





Acknowledgments

Friends of Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park

Peace Playground committee

Everyone Active

Safer Neighbourhood team

Park Café

Oasis Playspace

Soviet Memorial Trust

The Tibet foundation

Cathedral Ward Councillors

Chaucer Ward Councillors

East Walworth Ward Councillors

Newington Ward Councillors

Consultant Team

Architect

Foster + Partners
Riverside
22 Hester Road
London
SW11 4AN
+44 (0)20 7738 0455
www.fosterandpartners.com

Project Management

London Borough of Southwark
160 Tooley Street
London
SE1 2TZ

Public consultation consultant

Westco Trading Ltd
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP

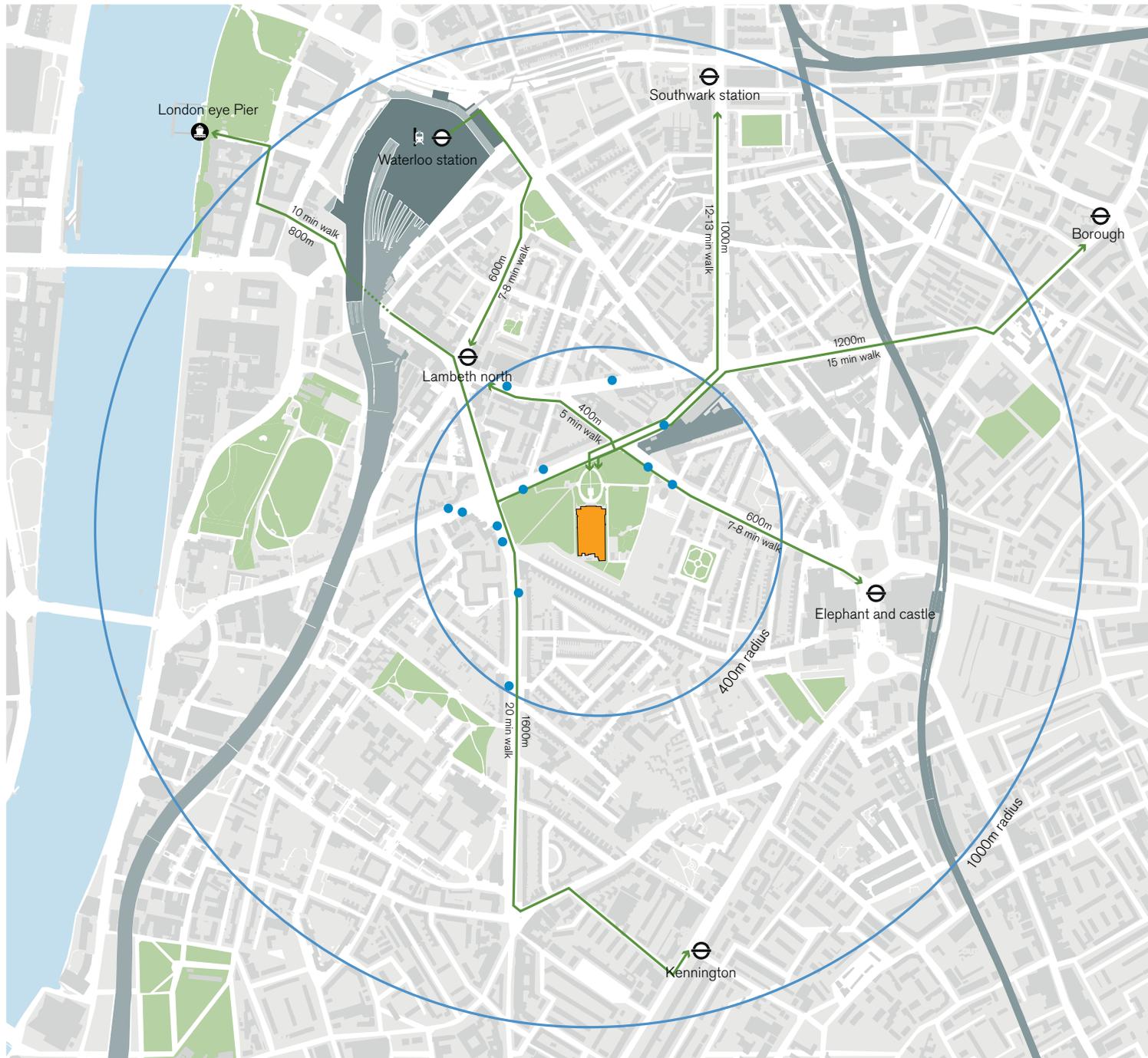
Cost Consultant

Appleyard and Trew
36 Long Acre
London
WC2E 9SZ

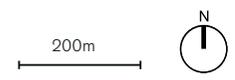


Contents

1	The need for a Masterplan	09
2	Consultation	11
3	Masterplan objectives	12
4	Park wide strategies	13
4.1	Boundaries, fences and entrances	15
4.2	Ecology and landscape	16
4.3	Sport and play	18
4.4	Buildings and facilities	19
4.5	Paths and lighting	21
4.6	Heritage	27
5	Detailed Areas	29
5.1	Play	31
5.2	Sport	33
5.3	Entrances	36
6	Delivery action plan	41
7	Appendix	45
7.1	Background history	47
7.2	Entrance views	52



- Key:**
- Pedestrian routes to/from IWML
 - Bus stop
 - Underground station
 - Railway station
 - Riverboat stop
 - Imperial War Museum
 - Main open spaces



Below. Aerial view of Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park indicating extent.



1. The need for a Masterplan

Geraldine Mary Harmsworth park was opened in 1934. It is situated within the London Borough of Southwark approximately half a mile from the River Thames. The park borders the London Borough of Lambeth to the south and west and is home to the Imperial War Museums (IWM) flagship London branch.

The park opens onto Lambeth and St. George's Roads to the north and Kennington Road to the west. Perimeter walls to the south and east back onto residential property on Brook Drive to the south and West Square to the east.

The park is well used. The London Borough of Southwark (LBS) Parks visitor survey estimated that in excess of 800,000 individual park visits were made in 2015, whilst in the year from July 2014 IWM London attracted more than 1.5 million visitors. Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park has recently experienced much improvement however the Council recognises there is still work to be done, for example, further upgrading of the lighting and buildings. In order to do this in a focussed and coherent way and to direct limited resources, a strategic Masterplan for the park has been developed.

Our vision is to create an open and welcoming, linked and shared park which is for local people and a destination for IWM London.

Our objectives are to;

- Make the user-experience the starting point for the Masterplan.
- Increase the sense of space in the park, encouraging appropriate use of all areas of the park, removing unnecessary fencing and avoiding tucked away spaces to discourage anti-social behaviour.
- Create visual links across the park by using a coherent palette of planting and materials.
- Make circulation around the park easier.
- Provide a balance of facilities for all park users.
- Ensure that changes are easy to maintain and sustainable.
- Enhance the park's biodiversity value.
- Create a sense of open space and improve connectivity between existing spaces.

Below. Portrait of Geraldine Mary Harmsworth and Park Memorial plaque.

Right. Park on opening day 1934.



The park is located within the West Square conservation area outlined below in red. Southwark/Lambeth boundary is indicated in blue.





Clubs

A bulletin board titled "Clubs" containing several flyers and notices. The flyers include various images and text, likely related to school or community organizations.

A display board or window pane containing architectural drawings, diagrams, and photographs. It appears to be part of a larger informational display.

A display board or window pane containing architectural drawings, diagrams, and photographs, similar to the one on the left.

A display board or window pane containing architectural drawings, diagrams, and photographs.

A display board or window pane containing architectural drawings, diagrams, and photographs.



2. Consultation

Engagement strategy

A consultation strategy was established at the outset of the project (spring 2016) and involved liaison with a named group of stakeholders and more widely with the general public. A masterplan project board was set up to direct the masterplan consisting of representatives of;

The Friends of the GMH park
The London Borough of Southwark
Imperial War Museums
Foster + Partners

Westco were appointed to manage and report on two phases of public consultation. The primary aim of the first consultation running from May to June 2016 was in the form of a survey;

- To gather a broad range of views from users of Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park.
- To develop an understanding of current issues and challenges.
- To gather ideas about how the park could be improved.

Topics covered by the Survey

- Use of the Park
- Reasons to visit the Park
- Problems
- Ecology & Landscape
- Play
- Facilities
- Buildings
- History & Heritage
- Ideas for the future of the Park

Following this a draft masterplan was produced by Foster + Partners, this was displayed online and in the park sports pavilion.

A postcard drop invited the public to view the draft masterplan and respond either online or via return of the postcard. Two drop-in consultation sessions were held in the sports pavilion during the consultation period to give members of the public the opportunity to ask the project team about the plans.

Left. Draft Masterplan consultation presentation in park sports pavilion

Respondents were asked:

- Are you content with the plans and proposals for the future of Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park?
- Please tell us what you think.

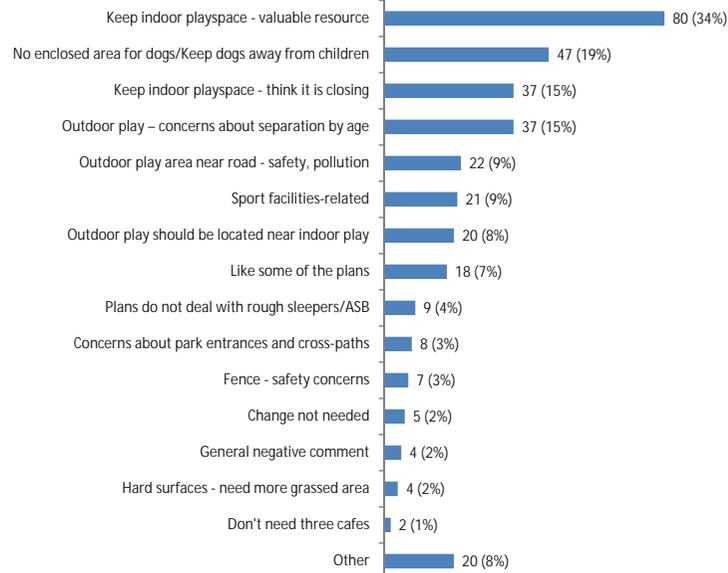
Response to consultation

Whilst many welcomed the proposals, others had significant concerns. Of 234 responses 19% said yes they were content with the proposals whilst 81% said no they were not. Concerns were varied but the most frequent regarded the existing indoor play space, proposed playground and facilities for dogs.

Indoor play space

The overwhelming majority of respondents supported the retention of the indoor play space in the park, many writing about how they personally valued it, describing it as a "social hub" for local parents and a place to take young children to play.

Below. Westco Draft Masterplan consultation summary of responses.



Playground

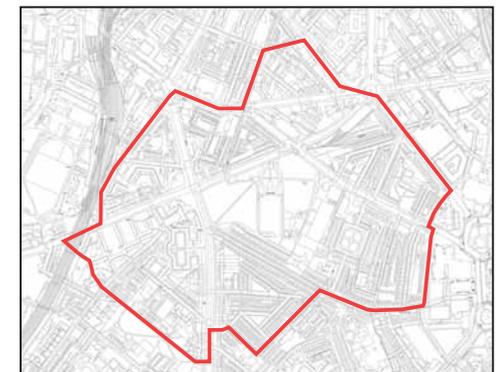
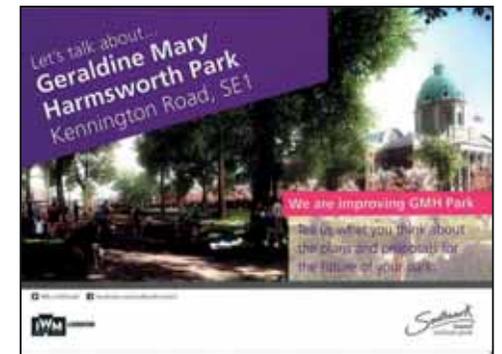
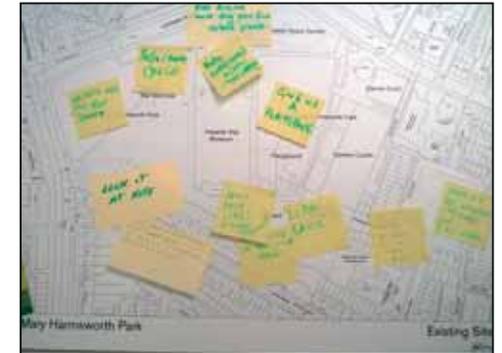
The areas allocated to playgrounds were of concern to respondents, particularly the perceived proximity to roads and the segregation of playgrounds making it more difficult for parents/carers with children of different ages to observe them at the same time.

Dog walking

Three in ten online responses refer to their concerns regarding the loss of an enclosed area for dogs. These concerns were mostly regarding safety. Respondents wrote that the fenced area on the east lawn allowed dogs to be exercised off their leads without interfering with other users of the park or escaping onto surrounding roads. Others thought that the proposals should consider dog walkers more as a main user of the park during the winter months.

The final masterplan proposals seek to address these and other concerns raised by respondents to the draft masterplan.

Top. Park improvement suggestions board from GMH park Jamboree 2015.
Middle. Draft masterplan consultation post card.
Below. Draft masterplan consultation post card delivery area.

