



Features of Richmond Park

By
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The name of every feature in the Park will have evolved for one reason or another.

In some cases we know the reason, but in others we don't. The following list sets out what is known about names currently in use. It also includes former names, particularly in the case of some Lodges, even where the present name is obvious.

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Buildings

Holly Lodge [E2]

Known from the 1730s as **Cooper's Lodge** after the Head Keeper who lived there; later (1771) called **Lucas' Lodge** after John Lucas. From the 1790s it was called **Bog Lodge** because of the large area of marshy ground which lay between the Lodge and Bog Gate. For a short period at the start of the 20th century it was known as Holly Lodge, but shortly reverted to the name Bog Lodge. Since the 1990s it has again been known as Holly Lodge, thought to be a more appealing name than Bog Lodge.



Pembroke Lodge [C3]

Named after Elizabeth, Countess of Pembroke, who was granted the building by George III. She was responsible for the extensions to what had previously been a small building for the use of a mole catcher and then of a Gamekeeper called John Trage; the extensions, designed by Sir John Soane and Henry Holland, were carried out largely in the 1780s and 1790s. The Lodge was used by the military during WWII and got into a very run-down state before Daniel Hearsam took the lease in the 1990s; a great deal of restoration and alterations were then carried out, including the creation of the Belvedere suite at the rear.



Thatched House Lodge [B6]

The Lodge has never had a thatched roof, and it is named after a thatched summer house in the grounds. The summer house was built for Sir Robert Walpole in 1727. Sir Robert spent a lot of money on Thatched House Lodge and on his weekend retreat in the Park, Old Lodge, which had formerly been Hartleton Farm.

The main building is shown on earlier maps as **Aldridge's Lodge**, it having been the home of Charles Aldridge, a Keeper, for 20 years from 1716. The next occupant was a Gamekeeper called Burchett, so the building was referred to as **Burchett's Lodge** until the name Thatched House Lodge was adopted in the 1760s.



White Lodge [F4]

The name is obvious, given the Portland stone exterior, but at the time of its construction in 1727/8 it was called **Stone Lodge**. Later it became known as **New Lodge** to distinguish it from an earlier building situated a short distance away on Spanker's Hill (just above where Pen Ponds car park now is). That earlier building was once Hartleton Farm and, later, Old Lodge. White Lodge has been the home of the junior section of The Royal Ballet School since 1955.



Royal Ballet School insignia

Woods and Plantations

Barn Wood [F2]

It is not known how this wood got its name.

Bone Cope [G4]

Although named in 2005, this cope was started by the Bone family in 1988 by purchasing and planting a tree from the Park authorities in memory of Bessie Bone who died in that year.

Trees have been added annually. In 1994 Bessie's husband Frederick Bone also died, but the annual planting has been continued by their children.



Conduit Wood [D1]

The "White Conduit" is the only built structure in the Park that appeared on the original surveyors' maps of the 1630s and which is still visible today (albeit in a different form). The conduit, the covering of which now has a brick and concrete semi-cylindrical shape, was made in around 1500 on the instructions of Henry VII so as to provide clean water for Richmond Palace which he had just restored after a disastrous fire. Conduit Wood takes its name from this conduit.



Coronation Plantation(s) [B6, C6]

There are two "Coronation Plantations" situated – confusingly – right next to each other, close to Thatched House Lodge. To the south-east of the Lodge is the plantation commemorating the coronation of Edward VII in 1902. To the north-east of the Lodge is the one planted to mark the coronation in 1953 of Elizabeth II.

Corrett's Copse [D6]

Corrett's Copse, between the Isabella Plantation and Gibbet Wood, was planted in 2004 with financial help from the local Corrett family in memory of a late family member.



Gibbet Wood [D6]

A gibbet once stood by the roadside at the top of Kingston Hill. A gibbet consisted of a metal frame in which to display, as a deterrent to others, the corpse of someone who had been hanged from a gallows. (See also Gallows Pond page 12.)

