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**ST. JAMES'S PARK AND THE GREEN PARK,  
LONDON BOROUGH OF  
THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER**

**An Archaeological Assessment  
and Field Evaluation by  
The Royal Commission on the  
Historical Monuments of England**

**ROYAL PARKS PROJECT**

**August 1994**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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In July 1994 the RCHME Cambridge Field Office began Phase 2 of the Royal Parks Project. This part of the project comprises a series of evaluations, which in the case of St. James's Park and Green Park, has the following objectives:

- 1) To assess the current archaeological record for St. James's and Green Park and, if necessary, enhance it by recording.
- 2) To identify areas which for academic, archive and management purposes might be recorded using field survey techniques.

Green Park covers an area of 20.8 hectares (51.4 acres) and St. James's Park 34.5 hectares (85.26 acres). Both are now manicured urban parks with large areas of close-cut grass.

Both are Grade 1 Historic Parks.

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## 2. BRIEF HISTORY

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### **Green Park**

Unlike London's other central Royal Parks, the Green Park was not created until 1668 when Charles II made 'Upper St. James's Park' for hunting. The park contained ponds at various stages of its history, but few other ornamental features or trees until the mid nineteenth century. It was opened to the public in 1826 and now forms an integral part of the complex of public parks in central London.

### **St. James's Park**

An area of marshy land was acquired by Henry VIII in 1531, drained and enclosed as a royal park for the neighbouring palaces of St. James and Whitehall. Elizabeth I and James I added to its attractions but at the Restoration Charles II completely redesigned it during his programme of refurbishment to several royal properties. He employed the eminent French garden designers, André and Gabriel Mollet, to produce a design with a straight ornamental canal as its centre piece, avenues of trees and a *patte d'oie*. The park was redesigned again by John Nash in 1827, reducing its formality by converting the canal into a serpentine lake with islands.

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### 3. RESEARCH METHOD

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- 1) Consultation of the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record.
- 2) Rapid analysis of aerial photographs in the National Monuments Record Centre (NMRC) in Swindon.
- 3) Limited documentary and map research. Much of the documentary information was supplied by the reports:

Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park,

Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: St. James's Park,

and primary sources were checked only to solve particular problems.

- 4) Level I field survey. The data acquired from sources 1 to 3 above were utilised in the field to inform a rapid but methodical inspection of the total present area of the parks, with particular attention to those locations indicated by the prior research to have archaeological potential. The conditions at the time of the survey were favourable to the identification of surface features. In particular, the preceding dry weather produced very good conditions for the occurrence of parchmarks, and the grass over the whole area was short making even slight earthworks easily visible. However, the hot, sunny weather resulted in parts of St. James's Park being obscured by sunbathers.

The results of the survey are set out in brief in the gazetteer below, and in more detail in the individual site reports which follow. The latter, which form the core of the amended National Monuments Record archive for St. James's Park and the Green Park, are identified by Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 sheet and a unique NMR number.

**GREEN PARK: GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

NMR NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	GRID REFERENCE
TQ 27 NE 64	The Central Water: the site of an ornamental pond dating from 1667 to 1837	TQ 2885 7996
TQ 27 NE 87	Possible site of Civil War Fort. Two eighteenth century maps show a fort near Hyde Park Corner, but in different locations; there are no traces of the fort on the ground	TQ 285 798
TQ 27 NE 88	Ice and snow houses are recorded in the park since the reign of Charles II, but no surface remains could be identified	TQ 287 799
TQ 27 NE 89	A series of Ranger's lodges and associated structures built along the Piccadilly boundary between 1710 and 1842. No remains survive on the surface	TQ 286 799
TQ 27 NE 90	A deer house existed close to the ranger's lodge, but there are no surface remains	TQ 286 799
TQ 27 NE 91	The Two Knolls. Two ornamental tree mounds	TQ 2868 7992 TQ 2868 7988
TQ 27 NE 92	Site of the Round Reservoir, a covered reservoir existing between 1840 and 1883, now completely destroyed	TQ 284 798
TQ 27 NE 93	The Broad Walk, a tree avenue planted between 1905 and 1913	
TQ 28 SE 117	The Queen's Basin, a pond converted into a reservoir in 1729 and infilled in 1855. No surface remains	TQ 2895 8020
TQ 28 SE 118	The bandstand, surrounded by a ring of trees, in existence between 1913 and 1980. The ring of trees, scarps relating to landscaping and the site of the bandstand still exist	TQ 2909 8005

