

Bath and North East Somerset Council Designation Full Report

07/02/2012

Number of records: 86

DesigUID: DBN3643	Type: Registered Park or Garden	Status: Active
Preferred Ref	NHLE UID	Other Ref

Name: 19 Sion Hill (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Small town garden, thought to be unaltered since C18 creation; certainly little changed since OS 1st edition; mixture of decorative and kitchen planting.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7399 6607 (MBR: 34m by 53m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.10

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p12

Associated Monuments

MBN10089 Ornamental Park: Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3626	Type: Registered Park or Garden	Status: Active
Preferred Ref	NHLE UID	Other Ref

Name: 4 Cleveland Place West (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Eccentric grass-terraced garden originally created c1870-1910, by William Sweetland, behind his organ factory and running down to the River Avon. The garden featured several stone ornaments; stone coffin; Ionic column from demolished St Mary's Chapel, Queen Square; urn scratch carved with organ motifs. Mature cedar and Wellingtonia by north wall.

Part owned by City Council and leased to Bath Canoe Club.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7529 6566 (MBR: 42m by 49m)

Map sheet: ST76NE **Area (Ha):** 0.10

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

DesigUID: DBN3626 **Name:** 4 Cleveland Place West (Local)

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p10

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3625 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: 4 The Circus (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C18 town garden site, recently subject to extensive archaeological investigations and restoration.

Bath Museum Services; unrestricted access.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7472 6520 (MBR: 24m by 31m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.03

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p10

Associated Monuments

MBN10082 Ornamental Park: Garden at The Circus

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3592 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

2779 1001351

Name: Abbey Cemetery (National)

Grade: II* **Date Assigned** 20/09/1996 **Amended:** 07/02/2012 **Revoked:**

Legal Description

GD2778

ST7563

II

A private Anglican cemetery laid out by John Claudius Loudon in 1843.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

During the 1830s, with a lack of further burial space at Bath Abbey, a new cemetery was proposed to be laid out at the edge of the city. The land was purchased from the Prior

Park estate by the Rector of Bath Abbey, Rev Brodrick. The architect, social reformer, and landscape gardener, John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843) was responsible for the layout and planting of the cemetery, and the chapel was designed by the Bath City Architect, George Phillips Manners. In 1843, the year Loudon completed Abbey Cemetery, he published his book, *On the Laying out, Planting and Managing of Cemeteries*. The design for Abbey Cemetery, which he had just completed, is included in it as an example for a 'proposal for a cemetery on hilly ground'. Besides Abbey Cemetery, Loudon designed two other cemeteries in England: Southampton Cemetery (qv) in Hampshire and Histon Road Cemetery, Cambridge (qv), and he gave advice on the design of various other cemeteries throughout England. Loudon died just a few weeks before Abbey Cemetery was consecrated on 30 January 1844.

Abbey Cemetery remains (2001) in private ownership and burials are only permitted in existing family plots. The mortuary chapel is currently closed, awaiting repairs.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Abbey Cemetery is situated c 1.3km south-east of Bath city in a residential area. The c 3ha triangular site lies north-west of Prior Park (qv), on a steep, south-facing hillside. The boundaries of the cemetery are formed by retaining walls which separate the site from the public roads and residential housing defining it: Prior Park Road to the east, Perrymead Hill to the west, and Perrymead Roman Catholic Cemetery to the south. To the south-west a wire fence has been erected between the boundary wall and the grave plots.

From the site there are very fine and extensive views of Bath, the opposite northern height of Lansdown Hill, and to the east over the vale of Widcombe.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Abbey Cemetery is approached by an entrance situated at the far north corner of the site, at the junction of Prior Park Road and Perrymead Hill. This entrance consists of a wooden gate, a replacement copy of the one introduced in the mid C19, which hangs between mid C19 gate piers of Bath stone and is flanked to the west by a roofed pedestrian gate. Both gates are decorated with grilles in open panels and iron rivets.

The main drive, formerly lined with elm trees, leads from the main entrance to the south-eastern part of the cemetery, running parallel to the public road. A short distance from the southern boundary it swings west-south-west to a turning circle on the north side of the mortuary chapel.

There is a service entrance in the far south-west corner of the site which is now (2001) no longer used. Here, wooden gates formerly gave access to a straight track (now overgrown) leading north-eastwards to the rear of the chapel.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The main focus of Abbey Cemetery is provided by the mortuary chapel (listed grade II), designed by George Phillips Manners in 1844. It is built in Norman style, with its tower and short body standing adjacent to the south boundary at the top of the sloping site, and at the head of the path bisecting the cemetery through its north-west to south-east axis.

Some 10m west of the mortuary chapel, in the south-west corner of the cemetery, is the site of a former building, possibly a greenhouse or gardener's hut (OS 1884, 1902).

OTHER LAND

The layout of Abbey Cemetery comprises a perimeter walk which encloses the different cemetery sections (see Index Plan, pre 1848) with formally laid out plots on either side of a central north-west to south-east axis. Immediately north of the chapel, which is situated centrally on the south boundary, is an area laid out as an informal meadow. This is the former site of William Beckford's tomb, whose burial at Abbey Cemetery took place

DesigUID: DBN3592

Name: Abbey Cemetery (National)

in 1844, just after the opening of the cemetery. Four years later, in 1848, Beckford's tomb, including its surrounding railings, was returned to the newly consecrated Lansdown Cemetery (qv), which was laid out on the site of Beckford's own garden.

The central path at Abbey Cemetery runs north-west from the chapel downhill towards the far north-west end of the site, where it turns east, before it meets the main drive 15m south of the main entrance. The north end of the central path, at its turn to the east, is marked by two mature Japanese pagoda trees (*Cryptomeria japonica*). Halfway along its length, c 15m north-west of the chapel, the central path crosses the main drive, which is marked by steps and four mature cedars planted on each corner (OS 1885).

Abbey Cemetery contains many mature trees, mostly evergreens, including English and Turkey oak, ash, beech, holly, elder, cherry, hawthorn, box, hazel, cotoneaster, horse chestnut, redwood, and Wellingtonia. Several Roman burials were discovered in the south-east corner while the ground was being prepared for the laying out of the cemetery in 1843 (OS 1885), this fact being marked by a monument, presented by Blauchard Coward, which is sited on the main carriage drive.

The graves in Abbey Cemetery are arranged in a formal grid and are connected by paths. There is a fine collection of mid to late C19 tombs and funerary monuments (mostly listed grade II) belonging to eminent local residents such as diplomats, military men, bishops, musicians, actors, and poets. Amongst these monuments are the Hinds Memorial (listed grade II*) of c 1874, signed by Reeves, a monumental stonemason of Bath, and the Partis Memorial (listed grade II*) of c 1846. Both are in the Greek Revival Style and situated in section III to the north-west of the mortuary chapel. At the turn of the main approach that leads to the chapel, in the south-east corner of the site (section II), stands the Crimean War Memorial (listed grade II). The Greek Revival-style obelisk, unveiled on 31 May 1856, lists both the officers and the other ranks who died during the Crimean War.

The south-west corner of the site, now (2001) overgrown, was formerly the site of a small nursery with a greenhouse, as indicated on the OS map of 1885.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation: English Heritage

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7587 6363 (MBR: 169m by 236m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 2.05

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. GD2779

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3618

Type: Registered Park or Garden

Status: Active

Preferred Ref

NHLE UID

Other Ref

Name: Abbey Green (Local)

Grade:

Date Assigned

Amended:

Revoked:

Legal Description

A grassed oval with a large plane tree in the centre. Enclosed by listed buildings on three sides

DesigUID: DBN3618 **Name:** Abbey Green (Local)

Unrestricted access.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7512 6466 (MBR: 11m by 19m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 0.01

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p9

Associated Monuments

MBN10224 Ornamental Park: Abbey Green Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3619 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Alexandra Park (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Municipal park on top of Beechen Cliff, acquired by the city in 1896 and opened 1902: panoramic views over the city to the north; circuit path planted on either side with a row of mature beech and lime.

Unrestricted access.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7508 6391 (MBR: 267m by 229m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 4.49

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p9

Associated Monuments

MBN4280 Monument: Alexandra Park

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3651 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

DesigUID: DBN3651 **Name:** Batheaston House (Local)

Name: Batheaston House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Small town garden sloping down to the River Avon, and featuring an orangery, terraces and a large walled garden with decorative stonework, including shell-arched niche.

House (LB II*), 1712 for Henry Walters.

Part owned site owned by Wansdyke District Council and renovated as community garden.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7790 6742 (MBR: 129m by 99m)

Map sheet: ST76NE **Area (Ha):** 0.82

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Batheaston, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p35

Associated Monuments

MBN4221 Ornamental Park: Batheaston House garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3663 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Batheaston Villa (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Small and elaborate C18 garden on a sloping site, described by Horace Walpole as "little but pretty...avery diminutive principality with large pretentions". Surviving C18 features include a round temple, terracing, yew avenue, and kitchen garden. Periphery of landscape now encroached upon by modern built development.

House (LB II), c1750-70 for Captain Miller, with some late C19 additions; temple (LB II), c1750-70 Doric rotunda on base of 4 steps; C19 icehouse.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7719 6712 (MBR: 135m by 86m)

Map sheet: ST76NE **Area (Ha):** 0.50

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p35

DesigUID: DBN3663 **Name:** Batheaston Villa (Local)

Associated Monuments

MBN4260 Ornamental Park: Batheaston Villa Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3620 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Bathwick Grange (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Villa garden: remains of paths, walls, steps and pond on steep and wooded site: some original planting of beech and laurel.

