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**KENSINGTON GARDENS,
LONDON BOROUGH OF
THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER**

**An Archaeological Survey by
The Royal Commission on the
Historical Monuments of England**

**Part 2:
Reports for the National Monuments Record**

ROYAL PARKS PROJECT

March 1994



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INTRODUCTION

An archaeological field survey was undertaken by staff from the RCHME (Cambridge Archaeological Field Office) in Kensington Gardens between May and August of 1993. The purpose of this survey was threefold:

- 1) To enhance the National Monuments Record.
- 2) To contribute towards a forthcoming Survey of London volume on Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.
- 3) To provide information to the Royal Parks Agency for management purposes.

The survey was designed to record all surface features. However, it should be noted that there is considerable potential for buried archaeological features within the park which are not dealt with in this report.

The results of the survey are contained in three parts:

Part 1: Features Catalogue

This document details individually all the surface archaeological features located, irrespective of their significance. The entries in the catalogue are numbered from one to infinity by Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map sheet, these numbers also appearing on the pencil survey plans which are the Ordnance Survey maps at the slightly enlarged scale of 1:1000. All features are surveyed accurately into the Ordnance Survey base maps.

The details of each catalogue entry ensure accurate location and include dimensions, a brief description and where possible, an interpretation.

Part 2: National Monument Record (NMR) Reports

This part describes the significant archaeological features in more detailed reports, cross-referenced to the Features Catalogue, with appropriate documentary references, which are prepared to RCHME's internal format. Each archaeological site or feature has a unique number assigned by Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 sheet. These reports are presented here (summaries are available on the RCHME's computerised record system, called MONARCH). The features described in the NMR reports are also shown in detail on archive drawings, at 1:2500 scale reduced from the 1:1000 pencil field plans.

Aerial photographs mentioned in the NMR reports, relevant especially for Second World War information, are housed in the public archive of the RCHME.

Part 3: Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis

This document contains full details of Second World War activity, virtually all of which is no longer visible. It includes transcribed plans at a scale of 1:2500 showing all military features visible on air photographs taken between 1941 and 1950.

Further copies of all three parts of the report, together with the survey plans, are available from the public archive of the RCHME at:

The National Monuments Record Centre
Kemble Drive
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GZ (Telephone 01793 414700)

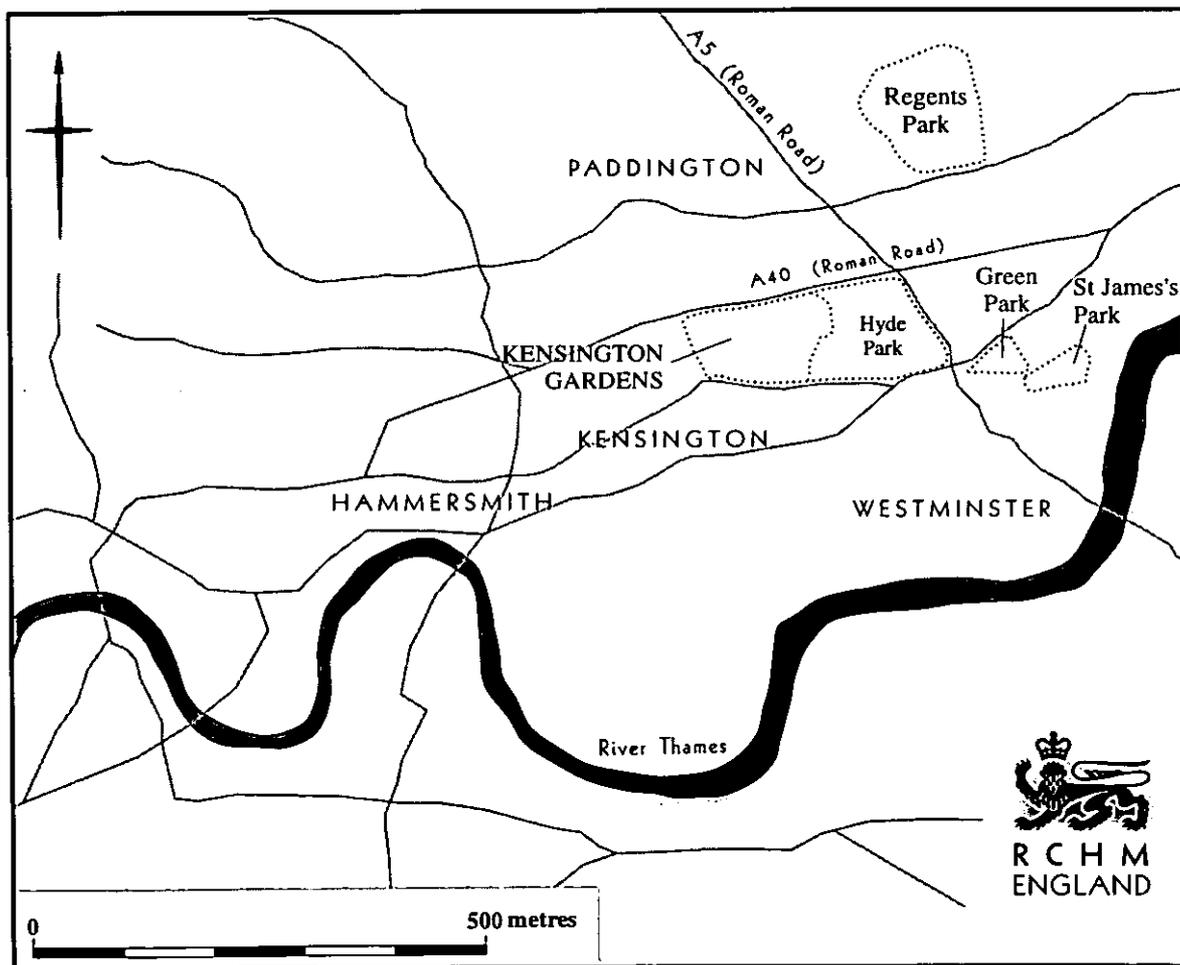


Figure 1. Kensington Gardens, location plan

2. LIST OF NMR SITES FOR KENSINGTON GARDENS

Ordnance Survey Sheet TQ 27 NE:

- TQ 27 NE 76: Mount (site of)
- TQ 27 NE 78: The Flower Walk
- TQ 27 NE 79: Albert Memorial landscaping
- TQ 27 NE 80: Bandstand
- TQ 27 NE 81: Master Gardener's House (site of)
- TQ 27 NE 82: St. Govor's Well
- TQ 27 NE 83: Second World War air-raid shelters south of Kensington Palace
- TQ 27 NE 114: 18th century pond (site of)

Ordnance Survey Sheet TQ 28 SE:

- TQ 28 SE 96: Kensington Gardens (parent record)
- TQ 28 SE 97: Later 17th and early 18th century gardens
- TQ 28 SE 98: Ornamental ha-ha
- TQ 28 SE 99: Bayswater House and gardens (site of)
- TQ 28 SE 100: 18th century horse pond (site of)
- TQ 28 SE 102: Enclosure
- TQ 28 SE 103: Earthwork bank
- TQ 28 SE 104: North Flower Walk
- TQ 28 SE 105: The Italian Fountains
- TQ 28 SE 106: Second World War activity (parent record)
- TQ 28 SE 107: Second World War air-raid shelters north of Kensington Palace
- TQ 28 SE 108: Second World War quarry (site of)
- TQ 28 SE 109: Second World War aircraft obstructions
- TQ 28 SE 110: Second World War allotment (site of)
- TQ 28 SE 111: Possible Second World War bomb craters
- TQ 28 SE 112: Second World War bomb crater
- TQ 28 SE 113: Second World War bomb crater
- TQ 28 SE 114: Possible Second World War bomb crater
- TQ 28 SE 115: Queen's Temple
- TQ 28 SE 166: Queen Anne's Alcove

3. THE NMR REPORTS

Kensington Gardens (parent record)

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 96

The whole area of Kensington gardens was surveyed at 1:1000 scale by the RCHME between March and June of 1993, and features transcribed from aerial photographs at 1:2500 scale. (See records in the NMR archives: pencil field plans, inked plans, Features Catalogue and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

The present public park of Kensington Gardens, just under 116 hectares, was created by successive appropriations from Hyde Park. This process began in 1689 with the acquisition of Nottingham House and its twenty-six acres of land as a royal residence for William III. Initial expansion under William and subsequently under Queen Anne until 1711, concentrated in the consolidation of land to the north, south and east of the present palace forming a strip between Kensington High Street and the Bayswater Road. Elaborate formal gardens were laid out here (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 97).

From around 1726, an area to the east of the Broadwalk which had been enclosed as a "paddock" for the royal menagerie in the first decade of the century, was expanded eastward in stages for the creation of a garden on a much more massive scale, completed by 1735. This involved the diversion of Rotten Row southward and further expansion into Hyde Park beyond the Westbourne ponds, which were merged to form the Long Water (the Serpentine). The garden layout was guided by Queen Caroline and heavily influenced by Charles Bridgeman and William Kent. The design comprised initially a geometric layout of avenues and vistas focusing on the palace but, was adapted increasingly by the woodland planting and sinuous walks of its various quarters. The provision of summerhouses in contrived settings also began to break down formality into a more "natural", theatrical style (see NMR nos. TQ 28 SE 76, 97, 98, 99 and 115).

