

Huguenot Burial Ground Management Plan 2010 – 2015

Index
Timetable
Site description
Wandsworth Open Space Study
Current management
Future management
Action plan



Written for and on behalf of Wandsworth Council Parks Service by:

Valerie Selby, Principal Parks Officer (Biodiversity)
Patrick Phelan, Horticultural Development Officer
Geraldine Kelly Strategy and Information Officer

First round of public consultation: August 2010

Final draft: September 2010

To be approved by Wandsworth Council Environment and Leisure Committee
in September 2010

Progress against action plan to be monitored annually via the Parks Service
AQPR.

Site Description:

- Site Name: Huguenot Burial Ground
Also known as Huguenot Cemetery and Mount Nod
- Location: The area is bounded to the north by East Hill; to the east by a public footpath and Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Church; to the south by Huguenot Place and to the west by Book House (a publishing training centre).

Map showing location is shown on page 5.
- Grid reference: The grid reference of the bottom south west corner of the site is TQ26287477
- Council Ward: Fairfield Ward, Elected members for this area are:
Cllr Mrs Vanessa Graham (Conservative)
Cllr Piers McCausland (Conservative)
Cllr Stuart Thom (Conservative)
- Site Area: The area of the site totals 1970 square metres (0.19 ha /0.48 acres).
- Tenure: The site is assumed to be owned by Wandsworth Borough Council and managed by the Council's Parks Service (part of the Department of Leisure and Amenity Service). The freehold title should be ascertained.
- Management: The site is managed and maintained by Wandsworth Borough Council, with responsibility for the site taken by the Parks Service.
- Designations: The site is designated as "No Dogs" under the Councils Dog Control Orders.

Wandsworth Open Space Study

In 2006, the Wandsworth Planning Office carried out an Open Space Study. As part of that Study, a quality assessment of all of the open spaces in the Borough was carried out. The range and condition of facilities within each open space were assessed using a scoring criterion derived from the Keep Britain Tidy Green Flag standard assessment which is also consistent with the GLA guidance.

The criteria included the assessment of the quality of natural and landscape features, conservation of buildings and structures, provision of interpretation facilities, standards of arboricultural management, whether the space was welcoming, its accessibility and safety, signage, levels of personal security, dog-fouling, cleanliness, standards of horticultural maintenance and the overall appropriateness and quality of provision of facilities for the site.

All aspects were scored between 0 and 10, with below 5 being poor, 5-6 Fair, 7 good, 8 very good, 9 excellent and 10 exceptional.

In this assessment, Huguenot Burial Ground had an overall quality average score of **6.8**, which puts it in the 'Fair' rating. Suggested improvements were to open the western area of the site for seating (as there are no gravestones in this area).

Huguenot Burial Ground Park Management Plan 2010



Crown Copyright (c) Ordnance Survey (2010) and/or other data provided by copyright holders as indicated on the map.



Huguenot Burial Ground

(c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Wandsworth Borough Council Licence No. LA 1000019270 2010

Scale 1/1250
Date 13/8/2010



History:

Huguenot Burial Ground, East Hill, SW18 - a brief description from the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust

An historic burial ground near to the centre of Wandsworth, now a public garden with railings along East Hill boundary and walled with spikes above to Huguenot Place. It was opened in c.1687 as a burial ground for the French Church which stood opposite Wandsworth parish church of All Saints. The burial ground was used by the Huguenot refugees who settled in Wandsworth during the seventeenth century, fleeing France after the Edict of Nantes in 1685. The burial ground later became know as Mount Nod; it was enlarged in 1700 and again in 1735. It was closed in 1854 and later reopened as a public garden, and is mainly grass with trees and shrubs around the periphery.

It contains a number of historic tombs dating from c.1687 notably those of Peter Paggen (d.1720) of Wandsworth Manor House, and John Gilham (d.1728). In 1911 a memorial was erected to the memory of the Wandsworth Huguenots who had found in Wandsworth freedom to worship God after their own manner. They established important industries and added to the credit and prosperity of the town of their adoption'.

At the south end of the burial ground is the former Board of Works offices, built 1888 by J Newton Dunn, now The Book House. At the east end a footpath separates the burial ground from St Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Church.

Site Features:

Huguenot Burial Ground is a small, partly enclosed area with trees and rough grass. Five Grade 2 listed historic tombs, in poor condition, are an important feature, and there are approximately 140 smaller monuments, most in need of some restoration. It has been closed to burials since 1854.

Ornamental railings, in good condition, partly enclose the site on two sides, with an un-gated public footpath crossing the site near the eastern boundary.

