In August 2025 due to the lack of grass and use of sand large dust bowls (not dissimilar to mini dust tornadoes) were observed on the Old Cricket pitch, making the area dangerous to anyone with asthma, other respiratory disease, children or pets.




Video: https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1B2EqMxQSC/

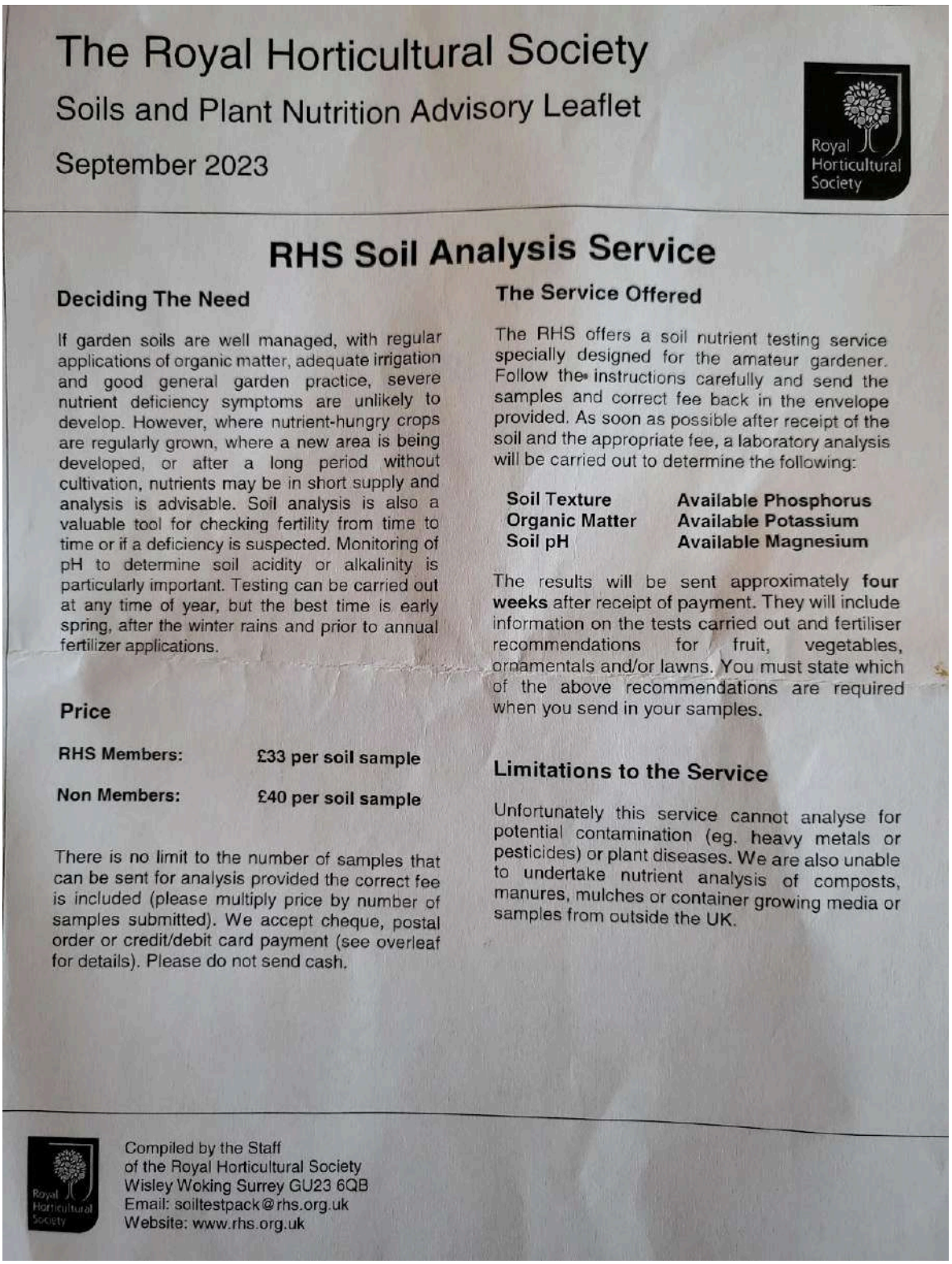
https://vm.tiktok.com/ZNd4Fg8G5/

The council was explicitly warned this would happen if grass is continually destroyed by the large-scale events and low ph samples were submitted to the Royal Horticultural Society in 2023, alerting the council the area is being severely damaged but this was ignored.