High Wood [C6]

This area of ancient woodland was once known as **Black Heath**. It is not known when or why it came to be known as High Wood; it contains some of the oldest trees in the Park.

Isabella Plantation [C5]

The name is believed to derive not from a Queen but, more prosaically, from the word *isabel*, meaning a dingy grey/yellow colour; this would have related to the colour of the sandy clay topsoil in that area. The Plantation was enclosed in 1831 by Lord Sidmouth as a game preserve and opened to the public as a woodland garden in 1953.



Jubilee Plantation(s) [E3, C2, E4]

There are three plantations which claim this name:

- The plantation south of Queen's Ride, opposite Saw Pit Plantation, dates from 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee.
- A second "Jubilee Plantation", next to Kidney Wood near Richmond Gate, contained 25 silver birches planted in 1977 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952. Most of the birches remain today.
- Also, the "King George V Jubilee Plantation", south-east of Upper Pen Pond, dates from 1935, George V having succeeded Edward VII in 1910.

King's Clump [B6]

This small group of trees up from Kingston Gate marks the coronation of Edward VII in 1902. (See also the "Coronation Plantation" entry page 6.)

Prince Charles Spinney [E5]

There were already several trees in this area, but the spinney was planted in 1951, when the prince was 3 years old. (For another visual reference to Prince Charles in the Park, see the enclosure round Two Storm Wood, which features the "Prince of Wales feathers".)

Queen Mother's Copse [G4]

Lying between White Lodge and Roehampton Gate, this dates from 1980 – the year of the Queen Mother's 80th birthday.

Sawpit Plantation [E3]

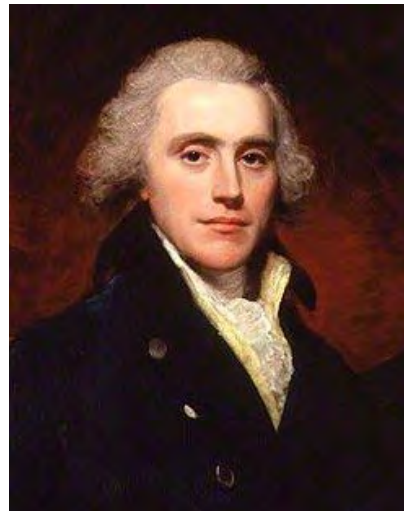
This plantation, which lies next to Queen's Ride, was planted between 1873 and 1874. It is unclear whether there was a sawpit in the vicinity: the use of the Park as a source of timber had long ceased by then. There is a record, for instance, of protests being made in 1723 against a proposal to raise money by the felling of trees – *“the wood in Richmond Park is rather for ornament than for profit”*. Some timber was necessarily felled though, as is the case now, and it is possible that a sawpit was in use in the area.

Sidmouth Wood [D2]

From 1813 until his death in 1844 Henry Addington, ennobled in 1805 as Viscount Sidmouth, was the Deputy Ranger of the Park. He occupied White Lodge from as early as 1802, having become Prime Minister in 1801.

He managed to combine the Deputy Rangership with holding the office of Home Secretary from June 1812 until January 1822. It was Sidmouth who enclosed and planted Isabella Plantation as a game reserve in 1831.

Sidmouth had a great deal of tree planting carried out, including Sheen Wood, Sheen Cross Plantation, Spankers Hill Plantation, Pen Ponds Plantation, Ham Cross Wood, Roehampton Wood, Kingston Hill Wood, Kidney Wood, Conduit Wood – and Sidmouth Wood. He was also responsible for the screen of trees around Park boundaries.



Henry Addington, 1st Viscount Sidmouth

Teck Plantation [F2]

The Duke and Duchess of Teck occupied White Lodge from 1869 until 1899. The Duchess' brother – George, 2nd Duke of Cambridge – was Ranger of the Park from 1857 until his death in 1904. The daughter of the Duke and Duchess, Princess May, married the Duke of York (the future King George V) in 1893. When pregnant with her first child she returned to White Lodge to give birth in June 1894; the child was, of course, to become King Edward VIII.