House (LB II), formerly known as "Montebello", built 1828-30 by and for H E Goodridge.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7648 6444 (MBR: 120m by 125m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 0.74

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p9

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3621 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Beaufort Square (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden for square laid out in 1730, designed by John Strahan. Now a small rectangular lawn, enclosed with wrought iron railings (LB II).

Bath City Council.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7482 6486 (MBR: 30m by 17m)

Map sheet: ST76SW **Area (Ha):** 0.03

Administrative Areas

DesigUID: DBN3621 **Name:** Beaufort Square (Local)

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p9

Associated Monuments

MBN4292 Ornamental Park: Beaufort Square Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3664 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Brockham End (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Early C20 woodland garden.

Main feature of interest is a minature cliff featuring rockery terraces and two tunnel-like vaulted summerhouses.

House and Gothic squash court 1907.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7159 6965 (MBR: 150m by 262m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 1.18

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish North Stoke, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p35

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3652 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Camerton Court (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C18 park and formal garden, remodelled 1980s. Canal and some mature planting survive from C18 layout. New garden features include a temple, a cascade, two gazebos, a formal pond with fountain and urns, an orangery, statuary, paths and realigned driveways, as well as major replanting.

House (LB II) 1835, designed by G S Repton for John Jarrett.

DesigUID: DBN3652 **Name:** Camerton Court (Local)

Curatorial Notes

Western part of GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6878 5750 (MBR: 753m by 648m)

Map sheet: ST65NE **Area (Ha):** 23.29

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Camerton, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p35

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3665 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Camerton Rectory (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C19 garden, famous for its association with the diarist, the Rev. John Skinner, c1800-39. Walls to original 2 acre garden survive, as does mature tree and shrub planting, and remains of circular pond.

House rebuilt 1840.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6854 5738 (MBR: 93m by 81m)

Map sheet: ST65NE **Area (Ha):** 0.43

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Camerton, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p35

Associated Monuments

MBN5178 Monument: Rectory

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3622 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Catherine Place (Local)

DesigUID: DBN3622 **Name:** Catherine Place (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C19 communal garden built 1776 to design of John Wood the Younger. Square originally completely paved. Garden now mixed planting of small trees and shrubs. Iron railings now replaced with wire mesh.

Access restricted to residents.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7464 6543 (MBR: 23m by 56m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.05

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p9

Associated Monuments

MBN4300 Ornamental Park: Catherine Place Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3623 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Cavendish Crescent (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden for crescent built 1815-30 designed by John Pinch; garden presumed to date from same period. Now informally planted with mature trees and shrubs; large retaining wall on west and south-east sides.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7436 6594 (MBR: 35m by 25m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.06

Administrative Areas - None recorded

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p10

Associated Monuments

MBN4299 Ornamental Park: Cavendish Crescent Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3666 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

DesigUID: DBN3666 **Name:** Chelwood House (Local)

Name: Chelwood House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Victorian garden, with surviving late C18/early C19 stonework.

House (LB II) late C17 with late C18 and C20 alterations; garden wall, balustrade, piers and gate (LB II) late C18/early C19.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6247 6167 (MBR: 82m by 132m)

Map sheet: ST66SW **Area (Ha):** 0.55

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Chelwood

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p35

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3653 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Chew Court (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Late Victorian garden around older house. Features include sundial, wellhouse and garden walls; lime avenue, some specimen trees on lawn.

House C14 origin, many later alterations including major restoration 1856-57 by John Colthurst.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 5782 6315 (MBR: 328m by 327m)

Map sheet: ST56SE **Area (Ha):** 7.19

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Chew Magna, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p35

Associated Monuments

MBN10579 Ornamental Park: Walled Garden Chew Court

DesigUID: DBN3653 **Name:** Chew Court (Local)

MBN10580 Monument: Evaluation at the walled garden north of
MBN10581 Listed Building: Bishops Palace, Chew Court
MBN5299 Monument: Earthworks
MBN708 Listed Building: Chew court east of the Church
MBN7328 Monument: Queens Arms PH
MBN8222 Listed Building: Sexton's Cottage

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3654 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Chewton Place (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C18 pleasure ground, bounded by river and ha-ha, containing a rubble-built folly tower (the Owl Hoot). Good number of mature specimen trees.

House (LB II), ha-ha (LB II), and folly (LB II) all shortly pre-1786.

Residential training centre (D C Gardner Group).

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6561 6690 (MBR: 270m by 203m)

Map sheet: ST66NE **Area (Ha):** 3.66

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Compton Dando, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p35

Associated Monuments

MBN4319 Ornamental Park: Chewton Place Garden
MBN9352 Monument: Bridge across the river Chew

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3667 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Chota Castle (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C19 garden around eccentric folly-castle, including lawns and specimen trees; rockery and pond; well-preserved ha-ha.

House thought to be early-mid C19.

Curatorial Notes

DesigUID: DBN3667 **Name:** Chota Castle (Local)

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 5694 6256 (MBR: 289m by 289m)

Map sheet: ST56SE **Area (Ha):** 3.96

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Chew Magna, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p35

Associated Monuments

MBN11266 Ornamental Park: Chota Castle park

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3604 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

1552 1000564

Name: Claverton Manor (National)

Grade: II **Date Assigned** 30/04/1987 **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

GD1552

ST7864

II

Gardens and pleasure grounds of 1820-30 in early C19 park, around a country house, incorporating remains of terraced gardens of c 1580 associated with the former manor house.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Claverton manor house, in the village of Claverton, was built c 1580 and completed in 1625, probably for William Basset. The old manor was purchased by John Vivian in 1816 and demolished in the 1820s, when the present house was built c 400m to the south-west. The terraced gardens of the manor were left in place. The present classical house was built and parkland laid out c 1819-20, with gardens and pleasure grounds laid out between 1820 and 1830. From 1961 the manor became the American Museum in Britain, founded by Dallas Pratt and John Judkyn, in which use it remains (2002). The Mount Vernon Garden was laid out in the 1960s.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

The historic landscape at Claverton Manor covers c 35ha and is situated 3.5km east of the centre of Bath, near the crest of an east-facing hillside overlooking the steep-sided valley of the River Avon, through which also runs the Kennet & Avon Canal. The southern boundary is defined by the eastward section of the public highway called The Avenue which runs from Bath University in the west to Claverton village in the east. The other boundaries are determined by tracks, paths, and fence lines, comprising a field boundary and track to the west and north and field boundaries to the north-east and south-east. The eastern boundary runs round the rear of properties in Claverton village, but includes the terrace gardens of the former manor, now part of the grounds of Manor Farm. To the

north and south are dense deciduous woodlands on the steep valley sides. To the west and south-west the surrounding topography is fairly level and to the north-west the land rises to the summit of Bathampton Down 1.5km distant.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Claverton Manor is approached from the west, the drive passing the Late Gothic-style West Lodge and gate piers (early-mid C18, listed grade II) situated c 300m west of the house. The drive, cut into a south-facing slope, has a bank with mature trees, notably oak, beech, lime, and holm oak, backed by evergreen shrubs and woodland to the north and provides limited views to the south between trees and shrubs. A wooden pay kiosk stands 25m inside the entrance, with a car park to the north-east. The drive runs south-east and east around a south-facing bank and turns north to arrive at the least ornate, west facade of the house which is the entrance to the museum. Opposite the west front of the Manor is a steep grass bank with specimen trees including a notable cedar of Lebanon. The drive continues north, past the exhibition hall (c 1980s) to the east, through woodland where it continues as a woodland track through Hengrove Wood, mostly outside the area here registered. Former parkland to the north and east of this track is now incorporated into the woodland but retains many C19 ornamental trees, including a high proportion of conifers. The south service drive enters the site through Conygre Plantation 230m south-east of the house and turns west along the northern edge of the plantation to the complex of buildings which includes South Lodge, the stables, and a walled garden 150m south-west of the house.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Claverton Manor (1819-20, listed grade I) is situated at the centre of the park and was designed for John Vivian by Jeffry Wyatt, later Sir Jeffry Wyatville (1766-1840), to replace the Jacobean manor in Claverton village. Constructed of Bath stone, the house is neoclassical in style with Ionic pilasters and a pediment on the south facade, and two semicircular projecting bays on the east facade. High screen walls of c 7m, topped with stone balustrades with vases, adjoin the house to the north and south and visually separate the south-eastern and eastern prospects from the landscape and drive west of the house. A single-storey building of Bath stone with a balustraded roof with urns extends from the north of the house. The gardens and pleasure grounds are reached by passing from west to east through the cafe. Paved terraces, with planted urns, run around the south and east fronts of the house, from which there are extensive rural views south and east over the house lawn of the Limpley Stoke Valley (of the Avon) and Warleigh Woods on the opposite hillside.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