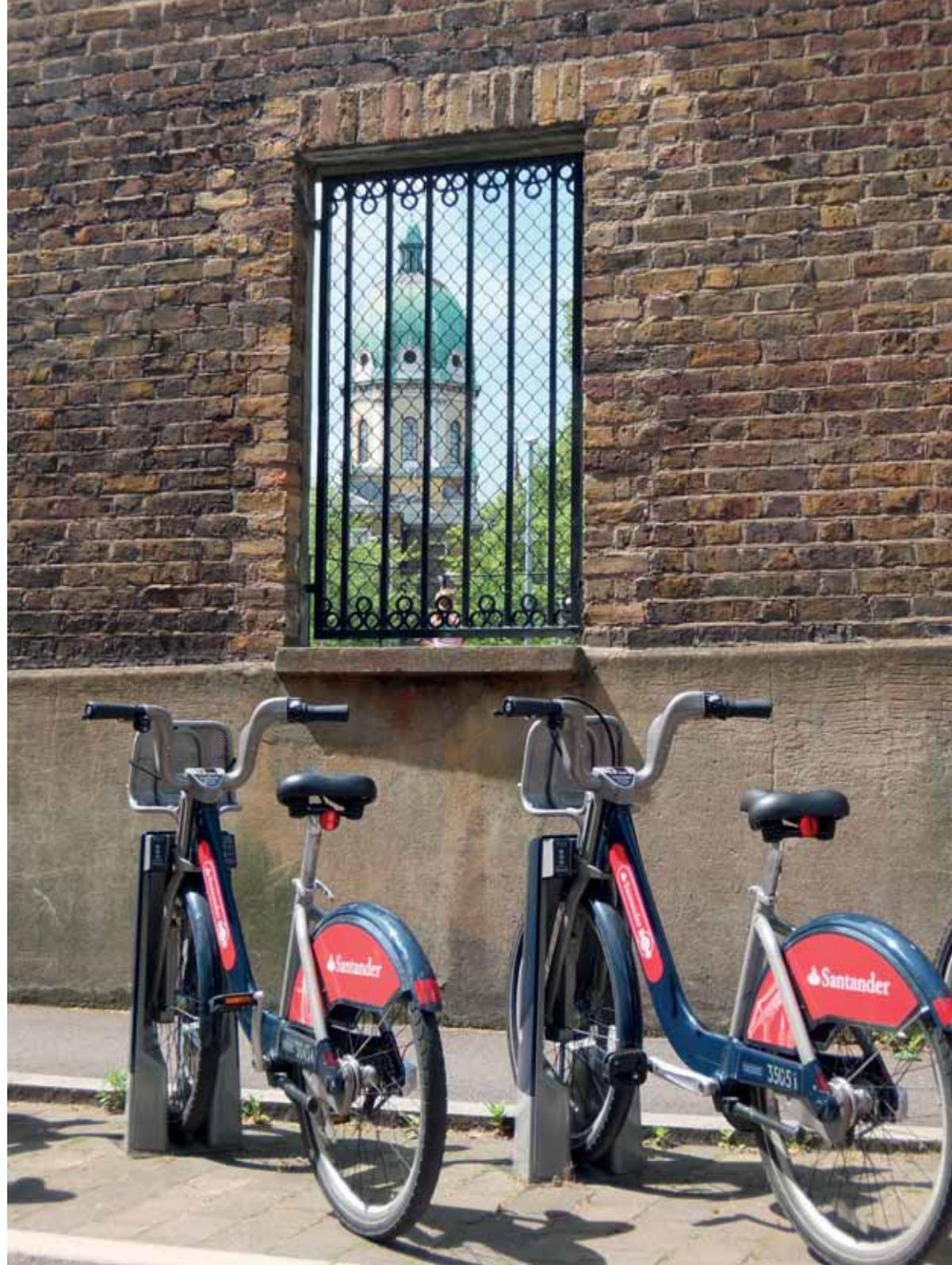


3. Masterplan objectives

The purpose of the masterplan is to create a clear framework to direct and safeguard the future of Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park. The masterplan will guide development for the benefit of users and visitors and provide a coherent plan to direct improvements as funding becomes available. The masterplan recognises that changes should be 'light touch', preserving much of the park's existing and successful features and assumes that improvements will be implemented on an incremental basis over the next 20 years.

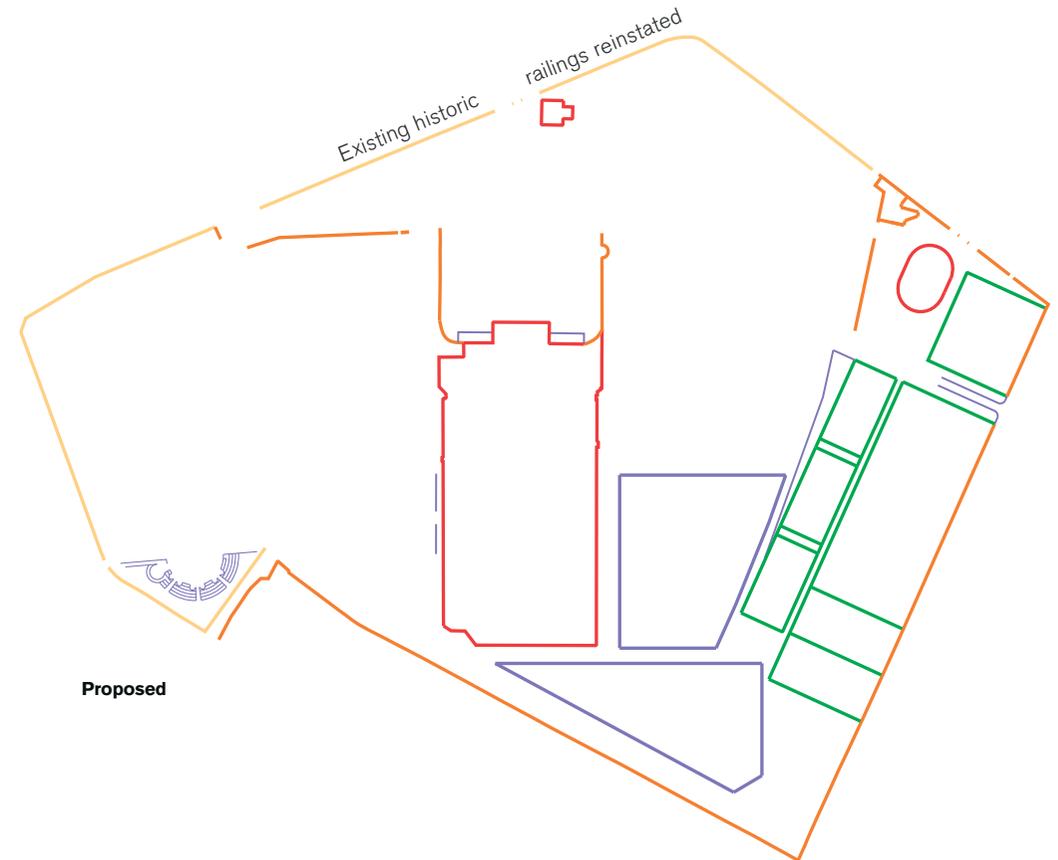
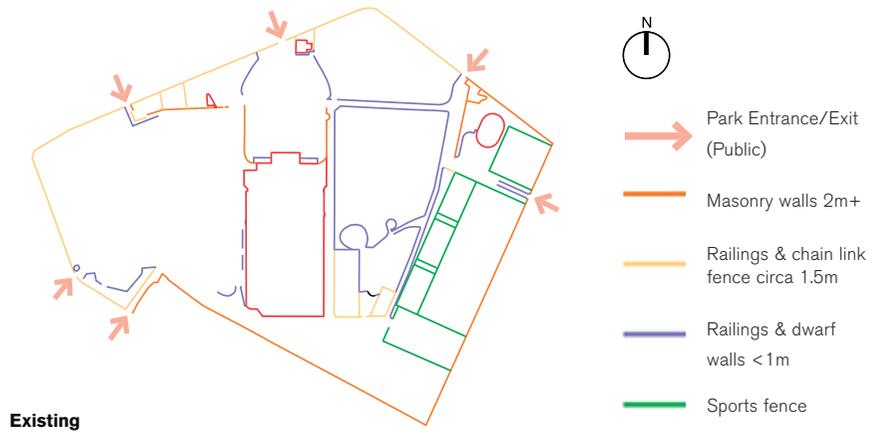
The provision of a high quality play facility is a first priority. Other priorities will be to open up the park to wider use and to create a safe and welcoming park for all who use it.

The masterplan reorganises the primary circulatory routes across the park by re-establishing an east-west path aligned to the former St. George's Road. Further modifications to the primary circulation could include opening an existing route through the sports courts, connecting to a new east-west path to the south of the museum building. Also proposed is a perimeter circuit connecting up existing paths and desire pathways connecting existing entrances and promoting through-routes away from the surrounding roads. Limited re-configuration of sports facilities and concealed areas could encourage use of the south of the park and design out areas which attract anti-social behaviour.





4.1 Boundaries, fences and entrances



Proposed modifications to fences and railings

Existing walls and fences create significant barriers to general circulation particularly to the north and east of the park. The existing strategy regarding park access is that this is not locked overnight. Following consideration there is no change to this strategy proposed however the sports facilities will continue to be locked at night.

The masterplan intent is to provide an accessible park and increase use of lesser used areas. To this end it is proposed to remove all but the perimeter railings, historic boundary walls and fencing required to create enclosures for reasons of safety, e.g. around the park perimeter and the proposed children's playground.

Removal and opening up of the area to the north of the park is proposed to reinstate the former Bethlem Hospital formal gardens. Reinstatement of the historic railings to the north of the park is also proposed.

4.2 Ecology and landscape

Proposed landscape character areas

Landscape character consultation response

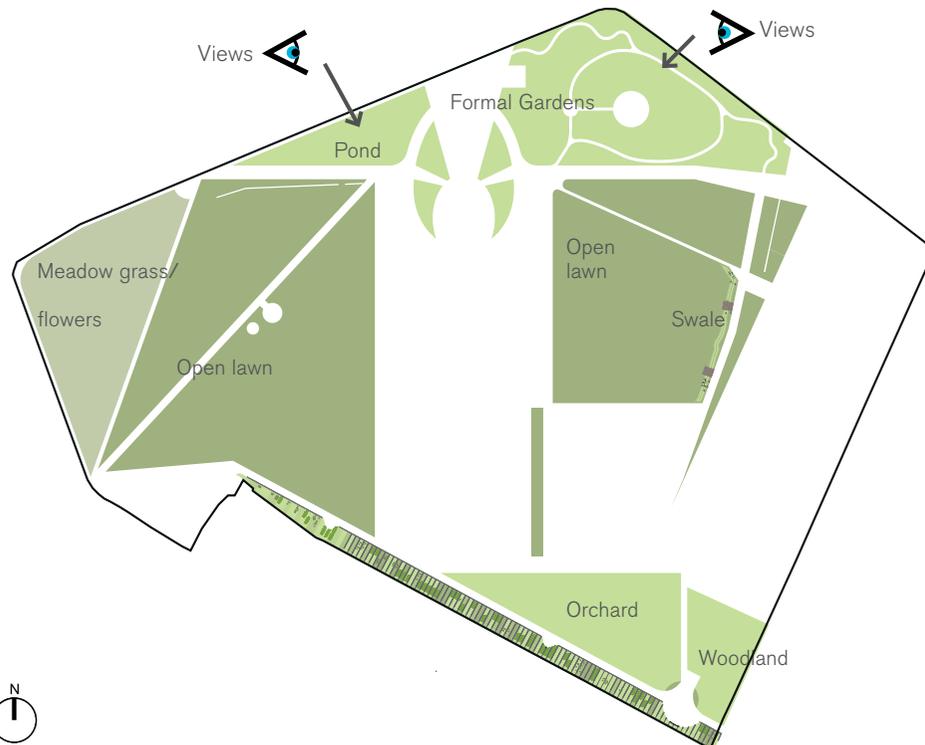
Initial consultation responses expressed the importance of open green space and the need to remove unnecessary clutter. Strong preferences were expressed for more wild flower meadows. Respondents were satisfied with the provision of open space, although the smallest number thought there should be fewer trees.

Subsequent feedback regarding use of the park for the exercise of dogs has led to the revised proposal to enclose the Orchard.

An over-arching strategy for the park is that the masterplan proposal should enhance local biodiversity and create habitat for wildlife in keeping with aims of a green flag park. No net loss of green space is proposed.

Sustainable drainage strategies

A sustainable strategy could be employed to collect, temporarily store and attenuate storm water run-off. This could be utilised to irrigate landscaped areas which in-turn would reduce future load on the sewer network as storm events are predicted to intensify with climate change. The existing east lawn can be particularly wet and marshy during all but the summer months and this presents an opportunity to provide a rain garden or swale.



Open lawn

Open park land is proposed to be retained in the area formerly occupied by the Bethlem hospital patient airing grounds for;

- Ad-hoc sport
- Park to host events
- Group activities
- Picnic/seating/sunbathing

Meadow grass

One of the features most commonly mentioned during the first phase consultation was wildflower meadows. This could simply be an area of lawn that is less frequently mown, or sown with wildflowers.





Swale

In providing the usable open lawn throughout the year it may be necessary to landscape the area to the east of the park to divert some of the rising groundwater. The existing lawn can be particularly wet and marshy during all but the summer months and this presents an opportunity to provide a rain garden or swale as part of a Sustainable Drainage Strategy (SuDS) for the park.

A swale is a sustainable method of managing land drainage and attenuating storm water. Water is collected at periods of heavy rainfall which slowly drains to ground water or evaporates into the atmosphere without adding to the existing local sewerage network. Swales typically require soil conditions that are less rich with nutrients than other landscape to encourage particular plant types, which could mean that the swale can be formed of waste material from site works. A swale can attract insects and aquatic life and could provide an opportunity to provide 'natural play' collocated with the proposed play area.

Formal Gardens

The area to the north of the park could be opened up and partition fences and screen planting reduced or removed to reinstate the original intent for this area following re-routing of St. George's Road in the 1840's

This would build on the existing successful features of the world garden and pond/nature area whilst providing a more open accessible space. Seating could be provided and intensified floral planting staged to provide attractive views into the park from Lambeth and St. George's Roads.

Throughout the park areas of intensified planting could reflect the sites at which First and Second World War bombs fell, connecting the park to IWM.

Woodland

The existing woodland area located at the extreme southern corner of the park has provided small quiet haven that is tucked away from the more heavily used areas of the park. To discourage anti-social behaviour, it is proposed that the area be opened up and additional woodland planting could be provided along the southern boundary.

Orchard

The existing orchard is a well-used and attractive component of the park, located in keeping with the proposed historic arrangement of park being in the area once occupied by the Bethlem hospital kitchen gardens. the orchard is to be retained with some selective reduction in screen planting to aid views across the park and encourage circulation to the south of the IWML building.

It is proposed that the existing orchard be enclosed. This will provide an area within which owners can exercise dogs which require an enclosed area to be let off their lead.

4.3 Sport and play

Park wide sports facilities

Recreational pursuits are a thread that runs through previous development of the park site so it is fitting that a large area of the park be allocated to team sports for general use and accommodating local clubs and schools.