The framework of this garden is intact today although the path structure has proliferated and the planting of the quarters degenerated. The later eighteenth and nineteenth century was a period of general decline with no concerted effort to maintain the overall design.

In the early nineteenth century the gardens were open to the public every day and from 1840 interest renewed with the rapid introduction of amenities such as refreshment rooms, bandstands, lavatories, public monuments and statues. New, formal garden features appeared, notably the Flower Walk in 1843 (see NMR no. TQ 27 NE 78) along the southern fringe, the Italian Fountains in 1860-62 (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 105) at the head of the Long Water and in 1871 the layout of the Albert Memorial. This involved a further appropriation from Hyde Park and considerable alterations to the landform and planting along the southern side of the gardens (see NMR no. TQ 27 NE 79).

The proliferation of amenities continued but slowed down into the present century. The onset of the Second World War had a serious effect in the provision of air-raid shelters (see NMR nos. TQ 27 NE 83 and TQ 28 SE 107), anti-aircraft trenches (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 109), the laying down of areas for allotments (see NMR nos. TQ 28 SE 110) and the removal of railings. Sand or gravel was quarried on Buck Hill (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 108).

Sources

- 1 Pattison P Oswald A and Kenney J, June 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey

Kensington Gardens: the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century gardens

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 97

TQ 2600 8000

Historical background

(note: eighteenth century names and garden terms in italics)

There were gardens of note at Kensington after the Restoration, belonging to the Finch family at Nottingham House and probably located mainly to the south of the present Kensington Palace. In 1664 Pepys recorded:

"seeing the fountayne, and singing there with the ladies, and a mighty fine cool place it is, with a great laver of water in the middle and the bravest place for musique I have ever heard" (2).

William III and Mary

Nottingham House and 26 acres of land were acquired by William III in 1689, as a suitable retreat from Westminster, and transformed into Kensington Palace. He employed Wren to enlarge the old house while George London and Henry Wise undertook to redesign and plant the old Restoration gardens. These gardens seem to have concentrated south of the palace. Gibson's account suggests that in 1691 the new gardens were still in the making:

"Kensington Gardens are not great nor abounding in fine plants.....But the walks and grass laid very fine, and they were digging up a flat of four or five acres to enlarge their garden" (3).

Queen Anne

Towards the end of William's reign, in 1701, Henry Wise began a phase of redesign which was to continue under Queen Anne until 1711. This concentrated both on the further development of the existing formal gardens and also involved the first serious appropriations of land from Hyde Park in order to extend around all sides of the palace. In 1701 new planting began on the site of an old orchard, followed in 1704-5 by work on thirty acres of old gravel pits, all north of the palace (3). The result was a greatly admired formal geometric wilderness of several quarters in an overall rectangular plan, shown on a plan of c. 1706 attributed to Wise, and including a spectacular mock mount of evergreens and a sunken terrace garden made in one of the gravel pits (1a).

The Wise plan reveals that the gardens extended in a long strip northwards from Kensington High St. to the Bayswater Road, laid about a common axis extending both north and south of the palace and focusing on it (i.e. the centre of the palace, old Nottingham House). The eastern border was formed by a straight avenue now known as the Broad Walk (1a).

The same plan also shows Wise's redesigned south garden, comprising turf parterres near the palace and formal wilderness areas beyond towards Kensington High St., aligned about the central axis, later known as the Dial Walk (Kip's engraving shows the south garden c. 1706, probably just before the Wise alterations, when the garden comprised a very different arrangement of several compartments of simple cutwork lawns with topiary (4a)). This part of the garden remained largely unchanged until at least 1726 when a plan by Paul Sandby shows a very similar design (1b).

Queen Anne also appropriated 100 acres of Hyde Park in a strip to the east of the palace to provide a "paddock" for the royal deer and antelope, although no extensive garden works were carried out here (3).

George II and Queen Caroline

After 1711, no further significant changes were affected until the reign of George II and Queen Caroline. Expansion began early in 1726 to a grand design and by June 1727 the basic shape had been established, including Round Pond and the major avenues. It was Charles Bridgeman, appointed Royal Gardener in October 1726, who adapted the design and brought it to fruition by 1735. His major contribution was the transformation of the "paddock" from a royal menagerie to a carefully designed garden to be enjoyed for its own sake (3).

The new works extended the gardens even further into Hyde Park. The framework was geometric along a new main, east to west, axis which opened out directly from the palace and extended onto Buck Hill. On this axis the small rectangular pool shown on the Wise plan was transformed into Round Pond around which a huge semi-circular lawn was levelled and tightly planted along its edges. Two major diagonal avenues which focused on Round Pond (*The Bason*), forming a *pate d'oie* with the main axis, led towards Bayswater House and a new Mount (1731) respectively. The main axis was relieved by two transaxial walks, the Broad Walk (*The Grand Walk*) immediately east of the palace and Lancaster Walk (*South Walk*), east of Round Pond. A *berceau* or "walk of shade" was provided around the entire perimeter, involving the diversion of Rotten Row

southwards and further diagonal walks divided the area into several quarters, giving an overall if slightly imperfect symmetry. Bridgeman's influence was apparent especially in these quarters, many of which were wooded and provided with serpentine walks in great contrast to the geometric framework. The creation of the curving Long Water (*The Canal*) from the previous rectangular ponds in 1730-1 and the appearance in 1734-5 of two summer houses by William Kent, one on the Mount and the other, Queens Temple, reflects this same move away from the formal towards the idea of a garden as a series of scenes to be read by the visitor (5).

The inclusion of Buck Hill into the gardens was clearly both to encapsulate the Long Water and to provide elevated viewpoints across the garden and towards the palace. The ornamental ha-ha with its mock bastions (1730-1) was both an imposing physical barrier and an elevated platform looking into Hyde Park (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 98).

Of the earlier formal gardens around the palace, the Wise wilderness remained intact although it was also provided with serpentine walks between its geometric lines. South of the palace the straight walks remained but most of the area was terraced and put down to turf, save for a small wooded wilderness at the southern end near Kensington High St. (4b).

Earthwork remains

(See pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entries, references given in brackets below).

The western half of Wise's wilderness was lost to the development of Palace Gardens c. 1842 although some of the remainder survived until the late nineteenth century when the compartment north of the Orangery still retained its oval central walk and serpentine path to the east (1c). The main path framework is still intact and at:

TQ 2576 8025: the site of the sunken garden survives as a large rectangular depression 115m by 67m and 2m deep, falling to a flat bottom 70m by 40m. The long sides are steepest and shortest, the short sides more gradual (Features Catalogue TQ 2580 SE 018).

South of the palace the path framework remains, with the Dial Walk, the eastern margin walk and the two cross walks on the lines established under William and Mary but now compromised by diagonal desire lines. The wilderness area at the southern end survived

until at least 1862-5 (1c). However, in this area are various terrace earthworks:

TQ 2602 7987: a massive, steep and sharply defined straight scarp, 149m long 14.2m wide, slightly disturbed at its southern end, is a landscaping feature associated with the creation of a large level terrace for the entire south garden. It is often regarded as the work of Bridgeman but its line, converging slightly, not parallel with the line of the Dial Walk, is clearly that shown on the plans of the formal gardens by Wise c. 1706 and Sandby pre 1726. The true solution may be that its existence is due to the need to cut into the natural southward slope to provide a terrace for the formal gardens early in the eighteenth century (or earlier) but it was heightened by the deposition of material during the construction of the semi-circular terrace around Round Pond; from 1726 (Features Catalogue TQ 2679 NW 001).

This and the other terraces south of the palace are shown on a plan of 1733-4 (4b) and an engraving by Tinney c. 1745 (4c) and are almost certainly the work of Bridgeman:

TQ 2598 7998: a terraced garden compartment 33m by 20m, formed by scarps up to 1m high, cutting into the slope on the north and east and embanked on the south and west. On the Tinney engraving it supports an arbour comprising a seat between two trees (Features Catalogue TQ 2579 NE 025, 026, 032 and TQ 2580 SE 029).

TQ 2587 7997: a scarp 125m long and 0.8m to 1.8m high, forming a terrace along the south front of the palace. Its eastern end appears on the 1733-4 plan and the Tinney engraving (Features Catalogue TQ 2579 NE 031).

Garden terracing east of the palace is largely the result of nineteenth and twentieth century garden alterations (Features Catalogue TQ 2580 SE 23-27).

The framework of the extended design of 1726-35 survives in the basic avenue structure, although the planting and individual character of the quarters has gone. There are several surviving earthwork and feature elements:

The construction of Round Pond and the huge flat semi-circular terrace around it involved movement of large quantities of earth. In the main material was excavated on the north and generally deposited on the south, leaving several scarps:

TQ 2602 8100: a prominent south-facing scarp, 96m long, 5m wide and 1m high, stretching from the eastern side of Kensington Palace to the north-western side of Round Pond. It defined the northern edge of the main eastward vista from the Palace across Round Pond (Features Catalogue TQ 2680 SW 013).