There is a single, pedestrian only entrance to the main area, from the public footpath that connects Huguenot Place and East Hill. A small strip, on the eastern side of the footpath, immediately adjacent to Mary Magdalen Church, is not accessible to the public, but does form part of the cemetery.

A bronze wall plaque, provided by the Wandsworth Society in 1985, marks the 300th anniversary of the revocation of the Treaty of Nantes in 1685, which led to arrival in Wandsworth of a large number of Huguenot refugees.

The cemetery is not easily accessible, with major roads immediately surrounding the site cutting it off from nearby residential roads. This means it is virtually unused.

There are no paths, seats or litterbins.

The site is reasonably well lit by surrounding street lights, and the five light columns on the public footpath crossing the site.

The overall impression is of a reasonably well maintained but non-landscaped area, lacking any promotion of its historic significance to the Borough.

Safe & Secure:

Most areas of the cemetery are visible from the entrance and from within, although small areas obscured by tombs and trees, are not visible from outside.

Several of the tombs are in very poor condition, with the possibility of injury to visitors.

Overgrown scrub and bramble has been cut down during the last year. This has minimised cover for rats and reduced any sense of unease.

The cemetery is not locked at night, and there have been recent problems with youths using the site at night, causing damage and litter.

With only one gate to the main area, visitors may feel trapped if a threatening situation arose.

The main area is designated as “No Dogs” under current byelaws. There are no signs to this effect.

Welcome:

There is no sign at the entrance, and the very uneven rough grass surface and derelict tombs does not encourage access.

The lack of easy access, over the nearby busy major roads, limits use by local residents.

Clean and well maintained:

Recent problems of vandalism and litter have resulted in an increased maintenance regime, including the cutting back of bramble and scrub, routine mowing of grass areas and collection of litter.

The trees are inspected on a regular rotation, to identify any works that may be required to maintain a healthy tree stock.

Occasionally, drugs paraphernalia is found in some parks. A system has been devised to ensure safe removal and recording of each incident. This helps to ensure staff and park users are protected, and Metropolitan and Parks Police informed. Steps to minimise drug use in parks can then be undertaken using this information. Drugs paraphernalia has been found occasionally at Huguenot Burial Ground and action has been taken to deal with this problem.

Tombs and smaller monuments are in poor condition. A summary report and an indication of repair costs to all the tombs and monuments was carried out in 2003, by PAYE Stonework & Restoration Ltd, a specialist restoration company. No work was carried out, however, due to lack of funds. Borough planners are aware of the need for works and will include this in any decisions on planning applications in the area. This could mean funds being made available under an S.106 agreement with any major development in the area.

Health and well-being

Huguenot Cemetery is essentially a small area of green in an otherwise built up area, and provides a visual break to passers by. There is limited potential for passive use of the area itself.

Community involvement:

There is no known organised community involvement currently.

Service delivery:

Landscape maintenance is carried out by contractor and monitored by the Parks Operational team based at Wandsworth Common.

Structural maintenance of monuments and railings is the responsibility of the Premises section of the Leisure and Amenity Department. Maintenance of the public footpath crossing the site, and the light columns, is the responsibility of the Technical Services Department.

Staff skills & knowledge:

Skills required to manage this site include basic horticultural maintenance including the use of mowing and strimming machinery. A higher level of knowledge is required for maintenance of trees. General building and engineering skills are required to maintain structures, paths and railings, with specialist knowledge being required to maintain or repair tombs and monuments.

Sustainable approach:

The site is generally managed without the use of pesticides or watering. Weeds are occasionally controlled with glyphosate.

Finance:

Maintenance costs are met from Parks budgets covering all small parks. There is no separate budget for this site within the Parks Service.

Wandsworth Open Space Study

In 2006, the Wandsworth Planning Office carried out an Open Space Study. As part of that Study, a quality assessment of all of the open spaces in the Borough was carried out. The range and condition of facilities within each open space were assessed using a scoring criterion derived from the Keep Britain Tidy Green Flag standard assessment which is also consistent with the GLA guidance.

The criteria included the assessment of the quality of natural and landscape features, conservation of buildings and structures, provision of interpretation facilities, standards of arboricultural management, whether the space was welcoming, its accessibility and safety, signage, levels of personal security, dog-fouling, cleanliness, standards of horticultural maintenance and the overall appropriateness and quality of provision of facilities for the site.

All aspects were scored between 0 and 10, with below 5 being poor, 5-6 Fair, 7 good, 8 very good, 9 excellent and 10 exceptional.

