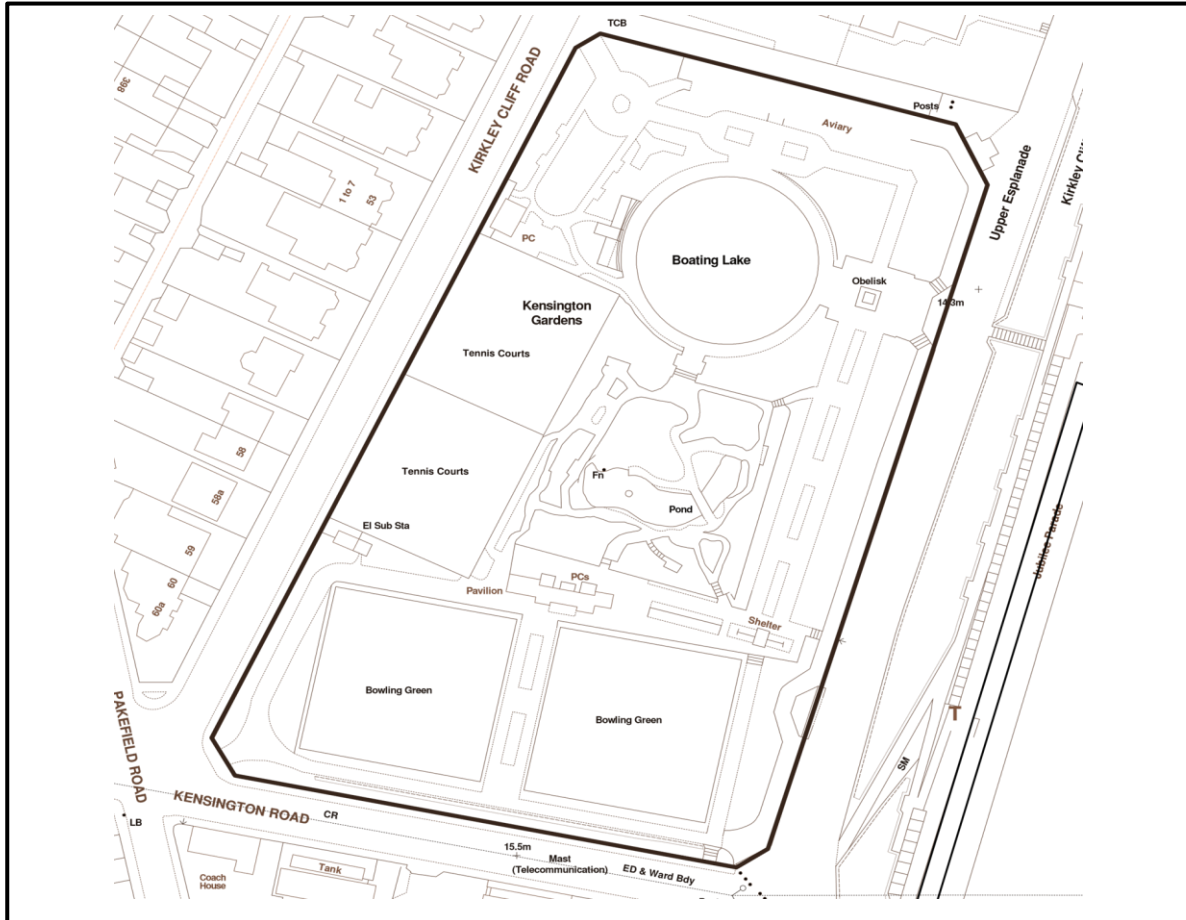


# Kensington Gardens, Lowestoft, Suffolk



## Current Site information

Ward: Kirkley

Site Reference:

Area:

Specification: Destination Park

Covenants:

Special Status: Conservation Area

TPOs:

Entrances: 5

Services: Water, electricity, drainage, gas?

Access: Four entrances with pedestrian and vehicular access

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Facilities on site: Café, Toilets, Park Keepers Store, Bowling Pavilion, 2 Bowling Greens, 4 tennis courts, Oriental garden, boating lake, kiosk, boats store, memorial, Long border, compost bin, promenade building, noticeboard

Current main use of site:

Park and sports area

## Future planned use of site:

Destination Park based around its heritage as a Victorian Pleasure Garden and its links with Kensington Gardens in London and through that Peter Pan.

