

BLENHEIM PALACE WORLD HERITAGE SITE REVISED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017

APPENDIX II : BACKGROUND DATA

APPENDIX II

BACKGROUND DATA

Bibliography of sources consulted

List descriptions of listed buildings

Scheduled Monument descriptions and boundaries

SSSI citation and condition summaries

Registered Park and Gardens description and boundary map

Historic information including map sequence

Awards received - 2013-2016 - heritage and tourism

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES
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Management plans for other UK WHSs

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- Ironbridge Gorge
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- Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study
- UNESCO - Blenheim information
- West Oxfordshire District Council - local plan policies
- World Heritage UK

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- Estate plan by an unknown hand, 1719, (estate archive) 1719
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**LIST DESCRIPTIONS OF LISTED
BUILDINGS**

Woodstock Parish

BLENHEIM
SP4416NW
9/33 Wall attached to Woodstock Gate wall and to China Corner

GV II
Wall. Late C18. Squared and coursed limestone with pilasters and tall square corner piers; ashlar coping. Wall is ramped up to China Corner (q.v.); runs for approximately 50 metres west and returns for approximately 200 metres north along parish boundary; approximately 12 metres of right-angle wall attached to wall of Woodstock Gate (q.v.). Included for group value. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4432516595

Bladon Parish

BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/6 Eagle Lodge (Bladon Lodge)

II
Lodge. c.1860. Limestone ashlar; hipped Welsh slate roof; stone internal stack. Cruciform plan. One storey; 3-window range. Tuscan pilasters to walls. Semi-circular porch with Tuscan columns and niches flanking panelled door. 6-pane sashes set in moulded stone architraves. C20 door in flat-roofed extension to rear right. Interior not inspected. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4475215034

Blenheim Parish

BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/5 Ditchley Lodge

GV II
Lodge. c.1860. Limestone ashlar; gabled Welsh slate roof; rendered internal stack. One storey; 3-window range, with pedimented centre bay brought forward. Two-light flanked by one-light casements set in moulded architraves with bracketed sills. Similar windows in gable ends. Flat roofed extension to rear, with C20 door to right. Interior not inspected. Included for group value. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4233118840

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/4 Ditchley Gate

GV II

Gateway. 1781, by John Yenn. Limestone ashlar piers, with large ball finials set on moulded cornices, flank fine wrought-iron gates with scrolled top. Hawksmoor designed the original gateway, which was not executed and was to terminate Wise's Great North Avenue. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p474; National Monuments Record; Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4232818840

BLLENHEIM

SP41NW, SP41NE, SP41SW, SP4417, SP4416, SP4461NW.
2/22, 3/22, 4/22, 7/22, SP4416NE 8/22, 9/22, 10/22 Park walls, surrounding Blenheim Park

GV II

Park walls. Mostly 1722-1729 by William Townesend and Bartholemew Peisley; medieval origins and later repairs. Squared and coursed limestone, with canted coping. Enclose area of medieval park, and run for approximately 14.5 KM. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; D. Green: Blenheim Palace, 1951, pp102, 313-4)

Listing NGR: SP4172617624

BLLENHEIM

SP41NW
2/21 Park Farm buildings, and Nos.1 and 2 Park Farm Cottages

II

Farm buildings and cottages. 1768, by Capability Brown; remodelled and buildings to rear and cottages built c.1858. Coursed limestone rubble with ashlar dressings; gabled concrete tile roofs; Welsh slate roofs to covered yards and hipped corrugated iron roofs to attached central ranges. Courtyard plan. One-storey front range has central 2-storey archway, which has fleuree cross surmounting stone-coped gable with moulded kneelers and keyed semi-circular arch with imposts over plank double doors. Archway flanked by wings each of 3-window range, with keyed flat stone arches over blocked windows and 2-light chamfered stone-mullioned window to left. Segmental stone arches over plank stable doors and hit-and-miss ventilators to loose boxes to rear. Range enclosing right side of courtyard has segmental arches over arcaded shelter sheds, with brick dressings to rear shelter shed, which has roothouse to rear. Range enclosing left side of courtyard has through-entry to rear, and haylofts over similar loosebox range and, facing outer side, 6-bay segmental-arched cartshed range and 2 implement sheds with plank double doors. Shelter sheds with segmental-arched arcades extend from sides to centre of yard dividing it into 4 smaller yards; plank doors to shelter sheds and covered yards to front, supported on brick piers and with iron-trussed roof; 5-bay shelter shed to rear, with timber posts and collar-truss roof. Range enclosing rear of courtyard has central 9-bay barn: ventilation slits, central through-entry and queen-post roof with iron bracing; floor to right of barn has fly wheels connected to 2-storey engine house to rear, with timber lintels over plank double doors and casements. To front and rear of right side of farm are two cottages built in 1858: each of one storey and attic; stone-coped gable end with moulded kneelers has lancet window set above 2-light chamfered stone-mullioned windows; cottage to front has 4-centred arched doorway with sunk spandrels; ridge stacks of stone with brick flues. Capability Brown built the farm as a menagerie for the Fourth Duke of Marlborough. The gateway and flanking wings of the front range survive but have been much remodelled: Brown built this range in Gothick style. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p474; D. Green, Blenheim Palace: 1951, p198)

Listing NGR: SP4247317036

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/3 Column of Victory

GV I

Column of Victory. Erected 1727-30 by Lord Herbert, later ninth Earl of Pembroke, after design by Nicholas Hawksmoor; statue of Marlborough by Sir Henry Cheere. Limestone ashlar. Fluted Doric column surmounted by lead statue of the Duke of Marlborough, as Caesar, and Roman eagles. Commemorative inscription on plinth written by Lord Bolingbroke. The column, which commemorates Marlborough's victories, was suggested by Vanbrugh: the designs by Hawksmoor were chiefly inspired by the pillar in Piazza Navona, Rome. The masons were Townesend and Peisley. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p473; National Monuments Record; K. Downes, Hawksmoor, 1959, pp207-10, 282; D. Green: Blenheim Palace, 1951, ppihi-2, 173-7; Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4351916995

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/13 Fishery Cottage

GV II

House. Mid/late C18. Coursed limestone rubble; gabled Welsh slate roof; brick end and ridge stacks. 3-unit plan. 2 storeys and attic; 3-window range. Flat stone arch over central C20 door with lean-to Welsh slate hood. Keyed flat stone arches over C20 two-light casements; hipped dormers with 2-light casements; hipped dormers with 2-light casements. Small C20 extension to right. Interior not inspected. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4386617088

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/18 High Lodge and attached walls
(Formerly listed as High Lodge Blenheim Park Combe, Oxon)

II*

Hunting lodge, now house. c.1768, by Capability Brown. Coursed limestone rubble; hipped Welsh slate roofs. 3-unit plan. Gothick style. Front, of 3-window range, has central 3-storey tower flanked by 2-storey bays. 3-storey canted bay window to centre: 2-light pointed-arched windows with applied wood frames above pointed-arched doorway with studded door. Similar windows in flanking bays. Raised storey and parapet bands; crenellated parapet. Similar windows to sides and rear of tower have sashes with octagonal panes. Porches with crenellated parapets to rear of flanking bays. To rear of tower is pointed arched doorway with studded door, and crenellated walls enclosing yard of approximately 10 x 10 metres. Interior not inspected. Stands on site of medieval lodge. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p474; D. Green, Blenheim Palace: 1951, pp30, 32-36)

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/14 Grand Bridge

GV I

Bridge. c.1706-1712. By Sir John Vanburgh. Limestone ashlar. Semi-circular archway, with blocked voussoirs, flanked by 2-storey square projecting bays: each bay has segmental-arched opening with keystone linked to bracketed cornice and with bracketed sill, above niche. Outer bays have rusticated semi-circular arches and bands of frosted rustication beneath parapet. Canted abutments have rusticated quoin strips. The bridge was left unfinished when work on the palace stopped in 1712: Vanbrugh intended the central span to be surmounted by tall arcades within corner towers, thus making a version of Palladio's Rialto Bridge. The bridge, which spanned virtual marshland before Capability Brown made the lake, has over 30 rooms, some with chimneypieces and dish vaulting, and was first conceived as a

habitable viaduct. The masons were Peisley and Townesend. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p473; National Monuments Record; K. Downes, Hawksmoor, 1959, p282; K. Downes, Vanbrugh, 1977, pp72-3; D. Green, Blenheim Palace, 1951, pp100-102, 117, 127; Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4389316414

BLENHEIM
SP4416NW
9/34 Walls attached to and N of Woodstock Gate

GV II

Walls. Probably c.1723 by Nicholas Hawksmoor. Squared and coursed limestone with ashlar coping. Piers with moulded entablatures stand at corners and adjoining Chaucer's House, Park Street (q.v.). (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; K. Downes: Hawksmoor: 1959, p282)

Listing NGR: SP4424416727

BLENHEIM
SP4416NW
9/40 Woodstock Gate (Formerly listed as Triumphal Arch)

GV I

Triumphal arch. 1723, by Nicholas Hawksmoor. Limestone ashlar. Keyed semi-circular archway flanked by 2 orders of Corinthian columns set on panelled plinth and supporting entablature with inscription set on narrow attic. Rusticated flanking walls, terminated by drum piers, has C18 panelled doors set in semi-circular arched doorways with lions' heads carved on keystones. The gateway was built to provide a more convenient entrance for visitors from Woodstock. The flanking doors were made before 1710 for the garden east of the palace and moved here in 1773. The builders were Peisley and Townesend. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p474; National Monuments Record; K. Downes: Hawksmoor: 1959, pp204-5, 282; D. Green: Blenheim Palace: 1951, pp256, 273; Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4426416716

BLENHEIM
SP4416NW
9/36 Wall attached to and E of Woodstock Gate

GV II

Wall. Probably c.1723 by Nicholas Hawksmoor. Squared and coursed limestone with ashlar coping. L-shaped, of approximately 5 x 5 metres; central ashlar pier has moulded entablature. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; K. Downes: Hawksmoor, 1959, p282)

Listing NGR: SP4427516718

BLENHEIM
SP4416NW
9/41 Woodstock Lodge

GV II

Lodge. Built 1887. Squared and coursed limestone; gabled Welsh slate roof. 2-unit plan. One storey; 2-window range. Doric porch in antis; late C19 six-panelled door. Plate-glass sashes set in eared and shouldered architraves. Doric corner pilasters. Interior not inspected. Included for group value. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

BLLENHEIM
SP4416NW
9/35 Wall attached to and N of Woodstock Lodge

GV II

Wall. c.1723, probably by Nicholas Hawksmoor. Squared and coursed limestone with ashlar coping. Approximately 12 metres long, and curved to ashlar pier with moulded entablature which forms side of entry to courtyard. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; K. Downes: Hawksmoor: 1959, p282)

Listing NGR: SP4427616745

BLLENHEIM
SP4416NW
9/2 China Corner (that part in Blenheim C.P.)

GV II

Shown on Ordnance Survey map as Home Lodge. House. Late C18. Limestone ashlar; coursed limestone rubble. Gabled stone slate roofs; stone ashlar ridge and end stacks. 3-unit plan. 3 storeys; 3-window range. Gabled hood over central 6-panelled door with fanlight, flanked by 3-storey bay windows. Stone lintels over 6-pane sashes and 3-pane second-floor sashes. Raised storey bands and parapet. 2-storey, 2-window ranges, flanking main range, have 8-pane sashes and raised band beneath parapet. Lower 2-storey service block to right has semi-circular arched doorway, 2 eight-pane sashes and raised band beneath parapet. Late C19 range to rear. Interior not inspected but likely to be of interest. A small section of this house is in Woodstock C.P. See under Rectory Lane. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBWC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4440016532

BLLENHEIM
SP4416
8/16 Hensington Gate

GV I

Gateway. c.1709-10, by Nicholas Hawksmoor. Limestone ashlar. Frosted columns, set on polygonal plinths, each support cornice and flat scrolls flanking 2-tier. campanile-style superstructure crowned by vases of flowers carved by Grinling Gibbons. Late C19 carriage gates. Cast-iron railings on low limestone walls swept to meet terminal piers of banded rustication. The gatepiers originally stood in the garden to the east of Blenheim Palace (q.v.) and were moved to their present position in the 1770's. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p474; National Monuments Record; K. Downes: Hawksmoor: 1959, pp75-82; Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4476316567

BLLENHEIM
SP4416
8/17 Hensington Lodge

GV II

Lodge. 1876-7, by F.B. Osborn. Limestone ashlar; gabled Welsh slate roof; limestone ashlar ridge stack with pedimented top. T-plan. One storey; 7-bay range with one-bay blocks flanking 3-bay portico to front. Doric pilasters to walls. Pedimented portico has Doric antae and corner columns, and carving of Imperial eagles in tympanum. Plate-glass sashes set in raised architraves; one-bay blocks flanking portico have 4-panelled door with overlight to left and balustraded parapets with urns. Stone-coped gable ends with urn finials. Interior not inspected. Included for group value. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4476316546

BLLENHEIM
SP41NE
3/31 The Cowyards and Cowyards Cottage

II

Farm buildings. c.1860. Squared and coursed limestone; gabled Welsh slate roofs, with ball finials to stone-coped gables of central range. U-plan, with central range dividing enclosure into 2 foldyards open to front. Yard to right: range on right side has saddle room with segmental arch over plank door and stone ridge stack, and loosebox range with 3 stable doors and slatted openings and cast-iron columns to row of slatted ventilators beneath eaves; to rear are segmental stone arches over door flanked by 2-light casements with glazing bars, and through-entry to right. Yard to left has similar stable doors and casements to rear and 8 plank doors to range on left; double doors to swill house with stone stack to front of left range. Central range has cast-iron columns to row of slatted ventilators beneath eaves: to rear are segmental stone arches over plank double doors to 2-storey mixing house. Interior: plank doors and feeding passages. Subsidiary features: mid C19 Cowyards Cottage, of similar materials, attached to right. Good example of mid C19 stock fare. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4522916028

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/20 New Bridge

GV I

Bridge. 1773, by Sir William Chambers. Limestone ashlar. 3 semi-circular archivolt arches; bracketed and modillioned cornice beneath balustraded parapet. Rusticated end piers, each with paterae set in fluted frieze, from which sweep abutments with terminal piers. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p474; National Monuments Record; Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4440015244

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/19 Kitchen Garden Walls and attached house approx. 600m SE of Blenheim Palace

GV II

Walls enclosing kitchen garden. c.1710 by Thomas Churchill and Richard Stacey. Stone-coped walls, of Flemish bond brick and 4.5m high, enclose area approximately 80 x 320 metres. Walls have two elliptical curves to each side. Keyed stone ashlar niches set in walls; bellcote with bell over niche to north. Large piers, with raised panels and moulded stone plinths, flank north and south entrances with C20 gates. Banded brickwork with flared headers to piers of east entrance, with C20 gates, and west entrance which has stone ashlar pedimented Tuscan gateway flanked by niches, by Sir William Chambers, 1766-75, and late C19 wrought-iron gate. Late C18 gardener's house attached to south-west: of limestone rubble with M-shaped concrete tile roof, and C19 brick end stacks. Double-depth plan. 2-storey, 2-window range front has keyed flat stone arches over late C19 plate-glass sashes. C20 door in gable end. Interior noted as having quarter-turn stairs with turned balusters. Limestone rubble walls enclose area approximately 40 x 320 metres to rear. Stacey and Churchill were master-bricklayers who built Queen Anne's Orangery at Kensington Palace. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p475; D. Green: Blenheim Palace and Gardens: 1972, p4)

Listing NGR: SP4460915623

BLLENHEIM

SP41NW

2/26 Sundial approx. 6m S of Nos.1 and 2 Bothy Cottages (not included)

GV II

Sundial. c.1710; designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor. Limestone. Vase-shaped pedestal, with acanthus-leaf carving to base and carved swags. Brass dial has ducal coronet set in gnomon. Pedestal carved by Henry Banks and dial made by John Rowley. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p475; D. Green: Blenheim Palace: 1951, pp117, 252)

Listing NGR: SP4464915700

BLLENHEIM

SP41NW

2/24 Statue of Hermes approx. 450m SSE of south front of Blenheim Palace

II

Statue of Hermes. Late C18. Lead statue surmounts pedestal with wheatear festoon over medallion and with fretted frieze. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4446315715

BLLENHEIM

SP41NW

2/15 Group of 6 terms and statue of 4 putti at Exedra approx. 400m SE of south front of Blenheim Palace

GV II

Group of 6 terms. 1772, by Richard Hayward. Limestone. Depict Hecate (opening urn of serpents), bearded philosopher (probably Aristotle), Bacchus, Cicero, Fawn holding sheep's head and Hercules. Terms grouped in circle around lead statue of 4 putti. Moved to late C19 exedra of yew hedges by Tenth Duke of Marlborough from their original position in the arcades of the Great Hall in Blenheim Palace. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p475)

Listing NGR: SP4445915802

BLLENHEIM

SP41NW

2/32 Urn approx. 330m SE of south front of Blenheim Palace

II

Urn. Late C18. Urn with swags set on tall tapered pedestal. Pedestal has moulded plinth and cornice, fretted frieze and carved trophies of musical instruments including lyre, cornetts, and Pan pipes. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4441415897

BLLENHEIM

SP4416

8/30 Temple of Health

II*

Shown on Ordnance Survey map as Temple of Diana. Temple. 1789, by John Yenn. Limestone ashlar; gabled Welsh slate roof. Corinthian tetrastyle temple. Dentilled pediment above Corinthian columns in antis, which have grey stone capitals. Interior: medallion of George III and Latin inscription in commemoration of his recovery from prolonged period of mental illness. (Blenheim Park is included in the

HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p475; D. Green: Blenheim Palace, 1951, p283)

Listing NGR: SP4444716040

BLENHHEIM

SP41NW, SP4416 2/1, 8/1 Blenheim Palace

GV I

Country house. 1706-29, by Sir John Vanbrugh and Nicholas Hawksmoor for the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough; carvings by Grinling Gibbons and interiors by Laguerre, Thornhill et. al. Limestone ashlar, with rusticated corner towers and details; lead roofs; stone stacks. House has 4 corner towers, and Great Court to north flanked by Stable Court to east and Kitchen Court to west. Baroque style. Two storeys. Sashes to all windows. North front has central 9-bay facade, articulated by giant order of Corinthian pilasters; 3-bay pedimented portico; carving of the Marlborough Arms in tympanum, figures of Britannia and chained slaves on pediment and centurions on parapet by Grinling Gibbons; huge cleft open pediment set behind portico, with clerestory windows to Hall ranged to rear. Quadrants, articulated by Doric engaged columns, link facade to corner towers which have banded rustication, arched windows and bracketed cornices; superstructure to each tower has curved flying buttresses and pinnacles of reversed fleurs-de-lys, piled-up cannon balls and ducal coronets. Colonnades, with engaged Doric columns and carved military achievements by Gibbons, are linked to 11 bay blocks: rusticated archways, in centre of each block and leading to Kitchen and Stable Courts, are flanked by banded Doric columns and surmounted by carvings of the Lion of England savaging the Cock of France. Clock towers behind each archway have interlocking pediments with ball finial. 7-bay end blocks have rusticated Doric pilasters to pedimented centre of north facades. East and west fronts each have central full-height bow windows, with caryatids to west, and similar corner towers to south. South front has tall 9-bay facade to centre, articulated by giant order of Corinthian pilasters progressing to columns in central portico: entablature of portico surmounted by bust of Louis XIV, taken from the city gates of Tournai after its sack in 1709. Roof has finials and military carvings by Grinling Gibbons. Kitchen Court to west: castellated parapet, and arcaded to north and south with heavy open-pedimented Doric porches; east gateway, which houses water cistern, has obelisk-shaped pillars resting on cannon balls flanking cast-iron gates of c.1890 and garlands and statues in niches by Sir William Chambers, 1766-75. Orangery to south of Kitchen Court has arcaded front with sashes and heavy Doric porch of 2 orders with open pediment. Great Court in front of palace remodelled by Achille Duchene in 1910: military trophies, flanking steps in front of portico, carved by Grinling Gibbons; low ashlar walls surrounding Great Court have piers with wheatear festoons over medallions, and flaming urns to piers in angles of south-east and south-west corners; wrought-iron gates to front, flanked by scrolled ironwork panels. Interior: Great Hall, with 3-tier arcades and Corinthian columns and cornices carved by Grinling Gibbons, has ceiling painted by Sir James Thornhill in 1716 which shows Marlborough presenting plan of Battle of Blenheim to Britannia. Vaulted stone corridors link Great Hall to east and west wings. Stairs to left of Great Hall has iron balustrade continued in front of gallery above proscenium arch, with arms of Queen Anne carved by Gibbons, which leads from Hall to Saloon to rear. Saloon: marble fireplace by Townesend; marble doorcases with carved shells to keys by Grinling Gibbons; walls and ceiling decorated 1719-20 by Louis Laguerre. Suite of 3 rooms to left (east) have plasterwork ceilings by Hawksmoor, and marble fireplaces by Sir William Chambers; scrolls, eagles and phoenixes in coving of ceilings of c.1890, Suite of 3 State Rooms to right, (west) of Saloon have tapestries by Judocus de Vos depicting Marlborough's victories, the remainder of the set being elsewhere in the house: fireplaces by Gibbons and Chambers; Rococo decoration of c.1890, with inset portraits set in gilt frames; First State Room has portrait of 9th Duchess by Duran, Second State Room has portrait of Louis XIV by Mignard and Third State Room has portrait of Colonel Armstrong with Marlborough by Seeman. All set in overmantles over fireplaces. The Long Library, "Hawksmoor's finest room", has plasterwork by Isaac Mansfield and marble doorcases and giant order of Doric pilasters with triglyph frieze by Peisley and Townesend; carved wood bookcases; marble fireplaces, by Hawksmoor or William Kent, have pedimented overmantels framing paintings of seascape and landscape by Wootton after Poussin and Ore surmounted by busts by Rysbrack. Statue of Queen Anne and bust of Marlborough by Rysbrack, the latter on pedestal by Chambers. At ends of Long Library are galleried bays, with consoles supporting pierced balustrades; organ of 1871 to north bay. Corridor to Great Hall has marble basin, probably by Vanbrugh. Private Apartments in East Wing not inspected: central Bow Window Room has wood Corinthian columns and marble fireplace by Gibbons; fireplaces by Chambers in Grand Cabinet and Duchess's Drawing Room. Basement noted as having fireplaces by Gibbons. Chapel: by Hawksmoor, with giant fluted pilasters and plasterwork. Monument to Duke of Marlborough, 1733, designed by William Kent and executed by Rysbrack: Baroque figure composition set in niche with medallion portraits and military trophies to plasterwork panels. Statues of Randolph Churchill, 1895, and 7th Duke of Marlborough, 1883. Organ case, reredos, pulpit and benches by T.G. Jackson, c.1890. The 8th Duke, who succeeded in 1883, was chairman of New Telephone Company and installed earliest domestic phone

