

The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens for Medway



Cozenton Park, Rainham



March 2015

Cozenton Park

Rainham, Kent

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INTRODUCTION

This site description and accompanying dossier have been prepared by the Kent Gardens Trust as part of its wider review of ***The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens***. This part of the review, carried out for Medway Council in 2013 -14, covers sites within the Medway local authority area with the aim to:

- a) Review the historic nature, content, current state and significance of the sites currently identified in the ***Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens*** for the Medway local authority area along with others identified by Medway Council. The review has been undertaken using English Heritage's criteria for identifying the significance of local heritage assets to provide a consistent approach. The revised list of sites has the potential to support development of a Local List of historic sites in Medway should the Council wish to progress this in future¹. The list of sites researched and evaluated in this review would be subject to consultation as part of any Local List development and is therefore not intended to be final.
- b) Inform future funding applications for historic spaces by the identification of significance
- c) Inform future conservation and/or any development of sites by the identification of the significance of key historic character, features and association including that of setting and viewpoints.

The extent of the area identified represents the current surviving area of the designed landscape, the boundary line generally reflecting the maximum extent of the historic gardens or parkland (although there are exceptions such as where land has been irreversibly lost to development). The boundary line takes no account of current ownership. Further information is available from the contacts listed below. The partnership would like to thank the volunteers and owners who have participated in this project and given so much of their time, effort and hospitality to complete this challenging and rewarding task.

Medway Council
Greenspace, Heritage
& Library Services
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
ME4 4TR
www.medway.gov.uk

Kent County Council
Heritage Conservation
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XX
01622 696918
www.kent.gov.uk

Kent Gardens Trust
www.kentgardenstrust.org.uk

English Heritage
www.english-heritage.org.uk

¹ English Heritage (2012) 'Good Practice Guide to Local Listing'

KENT

COZENTON PARK

MEDWAY

LOCATION

NGR 581129 166362

District: Medway Parish: Gillingham

Cozenton Park is in Rainham in Gillingham, part of Medway Unitary Authority. It lies just north of the A2 road and approximately 700m west of Rainham railway station.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT

In the absence of an historic designed landscape falling within requisite English Heritage criteria, we have not completed a full review

HISTORY

Cozenton Park was first opened sometime after 1970. One local resident who was at school until 1970 remembers the area as orchards until he left school. (pers. com.) It was formed on 17.94 acres of land belonging to Cozenton Farm which was purchased by Gillingham Borough Council in December 1964 after protracted negotiations over the previous five years. Ordnance survey maps show the area as open fields in 1875 gradually converted to predominant orchard by 1952. There was also a small quarry to the west of the park which is now the site of the Splashes Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre. This centre was opened on 15th May 1990. The plant nursery to the north of the park was used by Medway Council as its base until very recently when the facilities were transferred to Hadlow College. A Wheel Park for skateboarding and BMX bicycles was built near the Leisure Centre in 2010.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM and SETTINGS

The site is some 7.5 hectares in area and is roughly rectangular in shape and 420 metres from east to west and 180 metres from north to south. There is a small trapezoidal extension to the north east which contains the nursery belonging to Hadlow College. It is bordered to the south by houses on London Road (A2), to the west by Bloors Lane, to the north by houses off Penshurst Close and High Elms and to the east by houses along Berengrave Lane. The western boundary is formed of metal railings, the northern and southern boundaries are largely of chain link fencing and the eastern boundary is of close boarded fences. The site is almost entirely level with one main metalled path which winds from the north west to the south east extremities. The middle section

of this path runs through a short avenue of Zelkovas. The park is well planted with trees apart from a large central area marked out as a playing field. The trees almost all seem to be some 30 to 40 years old and were presumably planted after the park was first set up. There are no significant views from the park.

ENTRANCES and APPROACHES

There are three entrances to the park. One the west next to the swimming pool off Bloors Lane, one to the south through a small car park to London Road and one to the north beside the nursery out to High Elms. A winding metalled path joins the west and south entrances

STRUCTURES

Splashes Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool is in the middle of the eastern boundary of the park. To the south of this is the Wheel Park. Glasshouses and offices for Hadlow College are in the north-eastern corner. To the south of this area is a children's playground.

LISTING STATUS

Cozenton Park is not registered by English Heritage nor is there any entry in Parks and Gardens UK.

