuitable to contemporary usage or detrimental to meadow.

Temple Quarter



An arcadian setting was achieved with the William Kent design for the Queen Caroline's Temple positioned on a higher knoll, flanked by trees, and looking beyond small groups of trees to views of the Long Water. This Quarter has been noted as having the most species rich ground flora of a transitional acid grassland habitat in the Gardens.

AIM

Reduce/remove selected trees and re-compose the middle-ground, so as to open up the historical Kentian view down to the Long Water and beyond to Rennie's Serpentine Bridge and Westminster.

Rye Grass Quarter, Chestnut Quarter, Stable Quarter and Horse Quarter



In large part these four quarters share a common character, a 'natural' countryside aesthetic, comprising groups and individual trees, largely mature with ages ranging from veterans to young seedlings, interspersed understorey scrub, and meadow grasses. Natural regeneration of tree stock is managed to effect continuity of tree stock and a natural aesthetic. Walking a well trodden desire line path illustrates their similarities. Notwithstanding, there are changing aspects along the route. Rye Grass Quarter and Stable Quarter show more open sky, with tree canopies being generally lower than adjacent Temple Quarter. The Chestnut Quarter, bordering on the Leaf Pen area is of a semi-natural woodland habitat where tawny owls live. The Leaf Pen (where green waste is processed) is surrounded by the visual and aural screen of its deep margin of woody native vegetation. The Speke monument, on the other side of Chestnut Quarter, is prominent statuary set

back from the confluence of avenues of the Great Bayswater Walk and the Lancaster Gate Walk. Horse Quarter, by contrast with Chestnut Quarter, has more dispersed tree plantings and greater openness.

AIMS

1. Reinforce the natural character with additional shrub layer planting beside the Leafyard fence to create woodland edge natural progression planting. Scope further woodland edge planting to link with a proposed boardwalk through reedbeds by the Long Water.
2. Good health management of veteran sweet chestnut trees: mulching over the root zone, to reduce compaction. The continuing practice of allowing colonisation by nettles and brambles, which benefits visitors safety and the tree roots, whilst also improving biodiversity.

Bayswater Quarter



This triangular shaped area between three avenues, set back from North Flower Walk, has less character than others, being neither part of the formal gardens nor sufficiently removed from them. Its location keeps road traffic within hearing. However, it contains the largest patch of acid grassland in the Gardens. (Phase One Habitat map from the Ground flora Survey of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens 2013)

AIM

Enhance the quality of acid grassland.

Fir Quarter



The smallest of the quarters, a triangle of land close to main entrances somewhat lacking in character and for a long time without any 'firs' that gave its name, having recently received restoration planting with three *Pinus sylvestris* in winter 2016.

AIM

Reinforce the character of 'firs', reminiscent of historically wilder northern Scottish lands, only recently replanted with native conifers Scots pine, potentially by planting additional native coniferous species such as larch.

Grindstone Quarter



Grindstone Quarter is one of the Historic Bosquet Quarters together with three others, the north-west and north-east Basin Wildernesses and Old Pond Wood that are arranged behind the Great Bow that surrounds the Round Pond. Original planting was dense with serpentine routes through tree and understorey planting. This distinction of planting density is now broadly reversed with scrub and understorey planting having become more prominent since the nineteenth century (Kensington Tree strategy 2010, p. 8) in the eastern Quarters, and entirely absent in the Historic Bosquet Quarters. This reversal has developed through a combination of effects. The original dense planting of the Historic Bosquet Quarters has suffered because half the trees were dead or dying in the late nineteenth century, and subsequent replanting has been less dense. Any differentiation in the planting of the four Historic Bosquet Quarters was not respected by this replanting. (Kensington Tree

strategy 2010, p. 11). The more open aspect of trees in grass is, furthermore, entirely appropriate for contemporary demands for open amenity spaces close to main entrances. The 'famous five' *Aesculus hippocastanum 'Baumannii'*, a group of five mature, sterile, double flowering horse chestnuts feature here.

The heavily trafficked north-west part of Grindstone Quarter, as the first area of park adjacent to main entrances, Black Lion Gate and Inverness Terrace Gate, necessitates short 'amenity' grass among the mix of trees. Grindstone Quarter's south-eastern part is more open with younger trees and meadow grasses kept long in the summer months.

AIMS

1. New tree planting to keep the western line of Great Bayswater Walk avenue which has lost a number of horse chestnut trees: to replant in avenue formation with non-single species trees.
2. To reintroduce some understorey planting beside the replacement avenue trees, a continuation of understorey along the same line at the south of Horse Quarter.
3. To limit introduced tree planting through the quarters; make use of successional tree stock; species palette of e.g. oak, beech and hornbeam.
4. Consider de-compaction treatments to the 'famous five' *Aesculus hippocastanum 'Baumannii'*.

Basin Wilderness North-West and Basin Wilderness South-West Quarter



Similar meadow aesthetics feature, as in the south-eastern Grindstone Quarter, with long meadow grasses up to the line of the Great Bow in summer; in winter mown approximately twenty metres further back. The Basin Wilderness NW holds a mature parkland feel with mature trees in grassland. A character change is marked with Basin Wilderness SW, where open grassland predominates under its younger trees and slighter canopies.

AIMS

1. Make limited increases in the current density of tree planting, making use, where appropriate of naturally regenerated stock of oak, hornbeam and sweet chestnut.
2. Consider carefully selected additions of some evergreen species.

Old Pond Wood Quarter



Much of this area is covered by tree canopies from its considerable number of very mature trees. Gaps in this cover already have or are planning to receive young trees. Meadow grasses occur in some interstices, while towards the southern part that becomes seasonally very wet, are untypical coarser grasses that are managed with earlier cuttings.

The back of South Flower Walk marks the southern boundary to Old Pond Wood, which is planted with a combined shrub layer and more ornamental planting, jarring with the very English wooded feel of the Quarter. By contrast, the hornbeam avenue on the eastern side accentuates, by its close juxtaposition, the woodland character.

AIM

To refine the mixed border planting at the back of South Flower Walk towards more subtle colours, greens and blues, so as to lessen the incoherent contrast to the character of Old Pond Wood.

Upper Colt Quarter



Upper Colt Quarter is a small Quarter has peripheral avenue trees, and one or two other trees in mown grass. The aesthetic is simple, an interlude between its neighbouring prominent features.

AIM

To refine the mixed border planting at the back of South Flower Walk towards more subtle colours, greens and blues, so as to lessen the incoherent contrast to the character of Old Pond Wood.

Colt Quarter



Stepping into Colt Quarter marks a transition into a substantial informal stand of mature oaks with a cluster of monoliths. The character of this Quarter changes as it opens out into unmown meadow, acid grassland with patches of heather, *Calluna vulgaris*, likely relict planting that has re-emerged from original planting centuries earlier.

The back of South Flower Walk makes the southern boundary and here the management strategy is to maintain a low key, predominantly native, shrub layer.

AIMS

1. Maintain the 'No Cut' management that allows relict plants to re-emerge and generate naturally.
2. Manage the succession of tree saplings.

Coombes Quarter



Coombes Quarter is the backdrop of the Serpentine Gallery. Away from the part closest to the Serpentine Gallery which is intermittently used for art events, is an open meadow area with trees, of a broad age range, mainly towards its boundary. A horse-shoe area of grass receives short mowing.

AIM

Maintain this area to share the ambience and setting for the nearby Queen Caroline's Temple.

Mount Quarter



Largely defined by its avenue trees, and the busy entrance at Mount Gate, with meadow to its western parts: nonetheless, a mixed grouping of mature trees with leafed branches reaching to the ground gives an unexpected verdancy.

AIM

Maintain as a quieter recreation area marking a changed ambience from the adjacent Hyde Park.

The South Flower Walk



The South Flower Walk is the southernmost strip from the Gardens' eastern boundary to the Broad Walk in the west. It is a relatively narrow corridor of formal walkway flanked by shrub and flowerbed areas, interspersed with ornamental trees, including some fine and unusual species. It enjoys a high standard of maintenance and presentation. The area is relatively secluded and enclosed from the main part of the Gardens providing contrast and visual appeal; it is well used and enjoyed by visitors.

The section of gated corridor which contains most of the floral display, has helped to reduce conflicting uses (discouraging use by joggers/cyclists/roller skaters etc). Since 2013 systematic landscape improvements have been delivered to improve surfacing, fencing, railings, entrances, seating and planting. Recent works has included reducing

the size of many mature shrubs, and crown-lifting selected trees. This has improved light levels for refreshed under-planting and bedding. The south-western part of the Walk has some distinctive raised 'stone' island beds. A new irrigation system has been implemented in 2016 and will supply borehole water to maintain existing and planned horticultural improvements in good condition.

The east end of South Flower Walk leading to Mount Gate (beyond the gated corridor) is delineated though not entirely enclosed by its trees on the north side. On its south side is mixed border planting, predominantly shrubs, though containing some fine trees, including a group of flowering cherries, weeping Beech and Cedar of Lebanon.



SIGNIFICANCE

The western part of South Flower Walk is one of the few areas in the Gardens of concentrated horticultural celebration. Its quiet presence in the Gardens, gated and screened from view, echoes its Victorian use as a nanny's walk. Historical/Communal value

Several of the trees are important for their botanical interest, e.g. the date plum (*Diospyros lotus*) and the toothache tree (*Zanthoxylum americanum*); and for their cultural importance e.g. the weeping beech tree that featured in Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens.

Aesthetic/Communal value

Frequented by birds, songbirds and Little Owls; as well as bats and bees, South Flower Walk offers quantities of habitat and food sources from retained leaf litter and seed heads, and selected nectar plants across the seasons.

Biodiversity/Communal value



CONDITION

Recent renovations have made improvements to the planting, for horticultural interest and biodiversity value; though the retention of many large sized dull shrubs, such as spotted laurel, diminishes the overall quality of planting. (TRP assessment Summer 2015)

The new layout, surfacing and timber seating are of lasting quality. (TRP assessment Summer 2015)

Improved gated access has controlled usage, restoring calm to this thoroughfare. (TRP assessment Summer 2015)

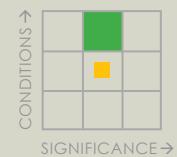
Landscape integrity: Good

PRINCIPAL AIM

Reinforce and conserve: strengthen South Flower Walk's connection to its historic past as a quiet enclosed promenade beside borders of horticultural excellence.

AIMS

1. Provide improved interpretation/information of the Albert Memorial and South Flower Walk.
2. Consideration of an improved landscape setting and catering offer for the Albert Memorial catering kiosk.
3. Continue to enhance quality and high horticultural standards within the South Flower Walk; selective removals of longstanding shrubs to make opportunities for extending the horticultural offering and refinement of over mature and planting in the raised 'stone' beds.
4. Continue the planting improvements through to the eastern end of South Flower Walk and beyond to Mount Gate.



The Dial Walk



Dial Walk retains a separate character and identity to the main part of the Gardens, being separated from them by the earth embankment of the Broad Walk on its east side, and by Kensington Palace to its north. The embankment is an important feature of Bridgeman's design evidencing the topographical to create the flat formal plateau containing the Round Pond.

The Bridgeman layout dismantled and superimposed on the London and Wise layout, diluting Dial Walk's relationship with the palace: and in recent times, the formality of the gardens has been disrupted by the addition of diagonal paths. Notwithstanding, the essential elements of close mown grass and tree avenue remain from the Bridgeman layout. Reinforcement to Dial Walk Avenue in its relationship with the palace is underway. In the winter of 2015/16 two tulip trees closest to the palace were removed; an arc of a semi-circle of ten sweet chestnut trees, divided by

the avenue, has been planted in their place, the 'horns' of the avenue. Further plans to strengthen Dial Walk Avenue (Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy 2014) involve side pruning of the inner tulip tree avenue; and potentially, when the young outer row of sweet chestnuts are sizeable, removal of all tulip trees to open up a broader avenue. Gaps among two rows of white mulberry trees to the west edge of Dial Walk, will be filled. To create a substantial screen against the visual intrusion of the modern high rise hotel on that side, a new line of elm trees, *Ulmus lutece*, are being planted here in phases to replace a declining avenue of horse chestnut. This began in the winter of 2015/16.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Dial Walk's design is testament to the early eighteenth century's forceful changes of landscape taste and style. London and Wise's implementation of two formal, complex designs (the first with borders edged with box hedges) followed, by Bridgeman's largely extant design, putting the area to lawn and retaining the tree avenues. (Evidential/Historical/Aesthetic value)

The closest part of the Gardens to Kensington High Street, it is largely appreciated for the proximity of its green space and enjoyed for ball games and informal recreation; undertaken with the stunning backdrop of Kensington Palace and the Crowther Gates, the location of a shared memory where thousands of floral tributes were laid after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in August 1997. (Communal/Aesthetic value)

Sweet Chestnuts were planted in the Golden Jubilee year of 2002 in the outer lines of central avenue trees. (Historical/Communal value)



CONDITION

Implementation of the tree avenue strategy has already and will continue to make improvements to Dial Walk. (TRP assessment Spring 2016)

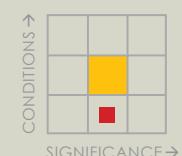
Landscape integrity: Fair

PRINCIPAL AIM

Conserve and create: Maintain and enhance the presentation of Dial Walk as the South Front of Kensington Palace with a clear visual connection and linear axis to the Palace.

AIMS

1. Prioritise planting in the gaps of West Row, elm and mulberry.
2. Improve landscape integrity: manage organised children's sport activities and explore potential for temporary installation of historic garden layout.
3. Ensure the integrity, vulnerable to erosion, of the embankment adjoining the Broad Walk, an important element of Bridgeman's design.
4. Review the condition of the land drains to ensure prevention of damage to trees by water-logging.



The South Wilderness



The South Wilderness is a relatively small triangular piece of land at the south end of Dial Walk. It has recently been reinforced with additional native tree and shrub planting to help restore its deliberately contrasting character: informal, irregular in all its dimensions, and stocked with native plantings of medlar, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, hazel, mountain ash, hornbeam and holly, oak, lime, Princeton elm and sweet chestnut. This area creates a visual and auditory buffer to the busy Kensington Road.

SIGNIFICANCE

This small triangular piece 'squaring off' Dial Walk has recently restored the historical Bridgeman's planting.

It is now developing its habitat content and structure to benefit wildlife and specifically targeted at house sparrows. Sitting in the grasses of the flowery meadow is proving popular with lunchtime visitors.

Historical/Biodiversity/Aesthetic/ Communal value

South Wilderness is located as a continuation of the wildlife corridor of South Flower Walk, important to benefit bats.

Biodiversity value

The South Wilderness interrupts its bosque characteristics to maintain clear sightlines of the same width as Dial Walk Avenue between the palace and Kensington High Street. Historical/Aesthetic value

CONDITION

A relatively recent planting, the condition is good with potential for further habitat diversity as the planting matures.(TRP assessment Summer 2015)

Kings Arms Gate – poor entrance. Down at heel and in need of attention; gate style inappropriate in its modesty for a much used entrance to the Gardens and for tourists' visits to the palace. (TRP assessment Spring 2016)

Landscape integrity: Fair

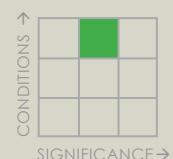


PRINCIPAL AIM

Reinforce and conserve: sustain a naturalistic and 'wild' irregularity to the material content, and in the spirit of Bridgeman's design, to 'square off' the regular geometry of Dial Walk with a contrasting reminder of nature; whilst retaining a clear line of sight from Kensington High Street through Dial Walk to the south front of Kensington Palace.

AIMS

1. Increase native planting, planting advantageously to the seasonally wet conditions in the south-west corner.
2. Consider hedge laying as a traditional technique to maintain a low hedge height.
3. Continue to monitor the Princeton elms.
4. Review rotational woodland management regimes of coppicing and pollarding to manage woody species.
5. Appraise function and location of existing gates (Victoria Road Gate and King's Arm Gate) and consider opportunities to improve the access to and presentation of the south-west front of Kensington Palace and reinstate the linear axis.
6. Refurbish and renew Kings Arms Gate and entrance from Kensington High Street



The Old Wilderness and The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground



The north-western corner of the Gardens extending southwards to the north of The Orangery and Kensington Palace Gardens, westwards to Perk's Field, and eastwards to the Broad Walk, retains a separate identity to the main part of the Gardens. Formerly part of a Wilderness garden laid out by Henry Wise in 1704-05 for Queen Anne, only part of this area falls within the extent of the publicly accessible park today, with the remainder, Perk's Field, being managed by the Royal Household. It is now a mix of elements with limited coherence. The original path lines of the "mock mount", as also shown in the OS 1866, may still be detected although the area appears as an informal distribution of trees.

The strong association of Kensington Gardens with play has been established in this part of the gardens initially with the 1909 playground supported by J.M. Barrie, with further additions of the Elfin Oak and sandpit, and in 2000 with the installation of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground (in the same location as the Barrie playground). The playground has been extremely successful and reinforces the strong association of Kensington Gardens with children. The increasing popularity

and heavy use of the playground all year round requires substantial resources in staffing and sustained maintenance.

Currently, and correlated with HRP's plans for the Orangery, TRP have commissioned consultants to undertake a feasibility review of the playground, a study of the cafe and an exploration of the wilderness concept in its application for play and a C21 landscape.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Diana Playground is significant for its great popularity, its design and play value appreciated by children and by play professionals.

Historical/Communal value

Historic feature the Elfin Oak is a manifestation of former ways to entertain children.

Historical/Communal value

The avenue of silver lime trees along Jubilee Walk were gifted in 1988 from the citizens of Berlin as replacements for those planted in 1911.

Historical/Communal/Biodiversity value



CONDITION

The Old Wilderness area has, aside from the play content, entirely lost its historic character, today being more of a buffer zone between The Royal Household's Perk's Field, and the Gardens' Broad Walk. (TRP assessment Spring 2016)

Jubilee Walk as an access route to the Palace suffers from being a pedestrian route shared with considerable quantities of vehicle traffic. (TRP assessment Spring 2016)

The fabric of the Diana Playground is maintained in very good condition, although its heavy usage leads to problems with crowd management and rapid deterioration.

Landscape integrity: Fair



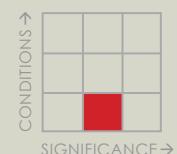
PRINCIPAL AIM

Create and restore: sustain and creatively reinforce the setting for the playground and, to dissipate the negative impact of heavy use and queuing, extend a playful landscape into the surrounding informal area in ways that are delightful and in tune with the historic roots of the Old Wilderness. Developments should support the area's character and history



AIMS

1. Take inspiration from the original design of Wise's Wilderness to plan for a playable landscape for all, and to explore opportunities to extend play to include an older group of children throughout the Old Wilderness in a way that creatively supports its historic character.
2. Undertake a formal review and appraisal of the playground, its refurbishment and the existing catering facility including operational matters such as gate control in order to meet the needs of visiting public.
3. Review and resolve the conflict caused by vehicular access to the palace via Jubilee Walk, the primary route for HRP access, its considerable conflict with pedestrians due to regular and increasing use.



The Broad Walk



The Broad Walk, as its name implies, has the broadest width in the Gardens between its double rows of avenue trees (Norway maple on the inner rows, limes on the outer rows) measuring 930 metres in length and nearly 60 metres between the outer rows (From Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy 2014 prepared by LUC with Richard Flenley). The avenues were replanted in the 1950s after necessary removal of the elms which had become diseased and decrepit.

The Broad Walk is a promenade of interest and the main route for pedestrians and cyclists through the Gardens, linking Kensington Road to the south with Bayswater Road to the north, passing the palace by its eastern gardens. To stroll its length (from the south) is to have glanced into the entrance of South Flower Walk, and looked across Dial Walk; to have seen down the tree lines of the south and north Feathers, and viewed the length of the Front Walk

vista across the Round Pond to the Henry Moore arch and beyond on the right side; while to the left is a view across the formal palace gardens to the palace as backdrop; followed by the Orangery; before turning again to the right to glimpse the parkland feel of the Grindstone Quarter, while passing on the left the playground and catering outlet, before finally reaching the Bayswater Road.

At the north and south ends of the Broad Walk are two police shelters; and to north and south of the Round Pond are the two Thimbles, shelters commemorative of the WWI soldiers.

SIGNIFICANCE

The flattening of the central part of the north-south slope of the Broad Walk manifests the historical topography of the plateau created for the Round Pond.

Historical value

The Broad Walk offers many views and vistas along its length: from a point on the Broad Walk in a line between the centre of the Round Pond and the palace, are views down the three lines of the patte d'oie, of which the central vista is down the length of Front Walk. The pause in the centre of Broad Walk avenue and its more open aspect draws attention to the palace and to the vistas.

Historical/Aesthetic/Communal value

The Broad Walk is a popular north-south connecting route for pedestrians, and for cyclists, roller-bladers and skaters.

Communal value



CONDITION

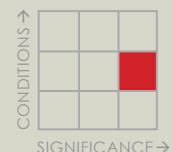
The surfacing of the Broad Walk is maintained to an adequate, although visually patchy, condition. (TRP assessment Spring 2016)

The inner avenue of Norway maple trees (*Acer platanoides*) has gaps, after reductions and losses resulting in 46 trees remaining from the mid C20th century planting of 112. Replanting will replace all Norway maple with *Quercus petraea* in line with the Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy 2014.

Landscape integrity: Fair/weakening to poor

PRINCIPAL AIM

Conserve and restore: conserve and enhance this arterial and historic route with its flanking avenues and its identity as the key interface between the Palace, its immediate grounds and the broader setting of the Gardens.



AIMS

1. Replacement of all Norway maples for the new inner avenue of sessile oak.
2. To create a superior and coherent surface and edge treatment that acknowledges the significance of this promenade.
3. Not to extend the current facility for London cycle hire.

The Albert Memorial & East and West Lawns



This area comprises the Albert Approach Road, Albert Memorial Lawn East, Albert Memorial Lawn West with associated east and west Snake Walks, and also the Albert Memorial. This character area at the south-eastern end of the Gardens forms part of the tongue of land brought in from Hyde Park in 1871. The Memorial itself was erected in 1864–72 to a design by George Gilbert Scott and forms a dramatic focus within the Gardens with the Victorian realignment of Lancaster Avenue (to the north) and the Albert Memorial Avenues to the east and west (in this character area) focusing on the monument and creating dramatic vistas. To the south there is a key visual connection between the Memorial and the Royal Albert Hall, while to the east there are important views from the Memorial to Hyde Park (the location of the 1851 Great Exhibition). The Memorial is managed by TRP aided by advice from Historic England; independent blue badge guided tours are available. The landscape setting has recently been improved and the monument enjoys a high standard of presentation.

The Royal Parks Events Strategy allows for four tented events on the Memorial lawns per year, each lasting for a maximum of 28 days (not inclusive of set up and event de-rig) and the area has recently hosted a number of iconic events. There is a small, seasonal refreshment kiosk close to the Memorial.



SIGNIFICANCE

The Albert Memorial is one of the main tourist attractions of the Gardens and a landmark for Londoners, as well as being a focal point along the axes to which it is aligned. As a historical monument it reminds of the spectrum of important developments in English manufacturing, social, political and scientific history. Its statuary tells of the Great Exhibition and contains symbolic content about the British Empire and its enterprises in the world.

Historical/Aesthetic/Communal value

This location for the Gardens' events, which are focused on those that connect with the arts, with scientific achievements, education and Britishness, provides a setting that imbues historical, aesthetic and communal values.

The Albert Approach Road is much appreciated by cyclists, joggers, roller bladers and those playing informal ball games.

Communal value



The Albert Approach Road was the Route du Roi (Rotten Row) between 1726 and 1864/72. Today it is still a Royal processional route.

Historical/Communal value

In addition to its many formal contents, the boundary of this area offers habitat value with mixed native hedging, and quantities of bulbs in its south west part in springtime, followed by cow parsley and wildflowers.

Biodiversity/Communal value

The magnificent cast iron Coalbrookedale Gates at the entrance to the Albert Approach Road off West Carriage Drive played a historic role as gates of the Great Exhibition inside the Crystal Palace; relocated to their current position in 1852.

Historical/Communal value

CONDITION

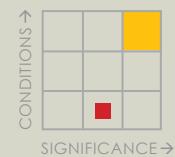
The Albert Memorial is in very good condition after a major renovation project several years ago: maintenance continues on a regular basis. (TRP assessment Spring 2016)

The Coalbrookdale Gates are in good condition. A new side gate creates access for cyclists through the Albert Approach Road. (TRP assessment Spring 2016)

The lawns and avenues are in good condition (TRP assessment Spring 2016). The new irrigation system, fed by borehole, that has been installed in the lawns directly around the Memorial, enables closer management and higher quality of lawns to be produced.

The kiosk condition has potential to improve; there is a current review to improve the catering offer. (TRP assessment Spring 2016)

Landscape integrity: Good



The Albert Memorial & East and West Lawns continued



PRINCIPAL AIM

Conserve: Ensure an excellent presentation of the Albert Memorial that provides this area as a high quality entrance to the Gardens. Support and enhance the important views and vistas through this area, to the Albert Memorial and to/from Hyde Park.

kiosk set within an improved landscape/garden setting.

6. Develop opportunities to provide interpretative material on, and access to the monument.
7. Implement decompaction approaches beneath plane trees and improve the long term quality of the Memorial's lawns.

AIMS

1. Extend this principal aim to work with the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 to ensure that any realised proposals of 'Albertopolis' for improved accessibility and permeability of the south approach to the Albert Memorial, share the spirit and principles of the design of Kensington Gardens.
2. Scope further planting, including hedgelaying native hedges, along boundary to reduce dominance of traffic on Kensington Road.
3. Review installation of a turnstile gate for evening exiting.
4. Review management of the area with regard to potential impact from higher visitor numbers.
5. Review development of an enhanced catering

Kensington Palace



Kensington Palace is under the management of the Historic Royal Palaces (HRP). The maintenance of the southern and eastern gardens, the Sunken Garden and the Orangery was handed over to HRP from TRP in 2005. TRP supports the freely available access to these garden areas, which are still an essential part of the experience of Kensington Gardens.

The recent improvements to the integrated relationship between Kensington Palace and the Gardens, despite the split of function and authority, effectively provides greater exposure of the palace as a visitor attraction. The major refurbishment project to the East Gardens of the Palace, completed in 2012, re-connected the palace with Kensington Gardens. The design aimed to follow early C18 principles of a series of gardens around the palace that relate to and connect with each other and to the park beyond. The renewed palace lawn, a contemporary layer, gives an outward facing aspect to the gardens. Currently HRP are planning extensions to the Orangery and refurbishment of the adjacent south lawn garden.

Perk's Field



Perk's Field is part of the "Old Wilderness" to the north of the Palace, occupying the site of the old gravel pit which was exploited by Henry Wise as his sunken garden in contrast to the adjacent artificial mount. The area is completely open with the topography of the hollow plain to see and the northern part of the field used by the Royal Household staff as an events site and recreation field. The area is not managed by the Royal Parks.

A large tree with yellow autumn leaves and people in the foreground.

PART 4: MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND POLICIES



THE LONG TERM VISION FOR KENSINGTON GARDENS

The one hundred year vision is to protect and enhance Kensington Gardens' rich landscape heritage, its royal associations, its connections with children, with wildlife, and with the creative culture of arts.

VISION AND STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

The previous chapter articulated specific aims to each of the character areas of the park. This chapter revisits the park vision, and, building on the identification of opportunities and aims in sections 6, 7 and 8, articulates strategies and policies for the park's management. The management strategy emerging from this process is based on an understanding of the context, fabric, qualities and condition of Kensington Gardens, and is informed by the assessment of significance. This guides the detailed policies of this management plan.

The current character and qualities of Kensington Gardens are strong and much appreciated by the visiting public. The long term vision is therefore essentially grounded in protection and enhancement. Landscape management holds fast to the vision for the park in the context of multiple changes: of the processes of the living and built fabric of the park; processes of changing park use and users; processes of changing statutory demands; and processes of changing resourcing. The vision for Kensington Gardens therefore is to conserve the landscape - in fabric and ambience - and balance this with its role as a much visited and cherished park.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE POLICIES

HIST 1

Conserve and reinforce the principle framework of Kensington Gardens: the Bridgemanic design creating the extensive formal gardens to Kensington Palace, to which, inevitably, with historic changes a multi layered landscape has developed such as additions from Victorian times; the Albert Memorial, The Flower Walks, the Italian Gardens, monuments, set pieces and sculpture. Twentieth century additions include fine sculpture, and a growing association with childhood through JM Barrie and Princess Diana (Peter Pan and the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial playground respectively).

Hist 1.1 Bridgeman Layout:

Conserve, reinforce and celebrate the important historic landscape of Kensington Garden created largely by Bridgeman and represented by the Round Pond, Long Water, the Avenues and cross-avenues, and Quarters, recognising the significant and extensive groundworks (e.g. the embankment adjoining the Broad Walk) of the formative period as well as the setting and significance of later monuments and set pieces. Consider carefully the effect of any management change on both the individual landscape features that contribute to the pattern, the key views and vistas, and the essential spirit and ambience of the Bridgemanic layout.

Hist 1.2 Relationship with Kensington Palace:

Kensington Gardens and Kensington Palace are under separate management, The Royal Parks and HRP. A combined management aim should be to

continue the visual and functional relationship of the palace and Gardens so that, given due regard to privacy and security requirements of the palace, essentially they are perceived as a single entity.

Hist 1.3 Layers of history:

Recognise and conserve the layers of history that create Kensington Gardens ranging from the medieval fields, early groundworks, and the significance and extent of later adaptation and additions, notably the Victorian set pieces that overlay and provide focus and which act as a counterpoint to the formal pattern. Ensure all features and their settings are maintained to a high quality.

ARCHAEOLOGY POLICIES

ARCH 1

Conserve and protect archaeological features in-situ including the design and scale of earthworks relating to different phases of development. Management and design proposals should follow the Kensington Gardens Archaeology Strategy respecting the importance and sensitivity of the archaeology, both visible and buried features.

Arch 1.1 Watching briefs

To be maintained during any invasive works in key areas.

Arch 1.2 Archaeological research

Consider opportunities for funding geophysical surveys.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER POLICIES

LCHAR 1

Protect and enhance the verdant, refined landscape character of the Gardens, informed and anchored by the historic Bridgemanic design, as an intact parkland landscape.

LChar 1.1 Greenspace/Amenity

Kensington Gardens will continue to provide tranquil greenspace with opportunities for informal recreation and quiet enjoyment of its natural surroundings set amongst its historic landscape. The Gardens' contribution to enhance the quality of the urban environment for local communities and visitors will be protected. Activities in the gardens that do not unfavourably disturb this will be managed carefully; other, more disruptive, activities will be discouraged.

LChar 1.2:

Maintain Coombes Quarter to share the ambience of the nearby Queen Caroline's Temple.