system in Britain here: late C19 telephone sets in Long Library and estate office in Kitchen Court. Amongst the notable furnishings are: in west corridor, connecting Great Hall to Long Library, C18 Flemish statues of nymph and youth (Parodi workshop); Emperor Vespasian and Caracalla; Cardinal Delfino and Cardinal Borromeo (C18 Italian); in Great Hall are 2 bronze statues by Soldani, removed from East Formal Garden; early C18 statue of Bacchus by Michael Vandervoort; Alexander the Great, partly Roman, and Roman bust of Emperor Hadrian; C18 Emperor Scipio Africanus. Woodstock Park, the site for Blenheim Palace, was presented by Queen Anne to John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, to commemorate his decisive defeat of the French army at Blenheim in 1704. As a "Royall and a National Monument" (Vanbrugh) it outclasses English royal palaces and rivals the Baroque palaces of Europe in size and splendour. Important influences were Versailles, medieval castle architecture and Elizabethan architecture especially Wollaton Hall. Amongst the masons employed were the Peisleys and William Townesend, who worked on other buildings in Blenheim Park. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: pp459-472; National Monuments Record; D. Green: Blenheim Palace, 1951; K. Downes: Hawksmoor, 1959; K. Downes: Vanbrugh, 1977; Article in Country Life: Vol 25 (1909), pp786-798, 834-844; D. Green and C. Hussey: "Blenheim Palace Revisited", Country Life: Vol 105 (1949), pp1182-6, 1246-1250; D. Green and M. Jourdain: "Furniture at Blenheim", Country Life: Vol.107 (1951), pp1184-6; D. Green and T. Rayson: "Restoring Blenheim Palace", Country Life, Vol.124 (1958), pp1400-01; M. Bennett, "A Painter on the Grand Scale: Louis Laguerre", Vol 136 (1964), pp226-8; D. Green: "Rysbrack at Blenheim", Vol 149 (1971), pp26-28)

Listing NGR: SP4412416054

BLLENHEIM

SP4416

8/241 Statue approx. 4m S of SW corner of Kitchen Court

GV II

Statue. Probably late C19/early C20. By the Andreoni studio of Rome. Marble. Finely carved statue of goddess dressing her hair, probably after the antique. Stands on round marble pedestal decorated with swags and moulding. Signed "Studio Andreoni Roma". Probably sited in 1920's as part of Achille Duchenes work for Ninth Duke of Marlborough. Fords pair with Statue approximately 4 metres south of east end of Orangery (q.v.). Included for group value. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4414316129

BLLENHEIM

SP4416

8/10 East Formal Garden, steps in NW corner

GV II

Steps. 1908, by Achille Duchene. Limestone. Two flights of 5 steps each, with plain balustrades and piers with panelled sides. Part of Duchene's layout for the East Formal Garden designed for the Ninth Duke of Marlborough. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4415516114

BLLENHEIM

SP4416

8/11 East Formal Garden, steps in SW corner

GV II

Steps. 1908, by Achille Duchene. Limestone. Two flights of 5 steps each, with plain balustrades and piers with panelled sides. Part of Duchene's layout for the East Formal Garden designed for the Ninth Duke of Marlborough. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4418316073

BLLENHEIM

SP4416

8/12 East Formal Garden, fountain in centre

GV II

Fountain. c.1900-1910, by Waldo Storey. Marble, with gilt bronze figures. Winged mermaids and dolphins support quatre foil-shaped bowl with winged putti to edge and woman holding gilt crown to centre. Fountain forms centrepiece of East Formal Gardens, designed by Achille Duchene for Ninth Duke of Marlborough in 1908. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p474; D. Green: Blenheim Palace, 1951, pp204, 288)

Listing NGR: SP4419616112

BLLENHEIM

SP4416

8/240 Statue approx. 4m S of E end of Orangery

GV II

Statue. Probably late C19/early C20. By A. Fruilli of Florence. Marble. Finely carved statue probably of Venus and after the antique. Stands on round marble pedestal decorated with swags and moulding. Signed "A. Fruilli, Firenze". Probably sited in 1920's as part of Achille Duchene's work for Ninth Duke of Marlborough. Forms pair with Statue approximately 4 metres south of south-west corner of Kitchen Court (q.v.). Included for group value. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4420416167

BLLENHEIM

SP4416

8/7 East Formal Garden, statue of Knifegrinder in NE corner

GV II*

Statue of knifegrinder. c.1700, by M.Soldani. Bronze statue surmounts moulded limestone ashlar pedestal. Stands in north-east corner of East Formal Gardens, designed by Achille Duchene for Ninth Duke of Marlborough. One of a set of four statues presented to the first Duke of Marlborough. Massimiliano Soldani was one of the foremost Florentine sculptors of his day. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4421316143

BLLENHEIM

SP4416

8/8 East Formal Garden, steps to E side

GV II

Steps. 1908, by Achille Duchene. Limestone. Two flights of 5 steps each, with plain balustrades and piers with panelled sides. Part of Duchene's layout for the East Formal Garden designed for the Ninth Duke of Marlborough. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4422716133

BLLENHEIM

SP4416

8/9 East Formal Garden, statue of Wrestlers in SE corner

GV II*

Statue of wrestlers. c.1700, by M.Soldani. Bronze statue surmounts moulded limestone ashlar pedestal. Stands in SE corner of East Formal Gardens, designed by Achille Duchene for Ninth Duke of Marlborough.

One of a set of four statues presented to the first Duke of Marlborough. Massimiliano Soldani was one of the foremost Florentine sculptors of his day. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4423216115

BLLENHEIM
SP4416
8/25 Sundial approx. 10m ESE of East Formal Gardens

GV II
Sundial. c.1710; designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor. Limestone. Vase-shaped pedestal, with acanthus-leaf carving to base and carved swags. Brass dial has ducal coronet set in gnomon. Pedestal carved by Henry Banks and dial made by John Rowley. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p475; D. Green: Blenheim Palace: 1951, pp117, 252)

Listing NGR: SP4425316106

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/39 Water Terrace Gardens, Bernini Fountain on West Terrace (Formerly listed as Bernini Fountain)

GV I
Fountain. Late C17, restored 1932. Marble and limestone. Four figures, depicting the rivers Nile, Ganges, Plata, and Danube or Tiber, arranged on rocky plinth surrounding obelisk. Small-scale version of fountain by Bernini at the Piazza Navona in Rome and given to the Duke of Marlborough in 1710 by the Spanish ambassador to the Papal Court in Rome. Restored in 1932 and sited in the lower Water Terrace Gardens made by Achille Duchene for the Ninth Duke, 1925-30. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p475; National Monuments Record; D. Green: "The Bernini Fountain at Blenheim"; Country Life, Vol 110 (1951), pp268-9; Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4398216000

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW, SP4416
2/38, 8/38 Water Terrace Gardens, West Terrace

GV II
Water Terrace Gardens. 1925-30, by Achille Duchene for Ninth Duke of Marlborough. West Terrace is bounded by limestone ashlar walls, with steps to north and south; tall wall to east has rusticated pilasters to walls bounding steps which rise to upper East Terrace (q.v.) and central row of caryatids flanking rusticated niches with vasques forming miniature cascades. Two square ponds, with limestone ashlar retaining walls have Bernini Fountain (q.v.) to north pool and copy of Bernini Fountain to south pool. Large decorative earthenware urns stand at corners of pool and flank north and south steps. To east of ponds is low wall, with 3 sets of steps to raised walk adjoining East Terrace (q.v.): steps to centre are flanked by sphinxes by W. Ward Willis, 1930, which depict Ninth Duke's second wife, and lead statuettes of angels standing on fluted Doric columns; steps to sides flanked by similar angels and cloaked putti holding swags. Lead statues on limestone ashlar pedestals to north-east and north-west corners of terrace, depict warriors holding swords and shields. Limestone ashlar garden seats on console supports. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: pp.474-5; D. Green: Blenheim Palace: 1951)

Listing NGR: SP4398215972

BLLENHEIM
SP41NM, SP4416
2/37, 8/37 Water Terrace Gardens, East Terrace

GV II

Water Terrace Gardens. 1925-30, by Achille Duchene for Ninth Duke of Marlborough. Limestone ashlar kerb walls with ball finials to pools and surrounding parterre beds, which form square in centre of terrace. To corners of pools are lead female statues, probably representing Venus, surmounting moulded ashlar pedestals with fretted friezes; small lead statues of putti and cloaked woman sit on kerb walls surrounding pools. Stone urns surmount wall to West Terrace (q.v.), with lead putto to south-west; tall limestone ashlar walls to south, with ball finials to wall bounding steps. Stone urns surmount low limestone ashlar wall to north, which has steps to raised walk along north side of terrace. Raised walk has lead statue of warrior with sword and shield, surmounting moulded ashlar pedestal with fretted frieze; ball finials flank steps to raised entrance to Terrace to north-east, which has lead statue of man untying sandals on similar pedestal and sarcophagus with frieze of classical figures. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: pp474-5; D. Green: Blenheim Palace: 1951)

Listing NGR: SP4405315986

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/23 Statue of Dying Gaul approx. 5m S of East Terrace of Water Terrace Gardens

GV II

Statue of Dying Gaul. Probably early C18 but installed c.1930, by Achille Duchene. Lead statue surmounts limestone ashlar pedestal with moulded plinth and cornice and fretted frieze. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4405515975

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/28 Temple of Diana

II*

Temple. 1772-3, by Sir William Chambers. Limestone ashlar; gabled Welsh slate roof. Ionic tetrastyle temple. Pediment with Greek inscription in tympanum, over grey stone frieze with ribboned swags; Ionic columns in antis with grey stone capitals. Interior: wheatear festoons over oval medallions, with classical figures to centre. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I; Buildings of England: Oxfordshire, p474)

Listing NGR: SP4400415834

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/242 Statutory group in centre of Rose Garden

II

Statutory group. Probably mid/late C19. Marble. Finely carved group of merman supporting nymph on his shoulders with child at his side. Stands on base in centre of small pool in middle of rose garden. Base formerly inscribed "Bolneis exanguie ab undis restitula". (Photograph in NMR; Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of "Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4394715588

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/29 Temple of Flora

II

Temple. Late C18. Limestone ashlar; gabled Welsh slate roof. Classical style. Pedimented front has pilasters with masks, swags and palettes flanking keyed moulded three-centred archway with moulded imposts; laurel wreath carved in tympanum. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4390115478

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/243 Grotto by lake to SW of Temple of Flora

II

Grotto. Probably late C18. Stone, ivy-coloured exedro of rough-hewn blocks and partly retaining has deep arched niche in centre from which the lake can be viewed. Probably part of "Capability Brown's work at Blenheim in 1760". (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4380815359

BLLENHEIM
SP41NW
21/27 Swiss Bridge, approx. 890m SSW of Blenheim Palace

II

Bridge. c.1820, for Fifth Duke of Marlborough. Wrought-iron. Trellised balustrade supported on slender arch-braced piers. Situated beneath Capability Brown's Grand Cascade: the Fifth Duke made a botanical garden around the Cascade. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I. D. Green, Blenheim Palace: 1951, p193)

Listing NGR: SP4373815186

**SCHEDULED MONUMENT
DESCRIPTIONS AND BOUNDARIES**

EARTHWORK 300m SOUTH WEST OF FAIR ROSAMUND'S WELL - LIST ENTRY 1009417

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 14-Feb-1995

UID: 21815

National Grid Reference: SP 43399 16256

Reasons for Designation

Romano-Celtic temples were built to meet the spiritual needs of the communities they served by venerating the god or spirit considered to dwell in a particular place. The temple building was regarded as the treasure house of its deity and priests rather than as a congregational building and any religious activities, including private worship, communal gatherings, sanctuary and healing, took place outside. Romano-Celtic temples included the temple building and a surrounding sacred precinct or temenos which could be square, circular, rectangular or polygonal in ground plan. The temple building invariably faced due east and was the focus of the site, although it did not necessarily occupy the central position in the temenos. It comprised a cella, or inner temple chamber, an ambulatory or walkway around the cella, and sometimes annexes or antechambers. The buildings were constructed of a variety of materials, including stone, cob and timber, and walls were often plastered and painted both internally and externally. Some temenoi enclosed other buildings, often substantial and built in materials and styles similar to those of the temple; these are generally interpreted as priests' houses, shops or guest houses. Romano-Celtic temples were built and used throughout the Roman period from the mid first century AD to the late fourth/early fifth century AD, with individual examples being used for relatively long periods of time. They were widespread throughout southern and eastern England, although there are no examples in the far south west and they are rare nationally with only about 150 sites recorded in England. In view of their rarity and their importance in contributing to the complete picture of Roman religious practice, including its continuity from Iron Age practice, all Romano-Celtic temples with surviving archaeological potential are considered to be of national importance.

The Romano-Celtic temple in Blenheim Park survives well and will contain archaeological and environmental evidence relating to its construction, function and the landscape in which it was built. This is one of several examples to survive in this area, all contained within the area defined by the north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch.

History - Details

The monument includes an earthwork, interpreted as an enclosed Romano-Celtic temple, situated 300m south west of Fair Rosamund's Well, in Blenheim Park. The site occupies a position overlooking a valley to the east which was landscaped to form a large artificial lake during the 18th century. The enclosure survives as a ditch and bank containing an area 19m square. The bank measures 3.5m wide and stands up to 0.3m high on all sides. The outer ditch has become largely infilled over time but is visible at ground level as a shallow depression 2.8m wide. There is a break in the south eastern corner of the earthwork and this may represent the original entrance to the interior. The interior of the enclosure is level although the presence of a coniferous plantation obscures the view. The interior would have contained one or more structures relating to the religious functions of the site. Evidence of these structures in the form of pits, postholes and trenches will survive as buried features. The site is one of a number of Romano-Celtic temples which appear to be concentrated in the area between the River Evenlode and the River Glym. Excluded from the scheduling is the post and wire fence surrounding the plantation, although the ground beneath is included.

Selected Sources

1. **Book Reference** - *Author:* BOND, C.J. - *Title:* BLENHEIM: Landscape and Palace - *Date:* 1987 - *Type:* DESC TEXT - *Description:* With TILLER
2. **Book Reference** - *Author:* C.A.O. - *Title:* Square Enclosure - *Date:* 1993 - *Type:* SMR - *Description:* PRN 12740
3. **Book Reference** - *Author:* FAIREY - *Title:* 8,072 - *Date:* 1961 - *Type:* AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

**BOWL BARROW 350m SOUTH WEST OF FURZE PLATT FARM - LIST ENTRY
1009416**

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 10-Nov-1994

UID: 21814

National Grid Reference: SP 43023 18064

Reasons for Designation

Bowl barrows, the most numerous form of round barrow, are funerary monuments dating from the Late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age, with most examples belonging to the period 2400-1500 BC. They were constructed as earthen or rubble mounds, sometimes ditched, which covered single or multiple burials. They occur either in isolation or grouped as cemeteries and often acted as a focus for burials in later periods. Often superficially similar, although differing widely in size, they exhibit regional variations in form and a diversity of burial practices. There are over 10,000 surviving bowl barrows recorded nationally (many more have already been destroyed), occurring across most of lowland Britain. Often occupying prominent locations, they are a major historic element in the modern landscape and their considerable variation of form and longevity as a monument type provide important information on the diversity of beliefs and social organisations amongst early prehistoric communities. They are particularly representative of their period and a substantial proportion of surviving examples are considered worthy of protection.

Despite partial excavation, the bowl barrow 350m south west of Furze Platt Farm will contain archaeological and environmental evidence relating to its construction and the landscape in which it was built.

History - Details

The monument includes a Bronze Age bowl barrow situated on a gentle ridge running north-south in open parkland, 350m south west of Furze Platt Farm on the Blenheim Estate. The barrow mound measures 14m in diameter and stands up to 0.3m high. There is a slight depression c.1m across and 0.1m deep in the centre of the mound. This may represent an early excavation of the site. Surrounding the mound, but no longer visible at ground level, is a quarry ditch from which material was obtained during its construction. This has become infilled over the years but will survive as a buried feature c.2m wide.

Selected Sources

1. **Book Reference** - *Author:* C.A.O. - *Title:* Small circular enclosure - *Date:* 1980 - *Type:* SMR - *Description:* PRN 12,743 Note 1
2. **Book Reference** - *Author:* C.A.O. - *Title:* Small circular enclosure - *Date:* 1980 - *Type:* SMR - *Description:* PRN 12,743 Note 2
3. **Book Reference** - *Author:* C.A.O. - *Title:* Small circular enclosure - *Date:* 1980 - *Type:* SMR - *Description:* PRN 12,743 Note 3
4. **Book Reference** - *Author:* FAIREY - *Title:* Air Photograph - *Date:* 1961 - *Type:* PHOTO - *Description:* 9.033-4
5. **Book Reference** - *Author:* Ordnance Survey - *Title:* Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 - *Date:* 1930 - *Type:* MAP - *Description:* SP 41 NW

TEN MEDIEVAL PILLOW MOUNDS AND PART OF AN ASSOCIATED ENCLOSURE 300m NORTH WEST OF COMBE LODGE - LIST NUMBER 1009418

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 30-Aug-1996

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

UID: 21816

National Grid Reference: SP 42343 16116

Reasons for Designation

A warren is an area of land set aside for the breeding and management of rabbits or hares in order to provide a constant supply of fresh meat and skins. Although the hare is an indigenous species, the tradition of warren construction and use dates from the 12th century, following the introduction of rabbits into England from the continent. Warrens usually contain a number of purpose-built breeding places known as pillow mounds or rabbit buries, which were intended to centralise the colony and make catching the animals easier, whether using nets, ferrets or dogs. The mounds vary in design although rarely exceeding 0.7m in height. Earlier monuments such as burial mounds, boundary features and mottes were sometimes reused as breeding places. The mounds are usually surrounded by ditches and contain underlying channels or are situated on sloping ground to facilitate drainage. The interior of the mound may also contain nesting places constructed of stone slabs or cut into the underlying subsoil or bedrock. A typical warren may contain between one and forty pillow mounds or rabbit buries and occupy an area up to c.600ha. Many warrens were enclosed by a bank, hedge or wall intended to contain and protect the stock. Other features associated with the warren include vermin traps (usually a dead-fall mechanism within a small tunnel), and more rarely traps for the warren stock (known in Yorkshire as 'types') which could contain the animals unharmed and allow for selective culling. Larger warrens might include living quarters for the warrener who kept charge of the site, sometimes surrounded by an enclosed garden and outbuildings. Early warrens were mostly associated with the higher levels of society; however, they gradually spread in popularity so that by the 16th and 17th centuries they were a common feature on most manors and estates throughout the country. Warrens continued in use until fairly recent times, finally declining in the face of 19th and 20th century changes in agricultural practice, and the onset of myxomatosis. Warrens are found in all parts of England, the earliest examples lying in the southern part of the country. Approximately 1,000 - 2,000 examples are known nationally with concentrations in upland areas, on heathland and in coastal zones. The profits from a successfully managed warren could, however, be considerable and many areas in lowland England were set aside for warrens at the expense of agricultural land. Although relatively common, warrens are important for their associations with other classes of monument, including various forms of settlement, deer parks, field systems and fishponds. They may also provide evidence of the economy of both secular and ecclesiastical estates. All well preserved medieval examples are considered worthy of protection. A sample of well preserved sites of later date will also merit protection.