Originally had a Japanese Garden however the soil is not acidic enough to recreate and the ground is very compressed in the Japanese garden due to the trees and old planting. Need to discuss with Friends Group whether to recreate the Japanese Garden or create a new dell garden. This would affect design of the structure.

### Key Development Opportunities:

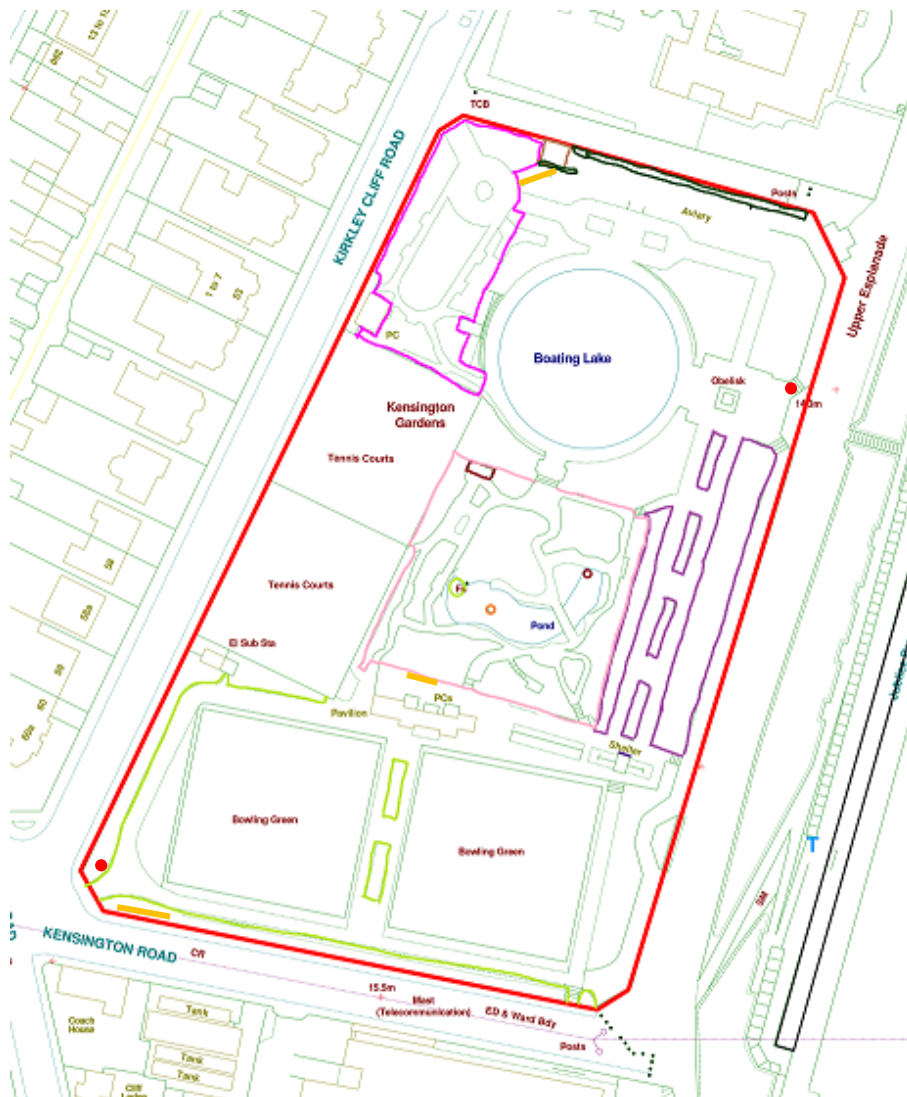
- Roofed pergola to rear of “Japanese Garden”
- A new Peter Pan sculpture for the fish pond. Either Peter Pan and merfolk or Pen Pan and pirates ship to make it more unique and link in the maritime location to Peter Pan.
- Possibly a fun second statue of a crocodile with an actual working clock or clock with movable hands in its mouth emerging from the pond at one end.
- “Lost boys” sculptures in the trees incorporating wildlife houses etc
- Addition to the Bowls Club – linking the café to the bowls club to still maintain the two access points but with a continuous roof, a central covered bench area, and an enclosed extension at the bowls club end to contain bowls equipment at the front and a shallow store at the rear for Friends gardening tools (see diagram).
- CCTV possibly in 3 – 4 locations
- Drinking Water Fountain
- Children’s Play area linked to the theme of the park of a more natural style?
- Limited seating required
- Gates with arched tops
- Signage
- Bins
- Bike racks
- Lighting
- Holocaust Garden
- Holocaust Plinth
- Kinder Transport Memorial Bench
- Islands in the boating lake
- Rainwater capture and storage