To the east, south-east, and south of the house is the house lawn which slopes away from the house in these directions, beyond which are views over the eastern parkland and the arboretum to the south which fall down the valley sides. An orangery extends eastwards into the garden at right angles to the cafe on the north front of the house and forms the northern boundary of the lawn. To the north of the orangery is a reproduction of a Cheyenne Indian tepee and the observation platform from a Pullman railway carriage (c 1900), beyond which is the New Gallery (1986-8), containing a book shop, research library, and exhibition hall. Immediately south of the orangery, on the terrace, is the Colonial Herb Garden (1964) arranged in a square of dwarf box-edged beds, with a paved circle in the centre containing a bee skep. Some 25m east of the east front of the house is an armillary sundial on an ornate stone pedestal in the lawn, and c 15m south of the sundial is a stone well-cap. The east boundary of the lawn is marked by a very ornate iron fence and gate (c early C19). An outdoor entrance to the lawn is through a gate at the south-west corner of the south screen wall, south-west of which is a white curved wooden bench in the Chinese style set against an evergreen shrubbery which forms the west boundary of the lawn. The 'Milliner's Shop', an ornate wooden Dutch summerhouse (C19) backed by a shrubbery, faces south-east from a kink in the western boundary of the lawn, c 40m south-west of the south front of the house. A stone-built niche, with a basin, called the Grotto (c 1820, possibly earlier, listed grade II) is located c 80m south of the house near the south-west edge of the lawn, set into a 4m high south-east-facing retaining wall. The lawn terminates c 100m south of the house at a bank overlooking the arboretum to the south-east. Set into the bank are stone steps, descending between

pedestals supporting stone urns, to a pair of stone gate piers supporting eagles which mark the entrance to a small enclosure made by a curved beech hedge and containing a curved stone seat. A path leads south-east from this enclosure into the arboretum, containing trees, shrubs, and plants imported from America to England; this was established from c 1980 and formally opened in 1984 in a formerly overgrown area. West of the top of the steps a lawn with ornamental trees curves round to the west, onto a south-east-facing terraced bank with gardens on different levels. An ornamental iron gateway (c 2000) set in a balustraded wall 10m west of the steps leads south-west to stone steps down into the Mount Vernon Garden (1960s), a replica of part of George Washington's 1784-5 flower garden in Virginia; this was laid out by Ian Mylles on the site of a former rose garden. The roughly triangular formal garden is contained on its south and east sides by a white picket fence and is planted with trees, roses, and other flowers available to Washington, the beds defined by gravel paths, many enclosed by clipped box hedges. A north-east/south-west axial path is terminated by an octagonal garden pavilion, a copy of one at Mount Vernon. North-west of the axial path is a 1m high retaining wall with central steps up to a 20m wide level grass terrace containing a yew tree with curved Chinese wooden seat beneath. At the west end of this terrace is an oblong pool dominated to the north by the convex side of a semicircular screen wall, c 7m high, topped with urns. In the centre of the terrace, stone steps lead north-west past a shallow circular stone pool, c 2m diameter, and up through a gap in a clipped yew hedge into a small pebbled courtyard with metal seat and planted urn on pedestal. This courtyard leads north-west to meet a service drive north of the range of buildings comprising South Lodge, the former stables, and coach house (c 1820, listed grade II), all currently used as accommodation for estate staff (2002). The service drive leads north to join the main drive from the west 40m south of the house, and south through a stone archway into the stable yard. The yard is enclosed to the west by South Lodge, the stables, and coach house, and to the east by a folk art exhibition, housed in lean-to and glazed buildings built against the concave face of the semicircular screen wall which projects into the Mount Vernon Garden. South-west of the service buildings, the drive leads through a stone arch to the productive gardens to the west.

In the village of Claverton, 400m to the east of the present Claverton Manor, are the remains of the terrace gardens (early C17, listed grade II*) associated with the earlier manor house, parts of which may have been incorporated into Manor Cottage (early-mid C19, listed grade II). The walls enclose an outer eastern court and two terraces at the west end. The east court is c 60m by 60m and the terraces c 60m by 10m. The north and south walls are of rubble with coping; the south wall is stepped up at intervals towards the west, and the north wall is completed at the east end by the rear of Manor Farmhouse and its outbuildings. The manor house was built on the central platform of five terraces, two to the east (lower) and two to the west (higher), cut into a steep slope. The lower terraces still have fine garden walls, in pierced strapwork stone, two with balustrades, with gate piers with later iron gates and pierced stone obelisks, and steps connecting the levels (Harding and Lambert 1994).

PARK

Parkland extends to the north, east, and south of the house and blends with the wooded nature of the valley. To the east the parkland falls to the site of the former manor house in Claverton village and to the south falls steeply to the wooded boundary formed by Conygre Plantation. The park contains a wide variety of mature trees, including notable oak, beech, lime, holm oak, and cedar, many dating from the C18 and early C19.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The kitchen gardens are situated south-west of the stables and coach-house complex (c early C19) and are sheltered from the north by the wooded bank south of the west drive. They are bounded to the south and west by 1m high walls and scrub. The gardens contain propagation beds, modern greenhouses and polytunnels, and the gardeners' bothy.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

DesigUID: DBN3604 **Name:** Claverton Manor (National)

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7841 6417 (MBR: 920m by 764m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 26.91

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Claverton, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. PG1552

Associated Monuments

MBN11178 Ancient woodland: Bathampton/Hengrove Woods

MBN2686 Monument: Claverton Manorhouse (site) and Gardens

MBN4219 Ornamental Park: Claverton Manor Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3668 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Coley Court (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C17 site with historic orchard, featuring many old apple varieties. Little remains of formal garden except steps; walled kitchen garden; privy on bridge over stream.

House (LB II), early C17 with additions C17-20; garden wall (LB II) C18 with re-used ecclesiastical stonework.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 5827 5576 (MBR: 116m by 153m)

Map sheet: ST55NE **Area (Ha):** 1.00

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish East Harptree, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p36

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3655 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Combe Grove (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

DesigUID: DBN3655 **Name:** Combe Grove (Local)

C18 garden and woodland, much now altered, above the Limpley Stoke valley: landscaped approach through woods via two archways, one rustic and one classical; C19 balustraded terrace; 2 fountains; walled kitchen garden. Recent reworking.

House (LB II) early C18 altered c1858; archways (LB II) 1858 and probably late C18.

Cannons Country Club.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7754 6256 (MBR: 843m by 376m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 10.39

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Monkton Combe, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p36

Associated Monuments

MBN4354 Ornamental Park: Combe Grove

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3656 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Combe Hay Manor (Local)
Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Mid C18 landscape park. Serpentine river and lake; with two islands, on one of which stands a temple 1950; iron bridge to island 1950s; icehouse; walled kitchen garden; remains of Victorian gasometer. Admired by Richard Warner in 1801. Site now reduced in size; grotto and orangery demolished C20.

House (LB I) built in 2 phases: 1728-30 attributed to John Strahan, and 1770-75 in the manner of James Wyatt for Robert and John Smith.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7329 5979 (MBR: 761m by 341m)

Map sheet: ST75NW **Area (Ha):** 6.59

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Combe Hay, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p36

Associated Monuments

MBN11275 Ornamental Park: Park Manor House Park

DesigUID: DBN3656 **Name:** Combe Hay Manor (Local)

MBN5649 Monument: Ice House Combe Hay Manor

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3591 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

1533 1000548

Name: Crowe Hall (National)

Grade: II **Date Assigned** 08/08/1991 **Amended:** 01/10/2001 **Revoked:**

Legal Description

GD 1533

ST7663

II

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Crowe Hall was built c 1760 for Brigadier Crowe, and a late C18 sketch by Thomas Robins (Courtauld Institute) shows it set in informal parkland. In the early C19 the estate was bought by George Hayward Tugwell, who rebuilt the house and laid out the basic framework for a formal terraced garden. During the 1870s, under the ownership of Henry Tugwell, both house and garden were remodelled. In 1874 Henry Tugwell appointed William Carmichael (c1816-1904) as head gardener, who was responsible for a series of alterations to the gardens. Carmichael was trained at the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, and had previously been head gardener to the Prince of Wales at Sandringham, Norfolk in the 1860s. Crowe Hall remained the property of the Tugwell family until 1919, when it was sold. It then changed hands several times before being purchased by Sir Sydney Barratt in 1960. The latter developed the garden further, and collected various statues and ornaments for it.

The site remains (2001) in private ownership.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Crowe Hall, an irregular hillside site of c3ha, occupies the west-facing slope immediately above St Thomas a Becket's church and Widcombe Manor in the south-eastern outskirts of Bath. To the south-west its boundary is formed by Church Lane and to the north by Widcombe Hill. To the east the site is enclosed by fields. Crowe Hall's position on a hillside offers exceptional views across the valley to Prior Park to the south and Bath to the west.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The site is entered off Widcombe Hill road to the north. Here a set of cast and wrought iron gates hung between ashlar piers surmounted by vases and topped with pineapple leaves (listed grade II), gives access to a short drive that leads to the east front of the Hall.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Crowe Hall is a classical villa (listed grade II) built of Bath stone and is situated in the north part of the site. Since it was rebuilt in the early C19, it has been continuously remodelled, in particular under the ownership of Henry Tugwell in the early 1870s. In 1926 the west front was completely rebuilt following a fire which destroyed a large portion of the Hall including the conservatory. The orangery attached to its west dates from the 1880s.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

Opposite the levelled area to the east front of the Hall is a bank which is set with local stone boulders to form a rock garden, with a water fountain in the centre. The rock garden was created by William Carmichael in the late C19 (Laurie 1989). The statue of Neptune, brought from a sale at Brownsea Island, is a later addition (late C20).

DesigUID: DBN3591 **Name:** Crowe Hall (National)

The rising land to the east is informally laid out as a meadow with a hard tennis court, replacing an earlier grass court, set into the hillside.

The main garden area is entered via a gate through the screen wall which extends south from the Hall. The gate opens onto the top, stone-paved terrace. To the south steps lead down to a level lawn set with a small formal pool. The raised walk along its eastern edge replaces rockwork of the 1870s by Carmichael. The main terrace of this garden is pre 1885, but the simple layout of grass and pool dates from the 1930s and occupies the site of the flower garden designed by Carmichael, which took the form of a series of twelve grass terraces with flower beds and a fountain (ibid).