HORTICULTURAL AREA POLICIES

HORT 1

There will be a general presumption against the creation of new or additional areas of horticultural display within the informal parkland setting, unless there is a historic precedent. The extent of garden areas should be confined to their present area, namely The North Flower Walk, the South Flower Walk, urns and beds in the Italian Gardens and adjacent cafe, and around Peter Pan. These garden areas should be of a high design and quality and provide an elegant, yet exuberant contrast to the more restrained, verdant character of the park. Wildlife

benefits will be considered in the management of horticultural areas. All horticultural areas will be managed with a minimum of chemical/pesticides and use of peat.

Hort 1.1 Horticultural areas

Manage to provide seasonal interest and variation for the delight of visitors. The condition and nature of planting will be reviewed regularly and rejuvenated as required. The colour of annual bedding schemes will be carefully designed. Wildlife opportunities and benefits will be considered in the planning and management of horticultural areas, including provision of structure and cover, food and nectar sources, and species provenance.

Hort 1.2 Horticultural character

Make considered removals and renewed plantings in the South Flower Walk border on its northern side facing into the Gardens.

SHRUBBERIES POLICIES

SHRUB 1

Maintain a balance of biodiversity and visual interest in the main shrubberies in Kensington Gardens, supporting vistas where appropriate. Shrub areas are associated with the margins of the Long Water, with Marlborough Gate and Orme Square; satellite beds in the Old Wilderness and other areas; and with a limited number of enclosed sanctuaries, such as the small dense shrubbery towards Mount Gate and fenced screening vegetation around lodges, buildings or work areas. Shrub areas are associated with the margins of the Long Water, with Marlborough Gate and Orme Square; satellite

beds in the Old Wilderness and other areas; and with a limited number of enclosed sanctuaries, such as the small dense shrubbery towards Mount Gate and fenced screening vegetation around lodges, buildings or work areas (e.g. the leaf yard). These undisturbed 'refuge' areas are of considerable wildlife interest. Native planting should be considered and selected to thrive in existing site conditions, soil moisture, shade etc.

Shrub 1.1 Ornamental Shrubs

The design and maintenance of ornamental shrubberies should make full use of their contribution to biodiversity; ensured by cyclical rejuvenation.

Shrub 1.2 Refuge and scrub

Retain tree layer, shrub and scrub layer and understorey as cover for nesting birds. Ensure rotational management of areas of potentially invasive species that are important to wildlife such as brambles and nettles to maintain a diverse habitat structure.

Shrub 1.3 Sensitive species

Ensure protection and compliance with species protection legislation by appropriate timing of works e.g. to protect breeding birds, to maintain continuity of habitat, and avoid disturbing bats.

HEDGES POLICIES

HEDGE 1

Where appropriate, increase the amount of native hedging as boundary; manage as traditionally laid hedging.

VIEW POLICIES

VIEW 1

Views from and into Kensington Gardens are critical to the character of the Gardens and will be managed to respect the historic identity of the park and to protect and enhance these significant visual relationships.

View 1.1 Identify, map and protect key views.
Identify and map key views from, within and to Kensington Gardens. The impact of any proposed change within/external to the gardens on these key views should be monitored.

View 1.2 Partnership with Historic Royal Palaces
Continue to work in partnership with Historic Royal Palaces to conserve, restore and celebrate the visual connection between the park and palace.

View 1.3 Protect Kensington Gardens 'skyspace'
Respond in a timely way to planning applications that might affect external changes on views from the park, and maintain good partnership working with the adjacent local planning authorities (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster City Council). The aim should be to retain the historic and verdant setting of the park, with skyline views principally formed by the tree canopy.

View 1.4 Views into the park
Enhance views into the park where possible, without exposing park users to traffic impacts or other negative elements along the boundaries. Key views are from the Serpentine Bridge across the Long Water, and the view from Kensington Palace

grounds and from within the palace, itself, into the park and along the long the axis of the Front Walk, and to the South Front.

View 1.5 Views from Kensington Gardens
Outward views from Kensington Gardens are for the most part framed by the tree canopy punctuated by church spires, only occasionally impinged on by incongruous tall buildings. Important views include from Buck Hill (north Bastion and Peacock Walk) over Hyde Park, from Queen Caroline's Temple towards Westminster and the Serpentine, and from Lancaster Gate Walk past the Albert Memorial to the Royal Albert Hall.

View 1.6 Views within the Gardens
Kensington Garden is characterised by a diversity of views, for the most part controlled by the axial layout of avenues providing framed corridor views to individual features such as the Albert Memorial or the statue of Physical Energy. It is of paramount importance to maintain the axial, framing layout of avenues, the quantity of trees, and to allow permeable views beneath the tree canopy.

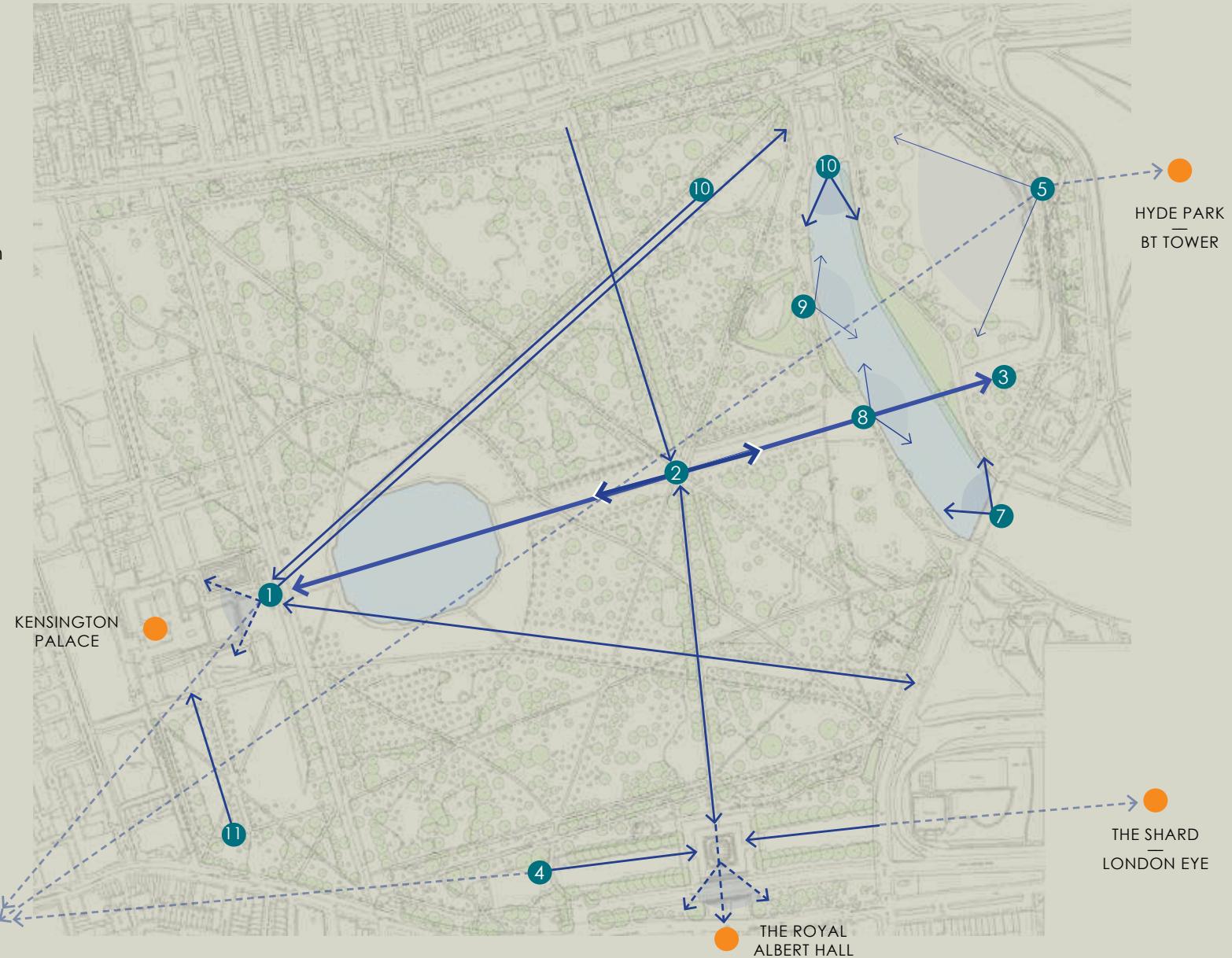
There are also, in contrast, views aslant of the avenues, for instance from Buck Hill, which provide a view across a remarkable profusion of trees. Also valuable are glimpsed views, such as across the Long Water to Peter Pan; and towards focal points such as the Queen's Temple. Views of the Italian Gardens over the formal balustrade as it abuts the Long Water, and across the Long Water to the Serpentine Bridge will be retained by keeping vegetation low in key places to maintain the views. Managing scrub growth associated with the Long Water margins to conserve glimpses of the water and across the lake is a key requirement.

LIST OF VIEWING POSITIONS

- 1 Kensington Palace Patte d'oe down Front Walk, Mount Walk and Great Bayswater Walk
- 2 Physical Energy Statue to Kensington Palace, Henry Moore Arch, The Albert Memorial and further to The Royal Albert Hall
- 3 Henry Moore Arch to Physical Energy Statue and Kensington Palace
- 4 Great Bayswater Walk to Kensington Palace and further to St Mary Abbots Church
- 5 Buck Hill /North Bastion Across Buck Hill and further to St Mary Abbots Church
- 6 Diana Memorial Path to The Albert Memorial
- 7 Serpentine Bridge across the Long Water
- 8 Chamberlain's Piece to Henry Moore Arch, to Serpentine Bridge and Italian Gardens
- 9 Peter Pan Statue To Italian Gardens, to Serpentine Bridge and Buck Hill
- 10 Italian Gardens
- 11 Dial Walk to Kensington Palace

KEY VIEWS PLAN

- Focal Point (External)
- Viewing Position
- ↔ Key view, two directions
- Key view, single direction
- Distant view (External)
- ↔ Vista view (Internal)
- ↔ Vista view (External)



BIODIVERSITY POLICIES

Biodiv 1

Maintain and enhance an appropriate mosaic of habitats, and within these to encourage structural and species diversity. Project planning to include improvements to ecological habitats from inception phases. Events planning to include ecology team and note constraints eg. lighting. Management should maximise the biodiversity contribution of existing components, such as deadwood habitats; and explore further opportunities for habitat creation.

Biodiv 1.1 Ecological Surveys

To action the recommendations of the ecological survey of ground level habitats and plant species, Ground Flora Survey of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens 2013, (which followed work undertaken by the London Wildlife Trust in 2007). These include a recommendation for appropriate targeted species surveys e.g. bats, spiders, butterflies, moths and other invertebrates.

Continue to improve the Royal Parks Biological Recording System in partnership with the Greenspaces Information for Greater London which will review the storing of existing data, be GIS compatible, and ensure the information is consistent and can be shared with other London organisations.

Biodiv 1.2 Wildlife Management Strategy

To develop a Kensington Gardens Wildlife Management Strategy for detailed grassland management. To review an extension of meadow regimes in some areas, reflecting historic

precedent and to implement local differences and timing of cuts; for management of scrub and woodland in refuge/sanctuary areas; and for wildlife beneficial management of horticultural areas.

Biodiv 1.3 Ecological Monitoring:

The baseline ecological survey and Wildlife Management Strategy should provide a foundation of ecological monitoring, which will aim to collect standard repeatable information for managers to detect changes in the ecological condition of the park. Results should form part of the information base stored as part of the Biological Recording System.

Biodiv 1.4 Partnership

The park management partnership approach to management of the biodiversity resource will benefit from information gained by ecological monitoring. Partnership working will be supported by the Central Royal Parks Wildlife Group and link with local, regional and national biodiversity initiatives, including partners in the adjacent local authorities and other organisations.

Biodiv 1.5 Control of Invasive Species

Invasive plant species (such as Japanese Knotweed) will be sensitively controlled, using appropriate methods.

GRASSLAND POLICIES

Grass 1

The extensive area of grassland, with trees is central to the naturalistic verdant character of Kensington Gardens. The management aim, as successfully

applied, should be to continue to apply differential mowing regimes to meadow, lawn and amenity grassland. Deliberate and selective mowing regimes should be used to increase biodiversity; and to reinforce the distinction between the Quarters and to guide public use of the different areas; to reinforce the main visual and historic axes through the park, notably the Front Walk and link between the palace and Buck Hill. The naturalistic and ecological value of the acid grassland areas should be improved and supported with management regimes that reduce nutrient loading.

Grass 1.1 Grassland Strategy

In managing grassland areas, the aim should be to work towards grassland that is beneficial for flora, fungi, invertebrates, birds and small mammals. A more detailed grassland strategy has been developed including a revised plan indicating frequency and timing of mowing and reinforcing consistent grassland management regimes. The main grassland strategy aims are to retain existing areas of acid grassland and to protect from invasion by coarse grasses; to restore further areas of acid grassland; to improve the ecological condition of semi-improved neutral grassland, primarily located on Buck Hill; and to follow key principles for biodiversity management of grassland as detailed in the Ground Flora Survey of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens 2013. Maintain the No Cut management in Colt Quarter that allows re-emergence of relict plantings.

Grass 1.2 Amelioration of damaged areas

There will be a prompt response to amelioration of damaged grassland areas involving improvement of the soil environment, and reseeding/turfing.

Grassland seed and turf mixes should respond to the objectives of the grassland strategy. Where there is a requirement for the importation of topsoil this should meet quality standards and be appropriate in relation to the objectives of the grassland strategy.

TREES AND TREE RENEWAL POLICIES

Trees 1

Maintain a healthy, safe and substantially mature population of trees, with appropriate species and distribution, providing continuity of authentic historic pattern in avenues, quarters, clumps and groupings. Choice of species should be informed by the historic palette. The importance of trees as a habitat for a wide range of species will continue to be recognised.

Kensington Gardens tree strategies from 1989 (which built on the results of the 1982 tree survey) and 2001 (on structural avenues only); have been updated in 2010 and 2014. This Management Plan includes detailed policies for both avenue trees and non-avenue trees.

Tree 1.1 Tree Survey

Comprehensive tree surveys were undertaken in 1982, 2009 and 2014. The survey information is held in a Geographic Information System (GIS) and in the Arbortrack database, and linked to a map base. Repeat surveys should be undertaken at appropriate intervals so as to keep an updated Tree Strategy which guides management of the park's areas with survey information including assessment of issues and risks, strategies, options, and considerations.

Tree 1.2 Tree Inspection

TRP's arboriculturists to continue regular tree inspections in accordance with agreed Royal Parks Risk Assessment Strategy. The inspections are recorded in the Arbortrack database, with descriptions of tree condition, specifications for tree work (as required) and a record of the completion of any specified works.

Tree 1.3 Partnership with Local Planning Authorities

Kensington Gardens is within a Conservation Area, administered by the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) of The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and The Westminster City Council. All work to trees is therefore subject to Conservation Area legislation, which stipulates that LPAs must be given six weeks' notice in which to respond to proposed tree works. This does not cover works with regard to health and safety.

Tree 1.4 Veteran and Ancient Trees

Kensington Gardens has a significant population of both veteran and ancient trees, including a number sweet chestnuts over 200 years old. Careful consideration will continue to be given to the conservation of veteran/ancient trees for their visual, historical and biodiversity value. A key task is to develop individual management plans for each tree, including specific arboricultural measures to extend their viability and their contribution to biodiversity. Opportunities to celebrate these trees and recognise their historic links in the park should be explored.

Tree 1.5 Retention of Dead Wood

Kensington Gardens will continue to implement a policy of deadwood retention wherever safe and

appropriate. The retention of standing dead wood (monoliths), deadwood in trees and deadwood on the ground as well as dead tree stumps (where trees have fallen or been felled) provides niche habitat for saproxylic invertebrates (a UK BAP priority species group) and other species. Mature trees with decay cavities and hollows in the limbs and trunk also provide nest sites for birds and roost sites for bats.

Tree 1.6 Tree Provenance

TRP has a bio-security policy which recommends specific measures to protect the tree stock from current and future pests and diseases. The provenance of tree stock introduced to the park is of particular concern. Trees selected for planting are to come from approved suppliers, nurseries and garden centres with a proven track record, and their own rigorous bio-security measures. Additionally, it is advised that native trees for planting should be from seed stock of UK provenance.

The purchase of London plane (*Platanus acerifolia*), sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), common oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) from European suppliers is avoided.

The propagation of sweet chestnut and other species from seed collected from TRP veteran trees is being undertaken, with the use of this stock for future planting being advised.

Tree 1.7 Tree Strategies

Review and update the 2010 Veteran Tree Strategy.

TREES IN AVENUES POLICIES

TrAve 1

Conserve the established avenue lines in accordance with the historic pattern and species, essentially that of the Bridgeman landscape, with later nineteenth century additions notably Lancaster Walk, focussing on the Albert Memorial. The Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy 2014 provides the principal policy for managing the avenues trees.

TrAve 1.1 The Great Bow

The feature has been enhanced recently by the selective replacement of some of the lime tree which had poor form and a reduced predicted viable lifespan. The monitoring of tree health and improvement of soil condition if considered appropriate is required.

TrAve 1.2 Dial Walk

Plan for additional planting of sweet chestnut to enhance the feature, and the medium term removal of the tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) avenue, the relatively recent origin of which militates against the area's historical legibility. Plan for replacing the deteriorating, non-historical line of chestnut trees on the west side, with *Ulmus lutece*.

TrAve 1.3 The Broad Walk

The retention of the feature requires the replacement of declining Norway maples with sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*)

TrAve 1.4 Lancaster Gate Walk

The retention of the feature requires the improvement of the soil condition for the existing

London planes and their phased replacement in the long term. Currently many spaces in the avenues are empty, and the planting of new trees will take place in the medium term.

TrAve 1.5 South Roundabout

Replacement of declining horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) with Indian horse chestnut (*Aesculus indica*) is recommended in the medium term.

TrAve 1.6 Great Bayswater Avenue

Replacement of declining horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) with Indian horse chestnut (*Aesculus indica*) and other species is recommended in the medium term.

TrAve 1.7 Buck Hill Walk and Axis

Planting of new groups of trees to enhance the feature is envisaged and outlined in the 2014 Kensington Gardens Avenues Strategy.

PARKLAND TREES POLICIES (QUARTERS/NON AVENUE TREES)

TrQua 1

Pursue the development of the management framework by TRP arboriculturalists for the restoration and management of this distinctive element of the Gardens, namely the grassland with trees and the verdant 'enclosed' character that this creates.

TrQua 1.1 Regeneration

Continue to support the significant natural regeneration in those Quarters which are held in meadow management, and to limit introduced

tree planting. Undertake the selection for retention of some specimens, and the removal of others as necessary to prevent some of the meadows reverting entirely to woodland.

TrQua 1.2 Conifers and evergreens

Currently there are few coniferous trees in the park. Forsythe's plan featured the Fir Quarter, a small clump of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), which was located in a small triangle of land at the upper end of Inverness Gate Walk towards the Queens Gate boundary. Consider establishing a small clump of a suitable species which would be an asset to the native species diversity of the park. Similarly, also reflecting mid nineteenth century illustrations of a view towards John Rennie's bridge, consider a small picturesque clump of conifers towards the North East portion of Temple Quarter, whilst also opening up more of the view from the Temple towards the bridge.

TrQua 1.3 Soil structure and water

For many existing trees, in particular beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) the prospect of reduced water availability as the result of climate change may be mitigated by soil improvement measures such as de-compaction and mulching. The improvement of the soil of the park, which has been depleted by many years of leaf removal, is desirable. The alteration of traditional park management practices to enhance soil biodiversity, and so quality, is advisable.

TrQua 1.4

Tree canopy structure and relationship to grassland: vigilant consideration of the effect of tree canopy on grasses and forbs in order to retain the desired balance.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE POLICIES

Water 1

TRP Water Strategy is committed to increasing sustainable water management through switching from mains to borehole/well abstraction, improving mains water leak detection, and improving water quality management in lakes and rivers and better surface water management and attenuation.

Water 1.1 Water Body Maintenance and Control

Continue to maintain the infrastructure of the water bodies including de-silting, maintenance and operation of valves and sluices and maintenance and repair of banks, using methods appropriate to the historic landscape. Maintain the softer, more naturalistic margins that are appropriate to the Long Water, providing due attention is paid to maintenance of the formal axis/Front Vista with Kensington Palace, where it crosses the Long Water and of the crisp edge to the Balustrade of the Italian Gardens. Curtail encroachment of reedbeds on the outfalls from the Italian Gardens.

Water 1.2 Water Supply

Minimise the use of mains water by converting toilets where possible to a non-potable, borehole supply. Carefully manage the quantities and programming of water extraction from the boreholes in the Italian Gardens and in Hyde Park to ensure sufficient flushing. Install additional mains water sub-meters to monitor leaks and consumption of mains supplies. Ensure there is no double charging from Thames Water.

Water 1.3 Water Circulation

The Italian Gardens' borehole, installed in 1998, currently supplies pumped water to the Long Water and the Round Pond in addition to the Italian Gardens. It also sends water to the underground Hyde reservoir. In line with the Environment Agency extraction license, water extracted from this borehole needs to be reduced. From 2016 therefore, the new (2012) Hyde Borehole No.2 (near the Serpentine Car Park) will supply the Serpentine and the Hyde reservoir; the Round Pond; the toilets at Mount Gate and the Serpentine Gallery, and the irrigation of the Albert borders and South Flower Walk. The Italian Gardens borehole will still supply the Italian Gardens, the Long Water and Round Pond and be used should the other borehole fail or during maintenance shutdowns. Maintain in good condition the existing Italian Gardens borehole and pump, and the pumping plant in the Italian Gardens Engine House.

Water 1.4 Drainage, Rainfall and Surface Water Management

The existing land drainage infrastructure should be maintained or renewed. Scope the potential for ground water harvesting from this system which could feed into the Long Water. There are opportunities for rainfall capture and attenuation from the large hard surface area of the Broad Walk.

Water 1.5 Water Quality

Ensure best practice to meet aesthetic, biodiverse and health and safety standards. Continue to implement a range of water quality improvement measures including borehole flushing, natural bacterial treatments and maintain the routine in-house water quality observation programme.

Recognising urban water bodies can suffer eutrophic conditions strategies to reduce water pollution will continue i.e. the regular removal of leaves from hard surfaces and amenity grassland and the avoidance of mulching parkland turf and shrubberies surrounding water bodies. Herbicides will not be used and the removal of sediments may be necessary in future. Ultrasound devices and existing electrically powered aerators will continue to be utilised.

The importance of the water bodies for wildlife interest is recognised in their management with further consideration for marginal planting and an increase in the area reedbed.

Leaf Yard effluent: Maintain the chamber pumps to ensure any leaf compost/ effluent/ leachate does not enter the Long Water: and maintain the pumps installed in 2013 that pump out to the sewer.

Water 1.6 Water features

Maintenance will be to a high standard, e.g. the Tiffany (funded) drinking fountains.

BUILDINGS AND MAIN STRUCTURES POLICIES

B&MS 1

Maintain all buildings and structures to a high standard of physical repair and visual quality, with appropriate uses relating to park visitors or management needs. Special attention will be paid to those with listed building status. For buildings and structures that are features of the Gardens, such as the Queen Caroline's Temple, Queen Anne's Shelter, the Serpentine Sackler Gallery and Albert Memorial, particular attention will be paid to their

landscape setting and ensuring a high standard of presentation within the park. Historic buildings and structures are an important element of Kensington Gardens. There will a general presumption against the construction of new buildings within Kensington Gardens.

B&Ms 1.1 Kensington Palace

The main policy recommendation is to work in a collaborative partnership with HRP to agreed principles of presenting an understanding of the history of the Gardens as a single entity.

B&Ms 1.2 Queen' Caroline's Temple

The policy aim is to maintain the Temple structure to a high standard and restore the 'Arcadian' landscape setting. This will include further backdrop planting, in line with the historic pattern, removal of the service box and reinstating views to the Temple, from Buck Hill, across the Long Water as seen in eighteenth century prints.

B&Ms The Pumphouse

The Pumphouse in the Italian Gardens is a fine building, currently used for water infrastructure in its closed part. The front open side, which offers public access, provides an opportunity for a more purposeful function.

B&Ms New Buildings

In keeping with its open parkland character, there will generally, be a presumption against the construction of additional new buildings in Kensington Gardens, except where they are considered essential for public use and enjoyment and where there are no existing buildings that can be reasonably adapted for this purpose. In such

circumstances any building will need to be of an appropriate scale and high standard of design, with particular attention to location in relation to the historic landscape and the immediate landscape setting of the building. Encroachment of facilities and hard surfacing into the park will not be appropriate.

B&Ms Mobile Catering Outlets

Careful consideration should be given to the siting and appearance of the mobile catering outlets, which need to be positively visible to park visitors, but should not be intrusive in relation to the parkland setting.

The catering outlets have the potential to be more closely identified with the Royal Parks, for example providing visitor information. There are specific recommendations in relation to the following:

Broad Walk/Diana Memorial Playground Kiosk

Consider opportunities for development of the catering offer and facilities from this site as part of a wider review of the playground and its environs. The setting should benefit from landscape enhancements, and may include an expansion of catering provision and facilities and of seating areas, modifications of shrubbery and relocation of the storage area etc.

Albert Memorial Kiosk

Consider opportunities for an enhanced kiosk type facility at this site: develop an improved garden setting and seating, minimising any further encroachment into the park or extension of hard surfacing.

MONUMENTS AND MAIN ARTEFACTS POLICIES

M&MA1

The number and current disposition of artefacts and monuments within the park will be retained and maintained to a high physical and visual standard, within an appropriate landscape setting. The existing monuments and artefacts, notably the Albert Memorial, the Henry Moore Arch, Peter Pan, The Elfin Oak, Statue of Physical Energy, Speke, as well as a number of smaller features, make an immense contribution to the character and identity of Kensington Gardens. The monuments and artefacts of mainly 19th and early 20th century date co-exist with and help to animate the 18th century layout. Special attention will be paid to those monuments and artefacts with listed building status.

Generally there will be a presumption against the introduction of further permanent structures, small scale artefacts and features within Kensington Gardens.

M&Ma 1.1 Henry Moore Arch

The Henry Moore Arch, donated by the sculptor, is again located in a prominent position on Buck Hill (on the Front Walk axis) following its restoration. Its context and surroundings should be sympathetic, not to cause discolouration of the stonework, and in landscape that neither detracts from the sculpture nor from the surrounding grassland.

M&Ma 1.2 Peter Pan

It is recommended that a design project is undertaken of the enclosure, to enhance the setting and improve the paving to make it fully accessible.

M&Ma 1.3 The Thimble Shelters

Restoration is planned to restore the seating to the two Thimbles: funding is being sought.

M&Ma: 1.4 Park Management Buildings

Progress proposals to develop Park Management buildings: and to implement the overdue replacement of portacabins.

BOUNDARIES AND GATES POLICIES

B> 1

Conserve and enhance gateways and boundaries that effect an appropriate and distinctive sense of entry: high quality, functional and reflective of the historic character of Kensington Gardens. There is considered to be an appropriate balance between screening and views into the park, and an appropriate balance of railings and hedges.

B> 1.1 Maintenance of Gates and Boundaries

All gateways, including the older ornamental gateways, and boundaries of Kensington Gardens should be maintained to a consistent and high standard, reflecting a positive image of the park and with gateways providing a welcoming point of entry to visitors.

The juxtaposition of hedging and railings will be considered so as to facilitate regular repainting of railings and ironwork that will be undertaken as part of a regular maintenance regime.

B> 1.2 Number of Gateways

The number and security of existing gateways is considered to be adequate for normal

activities. Turnstile gates exist at Orme Square Gate, Marlborough Gate, Temple Gate, Palace Gate and Black Lion Gate. The provision of an additional turnstile on the east side of the park at Magazine Gate could be explored.

B> 1.3 Victoria Road Gate and King's Arms Gate

There remains an opportunity to consider a design study to include appraisal of the function and location of existing gates. Specifically the busy entrance at King's Arms Gate should be improved and create a greater sense of arrival and access to the Gardens. Consider improved presentation of the south front of Kensington Palace.

B> 1.4 Environs beyond the Park Boundaries

The Royal Parks will work in partnership with the local planning authorities and neighbours in seeking to ensure that the immediate environs of the park provide an appropriate setting and do not adversely impact on views from, or the experience within the park.

B> 1.5 Improvements to Gateways

Improvement to the presentation of gateways is noted above, further areas for improvement are noted below:

Orme Square Gates

The Royal Parks will work in partnership with HRP to improve the setting and quality of Orme Square Gate and will work to manage health and safety matters associated with increased vehicular use of the gate for access to the palace along Jubilee Walk.

THE ROUTES – ROAD AND PATH NETWORK POLICIES

PATH 1

All necessary hard surfacing will be maintained to a high standard of physical repair (bound gravel) suitable for its purpose and sympathetically assimilated into the historic parkland setting. Within Kensington Gardens the path network (22km) is extensive, convenient and in the main integrated with the historic layout of 1730, with later adaptations. There will be a general presumption against the encroachment of further areas of hard surface within Kensington Gardens, except where there are specific public needs or safety requirements.

Pedestrian priority will continue to be reinforced to counteract the impact of increasing numbers of cycles resulting from the Cycle Super Highway.

Path 1.1 South Feathers Path

The diagonal path running south east from the Broad Walk towards Snob's Crossing is informal in character and is recommended to remain as such.

Path 1.3 Jubilee Walk

The Jubilee Walk is managed by the Royal Parks as an essential part of the Gardens. Additionally it is used as the primary vehicular route for HRP servicing and events vehicles. While the need for such access is recognised, use of the walk by HRP vehicles will in future be subject to licence conditions in order to safeguard the public pedestrian route.

Path 1.4 Maintenance of paths and surfaces

Patch repairs will be undertaken to a similar standard using bound gravel to ensure a visually integrated path surface. Investment in drainage repair and restoration of grass edges is required to improve path edges.

Path 1.5 Cycling

Kensington Gardens will continue to restrict cycle routes to no more than the east - west Albert Approach Road and Mount Walk Gate to Studio Gate; and north - south Broad Walk. Cyclists will be made aware of pedestrian priorities and encouraged to ride safely and responsibly. The Royal Parks will also explore further opportunities for the provision of cycle racks.

PARK FURNITURE POLICIES

Furn 1

Conserve and promote high quality co-ordinated parkland furniture (benches, bins, signage) to enhance public enjoyment of the park. All furniture will be maintained to a high standard and provide a positive visual contribution to the parkland setting.

Furn 1.1 Review of Park Furniture

A full review of all the furniture within the park will be undertaken. The aim should be a co-ordinated approach, while encouraging distinctive themes appropriate to the character of each area, as set out in the TRP Design Guide.

Furn 1.2 Siting of Parkland Furniture

Waste bin numbers, type and location are being revised to align with the TRP 2015 Sustainability

Strategy. Change of usage will be necessary to achieve significantly improved sustainability in waste. All furniture will be appropriately sited to ensure that it makes a positive contribution to the historic and parkland setting. In particular, special attention will be paid to ensure that historic vistas and key views are not cluttered.

