

## **Local list description and map for Pinner Hill Golf Course**

Adopted at Cabinet 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

This area meets the following criteria for local listing:

- (A) Date and rarity.** The older a designed landscape is, and the fewer the surviving examples of its kind, the more likely it is to have special interest. Likely to be designated are:
- i. sites with a main phase of development post-1840 which are of special interest and relatively intact, the degree of required special interest rising as the site becomes closer in time
- (B) Further considerations** which may influence selection, and may exceptionally be sufficient by themselves to merit:
- i. Sites having an association with significant persons or historic events
  - ii. Sites with a strong group value with other heritage assets

### **Summary and introduction:**

Pinner Hill Golf Course is of special interest for being a golf course laid out in 1927, on the landscaped parkland of Pinner Hill House dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The C18<sup>th</sup> house now the Clubhouse for Pinner Hill Golf Club remains on the site, which was founded in 1928. There are associations with significant persons given the earlier house on the site in the 1630s was built for Sir Christopher Clitherow, and the owners of the current house dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century were Lady Jane Brydges and A W Tooke. The pre-golf landscape character is predominantly C19<sup>th</sup>, but there are some remnants from the earlier period, including an icehouse near the house, as well as an old yew tree and C18<sup>th</sup> trees in the parkland. There is strong group value with the Pinner Hill Conservation Area, the grade II listed Tooke's Folly, the grade II\* listed St John's Church, Pinner and the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the ice house.

### **Details:**

The Pinner Hill estate was a large landscaped park and house dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was broken up for residential development after its sale in 1919 and the main house and immediate surrounding land became a golf club.

Pinner Hill Golf Course is of special interest as its main phase of development was in the 1920s and it has remained relatively intact since. There is added interest given the site is on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century landscaped grounds of Pinner Hill House. The first house here was built in the 1630s for Sir Christopher Clitherow, a City merchant,

who is buried at St John the Baptist Church, Pinner (now grade II\* listed). The present Pinner Hill House dates from the C18th, and the garden front was probably built for Lady Jane Brydges who lived here from 1755.

From 1844 the Pinner Hill estate belonged to A W Tooke, an eccentric C19th landowner, who paid for the restoration of St John's Church which is now grade II\* listed. On Pinner Hill Road, the High Barn (LBII) is a surviving example of Tooke's characteristic estate improvements.

From the earlier period, one exceptional old yew and an icehouse near the house survive, as well as C18th trees in the parkland, but by the 1970s a car park and a house had been built in the former walled garden. The pre-golf landscape character is predominantly C19th, with Scots pine, lime and horse chestnut trees, and some clumps. The approach from the south, now a private residential road, is still lined with many mature trees.

The estate was broken up for residential development after its sale in 1919. The 18-hole golf course was designed in 1927 by J H Taylor, a grand champion golfer, who was of the opinion that 'it would one of the finest, if not the finest, course around London' according to an advert for 'Golf at Pinner Hill' in Ideal Home magazine in December 1927.

This also referred to the 'delightful old mansion on the estate, with its gardens and specimen trees' that was being converted as the club house. The estate's 'glorious scenery and wonderfully invigorating air' as well as 'its delightful views in all directions' were praised, and it was noted that 'a few sites adjoining the golf course are available for the erection of houses of character and distinction'.

Pinner Hill Golf Club was formed in 1928 at the instigation of F L Griggs who became the Club's first President. Apart from minor alterations, the course layout is still that of 1927.

There is then a strong association with other heritage assets namely the Pinner Hill Conservation Area, the grade II listed St John's Church, Pinner and the grade II listed Tooke's Folly.

#### **Sources:**

London Parks and Gardens Trust, The London Inventory Historic Green Spaces, Harrow 2003

London Gardens Online:

<http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk/gardens-online-record.php?ID=HRW032>

Ken Kirkman 'A History of Pinner Hill House and Estate', Albury Enterprises, 1993;

Pinner Hill Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy

Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner, 'The Buildings of England London 3: North West' (Penguin, 1999 ed), p288.

National list descriptions:

Pinner Hill Golf Club House, and boundary wall extending northwards from Club House. <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1358625>

Tooke's Folly at Pinner Hill Farm:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1079682>

Scheduled Ancient Monument list description: Pinner Hill ice house

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1017203>