Following Festival Republic 2023 residents were incredibly sorry to discover that the soil under the Soho House stage was showing up as low as 3.6ph, which means the damage to parts of the pitch was now irreversible despite multiple attempts of reporting this to the councils and CIC:

And finally following the last festivals of the same year (Waterworks and DnB All Stars in September 2023) the soil under the Soho House stage was at an even lower ph at 3.2ph:

Further to the above measurements with an electric device, on advice from Kew Gardens residents then reached out to the Royal Horticultural Society and paid for professional soil testing where a single sample contained 10 spots of soil across Gunnersbury Park. While residents aimed to measure the lowest pH across Gunnersbury Park and control areas with the electric device, the RHS samples take a different approach where the average pH across the park is calculated from a mixture of soil. It seems that as the majority of the park is at a normal 7ph level as per full measurements provided to the council and CIC, the really low levels from the affected event area of the Cricket Pitch bring the overall sample ph down.



The Royal Horticultural Society

Soils and Plant Nutrition Advisory Leaflet

September 2023

Royal Horticultural Society

RHS Soil Analysis Service

Deciding The Need

If garden soils are well managed, with regular applications of organic matter, adequate irrigation and good general garden practice, severe nutrient deficiency symptoms are unlikely to develop. However, where nutrient-hungry crops are regularly grown, where a new area is being developed, or after a long period without cultivation, nutrients may be in short supply and analysis is advisable. Soil analysis is also a valuable tool for checking fertility from time to time or if a deficiency is suspected. Monitoring of pH to determine soil acidity or alkalinity is particularly important. Testing can be carried out at any time of year, but the best time is early spring, after the winter rains and prior to annual fertilizer applications.

Price

RHS Members: **£33 per soil sample**

Non Members: **£40 per soil sample**

There is no limit to the number of samples that can be sent for analysis provided the correct fee is included (please multiply price by number of samples submitted). We accept cheque, postal order or credit/debit card payment (see overleaf for details). Please do not send cash.

The Service Offered

The RHS offers a soil nutrient testing service specially designed for the amateur gardener. Follow the instructions carefully and send the samples and correct fee back in the envelope provided. As soon as possible after receipt of the soil and the appropriate fee, a laboratory analysis will be carried out to determine the following:

Soil Texture	**Available Phosphorus**
Organic Matter	**Available Potassium**
Soil pH	**Available Magnesium**

The results will be sent approximately **four weeks** after receipt of payment. They will include information on the tests carried out and fertiliser recommendations for fruit, vegetables, ornamentals and/or lawns. You must state which of the above recommendations are required when you send in your samples.

Limitations to the Service

Unfortunately this service cannot analyse for potential contamination (eg. heavy metals or pesticides) or plant diseases. We are also unable to undertake nutrient analysis of composts, manures, mulches or container growing media or samples from outside the UK.

Compiled by the Staff
of the Royal Horticultural Society
Wisley Woking Surrey GU23 6QB
Email: soiltestpack@rhs.org.uk
Website: www.rhs.org.uk

The sample containing 10 separate locations across the park has yielded an overall 5.1ph and low phosphorus readings, confirming the need for liming.

