

HISTORIC DESIGNED
LANDSCAPES
OF ESSEX

INVENTORY

PART VII

Designed Landscapes of
THURROCK

November 2021

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The Essex Gardens Trust has worked in long-term partnership with the Essex County Council in the production of the series of inventories and handbooks of the historic designed landscapes of Essex. The Thurrock Inventory is Part VII.

The Ordnance Survey maps included for each of the sites in this Thurrock Inventory are reproduced under Essex County Council licence and we would like to thank Adrian Gascoyne for his advice and guidance.

The Essex Gardens Trust has received support and assistance in the research and preparation of this Inventory from many individuals and institutions and would like to thank the following:

The members of the Thurrock Research Group of the Essex Gardens Trust who have carried out research and preparation of this Inventory against the difficult background of the Covid pandemic of 2021, and associated restrictions. Without their dedication and professionalism the Inventory would not have been completed.

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INTRODUCTION

The Essex Gardens Trust (EGT) is assembling a series of inventories of historic designed parks and gardens in the county which still contain sufficient historic elements and integrity to make a valuable contribution to the Essex landscape and to the county's heritage. These sites were not of sufficient merit to have been included in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest, but are ones that the Trust considers to be of local importance, either due to their quality or rarity, or to their association with a noted designer, horticulturalist or owner. The Inventory is based on district council areas. Thurrock is a Unitary Authority and it is hoped that it will prove useful to planning authorities when making decisions which may affect the sites described, or their setting.

The Inventory of Historic Designed Landscapes of Thurrock has been researched and written predominantly by a new team of researchers brought together initially under the aegis of the Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership Scheme (<https://www.landofthefanns.org>) and The Gardens Trust for a project entitled 'Know It Love It'. The aim of the project was to provide local community members with skills and resources to investigate and record local designed landscapes. This resulted in a further project entitled '50 Fabulous Features' supported by the Essex Gardens Trust. The present inventory was grant-aided by the Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership Scheme and the Essex Gardens Trust and was supported by further training via the Essex Gardens Trust. Other stakeholders and partners who have enabled this inventory are listed in the acknowledgements.

This is the first time that Essex Gardens Trust has focussed its conservation, training and research work in the Thurrock area and we are delighted that it has had such a very successful outcome and established an active and motivated research team within the local community, with a very high level of skills. We have also reached out to other research and community groups who have lent their expertise and knowledge and would particularly like to thank the Thurrock Museum and members of the Thurrock Local History Society.

Thurrock is a unitary authority area with borough status covering an area of 64 square miles (170 km²). The local authority is Thurrock Council. It is currently (2021) identified as an area of regeneration within the Thames Gateway redevelopment zone.

With Greater London to the west and the river to the south, the county of Essex abuts the Borough to the north and east, and across the river lies Kent. Thurrock was identified by the Land of the Fanns Landscape project as containing several landscape character areas including: Aveley and West Thurrock Marshes, West Thurrock Quarry Townscape, Belhus Lowland Quarry Farmland, Orsett Lowland Hills, and Thurrock Reclaimed Fenn. More than half of the Thurrock Borough is defined as Green Belt following the post-war residential resettlement and creation of planned housing estates forming a 'satellite' to London. Conservation areas exist at Corringham, Fobbing, Horndon on the Hill, Orsett, Purfleet, East Tilbury and West Tilbury (<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/conservation-areas/conservation-areas-in-thurrock>).

The borough contains ten Sites of Special Scientific Interest many of which are associated with the quarrying of chalk and gravels that defines much of the history of the area. These include the Globe Pit, Grays; Grays Chalk Pit; Lion Pit, Grays; Purfleet Chalk Pits as well as the marshes and riverine edge along the Thames and low-lying areas adjacent. The presence of these areas and industries has influenced both the creation and style of designed landscape and on occasions it's destruction.

Open space includes Chafford Gorges Nature Park run by Essex Wildlife and Belhus Woods Country Park run by Essex County Council with agreement of Thurrock Council. Chafford Gorges was considered for inclusion within the current Inventory but eventually was not considered to have been sufficiently driven by aesthetic considerations in its design.

Seventeen sites have been included within the Inventory and, as might be expected from an area with such a distinctive industrial history and considerable C20 development, the spectrum is rather different to other Essex district inventories.

Only one of the sites (Belhus Park) is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden included on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE). This is the largest park in the current inventory and as a result of recent research during the 'Know It Love It' project, a suggested update of the Register entry has been included in the Inventory.

Parts of the Belhus estate also provided the historic landscapes that were repurposed and incorporated into the open space amenity park design in the post war (listed as a group South Ockendon Amenity Parks (Aveley Estate))

Two of the sites originally created around substantial houses, Orsett Hall and Stifford Hall have been converted into hotels and the grounds adapted to those needs. Whilst contemporary commercial pressures have not encouraged upkeep to the standards of the original gardens and several elements have decayed the gardens have appeal as part of the attractions of the hotels and are thus valued. Split ownership has also permitted some decay in the designed landscape around Orsett House, a Grade II* house with a mid-C18 rear walled garden and ornamental gates with a ha-ha separating the gardens from the park but sufficient remains to include within the Inventory.

A further early site originally with substantial grounds is Ford Place, where the remains of a Grade II listed derelict C17 manor house has associated Grade II listed Tudor garden walls with an attached Gardener's Cottage. Two features of the former, designed landscape, 'The Long Walk' and Pond are currently incorporated into the Mardyke Valley Golf Course which surrounds the listed buildings and are unrecorded rare early garden features. The site is now in relatively poor condition but has been included here as what does exist is currently under threat. This is also the case with The Groves Wilderness where substantial earthworks remain of an early designed landscape.

Inventory sites relating to the growth of the town of Grays as a residential centre in the C19 and early-C20 include The Elms Quarry Garden, which bears considerable resemblance to the well-known (Registered Grade II) Plantation Garden in Norwich, being constructed initially as a private garden within a previously quarried area. Adjacent to The Elms was the site of The

Dell, a similar garden created by Alfred Russel Wallace. Unfortunately this could not be included as access was not obtained to the site and no knowledge of the current state of the gardens gained, the property now being in split tenancy. If this had been proven to be extant the association with Wallace, and with The Elms, would have recommended this to the Inventory.

Amenity gardens and parks were created during this Victorian and Edwardian development phase including attractions aimed at 'day trippers' from London. These include the Inventory sites of Grays Beach, and Grays Town Park.

The two cemeteries included Grays New Cemetery dating from 1888 and West Thurrock Cemetery dating from 1914 reflect again the growth of population during this period, but also the C19 concern with sanitation and the role of designed open spaces for both the living and the dead as reflected in the writings of John Claudius Loudon in the earlier decades of the century. These are local reflections of larger Victorian public cemeteries such as the Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, Surrey (Grade I listed on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens). Although on a smaller scale they reflect the same design ideals and also account for the increasing recognition of different religious needs in this period.

Allotments were another category of open space associated with this late-C19/early-C20 population increase which were considered for Inventory inclusion although eventually none of the extant sites displayed sufficient historic interest. One site (Globe Pits Allotments) was however the subject of considerable research and may be included in a future publication.

The influence of the cement industry in the area is reflected in the inclusion of The Elms Quarry Garden, the Herbert E Brooks Memorial Rest Gardens and Stifford Lodge the home of Herbert E Brooks, a director of the Associated Portland Cement Company. The Brooks family brought the cement industry to Grays in the mid-C19 providing local employment for many years. For a short time, Herbert E Brooks also owned Belmont Castle the most prominent building in the parish, which was demolished in 1943 to make way for a chalk quarry.

Light Industry, and the role of the docks in attracting that industry, is represented by the Bata Estate Designed Landscapes and Gardens (East Tilbury). This rare surviving example of integrated residential estate and garden spaces in 1930s eastern European style was created from 1933 to house the workers of the British Bata Shoe Company and echoed the layout of the company's primary location in Zlin, Czech Republic. Covering 600 acres later additions to the designed landscape include a memorial park and a garden dedicated to the founder.

A larger than 'usual' number of sites in this area Inventory were drawn from the mid to late-C20, reflecting the substantial and continuing development of the area. These include Dilkes Park, a significant example of a mid-C20, high quality urban park (created as an integral part of the overall design of the surrounding Aveley Estate planned by the London County Council and retaining some of its original features; Barnards Farm, Bulphan, an imaginatively designed garden created over the past forty-two years covering a twenty-two hectare site and housing the National Malus collection. The latter site is included due to local interest with the potential to represent this specific period of garden design which may otherwise be lost in

future. The much smaller site of Buddy's Garden (Tilbury) was also included for its strong association with a local community figure.

Buddy's Garden is one of the many publicly accessible sites that are included in the Thurrock Inventory with at least nine sites forming public 'open spaces' in some form, whilst others such as Belhus although traditionally private are now open and/or publicly maintained. Again this is an unusually high number for a district inventory.

Sadly a high number of sites were also considered to be under threat at the time of research. Housing development, 'regeneration' (both as part of the Thames Gateway project and more generally) threaten Ford Place; the Wilderness at Groves Barns is threatened due to the proposed new major road The Lower Thames Crossing. In addition housing intensification is a continuous threat to the small amenity gardens across the South Ockendon housing estate with anti-social behaviour also being a factor in the difficulty of maintaining Dilkes Park.

Twentieth century losses in the area in association with development include The Botany Garden (Purfleet) and the Globe Pit Allotments, whilst lack of funding is a serious consideration to maintenance of many of the public open spaces. Grays Town Park is a notable exception to decline with recent substantial restoration and enhancement, whilst Buddy's Garden has also featured in community projects aimed at maintaining and enhancing the site.

Climate change will be a specific threat in future to sites close to the Thames or in lower-lying areas, including Grays Beach Riverside Park, as the needs of enhanced flood prevention become more pressing whilst maintaining the tree cover on sites such as the Millards Wood, or the relict planting at a range of sites including Belhus Park and Orsett Hall will become increasingly challenging as the tree population ages and also becomes progressively prone to disease.

The Thurrock Inventory of Historic Parks and gardens has highlighted both the diversity of designed landscapes within the area and their very unique make up relating to the specific history of the area, its landscape character and its geographical and geological circumstance and associations. Our hope is that this inventory will now help preserve the designed historic landscapes that arose from that particular history of Thurrock whilst promoting their relevance for contemporary communities.

Twigs Way

Project Co-Ordinator

November 2021

Twigs Way would like to personally express her thanks to all members of the EGT Thurrock Research Group for their hard work, dedication, patience, perseverance, and sense of humour.

SITES THAT DID NOT MEET THE CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION WITHIN THE INVENTORY

Sites investigated where SUBSTANTIAL gardens had been present in the past but now only survive in a fragmentary form OR not at all

AVELEY VICARAGE, Aveley
BELMONT CASTLE, Grays
BOTANY GARDENS/GROTTO, Purfleet
BUCKLAND, East Tilbury
CHURCH HOUSE, Purfleet
COPPID HALL, Stifford
CORRINGHAM HALL, Corringham
CHADWELL PLACE/LONGHOUSE, Chadwell St Mary
CONWAYS FARMHOUSE, Orsett
DUVALS, Grays Thurrock
FOBBING HALL, Fobbing
GARLESTERS, Bulphan
GLOBE PIT ALLOTMENTS, Little Thurrock
GREY GOOSE FARMHOUSE, Orsett
GROVE HOUSE, Stanford le Hope
HASSENBROOK HALL, Stanford-le-Hope
HEATH PLACE FARM, Orsett
OLD HALL, South Ockendon
OLD RECTORY, Corringham
ONGAR HALL/HUNGER HALL, Orsett
POPLARS FARMHOUSE, Orsett
SAFFRON GARDEN, Horndon on the Hill
STEPNEY COTTAGE HOMES, North Stifford
THE BOTHY/LADYSONS/LODYSONS, Orsett
THE DELL, Grays Thurrock
THE ECHOES, Grays Thurrock
THE GABLES, Horndon on the Hill
THE REST GARDEN (Thames Board Mills), Purfleet
THE WILDERNESS, Orsett
WELL HOUSE FARM, Corringham

Sites investigated where gardens were too small or insubstantial to be of historic importance

COURTS FARMHOUSE, Aveley
KENNINGTONS, Aveley

APPLETONS/YE OLDE PLOUGH HOUSE, Bulphan
BLANKETS FARMHOUSE, Bulphan
BRANDON HALL, Bulphan
BULPHAN HALL, Bulphan
FIELD HOUSE, Bulphan

LITTLE TILLINGHAM HALL FARM, Bulphan
MANOR HOUSE/WICK HOUSE, Bulphan
OLD ENGLAND, Bulphan
SLOUGH HOUSE, Bulphan
SPRING FARM, Bulphan

BIGGIN FARMHOUSE, Chadwell St Mary
CHADWELL HALL, Chadwell St Mary
CHADWELL HOUSE, Chadwell St Mary
SUNSPAN HOUSE, Chadwell St Mary

CORRINGHAM ALLOTMENTS/RECREATION GROUND, Corringham
CORRINGHAM CEMETERY, Corringham
CORRINGHAM TOWN PARK, Corringham

COALHOUSE FORT PARK, East Tilbury

HILLCREST COTTAGES, Fobbing
PROBUS/PROSBUS HALL, Fobbing
WHITE LION PUBLIC HOUSE, Fobbing

ARDEN HALL, Horndon on the Hill
CHOLLEY'S FARMHOUSE, Horndon on the Hill
GREAT MALGRAVES, Horndon on the Hill
HILLDROP, Horndon on the Hill
HORNDON HOUSE, Horndon on the Hill
OLD HOUSE, Horndon on the Hill

BLACKSHOTS FARMHOUSE, Little Thurrock

GOBIONS, Mucking
MUCKING HALL, Mucking
ST CLERES HALL, Mucking
THE VICARAGE, Mucking

BIRCH COTTAGE, Orsett
HEATH COTTAGE, Orsett
THE LARCHES, Orsett
LARKINS, Orsett
LINSTAD FARM COTTAGES 1,2,3, Orsett
LITTLE WELLHOUSE, Orsett
LOFT HALL, Orsett
LORKINS FARMHOUSE, Orsett
MILL HOUSE, Orsett
MURRELLS COTTAGES, Orsett
OLD HALL FARMHOUSE, Orsett
OLD NORTH'S COTTAGE, Orsett

OLD RECTORY, Orsett
PARKERS FARMHOUSE, Orsett
WHITFIELDS, Orsett
GREAT MOLLANDS, South Ockendon
KEMPS, South Ockendon
LITTLE BELHUS, South Ockendon
THE RECTORY, South Ockendon

CEMETERY, Stanford le Hope
GREAT GARLANDS FARMHOUSE, Stanford le Hope
OLD HALL, Stanford le Hope

ALLOTMENT GARDENS, Stifford
CHAFFORD GORGES DISCOVERY PARK, Stifford
STIFFORD CLAYS FARMHOUSE, Stifford

GUN HILL FARMHOUSE, West Tilbury
WEST TILBURY HALL, West Tilbury

Sites with no evidence of having had historic gardens

AVELEY HALL, Aveley
BRETTES, Aveley
CROWN & ANCHOR HOTEL, Aveley
FANNS FARMHOUSE, Aveley
HEATH HOUSE, Aveley
KENNINGTON PARK, Aveley
MARSHFOOT HOUSE, Aveley
POND FARM, Aveley
USK ROAD RECREATION GROUND, Aveley

BULPHAN PARK, Bulphan
BULPHAN RECREATION GROUND, Bulphan
NOKE HALL, Bulphan

CHADWELL ST MARY CEMETERY, Chadwell St Mary
CHURCH OF ST MARY CHURCHYARD, Chadwell St Mary
CHADWELL RECREATION GROUND, Chadwell St Mary
SLEEPERS FARMHOUSE, Chadwell St Mary

TILLINGHAM HALL, Childerditch

1&2 HALL FARM COTTAGES, Corringham
BELL HOUSE, Corringham
BULL INN, Corringham
BUSH HOUSE, Corringham
CORRINGHAM PLAYING FIELDS, Corringham
FEARINGS FARMHOUSE, Corringham

ROSE COTTAGE (1), Corringham
ROSE COTTAGE (2), Corringham
THATCHED COTTAGE, Corringham

DOESGATE FARMHOUSE, Dunton
LOWER DUNTON HALL, Dunton

CHURCH OF ST KATHERINE, East Tilbury
GOSSALYNE/GOSHEMS, East Tilbury
MANOR HOUSE, East Tilbury
OLD RECTORY, East Tilbury
SMITHY COTTAGE, East Tilbury

1&2 CHURCH COTTAGES, Fobbing
1&2 CURTIS COTTAGES, Fobbing
1&2 LION HILL, Fobbing
1&2 PAYNE'S COTTAGES, Fobbing
1&3 SHIP COTTAGES, Fobbing
COPELAND HOUSE, Fobbing
FISHER'S COTTAGE, Fobbing
OLD RECTORY/PELL HOUSE, Fobbing
WALNUT TREE COTTAGES, Fobbing
WHEELERS HOUSE, Fobbing

ELM ROAD OPEN SPACE, Grays Thurrock
GRAYS HALL, Grays Thurrock
PARKER ROAD PLAYING FIELD, Grays Thurrock

10-12 PUMP STREET, Horndon on the Hill
BELL INN, Horndon on the Hill
BUTCHERS, Horndon on the Hill
HALLS ROW, Horndon on the Hill
HIGH HOUSE, Horndon on the Hill
HILL HOUSE, Horndon on the Hill
LOWER THATCHED COTTAGE, Horndon on the Hill
MAYFIELD COTTAGES, Horndon on the Hill
POST OFFICE STORES, Horndon on the Hill
SHOP ADJACENT TO THE BELL INN, Horndon on the Hill
SWAN COTTAGE, Horndon on the Hill
SWAN INN, Horndon on the Hill
THE STORES, Horndon on the Hill
WOOLMARKET COTTAGE, Horndon on the Hill
WRENS PARK, Horndon on the Hill
WYFIELDS FARMHOUSE, Horndon on the Hill

LANGDON HILL HALL, Langdon Hills
LANGDON HILLS HALL FARM COTTAGE, Langdon Hills

THE PARSONAGE HOUSE, Langdon Hills

BRETTS FARM, Little Thurrock
ELM ROAD OPEN SPACE, Little Thurrock
HANGMAN'S WOOD/DANEHOLES, Little Thurrock
JUBILEE GARDENS, Little Thurrock
KING GEORGE'S FIELD, BLACKSHOTS, Little Thurrock
LITTLE THURROCK HALL, Little Thurrock
MALLINS, Little Thurrock
OLD RECTORY, Little Thurrock
ROSEDALE RD/BULL MEADOW ALLOTMENTS, Little Thurrock
THE DIPPING, Little Thurrock
TORELLS/TYRELLS HALL, Little Thurrock

SUTTONS FARMHOUSE, Mucking
TURNER'S FARM, Mucking
WALTONS HALL, Mucking

1&2 GRAYS CORNER, Orsett
1&2 MALTINGS COTTAGES, Orsett
2 HIGH ROAD, Orsett
6 HIGH ROAD, Orsett
8&10 HIGH ROAD, Orsett
11&13&POST OFFICE, Orsett
15 HIGH ROAD, Orsett
29&31 HIGH ROAD, Orsett
33&35 HIGH ROAD, Orsett
BISHOP BONNER'S PALACE, Orsett
SLADES HOLD COTTAGES, Orsett
THATCHED COTTAGE, Orsett
WHITECROFTS FARMHOUSE, Orsett
WHITMORE ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE, Orsett

FANNS FARMHOUSE, Purfleet
HIGH HOUSE, Purfleet
HOLLOW COTTAGES, Purfleet
ROYAL HOTEL, Purfleet

LITTLE MOLLANDS, South Ockendon
QUINCE TREE FARMHOUSE, South Ockendon
ROYAL OAK INN, South Ockendon
SOUTH OCKENDON RECREATION GROUND, South Ockendon
STREET FARMHOUSE, South Ockendon

1&2 THATCHED COTTAGE, Stanford le Hope
HARDIE PARK, Stanford le Hope

INN ON THE GREEN, Stanford le Hope
RECREATION GROUND, Stanford le Hope
RECTORY, Stanford le Hope

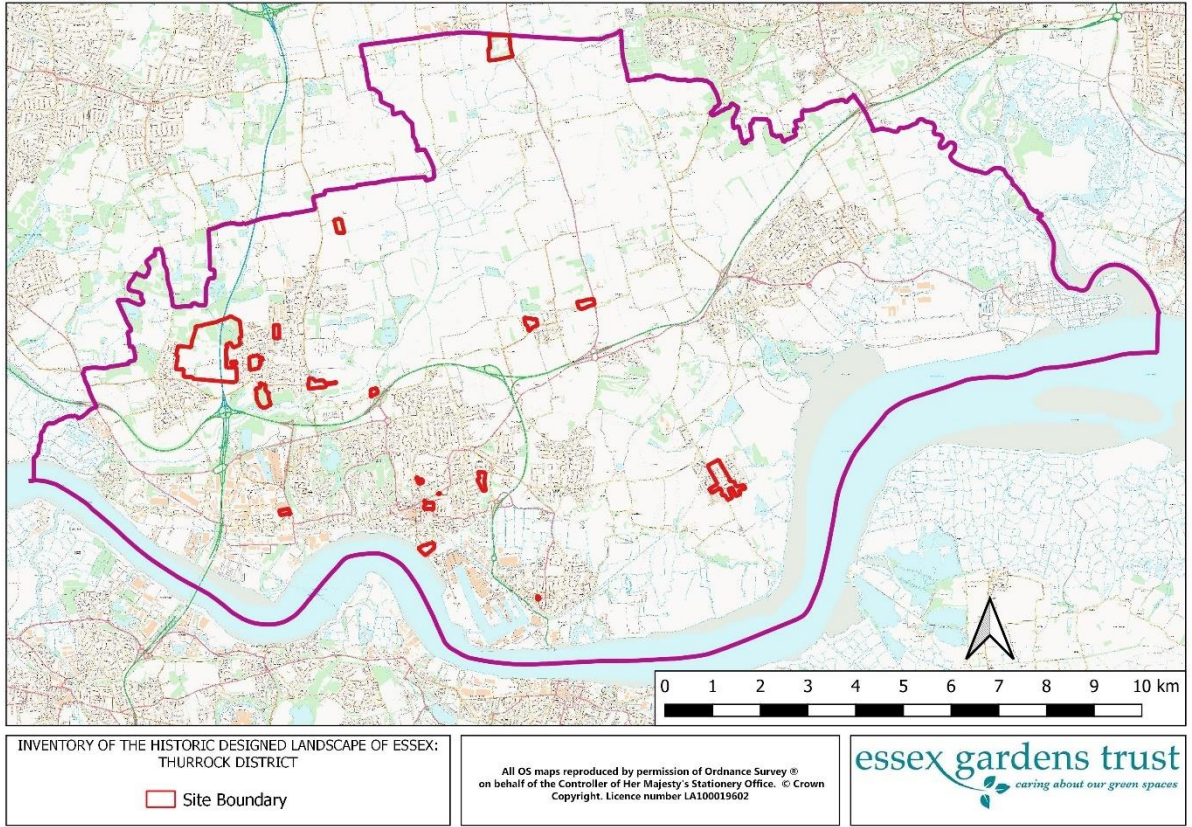
BARCRIS & HONEYSUCKLE COTTAGE, Stifford
CAIRA FIRCOOT, Stifford
CHURCHVIEW COTTAGES, Stifford
DAVEYDOWNS, Stifford
FIELD OF PEACE, Stifford
LABURNUM MIDDLE COTTAGE, Stifford

LILAC, VIOLA & WREN COTTAGES, Stifford
THE THATCHED COTTAGE, Stifford

ANCHOR FIELD, Tilbury
DAISY FIELD, Tilbury
TILBURY FORT, Tilbury
WORLD'S END INN, Tilbury

ALLOTMENTS, West Thurrock

HIGH HOUSE, West Tilbury
KINGS HEAD PUB, West Tilbury
MANOR FARMHOUSE, West Tilbury
MARSHALLS COTTAGES, West Tilbury
MILL HOUSE, West Tilbury
POLWICKS, West Tilbury
ST JAMES CHURCHYARD, West Tilbury
THE BAKERY, West Tilbury
THE COTTAGES, West Tilbury
WALNUT TREE COTTAGE (CONDOVERS) , West Tilbury
WELL HOUSE, West Tilbury
POST HOUSE, West Tilbury



Site Locations and Boundary of Study Area

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BARNARDS FARM, Bulphan

TQ 63494 87854

Imaginatively designed gardens created over the past forty-two years covering a twenty-two hectare site and housing the National Malus collection. The site is included due to local interest with the potential to represent this specific period of garden design that should be recognised.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Barnards is a Grade II Georgian house (HER 119617) on the site of a farm, perhaps named after Thomas Barnarde and recorded as Barnardeslond in 1408.

In 1752 John Squier leased Barnards Farm and the farm continued in the family well into the C19. The Squiers were a large and wealthy family who owned land in several Essex areas including local farms Field House and Dunton Hills. However, the Squier family appear to have leased Barnards as a post 1817 survey book (ERO D/DP p109) of the estate belonging to the Lord Petre includes Barnards Farm. Prior to James Craig taking on Barnards Farm in 1885, £233 was spent by the estate on repairs to the house and the construction of a cow shed.

The 1777 Chapman & André map of Essex shows Barnards as a fairly small site adjacent to the main road but the six-inch ordnance survey map published in 1898 shows Barnards set back from the road and surrounded by outbuildings. One large lake is shown near the road and another smaller one nearer to the railway line. A few trees are shown between the house and the main road.

The site changed hands several times in the first part of the twentieth century before the house and land were bought in 1966 by William Francis Theobald whose sons farmed the land until the early-1980s. Theobald had bought the farm unseen at auction and unable to get permission to knock the house down it was tenanted and separated from its land. The house, with only a quarter of an acre of land, was sold in 1970 to Michael James Fielder, a journalist on the Daily Herald.

In 1978 Bernard and Sylvia Holmes purchased the late-C18 farmhouse in a very dilapidated state. The Theobalds had dismantled and sold a number of barns on the estate situated between the house and the main road. Because of this the Holmes' obtained planning permission to erect two barns and a link building to the west. The C16 Welsh cruck barn near the house was bought at auction in 1987: it was dismantled and transported to Barnards Farm where it was sympathetically restored. The Fishers Barn, a seventeenth century Essex barn, was acquired from a professional barn restorer. When the Theobalds eventually wanted to dispose of the land in 1989 Bernard and Sylvia Holmes acquired the twenty-two hectares of land that now surrounds the house

A former smithy alongside the house has been restored and the front re-created to resemble a 1920s bicycle and motorcycle shop in Belvedere Kent formerly owned by Bernard Holmes' father's uncle. The façade of the shop is identical to the shop that existed.

Having established an air strip Bernard Holmes has planned and designed the layout, features, and symmetry of the garden from the air. He has had to take into consideration the close proximity of the railway line, the A128 road and integrate the electricity pylons into the design. Seen from the air the Euro Wood outlines the Euro symbol.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM & SETTING

Barnards Farm is sited off the A128 just one mile south of the A127 and is five miles from Brentwood. The site is surrounded by arable fields and bordered on the north by the Shoeburyness to London Fenchurch Street railway line and on the east the A128 road.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Barnards Farm is accessed directly from the A128 after passing under the railway bridge. Through the entrance gates the main gravelled driveway sweeps round to the house while from the main entrance a one-way road leads to a grassed parking area before continuing round the outside of the Barnards miniature railway station before re-joining the gravel drive and exit to the A128. Block pavers lead up to the parterre garden in front of the house.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

The core of Barnards Farm is a mid-C17 pair of back-to-back cottages with a milk parlour alongside. The current red brick and timber framed house, with red pantile roof, was modified in Georgian times as a vernacular farmhouse.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The gardens and woodland of Barnards Farm extend to twenty-two hectares. Creation of the gardens, developed from farmland, began in 1979 and is ongoing. Box hedged parterres filled with perennial flowers form the formal garden to the front of the house. There is extensive garaging, formerly cow barns, in front of the house. One barn was dismantled in Wales and brought to the site to form the tea rooms and other facilities. To one side of the driveway leading to the house is a raised bricked area planted with specimen trees, including large willows and copper beech. This area was inspired by the garden of Yves St Laurent in Marrakesh and the use of the deep blue International Klein Blue stones are used extensively here.

The garden behind the house is attractively laid out with herbaceous beds and plantings to suit all seasons. The large Bramley apple tree with seating around it is a feature of the garden. Behind the Forge Museum is a vegetable garden and this leads through to an unusual Japanese garden which can only be accessed by the stepping-stones while the shingle around the stones is raked to form a pattern. There is a coloured mosaic maze, a water feature, a sculpture, as well as a large feature of recycled electricity pylon insulators. Also near the house is a living wall inspired by the French gardener Jean Nouvel.

The Williams Pond has an island in the centre, home to many wildfowl, and there is a narrow bridge reaching from the island to the bank. Standing on a wooden jetty are statues of a man and a woman, entitled 'Mum and Dad,' looking across the water while further down the hill is a huge work called Angelo, three tepees and sculptures of cactuses and plants. There are eighty-five sculptures throughout the garden.

One of the main features of the garden is the wide serpentine leylandii hedge Avenue with its many recesses displaying sculptures or summerhouses: lines of poplars form a backdrop behind the hedged sides of the Avenue. The Avenue leads to the large lake and fountain across which is showcased a large sculpture, Thomas Heatherwick's Sitooterie. 'Sitooterie' is a Scottish term for a small building to 'sit oot' in. The structure is a cube, 2.4m in each dimension, punctured by over 5,000, 18mm square hollow aluminium hairs with tiny glazed ends that act as miniature windows. The staves form the structure and texture of the building and suspend the cube one metre above the ground. There is a raised grassy area behind the lake leading to the Sitooterie where steps lead up into the structure from where there is a magnificent, elevated, view over the water and along the Avenue. The lake was excavated after the formation of the Avenue with the spoil now forming the Belvedere mound. Behind the lake are arable fields.

To the right of the Sitooterie is the 2021 newly planted tree lined Talia-May Avenue leading to the magnificent Versailles planter. Sculptures are placed alongside the stream flowing from the large pond: eighty-five sculptures have been placed around the grounds, sculptured by many artists of several nationalities. These artists include Elizabeth Frink, Jean-Marie Fondacaro, Antony Gormley, Thomas Heatherwick, Nicolas Lavarenne, Bernard Holmes, Charmaine Cox and Monica Young. There are four bridges crossing the stream running through the estate.

The Belvedere Mound is adjacent to the grass runway for light aircraft and is covered in roses. A circular path, lined with rose bushes, leads to the top where the sculpture 'Analemma' sits, complete with a figure of eight loop showing the changing day lengths as the earth moves around the sun through the months of the year. The top of the Belvedere offers splendid views across the gardens and surrounding farmland and to the west of London.

The aircraft runway is parallel with the Avenue and from the Belvedere paths lead through dense wooded areas including the Euro wood. Over sixty thousand trees have been planted on the estate including many fine specimen trees. Barnards Farm is home to the National Malus Collection designated by Plant Heritage National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens. The RHS Hyde Hall collection was incorporated and now over 260 species of Malus have been planted in different areas of the parkland. A miniature 7¼ inch gauge railway runs around the grounds with a return trip of one and a half miles and was first opened in September 2010. The train stops at stations along the way: Burton Shaw, Belvedere, Sitooterie Halt, Angel Green.

The Christabella Charitable Trust was established in 1988 by a significant gift from its Settlor. The Trust has helped fund over 400 projects since its inception and its annual income is used to maintain the grounds and buildings of Barnards Farm, gifted to the Trust. The gardens are opened regularly to the public from April to September under the aegis of the National

Garden Scheme. Other garden and railway events occur throughout the year and are posted on Barnards website www.barnardsfarm.eu

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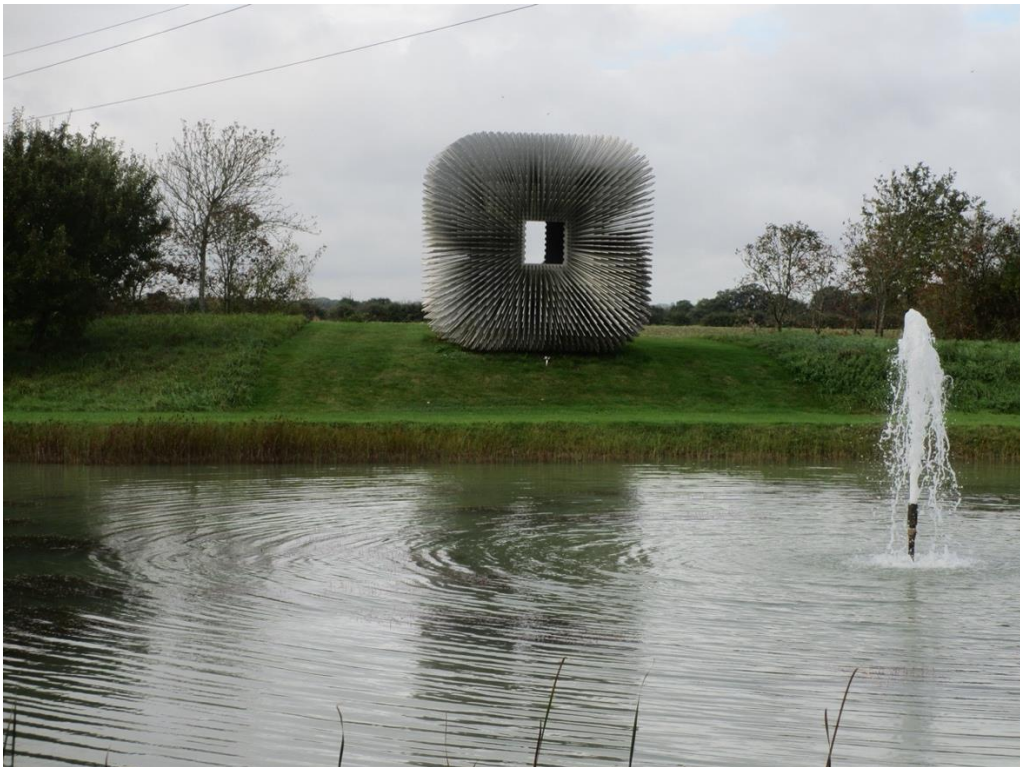
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www.barnardsfarm.eu

Researcher: Jill Plater



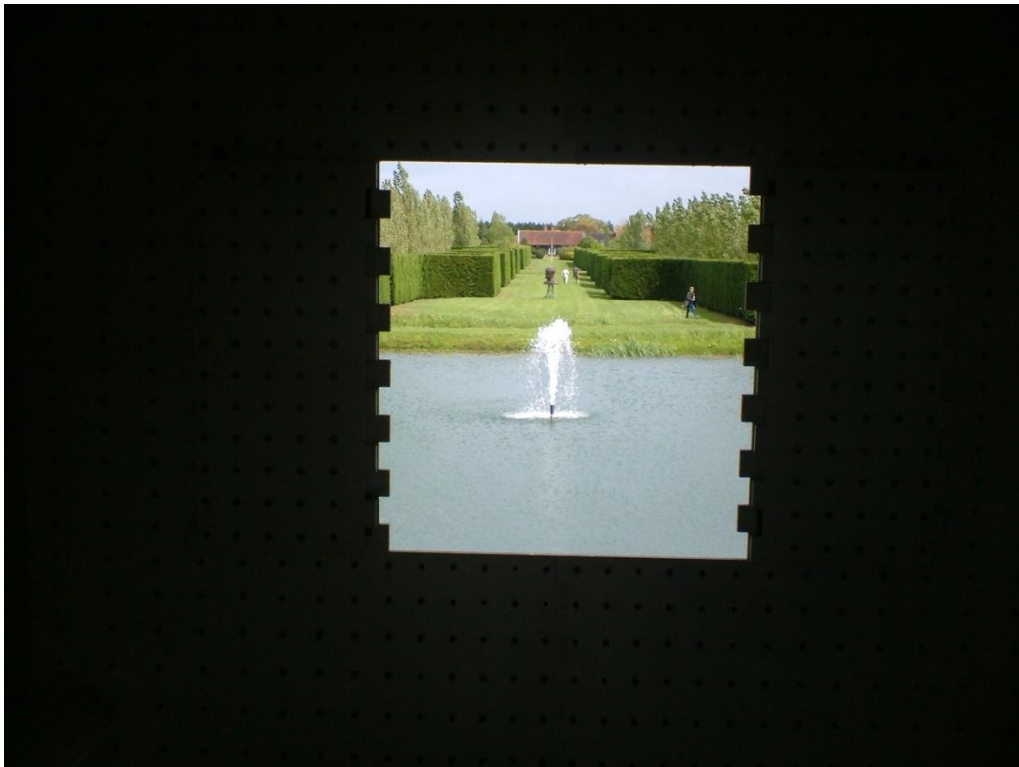
Barnards Farmhouse 2021 (Image Jill Plater)



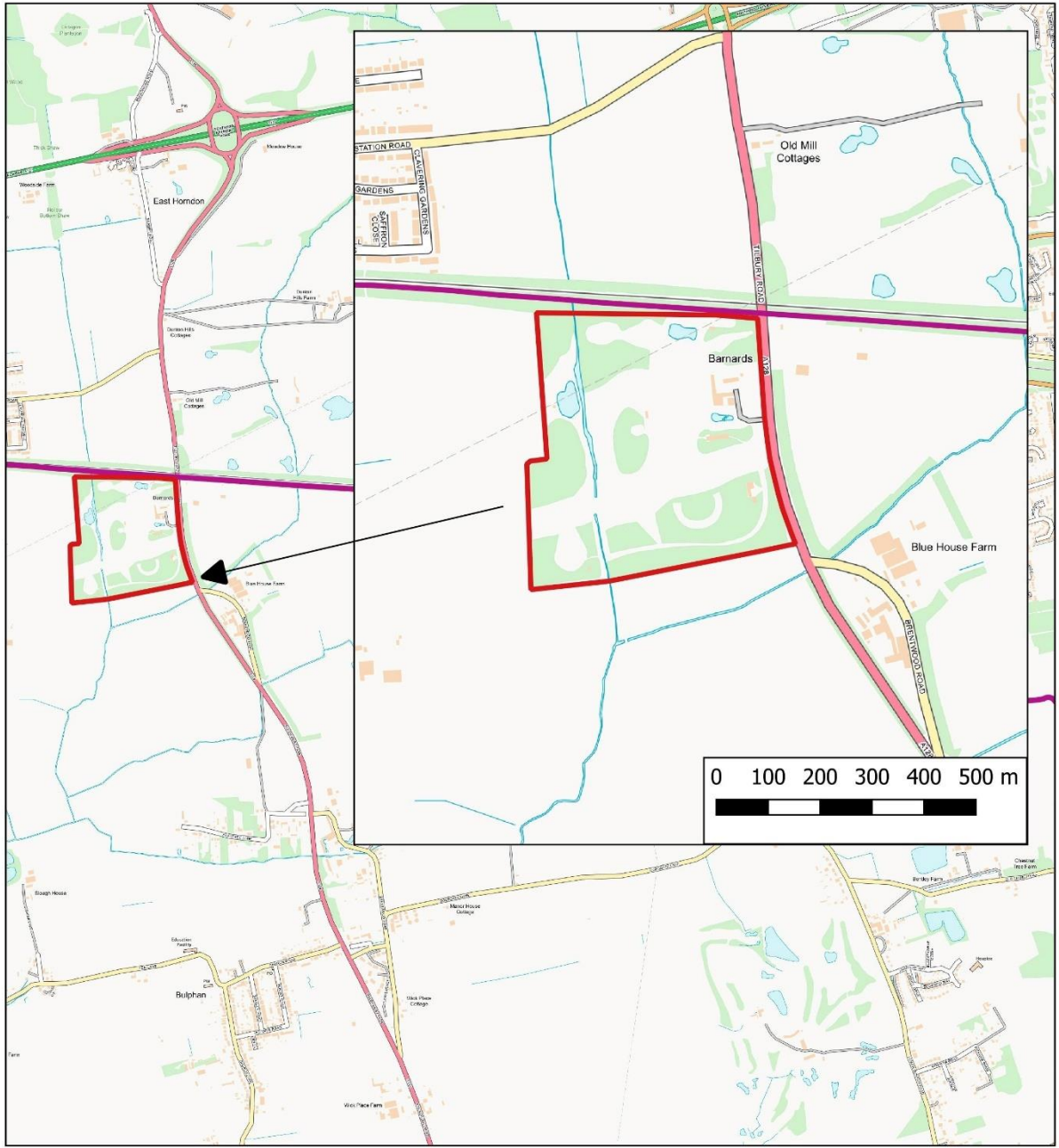
Sitooterie and pond 2021 (Image Jill Plater)



William's pond and sculptures 2021 (Image Jill Plater)



View from the sitooterie of the Avenue 2021 (Image Jill Plater)



Name	District	Parish
Barnards Farm	Thurrock	Bulphan

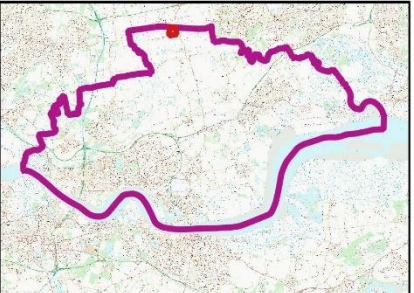


INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX

BOUNDARY CAPTURED AT: 1:10,000
 MAP CENTRED AT: TQ 63322 87755
 MAIN MAP SCALE 1:10,000

Site Boundary

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BATA ESTATE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE AND GARDENS, East Tilbury

TQ 67867 78685

Rare example of integrated residential estate and garden spaces in 1930s eastern European style created from 1933 to house the workers of the British Bata Shoe Company and echoing the layout of the company's primary location in Zlin, Czech Republic. Further amenities including a memorial park and a garden dedicated to the founder of the company have been added later.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The Bata estate of 242 hectares (600 acres), is situated in East Tilbury. Early-C19 Ordnance Survey maps show the village of East Tilbury as a rural community laid out in a linear style. The publisher Samuel Lewis (1831) described the village as having 264 inhabitants. *Whites Directory* (1848) recorded that the farmland surrounding the village consisted of 2112 acres, equally arable and pasture: the pastureland consisted of seventy acres of saltings.

