

discount a site which otherwise has notable and unaltered design quality, however recent its construction. And of course, the pre-park history of such sites, for example as common land or as a private estate, also makes strict dating problematic.

We have widened the value of association to extend beyond known designers or owners to include association with, say, a public campaign to save open space, or use of the land as a public meeting place, or with an architectural or social development. The social history of urban parks and gardens is particularly worthy of consideration in determining importance. In conclusion, it may well be that assessment of 'historic parks and gardens' in cities requires a different approach from those in rural areas.

On the dry subject of methodology, there is only space for one simple observation. We found that a map-based inventory was not feasible. An initial survey of maps and documents, while the obvious and essential starting point, had to be complemented at that primary stage with site visits. Maps fail to pick up small sites; they also fail to inform you of the existence of mature trees or earthworks, which can be critical in assessing the historic interest of a site. We found ourselves visiting virtually all of the sites included on the inventory, instead of just those that might be put forward for the *Register*.

Finally, it seemed a good idea to bring the story up to the present, so the survey included comments on present management (or lack of it) and the planning context - such as the threat of development or recent losses to, say, road-building.

The survey has revealed some bizarre management: not only the almost invariably corrosive effect of CCR, but such vagaries as the clearance of bandstands, the beheading of (dangerous) railings, the systematic sale of lodges, the filling-in of lakes, as well as the depressing spate of under-managed *wildlife areas*. The contrast between past beauties (and care) and present dereliction is revealed in the simplest picture postcard view. But there are some gleams of hope: Croydon has carried out a heritage audit of its parks and produced a book detailing their histories; several Friends organisations are helping to put together restoration plans, and a number of boroughs (credit here to Brent) are bucking the trend

and clearly see investment in parks as a priority. And of course, Lord Rothschild is actively encouraging the boroughs to apply for Heritage Lottery funding for work on public parks and gardens. English Heritage London Division has also produced a pack for all London boroughs advising them on repair schemes and Lottery bids.

The London Survey has demonstrated just what an integral part of the metropolitan fabric parks and gardens in the widest sense comprise. However, it should be remembered that identification (*another list*, as one sceptical heritage officer commented) is only the first, albeit essential, step in conserving this vital part of the urban environment. It is up to gardens trusts and other amenity groups not only to survey and record, but then to use that data to protect and enhance the special nature of these places.

Copies of the *Inventory* are on deposit at Duck Island Cottage and English Heritage. The survey was carried out for the LHFGT by Hazel Conway, Zara Conway, Ruth Guilding, David Lambert and Todd Longstaffe-Gowan. Research on the *Inventory* is still underway, and is being carried out by volunteers.

NOTES on the HAWKWOOD ESTATE and PETTS WOOD

By Daphne Thissen

Hawkwood Estate and Petts Wood are National Trust properties situated between Chislehurst and Orpington in Kent. The Hawkwood Estate comprises an area of 250 acres; Petts Wood, over 88 acres in extent, adjoins the eastern side of Hawkwood Estate.

What is now known as the Hawkwood Estate was originally a rural area called *Goodlands* which possessed woods, a stream and fields; it was the property of several families. Between 1543 and 1784 the estate was owned and managed by farmers and the land was handed down through the generations by inheritance. However, in 1784 the farmhouse and grounds were purchased by one Robert Jenner - who was succeeded in 1821 by Sir Herbert Jenner-Fust. Over the following

thirty years the latter extended the farmhouse and made various improvements to create a large, self-sufficient estate, suitable for a country gentleman.

In 1852 the property was bought by one Mr Edlmann, and in whose family it remained until 1948. Edlmann changed the name of the mansion to *Hawkwood*, after the wood on the estate (subsequently called Pond Wood). In 1927 Col. F.J.F. Edlmann, eldest son of Mr Edlmann, bought 47 acres of woodland west of 'Willett Wood' (part of Petts Wood) from his neighbour K.E. Chalmers in order to preserve the wood and the view and to secure the estate as a recreation area for the nearby villages of Chislehurst and Petts Wood.

In 1950, after the death of Col. Edlmann, the house and grounds were put on the market. The estate was sold in 1958 and was bought by Mr Robert Hall - on the recommendation of his wife Francesca - with the intention of presenting the property to the National Trust. The Trust, however, did not initially accept the estate as there was not an endowment for its future maintenance. When Mrs Hall was left with Hawkwood House after the death of her husband in 1958, plans were drawn up for the renovation of the old property with the intention of providing a home for Mrs Hall. But when the full extent of the neglected property's decay was finally discovered, Mrs Hall decided that the old mansion should be demolished. In 1960 work began on the construction of two new houses, Hawkwood and Hawkswing. Following the death of Mrs Hall, the properties were leased to tenants which gave the Trust close control of their maintenance, usage and management.

Large parts of the estate are open to the public, except for the grounds around the various buildings, including Hawkwood Garden.