Furn 1.3 Maintenance of Parkland Furniture

All furniture will be maintained to a high standard, to a consistent and regular maintenance regime. Damaged or broken items will be repaired or replaced as a priority to reinforce the image of a high quality distinctive landscape.

Furn 1.4 Memorial Benches

In the past, memorial benches have been adopted within Kensington Gardens, notably on South Flower Walk and the Italian Gardens. Those memorial benches in place will be maintained for the life time of the bench. Further opportunities for benches will be explored should new opportunities for seating arise.

Furn 1.5 Signage and information

It is recommended that an updated signage and information strategy is produced. Signage should facilitate public enjoyment and use of the park, and be visible without being intrusive. The strategy should identify key features within the park, key features beyond the park and develop a hierarchy of signage at appropriate locations. Signage should generally follow the traditional Royal Parks 'livery' of cast iron fingerposts with gold lettering. Temporary signage within the park will be kept to a minimum. An information strategy will be developed that embraces new techniques, such

as apps, for relating information about the park in a way that visitors expect and enjoy.

LIGHTING POLICIES

LIGHT 1

Conserve the current restrictions to lighting to the areas around Kensington Palace. The park is not intended to provide a 24 hour facility and therefore further lighting at night time is not required. Existing lamp posts and light fittings will be conserved (listed status). Spotlighting of features such as the Albert Memorial and which enhance night time views into the park will be maintained.

Light 1.1 Maintenance of lighting

All lighting in Kensington Gardens will be maintained in good condition.

Light 1.2 Lighting and wildlife²⁵

Plans for any temporary or permanent lighting will consider implications for wildlife. Artificial lighting is known to impact negatively, causing behavioural modification, disorientation and disruption. The Royal Parks should maintain E1 ('intrinsically dark landscapes') or E2 ('low district brightness areas') light levels.

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION POLICIES

ED&INT 1

Continue to work closely with key partner organisations delivering education activities to ensure a uniform approach and quality standard to a visiting school child's experience in their visit to the Royal Parks.

Ed&Int 1.1 The Royal Parks Education programme
Continue the partnership work with the volunteer team at the Kensington Gardens allotment. This provides support and guidance to young people in their knowledge of how to grow foods and life skills in how to take the harvested food and prepare for use.

Ed&Int 1.2 Serpentine and Serpentine Sackler Gallery Education team
Continue to work co-operatively with both galleries to support the potential of art, exhibitions and associated installations in the landscape

Ed&Int 1.3 The Kensington Palace (HRP)
Continue to liaise with HRP and their provision of heritage education programmes.

Ed&Int 1.4 Interpretative Material
Exploring and implementing effective and contemporary ways of meeting information needs about Kensington Gardens', its rich heritage and wildlife, will be a forthcoming focus.

Ed&Int 1.5 Education and key messages
Educational tools will be used to convey key messages regarding themed activities or areas of concern, such as feeding animals, leaving waste and considerate cycling. They will also be used to share information and the rationale behind any removals of trees, of issues that have caused management problems, and explain to the public why certain practices are harmful to the environment of Kensington Gardens.

Ed&Int 1.6 Guided Walks and Small Scale Interpretative Events

The Park Management will continue to provide, encourage and support a regular programme of small scale events. Special consideration will be given to occasional small community events that seek to widen the audience of the park, for example attracting local residents that currently do not visit the gardens.

ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH POLICIES

ENG&OUT 1

Engage the wider and local community, corporate volunteering and the Friends Group, in participative activities; for instance in order to assist Park Management to continue labour intensive tasks, to benefit the park by increasing the number of positive visitors, enabling participants to join in social nature-based activities.

Allotment gardening will continue to be an important mainstay of community involvement.

Eng&Out 1.1 Allotment

Continue the 'Grow Your Own' gardening programme in Kensington Gardens.

Eng&Out 1.2 The Royal Parks Guild (RPG)

Continue to support the Guild, a voluntary group whose relationship with The Royal Parks includes support to the horticulture programmes and historical park research.

Eng&Out 1.3 Volunteer bird surveys

Continue the volunteer bird walking surveys that

build data on standard routes in the Gardens. Continue to recruit and manage knowledgeable 'birder' volunteers.

Eng&Out 1.4 Citizen surveys

Initiate annual butterfly surveys; keep abreast of other UK nature surveys that could be transcribed to a park context and work with community involvement.

Eng&Out 1.5 Nature Club

Continue to develop the Nature Club for local school children with the RPF to embrace ecological and biodiversity improvement projects that lend themselves to volunteer delivery.

Eng&Out 1.6 Exceptional Commemorations

Support and facilitate community involvement events in occasional and exceptionally important commemorations, such as WWI.

SPORTS AND ACTIVE RECREATIONAL USES POLICIES

SP&REC 1

Promote passive recreation and peaceful enjoyment of Kensington Gardens in preference to more active formal sports, which are generally unsuitable given the importance of the historic landscape, few extensive expanses of grassland and predominance of trees, in avenues and parkland plantings (in contrast, for example to Hyde and Regents Park, where there are significant expanses of grassland without trees).

Sp&Rec 1.1 Football/Ballgames

Continue to encourage passive recreation and peaceful enjoyment, and deter formalised and vigorous group games through appropriate and subtle landscape management. Notwithstanding the above, some formalised activity in some locations, such as Dial Walk, will be considered. The use of the East and West Albert Lawns for Summer Schools will be pursued.

EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENTS POLICIES

EV&ENT 1

Continue the provision of events in Kensington Gardens in line with the Major Events Strategy. The Gardens, not being suitable to large scale commercial events such as the large music concerts in Hyde Park, will ensure continuity of its quieter character. Up to four major events and a number of small events may take place each year. The focus is very much on developing a range of quiet recreational pursuits that broaden interest in the Gardens and align to its Vision.

Ev&Ent 1.1 Events generally

Event set up should follow guidance from TRP Arboricultural Guidance Document: Trees and Events so as to minimise impact on tree canopies and root zones. Location, contents, timing and setup of events should follow the policy on Ecology in Events: and some events will require an Environmental Impact assessment (EIA).

Ev&Ent 1.2 Events on the Albert Memorial Lawns

The policy restricting events here to a maximum of four per year needs to be kept under regular review to assess impacts on visitor use, landscape character and quality.

The site must be fully restored following the event. Events should not continue longer than the agreed period; there are a number of important views and vistas through this area, to the Albert Memorial and to/from Hyde Park and these should be retained.

Ev&Ent 1.3 Temporary Structures

The Serpentine Gallery's summer 'pavilion' annual event is a well-known and popular event adding a new (temporary) element to the Gardens. The aim is to ensure that any temporary structure is subservient to the overall peaceful, verdant, historic character of the Gardens and does not adversely affect public use and enjoyment. Restoration and repair of the site will be to a high standard.

Ev&Ent 1.4 Events associated with the Serpentine Gallery and the Serpentine Sackler Gallery

The Serpentine Gallery operates the gallery building and surrounding garden area under a lease from the Royal Parks. The Serpentine Gallery hold many events some of which may also involve additional structures.

Events associated with the gallery should be satisfactorily planned with The Park Management Team as to timing, scale and appropriate nature of the proposed event, so as not to detract from a general visitor's enjoyment of or inclusion in the Gardens; to coordinate with Hyde Park Management on access and egress from the site via West Carriage Drive; to ensure protection to the parkland fabric; and to effect swift landscape restoration to agreed standards following the event.

Ev&Ent 1.5 Events in Hyde Park

Large events in Hyde Park change the use patterns of Kensington Gardens and require change in management practices or infrastructure. Both Park Management Teams should work closely to address any issues relating to displacement of visitor and additional pressure on the Gardens at these times.

Ev&Ent 1.6 Reinstatement after Events

Reinstatement should be careful and thorough, including the alleviation of compaction and amelioration of rootzones.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE POLICIES

VEXP 1

Kensington Gardens should continue to offer a high quality, safe and attractive historic parkland environment, which provides a range of natural settings appropriate for a variety of quiet recreational uses to cater for the high number and diversity of people who visit the Gardens each year. The Gardens will generally provide opportunities for peaceful relaxation and quiet informal recreation activities and through provision of appropriate facilities will continue its special association with children. Visitors should be able to see and appreciate the historic landscape and the relationship of the gardens with Kensington Palace. Visitor management regimes will seek to control and guide use in an unobtrusive way. Facilities for public needs will be subservient to and sympathetic to the historic landscape.

VExp 1.1 Visitor Survey:

The Royal Parks will continue to undertake visitor surveys of park use and visitor satisfaction and

will respond to findings in improvements to park management.

PUBLIC ACCESS POLICIES

PUACC 1

Kensington Gardens will be accessible to the public, free of charge, except in areas enclosed for safety, for park management and for ecological requirements. The Gardens will continue to be open every day of the year from 6 a.m. until dusk. Closure of areas of the park for special uses/events or paid access will be minimised. Access for all is an objective throughout the park.

PuAcc 1.1 Access for All

Access for all is an objective throughout the park and the need of physically and visually impaired visitors and others with special needs will be taken into account in any review of infrastructure/ new schemes and in line with the requirements of the Equality Act. Parking for disabled drivers will continue to be provided at Queen's Gate and along West Carriage Drive in Hyde Park, in designated parking bays. Initiatives that enhance access for all such as the successful 'Liberty Drives' will be continued.

VISITOR SAFETY POLICIES

VSAFE 1

The Park Management will provide a safe environment for all visitors, seeking to maintain current low levels of crime and vandalism. Law and order will be sensitively maintained in accordance with the park regulations and implemented by

the Metropolitan Police's Royal Parks Operational Command Unit (TRP OCU).

VSafe 1.1 Health and Safety Standards

The Royal Parks will strive for excellence in health and safety management and will continue to promote health and well being in the communities we serve through the provision of beautiful environments and exciting opportunities to engage with and enjoy the parks.

VSafe 1.2 Crime

The Royal Parks will work with the police sensitively to maintain the low levels of crime currently enjoyed and to seek opportunities for the further reduction of crime. Continue the policy of prioritised and targeted policing work: response policing; proactive tasking and neighbourhood policing. Continue the quarterly meetings of the Safer Parks Panel.

VSafe 1.3 Vandalism

The Royal Parks shall ensure that vandalism is kept to the minimum through consideration of potential vandalism in new developments and provision of infrastructure, although this will not be allowed to unbalance other aspects relating to visitor comfort, historical considerations, or visual quality. The removal of visible signs of vandalism will be a priority. Graffiti will be removed within 48 hours and other infrastructure repaired at the earliest practicable opportunity.

VSafe 1.4 Penalties

Fixed penalty enforcements for offences including dog fouling, cycling except where permitted, and litter will be applied.

VISITOR CIRCULATION POLICIES

VCIRC 1

Pedestrian priority will apply throughout Kensington Gardens. Visitor circulation routes will respect the historic pattern and provide easy and convenient routes between main points of interest and vantage points within the park and provide pedestrian routes through and across the park. Vehicle access will be limited to that necessary for grounds maintenance/park management.

VCirc 1.1 Pedestrian Circulation

Pedestrians will remain top in the hierarchy of different park users.

VCirc 1.2 Cycling

TRP recognises the importance of the cycle routes in Kensington Gardens as a link in London's cycle network and for casual cycling. It is noted that in Kensington Gardens, unlike Hyde Park these cycle routes are shared with pedestrians and do not have separate cycle lane provision. Children under 12 years of age, cycling under the supervision of a (pedestrian) adult, will be permitted access throughout the park. London Cycle Hire provision will not be increased.

VCirc 1.3 Meeting different user needs (cyclists/ pedestrians/roller bladers)

Priority will be given to pedestrian users of the Gardens with the aim of facilitating access for all including wheelchair users.

The two shared use pedestrian and cycle routes (Albert Approach Road and Mount Gate to Studio Gate; and The Broad Walk) will continue to be monitored to ensure reports of abuse are minimised.

VCirc 1.4 West Carriage Drive

There is no through vehicle access into Kensington Gardens. West Carriage Drive is part of, and managed by, Hyde Park and forms the eastern boundary to Kensington Gardens. The aim is to work in partnership with Hyde Park to improve the ambience of the parks, by continuing to restrict traffic on the road by a combination of traffic calming. Within this overall aim, the need to maintain access for staff and visitors to the Serpentine and Sackler Galleries is recognised.

VISITOR FACILITY POLICIES

VFAC 1

A range of facilities will continue to be provided to enhance the value of the gardens for public use. Careful management will ensure that the peaceful character of the historic landscape is retained while meeting visitor expectations in terms of activities and facilities provided. The Royal Parks will ensure that all facilities provided within the park are of appropriate capacity, are suitably located within the landscape are of a high standard and quality, cater to a wide audience and provide 'access for all'. Kensington Gardens has a long association with children and children's play facilities will continue to be an essential provision.

VFAC 1.1 Toilets

While the location of toilets is considered as adequate, the policy is to maintain these to a high standard.

VFAC 1.2 Catering

To give careful consideration to the siting and appearance of the kiosks and mobile catering

outlets, which need to be positively visible to park visitors, but should not be intrusive in relation to the parkland setting.

VFAC 1.3 Albert Memorial kiosk

Develop an improved facility while avoiding further encroachment into the park and extension of hard surfacing in this area.

VFAC 1.4 Children's Play

Kensington Gardens will continue to provide and improve play opportunities both in the form of designated facilities (playgrounds) and opportunities for play within the wider parkland.

CONTROL OF ANIMALS POLICIES

CoA 1

Manage the public's control of dogs, park management recognises the importance of regular walking to dogs and owners, and requires that dogs are always well behaved as regards other park visitors and wildlife.

CoA 1.1 Type and number of animals permitted

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

CoA 1.2 Control of Dogs

Dogs shall be kept under the control of owners and a series of dog-free and dog-leash zones will continue to be enforced to reduce conflict between different park users. Dogs shall be kept

within sight and under control at all times and shall continue to be excluded from the children's playgrounds, from internal cafe areas and from gated ornamental gardens, and all water bodies.

CoA 1.3 Dog Faeces

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

PART 5 IMPLEMENTATION





IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Management Plan sets out a long-term vision for the management of Kensington Gardens and is to be used as a source of information and guidance for the future development of the park.

In the short-term it is intended that the Management Plan will provide the basis for decision making, route marking the management of routine maintenance and of targeted projects with policies and with strategic and specific aims.

Consideration of resources is involved in the process of implementation. Where additional resources will be required, the Park Manager will decide on priorities for funding, and selection of delivery mechanism, for instance as PAG projects, as additions to routine maintenance through CONFIRM, as projects undertaken with cyclical maintenance budgets, or as volunteer delivered. New approaches will also be considered.

Policies are always taken into account during park operations.

MONITORING

Monitoring of the park's stated aims and policies may be applied at two distinct levels: a) general approaches and focus for priorities, and, b) specific application into actions. Arenas that collate and assess multiple achievements are: Monthly progress reports from the Park

- Manager to the Head of Park Services – monthly reports to Excom.
- Annual Green Flag and Green Heritage judges' comments.

The processes for monitoring the follow through of policies and aims which are stated in this management plan into action plans, includes:

- Park Business Plans (updated annually)
- The Operations Plan, which transposes the specific aims stated in this plan into objectives for delivery.
- Arboricultural Department Project Tracker (updated monthly)
- CREW List for projects and FMR (Forward Maintenance Register) for cyclical maintenance to the parks' built fabric.
- PAG Landscape (and non-landscape) Projects
- Ecology Projects Register – to be developed
- Hydrology Projects Register – to be developed

Monitoring the effects of the management policies and projects is fundamental for the successful use and the implementation of the plan. This process should relate achievements to policies and aims, and provide information on which to base future amendments to the management plan or its management policies.

In order to understand successful monitoring the baseline information needs to be kept up to date.

The key areas for monitoring at Kensington Gardens are:

- Trees: the condition of trees in relation to continuation and timings of the renewal strategy.
- Integrity of the design as a whole and in parts: and the Gardens' relationship with Kensington Palace
- Condition: quality of presentation in beds, surfaces, buildings and monuments, furniture

and water infrastructure.

- Park Community: social inclusiveness and accessibility.
- Views: protection and management of views and skyspace.
- Ecology: continual enhancements to biodiversity including specific focus on acid grassland.
- Presentation: quality and promptness of cleaning operations.
- Events: Location, frequency and scale of events in relation to the Gardens,

REVIEW

The management plan will be reviewed at the end of the first five year period in 2021. The purpose of this review is specifically to incorporate information newly available (e.g. visitor surveys, ecological surveys, tree surveys), take changing circumstances into account (security, traffic movements), and assess achievements over the first five years in terms of (a) policy (successes and failures) and (b) projects.

The review should set out a further detailed schedule of works and a timetable for future plan review.

It is fundamental that this management plan is seen as 'dynamic' and is flexible and responsive to change. As new information becomes available consideration may need to be given to modifying or changing prescriptions. Such changes should always be assessed in the light of the management plan framework and should not have an adverse impact upon the essential spirit of place (*genius loci*) of the Gardens. In keeping with best practice, significant changes of direction should be widely

consulted to gain consensus before adoption.

THE PROJECT REGISTER

The Project Register is a dynamic component of the Management Plan and sets out recent achievements and potential projects generated by or acted upon by The Royal Parks. It also includes a list of known project possibilities generated by other agencies which could have impacts on the Gardens, on their setting or viewshed.

All future projects and timescales are dependent on funding and resources being available.

PROJECTS LIST 2006 TO 2016

Notable achievements during the life of the previous Management Plan.

2007–08

- Palace Gate Kiosk development

2009–10

- Veteran tree strategy produced
- Creation of the allotment garden and the associated volunteer team
- Italian Gardens borehole and water distribution system
- Production of Tree Strategy

2009–11

- Magazine restoration and development of the Serpentine Sackler Gallery

2010–11

- Leaf Pen Effluent Drainage system and Water Supply

- Long Water reedbed installation.

2010–12

- Kensington Palace – East Front landscape restoration

2011–12

- Planting of wilderness beds and break-out beds
- Albert Memorial – railings refurbishment
- Satellite beds structure planting East of Orangery Lawns
- Tiffany project – Italian Gardens.
- New pumping system and refurbishment of stonework and pools including pool planting
- Leaf Pen Wall Repairs and Store Construction
- Buck Hill playground renewal
- Re-installation of Henry More Arch (2012)
- SFW landscape restoration - Snobs Crossing
- Additional tree planting to North and South Feathers of Great Bow
- Small path and estate railing works between Queensway Toilets and the Broad Walk.
- Additional tree planting to North and South Feathers of Great Bow

2012–13

- Marlborough Gate Toilet Refurbishment

2013–14

- Albert Memorial - paving refurbishment
- Round Pond - safety and renewal works – paving, edging and surface renewal
- Round Pond - Removal of 'runway strip'
- SFW landscape restoration – Snake Walk

- Mount Gate Toilet Refurbishment

2014–15

- Leaf pen bay construction and Environment Agency licensing
- SFW landscape restoration – western end and Albert Memorial link path
- Long Water. Creation of swan island, gravel beech.
- Iris beds and installation of new Tern raft.
- Production of Tree Strategy (Avenues Plan) update
- Great Bow tree planting (Year 1 of 2014 Tree Strategy)

2015–16

- Mount Walk cycle improvements
- Replacement contractors welfare and compound – planning and development stages
- Dials area tree planting (Year 2 of 2014 Tree Strategy)
- Upgraded irrigation replacement in SFW and Albert Memorial Lawns (June 2016)
- New Italian Gardens Cafe opened
- Hyde borehole 2 pipework extended to supply SFW and Albert memorial irrigation, the Round Pond and Mount Gate toilets.

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2016–21		Specific Aims / Opportunities*	Policy	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	CYCLICAL	ASPIRATIONAL
Acid Grassland. Development and delivery appropriate restoration schemes in targeted areas.	Opps: 1,3 Aims: 2,3, (Q)	Bio: 1.2 Grass: 1.1			●					
Albert Memorial Undercroft Creation of useable commercial space										●
Albert Memorial Kiosk Replacement of the existing facility within a 'garden' setting	Aims: 2 (SFW)	B&MS: 1.5 VFac: 1.3	●							
Albert Memorial Turf restoration and improvement	Opps: 2	EV&Ent: 1.2	●	●						
Albertopolis Civic realm scheme reconnecting The Albert Hall and the Albert Memorial	Aims: 1	M&Ma: 1								●
Broad Walk Scope improvements to surface and edge treatments	Aims: 2	Path: 1				●				
Buck Hill Introduction of traditional meadow cutting techniques to improve biodiversity	Aims: 2	Grass: 1.1	●	●	●					
Buck Hill Reinforce historic pattern of trees; and eye catcher at end of Front Walk	Aims: 1	View: 1.5							●	
Buck Hill Play and landscape improvements to Buck Hill playground	Aims: 3	VFac: 1.4								●
Buck Hill Peacock Shelter repairs	Aims: 2	B&MS: 1		●						
Bulb planting. Safeguarding existing stands and creating new stands of mainly indigenous species	Opps: 8	Bio: 1		●		●				
Diana Playground and Old Wilderness Development of Landscape Strategy and delivery phases	Opps: 2,5,6 Aims: 1,2,3	B&MS: 1 B&Ms: 1.5	●	●	●	●	●			

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2016–21	Specific Aims / Opportunities*	Policy	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	CYCLICAL	ASPIRATIONAL
Grindestone Quarter Reintroduce understorey planting beside replacement avenue trees	Aims: 2					●			
Hedge Laying Habitat enhancements of further native hedgerow sections along the south side of the Gardens	Aims: 1 (Albert)	Hedge: 1	●	●	●				
Henry Moore Arch Investigate cause of discolouration; remove orange sand and replace with silver sand	Aims: 7	M&Ma: 1	●	●					
Hyde Park Borehole. Connectivity into Kensington Gardens.	Aims: 4 (RP)	Wat: 1.2 & 1.3	●						
Interpretation Develop information for visitors to relate to and share Kensington Gardens' history, tree species, grassland ecology, local bird and wildlife species; and specific locations that benefit from renewal projects eg. South Flower Walk phase 4, North Flower Walk, Albert Memorial	Aims: 1 (SFW)	Ed&Int: 1.4		●					
Italian Gardens. Paving and drainage refurbishment works.	Aims: 1	Path: 1.4	●						
Jubilee Walk and Orme Square Gate. Access, path and signage improvements.	Opps: 4	B&Gt: 1.5					●		
Kingfisher Bank. Habitat creation on the Long Water.	Aims: 9	Biodiv: 1	●						
Kings Arms Gate. Entrance and access improvements	Opps: 1 / Aims: 4	B&Gt: 1.3		●					
Land Drains Review the condition of land drains in south of Dial Walk to prevent damage by water-logging to trees	Aims: 6	B&Gt: 1.3						●	
Leaf Pen Habitat and boundary improvements.	Aims: 2 (Q:R.CH.)	Shrub:1			●				
Magazine Gate Addition of new turnstile.	Opps: 2	B&Gt: 1.2							●

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2016-21		Specific Aims / Opportunities*	Policy	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	CYCLICAL	ASPIRATIONAL
Mount Walk Cycle Improvements and post implementation monitoring	Opps: 1	VCirc: 1.3		●						
Mount Walk Bandstand Scope bandstand as a functional park feature; create design to overcome H&S issues that currently exclude it from use.	Aims: 7	M&MA: 1		●		●				
North Flower Walk. Landscape restoration/creation of improved garden destination	Opps: 1 / Aims: 1,2 & 3	Hort: 1			●	●				
Peter Pan Landscape and access improvements.	Opps: 3 / Aims: 3	M&Ma: 1.2			●					
Queen Anne's Alcove Internal and external refurbishment and creation of storage.	Opps: 4 / Aims: 3	B&Ms:1		●						
Scrub planting Focus on Buck Hill and the Quarters including reinforcement of existing 'break-out' beds	Aims: 3 (BH)	Biodiv: 1.2				●		●		
Shrub Planting – South Wilderness Increase native planting characteristic of the seasonally wet conditions	Aims: 1.1	Shrub: 1							●	
Silver Thimble Shelters Restoration and replacement of timber seating	Opps: 3 / Aims: 6	M&Ma: 1.3		●						
South Flower Walk Phase 4a landscape restoration - to Lancaster Walk	Opps: 2	Hort: 1		●						
South Flower Walk Phase 4b landscape restoration – to Mount Gate	Opps: 2 / Aims: 4	Hort: 1				●				
South Flower Walk Horticultural improvement of raised planters.	Aims: 3	Hort: 1				●				
South Flower Walk Continue horticultural enhancements in conjunction with selective removals of amenity shrubs.	Aims: 3	Hort: 1							●	

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2016-21	Specific Aims / Opportunities*	Policy	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	CYCLICAL	ASPIRATIONAL
South Flower Walk/ Old Pond Wood border Revise and refine planting on park side of SFW to improve the character of woodland edge type planting	Aims: 1	Hort: 1.2							
The Dials Ephemeral overlay of the historic formal garden	Aims: 2	Ed&Int: 1.4							
The Long Water Access and habitat improvements.	Aims: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 & 11	Biodiv: 1							
The Round Pond Scoping possible habitat creation and/or waterfowl island	Aims: 3	Biodivt: 1.2							
The Storeyard Construction of replacement contractors welfare and storage	Aims: 5	M&Ma: 1.4							
Trees Review the 2010 Veteran Tree Strategy	Opps: 8	Tree: 1.7							
Trees density In Basin Wilderness NW and SW increase density of tree planting, using naturally regenerated oak and hornbeam	Aims: 1	Tree: 1.6							
Tree planting Elements to be delivered according to the Tree Strategy	Aims: 1	Trees 1 & TrAVE 1							
Views Restore by selective tree removal the historic view from Queen Caroline's Temple to the Serpentine Bridge Restore view from Serpentine bridge to Italian Gardens by selective shrub pruning	Aims: 1	View: 1.5 & 1.6							
Water Repair blocked land drainage west of Temple		Wat: 1.4							
WWI Centenary project Work proactively with the Royal Parks Foundation on funding bids & potentially to recreate camouflage school	Opps	Eng&Out:1.6							

CONTINUING MANAGEMENT ACTIONS 2016-21

Arboricultural Team & Park Management

- Continue to implement recommendations of 2010 Veteran Tree Strategy
- Maintain the botanical diversity of trees
- Manage ageing trees and strategic and planned renewals Selected removal of natural regenerated tree stock in the Quarters to maintain canopy/ meadow balance.
- Continue amelioration measures to root zone compaction: mulching, guarding with encircling brambles to deter footfall
- Monitor Princeton Elms in South Wilderness
- Delivery of further annual tree planting phases; and of tree thinning to ensure well formed replacements; and of replacements for the Broad Walk Avenue, as outlined in the Tree Strategy.

Ecology Team & Park Management

- Apply ecological principles to manage shrub areas
- Undertake ecological surveys, water and visual water quality monitoring.

Horticulture & Park Management

- Ensure complimentary maintenance regimes with Kensington Palace
- Ensure horticulture maintenance by LMC is to highest standard
- Horticulture management to include consideration of ecological benefits
- Shrubberies to strike a balance between biodiversity and historical & aesthetic objectives – eg. dense thickets for nesting; view over Long Water; pruning for elegance & wider spacing for visual clarity & underplanting.

- Identify and welcome opportunities to introduce new horticultural planting features and styles
- Shrub beds: targeted renewal and replacement programme covering all shrub beds areas.

General Park Management

- Building Works – forward Maintenance Register
- Maintain high standard of maintenance of all buildings & structures, especially conservation and enhancement of their settings; maintain cyclical programme of maintenance.
- Ensure a continual replacement of M&E features to keep buildings to a high standard and to minimise unscheduled failures. Need to resolve user conflict with considerable quantities of traffic to Kensington Palace on Jubilee Walk.
- Monitor quality, appearance and appropriateness of information boards.
- Develop visitor information to be displayed at catering facilities.
- Consider enhancement works to landscape fabric in areas of high visitor pressure.
- Continue to monitor and restrain roller-bladers and cyclists, in particular to gauge effects of CSH; and to monitor points of stress between pedestrians and fast-wheeling park users.
- Continue to develop relations and agree limitations with regular sport users and children's organised sport activities; and coordinate management with Hyde Park team.
- Enforce dogs on leads policy by Round Pond
- Maintain annual update of the Diana Playground Operations Plan

PART B:

Possible Projects identified by external agencies with potential impact on the Gardens

Russian Embassy Proposals near Orme Square Gate (coach parking area) – may affect setting of Orme Square Gate and adjacent ground with mature beech trees, to north of Perks's Field.

Albertopolis and proposals concerning Exhibition Road (still being defined) and their local impact on the Gardens. TRP will remain on consultee list and work with Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 to ensure proposals compatible with the spirit and principles of the design of Kensington Gardens.

Queensway/Bayswater Road developments.

PART 6

FIVE YEAR REVIEW 2024





FIVE YEAR REVIEW

The five-year review of our Park Management Plans allows us to assess progress towards achieving the plans' objectives and their contribution to TRP's Corporate Strategy. It is also an opportunity for an in-depth evaluation of progress against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to landscape condition and biodiversity.

The review ensures the plans remain relevant by adopting measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, unexpected events, pests, invasive species, and the loss of heritage. It also responds to increasing visitor pressure and the evolving expectations and needs of our visitors.

The review serves as a check to ensure compliance and relevance amidst developments in regulatory and policy environments, TRP policies and strategies, and the broader London and national policy context. Over the past five years, this has included the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, changes in visitor behaviour during lockdowns and their aftermath, and significant accompanying shifts in attitudes towards health and wellbeing, increasing biodiversity and nature recovery.

The review provides an opportunity to integrate new information and reflect changes in approaches to park management and maintenance, technology, park teams, and the wider staff structure. It incorporates new research and survey data. It allows us to apply lessons learned in the park and the park management planning process, refining and reshaping responses to new and unexpected challenges.

It also supports risk management by identifying and mitigating new and potential risks that could affect the park's long-term sustainability and resilience.

The review sets the stage for the next five years of the plan, helping to assess achievements and re-establish priorities. It also facilitates adjustments to delivery mechanisms, timelines, objectives, and strategies to ensure the successful implementation of the 10-year plan.

The review process involves a detailed assessment from the park team and key specialists on the ground and encompasses the following:

- Reassessment of the condition of each Landscape Character Area (LCA) and its boundaries
- Reassessment of their historical, environmental, communal, and aesthetic value and significance
- Review of issues and opportunities for each LCA
- Review of progress in delivering identified initiatives, management actions, projects, and park strategies, along with an update to the project register
- Evaluation of the success of actions—what has worked well and what has not? Where progress is slow, or landscape conditions have deteriorated, what needs to change, and what should we do differently?
- Identification of new issues and opportunities (possibly in light of new research, information, or best practices) or unanticipated changes
- Review of priorities and resource allocation that informs annual budget setting, operations/business plans and planning.