In 1936 approximately six hundred acres of farmland belonging to a Mr William Wilson of St Clere's Hall, East Tilbury was sold to the British Bata Shoe Company Limited.

Bata's intention was to build 'a garden town, full of sunshine, water and green grass' (Bata, translated Kabeshova 2016 p140) which would bring the concept and design of the Zlin headquarters in the Czech Republic, to East Tilbury. Typical of urban planning in Bata towns (other Bata towns include Mohlin, Switzerland and Bataville, France) was the chequerboard layout where semi/detached dwellings were located at alternate ends of a garden securing maximum green space around each property. All houses were constructed with a private garden while the majority of roads were bordered by trees or hedges. The construction of driveways within front gardens was forbidden with garages provided at the end of each road. Buildings such as the Bata Hotel and Cinema had well maintained gardens although in the case of the Bata Hotel, much of the garden has given way to car parking.

The layout of the Bata Estate was also influenced by the Garden City movement created by Ebenezer Howard in Letchworth and Welwyn Garden City. Thomas Bata was introduced to the ideas of the urban planner Ebenezer Howard by the Czech architect Jan Kotera who was interested in creating an environment for Bata workers originally in Zlin which embraced some of Howard's ideas such as housing positioned among green space, surrounded by agricultural land (West 2020). These concepts were continued by the architects Vladimir Karfik and Frantisek Gahura following the death of Kotera. While this intention was initially implemented in Zlin, similar concepts were used in the creation of the site at East Tilbury. By constructing amenities such as shops, schools and leisure facilities, the Bata site allowed workers to share both their work and leisure time at the same site.

The first element of the Tilbury urban development was Bata Avenue, built in 1933. Bata Avenue consists of thirty-two semi-detached houses built in the chequerboard style allowing for the maximum amount of green space around each property. At the entrance of the road

were two hostels, one on either side of the road to accommodate unmarried male and female employees. Both industrial and urban structures, including Bata Avenue, were designed by the Czech architects Vladimir Karfik and Frantizek Gahura and are constructivist in their intention. Karfik collaborated with many influential twentieth century architects including Lloyd Wright and Le Corbusier.

The second phase of domestic building includes roads such as Queen Elizabeth II Avenue and King George VI Avenue where a further one hundred and four pairs of semi-detached houses were built. These buildings were still Czech in design but were not laid out in a chequerboard pattern but in a more conventional street style although they were widely spaced to perpetuate the impression of distance. The housing at the southern end of these roads was intended for managerial staff. These properties had extra features including a balcony and an integral garage. Located at the end of each road were areas containing established trees. Many houses also had a cherry tree planted in the back garden. Queen Elizabeth II and George VI Avenues are situated within Area 3 of the East Tilbury Conservation Area Boundary.

The third area of domestic development (1939-50s) includes roads such as Queen Mary Avenue and Gloucester Avenue. These were four-bedroom houses intended for factory managers. House building was permitted on this site despite the war. The building team consisted of English rather than Czech workers and thus the original building designs of Karfik and Gahura were adapted, creating houses with sloping rather than flat roofs. Further buildings were created in the 1960s along Princess Margaret Road. This area of development is spaciouly set out with generous front gardens. There are some remaining established trees.

The Thomas Bata Memorial Park was created in July 1955 and incorporated a war memorial dedicated to the eighty-one men of The British Bata Shoe Company, East Tilbury who lost their lives in the Second World War. A second, smaller garden was created in the same year to celebrate the founder of the company, Thomas Bata who had died in a plane crash in 1932. These spaces incorporate sculpture by the English sculptor Joseph Cawthra.

There is a new housing development called Bata Mews located on the edge of the Bata site. The fifty-one houses have been designed in a style sympathetic to the 1930s urban architecture promoted by Gahura and Karfik. Information about the new development provided by Thames Industrial Developments Ltd (Thurrock Community Forums, 2013) includes an intention to create a new public open space, incorporating the statue of Thomas Bata in its existing location. They suggest this site would be European in style. The intention for a community garden has been confirmed by members of the Bata Heritage Group at a recent open day (September 2021).

The Bata site is part of the East Tilbury Conservation Area which was designated in 1993. The factory complex and housing development form the Bata Conservation Area which is separated into five distinct areas revealing the different characteristics evident within the site which formed between 1933 and the 1960s.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM SETTING

Bata Designed Estate including residential houses and private gardens lies to the north of the Bata Shoe Factory, the exception being Bata Avenue which was built adjacent to the factory buildings. The residential estate occupies an area of approximately one hundred and thirty-five acres. The factory and urban area are all located on Princess Margaret Road.

Within the designed estate are two public gardens: The Memorial Park and the Heritage Garden. The Memorial Park is situated to the right of East Tilbury Village Hall (formerly known as the Bata Cinema) on a rectangular site which also includes East Tilbury Primary School. The site is bordered on two sides (Princess Margaret Avenue and Gloucester Avenue) by Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) hedges and mature Poplar (*Populus nigra*) trees. The rear of the site is abutted by East Tilbury Primary school. The right of the park is bordered by agricultural land which was previously the location of sports fields.

The Heritage Garden is a small green mid-C20 formal garden located within the British Bata Shoe Company site and is situated in the vicinity of Buildings 12 and 13. Much of the area is lawned and edged with mature Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) hedges and Poplar (*Populus nigra*) trees. The site is bordered on three sides by a variety of Bata factory buildings while the entrance is via a pathway located on Princess Margaret Road. The garden is located within Area 2 of the East Tilbury Conservation Area Boundary. The statue is situated in a small formal garden located on one of the diagonal pathways in front of Buildings 12 and 13.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The Bata Estate is accessible from Princess Margaret Road. Bata Avenue was constructed on the same side as the factory complex while the majority of the estate was approached either via Coronation Avenue or Gloucester Avenue. The principal entrance to the Memorial Park is located on Princess Margaret Road along a paved path. There is a narrow strip at the entrance to the park for vehicle access. From here the path leads directly to the war memorial. There is further access via a smaller path located within a garden to the front of the village hall on Gloucester Avenue. The park can also be accessed via a path leading from the nearby primary school. Access to the Heritage Garden is from two paved pathways located on Princess Margaret Road.

PRINCIPAL STRUCTURES

Construction of the Bata Hotel began in 1932. By 1936 building had been completed, the finished hotel consisting of five floors. The first floor comprised of a canteen capable of serving one thousand workers. There was also a restaurant and ballroom on the ground floor as well as a large convenience store. The upper floors included accommodation for Bata employees as well as visitors from overseas Bata factories. The top floor also included private accommodation for the Bata family. The ground floor of the site currently contains a supermarket, Post Office and other small shops. The remaining four floors comprise of flats. A public cinema was built in 1938. Although originally utilised for the showing of training films it quickly began showing commercial pictures. The building contained seating for 356 as well as a stage and dressing rooms allowing for the possibility of live performances. Although the site closed as a cinema in 1965, the building was subsequently used as a social club. The building is currently owned by Thurrock Council and used as a village hall.

The factory buildings were also designed by Vladimir Karfik and Frantisek Gahura. Their design intention was to create a factory footprint identical to all Bata factory sites so that new machinery could be installed in every location with minimal revisions. All factory buildings were built with large windows to maximise the amount of natural light, thus reducing the amount of electric lighting required. As with the urban site at East Tilbury, green space was also valued within the factory environs. Each department had their own garden which had to be well maintained. There were competitions for the best departmental garden (Bata Heritage Group, 2021). The Heritage Garden was located adjacent to the workers entrance, a reminder of the Bata creator as employees arrived for work each day.

The Memorial Garden contains a monument designed by Joseph Hermon Cawthra, consisting of a five-tiered marble arch with six stone steps leading up to it. In the centre of the construction is a bronze sculpture of an eternal flame. The arch rests on a marble plinth containing an inscription in carved lettering. Displayed on the sides of the monument are two bronze plaques bearing the names of the fallen.

The Heritage Garden contains a statue of Thomas Bata similarly created by the English sculptor Joseph Hermon Cawthra which was unveiled in 1955. The bronze statue sits on a stone pedestal.

GARDENS

The Memorial Garden is accessed by passing through a line of established Poplar (*Populus nigra*) trees beyond the car park and an established Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) hedge, a paved path leads the visitor to the war memorial. The area surrounding the memorial is mostly mown grass although further Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) hedges frame the memorial site in a circular shape. The park is divided into four rectangular sections by paved paths with the war memorial situated in the centre. There are three further established trees located in the divided sections of the garden which would appear to mirror previously planted flower beds. There is also access via a paved path situated alongside the village hall. The paved path to the right of the memorial is extant, leading to the outer perimeter to the park.

The Heritage Garden is accessed via two paved paths located on Princess Margaret Road. The paths are edged with established Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) hedges on the roadside. There is a further bonded gravel pathway which leads to the statue of Thomas Bata. At the rear of the garden are well established Poplar (*Populus nigra*) trees. There are further newer Poplar (*Populus nigra*) trees planted on the mown areas. To the left of the site is a small triangular area edged with established trees with a mown area in the centre. Beyond this is another small rectangular space laid out in a similar fashion. Although the garden is simple in the choice of plants used, the garden previously had flower beds lining the path leading to the statue of Tomas Bata. These contained Rose (*Rosa*) bushes and bedding plants.

Bata Avenue has retained much of the original intention of Karfik and Gahura. Poplar trees still stand sentry at the entrance to the road while a number of houses have retained their original privet hedges. While many of the individual gardens no longer exhibit the influence of the Bata ethos, there are many original Poplar trees hinting at the urban landscape of the 1950s. While some original greenspace such as the allotments and tennis courts have been lost to subsequent developments, there are also areas of well-established trees at the end of

roads such as Coronation Avenue which suggest the original urban landscape. While there has been some new building in the immediate vicinity, care has been given to mirroring the original site through sympathetic planting of Poplar trees and building style reminiscent of Karfik and Gahura. Although some of the building intentions, such as the cinema, have changed, the sense of community remains through the commitment of the Bata Heritage Group and their continued pursuit of raising the profile of this location.

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Researcher Emma Cannell



Aerial photograph showing the unveiling of the Bata War Memorial in 1955
Source: NEN Gallery 2009



Photograph of the Bata War Memorial, East Tilbury, 2021 (Image Emma Cannell)



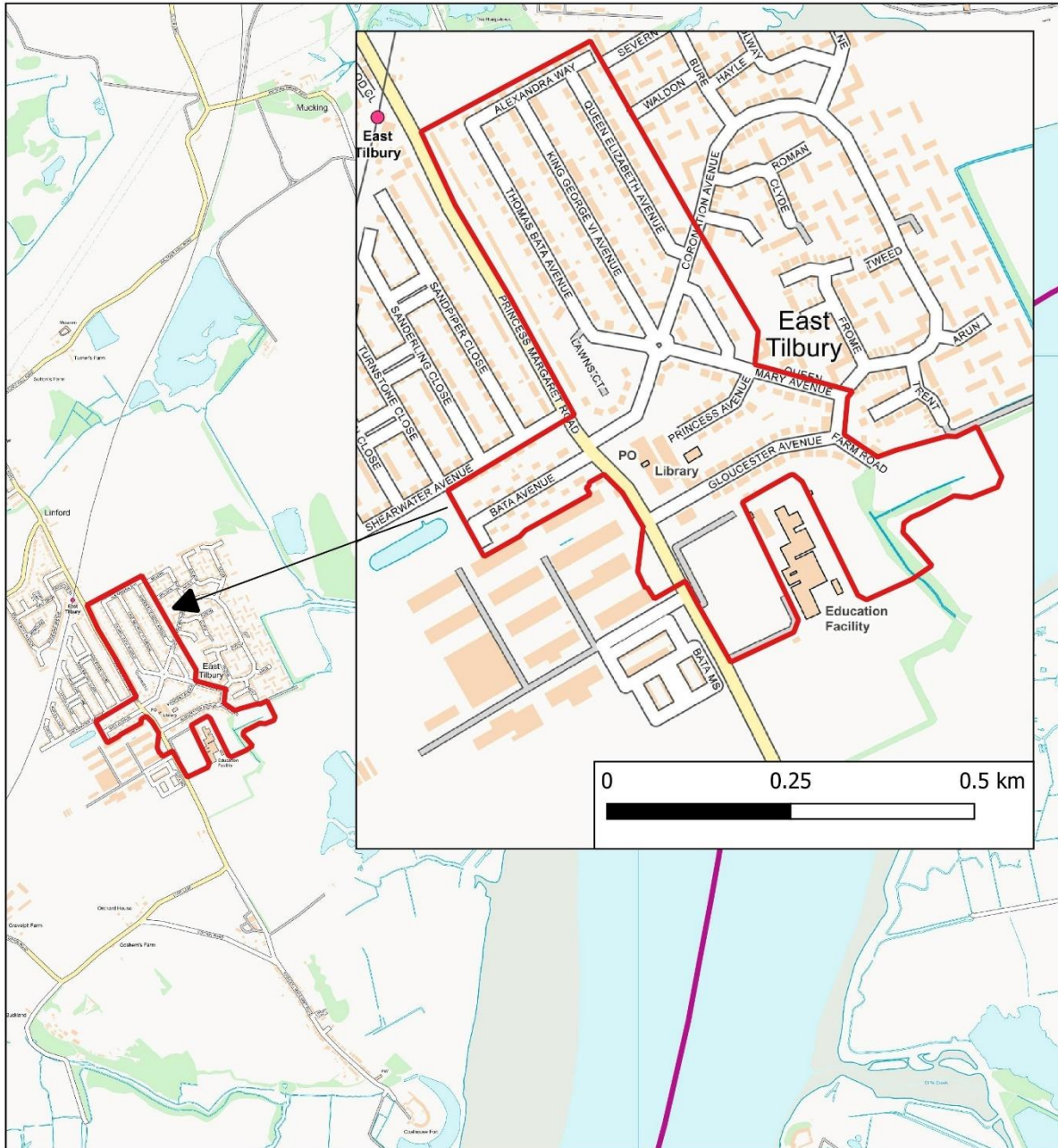
Photograph of the Statue of Tomas Bata in the Heritage Garden, East Tilbury 2021
(Image Emma Cannell)



Established planting adjacent to East Tilbury Village Hall 2021 (Image Emma Cannell)



Established Planting at the entrance of Bata Avenue 2021 (Image Emma Cannell)



Name	District	Parish
Bata Designed Estate	Thurrock	East Tilbury

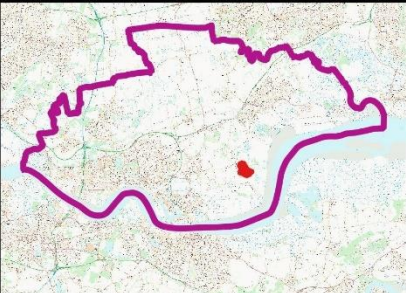


essex gardens trust
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Site Boundary

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BELHUS PARK, Aveley

TQ 57119 81643

Historic England LEN 1000738 (listed 1987) Grade II

*NOTE: Belhus is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden and is included on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE). **That entry is reproduced immediately below** as is the practice with District Inventories produced by the Essex Gardens Trust. However, during the research for this project substantially more information was recovered from work undertaken by the research team backed by Historic England. This has resulted in a new understanding of the site and its history and significance. Therefore a suggested revised entry has been added following the reproduction of the official entry.*

Remnant of a mid-C18 park by Lancelot Brown, with additions by Richard Woods, now (2000) a golf course and leisure centre.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The name Belhus derived from C14 tenants of the manor who, according to Morant (1768), came from Ramsden Bellhouse. The first of the family, Nicholas, settled at Aveley in c 1327 and by the early-C15 the Barretts had inherited by marriage a share of the Belhus estate. This they added to and consolidated until by the mid-C17 they had built up one of the largest estates in Essex. John Barrett, who died in 1526, rebuilt Belhus House towards the end of his life. In 1618 Sir Edward Barrett obtained a license to make a park and the elaborate parterre shown on an estate map of 1619 was probably of the same date. A bird's-eye view of the property in the late-C17/early-C18 shows much the same layout (Thurrock Museum). Following his succession to the estate, Thomas Barrett-Lennard, later Lord Dacre, made extensive improvements to both house and grounds between 1744 and 1777. Dacre's friend, the architect Sanderson Miller (1716-80) advised on the building while Lancelot Brown (1716-83) was commissioned to remodel the grounds between 1753 and 1763.

Correspondence between Dacre and Miller shows that the owner was short of money but Brown nevertheless created a modern park which was given minor additions by Richard Woods who was commissioned in 1770. The landscape they created is depicted on the Chapman and André County map of 1777. After Dacre's death the Belhus estate was inherited by his natural son, Thomas Lennard (created baronet in 1801) who was friendly with Humphry Repton (1752-1818). Although there is no evidence in the estate account books of payment to Repton, Belhus is illustrated in *Peacock's Polite Repository* for 1807, suggesting that Repton may have given some advice there. Comparison between Chapman and André (1777) and the OS Surveyor's drawings (1799) shows that the avenue flanking the main approach had disappeared by the later date, with just a length of it retained beyond the house. Thomas Lennard died in 1856 at the advanced age of ninety-five, a year after his own son had passed away. Belhus was thus inherited by Thomas's grandson, also Thomas, who lived at Belhus until his death in 1919. The third Baronet, Sir Thomas Barrett-Lennard, was sixty-six when he inherited Belhus and had long resided at Horsford Manor, the family estate in Norfolk. Although he spent time maintaining and repairing the house and estate, Sir Thomas did not live there, retaining Horsford as his principal seat and in 1923 he dispersed the contents of

the house. During the Second World War Belhus was damaged by bombing and by military occupation and it was demolished in 1957. Belhus Park was purchased by Essex County Council and developed as a recreation centre, with swimming pool, gym, and golf course focused on a new clubhouse built in the southern half of the park. The site remains (2000) in local authority ownership.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Belhus Park is situated on the eastern edge of London, between the settlements of Aveley and South Ockendon, beside junction 30 of the M25 which cuts through the park. The c 119ha site is bordered to the west by the houses of Aveley, to the east by South Ockendon, to the south by a small area of open land, and to the north by Belhus Woods Country Park. These boundaries give the site an urban-edge setting. The ground is generally level, with the M25 sunk into a cutting which runs north/south through the eastern half of the park, isolating the woodland areas from the open parkland.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Belhus Park is approached from Aveley along a late-C20 drive which leads directly to the golf clubhouse. There are no surviving drives or rides associated with the historic park.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

Belhus House was demolished in 1957. Following its development as a recreational park in the mid-C20, a clubhouse known as the Capability Brown and a swimming pool were erected c 200m to the south-east of the house site.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The gardens and pleasure grounds associated with Belhus House removed to make way for the recreational facilities, leaving only the unmanaged remains of Lancelot Brown's Shrubbery running north/south along the western boundary of the park, c 600m to the west of the clubhouse and c 500m to the west of the site of Belhus House.

In the mid-C17 Belhus was surrounded by elaborate enclosed formal gardens which included a wilderness, rock garden, and palisado garden (engraving, ERO), a layout which survived until the early part of the C18. Following a period of neglect, the grounds were brought up to date by Lancelot Brown for Lord Dacre from 1753 onwards, when The Shrubbery was planted.

PARK

The park at Belhus is retained under grass, much of it managed for a variety of sporting uses. The central section is laid out as a golf course and contains bunkers defined by strips of late -C20 shrub and tree planting. Within this area there are two mounds which survive from the C18 landscape scheme (Chapman and Andre, 1777). In the southern part of the site is a collection of late-C20 buildings associated with the sports and leisure complex. A scatter of mature park trees survive in the open parts of the park, as do the woodlands known as Ash Plantation, Rookery Wood, and Oak Wood in the north-east quarter, although these have been isolated by the building of the M25. Within these woods lie the remains of the elongated Long Pond, the north-west tip of which now (2000) stands alone in the main body of the park.

Although Lord Dacre and Brown had plans for a piece of water, these proved too expensive and it was left to Richard Woods who was commissioned in 1770 to create the more modest Long Pond by adapting an existing canal. Just to the west of the northern tip of the Long Pond, a mid to late-C18 stench pipe (listed grade II) stands on the northern boundary of the park. It comprises a tall, octagonal, Tudor-style chimney of red brick with black brick dressings, moulded at the top and bottom in an elaborate pattern to act as an eyecatcher from across the park. Just beyond the north wall of the kitchen garden, in the north-east corner of the park, stands the well of the mid-C18 icehouse, excavated in 1979.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The walls of the kitchen garden (listed grade II) survive in the middle of the eastern boundary of the site, c 500m to the north-east of the clubhouse (outside the area here registered). During the C20 the area was mostly developed for housing and, apart from a strip along the western edge associated with the gardener's cottage, has thus been lost to the historic landscape. In 1744 the walled garden south of the House was demolished and a new one built in the present position as part of the improvements undertaken by Lord Dacre, Sanderson Miller, and Lancelot Brown.

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Engraving of the gardens in the mid-C17 (D/DL T1/779A), (Essex Record Office) Bird's-eye view of Belhus in the late-C17/early-C18 (Thurrock Museum), Engraving from *Peacock's Polite Repository* (1807) [reproduced in Cowell and Green 2000], Engraving by W Wallis from drawing by J P Neale, 1819 (Thurrock Museum), Engraving by J C Armytage from drawing by W Bartlett, 1835 (Thurrock Museum)

Description written: January 2001 Amended: April 2001 Register Inspector: EMP Edited: September 2001

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BELHUS PARK, Aveley

TQ 57119 81643

NOTE: Belhus is a Grade II Park and Garden and is included on the Historic England National Listing (NHLE). That entry is reproduced above. During the research for this project substantially more information was recovered for the site from work undertaken by the research team backed by Historic England. This has resulted in a new understanding of the site and its history and significance. A suggested revised entry is produced below.

Originally a Tudor Park and mansion with formal gardens surrounding, the site was landscaped in the mid-C18 park by Lancelot Brown, with later C18 additions by Richard Woods. Now (2021) a golf course and leisure centre of c119 hectares. Following community-led research a Historic England survey in 2021 confirmed that significant elements of Tudor and Jacobean garden design survive below ground.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The name Belhus derived from C14 tenants of the manor who, according to Morant (1768), came from Ramsden Bellhouse. The first of the family, Nicholas, settled at Aveley in c 1327 and by the early-C15 the Barretts had inherited by marriage a share of the Belhus estate. This they added to and consolidated until by the mid-C17 they had built up one of the largest estates in Essex. John Barrett, who died in 1526, rebuilt Belhus House towards the end of his life. The 1586 survey map of the Manor of Bellhouse (Northamptonshire Archives) shows the house, gardens and estate in significant detail, including a walled northern garden of six acres, divided into six rectangular sections, smaller gardens close to the mansion and a walled, one-acre western garden laid out in four quadrants.

In 1618 Sir Edward Barrett obtained a license to make a park. A 1619 estate map (Essex Record Office) shows that the earlier northern garden layout had been replaced by an elaborate parterre, with two canal-like water features added to its northern and western sides. The original layout of the western garden had been replaced by a garden dominated by a central, circular water feature, with paths dividing the garden into four quadrants. A bird's-eye view of the property in the late-C17/early-C18 depicts much the same layout (Thurrock Museum).

Following his succession to the estate, Thomas Barrett-Lennard, later Lord Dacre, made extensive improvements to both house and grounds between 1744 and 1777. Dacre's friend, the architect Sanderson Miller (1716-80) advised on the building while Lancelot Brown (1716-83) was commissioned to remodel the grounds between 1753 and 1763. Correspondence between Dacre and Miller indicate that the owner was short of money but Brown nevertheless created a fashionable park in the style of the period, which was given minor additions by Richard Woods who was commissioned in 1770. The landscape they created is depicted on the Chapman and André county map of 1777.

After Dacre's death the Belhus estate was inherited by his natural son, Thomas Lennard (created baronet in 1801) who was friendly with Humphry Repton (1752-1818). Although there is no evidence in the estate account books of payment to Repton, Belhus is illustrated in *Peacock's Polite Repository* for 1807, suggesting that Repton may have given some advice

there. Comparison between Chapman and André (1777) and the OS Surveyor's drawings (1799) demonstrate that the avenue flanking the main approach had disappeared by the later date, with just a length of it retained beyond the house.

Thomas Lennard died in 1856 at the advanced age of ninety-five, a year after his own son had passed away. Belhus was thus inherited by Thomas's grandson, also Thomas, who lived at Belhus until his death in 1919. The third Baronet, Sir Thomas Barrett-Lennard, was sixty-six when he inherited Belhus and had long resided at Horsford Manor, the family estate in Norfolk. Although he spent time maintaining and repairing the house and estate, Sir Thomas did not live there, retaining Horsford as his principal seat and in 1923 he dispersed the contents of the house. During the Second World War Belhus was damaged by bombing and by military occupation and it was demolished in 1957. Belhus Park was purchased by Essex County Council and developed as a recreation centre, with swimming pool, gym, and golf course focused on a new clubhouse built in the southern half of the park. The site remains (2021) largely in local authority ownership.

In 2020, following initial research by volunteers from a 'Land of the Fanns' historic designed landscape project ('Know It, Love It') and the discovery of the outline of a circular western garden feature depicted in the 1619 estate map, Historic England conducted a survey of part of the site using GPR and UAV. The results confirmed 'significant elements of the original garden design beneath the golf course fairways'. The survival was also noted of 'both the paths and walls related to the water garden, together with anomalies associated with the original manor house, gardens and a possible gate house'. The 2021 Historic England report also noted that 'extending the survey to the north may identify below-ground elements of the gardens.'

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Belhus Park is situated on the eastern edge of London, between the settlements of Aveley and South Ockendon, beside junction 30 of the M25 which cuts through the park. The c 119ha site is bordered to the west by the houses of Aveley, to the east by South Ockendon, to the south by Aveley Football Club and a small area of open land, and to the north by Belhus Woods Country Park. These boundaries give the site an urban-edge setting. The ground is generally level, with the M25 sunk into a cutting which runs north/south through the eastern half of the park, isolating the woodland areas from the open parkland.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Belhus Park is approached from Aveley along a late-C20 drive which leads directly to the golf clubhouse and from South Ockendon via Gatehope Drive across a footbridge over the M25. There are no surviving drives or rides associated with the historic park.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

Belhus House was demolished in 1957. Following its development as a recreational park in the mid-C20, a clubhouse known as the Capability Brown and a swimming pool were erected

c 200m to the south-east of the house site. The foundations of the house are visible on the golf course.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The gardens and pleasure grounds associated with Belhus House were covered over or removed from the mid-C18 as part of the remodelling of the grounds and later to make way for the modern recreational facilities. Of the Lancelot Brown features, the only survivor is the unmanaged remains of Lancelot Brown's Shrubbery running north/south along the western boundary of the park, c 600m to the west of the clubhouse and c 500m to the west of the site of Belhus House.

In the mid-C16 Belhus was surrounded by elaborate enclosed formal gardens and by the mid-C17 these included which included a wilderness, rock garden, and palisado garden (writ, ERO), a layout which survived until the early part of the C18. Following a period of neglect, the grounds were brought up to date by Lancelot Brown for Lord Dacre from 1753 onwards, when The Shrubbery was planted. Lord Dacre also noted the removal of 'the Old Gardens that surrounded the House which, handsome in their own fashion, with their high walls entirely shut out the Prospect'.

PARK

The park at Belhus is retained under grass, much of it managed for a variety of sporting and recreational uses. The central section is laid out as a golf course and contains bunkers defined by strips of late-C20 shrub and tree planting. Within this area there are two mounds which survive from the C18 landscape scheme (Chapman and André, 1777). In the southern part of the site is a collection of late-C20 buildings associated with the sports and leisure complex. A scatter of mature park trees survive in the open parts of the park and 3 veteran sweet chestnut trees stand in a private garden in Gatehope Drive to the east. The woodlands known as Ash Plantation, Rookery Wood, and Oak Wood also survive in the north-east quarter, although these have been isolated by the building of the M25. Within these woods lie the remains of the elongated Long Pond, the north-west tip of which now (2021) stands alone in the main body of the park. Although Lord Dacre and Brown had plans for a piece of water, these proved too expensive and it was left to Richard Woods, who was commissioned in 1770, to create the more modest Long Pond by adapting an existing canal. Just to the west of the northern tip of the Long Pond, a mid-C19 stench pipe (listed grade II) stands on the northern boundary of the park (ERO). It comprises a tall, octagonal, Tudor-style chimney of red brick with black brick dressings, moulded at the top and bottom in an elaborate pattern to act as an eyecatcher from across the park.

Just beyond the north wall of the kitchen garden, in the north-east corner of the park, stands the well of the mid-C18 icehouse (listed Grade II), excavated in 1979.

KITCHEN GARDEN

In 1744 the walled garden south of the House was demolished and a new one built in the present position as part of the improvements undertaken by Lord Dacre, Sanderson Miller, and Lancelot Brown.

The walls of the kitchen garden (listed Grade II) survive in the middle of the eastern boundary of the site, c 500m to the north-east of the clubhouse (outside the registered area). During

the C20 the area was mostly developed for housing and, apart from a strip along the western edge associated with the gardener's cottage, has thus been lost to the historic landscape.

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1819 Engraving by W Wallis from drawing by J P Neale, (Thurrock Museum),

1835 Engraving by J C Armytage from drawing by W Bartlett, (Thurrock Museum)

Researcher: Phil Lobley



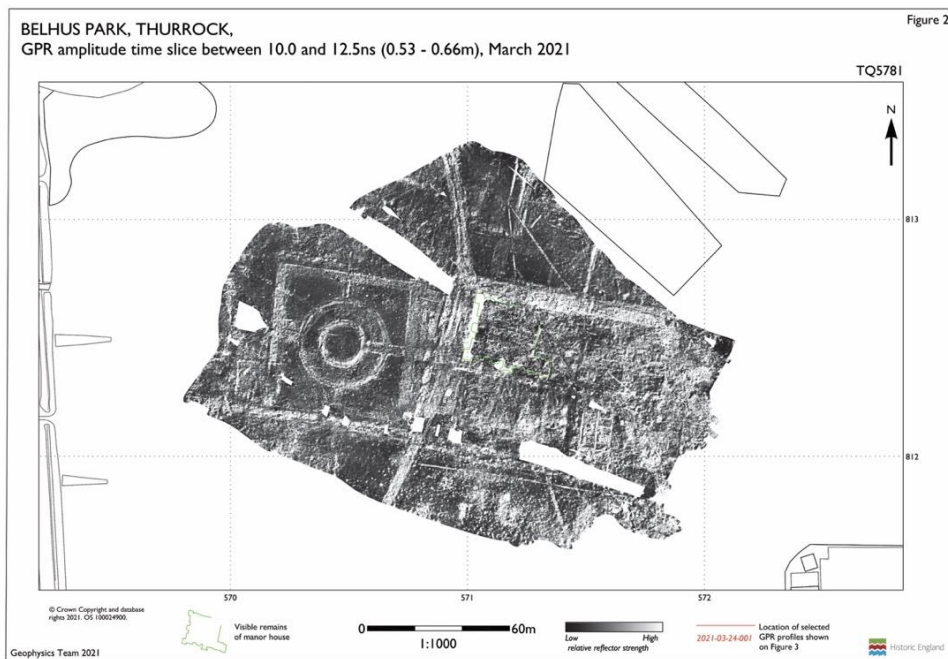
Bellhouse Manor c1586 (part Map 1254)
 (Reproduced by courtesy of Northamptonshire Record Office)



Manor of Belhouse 1619 (part D/DL P1A)
 (Reproduced by courtesy of Essex Record Office)



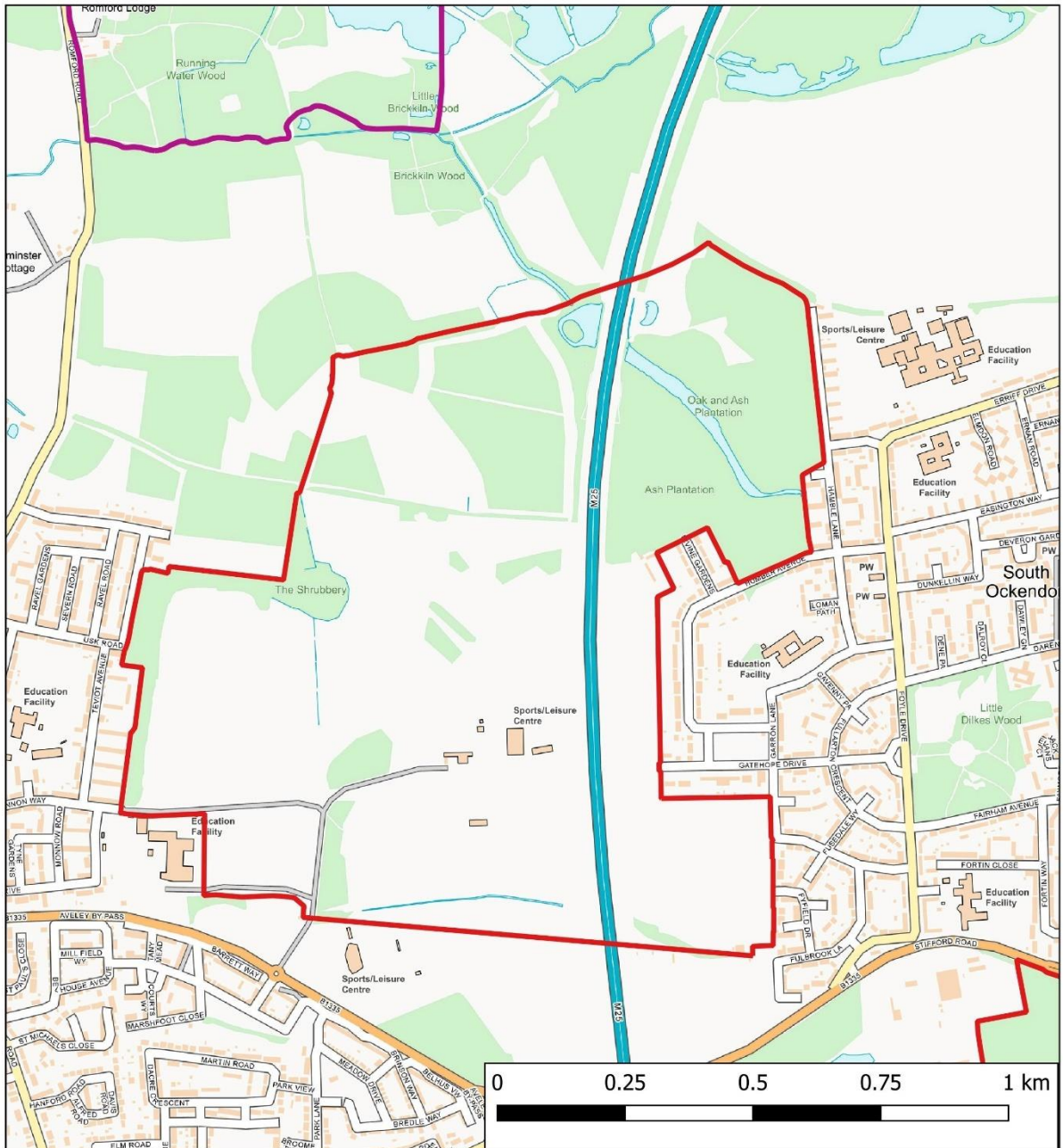
Belhus House and Park c1710
 (Reproduced by courtesy of Thurrock Museum)



Belhus Park, Thurrock (western garden and mansion site)
 GPR amplitude slice (0.53-0.66m)
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1895 (2nd edition) published 1897 Ordnance Survey map 25" to 1 mile Essex LXXXIII.2.



