

Gates of the Former White Oak Hospital Non-Designated Heritage Assets Proposed by the Swanley Neighbourhood Plan October 2023

Hospitals form a notable part of Swanley's history. Once the railway had been established it led to Swanley becoming a horticultural centre and it was also seen as being the ideal place to send sick Londoners. Swanley's soil and climate were recognised as a healing environment that was easily accessible from London by train. (see Swanley Profile in the [Swanley Neighbourhood Plan Evidence base](#))

Three hospitals were established in Swanley: the Kettlewell (or Alexandra) Hospital in 1885, Parkwood Hospital in 1893 and White Oak Hospital in 1897.

The Kettlewell stood on the site of the Asda car park and was for poor patients from London who needed to recuperate after major surgery, and so rested in Swanley.

The Parkwood hospital was similarly used, and White Oak was originally for children with eye diseases.

During both world wars Kettlewell & Parkwood were used as military hospitals, Parkwood became part of the Sidcup Hospital for facial injuries.

The setting up of the National Health Service in 1948 meant these old London Hospitals became redundant – Kettlewell and White Oak closed in 1959 and Parkwood ceased being a hospital in the early 1960's.

Some of the Hospitals were re-purposed - Parkwood still exists in its entirety in Beechenlea Lane – now Parkwood Hall School.

Kettlewells Chapel was replaced by the Roman Catholic church (Church of the Twelve Apostles) on Bartholomew Way/Sycamore Drive.

Only the gates of the White Oak Hospital remain but are an important reminder of this particular feature of Swanley's history and one of the older building features in this part of Swanley.

Below is the character assessment of the site undertaken as part of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Layout	Topography	Spaces	Roads, streets, routes
Relationship between buildings, spaces, and routes and how these elements are arranged in relation to each other.	Landscape setting/ gradient of the local area (flat, sloping, valley, plateau, hilltop)	Parks, playing fields, allotments, cemeteries, village greens, car parks, market squares).	Vehicular routes, pedestrian pathways, cycle paths, shared surfaces, rights of way, bridleways.
Located on the north side of London Road close to the Town Centre. Original main Gateway together with related pillars and short section of the wall (topped in part by iron railings) are all that remain of the former White Oak	The Gates are close to the apex of a small hill which plateaus at the Town Centre which lies nearby. London Road thus follows a short hill down from the Town Centre past the Gates.	The Gates now front (to London Road) the White Oak Place business park (CA-B8) and associated car park. These are private areas available to the users of the offices comprising the business park.	The Gates and adjoining pedestrian entry are permanently locked and provide no access to the business park and/or related spaces. Pedestrian access is via a gateway on Bartholomew's Way

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<p>Hospital (opened 1903, closed 1950). Small post box (still in use) bearing name of King George situated at the end of the wall nearest to the Town Centre.</p> <p>Rectory of St Mary's Church of England parish church and Swanley Police Station are opposite the Gates and wall on the south side of London Road.</p> <p>London Road is very busy, it is one of the main routes (traffic and pedestrian) into, through and out of Swanley principally on an approximate east west axis.</p>		<p>The business park is close to the Town Centre (CA1-7). It sits on the corner of London Road and Bartholomew Way facing towards the Town Centre and thus overlooking one of the main car parks for the ASDA store, both of which lie on the opposite side of Bartholomew Way.</p>	<p>(open during business hours.</p>

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