Tercentenary Plantation [E5]

This was planted in 1937, 300 years after the completion of the wall when the Park was first enclosed by Charles I. It is situated by Pen Ponds car park.

Two Storm Wood [F2]

The "hurricane" of October 1987 caused the loss of many trees in the Park. More then blew down in the "Burns' Day storm" of January 1990. The planting of Two Storm Wood replaced some of the losses. The new trees are largely in the eastern part of the wood, the western part containing many established trees. The new plantings were funded by an appeal launched by the Prince of Wales, hence the Prince of Wales feathers and "Ich Dien" motto on the gates.



Victory Plantation [G4]

This plantation, on the west side of the road leading from Roehampton Gate to Robin Hood Gate, dates from 1946 – immediately after the end of WWII.

Ponds

Adam's Pond [G2]

The pond is named after Rt. Hon. William Adam, a nephew of the architect Robert Adam, who resided at Sheen Cottage. The cottage was adjacent to the Park wall, close to the pond; it was badly damaged in WWII and was pulled down shortly afterwards. Paddle boats for children were introduced in 1920 and this use continued up to the start of the war.



Attenborough Pond [F6]

This new pond was inaugurated by Sir David Attenborough in July 2014. It lies below, and is fed by, Martin's Pond; it also drains water from the slopes of Broomfield Hill. Water from the new pond then drains down into Beverley Brook.



*Sir David Attenborough on the bench at
Attenborough Pond*

Bishop's Pond [D1]

Named after William Bishop and his son Charles, who were Assistant Keepers between 1790 and 1830.

Dann's Pond [C6]

This pond first appears on maps of 1754. It is now named after Alfred Dann, a Park Gamekeeper in the 1870s.

Gallows Pond [B6]

The pond first appears on maps in 1861 as a watering place for deer and cattle. Named after "Gallows", an area of Kingston Common marked on maps from the early 17th century.

It probably took its name from the gallows (a symbol for which is shown further south on the same map) which stood close to the present Ladderstile Gate. The gallows had originally been at Surbiton, but they were moved to a location *"between the highroad and Richmond Park wall, near the present Ladder-stile"* [quote from *A History of Richmond New Park, 1877*, itself quoting WB Biden's 1852 work *History and Antiquities of Kingston-on-Thames*].

Gallows Pond, choked with invasive weed, was re-dug in 2015 close to its original site.



1630s (pre-enclosure) map

Ham Dip Pond [B5]

This first appears on maps in 1861. Although there is clearly a "dip" exactly where the pond is situated, some maps show "Ham Dip" as being a few metres further up the slope at Ham Cross itself.



Ham Gate Pond [B4]

First shown on maps in 1754. It takes its name from the adjacent gate.

Ham Glen Pond [B5]

Lies immediately east of Ham Cross. The precise derivation of the name is unknown.

Jubilee Pond [F3]

This is located close to the access road which runs from Sheen Cross towards White Lodge; it was created to mark the present Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The Queen visited the Park on 15 May that year, and it was on that day that Sir David Attenborough, a Patron of The Friends of Richmond Park, performed an opening ceremony for the new pond.

Leg of Mutton Pond [D3]

It first appeared on maps in 1637. For a time it was called the **Pen Pond**, probably because of a nearby deer pen, although on a map of 1754 it is shown as "**Reservoir**". It was shown as being fed by "spring heads" a short distance to the north, near what is now the eastern edge of Sidmouth Wood. The pond then, in turn, fed Pen Ponds (as currently named). The pond's present name, which reflects its shape, was needed to distinguish it from the two large bodies of water which were also called Pen Ponds.



Martin's Pond [E6]

This lies beside the road from Robin Hood Gate up to Pen Ponds car park. It was excavated in 1856-61 to provide water for cattle. It is thought that Martin was a member of the Park's staff, but this is uncertain.