Name	District	Parish
Belhus Park and Estate	Thurrock	Aveley



INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX

BOUNDARY CAPTURED AT: 1:10,000
 MAP CENTRED AT: TQ 57259 81360
 MAIN MAP SCALE 1:10,000

Site Boundary

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BUDDY'S GARDEN (CANBERRA SQUARE GARDEN), TILBURY

TQ 641 761

Urban community garden of c 0.2 hectares created during 1960s re-development of the area originally known as Canberra Square Garden. Now renamed after a popular local figure who tended it for many years.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Residential areas in Tilbury suffered considerable damage during the second world war. (SM, 2016) Subsequent rebuilding altered the layout of the roads in some cases. Canberra Square appears to have originated in a re-development c1964. The square is not present on the 1955 1:10,560 scale OS map, but does appear on the 1972 1:10,000 scale OS map. As part of the redevelopment, the central area within the square was laid out as a green space with grass, flower beds and trees.

During the 1990s and 2000s, Buddy Goyette gave many hours to maintaining the gardens in Canberra Square and the result was greatly appreciated by local residents. After Buddy died in 2012, the garden was renamed 'Buddy's Garden' in his memory. A memorial plaque was placed in the garden and a green name sign was erected over the entrance.

Although small in scale, this represents the type of community garden embedded within post-war urban development that can be often overlooked despite being of considerable importance to the local community. The more recent dedication to Buddy Goyette is an important acknowledgement of the contribution of a locally well-known figure.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Canberra Square Garden is in an urban setting north of Sydney Road, close to Civic Square in Tilbury. The area is flat and is located in former marshland close to the River Thames.

The garden occupies a rectangular shaped space surrounded on three sides by Canberra Square and on the south side by Sydney Road. It is slightly over 0.2 hectares.

The main entrance is at the northern end of the garden, currently (June 2021) closed and padlocked. The garden is mainly grass with a small circular flower bed in the centre with small roughly triangular beds in each corner and a few relatively mature trees. The gardens were well maintained prior to the Covid lockdown of 2021.

Apart from maintenance and replanting, the garden appears to be broadly as designed in the 1960s.

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Researcher: John Matthews



Entrance to Buddy's Garden 2021 (Image John Matthews)

E



Memorial Plaque to Buddy Goyette c2000s (Reproduced by courtesy of Jack Doodles)



Buddy Goyette c2000s (Reproduced by courtesy of Jack Doodes)



Buddy's Garden c2000s (Reproduced by courtesy of Jack Doodes)



Name	District	Parish
Buddy's Garden	Thurrock	Tilbury



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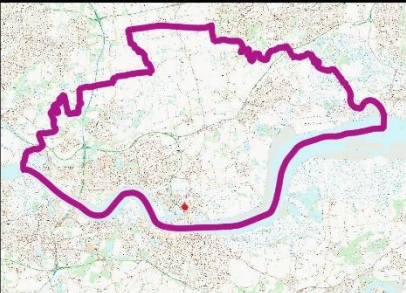
BOUNDARY CAPTURED AT: 1:10,000

MAP CENTRED AT: TQ 64136 76188

MAIN MAP SCALE 1:10,000

Site Boundary

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DILKES PARK, South Ockendon

TQ 580 810

Significant example of a mid-20C, high quality urban park (6.31 hectares) created as an integral part of the overall design of the surrounding Aveley Estate planned by the London County Council, constructed between 1958-1960 and retaining some original features. Sited on the footprint of an earlier medieval woodland it is now protected as a Queen Elizabeth II Field in Trust (2013).

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Dilkes Park has its historic origins as a wooded area, known as The Great Dilkes Wood and Little Dilkes Wood, shown on an estate map of 1619, part of the Belhus estate owned by the Barrett-Lennard family during the seventeenth century. The footprint of both woods is still visible within modern boundaries, although in the north-west corner of the park part of Little Dilkes Wood has been cleared for a residential care home. The naming of the park provides evidence relating to the long heritage of the site as a medieval woodland and part of the historic Belhus Park Estate.

The estate was sold in 1923 and, following World War II, London County Council developed 'The Aveley Estate' (later known as the Belhus Estate) to provide much needed council housing during the 1950s. Aerial photographs from 1929 and 1953 illustrate how the area had begun to change from a previously rural region into an urban estate.

Thurrock Urban District Council took on the responsibility of providing a park, following government guidelines to provide this innovative, council housing estate with good leisure facilities, commencing construction on 10th June 1958. Great Dilkes Wood was partially cleared to make a family friendly park of 6.31 hectares, which included a paddling pool, rose beds, a shelter, tennis courts, play equipment, an ornamental pond, and public toilets. Some original mature trees remained, amongst which, benches were positioned for visitors to rest and admire their surroundings. In the south-west corner, where Fairham Avenue meets Foyle Drive, there was a putting green. The park was enclosed within a fence on three sides leaving Little Dilkes Wood, a small section of ancient woodland, on the fourth side. Wrought iron, double and two single gates, with brick piers and walls of decorative brick work, provided the main entrance in Foyle Drive, as well as other entrances in Darent Lane and Fairham Avenue.

The park was opened on 1st April 1960. A park keeper was on duty during the open hours and he would ring a handbell fifteen minutes before closing time to warn park users of imminent closure as the park was locked overnight. Shortly after the park was opened to the public, the shelter was removed as vandals had taken the lead from the roof, leaving the structure unsafe. An avenue flanked with flower beds, led from the main entrance to an arrangement of rose beds, which were planned as a significant, original, central feature, comprising of an inner circular rose bed, with four outer rose beds, arranged in a ring around the centre circle. Benches were positioned outside each of the outer beds, facing towards the centre bed.

By the 1990s the former glory of the park had diminished and the rose beds were cleared and grassed over, remaining this way until 2015 when the jumping blocks were installed to re-establish the central feature.

The pond was originally a natural pond fed from the water table and is evidential of the local geology. In summer it is almost empty, and it is not at its fullest until late-winter. When the park was created it was cleared and flower beds planted, surrounded by a fence. In 2001 the flower beds were removed. Around the same time the pond was transformed into a dipping pond for local children. This was designed and built by The Grass Roof Company. In 2008 Thames Chase were asked to assist in dredging the pond, due to silting and fly-tipping, and it remained as a dipping pond.

At an unknown date the Council decided to close the public toilets and demolish the building (the foundations of the building currently remain). The outer fence was also removed. In 1989, as a result of a report on unsafe play equipment by Esther Rantzen on the BBC Television 'That's Life!' programme, Thurrock Council assessed all of the play equipment in the borough, and made many changes.

The paddling pool which was part of the original park design was deemed unfit for use in the 1990s by Thurrock Council and was filled in with earth, level with the path, and grassed over with two modern benches facing it. The original shape of the pool had demonstrated a new idea in design for the time. Rather than a standard rectangle or oval, it was more like an extended kidney bean shape. It was positioned just to the side of a main path with trees surrounding it. The paddling pool was originally 41m in length, but its full size can no longer be seen, as the path on the far side is no longer visible. The area was said to be 476.310m². An unsuccessful attempt was made to convert the area into flower beds.

A new shallower pool in an enclosure was built, opposite the old pool. This was later filled with sand and is no longer in use. The tennis court was changed into a basketball court, with three shelters around it, and a lot of new equipment was introduced to replace the old that had been removed, and around the same time, the putting green was also removed.

Since 1998 all capital funding has come from Veolia ES Cleanaway Mardyke Trust (Landfill Communities Fund). Thurrock Play Network had a container installed in the park in 2007, and were regularly entertaining children after school. In 2008, the park was used as a case study in the National Design Guide, "Design for Play" highlighting that new play equipment was located at low density amidst existing mature trees. The lack of boundary fencing allowed the play areas to blend into the surrounding parkland making it more inviting to explore.

An outdoor gymnasium was installed in 2010 and hand carved 'Welcome' signs were put up by four of the entrance gates in 2012. New play equipment, sponsored by local business, was installed to replace worn out items during the winter of 2013/14, but within a year, an act of vandalism saw most of this burnt down. The shelters around the basketball court were removed during 2018 due to their misuse. The perimeter fence was reinstated in 2019 to prevent travellers parking caravans in the park. In addition, solar lighting was installed at the major junctions of the paths in the park for safety.

The change of use over the years evidences society's different attitudes towards parks, the environment, education and play. It remains an important recreational space widely used by the local community to enjoy leisure activities.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM & SETTING

Dilkes park is situated in a central position on the housing estate (which lies between the settlements of Aveley and South Ockendon villages), close to the central shopping area, Derwent Parade. It is bordered by three roads with housing facing the park: Foyle Drive to the west, Fairham Avenue to the south, Darenth Lane to the north and by the small section of ancient woodland known as Little Dilkes Wood to the east. The path that historically separated Little Dilkes Wood from Great Dilkes Wood still exists and is used as a thoroughfare across the park. The park occupies roughly the same footprint of the former Great Dilkes Wood. Metre-high, bow-topped, dark green, metal railings enclose the park on the three sides facing the surrounding roads. Little Dilkes Wood is separated from housing by 2 metre high, PVC coated, chain-linked fencing, metal fencing and partly by a brick wall.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The park can be approached from Aveley on the B1335 (Stifford Road) and Foyle Drive and from Ockendon village via South Road (B186) and (B1335) Stifford Road. There are seven entrances in total. The main vehicular and pedestrian entrance are in Foyle Drive with two pedestrian entrances in Darenth Lane and two pedestrian entrances in Fairham Avenue. There are two more pathways, on the east side of the park, leading through Little Dilkes Wood to two further gates. The remains of path curb stones are evidential of a former entrance (now fenced) in Fairham Avenue and of the pathway originally leading to the central, circular rose-bed feature. The current entrances allow access to the park at all times. Four of the pedestrian entrances are marked by hand-carved wooden 'Welcome' signs.

PARK

Areas of grass are interspersed with mature trees, mainly oak, horse chestnut, sweet chestnut and sycamore. The gates and the brick pillars are a significant and typical example of mid-C20 park design and construction providing a grand, main entrance and local landmark. The gates stand where Foyle Drive meets Gatehope Drive which in turn leads to the gates of Belhus Park, the former historic estate landscaped by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The visual attractiveness of the red textured brick, the curved line of the walls, the additional diamond shaped brick decoration, the solid gate piers and the ornamental wrought iron work provide a positive sense of place and stature in this urban parkland. Two veteran oak trees, evidential of the former wood being part of the Belhus historic estate, stand on either side of the gates adding to their distinction.

A wide pathway leads from the main gates to the circular feature of wooden jumping blocks, originally the central feature rose-beds, in the centre of Dilkes Park, where the north/south and east/west paths meet. The existing feature, installed in 2015, is an arrangement of twenty-seven oak jumping blocks of different heights, forming a coil shape. It has been

suggested (oral testimony of park engineers) that the timber originally formed part of a pier or wharf, possibly in Grays, Essex, acquired from Ashwell Timber and Reclamation Yard.

The dipping pond, originally the natural pond, is situated to the east of the main N-S path, in the northern half of the park. It is enclosed within circular, metre-high, bow-topped, metal railings. There are three platforms of different heights due to the change in water levels throughout the seasons. Overgrowth of bushes at the back have caused the retaining wall to collapse, and the wood of the platforms is rotten and broken. A narrow granite half circle, level with the ground around the front of the pond, is almost overgrown by grass, along with a stepping-stone path from the gate to the pond. Due to its dangerous condition the Council have chained the gate closed to stop access.

Situated on the east side of the main north/south path through Dilkes Park, elements of the paddling pool's original structure survive. Most of the original, outer pathway around the paddling pool can still be seen, along with the bridge that divided the pool into two sections. The paddling pool was built on a slope, and on the northern side of the bridge, the highest point, there are steps going down to platforms, which the children would use to get in and out of the pool. The path around the former paddling pool is built of concrete and the bridge is a concrete walkway, with stone facings. Large stones are just visible at one end and used as a feature. An alternative sand/water-play feature was installed to the west of the former paddling pool, enclosed by a metre high, bow-topped, metal railings but this has fallen into disrepair.

In the north-east of the park, varied play equipment has been located at a low density in between existing mature trees providing a natural, informal quality which invites further exploration. Footpaths meander through the play space. A community noticeboard is located nearby the play equipment. In the north-west of the park, a separate area with all-weather ball courts caters for teenagers.

There is an active forum in the area and Friends of Dilkes Park are responsible for fundraising and event organising.

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www.francisfrith.com

Researcher: Heather Hunter



1960 View from the main entrance of Dilkes Park (Reproduced by courtesy of Sonia Dewell)



1960 Dilkes Park The natural pond (Reproduced by courtesy of Sonia Dewell)



1960s Children's Paddling Pool (edited) Original (Reproduced by courtesy of Sonia Dewell)



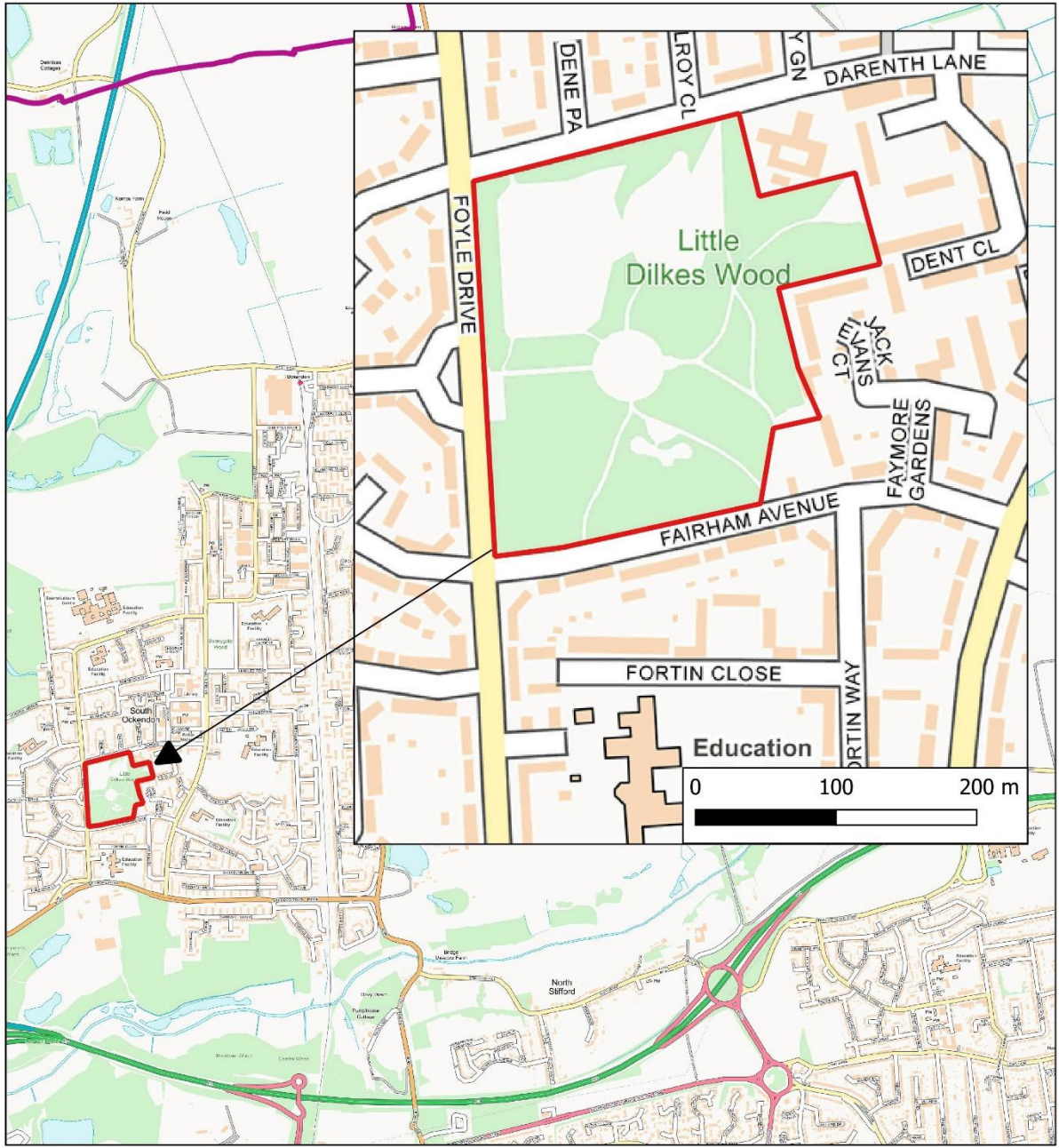
1960 Central Feature Rose Beds (Reproduced by courtesy of Sonia Dewell)



Main entrance gates to Dilkes Park c2020 Image Heather Hunter



Central feature Jumping Blocks 2020 (Image Heather Hunter)



Name	District	Parish
Dilkes Park	Thurrock	South Ockendon



INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX

BOUNDARY CAPTURED AT: 1:10,000
 MAP CENTRED AT: TQ 58189 81094
 MAIN MAP SCALE 1:10,000

Site Boundary

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FORD PLACE, (South Ockendon) Stifford

TQ 59469 80714

Remains of a Grade II listed derelict, C17 manor house with C18 additions (formerly grade I, before destruction by fire) with associated Grade II listed C16/C17 garden walls with an attached Gardener's Cottage, formerly stables. Two features of the former, designed landscape, 'The Long Walk' and Pond are currently incorporated into the Mardyke Valley Golf Course which surrounds the listed buildings.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Ford Place was formerly known as Hobbes at Ford perhaps referring to the ford across the River Mardyke which flowed through the valley below the historic estate. The original brick building was erected around 1590 and was part of the Manor of South Ockendon Hall owned by the Harlestones. The garden walls forming the large walled garden are considered to have been built in C16/C17.

James Silverlocke of Stifford Hall, a leading and active member of Stifford society who became Lord of the Manor, built and occupied a new manor house on the site. In 1655 his son, Richard Silverlocke altered and extended the original H-shaped plan in the Artisan Mannerist Style. The house contained fine interiors, notably a late-C17 plaster ceiling, and mid-C17 classical work on the east elevation with Dutch gables bearing ornamental panels of brick with date 1655, a coat of arms and the initials 'R.S.'. According to Rev. W. Palin, rector of Stifford Church and renowned author, the east side, formerly the front, facing the then London Road, was approached by a long and handsome avenue. The estate was inherited by Richard's son, James, who sold the property with manorial rights in 1693 to Nathaniel Grantham. Kenwick Grantham inherited the estate on the death of his father, Nathaniel in 1708. As owner and lessee, he controlled most of the parish but in 1714, in financial difficulties, he mortgaged his Stifford estate to Rebecca Shish, and in 1721 executed a second mortgage to John Hopkins to enable him to repay debts which he had incurred as county treasurer. He died soon after, and his estate was for some years disputed between Caleb Grantham, his cousin and heir, and the families of Shish and Hopkins.

In 1741 John Archer Shish, grandson of Rebecca, and a trustee of the William Palmer School, bought a new 100-year lease of the Broderers' estate in Stifford, acquiring the manor and all of Grantham's freehold lands in 1747. He was active in parish affairs and presented Stifford with the church clock. At Ford Place he constructed the handsome, Georgian, west face of the building consisting of a new brown brick front with a central projecting porch and positioning a new entrance and carriage drive to meet the new 'London Road', which passed Belhus Park (the estate of Lord Dacre). During this period the interior was remodelled, many of the main rooms being panelled, a new staircase constructed in the centre of the east side and another built against the centre of the north wing.

In 1762 John Archer Shish commissioned a survey of his estate by Samuel Driver, a foreman of the renowned landscape gardener, Richard Woods. The resulting map (ERO: D/DWt P1)

details his freehold and leasehold property in Stifford, which comprised of 799 acres 3 rod and 36 perch, showing 'land in hand' and land let to tenants, giving their names and the acreage held. The map depicts the tree-lined 'Long Walk' (let to tenant Rob. Cornwall). The 'Land in Hand' listed the 'Mansion House Offices' consisting of 'Barnyard, Kitchen, Pleasure Gardens & Orchards', the 'Home Field' incorporating the tree-lined carriage drive leading from the road to the mansion entrance, the 'Meadow next the Dike with half of the Dike' and also, located on the other side of the Mardyke Bridge, 'The Sand Pit and Plantation'.

The estate was sold to William Dodsworth in 1764 who, in 1766, sold to John Spence. The Chapman & André map of 1777 details the formal planting of trees in the foreground of the house, the pattern of planting in the large eastern walled garden, the buildings in the western walled garden and the pond. By 1782 John Spence had been succeeded by his relation John Hogarth whose nephew and heir was Dr John Henry Hogarth, rector of Stifford 1822–34 who, in 1801, was succeeded by Henry Spence Hogarth. By 1806 Zachariah Button owned the property. He was a wealthy, local landowner and son of the Zachariah Button, who built Belmont Castle in Grays (listed in the Inventory as a 'Lost Garden').

When William Wingfield Esq, Q.C., of Orsett Hall, formerly a judge and MP for Bodmin, bought and incorporated Ford Place into the Orsett Hall Estate around 1839 the property was let to a succession of tenants. Census returns in 1851, confirm that tenant, Samuel Francis Esq, farmed 88 acres of the Ford Place estate. Other tenants included James Robinson Greig, landed proprietor and magistrate (1860), Captain Atkinson (1863) and Charles Moss Esq, a retired merchant (1871). At this time the Reverend W. Palin, author of 'Stifford and its Neighbourhood, Past and Present' wrote of Ford Place: '*The grounds are excellent, and the views from them extensive and most picturesque.*' On William's death in 1859 his son, Richard Baker Wingfield-Baker became a popular Lord of the Manor serving as a Liberal MP from 1857 until 1859 and again returned to Parliament under Mr Gladstone in 1868. On his death in 1880, he was succeeded by his only son, Captain Digby Hanmer Wingfield, who died just four years later in 1884. He never married and with no heir he passed the Orsett Estate, which was in a depressed state, to his great friend Captain TCD Whitmore. When Captain Whitmore died in 1907 the estate passed to his son, who became Col Sir Francis Whitmore. He successfully turned the estate into a thriving agricultural business.

By 1873 the OS map (Essex sheet LXXXIII) shows that the entrance carriageway had been altered, leading up from the main road to pass in front of the house and back down to the road to an entrance further north along South Road. Also indicated is a summer house situated south-east of the large pond, at the edge of mixed woodland, a small pond by the boundary of South Road and a spring in southwest corner of the field next to the Mardyke.

Tenants continued to occupy Ford Place including the Cleveland-Stevens family, using Ford Place as their country residence until the mid-1940s. Nikolaus Pevsner, acclaimed architectural historian, visited the house in the early-1950s and described it as '*an excellent house*' '*having* '*an extremely rich late 17th Century plaster ceiling*'. In 1955 the property and thirteen and a quarter acre of land, sited in the Green Belt, was let on a 21-year lease to Humphrey and E M Vellacott, who were allowed to use the house partly as a private dwelling and partly for the trade and business of Motor Car Component Manufacturers. From 1957

the Cottage and Gardens, just under one acre, were let to Motomac Ltd on a yearly basis prohibiting use for trade except for the sale of garden produce.

Upon the death of Col Sir Francis Whitmore in 1962, the estate was inherited by his son John, a racing driver, who sold the Orsett Hall Estate, including Ford Place, in 1968. The sale auction was conducted by John D. Woods and Strutt & Parker (ERO ref: SALE/F97). Lot 39, was described in the sale catalogue as follows:-

'This Lovely Early Georgian Residence lies nicely back from Stifford Hill in a small park and enjoys a westerly aspect'. It is approached by two gravel drives terminating in a sweep on the west front and is built of brick under a mainly tiled and partly flat roof'

'Delightful Gardens, nicely timbered with lawn, lake, grass Tennis Court and two paddocks. Walled Garden with Potting Shed'

The property for sale consisted of the main house, divided into a five-bedroom accommodation and two one-bedroomed flats. To the east of the house a two-bedroomed cottage was included (all Grade I listed). The map used in the sale catalogue also illustrates the presence of the tree-lined 'Long Walk' to the east of the house and the wooded area to the east of the pond which was not included in the lot.

After a disastrous fire causing the partial destruction of the main building in 1987, the site was reassessed and listed as Grade II (1337097 (House) 1337121 (Garden Walls and Gardener's Cottage. The property is also described in SMR 35360). Attempts have been made since for restoration or conversion of the house and walled gardens but so far none of these plans have been successful. The house still retains some of its exterior brickwork, but the roofs, floors and decorative interiors have gone. The derelict house and grounds were purchased by the John F Hunt Group. In 2008 a planning application was made which included eleven houses being built within the walled garden. Following consultations, Thurrock Council published a supplemental report refusing the planning application (Ref: 08/00988/TTGFUL).

In 2012 approximately 85 tree preservation orders were awarded for trees located in the grounds around the house. There are none on the wider landscape.

A new planning application was made in 2015 for the 'Restoration and conversion of Grade II Listed Manor House to provide ten residential apartments, restoration of Grade II Listed Gardener's Cottage and Listed Walls to yard/ garden of Manor House' (Ref:15/00464/LBC). After consultations Thurrock Council permitted the application. At present (2021) a proposal exists to build 2,000 homes, a supermarket and school, across the site over the footprint of the existing golf course and around what is considered to be the historic footprint of Ford Place. The current owners have already developed the surrounding, associated land into the Mardyke Valley Golf Club incorporating the former 'Long Walk' and large pond into the golf course. The reconstruction of the Mansion House, Gardener's Cottage and Walled Gardens are not part of the remit of the companies acting on behalf of the owner to plan the proposal of the new development.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Ford Place stands on high ground, within the Green Belt, overlooking the Mardyke Valley to the south, 800m north-west of the village of Stifford and on the eastern boundary of the urban area of South Ockendon. The Mardyke Valley is part of the Thames Chase Community Forest, an important 'green lung', ecological and recreational area. The ruins of Ford Place house, Gardener's Cottage and the walled gardens, cover approximately 2.02 hectares (5 acres), adjoining the Mardyke Valley Golf Club. The former entrance from South Road/Stifford Hill has been closed and the house is now hidden from public view by dense vegetation. Access is by owner's permission via the driveway to the golf club from South Road, positioned further north from the former entrance on South Road (B186). From the car park an unmade pathway to the west of the clubhouse leads to the site.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

The two main buildings are in very poor condition and only their skeletons remain. The fire in 1987 destroyed much of the house. Most of the C18 front has been lost and also the fine interiors however, the mid-C17 brickwork of the east elevation remains and is of significant importance. Historic England consider the building as still of special architectural and historic interest (listed grade II). The House and Gardener's Cottage are inaccessible, being supported by scaffolding, fenced and cladded for protection.

Positioned between the House and the Gardener's cottage in the western walled garden is a derelict, single-storey, two-room, brick building with a fireplace. The area to the south and east of this building is completely overgrown.

The two-storey, C17 Gardener's Cottage, is attached to the central division wall (on a north/south axis) of the two gardens. It is part red brick, English bond to ground floor, but rendered over the southern half, the north part is Flemish bond brickwork, the southern half upper storey is timber framed and rendered, with plaster and lathe showing through. The C17 red brick walls of the walled garden with irregular bond are suffering from foundation issues causing large cracks and some areas have been breached. Approximately ten buttresses and a wooden wall plate, placed around the upper English bond brick courses, have been put up to stabilise the walls. Trees and vegetation make parts of the walls in the eastern walled garden inaccessible.

A new planning application was made in 2015 for the 'Restoration and conversion of grade II Listed Manor House to provide ten residential apartments, restoration of Grade II Listed Gardener's Cottage and Listed Walls to yard/ garden of Manor House' (Ref:15/00464/LBC). After consultations Thurrock Council permitted the application providing that the work was begun within two years of the decision dated 14th March 2016.

GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The historic parkland and gardens located predominantly to the west of the golf course are now overgrown although the main pathways are kept clear. The area of rough grassland off South Road appears to have potentially significant ecological value as it has been undisturbed for many years. The grassland currently contains a number of fine grasses and large ant-hills

that are often found in unimproved grassland. Extant tree preservation orders make reference to the existence of a former tree-lined drive bordered by limes. This could not be confirmed during the site visit.

TPOs also indicate the presence of trees in the front of the west entrance including two Evergreen Oaks, three Silver Birch, two Prunus, Ager Purple, three Robinias, Sycamore, Holly, Weeping Willow and a Cupressus. TPOs in other areas include Ash, Robinia, Box, Holly, Pine, Horse Chestnut, Oak and Lime. During a site visit on 7th September 2021 a Wellingtonia (without a TPO), north east of the pond measured a girth of 4.35m. A Poplar within the same area measured a girth of 3.84m and a mature Oak measured 3.25m. There are no TPOs along the former 'Long Walk' which now only consists of remnant trees on one side and forms part of the golf course. The wider landscape on part of the golf course has earthworks and some trees that could be part of the design are shown on the OS 2nd edition map in addition to a tree boundary line existing to the south. Any development within the area would raise concern in regard to both protected and unprotected trees.

The western walled garden is overgrown in places with buddleia, nettles and blackberry and there is little evidence of former planting. A large concrete area provides some evidence of light industrial use. The south-eastern corner of this garden is completely overgrown. The eastern walled garden is under lawn and there is no evidence of the pattern of planting. Trees and overgrown vegetation cover much of the surrounding walls.

The area known in the C18 as the 'field next the Dike', the pond, the mixed woodland to the west of the pond and the 'Long Walk', formerly part of the pleasure grounds, are now incorporated into the golf course.

PARK

The historic parkland laying to the east of the house has now been incorporated into 'The Mardyke Valley Golf Club' which has been developed over twenty years from a 3-hole practise area into an 18-hole golf course. Owned by the John F. Hunt Group, it lies adjacent to the footprint of Ford Place occupying the area of land, formerly leased to tenants during the C18. It has also encroached onto the area around the pond once part of the pleasure grounds.

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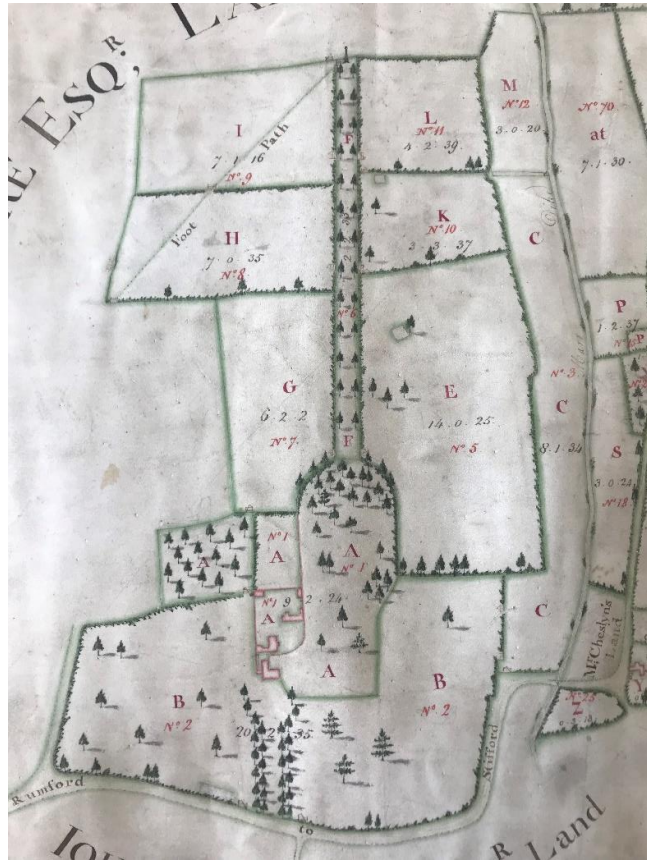
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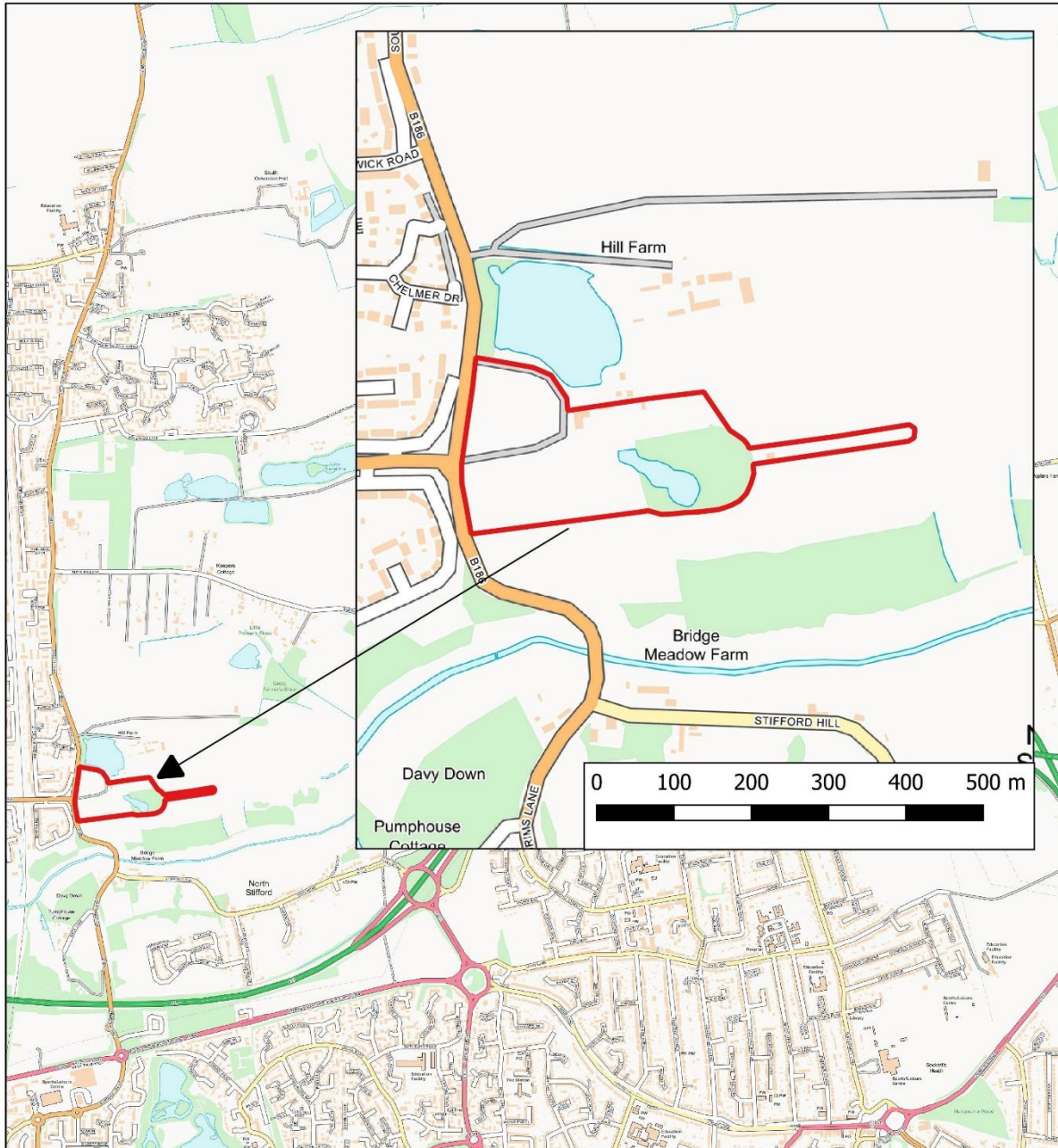
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Manors of Stifford The Estate of John Archer Shish Esq; Survey'd by Saml. Driver
 Extract of a map dated 1762 ERO ref: D/DWtP1
 (By courtesy of the Essex Record Office, Chelmsford)



Stifford 'Bridge over the Old Ford and Ford Place'
 Original sketch by Miss Fanny Palin c1870
 (From 1871, W. Palin, *Stifford and its Neighbourhood Past and Present*)



Name	District	Parish
Ford Place	Thurrock	Stifford



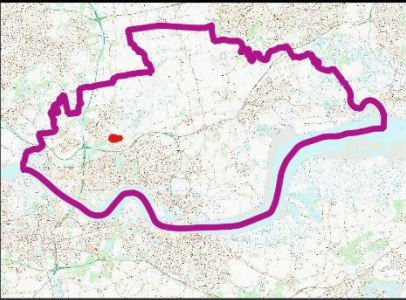
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Site Boundary

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GRAYS BEACH RIVERSIDE PARK, Grays

TQ 61704 77165

Edwardian public recreation park situated on the Thames riverside in Grays, designed by Mr A C James, Borough Surveyor and retaining many of the features from the original design. Opened shortly after Grays Town Park, it provides evidence of the ethos which gave rise to the provision of green open spaces in urban environments from the end of the nineteenth century onwards.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Title Award Maps of 1842 and (altered apportionment) 1880 record the area which was to become Grays Beach Riverside Park as marsh and saltings, owned by the Theobald family and let to William Longbourn, and later the Sturgeon family, as pasture.

By the end of the C19 the land formed part of the estate of James Theobald Esq, Member of Parliament for Romford, Essex. He was a major landowner in Grays and following his death in a railway accident in 1894 his estate was sold at auction in 1896. Lot 42 was described in the auction catalogue as Freehold Riverside Building Land with a 1,200ft frontage to the River Thames, around 23 acres, and was marketed as suitable for factory business purposes. At the time of writing (2021) no record can be found of who bought this lot, but the portion which became the riverside park was left undeveloped.

In 1902 when the Grays Coronation Committee was making arrangements in connection with the coronation of Edward VII, Councillor A W Boatman suggested £150 should go towards a permanent memorial on the river front. Local artist and architect Christopher Shiner exhibited a picture depicting the putative riverside pleasure garden, including features such as a bandstand.

Grays Urban District Council had been attempting to acquire a portion of land on the river front since 1898. At this time the land was owned by Mr William Williams of Swansea, and he initially refused to sell. However, he agreed in 1902 to give an acre of land to the town and sell another three acres at £400 an acre.