The review acts as a catalyst for continuous improvement. It provides park managers with the chance to learn from the first five years of the plan's implementation and to refine strategies and operations moving forward. It allows them to update the project register to include ongoing, postponed, and newly identified projects, ensuring all align with the updated priorities.

It ensures the plan remains relevant and creates an invaluable space, supported by the Landscape Manager, for both new and existing staff members to reflect, celebrate successes, learn, grow, and strengthen their sense of purpose.

At a corporate level, it assists TRP in monitoring progress towards delivering our Corporate Strategy, measuring the delivery of KPIs related to improvements in landscape condition, and providing a baseline for future generations.

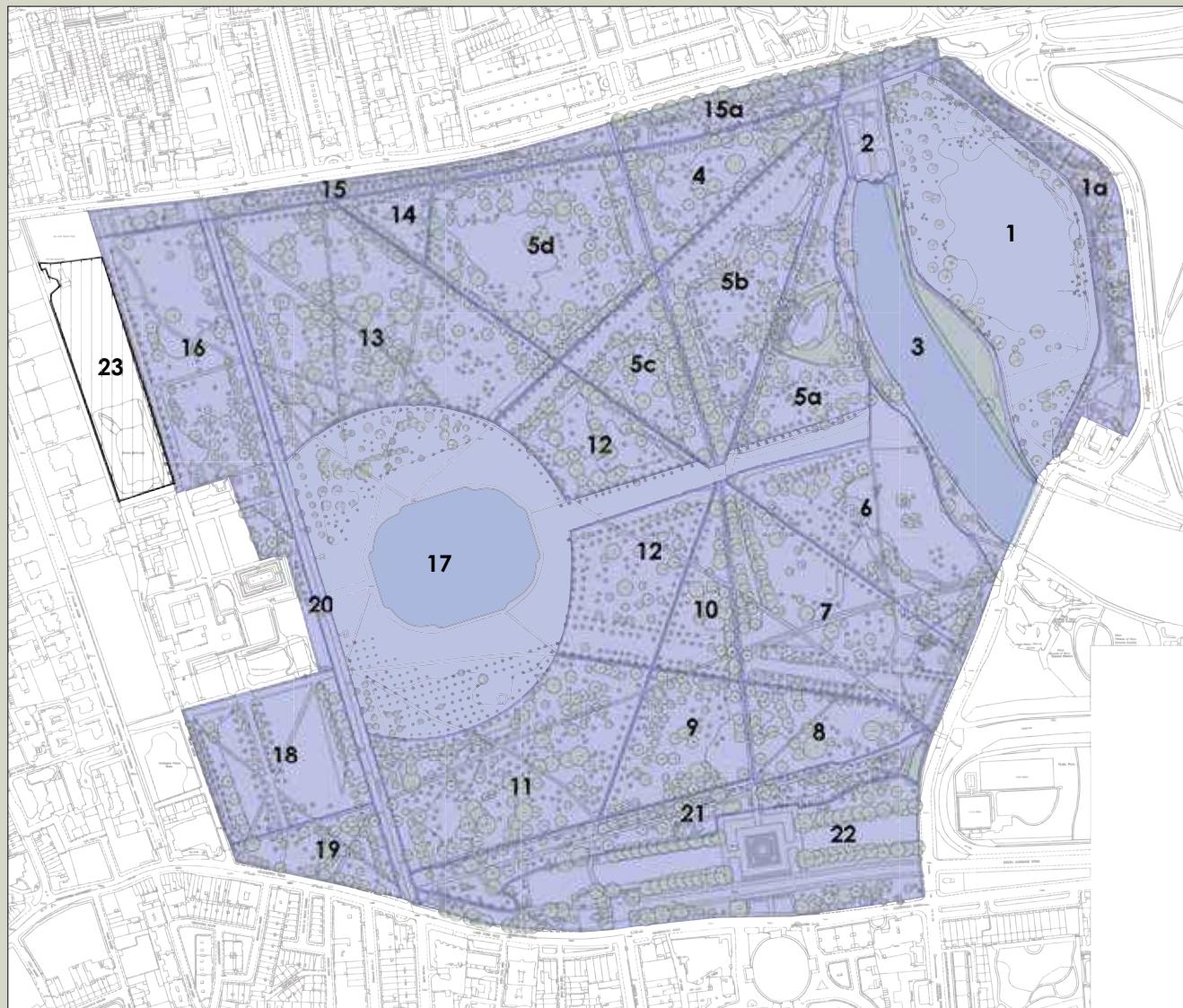
The KG plan was the first plan in the new format delivered in-house. We have updated the plan using the current TRP branding. Additionally, we have revised the LCA map to include areas that were not part of the 2016 plan.

The revisions are presented in a new foreword, an additional section in each LCA outlining changes in conditions, a new condition assessment, and a list of newly identified opportunities; and lastly, a current status for projects in the Project Register with the addition of new projects.

We have reviewed the LCA map to include areas that were overlooked in the 2016 plan. The areas are now clearly marked on the map.

REVISED LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA MAP

1 Buck Hill and 1a Buck Hill East
 2 Marlborough Gate and the Italian Gardens
 3 The Long Water Sanctuary
 4 Bayswater Quarter
 5a Rye Quarter (now including Leaf Pen)
 5b Chestnut Quarter
 5c Stable Quarter
 5d Horse Quarter
 6 Coombes Quarter
 7 Temple Quarter
 8 Mount Quarter
 9 Colt Quarter
 10 Upper Colt Quarter
 11 Old Pond Wood Quarter
 12 Basin Wilderness (North-west & South-west)
 13 Grindstone Quarter
 14 Fir Quarter
 15 Queensway Boundary
 15a North Flower Walk
 16 Old Wilderness and The Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground
 17 Round Pond and North and South Feathers and Front Walk Vista
 18 The Dial Walk
 19 The South Wilderness
 20 The Broad Walk
 21 South Flower Walk
 22 Albert Memorial and East and West Lawns
 23 Perks' Field (Not managed by TRP)



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 1 & 1a

Buck Hill and Buck Hill East (East section not included in the previous plan)

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)**Conserve & Create**

Enhance and reinforce the identity and function of Buck Hill as an integral part of Kensington Gardens: to restore and reinforce the historic Front Walk axis to Kensington Palace across the Long Water.

Enhance and reinforce the looser more informal character of the remaining area which should continue to function as a tranquil part of the park with a semi-rural character, with its distinctive acid grassland and views to wooded horizons/skyline conserved and enhanced.

Landscape Integrity: Good

2016 AIMS

1. Reinforce pattern of trees and successional planting: reinforce historic arcing line of trees in upper Buck Hill and impact of focal liquidamber trees on Front Walk axis. Increase the quality and quantity of acid grassland, maximise biodiversity, encouraging locally important species. Enhance habitat structure with islands of native scrub and understorey, on a rotation of cutting, for aesthetic and biodiversity benefits. Extend hedge laying on eastern periphery, reinforcing visibility of the ha-ha and bastions and utilising woodland craft.
2. Remove the temporary maintenance works office buildings, replace with new accommodation. Make timely repairs to Buck Hill Shelter.
3. Upgrade playground and better integrate into setting.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

The area of park between Buck Hill and West Carriage Drive wasn't included in the previous plan but serves an important function with many entrances and historic features – the Ha-ha and bastion being the most notable in heritage terms, and mature sweet chestnut trees providing environmental values.

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016**Historical Elements**

- Ha-ha adjacent to West Carriage Drive: now prominent historic feature from the road, but not interpreted or acknowledged. Vegetation adjacent is becoming dominant.
- Ha-ha/Curved Bastion in grass being maintained, new interpretation sign is installed. To be monitored for wear as surrounding surfacing not extensive.

Environmental Elements

- Tree loss occurring with Horse Chestnut decline
- Currently all mown grass to east of Buck Hill Walk, but trees would benefit from relaxed mowing regime, and this would also deter people from canopy.
- Significant meadow improvements made and further improvements in progress.

Communal Elements

- There is regular amenity use along this mown edge, because it is easily accessible from West Carriage Drive.
- Upper & Lower Dog Gates: resurfacing underway.

Aesthetic Elements

- The tree line which masks the tall buildings is being lost with failure of large trees due to climate change, and the increasing height of new developments.

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT - 2024 Priorities:

Conserve and Create - Condition remains as 2016.

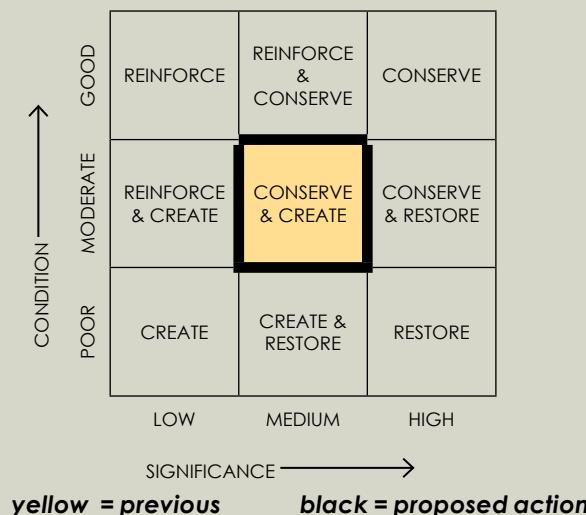
Reinforce pattern of trees and successional planting: reinforce historic arcing line of trees in upper Buck Hill.

Relax mowing regime to help conserve veteran trees, and relax the aesthetic to better blend with adjacent Buck Hill, but allowing space for recreation

Interpret the specific heritage features within this area, and Kensington Gardens as a whole (with LCA 1)

Playground renewal within the next few years.

The construction of permanent accommodation for the landscape maintenance contractors and removal of temporary portacabins alongside improved facilities for Park Management Team and a permanent base for Volunteers in Storeyard.



ACHIEVED
IN PROGRESS
NOT STARTED

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

1a.1 East Section (1a) None specifically for this area except the Allotment Area, opened in 2009,

1.1 LCA 1. Reinforce pattern of trees and successional planting: reinforce historic arcing line of trees in upper Buck Hill and impact of focal liquidamber trees on Front Walk axis. Increase the quality and quantity of acid grassland, maximise biodiversity, encouraging locally important species. Enhance habitat structure with islands of native scrub and understorey, on a rotation of cutting, for aesthetic and biodiversity benefits. Extend hedge laying on eastern periphery, reinforcing visibility of the ha-ha and bastions and utilising woodland craft.

1.2 Remove the temporary maintenance works office buildings, replace with new accommodation. (2 story removed by 2024) Make timely repairs to Buck Hill Shelter.

1.3 Upgrade playground and better integrate into setting.

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES

No. Conserve

1a.1 Successional planting to replace Horse Chestnuts. Potential for elm with smaller hawthorn, birch, plum, thorns to reinforce & recreate skyline, west side. Refer to tree strategy - tree strategy to be updated, with successional planting M

1a.2 Keep clear and interpret Ha- ha adjacent to West Carriage Drive: now prominent historic feature from the road. P

1a.3 Boundary hedge gap up in places and add standard /hedgerow trees for song bird perching sites and character M

1a.4 The view south towards allotments is poor with its close boarded domestic style boundary fence dominant in views south - to be reviewed/planted, or potentially removed & trialled with no boundary. P

1a.5 Open strategic keyhole winter view to Kensington Palace along central axis from West Carriage Drive M

1a.6 Buck Hill Gate Entrance & Marlborough Gate area. Review entrance to reinforce arrival into Kensington Gardens. eg spatial arrangement of shrubbery and signage, to reinforce Kensington Gardens character. Maintain on-going discussion with Hyde Park management team over shared boundary P

Create

1a.7 Review welcome signage at Buck Hill gate - Interpretation weak on overall significance of Kensington Gardens and the reason for it's distinctive character, in contrast to Hyde Park. P

1a.8 Install turnstile at Magazine Gate. P

1a.9 Re-design mowing regime on 1a to reduce stress on mature trees and enhance aesthetics and biodiversity with relaxed mowing & new glades M

1a.10 Increase scrub and biodiversity in the meadow M

1a.11 Tar, spray and chip all paths, especially Upper and Lower Dog gates. C

1a.12 Landscape Maintenance Accommodation Project P

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 2

Marlborough Gate and the Italian Gardens

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)

Conserve

Ensure a high standard of maintenance and presentation, that will conserve and enhance this intact Victorian set piece, of its built components, planting quality, attractive entrance and popular destination point; its water infrastructure and water quality; and its special views overlooking the Long Water.

Landscape Integrity: Good

2016 AIMS

1. Paving should be renovated in certain areas so as to remedy the drainage problems by which areas are prone to some shallow flooding.
2. Undertake renovation of the two internal rooms within the historic building of Queen Anne's Alcove, finding an appropriate after use.
3. Restore the bench in Queen Anne's Alcove and undertake reconditioning maintenance to the oak panelling.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance.

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016

Historical Elements

- The Tiffany funded project upgraded fountain statuary and furniture to an excellent condition (TRP assessment Summer 2015). Now needs repointing in places to prevent damage.
- Pump house was in good condition. (TRP assessment Summer 2016) but is now in urgent need of refurbishment/redecoration. Part of quadrennial works.
- Queen Anne's Alcove in was in good condition; but renovation needed to oak panelling; and oak bench currently in poor condition.

Environmental Elements

- 2016 Cafe and associated hedging. Replanted in 2024 with arid species. To be extended around the corner towards toilet, to unify different styles and form unified backdrop to the Italian gardens.

Aesthetic Elements

- Colourful bedding maintained to a high quality and rose bed. (Summer 2024).
- Planting in basins - maintenance is poorly executed and existing netting detracts from the highly formal and ornamental nature of the site.

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT - 2024 Priorities:

Conserve and Restore - Condition has been maintained.

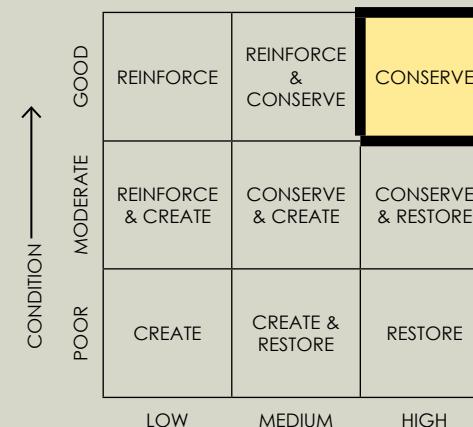
Urgent maintenance and repairs needed on Alcove. Similarly Pump House, which would benefit from better presentation and interpretation.

Planting and landscape presentation is good, but could be improved with works to unify the backdrop (adjacent & beside cafe and Marlborough Gate) and simplification of the Victorian Water Gardens' composition.

Retain borehole water at the head of the Long Water and Italian Gardens pools and fountains including dedicated supply to the Round Pond.

Some of the formal aquatic planting is compromised by openings made in the protective netting and subsequently waterfowl damage including bare patches/visible rails in the pool.

Good water quality.



yellow = previous

black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

2.1 Paving should be renovated in certain areas so as to remedy the drainage problems by which areas are prone to some shallow flooding.

2.2 Undertake renovation of the two internal rooms within the historic building of Queen Anne's Alcove, finding an appropriate after use.

2.3 Restore the bench in Queen Anne's Alcove and undertake reconditioning maintenance to the oak panelling.

	ACHIEVED	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED
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2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES

No. **Conserve**

2.1 Restore the bench in Queen Anne's Alcove and undertake maintenance to oak panelling, to prevent serious deterioration of the timber. C

2.2 Fountain statuary now needs re-pointing in places before it deteriorates. C

2.3 Pump House in need of some conservation. C

2.4 Opportunity to extend the cafe and link with, or replace the toilet block P

2.5 Address the poor presentation of the current methods of using barley straw to counteract blanket weed. M

TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
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Restore

2.6 Trial re-establishing aquatic planting (native and non-native). Some established planting to be left open/protection removed; others re-netting and planted to re-establish planting. Re-think planting in basins - consider more ornamental planting. M

2.7 Restore edging & tarmac, ie new edging adjacent to gardens, west side. C

2.8 Ensure stories of the Westbourne River and Pump House are included in interpretation. It's story isn't told and engineering not celebrated P

2.9 Create flowering, bulb, nutrient rich meadow either side of gardens adjacent to the Long Water, giving more formal, symmetrical setting, push back bramble. (Refer LCA 3: Long Water) M

2.10 Opportunity to unify the backdrop to the Pump House & Gardens by extending the beech hedge and removing bamboo in containers. Dark evergreen columnar tree spp to the side or behind would frame the view from the south & distant views along Long Water. M

2.11 Review seasonal planters, location and move where not appropriate (eg concrete planters by Pump House) - Conserve lead urns. Consider opportunities to plant up urns with suitable exotic and ornamental species M

2.12 Toilet Block planting - unify the backdrop to the Italian Gardens (from cafe round to toilet block) by extending hedge behind. M

2.13 Restore the surfacing north of Italian Gardens and Marlborough Gate and deal with underlying surface water and drainage issues C

2.14 Consider opportunities to self-seed a palette of small alpines/self-sowers to add a new floral element, e.g. Erigeron, Origanum 'Kent Beauty'. M

2.15 Consider opportunities to add Italianate-inspired accent planting to lawns and Pump House beds, e.g. pencil cypress, and additions of permanent structure planting within seasonal beds for better year-round impact. M

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 3

The Long Water Sanctuary**ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)****Conserve and create**

Conserve and restore the informal, naturalistic character of the Long Water, a key feature within Kensington Gardens, with rejuvenation of scrub margins, wildlife habitats and sanctuary areas for wildlife, so as to frame the lake and to highlight, rather than hide, the water. To be achieved while including and reinforcing a clear view in the line of the Front Walk Vista.

Landscape Integrity: Fair

2016 AIMS (full list opposite)

1. Renew and manage vegetation to lift visual quality, reveal the water, and restore the view of the Italian Gardens from the Serpentine Bridge. An appropriate palette of waterside trees, coppiced where appropriate.
2. Manage waterside grass.
3. Eradicate invasive weeds.
4. Work towards improving water quality.
5. Control invasive species such as mitten crab.
6. Improve the area around Peter Pan with accessible surfacing and with a landscape setting composed of appropriately inspired plantings for its subject and context.
7. Around the Henry Moore Arch consider opportunities to remove all orange sand and replace with silver sand.
8. Consider implementation of a boardwalk and associated marginal planting/habitat creation to enable visitors to access wildlife; and to make further improvements to biodiversity.
9. Review the extent and quality of the Long Water margins to consider further marginal planting including extending and linking existing reedbeds and the creation of further marginal habitat.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

- Significance originally assessed as Moderate. Reassessment to High.

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016**Historical Elements**

- Henry Moore sculpture is in generally good condition following refurbishment: except orange discolouration from the aggregate surfacing. Review cleaning regime.
- The Peter Pan statue setting has been improved (since 2016) and planting nearing completion, with bindweed removal ongoing.

Environmental Elements

- A 2014 survey reported 'in good condition from an aesthetic and visual amenity status' with a low health risk to recreational users and wildfowl presented by the levels of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae).
- Water quality, in 2012 assessed as poor (eutrophic) is being monitored to achieve "Water Framework Directive" - "Good ecological status" by 2025. Introduction of reedbeds has helped to control water quality in the Long Water, which is shallow and was last dredged in the 19th Century. (TRP assessment Summer 2016)
- Biodiversity improvements have resulted from successful peripheral 'sanctuary' planting.
- Flooding on path (east side)

Aesthetic Elements

- The view from the Serpentine Bridge to the Italian Gardens is now partially obscured by vegetation growth (as well as other locations).

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT- 2024 Priorities:

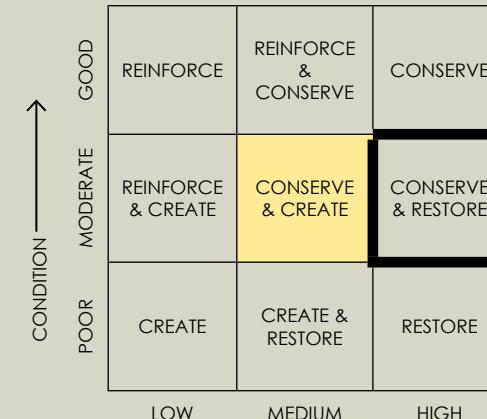
Conserve & Restore Significance altered from Medium to High.

The increase in Significance reaffirms the principal historic importance of the Long Water (and Serpentine) as an open body of ornamental water that was groundbreaking within the evolution towards a more naturalistic English Landscape Garden.

Deterioration in water quality is significant. Possibly caused by the input of warmer water into the lake via the borehole. Improvements to water quality are being considered as part of wider measures to improve water quality.

Highly significant historic views and the open nature of the water should be largely conserved. Refer to Long Water masterplan and Views Plan.

Address path flooding on the east side of Long Water.



yellow = previous **black = proposed action**

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

		ACHIEVED	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED
3.1	Renew and manage dense stands of native vegetation surrounding the lake to lift the visual quality and reveal the water, restore the views. Waterside trees, coppiced where appropriate (willows, poplar and swamp cypress) with understorey/ mosaic of glades of wildflowers where approximately 2/3 shrub/woodland to 1/3 open meadow (with mown lawn on the Front Walk Vista)			<input type="radio"/>
3.2	Manage waterside grass areas to consistent cutting regimes, meadow (textural diversity/ecology), and with some log piles, and mown lawn at formal vista/Moore.			<input type="radio"/>
3.3	Start improving water quality: aeration, filtration, circulation; improved management of waterfowl to control nutrient load. Review opportunities for novel and innovative approaches to aquatic water management.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.4	Control invasive species such as mitten crab.			<input type="radio"/>
3.5	Eradicate invasive weeds: Japanese knotweed by stem injection.			<input type="radio"/>
3.6	Improve the area around Peter Pan with a landscape setting composed of appropriately inspired plantings for its subject and context			<input type="radio"/>
3.7	Around the Henry Moore: remove all orange hoggin and replace with silver sand; following investigations to ascertain correct treatment.			<input type="radio"/>
3.8	Consider implementation of a boardwalk / marginal planting/habitat creation to enable visitors to access wildlife; and improve biodiversity.			<input type="radio"/>
3.9	Review extent and quality of entire Long Water margins to consider further marginals incl extending and linking existing reedbeds and further marginal habitats			<input type="radio"/>

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES

No.		TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
	Conserve					
3.1	Conserve aesthetic quality of the open water overall, and strategic views across / along the water, while increasing some areas of marginals / reedbeds. Refer to the Views Plan.	M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
3.2	Investigate all technical possibilities of improving water quality eg Water Source Heat Pumps to reduce temperature, thus preserving an open quality to the water body of the Long Water	P	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
	Restore					
3.3	Restore views across and along lake - Refer to other plans / LCAs/ Bramble Management Plan	P		<input type="radio"/>		
3.4	Remove the Tern Island which is an eyesore and not used by waterfowl	M		<input type="radio"/>		
3.5	Review extent and quality of entire Long Water margins to consider further marginals including extending and linking existing reedbeds and further marginal habitats but not at the detriment to the visual and historical significance of the lake	P	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
3.6	Complete horticultural improvements to the Peter Pan landscape setting	M		<input type="radio"/>		
3.7	New meadow areas adjacent to the Italian Gardens, reduce bramble encroachment, manage with diverse flora spp, with additional ornamental, seasonal and summer bulbs	M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
3.8	Install swale to connect into Long Water from east side path - to alleviate flooding. (Cross refer Serpentine & Long Water masterplan)	P	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
3.9	Improve maintenance standards at Peter Pan and deal with pervasive perennial weed issues (bindweed)	M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
3.10	Consider a reset of the planting around the Peter Pan statue, including weeping beech, and explore whether cultivars such as <i>Betula pendula</i> var. <i>aurea</i> or <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'Black Swan' could, in combination, create a fun and light-hearted visual of high impact.	P		<input type="radio"/>		

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS 4 - 13

The Quarters: General and 4 Bayswater Quarter

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)

Conserve and create

Conserve the overall layout of avenues and continue to regenerate gradations of tree canopies in separate Quarters to reinforce the historically differentiated identities for each of the Quarters: reflect the historic character of openness and meadows in the eastern Quarters.

Landscape Integrity: Fair

PRINCIPAL AIMS (THE QUARTERS - General)

1. Manage risks of ageing population of trees: define their composition, risks and projected patterns as a strategic and planned renewal.
2. Enhance the transitional acid grassland so important to the character of Temple Quarter, Coombes Quarter, Rye Grass Quarter, Stable Quarter, the Basin Wildernesses NW and SW Quarters, Grindstone Quarter (east) and Horse Quarter (south); for example by well-timed cuttings, following recommendations in the 2013. (Ground Flora Survey, Farrer Huxley Associates 2013)
3. Support increasing biodiversity: seek improvements in habitat management; in mowing regimes; care to minimise nutrient enrichment and to keep only partial canopy cover. (From the Kensington Tree Strategy 2010, p3 & p32, LUC)
4. Manage towards reducing the proliferation of ball games in specific quarters e.g. near the Round Pond, Front Walk and Basin Wilderness south-west.
5. Natural regeneration of trees will continue to be encouraged so as to recruit local stock, in particular sweet chestnut and oak. Undertake selective tree and scrub planting and removal of undesirable self sets: control domination of full tree cover with careful management for associated open meadow grassland:

undertaken so as to reinforce the Quarters' characters.

6. Reinterpret the historic density of the western Quarters to achieve their distinctiveness with higher canopies, and without dense planting that is unsuitable to contemporary usage or detrimental to meadow.

SPECIFIC 2016 AIMS - LCA 4 - Bayswater Quarter

1. Enhance the quality of acid grassland.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

See specific character areas 4-13 for notes on significance.

LCA 4 - Bayswater Quarter - No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016

- All quarters: Ongoing natural recruitment of trees from seed source native stock within the park; encapsulates natural, rural feel to Kensington Gardens.

See specific character areas 4-13 for notes on 2024 condition and assessment.

LCA 4 - Bayswater Quarter**Environmental Elements**

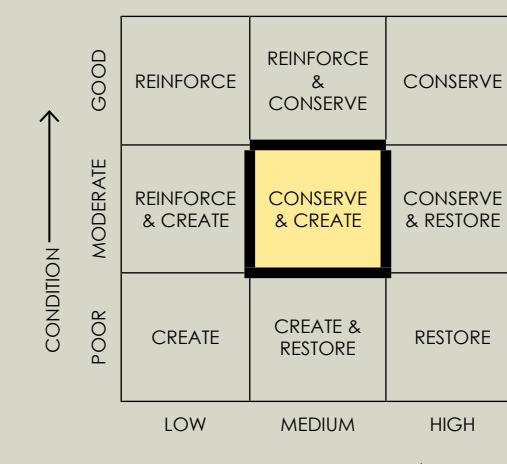
- Lots of mature Turkey oak here, and interesting cork oaks to west end
- Loss of some mature oaks
- Some patches of acid grassland

Aesthetic Elements

- Heavy path erosion at east end / desire lines which start either side of the hedge by the Two Bears Sculpture, thus obscured to a greater extent

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT- 2024 Priorities:

Conserve and Create - Condition remains as 2016.



yellow = previous

black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

		ACHIEVED	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED
Q1	Manage risks of ageing population of trees: define their composition, risks and projected patterns as a strategic and planned renewal.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Q2	Enhance the transitional acid grassland so important to the character of Temple Quarter, Coombes Quarter, Rye Grass Quarter, Stable Quarter, the Basin Wildernesses NW and SW Quarters, Grindstone Quarter (east) and Horse Quarter (south); for example by well-timed cuttings, following recommendations in the 2013.(Ground Flora Survey,Farrer Huxley Associates 2013)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Q3	Support increasing biodiversity: seek improvements in habitat management; in mowing regimes; care to minimise nutrient enrichment and to keep only partial canopy cover.(From the Kensington Tree Strategy 2010, p3 & p32, LUC)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Q4	Manage towards reducing the proliferation of ball games in specific quarters e.g. near the Round Pond, Front Walk and Basin Wilderness south-west.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Q5	Natural regeneration of trees will continue to be encouraged so as to recruit local stock, in particular sweet chestnut and oak. Undertake selective tree and scrub planting and removal of undesirable self sets: control domination of full tree cover with careful management for associated open meadow grassland: undertaken so as to reinforce the Quarters' characters.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Q6	Reinterpret the historic density of the western Quarters to achieve their distinctiveness with higher canopies, and without dense planting that is unsuitable to contemporary usage or detrimental to meadow.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES

No.	Opportunity	TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
4.1	Opportunities for some succession planting, including some larger parkland scale climate resilient trees, and continued control of Turkey oak	M	<input type="radio"/>			
4.2	Compare condition of grassland with 2013 Farrer Huxley survey & re-set baseline	M	<input type="radio"/>			
4.3	Support natural recruitment of native trees and rouging out invasive and undesirable spp.	M	<input type="radio"/>			
Create						
4.4	Gapping up on Budge's Walk - refer to Tree Strategy	M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

High priority Medium priority Low priority

Work Type: P = Project M - Management C - Cyclical/Works

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS 5a, 5b, 5c and 5d

The Quarters: 5a. Rye Quarter (now including Leaf Pen), 5b. Chestnut, 5c. Stable, 5d. Horse Quarters**ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)****Conserve and create****SPECIFIC 2016 AIMS**

1. 5a: Reinforce the natural character with additional shrub layer planting beside the Leafyard fence to create woodland edge natural progression planting. Scope further woodland edge planting to link with a proposed boardwalk through reedbeds by the Long Water.
2. 5a: Good health management of veteran sweet chestnut trees: mulching over the root zone, continuing practice of encircling with nettles and brambles, which benefits visitors safety and the tree roots, whilst also improving biodiversity.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

- 5a: The veteran field maple is a Champion Tree and has unusual leaf shape, indicator of very old genetic stock (they are now mostly imported)
- 5a: A number of veteran sweet chestnuts.

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016**Historical Elements**

- 5b: Setting of Speke Monument degrading, plinth brick wall and edgings missing sections.
- 5b: Avenue gapping up to do in northern continuation of Old Pond Walk.
- 5b: Fallen veteran hornbeam just missed line of Lancaster Walk (winter 2023/4) and makes good habitat /feature.
- 5d: new ecological scrapes add biodiversity but the edges are un-natural looking in the historic landscape (steep banks/ bunds surrounding)

Environmental Elements

- 5a: Very wet area to north of LCA; rowan trees are dying here.

- 5a: Catalpa and chestnut death north of the Leaf Pen
- 5a: Very eroded grassed area by mature oak at junction with Front Walk/Long Water, and desire lines along fenceline near field maple.
- 5a: A regenerated meadow grass glade, adjacent to the Long Water, with new cherry trees planted by children.
- 5a: Large white poplar and encroachment of poplar and *Robinia* into the RPA of veteran field maple is detrimental.
- 5a: Species on mounding is mix of old, now large ornamental species and native woody vegetation
- 5b: Very wet area middle east side.
- 5b: Erosion at eastern path junctions has been mitigated by the erection of estate rail.
- 5c: Mature horse-chestnuts and beech in centre
- 5d: Large tree trunks placed across the line of joggers path to re-locate it, and allow regeneration of the grassland.