Perimeter circuit

A perimeter path is proposed, connecting existing pathways, for general use and dog walking. This could provide a path of approximately 1km in length and it could also be used by joggers. A clock could be provided on the route and distance markers could be provided for the use of runners.

Outdoor gym equipment could be located at stations on the circuit. This could be constructed of a natural pallet of materials to compliment the surrounding park. Outdoor gym equipment, similar to the existing equipment could be relocated to accommodate sports pavilion modifications. Improvements to the lighting on this circuit could also be considered.

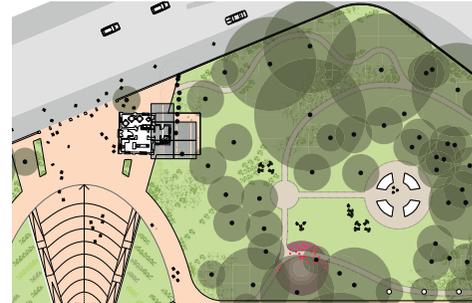
The park circuit could pass along an existing pathway between the existing netball courts and football pitches. This route could be opened for general circulation by modifications to the existing sports fences and is intended to promote greater use of the south of the park. Access to this path could be limited to the hours of use of the sports facilities and could be opened and closed by the sports facilities provider.

Play facilities

Outdoor play facilities are to be prioritised for renewal as part of the masterplan. The area currently accommodating the playground could be renewed and expanded into the adjacent parks office compound. Potential to provide a variety of play types for a variety of ages could be developed with specialist playground designer to provide a top quality play offer.



4.4 Buildings and facilities



Existing and proposed parks office

Lambeth Road Entrance - Proposed museum entrance and Gate Lodge Cafe.

Existing dog agility equipment

Parks office

The existing parks office is located to the south of the park in a temporary cabin. It is proposed to remove this temporary structure and the fencing that surrounds it and for this area to be allocated to the proposed play area. Prior to this masterplan study Southwark Council have developed plans for refurbishment of the former stables building close to St. George's Road, currently used as storage, to accommodate both park office and staff welfare facilities. The works commence in April 2017.

Temporary buildings

Removal of temporary buildings is proposed as is better use of the existing historic buildings already on site, e.g. the former stables block for new park offices.

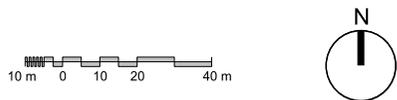
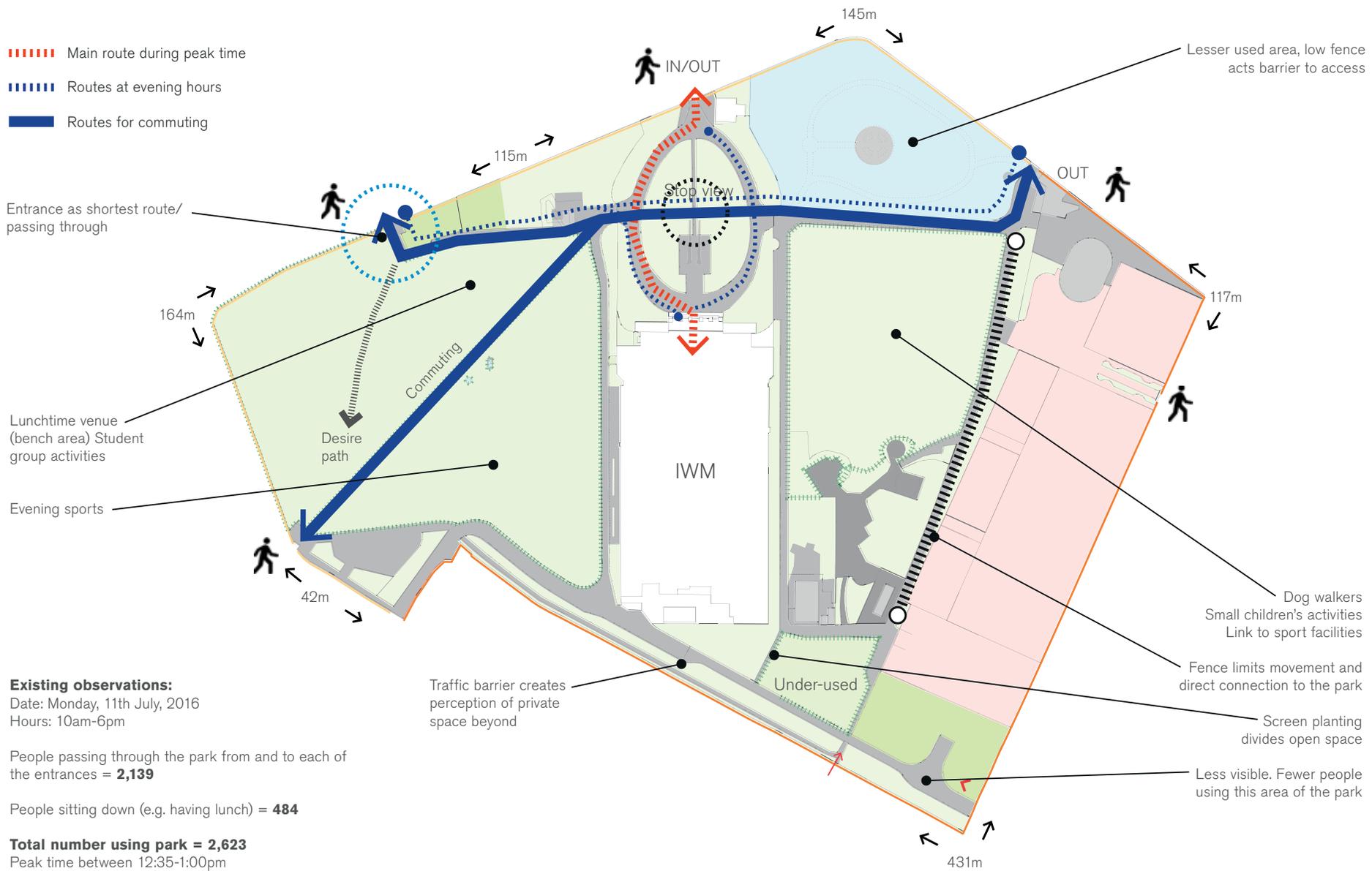
Gate lodge cafe

The existing gate lodge building at the Lambeth Road entrance could provide a future venue for a new park café. The building offers the potential to provide some limited indoor seating so this can be used in all weather. Reduction of the screen planting to the rear of the lodge could offer the potential to provide a covered terrace and bench seating overlooking the Tibetan peace garden. The terrace could be used for alternative functions outside of cafe opening hours. A feasibility study has been undertaken and confirms the proposal's viability. The lodge building is grade II listed and any proposed modifications will need to be sensitive to the historic structure and will require statutory approval.

Facilities for Dogs

To encourage year round general use of the east side of the park and to promote circulation generally, it is proposed to remove the low railings around the east lawn and the area drained to improve year-round use for a variety of informal activities. Feedback received during the second phase consultation raised concerns at the loss of enclosed area currently used for exercising dogs. It is therefore proposed that the existing orchard and dog agility area are enclosed to allow dogs to exercise off their leads, providing they are controlled by their owners. Water fountains for dogs could also be provided in this area. This would encourage greater use of the south of the park and will create a destination used throughout the day.

Water fountains have been a feature of GMH park since its inception in 1934. Provision of drinking water is currently located with the sports facilities. The ambition of the masterplan is to extend water provision to include fountains coordinated with the proposed positions of the children's playgrounds and picnic areas. Consideration is to be given to location of these and possible misuse. Drinking water points should be provided at a variety of heights to allow access for all.



4.5 Paths and lighting



Circulation study/observations

The diagram opposite records our findings on observing park use over eight hours on a typical weekday in June 2016. Whilst we recognise the limitations of such a study, the issues identified reinforce some of those that have been communicated via consultation, by stakeholders and park staff alike and has been a useful driver for discussion and instigator for possible design solutions that could be adopted.

Five public pedestrian entrances are distributed around the west, north and east of the park perimeter as well as one vehicle entrance on Brook Drive.

Use of the existing entrances was observed and found to be evenly distributed with no individual entrance more heavily used over the others.

The South of the site is less well served by public entrances where private residential properties back on to the park boundary wall.

Whilst it may be desirable for ease of access to the park, to align entrances to existing perimeter road pedestrian crossings or road intersections, this may be less desirable to those with dogs or small children due to road safety concerns.

Circulatory barriers

Our study highlighted a number of barriers to circulation. These were both physical and visual. Circulation improvement is not only a key aspect of brief but is also necessary to activate lesser used and remote areas of the park. This could design out areas that can attract anti-social behaviour and promote passive surveillance.

The existing entrance on Lambeth Road adjacent to the World Garden was identified as a priority for improvement along with the vehicle access gate on Brook Drive. The visual barrier at the Lambeth Road entrance is created via dense planting and what remains of the former Bethlem hospital boundary wall. Neither of which are conducive to intuitive circulation at an entry point.

The visual screen continues for the most part unbroken from this entrance around the entire north elevation. Whilst recognising the acoustic benefit of this perimeter screen, selective opening up of this could encourage use and aid circulation for those unfamiliar with the park.

The World Garden and Nature area pond are two of the few areas of the park that are locked overnight. Consideration could be given to the location of these to improve circulation to the north of the park and to avoid the existing 'dog-leg' turn on entry around the boundary wall.

Restricted access to the nature area, the perimeter fence and the historic hospital walls has created a 'dead-end' area to the rear of the park cafe which could be opened up for increase use.

Desire paths

At least two 'desire paths' were identified over open lawn. These are worn tracks in the surface of the grass highlighting routes regularly trafficked. Path ways connecting the following were observed;

- Lambeth Road entrance to the Kennington Road/Brook Drive entrance
- Geraldine Street entrance to east side of IWML entrance oval across fenced lawn.

Both of these routes require that park users step or climb over existing low level railings, therefore these are inaccessible to some. The latter of these two crosses the fenced area of grass to the east of the park. Gates within this fenced area do not align with entry points convenient to circulation. The gate within the fenced area nearest to the Geraldine Street entrance was locked at time of our study.

Fences and Railings

Multiple fences and railing are present throughout the park. It may be desirable to remove and design out those that represent a barrier to circulation and contribute to areas being less well used, such as around the area which contains the Tibetan peace garden.

Screen planting can also provide a circulatory and visual barrier and can contribute to areas which harbour anti-social behaviour. For example, consideration could be given to the reduction or removal of screen planting to the rear of the Lambeth Road entrance gate lodge.

4.5 Paths and lighting (continued)



Museum Visitors

Museum visitors were observed to be arriving via more than one of the existing entrances however the majority entered the park via the entrance on Lambeth Road being closest to the museum entrance. Given that the large majority of museum visitors are known to arrive via public transport at either Lambeth North or Elephant and Castle this highlights that large numbers of visitors by-pass either the Lambeth Road world garden entrance or the St. George's Road entrance respectively, which suggests access to the museum via other park entrances may be unclear to the first time visitor and could be improved.

Visitors were observed to have a preference to use to the right hand route around the entrance oval on entry to the museum building.

As part of the 2014 transforming IWM London project opened its west facade allowing its cafe to open onto the park. Similarly, the museum has the potential to open its facade to the east in the future which could animate the long north-south path and could make this existing route less oppressive.

Booked schools groups visiting IWM London enter the park from more than one entrance using the west entrance to access the museum learning facilities and use the open lawn to the west for play during breaks and lunchtime.

Commuting

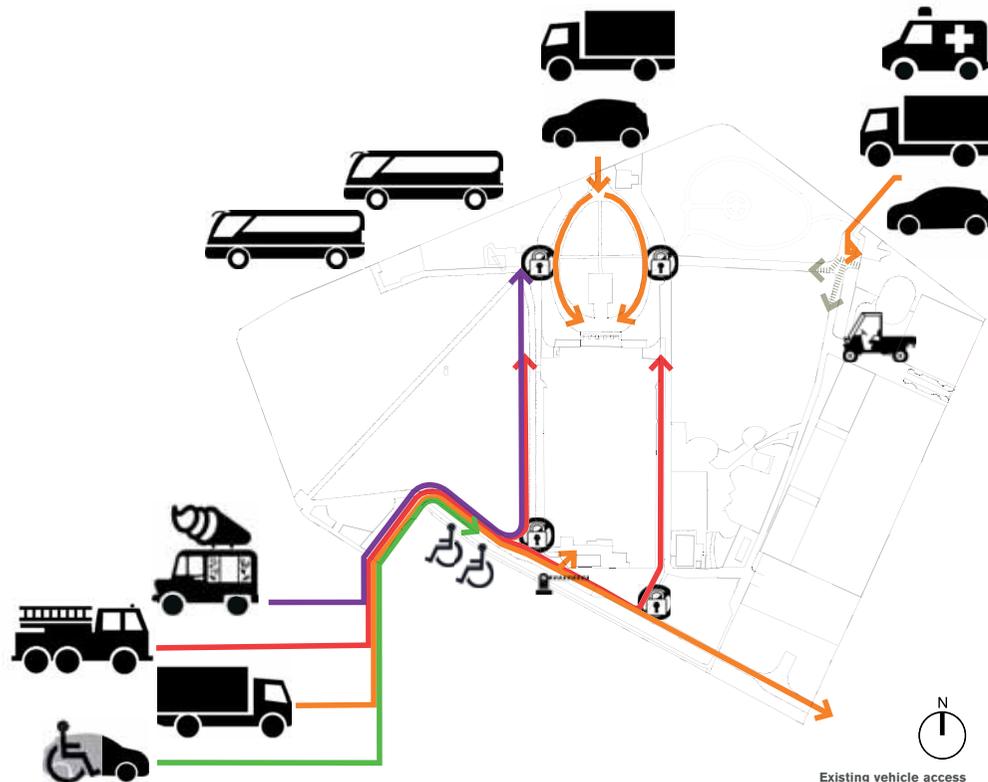
The east-west route from Kennington Road, across the IWM London entrance oval to the St. George's Road entrance is widely used as a cut-through by commuters (including those on bicycles) and by school children at the beginning and end of the day.

Dog walking

The park is used widely by dog walkers. The fenced area of lawn to the east of the park is widely used by those who require an enclosed area to allow their dog off of their lead.

Wayfinding

New signage consistent with other parks within the borough is proposed.