TQ 2602 8029: a broad, gentle south-facing scarp, 72m long, up to 5m wide and 0.3m high, aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and defining part of the northern edge of the semi-circular terrace around Round Pond (Features Catalogue TQ 2680 SW 018).

TQ 2630 8022: a gently curving, west-facing scarp, 75m long, 2.2m wide and 0.5m high, defining part of the eastern edge of the terrace around Round Pond (Features Catalogue TQ 2680 SW 036).

TQ 2609 7985: a massive scarp 240m long, 1.5m to 25m wide and 0.2m to 2.5m high, curving slightly northward along its general west to east course. It defines the southern edge of the semi-circular lawn area around Round Pond and is the product of deposition of material on the natural slope which starts to fall away southward here (Features Catalogue TQ 2679 NW 037).

The three vistas of the *pate d'oie* all have broad cambers flanked by very slight ditches, enabling drainage (Features Catalogue TQ 2680 SW 037, 031, 005 and TQ 2680 SE 037, 039).

There are various small landscaping works associated with several of the avenues:

TQ 2639 7884: a straight scarp, 69m long, 1.2m to 4.8m wide and 0.3m to 0.5m high running parallel to an existing path. It is possibly connected with landscaping for *Old Pond Walk* (Features Catalogue TQ 2679 NW 003).

TQ 2643 7992: a low, wide, straight, flat-topped bank 70m long, 19m wide and 0.4m high. It may be a tree-lined boundary shown on the same alignment a little further south on the Wise plan of c. 1706. The bank also follows the alignment of *Old Pond Walk*, and may be garden landscaping (Features Catalogue TQ 2679 NW 009).

TQ 2673 8003: two parallel north-facing scarps, 30.0m and 58.0m long, 0.8m to 2m wide and 0.5m high aligned north-west to south-east, defining a terrace 7.0m wide between them. This feature is the eastern end of the former course of *Buckbarn Walk* (Features

Catalogue TQ 2680 SE 005).

TQ 2668 8000: a very slight west-facing scarp, 141m long, 1.8m wide and 0.1m aligned north to south, may be associated with the original course of *South Walk*. During works for the Albert Memorial the avenue (now Lancaster Walk) was realigned, involving a significant deflection to the west. However, the older avenue was preserved in the new planting of plane trees (Features Catalogue TQ 2680 SE 026).

On Buck Hill are several short sections of very slight scarps adopting a common, roughly north-to south alignment:

TQ 2693 8028, TQ 2686 8049 and 2688 8044: three lengths of slight, fragmented scarp/bank, in total 450m long and up to 0.3m high, possibly mark the boundary wall of Kensington Gardens between 1726 and 1730. This line, running along the crest of Buck Hill, was replaced by the construction of the ha-ha further to the east in 1730-1 (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 98)(3). The old line was then utilised as a long north to south walk along Buck Hill (4b) (Features Catalogue TQ 2680 SE 014, 046, 048 and TQ 2680 NE 024, 025 and 028).

West of this walk, along the northern third, Bridgeman placed two rectilinear plantations stretching down to the Long Water. There may be remains of boundaries to these plantations at:

TQ 2685 8048: a slight scarp 43.5m long, 1.1m wide and 0.2m high running roughly east to west (Features Catalogue TQ 2680 SE 064 and 065).

TQ 2678 8057: a slight bank on a similar alignment, 32m long, spread to 10m in width and 0.3m high (Features Catalogue TQ 2680 NE 063).

Sources

- 1 Pattison P, Oswald A and Kenney J, May 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1 PRO Work 32/212: Plan by Henry Wise c. 1706
- 1b BL Add MS 42572C: Plan by Paul Sandby pre 1726
- 1c Ordnance Survey 1869 (surveyed 1862-5) First edition 25 inch London sheet XLII
- 2 Latham R and Matthews W (Eds) 1970: *The Diary of Samuel Pepys* vol 5, 179
- 3 Land Use Consultants 1982: *Kensington Gardens Historical Survey*, 7-19
- 4a Land Use Consultants Jan 1994: *The Dial Walk: a summary of the historical*

background, Fig 1

- 4b Land Use Consultants Jan 1994: The Dial Walk: a summary of the historical background 8, Plan 1733-4 National Museum Stockholm, Cronstadt Collection CC2753
- 4c Land Use Consultants Jan 1994: The Dial Walk: a summary of the historical background, Fig 6 Tinney engraving 1745
- 5 Strong R 1992: Royal Gardens, 38-43

The ha-ha

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 98

TQ 2703 8040

Historical background

An ornamental ha-ha defining the eastern edge of Kensington Gardens was probably begun in the late 1720's but was completed in 1730-31 by Charles Bridgeman as part of his "walk of shade" around the perimeter of the Gardens as a whole (2). The ha-ha was constructed in three straight sections, of varying lengths, defining the 1.1km eastern boundary of Kensington Gardens from near Buckhill Gate in the north to near Mount Gate in the south. It crossed the Long Water on an embankment now replaced by the Serpentine Bridge.

There were two earthworks making up the ha-ha, one on each side of and parallel to Buckhill Walk. On the eastern side, the **ha-ha** proper comprised a continuous ditch, its vertical inner face revetted in brick and stone and backed by an earthen bank. At each change of angle, the revetment was carried round to form large curving mock bastions, each of which varied slightly in size and form, giving the ha-ha a military appearance. Alongside Buck Hill Walk on the west ran a simple earthen bank (**the western earthwork**) which appears to be omitted from all plans of the period. With avenues of trees along both earthworks a cool shaded atmosphere was created.

In 1833-4 the South Bastion was demolished and the course of the ha-ha south of the Long Water altered. In 1868 it was completely infilled as part of alterations associated with the construction of the Albert Memorial (see NMR no. TQ 27 NE 79) but its approximate course is preserved in the line of West Carriage Drive (2a).

North of the Long Water the neglected ha-ha was robbed for building materials in the later 19th-century and partially infilled in 1916 (2a). However, its earthworks survive.

Earthwork remains

(See pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entries, references given in brackets below).

Buck Hill Walk (TQ 2692 8064)

Buck Hill Walk runs from near Magazine Gate on West Carriage Drive north-east for 200m, continuing the alignment of the Serpentine Bridge, before turning northward for

a further 180m. It then turns to the north-west for a further 240m. These alignment changes along the walk correspond to the positions of the Middle and North Bastions on the adjacent ha-ha.

The surface of the walk, gravelled since its construction in 1730-31, varies in width between 3.5m and 4.5m. It is slightly elevated throughout its length but a well defined flanking scarp, 0.2m high, exists only for 120m on the eastern side of the central section. At the rear of North Bastion a gentler scarp, deviating slightly to the east of the present edge of the walk, confirms that its original course was more angular as shown on plans of 1734 and 1787 (2b).

The avenues alongside the walk were complemented by double ring plantations occupying the interiors of the Middle and North Bastions, although the plan of 1734 indicates that there had been tree losses inside the North Bastion within three years of planting. The plan of 1787 also indicates a swift deterioration of the original double avenue. However, later plans together with around four hundred tree holes which heavily disturb the features on both sides of the walk today, testify to frequent re-planting. In 1904, the surviving single avenue was described by Rutton as "...ancient trees, elm and Spanish chestnut" but most of these were destroyed by Dutch Elm Disease in the 1950's and the 1970's or the hurricane of 1987 (2c).

The ha-ha (TQ 2703 8040)

(Features Catalogue TQ 2780 SW 001-003, 010, TQ 2780 NW 008, TQ 2680 NE 021, 023 and 056)

In 1904, Rutton recorded that "...the wall has been removed ...and an iron railing now runs along the bottom of the green turfed fosse" (2c). This robbing out of the revetment wall may date to 1868, the same time as the levelling of ha-ha south of the Serpentine Bridge. Although the boundary of Kensington Gardens was moved a few metres eastward to its present course in 1871 (2a), the ha-ha ditch with its iron fence formed the effective barrier until 1916, when the ditch was partially infilled following the murder of a woman there in the previous year (2a).

The ha-ha ditch and its original internal embankment survive as earthworks, together with another low bank running along the outer side, possibly representing spoil from the revetment wall robbing. From Middle Bastion the straight ditch is interrupted 65m from its southern end by a modern path which runs eastward from Buck Hill Walk to West Carriage Drive. South of this path, the ditch is 2.9m to 3.7m wide and averages 0.4m

deep: the internal bank is up to 0.3m high. From the southern end of the ditch a contiguous hollow, 8.4m by 5.9m and 0.1m deep, is probably the start of the curve eastward around Middle Bastion.

Along the eastern side of the ditch, an upcast bank starting 20m south of the path gradually becomes the dominant feature north of the path, where it is up to 8m wide and 0.4m high. Here, the ditch becomes increasingly irregular in width and diminishes to 0.2 in depth, with a slighter internal bank. The earthworks here are badly disturbed, including several instances probably later than the robbing of the wall.