Resources Required:	Various
Funding Required:	Grant/Capital funding for pavilion, Parks Development Budget, sponsorship/grants
Stakeholder Group	Yes
Friends Group	Yes
Maintenance Contractor	Waveney Norse

## Current Benches, Bins and Bike Racks Inventory



Code			
	Item	Quantity	Potential Needed
●	Bin	6	2, one by the south west entrance and one by the north east entrance
●	Benches	47	There is no shortage of seating although there are two possible locations where there are places where there once were benches which are no longer there. Two spaces in the Holocaust Garden and one in the Japanese Garden. There was also be the potential for seating within a pergola if it is installed in the Japanese Garden.
	Bike Rack	0	Because of the layout there are not obvious locations however potentially one could be sited by each main entrance with careful consideration.



## Code

<span style="color: magenta;">—</span>	Holocaust Memorial Garden	<span style="color: red;">—</span>	Japanese Garden
<span style="color: blue;">—</span>	Long Borders	<span style="color: yellow;">—</span>	Bike Racks
<span style="color: green;">—</span>	Existing Bowling Green Borders	<span style="color: red;">○</span>	Statues
<span style="color: brown;">—</span>	Climbers	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Bins
<span style="color: orange;">—</span>	Compost area	<span style="color: purple;">—</span>	Wall Fountain

## Action Plan Further Information

### Long Border

This is one of the main features of the park and a rare example in Lowestoft. The perennial border has been overhauled and maintained by the Friends and is developing really well thanks to their hard work. They may wish to consider if they want to apply for a grant to add to planting or enhance the planting in the shrub border or the central grass borders. The central grass borders are developing well and the Friends have planted bulbs but these may need to be added to/replaced over time. The Friends have plans to tackle the shrub border and are considering adding hydrangeas and there are four Peace roses which the council has agreed to plant.

One element missing from the long border is a focal point at the south end on the back of the bowling alley which is a traditional feature in garden design. This could be something like a wall fountain, mirror or artwork/sculpture.

## Japanese Garden

The Japanese Garden was an original feature of the garden but has suffered over the years and additionally the Holm Oaks have ground so that the garden has a lot of shade. The soil has been tested and is more alkaline and very compacted. A lot of traditional Japanese plantings such as acers, rhododendrons and azaleas need acidic soil. In order to plant these, soil would need to be removed and replaced with ericaceous soil which would also need to be regularly treated and mulched with pine needles/bark to retain the acidity. An alternative would be to plant alternative plants which would be used in Japanese plantings however the shade also affects this. There are plants which will cope with this and the bed at the south end of the Japanese Garden also benefits from being less shady and having more open soil. Plants such as the ferns which the Friends have planted should do well as will hydrangeas (especially the paniculatas) and Japanese anemones. Chrysanthemums should be fine in south border and are the national flower of Japan. Even a small Cherry or Almond tree such as *Prunus x cisterna* or *Prunus glandulosa* 'Alba Plena' are options as they are more bush like.

The Friends have done a lot of work on the pond which is a balancing act. A key requirement for the pond is to lay on an electricity supply to a pump which can be left running for the majority of the year and circulate the water through the waterfall. This will help maintain the biodiversity of the pond and any fish within it. This is not a wildlife pond and there have traditionally been fish in this pond. At the same time as plants are ordered for the pond at Sparrow's Nest, the Friends should be consulted to see if there are any plants which would be beneficial to this pond.

