The Common has been a centre for military activity over the centuries. During the 16th century archery was practised here. Successive monarchs, from George III to Edward VII have also visited the area to inspect large gatherings of troops. Sir William Congreve tested military rockets over the Common during the early 1800’s and Queen Victoria attended the first meeting of the National Rifle Association in 1880. Military activity continued during the two world wars, when the area was used for training and civic defence purposes.

At the heart of the Common lies Wimbledon Windmill, a hollow post mill built in 1817 by local carpenter Charles March. It ceased working as a mill in 1864 and was later converted into cottages. In the adjoining Mill House Robert Baden Powell wrote “Scouting for Boys” (1907), the book which led to the creation of the Boy Scout Movement. The Windmill now houses the Museum.

The Ridgeway runs from the Village along the top of Wimbledon Hill, ultimately joining Copse Hill to form part of an historic route to Kingston. During the nineteenth century it formed a small community in its own right, with varied shops, catering for everyday needs. There are three churches, one of the north side, two on the southern slopes. Until recently, the area also held two public houses. The roads to the south of the Ridgeway contain numerous buildings of note. These include model cottages on Denmark Road designed by an eminent Victorian architect, Samuel Teulon; early nineteenth century cottages at 5–17 Ridgway; plus Linden and Brickfield Cottages on Oldfield Road. By contrast, many of the properties built to the north of the Ridgeway are grander houses, built during the late Victorian period.

Wimbledon Park comprises the park itself, but also the adjacent roads and the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Wimbledon Park is a Grade II* Historic Park. The English Heritage listing states that "Brown's lake, and the lawned and wooded scene round from the south-east to north-west is a remarkable landscape survival within 20th century London." Horse Close Wood and Ashen Grove Wood are remnants of much earlier woodlands within the park. During the 16th century this area was a deer park of nearly 400 acres. In 1765, Earl Spencer commissioned Capability Brown to landscape his estate and many of the improvements are still visible. The park can be approached from Arthur Road, passing the Artesian Well, into Home Park Road which offers extensive views of the lake and park. On the far side of the park is the All England Lawn Tennis Club, site of the famous annual tennis championships. The Club was originally based in Worple Road, and moved to its current premises in 1922.

Wimbledon Village is situated on a plateau, Wimbledon's earliest evidence of habitation is the Iron Age fort on the adjacent Common. Wimbledon is mentioned in the Domesday Book as part of the Manor of Mortlake. Wimbledon Village has always been popular due to its closeness to London. The idyllic position attracted the gentry and wealthy businessmen who built their splendid homes close to the Common. Many of these homes can be seen today, although some have been subdivided, and one, Cannizaro House is now an hotel.

Wimbledon Common lies north of Wimbledon Village. It is bordered by Parkside to the east and Putney Heath to the north, spreading west down to the Kingston by-pass. The Common comprises areas of woodland, scrubland, heathland, natural ponds and mown sections in addition to playing fields, golf courses and horse rides. It is an area of scientific interest due to the varied and unusual species of flora and fauna.

It is evident from the discovery of Neolithic hunting tools and Bronze Age round barrows, that Wimbledon Common has been used since ancient times. By the medieval era, common land was set aside by the Lord of the Manor for the use of his tenants or ‘commoners’ who were entitled to graze their cattle and collect firewood.

In 1864 Earl Spencer, Lord of the Manor, sought Parliamentary backing for the enclosure of 700 acres to be used as private parkland and sites for development. Fortunately after 4 years of litigation, Royal assent was given to a new Bill, the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act 1871. This led to the formation of a Board of Conservators with responsibility for maintaining and protecting the Common.

Wimbledon Town Centre developed with the arrival of the railway. The original railway line linked Vauxhall with Woking, however by 1869 additional branch lines made Wimbledon an important railway junction. This, together with further modernisation including a piped water supply via Raynes Park and the construction of sewage works near the Wandle (1875) spurred development to the south of Wimbledon Hill. This area came to be known as the Broadway. Residential development here was chiefly aimed at craftsmen and working people employed in the service industries, construction and the retail sector.

Merton Park lies to the south of Wimbledon centre. Although there is evidence of late Saxon occupation, houses date from early 1700s along Kingston Road and around the Church. The area became well connected when the railway station opened in 1868. John Innes bought land known as Lower Merton in 1860. Military activity continued during the two world wars, when the area was used for training and civic defence purposes.