From North Bastion, the ha-ha runs northwest to the boundary of Kensington Gardens near Buckhill Gate, its original end. The internal bank survives quite well as a straight scarp extending for 175m but most of the ditch is so heavily robbed that only a vague linear impression remains. However, the initial 17m of the ditch is a strong earthwork, its width increasing from 4.6m near the North Bastion to 7.1m at the northern end, while its depth decreases from 0.6m to 0.3m. At this point the ha-ha is interrupted by a path, constructed between 1916 and 1939, which runs north-east from Buck Hill Walk to West Carriage Drive.

Beyond the path, the ha-ha is best described as a complex of confused scarps representing the remains of robber trenches and spoil heaps: as a whole the area may be described as a badly damaged broad bank 15m-20m wide and 0.5m-0.7m high: the ditch continues for 12m as a gentle depression up to 10m wide and 0.2m deep, its western scarp traceable for a further 28m as an irregular disturbed scarp, 1.7m-2.5m wide and 0.1m-0.3m deep. Towards the northern end the course of the ditch is marked only by an irregular linear depression 45m long, 4.9m-10.4m wide and 0.2m-0.4m deep. A strong scarp, up to 6m wide and 1.1m high, extending along the perimeter fence for 70m east of Buckhill Gate and a further 25m alongside the path south of the gate, probably represents Victorian landscaping subsequent to the robbing out of the ha-ha.

At TQ 2693 8067 there is a distinct interruption to the ha-ha earthworks, a gap 7m wide, extending for 27 m from West Carriage Drive almost to Buck Hill Walk. This corresponds to the course of a Second World War track linking the quarry on Buck Hill (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 108) to West Carriage Drive.

A straight scarp, 1.2m to 3m wide and 0.2m to 0.5m high, runs alongside the ha-ha for virtually its whole length, forming a slight terrace between it and Buck Hill Walk. It

fades to north and south of the bastions. This is probably an original feature.

South Bastion (TQ 2690 8000)

(see Hyde Park Features Catalogue TQ 2680 SE 067-068)

The site of South Bastion is partly under a car park and partly on open ground. Nothing survives on the surface but there may be remains preserved below ground.

Middle Bastion (TQ 2703 8033)

(Features Catalogue TQ 2780 SW 008)

On the 1734 plan Middle Bastion describes three-quarters of a circle. From c. 1871, structures associated with the police station were placed in the interior of the bastion but the perimeter remained intact. A photograph of 1945 shows its outline surviving very clearly but since then there has been progressive disintegration (1a), the works compound almost entirely obscuring the original circular form.

Two sections of the bastion revetment wall, 8.5m and 2.5m long, remain intact at TQ 2705 8031 and TQ 2705 8032, its line continued by an iron railing fence and an overgrown privet hedge, together defining an arc of 40m. This implies an overall diameter for the bastion of around 65m. The wall is just visible on the surface comprising the top two courses in red brick with sandstone coping projecting 0.3m outward. Between the two intact lengths a gap of 10m contains several loose coping stones and bricks. Presumably the entire circuit of the bastion wall and the ha-ha ditch survive below ground.

Sometime after the infilling of the ha-ha ditch in 1916 the present shrubbery bank, up to 10m wide and 1.2m high, was thrown up over its course.

North Bastion (TQ 2700 8059)

(Features Catalogue TQ 2680 NW 008).

On the plan of 1734, this bastion describes slightly more than a semi-circle. Its course is marked today by the partially infilled ha-ha ditch and internal bank, both considerably disturbed in places, and traces of an embankment running across the rear of the bastion. The ditch describes approximately 210 degrees of a circle, its diameter of 66m almost identical to Middle Bastion. The northern section of ditch averages 6.5m wide and 0.6m deep, the southern end up to 5.4m wide and 0.5m deep. The central section is disturbed for a length of 25m with only the inner scarp surviving as a general underlying fall of 0.1m. This disturbance comprises two irregular hollows cut into the back-filled ditch with

three low associated mounds, possibly spoil heaps. The scarp across the rear of the bastion is irregular and poorly defined, varying between 0.9m and 3.9m in width and 0.1m to 0.4m high. This irregularity suggests perhaps that the scarp represents robbing of a low revetment wall.

The western earthwork (TQ 2696 8059)

(Features Catalogue TQ 2680 NE 009, TQ 2680 SE 036, 056 and 066)

Although heavily disturbed this earthwork is a broad bank except the southern 85m, which is a single scarp, and the northernmost section. The latter comprises a split scarp, 0.7 m high along its western edge with a faint backscarp 0.2 m high along the edge of Buckhill Walk, giving an overall width of between 13.0m and 19.7m. It is interrupted by a children's playground 50m from its north-west end, south-east of which the western scarp is well defined and straight for 150m, although it divides for 50 m towards its southern end. Beyond this point, the eastern edge of the bank is defined by a series of discontinuous scarps varying in width between 1.0 m and 3.0 m and in height between 0.2 m and 0.6 m. At TQ 2696 8051 and TQ 2696 8055 the western face of the bank is severely disturbed by two areas of quarrying. The northern quarry is a linear depression, measuring 32m north-west to south-east by 8m wide, and up to 0.3m deep. It is overlain by a pair of spoil heaps which slump over its western edge: a roughly circular mound 7.0m in diameter and 0.5m high lies 1.8m to the south of a spreading oval mound 9m north to south by 11m, its eastern side defined by a 0.4m high scarp. About 10m to the west, an irregular spread of material 0.2m high probably represents more spoil from the quarry hollow.

The second quarry comprises three contiguous irregular hollows measuring 20m north to south by 15m overall, with a maximum depth of 0.4m. Immediately to the east a depression 3.0m wide and 0.3m deep, probably associated with the quarrying, interrupts the bank. The date and purpose of this activity is unclear, since the main earthwork seems unlikely to have had masonry components for robbing; it may have resulted from Second World War activity on Buck Hill (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 108).

Beyond the quarries, the bank is better preserved, up to 12.0m wide and 0.8m high on average. The eastern scarp is particularly strong, the western scarp slight and gradual. At the southern end the line kinks slightly and continues to the south for 21m before turning a right angle to the west for a further 26.5m. This final feature is very slight, reaching a maximum height of 0.1m and its relationship with the main earthwork suggests it to be later but its purpose is unknown.

Sources

- 1 Oswald A W P and Pattison P, April-93: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a NMR 44 106G/UK/739 6008, 27 Aug 1945)
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 14
- 2a Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 22
- 2b Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 12,
Bridgeman plan c. 1734 and survey plan c. 1784
- 2c Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 18

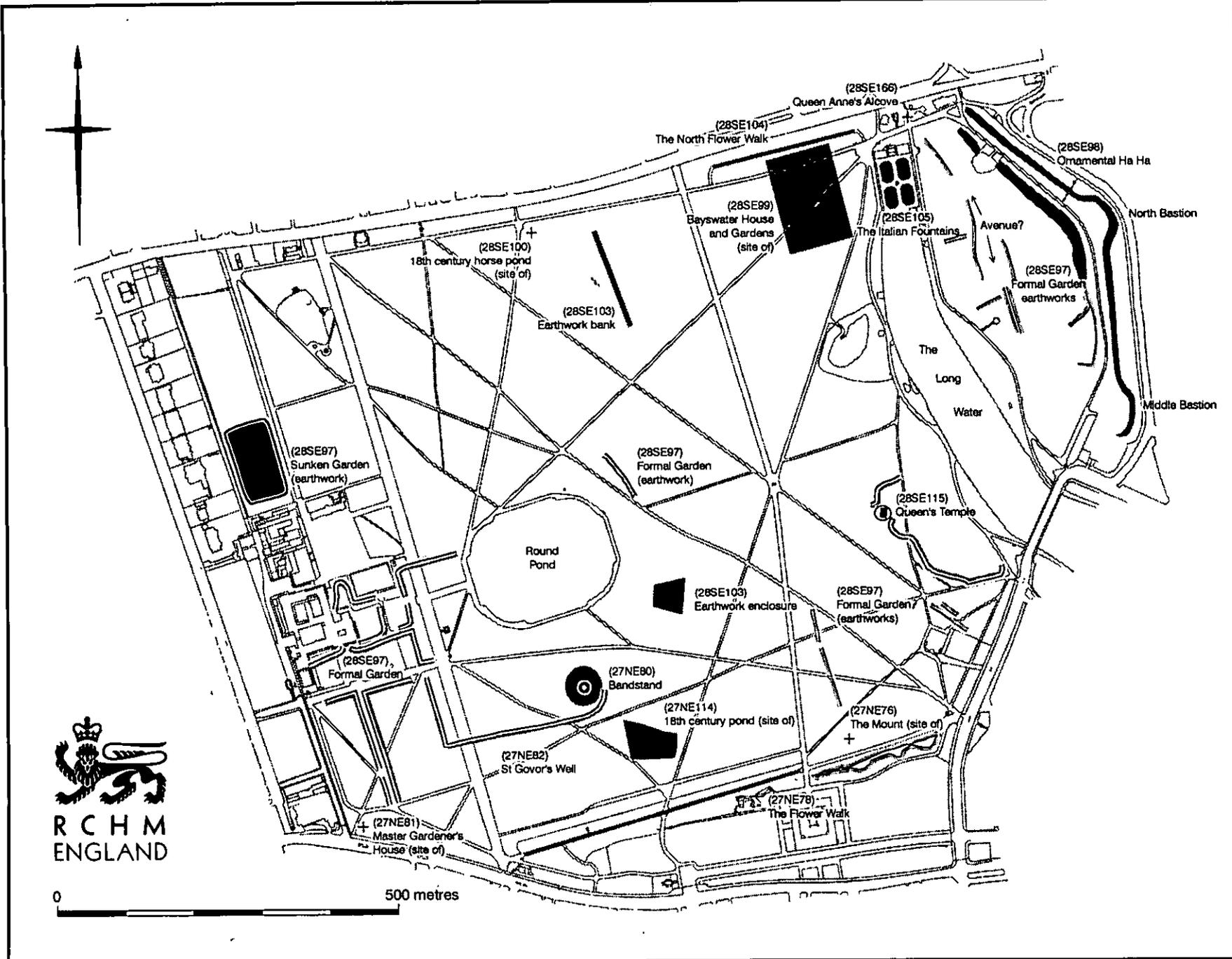


Figure 2. Post-medieval features in Kensington Gardens

The Mount (site of)