**GREEN PARK: GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

NMR NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	GRID REFERENCE
TQ 28 SE 119	Second World War air raid shelters and what appears to have been a small reservoir, visible on air photographs 1941-1945. Narrow gullies visible today form a ladder-like arrangement marking the site of the trenches of these shelters	TQ 2904 8015
TQ 27 NE 94	Two Second World War barrage balloon sites appear on aerial photographs of 1941 and 1945. They were visible as parchmarks and earthworks on the ground	TQ 2904 8015 TQ 2898 8008 TQ 2910 7997 TQ 2857 7984
TQ 27 NE 61	Miscellaneous features. Some abandoned paths can be seen as parchmarks and earthworks and there are two small earthwork features, possibly building platforms of Second World War date	TQ 2879 8005 TQ 2898 7990

**ST JAMES' PARK: GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**

<b>NMR NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>
TQ 27 NE 95	Cowford/Rosamund's Pool. Nothing can now be seen of the pond in the south-western corner of the park which was formalised as part of the 1660 redesign	TQ 2928 7960
TQ 27 NE 96	Ornamental canal constructed as the centre piece of the 1660 design of the park. It was converted to its present serpentine shape by Nash in 1827	TQ 2960 7984
TQ 27 NE 97	Duck Decoy channels. A decoy was in use between 1660 and 1770 and slight earthworks may represent its remains	TQ 2970 7972
TQ 27 NE 98	Duck Islands. An ornamental island within Nash's serpentine canal	TQ 2980 7990
TQ 27 NE 99	The site of a suspension bridge designed by Rendell and in existence between 1857 and 1957	TQ 2953 7980



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## 5. DESCRIPTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL SITES

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### a) THE GREEN PARK

**The Green Park (parent record)  
NMR No TQ 27 NE 61**

TQ 289 799. The Green Park is roughly triangular in shape, with undulating topography. It lies to the north-west of St. James's Park, from which it is separated by the Mall and the Victoria Memorial. The area was emparked in 1668 by Charles II to create Upper St. James's Park, which he enclosed with a brick wall and stocked with deer (6, p6, 46). Prior to this the area appears to have been agricultural land (6, p46).

Boundary changes have occurred throughout the park's history, up to 1681 the area of the park increased, and by 1704 it was about 33 ha in size. After this it began to shrink with land lost to the Buckingham Palace grounds, private gardens and road improvements; the current area is 20.8 ha (6, p6, 7, 11, 46, 48).

In the earlier part of its history the park had few trees, the planting of significant numbers of trees occurred mainly between 1850 and 1914 (6, p14), however, it was referred to as the Green Park by 1746 (6, p7). The park was opened to the general public following a report by the House of Lords in 1826 (6, p9; 8, p7), and was enhanced by the erection of the Canada and Devonshire gates in 1904-7 and 1921 respectively (6, p48, 49).

Today some of the more prominent surface remains are of disused paths, abandoned both recently and earlier this century, which form particularly clear parchmarks (7). The path from Constitution Hill (c.TQ 2895 7980) to the Down Street entrance on Piccadilly (c.TQ 2868 8000) is visible as both a parchmark and an earthwork up to 0.4m high. Along most of its length it is terraced into the slope, but at the northern end it appears as a broad bank, 0.4m high. The path heading south-east from the Smirke fountain also be seen as a parchmark, and low scarps at its southern end (TQ 2874 7995 to TQ 2890 7992). Both paths appear on the 1916 third edition County Series map (9).

In the Second World War the Green Park was used for a variety of military and civil defence purposes which have also left their mark as earthworks and parchmarks (see TQ 27 NE 94, TQ 28 SE 119). A small, square platform, 12m by 12m, is set in the hill slope at TQ 2879 8005), and defined by scarps up to 0.4m high. Though it is not very level it appears to be a building platform, or for some other park structure. Another platform, this one roughly circular, is located at c.TQ 2898 7990, at the foot of a slope. It is 0.2m high and has three trees on it. When inspected the platform was very parched. No remains of the medieval and post-medieval sand and gravel workings which took place in the park (6, p6) could be recognised.

For details of other features in the park see the following records:  
the Central Water (TQ 27 NE 64); possible site of a Civil War fort (TQ 27 NE 87); ice and snow houses (TQ 27 NE 88); lodges (TQ 27 NE 89); a deer house (TQ 27 NE 90); the Two Knolls (TQ 27 NE 91); Round Reservoir (TQ 27 NE 92); Broad Walk (TQ 27

NE 93); the Queen's Basin (TQ 28 SE 117); bandstand (TQ 28 SE 118).