This Leaflet has been written and produced by the LB Merton Conservation Team: Civic Centre, London Road Morden SM4 5DX

Get the most out of your visit to Wimbledon and the surrounding area with this handy online video

www.merton.gov.uk/attractions

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www.wimbledonsociety.org.uk
www.wimbledonuseum.org.uk
St Mary's Garden Hall

1905, Arts and Crafts style; numbers 3 and 7, 1904, Dutch style, stucco and Moffat, late Gothic Revival style

St Mary's Garden Hall, the outstanding contemporary Grade II, mid 19C, stucco, stag removed for safety, number 33, Arts and Crafts manner

Locally listed houses along Parksride, number 44, Vernacular Tudor; number 43, 1925, Neo Classical; number 42, 1930 with Dutch gable and Palladian window; number 38, 1900, Neo Vernacular; number 37, 1901 with green slate, brick detail; number 34/a 1910, Neo Vernacular Tudor; numbers 33/30, number 29, 1904 Jacobean detail, numbers 28 and 26-23 A

Falconhurst, 36 Parksride, Grade II, 1902, EJ May, Arts and Crafts manner

Drinking fountain and horse trough, Grade II, 19C, cast iron drinking fountain and granite drinking trough originally in the Strand WC2 B2

Pound, an area to hold stay animals when locals had grazing rights B2

War Memorial, Grade II B2

22 Parksride, contemporary single storey dwelling and studio designed by Richard Rogers for his parents in the 1970s B2

6 and 7 The Green, both Grade II, mid 18C, later alterations B2

1 The Green, possibly mid 18C, altered 1829, home of Sir William Congreve inventor of rockets used in 1812 war. 3 and 4 The Green, both built 1905, brick ground floor and rendered up above notable with notable red decorative features B2

Claremont House, 44, 45 and 46 High Street, Grade II, built part 17C and 18C with a timber-framed wing, part close to the road was a general store in 18C, later extended in early 19C B2

Pair of early 19C cottages tucked between shops B2

Rose and Crown, High Street, part 17C, late 18C early 19C public house, note multi pane sash windows; recently sympathetically extended B2

Eagle House, Grade II, 1613, Robert Bell, restored 1887 TJG Jackson, Blue Plaque for Arthur Schopenhauer B2

Ashford House, High Street, Grade II, 1720 with 19C shopfronts B2

Edwardian and Victorian shopfronts on Grade II listed buildings; 35, 37a & 57 High Street, 18C included starters, now converted B2

32 and 34 High Street, Grade II, mid-late 18C shops, 19C shopfronts with bars at rear B2

Village Club and hall, Grade II, 1859, SS Teuillon, enlarged 1879, TJG Jackson, Gothic Revival B2

Wimbledon Museum of Local History situated over the Village Club, open weekends B2

Artesian Well, Grade II, 1798, converted to residence 1975 B3

9 Arthur Road, The Well House, 1866, Victorian Tudor Gothic, ornate brickwork, artist studio of same era in garden B2

Views over historic Wimbledon Park Grade II from Home Park Road A3

The White Pavilion, 1925, unusual concrete building, roof formed terraced entrance into the Park off Home Park Road A3

The Lake, Wimbledon Park, formed by 'Capability' Brown in 1767 A3

The Arts and Crafts Barns Pavilion, Wimbledon Park, with clock tower A3

AELTC, Wimbledon Park Road, venue for the Wimbledon Championships; Tennis Museum A3

Beech Holme, 49 Parksride, home of Joseph and Arnold Toynbee and S Parksride, Apostolic Nunciature, Grade II CW Stephens, faced in Portland stone with Doric pilasters; green slate roof A2

Wimbledon Windmill and Mill Road, Wimbledon Common, Grade II* built 1817-18, two storey octagonal building supporting a weather boarded body with four sails, converted into cottages in 1885s, now a windmill museum open at weekends April to October A1

Queensmere, in a hollow close to the windmill, an attractive artificial lake fed by natural springs

Queensmere, in a hollow close to the windmill, an attractive artificial lake fed by natural springs

Caesar's Well, no connection to Caesar but is close to Caesar's Camp, in the centre of a ring of trees, also fed by a spring B3

Caesar's Camp, Scheduled Ancient Monument, late Bronze Age or Iron Age Fort c800BC, circular earthwork, defensive ditch and bank, 43 ha. B1

Study School, Grade II was known as the Round School original built 1758-61 and extended in 1800s, continually used as a school B1

Kier Cottage, interesting built into the boundary wall of Cannizaro Park B4

West Side Place, early cottages, Blue Plaques at 8 North View for Josephine Butler and Sir Ernst Chan at number 9 B1

Fox and Grapes Public House, 18C, Camp Rd. B1

Kier, Westside, Grade II, built 1789, substantial detached manor house in stone, slate roof with porch with Doric columns B1