The artificial rabbit warren represented by these enclosed pillow mounds formed an integral part of the economy of the medieval royal estate. The monument survives well and will contain archaeological evidence relating to its construction, the landscape in which it was built and the medieval economy of the area. This is one of the best preserved examples of an artificial rabbit warren in the Cotswolds.

History - Details

The monument includes a group of ten pillow mounds and the northern and western sides of an associated enclosure situated 300m north west of Combe Lodge on the Blenheim Palace Estate. The ten mounds are dispersed across an area of c.150m square which is bounded to the north east and north west by two linear ditches which measure c.8m wide and 0.5m deep. The exact location and extent of the surrounding enclosure is not known on the south eastern and south western sides. The individual mounds are all oval and measure from 7.5m to 9.1m in length, 3.9m to 5.6m wide and stand between 0.3m and 1m high. Eight of them are aligned with

their long axis from north west to south east while the remaining two run south west to north east. The mounds are all flanked by narrow ditches c.0.8m wide which have become infilled with silt and leaf litter but which are visible as shallow surface features up to 0.2m deep. These pillow mounds formed a managed artificial rabbit warren for the Woodstock Manor Estate (now known as Blenheim Palace Estate) during the medieval period. The land on which it sits was originally outside the boundary of the deer park but was planted with trees after having been added to the main park at the turn of the century. The area is now known as New Park.

Selected Sources

1. **Book Reference** - *Author: C.A.O. - Title: Rabbit Warren - Pillow Mound - Date: 1993 - Type: SMR - Description: PRN 12,517*
2. **Book Reference** - *Author: C.A.O. - Title: Rabbit Warren - Pillow Mounds - Date: 1993 - Type: SMR - Description: PRN 12,517*
3. **Book Reference** - *Author: JEFFERY, P.P. - Title: Discussion on site with H. Coddington (OCC) and S. Lisk (RCHME) - Date: 1993 - Type: PERS COMM - Description: During field visit 01/12/1993*
4. **Book Reference** - *Author: Ordnance Survey - Title: Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Series - Date: 1980 - Type: MAP - Description: SHEET SP 41 NW*

**SECTION OF THE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE GRIM'S DITCH AND A SECTION OF
AKEMAN STREET ROMAN ROAD IMMEDIATELY SOUTH EST OF NORTH LODGE
- LIST ENTRY 1009425**

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 10-Apr-1951

Date of most recent amendment: 18-Oct-1994

UID: 21837

National Grid Reference: SP 42728 18265

Reasons for Designation

The north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch is a series of discrete linear earthworks of Iron Age date which together make up at least one segmented circuit, situated between the valleys of the Rivers Evenlode, Glyme and Windrush in an area of the eastern Cotswolds. In recent years evidence for an outer concentric circuit has come to light, largely from the study of cropmarks visible on aerial photographs. The area enclosed by the inner circuit is 12 sq km and the outer circuit encloses between 60 and 70 sq km. The earthworks which define this area were only built in open country leaving apparent gaps in the areas previously forested. Where visible, the Grim's Ditch always includes a rampart of dumped earth and stone, a berm and outer ditch and, in places, a narrow palisade trench beyond. It is believed that, together, these components served to enclose and divide an area of land and provide control over access through the open country which existed between heavily forested areas. The ditch is Iron Age in date and provides evidence of how the landscape was managed and divided in the period immediately prior to the Roman Conquest. The high concentration of sites representing Iron Age ritual and agricultural activity which occur within the area defined by the ditch confirms the view that it served to define an area which was of particular significance to its builders. All sections surviving as visible earthworks, and sections identified by aerial photography which are integral to a general understanding of the nature and extent of Grim's Ditch, will normally merit statutory protection.

The sections of Grim's Ditch and Akeman Street south east of North Lodge both survive well and are known from aerial photographs and partial excavation to contain archaeological and environmental evidence relating to their construction and the landscape in which they were built. This is the one area where a visible overlap occurs between the ditch system and the later road. As such, this point is critical for providing a full understanding of their chronological and spatial relationship.

History - Details

The monument includes a section of the north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch and a section of Akeman Street Roman road at their intersection, immediately south east of North Lodge, in Blenheim Great Park. This section of the north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch includes two lengths of rampart and associated ditches, set at an angle, and separated by a 4m wide strip representing an entrance. The ditch sections run from the north west to the south east for 150m to meet Akeman Street and then run roughly west to east for 370m south of the Roman road. The ramparts were originally 6m wide and up to 2m high. This section has been partially levelled by the construction of the drive from the column to Ditchley Gate but survives as a visible earthwork from 0.2m to 2m high. The ditch lies north of the rampart and measures up to 10m wide and up to 1.5m deep. A 60m long section, east of the intersection of Akeman Street, has been infilled to allow the passage of vehicles along the drive but is visible on air photographs, suggesting its survival as a buried feature. Akeman Street runs east to west along the line of an older prehistoric trackway, using a pre-existing entrance through the Grim's Ditch. The carriageway is known from excavations in 1898 to consist of a layer of vertically laid stones covered with a c. 0.2m thick layer of gravel and fine stones. This surface measures up to 4m across and is flanked by two drainage ditches 2m wide. Although the line of the carriageway remains visible above ground as a slight raised earthwork, c.5m wide, the ditches have become infilled over the years and survive as buried features. Excluded from the scheduling are the tarmac surface of the road leading to Ditchley

Gate from Blenheim Palace, gate and fences which run east to west along the north side of Akeman Street, and the post and wire fence running north to south along the rampart north of Akeman Street, although the land beneath all of these features is included.

Selected Sources

1. **Book Reference** - *Author:* COPELAND, T. - *Title:* The North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch System - *Page References:* 277-291 - *Type:* DESC TEXT - *Description:* FIELDWORK SURVEY
2. **Book Reference** - *Author:* JEFFERY, P.P. - *Title:* DISCUSSION ON SITE - *Date:* 1993 - *Type:* PERS COMM - *Description:* With H. CODDINGTON (ACAO OXON)
3. **Book Reference** - *Author:* Ordnance Survey - *Title:* Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 - *Date:* 1980 - *Type:* MAP - *Description:* SHEET SP 41 NW
4. **Book Reference** - *Author:* Ordnance Survey - *Title:* Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Series - *Date:* 1980 - *Type:* MAP - *Description:* SP 41 NW
5. **Book Reference** - *Author:* OXONENSIA - *Title:* BLENHEIM PALACE 1936 - *Date:* 1936 - *Journal Title:* Proceedings - *Volume:* II - *Type:* DESC TEXT - *Description:* Excavation report
6. **Book Reference** - *Author:* OXONENSIA - *Title:* BLENHEIM PARK 1936 - *Date:* 1936 - *Journal Title:* Proceedings - *Volume:* II - *Type:* DESC TEXT - *Description:* Excavation reports

80m SECTION OF THE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE GRIM'S DITCH 150m WSW OF DITCHLEY GATE - LIST ENTRY 1012897

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 09-Apr-1951

Date of most recent amendment: 04-Oct-1995

UID: 21854

National Grid Reference: SP 42231 18761

Reasons for Designation

The north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch is a series of discrete linear earthworks of Iron Age date which together make up at least one segmented circuit, situated between the valleys of the Rivers Evenlode, Glyme and Windrush in an area of the eastern Cotswolds. In recent years evidence for an outer concentric circuit has come to light, largely from the study of cropmarks visible on aerial photographs. The area enclosed by the inner circuit is 12 sq km and the outer circuit encloses between 60 and 70 sq km. The earthworks which define this area were only built in open country leaving apparent gaps in the areas previously forested. Where visible, the Grim's Ditch always includes a rampart of dumped earth and stone, a berm and outer ditch and, in places, a narrow palisade trench beyond. It is believed that, together, these components served to enclose and divide an area of land and provide control over access through the open country which existed between heavily forested areas. The ditch is Iron Age in date and provides evidence of how the landscape was managed and divided in the period immediately prior to the Roman Conquest. The high concentration of sites representing Iron Age ritual and agricultural activity which occur within the area defined by the ditch confirms the view that it served to define an area which was of particular significance to its builders. All sections surviving as visible earthworks, and sections identified by aerial photography which are integral to a general understanding of the nature and extent of Grim's Ditch, will normally merit statutory protection.

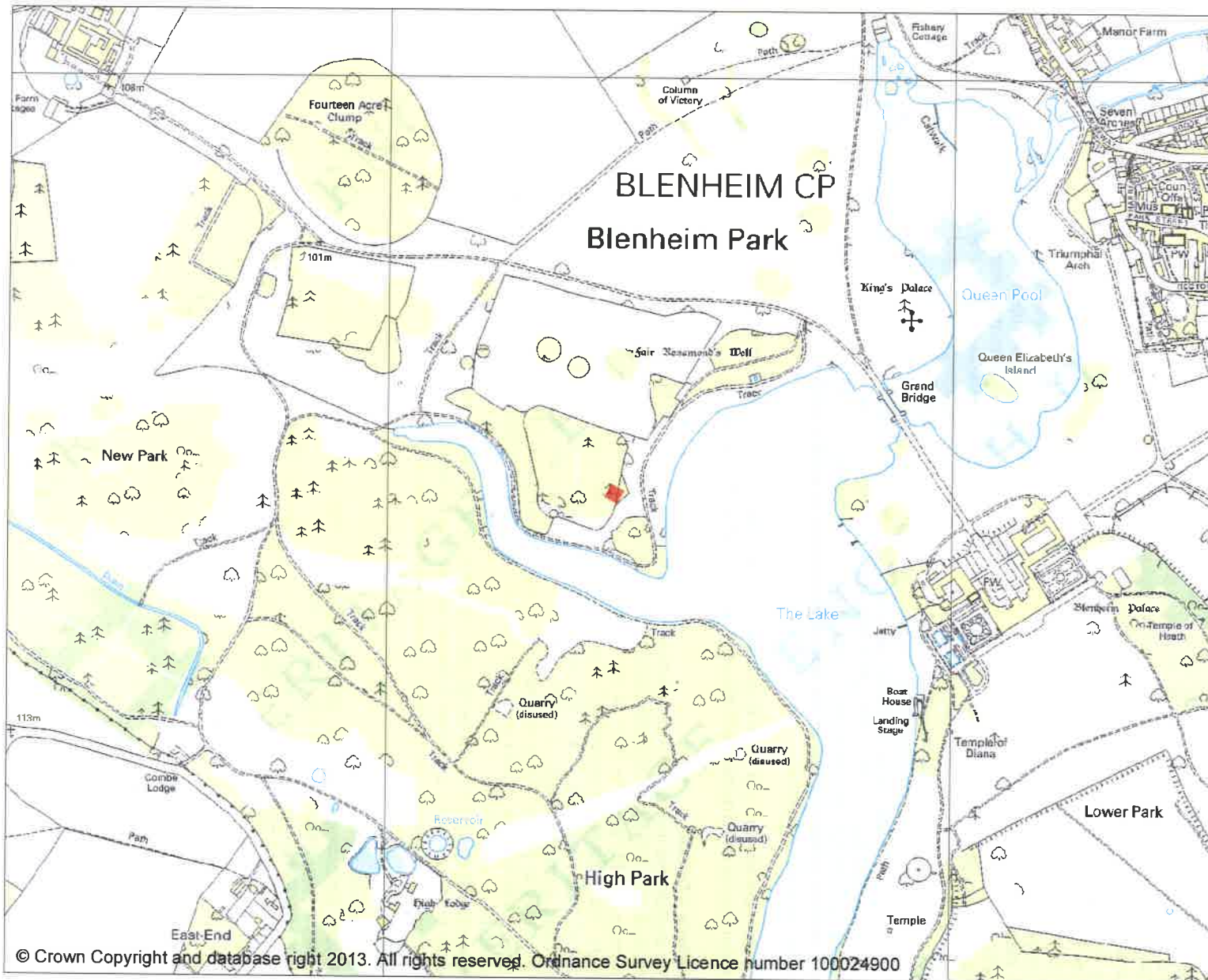
This section of Grim's Ditch will contain archaeological and environmental evidence relating to its construction and the landscape in which it was built.

History - Details

The monument includes a short section of the north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch situated 150m WSW of Ditchley Gate in Blenheim Park. The section runs from the boundary of the park for 80m to the south where it terminates in a butt-ended ditch. The earthworks include a 7m wide rampart standing up to 1.5m high. To the east of this, separated by a 1.5m wide berm, lies a ditch c.7m wide and originally standing open to a depth of 1.7m. This has become partially infilled but is still up to 0.7m deep in places. From excavations on the section 400m to the south, it is known that 3m east of this ditch lies a 0.75m wide palisade trench 0.2m deep. This would have contained a wooden fence which both enhanced the defences and prevented livestock from straying into the ditch. This will survive beneath the modern ground level. Excluded from the scheduling is the park wall at its northern end, although the land beneath is included in the scheduling.

Selected Sources

1. **Book Reference** - *Author:* Ordnance Survey - *Title:* Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Series - *Date:* 1981 - *Type:* MAP - *Description:* SP 41 NW
2. **Article Reference** - *Author:* HARDEN, D.B. - *Title:* EXCAVATIONS ON THE LINE OF THE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE GRIM'S DITCH - *Date:* 1939 - *Journal Title:* OXONIENSIA - *Page References:* 76- - *Type:* EXCAVATION REPORT



Heritage Category: Scheduling
List Entry No : 1009417

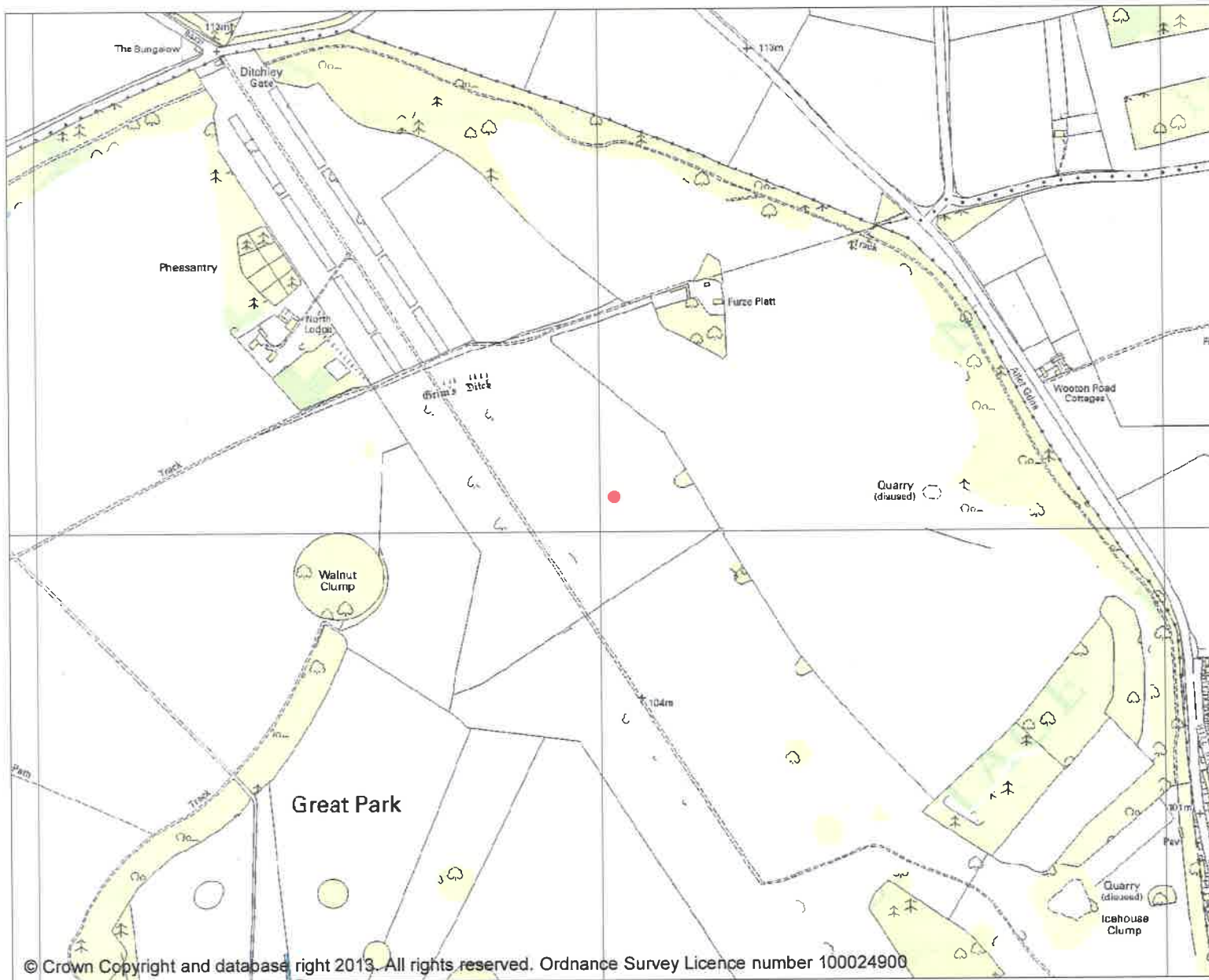
County: Oxfordshire
District: West Oxfordshire
Parish: Blenheim

Each official record of a scheduled monument contains a map. New entries on the schedule from 1988 onwards include a digitally created map which forms part of the official record. For entries created in the years up to and including 1987 a hand-drawn map forms part of the official record. The map here has been translated from the official map and that process may have introduced inaccuracies. Copies of maps that form part of the official record can be obtained from English Heritage.

This map was delivered electronically and when printed may not be to scale and may be subject to distortions. All maps and grid references are for identification purposes only and must be read in conjunction with other information in the record.

List Entry NGR: SP 43399 16256
Map Scale: 1:10000
Print Date: 15 April 2013

Name: Earthwork 300m south west of Fair Rosamund's Well, Blenheim Park



Heritage Category:

Scheduling

List Entry No :

1009416

County: Oxfordshire

District: West Oxfordshire

Parish: Blenheim

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List Entry NGR:

SP 43023 18064

Map Scale:

1:10000

Print Date:

15 April 2013

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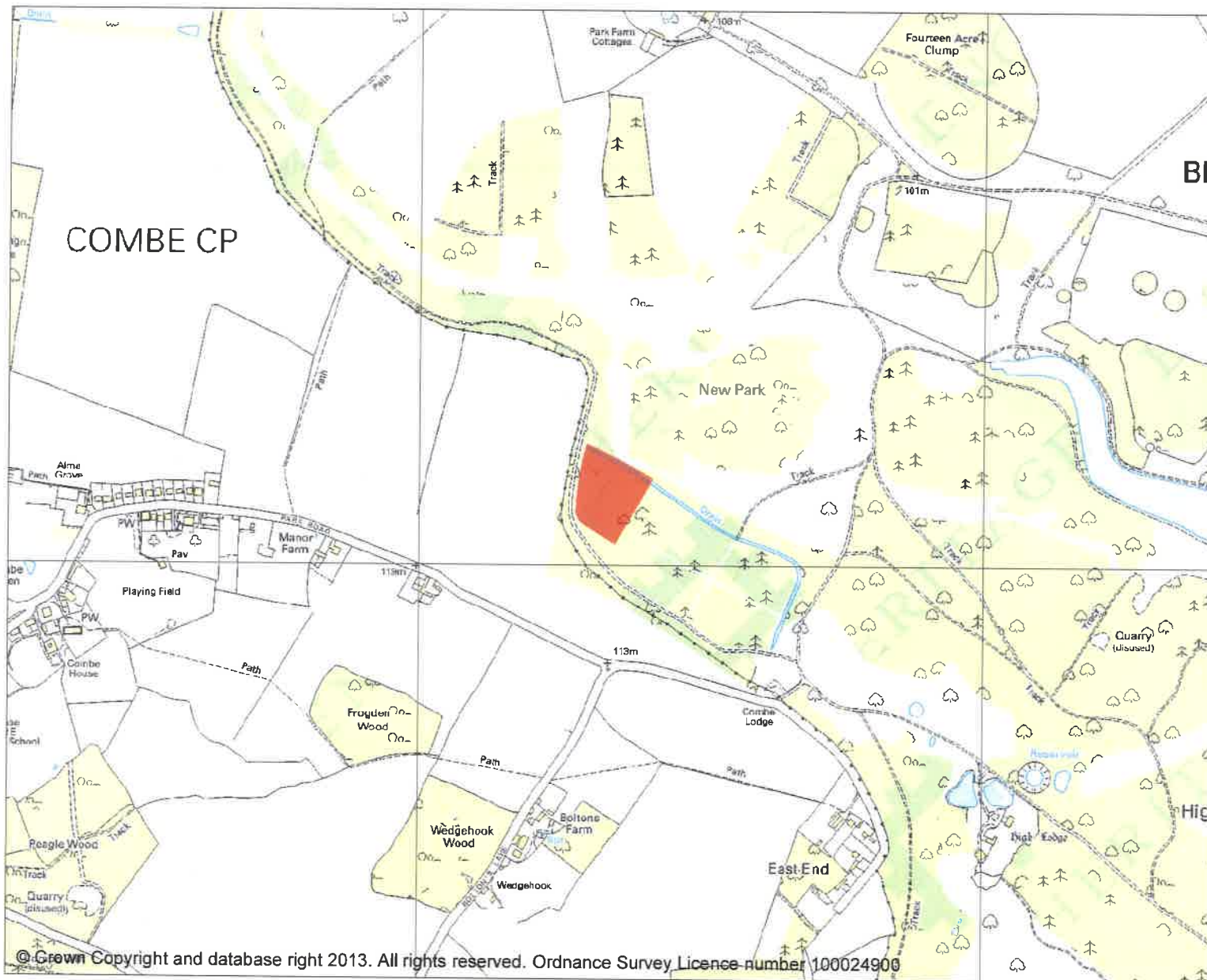
This is an A4 sized map and should be printed full size at A4 with no page scaling set.

