



Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

*To record and conserve the gardens and parks of historic Buckinghamshire
To aid in the creation and restoration of gardens, parks and green spaces within the historic county*

Research and Recording Project: 'Understanding Historic Parks and Gardens in Buckinghamshire'

Continuation Phase August 2015 - July 2017

End of Continuation Phase Report 06 AUGUST 2017



1. Introduction

This project completion report has been prepared as part of the terms of grant of the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust award of May 2015 for a sum of £3,500 to cover the two-year continuation phase of our Research and Recording Project for lesser known Bucks parks and gardens. It has been prepared by Dr Sarah Rutherford, Chairman of BGT and Trustee responsible for this project in collaboration with other Bucks Gardens Trust (BGT) team members.

We were also in part funded by the Finnis Scott Foundation, also received funding from the Capability Brown Festival for research on Brown sites, and contributed from our BGT reserves. We continued to receive valuable in-kind help from Bucks County Council including HER resources, meeting spaces and Ordnance Survey mapping licensing.

2. Project Progress

Following the HLF funded Pilot Project of 2013-15 we seamlessly continued with our Research and Recording Project for a further two years as outlined in our grant award request, thanks in part to the generous grant awarded by the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. We continued the project at a steady rate, recruited and trained 5 new volunteer recorders and only marginally exceeded our average monthly projected budget expenditure of £562. We intended to research and record fully (to completion of dossier stage) 30 sites and

completed 24, with a further 14 sites under investigation, 5 of which are very close to this completion of dossier stage. We believe we have fulfilled our targets in this respect. Our progress and financial aspects are monitored by BGT Council including trustees, to whom a progress report by Dr Sarah Rutherford is submitted 3 times a year at meetings and discussed. BGT Council is pleased with the steady progress the project has made.

3. Project Outcomes

The most obvious outcome was the completion of the investigation of 25 sites with the production of 24 dossiers published on our web site at <http://www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/locally-important-sites/> and five close to completion. The sites are named in Appendix 1 and the dossiers are available for download on the web site. As our contribution to the Capability Brown tercentenary celebrations we targeted unregistered sites connected with him and also produced a historic development of the registered Ditton Park (in historic Bucks), which was poorly understood. This gave us new material to present at a day seminar on Brown in Bucks which we held at his master work Wotton Underwood.

A further 14 sites have been under investigation since April this year, including 8 Humphry Repton-associated sites, in anticipation of the commemoration of the bicentenary of his death next year. This brings to 57 the number of sites completed and in progress by the end of this phase, i.e. over a four year period 2013-17. We have 44 dossiers on the web site. We believe there are up to 400 sites to be addressed in this way, so we are making steady progress in this long term project.

The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust has been mentioned on the front of each dossier completed in the period and the financial support provided by SSHT is gratefully acknowledged in the introduction to each.

Summaries of the significance of 34 of the sites studied have been published in the scholarly *Records of Bucks* published by the Bucks Archaeological Society in the editions of 2016, in which the support of the SSHT has been acknowledged, and 2017. A copy of the 2016 article was sent to you last year and the 2017 article is attached.

A less obvious outcome of the project has been the personal development of the 20 volunteers who have developed into a cohesive and enthusiastic team. A few volunteers have dropped out for various reasons, but all have said how much they have enjoyed learning new skills and seeing Bucks landscapes in a new way, in detail.

We are held up by our umbrella body The Gardens Trust as a model of good practice for other County Gardens Trusts to use when developing similar projects of their own. Historic England's Regional Landscape Architect has provided positive feedback on the standard of the dossiers, and various local authorities use the dossiers to inform their consideration of planning applications. Dossiers are used by the Bucks County Council Historic Environment advisers and lodged in the HER.