NMR no: TQ 27 NE 76

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entries TQ 2679 NE 001, 003 and 004)

TQ 2663 7989

The site of the Mount, a prospect mound constructed for Queen Caroline by Charles Bridgeman in 1730-31 using spoil from the excavation of the Serpentine to create a conical hill about 13m high. In 1734-35 a revolving summer house, probably designed by William Kent, was built on the summit. Tree and shrub growth eventually completely obscured the view and the mound was levelled, probably by 1784 and certainly by 1836 (2).

A drawing survives showing a view of the Mount from the south: the summer house was a classical structure which "revolved on a pivot so as to be a screen from the wind" (3). It would have afforded wide views over Kensington Gardens and the surrounding land.

Although its precise location is now unclear, a spiral path shown on plans of 1734 and 1736 (2) is almost certainly the path ascending the Mount, in which case the centre of the mound was located at approximately TQ 2663 7989.

Nothing survives in this location today but 70m to the south, the Flower Walk equates to Charles Bridgeman perimeter walk which defined the limit of Kensington Gardens at that time. Here are substantial earthworks, all currently planted with trees, shrubs and flowers which could have been formed from spoil taken from the remains of the Mount. All have been shrubberies since at least 1865 (1a) and possibly from the construction of the Flower Walk in 1843 (see NMR no. TQ 27 NE 78):

TQ 2669 7984: the southern border of the Flower Walk comprises a large, sinuous earthen bank 210m long, 12m-34m wide and up to 1.7m high.

TQ 2667 7079, around 15m to the south of the first bank, lies a smaller bank composed of two conjoining linear mounds with a central saddle. Overall the bank is 68m long, 11m-20m wide and up to 1.5 m high, the saddle 0.6 m high. Traces of a slight ditch along the south side of the bank suggests that at least some of the material was obtained from here but it is far too small to account for all the material.

TQ 2678 7986, alongside West Carriage Drive, a bank 85m long, 11 m wide on average and 1.2 m high.

Sources

- 1 Oswald A and Pattison P, April 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a OS 25 inch 1869 (surveyed 1862-65) London Sheet XLII
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 12-15
- 3 Faulkner P A 1951: A Note on the Gardens of Kensington Palace, 8-10 and plate IX (drawing by AB Lens) JBAA 3rd series XIV

Queen's Temple

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 115

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entries TQ 2680 SE 043, 051, 070, 073 and 074)

TQ 2668 8017

Queens Temple, a summer house designed by William Kent and built 1734-5, converted into a Temple Lodge in the 1850's and restored to its original form in 1977 (2).

Queens Temple sits on an irregular, flat-topped mound measuring around 45m by 32m, formed mainly by embankment on the north and east with only a slight build up of 0.2m on the south and west. The eastern side, which comprises two slopes of 0.7m (outer) and 0.5m (inner) with a slight oval terrace between them, was formerly a semi-circular forecourt area established when Queens Temple was converted into a lodge in the 1850's: this was removed along with the lodge buildings behind Queens Temple on the west (of which no trace remains on the surface) prior to restoration in 1977. The Lodge buildings are recorded on the OS 25-inch map of 1869 (1a) and on aerial photographs of 1945 (1b).

The mound is situated at the north-western end of a sinuous scarp, 1.2m high, which extends for 200m south-westward towards the Serpentine Bridge. The scarp is an artificial sharpening of the natural fall to the Serpentine and its effect was to emphasise Queens Temple on its elevated mound. A second, smaller scarp, 0.4m high, runs north from the mound for 16m before turning eastward for 36m up to the present path. The line of these scarps is shown as an edge of planting on the Rocque plan of 1736 (2), with the area to the west to the Serpentine left largely open. In this way a setting was provided for Queens Temple especially when viewed from the east across the Serpentine. A few small scattered clumps shown on this open ground on the Rocque plan served to partially mask the view and provide intermittent glimpses: this is entirely in the spirit of gardens of the era.

Something of this atmosphere is captured on an aquatint of c. 1790 (3)

At TQ 2675 8019, on the open ground 70m east of Queens Temple, is an oval, bowl-shaped mound 12m to 13m across and 0.5m high. A tree grows from near the foot of its north-eastern side and there is a tree extraction hole on the north-western margin. It is possibly an ornamental mound for a tree clump, seat or other garden feature.

At TQ 2671 8012 a low, flat-topped bank with cambered profile, running from a present path junction north-west to Queens Temple is the former approach track, removed after the Second World War.

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Oswald A, May 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a OS 25" 1869 surveyed 1862-5 London sheet XLII
- 1b NMR 44 (106G/UK/739 6110, 6127, 27 Aug 1945
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 14, 35, 36 and Rocque plan 12
- 3 Faulkner P A 1951: A Note on the Gardens of Kensington Palace, 8-10 and plate IX JBAA 3rd series XIV

Queen Anne's Alcove

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 166

TQ 2672 8073

Queen Anne's Alcove: a grand garden arbour designed by Wren and erected c. 1703 - c. 1705 in the garden perimeter wall at the southern end of the Dial Walk (around TQ 2597 7970) but moved to its present position near the Italian Fountains in 1867 (1a).

It is shown in its original position on an engraving by Kip 1706 (1b) and on a plan by Paul Sandby pre-1726 (1c).

Sources

- 1a Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 16, 34
- 1b Land Use Consultants Jan 1994: The Dial Walk: a summary of the historical background, Fig 1.
- 1c BM Add Ms 42572C

Master Gardener's House (site of)

NMR no: TQ 27 NE 81

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entries TQ 2579 NE 001-004 and 010).

TQ 2590 7973

The site of a master gardener's house in the south-western corner of Kensington Gardens, shown on a plan of c. 1706 (a) and more clearly on plans of pre-1726 (b) and 1733-4 (c). The last two maps record opposing L-shaped buildings around a small central court, with a small building placed off-centre. There was a grander structure here in the 1860's, the home of the Superintendent, a larger house comprising a western block with a long narrow range extending south-east along the boundary of the gardens, and a small garden of its own to the north of this range (d). It was demolished in 1874 (2).

TQ 2520 7973: a low mound, measuring c. 45m by 35m and up to 0.8m high and bisected by the present path is probably the levelled remains of these buildings of the late seventeenth to late nineteenth centuries.

Sources

- 1 Pattison P, March 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a PRO Work 32/212: Plan by Henry Wise c. 1706
- 1b BL Add MS 42572C: Plan by Paul Sandby pre 1726
- 1c Land Use Consultants Jan 1994: The Dial Walk: a summary of the historical background, 8, Plan 1733-4 National Museum Stockholm, Cronstadt Collection CC 2753
- 1d Ordnance Survey 1869 (surveyed 1862-5) 25 inch London sheet XLII
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 35

Bayswater House and gardens (site of)

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 99

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entries TQ 2680 NE 001, 002 and 005).

TQ 2654 8061

Bayswater House and its gardens were in the private ownership of a Mr Seymour until c.1726-32 when they were acquired by George II (2a). The boundary of the 8.5 acre site is shown on Wise's plan of c. 1706 (1a), and the formal layout of the gardens on plans of 1734, 1736 and 1762 (2b). The house was set back from the south side of Bayswater Road, the bulk of the garden to its south and laid out in two main rectangular compartments divided north to south. The eastern section contained beds and rows of trees in a linear arrangement, the western section a formal wooded area composed of four triangular compartments converging on a *rond point*.

George II retained this formal arrangement and by 1762 the house was being used as a "breakfasting house". Under George III, sometime between 1784 and 1790, the new royal gardener William Forsyth fully incorporated the area into Kensington Gardens by demolishing the house and levelling the formal garden (2a).

