

Parks & Gardens UK



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The Parks and Gardens UK database (<https://www.parksandgardens.org/>) is a freely accessible online database, with records of nearly 10000 historic designed landscapes, along with more than 2400 biographies of associated people and organisations.

In 2016, the charity, Hestercombe Gardens Trust, Somerset, received Lottery funding to take on PGUK and modernise the database so that the archive can continue to grow. The database and updated website were relaunched in 2019 and are once again ready to receive data from parks and gardens researchers.

People

PRINCESS
Victoria
20/11/1840 – 05/08/1901

GARDENER
John Abercrombie
31/12/1725 – 01/05/1806

TOWN PLANNER
Leslie Patrick Abercrombie
06/06/1879 – 23/03/1957

AGRICULTURALIST
James Abercrombie, Junior
??? – ???

ARCHITECT
Henry Abraham
31/12/1882 – 01/01/1977

Places

Locality

England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Channel Islands Isle of Man Historical Location Ireland

Environment

Alpine Garden Herb Garden Coastal Garden Quarry Garden Rock Garden Roof Garden Sensory Garden Stained Garden Water Garden Woodland Garden

Period


Medieval (1066-1485) 15th Century 16th (1550-1600) 17th (1600-1714) 18th Century Late 18th Century Victorian (1837-1901) Early 20th Century (1901-1929) Mid 20th Century (1930-1945)

Type


Arboretum Cemetery Designed Urban Space Designed Urban Space Estate Farms Office Gateway Site Garden Managed woodland Mausoleum Park Plantation Public Domestic

Purpose

Agriculture And Suburbia Commemorative Commercial Crematorium Cultural Events / Display Defense Educational Food / Drink Production Library Health/Wellness Horticultural Ornamental Recreational/leisure Sacred / Ritual / Funerary Scientific Recreational / Sport Food/drink production Recreational / Leisure Cultural events/ display Other




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There are several ways you can look for records of parks and gardens. You can search for a site by name or map view, or type. Or you can select a person, such as an owner or designer, to find out which landscapes they were associated with.

Open to the public: #10726

name: Birkenhead Park
Mersynside, England



Postcode: CH41 4BY
Latitude: 53.293311
Longitude: -3.030611

Birkenhead Park is a mid-19th-century public park occupying 90 hectares. It features parkland, woodland and meadows as well as two lakes and sports facilities. It is reputed to be the oldest public park in England, and elements of its design occur in Central Park, New York.

Related People

Landscape Designer:
Joseph Paxton
John Nicholson

[Back to Results](#) [Reset Map](#)

Brief Description
Birkenhead Park is a mid-19th-century public park occupying 90 hectares. It features parkland, woodland and meadows as well as two lakes and sports facilities. It is reputed to be the oldest public park in England, and elements of its design occur in Central Park, New York.

History
Sir Joseph Paxton designed the park between 1842 and 1847. The park opened to the public for the first time on the 5 April 1847. Birkenhead was the first municipal public park in the world.


Visitor Facilities
Open daily all year; dawn to dusk. 0151 652 5197.

Terrain
The site is situated on undulating land in a residential area.

Key Information

Type: Public Park
Category: Urban Park
Principal Building: Parks, Gardens And Urban Spaces
Period: Victorian (1837-1901)
Survival: Extant
Hectares: 90
Open to the public: Yes
Last Survey: 01 Dec 2002

Designations
Conservation Area

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A thumbnail entry for the site takes you on to a fuller description, which includes the entry from Historic England’s ‘Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest’, if the landscape is Registered. PGUK also holds entries for non-designated historic designed landscapes, so is a useful platform for championing these sometimes overlooked sites.

Get involved

You do not have to be an expert on garden or landscape history to get involved in the Parks & Gardens UK project (although experts are welcome!)

To help with the project, you could:

- Research the history of a park or garden in your area, or contribute research that you have already done.
- Create a profile of a person who has been historically associated with a park or garden. Input data for other site records.
- Write an article on a garden history theme for the website.
- Take digital photos of parks, gardens, historic garden features and other artefacts.

If you are not already a member of a Gardens Trust or similar organisation, we would like to put you in touch with your nearest garden researchers. But you are welcome to register with us individually if you prefer.

If you need training on how to carry out research and recording of historic parks and gardens, we can help with that too. If you are a member of a Gardens Trust or similar organisation, we can help with that too. If you are a member of a Gardens Trust or similar organisation, we can help with that too. If you are a member of a Gardens Trust or similar organisation, we can help with that too.



Parks & Gardens UK
Knowledge. Inspiration. Conservation

RESEARCH RECORDING FORM

SITE RESEARCH AND RECORDING FORM Site

NAME, ADDRESS AND SURVIVAL

Name of main site _____

Alternative names of main site _____

Names of component area/s of main site, if any _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Survival Extant Part ground below ground level remains Part remaining remains Lost Reconstructed Unknown

OWNER/OCCUPIER (IF KNOWN)

Ownership Private Public Institutional or Commercial Other

Owner details _____

Confidential? Yes/No _____

Owner's name _____

Owner's address _____

Owner's postcode _____

If more than one owner please include details and add other names here _____

Occupiers details _____



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PGUK has long-term links with the County Gardens Trusts, many of whom have deposited their research there.

Philip White, Chief Executive of Hestercombe Gardens Trust, urges the CGTs to continue and expand this involvement with PGUK, by:

- Helping to write descriptions, based on a template provided by PGUK, for 'location landing pages', which describe each county and list its gardens.
- Sending in content, such as interesting stories from individual gardens and CGTs, to keep the News and Events pages updated.
- Sending in photographs
- Contributing their research.

You can email new content, as well as any enquiries, to info@parks@gardens.org

Research is submitted to the database via PGUK's Research Recording Form. This is currently being updated, as some researchers have found it difficult to use and it does not match well with the database fields.

Gardens Trust Presentation prepared May 2020

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