Date Received	30-Oct-23
Date Reported	03-Nov-23

Laboratory Reference
Sample Number 74450/391552/23

RHS Log No. 3297

Recommendations requested for :
Lawns

Sample Name : GUNNERSBURY PARK

SOIL ANALYSIS RESULTS

Soil Texture	Clay Loam
Organic Matter	8.2 % (High)
Soil pH	5.1
Available Phosphorus	11.0 mg/l (Index 1, Low)
Available Potassium	155 mg/l (Index 2, Medium)
Available Magnesium	103 mg/l (Index 3, Medium)

The soil pH under grass is important as it effects the uptake of many nutrients. Adjusting the soil pH to approximately 6.5 is ideal for amenity lawns consisting of a mixture predominantly of rye grass. However, for fine turf lawns containing high levels of fescues and bents, a more acidic pH of about pH 5.5 to 6.0. is required. The type of nitrogen fertiliser applied can influence the pH of the soil under grass and hence lime is required in certain situations.

Your soil pH was measured at 5.1. This is acidic. If the lawn contains a coarse mixture (rye grass), lime is necessary to optimise grass growth. If lime is not applied, yellowing of the grass and formation of bare patches may occur. In fine turf lawns (with a higher proportion of fescue and bents), the soil does not require lime.

Phosphorus deficiency is characterised by weak growth during establishment of reseeded patches, blue-green discolouration of older leaves and purpling of immature leaves. Phosphorus requirements depend on whether or not the clippings are removed when the grass is mown. If the clippings are removed, the requirement for phosphorus is higher than if the clippings are left on the lawn. Lawns also wear unevenly and the nutrient requirement of the grass under areas of heavy wear are different to those under less wear.

The soil phosphorus status of the soil from your lawn is low. Amenity lawns containing perennial rye grass may suffer from slight phosphorus deficiency and show poor growth. The main problem would arise in areas that have been recently re-seeded. Similarly fine turf may exhibit signs of phosphorus deficiency.

Recommendations

Your soil pH was measured at 5.1. The level of available nutrients in your soil was determined at Index 1 (Low) for phosphorus, Index 2 (Medium) for potassium and Index 3 (Medium) for magnesium. The fertiliser recommendations for lawns are as follows :

If the lawn contains a coarse mixture (rye grass), lime is necessary to optimise grass growth. If lime is not applied, yellowing of the grass and formation of bare patches may occur. In fine turf lawns (with a higher proportion of fescue and bents), the soil does not require lime. Any necessary action to correct the pH of your soil should be taken before considering fertiliser applications. The best liming material to use is powdered limestone or chalk. The amount of lime that you will have to apply to your lawn during the autumn or winter is 140g per square metre (5 ounces per square yard), applied evenly over the area to be treated.

As per:https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/DISORDERS/phosphorusdeficiency.html
Symptoms of phosphorus deficiency as discovered by the RHS vary greatly. It seems that this deficiency is of course again closely related to the same issue of pH and waterlogging, with one of the main causes listed as the soil being compacted (in this particular case by heavy equipment, cars and structures such as stages). Phosphorus deficiency can be corrected by using one or more of the following solutions:

1. Make pH adjustment.
2. Flush plants with pH water and nutrients containing phosphorus.
3. Do not overwater plants.

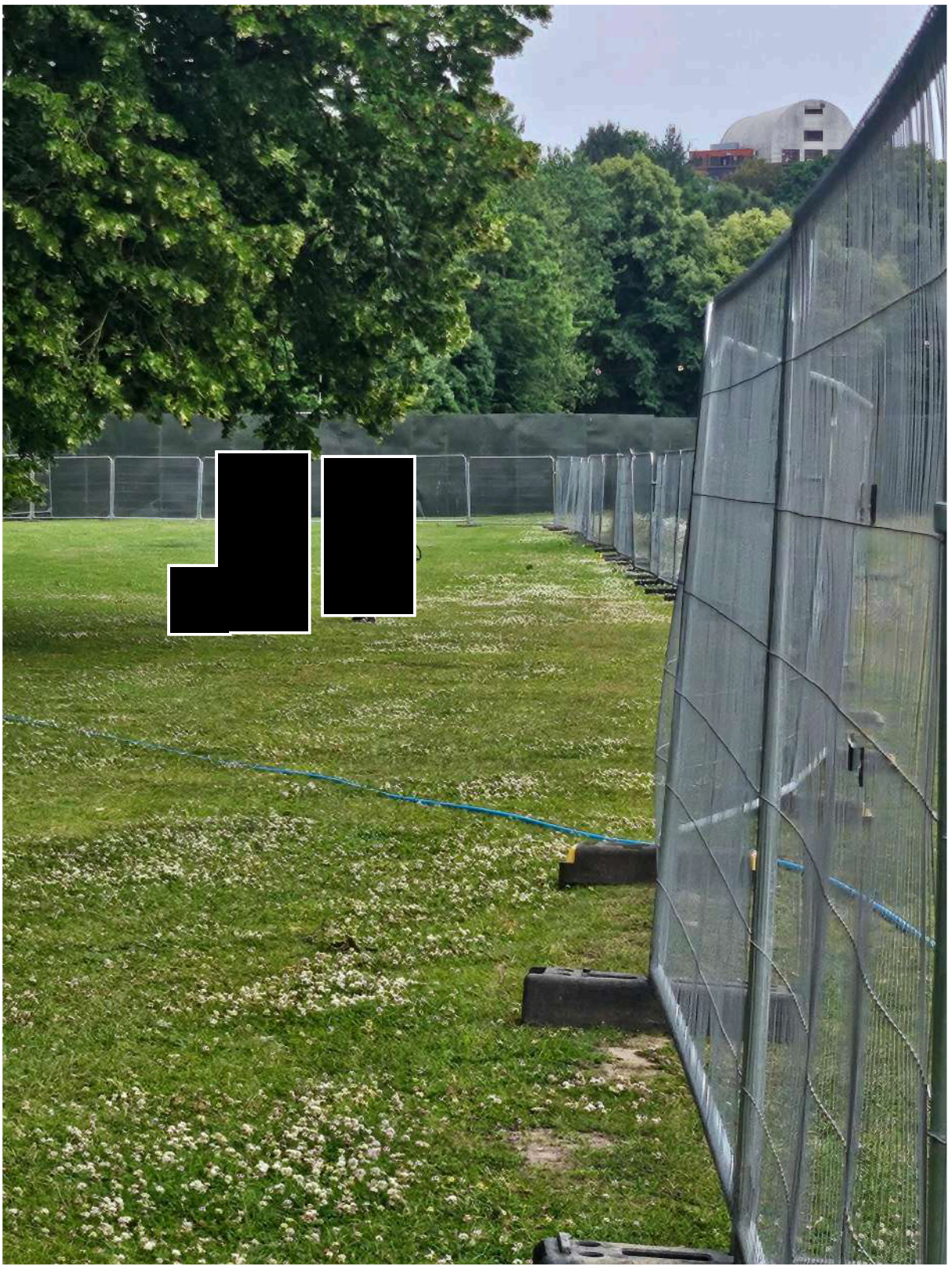
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.trifectanatural.com/problem-identifier/phosphorus-deficiency-in-plants/

Interestingly the soil type of clay loam identified by the RHS is one that is usually well drained (thus water logging is harder to achieve and yet clearly present) but easily compacted making it unsuitable for large installations such as the festivals' stages and heavy equipment. (https://www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/soil-types)