Consequently, very little survives. Nothing remains above ground of Bayswater House but its site must lie close to TQ 2653 8068 under the shrubbery immediately south of the North Flower Walk. Of the garden only two very slight linear scarps can be identified, both running north to south, which appear to correspond to the eastern boundary of the former garden and the central division. The former is discontinuous but extends certainly for 78m and possibly for 130m in total, spread to a width of 4.2m and only 0.3m high. It is interrupted by a path at TQ 2664 8056 and at TQ 2662 8059 near its centre by a modern field drain system. At TQ 2662 8065 a scarp extending for 18m north of Budge's Walk on the same alignment may represent a continuation of the feature: here it is less abraded and has maximum dimensions of 6.7m wide and 0.4m high, diminishing to the north.

The second scarp, possibly the central division of the former garden, is difficult to distinguish since it extends along a natural break of slope. It has maximum dimensions of 0.5m high and 6.8m wide. At the northern end it may have been incorporated into the North Flower Walk, so that its overall length is between 90m and 120m. The scarp is interrupted by paths at TQ 2652 8066 and TQ 2655 8058, by a drain at TQ 2653 8064

and overlain by a circular mound (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 111) at TQ 2656 8056.

It is possible that, given the natural slope from west to east, the two main compartments of the lost garden formed large terraces separated by a change in level, now concealed by landscaping.

Sources

- 1 Oswald A W P and Pattison P, May 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a PRO Work 32/312: A plan of Hyde Park c. 1706 attributed to Henry Wise
- 2a Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 10-14 and 33

18th century pond (site of)

NMR no: TQ 27 NE 114

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entries TQ 2679 NW 004 and 016).

TQ 2635 7984

The site of a pond, certainly in existence by 1706 (1a) but possibly of much earlier origin. It was retained in the garden layout completed under Queen Caroline by 1735 as the centre of an area called Old Pond Wood but had apparently ceased to function by 1827 (2a).

Its shape appears to have varied through time but the longer axis was always east to west. The pond lies on the spring line at the junction of Taplow Gravels and London Clay (2b).

Today its position is indicated by a massive scarp, up to 2m high, along the former northern side and smaller scarps on the south and east, up to 0.5m high. The apparent ditch formed around the south-eastern angle is probably the result of incomplete infilling. The western edge of the pond is lost.

Sources

- 1 Oswald A W P. and Pattison P, May 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a PRO Work 32/312: Plan of Hyde Park c. 1706 attributed to Henry Wise
- 2a Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 26, 42
- 2b Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 47

18th century horse pond (site of)

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 100

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entry TQ 2680 NW 007).

TQ 2616 8057

An oval hollow 8m to 10m wide and 0.4m deep, with moderate sloping sides falling to a narrow base.

This hollow is possibly the partially infilled remains of a horse pond of the late 18th and early 19th centuries (2)

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Kenney J, May 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 26, 37

Enclosure (undated)

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 102

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entry TQ 2680 SW 004).

TQ 2636 8006

A small earthwork enclosure situated on level ground 70m east-south-east of Round Pond.

This enclosure is trapezoidal, its slight earthworks surviving up to 0.5m in height. The eastern side is 55m long, the western c. 40m long and both north and south sides 47m long. Slight outward scarps define the south and east sides but low spread banks survive on the west and around the north-eastern corner. There is a gap of 17.0m at the north-western corner. The north-eastern half is badly disrupted by tree-extraction holes. There are no features visible in the flat interior, which can only have enclosed an area c. 30m by 25m.

The purpose of this enclosure is unknown but its northern and southern sides are parallel to the central and southern arms of the *pate d'oie* (Front Walk and Mount Walk respectively) completed by Charles Bridgeman in Kensington Gardens for Queen Caroline by 1736. In addition, its western side is aligned with the edge of the great circular plantation of the same period around Round Pond. All this suggests that it is either later than, or altered by, this garden layout.

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Oswald A, May 1993: RCHME Field Investigation

Earthwork bank

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 103

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entry TQ 2680 SW 024).

TQ 2630 8047

A broad denuded bank, 140m long, 12m wide and up to 1.2m high, following a fairly straight course on a north-south alignment. A very slight, intermittent ditch can be seen along the eastern side. This bank is badly disturbed by several large tree extraction holes and cut by several infilled drainage trenches.

It lies on the former eastern edge of Second World War allotments (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 110) but appears to pre-date them, possibly representing a tree-lined boundary shown on the Wise plan of 1706 (1a), pre-dating the grand garden layout of the third decade of the eighteenth century. It may mark the eastern boundary of the former "Paddock", the royal menagerie associated with Kensington Palace in the first two decades of the eighteenth century.

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Kenney J, May 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a PRO Work 32/312: Plan of Hyde Park c. 1706 attributed to Henry Wise

Landscaping works for the Albert Memorial

NMR no: TQ 27 NE 79

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entries TQ 2679 NE 005 to 007, 015 to 016 and TQ 2679 NW 020, 022 to 025).

TQ 2657 7973

Albert Memorial landscaping and garden alterations. The elongated triangular piece of land south of the Flower Walk, between West Carriage Drive and Palace Gate, formed part of Hyde Park until 1858 when a small section was taken into Kensington Gardens for the building of Queens Gate (TQ 2639 7964). The remainder followed in 1871 after a series of garden changes associated with the Albert Memorial, itself unveiled in 1876 (2).

These changes involved the realignment of Lancaster Walk to the north of the memorial and new vistas, perpendicular to it, to the east and west. Lancaster Walk, the main transaxial walk of Kensington Gardens as laid out under Queen Caroline by the third decade of the 18th century, was deflected slightly southward from Physical Energy to create a direct approach to the Albert Memorial. Curiously, the old line was also retained in the planting, resulting in two gently diverging avenues of plane trees which remain today.

East and west of the Albert Memorial, large terraced areas were established, also flanked by plane avenues, creating short controlled vistas from West Carriage Drive and from the area north-west of Queens Gate (as far as TQ 2627 7968). During the Second World War these areas were used for allotments (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 110), destroying any internal features.

A new carriageway ran along the southern edge of these terraced areas, between Coalbrookdale Gate and Queens Gate, passing in front of the Albert Memorial and perpendicular to the new line of Lancaster Walk. This broad road is terraced into the gentle natural slope by cutting in on the north to a depth of 0.6m and embankment to the south to 0.6m. The scarp along its southern side is broken by the fourth, southward approach to the memorial, a platform sunken by 1.3m, cut from the Kensington Road with steps leading up to the memorial. At TQ 2663 7968 just to the east of the southern approach, lies a small rectangular earthwork platform measuring 22m by 15m and 0.4m high: its purpose is unknown but it may be a former flower bed.

The carriageway leaves Kensington Gardens at Queens Gate but its line is continued westward by a slightly meandering path leading to Palace Gate. For most of its length this path is sunken, the first half by a massive terrace scarp up to 2.2m high along the northern flank and a lesser scarp, 0.5m high, to the south. In its second half the southern scarp becomes dominant at 1.7m in height, the northern edge bordered by a complex arrangement of shrub beds on the natural slope up to the Flower Walk.

Sources

- 1 Oswald A W P and Struth P, June 93: RCHME Field Survey
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 24, 32
- 3 Pattison P, Aug 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 3a 106G/UK 1624 6046-7, 7 July 1946
CPE/UK/2174 5005, 26 June 1947
F21.58/RAF/1772 155, 21 June 1955

The Flower Walk

NMR no: TQ 27 NE 78

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entries TQ 2679 NE 001 and TQ 2679 NW 018 and 019).

TQ 2630 7973

This feature was established in 1843 along the line of the southern section of Charles Bridgeman's southern perimeter walk (2). Running for 680m between Mount Gate (TQ 2679 7988) and Palace Gate (TQ 2612 7967) it is a straight formal walk flanked by shrub and flower borders with a variety of ornamental trees.

For a distance of 430m east of Palace Gate the walk, 4.5m wide, is sunken and shaded by its elaborate borders, the flanking scarps up to 0.6m high. Towards the eastern end of this stretch the northern border becomes a low bank with an average width of 9.5m: the internal scarp remains 0.6m high, the external scarp at best 0.2m.

Over the final 250m to Mount Gate the Flower Walk is bordered only along the southern side, the northern flank opening onto lawns. The southern border is formed by a massive, sinuous linear bank 12 to 33m wide and up to 1.5m high, planted with trees, shrubs and flowers. This may have been formed from material from the levelled eighteenth century mound (see NMR no. TQ 27 NE 76).

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Oswald A, May 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey

The North Flower Walk

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 104

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entry TQ 2680 NW 002).

TQ 2650 8068. A formal walk flanked by shrub and flower beds and ornamental trees. It was in existence by 1893 (1a) and was possibly created for Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 (2).

At TQ 2643 8067 the present course of the walk turns south to join the North Walk. Formerly, it continued on its easterly course to join Lancaster Walk and the redundant 43m stretch survives as a low bank with slight ditches on either side continuing through the existing shrubbery (1).

Sources

- 1 Oswald A and Struth P, June 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a OS 25 inch 1896 (revision of 1893) London Sheet LX
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 33

The Italian Fountains

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 105

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entry TQ 2680 NE 017).