Proponents of the scheme for a riverside pleasure garden or park stated that the river front was fast disappearing to industry, and a riverside park in Grays could rival the popularity of nearby Purfleet during the summer, to the benefit of the town.

The Parks Committee of the Council asked Borough Surveyor Mr Arthur Charles James to draw up several schemes for consideration, and visits were made to the open-air swimming bath at East Ham and the model yacht pond at Barking for comparison. Mr James had been responsible, in 1898-9, for the design and construction of Grays Town Park in the centre of the town, and this had been a great success for the town. He was an associate member of the Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and originally from Malvern, Worcestershire.

The scheme adopted included an open-air swimming pool, a children's cricket ground, bowling green and space for other games. Also included were trees, shrubs, seats, a shelter,

a store and WCs, as well as a memorial fountain to Mr Williams, who had died shortly after the land purchase was completed. Fifty-five local unemployed men were engaged to work on levelling the ground and erecting fences, and Baynes, Jones and Bayliss of Wolverhampton were chosen to supply the fencing.

In June 1904 permission was gained from Thames Conservancy for the Council to construct a sloping beach, and Messrs Goldsmith, a local wharfinger and barge company, offered to deliver material free of charge, though unloading the barges would be at the Council's expense.

By June 1906 it was agreed to provide a refreshment building and chairs for hire, with a band from the local training ship Exmouth playing one evening a week. Councillor Golden presented a pair of swans for the pool, to be placed in an enclosure whilst bathing was taking place. There were also to be toilet facilities and a caretaker.

The formal opening was conducted on Monday evening July 30th 1906 by Chairman of the Council Mr Herbert E Brooks JP. Mr Brooks was later commemorated with the Herbert Brooks Memorial Garden in Grays (see entry in this Inventory). The local press reported in full on the opening ceremony, which included a swimming display, fireworks and a performance by the Grays Town Band. Mr Williams' son unveiled a drinking fountain on which was inscribed '*To commemorate the accession of King Edward VII William Williams Esq JP of Swansea gave an acre of this land to the town of Grays*'. The fountain was removed by the Council in the 1930s due to damage by vandalism and its whereabouts is now unknown.

The swimming pool proved very popular, and was open daily during the summer months, with a charge of 2d (about 1p) for a private dressing box. Various elementary schools used the pool for swimming lessons. The beach area was covered with sand brought in from Great Yarmouth, but this had to be renewed more than once as it was washed away by the tide. The beach was eventually abandoned, as rising sea levels meant it was regularly submerged, and new sea defences were erected inland from the beach area (possibly in the 1980s).

Maps from the 1950s show a miniature golf course between the swimming pool area and adjacent roads, occupying an area of around 2.5 hectares, but this had disappeared by the 1970s. The area it occupied is now a green tree-lined space and is included within the boundaries of the modern park.

Over the ensuing decades, while the basic design of the park remained the same, many changes were made to the play equipment, including the addition of a smaller paddling pool. Attractions have also included a skateboard park and a Go-kart track, and the swimming pool being repurposed as a boating lake, but by the late-C20 the park was largely derelict. Redevelopment of the park facilities took place in the late-C20 and the former swimming pool was filled with sand and new play equipment. The new look Grays Beach Riverside Park was formally opened in 1999.

Grays Beach Riverside Park received a Green Flag award from the Civic Trust in 2001, and it was estimated that in peak season it attracted an estimated 1500 visitors a day. By 2007, however, it was again in a poor state.

Several redevelopment schemes have been put forward from the mid-1980s onwards, including a marina, water park and new arts centre. While none of these has been fully realised, the play area of the Riverside Park around the swimming pool has been revitalised. New play equipment has been installed and a cafe opened, run by volunteers.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

The Park (2.2 hectares when opened in 1906 rising to 4.7 hectares in late-C20) is located at the southern-most edge of Grays town centre on the shoreline of the River Thames. It is bounded on the north by modern residential developments, and on the east by industry contained within the Tilbury Docks complex. The western boundary comprises a car park and a green open space known as Kilverts Field, named after Kilverts Wharf, and Thurrock Yacht Club on the shoreline. The outline of the park closely follows the line of old drainage ditches, and the boundary between the park and the industrial site comprises a relocated drainage ditch.

The park is built partly on former saltings and partly on low lying ground just inland from the Thames flood defence concrete wall.

When initially designed, the park was roughly rectangular. Its river frontage measured (at high water mark) 188m (617ft). From the river frontage, the park extended 121m (399ft) to the northern boundary and 131m (430ft) to the eastern boundary. When the park was extended in the 1970s by the addition of a former miniature golf course, any fencing between the two areas was removed and the golf course was converted to a grassy open space.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The Riverside Park still retains the original entrance on Thames Road. Additional entrances are via a footpath along the riverside walkway (the Kilverts Field entrance) and from a further gate situated at the end of Manor Road. The entrance from the west, via Kilverts Field and the car park, is open, with no gates or fences. The Thames Road entrance is through metal gates which lead to the playground area. An interpretation board gives a map of the park and a brief history. The Manor Road entrance has metal fencing and gates, plus interpretation board and signposts, and leads directly into the green open space which was formerly the miniature golf course.

The modern park boundaries are mostly metal fencing with metal gates. The boundary with the Tilbury Docks complex is a concrete fence, with the relocated drainage ditch on the industrial side of the fence. The river wall entrance is ungated, with a concrete path leading from Kilverts Field and the car park to the riverside promenade.

PARK

The Park currently (2021) has three different and distinct areas: the original planned riverside park including play area, the riverside promenade and beach area and the former miniature golf course. All areas are linked by paths and steps.

The riverside park maintains its original Edwardian outline. It is several metres below the level of the riverside promenade, which can be accessed by two flights of steps. The original swimming pool has been drained and is now a sand pit with play equipment. The sand pit is oval shaped, approximately 82m long and 42m wide, with an area of 3200 square metres. Behind and to the side of the sand pit are additional play areas including crazy golf and boules courts, and playground equipment accessible to children in wheelchairs.

The 'Lightship' café by the sand pit replaces a former café which was at the top of the steps up to the riverside promenade. It is so called to remember the lightship The Gull, which for many years was the headquarters of Thurrock Yacht Club. All that now remains is the light mast, placed at the top of the Yacht Club slipway. The Gull is believed to be the second oldest lightship in Europe, built in 1860 as lightship number 38.

Behind the café are adult fitness areas and ball courts, built on the site of a former manufacturer of steel drums, Drums Ltd.

A green open space surrounded by trees has replaced the former 'Recreation Ground' and small paddling pool, and now forms part of the open space which was once the miniature golf course.

By the café, a Thurrock Heritage plaque is attached to the wall supporting a set of steps up to the promenade and commemorates the two Training Ships named Exmouth which were moored off the shore at Grays from 1876-1939. It reads *Remembering the many boys who learned the ways of the sea aboard this ship and the officers who trained them*. It then shows the Thurrock motto *By Thames to all Peoples of the World*.

Another commemorative board is nearer to the cafe, and relates the story of the Training Ship Goliath, which was moored off Grays from 1870 to 1875, and provided training in seamanship for boys from the London Poor Law authorities. The ship was destroyed by fire with the reported loss of nineteen boys and one officer.

The Riverside Promenade was, and still is, is a paved promenade with seats, trees and grass. The original cafe was located here. In 1906 it gave uninterrupted views of the river, but the most recent late-C20 flood barrier now interrupts that view.

Below the promenade is the former beach. On the shoreline the original Edwardian sea wall was topped by new concrete sea defences in the mid-C20, but this is now also in disrepair, with parts of the Edwardian structure visible beneath. Due to rising sea levels this early concrete sea defence is now no longer adequate.

Behind this crumbling sea defence is the area which was once a beach of shingle overlain with sand imported from Great Yarmouth. This has been left to go wild, with plants including wild carrot, rosa rugosa, mallow and hedge mustard. It is submerged in varying degrees at high tide, with the highest tide mark being just below the more modern sea wall.

On the most southeastern edge of the shoreline is a brick and concrete platform which is all that remains of the Exmouth swimming baths. The baths were built for the use of the boys on the training ship Exmouth and were leased to Thurrock Council for local children to have swimming lessons. The baths were demolished in the mid-20C.

The new flood defence barrier was erected in the second half of the C20. It consists of a concrete wall about 1.5m high, with flood gates and steps at intervals to enable access to the

former beach area. This wall impedes the view of the river from the grassy area and promenade behind it. This grassy area used to run down to the sandy beach, but now slopes upwards towards the new flood defences.

A concrete wall separates the promenade from the play area below, and two sets of steps lead down to the play area. The steps are late-C20, but are positioned where earlier steps were located, and indentations in the walls show where gateposts would have been.

The part of the park which was once the miniature golf course consists of a wide grassy area bounded by the play area on one side, and trees and shrubs elsewhere. The boundary with Tilbury Docks is behind the trees to the east, and the trees on the northern side hide modern housing.

Opened shortly after Grays Town Park, the Riverside Park provides evidence of the ethos which gave rise to the provision of green open spaces in urban environments from end of C19 onwards. The local authority showed a forward-thinking vision in acquiring the site and constructing a park of benefit to the community and with a view to attracting tourism and business to the town. The park is still widely used today by the people of Grays.

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Researcher: Julia Cosby



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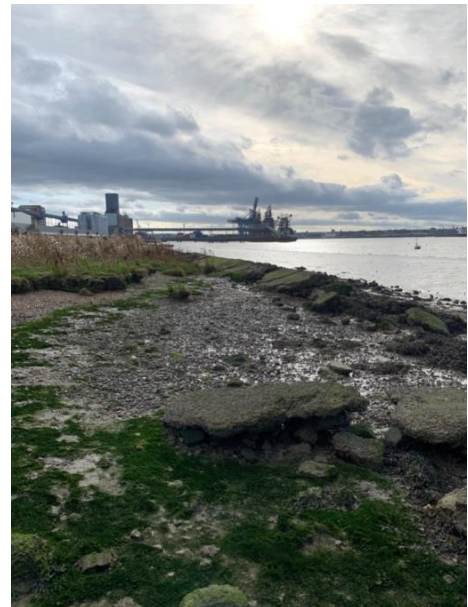


View of grassy area from Thames Road entrance 2021 (Image Julia Cosby)

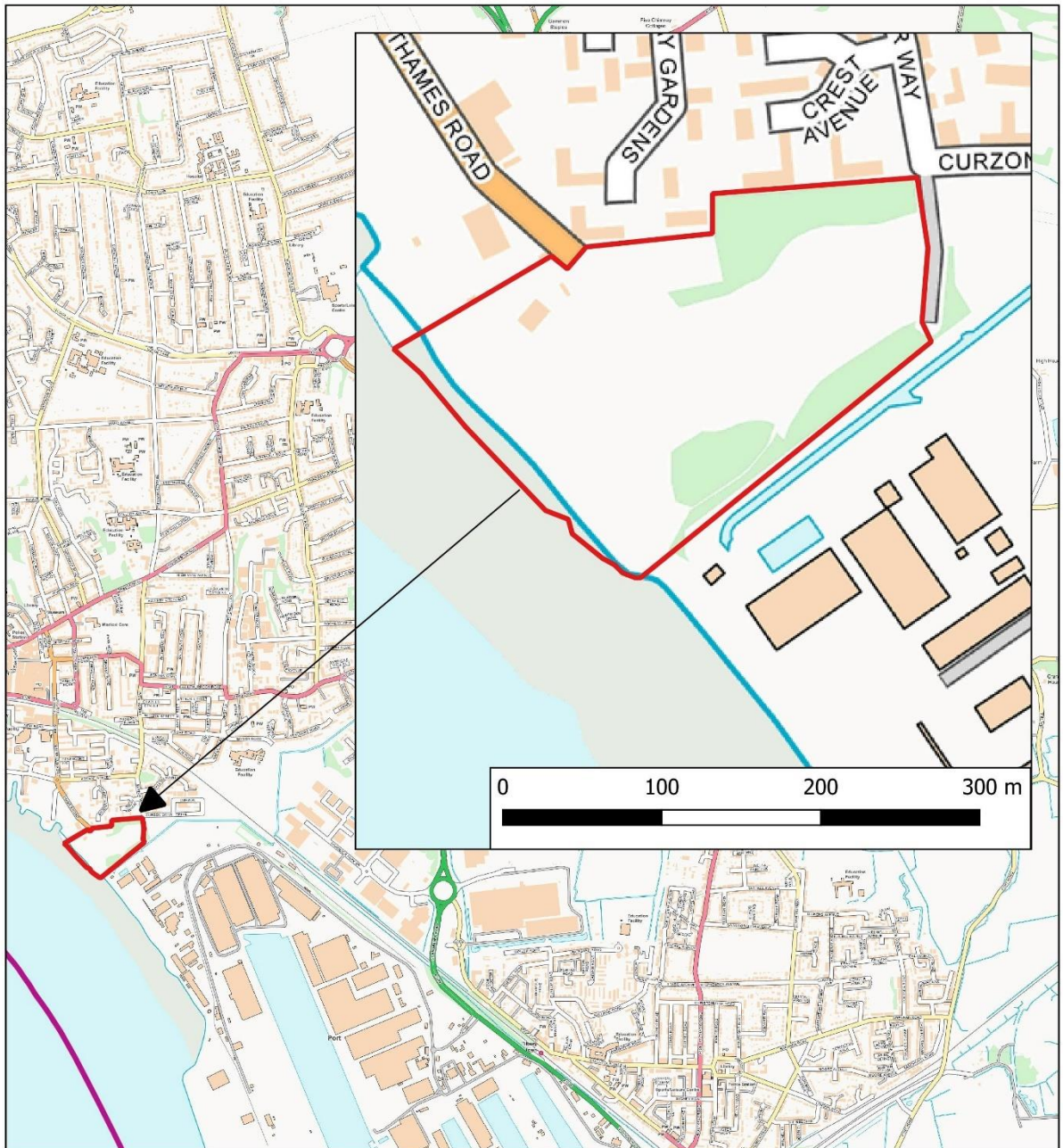




Original tree planting along the promenade 2021
(Image Twigs Way)

Former sandy beach with crumbling sea wall and encroaching industry 2021 (Image Julia Cosby)



Former swimming pool now filled with sand and play equipment 2021
(Image Julia Cosby)



Name	District	Parish		
Grays Beach and Riverside Park	Thurrock	Grays Thurrock		

INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX

BOUNDARY CAPTURED AT: 1:10,000
 MAP CENTRED AT: TQ 61806 77210
 MAIN MAP SCALE 1:10,000

Site Boundary

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GRAYS NEW CEMETERY, Little Thurrock

TQ 62932 78787

Late-Victorian cemetery set up by the Grays Thurrock Burial Board and consecrated in 1888. Initially 4 acres (c1.62 hectares) the site was enlarged in 1919 to 11.5 acres (c4.6 hectares) with further subsequent consecrations. Designed by E C Allam of Romford, it included a mortuary chapel (extant) and lodge (now demolished). The cemetery 'landscape design' typifies the period with attention paid to open space as well as planting.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

In 1880, the Grays Thurrock Vestry sanctioned the borrowing of £2,200 by the Burial Board for the purchase of a new burial ground. Later that year, 4 acres of arable land to the south of Chadwell Road, Little Thurrock were purchased. (Essex Herald, 1880; Kelly 1894). In January 1881, tenders were requested for enclosing and laying out the cemetery and for the erection of a chapel and lodge. Mr E C Allam of Romford was mentioned as the architect. (Essex Herald, 25 Jan. 1881). After his apprenticeship, in 1859 the architect, surveyor and civil/mechanical engineer, Edwin Clerk Allam was employed as a railway surveyor, then engaged by the Admiralty in an 1862/63 survey of the Scilly Isles and later became an architect and surveyor to public bodies in London and Essex (Institute of Civil Engineers, 1871).

Divided into three sections, for Nonconformist, Roman Catholic and 'consecrated' (Anglican) burials, the new burial ground was consecrated on 12 March 1888 by the Bishop of Colchester (Essex Newsman, 17 Mar. 1888; ERO), but only the northern half of the area was initially in use.

The local board took over the cemetery in 1894 and in 1899, Grays Urban District Council discussed the need for extending the existing plot to cover the full 4 acres. The surveyor estimated the remaining spaces available and how 'church' [Church of England], Roman Catholic and Nonconformist burials were to be allocated. He recommended that 'the path should be continued as shewn, and that the trees and shrubs should be planted round the boundary of the added ground at a cost of about £30.'. It was also recommended that 'church' and Roman Catholic burials should take place in alternate graves. (*Grays & Thurrock Gazette & Southend Telegraph* 27 May 1899). The council also recognised that further land should be purchased before the original burial ground ran out of space.

An additional 7.5 acres of land was purchased in 1903 to the south of and adjoining the original cemetery and was laid out at a further cost of £1,250. (*Kelly's Directory* 1914). In 1919 an initial strip of about 1.25 acres was formally consecrated running south-east from the northwest corner of the new area. A final extension of the cemetery took place in 1935 when a further 1.1 acres at the far southwest of the cemetery was consecrated.

The cemetery remains in use, retaining its original, enlarged, layout and some original plantings.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM & SETTING

Grays New Cemetery is situated c1.9km northeast of Grays parish church on Chadwell Road, Little Thurrock. The present site is roughly triangular in shape and occupies land rising from the south and west up to the crest of a hill (25m elevation). The cemetery is bounded to the north by a concrete retaining wall running for 180m parallel to Chadwell Road, and follows the road downhill to the western boundary. A line of mature trees, sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), common lime (*Tilia x europaea*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) is situated just inside the cemetery along this boundary, with a single mature Himalayan holly (*tentatively identified as Ilex dipyrena*), by the entrance. From the western boundary, the wall heads south along the boundary with a garden centre and is lined with similar plantings, some (horse chestnuts). After approximately 130m, the ground falls away sharply to the western cemetery extension (16m elevation) which is bounded by a continuation of the wall alongside post WW2 allotments for 320m. At the southernmost end of the cemetery, a 60m long wall separates the cemetery from an open recreational space before turning and rising steeply north to form the eastern boundary for nearly 400m as far as the junction of Chadwell Road. Some boundary horse chestnuts and the Himalayan holly appear to be original plantings (c1878-1886).

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

There are three entrances. The main entrance to the cemetery is on Chadwell Road, approached from a recessed forecourt with simple gates and pillars. A secondary entrance, opened c1907, is in Malvern Road to the east of the site, also with pillars and gates. A small pedestrian gate is at the far south of the cemetery. In use by 1939, the gate is accessed at the foot of a path leading steeply down from Malvern Road to the recreation ground at the south of the site.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

A mortuary chapel and lodge were constructed as part of the initial cemetery site. The lodge was demolished in the 1970s. The chapel survives, although no longer in use, locked and in need of much repair. It has a single doorway, facing east, leading to a small chancel with a vestry room to the west. The building has a rose window above the entrance and a circular bell tower surmounted by a steeple to the north of the entrance. No foundation or memorial stone could be found.

LAYOUT AND PLANNING

In 1888, the original cemetery layout of 4 acres was on relatively flat and roughly rectangular ground at the crest of the hill. The mortuary chapel and lodge were erected on that site. Initially, only the northern half of the site was used. Separated by 1.4m wide paths (4.5ft), a section for Nonconformist burials was to the east of the site, Roman Catholic burials in the centre section - to the east of the chapel and south of the lodge and the remainder of the site for consecrated (Anglican) burials. From the entrance gates on Chadwell Road, a 3.5m

wide path (11.5ft) led to and around the chapel and smaller paths separated the three sections. The path widths were determined by expected usage.

By 1899, all of the original 4-acre site was in use and in 1903, the Urban District Council purchased an additional 7.5 acres of land, adjoining the original cemetery to the south, with the intention of enlargement when necessary. Wide 3.5m paths were constructed across the site to allow for the access of hearses, with smaller paths for pedestrians, and a further entrance gate was added on Malvern Road. In 1919, approximately 1.3 acres of this new land was consecrated to the west of a north-south path that had been extended past a circular turning point for hearses (ERO). The main cemetery path was continued further south, down a steep, natural, slope to flat ground at the far south of the site then swung north to a further turning point. Steps lead back up from this point to the higher part of the cemetery.

In 1935, a final consecration of approximately 1 acre took place to the far south-west of the site (ERO), to the west and south of the main path.

The 1888 cemetery layout appears to have survived as well as the less formal 1919 extension. On the 1888 Consecration plan (ERO), tree plantings are shown around the chapel and lodge, at the corners of each of the three sections, and around the boundary of the northern half of the cemetery. Some mature common yews (*Taxus baccata*) and a mature *Aesculus hippocastanum* remain close to the chapel and a further line of *Taxus baccata* mark the southern boundary of the 1888 plot. At least one yew appears to be date to the 1880s. Otherwise, the plantings dividing the three original sections have not survived.

Evidence of formal planting in the larger 1919 extension is clearer. A line of mature common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), common lime (*Tilia x europaea*) and Himalayan cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) mark the main path south from the chapel to the first turning point, with further plantings of *Cedrus deodara*, black poplar (*Populus nigra*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and European larch (*Larix decidua*) on side paths and on the main path which continues south to the steep hill leading to the lower southern and western cemetery extension.

The path down to the last extension is lined with shrubbery. This part of the cemetery has less formal planting. A line of mature *Aesculus hippocastanum* marks the western boundary of the cemetery with other specimens of *Quercus robur* (c1900-1920), *Tilia x europaea*, common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) c1897 and *Acer pseudoplatanus*. The narrow pathway back up to the top of the cemetery is bordered by bushes and appears to have some design elements.

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OS 6inch Provisional edition 1961 Sheet TQ67NW - A

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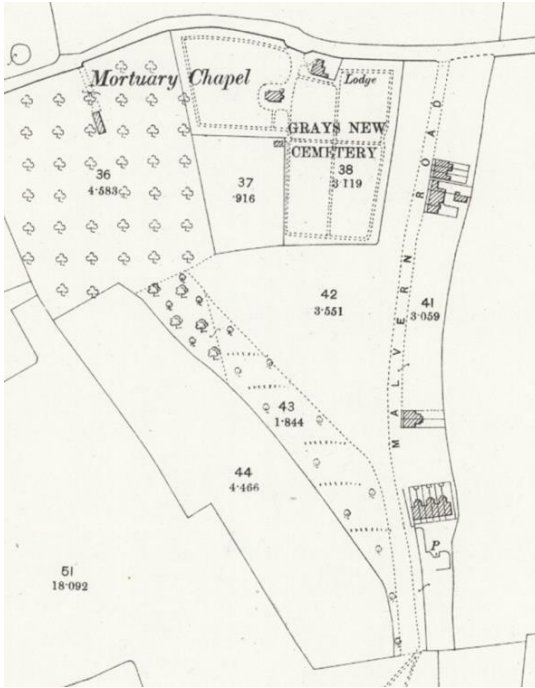
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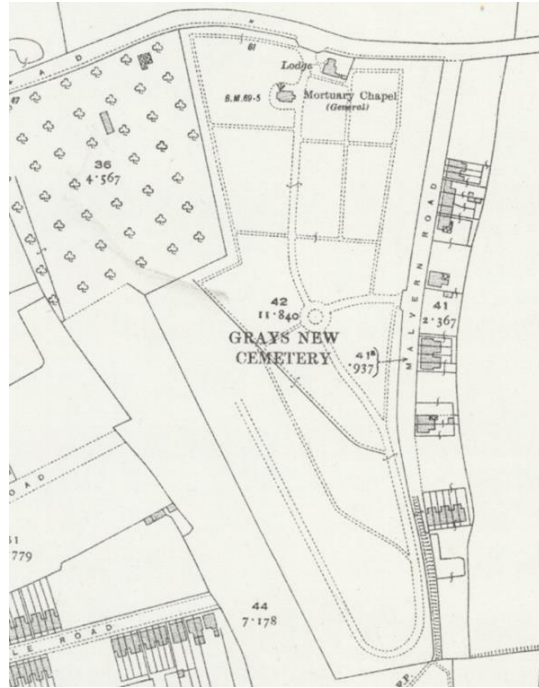
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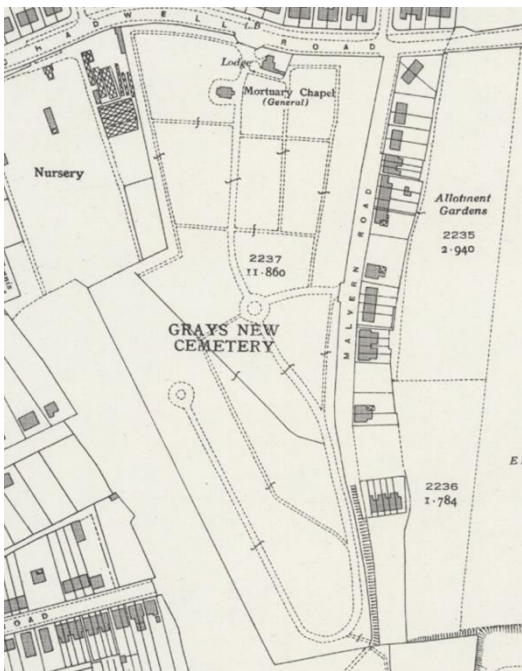
Researcher: Phil Lobley



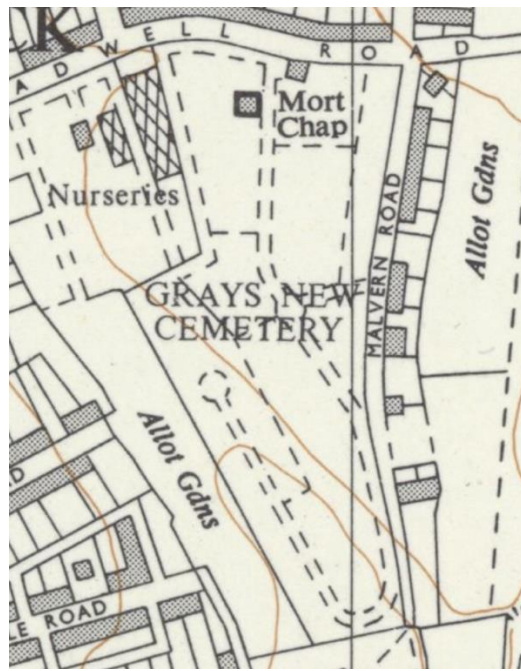
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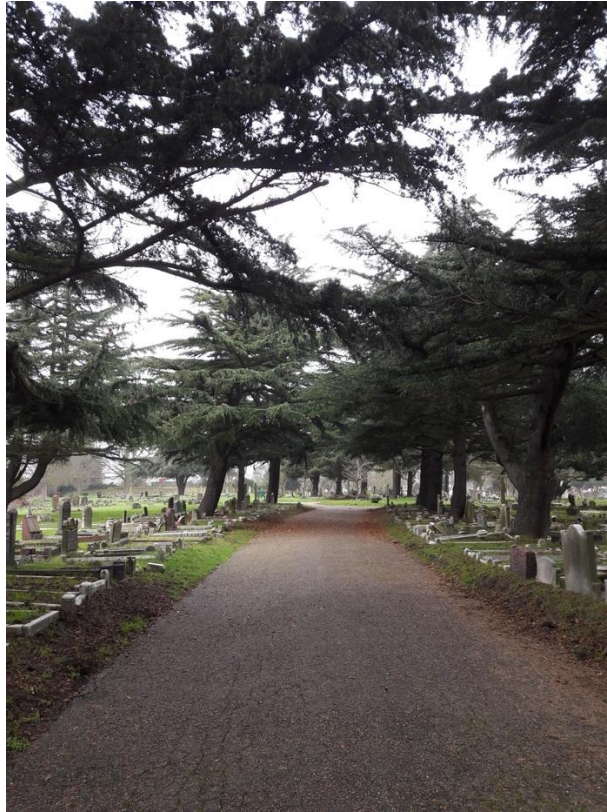
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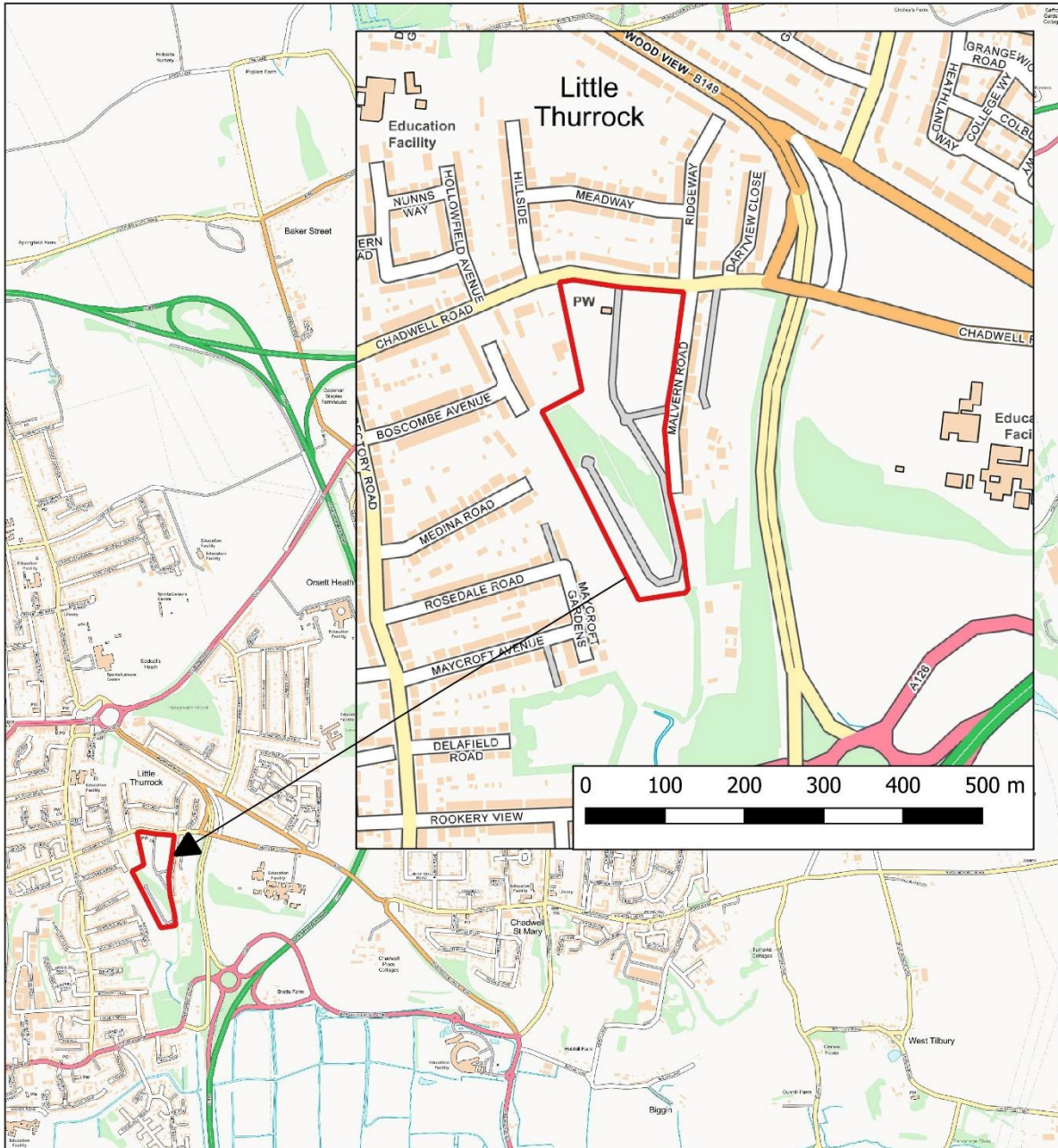
OS 6inch Provisional edition 1961 Sheet TQ67NW - A



Grays New Cemetery – looking north towards the turning point 2021 (Image Phil Lobley)



Grays New Cemetery Chapel 2021 (Image Phil Lobley)



Name	District	Parish
Grays New Cemetery	Thurrock	Little Thurrock



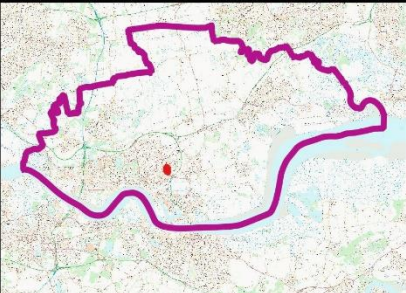
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INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX

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Site Boundary

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GRAYS TOWN PARK, Grays

TQ 61845 78113

A late-Victorian town park of c2.5 hectares, situated in a former brick-earth quarry in the centre of Grays, designed by Mr A C James, Borough Surveyor, with planting by Mr A Streeter, and still mostly unchanged from the original design including rockery, walks and flowerbeds.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The land which became Grays Town Park is shown on the 1841 tithe map as belonging to Mr Thomas Theobald and being rented out to Messrs Errington and Meeson, in use as a brickfield.

By the end of the C19 the 1880 Tithe map records that land was owned by another member of the Theobald family, James Theobald, Esquire, and leased to the Grays Chalk Quarries Company. Mr Theobald was residing at Bedfords, Havering-atte-Bower, and was Member of Parliament for Romford, Essex and Lord of the Manor of Turroc, a title which came with ownership of Grays Hall (ERO SALE/A1028). The Theobald family name is commemorated in the Grays' street name Theobalds Avenue, and the public house The Theobald Arms.

It is a popular assumption locally that Mr Theobald donated the land to Grays Urban District Council to be made into a park for the benefit of Grays residents, and this is repeated on the Thurrock Council website. However, no evidence of this has yet been discovered, and the evidence that has been found indicates a different series of events.

James Theobald died of injuries sustained in a railway accident in 1894 (1894 Essex Review). His gruesome and accidental death was reported in the press at the time, and although his philanthropy towards the people of Grays was mentioned, his will, which he signed on his deathbed, clearly states that his entire estate was left to his second wife Marion (1894 Theobald Will).

The estate, which included large parts of Grays, was sold by auction in 1896, with the brickfield forming Lot 64 (ERO SALE/A1028). It was described as an extensive lot of freehold building and accommodation land, suitable for houses of a moderate size, and with an area of about 9 acres. A small part of the land was temporarily let to Grays District Council for the storage of road-making equipment.

An account in the *Grays and Tilbury Gazette* of 29th July 1899 of the opening of the park states that Grays Urban District Council bought the land (now described at about 8 acres) in 1897 from the Kent and Essex Land Company, for £200 an acre. One and a half acres was reserved for the Council's depot, stables and stores, with the remaining 6.5 acres allotted for the development of the park. Lack of access to local archives at the time of writing (due to Covid pandemic 2020/1) means it has not been possible to discover how the land was acquired by

the Kent and Essex Land Company, but it can reasonably be assumed that the company purchased it at auction.

Work on converting the brickfield into a park began in December 1898 under the supervision of the town's surveyor, Mr Arthur Charles James, and his assistant Mr Bull. Planting was undertaken by Mr A Streeter, a local nurseryman who had several premises in Grays (*Grays & Tilbury Gazette, and Southend Telegraph*, 1899). Several years later Mr James was also responsible for designing and overseeing the construction of Grays Beach, which opened in 1906. (*Grays & Tilbury Gazette, and Southend Telegraph*, Aug 1906)

Mr James was born in Malvern in 1868, served an apprenticeship in Wolverhampton and became an Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1893. The 1911 census shows him living with his family in a house in Palmer's Avenue, Grays, named Malvernbury, and it is likely that he spent the great majority of his career employed by Grays Urban District Council. This house is probably the current number 9 Palmer's Avenue. By the time of the 1939 register he was living back in Malvern, with his wife, and was shown as retired. He died there in 1960, aged 91. The nurseryman Mr Streeter had his nursery ground in Palmer's Avenue, so was a near neighbour of Mr James.

The Park originally had three entrances, in Bedford Road, Clarence Road and Bridge Road. Near to the Bedford Road entrance a quarter of an acre was laid out and graveled as a children's playground, with swings and other equipment. Three acres were laid out as grass, two and a half acres as shrubs and flowerbeds and the rest as paths.

560 trees and 1,100 shrubs were planted, and there were two shelters, one on the bank on the north side and the second at the eastern end of the main portion. These shelters have not survived. A bandstand was erected at the southeastern corner of the park. (*Grays and Tilbury Gazette*, 1899).

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

The Park is located in the centre of Grays town, approximately half a mile from the River Thames. It is bounded on the north by housing in Orsett Road, Parkview Gardens, and Bridge Road, on the east by Bridge Road, on the south by Clarence Road and Park Road, and on the west by Bedford Road and the Bluebell Court residential care home. According to Thurrock Borough Council's website the park covers an area of 6.5 acres (2.6 hectares).

The land which was leased to Grays Urban District Council in the 1890s is now occupied by Bluebell Court Care Home and a small estate of houses. The area originally shown as the playground is now a council store.

The Park is situated in a former brick-earth quarry. The quarrying of brick-earth, gravel and especially chalk were major industries in Grays and surrounding areas from late-Mediaeval times until the mid-C20, and the changes to the landscape brought about by large-scale

quarrying have been a major influence on the shape of the town (2021 Thurrock Local History Society booklet).

The surrounding land rises from 9m above sea level in the southwest to 18m in the northeast, so to the north and east the park is considerably below the level of the adjoining roads. According to the press reports of 1899 the total length of the ground east to west is 700 ft (213 m), and from north to south 400 ft (122m). The main path round the ground is 560 yds (512m). It is bound by a concrete wall on the south side, and railings where necessary on the other sides. (*Grays and Tilbury Gazette* as above)

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The park retains its three original entrances - Bridge Road (east), Park Road (south) and Bedford Road (west). There are also two entrances in Orsett Road which are not mentioned in the description of the park given in the press reports of its opening.

The Bridge Road entrance is through an iron gate set in railings, possibly original to the park, and which bound its east side. In mid-2021 a step-free accessible path replaced the wide paved concrete steps constructed in the late-1960s. This path leads from the gate down the side of the rockery which forms the eastern portion of the park. The remains of older steps and a pump house for a water feature can be seen abutting the later steps.

The Park Road entrance is at the end of a small road (Park Road) which is a turning off Clarence Road. This entrance is level with the surrounding area and leads to the paths which run through the park. The mosque is immediately to the right and the sports courts ahead and to the right.

The houses in Bedford Road predate the park, so the Bedford Road entrance probably utilised an existing entrance into the brickfield. Modern metal railings and gates with the name Grays Town Park above them have replaced older ones. This entrance leads directly to the formal flowerbed area.