#### **References**

6. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park.
7. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.
8. Department of National Heritage 1993 Royal Parks Review: St James's and Green Parks, Regent's Park and Primrose Hill.
9. 25" Ordnance Survey County Series map, third edition, London sheet V.13, revised 1914, published 1916.

**The Central Water**  
**NMR No TQ 27 NE 64**

TQ 2885 7996. The Tyburn used to flow across the park and formed a pool which existed between 1667 and 1837 (1, p11, 46). An extension to the Tyburn Pool was constructed in 1703 (1, p46). It is shown on maps of 1710/1725 and 1791 (2,3). In 1792 it measured 320 by 70 feet, though it was probably partly silted up by that date (1, p14). The pool was infilled in 1837 (1, p9, 48). There is a slight, elongated hollow in the appropriate location, which could represent the remains of the pool (4).

**References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park.
2. PRO (Kew) WORKS 32/70, dated between 1710 and 1725.
3. PRO (Kew) WORKS 32/71, dated 1791.
4. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

**Civil War Fort (locality)**  
**NMR No TQ 27 NE 87**

TQ 285 798. A fort forming part of the defensive line round London during the Civil War appears to have been located near or in the western corner of the Green Park. Two eighteenth century plans show a fort near Hyde Park Corner, but each show the fort in a different location; one to the north of Piccadilly and one to the south (1). An inspection of the Green Park (2) revealed no trace of a fort, but as this area has been extensively altered it is likely any surviving features are beneath the surface.

**References**

1. Sturdy D 1975 The Civil War Defences of London, London Archaeology 2, 334-338.
2. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

**Ice houses and snow wells (locality)**  
**NMR No TQ 27 NE 88**

TQ 287 799. Reference is made in documentary sources to three snow wells in 1668 which were probably within the area of the park (1, 46), and to an ice house in 1784 (1, p47). The ice house is shown on an early eighteenth century map (1) at approximately TQ 2870 7997, though there is no trace of it on the ground at that position. Pevsner (2) suggests that the mound at TQ 2868 7992 is the ice house mound, but this seems unlikely from the appearance of the mound, which is more probably just an ornamental tree mound (see TQ 27 NE 91).

**References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park.
2. Pevsner N 1973 The Buildings of England, London Volume One, 579.
3. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

