

Draft Historic Parks and Gardens Fact Sheet

Introduction

This fact sheet provides additional general guidance on Historic Parks and Gardens, over and above what is contained within the Design SPD. Subject to proposed legislative changes affecting aspects of the historic environment (due 2010), this fact sheet presents the current position, and will be reviewed accordingly.

There are currently 6 parks/gardens on the National Register of Parks and Gardens, designated by English Heritage.

Why and how are Registered Parks and Gardens designated?

Generally, parks or gardens over 30 years old are considered to be 'historic'. However whether a site merits national recognition depends on a number of factors including its age, rarity, and what has survived. To warrant designation English Heritage assesses the park or garden to see if it is worthy of inclusion on the national list. Criteria include historic interest, age, condition, amenity value, and nature conservation interest. Designated parks and gardens often meet several of the criteria as outlined below.

- **Age** - The age and sometimes the rarity of a park /garden is given special consideration. More recent

sites would normally need to be of particular interest to be considered. Devonport Park is an early example of a Victorian park

- **Influential sites, major designers and good standard examples** - One aspect that may make a site 'special' may be that it was laid out by a nationally famous designer, or that it had a strong influence in changing fashions. The Civic Square was designed by Sir Jeffrey Jellicoe, a notable landscape designer of the 20th century
- **Associations** - Close and direct associations with nationally important people or events influence its consideration. The Hoe, which includes the foreshore, promenade and park is associated with many national events, not least the Spanish Armada
- **Group value** - When a park/garden is of historic interest but not of sufficient importance in its own right to merit registration, it may be eligible if it forms a strong group value with buildings, with other land, or with a group of other registerable sites. It may for example, form an important element within a fine example of town planning
- **Multi-phase sites** - The majority of parks/gardens will have developed as a series of additions or alterations as needs and fashions changed, with each phase of development varying in its impact on the landscape and its degree of interest. The Hoe is a good example of this
- **Documentation** - The development of some sites is particularly well recorded in archives and published

material. Where such records do exist they add to our understanding of the site and can contribute to its interest. Saltram Park is an example of this

- **Condition** - No matter how important a site once was, if it no longer exists it will not be registered. Conversely, some sites which are in poor condition may still be registered, particularly if their design or layout remains sufficiently intact
- **Plants** - Permanent landscape elements such as structural shrubberies, hedges and trees, rather than short-lived planting schemes will be considered as part of the evaluation process.

Can I submit a request for registration?

If you own, have an interest in, or concern about a historic park/garden, which you know is of particular historic interest, and you think it should be considered for registration, contact English Heritage (address at end of chapter)

Any request needs to include:

- **Covering letter** explaining the reason for the request and the urgency
- **Details of the location** showing its national grid reference, the local authority in which it lies and a map
- **Information on ownership** if known
- **A brief written statement** outlining the special interest of the park/garden in its national context, a brief note of its historic development, and a brief description of the

site as it is today, including mention of features within it of particular note

- **A set of current photographs** clearly labelled
- **Supporting information** including copies of any documents which provide relevant details of the historic evolution of the park or garden. Early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps are particularly useful as are other historic maps.

What controls apply to registered parks and gardens?

Alterations to parks and gardens generally do not require any statutory consent unless they involve development work requiring a planning application or affecting a tree covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). However the effect of proposed development on a registered park or garden or its setting is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application. Where development proposals affect a registered park or garden, the Garden History Society are notified to provide comment and advice on the affects of the application on the special character or appearance of the park or garden. Similarly English Heritage are notified for all proposals affecting Grade I or Grade II* listed parks & gardens.

The Council's Core Strategy recognises the value of our historic parks and gardens, and aims to protect them from development that is harmful to their character or setting.

Where registered parks and gardens fall within Area Action Plans these are given specific consideration.

- Conservation Area Consent and Listed Building Consent may be required if the park is within or designated a Conservation Area and/or there are listed buildings/ structures within it. Whilst the Hoe registered park lies within the Hoe Conservation Area, none of the other parks afford this additional protection. Through the LDF and the ongoing review of the conservation areas within the city, conservation area designation for registered parks will be considered.

Information required when submitting a planning application affecting a registered park or garden

Dependent on the scope of development, a comprehensive assessment will be required, which may include:

- Historic landscape assessment
- Historic site masterplan
- Historic site management plan
- Further guidance on information required to accompany a planning application can be found on the Council's website and by contacting Development Management within Planning.