Name: Bowl barrow 350m south west of Furze Platt Farm in Blenheim Great Park



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Name: Ten medieval pillow mounds and part of an associated enclosure 300m north west of Combe Lodge

Heritage Category: Scheduling
List Entry No : 1009418

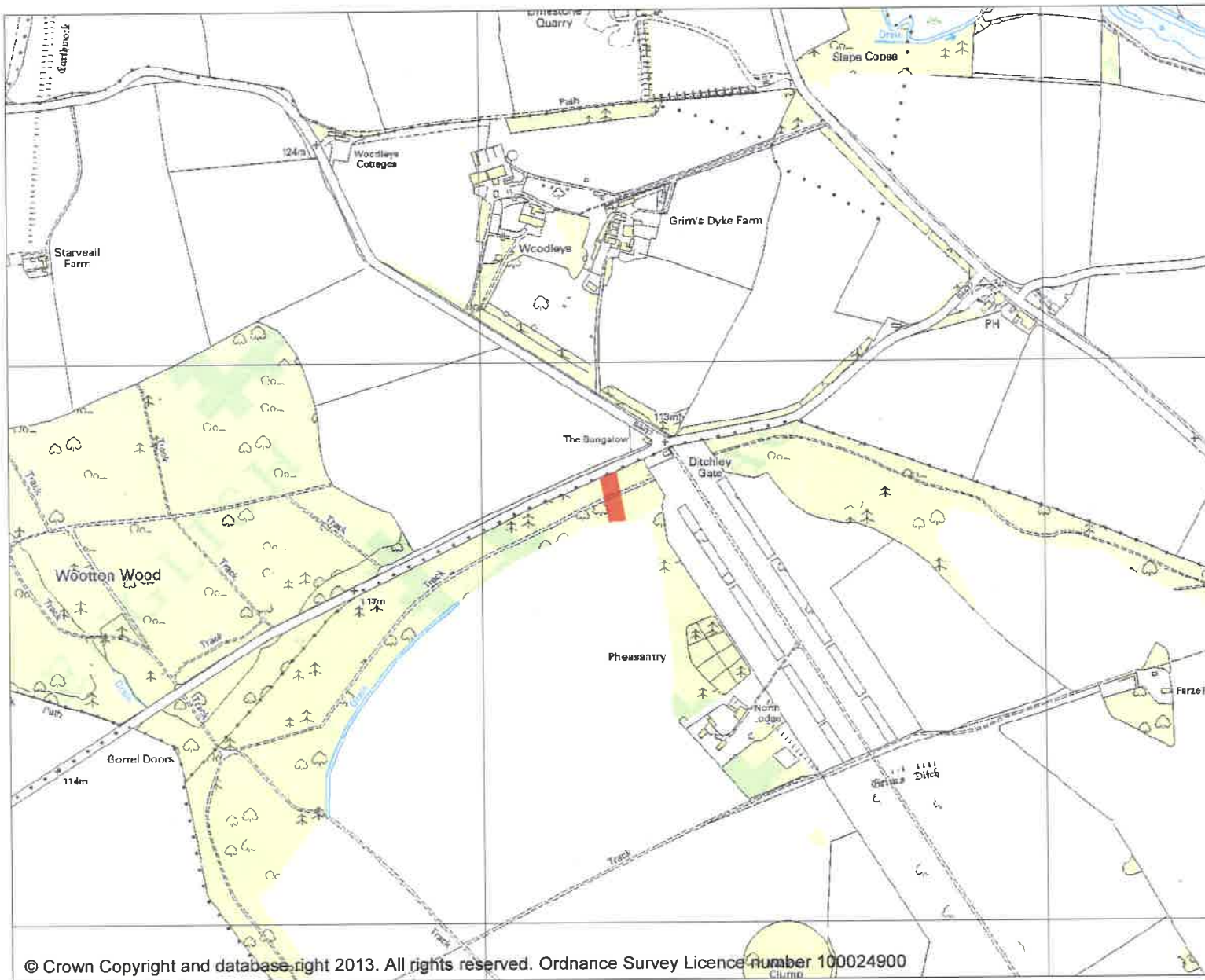
County: Oxfordshire
District: West Oxfordshire
Parish: Blenheim

Each official record of a scheduled monument contains a map. New entries on the schedule from 1988 onwards include a digitally created map which forms part of the official record. For entries created in the years up to and including 1987 a hand-drawn map forms part of the official record. The map here has been translated from the official map and that process may have introduced inaccuracies. Copies of maps that form part of the official record can be obtained from English Heritage.

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List Entry NGR: SP 42343 16116
Map Scale: 1:10000
Print Date: 15 April 2013


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This is an A4 sized map and should be printed full size at A4 with no page scaling set.

Name: 80m section of the north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch 150m WSW of Ditchley Gate in Blenheim Park

Heritage Category: Scheduling
List Entry No : 1012897

County: Oxfordshire
District: West Oxfordshire
Parish: Blenheim

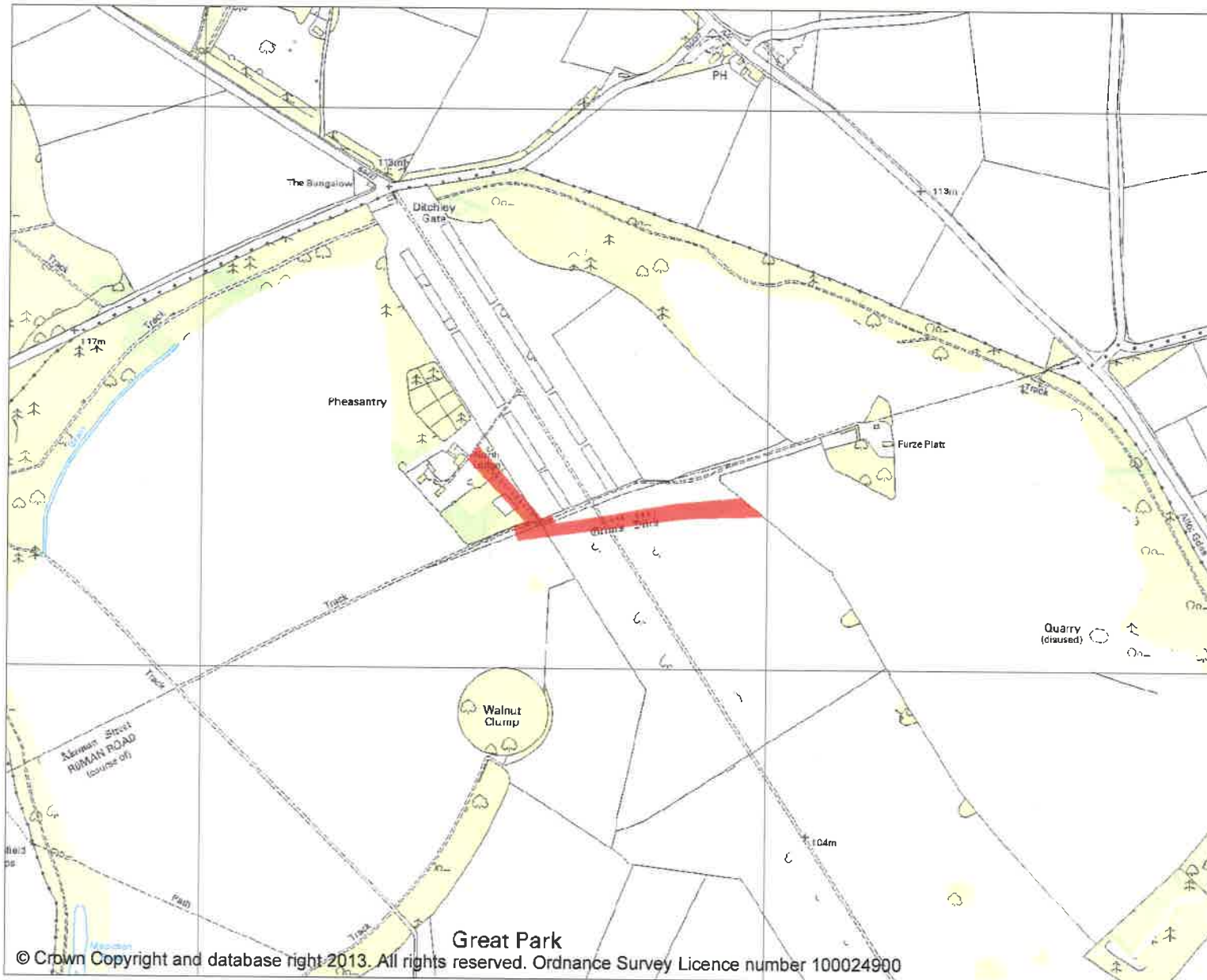
Each official record of a scheduled monument contains a map. New entries on the schedule from 1988 onwards include a digitally created map which forms part of the official record. For entries created in the years up to and including 1987 a hand-drawn map forms part of the official record. The map here has been translated from the official map and that process may have introduced inaccuracies. Copies of maps that form part of the official record can be obtained from English Heritage.

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List Entry NGR: SP 42231 18761
Map Scale: 1:10000
Print Date: 15 April 2013


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Great Park

This is an A4 sized map and should be printed full size at A4 with no page scaling set.

Name: Section of the north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch and a section of Akeman Street Roman road immediately south east of North Lodge in Blenheim Great Park

Heritage Category: Scheduling
List Entry No : 1009425

County: Oxfordshire
District: West Oxfordshire
Parish: Blenheim

Each official record of a scheduled monument contains a map. New entries on the schedule from 1988 onwards include a digitally created map which forms part of the official record. For entries created in the years up to and including 1987 a hand-drawn map forms part of the official record. The map here has been translated from the official map and that process may have introduced inaccuracies. Copies of maps that form part of the official record can be obtained from English Heritage.

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List Entry NGR: SP 42728 18265
Map Scale: 1:10000
Print Date: 15 April 2013


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**SSSI CITATION SHEET AND
CONDITION STATEMENT**

COUNTY: OXFORDSHIRE

SITE NAME: BLENHEIM PARK

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authorities: West Oxfordshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SP435167

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 164 1:10,000: SP41 NW, SP41 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1956 Date of Last Revision: 1977

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision:

Area: 225.2 ha 556.6 ac

Description and Reasons for Notification

Blenheim Park contains one of the finest areas of ancient oak-dominated pasture woodland in the country and is descended from a twelfth century deer park and Anglo-Saxon chase. The lakes, which were excavated and landscaped in the early eighteenth century, are some of the largest areas of open water in Oxfordshire and are of regional importance for breeding and wintering birds.

Some of the ancient, stag-headed oak pollards of the park may be direct lineal descendants of those recorded in the Domesday Book. Over half of the site consists of pasture woodland dominated by oak *Quercus robur* and a wide range of age classes are present from ancient trees at least four hundred years old to young, naturally regenerated saplings. Parts of the site have been planted with blocks of woodland, including conifers, and sycamore is also establishing locally. At least twelve species of the vascular plant flora, including meadow saffron *Colchicum autumnale* and sixteen species of epiphytic lichens are largely confined to undisturbed ancient woodland in southern England. The ground flora, which varies from bracken heath to damp acidic grassland with local areas of calcareous grassland, reflect the varied underlying Jurassic rocks of Oxford clay and limestone.

The invertebrate fauna contains several species associated with dead and decaying wood. These include three beetles listed in the British Red Data Book of Invertebrates*, *Rhizophagus oblongicollis*, *Plectrophloeus nitidus* and *Aeletes atomarius*, together with other notable species such as *Anapsis schilskyana* and *Pediacus dermestoides*. The Park is a notable site for pseudo-scorpions, and supports one of the four known British populations of *Dendrochemes cyrneus*.

The lakes are of regional importance for breeding wildfowl and are of county importance for wintering wildfowl. Forty-two species of wildfowl are recorded of which fourteen are regular visitors or breeding residents. The lakes have supported over 1% of the total British wintering population of gadwall since 1977 and have the largest breeding population of great crested grebe in Oxfordshire. Other waterfowl which are present in significant numbers are pochard, tufted duck, mallard, shoveler and teal. The lake margins and River Glyme are of interest for passage waders. The fringing reed swamp dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis* is particularly extensive, and the water violet *Hottonia palustris* is locally frequent.

* The British Red Data Book of Invertebrates documents rare and threatened species.



SSSI Boundary Map

Taken from the Natural England interactive 'Nature on the Map' Map 2013

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

SSSI units for Blenheim Park

Unit number

Unit area (Ha)

Main habitat

National Grid reference

Nature on the Map

Unit 1

65 Ha

Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland

SP432157

Unit 2

61 Ha

Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland

SP432150

Unit 3

44 Ha

Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland

SP442146

Unit 4

52 Ha

Standing open water and canals

SP438158

Blenheim Park - Unit 1

Staff member responsible for SSSI unit:

Rebecca Tibbetts

Unit ID:

1002200

Unit area:

65 hectares

Main habitat:

Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland

Condition:

Favourable

Latest assessment date:

24 August 2011

Condition assessment comment:

Keith Kirby note from visit: a. Extent/number of veterans – no obvious threats other than natural causes; some past losses. Favourable b. Structure and natural processes. • Many of the veterans do have free-crowns and there is a haloing programme in place, as at the moment, some are being overshadowed, so in terms of current state some are unfavourable. • The mosaic of open space/scrub/trees is good, but possible could do with a little bit more openness in parts. Also the quality of the grassland would almost certainly benefit from being grazed rather than cut. So borderline favourable. • Age-structure – good range of age classes present over the site; favourable. c. Regeneration potential; good evidence of sufficient regeneration in the last 50 yrs to maintain the veteran oaks; plus more recent activity, so favourable. d. Tree and shrub composition: (overall favourable) • Predominance of oak in all age classes on the plateau which is important for the associated lichens and invertebrates. • I think however that it would be worth developing other species such as ash on the richer soils and maintaining the mature beech where practical to provide more diversity. • In what I have called the ornamental plantations sycamore is abundant but there is little sign that it is likely to spread to the plateau. The slopes have little veteran oak interest. Hence I do not see the sycamore as being any sort of a problem and it can be accepted in these stands, particularly any mature trees. e. Quality indicators. The prime ones here are the lichen and invertebrate assemblages which we were not able to assess directly. The possibly secondary feature interest of the grassland/bracken-heath communities look to be holding their own, but could be improved. Borderline favourable.

Blenheim Park - Unit 2

Staff member responsible for SSSI unit:

Rebecca Tibbetts

Unit ID:

1002201

Unit area:

61 hectares

Main habitat:

Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland

Condition:

Favourable

Latest assessment date:

24 August 2011

Condition assessment comment:

Keith Kirby note from visit: a. Extent/number of veterans – no obvious threats other than natural causes; some past losses. Favourable b. Structure and natural processes.

- Many of the veterans do have free-crowns and there is a haloing programme in place, as at the moment, some are being overshadowed, so in terms of current state some are unfavourable.
- The mosaic of open space/scrub/trees is good, but possible could do with a little bit more openness in parts. Also the quality of the grassland would almost certainly benefit from being grazed rather than cut. So borderline favourable.
- Age-structure – good range of age classes present over the site; favourable.
- c. Regeneration potential; good evidence of sufficient regeneration in the last 50 yrs to maintain the veteran oaks; plus more recent activity, so favourable.
- d. Tree and shrub composition: (overall favourable)
- Predominance of oak in all age classes on the plateau which is important for the associated lichens and invertebrates.
- I think however that it would be worth developing other species such as ash on the richer soils and maintaining the mature beech where practical to provide more diversity.
- In what I have called the ornamental plantations sycamore is abundant but there is little sign that it is likely to spread to the plateau. The slopes have little veteran oak interest. Hence I do not see the sycamore as being any sort of a problem and it can be accepted in these stands, particularly any mature trees.
- e. Quality indicators. The prime ones here are the lichen and invertebrate assemblages which we were not able to assess directly. The possibly secondary feature interest of the grassland/bracken-heath communities look to be holding their own, but could be improved. Borderline favourable.

Blenheim Park - Unit 3

Staff member responsible for SSSI unit: Rebecca Tibbetts

Unit ID: 1002190

Unit area: 44 hectares

Main habitat: Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland

Condition: Favourable

Latest assessment date: 03 November 2011

Condition assessment comment: This part of the site is included in the SSSI because of the presence of veteran trees scattered through mixed broadleaf and conifer plantation. The veteran trees across the site as a whole support a very high diversity of invertebrates. The range of habitat types in which the veteran trees occur at the site help to give rise to this high diversity. In this part of the site the veteran trees are mostly in shady, humid conditions which is in contrast to the veteran trees in the open parkland setting in other parts of the site. Key targets for the feature are met and there is much evidence of sympathetic management of veteran trees throughout the site. However, there are some issues of concern. Veteran trees across the site are catalogued and monitored, and are retained and protected during forestry operations. There has been no significant reduction in the number of veteran trees at the site in recent years. There is plenty of evidence of planting and protection of replacement standard trees to provide a new generation of veterans in the future. There is frequent standing and fallen dead wood throughout the unit. There is no evidence of potentially damaging activities close to veteran trees which might have adverse impacts. Indeed, there is active control of grey squirrels to help protect future veterans. However, there is a risk of overtopping and excessive shading of some of the veteran trees as surrounding trees develop. Intervention may be required in due course. In addition, laurel is frequent in places and may pose a threat to veteran trees through excessive shading and competition.

Blenheim Park - Unit 4

Staff member responsible for SSSI unit: Rebecca Tibbetts

Unit ID: 1002197

Unit area: 52 hectares

Main habitat: Standing open water and canals

Condition: Unfavourable declining

Latest assessment date: 09 January 2012

Reason for adverse condition: Siltation

Condition assessment comment: The unit is suffering from siltation and water quality issues. A survey undertaken in 2007 supports the accumulation of silt across the lake. Algal blooms were recorded May 2012.

