

## 25: WANDSWORTH COMMON

### (e) ALMA TERRACE

(For an account of the history of the area see **Wandsworth Common: Introduction.**)

#### **Buildings & Townscape**

The precinct of Wandsworth Prison and the adjacent group of cottages in Alma Terrace form a distinct sub-area. The main prison was built in 1849-51, and the three main buildings are included in the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest (grade II). All were designed by the architect D.R.Hill. The gatehouse is a three bay composition with Cyclopean detailing comprising a low arched entrance flanked by twin windowed three storey towers. It is of pale gault bricks with stone dressings. The Prison Governor's House is a massive Italianate asymmetrical composition with three major bays in pale gault brick with stone dressings. The Prison Doctor's house is a twin to the Governor's house with the composition reversed.

To the south and west of the prison enclosure lie terraces of two storey flats. They are of yellow stock brick construction with gabled centrepiece to front elevation. Timber sash windows are divided into twelve lights. Overall they are simple in composition. Those in Heathfield Square form the east side of a large square. The plethora of projecting satellite dishes detracts from the unified appearance of the front elevation. There is some untidy vacant land which detracts from the qualities of this part of the conservation area.

Alma Terrace is a unified group of fourteen cottages built around 1850, of yellow stock brick construction. The whole is unified by a projecting three storey gabled centrepiece and parapet to roofs.

Neals nursery nearby has been long established and represents a vestigial part of what were extensive market gardens in this area.

This character statement is intended to give an overview of the development and current character of the conservation area; it is not intended to be prescriptive, nor to be a summary of planning constraints or an inventory of individual buildings or other features whether listed or otherwise.