Existing vehicle access
Diagram indicating vehicle movements to and within the park



Vehicle access

Vehicle access into the park can conflict with pedestrian circulation to the south of IWM London. Recognising that operational and emergency access is necessary, it would be preferable to keep other vehicle access to a minimum.

Rear access road

The access roadway connecting the Brook Drive entrance and the IWM London All Saints rear yard is used by park and museum visitors. Accessible parking spaces for the museum are located on the road. The road is also used by contractors and deliveries visiting IWM London.

A remotely activated rising barrier, activated by IWM is located in the park to the south of the museum building. The vehicle barrier located at the narrowest point though not preventing pedestrian circulation is a visual obstruction. Some recent safety improvements to the roadway including crossing points, speed control devices and signage have been funded by IWM.



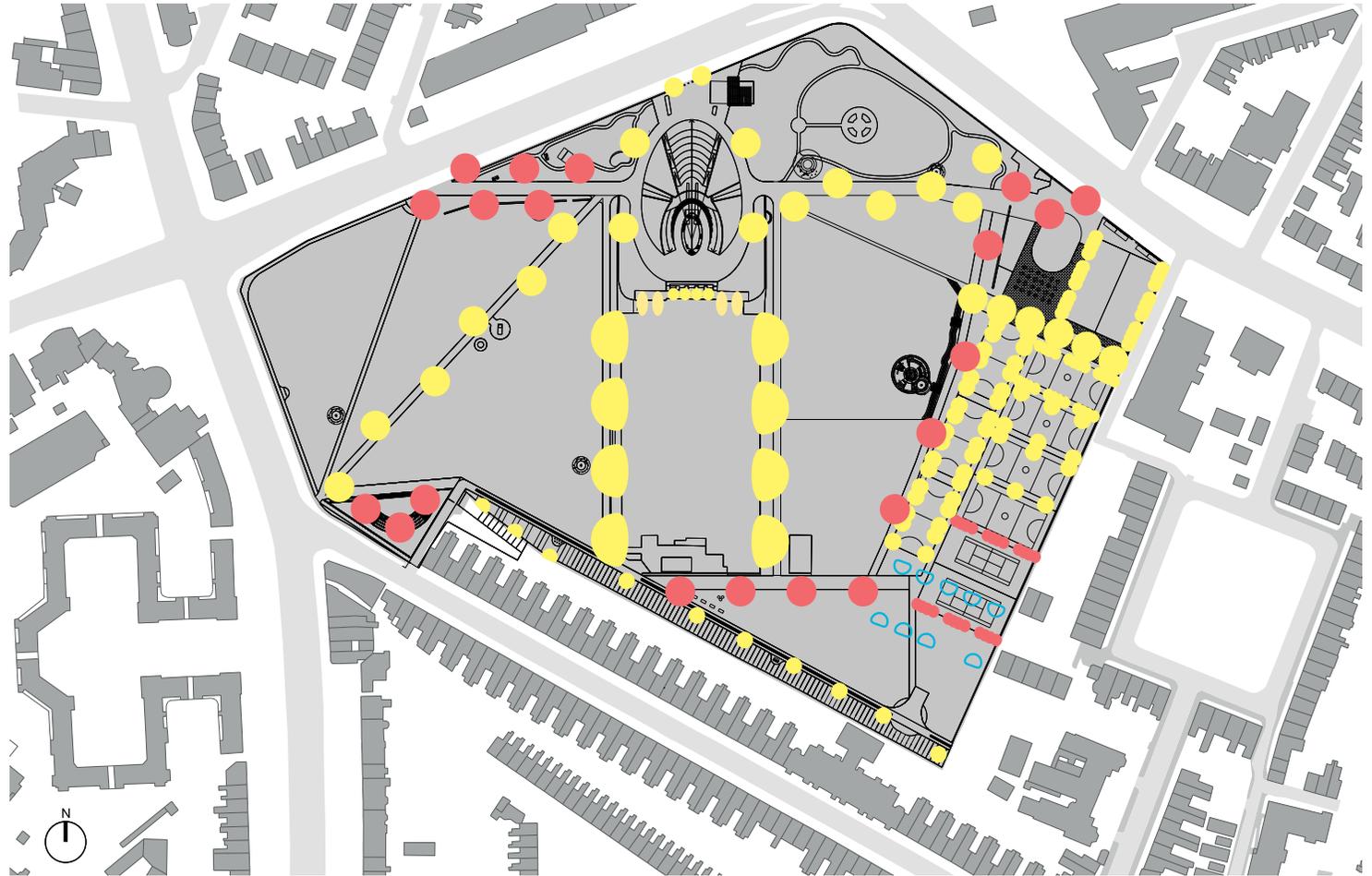
Further improvements could consider the following;

- Control vehicle access to the park directly at the Brook Drive Entrance to reduce all but necessary vehicle access, allowing the removal of vehicle barrier in the park.
- 'Shared surface' designation. Observation suggests the roadway is used for pedestrian circulation more often than the adjacent path, perhaps due to the undulating path surface over tree roots.
- Relocation of accessible parking to Lambeth Road commensurate with delivery of IWM London masterplan proposal to provide an accessible north entrance.
- Removal of contractor and visitor parking from rear access road by implementation of parking restrictions.
- Consider creating a 'Green-lane' by installation of a grass strip along the middle of the road.

Existing GMH park lighting types



Proposed lighting plan



● Sequential replacement with LED energy efficient lighting

● New energy efficient LED lighting

○ Lighting to be removed

4.5 Paths and lighting (continued)

Consultation

Some consultees referred to the existing park lighting and the need for its improvement. This was of particular concern in the winter months where routes through the park were noted as being 'very intimidating'. The seating area near to the Kennington Road entrance was singled out as in need of lighting improvement

Lighting strategy

It is proposed to light primary circulation routes within and through the park and the entrances to promote safe circulation through the park during the hours of darkness.

The sports pitches will continue to be flood lit. Flood lighting will be limited to times of use and lighting control will continue to be managed by the sports facility provider located in the sports pavilion. The potential for dynamic, energy-efficient lighting to raise or lower lighting levels on demand could be considered as part of the overall park lighting scheme.

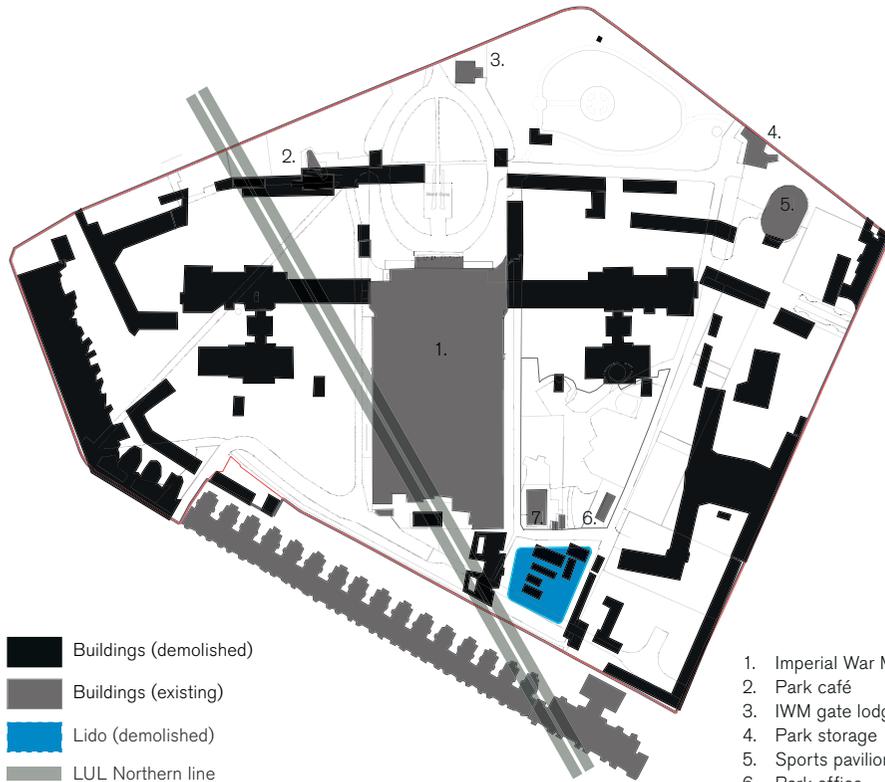
Feature lighting

Existing feature lighting currently in place, up-lighting the IWM London building and naval guns could be extended to include lighting of other historic features such as the gate lodge or the former hospital walls. This could help extend park use into the evening during the winter months and create a more attractive approach to the sports facilities in the darker evenings, for those entering the park from the north or west.

Lighting of the tree canopy on the primary routes through the park could also encourage safe circulation through the park after dark.



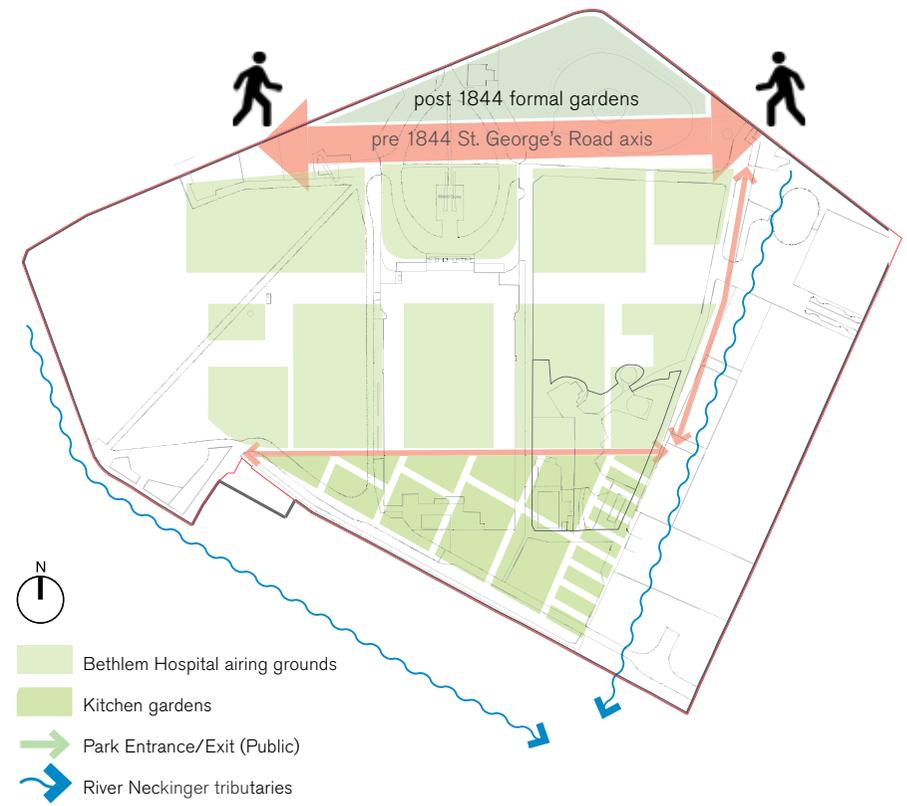
Known development



- Buildings (demolished)
- Buildings (existing)
- Lido (demolished)
- LUL Northern line

1. Imperial War Museum
2. Park café
3. IWM gate lodge
4. Park storage
5. Sports pavilion
6. Park office
7. Oasis play space

Primary axes and historic area use



- Bethlem Hospital airing grounds
- Kitchen gardens
- Park Entrance/Exit (Public)
- River Neckinger tributaries

Second world war bomb record 1940-41



4.6 Heritage

History and the masterplan

The history of The Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park site is as interesting as it is varied. As with many central London sites the area now designated as park has been previously been developed for alternative uses.

A keen interest in the history of the site and the IWM building was expressed by respondents to the consultation and the development of the masterplan has been guided by history and evolution of the site.

An understanding of previous site use and the reasons that informed previous site use is important to the future success of a sustainable plan for the park.

Site development

The site plans adjacent (opposite left) combine all of the known development within and immediately adjacent to the park site. Much of the previous development within the park has fallen into disrepair and has been demolished, some as a result of bomb damage during the First and Second World Wars.

Of the buildings that remain several are temporary structures that will require repair or replacement in the coming years.

The plan adjacent (opposite right) highlights some of the primary historic axes across the site and primary historic areas of site use associated with the former Bethlem hospital building. The approximate position of tributaries into the River Neckinger are indicated, thought to have given rise to the name 'Brook Street' now 'Brook Drive', to the south of the park.

Also indicated are pre-existing landscape use of hospital patient 'airing grounds' to east and west of site. Visitor gardens to the north were more intensely planted and kitchen gardens serving the hospital were located to the south. Reinstatement of these landscape types could serve as reference to historic use.

Re-establishing an east-west path would reinforce the link between the east and west of the park and connect improved entrances along the line of the old (pre-1844) St George's Road. Opening up the World Garden and nature area at the Lambeth Road entrance could reduce anti-social behaviour and allow the reinstatement of more formal gardens. Draining the often wetter east lawn would provide an opportunity to create a rain-garden or 'swale' on the line of the former tributaries of the River Neckinger.

See also appendix 7.1



Soviet war memorial and Tibetan Peace garden

Memorials and Tibetan peace garden

GMH park is home to the Soviet War Memorial, Tibetan Peace Garden, Holocaust Memorial Tree as well as IWM artefacts and trees and planting in memory of individuals. All existing memorials are to be retained. Whilst there are no plans for further memorials in the park at present, future requests will continue to be assessed on their merits, in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders.

An area of permeable paving is proposed surrounding the Soviet War and Holocaust memorials. This would accommodate the floral tributes that are left on anniversaries.

