

**Listed Building Consent Application**  
**Heritage Statement**  
**February 2012**

The Terrace  
Staunton Country Park  
Havant,  
OS grid 472091-109036

**Proposed railings and improved public access**

---

**Listing description**

Leigh Park Mansion Terrace II Garden Terrace. Mid C19.

The terrace was constructed on the west side of a large mid-Victorian house (now gone), and overlooks a grassy slope, which leads down to a lake (with an island). In effect, the terrace is a level area with a low parapet wall, but it is supported on a passageway built into the hillside, comprising 14 bays of quadripartite brick vaulting, with an inner brick wall, the outside face formed by pointed arches and intermediate buttresses. The 2 central bays are masked by a staircase of 13 steps, turning in each direction at a landing to form 2 flights of 7 steps. The low brick wall of the front of the terrace becomes a flanking wall of the stairways, with a moulded stone coping and band: at the landing the front wall is pierced by 10 diminutive arches. The staircase flank walls end in detached shafts. All the details are in Gothic style, with stone features and red brick walls in English bond.

**Grade II**

**Historic Outline**

The Terrace at the Sir George Staunton Country Park is the last remaining part of a Victorian Gothic Mansion that was demolished in 1959. Leigh Park Mansion was built in 1863-66 for WH Stone, a Portsmouth MP. He had bought the Leigh Park Estate from the Staunton family in 1861, and mindful of the fashions of the day, he demolished an earlier house of Sir George Staunton's, and commissioned his from the architect Richard Drew, a nephew of William Butterfield. During its lifespan the house was variously used as a family home, a school, and finally by the Admiralty during the Second World War. When the Admiralty left in 1956, Portsmouth City Council bought the property. The Council tried to find a use for the building for three years, but they had no success, and at the end of 1959 they demolished it.

The Terrace is now maintained by Hampshire County Council with significant conservation work carried out in 2001 and subsequent ongoing maintenance.

The terrace is constructed mainly from a combination of a red facing brick, some of which are shaped and carved limestone copings, steps and newels. The terrace is located above a vaulted brick-lined groined undercroft forming pointed gothic arches fronting a recessed retaining wall and with open gothic arches facing west, separated by external buttressed pilasters.

At the Terrace level, the leading edge pitched stone parapet was deliberately designed to be low at just under 460mm from the floor surface which allowed an unobstructed view of the landscaped estate from the Western ground floor rooms. There is no evidence of former railings along this line.

An 1874 floor plan of the mansion has been found in the archives together with descriptions of the house and estate when it was marketed for sale. With this evidence we can determine that fronting the terrace from north to south were, a Dining Room, Library, Garden Entrance Porch, Drawing Room and Heated Conservatory. Behind these but separated by a long corridor were a Grand Hall (two Storeys high) with Main Staircase, Main Entrance Vestibule from the East Carriage Drive, Morning Room and Billiard Room. Living quarters were located floors above. To the north east and at right angles to the main block described above was the Domestic Service Wing comprising secondary service stairs to both the Main Block and cellars, ground floor Kitchen, Stores and Servants daytime accommodation. Further accommodation was available on the upper floors of this wing.

Located at the junction of the two wings and rising well above the tallest roof pitch was a square tower capped with a pitched roof and integral chimney. The precise purpose of the tower is not known but it is presumed that here there were water storage or header tanks and a chimney flue from a cellar boiler as it was stated that the house was heated and with extensive plumbing facilities.

There were basement rooms located behind the terrace and there is a bricked up doorway at the lower level within the lower recessed retaining wall which led towards the former mansion. It seems likely that during the buildings demolition, the common practice of levelling the building down to the substantial footings at ground level and infilling the cellar areas with demolition rubble did occur. Therefore it is presumed that there are remains still in-situ just below the present ground covering.