The top terrace and formal gardens are supported by substantial retaining walls. To the south, paths wind down the steep slope, through the Victorian grotto, rockery, and water garden. Several roughly parallel paths form woodland walks along the hillside above the churchyard. The uppermost, overhung by old plantings of yew, leads to the late C18 coach house (listed grade II) c90m to the south-east of the Hall and an area of C20 gardening, and to the Gothic Cottage (listed grade II), standing c180m south-east of the Hall in the far south corner of the site, built in 1854 to house the head gardener.

An assortment of antique statuary was placed throughout the gardens in the 1950s and 60s by Sir Sydney Barratt (ibid).

KITCHEN GARDEN

Below the balustraded terrace on the west front of the Hall, a long straight walk leads to the walled and terraced kitchen garden, which occupies the north-west end of the site between Church Street and the high wall which borders Widcombe Hill. Part of the kitchen garden is occupied by a private dwelling introduced in the late C20. Some of the once extensive ranges of glasshouses remain, one of them bearing the date 1852.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7600 6389 (MBR: 316m by 285m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 2.99

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. GD1533

Associated Monuments

MBN10096 Monument: the East Gate (fragment of) at Crowhall

MBN4255 Ornamental Park: Crowe Hall garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3669 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Durley Park House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Early C19 house and garden, sited within deer park of Chandos House, demolished C18. Original hunting lodge remains (now Lodge Farm). Garden includes rockeries, and two Gothic windows set in garden wall. Gothic windows (LB II*) probably from Keynsham Abbey.

DesigUID: DBN3669 **Name:** Durley Park House (Local)

CEGB RHQ.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6450 6950 (MBR: 127m by 143m)

Map sheet: ST66NW **Area (Ha):** 1.25

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Keynsham, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p36

Associated Monuments

MBN9354 Monument: gothic windows in garden wall, site of

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3670 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Eastwood Manor (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C19 garden and small park. Avenue of limes, terraced lawn and balustrade, shrubbery walk, beds, and specimen trees survive from C19 layout created for Charles Adam Kemble, maintained at reduced level.

House (LB II) 1871.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 5753 5531 (MBR: 344m by 298m)

Map sheet: ST55NE **Area (Ha):** 5.54

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish East Harptree, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p36

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3671 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Eastwood Manor Farm (Local)

DesigUID: DBN3671 **Name:** Eastwood Manor Farm (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C17 site with fishponds. Former manor house built by Sir John Newton C17. Site contains a succession of nine fishponds, the last one clearly ornamental with island; also remains of old driveway. Grand C19 model farm steading now dominates site.

House (LB II) mid C17 with alterations C18 and C19; model farm steading (LB I) 1858-60, by Robert Smith for William Taylor.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 5785 5519 (MBR: 452m by 589m)

Map sheet: ST55NE **Area (Ha):** 10.71

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish East Harptree, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p36

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3657 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Ellsbridge House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Mid C19 garden, featuring two-storey gazebo, walled kitchen garden, and some original planting including fine old medlar.

House (LB II) mid C19 Tudor-style house.

Avon County Council Education Department.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6674 6819 (MBR: 182m by 106m)

Map sheet: ST66NE **Area (Ha):** 1.09

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Keynsham, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p36

Associated Monuments

DesigUID: DBN3657 **Name:** Ellsbridge House (Local)

MBN4320 Ornamental Park: Ellsbridge House Garden
MBN9732 Monument: Ellsbridge House

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3658 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Freshford Manor (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Secluded, informal garden, chiefly C19: features include a summerhouse and a rockery containing a stone table on the spot where Sir William Napier reputedly wrote his History of the Peninsular Wars. Lawn terrace dates from 1956.

House (LB II*) early C18, with C19 additions; fine conservatory 1860-70 attached to house; stone table (LB II), late C18/early C19.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7901 6016 (MBR: 126m by 122m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 0.88

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Freshford, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p36

Associated Monuments

MBN1601 Ornamental Park: Freshford Manor Garden
MBN4984 Listed Building: Freshford Manor
MBN4985 Monument: Icehouse (Gazebo) Freshford Manor

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3590 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

5338 1001703

Name: Gardens at Oakwood/Bathwick Tower & Smallcombe House

Grade: II **Date Assigned** 16/09/2008 **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

An early-C19 villa garden created by the painter Benjamin Barker, further improved in the early 1830s following alterations to the villa by the architect Edward Davis.

HISTORY

Oakwood (and Bathwick Tower) forms part of a group of early-C19 Italianate villas with mature gardens, situated on Bathwick Hill and mainly designed by Henry Edmund Goodridge (1797-1864), which include Montebello (now called Bathwick Grange), Fiesole (now a YMCA) and the semi-detached pair La Casetta and Casa Bianca (all listed at grade II). Although it is not certain whether Oakwood was designed by the youthful Goodridge too, its architectural detailing and overall design very much reflect his manner and style.

In 1814, Oakwood (then known as Smallcombe Villa), was bought by the landscape painter Benjamin Barker (younger brother of the better known painter and lithographer Thomas Barker), and his brother-in-law, the flower painter James Hewlett. Barker, also known as the 'English Poussin' created a garden at Oakwood, which was visited by Queen Charlotte in 1817.

In 1833, Benjamin Barker sold Smallcombe Villa to Thomas Emerson, who renamed the house Smallcombe Grove. That same year, Emerson employed the architect Edward Davis (c1802 - 1832), a pupil of John Soane who had designed several villas on nearby Entry Hill, to extend the villas and remodel its interior. The remodelling was executed in a Picturesque and eclectic style, and consisted of a west-facing wing to the north side of Barker's villa, with a first floor loggia (now filled in) facing the garden; the eastern arm of the extension housed a picture gallery. As part of the remodelling by Edward Davis, the gardens were further improved. Interestingly, the small garden bridge (qv) south of the villa appears to have the same architectural detailing as the balustrade to the terrace and balcony on the south elevation of the villa.

In 1856, the antiquary and cartographer John Britton recorded in his Autobiography that 'at this delectable retreat I spent many happy hours, in company with some of the Bath 'Worthies'. In that same year Smallcombe Grove was sold and renamed Oakwood. As shown on a plan of the garden drawn by the Bristol-based architect William Bruce Gingell, accompanying the sale of particulars in 1856, the garden was laid out as a miniature park with informal walks and a series of linear ponds to the west of the villa. It also marks the site of the flower bed (qv) and fountain (qv) south of the villa and a lozenge shaped kitchen garden.

By 1885, as confirmed by the first edition Ordnance Survey, the garden layout had remained largely unaltered, except for the introduction of a tennis lawn and a group of outbuildings and glass houses south of the ponds. Also, the pond nearest to the house appears to have been removed, and the plan form of the kitchen garden is different, when comparing it to the 1856 plan by Gingell, suggesting it was probably enlarged or altered.

In 1879 Oakwood was extended by the architects from Gill & Browne with further servants' accommodation created by adding another storey to the wing designed by Davis. In 1896 the architect John McKean Brydon added another wing to the south, covering a former terrace with conservatory which is shown on the OS map surveyed in 1885.

In 1928 the villa was bought by General Booth and became a nursing home for retired Salvation Army officers. In 1992-3 Oakwood was re-converted to a house and restored by Forsyth Chartered Architects. The rear servant's quarters and coach house were converted into flats, now known as Bathwick Tower. The western half of the garden has been in separate ownership since the early 1990s.

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

The garden at Oakwood is situated on Bathwick Hill in Bath, well known as an area with a series of important C19 Italianate villas set in mature gardens. The garden is laid out on a hill side, gently sloping in a southerly direction, offering extensive views of the City of Bath. Along Bathwick Hill, to its north, it is enclosed by a wall (qv), and to the south it is screened by woodland, including Smallcombe Wood.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main entrance to the site is via the villa, however it can also be accessed via a decorative arched doorway in the north boundary wall along Bathwick Hill, and via an entrance in this wall at the far north-west corner of the site, now leading to Smallcombe House (now in separate ownership). In the 1990s, a further entrance was created in the north boundary wall leading to a garage and parking area immediately west of the villa.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The early-C19 Italianate villa (qv) forms the main focal point for the garden. It stands in the far north-east corner of the site and has a broad terrace to its south and west, with steps leading into the garden. From the balcony, loggia and windows on the south and west elevations are fine views of the garden and the City of Bath beyond.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GARDENS

Steps from the terrace surrounding the villa lead into the garden, which lies to its south and west. From the south front of the house a path along the east boundary of the site, leads to an early-C19 fountain, probably a former raised flower bed (qv), circa 5m south of the villa. It is set into the hill side and surrounded by a gravel terrace enclosed by a retaining wall. Further to its south is another early-C19 fountain (qv) consisting of a circular pool with a central basin on a fluted stem. The path continues further south with one branch leading to the site of the

former kitchen garden, clearly visible as a terrace set into the hillside, and of which some fragments of wall have survived. Another branch of the path leads into the western part of the garden, which has a network of serpentine paths leading around a series of irregular shaped ponds (early-C19) and lawns on either side of it. South of the ponds is the site of a former tennis lawn introduced in the late-C19. The ponds are linked by small cascades, and over the second bridge from the east is a small early-C19 bridge (qv) with pierced parapets matching those to the balcony on the west elevation of the villa. From the bridge is an important view towards the villa and the garden stretching out in front of it. The remaining ponds to the west are now situated in the grounds of the garden to Smallcombe House, which was built in the early 1990s on the foot print of the former glass houses and outbuildings. Visual links, as best viewed from the bridge, between the two parts of the garden that are in separate ownership have been retained. From the bridge the path continues and curves in an easterly direction leading the visitor along the north boundary wall towards the west front of the villa. Though some of the original tree planting in the garden was lost during the Great Storm of 1991 (see plate 35 in Parks and Gardens of Avon, 1994), and some inappropriate tree planting has taken place since then, the garden retains some fine mature specimen trees, and its boundary planting, including the woodland to its south has survived.