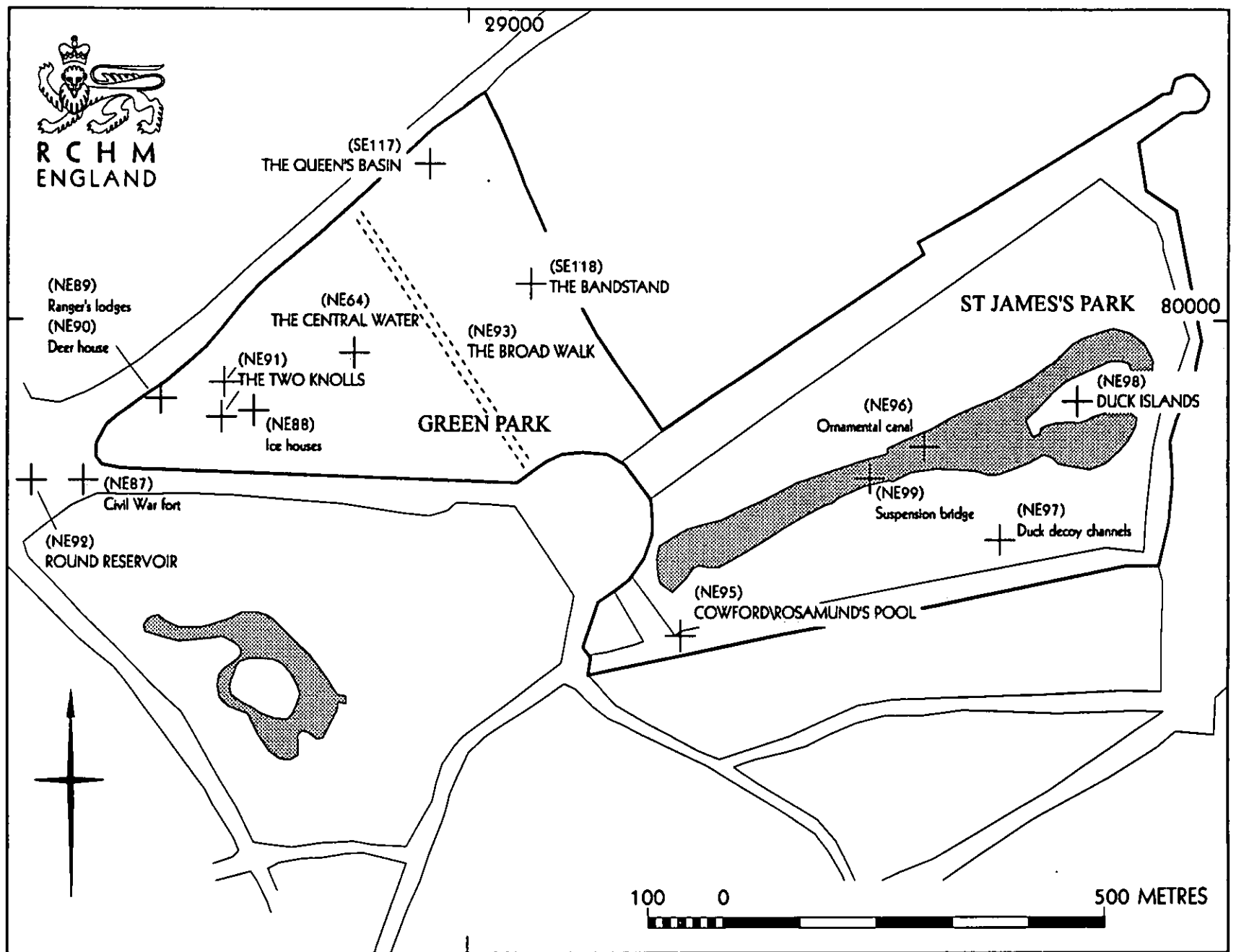


Figure 1: Archaeological sites in St James's Park and the Green Park.

**Rangers Lodges (locality)**  
**NMR No TQ 27 NE 89**

TQ 286 799. There has been a series of lodges and their out-buildings along the Piccadilly boundary of the Green Park (1, p18). The park had a ranger's lodge from soon after its emparkment in 1668 (1, p6), and a lodge is shown on a map of 1710 at approximately TQ 286 799; this was altered in 1730 (1, p46, 47). A new lodge, referred to as the Deputy Ranger's Lodge, was rebuilt on the site of the old lodge by Robert Adam in 1769 (1, p7, 47). It is shown with its surrounding outbuildings and gardens on a map of 1791 (2), and was demolished in 1841-2 (1, p47). The basin in which it had been constructed was filled in (1, p9, 48), and probably buried under the northern most of the Two Knolls (TQ 2868 7992, see TQ 27 NE 91). A new lodge was erected opposite Hyde Park corner in 1818 (1, p48), but none are shown on the County Series map surveyed in 1869 (3).

**References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park.
2. Plan of St. James and Green Park, Public Record Office, Kew, WORKS 32/71, dated 1791.
3. 25" Ordnance Survey County Series map, first edition, London sheet XLIII, surveyed 1869, published 1878.
4. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

**Deer House (site of)**  
**NMR No TQ 27 NE 90**

TQ 286 799. A deer house existed close to the ranger's lodge (see TQ 27 NE 89) between 1704 and 1740s (1, p46). It may be the structure located close to the old lodge on a map dating between 1710 and 1725 (2). Any traces of this would be destroyed when the later ranger's lodge and gardens were constructed (see TQ 27 NE 89).

**References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park.
2. Plan of St. James Park, Public Records Office, Kew, WORKS 32/70, dated between 1710 and 1725.
3. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

**The Two Knolls**  
**NMR No TQ 27 NE 91**

TQ 2868 7992 and TQ 2868 7988. Towards the western end of the Green Park are two ornamental tree mounds, referred to as the Two Knolls, both of which are planted with mature plane trees. The northern one (TQ 2868 7992) is approximately 40m by 30m and 2m high. It has steep sides and is cut at its northern end by a path. It appears to be on the site of the Deputy Ranger's Lodge (see TQ 27 NE 89) and was probably constructed when the lodge was demolished in 1841-2 (2, p18). Pevsner (3) suggests that this knoll was a covering mound for an ice house, but this is less likely, see TQ 27 NE

88 (2, p47). The southern knoll (TQ 2868 7988) is larger, at approximately 80m by 60m and 3m high, and lies along the top of a natural scarp. It may be earlier as it is probably represented by a circular hill crowned with trees shown on a map dating between 1710 and 1725 (4).

#### References

1. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.
2. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park.
3. Pevsner N 1973 The Buildings of England, London Volume One, 579.
4. PRO (Kew) WORKS 32/70, dated between 1710 and 1725.