A northern entrance into Orsett Road (formerly Stanford Road) appears on maps from 1915, and was possibly an original entrance to Grays Hall Farm, which is now housing in Parkview Gardens, Orsett Road and Bridge Road. This entrance is at the end of an alley between numbers 12 and 14 Orsett Road. The alley gives access to garages associated with the houses, and slopes down from the road to the park. Access is through metal gates.

An additional entrance in Orsett Road was added in the late-C20 when the demolition of cottages allowed the formation of a small landscaped area with a path into the park. This area is bound by metal railings and gate similar to those at the other entrances. There is a small entrance in an alley behind the houses in Clarence Road which is not generally used by the public.

GARDENS AND PARK

The park has several different and distinct areas: an area of formal flowerbeds, a rockery, a banked area with a path running through, tennis and basketball courts, a mosque and the

main central area of grass and play equipment. These areas are connected by tree-lined paths, with seats at intervals. The main layout of the park as it was constructed in 1898-9 remains unchanged.

The formal flowerbed area consists of a central circular bed surrounded by six segments, so that the whole forms a larger circle approximately 40m in diameter. Paths run round the inner circle and between the segments. The central circular bed originally contained an Aberdeen granite fountain, later became a flower bed and in 2020 was remodelled as the Thurrock Victory Memorial, commemorating the end of World War II. A path runs round the flower bed, and beyond the paths are grassed areas with trees.

To the north of the flower bed and path is a brick-built single storey shelter, erected in 1930 by the Seabrooke family of Grays in memory of Jonathan Seabrooke. A plaque inside the shelter reads: *Erected in 1930 by the wife and sons of Jonathan Seabrooke as a place of rest for the old men of Grays with whom he spent many happy hours.* The Seabrooke family played a major part in the commercial development of Grays from the middle of the C18 onwards and are commemorated in a local street name Seabrooke Rise. Renovation work on the shelter began in 2020 and the Friends of Grays Town Park opened it as the Grays Town Park Café in October 2021.

Behind the shelter is a currently disused toilet block, though this is due for renovation. There is also an entrance to what remains of the original council storage yard. Most of the land that formed this yard now contains Bluebell Court Care Home and a small number of houses and is separated from the park by a brick wall.

The rockery forming the east end of the park slopes up steeply from the central grassy area of the park to the Bridge Road entrance. It originally contained several paths and sets of steps running through it, all of which met at the Bridge Road entrance. The Grays and Tilbury Gazette reported on (February 1907) that the surveyor Mr James was instructed to make improvements to the paths and provide a flowerbed near the entrance. At some time, a water feature was added, which fell out of use in the 1970s or 1980s.

The rockery contains a mix of natural and artificial rock. While it has not been possible to prove conclusively that the artificial rock is Pulhamite, it is certainly made in the style of that made by James Pulham and Company, in that it appears to be a concrete skim applied over a core of brick and made to appear natural. The rocks are generally in good condition, with some signs of weathering exposing parts of the core of the artificial rocks. There are a variety of trees and shrubs, including *Cercis siliquastrum* (Judas tree), and some may be original planting, though most will be self-sown or added over the years. In 2021 the rockery was cleared of overgrown vegetation, exposing more of the original design. The main grassed area forms the central body of the park and is the largest feature, it is mainly flat but slopes up towards the surrounding path on the north side and is bounded on all sides by mature trees including *Platanus x hispanica* (London Plane).

In the original design of the park, the grassy area was larger than at present, and intersected by a tree-lined path running east to west. Early in the life of the park the grassy area to the

south of this path was replaced by tennis courts (now one tennis court and one basketball court) and a Welfare Centre, now used as a mosque with planning permission to extend. The sports courts and welfare centre first appear in maps in the 1930s, although photographs exist which appear to show the tennis courts at least as being of an earlier date, possibly predating the brick shelter by the circular flowerbed, which was built in 1930 (undated postcard).

In its northwest corner the grassed area contains children's play equipment, which was originally located in what is now part of Bluebell Court Care Home and the council store. The southeastern corner, where the bandstand was originally placed, houses fitness equipment. The bandstand was removed in the 1960s.

The northern boundary of the park consists of a steeply banked area leading to the southern edge of Park View Gardens. It is supported by a waste brick wall, and a path runs through it. It is currently overgrown and neglected.

The sports courts and the building now used as a mosque were first recorded on maps of the late-1930s, though are possibly earlier. They were built on part of the original grassed central area of the park. The building now used as the mosque was formerly a children's health and welfare centre. New lighting and CCTV were installed in the park in 2021.

The park was the first public open space in Grays, and provides evidence of the ethos which gave rise to the provision of green open spaces in urban environments from the end of the nineteenth century onwards. The local authority showed a forward-thinking vision of change of use of the land from a spent industrial site to one of benefit to the community, and the park is still widely used today by the people of Grays.

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Researcher: Julia Cosby



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Grays Town Park rockery, c1960
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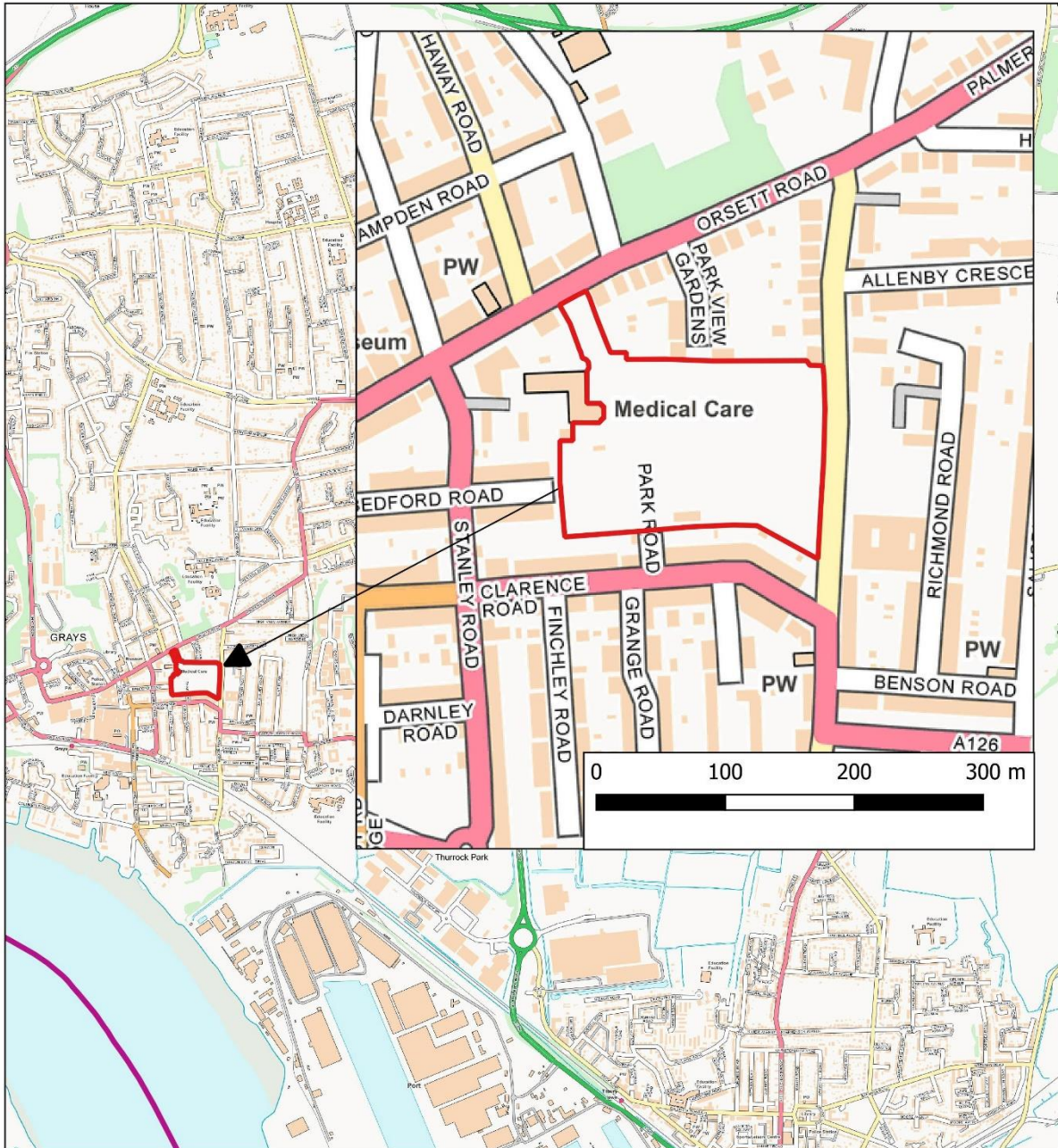
Grays Town Park circular flower beds and 1930s shelter, c1960
With permission from Francis Frith/Heritage Photograph Resources



Grays Town Park formal beds and shelter 2021 (Image Twigs Way)



Grays Town Park Rockery 2021 (Image Twigs Way)



Name	District	Parish
Grays Town Park	Thurrock	Grays Thurrock



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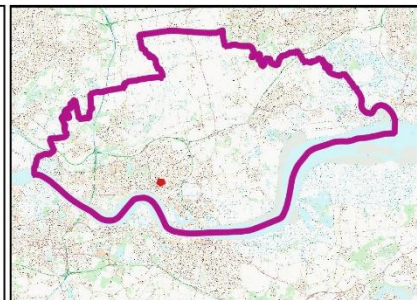
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GROVES BARNs and THE WILDERNESS, South Ockendon

GROVES BARNs: TQ599 841

THE WILDERNESS: TQ 599 839

Site of the former manor house of the Manor of Groves with Grade II listed C16 /C17 red brick gateway and wall (HER 1147431) and adjacent wood known as The Wilderness including relicts of C18 designed landscape with ornamental lakes, fishponds and tree-lined walks. Possible association with Richard Woods.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The name of Groves comes from the division of the Manor of Bruyns into the Manor of South Ockendon Hall and the Manor of Groves. William Tyrell received the Manor of Groves, also known as Colecarters, in 1531. When he died c1534 his son Humphrey inherited the estate. In 1549 when Humphrey died the estate totalled 400 acres and passed to his son George and in 1574 to his son Edward Tyrell.

In 1576 Edward Tyrell sold the estate to Richard Saltonstall (1521-1601). Sir Richard Saltonstall the son of a minor landowner from Saltonstall, Halifax, became Master of the Skinners' Company, Sheriff of London in 1588, Lord Mayor of London in 1597, politician and Governor of the Merchant Adventurers. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1598. He married Susannah Pointz of North Ockendon, the daughter of an important local family and had sixteen children. There is a monument to the Saltonstalls located on the north wall of the parish church of St Nicholas of Myra, South Ockendon.

There was a substantial manor house on the site in the C16 evidenced by the (Grade II listed) late-C16/early-C17 red brick gateway and wall. The two barns formerly situated on either side of the gateway would have formed a courtyard in front of the house.

The estate descended through the family line to Phillipa Saltonstall, (granddaughter of Phillip Saltonstall (d.1668)) who married John Goodere, younger son of John Goodere of Claybury in Barking. During their ownership the Hearth Tax Assessment of 1670 records 22 hearths at the manor, the largest number in the parish (ERO: Q/RTh 5). It has been estimated that the house was demolished c1762.

John Goodere commissioned Jas. Crow and Thos. March to survey the estate in 1767 resulting in the detailed '*Plan of several farms situate in the parishes of South Ockendon, Stifford & Aveley in the County of Essex The Estate of John Goodere Esqr.*' (ERO: D/DBE P131767). A field book accompanying the map which gave a key to the names of tenants and land usage is missing. Groves is depicted on the map as situated at the side of a chase leading away from the main Brentwood to Grays Road. The map indicates the layout of the gardens to the south of the gateway including a round feature, circled by trees, proceeding into an avenue created by four lines of trees leading to areas labelled 'The Wilderness' and 'Further Wilderness'. An area of trees is indicated to the east of the avenue, ornamental lakes and fishponds to the west are also shown. 'The Long Walk' is situated to the north of the gateway on the other side

of the chase. 'The Cherry Orchard' is located to the north-west of the gateway. Buildings are indicated on either side of the gateway but there is no indication of the former manor house. In addition, the map details several buildings and Barn Field including ponds adjacent to the main road.

In the mid-C18 Richard Woods, landscape designer, was a close neighbour of the Gooderes, taking a 21-year lease in 1768 at North Ockendon Hall, a farm with mansion house and 260 acres, from Richard Benyon, a prominent local landowner.

Groves is also featured on the map of Essex by Chapman and André (1777). It records the two buildings on either side of the gateway, the garden and lake but the Wilderness and the Cherry Orchard are not indicated. The Long Walk is indicated as lined by trees. The layout of Cole Farm seems to be the same as shown on the Crow and March map of 1767 detailing 'Cole Farm' with buildings, garden and lake beside the road between Brentwood to the north and Grays to the south and at the head of the lane leading eastwards to Groves.

The estate passed from the Goodere family to John Henry Stewart, a nephew of the last John Goodere in 1817. Colecarters (Groves) was leased to farmer William Saward at an annual rent of £900 in 1828 (ERO: D/DU 126/111). When John Stewart died in 1839 the estate comprising Street Farm, Colecarters (Groves) and Fen farms were bought by Samuel Gurney (1786-1856) of West Ham.

The South Ockendon 1840 Tithe map records that although the barns, gateway, wall, large lake and fishponds still existed at Groves, the formal design of the garden had been lost to woodland. An island is detailed within the lake. The original 'Wilderness' and 'Further Wilderness' is clearly marked and recorded in the apportionment records as:- *Field No282 wood: 1a 1r 4p, 'Wilderness'; Field No283 wood: 5a 2r 26p, 'Wilderness'*. The area adjacent to the C16 gateway and wall was recorded as *Field No:284 Pasture 4a 0r 31p 'Grove Mead' (ERO: D/CT 261a)*.

The estate remained in the Gurney family until 1867 when the estate was sold on behalf of Henry E. Gurney (1821–1905) the third son of Samuel Gurney. The auction by Messrs, Norton, Trist, Watney & Co took place on Friday, 7th June 1867. The sale catalogue (ERO: B3894) advertised 'Groves', 'Colecarters' and 'Fen Farms'. It described the homestead known as Cole Carters consisting 'of a very comfortable farm residence approached from the road by a carriage sweep, with lawn in front' with a 'Good walled garden', 'Fine water from a never-failing spring' with water wheel and pump. Also advertised 'A compact homestead called 'Groves' comprising two barns, range of cattle sheds, &c'. 'In occupation of Messrs Thomas and Robert Wagstaff, upon lease... which will expire 1873. Annual rent £840'. The areas relating to Groves Barns were listed on the estate plan are as follows:- No. 29 The Wilderness, wood 5a2r28p; No. 30 Grove's Homestead and meadow, meadow 4a1r38p; No. 38 Cole Carters Homestead, gardens &c. 2a0r19p. The sale catalogue advertised the 'compact freehold' estate was 'surrounded by the Estates of J. Benyon de Beauvoir Esq and others'. It was in fact bought by Richard Benyon, a local landowner and in doing so he reunited the two estates of the ancient Bruyn Manor of South Ockendon.

The OS 25inch Essex 1895/6 map records The Homestead adjacent to the main road as having many buildings and a large fountain in the centre of the carriage sweep at the front of the farmhouse. The area of Groves Barns is shown as mainly a woodland. The later OS 6-inch 1915/21 map records most of the former garden as a wood with the whole area being labelled 'The Wilderness'. A stream is detailed flowing from a pump-house in the north-west to the south-east of the wood but no lakes are indicated. The barns are still marked adjacent to the 16C Gatehouse.

In 1937 the Benyon Essex Estates, a total of 4000 acres, were sold including Groves and Cole Carters, a total of 362 acres. Groves Farm listed in the sale catalogue (ERO: SALE/B106) as Lot 37 was described as 'a highly desirable mixed holding with nearly 41 acres of orchard land' lying on the east side of South Ockendon Road with access to Fen Lane. A 'Capital modern farm residence with 6 bedrooms.' 'A short distance away along a cart road, eastwards, is a further range of farm buildings known as Groves Barns around two enclosed yards, comprising a 2-bay barn, store shed, another lofty barn, open and two other cowsheds.... and a wood, 'The Wilderness' 'comprising 6.748 acres'. Areas listed on the estate plan are as follows:-

- No. 16 farmhouse and buildings 3.617 acres
- No. 16a pond 0.199a to left of The Wilderness
- No. 18 pond 0.262a located to the north, Groves Farm side of track
- No. 20 The Wilderness, wood 6.748a
- No. 22 Groves Barns 0.737a
- No. 8 A wood away from buildings to north, other side of farm track.

In the C21 the wood, formerly the ornamental gardens of the Goodere family in 1767, has been allowed to develop naturally and is known locally as 'The Wilderness'. A modern house has been built adjacent to the 16C/C17 Gateway and wall which forms part of the garden boundary. There is no public access to the wood which is currently let to 'Wild Thyme Outdoor Forest School'.

The Wilderness is within the proposed route of the Lower Thames Crossing, which will cut across the southern edge of the 'Wilderness' as mapped in 1767.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

The site is located within an agricultural area of South Ockendon commanding outstanding views to the east over the open landscape of the Bulphan Fens and across the Mardyke Valley to Stifford. It lies three quarters of a mile north of South Ockendon village off a lane situated on the east side of the B186 road. The site is approximately 2.5 hectares (6 acres).

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Approaching from South Ockendon village, Grove Barns is reached via an unmade road to the west of the B186 located just before the 19C red-brick house known as 'The Grove'. The site can also be reached by footpath from North Road or across the fields from North

Ockendon (footpaths 254 and 131). The entrance to 'The Wilderness' is reached shortly before the listed gateway. A path winds south through the wood passing the former pump house, large lake and the smaller ponds, as well as the base of Wild Thyme Forest School.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

The boundary is marked by 30m length of late-Tudor red brick wall, 2m high in the middle of which is a 3m blocked gateway with pillars supporting a wide entablature which was restored in 1999. Historic England described it as '*Late C16 or early C17 gateway, now incorporated into late C18 implement shed. North wall of shed is original flank wall to gateway with moulded plinth, diagonal brick frieze and capping. Gateway has tall round headed archway with rusticated voussoirs, remains of a frieze over, and capping. All flanked by Doric pilasters, in brick, attached to piers.*' A large barn lies to the west of the gateway. The lawned area to the south of the gateway belongs to the modern house. The present owner of The Wilderness confirmed that there is no evidence of the former Saltonstall manor house remaining. A brick-built former pump house is located by the side of a stream feeding into the lake.

OTHER BUILDINGS etc

'The Grove' a C19 building currently used as a business premises (S.D. Samuels (Special Projects) Ltd), lies to the west of The Wilderness (beside the B186) on the site formerly occupied by Groves /Colecarters farm-house and at the head of the lane leading east to the Groves Barns. Two modern houses, Nos. 1 & 2 Evergreens, have been built to the south of 'The Grove'. There are a number of TPOs in this area including limes, horse chestnuts, hawthorn and walnut.

GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUNDS:

The overgrown wood and lake known as 'The Wilderness' lies south-west of the gateway. The wood is overgrown but it was possible to determine the boundary of a circular feature and possible remnant trees of the original feature of an avenue of trees. In addition, mature elms are located in the southern part of the wood (formerly the area known as 'The Wilderness' within the wood). The lake, stream and ponds of the earlier landscape design are still visible and maintain much of their original shape. The woodland is rich in ecology and wildlife and surveys have been undertaken in advance of possible destruction (see below). The 'Wild Thyme Forest School' lease the site and have a central camp within the wood, using it as a base for outdoor activities.

The Long Walk and The Cherry Orchard once part of the designed landscape in 1767 were located on the north side of the track leading to Grove Barns. This area is now under separate ownership and is inaccessible. Images from Google Earth appear to indicate that these features are no longer extant.

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

The site is at risk from the proposed Lower Thames Crossing which will proceed across the open landscape of the Orsett fens in the west cutting across the southern edges of the site destroying the oldest part of the wood described in 1767 as 'The Wilderness' and 'Further Wilderness' and disturbing up to a third of the remaining woodland.

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Research Assisted by Robert Adams - mapping

Researcher: Heather Hunter



1767 'A Plan of several farms situate in the parishes of South Ockendon, Stifford & Aveley in the County of Essex The Estate of John Goodere Esqr' (part D/DBE P13)
(By Courtesy of Essex Record Office)



1767 'A Plan of several farms situate in the parishes of South Ockendon, Stifford & Aveley in the County of Essex The Estate of John Goodere Esqr' map (Part D/DBE P13) By courtesy of Essex Record Office **overlaid onto** OS 6-inch Essex Sheet NLXXXVIII.NW Rev. 1915 Pub. 1921.



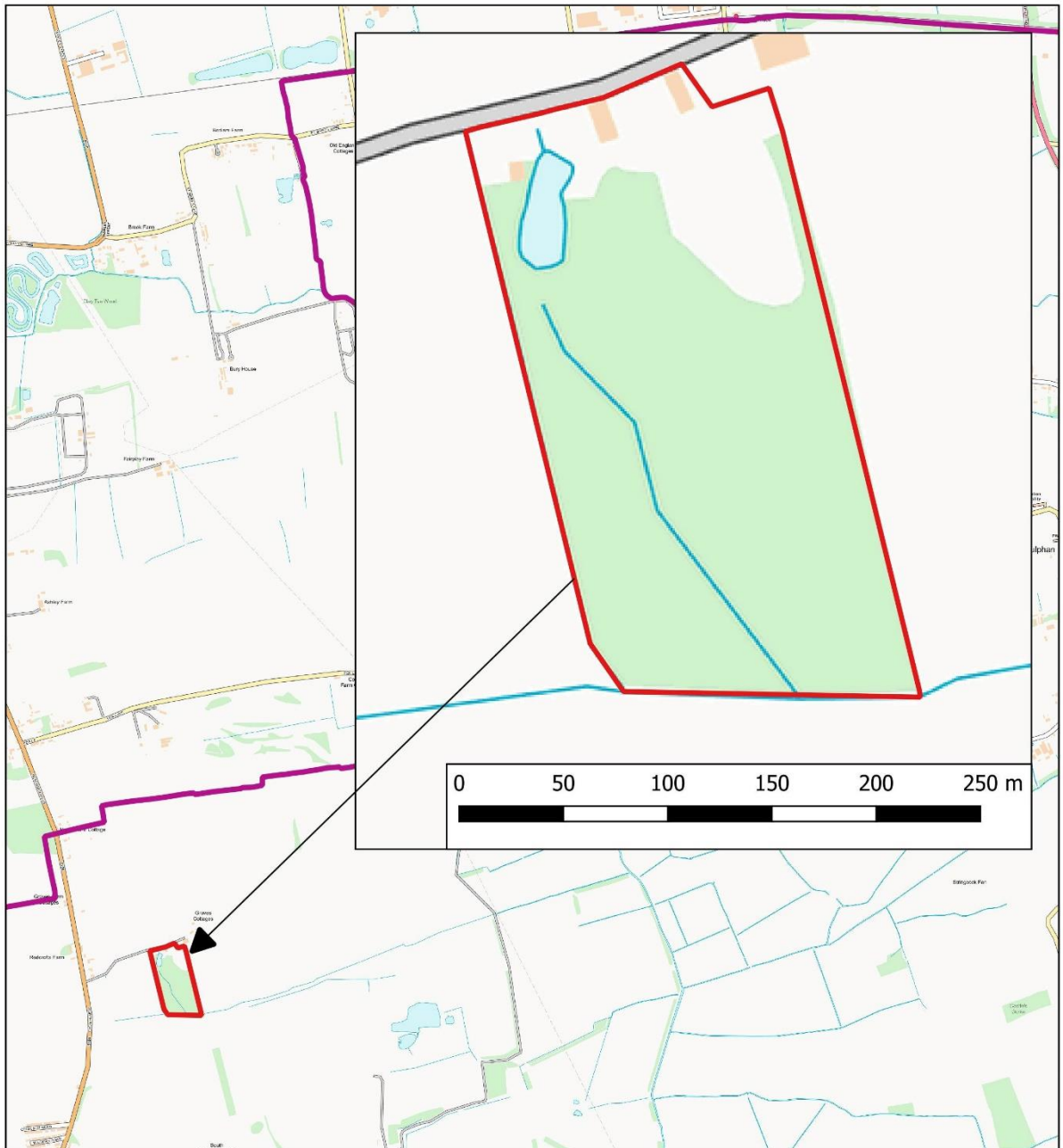
1767 'A Plan of several farms situate in the parishes of South Ockendon, Stifford & Aveley in the County of Essex The Estate of John Goodere Esqr' map (Part D/DBE P13) By Courtesy of Essex Record Office **overlaid onto** UK Government LiDAR and contains public sector information under the Open Government Licence v3.0.





Pond at The Wilderness, Groves Barns
2021 (Image Heather Hunter)



Late-C16 or early-C17 Former Gateway at
Groves Barns 2021 (Image Heather Hunter)



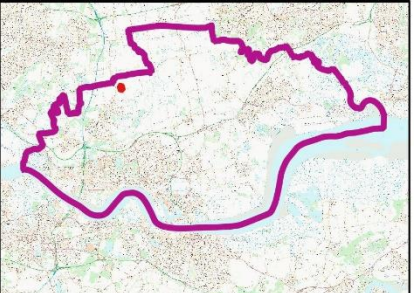
Name	District	Parish		
Groves Barns and the Wilderness	Thurrock	South Ockendon		

INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX

BOUNDARY CAPTURED AT: 1:10,000
 MAP CENTRED AT: TQ 59965 83967
 MAIN MAP SCALE 1:10,000

Site Boundary

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HERBERT E BROOKS MEMORIAL REST GARDENS, Grays

TQ 620783

Formally laid out Memorial Rest Garden of c 0.1 hectare commemorating an important local figure and a local industry that has now largely disappeared. It includes original Art Deco features rare for this area as well as an example of inter-war reject brick walls. Additional later Holocaust Memorial.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The idea of a public park on the unfenced triangular section of land between Palmer's Avenue and High View Avenue was first discussed in c1906 (*Grays & Tilbury Gazette, and Southend Telegraph*; 9th June 1906). However by 1923 virtually all of the triangle of land bounded by Palmer's Avenue, High View Avenue and Whitehall Avenue remained undeveloped, either by housing or as a public open space.

On the 26th November 1932, following the death of Herbert E Brooks the previous year, the council approved the plans for the Herbert E Brooks Memorial Rest Gardens at the top of Orsett Road (Thurrock Council). He had been a prominent figure in the local cement industry as well as serving as chairman of the Grays Thurrock Urban District Council and the Essex County Council. The memorial garden was paid for by public subscription initiated by Essex County Council and subsequently given to the Grays Council. The garden was opened in 1933 (*Chelmsford Chronicle* 5th May 1933).

The development plan for Aveley, Grays and Tilbury drawn up by the Essex County Council in 1952 designated the park as a public open space. The layout at that period appears substantially the same as the current layout apart from the absence of the holocaust memorial. Records of the 1968 Grays central area development proposals and the 1976 (OS Map) indicate little or no alteration.

A holocaust memorial to the millions of victims of the Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945. was established in the garden in 2012. An interpretation panel was added in front of the memorial in 2014.

Although originally a memorial to a particular person, the garden is now effectively a combined amenity space and memorial to the cement industry that dominated the area for about a century, but which is becoming increasingly forgotten. The added holocaust memorial is locally unique and important as it acts as a focus for an annual Holocaust memorial ceremony.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

The Brooks Memorial Garden is in a suburban setting on the south side of the road from Grays town centre in the direction of Chadwell St Mary, about two thirds of the way up the hill. It

occupies a triangular shaped space of 0.1 hectare (0.2 acre) at the junction of Palmer's Avenue and High View Avenue.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main entrance is at the western end of the garden, closest to Grays. There are smaller entrances at the north-east and south-east corners.

The main entrance has a name sign, which is believed to be original. The sign is green painted metal with negative space lettering giving the full name of the gardens. The use of negative space was a popular feature for graphic design during the Art Deco period and especially within the Bauhaus movement. The name is flanked by two birds (doves?). The sign is intended to be read from outside the gardens. Despite the sign, the gardens are sometimes referred to as the Palmer's Memorial Gardens or the High View Memorial Gardens.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS (and WALLS):

In the north-east corner of the gardens is a brick-built shelter which is also believed to be original. It is shaped (roughly) in the form of a bisected octagon. The angular nature of the shelter exterior walls is typical of the Art Deco style, popular in the 1920s and 1930s, as is the horizontal tiled decoration on the columns at the rear of the building. Inside the shelter there are three memorials. The first, which is probably original, records

'This rest garden was presented to the town by public subscription in memory of Alderman Herbert E Brooks, DL, JP, chairman of the Essex County Council, who died in 1931. He devoted his life during a period of over 50 years to the welfare of this town and to the county.'

The second and third memorials note the additional designation as a Holocaust Memorial Garden in 2001 and the restoration of the garden in 2005. The shelter is currently shuttered, preventing access, and these shutters are probably a later addition.

The boundary walls on the north and south boundary of the garden are made of brick but arranged in a crazy-paving fashion rather than in courses. Some bricks show stamped letters. They are made from reject bricks many of which are fused together. The bricks may have come from the brickfield that became Grays Park. Jonathan Catton notes the widespread use of seconds or rejected bricks for curtain walls in Thurrock and they can also be found in much of North Kent and into Surrey. They are often associated with developments in the 1920s and 30s. Although features of this sort are still reasonably common in Thurrock, the number of examples is declining as they are not commonly built today and existing examples are replaced by more modern materials. The eastern boundary is a conventional brick wall that abuts the shelter but is not keyed into it. This is probably a later addition.

GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUNDS:

The gardens are roughly triangular in shape with a tarmac path running around demarcating the shrubs and borders from the 'central' lawn area and flower beds. There is a small lawn and flower beds including rose beds and evergreen shrubs which are well maintained. There is seating available within the garden and an atmosphere of seclusion created by the shrubs and walls. Close to the main entrance is a holocaust memorial that contains pebbles on which the names of various extermination camps have been written. Additional pebbles have been

added marking attendance by the mayor (or deputy Mayor) of Thurrock at a Holocaust Memorial event.

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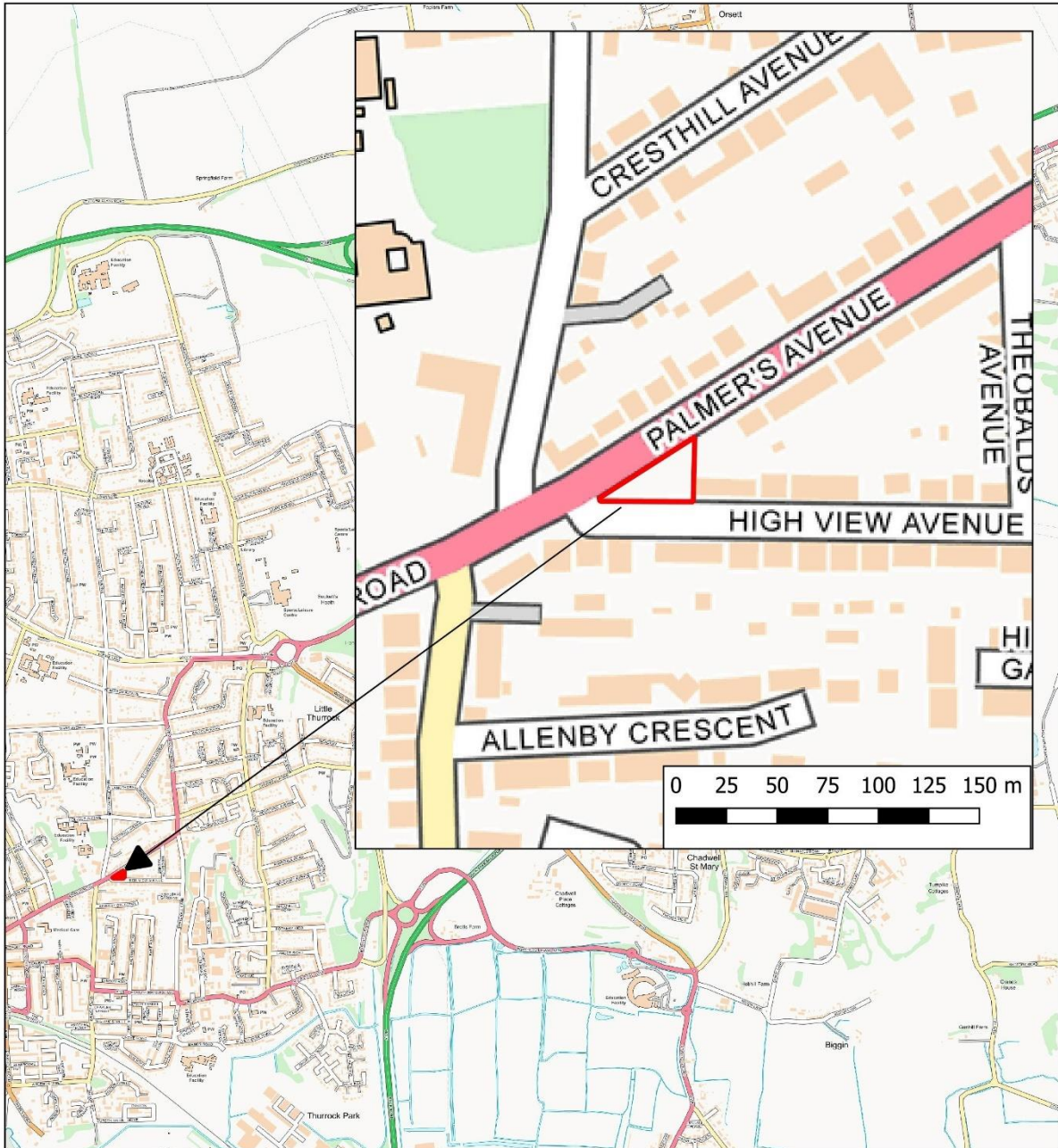
Researcher: John Matthews



Herbert E Brooks Memorial Rest Gardens Entrance 2021(Image Twigs Way)



Herbert E Brooks Memorial Rest Gardens Brickwork 2021 (Image Twigs Way)



Name	District	Parish
Herbert E Brooks Memorial Rest Garden	Thurrock	Grays Thurrock

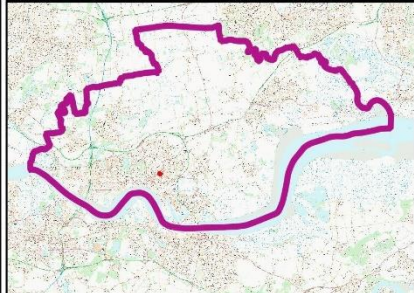


essex gardens trust
caring about our green spaces

INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX
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ORSETT HALL, Orsett

TQ65102 82332

Orsett Hall grounds were laid out in the mid-C18 and further improved in the mid-C19 possibly by landscape designer Robert Marnock: the grounds of c5 hectares still retain many fine specimen trees and a relict rockery.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Richard Baker bought the Orsett Manor and Estate in 1746 at which time the Hall was set in 12 acres (4.9 ha) of parkland. Baker purchased additional farmland in Orsett and nearby parishes, and established an agricultural estate centred on the house.

Following Richard Baker's death in 1751 the estate was inherited by his elder son, another Richard, while his younger son John inherited all the copyhold and houses in Ratcliffe, Stepney. Between 1750 and 1789 Orsett Hall was enlarged and entirely reconstructed in brick. Richard Baker laid out extensive grounds and planted trees including two cedars of Lebanon in front of the hall. Chapman and André's 1777 map of Essex depicts the Hall and outbuildings but there is no indication of the layout of the grounds. A plan of Orsett Hall surveyed by Richard Dent in 1822 (ERO D/DWt P2) shows the formal layout of the gardens to the rear of the Hall, while to the east and west of the Hall areas of parkland are marked as meadows. This map also shows the sixteenth or seventeenth century Lodysons farmhouse, belonging to the Orsett Hall estate and today known as The Bothy.

When Richard Baker died in 1827 there was no automatic line of inheritance and the estate passed to Richard's brother (John's nephew by marriage) William Wingfield. Following the death of Richard's widow Jane Baker in 1849 the remainder of the estate (the Orsett title) also passed to him. The 1840 tithe award names Mrs Jane Baker as both owner and occupier of the Hall which together with the garden and pleasure grounds covered three acres with an additional five acres of pasture.

When William Wingfield died in 1858 the estate was inherited by his son Richard Wingfield, and as a tribute to Richard Baker, he incorporated 'Baker' into his name, thus becoming Richard Wingfield Baker. Collier's 1861 *The People's History of Essex* states Orsett Hall 'has been lately considerably enlarged, and the grounds have also been re-arranged by Mr Marnock of London'. Despite this statement, the layout of the formal gardens shown on an 1822 survey map are still apparent in aerial photography taken in 1949 and so the extent of Marnock's involvement must be uncertain. Marnock is well-known for using both rare and common trees in his designs as well as including artificial rockwork (Pulhamite) and may well have been involved in the design of both the west and south gardens where numerous unusual trees were planted as well as a small rockery.

When Richard Wingfield Baker died in 1880, he was succeeded by his only son, Captain Digby Hanmer Wingfield, who only survived his father by four years as he died in 1884. Captain Wingfield was in the Royal Horse Guards. He never married and the Orsett Estate passed by will to his great friend and brother officer, Captain Thomas C.D. Whitmore, at a time of acute

agricultural depression. The estate at this time covered 8,506 acres situated in many parishes and was heavily in debt. After his wife's death Captain Whitmore moved to their London residence and passed full control of the Orsett estate to his son, Colonel Francis Whitmore. Francis, needing to raise capital to carry out essential repairs, sold many farms, commercial land and building land to accomplish this. From 1895 Colonel Whitmore resurrected the Orsett Show and held it in Orsett Hall's Park. Apart from the disruption of the two World Wars, the show continued to be held at Orsett Hall until 1968 when the parkland was sold off and a new site for the show was found in Rectory Road. Colonel Sir Francis Whitmore inherited the Orsett estate when his father died in 1907.

The late-C19 25" to the mile ordnance survey map records many paths weaving between the trees in the grounds of the Hall particularly to the west and south, several glass houses to the north-east, a sundial, and a building that is today known as The Bothy. The formal gardens shown on the 1822 map and in the 1949 aerial photos are not shown on this Victorian ordnance survey map although the avenue of trees leading from the formal gardens to the parkland is marked.