KITCHEN GARDEN

In the far south-east corner of the garden is the site of the former kitchen garden (covering circa 0.5ha), its outline clearly visible on the ground and with some fragments of its former wall remaining.

SOURCES

WB Gingell, Plan of House & Grounds called Smallcombe Grove near Bath, 1856

S Harding and D Lambert, Parks and Gardens of Avon (1994), pp 74-75

M Forsyth, Pevsner Architectural Guides - Bath (2003), pp200-201

S Sloman, Thomas Barker (1767-1847), painter and lithographer, in Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (2004-8)

T Mowl and C Fry, Oakwood, Bathwick Hill, Bath: An Appraisal of the Historic Gardens (2008, for Bath and North East Somerset Council).

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The garden at Oakwood, now known as Oakwood and Bathwick Tower, merits designation on a national level for the following principal reasons:

* Despite the C20 alterations that have affected the site, the original design intentions and outline of this early-C19 Italianate villa garden, a type of site that is particularly vulnerable to development and change, are easy to trace.

* It has a strong historic association with the landscape painter Benjamin Barker, also known as the 'English Poussin', who first improved it after he bought it in 1810, and with the architect Edward Davis, a pupil of John Soane, who improved the villa in circa 1833.

* It forms part of an interesting group of C19 Italianate villa gardens on Bathwick Hill in Bath, Oakwood being perhaps the most elaborate and ambitious in design, giving this area a distinctive and unusual character in wider landscape terms.

* It forms a very important setting to the early-C19 villa now known as Oakwood and Bathwick Tower (qv) and its associated garden features (qv), contributing to the understanding of the historic development of the site and to its overall design.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7669 6427 (MBR: 279m by 175m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 2.49

Administrative Areas - None recorded

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources - None recorded

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3590

Name: Gardens at Oakwood/Bathwick Tower & Smallcombe House

DesigUID: DBN3605

Type: Registered Park or Garden

Status: Active

Preferred Ref

NHLE UID

Other Ref

5338

1001703

Name: Gardens at Oakwood/Bathwick Tower and Smallcombe House (National)

Grade: II

Date Assigned 16/09/2008

Amended:

Revoked:

Legal Description

5338

ST768643

II

An early-C19 villa garden created by the painter Benjamin Barker, further improved in the early 1830s following alterations to the villa by the architect Edward Davis.

HISTORY

Oakwood (and Bathwick Tower) forms part of a group of early-C19 Italianate villas with mature gardens, situated on Bathwick Hill and mainly designed by Henry Edmund Goodridge (1797-1864), which include Montebello (now called Bathwick Grange), Fiesole (now a YMCA) and the semi-detached pair La Casetta and Casa Bianca (all listed at grade II). Although it is not certain whether Oakwood was designed by the youthful Goodridge too, its architectural detailing and overall design very much reflect his manner and style.

In 1814, Oakwood (then known as Smallcombe Villa), was bought by the landscape painter Benjamin Barker (younger brother of the better known painter and lithographer Thomas Barker), and his brother-in-law, the flower painter James Hewlett. Barker, also known as the 'English Poussin' created a garden at Oakwood, which was visited by Queen Charlotte in 1817.

In 1833, Benjamin Barker sold Smallcombe Villa to Thomas Emmerson, who renamed the house Smallcombe Grove. That same year, Emmerson employed the architect Edward Davis (c1802-1852), a pupil of John Soane who had designed several villas on nearby Entry Hill, to extend the villa and remodel its interior. The remodelling was executed in a Picturesque and eclectic style, and consisted of a west-facing wing to the north side of Barker's villa, with a first floor loggia (now filled in) facing the garden; the eastern arm of the extension housed a picture gallery. As part of the remodelling by Edward Davis, the gardens were further improved. Interestingly, the small garden bridge (qv) south of the villa appears to have the same architectural detailing as the balustrade to the terrace and balcony on the south elevation of the villa.

In 1856, the antiquary and cartographer John Britton recorded in his Autobiography that 'at this delectable retreat I spent many happy hours, in company with some of the Bath 'Worthies'. In that same year Smallcombe Grove was sold and renamed Oakwood. As shown on a plan of the garden drawn by the Bristol-based architect William Bruce Gingell, accompanying the sale particulars of 1856, the garden was laid out as a miniature park with informal walks and a series of linear ponds to the west of the villa. It also marks the site of the flower bed (qv) and fountain (qv) south of the villa and a lozenge shaped kitchen garden.

By 1885, as confirmed by the first edition Ordnance Survey, the garden layout had remained largely unaltered, except for the introduction of a tennis lawn and a group of outbuildings and glass houses south of the ponds. Also, the pond nearest to the house appears to have been removed, and the plan form of the kitchen garden is different, when comparing it to the 1856 plan by Gingell, suggesting it was probably enlarged or altered.

In 1879 Oakwood was extended by the architects firm Gill & Browne with further servants' accommodation created by adding another storey to the wing designed by Davis. In 1896 the architect John McKean Brydon added another wing to the south, covering a former terrace with conservatory which is shown on the OS map surveyed in 1885.

In 1928 the villa was bought by General Booth and became a nursing home for retired Salvation Army officers. In 1992-3 Oakwood was re-converted to a house and restored by Forsyth Chartered Architects. The rear servant's quarters and coach house were converted into flats, now known as Bathwick Tower. The western half of the garden has been in separate ownership since the early 1990s.

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

The garden at Oakwood is situated on Bathwick Hill in Bath, well known as an area with a series of important C19 Italianate villas set in mature gardens. The garden is laid out on a hill side, gently sloping in a southerly direction, offering extensive views of the City of Bath. Along Bathwick Hill, to its north, it is enclosed by a wall (qv), and to the south it is screened by woodland, including Smallcombe Wood.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main entrance to the site is via the villa, however it can also be accessed via a decorative arched doorway in the north boundary wall along Bathwick Hill, and via an entrance in this wall at the far north-west corner of the site, now leading to Smallcombe House (now in separate ownership). In the 1990s, a further entrance was created in the north boundary wall leading to a garage and parking area immediately west of the villa.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The early-C19 Italianate villa (qv) forms the main focal point for the garden. It stands in the far north-east corner of the site and has a broad terrace to its south and west, with steps leading into the garden. From the balcony, loggia and windows on the south and west elevations are fine views of the garden and of the City of Bath beyond.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

Steps from the terrace surrounding the villa lead into the garden, which lies to its south and west. From the south front of the house a path along the east boundary of the site, leads to an early-C19 fountain, probably a former raised flower bed, (qv) circa 5m south of the villa. It is set into the hill side and surrounded by a gravel terrace enclosed by a retaining wall. Further to its south is another early-C19 fountain (qv) consisting of a circular pool with a central basin on a fluted stem. The path continues further south with one branch leading to the site of the former kitchen garden, clearly visible as a terrace set into the hillside, and of which some fragments of wall have survived. Another branch of the path leads into the western part of the garden, which has a network of serpentine paths leading around a series of irregular shaped ponds (early-C19) and lawns on either side of it. South of the ponds is the site of a former tennis lawn introduced in the late-C19. The ponds are linked by small cascades, and over the second bridge from the east is a small early-C19 bridge (qv) with pierced parapets matching those to the balcony on the west elevation of the villa. From the bridge is an important view towards the villa and the garden stretching out in front of it. The remaining ponds to the west are now situated in the grounds of the garden to Smallcombe House, which was built in the early 1990s on the foot print of former glass houses and outbuildings. Visual links, as best viewed from the bridge, between the two parts of the garden that are in separate ownership have been retained. From the bridge the path continues and curves in an easterly direction leading the visitor along the north boundary wall towards the west front of the villa. Though some of the original tree planting in the garden was lost during the Great Storm of 1991 (see plate 35 in Parks and Gardens of Avon, 1994), and some inappropriate tree planting has taken place since then, the garden retains some fine mature specimen trees, and its boundary planting, including the woodland to its south has survived.

KITCHEN GARDEN

In the far south-east corner of the garden is the site of the former kitchen garden (covering circa 0.5ha), its outline clearly visible on the ground and with some fragments of its former wall remaining.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

DesigUID: DBN3605 **Name:** Gardens at Oakwood/Bathwick Tower and Smallcombe House (National)

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7669 6427 (MBR: 280m by 175m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 2.49

Administrative Areas - None recorded

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. 5338

Associated Monuments

MBN4259 Ornamental Park: Oakwood (formerly Smallcombe Grove) garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3659 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Gournay Court (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Mock-Jacobean garden, 1930s. Walled garden, knot planted in box, 2 stone pineapples from Coley Court on gate piers. Lawn with mature mulberry and other specimen trees. Much recent planting.

House (LB II*), c1600 with c1650 additions, built by Francis Buckland.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 5599 5678 (MBR: 159m by 154m)

Map sheet: ST55NE **Area (Ha):** 1.32

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish West Harptree, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p36

Associated Monuments

MBN4328 Ornamental Park: Gournay Court Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3628 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Green Park (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Former communal garden, created during town expansion c1792-96. Engraving of 1852 shows plain grassland; affected by building of station 1896 and bombing 1942. Level raised by deposited river dredgings. Handsome mature trees along boundaries.