Also related to the pond is the replacement of the missing Peter Pan statue. Ideally it should not be a replacement of the missing one or a copy of the one in London but something that ties in with the coastal location such as Peter Pan and the Mermaids. A secondary sculpture which was muted and favoured is a cartoony crocodile emerging from the pond which would either have a working clock in its mouth or a clock with movable hands in order to teach how to tell the time. The Friends' fairy door can also be tied into this as it could be Tinkerbell's home. A final nod would be to have bird/bat/insect houses made in the shapes of the Lost Boys and mounted in amongst the trees so that children would have to find them.

The other aim is to put back into the garden a shelter with a Japanese theme. The best location for this is in the north west corner where there are the remains of an old structure and pergola could be attached to the top of this. It could be an adapted one or one constructed for us and the Friends hope to involve the local Men's Shed.



For example this could have bottom joists added to fix to the existing structure and additional uprights added so that trellis panels should be added to the back and sides, to either completely enclose it or partially enclose it, and plants could then be grown up over it. These could include Clematis or Passionfruit for example.

Additional items for the Japanese Garden might also include seating for the pergola and a bench alcove in the garden. These would not have originally have been copies of Japanese benches but possibly more of a Lutyens style bench. Also Japanese lanterns might also be considered.



However items like Buddas and Foo Dogs etc would have been more Chinese. Japanese garden ornaments are more natural such as rocks, bamboo and water constructions to create noise and maybe

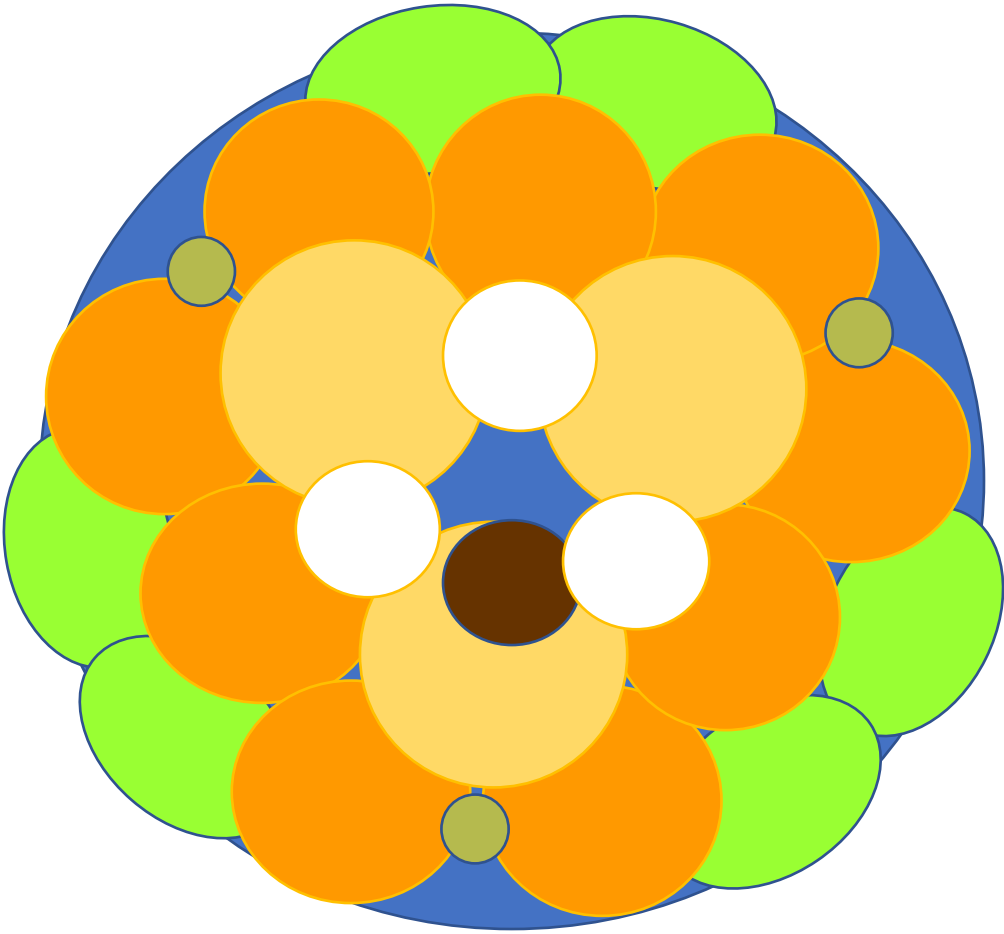


sculptural depictions of cranes for example as have been used in English depictions of Japanese Gardens.