In the February 1908 edition of *Gardeners' Chronicle* H W Ward gives a very thorough description of the grounds describing the many 'grand specimens of choice trees'. He mentions the fine specimen of *Sequoia gigantea* in the west garden which was about seventy feet high, 'a truly magnificent *Ginkgo biloba*' which measured about fifty feet in height, a Cedar of Lebanon on the south lawn with an immense spread of healthy branches, a healthy specimen of *Araucaria imbricata*, about fifty feet in height. Also mentioned were *Taxodium sempervirens* measuring about seventy feet in height and equally large trees of *Thuja gigantea* and *Cupressus nootkatensis* at the west front of the house as well as a mop-headed *Acacia*. All these trees are given with measurements of their height and circumferences. The Dell is described as 'a pleasant part of the grounds in which many choice tropical subjects luxuriate under the protecting shelter afforded by larger and commoner kinds of trees'. These include *Chamaerops humilis*, *Aralias*, *Cordyline australis*, *Mimosa*, *Bignonias*, *Bambusa*, *Eucalyptus*, and *Camellias*. *Paulownia imperialis*. Also mentioned was a bed planted with Rhododendrons at the end of the terrace wall and that *Berberis aquifolium* had been used as groundwork, not only alongside the principal avenue but also in many other places in the grounds, with pyramidally-trained specimens of Holly, *Aucuba japonica* in bush form, and *Cedrus Deodara*. Also in the grounds were several large bushes of Almonds (*Amygdalus communis*). In the kitchen garden were crops of vegetables and pear and apple trees. The trees were planted in rows about ten feet apart and at the same distance in the rows. Among the types of apple were Cox's Orange Pippin, Worcester Pearmain, Lady Sudeley, Annie Elizabeth, and Warner's King.

In the 1914 *Essex Historical, Biographical and Pictorial*, edited by John Grant, Orsett Hall is referred to as 'formerly White House or Ladysons'. Grant writes that Major Whitmore was keen on horticulture with a practical knowledge on the subject and well acquainted with the requirements of the many fine trees and plants within his gardens and grounds. These included a beautiful *Sequoia Gigantea* and a particularly fine Cedar of Lebanon on the South Lawn and a huge *Ginkgo Biloba*. Between 1905 and 1911 Whitmore family photographic albums record several of these trees, the Pulhamite rock garden, the tropical garden, and the vinery in the greenhouse. A 1925-1928 album (ERO D/DWt Z23/8) has photographs of a rose

garden and rose pergola with twisted brick piers from 1926. The rock garden also features in this album: one photograph showing a water feature or small pond.

A Whitmore family photograph album (ERO D/DWt Z3/12) 1938-46 holds some aerial photographs of Orsett Hall and its grounds. These black and white photographs show the formal layout of the gardens behind the Hall little changed from Richard Dent's 1822 survey. The main formal area divided into four with all four areas laid to lawn with island beds of different designs and pergolas along the dividing pathways. Shown immediately to the east of the formal gardens are well maintained nursery beds and greenhouses. Centrally from the formal gardens is an avenue of trees leading north into the parkland beyond: these trees are marked on the late-Victorian 25" to the mile ordnance survey map.

In 1948 an oak tree was planted by King George VI to mark his visit to the Essex Show held in the grounds. The Whitmore family albums record the growth of the King's oak from sixteen inches when planted to nearly twenty-six feet in 1956.

When Sir Francis died in 1962 Orsett Hall was inherited by his son John, who sold the estate in 1968. At this time the house commanded a 4,500 acres estate. The agricultural land was sold and the Hall was left with just 96 acres of parkland and woodland. In the 1975 estate sale eighty-four acres were sold to a local farmer leaving the Hall with just under twelve acres of gardens and grounds. Included in the grounds were the heated swimming pool, a hard tennis court, an aircraft hangar and a private airstrip.

The 1975 Strutt & Parker sale catalogue (ERO SALE/C216) describes the grounds as forming a superb setting for the house. The south and west were mainly laid to lawn with flower beds and specimen and ornamental trees. There was a rose garden with pergola and to the north and east there was a further pergola with vine. There was also a heated conservatory and greenhouse, cold frames and a vegetable garden. There were seven acres of parkland mainly to the north of the house which were well studded with mature trees. There was a further thirteen and half acres to the south, opposite the Hall and on the other side of Prince Charles Avenue, which was also well studded with mature trees with a shelter belt in the south west corner. The sale was finally realised in 1977 when the Hall became a privately owned hotel. Tragedy struck in 2007 when fire broke out in the kitchen and the house was completely gutted. Rebuilding of the Hall began the following year, replicating the original house as completely as possible. The entire project was completed in 2009 and since then a Garden Brasserie was added in 2010 and the previous owner's house was converted into a wedding chapel in 2011. The Hall now stands in grounds of twelve acres (4.85 hectares).

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, LANDFORM AND SETTING

Orsett Hall is situated 2½ miles west of Stanford le Hope and 8½ miles south-east of Brentwood. The natural environment of the area is a river plain made up of the northern Thameside marshes, fens and fann.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main entrance is east of the Hall from Prince Charles Avenue off the A128. The one-way drive leads to the front of the Hall while another spur is to the car park at the side of the Hall. The original entrance from Prince Charles Avenue is through wrought iron gates, now unused, and leads to the front of the Hall.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The Georgian house was destroyed by fire in 2007 and was rebuilt in 2009 on the same footings. Grade II brick wall of mid-C18 date and C19 wrought iron gates lie approximately 70m to the south of the site of Orsett Hall, extending east-west for c200m. The wall is of red/orange brick, generally laid in English bond, but with curved sections leading to the gate in header bond. Approximately two-thirds along to the east is a pair of wrought iron gates marking the original main entrance to the hall. The gates are supported on brick piers and have fine decorative scroll-work with motifs replicated on the central panels, posts and heads of the uprights of the gate itself.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The gardens surround the newly built house with the main areas to the south and west. Additional buildings have been built to the rear and east of the house and a large area of the original grounds to the west of the house has been sub-divided and is in separate ownership. The area of the original formal gardens to the north of the house has been lost to extensions of the rebuilt Hall. East of the house an arched entrance to the grounds from the car park is through a gate in what was originally one of the walls of the walled garden. Evidence of the original purpose of the garden wall was found in several partial fruit tree labels still attached to it; the labels were for pear trees including *Beurre d'Amanlis* and *Jargonelle*. This entrance leads to a modern wrought iron bridge spanning a fishpond: the pond is surrounded by a variety of modern shrubs and paths, one of which leads to a pergola on twisted brick piers. A 1926 Whitmore family album (ERO Z3/8) shows this pergola as part of the rose garden. The pathway below the pergola leads to another arched doorway in a brick wall, now unused, although the pergola and arched doorway can be identified on the 1949 aerial photographs of the estate. This area includes several mature trees, mainly *Eucalyptus*; while a row of mature poplar trees run along the car park side of the dividing wall into this area of garden.

The original conservatory and greenhouses to the north-east of the house recorded on the 1897 25" to the mile Ordnance Survey map have been lost although several mature trees remain along with an area of bamboo. North-west of the house are several more mature trees including lime, a weeping *Cupressus nootkatensis*, and a magnificent Cedar of Lebanon in line with another large Cedar, a large oak tree and a large copper beech. Between the Cedar of Lebanon and the weeping *Cupressus* is a mature *Thuja giganteum*. There is also a holly roundel in this area. Several of these trees are mentioned in H W Ward's 1908 article on the grounds of Orsett Hall in *The Gardeners' Chronicle*.

To the west of the Hall and bordering Prince Charles Avenue a twentieth century house built in the grounds has been converted to a wedding chapel and bridal suite. The gardens to this house are separated from the Hall's south lawn by a brick wall and contain several trees including a mature red horse chestnut, an established laburnum, an area of bamboo, and a *Chamaerop humilis* (European fan palm). There are several mature trees scattered on the

south lawn including horse chestnut, lime, and a very large cypress. The immediate front lawn of the Hall has a modern landscape design with a gazebo and numerous shrubs.

South of the Hall and running along the boundary with Prince Charles Avenue is an old rockery made from mixed stone, possibly including Pulhamite, a patented anthropic rock 'material' invented by James Pulham (1820-1898). The rockery is reached from the south lawn by a paved path which leads to a further area of paving which is divided by a central strip of plants. The paving leads to stone steps, at the base of which is a very large conifer tree: the steps are flanked by stone and shrubs including *Cordyline*. From the top of the steps a grassy path leads down to the south lawn and where the slope joins the lawn are two *Chamaerop humulis* with a further three *Chamaerop* on the south lawn, two of which have headstones next to them commemorating family pets, two late-C19 and one from 1989. The 1908 article in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* mentions both *Chamaerop* and *Cordyline*, but these may be replacements. There are photos of the rockery, dated 1910, in a Whitmore family album (ERO D/DWt Z3/2 1905-11). To the east of the house and bordering Prince Charles Avenue is a shrub-like roundel, the remains of a *Ginkgo* tree. Also just east of the house on the south lawn is a mature *Robinia*. There are several trees mentioned in the 1908 edition of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* remaining in the grounds as well as stumps of several veteran trees.

PARK

Since 1968 eighty-four acres of the Orsett Hall parkland and woodland have been sold to a local farmer. To the north of the Hall in the parkland beyond the perimeter of the Hall's current estate, several mature trees can be seen including some that could have been part of the original lime avenue leading from the formal gardens to the parkland. Some meadow land lies to the east of the grounds, between the car park and the A128 road. There are several mature trees along the perimeter of the meadow and the main road including a very large copper beech.

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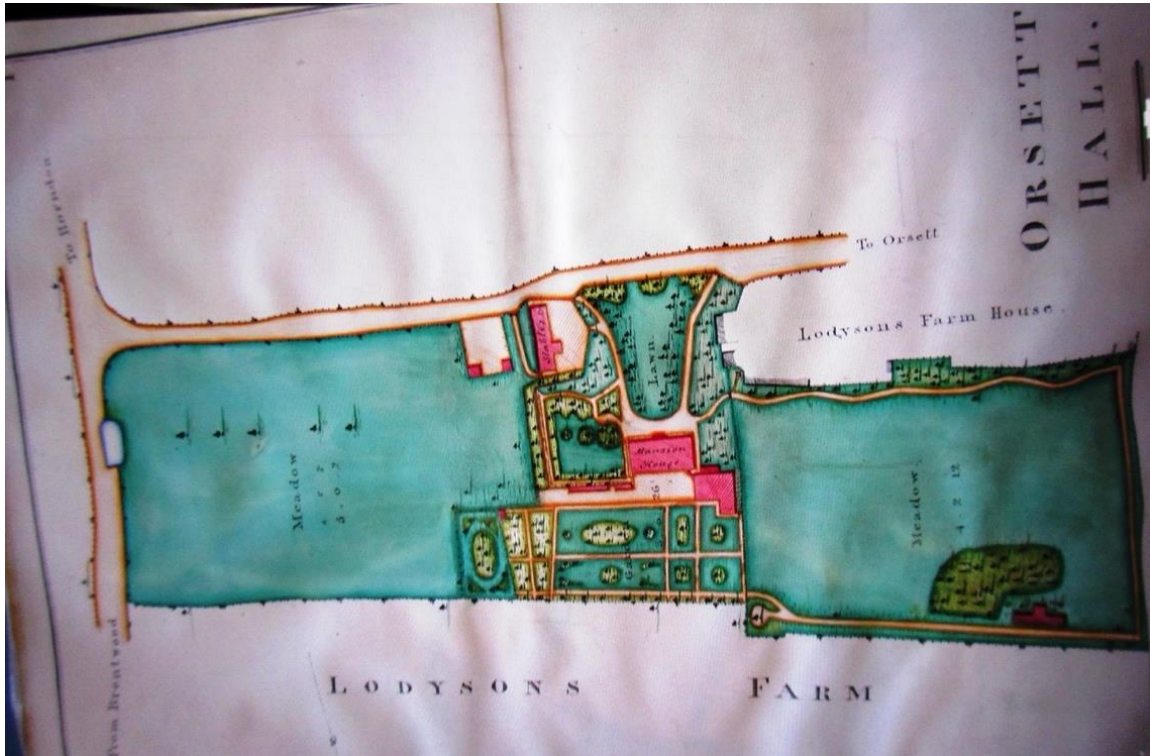
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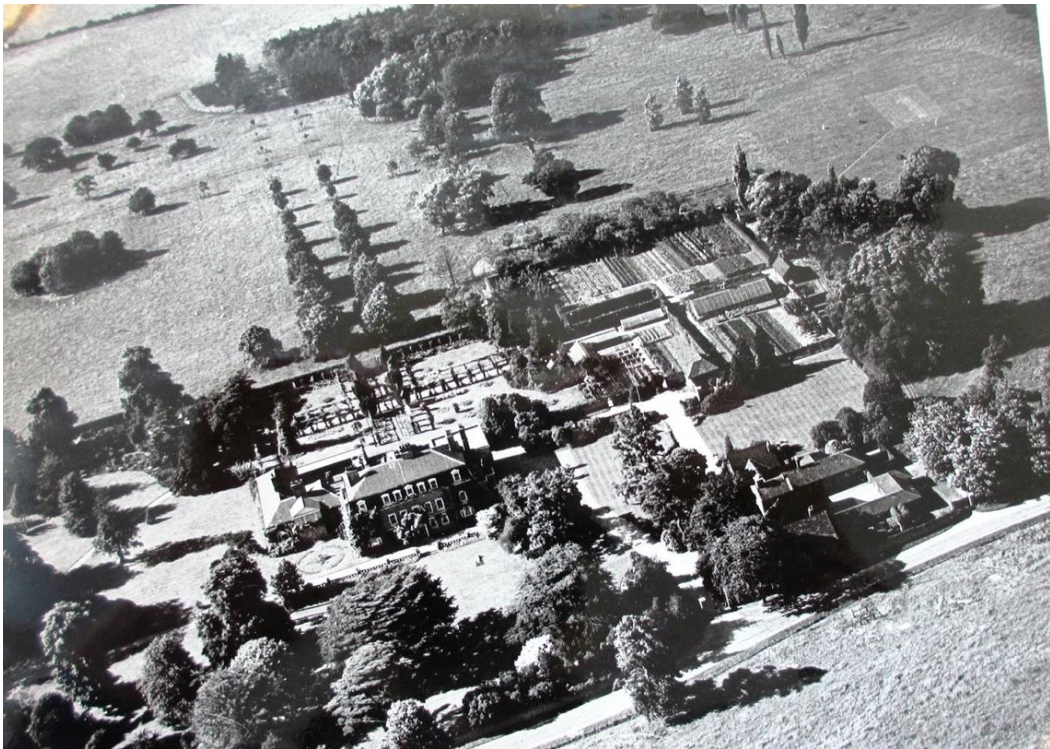
<https://maps.nls.uk>

Research assisted by Robert Adams – Tree mapping

Researcher: Jill Plater



Plans of the property of Richard Baker surveyed in 1822 by Richard Dent
(Reproduced courtesy of the Essex Record Office D/DWt P2)



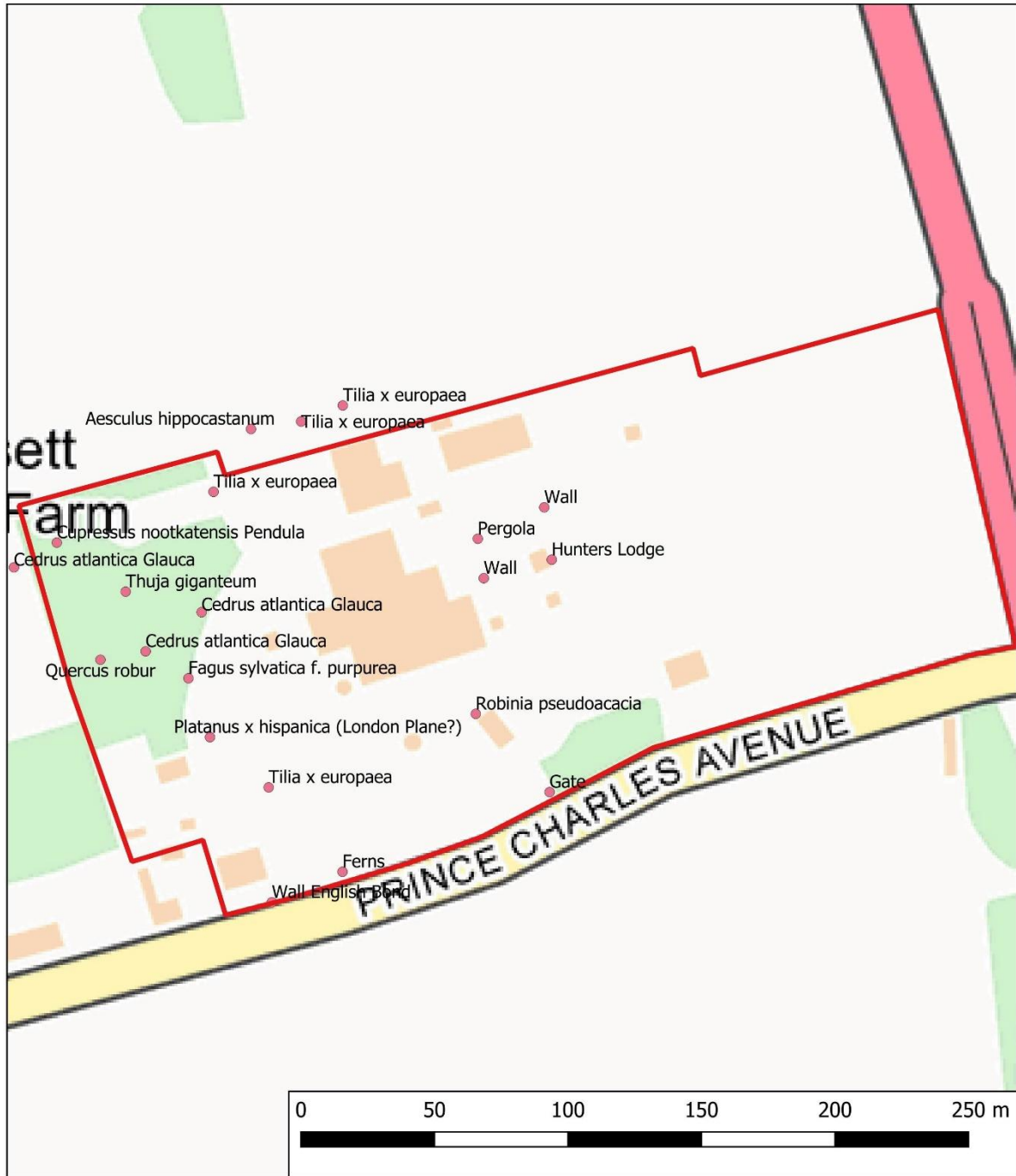
Aerial photo of Orsett Hall from a 1938-46 Whitmore family album
(Reproduced courtesy of the Essex Record Office D/DWt Z3/12)



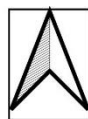
Orsett Hall rose garden and pergola from a 1925-28 Whitmore family album
(Reproduced courtesy of the Essex Record Office D/D/Wt Z3/8)



Orsett Hall pergola 2021 (Image Jill Plater)



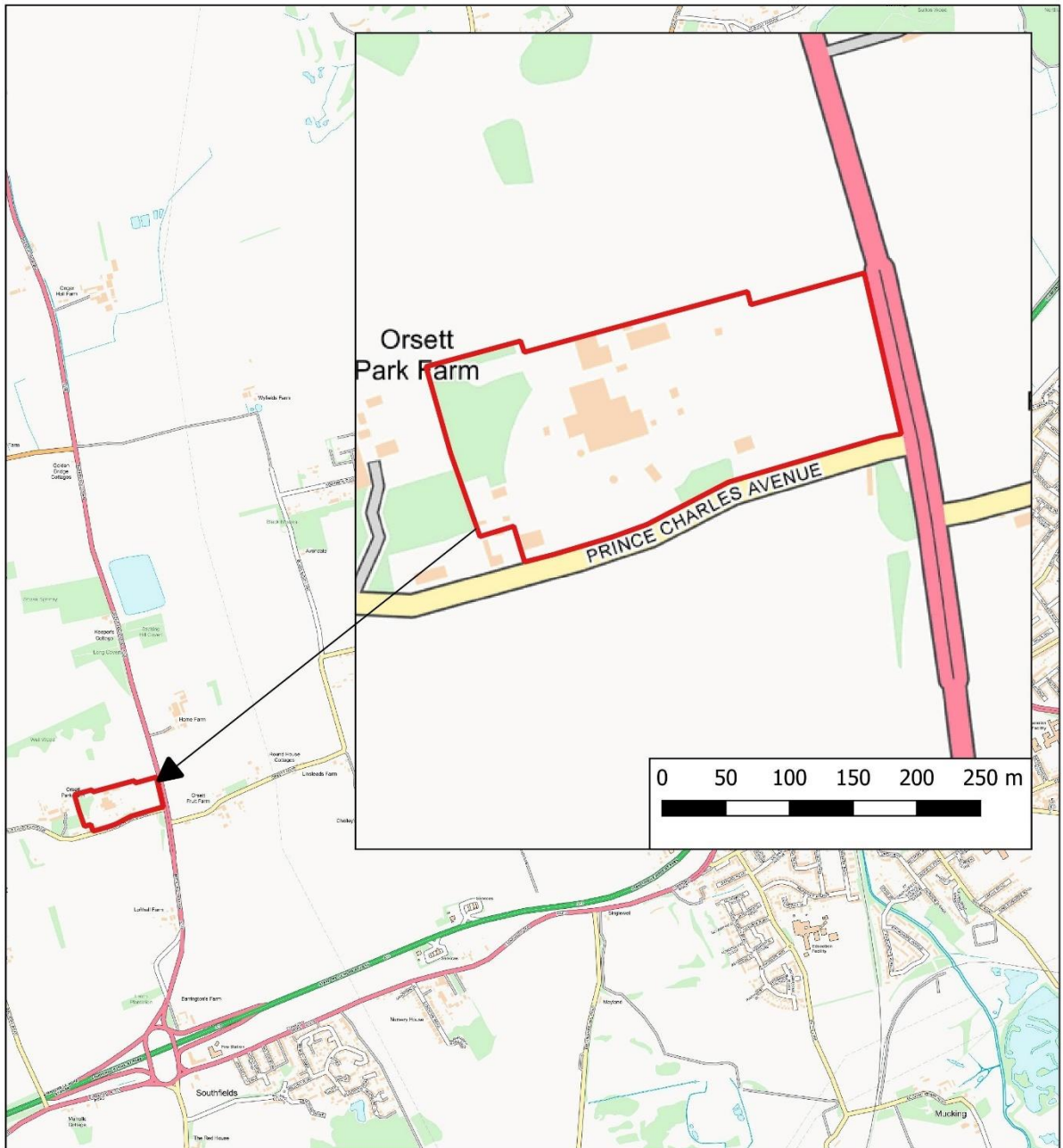
Name	District	Parish
Orsett Hall	Thurrock	Orsett



Site Boundary
• Orsett Hall Features

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Location of features and specimen trees Robert Adams 2021



Name	District	Parish
Orsett Hall	Thurrock	Orsett



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**INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC
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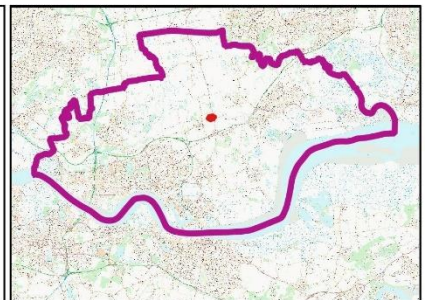
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MAP CENTRED AT: TQ 65117 82348

MAIN MAP SCALE 1:10,000



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ORSETT HOUSE, Orsett

TQ63976 81975

A Grade II* house with a mid-C18 rear walled garden and ornamental gates with a ha-ha separating the gardens from the park.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Captain Samuel Bonham acquired his wealth by participation in the slave trade but, despite his profession, he was highly respected becoming churchwarden of Ratcliff Stepney in 1727. From 1734 to 1739 Samuel bought lands in Orsett and Bulphan and in 1740 built Orsett House. Captain Bonham died five years later and was buried in the churchyard at Orsett: his wife survived him until 1771. Chapman & André 1777 map of Essex shows Captain Bonham as the owner of Orsett House: the map also shows a double tree lined drive leading from the High Street to the house. The 1777 map shows Maltings Lane extended from Old Hall Farm to run close to the rear of the Orsett House gardens until it met Fen Lane. Today Malting Lane terminates at Old Hall Farm and the junction with Pound Lane. There is a ha-ha separating the house and garden from the park

Captain Bonham's eldest son Henry (1718-1791) inherited Orsett Hall while son Samuel (1729-1821) lived at Warley Place, an estate he had acquired through the marriage of a sister. Samuel inherited Orsett House after his brother's death and on his death his son Henry inherited the property. The family moved to Warley Place and in 1821 Orsett House was leased out to Mr Duncombe as principal of a private boarding school. In the 1840 tithe apportionments Henry Frederick Bonham is given as the owner of Orsett House with George Maconachie as occupier, Maconachie was now the principal. The tithe apportionment gives the house, buildings and gardens as covering two acres with meadows and arable lands immediately to the east and west of the house and the tree lined drive also owned by Henry Bonham. By 1855 the house had been sold by the Bonhams to the owner of Orsett Hall. The Boarding School continued beyond this date but by 1883 the house was again a private residence. In the Thurrock Museum is a letter on Orsett College headed paper, dated 1881, from one of the boarders to his father. The letter also has a large drawing or painting of Orsett House and gardens. This drawing shows a single tree lined drive and some interesting features in the rear garden including a large greenhouse and a long pathway lined with arches leading beyond the gardens into the parkland.

The 1897 Ordnance Survey map shows numerous trees in the east meadow and a small pond in the west meadow. Overlaying this map with a current aerial image shows there has been little change to the layout of the grounds apart from more recent tree planting. Orsett House and grounds continued to be part of the Orsett Hall estate in the C20 being leased to various tenants. After the owner of Orsett Hall, Sir Francis Whitmore, died in 1962 his widow lived at Orsett House in a specially adapted apartment. Sir Francis Whitmore's son John sold the Orsett Hall estate in 1968 and the new owners of Orsett House converted the house into four apartments and applied to build the Coach House just west of the house which was granted.

In 2000 the owner of Orsett House, Mr Barnett, created an ornamental millennium garden in the meadow northwest of the rose garden with specimen planting, stones, and statues. In 2001 Mr Barnett sold the freehold of Orsett House and rose garden to a management company. The owner of the Coach House bought the freehold of the drive and millennium garden, the owner of the cottage and cottage garden bought the freehold, and Mr Barnett retained the freehold of the surrounding meadows.

The site is recorded on the HER references House 1111610, Wall and Gates 1111544.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM & SETTING

Orsett House is approximately four miles from Grays Town Centre and ten miles from Brentwood in the north. The area is low lying to the north of the River Thames and the natural environment is a river plain made up of the Northern Thames-side marshes, fens and fans.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Orsett House is approached by an electronically operated five bar gate from the High Street to a tree lined avenue leading to a gravel area in front of the house. The walled garden to the rear of the house faces north where the main road from Horndon to Aveley used to run via Maltings Lane.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

Orsett House is a Grade II* early to mid-C18 house with a service wing to the east with a c1975 attached flat roofed garage. The garden wall, two gate piers and gate, and a wicket gate attached to Orsett House are early to mid-C18, of red brick Flemish bond and wrought iron gates and are all Grade II.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The house is approached by a 140m tree lined drive with meadows to both the east and west of the drive. The eastern meadow is dotted with numerous mature trees as shown on the 1897 ordnance survey map. To the rear of the house is a formal walled rose garden with a central shingled path leading to wrought iron gates with brick piers surmounted by griffins. The central garden path is bordered by roses with areas of grass on either side. Features of the four corners of the lawns are large clipped-box topiary. Another shingled path runs around the perimeter of the garden separating the areas of lawn from further flower beds in front of the walls. Beyond the walled garden and through the wrought iron gate is an area of lawn and trees, possibly an old orchard. To the west of this is the 2000 millennium garden, an area of lawn with numerous small specimen trees, areas of ornamental stones and statues. Further meadows are to the west, east and north and a fence separates the Orsett House grounds from the fields beyond with a ha-ha separating the gardens from the parkland.

PARKLAND

House, gardens and parkland amount to approximately seventeen acres. Parkland to the east and west of the house is mainly meadow land. A further field north of the walled rose garden

has an interesting shaped large pond which is depicted on the late-C19 ordnance survey maps: this field is used by a local farmer for grazing.

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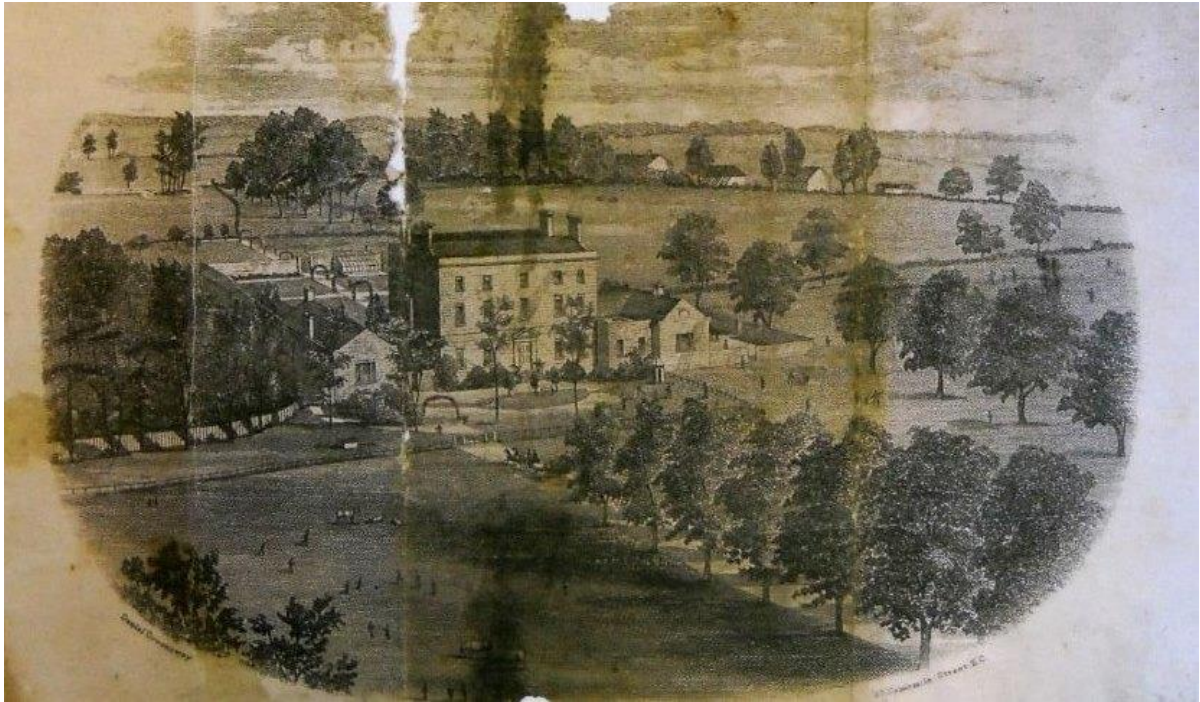
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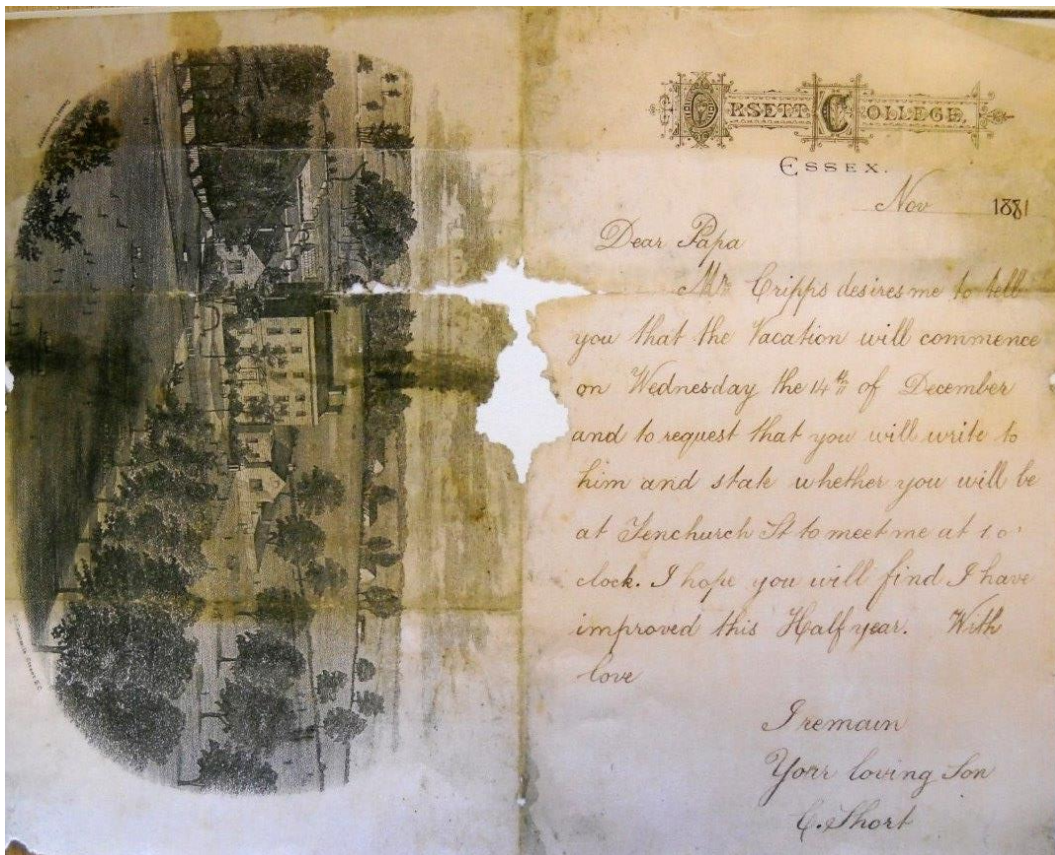
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www.historyhouse.co.uk

Researcher: Jill Plater



Orsett House in 1881 (Reproduced courtesy of the Thurrock Museum)



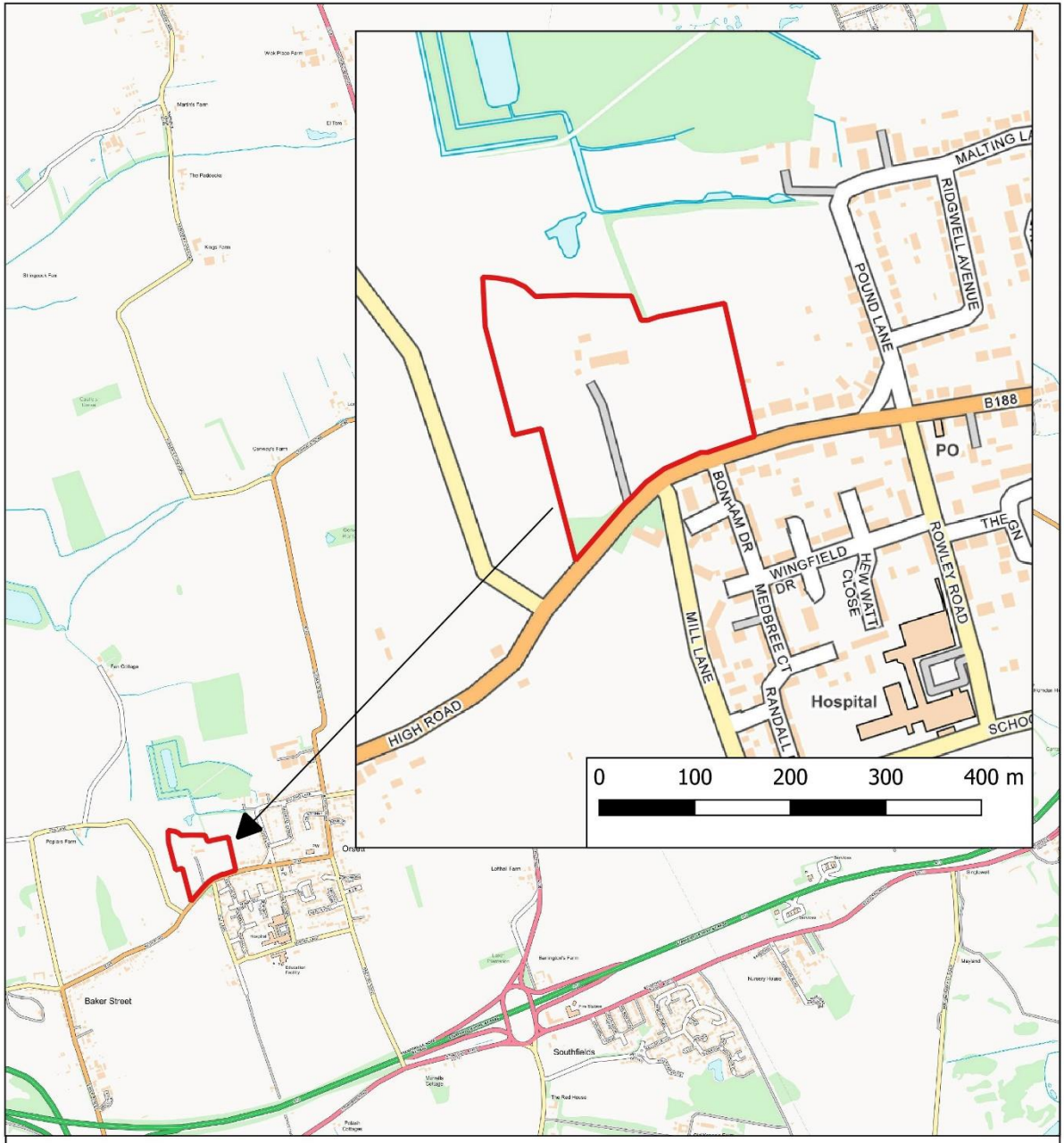
Orsett Academy letter and image dated 1881 (Reproduced courtesy of the Thurrock Museum)



Chapman & Andre 1777 map of Essex Plate XXII



Tree lined drive to Orsett House 2021 (Image Jill Plater)



Name	District	Parish
Orsett House	Thurrock	Orsett



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BOUNDARY CAPTURED AT: 1:10,000
 MAP CENTRED AT: TQ 63957 81943
 MAIN MAP SCALE 1:10,000

Site Boundary

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SOUTH OCKENDON AMENITY PARKS (Aveley Estate), South Ockendon

MILLARD'S GARDEN:	TQ584805
BONNYGATE WOOD:	TQ586817
HUMBER AVE AMENITY GREEN:	TQ557737

Three recreational areas within the boundaries of the former LCC Aveley Estate, each with origins as part of the historic Belhus Estate. These three areas together comprise examples of the enlightened integration of historic 'open space' as part of the overall design of mid-C20 housing estates. The history and development of each site is described individually below as well as their joint impact in the C20 landscaping.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Millard's Garden (Stifford Rd), Bonnygate Wood (Daiglen Drive) and the Humber Avenue Amenity Green form important elements of the modern (C20 and C21) designed landscape. In addition each has three major periods of significance in the history of the area, as evidenced both on site and in historical records. In summary: as elements of the medieval system of woodland economy and labour; as part of the Belhus Estate, landscaped parkland, owned by the Barrett-Lennard Family from the C15 until early-C20; as part of Green Belt land (Millard's Garden and Bonnygate Wood) designated mid-C20, managed by the Forestry Commission and Thames Chase, and as an amenity green (Humber Avenue) managed by Thurrock Council for the benefit of the local community.