KING EDWARDS
SCHOOL

BROOKE
STREET

STREET

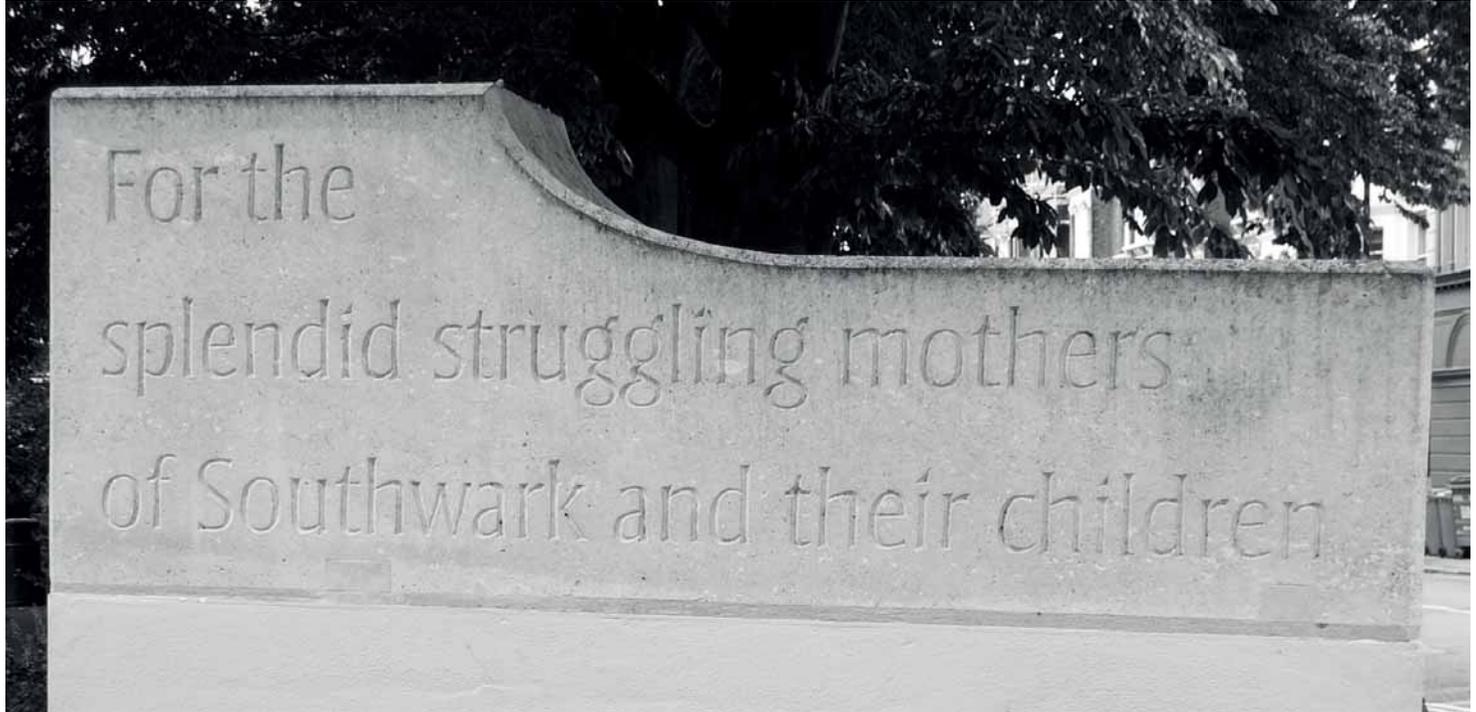
WOMEN'S SIDE

MENS SIDE

LAMBETH ROAD

OBELISK
REMOVED FROM
S. GEORGE'S





Top. Existing east path and indoor playspace
Bottom. Existing play area looking west
Right. Carved stone at pedestrian entrance on Kennington Road/Brook Drive.
Below. Former Geraldine Mark Harmsworth Park Lido.



5.1 Play

Southwark's commitment to provide top quality play

Park play facilities support local families and promote the health, wellbeing and development of those that use them. Much of the existing play equipment was installed in the park in 2001. This equipment will soon be reaching the end of its service life and is due for renewal as part of Southwark's commitment to provide a top quality playground in each ward.

Provision of top quality play facilities was a priority for those who responded to the initial consultation, with a majority favouring 'natural' or 'adventure' play.

Indoor play

The single largest concern by those who responded to consultation following the draft masterplan proposals was concerning the indoor play space. In response to feedback the existing indoor play facility is to be retained collocated with the outdoor play area. The existing open play facilities surrounding this are to be renewed and improved to provide a top quality playground.

Open Play

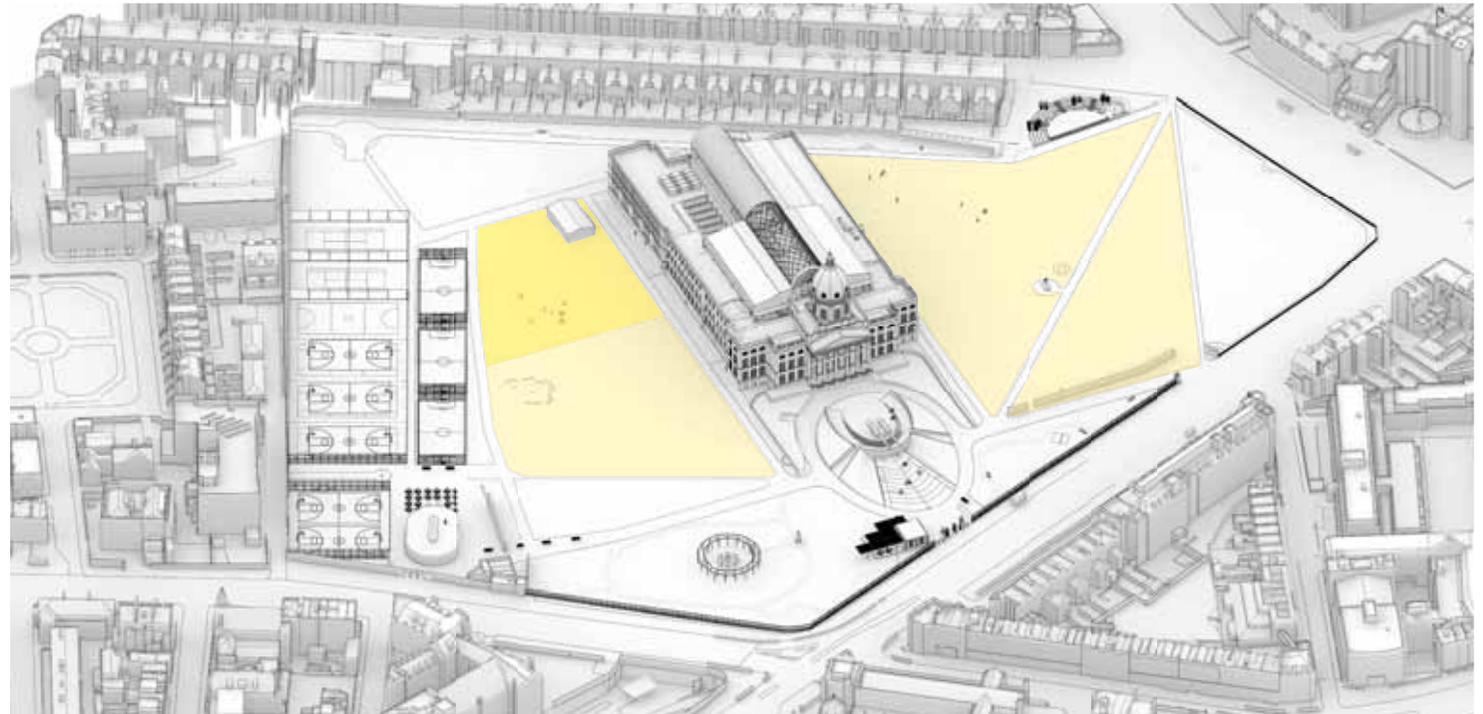
The area allocated to playground is proposed to remain approximately as existing and of equal area as the existing provision. This is sufficiently large to be subdivided, perhaps by play type, e.g. climbing, swinging, natural play etc. Although a safe and secure playground will be fenced, this is proposed to open onto the east lawn allowing play to spill out onto the open area to its north.

Play for a range of ages

The new playground will cater for a range of different ages within the same facility, allowing parents of children of different ages to be nearby whilst they play.

Natural play

Frequently mentioned during consultation was a desire to incorporate water such as was provided by the former park lido. Wet play is not currently proposed in keeping with the brief that facilities should be easy to maintain and therefore cost effective. The proposed swale or rain garden to the north of the proposed area could extend into the playground providing an environment in which natural play could be provided.



Proposed play

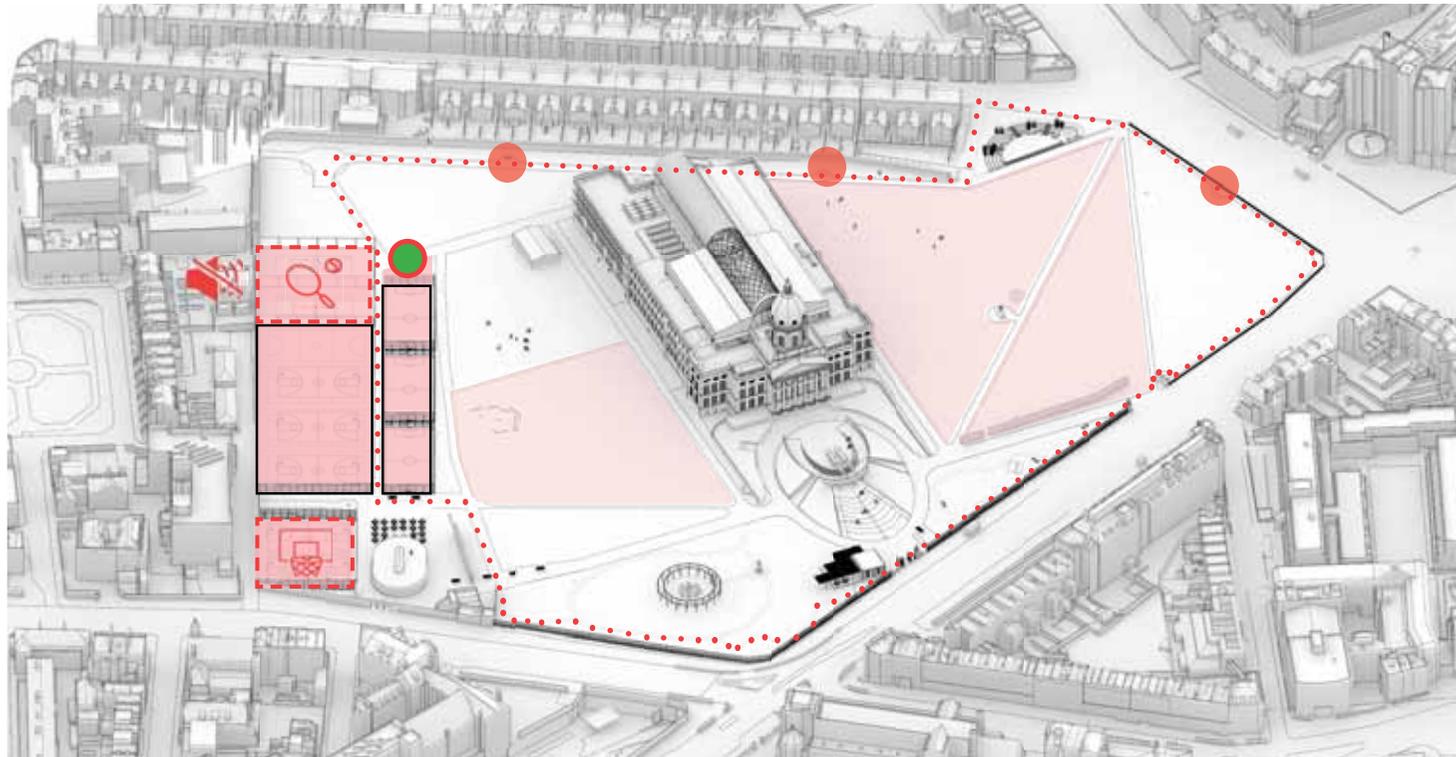
-  Proposed play area
-  Open lawn available for play





Geraldine Street entrance - Proposed

5.2 Sport



Perimeter circuit

A perimeter path is proposed, connecting existing pathways for general use and dog walking. This could provide a path of approximately 1km in length and it could also be used by joggers. A clock could be provided on the route and distance markers could be provided for the use of runners.

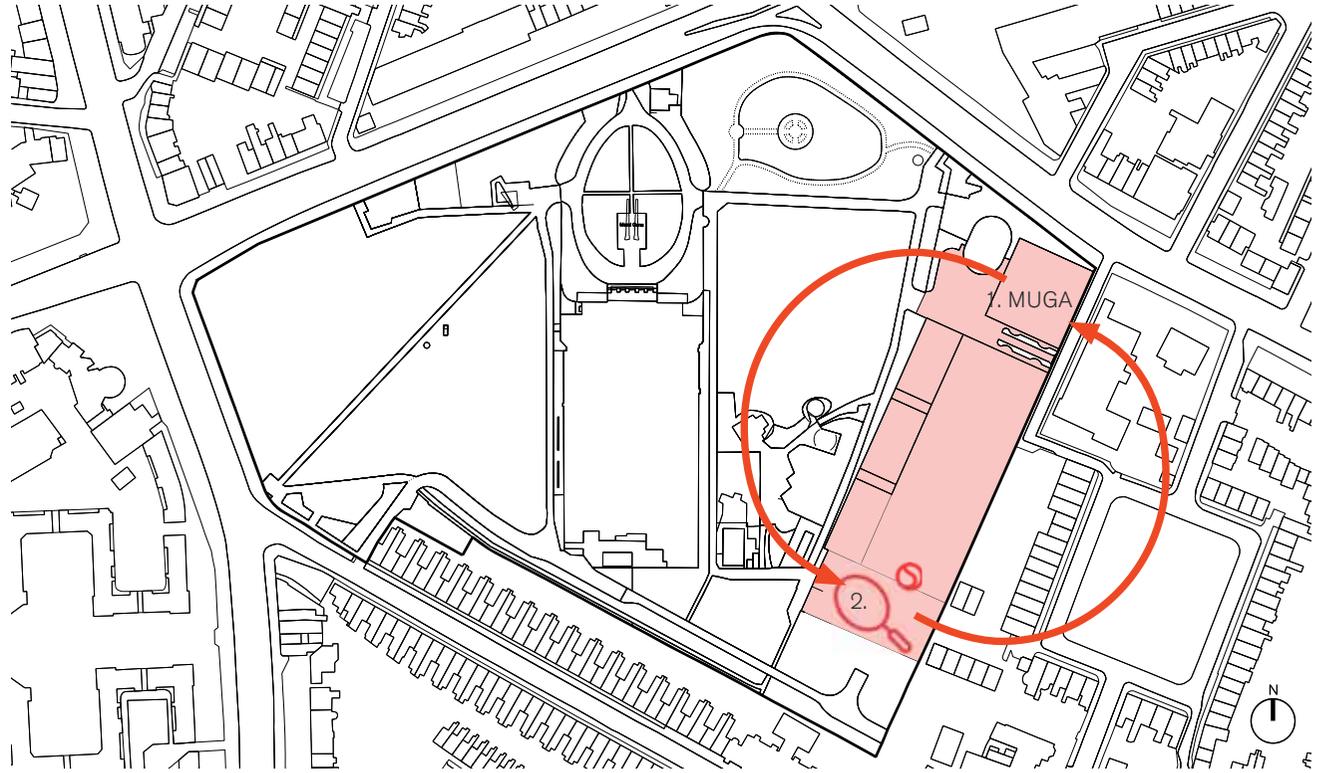
Outdoor gym equipment could be located at stations on the circuit. This could be constructed of a natural palette of materials to compliment the surrounding park. Outdoor gym equipment, similar to the existing equipment could be relocated to accommodate sports pavilion modifications. Improvements to the lighting on this circuit could also be considered.