#### **The Round Reservoir (site of) NMR No TQ 27 NE 92**

TQ 284 798. The Round Reservoir was constructed by John Nash to supply the new lake in Buckingham Palace gardens. It was later covered and then removed in 1883 (1, p14). It is shown on the First Edition County Series map surveyed in 1869 (2). The site of the reservoir has now been lost under the changing road system round the Wellington monument.

#### References

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park.
2. 25" Ordnance Survey County Series map, first edition, London sheet XLIII, surveyed 1869, published 1878.

#### **The Broad Walk NMR No TQ 27 NE 93**

In 1905 a double plane avenue was proposed to run north-west to south-east across the Green Park (1, p48), and it was planted between 1905 and 1913 (1, p14). However, a path had run along this alignment since at least 1856 (2). Between 1945 and 1948 bomb damage rubble was dumped as a mound on the Broad Walk (1, p18, 49), and can still be seen as a low mound c.0.3m high.

#### References

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park.
2. PRO (Kew) WORKS 32/132, plan dated 1856.
3. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

## **Second World War barrage balloon emplacements (site of) NMR No TQ 27 NE 94**

There are two barrage balloon sites visible on aerial photographs in the Green Park, both of which can be seen as parchmarks. One is located at TQ 2910 7997, and can be seen on photographs of 1941 and 1945 (1, 2). The latter photograph clearly shows the circular anchorage structure and associated temporary buildings, there also appears to be a small gun emplacement. The site was levelled by 1946 (3) and today these features are visible as a parchmark circle and other parchmarks and slight scarps, though the area has been confused by modern service trenches.

In the western corner of the park (TQ 2857 7984) a low hummock, 9m in diameter and c.0.3m high and a larger parchmark circle represent the site of another barrage balloon anchorage. The larger circle is c.24m in diameter with a slightly small concentric circle within it, and presumably is the actual anchor point. Other irregularities in the area may be related to the wartime activity. The large concentric circles show up as parchmarks in 1946 and 1948 (4, 5), but the 1941 photograph actually shows the barrage balloon in the air (1).

### **References**

1. NMR 6693/241 AC2, 18-JUN-41
2. NMR 44, 106G/UK/739, frames 6136, 6137, 27-AUG-45.
3. NMR 410, 106G/UK/1624, frames 6053-5, 7-JUL-46
4. NMR 410, 106G/UK/1624, frame 6052, 7-JUL-46
5. NMR 2425, 58/37, frames 5141, 5142, 18-MAY-48 (aerial photographs held by NMRC, Kemble Drive, Swindon).
6. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

## **The Queen's Basin NMR No TQ 28 SE 117**

TQ 2895 8020. Natural pools in the north-eastern corner of the Green Park were converted into a reservoir in 1725 (1), which is shown on maps of 1710/1725 and 1791 (2, 3). The reservoir was enlarged in 1729 (1, p11, 47), to a size of 600 by 100 feet (1, p14), and given a fountain by 1797 (1, p18), and the name Queen's Basin (1, p7, 11). The basin was infilled in 1855 (1, p9, 48). The site of the basin has been severely disturbed by the construction of the Green Park underground station in the 1960s (4), and no traces can now be seen on the surface (5).

### **References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park.
2. PRO (Kew) WORKS 32/70, dated between 1710 and 1725.
3. PRO (Kew) WORKS 32/71, dated 1791.
4. Aerial photograph NMR 4760, MAL/67067, frame 023, 9-JUL-67 (held by NMRC, Kemble Drive, Swindon).
5. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