TQ 2670 8064

The Italian Fountains are situated at the head of the Serpentine (Long Water) and were built in 1860-2 as part of a cleaning up operation: the Westbourne stream, for long a city water supply, had become increasingly polluted by sewage from Bayswater and was cut off at this time. A new well was sunk to supply the fountains. Today the supply is from wells in St. James's Park (2).

A straight scarp 3.0m wide and 0.6m high at the S end, diminishing to the south, cuts into the natural slope and forms a terrace for the Fountains along their eastern side (1).

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Oswald A, April 1994: RCHME Field Investigation
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 27

Bandstand**NMR no: TQ 27 NE 80**

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entry TQ 2679 NW 013).

TQ 2624 7993

Erected in the 1930's to replace an earlier one erected on a different site in 1869 but subsequently removed to Hyde Park in 1886 (2).

The present structure stands axially but south of centre to a low circular levelled platform. The platform, 55m in diameter with an outer scarp 0.1 to 0.3m high, was probably originally surrounded by a metal railing defining an enclosure for audiences. The outer scarp is broken on the north by a grassmark, 21m long and 5m wide, the site of the approach into the enclosure.

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Oswald O, April 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey, 35

St. Govor's Well

NMR no: TQ 27 NE 82

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans and Features Catalogue entries TQ 2679 NW 038 and 039).

TQ 2610 7984. A spring in Kensington Gardens converted into a well in the early nineteenth century, perhaps 1836, and given its name in 1856 (2).

The present drinking fountain, a modern feature, sits in a small hollow 11.8m wide and 0.3-0.9m deep, which is cut into a massive eighteenth century garden landscaping scarp (see Features Catalogue TQ 2679 NW 037). A slight terrace, defined on the south by a slight scarp, runs along the foot of this scarp between the well and the Broad Walk. This is a former pathway constructed between 1869 (a) and 1897 (b).

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Oswald A, April 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a OS 25 inch 1869 (surveyed 1862-5) London Sheet XLII
- 1b OS 25 inch 1897 Sheet LXXIV
- 2 Land Use Consultants 1982: Kensington Gardens Historical Survey

Second World War activity in Kensington Gardens (parent record)

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 106

The whole area of Kensington gardens was surveyed at 1:1000 scale by the RCHME between March and June of 1993, and features transcribed from aerial photographs at 1:2500 scale. See records in the NMR archives (pencil field plans, inked plans, Features Catalogue and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

The open spaces and public parks of central London provided a number of opportunities for the war effort. Air-raid shelters were provided in the areas to the north and south of Kensington Palace, easily accessible from Kensington High St., Bayswater Road and the main pedestrian thoroughfare through the gardens, the Broad Walk. These shelters began life as open trenches, possibly dating from the Munich crisis in 1938 but were subsequently roofed over and provided with large blast mounds and protected stepped entrances. See NMR nos. TQ 28 SE 107 and TQ 27 NE 83.

There were no anti-aircraft batteries in the Gardens but a barrage balloon was installed and operated from the area immediately north-west of Round Pond: it is clearly visible in flight on aerial photographs of 1941 (a) and on the ground on an aerial photograph of 1944 (b). Nothing remains on the ground today.

The extensive open spaces around Round Pond and the long open vistas presented opportunities for airborne landings by troop-carrying enemy gliders and short-take off aircraft. To prevent safe landings, long straight ditches were dug wherever necessary, and spoil piled on either side to prevent or make landing hazardous. See NMR no. TQ 28 SE 109.

More surprising perhaps was the small quarrying operation on Buck Hill, active until c. 1944 and reached by a temporary track from West Carriage Drive. The quarry may have been for sand or gravel for sandbagging and fire damping operations. See NMR no. TQ 28 SE 108.

"Dig for Victory" also had its effect in extensive areas of allotments, notably north of the palace on the site of an early eighteenth century sunken garden, in long strips to either side of the Albert Memorial and in the north off Bayswater Road. Some of these remained in cultivation until at least 1949. See NMR no. TQ 28 SE 110.

The effects of enemy bombing are clearly visible on the 1941 photographs when numerous large craters are scattered around (a). Several of these survive as at first enigmatic, low mounds with central hollows: see NMR nos. TQ 28 SE 111, 112, 113 and 114.

Sources

- 1 Pattison P, Oswald A and Kenney J, June 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a NMR 6693 (241/AC2 120-122, 18 June 1941)
- 1b NMR 8314 (106G/LA/29 3180-81, 7 Aug 1944)

Second World War air-raid shelters south of Kensington Palace

NMR no: TQ 27 NE 83

(See archive records: pencil field plans, inked archive plans, Features Catalogue entries TQ 2579 NE 006, 019, 020 and 024 and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

TQ 2596 7974. A shallow ditch, 1.8m to 2.5m wide and 0.2m deep, forming a rectangle in plan with overall dimensions of 18m by 11.8m.

TQ 2580 7980: A series of interconnected shallow ditches, averaging 2.2m wide and 0.3m deep, forming in plan seven contiguous rectangles with an overall length of 62m and a width of 20m. Alternate rectangles have slight shallow depressions along their main axes.

TQ 2589 7977: An arrangement of shallow ditches, 2.4m to 3.9m wide and 0.2m deep, forming an F-shape in plan when viewed from the south-west.

TQ 2598 7981: Two sets of interconnected shallow ditches, each between 2.5m and 3.8m wide and averaging 0.3m deep, in plan originally forming parallel arrangements of six contiguous rectangles. Today only two of the northern row and four of the southern row are visible on the surface.

All of these slight ditches are the remains of Second World War air raid shelters, situated close to the park edge for quick access. They are of the covered trench type, the ditches representing subsidence over the infilled trenches. They are visible on aerial photographs of 1941, 1944 and 1945 (a). On the 1945 photographs their large covering blast mounds and stepped entrances down into the shelters are clearly visible. The latter are reflected on the ground by the shallow depressions noted in alternate rectangles.

Another single shelter is visible on the 1945 photographs at TQ 2592 7974 (a)

Aerial photographs show that the shelters had been cleared by 1946 (b).

Sources

- 1 Pattison P, March 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a NMR 6693 (241/AC2 121-122, 18 June 1941)
- NMR 8314 (106G/LA/29 3179-3181, 7 Aug 1944)
- NMR 44 (106G/UK/739 6123-6125, 27 Aug 1945)
- 1b NMR 410 (106G/UK/1624 6044-6045, 7 July 1946)

Second World War air-raid shelters north of Kensington Palace:

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 107

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans, Features Catalogue entries TQ 2580 SE 001 and 005 and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

TQ 2577 8043. A complex of inter-connected shallow ditches, averaging 2m wide and 0.2m deep, forming in plan a series of contiguous rectangles, covering an area 45m long and 20m wide.

TQ 2584 8030: A complex of inter-connected shallow ditches, averaging 2m wide and 0.2m deep, forming in plan a series of contiguous rectangles, covering an area 85m long and 25m wide.

These slight linear ditches represent the remains of two Second World War multiple air raid shelters, situated close to the park edge for quick access. They are of the covered trench type, the present remains representing subsidence over the infilled trenches. They are visible on aerial photographs of 1941, 1944 and 1945 (a).

The 1945 photographs show very clearly the large covering blast mounds and stepped entrances down into the shelters.

Sources

- 1 Topping P and Pattison P, March 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a NMR 6693 (241/AC2 121-122, 18 June 1941)
- NMR 8314 (106G/LA29/3129-3130, 7 Aug 1944)
- NMR 44 (106G/UK/739 6113-6114, 27 Aug 1945)

Second World War quarry (site of)

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 108

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans, Features Catalogue entries TQ 2680 SE 031, 050 and TQ 2680 NE 047 and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

During the Second World War a quarry was established on Buck Hill, probably for sand and gravel. It was contained within a rectilinear fenced compound and approached by various access tracks. In the immediate vicinity, a number of temporary buildings, minor tracks, fences and bomb craters have left no discernible trace on the ground but are all visible on contemporary aerial photographs (1a).

TQ 2693 8043

The quarry and associated features

The compound was a fenced rectilinear quadrangle of irregular form, its eastern side, around 66m north to south, re-using an early eighteenth century garden earthwork bank along the western side of Buck Hill Walk (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 98) as a foundation. From the south-eastern corner, the fence turned obliquely south-westward for 65m, then turned north for 35m, finally returning to the north-east for 82m to form an acute angle at the north-eastern corner, where a track entered the compound. At this point today, TQ 2696 8053, a faint scarp, 1.2m wide and 0.2m high, corresponds to the line of the fence: it extends for 25m from south-west to north-east before turning north for a further 10m.

The western part of the enclosure contained a quarry which was active in 1941 (1a) but largely infilled by August 1944 (1b), certainly so by August 1945 (1c) and down to grass though still enclosed in June 1947 (1d). It was reintegrated with the rest of Buck Hill by June 1949 (1e).

