

Friends of Wimbledon Park



SGRA May 2020 Newsslider
 FriendsOfWimbledonPark.org.uk

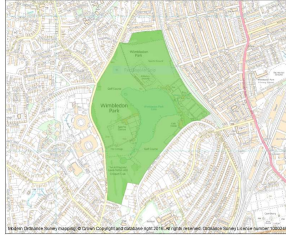


Capability Brown's Wimbledon Park
 (18th Century Water Colour Artist ©2010 by Deborah Arlett)

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19 January 2012 Friends of Wimbledon Park constituted Project is the Heritage Park



Heritage Category: Park and Garden
 List Entry No.: 1025022
 Grade: II
 County: Greater London Authority
 District: Merton, Wandsworth
 Parish: West Oak Park, West Oak Park


Notes: This site is a typical example of an early 18th-century landscape garden, designed by Capability Brown. The park was designed to be a 'natural' landscape, with a central lake, a winding path, and a variety of trees and shrubs. The park is a fine example of the 'natural' landscape garden style of the 18th century.

List Entry No: 1025022
 Map Scale: 1:5000
 Photo Date: 11 November 2012

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The Golf course is owned by the All England Lawn Tennis Club (30ha)

The Wimbledon Club own the area marked TWC (4ha)

Capability Brown's Wimbledon Park (Only 61ha of the original 374ha remain) now in three ownerships.

The Public park is owned by the LB Merton (27ha including 9ha lake)

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Special Places for Nature



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Dam Safety

- 1) Wimbledon Park Lake is held back by a dam, on the top of which runs the lakeside path in the public park.
- 2) The lake, dam and public park are owned by the London Borough of Merton, although a small part of the dam and the outfall are within the part of Ashen Grove Wood that falls within the Wimbledon Park Golf Course.
- 3) As the lake is a large reservoir and the failure of the dam would put lives at risk it is subject to regular engineering inspections under the Reservoirs Act 1975.

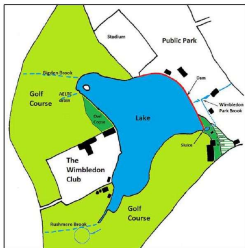


Figure 1. The lake, dam (in red) and surrounding land.

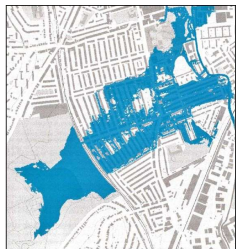
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Failure of dam would cause extensive flooding

Extreme rainfall leads to Wimbledon Park Lake rising so high as to overtop the dam.

- Overtopping risks failure of the dam, which could quickly release the water of the lake to flood the public park and residential areas between the park and Earsfield.
- At worst, the flood would be 3.5metres (4 yards) deep beside the tube line embankment in the public park and some 1700 buildings would be at risk of flooding.
- The risk to life requires works to prevent any chance of the dam failing.
- The study outlines four options to achieve this.



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Statement on dam safety from Friends of Wimbledon Park I

- 1) New standards require big works to prevent the Wimbledon Park dam from failing. LB Merton's Flood Study plans to do this. The Friends found deficiencies in the four shortlisted options. Instead, we propose a Capability Brown design.
- 2) Three of us have received a hard copy of:
 - a) Wimbledon Park Lake Project; Flood Study; Stage 2 Full Report (including Appendices).
- 3) Discussions on the content have been led by Dave Dawson who has produced the three documents listed below for us. Please note that these documents have been scrutinised by some of our Executive Committee and several Zoom meetings held before being agreed.
- 4) We:
 - a) Endorse the need to make the dam safe
 - b) Welcome the proposal to retain the lake and the report's openness to lowering the lake to its historic level.
 - c) Are aware that a preferred option will be refined as it is designed in detail.

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Statement on dam safety from Friends of Wimbledon Park II

- 1) After studying the four options and looking at the others listed, we noted that:
 - a) Trees and woodland would be lost.
 - b) Raising the dam and adding a big outfall would harm the heritage.
 - c) Threatened bats and sets would lose scarce habitat.
 - d) Various difficulties mean that the options that raise the dam threaten more trees and other landscaping than is suggested and would not ensure safety without modification.
- 2) We propose a Capability Brown design which addresses *most of the* deficiencies found. In keeping with government advice on sustainability in flood safety works we would also welcome a meeting with officers and/or engineers to help take the process forward.
- 3) Further information can be found on friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk:
 - 1) Options to make the Wimbledon Park dam safe May 2020
 - 2) Summary of making Wimbledon Park dam safe May 2020
 - 3) The Capability Brown design flyer

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Dam safety- 5 options

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Dam safety

Wimbledon Park Lake Reservoir Safety Proposed Budget 2020-21 £1,318,000

BWB consulting instructed by LBM
Text plus a large number of flood maps
Obtained by Fol request

Bowling Green
Sunday, 9 February 2020 15:07

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RR car park

Existing in blue hatching

Proposed in red hatching
new greenspace in green

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RR entrance

The entrance plan

Actions

- Remove existing gates.
- Provide new gates sympathetic to this Grade II* Heritage Park close to the bridge.
- Create new planting area for community gardening to provide an attractive entrance to the park.
- Refurbish bridge using a *Trompe l'oeil* design (possible competition).
- Obtain permissions from LBM; LBW; TIL and Historic England.
- Submit planning application LBM & LBW.
- Keep other two owners TWC & AELTC informed

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Damage to the Great Field

April 2020

Great Field
MAY 2020

Pumpkin Patch Park area
MAY 2020

Great Field
MAY 2020

Pines & Needles park setting
MAY 2020

Great Field
MAY 2020

Wimbledon Fortnight area
MAY 2020

Great Field
MAY 2020

Wimbledon Fortnight area
MAY 2020

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Damage to the Great Field

May 2020

After months of pressure restoration work begins!



Still to do!

- 1) Watering seeded areas
- 2) Damage caused by:
 - 1) Pines & Needles
 - 2) Pumpkin Patch
 - 3) Wimbledon Fortnight
 - 4) Tree cutters

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Do we need Horse Close Wood car park?

No car park would allow more trees and pathway

LBM plan: Surfacing of top entrance car park Proposed Budget 2020-21 £40,000

Used as a lorry park, also film company, Wimbledon Fortnight & fun fair rides.






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BBQs

May 20th 2020

One of four BBQ damaged grass reported by idverde, 22/05/20

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Toilets in Public Park

Playground

Above unattractive & below ground - blockages
Longer term move toilets into enlarged cafe

Water Activities

Currently open




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Table Tennis soon

Buy through
Table Tennis England



Located by Volleyball courts



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