It is thought that the name *Petts Wood* was given to the wood by William Pett, ship-builder for Queen Elizabeth I. The Woods which supplied timber for Pett's shipyards in Deptford, was let to the Pett family by Lord Wooton, who passed the ownership to his half-brother Lord Chesterfield in 1700. It was then sold in around 1790 to Herman Berens, a London merchant of Dutch origin, and stayed in the family until the 1920s.

Petts Wood is closely connected with William Willett, who in the early years of this

century fought a campaign for *daylight saving*, an idea originally intended to give people the chance to enjoy their summer evenings. Mr Willett had been a resident of Chislehurst and it is said that it was while riding in Petts Wood that he first thought of the idea of daylight saving.

When Petts Wood was advertised for sale in 1925, an association dedicated to the remembrance of William Willett's *Summer Time Act* proposed to purchase part of the Wood as a memorial to Willett. In 1927 the Wood was bought with public support and a memorial sundial, set on summer time, was erected.

Petts Wood was donated to the National Trust and opened as a Public Open Space. One part of the Wood was saved from the developers, and the remainder was bought by Col. Edlmann in 1927, who added it to his estate.

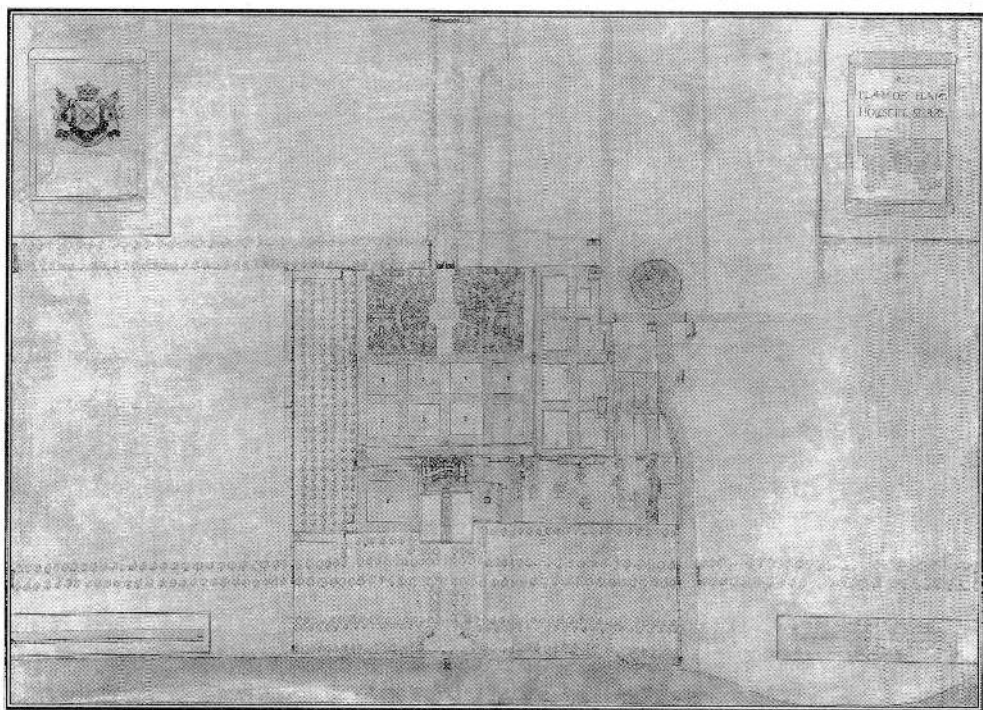
In 1935, after recommendations from the Trust's forestry expert, three circular plantations were made in the Wood, comprising oak, sweet chestnut, hornbeam, Scots pine and white poplar. Since 1935 the National Trust has continued to plant trees, replacing other species when needed.

THE HELMINGHAM PLAN: An EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY SURVEY of the GARDENS at HAM HOUSE By Nino Strachey

Few garden descriptions can be as brief and evocative as John Evelyn's account of Ham, written on a summer afternoon in 1678:

'After dinner I walked to Ham to see the Garden of the Duke of Lauderdale, which is indeed inferior to few of the best Villas in Italy itself; the house furnished like a great Prince's; the Parterres, Flower Gardens, Orangeries, Groves, Avenues, Courts, Statues, Perspectives, Fountains, Aviaries and all this at the banks of the Sweetest River in the World, must needs be surprising.'

The gardens at Ham were one of several ambitious landscape projects planned by Lauderdale and his second wife, Elizabeth, Countess of Dysart. In the months prior to their marriage in early 1672, Lauderdale commissioned a series of garden designs from the German engineer and surveyor, John Slezer. The surviving drawings cover two of the



15. Hawkwood Garden, west of the avenue, 1995. (PHOTO BY DAPHNE THISSEN)
16. *The Helmingham Plan of Ham House*, c.1698-1742. (BY COURTESY OF LORD TOLLEMACHE)