

The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens for Medway



Parkwood Green Rainham



March 2014

Parkwood Green

Rainham

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LOCATION

BRIEF HISTORY

SITE DESCRIPTION

LISTING STATUS

CONCLUSION

REFERENCES

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1: Boundary map

FIGURE 2: Aerial photograph

FIGURE 3: Photograph of Parkwood Green

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'

LOCATION

**KENT
MEDWAY
GILLINGHAM**

PARKWOOD GREEN

Centred on 558092 164100

Deanwood Drive, Parkwood, Rainham, Kent ME8 9PN

Parkwood Green lies c5km south-west of Gillingham and c2km south/south-east of Rainham.

BRIEF HISTORY

For centuries, the whole area now known as Parkwood was covered by ancient woodland. Early editions (1st to 4th) of OS maps show the entire area as woodland, known as Fox Burrow Wood to the north and Rainham Park to the south. Narrow pathways intersect the woodland area but there is no evidence of a designed landscape or any historic buildings. Apart from the addition of a broad intersecting pathway on a south-west to north-east axis (first shown on the 4th edition map), there is no material difference in the landscape between the 1st and 4th edition OS maps.

From the mid-1960s onwards, the land was given over to large-scale development of new housing. Parkwood Green² is an area of woodland in the middle of the housing estate and is utilised as a green space.

SITE DESCRIPTION

A 2.9 hectare rectangular area of grass interspersed with closely-planted trees, mainly oak, some of which are believed to be the subject of tree preservation orders (Hufton). There is one intersecting pathway and two areas for recreation: a children's playground, and a small football pitch. The green is bordered by housing to the west and to the south, by Deanwood Drive to the east, and Parkwood Community Centre and other community buildings to the north. Some of the street names such as 'Fox Burrow Close', derive from the ancient Fox Burrow Wood.

LISTING STATUS

Parkwood Green is not registered as a park and garden by English Heritage and there is no entry in Parks and Gardens UK; nor has it been included in the KGT Kent Compendium. There are no listed buildings on the site.

² There are no references to Parkwood Green in the Medway Archives catalogue; further evidence of the development of the site may be available from local authority committee records and other local sources.

CONCLUSION

Although the site offers to the community a pleasant green space and recreation area, and is therefore an important community asset, there is no evidence of an historic designed park or landscape on the site. In the absence of an historic designed landscape falling within requisite English Heritage criteria, we have not completed a full review.

REFERENCES

Ordnance Survey map: 25" to 1 mile:

1st edition (1862-75)

2nd edition (1897-1900)

3rd edition (1907-1923)

4th edition (1929- 1952)

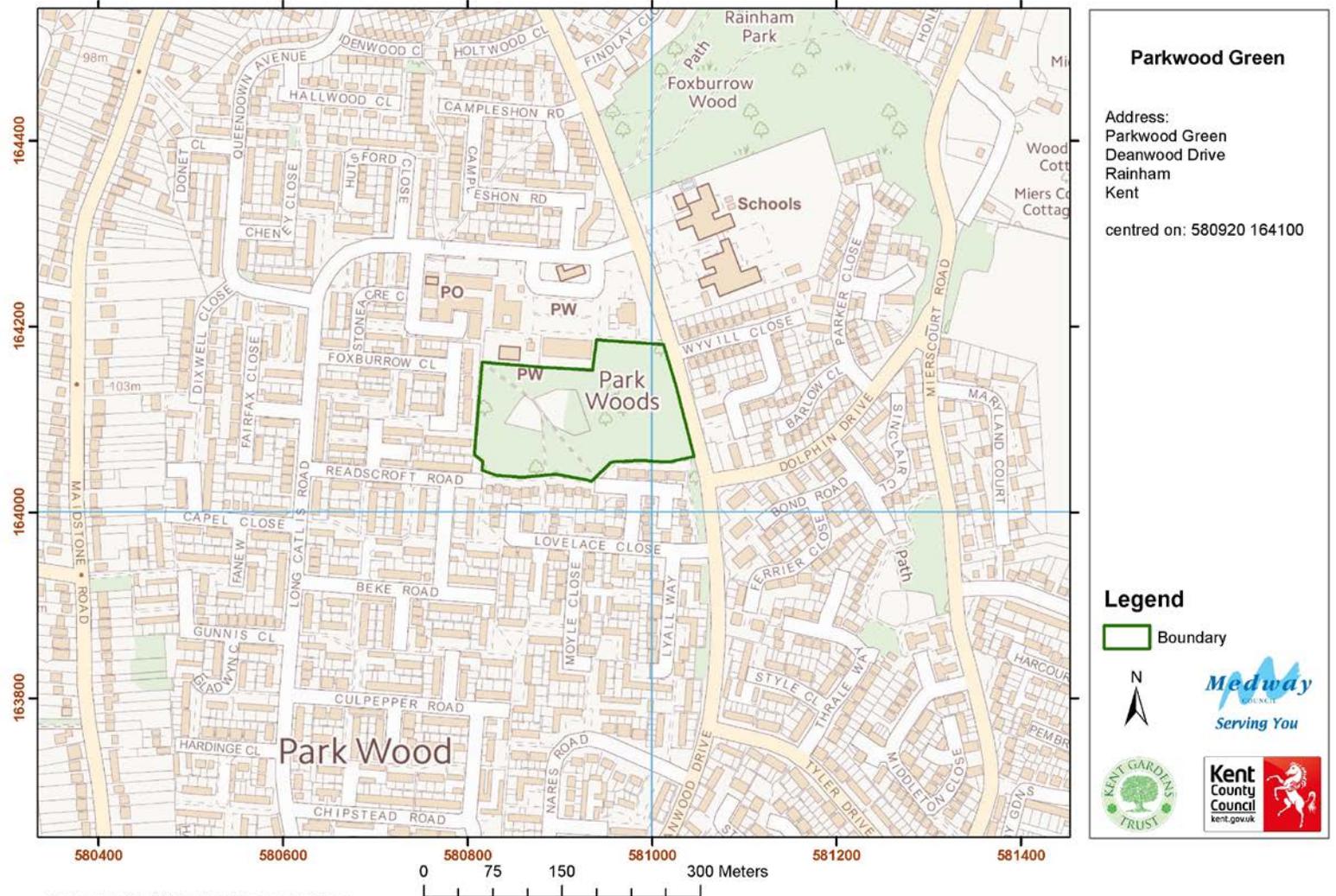
G. Hufton, *Off the Beaten Track: A Short History of Bredhurst, Wigmore, Parkwood and Hempstead* (Meresborough Books, 1993)

Paul and Beverley Howarth

March 2014

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Fig. 1 Boundary map



Produced by the KCC Heritage Conservation Group
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Fig. 2 Aerial photograph (2012)



Produced by the KCC Heritage Conservation Group

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Fig. 3 Photograph of Parkwood Green