Communal Elements

- 5a: Memorial benches and trees to north, with mown grass up to railings round Leaf Pen - well used as amenity area near entrance.

Aesthetic Elements

- 5a: Some dominant evergreens (laurel /bay/ yew) preclude ground vegetation at the mound, creating bare ground areas and are detrimental to the views of Leaf Pen.
- 5a: Clutter of signage at entrance to Leaf Pen
- 5a: Leaf pen is in poor condition; boundary walls and concrete surfacing require replacement.
- 5d: Introduction of new native species in these areas has benefited aesthetics and biodiversity.

yellow = previous assessment for 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d
 black = proposed action for 5a
 grey = proposed action for 5b, 5c, 5d

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT - 2024 Priorities:

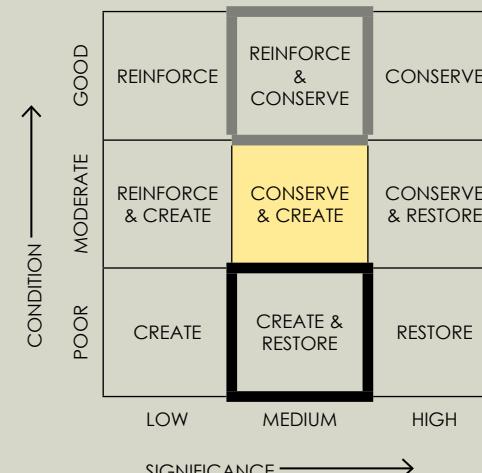
5a Rye Quarter - Create and Restore - Condition has deteriorated from Moderate to Poor.

Leaf Pen fabric in need of repair and updating to meet current standards. Area with mix of amenity and naturalistic wood pasture. Manage to improve biodiversity, allow informal recreation and obscure the Leaf Pen. Improve the ecological health around the field maple and continue to manage access and presentation in this area, especially adjacent to the Long Water.

5b Chestnut Quarter, 5c Stable Quarter, 5d Horse Quarter

- Reinforce and Conserve - Condition has improved Moderate to Good.

Routine management operations in line with a renewed grassland management plan has improved the condition of meadow habitat. Desirable self-seeding trees are being identified and allowed to grow on in sensible areas. Undesirable self-set species are being actively removed in rotation. Permanent estate rail fencing installed in the last few years is reducing erosion in high trafficked areas and improving presentation.



2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

5a.1 Reinforce the natural character with additional shrub layer planting beside the Leaf Pen fence to create woodland edge natural progression planting. Scope further woodland edge planting to link with a proposed boardwalk through reedbeds by the Long Water.

5a.2 Good health management of veteran sweet chestnut trees: mulching over the root zone, continuing practice of encircling with nettles and brambles, which benefits visitors safety and the tree roots, whilst also improving biodiversity.

ACHIEVED
IN PROGRESS
NOT STARTED

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES

No.		TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
	Reinforce					
5a.1	Leaf Pen fabric in need of repair and updating to meet current standards.	P	<input checked="" type="circle"/>			
5d.2	Continue restoration of joggers path along North Walk to allow recovery, regeneration and development of meadow sward	M	<input type="circle"/>	<input type="circle"/>		
5d.3	Re-shape un-natural looking edges of the scrapes so they blend in with the historic landscape (ie make gentle, shallow contours to reduce steep grading of banks/ bunds surrounding)	M	<input type="circle"/>	<input type="circle"/>		
	Conserve					
5b.4	Setting of Speke Monument: restore timber and turf edgings and failing / missing sections of brick plinth	P	<input checked="" type="circle"/>		<input checked="" type="circle"/>	
5b.5	Conserve the fallen (but growing) hornbeam on Lancaster Walk as a veteran feature, pruning back to keep out of the formal avenue	M		<input checked="" type="circle"/>		
5b.6	Monitor and investigate source of running water to see if leaking pipe or natural	M	<input checked="" type="circle"/>			
	Create					
5a.7	Suggest move chestnut pale fencing back to the bramble line, to form a glade adjacent to the path, (containing the cherry trees) improve appearance and allow limited access but not a through route/desire line. Monitor and amend fence line as necessary.	M				<input checked="" type="circle"/>
5a.8	Leaf Pen margins: Implement similar management strategy here as carried out around Long Water, improve biodiversity by reducing/removing evergreens and diversifying shrub layer with natives	M				<input checked="" type="circle"/>
5a.9	Replant different <i>Catalpa</i> spp. to diversify this collection	M	<input type="circle"/>			
	Restore					
5a.10	Diversify mowing regime at margin with the Leaf Pen, adjacent northern railings (also to obscure railing/improve visual quality)	M	<input type="circle"/>	<input type="circle"/>		<input type="circle"/>
5a.11	Conserve the veteran field maple and the <i>Robinia</i> by removing the invasive white poplar and grubbing out suckers.	M	<input checked="" type="circle"/>	<input checked="" type="circle"/>		<input checked="" type="circle"/>
5a.12	Conserve the genetic stock of the field maple through propagation; collect seed and cuttings.	P		<input type="circle"/>		
5a.13	Review and rationalise signage at entrance of the Leaf Pen, paint railings that are rusting	M				<input checked="" type="circle"/>
5a.14	Include field maple and glade/cherry in interpretation	P			<input type="circle"/>	
5a.15	Consider protection of the major oak at corner with Front Walk & restore a meadow/woodland edge to protect it and restore vegetation.	M	<input checked="" type="circle"/>			<input checked="" type="circle"/>
5a.16	Diversify lawn flora to the northern 'amenity' grass area	M		<input type="circle"/>		

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS 6 and 7

The Quarters: 6 Coombes Quarter and 7 Temple Quarter**ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)****Conserve and create****SPECIFIC 2016 AIMS**

6 Coombes Quarter: Maintain this area to share the ambience and setting for the nearby Queen Caroline's Temple.

7 Temple Quarter: Reduce/remove selected trees and re-compose the middle-ground, so as to open up the historical Kentian view down to the Long Water and beyond to Rennie's Serpentine Bridge and Westminster.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016**6 Coombes Quarter****Environmental Elements**

- Over mature horse chestnuts
- Chestnut miner and Massaria are present
- Creeping thistle starting to dominate in one area of the northern section
- Ground sward is developing variety in open canopy areas
- Mix of mown and unmown works well with mown areas near Serpentine Gallery
- Mature / veteran sweet chestnuts - care with depth of mulch
- Boundary with West Carriage Drive is open railings and could be considered for hedging - north of Mount Walk Avenue

Aesthetic Elements

- Bench in the vista along Lancaster Walk is intruding on / within the vista and needs moving.
- Open landscape around Serpentine Gallery to be preserved - no more hedging, even though temporary back of house storage may

occasionally be visually intrusive.

- Mount Walk Avenue planting - Limes not crown lifted creating a complete corridor of vegetation to the vista at either end (with temporary sculptures at the Southeast end)

7 Temple Quarter**Historical Elements**

- William Kent's Temple has been restored (2023) but paving visually detrimental.

Environmental Elements

- Wet area of standing and running water has been 'naturalised' into a wetland. It has temporary chestnut pale fencing around it and is establishing well and not detrimental to the landscape. However, breaches in the northern section has allowed dogs into the area creating a muddy ditch and tension between biodiversity/aesthetics and allowing recreation of dogs
- Large hybrid poplars and Lombardy poplars are suckering and potentially detrimental to long term views.
- Healthy wood pasture developing behind the Temple glade, which is now also used for environmental education.
- Temple Gate shrubbery is overmature, box blight etc, is over-mature and requires renewal.

Aesthetic Elements

- One of the most characterful areas of the park with historic building, composed designed views, varying grassland habitats and wood-pasture all in good condition.
- Open views to from Long Water and Rennie's Serpentine Bridge are in existence, but view to bridge needs maintaining.
- Feeder pillar located to north-east of the Temple is detrimental to its visual amenity, despite being masked by shrubs.

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:**Conserve and Create** - Condition Remains as 2016.**6 Coombes Quarter**

Continue to implement grassland management practices to improve remnant acid grassland.

Proactive management of bramble has prevented encroachment into tree canopies.

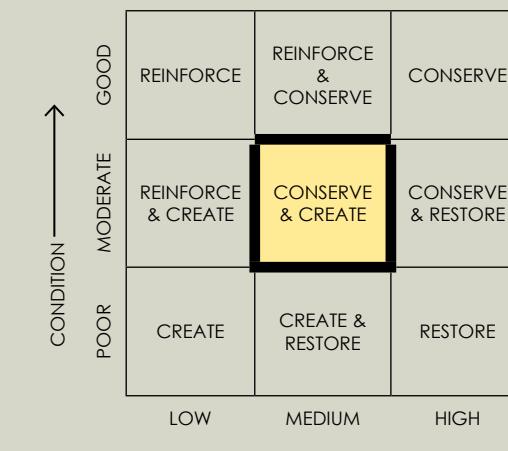
7 Temple Quarter

Continue to improve the historic setting of the Temple and views to and from it, with tree management and planting appropriate to it.

Continue grassland management to favour the transitional acid grassland below the Temple.

Monitor and manage the developing wetland for biodiverse and aesthetic aims

Restore the Temple Gate Shrubbery and restore views north to Serpentine Bridge and to the Long Water.

**yellow = previous****black = proposed action**

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

		ACHIEVED	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED
6.1	Maintain this area to share the ambience and setting for the nearby Queen Caroline's Temple.			<input type="circle"/>
7.1	Reduce/remove selected trees and re-compose the middle-ground, so as to open up the historical Kentian view down to the Long Water and beyond, and to Rennie's Serpentine Bridge and Westminster.	<input type="circle"/>	<input type="circle"/>	

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No.	Conserve	TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
6.1	Volunteer project to remove creeping thistle that is starting to dominate in one area of the northern section	M	<input type="circle"/>			
6.2	Move the bench on Lancaster Walk that sits within & intrudes on the Mount Walk vista.	M	<input type="circle"/>	<input type="circle"/>		
6.3	Continue to diversify meadow and acid grassland	M		<input type="circle"/>		
7.1	Remove some of the hybrid /Lombardy poplars that are becoming dominant in views and suckering at the detriment of designed views & setting of the Temple	M	<input type="circle"/>		<input type="circle"/>	
7.2	Plant pines & suitable native spp. behind the Temple as a backdrop to highlight the Temple, in accordance with Kent's design principles - cross refer to Tree Strategy.	M	<input type="circle"/>			
7.3	Improve transitional grassland meadow below Temple, removing Turkey oak seedlings. Consider removal of the single large Turkey oak. Possible acid grassland seed collection / restoration project.	M		<input type="circle"/>		
7.4	Renovate Temple Gate Shrubbery adjacent to Long Water path edge so graded muted vegetation, not overly ornamental,	P			<input type="circle"/>	
7.5	Consider hedging adjacent to West Carriage Drive to remove visual intrusion into this area of otherwise secluded and historic character.	M			<input type="circle"/>	
7.6	Keep bramble and thistles in check behind the Temple and on Buck Barn Walk.	M	<input type="circle"/>	<input type="circle"/>		
7.7	Path running in front of Temple is in very poor condition and failing at edges - repair and consider re-routing away from yew tree. Ensure not visible in views to Temple from below.	C		<input type="circle"/>	<input type="circle"/>	
	Create					
7.8	Shrubbery to the south of Serpentine Bridge and on the north side of the landform - a project to restore this to create a naturalistic woodland planting the seated viewpoint to Serpentine Bridge, and graduated native shrub planting to the south side.	M	<input type="circle"/>			<input type="circle"/>
7.9	New wetland area habitat: periodically remove the temporary chestnut pale fencing around it to see if it can be maintained as a biodiverse and aesthetically pleasing habitat without permanent fencing, in light of the problems with dog use. Try new/reviewed signage to see if effective in managing unwanted dog access.	M		<input type="circle"/>	<input type="circle"/>	
7.10	Review and renew signage and Interpretation of the Temple.	P		<input type="circle"/>		
7.11	Potential for small-scale and community events, concerts in the Temple to help animate this area, and interpret what it was designed for - a focal point within the designed landscape	M		<input type="circle"/>		

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS 8, 9 and 10

The Quarters: 8 Mount Quarter, 9 Colt Quarter, 10 Upper Colt Quarter

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)

Conserve and create

SPECIFIC 2016 AIMS

8 Mount Quarter

- Maintain as a quieter recreation area marking a changed ambience from the adjacent Hyde Park.

9 Colt Quarter

- Maintain the 'No Cut' management that allows relict plants to re-emerge and generate naturally.
- Manage the succession of tree saplings.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016

8 Mount Quarter

Historical Elements

- The original north-south, pre-Albert Memorial Avenue is within this Quarter.

Environmental Elements

- Many meadow species evident in this quarter, vetch, yarrow, geranium, buttercup, plantain etc.
- Some young, replacement Lancaster Walk Avenue plane trees have failed due to recent dry summers.

Communal Elements

- Busy cycle route to the north - cycle traffic increased and rumble strips have been installed. Wear on grass either side as cyclists avoid cycling deterrent.

9 Colt Quarter

Environmental Elements

- Remnant (or old planted) *Calluna vulgaris* heather (in northeast) appears healthy, with some regeneration/seedlings amid acid grassland area.
- Anthills present in northeast area
- More rank/rye grass to west of LCA.
- Veteran oak to north of LCA, with multiple bat roost potential/bird holes.
- The mixed tree Avenue (south of LCA) is establishing with some elm species. Mostly doing well, some dieback
- Day flying moths in long grass

Aesthetic Elements

- 3 purple beech with healthy ring of nettles surrounding & controlling access to RPA, with desire line through, otherwise generally wood pasture in character with nettles, cow parsely or mix of acid grassland and perennial rye.
- Desire line northwest to southeast, aligned with Albert Memorial
- Back of South Flower Walk has been 'toned down' so forming more of a simple green backdrop to this Quarter than previously.

10 Upper Colt Quarter

Environmental Elements

- Old Pond Walk (Hornbeam Walk) dividing LCA 10 & 12 now has extensive squirrel damage to the mature hornbeam avenue flanking the path. Trees are becoming increasingly damaged through bark stripping.
- Other trees in this compartment are generally healthy with a medium density (50%) canopy cover.

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:

Conserve and Create - Condition remains as 2016.

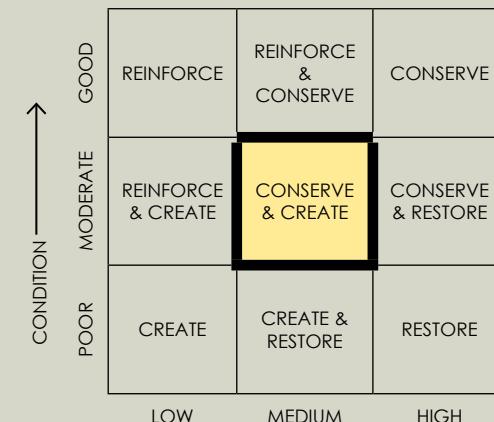
8 Mount Quarter: Consider interpreting or highlighting the original avenue, with an incidental bit of interpretation possibly through landscape management.

9 Colt Quarter: Continue to manage for biodiversity, & acid grassland and heather establishment.

Continue mixed tree avenue planting to enhance resilience given new changing climate conditions, and enhance spp diversity.

10 Upper Colt Quarter: Coordinate mowing with the rest of Mount Walk Avenue.

Monitor damage to Old Pond Walk Avenue, and review with LCAs 9 & 11 regarding long term strategy for replanting.



yellow = previous black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

		ACHIEVED	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED
8.1	Manage risks of ageing population of trees: manage a strategic and planned renewal.	<input type="radio"/>		
8.2	Enhance the transitional acid grassland	<input type="radio"/>		
8.3	Support increasing biodiversity & improved habitat management; in mowing regimes; care to minimise nutrient enrichment and to keep only partial canopy cover.	<input type="radio"/>		
9.1	Maintain the 'No Cut' management that allows relict plants to re-emerge and generate naturally.	<input type="radio"/>		
9.2	Manage the succession of tree saplings.	<input type="radio"/>		

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No.	Conserve	TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM
8.1	Consider interpretation to tell the story of the original layout pre the Albert Memorial being constructed.	P			<input type="radio"/>
9.1	Manage the more rank grassland and scrub to promote & spread the heather / conserve anthills.	M		<input type="radio"/>	
9.2	Continue the mixed avenue tree planting in line with the Tree Strategy.	M		<input type="radio"/>	
10.1	As part of other LCAs, review grass cutting regimes to provide visual connectivity in grass surfaces with character areas and avenues.	M	<input type="radio"/>		
10.2	Remove the bench that has been located on Lancaster Walk which is interrupting the Mount Walk Vista.	M	<input type="radio"/>		
Create					
8.2	If the opportunity arises, consider closing Mount Walk to cyclists - refer to LCA22	M		<input type="radio"/>	
8.3	Ongoing replanting of main Lancaster Walk avenue.	M	<input type="radio"/>		
8.4	Continue routine renewal of worn edges around cycle route.	M			<input type="radio"/>
10.3	Monitor squirrel damage in order to plan tree management and ultimately replanting of Old Pond Wood avenue should squirrel damage continue.	M	<input type="radio"/>		

High priority Medium priority Low priority

Work Type: P = Project M - Management C - Cyclical/Works

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 11 and 12

The Quarters: 11 Old Pond Wood Quarter, 12 Basin Wilderness (North-west & South-west)**ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)****Conserve and create****SPECIFIC 2016 AIMS****11 Old Pond Wood Quarter**

1. To refine the mixed border planting at the back of South Flower Walk towards more subtle colours, greens and blues, so as to lessen the incoherent contrast to the character of Old Pond Wood.

12 Basin Wilderness Quarters

1. Make limited increases in the current density of tree planting, making use, where appropriate of naturally regenerated stock of oak, hornbeam and sweet chestnut.
2. Consider carefully selected additions of some evergreen species

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016**11 Old Pond Wood Quarter****Environmental Elements**

- Wetter generally - potential for shallow scrape
- Proactive management of declining horse chestnuts and reinstatement of mixed avenue

Aesthetic Elements

- Much of the planting at back of South Flower Walk is now muted so doesn't interrupt the character of Old Pond Wood
- St Govors Well (drinking fountain) - well situated set against the bank / landform.

12 Basin Wilderness Quarters**Environmental Elements**

- Less species diversity in northern section grassland
- Mix of native oaks and Turkey oaks in areas of regeneration on eastern side
- Many mature horse chestnuts with limited lifespan
- Many bird and bat boxes disintegrating and need replacement
- Anthills and yarrow in patches, amongst large areas of coarse grasses

Aesthetic Elements

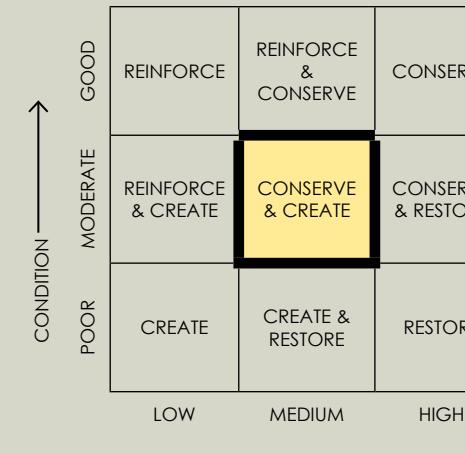
- In good condition (June 2024), with a quieter character but adjacent to the centrepiece and formality of Round Pond.

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:**Conserve and Create** - Condition remains as 2016**11 Old Pond Wood Quarter**

Continue to manage for biodiversity, and formal avenues of Broad Walk and Mount Walk adjacent.

12 Basin Wilderness Quarters

Consider succession planting.



yellow = previous

black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

11.1 To refine the mixed border planting at the back of South Flower Walk towards more subtle colours, greens and blues, so as to lessen the incoherent contrast to the character of Old Pond Wood.

12.1 Make limited increases in the current density of tree planting, making use, where appropriate of naturally regenerated stock of oak, hornbeam and sweet chestnut.



12.2 Consider carefully selected additions of some evergreen species.



ACHIEVED

IN PROGRESS

NOT STARTED

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No. **Conserve**

11.1 Continue careful tree selection to ensure tree succession - continue retention of standing deadwood and informal seating from deadwood.

M



12.1 Thin out Turkey oaks from naturally regenerating natives.

M



12.2 Replace lost and damaged bird and bat boxes.

M



TYPE

HIS

ENV

COM

AES

Create

11.2 St Govors Well setting: Consider naturalised drift of simple, single spp or colour of native bulbs / wild flowers on the south facing bank circling St Govors Well, to highlight its location, (to cut before summer when people sit on bank).

M



11.3 Consider shallow scrape given damp conditions here, to increase habitat value

P



12.3 Consider densification & additional planting / scrub in southern section, currently a fairly open canopy. Including thorns to spp list.

M



High priority Medium priority Low priority

Work Type: P = Project M - Management C - Cyclical/Works

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 13 and 14

The Quarters: 13 Grindstone Quarter, 14 Fir Quarter

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)

Conserve and create

SPECIFIC 2016 AIMS

13 Grindstone Quarter

1. New tree planting to keep the western line of Great Bayswater Walk avenue which has lost a number of horse chestnut trees: to replant in avenue formation with non-single species trees.
2. To reintroduce some understorey planting beside the replacement avenue trees, a continuation of understorey along the same line at the south of Horse Quarter.
3. To limit introduced tree planting through the quarters; make use of successional tree stock; species palette of e.g. oak, beech and hornbeam.
4. Consider de-compaction treatments to the 'famous five' *Aesculus hippocastanum 'Baumannii'*.

14 Fir Quarter

1. Reinforce the character of 'firs', reminiscent of historically wilder northern Scottish lands, only recently replanted with native conifers Scots pine, potentially by planting additional native coniferous species such as larch.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016

13 Grindstone Quarter

Environmental Elements

- Very wet areas in this quarter with pockets of standing water (May) especially to the northwest of the quarter.
- Group of dead/dying acers (*A. platanoides*) which appear to have died suddenly in centre of the quarter.
- The 'Famous Five' (*Aesculus hippocastanum 'Baumannii'*) have protective rope barrier around but is being compromised in places
- Introduction of new native spp in these areas has benefited aesthetics and biodiversity
- Continued erosion alongside North Walk led to large tree trunks being placed across the line of the joggers path to re-locate it, and allow regeneration of the grassland with bulbs (see also LCA 15).

Communal Elements

- Very well used quarter, near playground, with additional school use

14 Fir Quarter

Environmental Elements

- Continued erosion alongside North Walk led to large tree trunks being placed across the line of the joggers path to re-locate it, and allow regeneration of the grassland.
- Introduction of new native species in these areas has benefited aesthetics and biodiversity

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:

Conserve and Create - Condition remains as 2016.

13 Grindstone Quarter

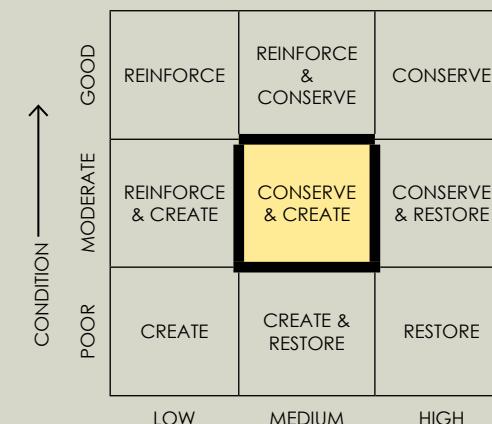
Continue mulching around 'Famous Five'.

Remove the mound surrounding beech stump (once deadwood rotted), and excess of rank vegetation to restore the original landform and restore acid grassland habitat.

Monitor the death of Norway Maples and replant different species or leave this area as an open glade

14 Fir Quarter

Re-introduce native conifers of different spp intermixed with Scots pine.



yellow = previous black = proposed action

ACHIEVED
IN PROGRESS
NOT STARTED

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

13.1 New tree planting to keep the western line of Great Bayswater Walk avenue which has lost a number of horse chestnut trees: to replant in avenue formation with non-single species trees.

13.2 To reintroduce some understorey planting beside the replacement avenue trees, a continuation of understorey along the same line at the south of Horse Quarter.

13.3 To limit introduced tree planting through the quarters; make use of successional tree stock; species palette of e.g. oak, beech and hornbeam.

13.4 Consider de-compaction treatments to the 'famous five' *Aesculus hippocastanum 'Baumannii'*.

14.1 Reinforce the character of 'firs', reminiscent of historically wilder northern Scottish lands, only recently replanted with native conifers Scots pine, potentially by planting additional native coniferous species such as larch.

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No.	Conserve	TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
13.1	Continue restoration of joggers path along North Walk to allow recovery, regeneration and development of meadow sward	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>		
13.2	Reinforce protection of Famous Five - post & rope and mulch	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			
13.3	Revisit the 2013 Flora Survey and see what has changed.	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			
13.4	Monitor health and condition of maples parkwide, due to declining acers in this section	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			
14.1	Continue restoration of joggers path along North Walk to allow recovery, regeneration and development of meadow sward with bulbs	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			
Create						
13.5	Remove the large, incongruous mounded landform - once deadwood has rotted sufficiently to move. In the meantime control covering of rank vegetation.	M		<input checked="" type="radio"/>		
13.6	Explore standing water in northwest especially, to check if just rain & extreme climatic conditions or if leaking pipes contributing	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			
14.2	Reinforce the character of 'firs', reminiscent of historically wilder northern Scottish lands, only recently replanted with 3 pine, potentially by planting additional native coniferous species such as larch.	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			

High priority Medium priority Low priority

Work Type: P = Project M - Management C - Cyclical/Works

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 15

Queensway Boundary (excluding North Flower Walk, now 15a)**ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)****Conserve and restore**

Renovate and rejuvenate the character and quality of North Flower Walk as a major feature beside the two main entrances of Marlborough Gate and Lancaster Gate: support its identity with horticultural interest and diversity.

Note: Nothing specific for Queensway Boundary

Landscape Integrity: Poor. Interface with Italian Gardens, potentially of beautiful shade in contrast to fine sun-basking water gardens, is a poor fit both of quality and execution.

2016 AIMS

1. Renovation: Plans to renovate the planting in North Flower Walk will be implemented. (Refer to separate LCA No 15a)
2. Develop opportunities to extend the hedge along the railings fronting Bayswater Road to provide a stronger sense of enclosure and reduce the visual/aural influences of the main road.
3. Review and enhance naturalistic bulb plantings along amenity grassed areas along Bayswater boundary.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance.

Note: This area formerly included the North Flower Walk which has since become a character area in its own right. Now LCA 15a.

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016**Historical Elements**

- Police Box in poor repair.

Environmental Elements

- Increased path erosion from joggers since covid, and need to restore grass margins has led to tree trunks placed at 90 degrees to the south side of the path - with good results. Joggers continue to use north side.
- Black Lion 'Orchard' (west of gate) - should be formally named - wildflora diverse and fruit trees 80% established.
- Section between Black Lion Gate Lodge and Orme Square Lodges is railed off, locked, and floristically rich.

Communal Elements

- WCC 's Queensway Toilets closed 2019. Vegetation overgrown behind the locked gates, while decisions made.
- Conflict between Palace traffic entering at Orme Square Gate.
- Benches set back incorporating wheelchair access

Aesthetic Elements

- Some diverse sections, character-wise, to the west of the boundary
- Formal hedge and grass dominates northern boundary, but occasional 'breakout' shrub beds are incongruous.
- Mostly mown grass and variety of daffodils along the length from Lancaster Gate to the toilets.
- Black Lion Gate: signs and cobbles mismatch, look cluttered & uncoordinated.
- Orme Square entrance is dominated by large coaches in adjacent coach park, spoiling this entrance.

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:

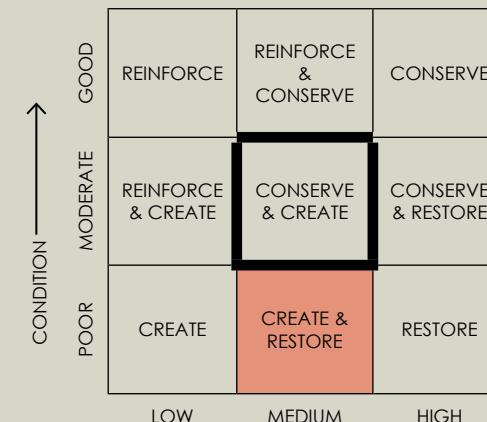
Conserve and create - Condition improved from Poor to Moderate.

Increase both formal and naturalistic character of the boundary by relaxing the mowing regimes and removing breakout beds

Consider raising the hedge along the railings fronting Bayswater Road to provide a stronger sense of enclosure and reduce intrusion of the main road.

Continue with the balance of grass/habitat restoration vs jogger and amenity use along the length.

Make entrances more accessible, welcoming and delightful through integration of ornamental and biodiverse planting.



pink = previous black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

15.1 Develop opportunities to extend the hedge along the railings fronting Bayswater Road to provide a stronger sense of enclosure and reduce the visual/aural influences of the main road.

15.2 Review and enhance naturalistic bulb plantings along amenity grassed areas along Bayswater boundary.

ACHIEVED
IN PROGRESS
NOT STARTED

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No.	Conserve	TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
15.1	Continue restoration of joggers path along North Walk to allow recovery, regeneration and development of meadow sward	M	●	●		
15.2	Increase both formal and naturalistic character of the boundary by relaxing the mowing regimes and adding seasonal bulbs	M	●	●		
15.3	Remove breakout beds and raise hedge slightly to reduce impact of traffic and vehicles	M	●			
15.4	Review Black Lion Gate entrance to coordinate signs and cobbles with other furniture to resolve cluttered and uncoordinated feel	P			●	
15.5	Conflict between Palace traffic entering at Orme Square Gate and Jubilee Walk - balance speed reduction signage with its visual impact on historic landscape	P			●	
Create						
15.6	Remove Queensway Toilets: Remove and reinstate park boundary and entrance paths, monitor use.	P		●	●	
15.7	Restore historic Police Box and re-purpose for volunteers & interpretation post, as part of a 'Police Box Project'	P	●	●	●	
15.8	Black Lion 'Orchard' - Project to design and implement welcoming and impactful park entrance - trees, specimen shrubs, ground flora (biodiverse and ornamentals).	P			●	
15.9	Improve the 'welcome' at Orme Square Gate Entrance: consider seating to improve accessibility, restore timber planters and raise boundary with structurally robust trellis to screen intrusive large coach park (link to Access / Seating audit)	P		●	●	

● High priority ● Medium priority ○ Low priority

Work Type: P = Project M - Management C - Cyclical/Works

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 15a

North Flower Walk (Separated from 15)

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)**Create and restore**

Renovate and rejuvenate the character and quality of North Flower Walk as a major feature beside the two main entrances of Marlborough Gate and Lancaster Gate: support its identity with horticultural interest and diversity.

