

## Kennington Park

County - GREATER LONDON

Name - KENNINGTON PARK

District - LAMBETH

Grid Reference - TQ3177

Grade - II

G1054

Mid-C19 public park of 8ha, extended by 1970s to 14ha.

Kennington park was laid out by James Pennethorne for the Department of Woods and Forests on c.7 ½ ha of reclaimed land, park of Kennington Common, in 1852-53, opened to the public 1854. The original site was bounded by Kennington Park Road to west, Kenning Park Place to north, St Agnes' Place to east, Kennington Terrace to south-east, and Brixton Road. C1/2 ha was added to the north-east corner in 1888, 2ha from the site of Kennington Terrace and its houses (to south-east) in 1921, and another 4ha further to the south-east in 1970s.

The entire site lies on level ground, and the main C19 park was laid out with a central area of lawns, enclosed by paths, lined with trees. Shrubbery and trees along most boundaries. Mature trees in the park now include notable species, and thorn, acacia, holm oak, ash and chestnut, Lodge, C19, in north-east corner. Twin cottages facing Kenning Park Road, midway along West boundary, designed 1851 by Henry Roberts for display at the Great Exhibition, later re-erected as lodges in Kennington Park. To the north and south of this building the C19 park had sunken gardens with massed bedding. This replaced in later C20 by rose beds. Paths lead east from this point across the park, with bandstand and tennis courts within lawn. Café further to south-east.

The 1921 addition of 2ha to south-west allowed the creation of an enclosed formal garden, with pergola and symmetrical scheme of roses, borders and bedding, with a swimming pool, with extensive playground further to south-east. The 1970s addition of 4ha to south-east includes varied recreational and sports facilities, including all-weather pitches. The detached triangle of land to south-west of the park was re-landscaped 1983/ 1984, with paving and shrubbery round the mature trees, and a central fountain basin.

Cecil E, London Parks and Gardens, 1907, 164-166.

Cherry B, Pevsner N, London 2: South, 1983, 362.

Sexby J J, The Municipal Parks...of London, 1898, 141-157.

Walford E, Old and New London, n.d., 338-339.

### NOTES

This is from the register of gardens and parks of special historic interest which has been compiled by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, who are required by statute to send copies of all entries to owners and occupiers, to the relevant local planning authorities and to the Secretary of State.

The register is produced to draw attention to important historic gardens and parks as an essential part of the nation's heritage. If their existence is not widely known enough, they could all too easily be overlooked, for example in plans for new

development. The Commission believe that the register will be helpful both to owners, and to planners, developers, statutory bodies and indeed, to all those concerned to protect the heritage.

No new controls apply to gardens in parks in the register, nor area existing planning or listed building controls affect it in any way. Some of the gardens contain or are associated with buildings that are n the statutory list of building of special architectural of historic interest. Neither the statutory listing of these buildings nor the planning controls that apply to them are affected by the fact that the same buildings are mentioned in the register of gardens.

The fact that a garden is included in the register does not mean that there is any public right of access, other than along public rights of way or unless the property is separately advertised by the owner as being open to the public.

Only gardens and parks with historic features dating from 1939 or earlier are included on this register. Additions since that date have not been extensively described in the register, nor have such additions been taken in to account in the selection and grading of the gardens, since the register indicates the gardens' special historic interest.

Headings in the register are made up as follows;

County; Name of Site; District; Civil Parish or Town: National Grid Reference for the site or for its central part; Grade (I, II\* or II) .

The Notes are arranged wherever possible as follows:

Type of site, area in hectares (0ha) dates and designers of key surviving elements of the site (including the house, if appropriate); surviving features of the garden of park; other interesting aspects – e.g. historic associations; main published references.

The Gradings. The same symbols (I, II\* or II) have been used as are employed for statutorily listed buildings, and have been allocated to indicate the following qualities:

Grade I – parks and gardens which by reason of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments considered together make them of exceptional interest.

Grade II\* - Parks and gardens which by reasons of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments considered together make them if not of exceptional interest nevertheless of great quality.

Grade II – Parks and gardens which by reason of their historic layout, features and architectural ornaments considered together make them of special interest.

These gradings reflect the importance of the garden or park concerned, in comparison with other gardens or parks in England as a whole. If there is a listed building within the limits of a registered park or garden, the grade may not necessarily be the same, since the building and the garden or park are not always of equal importance.

While every effort has been made to ensure that entries in the register are accurate, the Commission will be pleased to receive further information both about gardens in the register and about other historic gardens that may have been overlooked. Revised or additional entries will be issued from time to time.

Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission  
English Heritage

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