

Putney Old Burial Ground Management Plan 2010 – 2015

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September 2010

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

Site Description:

- Site Name: Putney Old Burial Ground
No known synonyms
- Location: Putney Old Burial Ground is bounded to the north by shops facing Upper Richmond Road; to the east by the properties facing Ravenna Road, including 2 private houses; to the south by Sheltered Housing in Nursery Close and to the west by several blocks of flats and a retail property.
- Map showing location is shown on page 5
- Grid reference: The grid reference of the bottom south west corner of the site is TQ23677506
- Council Ward: East Putney Ward, Elected members for this area are:
Cllr Ravi Govindia (Conservative)
Cllr Leslie McDonnell (Conservative)
Cllr Robert Morritt (Conservative)
- Site Area: The area of the site totals 3495 square metres (0.34 ha /0.86 acres).
- Tenure: The site is owned by the Church of England Southwark Diocese. Amendments to the Open Spaces Acts of 1887 and 1906 have allowed the Church of England to pass the maintenance and financial responsibility of closed, or otherwise non-viable, churchyards to the local authority.
- Management: The site is managed and maintained by Wandsworth Borough Council, with responsibility for the site taken by the Parks Service (part of the Department of Leisure and Amenity Services).
- Designations: The gardens are 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, Putney Old Burial Ground had an overall quality average score of **8.3**, which puts it in the 'Very Good' rating. Suggested improvements were the installation of interpretation boards.

Putney Old Burial Ground Park Management Plan 2010



	<p>Putney Old Burial Ground</p>	<p>(c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Wandsworth Borough Council Licence No. LA 1000019270 2009</p>	<p>Scale 1/1250 Date 22/1/2010</p>	
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History:

Putney Old Burial Ground was donated as a gift to the parish by Rev Roger Pettiward and consecrated in 1763. The graveyard around the Parish Church of St Mary's had become full by this time.

it fell to the Putney Burial Board to maintain the burial ground. The site contains a number of interesting historical tombs including a monument to Harriet Thomson, a Coade stone chest tomb with a medallion featuring a mourning woman, and several brick altar tombs. A small brick built mortuary building remains on the site adjacent to buildings on Upper Richmond Road.

The Burial Ground was closed for burial in 1854. It was made into a garden and opened to the public in 1886 but the tombstones were not moved. In 2008 Wandsworth Council completed a £43,000 project to restore several eighteenth century tombs that are all highly architectural in style, some elaborately carved with classical roundels, swags and skulls. Four of the tombs, including the Tomb of Robert Wood, are listed.

Robert Wood (1716/17-1771) was an archaeologist, adventurer and politician. He is best remembered today for his extensive work investigating classical buildings in the Middle East, and he published two important volumes on the Ruins of Palmyra (1753) and the Ruins of Baalbec (1757). His architectural engravings helped to fuel a growing passion for the ancient world in the mid-18th century. Horace Walpole thought very highly of Wood's achievements and wrote that "Of all the works that distinguish this age, none perhaps excel (Robert Wood's) beautiful editions of Baalbec and Palmyra." His sarcophagus, set on a rectangular base and decorated with lion's feet, is listed Grade II*. The Trust gave £2,500 towards the restoration of Wood's tomb and another monument. We are pleased to see these tombs restored and to have helped to revive the memory of a man whose work inspired wonderful architecture in 18th century Britain, and ultimately encouraged an archaeological re-discovery of the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East.

Site Features:

Putney Old Burial Ground is a small, enclosed area with large mature trees, grass and very small areas of ornamental planting. Four historic tombs, Grade 2 listed, are an important feature and were renovated in 2009. There are many smaller monuments, most having been laid flat in one corner of the site. A former mortuary building, listed locally as of important historic interest, is also an important feature. The cemetery has been closed to burials since 1854.

There are some unusual ferns growing on the boundary walls, including Wall Rue.

Landscape improvements were carried out in 2005 with paths, seats and railings being refurbished.

The cemetery is not easily visible from the road, being set back behind a bus shelter. An area immediately outside the single entrance, in Upper Richmond Road, forms part of the site and not part of the highway.

Formal Yew hedges line a flagstone path from the entrance, with other paths running through the remainder of the site.

There are 8 freestanding park seats and 2 litterbins, both at the entrance

The site has no lighting and is not well lit by surrounding streetlights.

Although the tombs at this site are now in reasonable condition, their presence could place a significant financial burden on the Council should further work become necessary.

The narrow gates and the presence of a bus shelter immediately outside the site restricts vehicle access.

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

Safe & Secure:

All areas of the site are visible from the entrance and from within, although the tombs obscure visibility to some extent.

Persons sitting in the burial ground are not easily visible from Upper Richmond Road, but can be seen by residents in properties surrounding the site.

There is only one entrance, which may mean users feeling trapped if a threatening situation arose. It is also perhaps less than ideal that there is no entrance at the other side of the site to facilitate "policing" of the site by people walking through. It has not proved possible to negotiate a second entrance at this side of the site.

The area is designated as "No Dogs" under current byelaws. A sign to this effect was replaced in 2009 and is in good condition.