Landscape Integrity: Poor. Interface with Italian Gardens, potentially of beautiful shade in contrast to fine sun-basking water gardens, is a poor fit both of quality and execution.

2016 AIMS

1. Renovation: Plans to renovate the planting in North Flower Walk will be implemented.
2. Develop opportunities to extend the hedge along the railings fronting Bayswater Road to provide a stronger sense of enclosure and reduce the visual/aural influences of the main road. (Refer to separate LCA No 15)
3. Review and enhance naturalistic bulb plantings along amenity grassed areas along Bayswater boundary. (Refer to separate LCA No 15)

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

The restoration of the North Flower Walk has allowed it to become established as a destination in its own right; having a stronger sense of identity, promoting horticultural and landscape excellence; and to relate to a clear theme to re-establish links to its historical past.

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016**Environmental Elements**

- Installation of the 'Daisy Ginsberg Pollinator Beds' planting scheme (2021-24) was well received. Some island beds have been retained for planting and seeding.
- Condition of some trees is poor with some cherries becoming over-mature and end of life.

Aesthetic Elements

- Ongoing maintenance works have visually 'lifted' the area since 2016, making it more open with the reduction of large, dense, evergreen shrubbery in favour of shrub or mixed beds and grassed areas.
- The straight level path through undulating landform lacks modulation in terms of line and level, giving the gardens a rather monotonous feel, despite some interesting trees.
- New gates and raised bow-top fencing installed April 2024

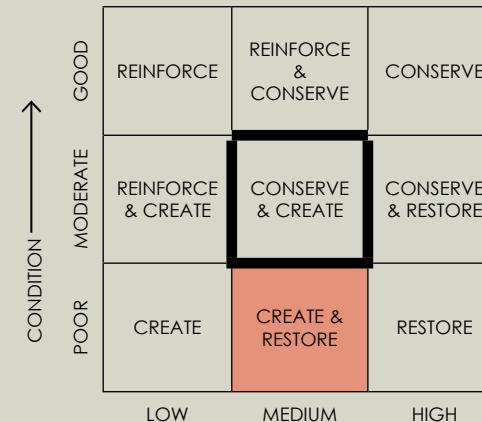
FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT - 2024 Priorities:

Create and restore - Condition has improved from Poor to Moderate.

Revisit the 2015 proposals to create a rejuvenated garden with its own unity and character.

The proposals should incorporate the spatial connections indicated in the 2015 plans, but reassess the area spatially and aesthetically in light of intervening changes (sculptures/planting/removal & planting of trees) to draw everything together.

Consistent path maintenance and palette of furniture (bins and benches) will further reinforce the distinctiveness of this area. Restorative pruning and management of mature shrubs and break-out beds to support the renovation.



pink = previous black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

15a.1 Renovation: Plans to renovate the planting in North Flower Walk will be implemented.



2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No. **Create**

15a.1 Agree plans & programme to renovate the seasonal layers of planting in North Flower Walk in sections, while long term bids for path re-alignment are progressed



15a.2 Devise detailed planting plans, and ensure tree planting doesn't compromise long term aims for path realignment.



15a.3 Change grass cutting regime in line with proposals plan, to diversify and add to the relaxed nature of the area. Add plugs to diversify the meadow areas



15a.4 Choose a palette of furniture (bins and benches) to further reinforce the distinctiveness of this area.

**Restore**

15a.5 Use any opportunity for archaeology regarding the site of Queen Caroline's Bayswater House



15a.6 Review health of the trees and plan for succession as part of the plans



15a.7 Strengthen hedgerow line and height



15a.8 Interpret history of this area and welcome signage



● High priority ● Medium priority ○ Low priority

Work Type: P = Project M - Management C - Cyclical/Works

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 16

Old Wilderness and The Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)

Create and restore

Sustain and creatively reinforce the setting for the playground and, to dissipate the negative impact of heavy use and queuing, extend a playful landscape into the surrounding informal area in ways that are delightful and in tune with the historic roots of the Old Wilderness. Developments should support the area's character and history

Landscape Integrity: Fair

2016 AIMS

1. Take inspiration from the original design of Wise's Wilderness to plan for a playable landscape for all, and to explore opportunities to extend play to include an older group of children throughout the Old Wilderness in a way that creatively supports its historic character.
2. Undertake a formal review of the playground and Old Wilderness area in order to address playing refurbishment
3. Review arrangements to deal with the pressure of visitor numbers: the Diana Memorial Playground requires care in gate control and in health and safety observations in view of its enormous popularity and public expectations. Develop a separate operations/management plan for the playground taking into account adjustments for maintenance access and storage.
4. Review and resolve the conflict caused by vehicular access to the palace via Jubilee Walk, the primary route for HRP access, its considerable conflict with pedestrians due to regular and increasing use.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016

Historical Elements

- Elfin Oak Sculpture and enclosure is in poor condition with faded sculptures and mesh fencing surrounding it.

Environmental Elements

- Old Wilderness - Mown grass lacks biodiversity
- Diana Memorial Playground - Boundary planting should be reviewed, some gaps by feeder station for example.
- Diana Memorial Playground - Eroded grass / muddy patches at vehicle accesses.

Communal Elements

- The Diana Memorial Playground's condition has deteriorated further with heavy use. Approval given in 2024 for its wholesale overhaul. Design interventions will make it more accessible while improving its play value.
- Area around cafe and entrance to playground is very busy at times and can get congested.
- Bike racks very urban (with 'Cycle P' logo built in), but more are required.
- Old Wilderness used for informal ball-games & picnics, but otherwise limited play value

Aesthetic Elements

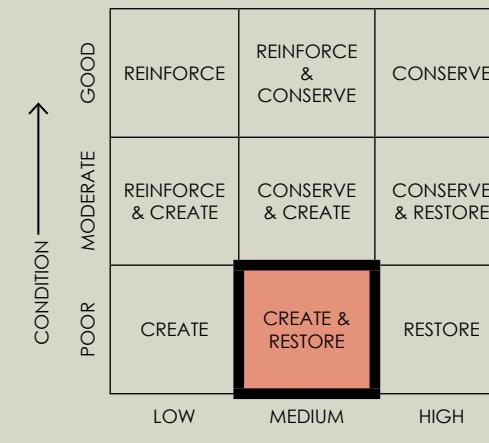
- The Old Wilderness still exhibits no particular character save being a buffer zone between Perks' Field, the Broad Walk, the Diana Memorial Playground and Kensington Palace.
- Cyclical maintenance of surfacing required around cafe, given the heavy wear here.
- Jubilee Walk - now a dead end for pedestrians leading to erosion of grassed paths as people can no longer access the Palace from this route, following works to the Orangery.
- The area to the north of the Orangery (HRP) is occasionally used as a parking and storage area by HRP and can become unsightly from the Park.

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:

Create and restore - Condition remains as 2016.

Delivery of the internal refreshment project for Diana Memorial Playground is key project for improvement.

Aspirational future project: Catering and facilities enhancement, external play opportunities and re-imagination of Old Wilderness.



pink = previous black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

16.1 Take inspiration from the original design of Wise's Wilderness to plan for a playable landscape for all, and to explore opportunities to extend play to include an older group of children throughout the Old Wilderness in a way that creatively supports its historic character.

16.2 Undertake a formal review of the playground and Old Wilderness area in order to address playing refurbishment

16.3 Review arrangements to deal with the pressure of visitor numbers: the Diana Playground requires care in gate control and in health and safety observations in view of its enormous popularity and public expectations. Develop a separate operations/management plan for the playground taking into account adjustments for maintenance access and storage.

16.4 Review and resolve the conflict caused by vehicular access to the palace via Jubilee Walk, the primary route for HRP access, its considerable conflict with pedestrians due to regular and increasing use.

ACHIEVED
IN PROGRESS
NOT STARTED

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No. **Restore**

16.1 Review with HRP longterm plans for the management of Orangery Gate as a public access to the Palace Grounds. Subject to review opportunities may be to resolve the 'dead end at the south of Jubilee Walk' the former entrance to the north side of the Palace by installing a bound gravel path; centred on and to go around the evergreen oak and/or including visitor information signage. M ● ●

16.2 Diana Memorial Playground - Reinforce boundary planting, & add diversity, replanting gaps by sub-station for eg. Reinforce turf at vehicular entrances P ●

16.3 Resurfacing around cafe space and seating areas. C ● ●

16.4 Increase no. of bike racks of a simple black, 'sheffield' type, no parking logos or other additions. M ●

16.5 Increase accessible toilet provision in the Diana Memorial Playground P ●

16.6 Restore drinking fountain at Time Flies seating pavilion C ● ●

16.7 Restore the Elfin Oak Sculpture P ● ● ●

16.8 Address maintenance shortfalls in the large island shrub west of the playground, retain exceptional specimens, rogue out undesirables and self-sets and ensure high presentation standards. M ● ● ●

TYPE
HIS ENV COM AES

Create

16.9 Redesign /replace the enclosure surrounding Elfin Oak Sculpture to replace the heavy mesh fencing that is detrimental to it. P ● ●

16.10 Design /plan /install temporary experimental flowering meadow to test the spatial arrangement of the Old Wilderness play concept with existing trees, and the public use of that space with geometric, mown glades. Long term, install permanent meadows if successful P ●

16.11 Diana Memorial Playground Masterplan delivery - Old Wilderness, external play and catering and facilities enhancement - explore opportunities. P ●

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 17

Round Pond and North and South Feathers and Front Walk Vista

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)

Conserve

Conserve and enhance the integrity and character of the Round Pond: its recently restored alignment of the historic tree pattern and appointed paths, connectivity with the Palace, and twentieth century addition of commemorative Silver Thimbles shelters.

Landscape Integrity: Good

2016 AIMS

- Following reanting in the Great Bow, some adjustments are needed to alignments of other trees in the North and South Feathers: some infill of tree lines in the North Feathers and restoration of the lost, southernmost line of trees, using a mix of species selecting from oak, beech, sweet chestnut, lime, hornbeam.
- Manage informal groups and games in this area to minimise and prevent damage.
- Continue to improve sustainable water management to overcome the challenge of its high nutrient levels resulting from duck and geese faeces.
- Increase borehole water supply from the 'Hyde 2' borehole when this is completed in late 2016.
- Implement monthly visual observation monitoring of water quality.
- Restore the Silver Thimbles shelters.
- Maximise use of the bandstand.
- Achieve matching swards where intended e.g. improving the soil condition where paths have been removed; and repair grass surfacing in the Front Walk plain.
- Maintain the integrity of the outfall from the Round Pond into the Long Water. Undertake exploratory surveys to ascertain leaking.
- Enforce the dogs on leads policy

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016

Environmental Elements

- Problem of blanket weed in hot weather.
- New wildflowl refuge has been created in southeast corner of the pond, which due to shape and location, blends in well and does not obstruct historic long views, or views from the Palace
- Bare patch of lawn on the west side of the Pond, which has never really established well following removal of the central path in 2013-4

Aesthetic Elements

- Good condition generally, path surfacing has stood up well to daily mechanical sweeping.

Bandstand Area:

Historical Elements

- Bandstand recently restored and its setting on the south side of this LCA is in good condition

Environmental Elements

- Lots of bird dropping round pond but cleaned every morning.
- Front Walk, wet ground conditions in pockets, eg with standing water in old tree pit near Physical Energy, and evidenced with areas of buttercup (as well as clover, course grasses)

Communal Elements

- Dogs on leads area
- No bins policy here has alleviated litter in pond, much improved.

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:

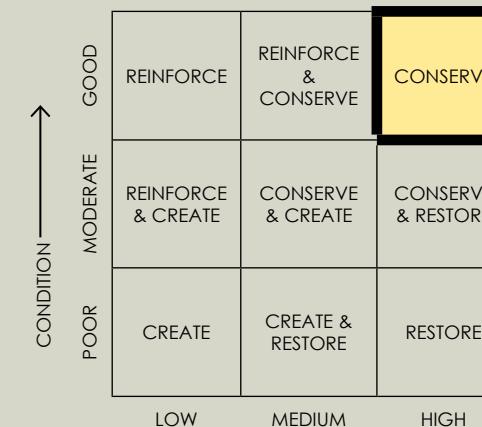
Conserve and Restore - Condition remains as 2016.

Maintain and enhance the integrity and character of the Round Pond:

Continuation of water quality monitoring and management and considering opportunities for reducing nutrient loading.

For water management, continue to see the Round Pond as an interconnected waterbody along with the Long Water and the Serpentine.

Scope for UV Filtration and water source heat pump.



yellow = previous black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

		ACHIEVED	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED
17.1	Following replanting in the Great Bow, some adjustments are needed to alignments of other trees in the North and South Feathers: some infill of tree lines in the North Feathers and restoration of the lost, southernmost line of trees, using a mix of species selecting from oak, beech, sweet chestnut, lime, hornbeam.	<input type="radio"/>		
17.2	Manage informal groups and games in this area to minimise and prevent damage.	<input type="radio"/>		
17.3	Continue to improve sustainable water management to overcome the challenge of its high nutrient levels resulting from duck and geese faeces.	<input type="radio"/>		
17.4	Increase borehole water supply from the 'Hyde 2'	<input type="radio"/>		
17.5	Implement monthly visual observation monitoring of water quality.	<input type="radio"/>		
17.6	Restore the Silver Thimbles shelters.	<input type="radio"/>		
17.7	Maximise use of the bandstand.	<input type="radio"/>		
17.8	Achieve matching swards where intended e.g. improve the soil condition where paths have been removed; and repair grass surfacing in the Front Walk plain.	<input type="radio"/>		
17.9	Maintain the integrity of the outfall from the Round Pond into the Long Water. Undertake exploratory surveys to ascertain leaking.	<input type="radio"/>		
17.10	Enforce the dogs on leads policy	<input type="radio"/>		

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No.	Conserve	TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
17.1	Continue tree planting in North Feathers in line with Tree Strategy	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			<input checked="" type="radio"/>
17.2	Explore encouraging nesting of swans on waterfowl refuge, to deter geese numbers	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
17.3	Maximise use of the bandstand - recently restored (2023/4).	M			<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
17.4	Maintain waterfowl refuge ensuring cyclical approach to the topping up of gravels and removal of guano. Maintain levels and profile as current	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Restore						
17.5	Improve soil & restore the grass area west of palace (runway strip), between Thimble Shelters	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			<input checked="" type="radio"/>
17.6	Reinstate ground levels (turf) to infil drainage/utility ditch to east of Round Pond.	M		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
17.7	Restore setting of Thimble Shelters in black asphalt (blacktop to set aside from Broad Walk)	C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>			<input checked="" type="radio"/>
17.8	Condition of the surfacing around Physical Energy Sculpture is poor - needs re-tarmac and tar, spray & chip to unify the setting around the monument	C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
17.9	Consider UV Filtration and water source heat pump to manage nutrient levels of Round Pond.	P		<input checked="" type="radio"/>		
17.10	Consider potential for exhibitions on a restored area of grass west of Palace (maximum footfall)	M		<input type="radio"/>		
17.11	Consider whether submerged aquatics in the Round Pond are possible (so as not to cause issues with model yachts).	P		<input type="radio"/>		
17.12	Survey silt levels - potential to dredge pond in winter if necessary.	P	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 18

The Dial Walk

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)**Conserve and create**

Maintain and enhance the presentation of Dial Walk as the South Front of Kensington Palace with a clear visual connection and linear axis to the Palace.

Landscape Integrity: Fair

2016 AIMS

1. Prioritise planting in the gaps of West Row, elm and mulberry.
2. Restore/reinforce links with the Palace and ensure complementary and consistent management regimes with Historic Royal Palaces.
3. Improve landscape integrity: reduce dominance of diagonal desire line paths; limit organised children's sport activities; explore potential for temporary installation of historic garden layout.
4. Refurbish and renew Kings Arms Gate and entrance from Kensington High Street
5. Ensure the integrity, vulnerable to erosion, of the embankment adjoining the Broad Walk, an important element of Bridgeman's design.
6. Review the condition of the land drains to ensure prevention of damage to trees by water-logging.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016**Environmental Elements**

- Elms - *Ulmus 'Lutece'* (west side of lawn) establishing well
- Central Avenue of Tulip trees starting to decline, outer sweet chestnut are in good condition
- Masonry Bees using the outer boundary wall west side

Communal Elements

- Litter quantities here are a problem and have grown since covid with this being largest immediate space from the busy pedestrian entrance at Kings Arms Gate.
- Some pathways in poor condition with wear and tear

Aesthetic Elements

- Good condition of the landscape generally, as a partially enclosed space with the landform, it functions as a local park as well as significant historic landscape, within the wider park.

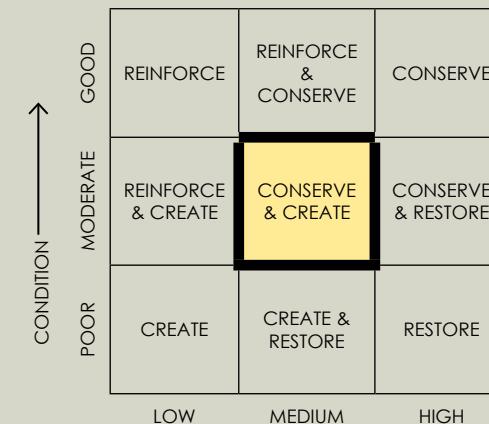
FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:

Conserve and Create - Condition is the same as 2016.

Planting of elms in the west side of lawn was a key improvement.

Gapping up parkland benches.

Improvements to amenity turf areas through program of turf renovation practices periodically in spring and autumn.



yellow = previous

black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

		ACHIEVED	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED
18.1	Prioritise planting in the gaps of West Row, elm and mulberry.	<input type="radio"/>		
18.2	Restore/reinforce links with the Palace and ensure complementary and consistent management regimes with Historic Royal Palaces.	<input type="radio"/>		
18.3	Improve landscape integrity: reduce dominance of diagonal desire line paths; limit organised children's sport activities; explore potential for temporary installation of historic garden layout.	<input type="radio"/>		
18.4	Refurbish and renew Kings Arms Gate and entrance from Kensington High Street	<input type="radio"/>		
18.5	Ensure the integrity, vulnerable to erosion, of the embankment adjoining the Broad Walk, an important element of Bridgeman's design.	<input type="radio"/>		
18.6	Review the condition of the land drains to ensure prevention of damage to trees by water-logging.	<input type="radio"/>		

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No.	Conserve	TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
18.1	Remove tulip trees when they start to fail, give space for sweet chestnut (as noted in Tree Strategy).	M	<input type="radio"/>			
18.2	Prioritise planting in the gaps of mulberry.	M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
18.3	Prioritise tarmac surfacing on central path / vista to the Crowther (Gold) Gates	C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Create						
18.4	Consider low, monochrome, early spring bulb planting on west facing slope - (west of Broad Walk)	M		<input type="radio"/>		
18.5	Review and increase bench numbers on western, Mulberry Walk	M		<input type="radio"/>		
18.6	Review bin arrangement and size at junction with South Wilderness, ensure not in direct sight line from southern approach; but large capacity bins are required for high litter quantities.	M		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
18.7	Make more of the display of climbing plants at entrance	M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
18.8	Alignment of 1690s Dutch Garden path geometry appears inaccurate to historic footprint	P	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	

High priority Medium priority Low priority

Work Type: P = Project M - Management C - Cyclical/Works

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 19

The South Wilderness

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)

Reinforce and conserve:

Sustain a naturalistic and 'wild' irregularity to the material content, and in the spirit of Bridgeman's design, to 'square off' the regular geometry of Dial Walk with a contrasting reminder of nature; whilst retaining a clear line of sight from Kensington High Street through to Dial Walk and to the south front of Kensington Palace.

Landscape Integrity: Fair

2016 AIMS

1. Increase native planting, planting advantageously to the seasonally wet conditions in the south-west corner.
2. Consider hedge laying as a traditional technique to maintain a low hedge height.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016

Environmental Elements

- Coppicing to be continued in rotation to keep character manageable and a woodland edge feel to the informal path through.
- Native hedgerow mostly established with some gaps at mature boundary trees (and the designed view from the High St to the Palace)

Aesthetic Elements

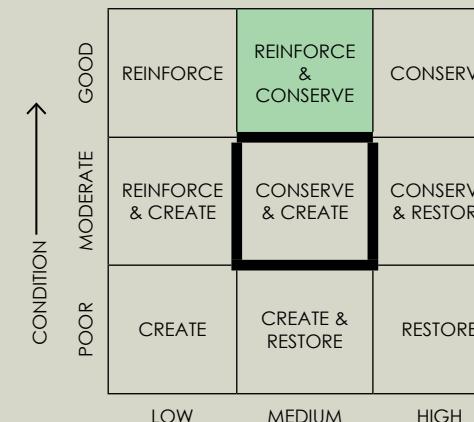
- Kings Arms Gate: The current, desire line path straight to the entrance gate leads up to fencing adjacent to the park gate. This makes it both unsightly and not universally accessible.
- Kings Arms Gate: A bottleneck, very narrow and busy entrance and pathway, poorly set out information boards. Path too narrow for location of the entrance / orientation signage. Ineffective/ low impact climbing roses at entrance.
- Path leads into bins - unsightly for a Royal Park
- Limited climbing roses by entrance.
- Winding path through 'natural' character is a pleasant contrast with the formality of Dial Walk and the Broad Walk.

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT- Priorities:

Conserve and create - Condition deteriorated from Good to Moderate

Review and improve the entrance and character of Kings Arms Gate.

Address the poor junctions of pathways and desire lines at Kings Arms Gate



green = previous black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

19.1 Increase native planting, planting advantageously to the seasonally wet conditions in the south-west corner.

19.2 Consider hedge laying as a traditional technique to maintain a low hedge height.

ACHIEVED
IN PROGRESS
NOT STARTED

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No. **Conserve**

No.	Opportunity	TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
19.1	Gap up southern boundary hedgerow	M		<input type="radio"/>		
19.2	Refurbish and renew Kings Arms Gate and entrance. Rationalise circulation and path widths, furniture and signage. A section of the hoop top fencing by gate should be removed to allow access to South Wilderness path. Review bin arrangement and size at junction with South Wilderness, ensure not in direct sight line from southern approach, but sufficient volume for high litter quantities.	P		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Create

19.3	Opportunity for interpretation related to biodiversity and park history.	P	<input type="radio"/>
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High priority Medium priority Low priority

Work Type: P = Project M - Management C - Cyclical/Works

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 20

The Broad Walk

ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)

Conserve and restore:

conserve and enhance this arterial and historic route with its flanking avenues and its identity as the key interface between the Palace, its immediate grounds and the broader setting of the Gardens.

Landscape Integrity: Fair/ Weakening to poor

2016 AIMS

1. Replacement of all Norway maples for the new inner avenue of sessile oak.
2. To create a superior and coherent surface and edge treatment that acknowledges the significance of this promenade.
3. Not to extend the current facility for London cycle hire.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016

Historical Elements

- Air raid siren in poor condition and not interpreted.

Environmental Elements

- Norway maples are gradually deteriorating, to be replaced with oaks, as part of the Tree Strategy.
- A trial oak (*Q. petraea*) planted in the Avenue in 2017 as a replacement, and part of the long term strategy has established very successfully and are now continuing to be planted (Spring 2024). Completion due in 6 yrs (2030)
- Compaction and flooding a problem, especially in north east corner (LCA 13)

Communal Elements

- Bike racks - see LCA 16. More are needed.
- Connections and views west towards Palace's North side are now occasionally compromised by HRP new build and management - Refer LCA 16.
- Interpretation plans are in progress

Aesthetic Elements

- The surfacing of the Broad Walk is now more patchy.
- Presentation at Black Lion Gate is becoming poor with very patchy areas, congested signage, mismatched surfacing (setts/resin/blacktop), redundant and deteriorating Police Box, metalwork presentation poor.
- Black Lion Orchard is establishing well, good mix of species developing, but needs a few replacement trees specimen shrubs, ornamental understory and native flora; needs to be impactful as a very busy main park entrance
- Scruffy character starting to dominate at Palace Gate entrance. Ensure an appropriate balance between formality and ornamental impact and biodiversity.

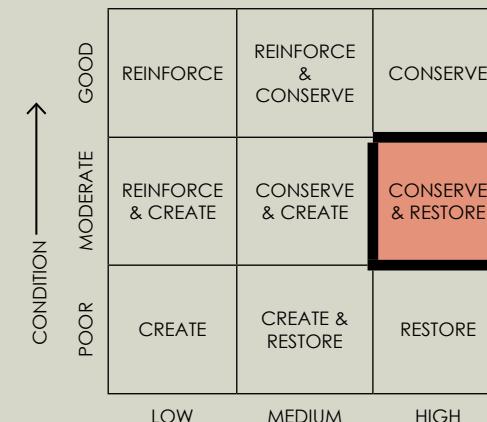
FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:

Conserve and Restore

Condition is the same as 2016

Key actions at both north and south entrances to restore and highlight the significance of the Broad Walk at these key points.

Reinforce the significance and character of the Palace Gate.



pink = previous black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

		ACHIEVED	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED
20.1	Replacement of all Norway maples for the new inner avenue of sessile oak.		<input type="radio"/>	
20.2	To create a superior and coherent surface and edge treatment that acknowledges the significance of this promenade.		<input type="radio"/>	
20.3	Not to extend the current facility for London cycle hire.	<input type="radio"/>		

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES

No.	Conserve	TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
20.1	Black Lion Gate: refer LCA 15. Review signage orientation & setts, presentation of metalwork.	P	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
20.2	Black Lion Orchard. Diversification to extend seasonal interest using natives and ornamentals, gap up trees.	P		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
20.3	Police Box Project: refurbish x 2 on Broad Walk, and re-purpose for volunteers and interpretation post	P	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	
20.4	Create a superior and coherent surface and edge treatment that acknowledges the significance of this promenade.	P	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	
20.5	Air raid siren: conserve and include in interpretation.	P	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
Restore						
20.6	Palace Gate entrance: Reinforce formality but ensure an appropriate balance between formal entrances with ornamental elements and biodiversity at entrances; create and keep edged new 'mini meadows' at junction of Broad Walk and South Wilderness path, with wide mown grass edges to impart formality.	P	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
20.7	Bike racks - Refer LCA 16. More are needed.	M		<input type="radio"/>		

High priority Medium priority Low priority

Work Type: P = Project M - Management C - Cyclical/Works

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 21

South Flower Walk**ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)****Reinforce and conserve:**

strengthen South Flower Walk's connection to its historic past as a quiet enclosed promenade beside borders of horticultural excellence.

Landscape Integrity: Good

2016 AIMS

1. Provide improved interpretation/information of the Albert Memorial and South Flower Walk.
2. Consideration of an improved landscape setting and catering offer for the Albert Memorial catering kiosk.
3. Continue to enhance quality and high horticultural standards within the South Flower Walk; selective removals of longstanding shrubs to make opportunities for extending the horticultural offering and refinement of over mature and inappropriate planting in the raised 'stone' beds.
4. Continue the planting improvements through to the eastern end of South Flower Walk at Mount Gate.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016**Communal Elements**

- Areas around Albert Memorial has much improved condition - new kiosk, with planting to the north of the memorial and a fitting setting.
- Restoration and ongoing planting improvements are raising the horticultural standards.
- Removal or pruning of the many large and over mature shrubs, such as spotted laurel, to form a backdrop is ongoing (2024)

Aesthetic Elements

- A very well maintained and busy formal flower garden
- High quality entrance from the west, and middle roundel (Snobs Crossing)
- The spatial definition of open grass lawns/glades to planting is becoming lost, with thin strips of grass or serrated / wibbly-wobbly edges.
- The south-western section with raised 'stone' island beds: planting under restoration
- Review and remove some unnecessary bow top at southern link with Albert Memorial Avenue (poor condition, unnecessary and unsightly)
- Section by Mount Walk toilets is in good condition but with a mixed identity of many plants/colours, which could be simplified to create a separate identity by this path convergence.
- Mown lawn areas adjacent to path north of the West Albert Lawn (south of South Flower Walk) is lost behind railings

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:

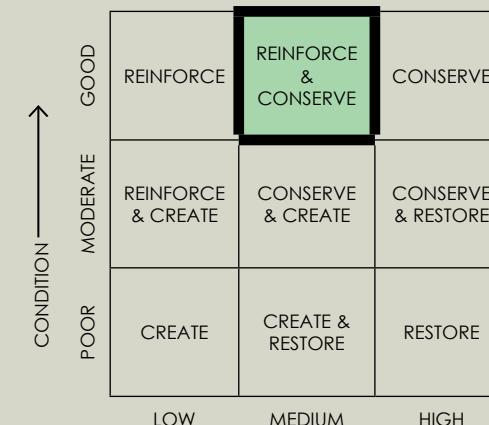
Reinforce and Conserve - Condition is as 2016.

Improve the definition, rhythm and visual connectivity of the spaces along the length of the South Flower Walk to improve landscape coherence and aesthetics.

Capitalise on the different spatial layouts and growing conditions (shady / sunny/ open/enclosed etc) to reinforce a variety of sub characters along the length of South Flower Walk. For example, formal sunny (west path) – shady, ornamental / woodland grove(central section), naturalistic (east end) These will complement the explosion of colour/ high horticulture recently created at Albert Memorial.

Consider a review of benches (style and location) when the opportunity arises.

Focus on more specimen and exquisite plant selections, including more weeping forms.



green = previous black = proposed action

2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

		ACHIEVED	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED
21.1	Provide improved interpretation/information of the Albert Memorial and South Flower Walk.	<input type="radio"/>		
21.2	Consideration of an improved landscape setting and catering offer for the Albert Memorial catering kiosk	<input type="radio"/>		
21.3	Continue to enhance quality and high horticultural standards within the South Flower Walk; selective removals of longstanding shrubs to make opportunities for extending the horticultural offering and refinement of over mature and inappropriate planting in the raised 'stone' beds.	<input type="radio"/>		
21.4	Continue the planting improvements through to the eastern end of South Flower Walk at Mount Gate	<input type="radio"/>		

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES -

No.	Reinforce & Conserve	TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
21.1	Capitalise and reinforce the separate landscapes characters along the length of the walk. From the west end reinforce the open, sunny(formal) through woodland ornamental (part shady/more closed canopy) middle section, then very open & naturalistic to the east, past the memorial.	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
21.2	Agree a spatial plan to visually link the South Flower Walk spaces / lawns, across the path: to have definite, larger glades of grass (or groundcover if very shady) defined by planting or planting adjoining the grass edging. In doing so, remove wobbly grass edges and thin strips of turf, to ensure smooth flowing curves throughout - whether grass or planted edge.	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
21.3	Continue selective removals or hard pruning of very large shrubs to create a mixed shrub layer & create a dense evergreen / deciduous backdrop with added biodiversity value	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
21.4	Continue to establish the Glade for Theresa wildflower meadows as shown on plans, in conjunction with modified cutting regime selective and future bay removal.	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>		
21.5	Mount Gate: create a simple theme, to reduce maintenance and improve coherence and horticultural interest & identity. Eg evergreen planting to screen toilets at rear, intensify limited spp range of (for example) roses and grasses and simple ground cover swathes to foreground.	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>		
21.6	Continue phased replanting of the raised stone island beds.	M	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
21.7	Remove mown lawn areas adjacent to path north of West Albert Lawn (south of South Flower Walk) and replant with a graded woodland edge to flank the West Albert Lawn.	P		<input checked="" type="radio"/>		
21.8	Remove the unnecessary bow top at southern link with Albert Memorial avenue (poor condition, unnecessary and unsightly)	M		<input checked="" type="radio"/>		
21.9	Consider a review of benches (style and location) when the opportunity arises.	M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 22

Albert Memorial and East and West Lawns**ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT (2016 Principal Aim)****Conserve:**

Ensure an excellent presentation of the Albert Memorial that provides this area as a high quality entrance to the Gardens. Support and enhance the important views and vistas through this area, to the Albert Memorial and to/from Hyde Park.