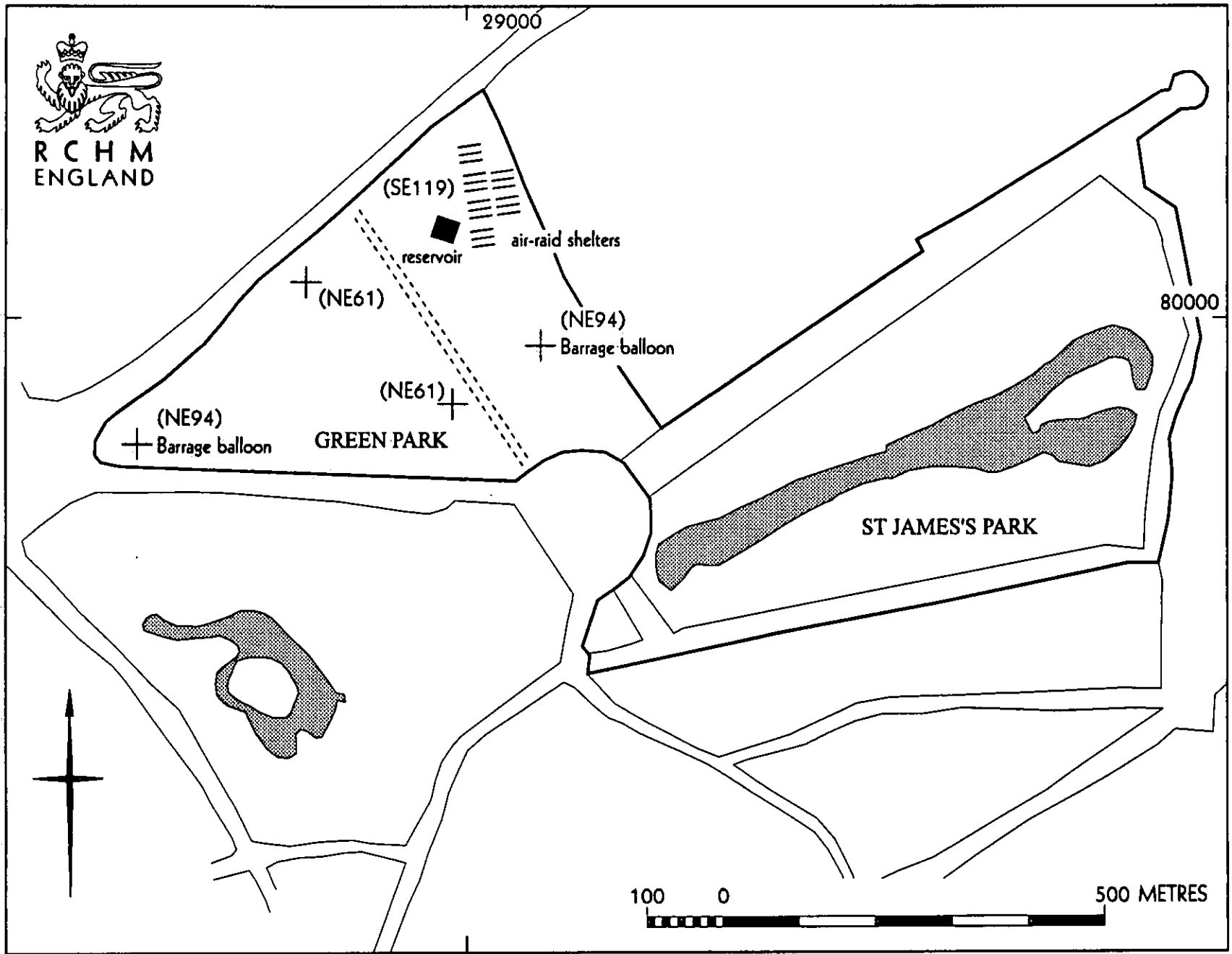


Figure 2: Sites of Second World War monuments, as revealed by air photography



**The Bandstand**  
**NMR No TQ 28 SE 118**

TQ 2909 8005. A tree ring around the site of the bandstand was planted in 1913 (1, p49), and presumably the bandstand was built at the same time; it appears on the 1916 third edition County Series map (2). The bandstand was removed in 1980 (1, p49), but earthwork remains are still clear. Scarps up to 0.4m high cut into the hill slope on the northern side, and a shallow gully and narrow parchmark define the kerb round the outside of the tree ring. In the centre of the ring irregular hummocks mark the site of the bandstand (3).

**References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: Green Park.
2. 25" Ordnance Survey County Series map, third edition, London sheet V.13, revised 1914, published 1916.
3. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

**Second World War air-raid shelters**  
**NMR No TQ 28 SE 119**

TQ 2904 8015. In the northern corner of the Green Park there are two rows of sunken air raid shelters visible on aerial photographs from 1941 and 1945 (1, 2) and as earthworks (TQ 2904 8015). The 1945 aerial photographs (2) clearly show the narrow entrance ramps, and by 1946 the photographs show that this area had been levelled (3). The surviving earthworks comprise a ladder-like arrangement of narrow gullies, c.2m wide and 0.2m deep, forming a long series of connected rectangular cells. The shelters are laid out on either side of a path, that on the western side is the longer of the two, and has lost its northern end to the construction of the underground station.

To the west of the air raid shelters the aerial photographs (1, 2) show what appears to be a large water tank or small reservoir (TQ 2898 8008); it is apparently under construction in the 1941 photograph (1). On the ground linear parchmarks and slight scarps may reflect the remains of this feature, but the levelling of the site in 1946 (3) has removed any well defined earthworks.