The park circuit could pass along an existing pathway between the existing netball courts and football pitches. This route could be opened for general circulation by modifications to the existing sports fences and is intended to promote greater use of the south of the park. Access to this path could be limited to the hours of use of the sports facilities and could be opened and closed by the sports facilities provider.

Proposed sport and perimeter circuit

-  Outdoor gym equipment
Timber fitness equipment
-  Outdoor gym resistance equipment as existing
-  Running route: perimeter circuit 1km
-  Courts unchanged
-  Proposed Courts
-  Court type changed
-  Sports Courts
-  Grass open area. Ad-hoc sports





Existing sport provision - Court re-configuration

- 1. Multi-use games area (MUGA) moved to existing tennis courts
- 2. Tennis courts relocated south

5.2 Sport (continued)

Sports facilities

Limited modification of the existing sports facilities could encourage increased use of the pitches and improve circulation to the south of the park. A proposed layout is as indicated in the plan to the right. This alignment could allow a pedestrian route between the pitches and relocation of noisier activities away from residential properties by swapping the existing tennis courts and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

Multi Use Games Area

The relocated MUGA will remain free to use for unstructured ball games, including basketball and five-a-side football as well as for children to learn to ride bicycles and cycle proficiency training and other approved activities requiring enclosed hardstanding.

Lighting

Flood lighting of the existing sports courts during hours of use in the evenings and the winter months is to remain unchanged however relocation of the tennis courts to the area currently occupied by the MUGA requires that this area is floodlit.

Sports pavilion

Everyone Active is the current sport services provider for Southwark, managing the operation of the sports pitches and changing facilities. The sports pitches are well served by shower and changing facilities and no change to this is proposed. An opportunity exists for provision of a small cafe within the reception area of the sports pavilion to accommodate some indoor seating for use in wet weather. Relocation of the existing outdoor gym equipment to the south could free up the paved area for cafe use.



5.3 Entrances

Entrance modifications

Five public pedestrian entrances are distributed around the west, north and east of the park perimeter as well as one vehicle entrance on Brook Drive.

Use of the existing entrances was observed and found to be evenly distributed with no individual entrance more heavily used over the others.

The South of the site is less well served by public entrances where private residential properties back on to the park boundary wall.

Whilst it may be desirable for ease of access to the park, to align entrances to existing perimeter road pedestrian crossings or road intersections, this may be less desirable to those with dogs or small children due to road safety concerns.

Key to providing intuitive circulation and connecting the east and west of the park is the primary circulation modifications proposed along the route of the former St. George's Road. Delivery of this requires that the existing path to the west of the park is moved from the south to the north of what remains of the former hospital brick boundary wall. This proposal moves the Lambeth Road (west) entry point slightly and allows a clear view along the proposed pathway from this entrance across the path to the navel guns marking the entry point to IWM London. Existing tree planting in this area could be supplemented by new trees to form an avenue on this route. Trees such as Lime or Cherry could provide spring blossom, summer shade and autumn colour.

St. George's Road entrance



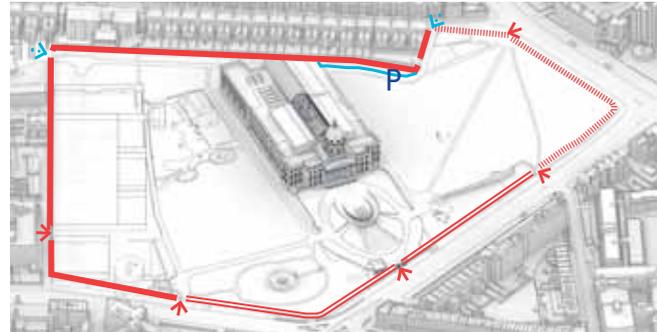
The existing brick wall would mark the transition between proposed formal gardens to the north and open landscape to the south. Existing openings in the wall would provide views through to the open park beyond. Access to the proposed new perimeter path would also be available at the Lambeth Road (west) entrance.

Opening up the enclosed area to the north of the park and delivery of the formal gardens will require relocation of the existing GMH park café. Although this is providing good service to the existing park, the café does not have the capacity to provide indoor seating for use in wet weather and the café itself is relatively exposed which can be a challenge for café staff during the winter months. There is potential however, to provide a café in the existing IWM London gate lodge in addition to the opportunity to provide a café within the sports pavilion both of which could provide limited all weather facilities.

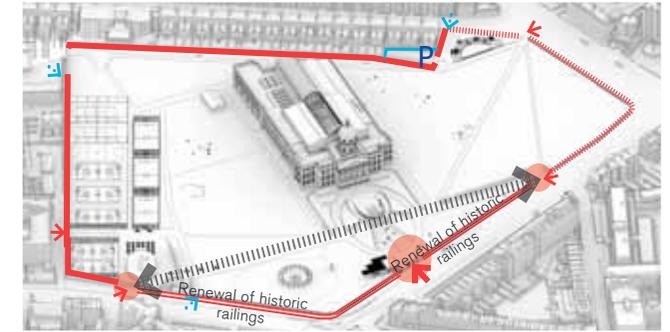
The existing Lambeth Road (north) entrance provides both vehicle and pedestrian access however the vehicle entrance gates are opened only for occasional authorised use. The clear width for pedestrian access is limited to two narrow openings either side of the vehicle gate. These can become congested at peak times and during drop-off and pick-up of museum visitors from the coach parking on Lambeth Road. To increase capacity at peak times it is proposed to create wider pedestrian openings to either side of the existing gate post lanterns by pulling back the perimeter fence. Further reduction in perimeter screen planting to the rear of the gate lodge could avoid some of the anti-social behaviour that this area attracts

Provision of multiple alternative pathways to the north of the museum building is key to the connectivity of east and west park. The proposed east-west path continues passing over the proposed accessible entrance to IWM London. Access to the perimeter path is also provided at the Lambeth Road entrance to connect some of the lesser used areas of the park.

Existing



Proposed



- Park Entrance/ Exit (Public)
- ↔ Vehicle Accessibility
- Masonry walls 2m+
- Railings chain link fence circa 1.5m
- ⋯ Railings & dwarf walls < 1m

Lambeth Road entrance



5.3 Entrances (continued)

To the north of the park, renewal of the historic former hospital garden railings between the Lambeth Road (west) entrance and the St. George's Road entrance is proposed. The railings are thought to have been removed, like many others at time of war, for scrap metal. Reinstating these will replace the existing wire mesh fence and combined with reduction in perimeter screen planting will make an attractive setting for the gardens.

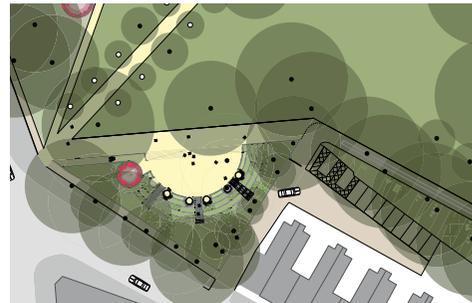
It is proposed to move the existing entrance on St George's Road to the east to allow the proposed east-west path to continue through the area currently used by the park maintenance team. A new opening could be provided in the vicinity of an existing disused entrance into the existing compound, which could provide direct access to the sports facilities and the relocated multi-use games area, as well as providing intuitive axial views across to the west of the park.

The GMH park office is to be relocated to an existing stable block currently used for park storage. Co-location of the parks staff and welfare facilities at this busy entrance will make better use of the existing buildings and provide passive surveillance of the park at this entry point for the safety of visitors.

New signage is to be provided at each entry point and elsewhere following Transport for London's 'Legible London' way-finding standards.

Lambeth Road (west) entrance





Kennington Road Entrance - Proposed amphitheatre, lighting improvements and canopy reduction.

Lambeth Road entrance - Accessible entry to Imperial War Museum

Kennington Road entrance improvements

In addition to Lambeth Road (west), the Kennington Road entrance was highlighted as a priority for improvement by those who responded to the initial consultation.

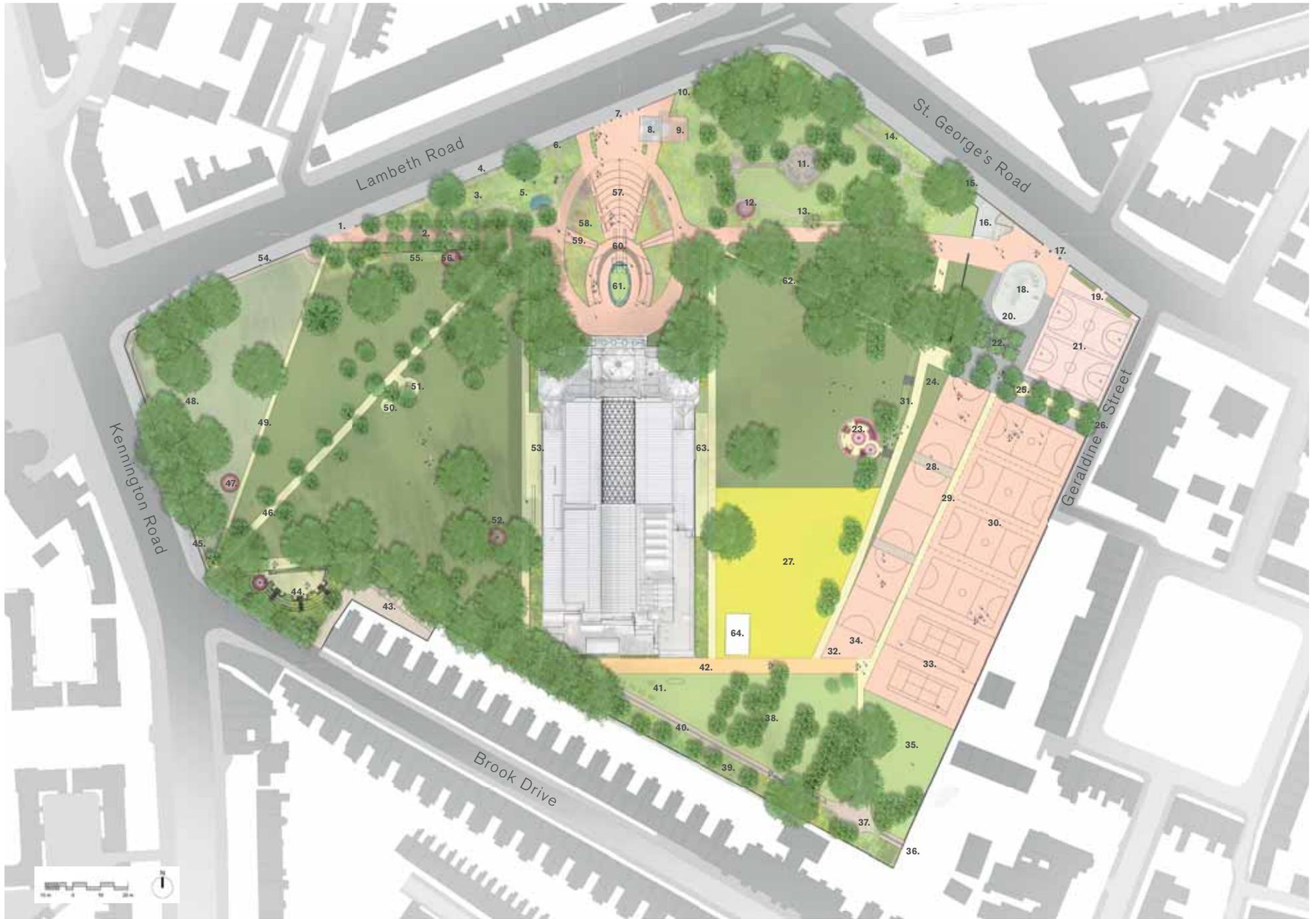
In this area it is proposed to create a planted amphitheatre facing the park, such that this can continue to be used for picnics but also can be used for performance or by local groups of those visiting IWM London.

Tree canopy reduction is proposed in this area to improve lighting levels during the day. Additional lighting could be provided to improve visibility in this area during the hours of darkness.

Imperial War Museums London masterplan

In 2010 Foster + Partners produced a masterplan for IWM London, the first phase of which opened to the public in 2014. IWM are currently preparing for internal re-fit of their Second World War and Holocaust galleries. A future phase to provide an accessible entrance to the museum was presented as part of the 2010 masterplan and revised in 2016 following completion of phase one.

In response to comments received from stakeholders, the entrance design has been 'softened', consultation feedback finding the proposal too 'urban'. The revised IWM entrance has been moved north towards Lambeth Road accommodating the east-west route. The Naval guns, iconic and recognisable symbols of the IWM, are retained as a feature in the entry landscape, in the revised proposal.