Team - South East - Western Area - SSSI name - Blenheim Park - Staff member responsible for site - Rebecca Tibbetts

Region	County	District	Main habitat	Staff member responsible for unit	Unit number	Unit ID	Unit area (ha)	Latest assessment date	Assessment description	Condition assessment comment	Reason for adverse condition
South East	Oxfordshire	West Oxfordshire	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland lowland	Rebecca Tibbetts	1	1002200	65.60	24 Aug 2011	Favourable	Keith Kirby note from visit: a. Extent/number of veterans - no obvious threats other than natural causes; some past losses. Favourable b. Structure and natural processes. • Many of the veterans do have free-crowns and there is a halving programme in place, as at the moment, some are being overshadowed, so in terms of current state some are unfavourable. • The mosaic of open space/scrub/trees is good, but possible could do with a little bit more openness in parts. Also the quality of the grassland would almost certainly benefit from being grazed rather than cut. So borderline favourable. • Age-structure - good range of age classes present over the site; favourable. c. Regeneration potential; good evidence of sufficient regeneration in the last 50 yrs to maintain the veteran oaks; plus more recent activity, so favourable. d. Tree and shrub composition: (overall favourable) • Predominance of oak in all age classes on the plateau which is important for the associated lichens and invertebrates. • I think however that it would be worth developing other species such as ash on the richer soils and maintaining the mature beech where practical to provide more diversity. • In what I have called the ornamental plantations sycamore is abundant but there is little sign that it is likely to spread to the plateau. The slopes have little veteran oak interest. Hence I do not see the sycamore as being any sort of a problem and it can be accepted in these stands, particularly any mature trees. e. Quality indicators. The prime ones here are the lichen and invertebrate assemblages which we were not able to assess directly. The possibly secondary feature interest of the grassland/bracken-heath communities look to be holding their own, but could be improved. Borderline favourable.	
South East	Oxfordshire	West Oxfordshire	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland lowland	Rebecca Tibbetts	2	1002201	61.82	24 Aug 2011	Favourable	Keith Kirby note from visit: a. Extent/number of veterans - no obvious threats other than natural causes; some past losses. Favourable b. Structure and natural processes. • Many of the veterans do have free-crowns and there is a halving programme in place, as at the moment, some are being overshadowed, so in terms of current state some are unfavourable. • The mosaic of open space/scrub/trees is good, but possible could do with a little bit more openness in parts. Also the quality of the grassland would almost certainly benefit from being grazed rather than cut. So borderline favourable. • Age-structure - good range of age classes present over the site; favourable. c. Regeneration potential; good evidence of sufficient regeneration in the last 50 yrs to maintain the veteran oaks; plus more recent activity, so favourable. d. Tree and shrub composition: (overall favourable) • Predominance of oak in all age classes on the plateau which is important for the associated lichens and invertebrates. • I think however that it would be worth developing other species such as ash on the richer soils and maintaining the mature beech where practical to provide more diversity. • In what I have called the ornamental plantations sycamore is abundant but there is little sign that it is likely to spread to the plateau. The slopes have little veteran oak interest. Hence I do not see the sycamore as being any sort of a problem and it can be accepted in these stands, particularly any mature trees. e. Quality indicators. The prime ones here are the lichen and invertebrate assemblages which we were not able to assess directly. The possibly secondary feature interest of the grassland/bracken-heath communities look to be holding their own, but could be improved. Borderline favourable.	
South East	Oxfordshire	West Oxfordshire	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland lowland	Rebecca Tibbetts	3	1002190	44.62	03 Nov 2011	Favourable	This part of the site is included in the SSSI because of the presence of veteran trees scattered through mixed broadleaf and conifer plantation. The veteran trees across the site as a whole support a very high diversity of invertebrates. The range of habitat types in which the veteran trees occur at the site help to give rise to this high diversity. In this part of the site the veteran trees are mostly in shady, humid conditions which is in contrast to the veteran trees in the open parkland setting in other parts of the site. Key targets for the feature are met and there is much evidence of sympathetic management of veteran trees throughout the site. However, there are some issues of concern. Veteran trees across the site are catalogued and monitored, and are retained and protected during forestry operations. There has been no significant reduction in the number of veteran trees at the site in recent years. There is plenty of evidence of planting and protection of replacement standard trees to provide a new generation of veterans in the future. There is frequent standing and fallen dead wood throughout the unit. There is no evidence of potentially damaging activities close to veteran trees which might have adverse impacts. Indeed, there is active control of grey squirrels to help protect future veterans. However, there is a risk of overtopping and excessive shading of some of the veteran trees as surrounding trees develop. Intervention may be required in due course. In addition, laurel is frequent in places and may pose a threat to veteran trees through excessive shading and competition.	
South East	Oxfordshire	West Oxfordshire	Standing open water and canals	Rebecca Tibbetts	4	1002197	52.22	09 Jan 2012	Unfavourable declining	The unit is suffering from siltation and water quality issues. A survey undertaken in 2007 supports the accumulation of silt across the lake. Algal blooms were recorded May 2012.	

Report completed:

**REGISTERED PARK AND GARDEN
DESCRIPTION AND BOUNDARY**

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest.

Name: BLENHEIM PALACE

List entry Number: 1000434

Grade: I

Date first registered: 01-Jun-1984

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Summary of Garden

A country mansion surrounded by an extensive and complex park and pleasure grounds, created from the medieval royal hunting park of Woodstock. Main phases early and mid C18 and early C20, with early C18 work by Henry Wise and John Vanbrugh, mid C18 work by Lancelot Brown and early C20 work by Achille Duchene.

NOTE This entry is a summary. Because of the complexity of this site, the standard Register entry format would convey neither an adequate description nor a satisfactory account of the development of the landscape. The user is advised to consult the references given below for more detailed accounts. Many Listed Buildings exist within the site, not all of which have been here referred to. Descriptions of these are to be found in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest produced by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Henry I (1100-35) appears to have first enclosed the park at Woodstock at the beginning of the C12, it subsequently becoming an important royal hunting park. The park was focused on Woodstock Palace, a medieval hunting lodge of C12 origin, occupied by many monarchs and their spouses, who developed the buildings and surrounding gardens.

John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, was rewarded by Queen Anne in 1705 for his services in defeating the French in Europe, by the grant of the Royal Manor of Woodstock, given with the understanding that she would build him, at her own expense, a house to be called Blenheim (named after the 1704 victory at the battle of Blindheim, close to the Danube). The former royal hunting park was probably then in poor condition, and the remains of Woodstock Palace were pulled down (despite a letter from Sir John Vanbrugh (1709) to the Duchess pleading for its retention, on grounds of historical association, as an eyecatcher) and its gardens removed.

The new palace, built 1705-22, was designed, together with the monumental Grand Bridge over the little River Glyme, by Sir John Vanbrugh (assisted by Nicholas Hawksmoor), and was set within a great formal garden designed by Henry Wise (1653-1738), Queen Anne's Royal Gardener. Following the Duke's death in 1722, a formal canal scheme designed by Colonel Armstrong, his chief engineer, was implemented by the Duchess along the course of the River Glyme. In 1764 Lancelot Brown (1716-83) was called in, producing a plan to landscape the central core of the park which included flooding the river valley to produce a large lake, and landscaping the surrounds, with new belt plantings around the park boundary. In the early C19 the fifth Duke created a substantial rock garden and series of flower gardens (mostly gone) south of Brown's lake. In the late C19/early C20 the ninth Duke carried out much restoration and replanting within the park, and created formal gardens to the west and east of the house, designed 1908-30 by Achille Duchene. Restoration of park planting has continued during the C20, and the estate remains (1998) in private ownership.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Blenheim lies c 12km north-west of Oxford, adjacent to the south-west side of the

village of Woodstock, within the confines of the medieval Forest of Wychwood. The c 10 sq km site is bounded largely by a c 14km long stone park wall (masons William Townesend and Bartholemew Peisley Junior, c 1720s, listed grade II), apart from a stretch along the south boundary west of Bladon, with to the east the A44 Oxford to Stratford-upon-Avon road and to the south the A4095 road to Witney. The village of Bladon straddles the valley adjacent to the south boundary, the parish church tower being prominent in views from the south front of the house. The park lies at the foot of the Cotswold dip slope, the Great Park in the north half being situated on a high plateau, dropping down to the undulating Lower Park to the south, with the flooded Glyme valley separating the two. The setting is largely rural and agricultural, with the C18 town of Woodstock against the east park wall, its church tower prominent from various points in the park. Numerous other views extend beyond the park from within.

Blenheim Palace (Sir John Vanbrugh 1705-29, listed grade I) stands towards the centre of the park on a level plateau, approached via several drives and avenues. The main approach, directly from Woodstock via the Woodstock Gate, enters the park c 700m north of the Palace, passing through a square, stone-walled court, on the south side of which stands the Triumphal Arch (Nicholas Hawksmoor 1723, listed grade I). The drive emerges into the park, suddenly revealing Brown's lake divided by Vanbrugh's Grand Bridge (1706-12, listed grade I) standing in the valley below. To the north-west the Column of Victory (to a design by Lord Herbert, later ninth Earl of Pembroke, 1727-30, listed grade I) is prominent on high ground across Queen Pool and to the south the roofscape of the Palace is visible, the main facade partially hidden. The drive continues south, with panoramic views across the Glyme valley, joining, 300m north-east of the Palace, the straight drive from the monumental Hensington Gate (1706-10, moved to present position 1770s, listed grade I). This drive enters off Oxford Road 800m north-east of the Palace, being aligned on East Gateway arch at the east end of a series of axially arranged openings between the courtyards north of the Palace. The drive curves north and west from the East Gateway, overlooking the lake, Grand Bridge and Column of Victory beyond, to join the Ditchley Drive at the entrance to the Great Court.

The Ditchley Drive enters the park 3km north of the Palace, flanked by a stone gateway with wrought-iron gates (John Yenn 1781, listed grade II), and a single-storey lodge (c 1860, listed grade II). The drive, aligned on the Column of Victory, and 1km beyond this the north front of the Palace, runs straight across the Great Park plateau, flanked by a double avenue of limes (replanted late C20 on the site of Wise's early C18 avenue, said to have been originally laid out in the formation of the Battle of Blenheim), being diverted 1.5km from the Palace into the wooded Icehouse Valley to the east, to remerge on the axial line 0.5km from the house. The drive crosses the Grand Bridge, standing 400m from the Palace, with views east to the Triumphal Arch and the buildings of Woodstock beyond the park wall, continuing up the valley side, arriving at a bastion forming the north side of the Great Court (remodelled by Duchene, 1910, to an early C18 pattern). The drive continues through the central gateway flanked by iron gates, crossing the large, level, paved and gravelled forecourt to the steps up to the portico on the north front. Several lesser drives, their entrances marked by lodges, traverse the park.

The Palace is flanked to the east by the Italian Garden (Duchene c 1910, steps listed grade II), containing box-hedged knots with Waldo Storey's central Mermaid Fountain (1900-10, listed grade II), and to the west by the Water Terraces (Duchene 1925-30, listed grade II), based on the Parterre d'Eau at Versailles. The upper terrace contains a series of linked pools within a framework of box hedging, whilst the lower terrace contains two rectangular ponds with central obelisks and fountains (the northern one called the Bernini Fountain, late C17, listed grade I) the whole overlooking the Lake, the hillside beyond, and, glimpsed at the top of the hillside, Brown's remodelled gothic High Park Lodge. South of the Palace, flanked by informal, wooded pleasure grounds containing three stone garden temples, lies an open, level lawn, formerly the site of Wise's Great Parterre (early C18), removed by Brown in the 1760s. Views extend south from the south front and lawn across the Glyme valley to Bladon and its church tower, with distant hills beyond. The east arm of the pleasure grounds leads to the kitchen garden. The west arm of the pleasure grounds leads south to Brown's Cascade, lying c 1km south of the Palace, at the south end of the earth dam retaining the Lake. The large, rocky Cascade, hidden from the main body of the Lake, conducts water back into the enlarged Glyme

riverbed as it runs east, crossed by the three-arched New or Bladon Bridge (Sir William Chambers 1773, listed grade I), standing 850m south of the Palace, before curving south and west to leave the park west of Lince Bridge. Laurel Bank, south of the river, seems to contain the remains of pleasure grounds which may have been linked with the former rock and flower gardens lying closer to the south side of the Cascade.

The park is divided into several sections, mostly connected by Brown's Lake and the River Glyme to the south. The Great Park to the north is largely arable land with woodland clumps, bisected from north to south by the Ditchley Drive and from west to east by the Roman Akeman Street with the remains of Grim's Ditch in the north section, and dominated by the Column of Victory. A tablet marks the site of the former Woodstock Palace, lying c 500m north-west of the Palace on what is now the north bank of the Lake. West of this, 200m west of the Grand Bridge, lies Rosamund's Well, a spring and stone pool marking the site of the former bower created in the mid C12 by Henry II for his mistress, Rosamund de Clifford. By the C15 the site contained a suite of rooms and a cloister surrounding a paved courtyard, through which the spring waters were led through a flight of three pools (Bond and Tiller 1997). This was in ruins by the C16, the remains being sketched by John Aubrey in the C17. High Park, on the hillside west of the Lake, consists largely of ancient oak woodland in which, overlooking the Palace 1km to the north-east, stands High Park Lodge (Brown 1768, listed grade II*), remodelled in the Gothic style with a central three-storey tower and battlements, on the site of a medieval hunting lodge. The Lower Park and Bladon Park lie to the east and south of the pleasure grounds respectively, largely laid to pasture with many park trees.

The rectangular kitchen garden (masons Thomas Churchill and Richard Stacey, c 1710, listed grade II), covering 3ha, stands 600m south-east of the Palace, with four large, semicircular bastion walls projecting from the north and south walls, and two circular ponds.

REFERENCES Note: There is a wealth of material about this site. The key references are cited below.

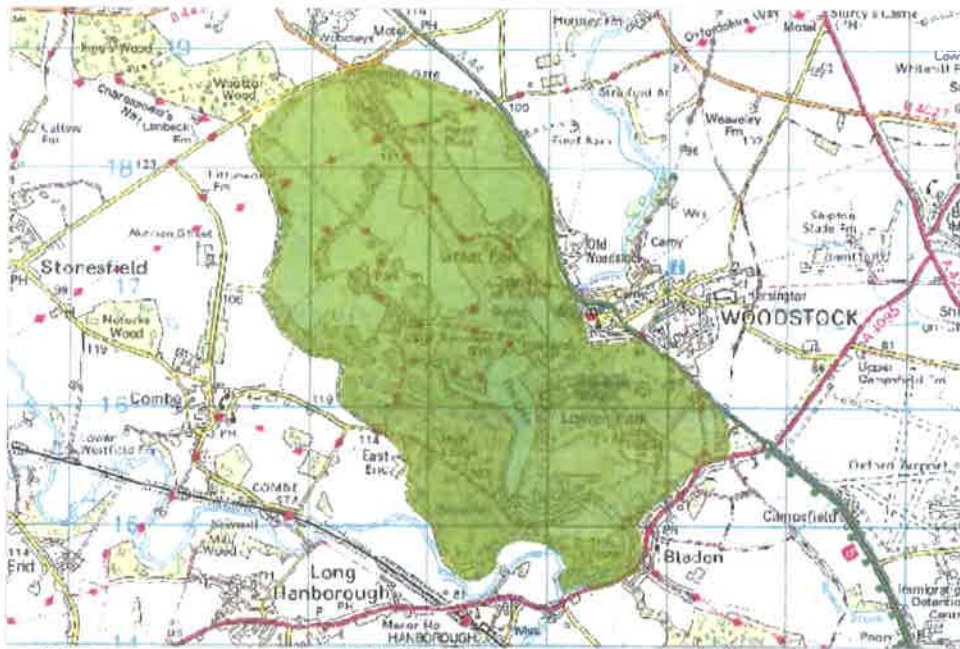
N Pevsner and J Sherwood, *The Buildings of England: Oxfordshire* (1974), pp 459-75 D Stroud, *Capability Brown* (1975), pp 111, 218; pls 27-30 *Victoria History of the County of Oxfordshire* 12, (1990), pp 430-70 *Blenheim Palace, guidebook*, (1996) J Bond and K Tiller, *Blenheim, Landscape for a Palace* (rev edn 1997)

Maps R Davis, *A New Map of the County of Oxford ...*, 1797 A Bryant, *Map of the County of Oxford ...*, surveyed 1823

OS 6" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1878-80 2nd edition published 1900 OS 25" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1876

Description written: March 1998 Amended: March 1999; April 1999 Register Inspector: SR Edited: January 2000

Map showing the extent of the EH Grade 1 registered park at Blenheim Palace and the extent of the WHS.

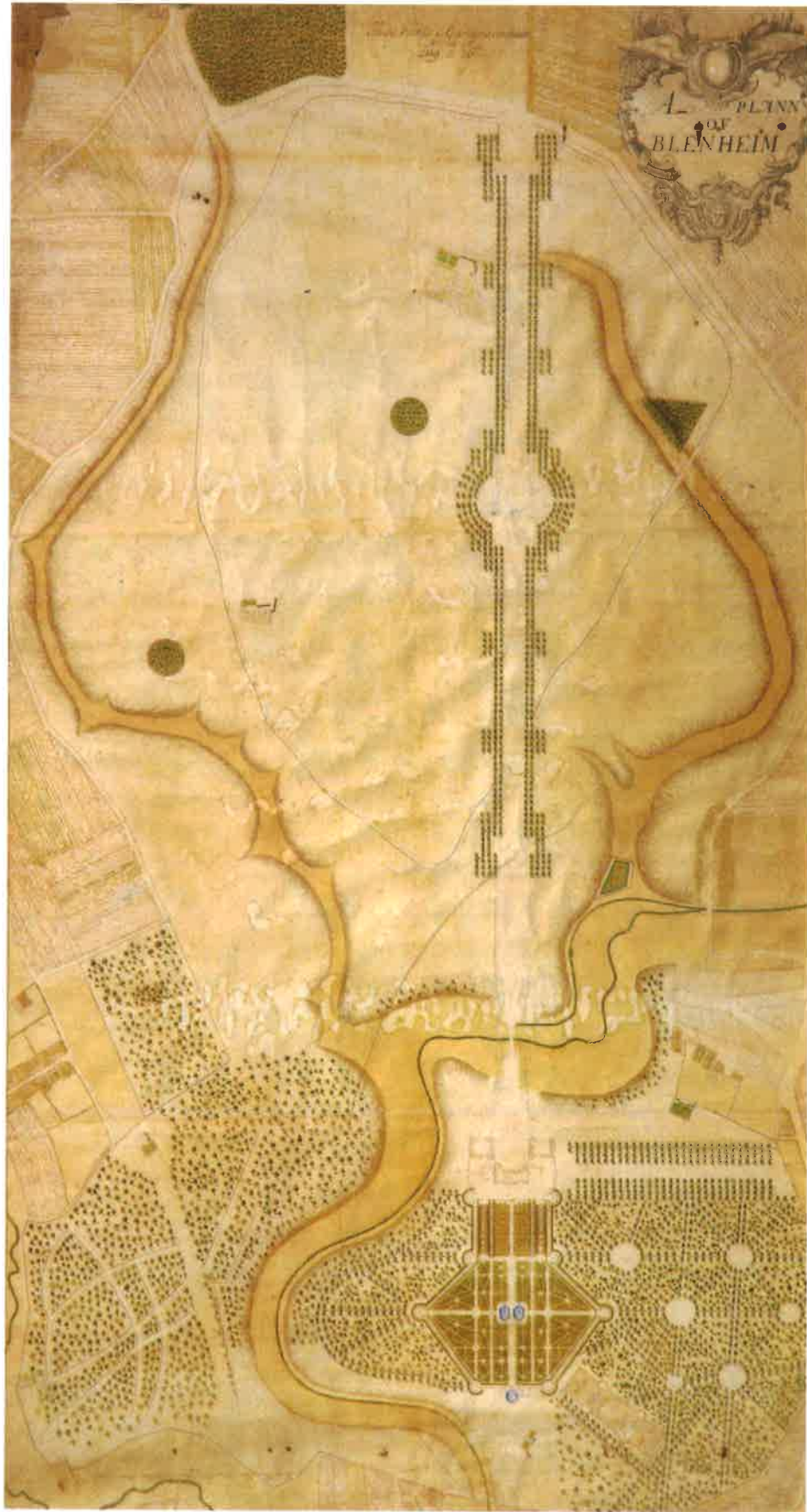


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HISTORIC MAP AND OVERLAY SEQUENCE AND TIMELINES



HISTORIC MAP 1 : THE ORIGINAL LAYOUT OF BLENHEIM GARDENS AND PARK 1709

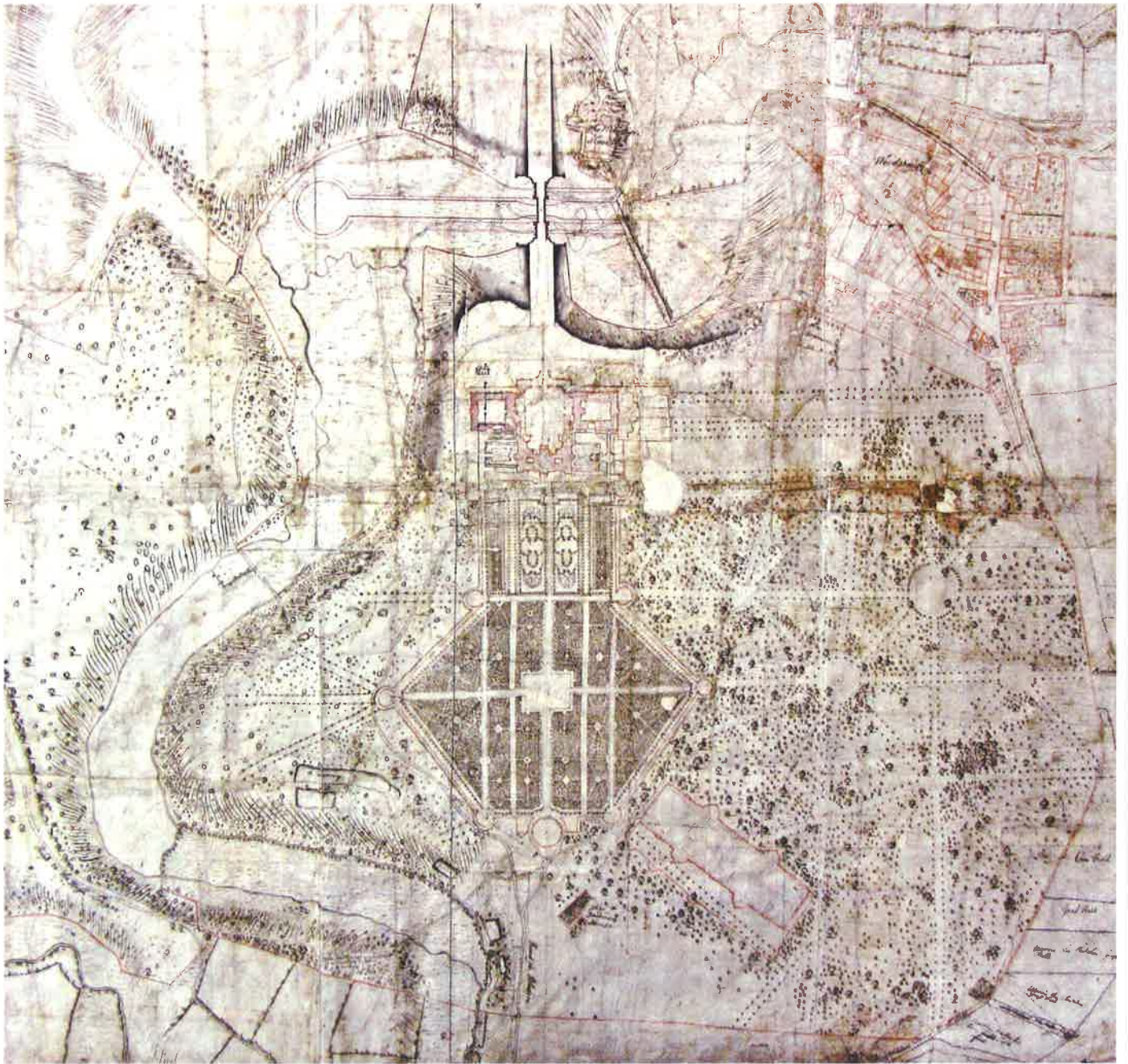
Attributed to C. Bridgeman

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Blenheim Estate, Oxfordshire**



