

## **Brockwell Park**

County - GREATER LONDON

Name - BROCKWELL PARK

District - LAMBETH

Grid Reference - TQ3173

Grade - II

G1501

C19 park and gardens, since 1892 public park, 50 ha. Brockwell Hall built 1811-13 by D R Roper for John Blades, replacing an earlier building. Further altered or repaired 1824-29 by J B Papworth. Now used as refreshment rooms for park. Coachhouse and stable block 50m to south-west. Tritton Clock Tower, 1908, 25m west of stable block and 80m to south-west of Brockwell hall. Walled garden, early C19, 200m to west-north-west. Two C19 lodges on Dulwich Road, 450m to north and 450m to east-north-east of house, another lodge, C19, 200m to south-east on Norwood Road.

The ground at Brockwell park is undulating, rising to an eminence in the south centre of the park, in the region of the house. The present park was acquired by the London County Council in several stages – 1891, 1895, 1901 – and has been open to the public since 1892. The boundaries are formed by Norwood Road to south-east, Brockwell Park Gardens to south, by the rear of the properties along Tulse Hill and Brailsford Road to west and to north-west; and by the rear of the properties along Dulwich Road, and by Dulwich Road itself, to north and north-east. Mainly open parkland, with grass, scattered mature trees, and paths between the main features.

While open parkland, boundary belts and scattered mature trees remain from the earlier C19, Brockwell Park is noted for the late C19 and early C20 adaptation of the walled garden by J J Sexby, who created a formal but exuberant scheme of masses bedding, rose beds and topiary around a central pool. To east of the walled garden an area added to the park in 1895 contains a chain of pools, the basis of a water garden, with varied planting of flowering shrubs and exotic trees nearby. Childrens' paddling pool to south.

Round the house and stables, massed bedding to north-west; terraces to south-east of the house, with further areas of bedding and borders. Varied sports facilities – tennis courts, bowling green, playing fields – in north-western area of park, and swimming pool (1937) on Dulwich Road boundary.

Cecil, E, London Parks and Gardens, 1907, 170-174.

Cherry, B, Pevsner N, London 2 South, 1983, 376-377.

Sexby J J, The Municipal Parks... of London, 1898, 71-79.

## **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 in the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or 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 or 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

January 1988.