**Holocaust Garden**

This has been agreed by the council but unfortunately not fully progressed as yet. Some bulb planting has taken place and a lawn with yellow crocuses should have been planted. There is planting to go in the yellow bed around one of the Holocaust trees and discussion have been had with Norse about filling in some of the gaps in the beds with mainly yellow flowering shrubs including forsythia, hypericum and mahonia as well as perennials. These will be interspersed with plants which pick up on the colours of the other badges. There are four climbing peace roses to be planted on the toilet block.

**Kensington Gardens Holocaust Central Bed**



Symbol	Plant	Supplier	Quantity	Retail Cost	Retail Total
	Holocaust Tree	X	X		X
	Rosa Buttercup	DAR	3	18.00	54.00
	Hypericum x moserianum 'Tricolor'	Suttons	9	12.99	116.51
	Heuchera Electra	HH	6	7.00	42.00
	Forsythia x Intermedia Mikador	Suttons	3	16.99	50.97
	Crocsmia xc. 'Honey Angels'	9cm			



Above is the plinth which we hope to have funded for the Holocaust Garden with the wording below. It would also be good to have a WWII bench and a specially commissioned bench to commemorate the Kinder Transport which could depict a train, a sign and a representational outline of the statues at Liverpool St Station with the date of the arrival of the train in Lowestoft.

## LEST WE FORGET.

First they came for the Communists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Communist

Then they came for the Socialists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the trade unionists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for the Jews  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me  
And there was no one left  
To speak out for me

The official Holocaust Memorial Day Trust version of a poem based on the confession of Pastor Martin Niemöller

The poem leaves out one group that Pastor Niemöller included in his confession which was the 'incurables'. The 'sick, the so-called incurables' were killed in the euthanasia programme 'Aktion T4', a programme that started in 1933.

It also leaves out other groups which were persecuted such as the Roma, Soviet citizens and Prisoners of War, Poles, Serbs, Slovenes, Spanish Republicans, Freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals. After the camps were liberated most were compensated apart from those who had been incarcerated because of their crimes and the homosexuals who still faced persecution and imprisonment.

*This commemorative lectern was erected by Lowestoft Town Council and the Friends of Kensington Gardens with funding received from East Suffolk District Councillors Peter Byatt, Louise Gooch and Malcolm Pitchers and East Suffolk Council.  
The Holocaust Garden in which it sits is planted to recognise the colours of the identification badges worn by the prisoners.*



Concentration Camp Identification Badge		Victim Groups
Star	Yellow*	Jews
Triangle	Pink	Homosexuals and sexual offenders
Triangle	Red	Political Prisoners, social democrats, socialists, communists, anarchists, Jewish sympathisers, Trade Unionists and Freemasons.
Triangle	Blue	Emigrants (Germans and Austrians who had lived outside of those countries for a significant time)
Triangle	Purple	Jehovah's Witnesses, religious pacifists including Bahaists**, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Esperantists (people who spoke Esperanto)
Triangle	Black (Usually with a letter of the alphabet on the triangle)	Asocial Individuals including: Roma & Sinti (Z), Mentally ill/disabled (Blod), Alcoholics and drug addicts, Vagrants & Beggars, Pacifists and Conscription resisters, Prostitutes, Lesbians
Triangle	Green	Convicts and Criminals
Triangle	Brown	Romani Males
Triangle (Inverted)	Red	Enemy (Allied) POWs, Spies, Traitors or Deserters

Inverted triangles were also used over a triangle of a different colour if a prisoner fell into more than one designation. A red bar over a triangle indicated that the victim was a political prisoner from that grouping.  
\*An inverted yellow triangle over a yellow triangle representing the Star of David

Jews were the highest number of victims followed closely by Soviet Citizens, Poles, Serbs and Roma. The highest number of non-racial victims were the disabled. Conservative estimates put the number of victims around

**16,615,000**

Putting this into context, if in 1939 in the UK you looked at the person to your right and to your left, one of the three of you would have died in a concentration camp. Even today that would be one in every four people in the UK.