The earliest reference to any of the specific areas is C14. 'Manywaresgardyn' (Millard's Garden) was recorded in 1397 as being owned by John Maniwares (ERO:D/DL T1254). In the division of the Nortones estate, it later became the Belhus Estate of John Baret and his wife Alice.

The three locations of the current recreational areas can be found on the manorial survey map of the Belhus Estate dated 1586. Millard's Garden was recorded as Manyware's Garden and Bonnygate Wood as North Heathe, both detailed as recently felled woods. The area of the current Humber Avenue Amenity Green was located in close proximity to the manorial house (Northamptonshire Record Office: Map/1254).

In 1618 Sir Edward Barrett obtained a licence to make a park at Belhus and in 1619 commissioned a survey of his estate. The resulting map, attributed to Samuel Pierse (ERO: D/DL P1A & D/DL P1) shows both Millard's Garden (known as Maynard's Garden in 1619) and Bonnygate Wood as heavily wooded areas. The survey recorded the size of Millard's Garden as 30 acres 2 Roods 2 Daywork and Bonnygate Wood, a wooded area in a 'leg of lamb' shape, as 6 acres 3 rood 2 perch. The area currently known as Humber Avenue Amenity Green was shown as a wooded part of the deer park.

Thomas Barrett-Lennard, Lord Dacre commissioned Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to design the landscape at Belhus between 1753 and 1763. The Belhus Estate including Millard's Garden

(listed as Mallerds Wood) is recorded on the Chapman and André map of 1777 although Bonnygate Wood was not included.

The 1840 Tithe apportionments of South Ockendon and Aveley respectively, record Bonnygate Wood as Bonnycroft Shaw and Millard's Garden as Millerd's Wood confirming that both areas had retained their size and distinctive footprints.

A comparison of present-day satellite images with an OS map published in 1897 record the unchanged outline and acreage of Bonnygate Shaw (6.312a) and the mixed-wooded area close to the tree-lined boundary of the Deer Park at Belhus being the location of the modern-day Humber Avenue Amenity Green.

A comparison of current satellite images with an OS map published in 1920 record the unchanged outline and size of Millard's Garden (30.007a), with paths leading through the wood in both a north/south direction and west/east direction, crossing in the middle of the wood.

Millard's Garden and Bonnygate Wood continued to be used for coppicing and providing wood product amidst a rural environment managed by a tenant until the late-C19, when the woods fell into disuse for this type of business as building practices altered.

The C20 brought dramatic change to the region. The Thames Land Company had acquired 3000 acres of land with frontage on the River Thames with the intention to build a vast industrial area. The intention was for industry to be positioned south of Aveley and land in the north to provide homes for the labour force.

Sir Thomas Barrett-Lennard inherited the Belhus Estate in 1919 but resided at Horsford Manor, the family estate in Norfolk and subsequently, in 1923, he dispersed the contents of the house. In May 1937 'The Thurrock Gazette' reported that Essex County Council had bought 592.5 acres of the Belhus Estate and a further 500 acres adjoining the Mardyke for inclusion into the Metropolitan Green Belt. By the 1940s London County Council had bought land in the north with the intention of building 'The Aveley Estate'. Further land was allocated for the Outer London Orbital Road, the M25, cutting through Belhus Park and separating land formerly part of the Belhus Deer Park from the House which included the wooded area that would become the Humber Avenue Amenity Green on the Aveley Estate. At this time Millard's Garden and Bonnygate Wood became part of the Green Belt.'

In 1944 Professor Patrick Abercrombie published The Greater London Plan proposing new developments to overcome the problem of the over population of London and suggesting improvements in town planning. Development of the 'Cottage Estates' by the LCC were influenced by the architectural work of Raymond Unwin and his contemporaries in the early C20. Unwin was convinced that beauty in quality and form were essential to mental health. The housing minister, Aneurin Bevan also understood the benefits of harmonious surroundings and believed that new estates should be modelled on the traditional village thus producing a balanced community.

London County Council developed 'The Aveley Estate' to provide much-needed council housing during the 1950s. Comparison of aerial photographs from 1929 and 1953 illustrate how the area had begun to change from a previously agricultural region known for market gardening, into a mixed housing and industrial area. Subsequently, the land was transferred to the Greater London Council and later to Thurrock Borough Council for care and maintenance. Planning maps of 'The Aveley Estate' indicate that Millard's Garden was part of the Green Belt. Bonnygate Wood, also considered Green Belt, would be retained as a public park and the Humber Avenue Amenity Green, bordered by 'higher income group housing' would be retained as undeveloped, open, green space.

Recognition of local history was given in the naming of new roads, parks and schools adopting the names of previous landowners: Dacre, Barrett, Lennard and of former local houses and woods: Dilkes, Bonnygate, Shaw, Somers Heath, Courts, Kennington and Culverhouse. However the schools formerly known as Barretts County Junior School and Lennard County Secondary School have since been renamed and Culverhouse County Secondary School for Boys/Girls has been demolished.'

By 1956 the Aveley Estate developed into two separate estates on either side of the open parkland of Belhus Park becoming the Kennington Estate and the Belhus Estate. When a postal sorting office was built in 1961 both areas were incorporated into the postal address of 'South Ockendon'.

Part of Millard's Garden was cleared of woodland for use as a park with play equipment leaving the remaining area as the existing Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. A mid to late-C20. brick boundary wall was built separating Millard's Garden from the housing area. In 2012 the Forestry Commission and Thames Chase took over management of the Mardyke Woods, which included Millard's Garden, to improve the quality of the woodland and its ecosystem. A three-year woodland improvement project was funded equally by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Veolia North Thames Trust and the Forestry Commission with the intention to work closely with the local community to reintroduce management practices to restore the woods' quality. Thurrock Council took on the responsibility of the play areas in Millard's Garden and Bonnygate Wood.

During the planning of the estate a decision was made to enlarge Bonnygate Wood changing it from its historic 'leg of mutton' shape to a rectangular area, opening it up by clearing trees to become more accessible for the local residents. During the intervening years since the 1950s many trees have been lost to the site through disease and age but the remaining veteran and mature oaks and sweet chestnut trees provide an area where children can play and local residents can enjoy the open space. It is remarkable that the boundary line of the original Bonnygate Wood, dating back to at least 1586 (mapping evidence), still exists as a dip in the ground level and is evidenced by aerial photographs and lidar. A remaining half circle of bricks at ground level is evidence of where a well once stood (TQ 58656 81801).

The Humber Avenue Amenity Green has remained a green space with mature trees since the building of the estate in the 1950s and before that as a wooded area within the Belhus Deer Park. The 1897 OS map details both coniferous and deciduous trees. The LCC Aveley Estate Planning map shows the green between Humber Avenue, Gatehope Drive and Garron Lane

as wooded and illustrates the intention and vision of the planners to leave the area in its original state for the well-being and recreation of local residents. The current urgent need for housing found Thurrock Council proposing the location as a possible site for building 26 new houses. The proposal was dismissed following much public opposition.

CURRENT DESCRIPTION

The usual format of 'SITE DESCRIPTION' when recording one site has in this instance been altered to CURRENT DESCRIPTION in order to account for three spatially separate sites which each contribute to the overall history and eventual cohesion of the open space of the South Ockendon Estate (formerly The Aveley Estate).

Millard's Garden includes woods and open space with two children's play areas. It is amongst the oldest surviving woodlands in Essex and is currently recorded as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Medieval wood banks and veteran trees can still be seen. The trees are mainly of oak, ash, hazel and sweet chestnut. Fungi and woodland flowers such as bluebells, lesser celandine, primroses, stitchwort and wood anemone can be found among the many pathways. It is a well-used area for walks, cycling and riding linking South Ockendon with the Mardyke Valley and Davy Down Country Park. Signage, maps and way markers show visitors the routes they can walk, horse ride and cycle and are generally in good order. The wooded area of Millard's Garden is maintained by the Forestry Commission and Thames Chase. The C20/C21 playground, associated with the increasing density of housing development, is managed by Thurrock Council. An area (approx. 400m²) has been cleared to provide a fenced, generously equipped children's playground and further on a fenced basketball court. Play areas are in reasonable order, with surrounding grass cut regularly. The woodland pathways are in reasonable order; however there is the threat of litter, vandalism and fire in both the wood and the play area. There has been graffiti and some vandalism on the brick wall on the eastern boundary. Community events, regular litter-picking and local school visits take place. It is a significant landmark which greatly enhances the local environment supplying 'a green lung' in an increasingly urban environment close to the pollution of the M25 and other major roads.

Bonnygate Wood is a family-friendly park. Three quarters of the park has tree cover, made up mostly of mature and veteran oaks, with some sweet chestnuts and ash. There is a small oval area approx. 12m long, with a scatter of hawthorn bushes, which is left uncut as a wildlife area. It has an enclosed play area of approximately 17 m² for young children, containing a tyre swing, toddlers swings, climbing frame with slide, helter-skelter slide and a rolling log. There is also an assault course for older children consisting of ten different items. As well as sheltered seating, there are bench seats and two wrap-around seats, positioned around two oak trees. A low, barrier type fencing is in place around the whole park. Dog walkers and local families regularly use the park. The 'Friends Of' group arrange fun days and events, along with litter pick days, an outdoor exercise group and take responsibility for the care of the flower planters. In 2019 the central path was re-laid and made wider, for the use of pedestrians and cyclists and is regularly used as a short cut to the shopping centre, local train station and a primary school. In 2020, solar lighting was installed, along with the flower planters. Its continual care and upgrading have kept it as a well-used and appreciated place.

The Humber Avenue Amenity Green is a grassed area with mature trees in generally good condition. The houses surrounding the green are mainly private since the 'Right to Buy' scheme of the 1980s. Some veteran trees have been lost to the green. The remaining trees are horse chestnut, sweet chestnut and Scots pine. The girth of the largest Horse Chestnut is 3.48m. The trees are maintained by Thurrock Council. There is low, barrier type fencing around the whole area to discourage parking on the green. Swathes of daffodils provide much needed colour in the spring. Dog walkers exercise dogs here and the local school use the quiet roads around the green area for cycling proficiency instruction. The area is much loved and valued by the local community as a picturesque, calming, recreational space.

The housing estate is now on the borders of the Dartford Crossing, the M25, the A13 and the proposed new Lower Thames Crossing and as a consequence, Thurrock has high levels of pollution. The three parkland areas of Millard's Garden, Bonnygate Wood and Humber Avenue Amenity Green play an important role in improving air quality and the general well-being of the local residents.

KEY SURVIVING FEATURES

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING, ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES:

The area of South Ockendon lies to the south of the A127, to the north of the A13, to the east of the M25 and to the west of the B186, Grays to Brentwood road, and is approximately 3 miles from both the town of Grays and the town of Upminster in the London Borough of Havering.

Millard's Garden is part of the Mardyke Woods which were originally known as three separate woodlands - Millard's Garden, Brannetts Wood and Low Well Wood. The mixed woodland covers an area of approximately 12.141 hectares and has a north/south orientation from the housing estate in the north to the Mardyke Valley in the south. The wood lies to the west and south of the two children's play areas. To the east, a brick-built boundary wall (length approximately 458feet/140m) separates Millard's Garden from the housing estate. Medieval wood banks which would have divided these three woods can still be seen today. Millard's Garden borders the B1335, Stifford Road, which runs between Stifford and Aveley with entrances to the site at the junction of Stifford Road and Daiglen Drive, South Ockendon. The northern entrance to Millard's Garden is from the edge of the wood on Stifford Road. A pathway here leads westward into the wood and another pathway leads across open grassland towards the south-east to an open gateway in the eastern boundary wall allowing access to housing. It then continues south-east, passing the children's playground and basketball area, crossing a boundary ditch, by way of a wooden bridge, to an open, sparsely wooded area, then continuing onto the more densely wooded slope of Brannetts Wood and the Mardyke river valley where the path meets the Mardyke Way bordering the site. Twenty four-hour access to the site is predominantly from the north.

Bonnygate Wood is a rectangular partially wooded park of approximately 3.28 hectares with a north/south orientation bordered by the roads and housing of Arisdale Avenue, Annifer Way, Daiglen Drive and Annalee Road, South Ockendon. The children's play area is set among the trees in the centre of the park. The original eastern boundary line of the wood shows up

as a slight indentation across the park from a point on the east side of the park following a north-westerly direction to a mid-point on the northern boundary. The park provides a popular route between the railway station, a recent housing development on Arisdale Avenue and the shopping centre of Derwent Parade. Low barrier fencing protects the site from off-road parking. Bonnygate Wood is approached from the north via Arisdale Avenue, from the south via Annalee Road, from the west Daiglen Drive and from the east Annifer Way. The low barrier fencing allows twenty four-hour access to the park for pedestrians from all boundaries. A formal tarmac path runs through the park diagonally from the north-east in a south-westerly direction, from the junction of Arisdale Avenue and Annifer Way, to Daiglen Drive and Annalee Road.

The Humber Avenue Amenity Green, approximately 0.78hectare in size, lies in a west/east orientation in a rectangular shape. It is bounded by the houses and roads of Humber Avenue, Gatehope Drive and Garron Lane where a small parade of shops is situated. The entrance to Belhus Park is situated close by at the end of Gatehope Drive and the busy M25 motorway is just metres away from the park gates. Low barrier fencing protects the site from off-road parking and allows 24-hour pedestrian access. The area is grassed with a scattering of mature trees -horse chestnut, sweet chestnut and scots pine. Significantly the trees not only supply 'a green lung' but also support habitats for wildlife, fungi and other plants in addition to providing food for a variety of birds and smalls animals. An electricity sub-station stands in the north-east corner of the site. Humber Avenue Amenity Green is approached from Gatehope Drive in the east, Humber Avenue in the north and west and Garron Lane to the south. There are no formal or informal pathways across the site.

The housing estate is now on the borders of the Dartford Crossing, the M25, the A13 and potentially the proposed new Lower Thames Crossing. As a consequence, Thurrock has high levels of pollution. The three parkland areas of Millard's Garden, Bonnygate Wood and Humber Avenue Amenity Green play an important role in improving air quality and the general well-being of the local residents. Physically separated, but in walking distance of each other, and despite their difference in landscape detail, usage and size, together these three sites combine to form valuable green space in an increasingly urban environment contributing a feeling of continuity of open space and amenity facilities to the estate, as originally planned.

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1929 www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EP026357 Millard's Garden

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Researcher: Heather Hunter



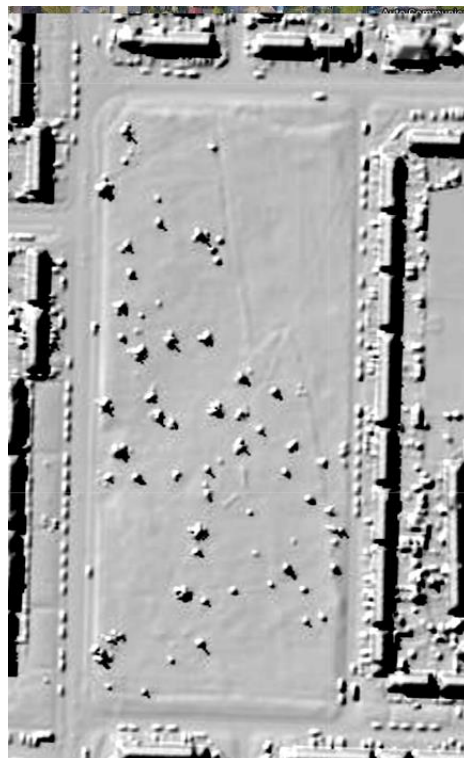
Bellhouse Manor c1586 (part Map 1254) showing location of Bonnygate Wood
 (Reproduced by courtesy of Northamptonshire Record Office)



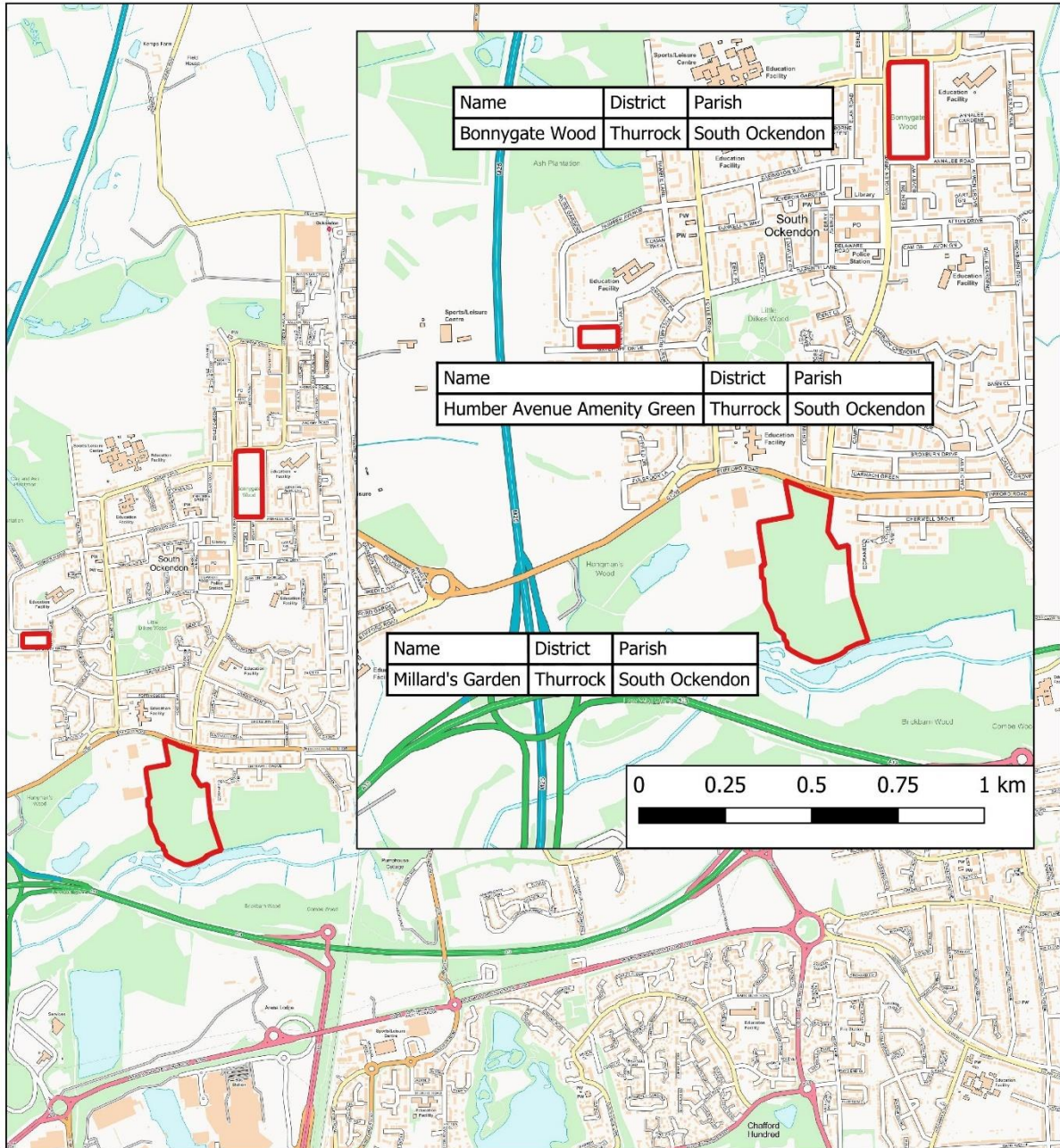
Manor of Belhouse 1619 (part D/DL P1A)
 (Reproduced by courtesy of Essex Record Office)
 Showing Millard's Garden, Bonnygate Wood





1840 Tithe Map of South Ockendon (part) showing Bonnygate Wood
(Reproduced by courtesy of Essex Record Office)





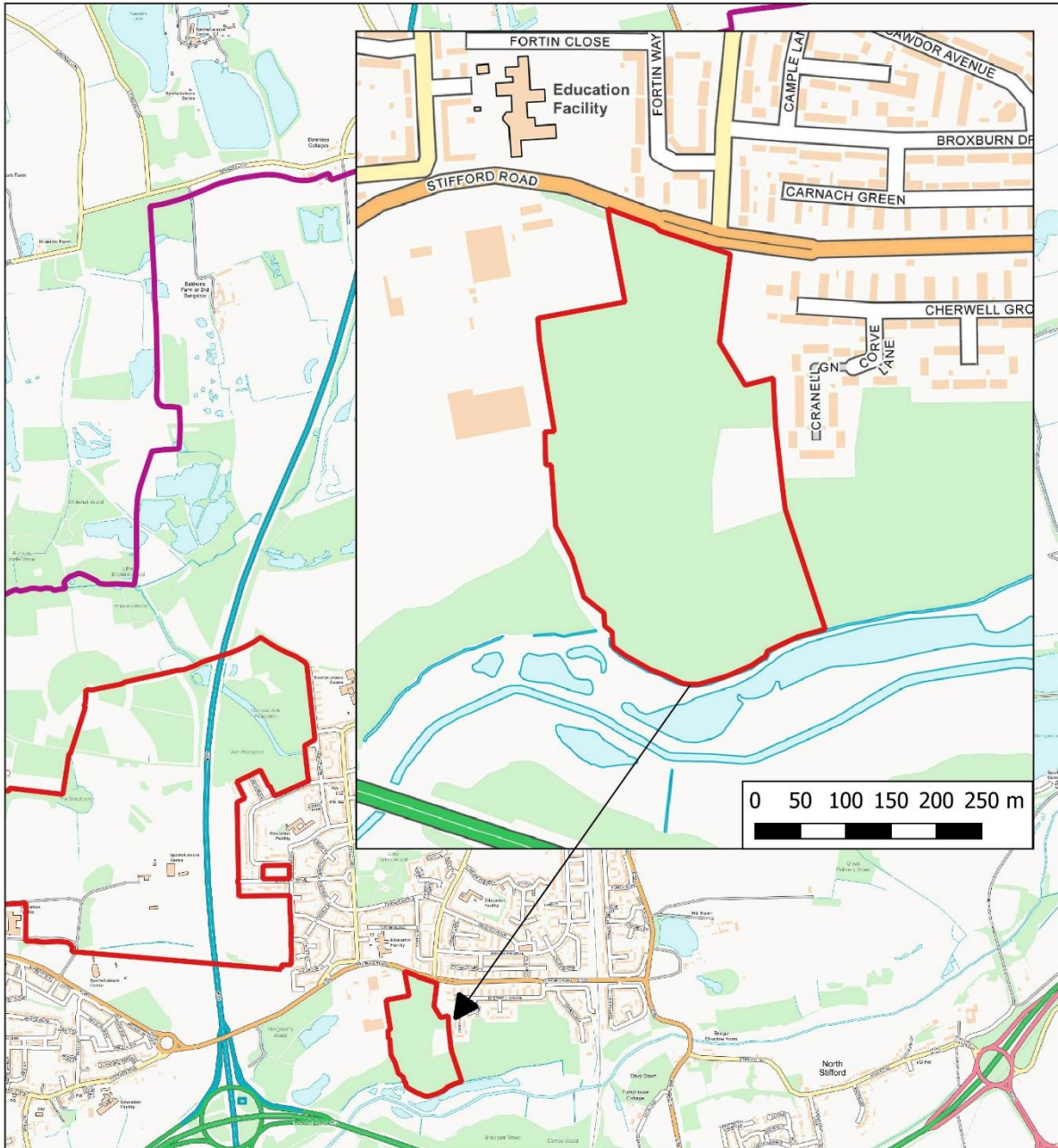
LIDAR showing original boundary of Bonnygate Wood
(Reproduced by courtesy of www.lidarfinder.com)



Name	District	Parish
Aveley Estate Amenity Parks	Thurrock	South Ockendon

<p>INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX</p> <p>BOUNDARY CAPTURED AT: 1:10,000</p> <p>MAP CENTRED AT: TQ 58340 81187</p> <p>MAIN MAP SCALE 1:10,000</p> <p> Site Boundary</p>	<p>All OS maps reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Licence number LA100019602</p>	
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Name	District	Parish
Millard's Garden	Thurrock	South Ockendon



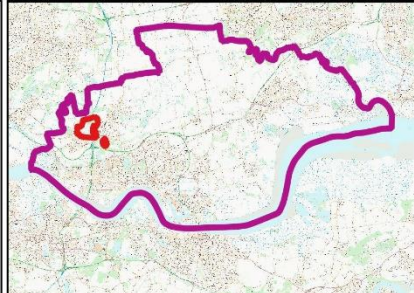
essex gardens trust
caring about our green spaces

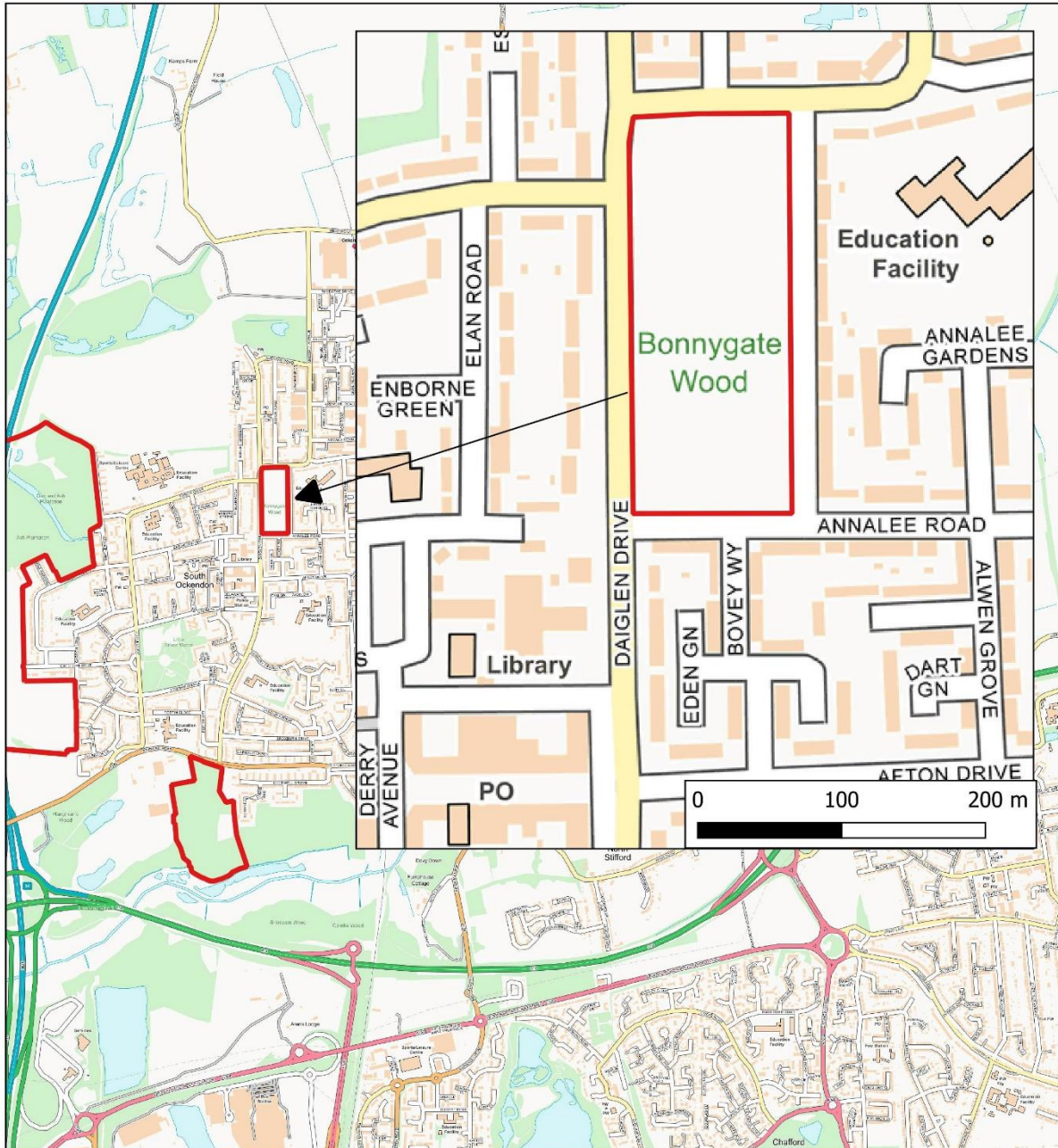
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Site Boundary

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Name	District	Parish
Bonnygate Wood	Thurrock	South Ockendon



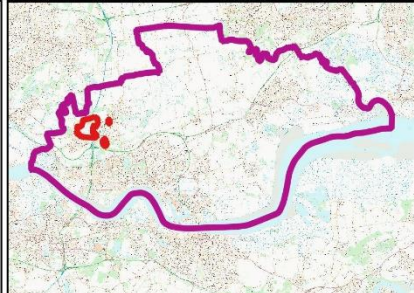
essex gardens trust
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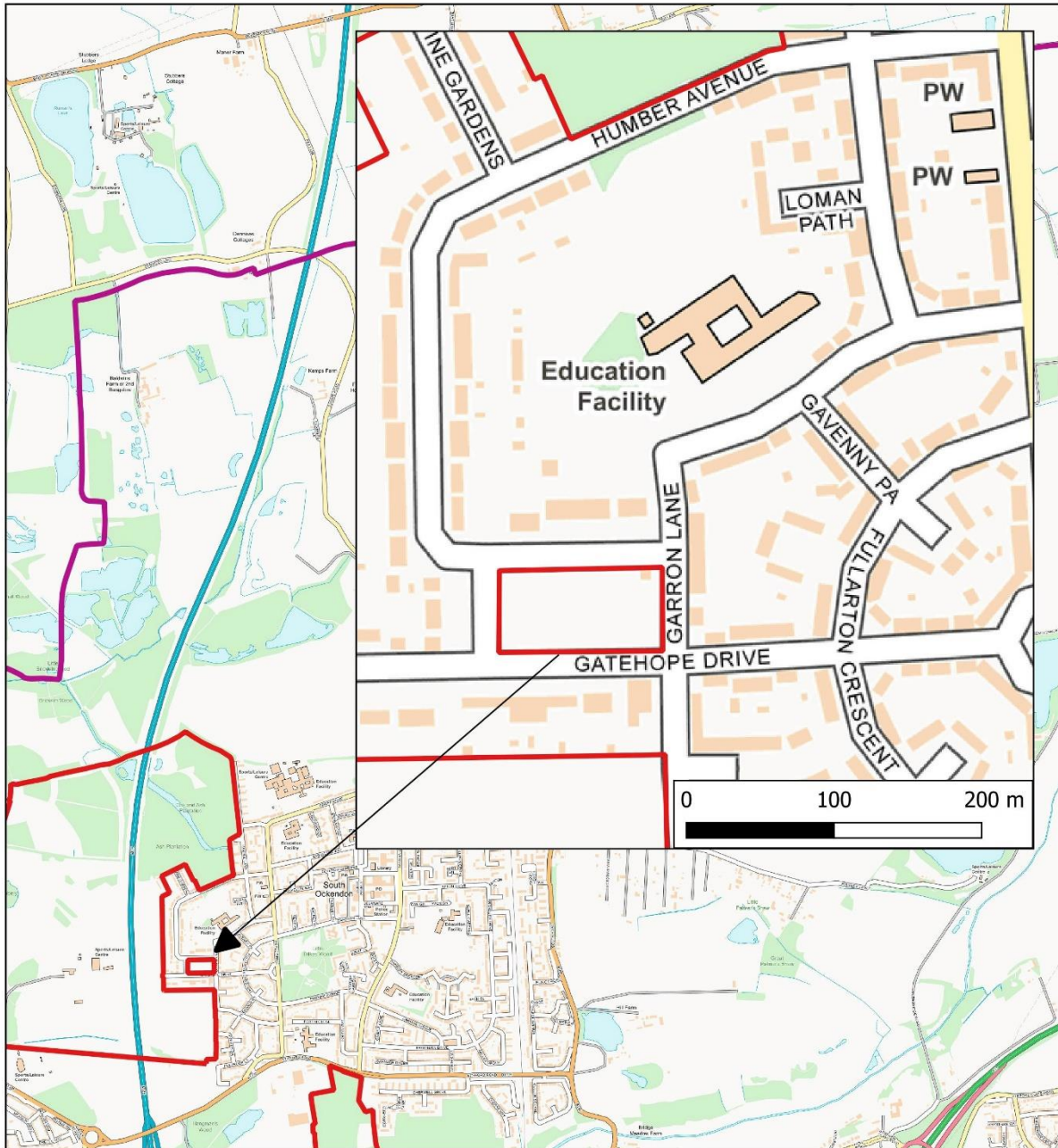
INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX

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MAP CENTRED AT: TQ 58652 81759
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Site Boundary

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Name	District	Parish		
Humber Avenue Amenity Green	Thurrock	South Ockendon		

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 MAIN MAP SCALE 1:10,000

Site Boundary

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STIFFORD HALL HOTEL, (STIFFORD LODGE) Stifford

TQ 60669 80481

Stifford Hall Hotel, formerly known as Stifford Lodge and listed Grade II as the Europa Hotel, is an C18 manor house with early-C19 additions, previously set in 22 acres (now c6 acres/ 2.4 hectares) of designed grounds. The garden walls, also listed Grade II, are late-C17. Gardens include mature trees and relict garden features.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Situated at the eastern end of Stifford village, overlooking the Mardyke valley, there has been a house on the site of the current Stifford Hall Hotel from as early as 1327. It was owned by Henry de Shirewell and known as Deanes or Sherwell's. The property stood opposite the former manor house known as Stifford Hall which was abandoned late-C18/early-C19. Sherwell's was later known as Stifford Lodge under ownership of Sir Richard Anderson and was probably of timber-frame construction. By 1736 it was owned by Jasper Kingsman who died in 1754 leaving the property to his son, also Jasper, who rebuilt the house in brick around 1769. The main south front of the house consisted of three storeys with a lower service wing at the back. The Kingsman family were major landowners whose family had been established at Burnham for three hundred years. Jasper Kingsman held property in several parishes and occupied an important position within the village. After his death the estate was sold by auction at the Rainbow Coffee House in Cornhill, London, on 19/20th November 1789. As well as the property in Stifford the Kingsman estate included the manors of South Ockendon and Wyfields and of 'sundry valuable farms'. The sales catalogue (ERO D/DZu 209) described the house as 'a capital mansion house with all requisite offices, gardens and meadow land' 'delightfully situate at Stifford, Twenty-one miles from London' 'a substantial modern brick building, in perfect repair'. The detached offices on the north side of the courtyard contained stabling for twelve horses and coach houses for four coaches reflecting the lifestyle of the Kingsmans. The gardens were described as 'walled round, and planted with choice fruit trees and behind them is a melon ground'. Adjoining the gardens were 'Four closes of meadow land ...ornamented with plantations and coppices'. The freehold property was estimated to be 22 acres.

The new owner of Stifford Lodge, John Button, was a member of a notable local landowning family and was successful in the coal business. Following John Button's death in 1806 the property passed to his son, John, who made additions to the house adding a flat-roofed, single-storey on the east side and creating a new doorway and entrance hall on the west side of the property. On his wife's death in 1830 he assumed her surname of Freeman, in compliance with the wishes of her family, and remained at the lodge until his death in 1853. A black and white drawing of Stifford Lodge by John Weld dated 1861, illustrates a three storeyed mansion with a range of five sash windows on each of the upper storeys (ERO: I/Mb 335/1/2). A veranda wraps around the front of the mansion and the east-side extension at ground floor level. Mature trees stand on the edge of the lawn on the south side of the house. A sweeping carriage drive can be seen to the west of the mansion.

John Freemans's daughter, Elizabeth Frances, inherited and retained the property until her death in 1868. The house then passed to her daughters. In 1871 the Rev W Palin, rector of St. Mary's Church, Stifford, wrote 'The grounds are undulating and spacious, and in excellent taste'.

Between 1860 and 1901 the house was let to a series of tenants: Arthur Wild, William Philip Beech, George H Frank, William Fitzgerald Scott and Herbert Edmund Brooks. Mr Edmund W Brooks, Herbert's father, bought the house in 1901. Edmund Brooks was a Quaker and philanthropist who was active in Liberal party politics as well as causes such as the anti-slavery movement and famine relief. In 1871 the Brooks family had brought the cement industry to Grays providing much local employment. The company eventually became the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd. Herbert Brooks became a director of the company and was also a director of the P & O Shipping Line. He was prominent in local politics becoming a JP, Deputy Lieutenant of Essex and Chairman of Essex County Council. Being interested in local history, in 1928, he published his work entitled '*William Palmer and his School*' which recorded the development of the local school founded in 1710 and the Charitable Trust which is still providing prizes and educational benefits to the present generation at USP College, Palmer's Campus, Grays.

Around 1926, the Brooks family moved out of Stifford Lodge for a short time and the house was let for a few months to three Indian princes, who had been sent to England to be educated, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Putani. The princes were Motabhai, who was educated at Harrow and became Governor of Bombay, Bapa, who went to Stanmore Park Preparatory School and became Prime Minister of Bhavnagar and Nunabhai who, was arrested for banditry. Herbert Brooks returned and lived at the house until his death in 1931. His widow remained at Stifford Lodge until 1933. He is remembered by The Herbert E Brooks Memorial Rest Gardens situated in Grays opened in 1933 (see Inventory entry).

The house was occupied by the Crossley family until 1939 when it was taken over by the War Department and became a Canadian military hospital. The house was used as offices and for operations. The lawn was dug up to run a sewer to the house. Numbers were painted on the garden walls bordering the lane where ambulances would park. Temporary huts were erected for use as wards which were dismantled at the end of the war by German prisoners-of-war.