Landscape Integrity: Good

2016 AIMS

1. Extend this principal aim to work with the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 to ensure that any realised proposals of 'Albertopolis' for improved accessibility and permeability of the south approach to the Albert Memorial, share the spirit and principles of the design of Kensington Gardens.
2. Scope further planting, including hedgelaying native hedges, along boundary to reduce dominance of traffic on Kensington Road.
3. Review installation of a turnstile gate for evening exiting.
4. Regularly review the policy allowing a maximum of four tented events per year on the Albert Memorial Lawns.
5. Review management of the area with regard to potential impact from higher visitor numbers.
6. Review development of an enhanced catering kiosk set within an improved landscape/garden setting.
7. Develop opportunities to provide interpretative material on, and access to the monument.
8. Implement decompaction approaches beneath plane trees.
9. Improve the long term quality of the Memorial's lawns.

SIGNIFICANCE CHANGE SINCE 2016

No change to significance

CONDITION CHANGE SINCE 2016**Communal Elements**

- Congestion at east end / Coalbrookdale Gate, exacerbated with signage location encouraging people to stop right by the entrance.
- Desire line north of bins at Albert Approach Road and East Lawn, as pedestrians take alternative route to avoid West Carriage Drive. This adds to the congestion of foot traffic & cyclists as paths converge by the signage & bins.
- Areas north of Albert Memorial have much improved condition - new kiosk, with South Flower Walk planting to the north of the memorial creating a splendid setting.
- Albert Memorial - since the 1851 Commission's plans to make ramps and push back railings at Albert Gate haven't materialised (Albertopolis) the lawn, pathways and stepped areas on the lower Albert terrace at Albert Gate need maintenance standards raised.
- Regular illegal cyclist use of footpath between Queens Gate and Palace Gate.
- Palace Gate toilets are now closed.

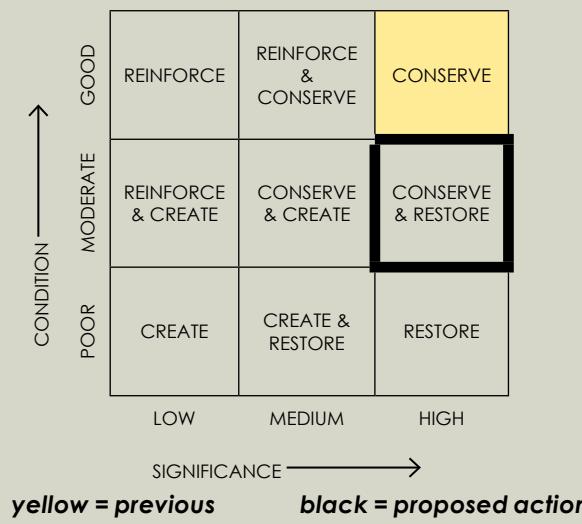
Aesthetic Elements

- Coalbrookdale Gates are in poor condition and would benefit from restoration.
- Consider the addition of a turnstile at Coalbrookdale Gate
- Albert Memorial - area to the south needs improvement, with inaccessible entrance (steps) and very poor tarmac surfacing and turf.
- Albert Memorial - naturalised lawn and trees south of the drive is pleasant and mostly a successful buffer to traffic, but some gaps in canopy.
- West End and path to south of South Flower Walk - granite mounting block is lost behind carpark area which is unfortunate.
- Mown lawn areas adjacent to path north of West Albert Lawn (south side of South Flower Walk) is lost behind railings (refer LCA 21)

FIVE YEAR ASSESSMENT-2024 Priorities:

Conserve and Restore - Condition deteriorated from Good to Moderate.

Restore the historic park boundary at the currently closed Palace Gate toilets as part of the wider park project to improve toilets and catering within the park.



2016 AIMS ASSESSMENT

		ACHIEVED	IN PROGRESS	NOT STARTED
22.1	Extend this principal aim to work with the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 to ensure that any realised proposals of 'Albertopolis' for improved accessibility and permeability of the south approach to the Albert Memorial, share the spirit and principles of the design of Kensington Gardens.			<input type="radio"/>
22.2	Scope further planting, including hedgelaying native hedges, along boundary to reduce dominance of traffic on Kensington Road.		<input type="radio"/>	
22.3	Review installation of a turnstile gate for evening exiting.		<input type="radio"/>	
22.4	Regularly review the policy allowing a maximum of four tented events per year on the Albert Memorial Lawns.		<input type="radio"/>	
22.5	Review management of the area with regard to potential impact from higher visitor numbers.		<input type="radio"/>	
22.6	Review development of an enhanced catering kiosk set within an improved landscape/garden setting.		<input type="radio"/>	
22.7	Develop opportunities to provide interpretative material on, and access to the monument.		<input type="radio"/>	
22.8	Improve the long term quality of the Memorial's lawns.		<input type="radio"/>	
22.9	Implement decompaction approaches beneath plane trees.		<input type="radio"/>	

2024 IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES

		TYPE	HIS	ENV	COM	AES
No.	Conserve					
22.1	Resolve Coalbrookdale Gate entrance circulation and furniture conflict.	P		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
22.2	Restore Coalbrookdale Gates	P		<input type="radio"/>		
22.3	Install a turnstile, respecting setting of Coalbrookdale Gates	M		<input type="radio"/>		
22.4	Gap up southern boundary with small and medium sized canopy trees to encourage song birds (hawthorn, field maple etc)	M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
22.5	Plug the hedge in shaded areas with holly, and improve stone island paths into South Flower Walk	M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
	Restore					
22.6	Project to restore the historic boundary and improve toilets and catering within the park.	M		<input type="radio"/>		
22.7	If Kensington Gardens cycle strategy is ever reviewed could consider link path from Palace Gate to Queens Gate facilitating cycling if Mount Walk was ever closed to cyclists.	M		<input type="radio"/>		
22.8	Albert Gates. Explore accessible ramps, even a pair of ramps symmetrical, either side through shrubbery. Make thresholds accessible from street. Restore symmetry to central path /gate, and restore the lawn with an enamelled lawn (restrained - yellow and white, crocus/daisy/trefoil,etc). Install low knee rail and edging to it to restore setting and formality.	M	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

High priority Medium priority Low priority

Work Type: P = Project M - Management C - Cyclical/Works

Remaining 2016 projects rescheduled



2024 newly identified projects

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2024-28		LCA	PRIORITY	AIMS/OPPS	POLICY	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	CYC	ASP
1.0 Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy												
1.1 Tree Planting Elements to be delivered annually in line with the current published Tree Strategy i.e. restoration of parkland tree avenues.	Park wide			Aims: 1	Trees 1 & TrAVE 1							
1.2 Grindstone Quarter Understorey Reintroduce understorey planting as a contemporary nod to wilderness.	Grindstone Quarter	Conserve & Create	Aims: 2	Tree: 1								
1.3 Tree Density Increase the density of trees selecting from naturally regenerating oak, hornbeam and other desirable species.	Basin Wilderness Quarters		Aims: 1	Tree: 1.6								
1.4 Rye Quarter Field Maple Succession Conserve the genetic stock of the field maple through propagation; collect seed and cuttings.	Rye Quarter	Restore	5a.12	Tree: 1.6								
1.5 Tree Strategy Review Produce a new Tree Strategy with guidelines for succession planting of wider parkland trees and remaining avenues not addressed in the current strategy. Consider views, gaps, health & vitality, climate resilience, veteran tree management, deadwood & habitat, and monitoring.	Park wide			Tree: 1 TrQua 1								
2.0 Kensington Gardens Waste Management Participate in litter bin, waste and recycling trials.	Park wide			ENV 14								
3.0 Park Entrance Project Review and improve the setting and presentation of park entrances to create an impactful experience for visitors on arrival.	Park wide	Restore		B> 1 BOUN 1.5								
3.1.1 Jubilee Walk and Orme Square Gate Improve the visitors 'welcome' at Orme Square Gate - consider access, path surfaces signage improvements, restoration of raised planters and consider opportunities to screen the intrusive coach park.	Queensway Boundary	Conserve & Create	Opps: 4, 15.9	B> 1.5								

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2024-28	LCA	PRIORITY	AIMS/OPPS	POLICY	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	CYC	ASP
3.1.2 Orme Square Gate Address the potential conflict between traffic and pedestrians between Palace traffic entering at Orme Square Gate and Jubilee Walk - balance speed reduction signage with its visual impact on historic landscape	Queensway Boundary	Conserve	15.5	B&Gt: 1.5 Boun 1.5							
3.2 Kings Arms Gate Refurbish and renew Kings Arms Gate and entrance to improve access for visitors. Consider circulation, path widths, seating, bin location & size and signage. Remove inappropriately placed hoop top fencing providing access to the South Wilderness path.	The South Wilderness	Reinforce & Conserve	Opps: 1 / Aims: 4. 19.2	B&Gt: 1.3 Boun 1.3							
3.3 Black Lion Gate Design and improve the welcome and impact at this major park entrance with renewed planting using trees, specimen, shrubs, ground flora supporting twin aims of horticulture and biodiversity. Review signage, placement and orientation of furniture, surface treatment, setts, and the presentation of metalwork.	Queensway Boundary	Create	15.4, 15.8, 20.1, 20. 2	B&Gt: 1							
3.4 Temple Gate Restore Temple Gate shrubbery taking into account views, biodiversity and ornamental horticulture.	Temple Quarter	Restore	7.4	B&Gt: 1							
3.5 Buck Hill Gate Review entrance to reinforce arrival. eg spatial arrangement of shrubbery and signage. Maintain on-going discussion with Hyde Park management team over shared boundary.	Buck Hill	Conserve	1a.6	B&Gt: 1							
3.6 Palace Gate Reinforce this formality at this active park entrance ensuring an appropriate balance between more formal ornamental elements and biodiversity. Create and retain formally edged new 'mini meadows' at the junction of the Broad Walk and the South Wilderness path with widely mown grass edges to impart formality.	The Broad Walk	Restore	20. 6	B&Gt: 1 Boun 1.5							

 Remaining 2016 projects rescheduled  2024 newly identified projects

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2024-28	LCA	PRIORITY	AIMS/OPPS	POLICY	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	CYC	ASP
3.7 Coalbrookdale Gate Resolve Coalbrookdale Gate entrance circulation and furniture conflict.	Albert Memorial and East and West Lawns	Conserve	22.1	B&Gt: 1							
4.0 Kensington Gardens Accessibility Audit Undertake a parkwide Accessibility Audit.	Park wide			Furn 1.1 PUACC 1							
4.1 Kensington Gardens Furniture Audit Undertake a parkwide bench and bike rack review and implement additional furniture where required and/or appropriate.											
5.0 Leaf Pen Improvements Review greenwaste operations and undertake a compliance led project with 25-year design life to renew the Leaf Pen. Replace the existing concrete surfaces, improve surface water drainage, repair walls and boundaries and consider storage and staff welfare.	Rye Grass Quarter	Reinforce	5a.1	B&MS 1							
6.0 Swales and Scraps 6.1 Swales and Scraps Design Guide Implement a design guide to support the implementation and management of swales and scrapes	Parkwide			WATER 1 Biodiv 1							
6.2 Scrape in Old Pond Wood Consider a shallow scrape given the existing damp conditions here thereby introducing a new habitat feature	Old Pond Wood Quarter	Create	11.3	WATER 1 Biodiv 1							
6.3 Long Water Swale Install a swale connecting into the Long Water from the east side at Peacock Walk to alleviate surface water flooding. (Cross refer to the Serpentine & Long Water Masterplan)	The Long Water Sanctuary	Restore	3.8	WATER 1 Biodiv 1							

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2024–28	LCA	PRIORITY	AIMS/OPPS	POLICY	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	CYC	ASP																					
7.0 Police Box Upgrades Restore the two historic police boxes and re-purpose to support volunteers, interpretation and wider park operations.	Park wide	Create	15.7, 20.3	HIST 1, B&MS 1																												
8.0 Diana Memorial Playground and the Old Wilderness Masterplan 8.1 Phase 1 - Internal Refurbishments Renewal of Galleon, Tree House Encampment, Mermaid Rock and site wide improvements to paths, fences, planting etc. Reinforce boundary planting and add diversity, replanting gaps by sub-station. Reinforce turf at vehicular entrances. Increase accessible toilet provision. 8.2 Phase 2 - External Play. Explore opportunities for external play experiences for older age children. 8.3 Phase 3 - Catering and Access. Explore opportunities to enhance catering, other built facilities and access. 8.4 Phase 4 - Old Wilderness Landscape Renewal. Design and install a temporary experimental flowering meadow to test the spatial arrangement of the Old Wilderness play concept. Consider the permanent installation of a suitable design long term, if successful. 8.5 Conservation of the Elfin Oak. Restore and conserve the Elfin Oak sculpture and improve its setting. Redesign and replace the existing heavy mesh metal enclosure surrounding the Elfin Oak with a more suitable structure.	Old Wilderness and The Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground	Create & Restore	Opps: 2,5,6 Aims: 1,2,3, 16.2, 16.5	B&MS: 1 B&Ms: 1.6 VFac 1.4	16.11	B&MS: 1 B&Ms: 1.6 VFac 1.4						16.11	B&MS: 1 B&Ms: 1.5 VFac 1.4	16.1	B&MS: 1 B&Ms: 1.6							16.7, 16.9	HIST 1, M&Ma 1									

 Remaining 2016 projects rescheduled  2024 newly identified projects

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2024-28	LCA	PRIORITY	AIMS/OPPS	POLICY	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	CYC	ASP
9.0 Interpretation Strategy Develop and implement the Kensington Gardens Interpretation Strategy and consider the numerous interpretation opportunities that have been identified within the 2024 review of landscape character areas.	Park wide	Create	Aims: 1 (SFW), Aims: 2 1a.2, 1a.7, 2.8, 5a.14, 7.1, 8.1, 15a.8, 18.8, 19.3, 20.5	Ed&Int: 1							
10.0 Magazine Gate Addition of new turnstile.	Buck Hill	Create	Opps: 2, 1a.8	B>: 1.2							
11.0 Renewal of Allotment Boundary Consider and implement a new boundary treatment at the allotment to better integrate the allotment garden with Buck Hill.	Buck Hill	Conserve	1a.4	B> 1							
12.0 Expansion of the Italian Gardens Cafe Consider the opportunity to increase the internal area of the café as a benefit to park users and commercial revenue.	Marlborough Gate and the Italian Gardens	Conserve	2.4	B&MS 1 VFac 1.2							
13.0 Serpentine and Long Water Masterplan Support the on-going creation of a masterplan that seeks to conserve and enhance views, water quality, biodiversity, planting, water catchment etc. The following sub-projects are part of this masterplan:	The Long Water Sanctuary	Conserve & Create		Aims: 1, 3.3							
13.1 Restore and Maintain Views Restore and conserve the historic view from Queen Caroline's Temple to the Serpentine Bridge through selective tree removal. Restore the view from Serpentine Bridge to the Italian Gardens by selective shrub pruning. Main visual access to open water and restore views across and along the lake at suitable locations.				View: 1.5 & 1.6 B&MS 1.2							

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2024–28	LCA	PRIORITY	AIMS/OPPS	POLICY	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	CYC	ASP
<p>13.2 Access and Habitat Improvements. Review the extent and quality of the Long Water margins and consider further development of new marginal habitat and the extension and linking of existing reedbeds.</p> <p>13.3 Improve Water Quality Investigate whether there are technical solutions for improving water quality in the Long Water and Round Pond e.g. UV filtration and water source heat pumps to reduce temperature. Consider whether submerged aquatics in the Round Pond are possible alongside communal and recreational use by model yachts. Survey silt levels and consider the potential to remove silt if necessary.</p>	The Long Water Sanctuary, The Round Pond & Feathers	Conserve	Aims: 1,2, 4,5, 6,9, 10 & 11, 3.5	Biodiv: 1 WATER 1.5	●	●	●	●		●	
14.0 Peter Pan Horticultural Improvements Consider a reset of the horticultural planting around the Peter Pan statue to create a fun and light-hearted visual of high impact.	The Long Water Sanctuary	Restore	3.1	HORT 1, M&Ma 1.2	●	●	●				
15.0 Improvements to the Setting of the Speke Monument Restore timber and turf edgings and the failing and missing sections of brick plinth.	Chestnut Quarter	Conserve	5b.4	M&MA 1	●	●					
16.0 Queensway Toilets Undertake the demolition of the redundant toilet block and oversee the reinstatement of an improved park boundary with new fully accessible entrance gates, new pathways and boundary planting.	Queensway Boundary	Create	15.6		●	●					



Remaining 2016 projects rescheduled



2024 newly identified projects

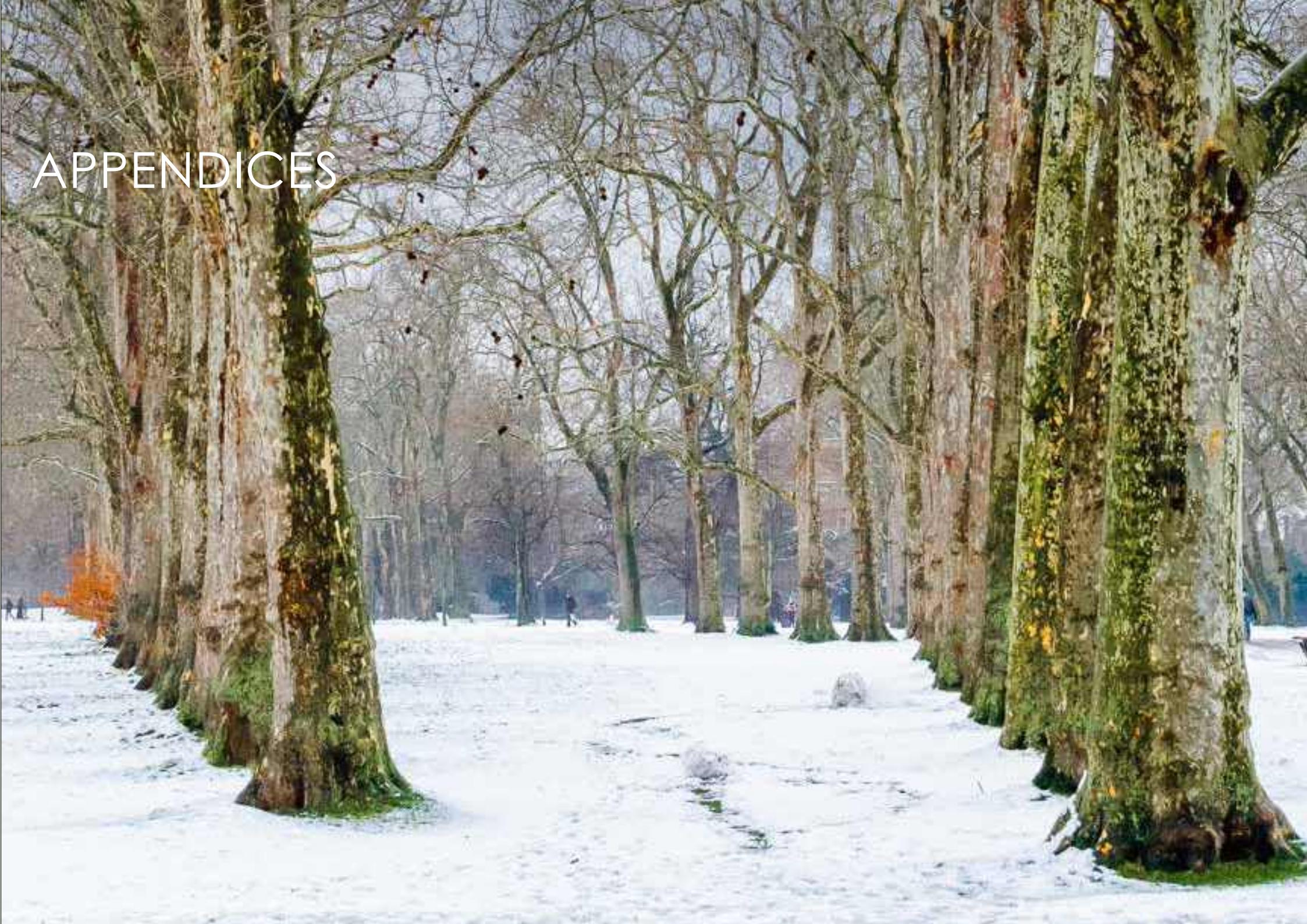
CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2024-28	LCA	PRIORITY	AIMS/OPPS	POLICY	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	CYC	ASP
17.0 North Flower Walk Landscape and Horticultural Improvements Redefine the function and purpose of the North Flower Walk with a renewed sense of identity as a garden destination. Implement new and improved planting styles, review and improve planting and tree canopy, furniture, pathways and entrances. 17.1 Concept Design Phase 17.2 Detailed Design Phase 17.3 Implementation and Delivery Phase	North Flower Walk	Create & Restore	Opps: 1/ Aims: 1,2 & 3, 15a.2, 15a.4, 15a.5, 15a.6	Hort: 1							
18.0 Broad Walk Resurfacing Scope and implement a superior and coherent surface and edge treatment that acknowledges the significance of this promenade.	Broad Walk		Aims: 2, 20. 4	Path: 1							
19.0 South Flower Walk Horticultural Enhancements 19.1 Improvements to the Shrubs Layer Continue to selectively remove redundant and/or over-mature shrubs and replace and replant with new specimen and exquisite shrubs to enrich the ornamental display. 19.2 Old Pond Wood Border Revise and refine the planting on the park side (north) of the South Flower Walk to improve the character and richness of this ornamental woodland edge style. 19.3 Woodland Edge Remove the mown lawn areas adjacent to the West Albert Lawn and replant with suitable woodland edge species.	South Flower Walk	Reinforce & Conserve	Aims: 3	Hort: 1					 		
			Aims: 1	Hort: 1.2				 			
			21.7	Biodiv 1							

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2024–28	LCA	PRIORITY	AIMS/OPPS	POLICY	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	CYC	ASP
19.4 Stone Island Beds Continue to redefine, renew and replant the raised stone planters.			Aims: 3 Opps: 2 / Aims: 4	Hort: 1 Hort: 1	●	●				●	
19.5 Landscape Restoration Phase 4b Continue to enhance the visual interest, presentation and horticultural layer from the South Flower Walk to Mount Gate (including the Glade for Theresa) embellishing with specimen shrubs, ornamental meadow and bulbs.					●	●				●	
20.0 Conservation of Coalbrookdale Gates Restore Coalbrookdale Gates	Albert Memorial and East and West Lawns	Conserve	22. 2	B> 1.1							●
21.0 Albertopolis Civic realm scheme reconnecting the Royal Albert Hall and the Albert Memorial	Albert Memorial and East and West Lawns	Conserve	Aims: 1	M&Ma: 1							●
22.0 Conservation of Acid Grassland Development and delivery appropriate of restoration schemes in targeted areas.	Parkwide		Opps: 1,3 Aims: 2,3, (Q)	Bio: 1.2 Grass: 1.1						●	
23.0 Buck Hill Playground Play and landscape improvements to Buck Hill playground	Buck Hill	Conserve & Create	Aims: 3	VFac: 1.4					●		
24.0 Bulb Planting Safeguarding existing stands and creating new stands of mainly indigenous species	Parkwide	Reinforce and Create	Opps: 8	Bio: 1						●	
25.0 Henry Moore Arch Investigate cause of discolouration; remove orange sand and replace with silver sand	The Long Water Sanctuary	Conserve & Create	Aims: 7	M&Ma: 1		●					

Remaining 2016 projects rescheduled  2024 newly identified projects 

CURRENT PROJECTS PLAN 2024-28	LCA	PRIORITY	AIMS/OPPS	POLICY	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	CYC	ASP
26.0 Land Drains Review the condition of land drains in south of Dial Walk to prevent damage by water-logging to trees	Dial Walk	Conserve & Create	Aims: 6	B&Gt: 1.3							
27.0 Leaf Pen Habitat and boundary improvements.	Rye Grass Quarter	Conserve & Create	Aims: 2 (Q:R.CH.)	Shrub:1							
28.0 Scrub planting Focus on Buck Hill and the Quarters including reinforcement of existing 'break-out' beds	Buck Hill, Quarters	Conserve & Create	Aims: 3 (BH)	Biodiv: 1.2							
29.0 Shrub Planting – South Wilderness Increase native planting characteristic of the seasonally wet conditions	South Wilderness	Reinforce & Conserve	Aims: 1.1	Shrub: 1							
30.0 The Storeyard Construction of replacement Landscape Maintenance Contractors welfare and storage	Buck Hill	Conserve & Create	Aims: 5 1a.12	M&Ma: 1.4							

APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1:

Sources

The Historical Survey (Land Use Consultants 1986)

Report from The Royal Parks Review Group under the chairmanship of Dame Jennifer Jenkins,

Kensington Gardens: An Archaeological Survey (1994): the report of the detailed archaeological survey undertaken by The Royal Commission on Historic Monuments in England (RCHME)

Gazetteer of Royal Parks Plans, Strategies and Guidance

TRP Management Agreement (2012/2015)

Sets out the purpose and corporate objectives for TRP, the strategic direction, within which the purpose will be met: endorsed by the Royal Parks Board and Ministerial agreement.

TRP Corporate Plan (2013-2016)

States TRP's purpose, role, planning for funding changes, background and context, corporate objectives and KPTs. [publicly available on the internet]

The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces (Amendment) etc. Regulations (2010)

The most recent amendment to the statutory regulations governing the Royal Parks [publicly available on the internet]

TRP Annual Report and Accounts 2014/2015

As presented to the House of Commons, a 70 page report on the workings and function of the Royal Parks, remuneration statement, governance statement of work of the TRP Board; and the year's statement of accounts and financial position. [publicly available on the internet]

TRP Sustainability Strategy 2015-2025 – available on TRP website

Guides to influence and embed sustainability across all of TRP operations, including park management and park operational plans. Sets four pillars focused on Sustainable growth, economically and environmentally: Climate Change: People & wellbeing: Protecting and enhancing the natural environment & biodiversity. [TRP Intranet]

Hosting Major Events 2015

States the background, approach, principles, individual park's capacity for events, sustainability aims and reinstatement.; advice for those planning to host with guidelines, regulations and contact details [publicly available on the internet]

Small Events in The Royal Parks 2010 (updated 2013)

Outlines the criteria of 'small event'; gives advice for those planning to host with guidelines, regulations and contact details. [publicly available on the internet]

TRP Landscape Design Guide (2009-10)

Sets out the policies and principles covering selection and design of traffic signs and road markings, ground surfaces, park furniture, planting schemes, landscape design. With appreciation for each park's has individual qualities, the guide seeks to bring coherence by using many common elements which carry The Royal Parks brand and quality. [publicly available on the internet]

TRP Interim Transport Strategy 2015

Provides an overarching view and analysis of the issues, policies, principles and pressures currently affecting transport within the parks.(stored internally on TRIM)

Ipsos Mori Visitor Survey (Published 2015)

The Ipsos MORI survey (2013 and 2014) of seasonal visitor across all eight Royal Parks estimated 77.7 million visits for the year. Information from the survey allows TRP to plan effectively, ensure resources are used in the right way, and maintain the balance between users of the parks and the need to sustain the natural and wildlife environment.. [on TRP website]

TRP Education Strategy (2013-2015)

The TRP education strategy will be reviewed in line with the organisational changes in the coming year. At present the educational delivery is carried out in different parks by skilled environmental educationalists.

TRP Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2014

Gives a vision for and principles of, the scope and delivery of local park, visitor and partner organisation stakeholder engagement; current practice and future plans. [publicly available on the internet]

Royal Parks Volunteer Strategy 2014-2017

Outlines the contribution to the parks from volunteering, their growing numbers, policy and trends, key objectives and guiding principles. [stored internally on TRIM]

TRP Sports, Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2010-2015)

Provides a picture of the well-being related activities currently taking place across the estate and highlights issues that need greatest focus over five years. [on TRP website]

TRP Play Strategy 2015:

Describes what The Royal Parks understands by play and how we will ensure that we provide a

quality environment for play, young people's social interaction, and informal play for children. We have prepared this play strategy in line with the guidance provided by Play England and The London Plan. [on TRP website]

TRP Tree Risk Management Policy and Procedures 2007

Outlines risk zones, guidance on the delivery of surveying, inspections, remedial works, roles and responsibilities, and background legislation. [stored internally on TRIM]

TRP Arboricultural Guidance Document: Trees and Events

Guidance on protocols and procedures for the setup and break-down of events in relation to their proximity to trees [internal document].

Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy 2014

The Kensington Gardens Tree Strategy (2014) follows on from the 2010 Tree Strategy and focuses on specific proposals for tree planting in defined areas and avenues within the Gardens. It is essentially an action plan developed with the objective of ensuring a suitable succession of trees within the Gardens. [on TRP website]

Veteran Tree Survey Kensington Gardens, 2010 (Luke Fay & Will Gardner)

Ground Flora Survey of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens 2013

A Phase One Habitat and Phase Two National Vegetation Classification survey of Kensington Gardens; describes the survey methods, habitats and vegetation, recommends management improvements; with appendices of species lists, quadrat data and target notes. [commissioned report, not publicly available]

Artificial Lighting: a Draft Position Statement by The Royal Parks regarding its Ecological Effects and Implications for Planning (January 2009)

Guidance on protocols and procedures for the setup and break-down of events in relation to their proximity to trees [internal document].

TRP Pollinator Strategy

Our Pollinator Strategy sets out the actions we are taking in the Royal Parks to help reverse the decline in pollinator populations. [on TRP website]

Cycling in The Royal Parks: The Pathway Code of Conduct: considerate cycling: TRP Detailed Cycling Policy

Sets out where cycling is allowed, protocol and priorities; guidance and expected behaviour [on TRP website]

Sustainability Strategy (2015-2025)

Sustainability is one of TRP key corporate aims. TRP Sustainability Strategy aims to embed sustainability across all of TRP operations, including park management and park operational plans.