Stanford, Westside, Grade II, 1720, rendered brick with slates, finial to the roof, decorative fanlight and six panelled doors B2

Cannizaro Park, Grade II* Historic Park open to the public B1

Cannizaro House Hotel, previously home of Viscount Melville and later the Duke of Cannizaro; locally listed B1

Hanford Row, Grade II row of cottages, 1770, Mansard roof with dormers, built as local workers cottages B2

7/7a Westside, Grade II former stables, now flats, 1760, steeply pitched pantiled roof with dormers, brick modillion cornice, linked pairs of chimneys B2

Westside House, Grade II, 1760, substantial house now flats, brown brick with red detail, low pitched slate roof behind parapet, extended early C19 B2

Worley House, Grade II, substantial detached house by EJ May, Domestic Revival with stone mullions B2

Chester House, Grade II, c1700 or earlier, plumb brick, red brick and deeply pitched hipped roof, window added 20C B2

Cromwell's Half Acre, small green opposite pubs traditionally a community meeting place C2

Hand and Pincers, Grade II, two very old pubs, one originally owned by the Whatnay Family and origins of the famous brewer C2

Mid 18C cottages, Grade II row of cottages C1

Gothic Lodge, Woodwayes Road, Grade II, 1760 Gothic style in stucco with low-pitched slate roof, Tudor arched doorway, first house in London to have electric light, home of Captain Frederick Mannay C2

Southside House, Woodwayes Road, Grade II*, and Coach House, Grade II, substantial house with 1867 façade incorporating earlier building; Coach House, 18C, open to the public summer weekends C2

Pilar Box, Grade II, 1866-79, Cast iron, hexagonal Penfold type C2

King's College School and other local listed properties of note on Southside C2

School Hall, Grade II, 1899 by Sir Banister Fletcher in red brick practice C2

Lauriston Cottage, Grade II, c1700, formally stables to the lost Lauriston House, now two cottages and head quarters to Lauriston Runners, William Wilberforce stayed on this site B2

Village Well, used by the local community as the main source of fresh water B2

1 and 2 The Grange, both Grade II, built 1889, number 1 by AST Atherstone, Georgian Revival, number 2 by EJ May B2

1 Ridgway, 1900, SS Teuillon, Victorian Tudor B3

1 Grosvenor Hill, 1900, also by SS Teuillon in Victorian Gothic B3

3 Ridgway, 1900, Tudor Vernacular Revival B3

3a Ridgway and 1-13 Oldfield Road, 18C terrace of Cottages, locally listed, Georgian twelve pane sashes B2

5 Ridgway, late 19C forms end of terrace B2

7-17 Ridgway, late 18C/early 19C terrace, fan shaped flat arches over 12 pane Georgian sashes B2

Emmanuel Church, late 19C, Victorian Gothic, Gothic timber work, Venetian bell tower B2

19-27 Ridgway, early 19C terrace, twelve pane sashes, massive chimney B2

Sheep Walk Mews formed a path along the side of the Lingfield Estate B2

Telephone Exchange, 1939, red brick/Ponson stone, example of the period, curved façade at corner C2

Telephone Boxes, Grade II, Type K6, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, cast iron and domed roof B2