Peg's Pond [C5]

Peg's Pond is in the north-west corner of Isabella Plantation; it seems to have been dug in about 1861. It lay outside the original bounds of the Isabella Game Preserve and of the later Isabella Plantation; the Plantation was enlarged to include it in 1960. The island in the middle of the pond is called Wally's Island after Wally Miller, the Head Gardener chiefly responsible, together with the then Park Superintendent, for the creation of the Plantation in the early 1950s. The origin of the name of the pond itself is not known.



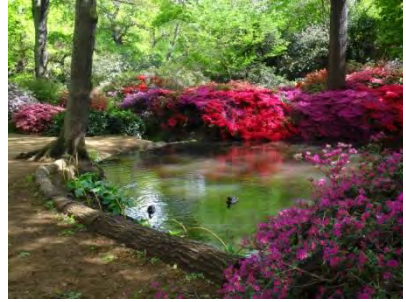
Pen Ponds (Upper & Lower) [D4, E4]

The origin of Upper Pen Pond may be a smaller 1636 pond dug by Edward Manning, the person contracted on behalf of Charles I for "the making of a pond", which would have drained the boggy area to the west of the Pond, and for the construction of the Park wall. Lower Pen Pond was probably also dug for its gravel. There were several such pits in the Park, some now ponds. Both Pen Ponds possibly assumed their present form at end of the 17th century, when known as "**The Canals**". The present Leg of Mutton Pond was originally called the Pen Pond. The "Pen" in the name will have been a deer pen, of which there were many in the Park, rather than it being a reference to a female swan.



Still Pond [C6]

Like Peg's Pond, Still Pond within the Isabella Plantation was dug in about 1861. It is fed by a spring. David McDowall writes in *The Walker's Guide to Richmond Park* that it "acts as a dark mirror reflecting the azalea and rhododendron blooms in spring".



Thomson's Pond [D5]

Thomson's Pond, in the centre of Isabella Plantation, was created in 1955. The name commemorates George Thomson, the Park Superintendent between 1951 and 1971 who, together with Wally Miller, the then Head Gardener, was chiefly responsible for the creation of the Plantation in its present form.



White Ash Pond [C4]

This first appears on maps in 1861. It is one of nine new ponds constructed in the mid-19th century as watering places for deer and cattle. It is situated close by White Ash Lodge, built in the 1730s or 1740s to accommodate the Deputy Keeper of the Park. The reason for the Lodge's name is unclear.

Other Features

Beverley Brook [H3]

The name seems to come from the Saxon term *beofor-lac*, which means a beaver stream; beavers will have been common here before they became extinct in the 11th or 12th century.



Bishop's Gate [D1]

Named after William Bishop; he and his son Charles were Assistant Keepers between 1790 and 1830. It was for a time also known as **Cattle Gate**, its purpose having been to allow the entry of cattle which were permitted to pasture in the Park.



Bog Gate [E1]

A large area to the south-east of the gate was for many years very poorly drained, and was in effect a bog. It was not drained until 1855. For a few years the gate was known as **Queen's Gate**: it was created in 1736 for Queen Caroline, who would use her private right of way across East Sheen Common to approach Queen's Ride on her way to White Lodge. Caroline died in 1737, and some time later the gate acquired its current name.



Broomfield Hill [E6]

Richardson's plan of 1771 shows this area as **Black Heath**. On maps of 1843 and 1851 it is shown as **Broom Hill**. Thereafter, it has had its current name. There are two theories as to the derivation: (i) Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) used to grow there or (ii) it used to be called **Bloomfield Hill** because of the variety of spring flowers which used to appear there.

Cambrian Gate [D1]

This is situated at the end of Cambrian Road. It was constructed in 1916 for access to the newly built South Africa Military Hospital. When the hospital was demolished in 1925, the entrance was made permanent and public as a pedestrian gate.