6. Delivery Action Plan

Masterplan proposed and existing park features

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. New entrance arrangement on Lambeth Road on new east-west axis. | 30. Existing sport courts. |
| 2. Tree lined path. | 31. Swale, Linear wetland garden. |
| 3. Formal gardens. | 32. Water fountain and Dog drinking fountain |
| 4. Existing 1840's east west garden railings reinstated. | 33. Relocated tennis courts. |
| 5. Wildlife pond. | 34. Outdoor gym equipment. |
| 6. Perimeter circuit. | 35. Existing Woodland |
| 7. Lambeth Road IWM entrance opening widened either side of existing gate. | 36. IWM All Saints Annex yard access. |
| 8. Existing gate lodge, proposed IWM cafe. | 37. Vehicle turning hammer head (shared space). |
| 9. Covered cafe terrace. | 38. Fenced orchard. |
| 10. Perimeter circuit. | 39. Linear woodland planting. |
| 11. Tibetan Peace Garden. | 40. Service roadway (shared space). |
| 12. Feature to mark Second World War bomb site. | 41. Dog agility equipment. |
| 13. Compacted gravel path. | 42. Proposed east west path. |
| 14. Perimeter screen reduced to allow views into and across park. | 43. IWM contractor parking/ LBS Park compound |
| 15. Existing St George's Road entrance relocated see 17 | 44. Planted amphitheatre. |
| 16. Park keeper's office. | 45. Perimeter circuit. |
| 17. Proposed St. George's Road entrance. | 46. Tree lined path |
| 18. Existing sports pavilion. | 47. Feature to mark Second World War bomb site. |
| 19. Potential nursery staging, existing Mulberry tree | 48. Meadow planting with mown pathways. |
| 20. Park café within pavilion reception. | 49. Proposed path following existing desire line. |
| 21. Multi use games area. | 50. Holocaust memorial tree, proposed hard standing skirt. |
| 22. Café terrace shaded by horizontal espalier trees | 51. Soviet War Memorial proposed hard standing skirt. |
| 23. Feature to mark World War two bomb site. Pocket garden with seating. | 52. Feature to mark Second World War bomb site. |
| 24. Existing planted bed. | 53. IWM Cafe terrace. |
| 25. Feature to mark Second World War bomb site. | 54. Existing 1950s perimeter railing. |
| 26. Geraldine Street entrance. | 55. Existing listed Bethlem Hospital boundary wall. |
| 27. Playground. | 56. Feature to mark First World War bomb site. |
| 28. Existing sport courts. | 57. IWM proposed entrance steps/ramps. |
| 29. Pathway between courts opened for general use. | 58. Intensified floral verge planting. |
| | 59. East-west path over museum entrance. |
| | 60. 15 inch naval guns. |
| | 61. Planting/Reflecting pool. |
| | 62. Proposed path following existing desire line. |
| | 63. Future opening of IWM facade at ground floor to park |
| | 64. Existing indoor play space |

Legend

- Meadow grass
- Open lawn
- Formal gardens
- Sports facilities
- Playground

Parks office

The refurbishment of the existing brick stables building on St. George's Road will accommodate the GMH parks office and this will allow the existing temporary portacabin to be removed and the area given over to the proposed playground.

Playground

Delivery of a renewed playground, co-located with the indoor play space and approximately in its existing position is a priority. Some of the proposed circulation routes in this area could be established at this time.

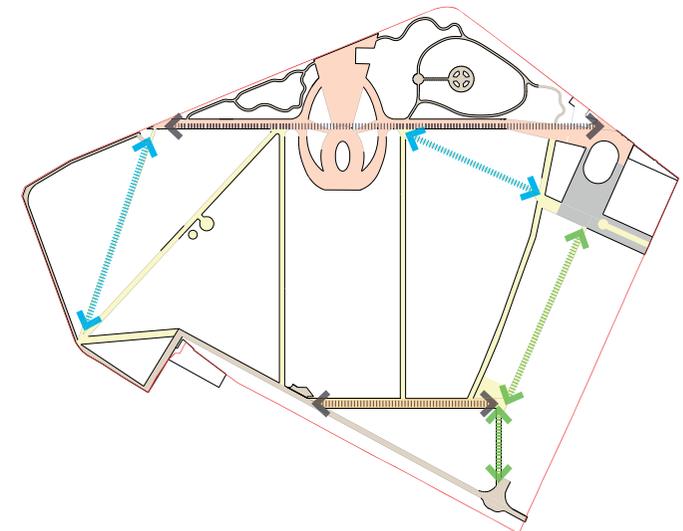
A framework for implementation

Whilst some of the proposals outlined in this report will require funding to achieve, others could be undertaken by the park team as part of Southwark's ongoing park maintenance, for example, opening up of the perimeter planting to create views into the park, establishing meadow planting to the west and formalising desire pathways could be achieved as part of the existing maintenance strategy.

Other elements of the masterplan proposals could be independently funded and delivered from separate funding streams such as Southwark's 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' fund such as the reinstatement of the historic railings.

Proposed Circulation

- Proposed east-west primary routes
- Proposed north-south path
- Proposed desire path







DENO REGI FUNDATVM CIVIVM LARGITAS PERFECTIO

This page is intentionally left blank

7.1 Background History

Illustration of the Dog and Duck Tavern stone sign 1716



1646. The Dog and Duck Tavern.

Thomas H Shepherd, 19th century, based on a 1646 drawing. The British Museum. Shepherd specialised in painting old London buildings before they were demolished.

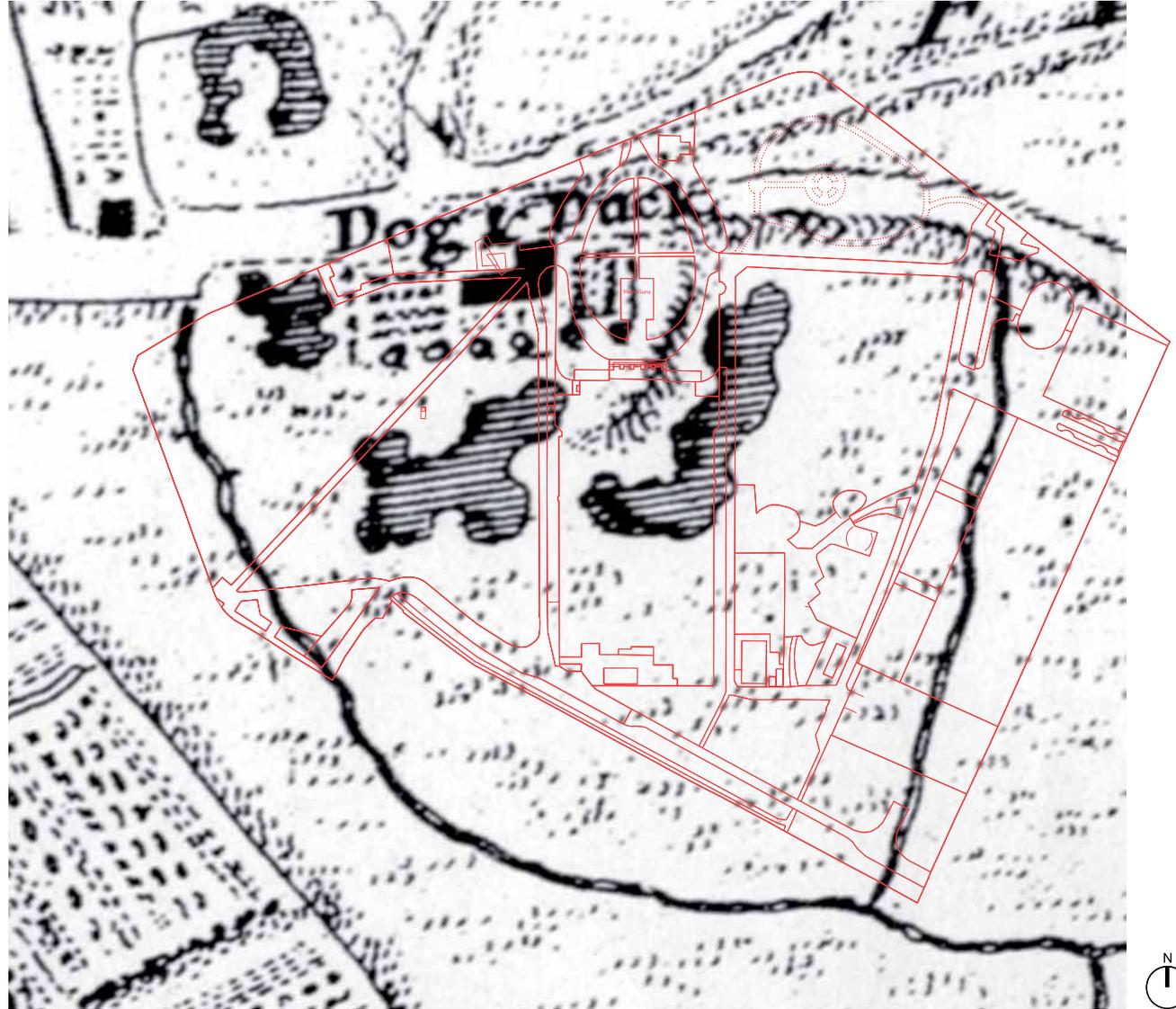


1772. Etching of The Dog and Duck Tavern.



John Rocques map of 1746

Site of the dog and Duck Tavern, Marsh land bounded by river Neckinger tributaries
Existing 2017 Plan overlaid in red



Early development

The site is comprised of former marshland. Historic maps of the area indicate the land surrounding the site being used for agricultural purposes, whilst the site area which was bounded by the now culverted River Neckinger tributaries remained undeveloped until the arrival of the 'Dog and Duck' Tavern in the 1600s. The Tavern was a staging post, then on the outskirts of London on St. George's Fields. The recorded use of the grounds surrounding the tavern indicate that recreational use of the site began long before the Park was formalised in 1934.

'It [the dog and duck] was well situated to attract chance trade, and after 1730, when the proprietor conceived the idea of profiting by the current craze for drinking medicinal waters' 1.

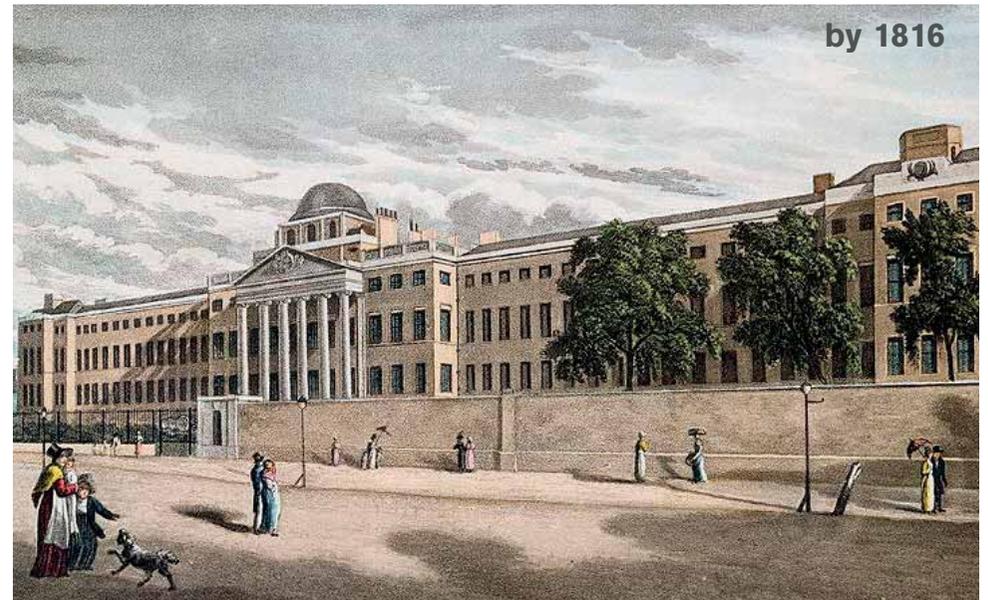
Benefitting from the presence of a mineral spring, the tavern itself was;

'abutted on Lambeth Road near Kennington Road, and was encompassed on three sides by ponds, in two of which the eye of fancy can discern the shapes of a dog and duck. It probably owes its name, however, to the sport of hunting ducks with dogs' 1.

The tavern was later extended to include tea rooms a music gallery, a ladies' bath a gentleman's bath, pleasure garden, bowling green and skittle grounds. By 1816 the Dog and Duck made way for the Royal Bethlem Hospital which moved from its former overcrowded site at Liverpool Street to make use of the open space in pioneering new treatments in mental health.

1. Survey of London: Volume 25, St George's Fields (The Parishes of St. George the Martyr Southwark and St. Mary Newington). Originally published by London County Council, London, 1955.