St John's Church, Grade II, 1875, TJG Jackson, late Gothic C3
St Winifred’s Church, Grade II, 1904, Frederick A Walters, Romanesque C4
153-163 Merton Rd. Six semi detached houses with coach houses, 1860, Classical influence, round headed windows, stone quoin, chimneys B3
South Wimbledon Station, Grade II, 1926, Charles Holden, Underground Station one of a number by Holden on the Northern Line C4
Pelham High School, Grade II, 1900 Wren Revival, brick with stone dressings, now flats C4
Wimbledon Theatre, Grade II, 1910, Cecil Massey and Roy Young, possible based on Frank H Jones design, elaborate Baroque and Adamesque interiors C4
Ashbourne Close, small Victorian residential close, which has resisted development C4
Bertram Cottages, Henry Charles Forde, five terraces of two storey houses built 1870s, red brick detail, commissioned by Keziah Peache of the Cottage Improvement Society C4
Prince of Wales and attached buildings, Victorian “town” public house, Victorian Classical, ornate tilting and clock C3
Merton Hall, Kingston Road, 1899, red/brown brick, stone detail, clock tower C4
116-118 Kingston Road, 1904, red brick, carved stone detail, Palladian window C4
120 Kingston Road, Manor House, Grade II, 1700s, detached house, now offices C4
Rutlish Road Merton Park Railway Station, mid 19C, small station building, no longer in use C4
148 Kingston Road, 1880s, Quartermain, Arts and Crafts influenced, red bricks, hanging tiles, timber detailing C4
Dorset Hall, Grade II, late 18C, plumb brick, red detail, 19C Doric porch C4
162 Kingston Road, (2a Church Lane) 1886, Quartermain, red brick and stone detail, hanging tiles, optics, brickwork, timber detailing C4
180 Kingston Road, 1797, red brick with yellow gauged brickwork, semi circular window, simple flat roofed porch D3
Telephone Box, Grade II, K6, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, cast iron, domed roof D3
192-200 Kingston Road, 1887-88, Quartermain, one detached and two pairs of semis, each with distinct features, red brick, blue polychromatic window, hanging tiles, ornate ridge tiles, Oriel windows, circular windows, stained glass, gauged brickwork, timber work D3
Long Lodge, Grade II, 18C and later, home of Frederick Shields, pre-Raphaelite, now offices D3
Leather Bottle, 1893, Arts and Crafts influenced, ornate bandwork, ornate ridge tiles, stone banding, coloured glass D3
9-17 Watery Lane, early 20C, Brocklesby, Arts and Crafts influenced, brick detailing, six pane timber casements, bay windows, circular windows D3
8 Watery Lane, Brair Cottage, 1888, Quartermain, wide fronted, ornate hanging tiles, gauged brickwork, moulded bricks, stained glass, timber detailing D3
10-12 Watery Lane, 1884-87, Quartermain, render and timber frame, ornate hanging tiles, timber brackets, ornate timber D3
14 Watery Lane, late 19C, end of terrace, rural, faces to the side, cantered bricks on chimney D3
38-48 Watery Lane, 1895, Quartermain, Neo Vernacular influence, ornate ridge tiles, brick detail chimneys, stone quoins, large park, hanging tiles, tall staircase and dormer windows D3
Manor House (Rutlish School) Grade II, 1895-98, Quartermain, stock brick, red brick patterning, stone dressing. Home of John Innes D3
John Innes Park,originally the centre for John Innes horticultural research D3
Park Lodge John Innes Park, late 19C to early 20C, moulded brick detail, timberwork, chimney brick design D3
The Gardener's Cottage, John Innes Park, 1890, Neo Vernacular, ornate ridge and hanging tiles, brick detail chimney design D3
Toilets, John Innes Park, 1909, Arts and Crafts influenced, timber frame, herringbone brick infill, curved roof profile, leaded glass, metal brackets on eaves D3
Bandstand, John Innes Park, late Victorian or Edwardian, rustic timberwork, curved roof slope, metal roof final D3
27, 29 Mostyn Road, 1911/13, Brocklesby, Arts and Crafts influenced, Dutch gables, front gable with corbelled base, brick detail, front bay, leaded glass, front porch B3 D3
35 Mostyn Road, Flint Barn, 1923 earlier timbers used, Brocklesby, reinforced concrete faced in flint, tiled roof, red brick chimney, lead panes, double height hall and entrance D3
54 and 54a Mostyn Road, 1912, Brocklesby, Arts and Crafts influence, detail on chimneys, curved roof, projecting eaves over bays D4
32-38 Mostyn Road, 1890, Quartermain, Neo Vernacular, unusual roof, chimney design, timber frame, ornate timberwork D3
28-30 Church Path, 1903, a pair of semis by Quartermain, Arts and Crafts influenced, ornate tile hanging, chimneys detail, the moulded brick, porch, leaded glass, the woodwork bargeboards, brackets at the base D3
15-23 Church Path, a terrace including a rare late 17C cottage D4
Vicarage, 1819 additions 18C, gauged brick lintels, leaded and timber window D3
St Mary’s Church, Merton Park, Grade II, 12C and later; north and south door of chancel, 12C; wrought iron, 13C; north porch, restored 15C, 1856 south aisle F Digweed, 1897 west arch Quartermain D4
12C arched gateway from Merton Priory, Grade II re-erected on-site in 1935 D4
War Memorial, Grade II, 1821, Mr. Burke-Dowling D4
Playing fields, Church Lane, bounded by Grade II walls and gates 16C/17C and Church House 1925, traditional design D4
30 Church Lane, Old School House, (Richard Thornton) last half 19C, addition 1901, Victorian gothic, red brick and stone detail, rose windows, arches, bell tower D4
31-61 Church Lane, four terraces of dwellings built by Brookesby and Quartermain D4
23 and 2 Melrose, semis, 1907, Brocklesby, Arts and Crafts influenced, patterned brickwork, quoin, chimney, corner buttresses, curved roof D4
11-14 Melrose, 1904/06, two pairs of semis, 11/12 Brocklesby, 13/14 Quartermain, both Arts and Crafts influence, brick at ground floor, pebbledash first floor, brick detailing D4
2/4 Sheridan Road, 1907, pair of detached houses, Brocklesby, Arts and Crafts influenced, shallow bays, two pitch roofs, coloured brickwork D4