DesigUID: DBN3628 **Name:** Green Park (Local)

Unrestricted access.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7452 6464 (MBR: 148m by 153m)

Map sheet: ST76SW **Area (Ha):** 1.17

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p10

Associated Monuments

MBN4296 Ornamental Park: Green Park (Kingsmead)

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3660 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Harptree Court (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Early C19 park and pleasure grounds (formerly known as Richmond Hall); designed by Charles Harcourt Masters. Ornamental woodlands around two lakes and serpentine water course; grotto; parkland with belt planting; icehouse; walled kitchen garden; lime and sweet chestnut avenue; specimen trees on lawn.

House (LB II) c1800 with c1820 additions; ashlar bridge, early C19, both attributed to C Harcourt Masters.

Curatorial Notes

Eastern perimeter of GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 5708 5599 (MBR: 655m by 572m)

Map sheet: ST55NE **Area (Ha):** 20.04

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish East Harptree, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p37

Associated Monuments

MBN3384 Ornamental Park: Harptree Court Ornamental park

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3603 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

DesigUID: DBN3603 **Name:** Hedgemead Park (National)

Preferred Ref

NHLE UID

Other Ref

3449

Name: Hedgemead Park (National)

Grade: II

Date Assigned 19/06/2002

Amended:

Revoked:

Legal Description

GD3449

ST7565

II

A late C19 public park laid out on the site of a mid C19 residential development destroyed by a landslip.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

In 1788 John Eveleigh built Camden Crescent on a dramatic escarpment with wide views east and south across Bath. Everleigh's plan for a central crescent flanked by symmetrical side wings could not be carried to completion due to a series of landslips on Beacon Hill which meant that the eastern flanking pavilion could not be constructed. Despite these problems, by the mid C19 nearly 300 houses had been built on the steep slope below Camden Crescent known as Edgemead. Some of this development is shown on Thomas Moule's plan of Bath (1837) and the late C19 OS map (1885). From c 1865 a further series of landslips occurred in the Edgemead district, culminating in June 1881 in a slip which destroyed or seriously damaged 135 houses. In 1883 it was agreed that the City Corporation would acquire the unstable ground and plant it as a public park in order to consolidate the dangerous slope.

The Corporation cleared many of the remaining properties shown on the 1885 OS map and developed a strip of pleasure grounds extending across the slope below Camden Crescent and Lower Hedgemead Road. An existing footpath ascending from London Street to Lower Hedgemead Road was retained, with the sections of the park to each side of the path being linked by a footbridge. Some domestic properties, including Gloster Villas and some houses adjacent to the junction of London Street and Margaret's Hill survived, the latter only being cleared in the early C20. The site of these houses was added as an extension to Hedgemead Park.

The late C19 park was laid out by the Corporation Parks and Pleasure Grounds Committee between 1885 and 1889. When opened, the site was known as Hedgemead Pleasure Ground and was laid out with a series of contoured walks, a terrace walk and bandstand, an ornamental cast-iron drinking fountain, and terraces retained by stone walls and structural planting designed to consolidate the slope. These features remain largely unchanged today (2002). The early C20 park extension was laid out in a more simple style with sloping lawns and formal flower beds.

Hedgemead Park remains (2002) municipal property.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Hedgemead Park is situated c 0.75km north of the centre of Bath, to the north-west of the A3039, London Street. The c 1.75ha site is bounded to the north by Lower Hedgemead Road, from which it is separated by late C19 metal railings. To the north-east the park adjoins Margaret's Hill, while to the south-east and south it is bounded by London Street and Guinea Lane. These boundaries are closed by late C19 ornamental cast-iron railings set on stone plinths. To the west the site adjoins C18 and C19 domestic properties (many listed grade II) in Lansdown Road, Wellington Place, Caroline Place, and Ainslie's Belvedere. A partly sunken footpath crosses the site from east to west, ascending from London Street to Lower Hedgemead Road. This stepped, stone-flagged path is separated from the park to north and south by metal railings, and is crossed by a late C19 footbridge. The path pre-

dates the establishment of the park (OS 1885). To the north of the path, immediately west of its junction with London Street, a C20 garage and a small group of mid C19 villas, Gloster Villas (listed grade II), project into the park. These buildings survive from the early and mid C19 residential development which took place on the slopes below Camden Crescent.

The park slopes steeply from north-west to south-east, and is partly terraced to accommodate the gradient of the land. There are extensive views east and south-east from the park across the late C18 and C19 buildings adjacent to London Street, and across the River Avon to Bathwick. The spire of St Swithin's church, Walcot c 50m south-east of the park is prominent in many of these views. Although separated from the park by Lower Hedgemead Road, the open grassy slope south of Camden Crescent and the mixed ornamental planting to the south-east have a visual unity with the park.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Hedgemead Park is approached from Lansdown Road to the west, London Street and Guinea Lane to the south and south-east, and Lower Hedgemead Road to the north. The principal entrance situated on Lansdown Road at a point c 80m north of its junction with Guinea Lane comprises a pair of ornamental wrought-iron carriage gates supported by a pair of square-section open wrought-iron piers surmounted by vase finials. The entrance leads to a walk which descends c 45m between lawns and shrubbery edged with rustic rockwork to reach the main body of the park. A further carriage entrance is situated on London Street opposite St Swithin's church. This entrance comprises a pair of ornamental wrought-iron carriage gates supported by stone piers surmounted by vase finials. The entrance leads to a ramped drive which ascends parallel to the railings separating the park from Guinea Lane for c 130m before reaching a junction with the walk leading into the park from Lansdown Road. To the south-east the ramped walk is flanked by grass verges planted with a single row of mature specimen trees, while to the north-west there are rocky banks and a high stone wall retaining the upper levels of the park. The metal railings following the London Street and Guinea Lane boundaries of the park south-west from the London Street carriage entrance are terminated to the south-west by a single ornamental wrought-iron pedestrian gate flanked by a pair of stone piers under domed caps. A similar pedestrian entrance is situated at the north-east corner of the park adjacent to the junction of London Street and Margaret's Hill. There are further pedestrian entrances leading north from the park to Lower Hedgemead Road, and on to the footpath which crosses the site from east to west. With the exception of the north-east entrance adjacent to London Street and Margaret's Hill, the entrances are of late C19 construction (OS 1902); the north-west entrance appears to date from the early C20, but is designed in identical style to the earlier entrances (OS 1930).

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

Hedgemead Park is laid out in informal style with serpentine walks dividing areas of lawn and ornamental shrubbery. To the north there are extensive boundary shrubberies, while the picturesque potential of the sloping site is exploited by the use of terraced and contoured walks.

The walk leading east from the principal or Lansdown Road entrance to the park arrives after c 130m at a junction with the walk ascending from the London Street entrance, and a walk leading north to the main lawn towards the centre of the site. To the south of this junction, adjacent to the top of a flight of steps ascending from the walk leading to the London Street entrance, is an octagonal summerhouse of green-painted timber construction under a pyramidal tiled roof. The summerhouse has a panelled back and open front supported on timber columns. It appears to be of late C19 construction, and is shown on the early C20 OS map (1902). A further walk, partly lined with rustic stones, leads north-east from the shelter, passing along the summit of the stone wall which retains the upper level of the park above the walk leading to the London Street entrance. This wall is of battered and buttressed construction and is broken towards its central point by a circular castellated turret or prospect tower. The retaining wall and turret date from the construction of the park in 1885-9 and form part of the means by which the Corporation sought to stabilise the steep slope. The walk along the summit of the retaining wall passes to the east of a late C20 children's play area which occupies the

site of a late C19/early C20 nursery and glasshouse (OS 1902, 1930), and leads c 100m north-east and north to emerge at the southern end of a lawn which forms the principal feature of the park layout. The walk divides, one branch sweeping north-east round the lawn to reach a flight of stone steps descending to a walk which follows a serpentine course south and east to reach the London Street entrance, while the other branch sweeps north-west past a mature specimen weeping ash to enter the southern end of a formal terrace extending c 122m along the west side of the east-facing sloping lawn. The terrace is retained above the lawn to the east by a low stone wall planted with ivy, while to the west a further low rustic stone wall retains a belt of evergreen shrubbery. The terrace itself is planted with a single line of mature specimen limes, while towards its central point an octagonal bandstand (listed grade II) breaks forward beyond the line of the retaining wall. The bandstand has ornamental cast-iron supports beneath a pyramidal copper roof which rises to a central acorn finial, and is of late C19 construction (OS 1902). At the northern end of the terrace a walk sweeps north-east and east, passing a flight of stone steps which descends to a late C19 metal gate leading to the footpath which passes through the site, but which is screened from the park by belts of evergreen shrubbery. After c 50m the walk reaches a junction, at the centre of which stands a late C19 cast-iron drinking fountain (dry, 2002). This structure comprises a central column surmounted by a gilded eagle, which rises from a quatrefoil-shaped basin supported on four lions. The fountain stands on a stepped octagonal stone base, and the junction at which it stands is surrounded by evergreen shrubbery and mature specimen trees. From this junction a wide tarmac walk follows a serpentine course south and south-east, descending the slope to reach the London Street entrance. A further walk leads north from the junction, crossing the sunken public footpath on a late C19 metal footbridge (OS 1902) to reach the northern section of the park.