Chohole Gate [H6]

This gate served the farm that stood on the site of the present Kings Farm Plantation – ie on the golf course site, due north of Chohole Gate. The gate is first mentioned in 1680 when a warrant was issued for the cutting of grass “in the paddock near Chohole Gate”. The gate now provides access to Richmond Park Golf Course. The name probably derives from charcoal, which was either burned in this vicinity or taken out of the Park through the gate.



Dark Hill [B7]

Dark Hill is between Kingston Gate and Ladderstile Gate. The name suggests a heavily wooded area but the derivation is not really known.

Killcat Corner [H4]

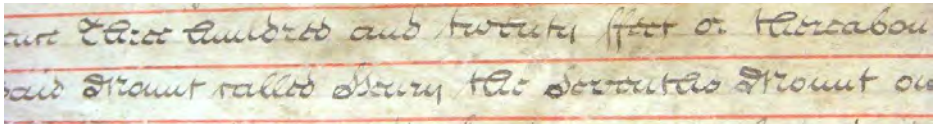
The derivation of this curious name is not known. The area, next to Beverley Brook, bears no particular name on early maps, but is shown as "Kill Cat Corner" on a map of 1876.

King Henry's Mound [C2]

This feature has had several names over the centuries. On the enclosure maps of the 1630s it is shown as "**The King's Standing**". In some Letters Patent of December 1791 it is described as "**King Henry the Seventh's Mount**". In later maps it is shown variously as King Henry's Mount, King Henry's Mound, King Henry VIII's Mount and King Henry VIII's Mound.



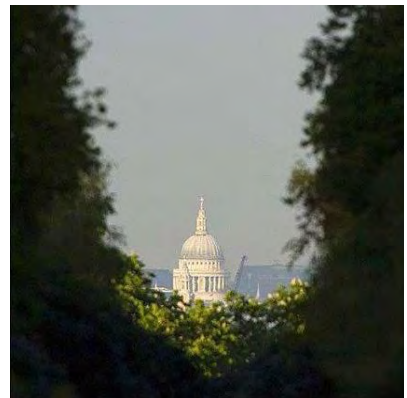
Pre-enclosure map showing "the King's Standynge"



*Extract from Letters Patent of 1791 referring to the "Mount called Henry the Seventh's Mount"
Copyright of Surrey History Centre*

It is unclear how the Mound acquired any of these names. Prior to the Park's enclosure in the mid-1630s the Crown did own some disparate areas of land within what later became Charles I's New Park; some association must have existed between a King and the Mound. The Mound may have been used as a base for hunting with a hawk: an area in Petersham Park below the Mound was known as "the Warren", and rabbits and hares could well have been hunted by hawks.

Various kings will have hunted in "Richmond Park" over the centuries, but it should be remembered that the area now known as Old Deer Park used to be called Richmond Park.



*View of St Paul's from the Mound
courtesy of Patrick Eagar*

The present Park was for a long time known as “Richmond New Park” so as to distinguish it from the original one. A guidebook published as late as 1877 refers to Richmond New Park. The original park, which had for many years extended only to about 50 acres, was enlarged to about 350 acres by James I in 1604/5 – ie in the first couple of years of his reign.

(Even more confusingly, if one goes back to the first half of the 15th century the small park immediately to the west of Richmond (“Shene”) Palace – ie what is referred to above as the original park – was for a time itself known as “the New Park of Shene” and at the same time a “New Park of Richmond” was over on the Middlesex bank! The explanation is that that latter area was dependent on, and associated with, the Palace of Sheen/Richmond, and therefore took that as its name.)

So there is much room for confusion as to what area was actually being referred to when “Richmond Park” was mentioned. Dates are crucial; the idea that Henry VIII was roaming across the present-day Richmond Park are fanciful: he had been dead for 90 years by the time Charles I completed the wall round Richmond Park in 1637.