The four Royal Parks sustainability pillars are:

1. Sustainable growth, economically and environmentally: providing a financially viable and environmentally excellent public park.
2. Climate Change: Sustainable transport, Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Managing water, Efficient use of raw materials and waste.
3. People & fairness and improving wellbeing: Healthy workforce, Education and volunteering, Community engagement & enhancement, Health & sport, Visitor experience.
4. Protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment & biodiversity: Eco-systems, wildlife & species, Natural landscapes and the built environment, Pest management and disease.

APPENDIX II: DEFINITION OF TERMS

Conservation

Following Historic England's *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance* (2008), they define conservation thus:

'Our definition of conservation includes the objective of sustaining heritage values. In managing significant places, 'to preserve', even accepting its established legal definition of 'to do no harm', is only one aspect of what is needed to sustain heritage values. The concept of conservation area designation, with its requirement 'to preserve or enhance', also recognises the potential for beneficial change to significant places, to reveal and reinforce value. 'To sustain' embraces both preservation and enhancement to the extent that the values of a place allow. Considered change offers the potential to enhance and add value to places, as well as generating the need to protect their established heritage values. It is the means by which each generation aspires to enrich the historic environment.'

Aesthetic

Arnold Berleant enlightens here from his book *Living in the Landscape: toward an aesthetics of environment* (1997, p32)

'In its largest sense, environmental aesthetics denotes the appreciative engagement of humans as part of a total environment complex, where the *intrinsic* experience of sensory qualities and immediate meaning predominates. --- Environmental experience here is not exclusively visual but actively involves all the sensory modalities synesthetically, engaging the participant in *intense* awareness. --- Environmental aesthetics thus becomes the study of environmental experience and the immediate and intrinsic value of its perceptual and cognitive dimensions.'

Significance

Historic England analyse three components of what significance means in this context (*Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* p2)

1. The nature of significance – 'important for understanding the needs and best means of conservation. For example, a modern building of high architectural interest will have quite different sensitivities from an archaeological site where the interest arises from the possibility of gaining new understanding of the past.'
2. The extent of that significance - 'important because it can, among other things, lead to a better understanding of how adaptable the asset may be and therefore improve viability and the prospects for long term conservation.'
3. The level of significance – 'important as it provides the essential guide to how the policies should be applied. This is intrinsic to decision-taking where there is unavoidable conflict with other planning objectives.'

APPENDIX III: ADDITIONAL POLICIES

ENV.14 Waste

- TRP will continue to monitor waste and litter management across the estate while seeking to reduce levels of public waste within the parks, increase overall recycling levels and work with contractors to deliver best practices in management.

MAN.X Landscape Planning

- The Royal Parks prioritise restoring parkland by minimising built form, enhancing biodiversity, and ensuring sustainable, reversible designs. Planning proposals must respect historic landscapes, support public access, and contribute to long-term conservation.

APPENDIX IV

The work of the TRP Arboricultural team includes management of the pests and diseases affecting trees. They produce the *TRP Assessment and Management of Tree Pest and Diseases Plan 2013–2018*.

A short description of the main challenges from pests and diseases follows:

Massaria Disease of Plane (*Splachnchnonema platani*) which results in a loss of strength and a risk of brittle branch fractures, is considered a priority disease under TRP's tree management strategy.

First identified in 2008, and now considered endemic to London, since 2012 TRP have a dedicated full-time role for Massaria identification and management. Management is aimed at reducing risk to the public and managing the long term health of London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*).

Over time Massaria will alter the crown shape and density of affected trees; this may lead to more frequent storm damage as well as the loss of photosynthetic potential, with potential to cause more problems in the future.

TRP is involved with Treeworks Environmental Practice, leading a long term study to identify beneficial management strategies to alleviate the affect of Massaria infection; these include Compost Tea application as a soil drench and foliar application, pruning methods and soil amelioration and mulching.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) is considered a priority pest under TRP's tree management strategy due to the risk to

public and animal health from the caterpillar stage of the moth which causes skin and eye irritations. It has the potential to affect all park users

OPM caterpillars live on branches of oak trees, feeding on the foliage and causing severe defoliation which, in extreme cases, can result in the death of the tree.

OPM is managed by the identification and removal of nests on mature trees. This is a difficult job, which requires training and experience, and considerable financial resources.

TRP has an important stock of veteran oak trees which could be threatened by OPM. Management of OPM where there are ecological designations such as Richmond Park (SSSI and NNR), brings additional statutory obligations to use management methods with as little impact on the biodiversity in the park as possible.

Bacterial Canker of Horse Chestnut (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi*) has to date affected over 75% of TRP's *A. hippocastanum* and *A. x carnea* resulting in the death of many.

Due to the large number of affected trees, also resulting in a loss of amenity value; *A. hippocastanum* and *A. x carnea* are no longer considered a sustainable species to plant. More disease resistant species such as the Indian horse chestnut (*A. indica*) are chosen instead.

Acute Oak Decline (AOD) is a relatively new process of rapid decline where trees develop symptoms such as longitudinal bleeding lesions and extensive dieback in the crown over a period of 1–5 years.

TRP is involved in a long term study with Treeworks Environmental Practice to monitor and trial mitigation treatments such as wood mulch and Compost Tea as a soil drench and foliar application. This study has practical usage and importance within TRP but also nationwide potentially.

Ash Dieback (*Hymenocyphus fraxineus*) has not yet been identified within the Royal Parks. If/when it is identified the management will fall in line with national guidelines as well as with TRP management and tree strategies.

Canker Stain of Plane (CSP) (*Ceratocystis platani*) and **Xylella fastidiosa** have not yet been identified within the UK. The TRP Arboricultural Department is involved with organisations such as the Forestry Commission, Forest Research and the London Tree Officers Association to monitor and survey for the presence of these diseases.

APPENDIX V: ROYAL PARKS STRATEGIES

The Royal Parks' current strategies, regulations, legislation, and policies at the time of the five year review are listed on our website. These include but are not limited to the following:

- The Royal Parks Play Strategy (2015) - currently being updated.
- The Royal Parks Major Events Strategy (2015)
- The Royal Parks Volunteering Strategy (2022)
- The Royal Park Archaeology Strategy (2018)
- The Royal Parks Animal Pest Control Policy (2018)
- The Royal Parks Movement Strategy (2020)
- The Royal Parks Biodiversity Framework (2020)
- The Royal Parks Sustainability Strategy (2015)

APPENDIX VI: HISTORIC ENGLAND LIST ENTRY

Kensington Gardens List Entry Summary

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest.

Name: KENSINGTON GARDENS
List entry Number: 1000340

Location

The garden or other land may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.
County: Greater London Authority
District: Westminster City Council
District Type: London Borough
Parish:

County: Greater London Authority
District: Kensington and Chelsea
District Type: London Borough
Parish:
National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.
Grade: I
Date first registered: 01-Oct-1987
Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.
Legacy System: Parks and Gardens
UID: 1284

Asset Groupings

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description

1.1.1 Summary of Garden

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

1.1.2 Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

1.1.3 History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

1.1.4 Details

Pleasure grounds and park begun in the late C17 by George London and Henry Wise, incorporating land from Hyde Park, with development from the C18 by Charles Bridgeman and William Forsyth.

NOTE This entry is a summary. Because of the complexity of this site, the standard Register entry format would convey neither an adequate description nor a satisfactory account of the development of the landscape. The user is advised to consult the references given below for more detailed accounts. Many Listed Buildings exist within the site, not all of which have been here referred to. Descriptions of these are to be found in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest produced by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Between 1536 and 1689 most of the land that later became Kensington Gardens was part of Hyde Park (qv). In 1689 Nottingham House, later to be named Kensington Palace, was bought from Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham as a convenient retreat for William III and Queen Mary. It was considered sufficiently removed from Westminster, yet more accessible than Hampton Court (qv). Christopher

Wren (1632-1723) was commissioned to enlarge Nottingham House while George London (d 1714) and Henry Wise (1653-1738), from the nearby Brompton Nurseries, were appointed to carry out works in the grounds, mainly graveling walks. In 1689 the king's private road (now Rotten Row) was made from Kensington, through Hyde Park to Westminster. The elaborate design of the gardens made to the south of the Palace in 1690 and 1691 are shown on an engraving dated c 1706 (Jacques and van der Horst 1988).

At the beginning of Queen Anne's reign (c 1702) Henry Wise alone was contracted to look after the gardens. Queen Anne removed the box hedges much beloved of Queen Mary. In 1704 Wise took over the kitchen garden and c 12ha of gravel pits north of the Palace which were made into a formal wilderness of several quarters, one of them containing a mock mount of evergreens, another a sunken terrace garden. The next year 41ha was taken from Hyde Park. This land, which also became Wise's responsibility, was used as a paddock to accommodate the royal deer and antelopes. By 1711 Wise, whose contract had been renewed five years earlier, considered the garden to be finished. The improvements had been complemented by the addition of ornamental buildings and garden furniture. After 1711 no more building works were undertaken by Queen Anne nor, for many years, by her successor George I.

Between 1689 and 1727 Kensington Palace grew from the nucleus of Nottingham House and had become an important royal residence. In 1726, the year in which he was appointed Royal Gardener (along with Wise), Charles Bridgeman (d 1738) submitted estimates for new works in Kensington Gardens; these were undertaken between 1727 and 1731. Bridgeman created a ha-ha and new wall as a boundary with Hyde Park; constructed the Round Pond and the Long Water or Canal, and laid

out the gardens. Most of the work was initiated by George I and completed after his death by George II and Queen Caroline. Queen Anne's flower borders were removed and replaced by lawns, plantations, promenades, and vistas. In 1728 Wise retired and Bridgeman became sole Royal Gardener, continuing working to improve and maintain the gardens. In 1733 Kensington Gardens was open to the public on Sunday nights. Charles Bridgeman died in 1738, the year after Queen Caroline, and Samuel Milward was appointed Chief Gardener at Kensington Palace and St James's Palace (qv). On the death of George II in 1760 Kensington Palace ceased to be the principal royal residence, an important factor in preserving the earlier layout rather than it being redeveloped (LUC 1982).

In 1784 William Forsyth (one of the founder members of the Royal Horticultural Society) was appointed 'Gardener to the King at Kensington' and made a number of changes which included planting quantities of fruit trees in the west part of the Upper Wilderness (to the north of the Palace) and probably introducing a paddock for the royal horses. It is clear from the plans made by Forsyth (Kensington Palace and Gardens, 1787), that the sunk garden made by Wise, most of the Upper Wilderness, and all the serpentine walks had been lost by the mid 1780s.

By the early C19 the gardens were open to the 'respectable' public every day. The increasing public access gave rise to expectations of facilities and entertainment similar to that which could be found in neighbouring Hyde Park. The Victorian and Edwardian period had a great impact on the site, this being a period of partial merging with Hyde Park. The first refreshment room opened in 1855 and the original bandstand in 1869. The number of drinking fountains and public lavatories increased and there was a proliferation of statues and monuments throughout the Victorian period. The 1840s saw the first of a number of nurseries on

the site of the Mount which had been removed by this time. The use of the gardens for sheep grazing appears to have begun sometime in the first half of the C19. A particular characteristic of Kensington Gardens which only evolved in the late C19 and early C20 was its association with children, best symbolised by the statue of Peter Pan (1912). The children's playground north of the Palace was established in 1909.

There were few innovations or changes in the period between the two world wars. The basic planting structure remained substantially the same although there were both losses and replacements. From 1919 the Round Pond became increasingly popular as a place for sailing model boats. During the Second World War most of the external and internal railings were removed and enemy bombs destroyed two lodges. In 1953-4 400 trees were felled, including 200 along the Broad Walk. The Broad Walk was replanted between 1972 and 1981 with Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) and Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*).

Kensington Gardens remains (1999) a public open space managed by the Royal Parks Agency. The Palace continues to be used as a residence by members of the royal family.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Kensington Gardens is situated in west London immediately to the west of Hyde Park. The gently undulating c 112ha site falls slightly from north to south and is bounded to the north by Bayswater Road and to the east by the West Carriage Drive of Hyde Park. Kensington High Street and Kensington Gore make up the south boundary, and Kensington Palace Green and the rear gardens of houses in Kensington Place Gardens the boundary to the west.

There are a total of twenty-two gateways into Kensington Gardens and, in terms of public use, all except Queen's Gate, Coalbrookdale Gate, and Palace Gate, all to the south of the site, are for pedestrians only. The majority of the lesser entrances were constructed by 1890. Many of the actual gates, like the railings, were melted down in 1942 and now have late C20 replacements. Original gates and railings survive at the Magazine.

Kensington Gardens, laid mainly to grass, are crossed by a number of paths which radiate from the gates and from points within the site. There are two major walks: Lancaster Walk which runs north/south across the centre of the site between Lancaster Gate to the north and the Albert Memorial (1872, listed grade I) on the southern boundary; and the Broad Walk which runs north/south between Bayswater (Black Lion Gate) and Knightsbridge (Palace Gate). Both walks are recorded on Bridgeman's plan of 1728 (reproduced in Willis 1977). The early C18 avenue of elms along the Broad Walk was replaced in 1954 with lime trees.

Kensington Palace (listed grade I) is set close to the western boundary. The brick-built palace has its origins as a small country house, Nottingham House, built c 1605. After it was bought by William III in 1689 the house was only gradually enlarged and did not become known as Kensington Palace until the C18. To the north of the Palace is the brick-built Orangery (listed grade I) constructed for Queen Anne in 1704. The Orangery was probably designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, with some revisions by Vanbrugh (Cherry and Pevsner 1991). The west front of the Palace overlooks Kensington Palace Green from which it is separated by tall iron railings. In front of the C18 entrance gates (listed grade II) stands a bronze statue of William III (listed grade II) erected in 1907. The east front of the Palace overlooks lawns and a statue of Queen Victoria. To the north-east of the Palace is the early C20 Sunken

Garden, decorated with herbaceous beds, and the Orangery Garden laid out at the same time but in the Dutch Style.

The pleasure grounds to the east of the Broad Walk are dominated by two pieces of water: the c 3ha Round Pond and the Long Water. Both are based on existing bodies of water which are shown on a plan of 1706 attributed to Henry Wise. The plan shows an oblong basin of water to the west and a string of ten pools to the east. Between 1726 and 1728 the basin was enlarged to the shape of the Round Pond. A series of trout pools along the line of the Westbourne were linked to form the Long Water in 1727 (LUC 1982). The broader, longer Serpentine was made in Hyde Park in 1731, and the two were subsequently linked to form one water body. At the north end of the Long Water are the Italian Fountains (listed grade II); constructed in 1860 as part of The Serpentine cleaning works the fountains are set within four pools with elaborate urns. On the south side stone balustrades with carved roundels flank water nymphs attending the cascade down to the Long Water. Overlooking the fountains to the north is the single-storey Italianate shelter (listed grade II) which was built to house the pumping engine for the fountains. To the north-east of the shelter is Queen Anne's Alcove (listed grade II*). Constructed c 1706-7 and moved to this location in 1868, it formerly stood to the south of the Palace.

The west bank of the Long Water is decorated with lawns, trees, and shrubberies amongst which stands Sir George Frampton's statue of Peter Pan (listed grade II*) which was erected in 1912. At the south end of the Long Water is the Serpentine Bridge (listed grade II) which carries the West Carriage Drive (the eastern boundary of the site), with pedestrian access to Hyde Park underneath it. The bridge was constructed 1825-8 by George Rennie who in 1828 brought the two pieces of water to the same level.

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OS 25" to 1 mile:

1st edition published 1869
2nd edition published 1894-6
3rd edition published 1916

Description written: December 1999

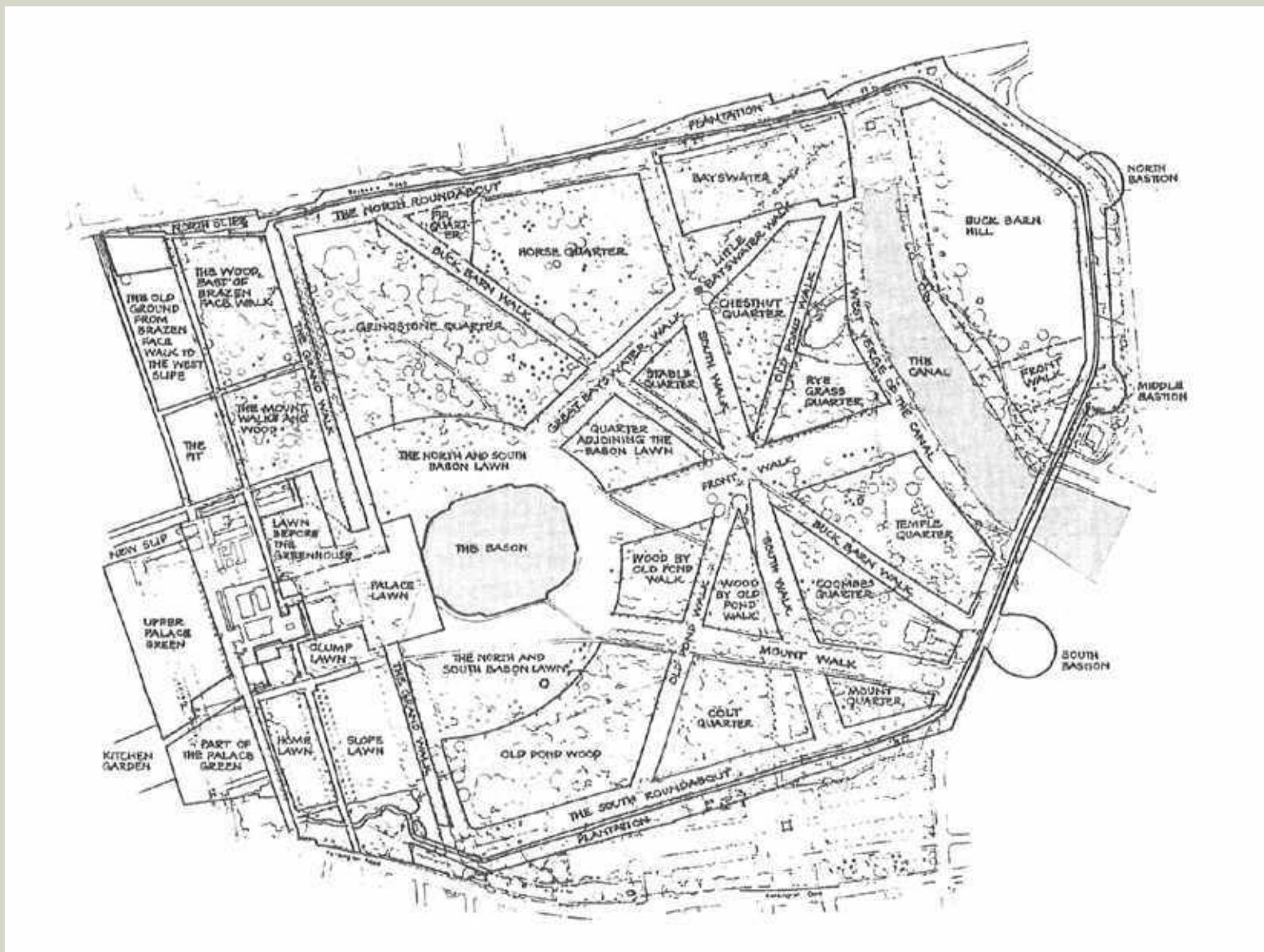
Amended: January 2000 Register
Inspector: LCH Edited: January 2002

1.1.5 Selected Sources

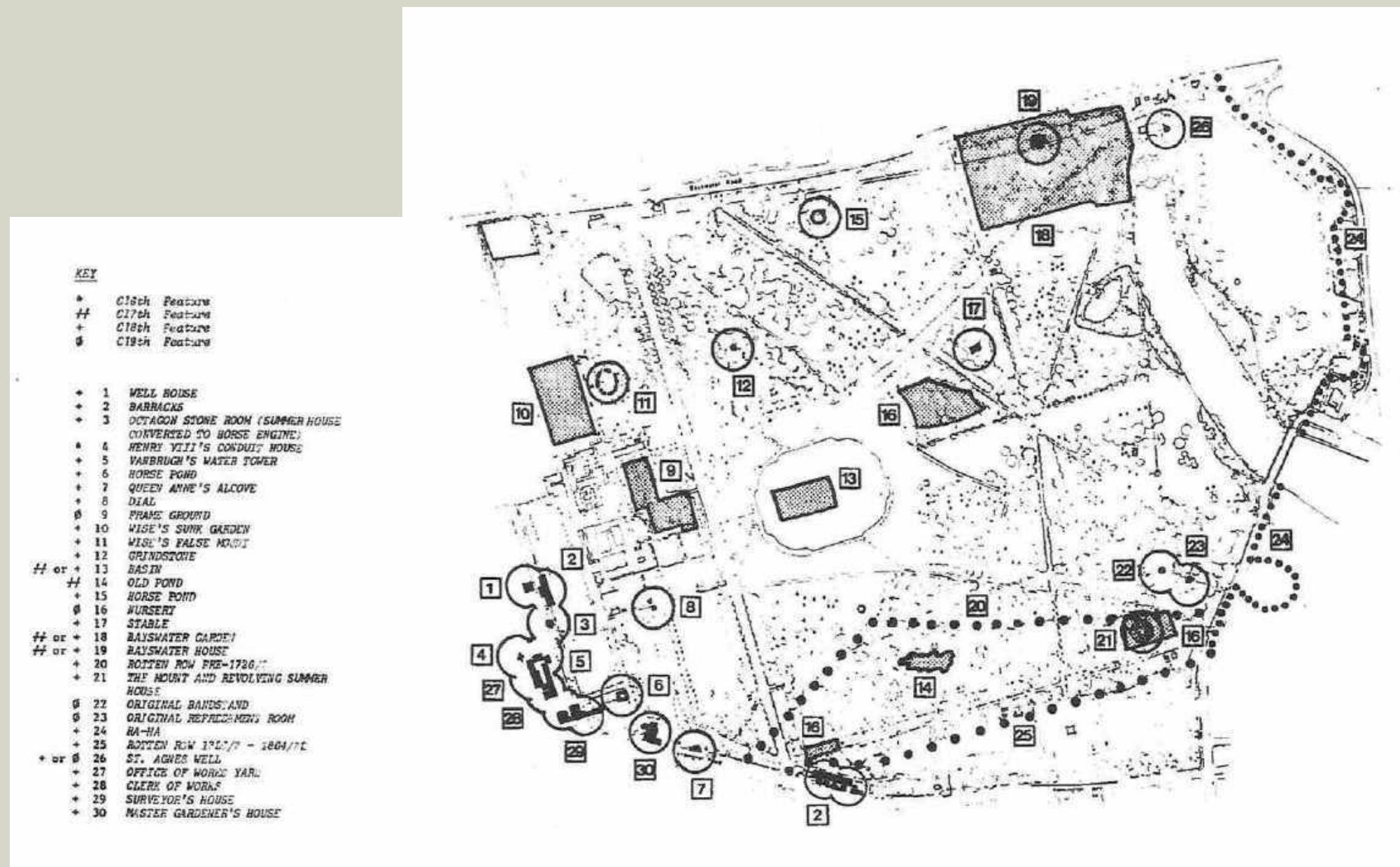
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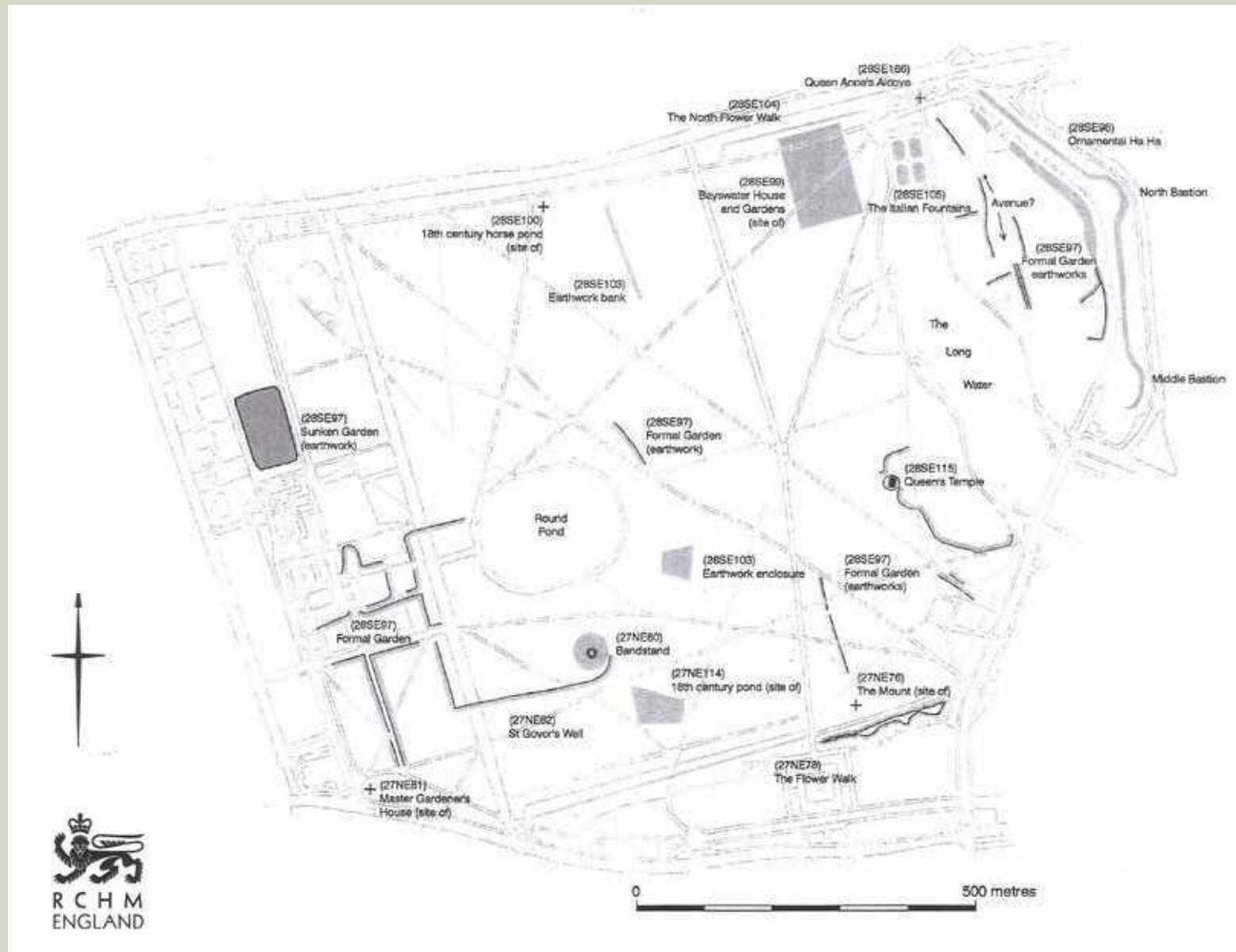
Plan with the C18 Century named parts of the Garden



Features Lost and Removed



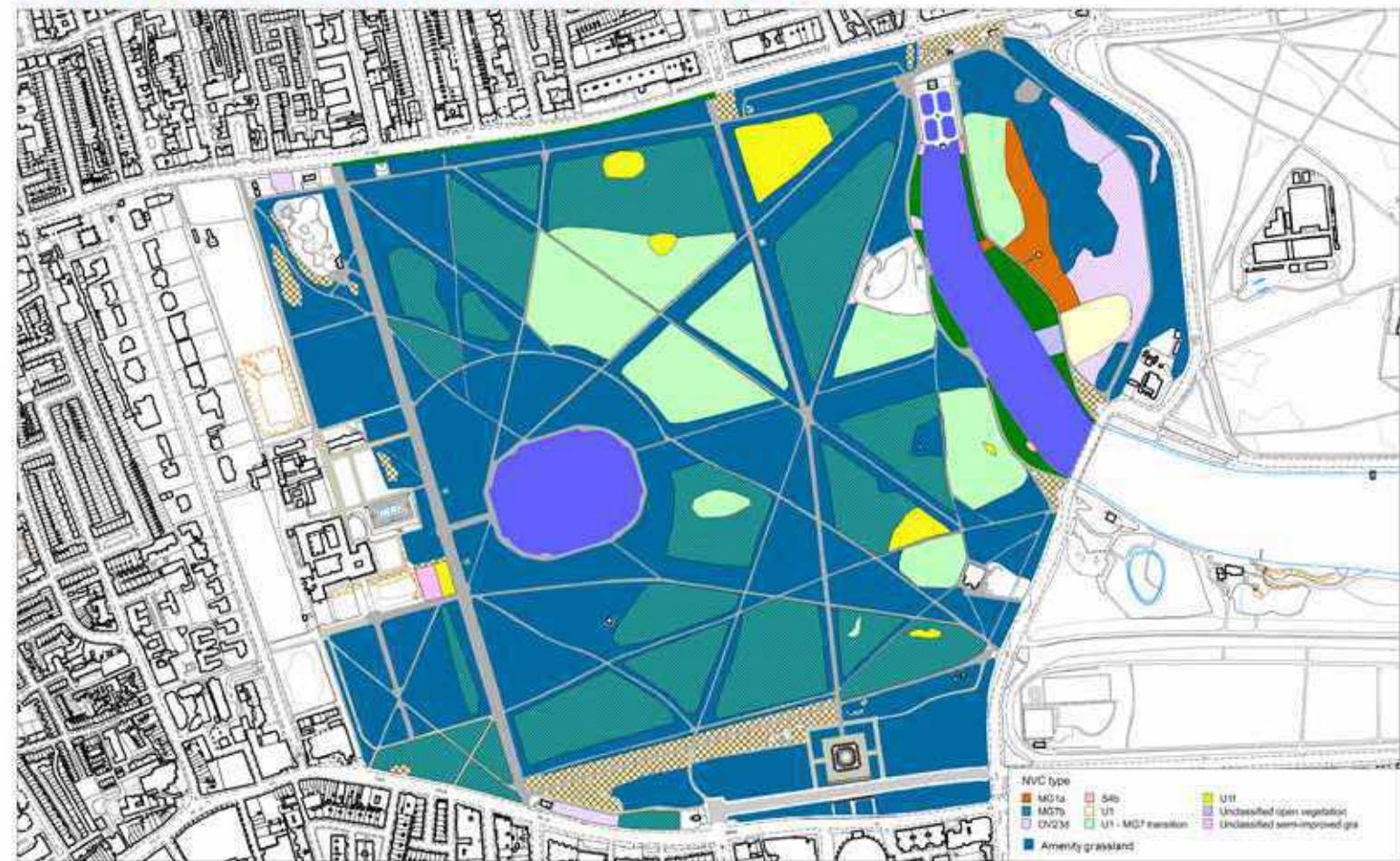
Post-medieval Features in Kensington Gardens



National Vegetation Classification Habitats 2013

The Royal Parks

Kensington Gardens National Vegetation Classification habitats 2013



Based upon the
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