After the war, the house was purchased by Colonel John Dudley Sherwood, head of Sherwood paints, renowned for being the first company to incorporate silicone as a water repellent into their products. He was regarded as 'Stifford's last squire' (*Stifford Saga*), serving as a church warden at St. Mary's Church, Stifford, showing generosity towards villagers inviting them to garden parties at Stifford Lodge and meeting the cost of providing a new village hall. He often spent winter months in Barbados and died there in 1966. A road in North Stifford village adjacent to the village green was named 'Sherwood' in his memory.

The sale of Stifford Lodge in 1966 was conducted by Pearson's Estate Agents, Valuers and Auctioneers of Grays and Strutt and Parker of Chelmsford and London. For sale at £35,000 freehold, the sale catalogue (ERO: SALE/F96) described a mansion set in nearly four acres of gardens, plantations and meadows of just over 16 acres, including two detached houses let to tenants within the grounds - Stifford Lodge Cottage and East Cottage. Outbuildings around the courtyard included a range of three garages, two-storey stores, stables, garden staff

room, a stores garage and washhouse and a wc. Walled Garden 1 contained a range of fruit and other stores including a boiler house for the greenhouse. Walled Garden 2 included a brick tool shed with asbestos roof and glasshouse. Walled Garden 3 contained a boiler house for a second greenhouse, a poultry run with poultry house, lawns, rose garden, hard tennis court and vegetable areas. Some of the features of the former walled gardens, the greenhouses, the related buildings and a circular feature shown on the OS 25-inch map (1892-1914) have disappeared under the extensions to the hotel. A local authority pumping-station built in 1950 when Stifford Lodge converted from cesspool to the Council's sewer was located in an area of meadow 70ft by 80 ft beyond the eastern garden walls and was not included in the sale. Notice was given of a current licence in favour of the Trustees of the 1st North Stifford Scout Group in respect of part of a meadow, site of the Scout Hall and a right of way.

Photographs included in the sale catalogue show well-kept flower beds, a manicured lawn, clipped box hedges, climbing plants on the pillars supporting the veranda and mature trees including the veteran Holm Oak on the front lawn. A photograph taken from the eastern side shows the gated entrance adjoining the garden wall comprised of two brick pillars with round stone finials supporting an ornamental metal gate leading into the rose garden with formal pathways. An ornamental box hedge feature interspersed with flowers in the south-east area of the lawn is also illustrated. A photograph taken of the main entrance shows an open porch with tiled roof over a cornice supported by four columns at the front, the two inner columns having ionic capitals, with two pineapple ornaments standing on short plinths either side.

When sold in 1967, Stifford Lodge became a 3-star hotel under Haven Inns Ltd with 25 letting rooms, 16 of which were in an extension block built on the former stables. A photograph of the Stifford Lodge Motor Hotel in 1970 shows the main building still with a single storey extension. A photograph of the south face taken by Historic England in 2002 shows that the extension had been extended further west, built up to the second storey and a semi-circular garden room added to the south facade. Further additions were built on the north and east sides of the house. The property has changed owners many times, becoming a Grand Metropolitan County Hotel known as the 'Europa Lodge Hotel'. It has also been known as the Thurrock Moat House, The Park Inn Thurrock and currently, the privately owned, Stifford Hall Hotel.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

North Stifford is a picturesque, historic, green belt village situated on high ground south of the Mardyke Valley. Stifford Hall Hotel lies just two miles to the north-west of Grays in a busy rural setting, approached from Stifford Hill and the High Road, close to the major A13 road to the south. The site, which falls away to the north and east into the Mardyke valley, is bounded to the north by the River Mardyke, to the east by Medebridge Road leading to the Veolia landfill site, to the west by The Chase and Coppid Hall, a former Georgian mansion now apartments, and to the south by the High Road. The landform to the north allows views out of the site across the open countryside of the Mardyke Valley.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES:

The entrance drive to Stifford Hall Hotel is approached from The Chase which lies between Stifford Lodge and Coppid Hall to the west. A curving tarmac drive, lined with pollarded lime trees leads to the hotel's west entrance hall and divides with a spur leading to the rear of the building, an additional entrance and two car parking areas. An oval shaped grassed area lies in front of the main entrance surrounded by the drive. This same area was shown on the 1777 Chapman & André Map of Essex. Car parking is also provided to the sides of the driveway. There is a further entrance from the patio, overlooking the lawned garden on the south side.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS:

The buildings comprising the hotel accommodation are in good condition. The Grade II (13370749) late-C18/early-C19 house, with many C20 and C21 additions, built around a courtyard, is smooth-rendered brick painted white, with a grey slate roof. The south-facing front of the original house and the two-storeyed extension to the west is surrounded by a lean-to veranda to the ground floor. The house retains its original appearance with a range of five sash windows across each of the two upper storeys. The ground floor has a range of five double glass doors opening onto the garden patio forming an integral part of the lawn and grounds design. A semi-circular garden room with turret roof has been added to the adjacent extension. The refurbished veranda has been altered to include the garden room and the eastern extension. The cottages included in the 1966 sale catalogue still exist. The derelict and boarded Stifford Lodge Cottage is located in close proximity, north-west of Stifford Hall Hotel just outside the boundary fence. East Cottage is a private residence situated on the former Stifford Clays Road now Medebridge Road.

GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUNDS:

The lawned area to the front of the hotel is well kept however the remaining areas among the walled gardens are overgrown and the remaining buildings derelict. A raised patio with brick facing extends the length of the south facing building. Four steps comprising of bricks and paving stone are situated at either end of the patio leading down onto the lawn. The steps on the west side are flanked by two white painted, stone, pineapple finials on stone plinths, reused perhaps from those shown in the sale catalogue of 1966 standing on either side of the entrance to the house. A raised lawned walkway proceeds along the east side of the garden bordered by abundant trees and shrubs in front of the C17 garden walls (LEN 1111545). A circular Box (*Buxus*) hedge feature is situated in the south-east corner of the lawn and could be the remnant of the former Box feature shown in the 1966 sale catalogue. Situated close by is a modern, hexagonal, wooden gazebo. From the lawn, six steps (C20) lead down to a tarmac area overgrown with weeds, formerly the tennis court. The chain link fencing, posts and gate of the tennis court remain on the east side. A further set of steps lead back up to the lawn. A short distance away, to the east of the hotel, stands a large Holm Oak (*Quercus Ilex*) with a girth of 5m, possibly c1800s. Amongst the overgrown area beyond the Holm Oak stands a notable Yew, with a girth of 3.90m, beside the wall of the former rose garden surrounded at its base by the remnants of a metal pergola. A brick pillar at the end of the wall is topped by a round finial, most likely part of the former gated entrance to the rose garden but now at the edge of a pathway alongside the hotel. The remains of a former pathway lined with stones, possibly Pulhamite, and diseased box hedging (box caterpillar moth infestation) lead into a very overgrown walled garden. Located in this area are the remains of a brick building containing a fireplace possibly the garden staffroom. The remains

of a greenhouse with evidence of whitewash on the garden wall is overgrown with ivy, holly, buddleia and brambles. Further along the pathway is a building, possibly a pergola, with side walls of rendered brick and a domed, decorative, metal roof, the dome being supported at the front by four decorative metal uprights. Stumps of vines remain entangled in the uprights and an established vine enters the structure through a side arched window and is interwoven throughout the dome. The Grade II late-C17 garden walls are of English bond, red brick at a height of approximately 7 ft with shallow buttresses. The walls are covered in vegetation with some bricks damaged or missing on the top of the wall. The pathway continues descending steps lined with stones, again possibly Pulhamite, towards a gateway in the wall (with no gate) into another overgrown garden beyond which the ground slopes away. The wall here has been partly rebuilt in C20 red bricks. Further along the wall another gateway (with no gate) lead to steps ascending to a pathway, lined in stone leading back into the higher walled garden where an overgrown yew hedge follows the line of the wall back to the Pergola. A modern notice on the C20 brick pillars warn guest to park cars at their own risk suggesting this area was once used as a car park.

Despite this overgrowth and neglect in the further parts of the gardens, the structure and setting remain intact, as do the garden walls and some evidence of garden structures. Closer to the house the lawns and the various subdivisions of these are an integral part of the relationship between house and garden.

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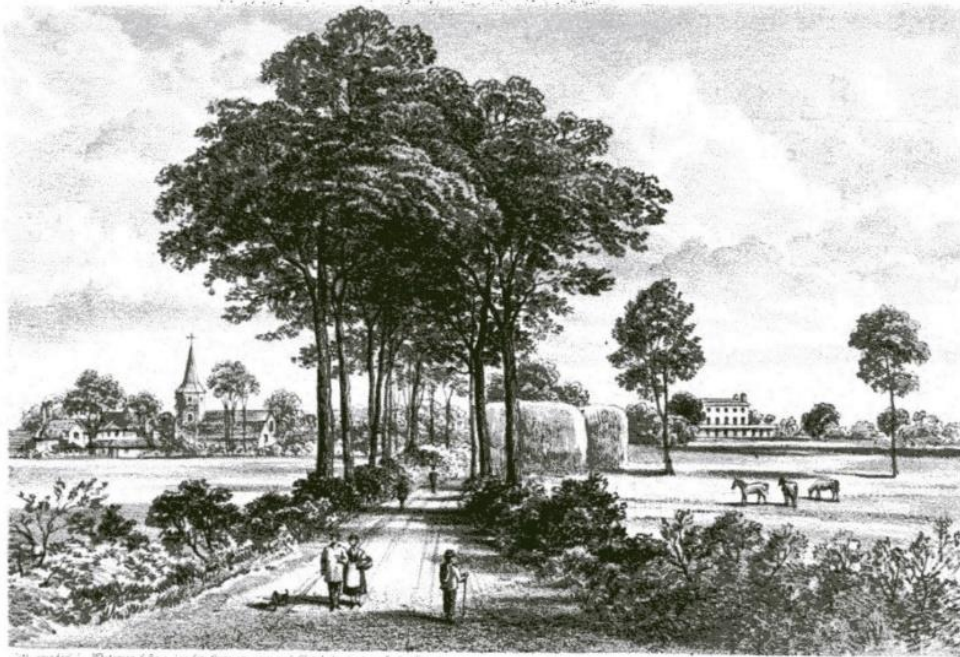
<https://www.stiffordhallhotel.com>

<https://pubwiki.co.uk> – photograph of hotel 1970

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission>

Research assisted by Robert Adams -Tree identification and mapping

Researcher: Heather Hunter



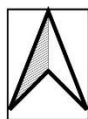
Engraved by W. Marshall & Co. London from an original sketch by W. Palin c. 1871

STIFFORD CHURCH & LODGE.
South View

'Stifford Church & Lodge' by Fanny Palin c1871
(From '*Stifford and its Neighbourhood Past and Present*' W Palin 1871)



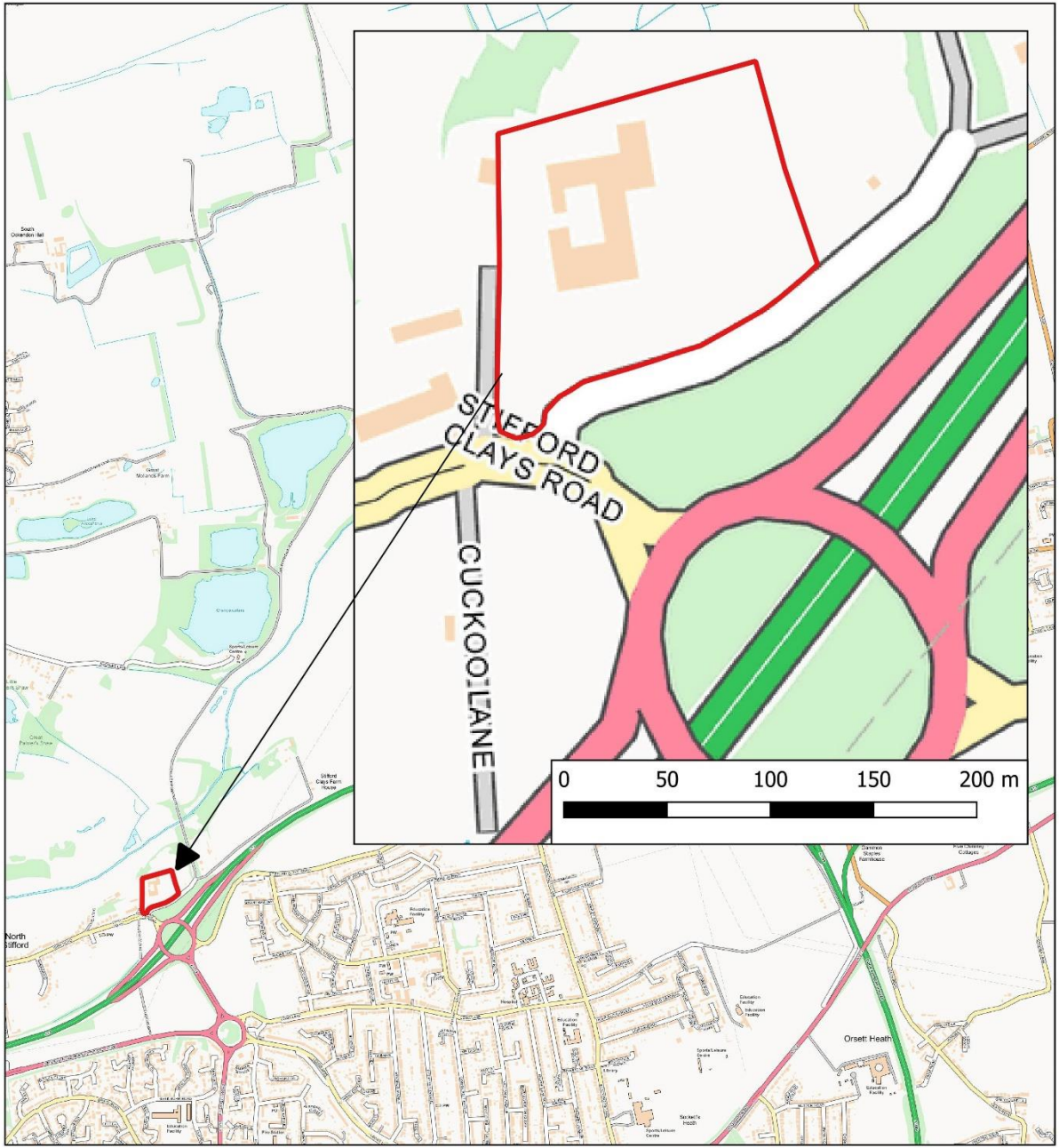
Name	District	Parish
Stifford Lodge	Thurrock	Stifford



- Stifford Lodge Features
- Site Boundary

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Location of features and specimen trees Robert Adams 2021



Name	District	Parish
Stifford Lodge	Thurrock	Stifford



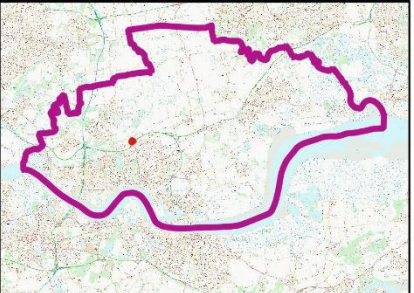
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INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX

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Site Boundary

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THE ELMS QUARRY GARDEN, Grays

TQ 616786

Victorian garden in a former quarry with significant features including a grotto and a cascade. Landscaped by the owners, Alfred and Thomas Sturgeon c1850. The quarry garden is a locally unique and regionally important example of Victorian 'romantic' landscape gardening which contains a relict grotto.

Note: Although originally a garden belonging to the house The Elms, the site is sometimes referred to as Treetops (the name of the subsequent school) and also as the Dell, which is actually the name of an adjacent property.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The Elms was built on farmland at the end of a farm track that has now become Dell Road. It was the home of Alfred and Thomas Sturgeon, who around 1850, designed the landscaped garden in a disused chalk quarry that was part of the property. The steep sides of the quarry provided a dramatic setting for the garden features which could be viewed from a summer house (now lost apart from a floor surface containing shells) at the eastern end of the site. (Leyin, 2015, Webb, 2015). Various pathways were built that allowed household members and visitors to walk down a gentler slope to the bottom of the quarry. The resulting garden was described as a 'Fairy land, with its deep and picturesque ravine and pleasure gardens' (Palin, 1871, p. 84). In 1871, the house and garden were described as 'a bijou residence and grounds' (ERO/D/DS 4/10).

Gardening was one of the favourite pursuits of Alfred Sturgeon and he planted seven *Cedrus deodora* (a cedar tree, native to the Himalayas) which by 1908 had grown 'to a tremendous height'.

The Sturgeons installed a water pump to supply the house which probably also fed the water features in the garden, which included a cascade (Leyin, 2015, pp 29 – 38). The water travelled through individual features beside a path, eventually reaching a small pond. The water fell about 100 feet as it travelled about 150 feet.

Jonathan Seabrooke (son-in-law of Alfred) and his sons built a grotto in the slopes facing the house. The basis for the grotto was an industrial relict (part of the quarry workings) which was adapted as a romantic feature within a landscaped garden. The grotto was located adjacent to the water feature and recent recording by the Thurrock Local History Society indicates that it contained a central column and four smaller chambers of approximately four feet (1.1m) in diameter cut into the western chalk face. (The ceiling of one of the side chambers has collapsed).

It is possible that the adjacent gardens at The Dell created by Alfred Wallace were influenced by those at The Elms. In particular what has been described as Wallace's 'Welsh Valley' included what was later described as 'a curious cave with water laid on to form a dripping well'. (Leyin 2015)

Fanny Seabrooke (nee Sturgeon) died in 1941 and the house was subsequently demolished to build Treetops School. Metal railings were erected after the 2nd World War to prevent access by pupils to the hazardously steep slopes of the garden. When they were installed, the railings were internal, except on south side of the garden. The railings provided an irresistible challenge to generations of school children who (now adult) have fond memories of evading the barrier to explore the forbidden wilderness beyond. As a result of deterioration of the gardens much of what is currently known about the original gardens comes only from these memories.

There is an area Tree Preservation Order (TPO) covering the whole area with a few additional individual TPOs. A survey in 1989 (Bridges) recommended that the new tree growth should be thinned. Further plans to thin the new tree growth and remove fallen trees were proposed during the redevelopment. It is unknown whether this happened. The site suffers from fly-tipping from adjacent houses.

The site was visited and recorded by the Thurrock Local History Society in September 2014 and April 2015.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

The Elms Quarry Garden is located to the east of Dell Road, Grays close to the entrance to Woodend Close and approximately 500m from Grays town centre. Dell Road forms the western boundary with other boundaries of mainly C20 and C21 housing but including The Dell, built in the C19 by the prominent Victorian scientist, Alfred Russel Wallace. The site is steep-sided – falling about 100 feet (33m) from east to west.

The site comprises about 2 acres (0.8 hectare). Railings were installed around the site boundary in the mid-C20 and remain in place following subsequent development of the adjacent land for residential housing and continue to delineate the boundary of the quarry garden. The railings are roughly 420m (460 yards) in length. During residential development of nearby land, a viewing platform was built and some of the railings were removed to provide access to this. Access was by a pathway and wooden kissing gate with unpainted wooden railings. Following complaints from residents about anti-social behaviour, this access has been boarded up. On Dell Road the boundary is a brick and concrete wall.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES:

The quarry garden was originally accessed by a winding driveway to the house (The Elms) from Dell Road. This included a roughly elliptical feature for turning carriages (shown on the 1897 Ordnance Survey). The lower part of this access now forms part of Woodend Close, but the upper part has been built on.

The site is not currently accessible. The western portion is visible over the wall on the eastern side of Dell Road. Parts of the southern portion are visible through the railings from a private road. A viewing platform that could be accessed from Woodend Close was erected when other parts of the site were developed for housing. Access to the platform has been blocked by boards following complaints of anti-social behaviour. In all cases, visibility of the garden is severely restricted by the growth of bushes and trees.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS:

The garden was created as part of the surroundings of The Elms, a C19 house subsequently demolished and replaced with Treetops School (also no longer extant). The garden contains relict structures of a summer house and grotto with shell floors (see next section).

GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUNDS:

Prior to redevelopment, members of the Thurrock Local History Society were able to visit the site and note the following relicts of the garden features: pathways on the slopes of the garden containing shells; a concrete pool (now dried up) at the lowest point of the garden; remnants of a water cascade that once fed the pool; floor surface for the summer house containing shells; and the grotto/tunnel.

These features were recorded in detail in Leyin (2015) and Webb (2015).

An examination of the grotto was made during the site visit (see details above). The ceiling of one of the side chambers had collapsed. The shape of the grotto was noted as being reminiscent of a dene hole and these are common in the area.

These locally and regionally important gardens are at present inaccessible and overgrown. However if restored and maintained they would have both heritage and amenity value for the local community. There are some similarities in style and content with The Plantation Gardens, Norwich, a 3-acre quarry garden laid out between 1857 and 1890, including summer house, water features etc and now registered Grade II (see Matthews 2016).

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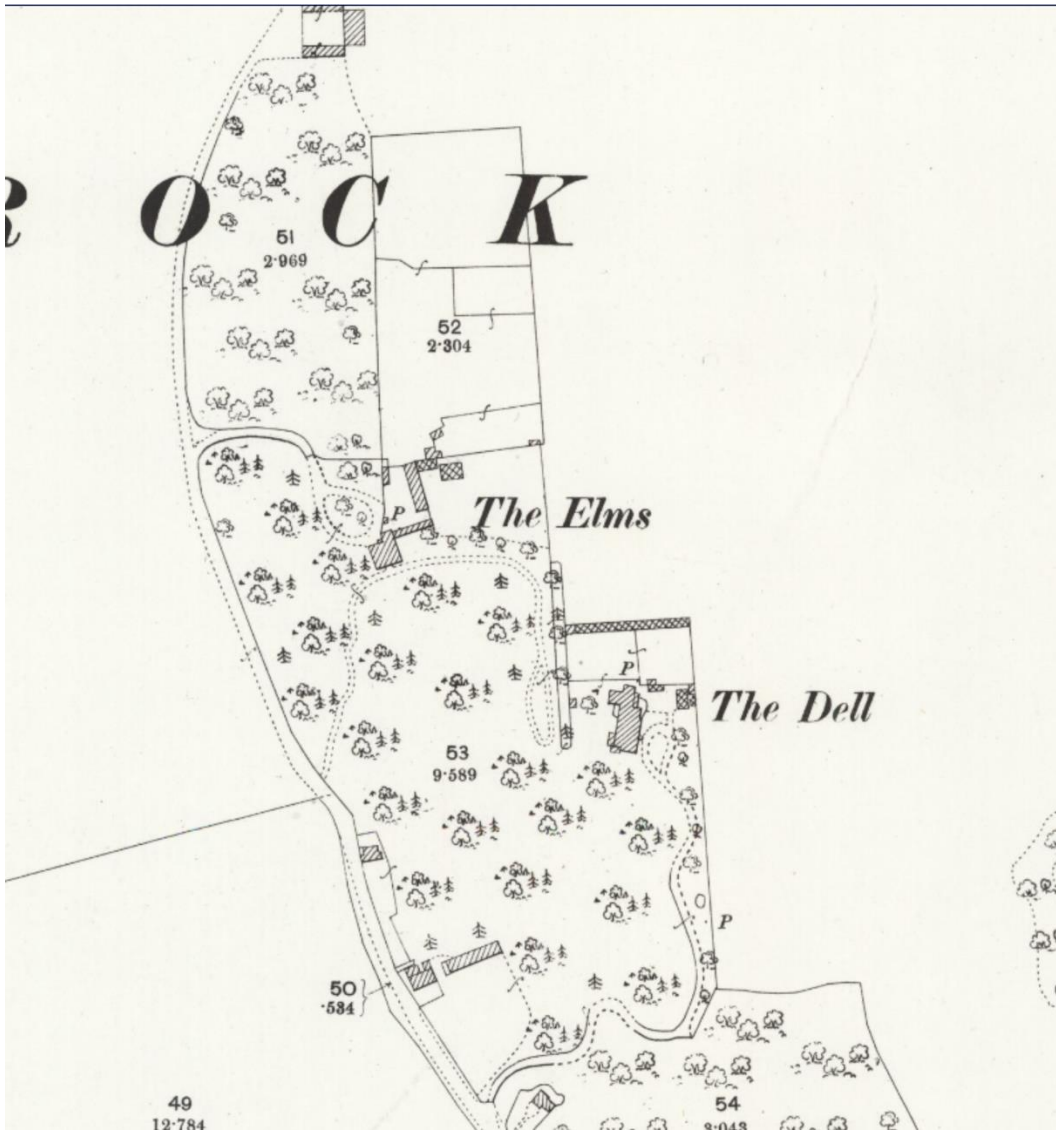
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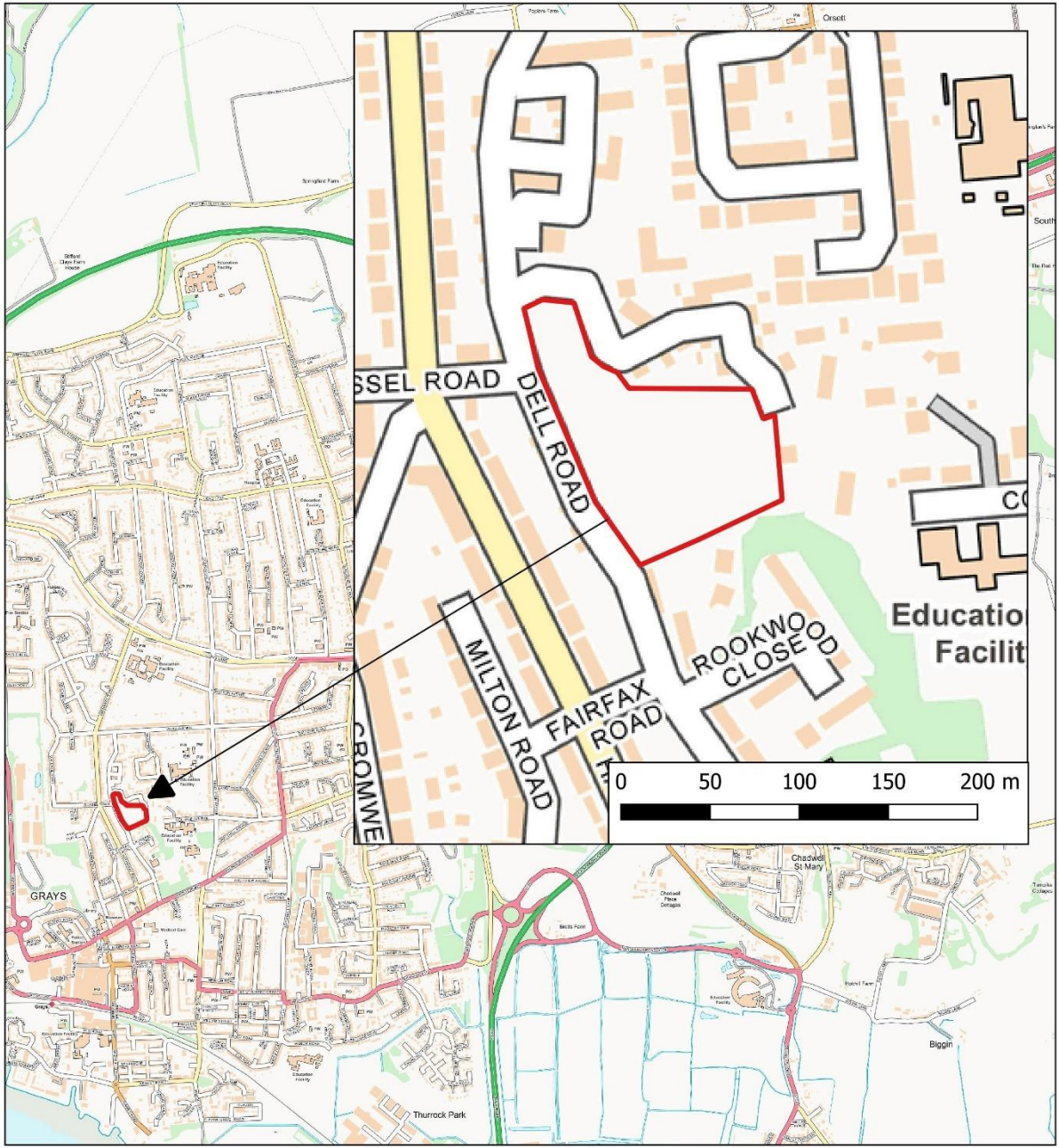
Ordnance Survey LXXXIII; 6 inches to the mile; surveyed 1863 to 1865; published 1873



Ordnance Survey LXXXIII.12 25 inches to the mile; surveyed 1895; published 1897

Researcher: John Matthews



Ordnance Survey LXXXIII.12 25 inches to the mile; surveyed 1895; published 1897



Name	District	Parish		
The Elms Quarry Garden	Thurrock	Grays Thurrock		

INVENTORY OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPES OF ESSEX

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Site Boundary

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WEST THURROCK CEMETERY, West Thurrock

TQ 5880 78003

An early-C20 cemetery in West Thurrock, Essex, with chapel designed by F and H Worrow, still in use and extended several times, from the original size of 0.84 hectares to the current 2 hectares. The cemetery is a designed area typical of the period in its layout, and now surviving as an isolated open space amidst light industry and other development.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

In 1913 West Thurrock Parish Council sought permission from the Essex County Council Local Government Committee to obtain a loan of £2,920 to provide a burial ground and chapel. A tender for the work had already been accepted, and parish councillors felt there was a need for the burial ground as the population of the area had risen to 3,849, up from 2,540 in 1891. The Committee was divided in its opinion so a decision was left to the Chairman. (*The Essex Newsman* Sept 6th 1913)

It must be presumed that permission for the loan was given, as West Thurrock Cemetery was opened in 1914 on what was formerly farmland. (www.thurrock.gov.uk).

The original design of the cemetery included a chapel, and incorporated allotments on the western edge, which became part of the burial ground in the late-1950s. The cemetery was further extended to the south in the early-1980s, and in the early-C21 a new area was opened to the east, across the road from the original main entrance.

A new building was added in the late-1940s and is described variously on maps as a mortuary or public convenience. It is currently the latter.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

West Thurrock Cemetery is located at the end of Sandy Lane, West Thurrock, a small road running north from London Road.

The cemetery is situated in a very heavily developed area, where retail parks and industry have overtaken residential estates as the main type of development. The area saw rapid growth and industrialisation in the C19 and mid-C20 mainly due to the chalk quarrying industry. The latter half of the C20 saw a decline in population due to older housing stock being replaced by industry. In 1990 Lakeside Shopping Centre opened but shrinking of the retail sector in the early-C21 has seen some retail space being replaced by new housing developments.

The cemetery is bounded on the south by 1980s housing, on the west by the West Thurrock Memorial Ground playing field, and on the east by the A126 West Thurrock Way, which runs from London Road north towards the A13 via Lakeside Shopping Centre. The northern boundary is the southern edge of the former chalk quarry which now houses Lakeside Shopping Centre and associated industrial and commercial estates. A public footpath along the northern edge of the cemetery looks directly down on IKEA.

The area is close to the A13 and M25 leading to the Dartford Crossing bridge over the River Thames.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The two entrances to the main part of the cemetery, and the new entrance to the most recent extension, are off Sandy Lane, which runs through an industrial estate to reach the cemetery.

A low stone wall provides the eastern boundary to the original main entrance, with modern metal gates. The southern extension and most recent eastern extension are bounded by metal railings. The northern boundary has a modern metal fence between the cemetery and the public footpath.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

The Chapel was designed by Frederick and Harry Worrow, Architects, of Basinghall St, London EC2, and built by Browns of Grays (plaque inside entrance to chapel). The Worrrows were elected to the Royal Institute of British Architects' Register of Licentiates in 1912. The foundation stone was laid on 28th July 1914 by Mr J W Clunn, Chairman of West Thurrock Parish Council. The Chapel is well-maintained and still in use. It has a single doorway facing east leading to a small chancel with a vestry room to one side. It has a vaulted roof, and a bell tower which no longer houses a bell.

The other building on the site first appears on maps from the late-1940s, labelled as a mortuary. It is currently a public convenience.

LAYOUT AND PLANNING

A tree-lined path runs east-west through the middle of the original cemetery layout and extends through the later western extension, formerly the allotments. It begins at the original main entrance and continues beyond the Chapel. The trees include cherry and do not appear to contain any original planting. This path is now off-centre due to a later extension of the cemetery to the south. The original southern boundary is indicated by a hedgerow between rows of graves. A second east-west path runs through the later southern extension.

Two paths run north-south. One runs either side of the Chapel to the original northern and southern boundaries, and the other is further west of the Chapel, and was the original western boundary, between the burial ground and the allotments. This former allotment area is now incorporated into the burial ground, with the earliest burials being in the late 1950s.

The cemetery is currently maintained by Thurrock Council and includes new lawn graves, lapsed graves, cremated remains graves and an area of commonwealth war graves. The newly opened area east of the original entrance includes Muslim burials.

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Researcher: Julia Cosby



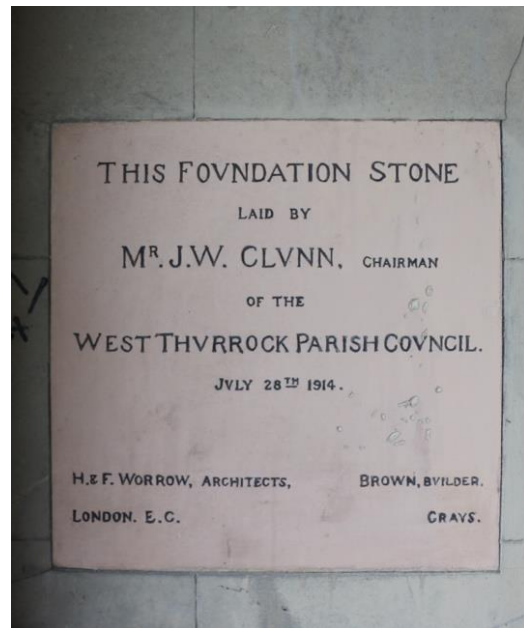
Main entrance to cemetery 2021
(Image Julia Cosby)



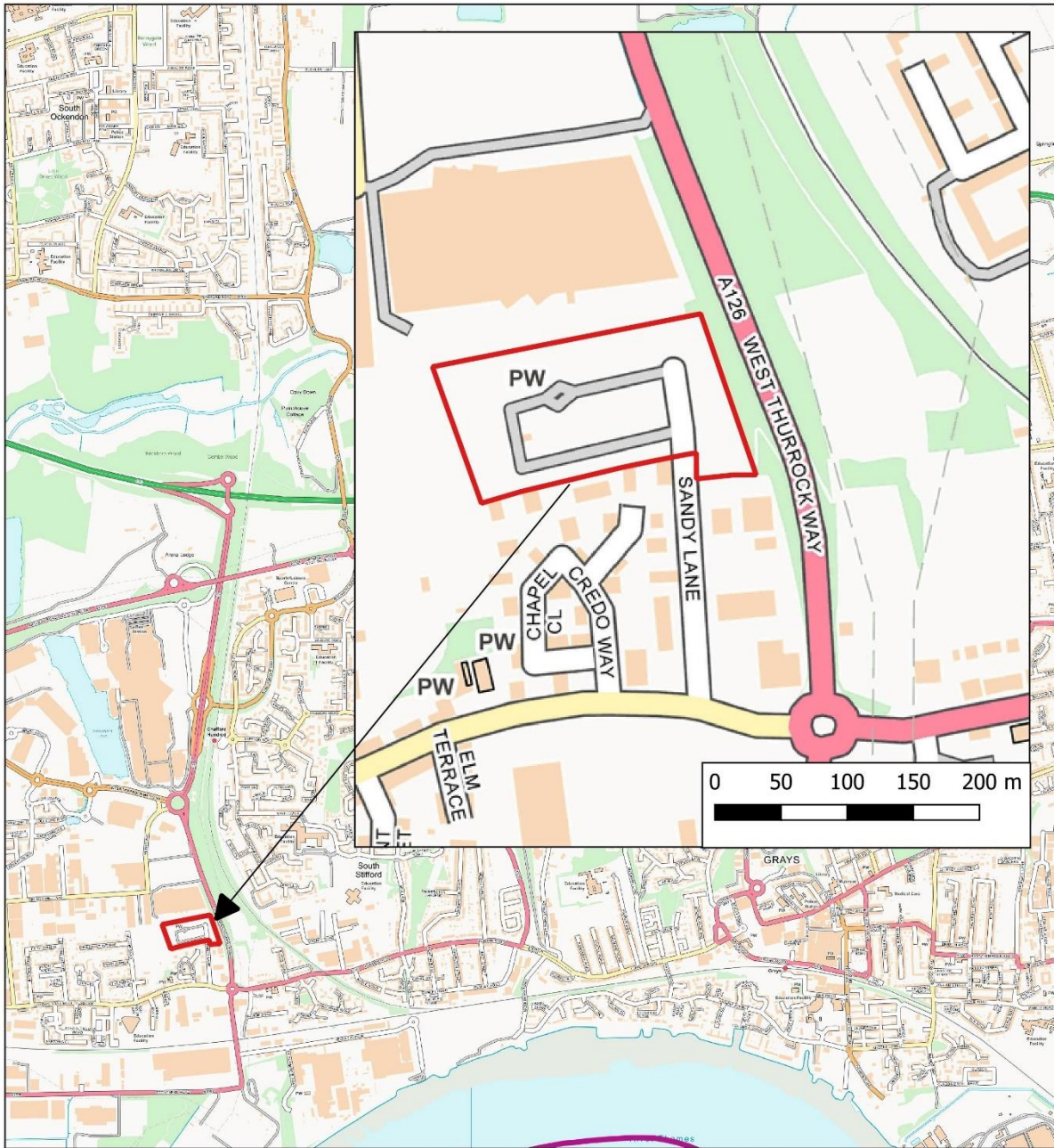
Hedge along boundary between original cemetery and southern extension 2021
(Image Julia Cosby)



West Thurrock Cemetery Chapel 2021
(Image Julia Cosby)



Chapel Foundation Stone 2021
(Image Julia Cosby)



Name	District	Parish
West Thurrock Cemetery	Thurrock	West Thurrock



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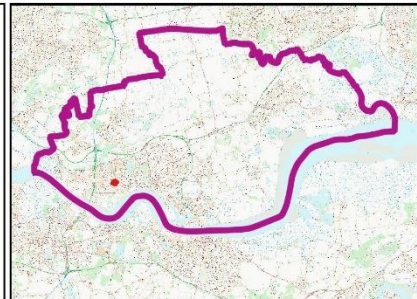
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