4. Conclusions

- The Research and Recording Project has contributed considerably to the knowledge of Bucks designed landscapes, with the information contributing to understanding their significance and helping to conserve them for future generations, and to the personal development of our 20 volunteers.
- Underpinned by the completed 2015-17 continuation phase, so generously funded in part by the SSHT, we have been able to embark enthusiastically upon another two-year phase, in part breaking further new ground by studying the work of designer Humphry Repton in the county. The successful implementation of the 2015-17 phase has helped us to attract funding for this next phase, including a further tranche of £4,700 from the HLF, as well as a further most generous award of £4,500 from Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust for which are continually grateful.
- With the momentum we have generated over four years, we intend to continue the Research and Recording Project until all 400 sites are addressed if we can continue to obtain the funding and recruit volunteers.
- We believe we have furthered the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust charitable objects and fulfilled our obligations in the terms of the grant award.

5. Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the Trustees of the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust for so generously funding this phase, which will have long term benefits beyond the immediate period.

We wish to record our thanks to Dr David Rae. The relationship was made as easy as possible and we are most grateful to him for his help.

6. Supporting Information:

Appendix 1 List of Sites Addressed (below)

Records of Bucks summary articles in the 2017 edition attached as a pdf

Individual Site Dossiers are available at <http://www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/locally-important-sites/>

Appendix 1 List of Sites Addressed in BGT R & R Project (August 2015 – July 2017)**Sites Completed August 2015-April 2016**

Barton Hartshorn	Arts and Crafts garden	Privately owned
Boarstall	Country house garden. CB	National Trust
Heatherden Hall, Iver (Pinewood Studios)	Country House garden	Corporate
Little Haylings, Denham	Arts and Crafts garden	Privately owned
Rayners, Penn School	Country House garden	School; about to be sold
Richings Park	Country House park	Golf club and private owners
Rignalls, Great Missenden (revisited April 17)	Arts and Crafts garden Jekyll	Privately owned
Denham Grove/ Tile House/Durdant Court,	Country House garden	Corporate
Woodrow High House	Country House garden	Corporate
TOTAL 9 sites		

Sites Completed April 2016 – 31 July 2017

Alderbourne Manor	Country house garden	Private owner
Central Milton Keynes	New Town landscape of urban centre	Public owners
Chesham Bois House	Country house garden	Private owners
Chetwode Manor	Country house garden	Private owner
Chetwode Priory	Country house garden	Private owner
Ditton Park (chronology and refs)	Country House park/CB (Registered)	Corporate & private owner
Hillesden	Lost country house garden	Private owner
Lillingstone Hall	Country house garden	Private owner
Pednor	Arts and Crafts garden	Private owner
Poundon	Arts and Crafts garden	Private owner
Savay Farm	Country house garden	Private owners

Stowe Burial Ground	Late C19 parish burial ground	Parish
Tingewick Manor	Rectory garden, mid-C19	Private owner
Wendover Manor	Manor House garden	School owner
Woodlands, Gt Missenden	C19 villa garden & Park	Care Home and private owners
TOTAL 15 sites		

Sites actively under Research and Recording at 31 July 2017

Addington Manor	Country house garden	Private owner	Final editing stage
Bledlow Manor	Country house garden	Private owner	Finalised and on web
Bulstrode	Repton	Private owners	Research stage
Doddershall Manor	Country House garden/par	Private owner	Finalised and on web
Great Brickhill Manor	Country House garden/park	Private owner	Finalised
Hanslope Hall	Repton	Government	Research stage
High and Over	Urban garden	Private owner	Finalised
Orchard House Olney	Urban Garden, A & C	Private owner	Writing up
Shardeloes	Repton	Private owner	Research stage
Stoke Park	Repton	Country club	Research stage
Stowe, Lamport Manor	Repton	NT	Writing up
West Wycombe	Repton	Private/NT	Research stage
Wilton Park	Repton	MOD	Research stage
Wycombe Abbey	Repton	School/ public park	Research stage
TOTAL 14 sites			

Sites which require an overview but not a full dossier as so little survives

St John's House, HW	C19 villa garden	Corporate	Abbreviated dossier prepared. HER informed.
TOTAL 1 site			

Total 39 sites completed or in progress in this phase.