In this assessment, Huguenot Cemetery had an overall quality average score of **6.8**, which puts it in the 'good' rating. Suggested improvements included installing a seating area in the western side of the site, which has relatively few monuments.

Current Management:

All horticultural maintenance and litter clearance is as specified in the Parks Service Horticultural Maintenance contract, which includes all routine grass cutting, litter collection, weed clearance, shrub pruning and other routine horticultural tasks. All work that does not fall under this contract is carried out under additional works programmes by order with the main contractor or outside contractors depending on the scope of the work entailed.

Trees:

There are mature and semi mature trees on the site. These trees are inspected every 3 years and were in general good health at their last inspection.

Ornamental planting:

There is no formal ornamental planting, although there are several individual shrubs, not planted in beds. Brambles, scrub and tree saplings, growing from crevices in the monuments, are pruned or trimmed as required and treated with herbicides as appropriate.

Seats:

There are no seats within the area.

Bins:

There are no litterbins at the site

Hard / paved surfaces:

There are no footpaths within the area, apart from the public footpath, which is maintained as part of the public highway.

Lighting:

There is no lighting within the area. Five light columns in the public footpath are maintained as part of the public highway.

Fencing:

Decorative, iron railings, in good condition, form the boundaries to the north and south, and also to both sides of the public footpath cutting through the site. There is one gated entrance to the main area of the site. There is no separate service gate.

Services:

There is no water, electricity, gas or telephone supply to the cemetery.

Future Management:

Safe & Secure:

Carry out a risk assessment to establish the safety of visitors, given the condition of some of the tombs. Carry out a full condition survey of the tombs to establish details of repairs needed and costs.

Routinely prune shrubs and trees to maintain views through the site. Maintain programme of clearing bramble and scrub.

Liaise with Parks Police to monitor and reduce vandalism and excess litter.

Investigate the possibility of providing more entrances. This might alleviate any sense of being trapped if a threatening situation arose.

Install signs to help reinforce the "No Dogs" designation.

Welcome:

Install new sign, to match recently replaced signs at other sites and including relevant contacts. A separate information board, with details of the history of the site would also give a greater sense of place and a better welcome.

Clean & well maintained:

Maintain works to keep the area clear of brambles and scrub, and to keep grass at an acceptable height.

Assess trees in the cemetery for their value to its landscape. Remove any trees in poor condition.

Liaise with Borough Planners to ensure any future major planning applications in the area are considered with improvements and refurbishment to the cemetery in mind.

Health and well being:

Increase passive use of the area with seats and refurbishment when funds allow.

Community involvement:

Contact any local residents groups and the adjacent church.

Sustainable approach:

Maintain restriction on use of chemicals where possible.

Huguenot Burial Ground Park Management Plan 2010

ACTION PLAN

Code	Aim	Objective	Action / task	Target date	Who
HUG101	To make Huguenot Burial Ground a place where people feel safe and secure		Carry out risk assessment & implement any temporary measures needed	October 2010	
HUG 102			Carry out condition survey of tombs	As funds allow	
HUG 103		Ensure users can readily see all areas	Maintain regular pruning of trees and shrubs and control of bramble and scrub		
HUG 104		Reduce vandalism and litter	Liaise with Parks Police		
HUG 105		Ensure users have ready access and egress	Investigate possibility of additional gate		
HUG 106		Enforce "No Dogs" bye law	Fix small "No dogs" sign to gate		
HUG 201	To make Huguenot Burial Ground welcoming and define a sense of place	To provide information on the site, at entrances.	Install standard entrance sign or combine with historic interpretation board		Parks Service Graphics
HUG 202			Install an information board detailing history		Parks Service Graphics

Huguenot Burial Ground Park Management Plan 2010

Code	Aim	Objective	Action / task	Target date	Who
HUG 301	To provide a clean and well maintained Park	To maintain defined and well kept planting areas	Maintain current works programme	Ongoing	Parks Service
HUG 302			Assess trees for condition and landscape value		Parks Service Tree Section
HUG 303		Replace old sign			
HUG 304		Refurbish historic tombs and general landscape	Monitor availability of funds		Parks Service Borough Planners
HUG 401	To provide a park which contributes to the health and well being of all who use it.	Install seats to encourage passive use	Monitor vandalism. Install if likelihood of damage is reduced and funds allow		Parks Service
HUG501	To effectively engage with, and involve, the community in decisions made relating to Huguenot Burial Ground.	To carry out consultation with different user groups to influence the enhancement of this park	Find any local groups	Ongoing	Parks Service