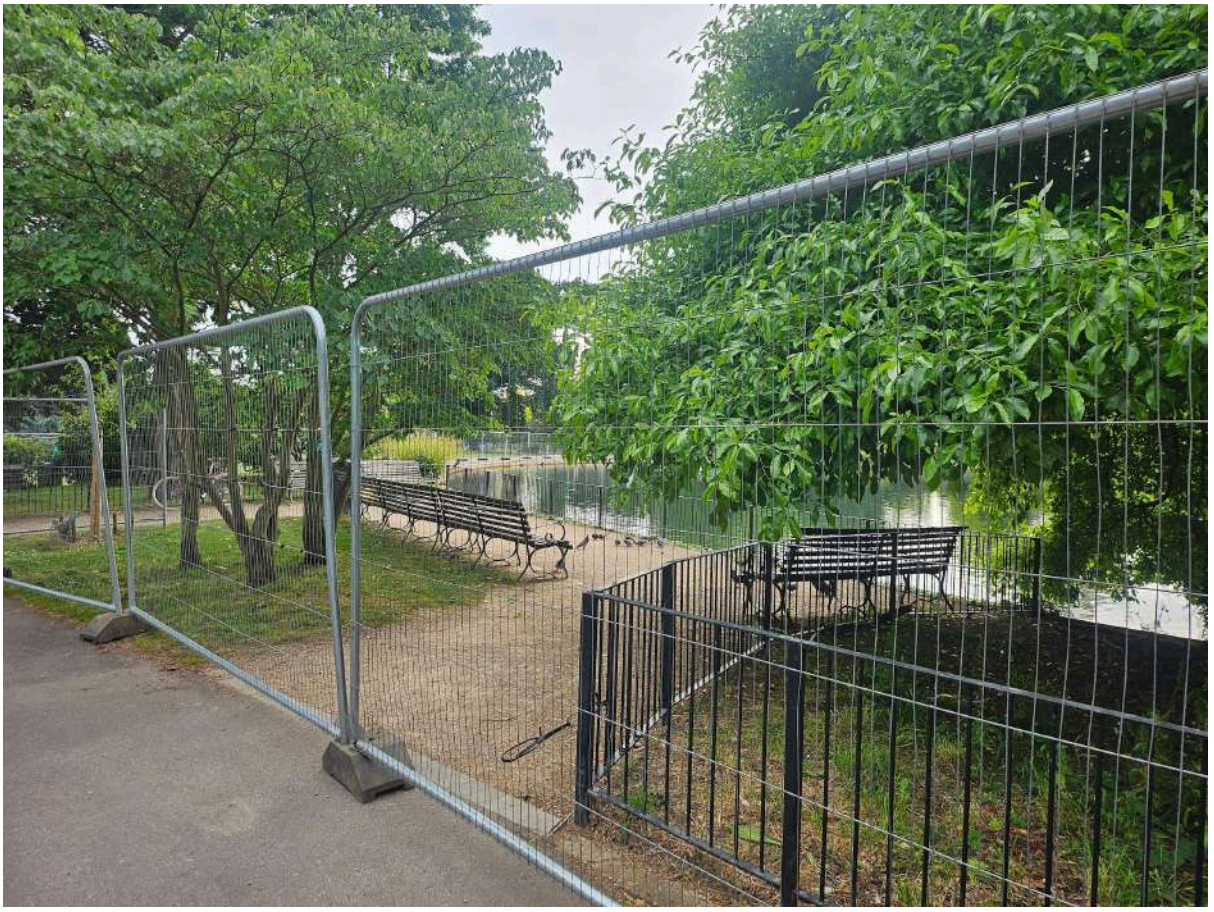
Based on the above measurements by both residents and the RHS, it is clear significant damage was being done to the park and the councils/CIC have refusing to take the simple action of liming the soil to reverse the damage in the past 2 years since this was reported causing these severe dust bowls.

And before this severe issue is dismissed again as just lack of rain not the effect of multiple festivals damaging and compacting the soil, please look at the meadow right next to the destroyed field with images (and video available) from the same day. It is 1 of only 2 where no big events happened in 2025.