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Historic Map, 1709/2013



HISTORIC MAP 2 : A PLN OF BLENHEIM HOUSE AND GARDENS, 1719

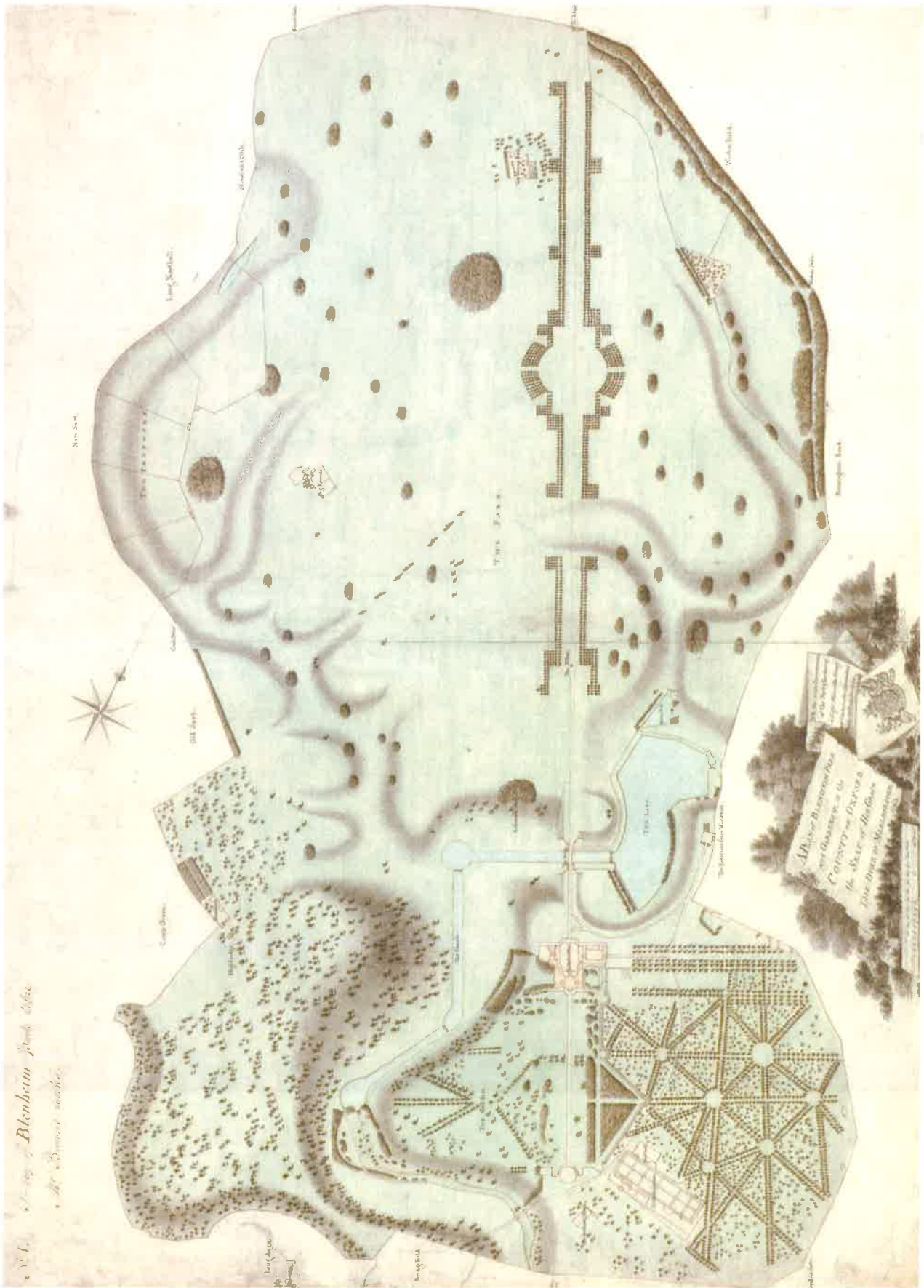
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HISTORIC MAP 3 : A SURVEY OF BLENHEIM PARK, 1763

By John Spyers

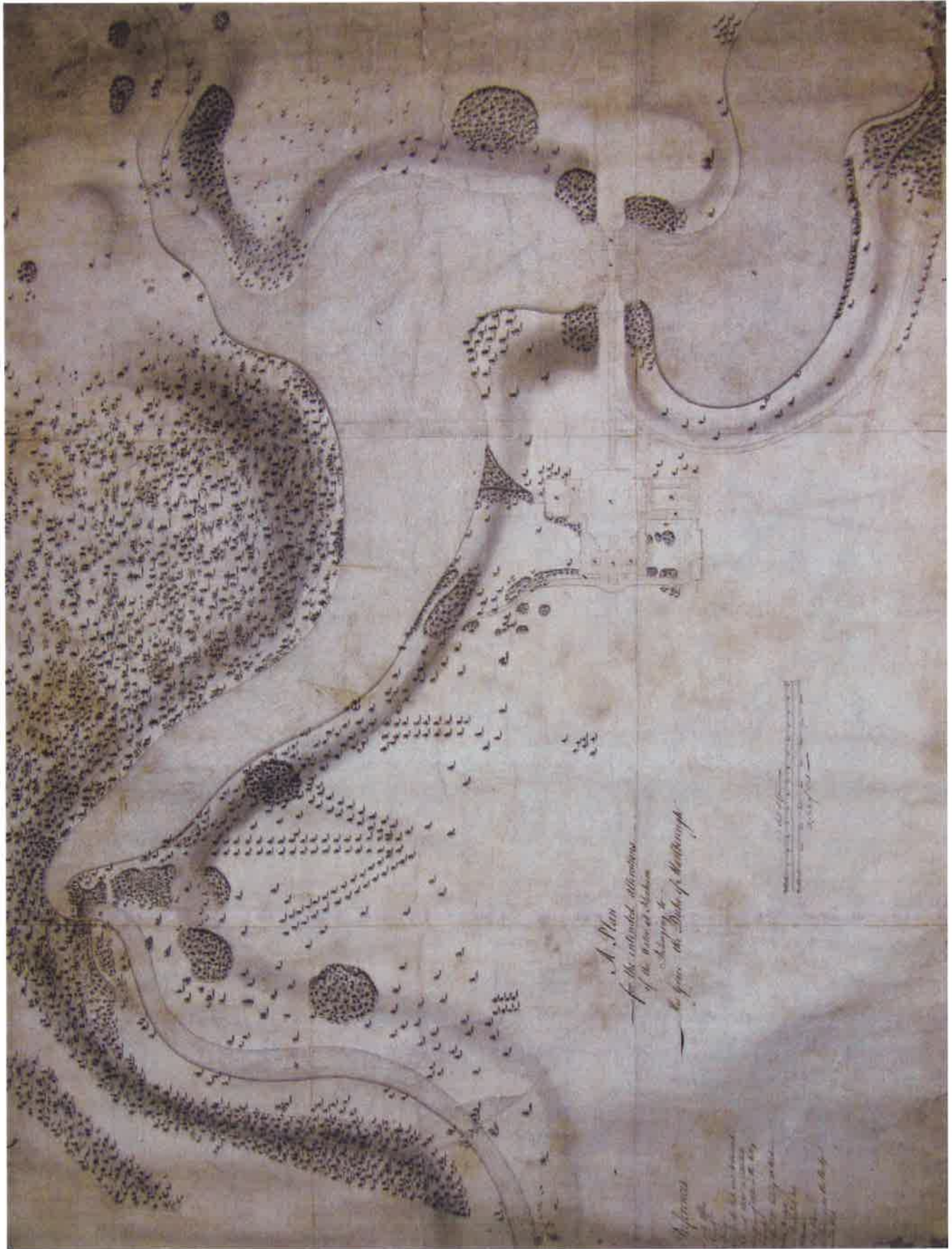
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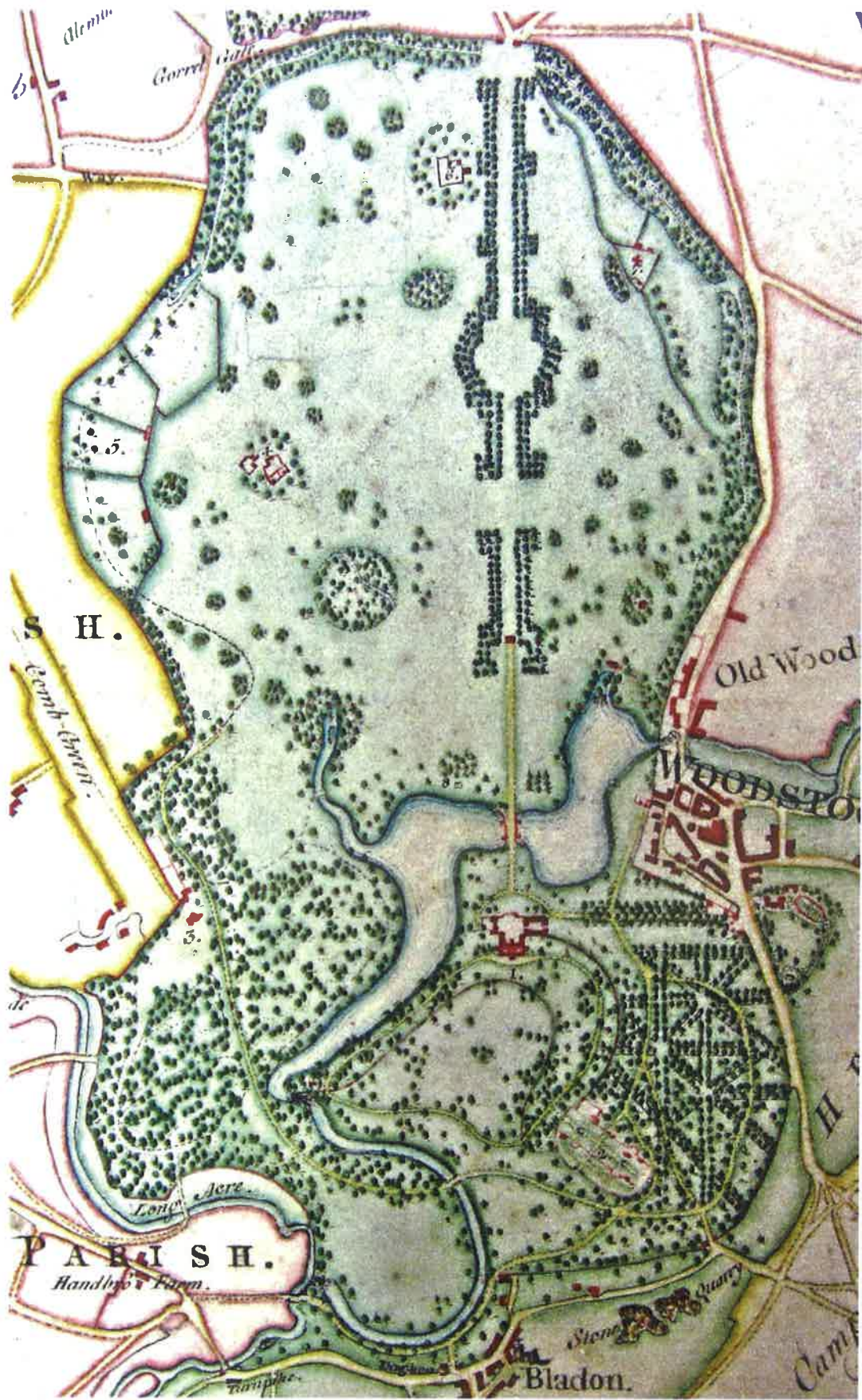
HISTORIC MAP 4 : A PLAN FOR THE INTENDED ALTERATION OF THE WATER AT BLENHEIM PALACE, 1763/4
 Attributed to Lancelot Brown



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HISTORIC MAP 5 : A MAP OF THE MANOR OF WOODSTOCK AND THE SEVEN DEMESNE TOWNS 1772
 Surveyor Thomas Pride. Ref Shelf E6

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HISTORIC MAP 6 : A PLAN OF BLENHEIM PALACE, GARDENS, PARK AND PLANTATIONS 1787
 Drawn by Thomas Pride for W. Mavor

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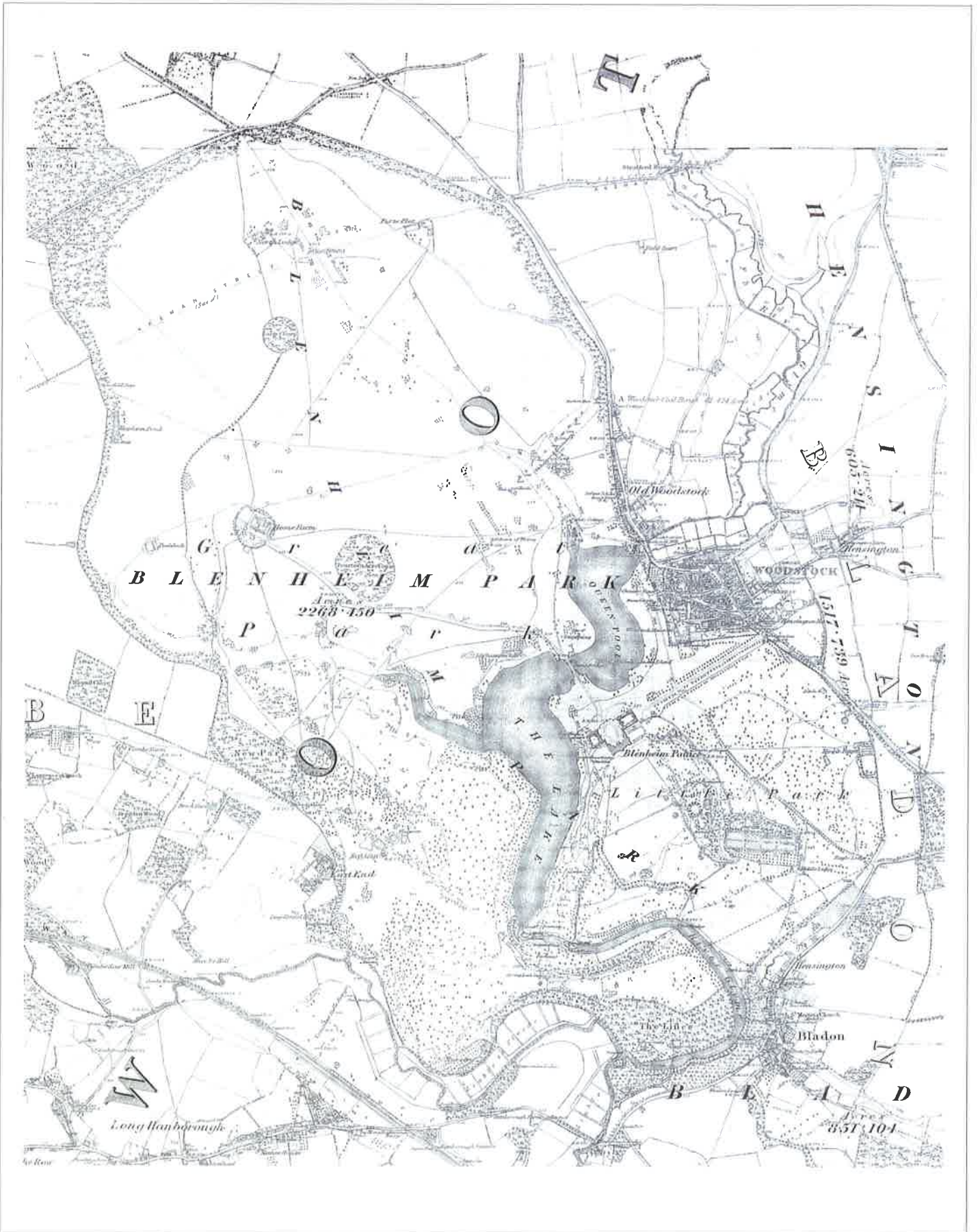
HISTORIC MAP 7 : ORDNANCE SURVEY DRAWINGS 1811 (WOODSTOCK)
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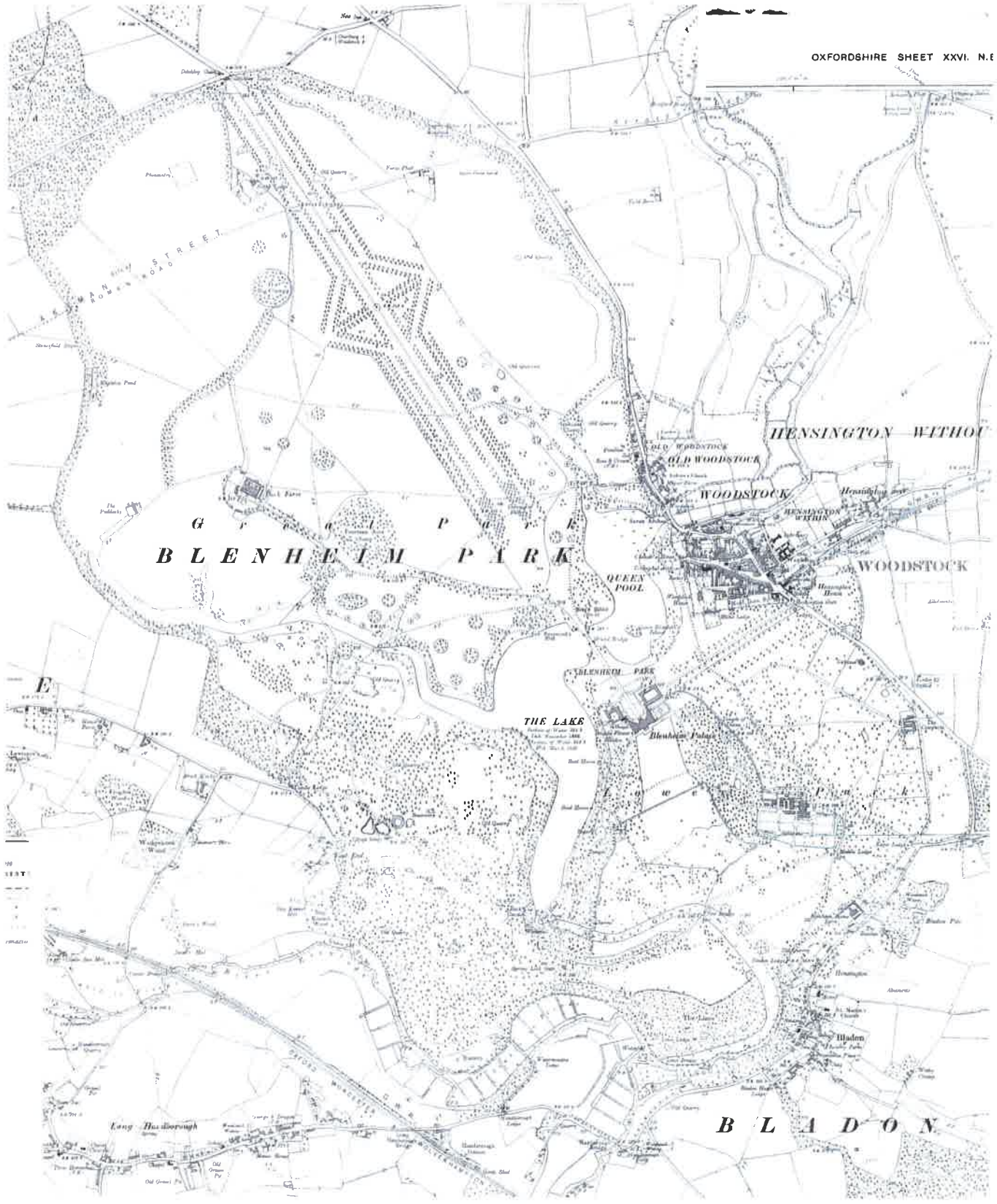
HISTORIC MAP 9 : OS FIRST EDITION 6" 1884 (Sheets 21 & 26)