The section of the park to the north of the public footpath is laid out with a series of curvilinear contoured walks and stepped paths which provide access to pedestrian entrances from Lower Hedgemoor Road. The northern boundary of the park is densely planted with evergreen shrubbery and mature specimen trees and conifers, including picturesque groups of mature pines. Further trees and shrubbery screen the mid C19 Gloster Villas which occupy a site c 20m east of the footbridge crossing the public footpath. The design and planting of this area appears to have changed little since the park was laid out in the late C19 (OS 1902). To the north-east of Gloster Villas an open grass slope ornamented with geometric flower beds for seasonal planting descends to the level of London Street. A stepped path ascends from the pedestrian entrance at the north-east corner of the site, while a further path follows the street boundary south-west before turning west to reach a flight of steps which ascends to a terrace with provision for seats backed by further shrubbery. The grass slope and associated paths form the early C20 extension to the late C19 park; the layout of this area appears to have changed little since 1930 (OS 1902, 1930).

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7505 6559 (MBR: 198m by 296m)

Map sheet: ST76NE **Area (Ha):** 2.29

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. GD3449

Associated Monuments

MBN4287 Ornamental Park: Hedgemoor Park

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3603 **Name:** Hedgemoad Park (National)

DesigUID: DBN3629 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Henrietta Park (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Municipal park laid out c1887. Graceful and dignified mature tree-planting; circular walk in centre of park. George V Memorial garden of 1937 redesigned in 1950s as garden for the blind.

Unrestricted access.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7539 6526 (MBR: 241m by 243m)

Map sheet: ST76NE **Area (Ha):** 2.97

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p10

Associated Monuments

MBN4289 Ornamental Park: Henrietta Park

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3630 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Herschel House Museum (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Town garden containing newly recreated herb garden. House rented 1766-82 by the scientist and astronomer William Herschel, thought to have had a considerable interest in botany.

House (LB II), 1766 designed by John Strahan.

Herschel House Museum; limited access.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7454 6487 (MBR: 11m by 14m)

Map sheet: ST76SW **Area (Ha):** 0.01

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

DesigUID: DBN3630 **Name:** Herschel House Museum (Local)

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p10

Associated Monuments

MBN4224 Ornamental Park: Herschel House garden (No.19 New Kings Street)

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3673 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: High Littleton House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C19 garden, lawns, specimen trees and shrubs. Notable wisteria, laburnum and fig tree.

House (LB II) early C18.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6459 5800 (MBR: 103m by 114m)

Map sheet: ST65NW **Area (Ha):** 0.60

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish High Littleton, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p37

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3662 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Hinton House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Early C18 park on older site. Admired by Collinson in 1791, improved first half C19 by then occupant Mary Day (d 1846). Land attached to house now much reduced. Features include superb specimen trees; walled kitchen garden; Italian garden; sunken garden on site of C19 pond; rockery.

House (LB II) 1701 with later C18 alterations and substantial additions 1847-50s by Manners and Gill of Bath.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7778 5865 (MBR: 1271m by 903m)

DesigUID: DBN3662 **Name:** Hinton House (Local)

Map sheet: ST75NE **Area (Ha):** 59.00

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Hinton Charterhouse, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p37

Associated Monuments

MBN1632 Ornamental Park: Landscape Park east of Hinton House
MBN5661 Monument: Hinton House (the Grange)

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3674 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Hunstrete House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C18 park and woodland, now in multiple occupation and much farmed. Originally C17 deerpark extending to 3000 acres. Icehouse and lakes in farmland; large walled kitchen garden adjoining house; ruined fragment of earlier house c1700.

House (LB II), primarily C18 with later additions, for Popham family.

Hunstrete House Hotel.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6420 6247 (MBR: 1476m by 1585m)

Map sheet: ST66SW **Area (Ha):** 138.43

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Chelwood
Civil Parish Compton Dando, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p37

Associated Monuments

MBN11277 Ornamental Park: Hunstrete House Park
MBN1288 Landscape element: Fishponds nr the Ha-ha E of Hunstrete P
MBN1289 Monument: Georgian House incorporated in Hunstrete
MBN1290 Monument: Ice House, N of Hunstrete House
MBN30318 Monument: Possible building remains at Hunstrete
MBN4510 Monument: The Hawshaw east of Hunstrete Plantation
MBN5856 Monument: Park Hunstrete House
MBN9823 Ornamental Park: Hunstrete House Garden

DesigUID: DBN3674

Name: Hunstrete House (Local)

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3594

Type: Registered Park or Garden

Status: Active

Preferred Ref

NHLE UID

Other Ref

1519

1000536

Name: Kelston Park (National)

Grade: II*

Date Assigned 30/04/1987

Amended:

Revoked:

Legal Description

GD1519

ST7066

II*

An C18 park laid out by Lancelot Brown around a country house.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

By the C13 Kelston was part of the possessions of Shaftesbury Abbey, Dorset. The Manor Farm barn and Old Park, formerly conygear, may date from this period. At the Dissolution the estate passed to Henry VIII's natural daughter, Ethelreda, through whom it passed by marriage to the Harrington family. Early maps of Somerset (Saxton, 1575; Speede, 1610) show the village of Kelweston but no manor house or park. Nevertheless, some time between 1567 and 1574, John Harrington began building a house close to the church. The house was finished by his son, Sir John, a courtier, poet, and godson of the Queen, and was intended to be one of the grandest houses in the county. Of the formerly numerous outbuildings, two remain, one of which has become the village hall. During the late C17 and early C18 the Harrington family became progressively impoverished and the Kelston estate was sold in 1759 to Sir Caesar Hawkins, a leading surgeon, for £1600. Hawkins created a new mansion (1765-70) and landscape (1767-8), locating the house on the site of a summerhouse on the lip of the southern scarp to exploit the views, and demolished the old manor house. Lancelot Brown (1716-83) was employed by Hawkins to landscape the park around the mansion, for which he was paid £500 (Pearson Assocs 1994). The Hawkins family continued to live at Kelston until 1828 when it was sold to Joseph Neeld who began a programme of building works around the house. In 1844, the estate passed to the Inigo-Jones family, relatives of the Neelds, who erected an entrance lodge and the porch over the main entrance to the house. In 1967 the Neeld Family Trust leased Kelston Park to the Methodist Church for use as a training centre. In 1993 the estate was purchased, in poor condition, by the Andrew Brownsward Collection to be developed into corporate headquarters. Since then the house and lodge have been restored and the restoration of the parkland has begun. The estate is currently (2002) unoccupied.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Kelston Park (c 75ha) is located c 6.5km west of Bath in the last remaining area of open countryside between the Bath and Bristol conurbations. The parkland extends in a gentle sweep to the Avon Valley for c 1.2km along the south-west side of the A431, Upper Bristol Road, which forms its north-east boundary. The parkland descends a steep escarpment towards the River Avon to the south. The south-east and south-west boundaries run through the steep banks of Fir Wood, Summerhouse Wood, and Tennant's Wood. The western part of this boundary is marked by the Bristol to Bath Cycleway, formerly the London Midland Railway's route between the cities which closed to rail traffic in the 1970s. The short east boundary is marked by a fence line and small stream which runs south down an incised coombe to join the River Avon. The north-west boundary is marked by a fence line connecting Tennant's Wood to Manor Farm and by the boundary walls of Kelston church and other properties in Kelston village c 800m to the north. The park is on a gently north-west to south-east sloping plateau which ends in steep slopes down to the Avon Valley to

the south and east. To the north and north-east, beyond the A431, the land climbs steeply to Kelston Round Hill, a landmark hilltop crowned with a group of beech trees and visible for many miles around. To the north of Kelston Park is Kelston village which contains Manor Farm, close to the site of the former manor house, Kelston church, and a fine collection of historic vernacular buildings.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

A small two-storey lodge in Italianate style, built by the Inigo-Jones family in 1857 and recently restored (1990s), marks the drive which enters the park from the Upper Bristol Road c 600m north-east of the house. The drive is unfenced and crosses open parkland to the house within a fenced enclosure, cattle grids protecting both openings. Laid out by Brown in the 1760s, the route is unusual for his design in taking the shortest distance between the house and the public highway. A pedestrian entrance leads from the village of Kelston, north of the church, and crosses the park in a straight line running c 800m from north-north-west to south-south-east to the house, approximately on the line of a former double avenue and on the low crown of the plateau (Pearson Assocs 1994).

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Kelston Park (1765-70, listed grade II*) is a former country house built of Bath stone with a hipped slate roof (now tarred) behind a parapet to a design by John Wood the younger for Sir Caesar Hawkins. It occupies a prominent position on the eastern end of a ridge, overlooking the city of Bath to the east and the valley of the River Avon to the south. The original 1760s mansion was a compact and restrained, almost severe design in the Classical style comprising two storeys, attic, and basement, the ground floor being reached from a terrace which has a rusticated retaining wall pierced by four arches. The house was later extended, Joseph Neeld erecting new buildings in 1828 in the yard which connects to the house with a two-storey corridor, forming an enclosed courtyard. In the mid C19 the central projecting porch of paired Tuscan columns was added and alterations to the windows were made by the Inigo-Jones family. To the west of the house, across an open yard, stands Wood's small coach house and stable block in the same style as the house (1760s, listed grade II*).