7. Fencing obstructing benches, lakes etc.




H = 3.10 m
Finish



Disabled residents are forced to navigate uneven grass fields due to roads being blocked off by events, while promoter vehicles are prioritised:

Video: https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1B1pm6hwor/

https://vm.tiktok.com/ZNd4FTCok/

8. Football fields used as parking.


TPA


BOWMANS

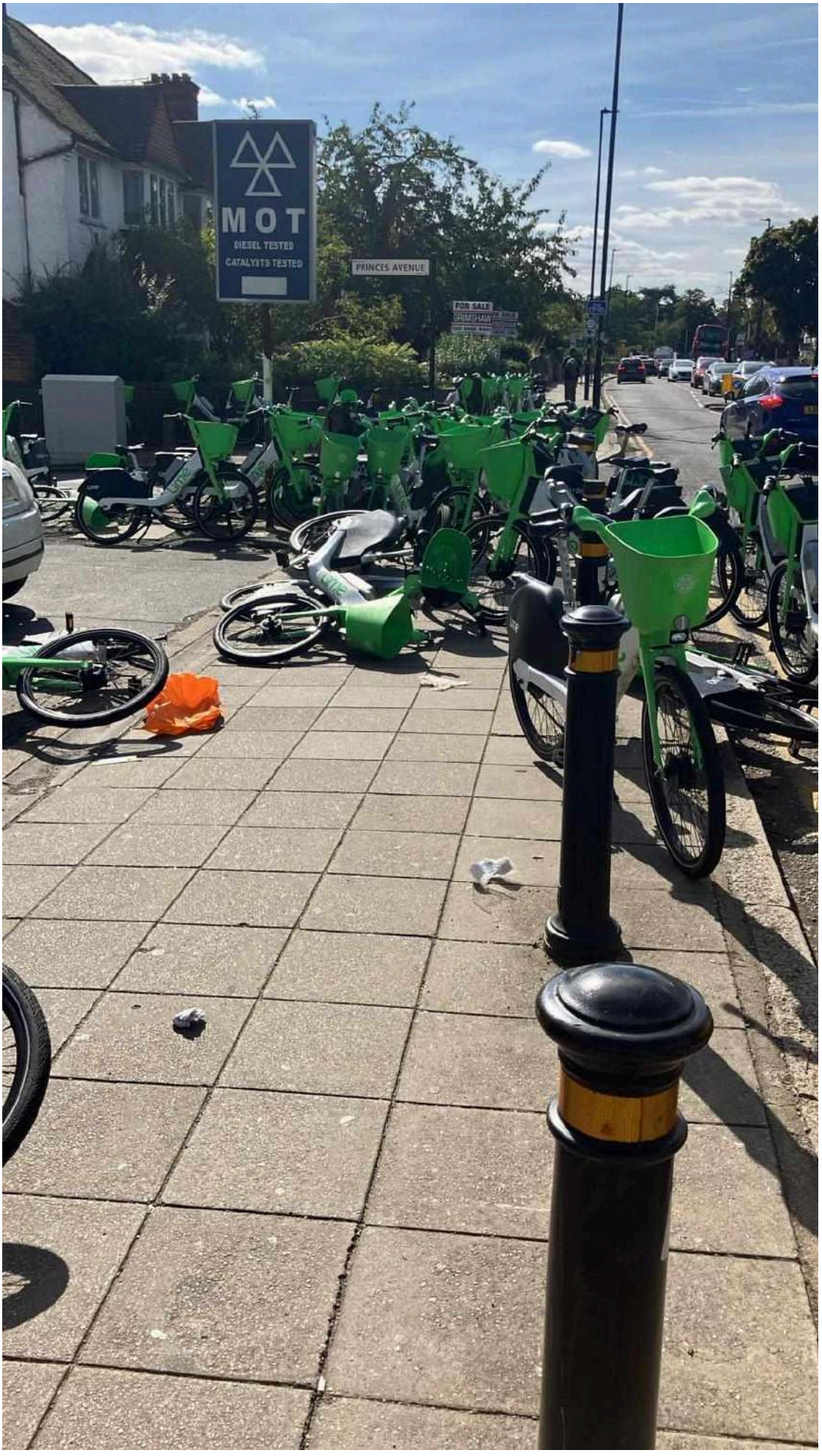
9.Children’s playground used as an exit route in 2024 by Soho House

Other events routinely block playground access from Lionel Road:

And fencing placed inside and around the playground in 2025 during Festival Republic:

10. Bikes were abandoned throughout the park, and some were even thrown into Potomac Lake, historically considered for wildlife reserve status with protected bat species, posing risks to both the environment and wildlife. This continued in 2025 despite Lime losing the contract to operate in Hounslow. Driveways and businesses are routinely blocked.