**References**

1. NMR 6693/241 AC2, 18-JUN-41
2. NMR 44, 106G/UK/739, frames 6136, 6137, 27-AUG-45.
3. NMR 410, 106G/UK/1624, frames 6053-5, 7-JUL-46 (aerial photographs held by NMRC, Kemble Drive, Swindon).
4. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

## **b) ST. JAMES'S PARK**

### **St. James's Park (parent record)**

**NMR No TQ 27 NE 65**

TQ 296 797. Soon after ascending the throne Charles II undertook the complete redesign of St James's Park around a monumental central canal of French design (8, p8, 67). The French garden designers, André and Gabriel Mollet, were responsible for the design and execution of the garden, though the construction of the canal began before they were awarded the post of King's gardeners. The garden was laid out in relation to a proposed development of Whitehall Palace which never took place, leaving the radiating lines of the *patte d'oie* and the semi-circle of trees at the east end of the canal relating to little more than a flight of steps down to Horse Guards Parade. Hunting continued in the park, but access to the park was extended and it became a fashionable meeting place and gave the upper classes a chance to meet their king (8, p10-12).

The area of park has decreased since 1647, and the inner park was separately enclosed by 1790 (9, p13, 23). During the nineteenth century the park was extensively redeveloped to complement Buckingham Palace, and all restrictions on access lifted making it the first royal park to be opened completely to the public (8, p100). The park was redesigned by John Nash, starting in 1827 (9, p15). The canal was converted into a serpentine lake with islands, and surrounded by a less formal landscape with clumps of trees and bushes (8, p100). The park must have been simplified, and its design relaxed before this when in 1766 'Capability' Brown took over its control (8, p69).

Various earthwork garden features survive, most from the later development of the park, but a terrace in the north-western part of the park may be contemporary with the 1660s design. This is up to 1.5m high and runs roughly south-west to north-east, aligned with the edge of the ornamental canal to its south. The terrace scarp is lost in the earthworks for the Victoria memorial at its western end, and at the eastern end curves south and runs down towards the canal edge. A shorter parallel scarp can be seen to the north. It is only c.0.6m high and less well defined than the main scarp.

Three mounds, presumably all largely artificial, are probably associated with Nash's redesign of the park. Next to the Mall (c.TQ 2970 8005) is a mound c.85 by 50m and 1.5m high, with mature planes growing on it. A smaller, circular tree mound, 50m in diameter and c.1m high stands just north of the Cake House, with a ring of mature trees on top (TQ 2978 8001). The largest mound is c.2m high and located to the south of the canal (TQ 2950 7970). It is irregular in shape and has a steep northern side and a shallower southern side. The presence of large tree holes indicates mature trees formerly grew on it, but most of those growing there now are young.

Little detailed evidence was found for military activity within the park during the Second World War, but some areas were levelled in 1946 (10) suggesting the possible removal of defensive structures. Air raid shelters and barrage balloon sites in the Green Park were levelled at this time (see TQ 27 NE 94, TQ 28 SE 119).

For other sites in the park see the following records: Cowford/Rosamund's Pool (TQ 27 NE 95); ornamental canal (TQ 27 NE 96); duck decoy (TQ 27 NE 97); Duck Island

(TQ 27 NE 98); suspension bridge (TQ 27 NE 99).

#### **References**

8. Strong R 1992 Royal Gardens, London, BBC Books.
9. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: St. James's Park.
10. Aerial photographs NMR 410, 106G/UK/1624, frames 6056, 6057, 7-JUL-46 (held by NMRC, Kemble Drive, Swindon).
11. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

## **Cowford Pool**

### **NMR No TQ 27 NE 95**

TQ 2928 7960. Cowford Pool, a circular pond, is shown on a map of 1592 (1, p67) in the south-western corner of St. James's Park. When Charles II redesigned the park the pool was formalised into a rectangular pool, called Rosamund's Pool (2), into which James I had water piped from Hyde Park to form a cascade in 1612 (1, p8, 67). It became stagnant and was pumped dry in 1736, and filled in by 1770 (3). This area of the park has been altered considerably, and no surface trace now remains of these pools.