The site of the quarry survives as a well defined lozenge-shaped depression, measuring 43m from south-east to north-west and 21m and 27m across the northern and southern sides respectively. The southern side is defined by a steep-sided ditch up to 4.0m wide and 0.5m deep which becomes slighter towards the south-western corner: its outer scarp continues around to form the western and northern sides, both scarps up to 1.8m wide and 0.4m deep with intermittent counter-scarps. The eastern side continues as a heavily abraded scarp up to 1.4m wide and 0.2m high. The central area has small rises and depressions presenting a disturbed appearance consistent with backfilling and subsequent

settling.

The southern side of the quarry did not intrude on the central vista of Kensington Gardens and its western side lay along the edge of a former avenue (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 97) running north to south along Buck Hill.

A track from the quarry ran north from its north-eastern corner to Buck Hill Walk. The point at which it crossed the eighteenth century earthwork bank, TQ 2697 8055, is marked by a general area of disturbance.

Access to West Carriage Drive was gained by a track some 80m further north along Buck Hill Walk, which cut the ha-ha at TQ 2692 8066, from south-west to north east. This is marked by a distinct interruption of the ha-ha bank and the infilling of its ditch.

By August 1944 banks had been constructed from the north-eastern and north-western corners of the compound, the former heading west before turning north again to enclose a strip alongside the Serpentine, the latter extending to the wall along the eastern edge of Kensington Gardens. These banks defined two areas of grazing on Buck Hill, the southern one containing several buildings between August 1944 and August 1945, gone by June 1947 (1b-1d). The eastern side followed the western ha-ha earthwork (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 98) parallel to Buck Hill Walk for a further 70m, and the western side (centre TQ 2695 8036) bent south-east to meet it: the latter a bank 59m long, 0.2m high and varying in width between 2.9m and 4.2m. It is cut near its centre by an anti-glider trench dug visible on photographs of 1941 (1a).

Sources

- 1 Oswald A W P and Pattison P, March 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a NMR 6693 (241/AC2 119-121, 18 Jun 1941)
- 1b NMR 8314 (106G/LA29 3181, 7 Aug 1944)
- 1c NMR 44 (106G/UK/739 6108, 27 Aug 1945)
- 1d NMR 689 (CPE/UK/2174 5073, 26 June 1947)
- 1e NMR 3028 (58/266 5304, 27 June 1949)

Second World War aircraft obstructions

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 109

(See archive records, in particular the pencil field plans, inked archive plans, Features Catalogue entries TQ 2680 SW 006, 042 to 044, TQ 2680 SE 030, 038, TQ 2680 NE 034 and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

In the early stages of the Second World War, on the Home Front long trenches were excavated across open ground as a form of obstruction to prevent the landing of enemy troop-carrying gliders and short-take-off transport planes. The relatively flat London parklands clearly offered opportunities for such landings. In Kensington Gardens, several trenches were excavated across the lawn around Round Pond, at intervals across the long avenues and vistas of the park and on Buck Hill. They comprised a vertical-sided trench with piles of spoil heaped alternately on each side and are visible on aerial photographs of 1941, and filled in by 1944 and 1945 (a). Several are still visible on the ground as faint linear depressions at:

TQ 2686 8061: A straight discontinuous linear depression, 37m long, 2.6m wide and 0.2m deep, aligned north to south on Buck Hill.

TQ 2695 8036: A straight, regular scarp 50m long, 1.5m wide and 0.2m high, aligned east to west across Buck Hill.

TQ 2636 8000: A short length of slight ditch, 5m long, 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep, cutting across the axis of Mount Walk.

TQ 2635 8037: A straight, short, shallow trench 18.0m long, 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep, cutting across the axis of Great Bayswater Walk.

TQ 2632 8015: A straight, short, shallow trench 35m long, 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep, traversing open ground perpendicular to the eastern edge of Round Pond.

TQ 2629 8002: A straight trench 67m long, 1m wide and 0.2m deep, aligned north-west to south-east from the south-eastern corner of Round Pond.

TQ 2664 8026: A slight straight trench 20.0m long, 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep, cutting across the axis of Front Walk.

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Oswald A, June 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a NMR 6693 (241/AC2 120-122, 18 June 1941)
NMR 8314 (106G/LA/29 3179-3181, 7 Aug 1944)
NMR 44 (106G/UK/739 6110-6112 and 6125-6127, 27 Aug 1945)

Second World War allotments (site of)

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 110

(See archive records: pencil field plans, inked archive plans, Features Catalogue entries TQ 2580 SE 018, TQ 2680 SW 022 and TQ 2780 SW 011 and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

Several areas in Kensington Gardens were given over to "Dig for Victory" allotments during and after the Second World War:

TQ 2576 8024: north of the palace on an area of open ground formerly Henry Wise's early eighteenth century sunken garden. The allotments appear on aerial photographs between 1941 (1a) and 1945 (1h) occupying a rectangular area 140m long and 70m wide. Very slight scarps can be seen marking the course of plots and baulks.

TQ 2622 8051: an irregular area of allotments, maximum dimensions of 180m by 50m, on aerial photographs (1a-c). Today a slight scarp marks part of the south-western edge.

TQ 2670 7975, TQ 2640 7970 and TQ 2630 7968: large rectangular areas east and west of the Albert Memorial appear as allotments on aerial photographs between 1941 and 1949 (1a, 1e-g) but were removed by 1955 (1d).

TQ 2705 8040: a level area with dimensions of 50m north to south by 20m, contained between the eighteenth century ha-ha ditch (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 98) and the perimeter wall of Kensington Gardens, marks the site of a group of allotments visible on aerial photographs in 1942 (a) and 1945 (h). These were surrounded by an arrangement of five or six large metal drums, possibly for compost or water storage.

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Oswald A, July 1994: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a NMR 6693 (241 AC2, 18 June 1941)
- 1b NMR 8314 (106G/LA/29 3129-31 and 3181, 7 Aug 1944)
- 1c NMR 3028 (58/266 5274, 27 June 1949)
- 1d NMR 3837 (58/1772 155-6, 1 June 1955)
- 1e NMR 410 (106G/UK/1624 6046-7, 7 July 1946)
- 1f NMR 689 (CPE/UK/2174 5005, 26 June 1947)
- 1g NMR 3028 (58/266, 27 June 1949)
- 1h NMR 44 (106G/UK/739 6108-6114, 27 Aug 1945)

Possible Second World War bomb craters

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 111

(See archive records: pencil field plans, inked archive plans, Features Catalogue entries TQ 2680 SE 001, TQ 2680 NE 003 and 004 and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

Three low subcircular mounds situated in close proximity on gently sloping ground 150m south-west of the Italian Fountains in Kensington Gardens:

TQ 2658 8054: A subcircular mound 17.5m across and 0.5m high with a shallow internal depression offset to the north-west, measuring 8.6m north to south by 7.4m and 0.3m deep.

TQ 2651 8048: An irregular, roughly circular mound measuring 22.8m north to south by 18.5m and 0.4m high, with an irregular central depression 0.1m deep.

TQ 2657 8057: An abraded subcircular mound 19m across and 0.4m high, with a shallow central depression 9.2m north to south by 8.2m and 0.3m deep. A slight spur projects for 3.8m on the southern side.

There is no obvious explanation for these features: they are not ornamental tree mounds and they overlie the site of formal gardens associated with Bayswater House, which were levelled between 1784 and 1790 (see NMR no. TQ 28 SE 99). Unfortunately the area is masked by trees on aerial photographs but these features are similar to others in Kensington Gardens which have been shown to be bomb craters from the Second World War (see NMR nos. TQ 28 SE 112 and 113).

Sources

- 1 Oswald A and Struth P, June 1993: RCHME Field Investigation

Second World War bomb crater

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 112

(See archive records: pencil field plans, inked archive plans, Features Catalogue entry TQ 2680 NW 005 and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

TQ 2604 8053

An annular mound 13m to 14m across and 0.25m high defining a flat-based interior 0.20m deep. There is a slight section of bank projecting from the western side.

This mound appears to be a partially infilled bomb crater visible on aerial photographs of 1941 (1a).

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Kenney J, May 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a NMR 6693 (241/AC2 120-121, 18-June-1941)

Second World War bomb crater

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 113

(See archive records: pencil field plans, inked archive plans, Features Catalogue entry TQ 2680 NW 008 and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

TQ 2618 8056. The southern half of an annular mound, approximately 12.1m across and 0.1m high, defining a flat, slightly recessed interior 0.15m deep.

This feature appears to be a bomb crater visible on aerial photographs of 1941 (1a)

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Kenney J, May 1993: RCHME Field Investigation
- 1a NMR 6693 (241/AC2 121-122, 18 June 1941)

Possible Second World War bomb crater

NMR no: TQ 28 SE 114

(See archive records: pencil field plans, inked archive plans, Features Catalogue entry TQ 2680 SE 040 and Air Photographic Transcription and Analysis).

TQ 2664 8024: A fragmentary annular mound 19.2m across, comprising mainly an internal scarp 0.2m deep, with traces of an outer scarp on the north-east and north-west. The interior is fairly flat.

The purpose of this feature is uncertain but it is possibly a bomb crater from the Second World War.

Sources

- 1 Pattison P and Oswald A, April 1993: RCHME Field Investigation