2024:


MOT
DIESEL TESTED
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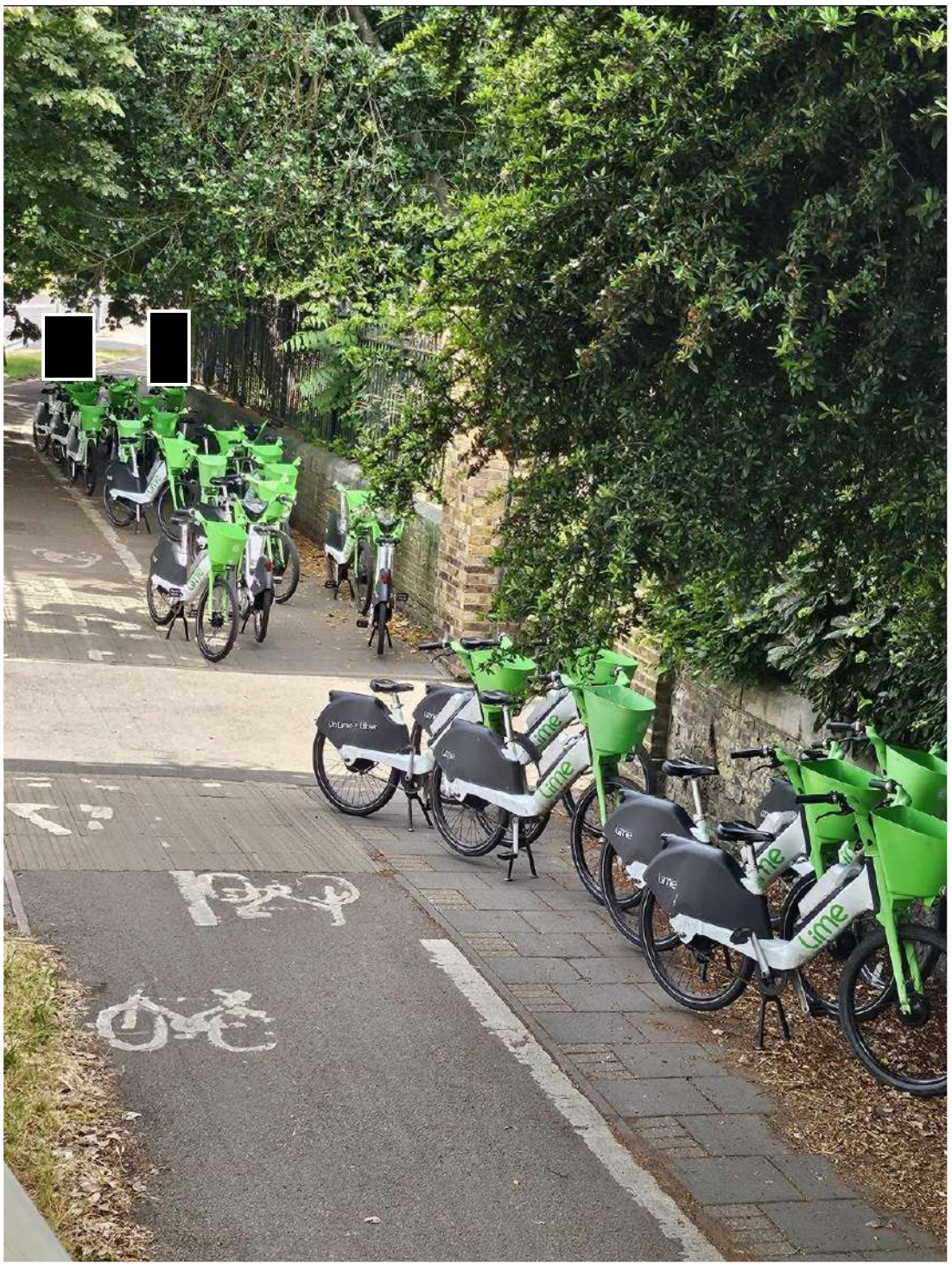