Left. The Remains of the Dog and Duck's Long Room.
The New Bethlem Hospital under construction behind. 1812
Right. Illustration of the New Bethlem Hospital in St. George's Fields
Note; boundary wall to St George's Road (now diverted) still present in the Park



Background History (continued)



Bethlem Hospital pre-demolition of wings in the 1930s



Bethlem Hospital First World War bomb damage

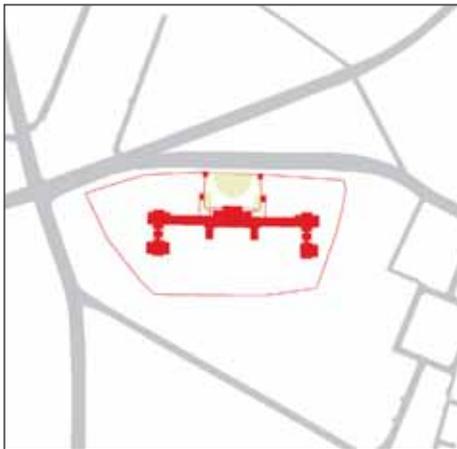


GMH Park Lido opening 1934

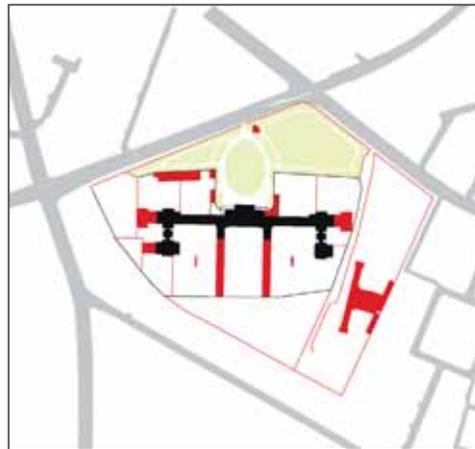


IWM Second World War bomb damage

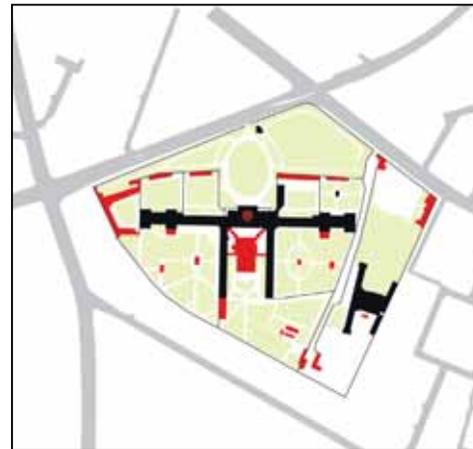
1815



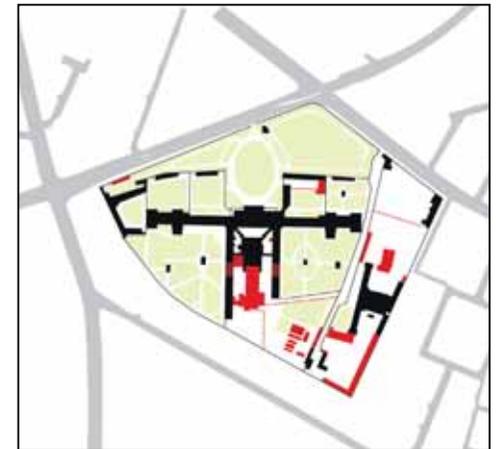
1838



1872



1914





Second World War barrage balloon on the entrance 'oval'



Installation of the 15" Naval guns 1968

Previous Development

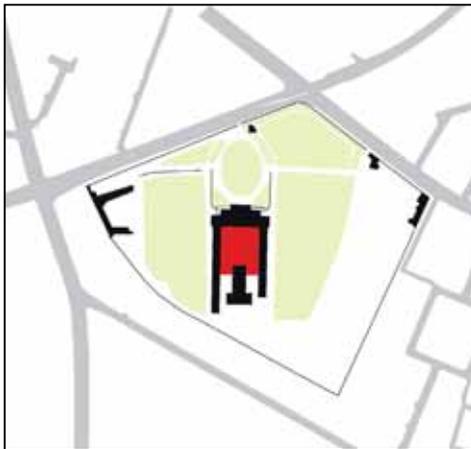
Since the early nineteenth century the park site has been dominated by the former Bethlem hospital, home to the IWM, London since 1936. IWM's flagship London branch has evolved over time, both in form and use. The larger portion of the building now facing Lambeth Road was erected between 1812 and 1816, the original building extended extensively to the east and to the west into what is now Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park.

On completion of the first phase of the Royal Bethlem hospital, St. George's Road ran parallel to the East West building axis. By 1838 St. George's Road had been diverted to meet Lambeth Road at its current intersection, creating an area of land to the North on the existing building into which the hospital expanded, creating formal gardens and patient airing grounds. An axial entrance was created onto the newly located Lambeth Road and the Gate Lodge was built to monitor access at this entrance.

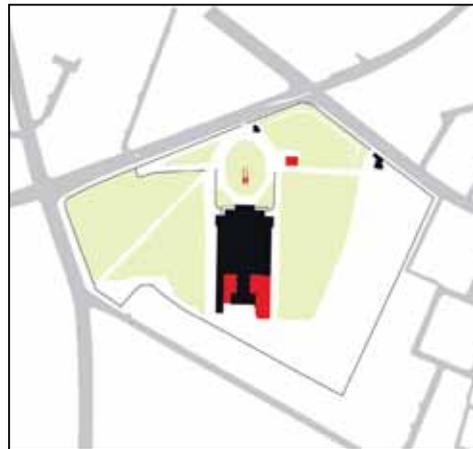
The original 1815 approach roadway was mirrored at this time creating the entrance 'oval' which still remains. In the intervening years much of the area surrounding the site has changed, however the area immediately to the North of the IWM London building has remained relatively unchanged since the entrance approach gardens were formed over 170 years ago.

Many additions, alterations, wartime bombing and demolition works have shaped the buildings that now stand within the park. Initially laid out on east-west axis the IWM London building is now primarily laid out on a north-south axis, presenting a partial barrier to circulation from one half of the park to the other.

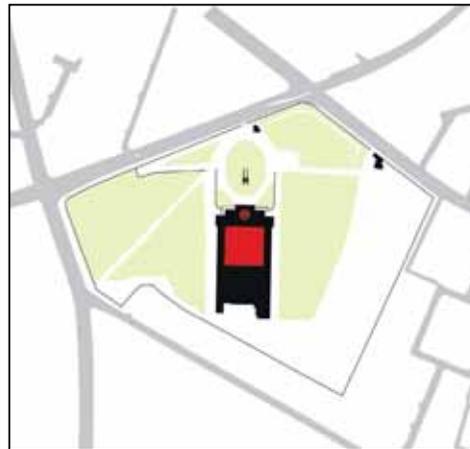
1954



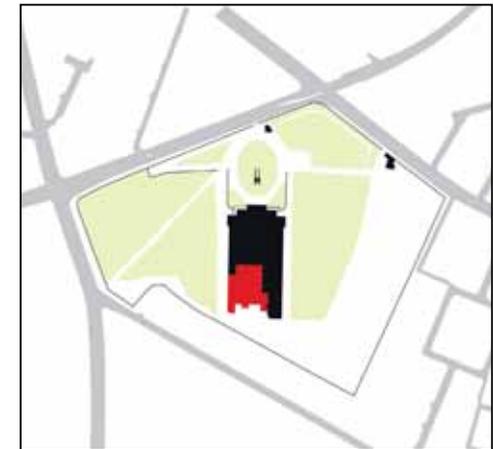
1968



1989



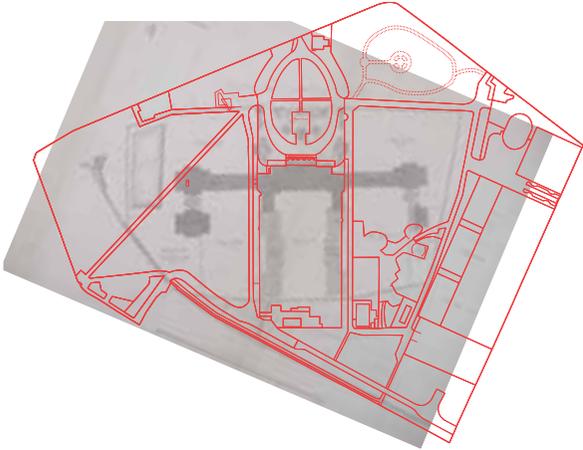
2000



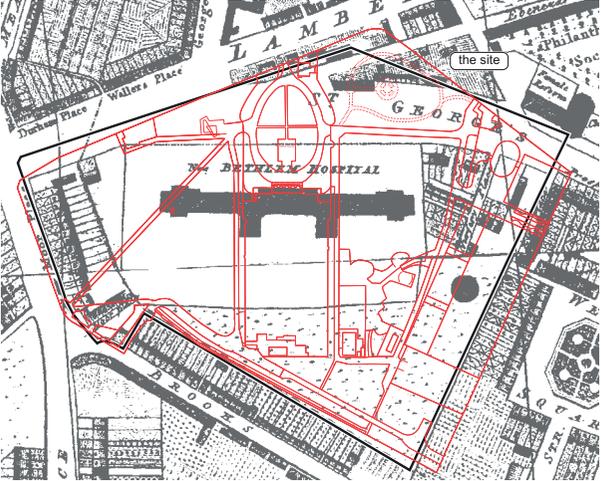
Background History (continued)

1815 - Site plan proposed

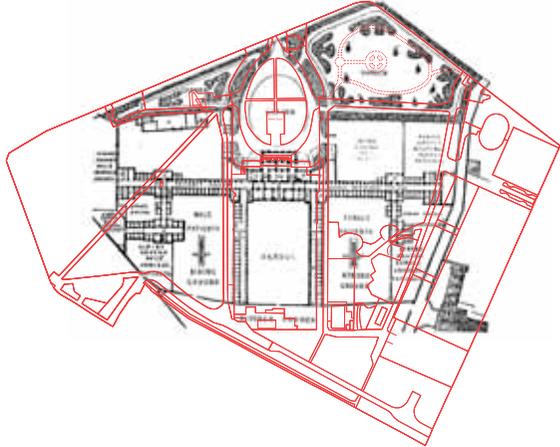
Existing site plan overlaid in red



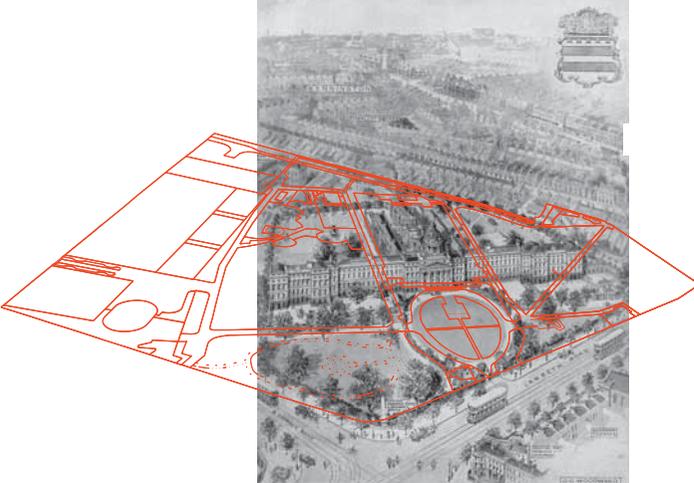
1819 - Horwood's revised map



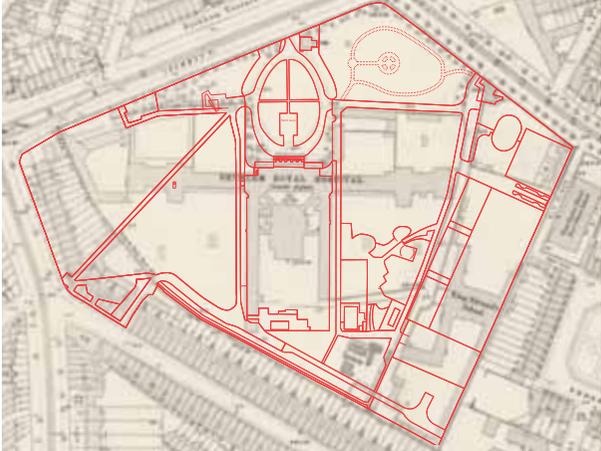
1843 - The Illustrated London News



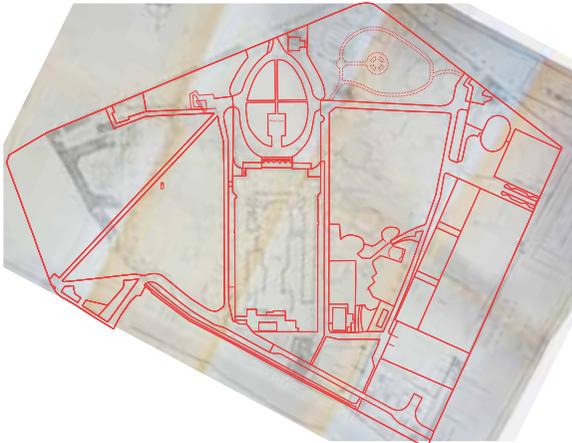
c.1910 - Site axonometric view



c.1930 - Site area plan



1945 London County Council parks department



7.2 Site context

Context

Located in a busy urban environment, the park provides a welcome haven from the surrounding area. The park is extremely well used, offering facilities for a diverse range of visitors. It provides areas for those seeking quiet informal recreation with large open grass, the orchard, the world garden and the Tibetan Peace Garden. There are also areas for active recreation including a dedicated sports area with a number of multi-use games pitches, tennis courts, outdoor gym, indoor playroom, play area and cafe. The park is popular with families, dog walkers, Museum visitors, joggers, office workers, students and commuters alike.

A dedicated park team along with the Friends of Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, run a variety of regular and well attended seasonal events and activities, including bulb planting and the summer jamboree.

The park is a short walk from Lambeth North and Elephant and Castle tube stations and is well served by local bus routes and the London cycle hire scheme.

The park offers a variety of facilities for a wide range of visitors, including a play area and sports pitches. Many of those visiting do so for the first time, others are regular visitors.

The park has been awarded a green flag since 2013, which recognises public green space which meets 'high environmental standards, creating a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas'

Southwark is one of the greenest boroughs in London with over 130 parks and open spaces. Southwark categorise open spaces as major, tier 1 or tier 2. Geraldine Mary Harmsworth park is classified as one of Southwark's 'Major Parks' as one of its largest open spaces. Other 'major' open spaces in the borough include Burgess, Southwark and Peckham Rye Parks.

The park land was purchased in 1934 by the then Lord Rothermere and gifted to the London County Council to become a park in memory of his Mother, Geraldine Mary Harmsworth for the 'Splendid Struggling Mothers of Southwark and their children'. The park was formerly the grounds of the Royal Bethlem Hospital.

The park is 5.7 ha. (57,350m²) excluding IWM buildings and contains in excess of 350 individual recorded trees and shrubs of over 90 species. The park is designated as 'Metropolitan Open Land' (MOL). Specific to land only within London, MOL designation protects areas of landscape, recreation, nature conservation and scientific interest, which are strategically important, from inappropriate development.

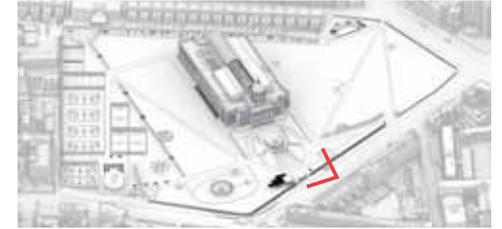
7.2 Appendix

Lambeth Road (west) entrance view



Appendix

Lambeth Road entrance view



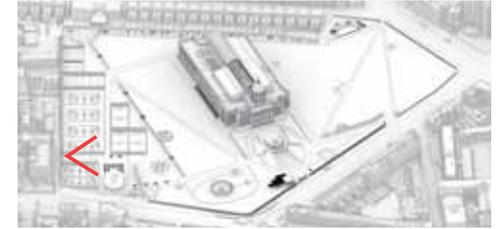
Appendix

St George's Road entrance view



Appendix

Geraldine Street entrance view



This page is intentionally left blank