21-22, 33-34-35-36 and 39-40 Denmark Road, mid 19C cottages C2
Model Cottages by S S Tuelon, Grade II, mid to late 19C C2
Victorian shopping parade, Ridgway, once covered all shopping needs C2
54 Ridgway, 1908, Grade II including gate posts, T JG Jackson in Queen Anne Revival C2
The Swan Inn, livery stables at rear still in use C2
1 Lauriston Road, Grade II, 1900, T JG Jackson in Georgian Revival, home of Robert Graves C2
9 Lauriston Road, Grade II, 1892-4, Sir Ernest George C2
15/a Lauriston Road, Grade II, 1899, James Ransome, Dutch gable, segmented headed entrance C2

Thornford Road East, early cottages, possibly early Georgian lying behind 13-17 Thornford Road, 1877-83 C2
Slip, one of a number of ancient slips that transverse the hill between Ridgway and Worples Road C2
Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Grade II, 1886-1901, FA Walters, Decorated Gothic, Flint dressings, Victorian Revival, home of Robert Graves C2
Wimbledon College, Edge Hill, Grade II, 1860, additions 1865-7 SS Tuelon, Chapel 1896-98 FA Walters C2
Cottage with Cartshed below, Grade II, 1860, SS Tuelon C2
Small Gothic style lodge, Edge Hill, set back from the road, all that remains of a larger estate C2
Original All England Tennis Club site, Nursery Road, Pavilion, Early 20C; the Wimbledon Tennis Championships were first played here C3
Pavement, 1907, terrace of small shops with upper parts, strongly Classical, moulded bricks, quality brickwork detail B3
St Mark’s Place, 1860, short terrace, which originally held small businesses including a forge, St Marks Church, 1868, unusual pentangle plan B3
Alexandra Public House, late 19C early 20C, Greek Classical detail around doorways, stone and brick detailing B3
Town Hall façade, Grade II, 1898-31, by AJ Hope of Bradshaw, Gas and Hope, Stripped Classical, formally Wimbledon Town Hall now front shops continue
Corner of Broadway and The Queen’s Road, curved Victorian shopping parade C3
Baptist Church façade and Fire Station façade also front Queen’s Road elevation of the shopping centre; Fire Station façade, Grade II, 1904 by Charles Hanlet Cooper C4
Police Station, Queen’s Road, 1900, red brick, stone detail C4
South Park Gardens, Grade II historic park, also contains Grade II drinking trough and fountain; Victorian development of housing with park B4
Holy Trinity Church, Wimbledon Broadway, mid 19C, Gothic, wooden shingle spire, interesting shaped slates; Church Hall, 1928, now Polka Theatre, dedicated to children’s entertainment C4

2-34, 36-38, 40 and 42 Kingston Road, late 19C, 1807, 1826, 1842; 44 and 45, early 20C, Arts and Crafts influenced, arts and crafts detailing, timber and stone detailing, followed by modern flats C4

4 Eagle House
6-24 Dorset Road, Quatermain, 6/8 1880s, 10/12 1902, 14 1880s, 18-24 1902, mainly influenced by Arts and Craft movement, collection of styles over time D4
5/7 Dorset Road, 1884, Newell, timber detailing, oriel, jetted side bay and staircase windows, brick detail C4
16 Langley Road, 1880s, Marsh, polychromatic and other brickwork detail, gothic and round headed arches, carved stone lintels, timber bargeboards D4
1 Sheridan Road, 1875, Marsh, Vernacular Revival, timberwork detail, brick detail, cantered bricks on chimneys, ornate brickwork D4
3 Sheridan Road, 1900, Victorian, Neo Vernacular, includes red brick, render or pebbledash above, stone detail, hanging tiles, brick detail, leaded glazing, timber detail D4
36 Sheridan Road, 1884, Quatermain, Neo Vernacular, ornate ridge and hanging tiles, detailed timberwork, chimney brick detail D3
17a Sheridan Road, 1890, Quatermain, Neo Vernacular, coach house, steep double gable roof, timber detail, ornate tile hanging D3
36/40 Sheridan Road, 1924, Brocklesby, unusual use of brick detail, flat window arched D3

Eagle House