CONCLUSION

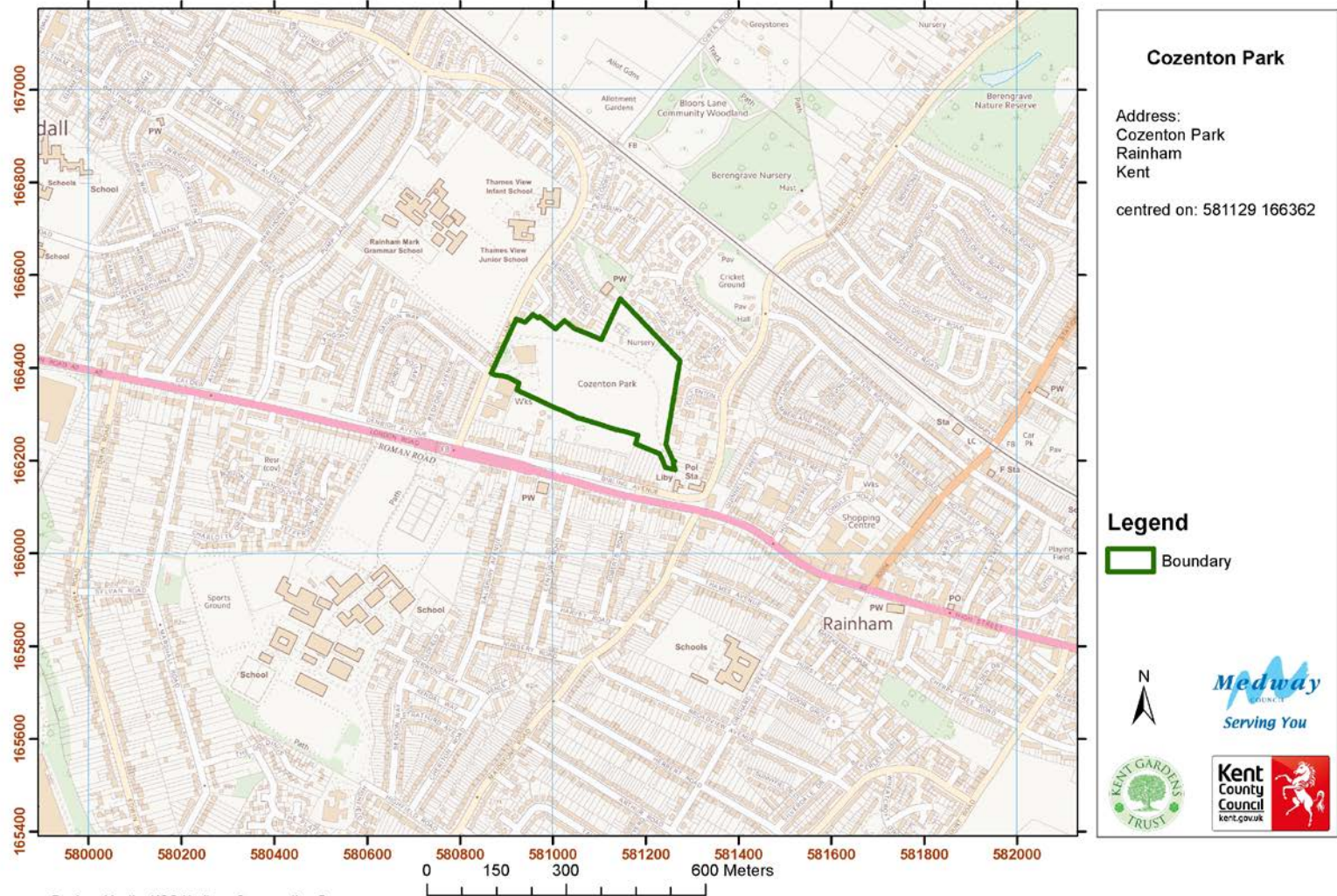
Cozenton Park is quite an attractive green space in the centre of an urban area. It is used by local dog walkers and those going to the Wheel Park.

Research and description by Paul Lewis

Virginia Hinze (editor)

Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Medway

Fig. 1 Boundary map



Kent Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens – 2013 review of Medway

Fig.2 Selection of photographs, 2015.