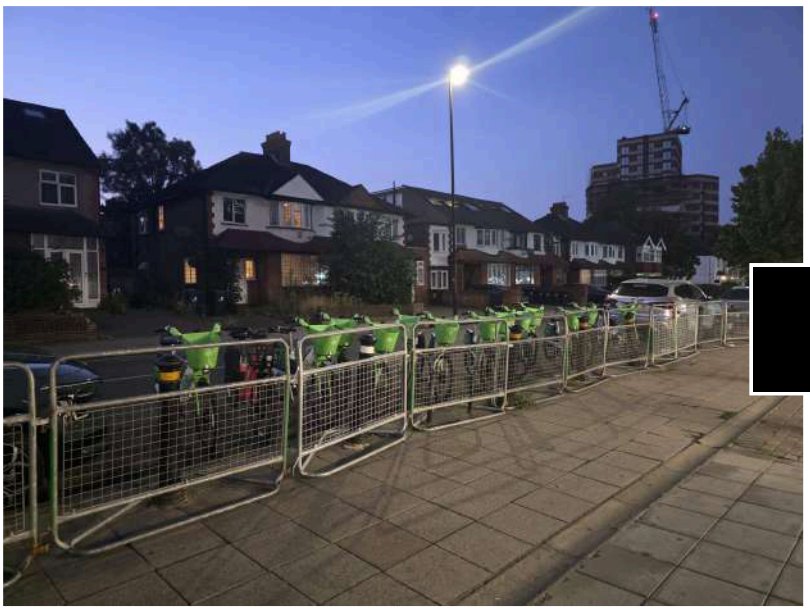
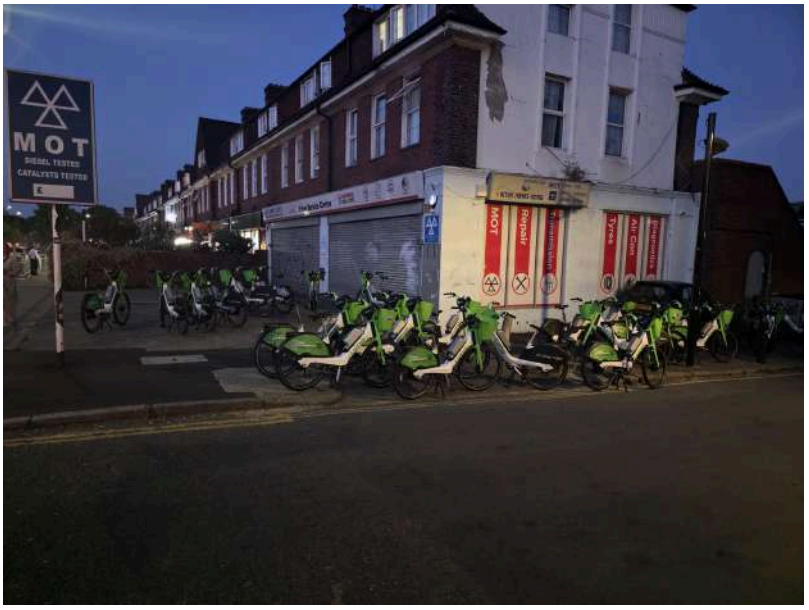


2025:

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