

Alexandra Road Park

Scheme address: Between Abbey Road and Loudoun Road, NW8

Architect: J & L Gibbons and Erect Architecture (designers), Around the Block (project managers)

Client/Landowner: London Borough of Camden

Scheme description: Alexandra Road Park was designed and built in the late 1970's and is located at the heart of the large Grade II* listed Alexandra and Ainsworth Estate. It is cited as 'the most significant landscape of its type in the UK' by the Twentieth Century Society and was completely restored in 2015, thanks to a £1.5m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, 'Parks for People' programme. The designers set about untangling the wildness, opening up views, restoring and revealing the engineered topography and structure of the park defined by distinctive geometry of the walls and level changes, and enhancing the rich spatial pattern. The restoration was instigated by a partnership between local residents and Camden Council.

The judges' view: *The judges saw the project as an important example of what's possible and one that pays testament to original landscape architect, Janet Jack's vision of what landscape could be - "It's a park, not just housing land". It is unusual to see a park designed to accommodate wide ranging uses and behaviours rather than trying to restrict what can happen, and working closely with the community has been an essential part of the project's success. The opening up of views to allow safety and connectivity has been skilfully handled and the luxuriance of the planting is a great enhancement of the Neave Brown building.*

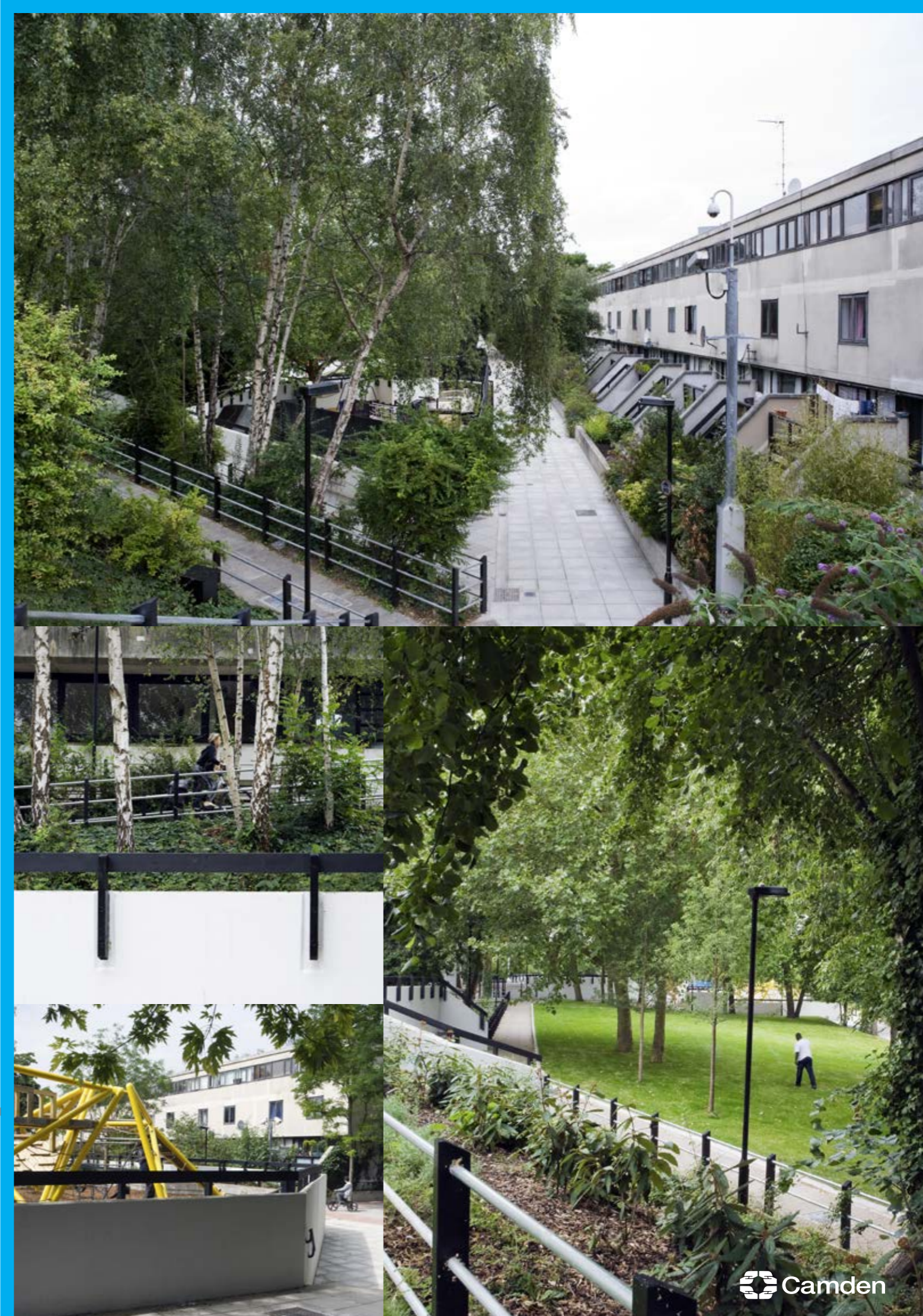


Photo Credit: @Sarah Blee J&L Gibbons