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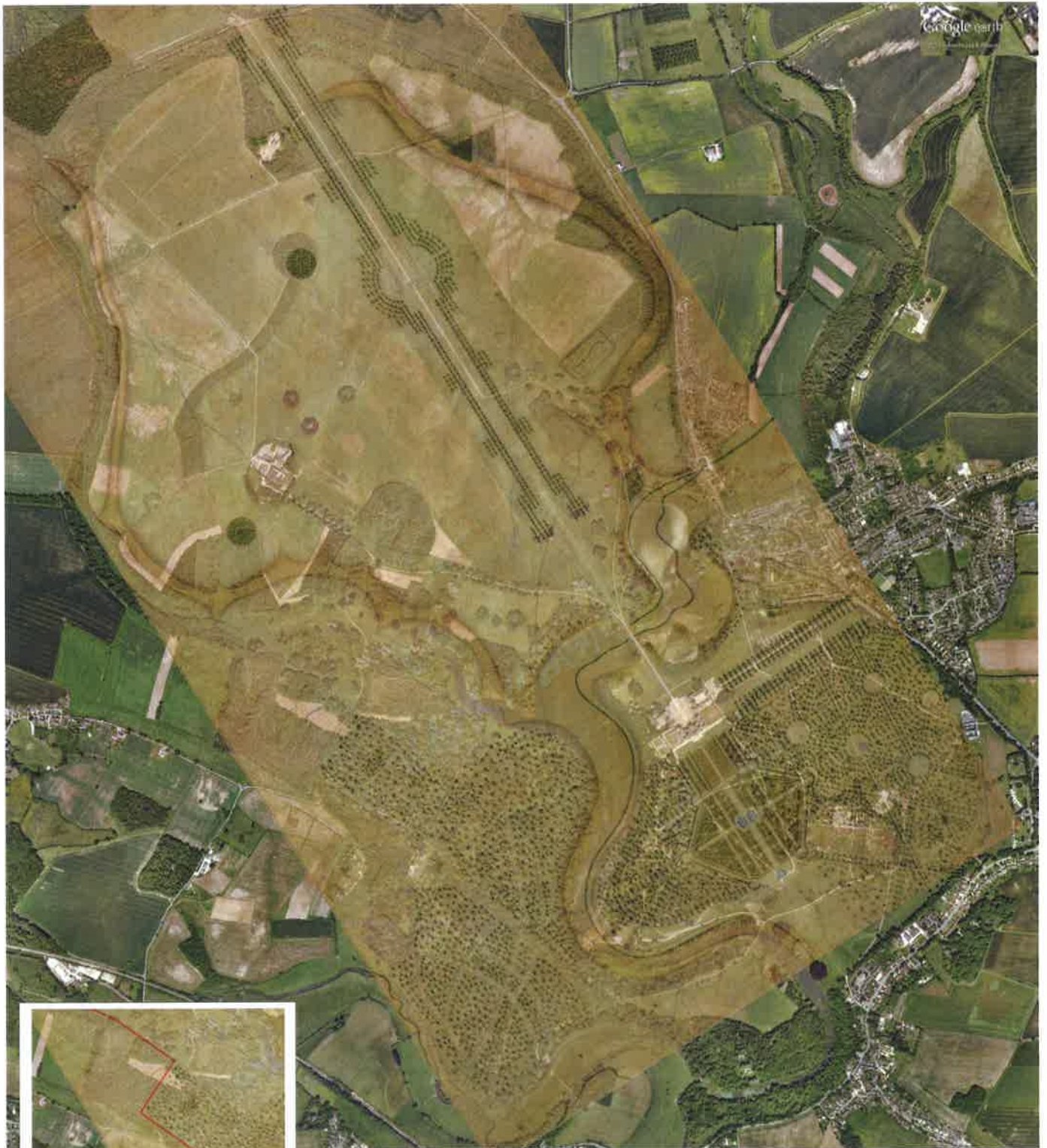
HISTORIC MAP 11 : OS PROVISIONAL EDITION 1922 - 23 (Sheets 21 & 26)

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Inset box to the left highlights in red the boundary of High Park shown in 1709 and indicates considerable extension to the park in the 18th century.

See also 1763 overlay.

OVERLAY 1 : 1709 MAP OVERLAID ON MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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Earthwork features remain on site for a number of the bastions associated with the formal garden. Patch marks on the south lawn also show the orientation and width of the main axial walk.

OVERLAY 2 : 1719 MAP OVERLAID ON MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH



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Inset image shows a detailed overlay of the High Park area with the red line indicating the boundary of the park in 1763. This indicated that two areas of the current park lay outside the park wall in the mid 18th century

OVERLAY 3 : 1763 MAP ON A MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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OVERLAY MAP 4 : BROWN'S 1763/4 PLAN OVERLAID ON A MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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OVERLAY MAP 5 : 1772 MAP ON MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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High Park boundary had achieved its modern extent by 1861 - 63

OVERLAY MAP 6 : MAP .C1861 - 3 OVERLAID ON MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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OVERLAY MAP 7 : OS1884 MAP OVERLAID ON MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH



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Good correlation between the current character of the park and that shown in 1922 - 23. The Grand Avenue is clearly arranged in a different form and there are more trees in Lower Park.



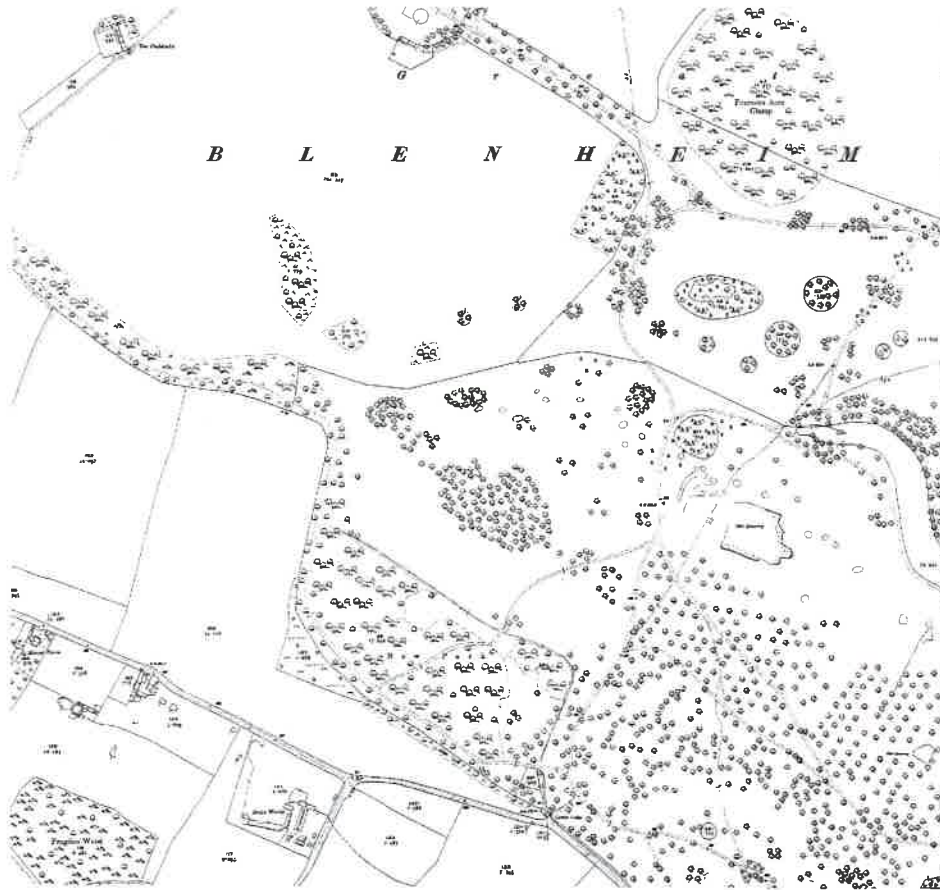
OVERLAY MAP 9 : OS 1922 - 23 MAP OVERLAID ON MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH



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The map extract to the top left shows part of Combe Bottom on the OS 25" edition of 1922.

The overlay analysis to the top right shows the OS map of 1922 overlaid on a modern aerial photograph.

The overlay shows considerable change to the woodlands surrounding and on the tops of the valleys.





The map extract to the top left shows part of High Park and the Palace as shown on the OS 25" edition of 1922.

The overlay analysis to the top right shows the OS map of 1922 overlaid on a modern aerial photograph.

The overlay shows a number of changes in the landscape but the key issue as far as the view from High Lodge is concern (see light purple arrow line) is that it is clearly modern (post 1922). The current ride lies to the south of the gap in the tree planting shown in 1922. As a result of this analysis the current vista from High Lodge has been shown to be relatively modern and of much less significance than has been previously assumed. It would, therefore, be entirely acceptable on historic grounds to allow this vista/ride to change or indeed be blocked up if the Estate thought this was appropriate.



MAP TIMELINES

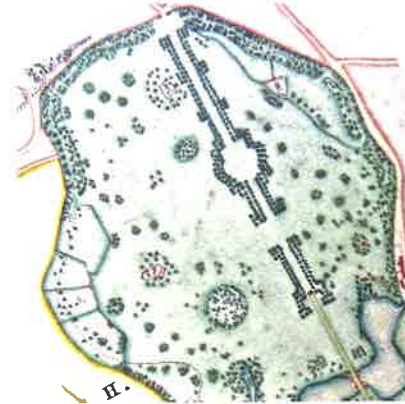
OF KEY FEATURES AND AREAS



1709
The 1709 map, which is partly a proposal, shows the North Park as a severely open landscape typical of Baroque parks at this time in England. The Grand Avenue is the dominant feature with Big Clump also in place. Buildings are shown at North Lodge and in the approximate location of Park Farm, but these are probably not the current structures in those locations. There are no boundary shelterbelts to the park.



1763
The next map to show the North Park in any detail is Spyers survey of 1763. Several important changes to the landscape have taken place since 1709. The actual layout of the Grand Avenue is shown with the gap in the southern section for the racecourse. The 3rd Duke had added numerous clumps to the park and established the eastern beech belt. A complex of buildings was developing at Park Farm and paddocks, created in the 1720s are shown on the western side of the park.



1772
Thomas Pride's survey of 1772 shows the impact of Brown's changes for the 4th Duke on the landscape. The western beech belt has been planted as far as Mapleton Pond with further planting to the south. The eastern beech belt has been extended south to Old Woodstock. Fourteen Acre Clump has been planted and a series of carriage drives around the park established. North Lodge appears to have been remodelled.



1811
The 1811 OS map captures the late 18th century changes. The Grand Avenue has been broken up and the alignment of the drives altered to include the lake in one of the main approaches. There is a suggestion that the paddocks on the west side of the park have been rationalised with the stables scattered in tree clumps, one of the largest changes was the introduction of cultivated arable land to the north of Park Farm and west of North Lodge.



1863
The 1863 map shows a similar situation to that of the early 19th century, however, the area of arable land appears to have been extended on the western and eastern side of the park. A continuous shelterbelt planting is shown along the western side of the park, but the deep woodland area south of Gorrell Doors has been truncated at its southern end. It is probably that many of the views from the perimeter carriage drive were lost or obscured by this time. Between 1811 and 1863 most of the smaller clumps in the North Park had been removed.



1884
In the late 19th century the North Park remained open with the Grand Avenue broken up. The 1884 map shows an increase in the sub-division of the park around Park Farm with a line of trees established along a boundary south of Big Clump in the position of the future Long Fire.



1900
By 1900 there were significant changes in the North Park. The 9th Duke had started the process of reinstating the Grand Avenue as a formal, dominant feature and had also established a narrow shelterbelt north of North Lodge. Further sub-division of the North Park had taken place with a large triangular plantation established to the east of Park Farm. The eastern and western sides of the park are shown as being under arable cultivation.



1922/3
By 1922 the 9th Duke had completed the reinstatement of the Grand Avenue to a modified design with a central diamond shaped feature. A series of roundel clumps had been established in the park north east of Park Farm and to the east of the avenue. However, the triangular plantation near Park Farm had been removed and the fencing in this area had been reorganised. A line of tree planting followed the drive from the Grand Bridge to Park Farm had been added to the park and Long Fire had been developed into a sinuous shelterbelt.
The area of arable land in the North Park had increased to its maximum extent.





1709
The Vanburgh and Wise parkland left the west valley open with one large roundel clump on the high ground in the North Park.



1763
The 1763 survey shows Mapleton Pond as a reasonably well developed feature but the valley remained substantially open. A series of paddocks, established in the 1730s, sub-divide the valley south of Mapleton Pond. In Combe Bottom the 3rd Duke had established a series of parkland clumps.



1772
The 1772 map shows the alignment of Brown's drive through the valley to the east of Mapleton Pond. The paddocks remain, but the shelterbelt woodland along the western side of the valley has increased. The western arm of Brown's lake extends to Combe Bottom and is hidden by a large clump of trees. A select number of clumps have been added along the valley tops.



1811
By the early 19th century the landscape character of the western valley had remain substantially unchanged. Some additional planting is shown on the boundary with New Park and a drive runs from Combe Lodge towards Fourteen Acre Clump, although this may have been in existence in the mid to late 18th century.



1863
The 1863 map records far fewer clumps along the valley. There is also the suggestion that the tree planting around the head of the lake had been thinned. As in previous periods, the eastern side of the valley remained open.



1884
The 1884 OS map shows little change from the picture presented in the mid 19th century. There is some additional planting along the southern edge of the valley along New Park.



1900
No substantial landscape change. A denser area of woodland and a large ovoid clump have been planted south of Fourteen Acre Clump.



1922/3
The 1922 map shows the beginnings of the 6th Duke's planting along the northern side of the valley. The map also shows that the agricultural land extended down into the valley. Mapleton Pond is enclosed by woodland on its eastern side but in the early 20th century most of this side of the valley remained open.





1709
Vanburgh & Wise's original park design left the east valley open and unplanted.



1763
The 3rd Duke carried out planting in the park to establish series of clumps in and around the valley. By 1763 Icehouse Clump had been established.



1772
Thomas Pride's map shows Brown's extension of the eastern shelterbelt together with the 3rd Duke's clumps. Pride also depicts a building, presumably the icehouse, in the centre of Icehouse Clump.



1811
The early 18th century landscape remained substantially unchanged from its mid 18th century character. A drive had been laid out from the North Park to the lake in the late 18th century.



1863
Between 1811 and 1863 a number of the clumps were removed from the east valley and the area of agricultural land may have extended along the northern arm of the combe. Icehouse Clump remains as a prominent feature.



1884
The character of the valley has been retained in the late 19th century. A rifle range is shown on the OS map running along the area now known as the Muds.



1900
The OS map of 1900 shows the landscape unchanged since the mid 19th century. The land to the north of the combe and above the valley sides to the north has been converted to agricultural land.



1922/3
The 1922 OS map shows some progression to the planting along the valley north of Fishery Cottage. North east of the icehouse Clump the valley side and some of the top has been planted up as a narrow shelterbelt.

During the course of the 20th century further planting was to take place on the northern side of the valley to create the landscape seen today.





1709

The earliest Estate map of Blenheim shows the centrepiece in a disparate form. The strong north-south axis between the Palace and the Grand Avenue is in place but no water feature occupies the valley. Rosamond's Well is backed by a scatter of trees and the eastern side of the valley is also fringed with trees near Woodstock. A trapezoidal fish pond can be seen at the northern end of the image at the junction of the Lehouse Combe and Glyme valley.



1763

The 1763 survey shows the landscape immediately prior to Brown's sweeping changes. In the 1720s the 1st Duchess commissioned Hawksmoor to design the Woodstock Gate, slightly amending the drive layout. Col. Armstrong's strong formal canal scheme with lake to the north-east of the Grand Bridge is in place. A kidney-shaped clump now provides the backdrop to Rosamond's Well, while at the southern end of the valley Col. Armstrong's cascade is in place, flanked by clump planting.



1772

Thomas Pride's survey records the centrepiece landscape after Lancelot Brown's dramatic changes. The valley has been flooded to create a massive lake crossed by the Grand Bridge. Queen Pool in part follows the outline of Armstrong's early water, but has also incorporated the fishpond to the north and extended the water south towards the Palace. Fishery Cottage has appeared on maps as a feature. At the southern end of the valley Brown embanked the eastern side of the valley and slightly altered the position of the cascade.



1811

In the late 18th century further alterations to the centrepiece were made, with changes to the drives along the north-western side of Queen Pool. Benjamin Read carried out additional re-profiling of the banks around Queen Pool.



1863

The mid-19th century character of the centrepiece is little changed from the late 18th century landscape. The key features of water, Grand Bridge, views and drives remained substantially unchanged.



1884

The 1st edition OS map provides clearer detail on the landscape, especially the planting around the lake. This map shows an increase of tree planting and clumps along the drive between the Grand Bridge and Cannon Point. On the eastern side of Queen Pool the tree planting along the lake edge has finally been removed.



1900

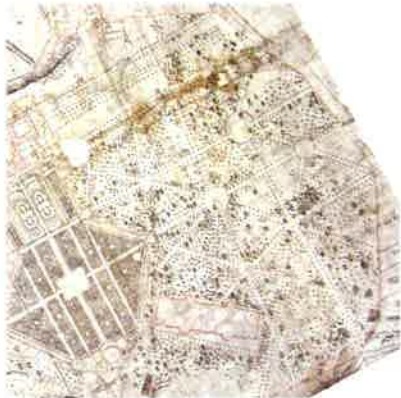
The 1900 OS map shows minor changes in the landscape over the last 16 years as a result of works by the 9th Duke. On the northern and north-western sides of Queen Pool a series of tree clumps and woodland belts has been established and additional planting has also taken place along the arm of the lake leading up towards Combe Bottom. Monument Park between the lake and the Column of Victory remains substantially open.



1922/3

The 1922 OS map shows further changes to this core area initiated by the 9th Duke. North of Cannon Point and in Monument Park a series of large rounded clumps have been established but the wooded belt on the north-west side of Queen Pool is more open than at the turn of the century. The map also shows that the north-eastern part of Queen Pool is becoming silted up.





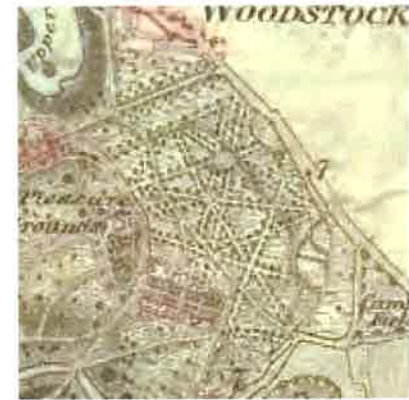
1719
The early 18th century formal layout of Lower Park created by Henry Wise is seen above. The radiating, tree lined rides intersect in a series of X and circular glades. The rides extend the views from the formal gardens and were probably lined by drains. The icehouse near the eastern boundary of the park is thought to have been in place but is not shown on this map.



1763
Henry Wise's formal landscape design for Lower Park was still intact in 1763 prior to Brown's arrival at Blenheim. There is little or no change between the 1719 survey and this one by Spyers, except that the formal avenue south of the walled garden had been removed



1772
Thomas Pride showed the Lower Park after Brown had made his landscape improvements. The small scale & schematic nature of the map means that the formal layout is indicated rather than accurately depicted, but the map clearly shows that Brown retained the formal design, possibly as a stark contrast to the romantic landscape on the other sides of the Palace.
Pride shows a serpentine drive laid out through the formal scheme, sections of which remain as earthwork features today. A formal gated entrance is also shown at the southern end of the park. The icehouse may be shown, somewhat indistinctly, by Pride in the avenue crossing near the eastern boundary.



1811
The formal landscape survived into the 19th century, as shown above. However, so minor changes had taken place by 1811 with the addition of a small close south of the Hensington Gate and the creation of 3 paddocks with a cottage on the site of what was to become the Cowyards.



1863
By the mid 19th century there had been dramatic landscape change in Lower Park. Selective felling by the 5th and 6th Duke's removed the formal landscape and created an informal parkland. The formal east avenue has been truncated, although the 4 southern rows remain. Some alterations to the network of drives was put in place which seems to have been associated with the construction of the Cowyards in c.1860. Eagle Lodge is shown for the first time on an estate map.



1884
By 1884 further changes to the landscape had occurred. The southern rows of the east avenue had all but been removed. A narrow shelterbelt had been established around the Cowyards and an avenue had been planted along the Eagle Lodge drive. The icehouse is shown in detail for the first time, but is depicted in stylised form on the Thomas Pride map of 1789

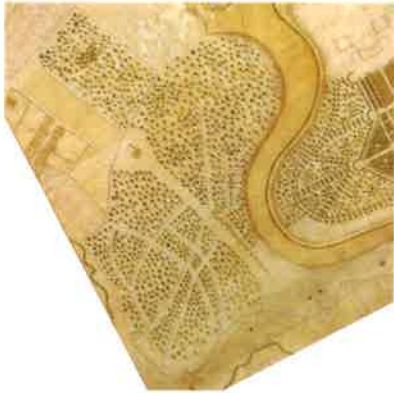


1900
Further changes to Lower Park occurred under the 9th Duke. A series of paddocks were established along the eastern boundary, a fence and new drive were laid out south west of the Cowyards and a significant amount of planting was established north of the walled garden. The Cowyards have increased in size since 1884.