## Bowling Green Borders

Norse have done a lot of work on these over the years, adding in new shrubs and grasses. The shrub areas need some additional planting, either shrubs or perennials and the grasses need some interplanting to add further interest such as verbena bonariensis, alliums, crocosmia lucifer, perovskia and sanguisorbas.

## Compost area

There is already an area which could be used to collect leaves for composting/mulching. However both it and the fence along the north of the garden adjoining the school would benefit from climbers to obscure them.

## Boating Lake

This is one of the most recognisable features of the gardens however it needs work to prevent algae bloom and long-term discussions about the use of it and whether to re-install the islands/cover and add egress points for the ducks to protect them from gulls etc. There could be discussion about

whether the boating lake is actually suitable for canoes and whether something like pedalos in bird shapes might appeal more to families.

## **Buildings**

The café has limited facilities and some of the external features could be improved. Consideration could be given to looking at incorporating the existing toilets into the floor plan as well as the Norse store. There may be options with the other buildings on site for re-siting Norse as well as if the facility is required as there are no longer fees to be collected. The bowls clubs have requested increased facilities and an outline sketch is attached.

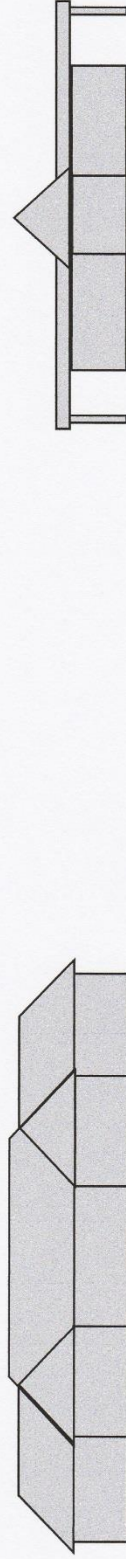
## **Centenary**

The garden is fast approaching its centenary and some of the key works would be good to have completed before this occasion.

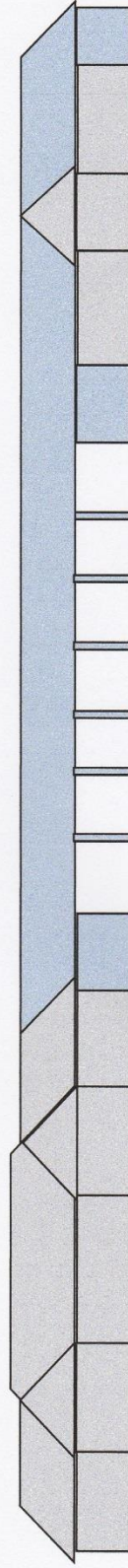
<b>5 year plan schedule of works</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Item/project</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Existing Budget</b>	<b>To be budget for that year.</b>
<b>2021-22</b>				
<b>2022-23</b>				
<b>2023-24</b>				
<b>2024-25</b>				
<b>2025-26</b>				
<b>Longer Term</b>				



Initial idea for development of Café and Bowls Pavilion at Kensington Gardens



Existing design of two separate buildings with only partial linkage of design and materials



Proposed design changing roof of the pavilion to match the café and linking across to the café. To the right of the café there would be an extension to house an accessible toilet and Friends tool store at the rear. To the right of the Bowls pavilion there would be an extension to house the bowls pushers and equipment with a slightly bigger extension to the left to add a further changing space which would enable the two central rooms of the existing bowls pavilion to be used as a small kitchen/social area. The new covered central area would be supported by columns to match the columned areas being removed at each end of the bowls pavilion with four at the front and six at the rear possibly linked at the bottom by an open wall to make two seating areas.