And there is no evidence that Henry waited on the Mound on 19 May 1536 to see or hear a signal from The Tower of London to signify that Anne Boleyn’s execution had taken place. Henry seems to have been in Windsor that morning on his way to Wolff Hall (“Wulffhall”), the seat of Jane Seymour’s family in Wiltshire. (Henry became betrothed to Jane the very next day – 20 May, and they were married on the 30th.) The fact that you can’t see the Tower from the Mound also seems to be a problem for the traditional tale.



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Ladderstile Gate [C7]

This was one of the six original gates when the Park wall was completed in 1637; it was once known as Coombe Gate and provided access to the Park for the parishioners of Coombe, with both a gate and a step ladder (a “ladder stile”). The gate was locked in the early 1700s and the ladder stile was removed, probably in the early 1740s when Walpole started to restrict public access to the Park. The stepladder was reinstated in 1758 after a successful court case brought by Richmond brewer John Lewis to restore the ability of the public to use the historic rights of way across the Park. It retained the name “Ladderstile” since it was the last gate to lose its stile, which occurred in about 1884. The present gate dates from 1901.



Lawn Field [E4]

“Lawn” is thought to derive from the medieval word “*laund*”, an open space in a wood or forest – ie a glade or pasture. [*“Through this laund anon the deer will come”* – Shakespeare, King Henry VI Pt III Act 3.]

Pond Slade [C4]

This area is adjacent to Ham Cross Plantation. A slade was an open valley or an expanse of boggy ground.

Queen's Ride [E3]

Although White Lodge was being planned as a hunting lodge for George I, he died in 1727 while it was under construction. The project was therefore taken over by George II and Queen Caroline. The couple stayed at Richmond Lodge, in an area that is now within Kew Gardens.

Queen's Ride was created in 1736 for Caroline, as part of a series of largely private roads en route to Richmond Lodge. She (and, presumably, the King) would then exit the Park at what was for a time known as "Queen's Gate" (now Bog Gate), and from there along a private road across East Sheen Common. Caroline died in 1737 after a botched operation, so her use of Queen's Ride was short-lived.



Queen's Ride viewed from the grounds of White Lodge

Robin Hood Gate [F6]

The gate was originally known as **Wimbledon Gate**, but soon acquired its present name from an inn situated nearby on the Portsmouth Road, itself named after associations the area had with medieval May Games featuring "Robin Hood" and his associates.



Sawyer's Hill [E2]

James Sawyer became the Park's Head Keeper in 1795, and was in the post for 30 years until his death in 1825. He lived in Holly Lodge, close to what is now known as Sawyer's Hill. Sawyer's son, also James, succeeded to the position on the death of his father, and Henry Sawyer then held the post from 1872 until 1904.

Spankers Hill [F5]

Derivation is not known. Like some other planted areas, such as Sidmouth Wood and the Isabella, it was originally a game preserve.

Sudbrook [B4]

The name of this brook which runs through Petersham Park simply means "southern brook".

"The Way" Gates [C2]

These gates on the edge of Sidmouth Wood frame the protected vista to St Paul's Cathedral and were installed to mark the tercentenary of the Cathedral. The oak branches represented in the ironwork morph into a concave top to the gates which suggests a reflection of the Cathedral's dome.

There is an epigraph of 'The Way' incorporated into the gates and an acknowledgement to Sir Christopher Wren, through a small wren sitting low down in the foliage. A robin sings from the opposite branch.

The bark texture has been created to promote algae and lichen growth low down on the gates. This will soften the metal work and blend with the natural environment of Richmond Park.

The gates were kindly donated by the family of renowned environmentalist and founder of *The Ecologist* magazine, the late Edward Goldsmith, through The Royal Parks Foundation. 'The Way' was the title of one of Edward Goldsmith's best known books.

They were designed by artist blacksmith Joshua De Lisle.



Thomson's Teeth

George Thomson, the Park Superintendent between 1951 and 1971, had thousands of wooden stakes put in the ground close to the roads so as to prevent cars from straying from the tarmac.



Thomson's teeth near Richmond Gate

Map