#### **References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: St. James's Park
2. PRO (Kew) WORKS 32/70, dated between 1710 and 1725.
3. PRO (Kew) WORKS 32/71, dated 1791.
4. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

## **Ornamental Canal**

### **NMR No TQ 27 NE 96**

TQ 2960 7984. A map of 1752 shows a small canal and a square pond on the eastern side of the park (1, p31, 67). In 1660 these were superseded when Charles II had the park redesigned around a central formal canal, which was excavated in that year, along with Rosamund's Pool (TQ 27 NE 95) and channels for a decoy (TQ 27 NE 97). The canal, aligned west-south-west and east-north-east, was 2800 feet by 120, with an avenue of trees planted on either side (1, p8). Double avenues of trees along Birdcage Walk and the Mall and a radiating pattern, a *patte d'oie*, at the east end of the canal were all part of this garden design (1, p8; 2, p5). Despite speculation about le Nôtre's involvement in the design of the park it is clear that the French garden designers, André and Gabriel Mollet, were responsible for the design and execution of the garden, though the construction of the canal began before they were awarded the post of King's gardeners (3).

In 1703 the canal was cleaned and widened by 12ft (1, p68), banked with bricks in 1768 and cleared out and stocked with ducks in 1775 (1, p69). John Nash built a bridge mounted by a pagoda over the canal for the 1814 Hanoverian jubilee celebrations. The pagoda was partly destroyed by fire, but the bridge survived another 12 years (1, p13). In 1827-8 Nash redesigned the lake to make it less formal, and the lake bed was overhauled and concreted in 1855-57 (1, p19). The construction of the Victoria Memorial shortened the lake by 20m, and a new walk built in 1923 further reduced the length of the lake (1, p19).

#### **References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: St. James's Park
2. Department of National Heritage 1993 Royal Parks Review: St James's and Green Parks, Regent's Park and Primrose Hill.
3. Strong R 1992 Royal Gardens, London, BBC Books, 10-12.

**Duck Decoy**  
**NMR No TQ 27 NE 97**

TQ 2970 7972. In 1660 when St. James's Park was redesigned pools and channels were excavated on the south-eastern side of the canal to create a decoy, which was completed in 1665 (1, p68). The decoy was modified fairly frequently throughout its life (1, p23); water features and animal houses were added between 1662-72, and William III added a hide and a tea house (1, p8, 9, 31). It was transformed into a formal basin in 1714 (1, p69), but in 1770 the decoy canals were drained and filled in (1, p13, 69). The decoy is shown on early eighteenth century plans (2, 3).

Surface traces of the decoy channels may still survive. In the south-eastern corner of the park is a low mound, 1m high (TQ 2983 7971), with a bank running west from it, and an unusually flat strip, c.5m wide, between these features and Birdcage Walk. Running almost east to west to the north of the leafyard is a shallow gully, 0.3m deep and c.5m wide (TQ 2964 7975). Though it is possible that this is just a pipe trench it appears to be of greater antiquity and is overlain by the leafyard mound. These features appear to be in the same location as the decoy channels (1, p31), and other slight scarps in the area may be related. They cannot be securely identified as remains of the decoy on surface evidence alone, but their positions make this a possibility.

**References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: St. James's Park
2. Kipp engraving of St. James' Park, probably dated 1720, British Library 3615 (3).
3. PRO (Kew) WORKS 32/70, dated between 1710 and 1725.
4. RCHME level I field investigation, 21-JUL-94, Jane Kenney.

**Duck Island**  
**NMR No TQ 27 NE 98**

TQ 2980 7990. The island was part of Nash's design for the ornamental canal in St. James's Park. The Royal Ornithological Society erected a cottage on the island in 1840, then a boat house and aviary. A well was provided in 1859 and an engine house constructed in 1865 (1, p19).

**References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: St. James's Park

**Suspension Bridge (site of)**  
**NMR No TQ 27 NE 99**

TQ 2953 7980. A suspension bridge, designed by Rendell to span the ornamental canal in St. James's Park was completed in 1857 (1, p71; 2). It had iron decoration (2), and was replaced by a bridge by Eric Bedford in 1957 (1, p21).

**References**

1. Land Use Consultants 1981 Royal Parks Historical Survey: St. James's Park
2. Pevsner N 1973 The Buildings of England: London Volume One, 642.

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## 6. ANALYSIS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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During fieldwork it became apparent that there were no surface features which merited detailed field survey by RCHME: while Green Park and St. James's Park have undergone considerable changes throughout their histories most are obvious and well-documented. The exceptions include traces of Second World War activity in the Green Park, notably the outlines of the sunken air raid shelters, but these are adequately recorded by the aerial photographs of the time. The early nineteenth century redesign of St. James's Park has left little of its Restoration plan, the possible remains of the duck decoy being the most important. However, these alone are not enough to justify a large scale survey in the park. Any further investigation would be more profitably carried out initially by more detailed documentary research.