Welcome:

There is a recently installed sign at the only entrance to the site. There is also a large granite slab outside the entrance, etched with the name of the burial ground. Two older granite seats flank the entrance gates.

The gate, currently being unlocked daily, has two leaves, with only one being swung back in the opened position when the site is unlocked. This provides a very narrow access into the site.

Clean and well maintained:

The grass is mown regularly to maintain a short dense sward. Shrub beds are weeded regularly, and hedges trimmed once a year. There is a regular litter collection programme for litter. The trees are inspected on a regular rotation, to identify any works that may be required to maintain a healthy tree stock. Footpaths are in good condition.

The entrance sign is in good condition.

There is evidence of minor damage to the recently renovated tombs.

Attention to litter clearing needs to be improved, due to the popularity of the site as a sitting out area, with an apparent need for more or larger bins to deal with use in busy periods.

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 not been found recently at Putney Old Burial Ground.

Health and well-being

Putney Old Burial Ground is essentially a small “sitting out” area, and provides a destination to walk to and an area for local workers to have lunch in.

Passive use of the area contributes to the well being of visitors.

Community involvement:

There is no known organised community involvement currently.

Service delivery:

Landscape maintenance, including maintenance of seats and bins, is carried out by contractor and monitored by the Parks Operational team based at Wandsworth Common.

Structural maintenance of buildings paths and railings is the responsibility of the Premises section of the Leisure and Amenity 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.

Organic material, collected from all sites during maintenance operations, is composted and used, when suitable, for mulching and soil improvement of ornamental planted areas.

Finance:

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

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 six mature trees on the site and three young saplings. These trees are inspected every 3 years and were in general good health at their last inspection.

Ornamental planting:

Hedges, climbing plants and other shrubs are pruned or trimmed as required.

Seats:

There are eight freestanding seats within this park. These are constructed of horizontal black recycled plastic planks, with a cast iron frame. These are model "Georgian, manufactured and supplied by Streetmaster plc. Seats installed in 2005 have frames painted green, with seats added 2008 having black frames. Two of these seats have memorial plaques fitted.

Bins:

There are two litterbins, both mounted on a shared post and sited at the entrance. These are made of steel with a rubberised lid, model HG 66 manufactured and supplied by Earth Anchors plc The colour is dark green (RAL 6005). Two bins were installed to deal with the volume of litter.

Hard / paved surfaces:

A flagstone path leads to an area where fallen gravestones have been laid flat. Other footpaths are surfaced in tarmac, with an exposed aggregate finish.

Lighting:

There is no lighting within the park.

Fencing:

An original, decorative, iron-railing fence and double gates form the boundary at the front of the site. An unattractive 3-metre high chain link fence forms the boundary on the southern side. This fence is the responsibility of the Councils Housing Department, who manage the adjacent sheltered housing. Other boundary walls are the responsibility of the relevant owners. There is no separate service gate.

Services:

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

Future Management:

Safe & Secure:

Routinely prune shrubs and trim hedges to maintain views through the site. Continue to review the southern boundary to see if a new gate could be installed to allow ready access from that side. This might alleviate any sense of being trapped if a threatening situation arose.

Welcome:

Only one leaf of the gate is being pushed open when the site is unlocked each day. Contact Parks Police to ascertain the reason for this / correct this. 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 monitoring of graffiti and vandalism to the tombs. Replace existing double litterbin with one or more larger capacity bins.

Health and well being:

Continue to encourage passive use of the site. Monitor any need for more seats.

Community involvement:

Contact any local residents groups and possibly the nearby Putney Arts Theatre (Group 64).

Sustainable approach:

Maintain restriction on use of chemicals where possible.

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ACTION PLAN

Code	Aim	Objective	Action / task	Target date	Who
PutOBG101	To make Putney Old Burial Ground a place where people feel safe and secure	Ensure users can readily see all areas	Maintain regular pruning of shrubs and hedges		Parks Service
PutOBG102		Ensure users have ready access and egress	Continue to investigate possibility of additional gate		Parks Service
PutOBG201	To make Putney Old Burial Ground welcoming and define a sense of place	.	Investigate reason for gates not being fully opened. Remedy if possible		Parks Service Parks Police
PutOBG202			Install an information board detailing history		Parks Service Technical Services Dept
PutOBG301	To provide a clean and well maintained site	Maintain recent remedial work to tombs	Continue monitoring of graffiti & vandalism		Parks Service Parks Police
PutOBG302		Encourage proper disposal of litter	Remove small litter bins and replace with one or more larger bins		Parks Service
PutOBG401	To provide a park which contributes to the health and well-being of all who use it.	Provide sufficient seats	Monitor use of site at busy times		Parks Service
PutOBG402		To increase cycle facilities to and within parks.	Investigate the potential for cycle parking		Parks Service Technical Services Dept

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Code	Aim	Objective	Action / task	Target date	Who
PutOBG501	To effectively engage with, and involve, the community in decisions made relating to Christchurch Gardens.	To carry out consultation with different user groups to influence the enhancement of this park	Contact any local groups	Ongoing	Parks Service