

The history and archaeology of Morden Park

This park has been a public space since 1945. It was first enclosed as part of a private estate in 1770 when Morden Park House, standing at the top of the hill in front of you, was built for the distiller and merchant John Ewart.

His estate formed most of the boundaries of the current park but at that time a lot of the land was still used for agriculture. In fact, until the early 20th century, this area consisted of little more than the estate, a small village, its church and farmland. You might notice that there are still some lines of mature trees throughout the park – these may once have been field boundaries on the old estate.



Morden Park Mound

Parts of the existing wooded areas in the park are over 250 years old. Some of the new trees that have been planted as part of The **Capital Woodlands Project** should last for the same amount of time, if not more. This will help to maintain the park and allow it to be appreciated by future generations. As well

as making the park even more beautiful than it is, they create new habitats for birds and animals, other plants and fungi.

Morden Park House



Did you know?

One of the most eye-catching areas of existing woodland is on the top of “The Mound” in the centre of the Park. The origins of the mound are unknown although it could be very old. During the 1950’s it was decided that it should be

noted on maps as an ancient burial mound but, without excavating, its origin will remain a mystery. Its shape, especially its steep sides, have led experts to suggest that it could be a pagan burial mound dating back over 1500 years, to just after the Roman occupation of Britain when Iron Age customs were still practised.

Stane Street, a Roman Road runs through the park but is now totally covered. The road was built by the Romans in about 76 AD. It connected London with Colchester, and possibly stretched right to the coast. It may well have been an important trade route, but is now totally covered and lies about 30 cm under the ground.

For more information on Morden Park visit www.merton.gov.uk/mordenpark

