

London's Administrative boundary markers

Markers denoting areas other than parish or borough boundaries

Hackney Markers

	
<p>AM01. SE corner of Downs Park and Cecilia (previously Norfolk) Roads. E8. It looks quite big here, but is about 2ft high.</p> <p><i>Separated wards of West Hackney and The Downs. Parish of Hackney.</i></p>	<p>AM02. Dalston Lane, E8, north side, about 50yds east of Cecilia Road.</p> <p><i>Separated wards of West Hackney and The Downs. Parish of Hackney.</i></p>

This venerable pair of artefacts are located quite close to each other but they are not parish boundary markers in the customary sense of the word, though they are located on ward boundaries of some antiquity.

Although I have yet to get to the bottom of these, I think I have part of the story, and the unusually early date on the markers is important.

In 1825, Hackney parish was split to create a new parish called West Hackney. Although the new

parish was purely an ecclesiastical unit, its vestry did handle a certain amount of civil business and for certain purposes was autonomous. This is probably the origin of these markers though I have not yet unearthed the exact boundaries of West Hackney before later alterations were made to it.

In 1855 this arrangement was superseded for civil purposes by the standard Metropolitan vestry, which covered the whole of Hackney. The

border these markers delineate was abolished in 1871 and it is rather surprising these marks survive unless, following the ward boundary, it was felt more useful to leave them. More research is needed, when I have a moment.

I am not presently inclined to include them in main list of parish boundary markers since they have never marked the extent of St John at Hackney parish.

London County Council boundary markers

The markers below were provided at the boundaries of former common land usually placed in the hands of the Metropolitan Board of Works and inherited. Responsibility passed to the Greater London Council in 1965, then the London Residuary body until the London Boroughs took over.

WANDSWORTH COMMON

	
AM03. South side of Wandsworth Common between Spencer Park and railway. The common was transferred to Metropolitan Board of Works in 1878. The markers are of the LCC standard type but the property boundary follows no administrative boundary..	AM04. South side of Wandsworth Common between Spencer Park and railway. To right of preceding marker.
	
AM05. South side of Wandsworth Common between Spencer Park and railway. To right of preceding marker.	AM06. South side of Wandsworth Common between Spencer Park and railway. To right of preceding marker.
	
AM07. South side of Wandsworth Common between Spencer Park and railway. To right of preceding marker, near windmill	

CLAPHAM COMMON SW4

Clapham Common was acquired by Metropolitan Board of Works from the Lords of the Manors. 70 acres were drained and formal recreation grounds laid out. Transferred to London County Council on its formation in 1889. LCC markers placed along Nightingale Road which followed parish boundary, and along west side as LCC property marks but which followed new boundary.



AM11. Clapham Common West Side. In fenced garden area opposite No14.



AM12. Clapham Common West Side. In fenced garden area opposite No17.



AM13. Clapham Common West Side. In fenced garden area opposite No20.



AM14. Clapham Common West Side. In fenced garden area near ice cream stall, opposite No21.



AM15. Clapham Common West Side. Along footpath by railings, opposite No26.



AM16. Clapham Common West Side. Along footpath by railings, opposite Manchuria Road.



AM17. Clapham Common West Side. Along footpath by railings opposite No31.



AM18. Clapham Common West Side. Near north eastern end outside No81.

For the marks along Nightingale Lane, note the sequence runs with the parish boundary, and presumably manorial boundary before that. In consequence they appear on the main parish Boundary lists. Refer to marks:

PBM 498, 499, 500, 514, 515. There is another reputed to be outside the school but I cannot find it.

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MILLFIELDS PARK E5

Millfields was former Lammas land in the manor of Hackney. This was land which, between Lammas Day and Lady Day, could be used in common for grazing cattle (it was otherwise part of the usual strip farming system). Today the two sections, North Millfields and South Millfields, are separated by Lea Bridge Road, a turnpike built in 1787. Prior to that, these two names were already in use, each perhaps associated with one of the pair of water mills located along the Lea nearby. It appears that North Millfield (whose boundary was somewhat north of today's location) had been reduced to a brickfield by the nineteenth century. The Millfields were saved from development following a petition to preserve 180 acres of common land in Hackney for public use. The Metropolitan Board of Works attempted to take control of the fields in 1872, but the action was contested by the Lord of the Manor and it was not until 1884 that the old rights were extinguished and the Board began to turn the land into a large recreation ground. It passed to the London County Council in 1889 and the GLC in 1965. Following abolition of the GLC it is now controlled by Hackney Council. As usual with LCC land, the outside boundaries are peppered with undated iron LCC marker plates. Some confuse these with county boundary marks (none are on the County boundary), but they are purely property marks.



AM21. Millfields South. Eastern edge, northerly access path from canal towpath, on south side



AM22. Millfields South. Eastern edge, northerly access path from canal towpath, on north side.



AM23. Millfields South. Eastern edge, main (central) access path from canal towpath and bridge, on north side. This plate appears to offer the letters LC, but one harbours suspicion that below ground there lurks a second C.



AM24. Millfields South. Eastern edge, main (central) access path from canal towpath and bridge, on north side. It is located just to left of AM23.



AM31. Millfields North. West end, next to Lea Bridge Road. First in set progressing clockwise. First of batch against west wall.



AM32. Millfields North. West end, About 10yds from AM34. Second and third in set progressing clockwise. Second and third of cluster against west wall. The right hand mark shows rarely-visible bottom part of column (in most cases this is buried).



AM33. Millfields North. West end, About 15yds from AM32. Fourth in set progressing clockwise. Fourth of cluster against west wall.



AM34. Millfields North. North-west part, about 230yds from directly from AM33. Fifth in set progressing clockwise. First of cluster against low concrete wall beneath north-south section of Casimir Road (virtually at its southern turn).



AM35. Millfields North. North-west part, about 80yds from AM34. Sixth in set progressing clockwise. Second of cluster against low concrete wall beneath north-south section of Casimir Road (near children's playground).



AM36. Millfields North. Northern boundary fence, at bend, about 35 yards west of the end of the new block of flats where the park opens out. Seventh in set progressing clockwise. Only one in this section.