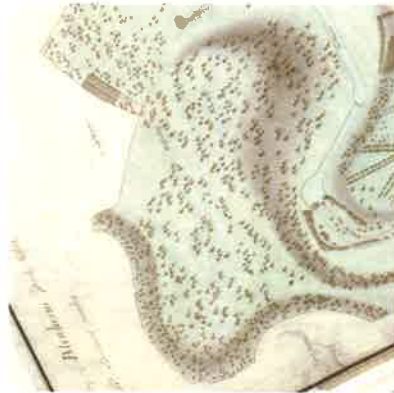
1922/3
Further changes had occurred to Lower Park by 1922, with the addition of more paddocks south of the Cowyards. A double row of the east avenue from the Palace has been reinstated, but the dense planting north of the walled garden and along the Eagle Lodge drive has been thinned.





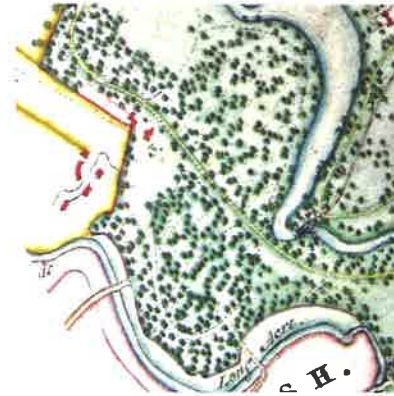
1709

The 1709 map of High Park needs to be treated with some caution as the series of rides through the wood pasture is likely to be indicative. High Lodge is shown very near the park boundary and is set in open ground with the Straight to the south east. An enclosed area is shown to the north of High Lodge which was probably incorporated into the park in the mid 17th century but this is not New Park. The land to the north of High Park is shown as open ground.



1763

The mid 18th century survey depicts a landscape substantially unchanged from 1709. The boundary of the park to the east still does not extend to its current position but the rectangular enclosure to the north of High Lodge has been integrated into the wide park. An expanded area of open grassland is shown to the south west of High Lodge but now there is no clear network of rides through the wood pasture. At the eastern end of High Park an area of land south of the canal cascade has been taken out of the park and seems to be treated in a distinct and separate manner.



1772

The Thomas Pride map shows little change from the pre-Brown survey although the carriage drive along the lake is in place and the drive to the Harborough Lodge is also shown.



1811

In the late 18th century the 4th Duke expanded High Park by taking in land from Combe parish. Earlier maps depict this intake land as arable, although this is a debatable point. The 1811 map, together with maps of 1787, show the extended park. An area of land has been earmarked east of High Lodge, almost as far as the settlement at East End. A further area at New Park has also been incorporated into the parkland and is shown on the 1811 maps divided into 3 sections by a series of rides. A substantial clump has also been established in New Park (partly shown at the top of the above image). An area of garden had been divided from High Park south of the lake cascade.



1863

The mid 19th century Estate map shows the developing landscape of High Park. Combe Lodge is clearly shown for the first time to the north of which are two roundel clumps in New Park. On the south eastern side of High Park the Spring Lock Lodge (added in the 1840s) is in place and boundary wall divides High and Bleaton Parks.



1884

Changes to High Park that had occurred by the late 18th century include: the construction of a reservoir to the north east of High Lodge and the creation of a nursery on the southern side of the park. The OS map shows two large ponds close to High Lodge, although these may simply have been omitted from earlier maps for cartographic reasons.



1900

Between the 1890s and 1900 there was an increase in the tree planting in High Park, especially to the south of High Lodge. Some additional roundel planting has been established on the site of former quans and the nursery remains a feature at the southern end of this character area. A small enclosure in the central southern section of High park, which is seen on the 1863 and 1884 map has been lost.



1922/3

The 8th Duke undertook a series of plantings in High Park in the late 19th and early 20th century. The 1922 OS map records a number of roundel plantations established south of High Lodge. North of High Lodge, on the sloping ground towards the lake, the start of an extensive planting scheme can be seen. It should be noted that there is no clear cut vista or ride on the OS map between High Lodge and the Palace.

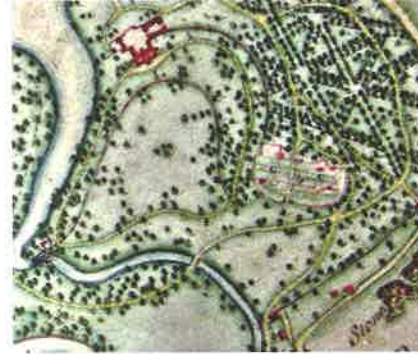




1719
The 1719 map shows the formal wilderness occupying almost all of the Sheep Walk, with an avenue extending from the south east towards east below the walled garden. A second avenue runs into Bladon Park on the east side of the walled garden. The Gardener's House is depicted to the south of the formal gardens with a series of stone quairies on the crest of the valley to the west. The Bladon parish boundary is shown as a red line, which elsewhere on this map is used to define walls. To the south of what would now be Laurel Bank a series of agricultural fields are marked out.



1763
Spyers pre-Brown survey records Bladon Park with a very similar character to that shown at the start of the century. Short sections of avenue are shown in Rough Piece while a more informal planting belt divides Bladon Park from Rough Piece. A dense scatter of trees is illustrated to the south of the walled garden.



1772
Thomas Pride's survey map is the first to show the southern extension to the park created by Lancelot Brown & the 4th Duke. The lake has been created in the Glyme valley and the park is covered with informal, scattered planting. The former Gardener's House and the remains of the formal garden have been swept away, but an expanded area to the south of the walled garden has been divided off from the park. The short section of formal avenue to the east of the walled garden has been removed. The track south from the gardens towards Bladon Lodge appears to have been removed by the late 18th century.



1811
The early 18th century map shows a similar landscape to that of 1772. The most significant changes are the formalization of the Laurel Bank as a feature, almost certainly at this stage divided from the park to the south by a stone wall. Bladon Park is also divided from The Linco by a ha-ha although there is no forestry planting to the south of this boundary. It is unclear from this map whether a ha-ha divides Bladon Park from the Sheep Walk.



1863
The mid 19th century map shows a landscape largely similar to that seen on site today. Bladon Park has now been divided from the Sheep Walk by a ha-ha and sinuous, narrow shelterbelt has been extended from the pleasure grounds on the northern side of Rough Piece. A wall is shown to the south of the Spring Lock Lodge dividing High Park from Bladon Park.



1884
The first edition OS map provides a great deal of clarity on the character and appearance of the historic landscape. It also shows the line of the parish boundary, which gives a clear indication of how far Brown extended the park. Much of the Sheep Walk and Bladon Park south of the walled garden is open but a distinct shelterbelt appears to have been added along the southern boundary, probably to screen the village and enclose the park. It is possible that a number of views out of the park were lost at this time. To the west of the lake the sloping ground is shown with a dense scatter of parkland trees the link to Laurel Bank. Forestry style planting is also shown on the northern banks of the river in Rough Piece. The sinuous shelterbelt between Rough Piece and the Sheep Walk is shown in more detail and appears to line a walk or ride.

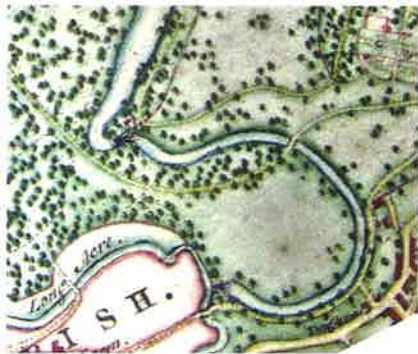


1900
The 1900 OS map shows a fairly static landscape picture from that of the late 19th century. The one significant change is the addition of the copper beech and cedar clumps by the 9th Duke on the east side of the River Glyme. The parkland north of the Linco is shown as being covered with a loose scatter of trees to which a small building with yard to the south has been added near the ha-ha. This was a short lived structure which was removed by 1922.



1922/3
The 1922 OS map shows some minor changes to the landscape, although the general disposition remains unaltered. Much of the parkland north of the Linco has been clear of trees, and it is possible that this was an action associated with the First World War. The river is shown containing areas of reed which may imply a period of reduced maintenance. The sinuous shelterbelt north of the river has been removed leaving a more open parkland character.





1772
The Lince was not incorporated into Blenheim Park until after Brown extended the park boundary in 1767, as such the first map to show the area is Price's map of 1772. The Lince is shown as an open area of park with a fringe of trees along the broadwater of the Glyme. A drive runs on the southern side of the river with a linking route to the kennels at Bladon. A loose scatter of parkland trees occupies the site of what is now known as Little London.



1811
In the late 18th century the 4th Duke and Benjamin Read made a number of changes to the Lince area. The Lince was divided from Bladon Park by a ha-ha and a small complex of buildings which included the pheasantry and a cottage, was established on the north bank of the river. A drive along the river links the pheasantry to the main park carriage routes, with a secondary track running due north from the buildings. To the south of the river denser planting is shown screening Bladon village from the park.



1863
The 1863 map shows that the Lince had retained its general disposition and layout established at the end of the 18th century. The most significant new addition is the area of woodland between the river and the 4th Duke's ha-ha. The 1863 map is of sufficient scale to indicate a residential building on the site of The Lince Lodge with the suggestion of a view across the river to the south. The drive on the south side of the river appears to be lined by a relatively formal 'avenue' style planting.



1884
In the late 19th century map evidence suggests that the woodland north of the river was being treated as forestry and was cut through by a series of rides, although the 18th century drive along the water remained. The OS map shows that a pheasantry had been re-established to the west of the Lince Lodge and outbuildings are shown to the north. The tree lined drive on the south side of the river is more clearly shown in 1884.



1900
The pheasantry buildings to the west of the lodge have been removed by 1900 but otherwise the main character of the area remains as it was in the late 19th century.

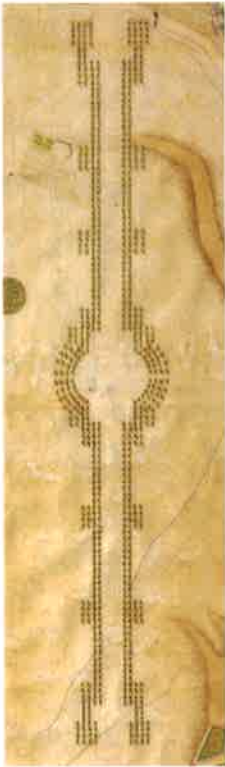


1922/3
The 1922 map shows little landscape change, although the river is drawn with areas of reed along the banks suggesting silting of the river possibly as a result of decreased management activity during and after World War I.

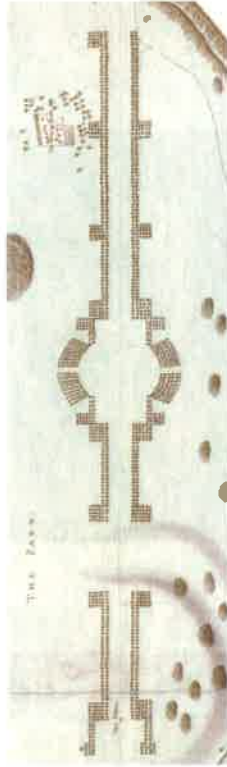


Modern Aerial Photograph
The general character of the Lince remains, although the river side drive on along the north bank has been lost. Modern pumping and service buildings are located within the park on the southern boundary, but are not visible on the aerial photograph.





1709
First depiction of the avenue shown in idealized form on a proposal plan. Avenue not planted to this exact layout. Strong architectural design intention with 'bastion' style planting.



1763
Survey map showing the avenue as planted by Wise. Similar layout to the proposal of 1709 but with a gap for the race course and the Column in place. Unbalanced north end. East & west views from the central ellipse.



1772
The Avenue after Brown's initial phase of work remained essentially as planted by Wise.



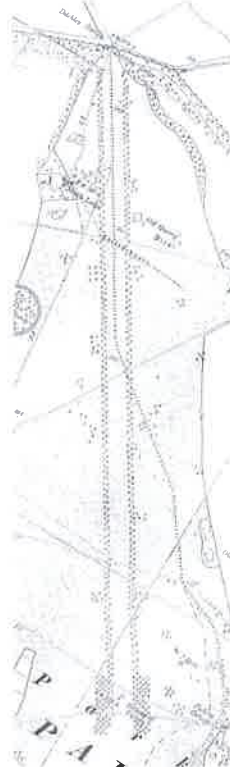
1811
The OS map shows the Grand Avenue broken up following Brown & Fieads creation of the landscape park. A new drive heads towards the lake but the Column of Victory remained framed by formal planting.



1863
By the mid 19th century the Grand Avenue survived as a series of isolated blocks with open parkland dominating.



1884
The 1st Edition 25" OS depicts the broken up avenue in the most accurate and vivid details. The vestiges of the central ellipse remain and formal planting around the.



1900
In the late 19th century the 9th Duke initiated a replanting of the formal avenue which was carried out in two phases and is recorded on the OS maps of the time. The initial planting re-established the avenue with what appear to be the vestiges of the original bastions copied or retained.

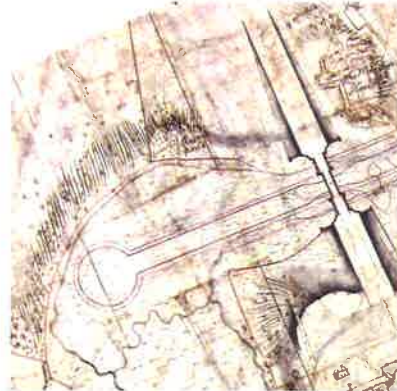


1922/3
By 1905 the 9th Duke had extended the avenue planting. This scheme, shown on the 1922 OS map, shows the avenue at its most dominant with central diamond. Three of the four corner blocks for the central feature remain on site today.





1709
Rosamond's Well is indistinctly shown on the earliest map of Blenheim (see red circle above). The well was clearly located within a loose belt of trees but no other structures, ponds or buildings are shown.



1719
Rosamond's Well, named Rosamond's Pond, on the map is shown to the north of the proposed formal canal. The well is square in plan form with a low retaining wall to the south through which an overflow stream empties into the Glyme. The well is set within a much larger walled enclosure that extends into the North Park. A scatter of mature and younger parkland trees cover the banks behind and around the well.



1763
In the mid 18th century, but before Brown's landscape works on the lake, Rosamond's Well (still referred to as a pond) is shown set back from the formal canal in an isolated location. A large, kidney shaped clump has been established to the north of the pond with conifers, probably cedars flanking the plantation on the banks to east and west.



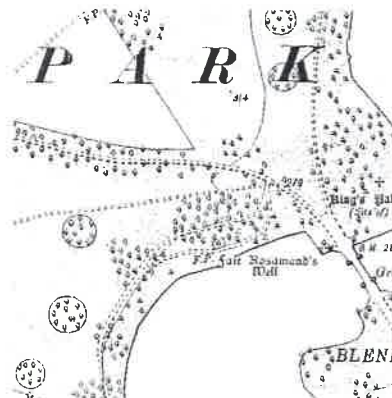
1811
After the 1760s Brown's lake formed the setting for Rosamond's Well almost exactly as we see it today. Although not shown on the 1772 Price map, this 1811 plan indicates a carriage drive sweeping out to the south of the well but other decorative schemes of the stone retaining wall were not carried out. The basis planting pattern established by Brown remains with more structured planting to the east and west of the well.



1884
The general disposition of the landscape around Rosamond's Well changes little over the course of the late 19th & 20th centuries. In the early 19th century iron rails were installed around the well



1900
Between 1884 and 1900 there was little change in the landscape setting of Rosamond's Well



1922/3
The area around Rosamond's Well remained largely unchanged in the early 20th century although the most important of the 9th Duke's roundels were planted on the high ground above the lake side banks.



2011
The modern aerial photograph shows the layout of the landscape today. The well is partly screening by mid 20th century holly trees so there is no open view towards the Palace. On the main drive to Cannon Point some there is coalescence of the planting, resulting in some views from the drive and the road to Park Farm being obscured.





1709
A small group of buildings together with enclosed gardens are shown in the approximate location of Park Farm in the early 18th century. There is a possibility that this building group was a former parkers lodge from the medieval deer park, but no of the building survive.



1719
Park Farm is not shown on the 1719 map but this image does show walling extending across the North Park suggesting that Park Farm was, in some way, divided from the open parkland landscape.



1763
The 1763 survey shows a residential property with the kennels to the east. There are 4 small enclosures around the house which is located in approximately the same location as today's Park Farmhouse. Apart from the small clump of trees south of the main building, there is no landscape context to Park Farm at this date.



1811
The 1811 map shows the culmination of Brown and the 4th Duke's work at Park Farm. Brown made proposals for a granary range at Park Farm which appears to have been used, in modified form. Park Farmhouse is shown with buildings to the north and north east. The whole farmstead is encircled by a narrow shelterbelt.



1884
During the course of the 19th century Park Farm, which from at least the 1660s was known as Home Farm, had achieved much of its current layout. The farmhouse and main farm range is in place with the cottages piercing the southern boundary shelterbelt.



1900
No substantial landscape change.



1922/3
No substantial landscape change to the farmstead, although the 9th Duke had established a tree lined drive to the complex.

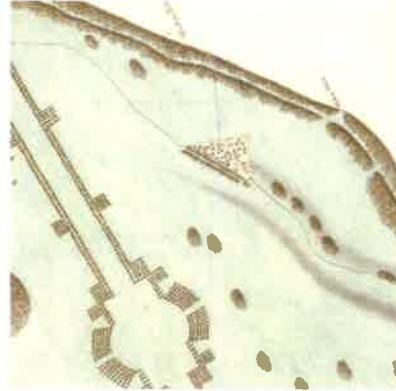


Modern Aerial Photograph
In the late 20th century Park Farm has seen the addition of a number of large scale modern sheds and barns. This development has extended the farmstead to the north and the Estate has established a shelterbelt screen around the extension.





1709
Furze Platt appears to be shown on the earliest map of Blenheim as a triangular piece of woodland, or possibly scrub. The Grand Avenue is located to the west with the line of the recessure shown wrapping around Furze Platt to the east and north.



1763
The next map to show Furze Platt is Spysers pre-Brown survey of 1763. At this date the woodland has been thinned and a chudlorm barn established in the centre with a track accessing the field to the north. A second aim is shown to the south east set within a small enclosure or yard. Neither of the barns depicted by Spysers are in the same position as the existing barns at Furze Platt.



1811
In the late 18th century at least two other buildings were added to the Furze Platt complex and these are shown in schematic form on the 1811 OS map. Much of the woodland appears to have been lost, but the basic shape of the area has been retained.



1863
In the mid 19th century Furze Platt is shown without any significant tree cover. The farmstead has developed and the map is detailed enough to be sure that the some of the existing barns are in place. A field boundary now links Furze Platt to the south with Akeman Street extending off to the east.



1884
By the end of the 19th century there had been little change at Furze Platt. Some scattered trees are located to the south of the farmstead but the area is otherwise devoid of planting. The first edition OS map does show the present arrangement of farm buildings, though not the farmhouse. As well as the field boundary to the south of the farmstead the OS map clearly shows the site was linked to the North Park by a track.



1900
There is little change in the landscape character of Furze Platt at the turn of the 20th century, however, the surrounding land use had changed dramatically. Fields and small pedocks had been established to the north and south east of the farmstead while much of the land to the east was clearly cultivated.



1922/3
By 1922 little had changed at Furze Platt since the late 18th century, the general distribution of the farmstead and the open nature of the landscape remained unchanged. A small building, possibly the existing cottage or farmhouse, is shown in the north east corner of the area while the field divisions of 1900 have been removed.



Modern Aerial Photograph
The modern aerial image shows Furze Platt just before the Estate reversed the surrounding arable land back to pasture. Young woodland has once again been established to the south of the farmstead, echoing the original 18th century planting style. The former field boundary and track which ran to the south of the farmstead has been removed since 1922 but the earthwork remains of the feature can be traced in the aerial photograph.



**LIST OF AWARDS RECEIVED
2013-2016**

Title	Level	Awarding Organisation	Year
Oxfordshire's Favourite Attraction	Winner	Living In Oxford Awards	2016
Best Innovation	Winner	Hudson's Heritage	2016
Green Tourism	Gold	Green Tourism Scheme	
Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme	87%	VisitEngland	2015
Outstanding Contribution to the Cotswold Economy	Winner	Cotswold Life Family Business Awards	2015
Certificate of Excellence	Excellence	Trip Advisor	2015
Best Eating Out	Highly Commended	Hudson's Heritage	2015
Best Historic House and/or Garden for Groups	Winner	Group Travel Organizer	2014
Certificate of Excellence	Excellence	Trip Advisor	2014
Britain's Favourite Heritage Site	Runner Up	BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards	2014
Business Tourism Award	Gold	Beautiful South Awards	2013
Green Tourism Award	Gold	Green Tourism Scheme	2013
Large Visitor Attraction	Highly Commended	VisitEngland Awards for Excellence	2013
Heritage Venue	Winner	Prestige Events - Cool Awards	2013

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