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

Kelston Park house is separated from the park on the north side by a ha-ha (mid-late C19) which contains all the domestic buildings and the gardens to the south. On the south side of the house is a raised terrace (Inigo-Jones family, mid C19), enclosed by a balustrade with a flight of steps down to a broad, lower, dog-leg terrace with a stone parapet running 130m, continuing west beyond the length of the south facade of the house. The lower terrace has flower beds cut into the lawns. A ramped path, with a flanking wall, leads c 100m west from the lower terrace to Summerhouse Wood which contains a network of C18 paths and rides with C18 holm oaks, yew, and holly and exotic planting from the early C20, including Japanese maple and Persian ironwood. Just off a track in Summerhouse Wood is a circular red-brick icehouse (mid C18), reached via a limestone tunnel, c 400m west of the house. A stone-lined pool (mid C18) which lies above the icehouse is now dry.

PARK

The undulating parkland occupies a plateau which slopes gently towards the Avon Valley to the south and east. The park is a wide sweep of land to the north and north-west of the house, subdivided into a number of fields. Internal field boundaries are of post and wire fencing, with continuous iron rails around the house and lodge. There are two small agricultural ponds and a larger one, formerly the Harrington reservoir, 800m north of the house, with two adjacent mature oaks. Tree cover is of three distinct types: open-grown parkland trees, clumps, and a mix of woody scrub and trees. Parkland specimens are mostly English oak, Turkey oak, sweet chestnut, walnut, and beech dating from c 1880 to 1900 with some beech and lime from c 1770. There are several clumps (c 1850) composed of beech, hornbeam, common lime, and oak with some sycamore and ash, with an understorey of hawthorn and game-cover plants, such as Butchers' Broom. The north-east boundary of the park along the road has a margin thickly lined with woody scrub containing the regrowing stumps of lime trees dated to c 1780 (Pearson Assocs 1994) and elm suckers. The steep slopes of the Avon Valley to the south are thickly wooded with the exceptions of a grassy hillside, called Old Park, c 500m west of the house in a gap between Tennant's Wood and

Summerhouse Wood, and the turf banks below and to the south and east of the house. Both these grass slopes have specimen parkland trees. Old Park, which extends uphill from c 500m west of the house to c 700m north-west of the house, is a former deer park and rabbit warren of C16/C17 date and contains multiphase ornamental tree planting and the remains of a lime kiln. Tennant's Wood, c 700m west of the house, contains a walk linked to the park circuit and relic ornamental planting, but is mostly overgrown. Most of the timber in the rest of the parkland was felled in the inter-war period. During the mid to late C20 the park was in arable cultivation but was converted to pasture under a Countryside Stewardship agreement in 1995 which included the resumption of tree planting. The northern end of the park is divided into three fields down to grass containing the archaeological remains of extensive Elizabethan formal gardens associated with the former Manor House in Kelston village.

An estate plan (Thorp, 1744) shows a wide double avenue of trees leading from the old manor garden in a south-easterly direction towards the River Avon and a summerhouse, on the site of the house, commanding wide views of the Avon Valley. Another double avenue is shown crossing the main avenue at right angles, running from south-west to north-east across the northern third of the park, at that time a largely agricultural landscape. It is not possible to determine whether the avenues were part of the Elizabethan gardens or later additions. A field survey of the site found no trees surviving from this period, but two great elms which survived north and south of the present house until c 1970 may have formed the ends of the double avenue at the summerhouse (Pearson Assocs 1994). No documentary evidence has been found to show how the layout of the gardens and park evolved during C17. The formal crossing avenues formed a backdrop to the northern boundary of the area of the park laid out by Brown and continued to be shown on plans until the late C19. The main avenue running south-south-east, on the route from the village to the house, bisected Brown's design, but was left intact. The remains of formal terraces and parterres associated with the old house were similarly untouched by Brown.

KITCHEN GARDEN

An irregularly shaped, eight-sided stone-walled garden (late C18, listed grade II) with small farm buildings in a yard stands 50m to the north-west of the house. West of the farm buildings is an orchard, bounded variously by stone walls, hedges, and post and wire fences. The orchard contains a variety of early C20 apple and pear trees, a walnut, and a cherry tree.

OTHER LAND

A track 850m north of Kelston Park leads 500m south-east through Sandpit Shrubbery and Shagbear Wood and runs for c 1km in an easterly direction before turning north-west on the Cotswold Way for 1km over Dean Hill to the ornamentally planted 218m summit of Kelston Round Hill. This route was an C18 ride from the park to take in the unbounded views available from the high ground to the north.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7010 6650 (MBR: 1928m by 1142m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 93.14

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Kelston, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. PG1519

Associated Monuments

MBN4218 Ornamental Park: Kelston Manor Garden

MBN5671 Monument: Pond (reservoir) Kelston Park

DesigUID: DBN3594 **Name:** Kelston Park (National)

MBN5672 Monument: Summerhouse Kelston Park

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3675 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Kingwell Hall (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Early C19 parkland, thickly wooded and bounded to south-east with ha-ha. Fine ornamental woodlands, and well-planted park; notable sequoias. Driveway lined with Victorian statuary.

House 1820 for Captain Scobell, burnt down 1959 and replaced with present bungalow.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6488 5916 (MBR: 635m by 891m)

Map sheet: ST65NW **Area (Ha):** 31.61

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Farmborough, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p37

Associated Monuments

MBN11269 Ornamental Park: Kingwell Hall park

MBN1606 Ornamental Park: Parkland Kingswell Hall, Heyswood Rd.

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3631 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Ladymead House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Remains of a C17 garden which was walled with formal paths and parterres. Original structure survives.

House (LB II) C19.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7514 6538 (MBR: 56m by 28m)

Map sheet: ST76NE **Area (Ha):** 0.12

Administrative Areas

DesigUID: DBN3631 **Name:** Ladymead House (Local)

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p10

Associated Monuments

MBN10138 Monument: Ladymead House Former Female Prison & Ch

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3595 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Langridge House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C18 garden with additions and replanting 1930s. Survivals from earlier period include walled garden, now used as pleasure garden, with circular pond; ha-ha and mature planting; fine espaliers from the 1930s.

House 1930s, on site of earlier.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimate only. Extrapolated from 1888 OS map

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7294 6941 (MBR: 313m by 288m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 2.08

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Charlcombe, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p37

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3593 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

1550 1000563

Name: Lansdown Cemetery and Beckford's Tower (National)

Grade: II **Date Assigned** 30/04/1987 **Amended:** 01/05/2002 **Revoked:**

Legal Description

GD1550

ST7367

II

A cemetery consecrated in 1848, incorporating features of a former pleasure ground and

ride created by William Beckford and the architect Henry Edmund Goodridge in c 1825-7.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

William Beckford (1760-1844), writer, book collector, patron of the arts, and builder of Fonthill Abbey (qv) in Wiltshire, moved to Bath in 1822. After he had purchased two houses at Lansdown Crescent, he commissioned the local architect Henry Edmund Goodridge (1797-1864) to design a tower on land he purchased at Lansdown Hill. The tower, known as Lansdown Tower or Beckford's Tower, was completed in 1827. It functioned as a retreat, with, on the top floor, a Belvedere from which one could enjoy a panoramic view. The Tower was also to become the focus for the ride which Beckford subsequently laid out (Tithe map, 1838). The ride led c 2.4km from his back garden at Lansdown Crescent, up Lansdown Hill to the Tower which was surrounded by a pleasure ground (Plan, c 1848). The ride was adorned with various features, as illustrated and described in Willes Maddox and Edmund English's *Views of Lansdown Tower*, published in 1844.

Two years before his death, Beckford designed his own sarcophagus and had it erected in the pleasure ground adjoining his Tower. Following his death in May 1844, the sarcophagus was moved to Abbey Cemetery (qv) in Bath because the grounds surrounding his Tower were not consecrated. The Tower was sold in May 1847, but when it appeared that the buyer, a local innkeeper, wanted to turn it into a public house and pleasure garden, Beckford's daughter, the Duchess of Hamilton, bought it back four months later. She presented the Tower and the surrounding grounds to the former parish of Walcot on condition they would create a cemetery so her father's tomb could be returned. The tomb was brought back in 1848 when the new cemetery, named Lansdown Cemetery, was consecrated and Beckford's Tower was converted into a mortuary chapel. At this time Goodridge designed the entrance gateway to the cemetery (restored 2000), incorporating the decorative railings which had enclosed Beckford's tomb when it stood at Abbey Cemetery. Most of the remaining ride was sold separately after Beckford's death and much was subsequently built over in the second half of the C19 and late C20.

In 1934, following a fire, the Tower and the chapel were restored, and in 1947 and again in 1961, the cemetery was extended. During the following years the cemetery fell into disrepair and the chapel in the Tower was declared redundant in 1969. In 1972 the Tower was sold and converted into a museum and two residential flats. In 1993 the Bath Preservation Trust became the sole trustee of the Tower, and following extensive restoration works the Tower was reopened to the public in March 2001. The ground floor of the Tower is now (2001) let as holiday accommodation and the first floor houses the Beckford's Tower Museum.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Lansdown Cemetery is situated on a plateau on the west side of Lansdown Hill, c 2.4km north-west of Bath city centre. The c 3ha, almost level rectangular site, orientated north-west/south-east, lies south-west of Lansdown Road. The cemetery is surrounded to the north-east, south-west, and south-east by a c 1m high stone wall. The south-east boundary is lined by a track that leads off Lansdown Road in the direction of Chelscombe Farm situated to the south-west of the site. Trees and shrubs are planted predominantly along the north-west boundary.

The setting of the site is largely rural, it being surrounded by gently sloping fields to the south-west, south-east, and north-west. To the north and north-east, on the opposite side of Lansdown Road, are playing fields and Ministry of Defence buildings. Adjacent to the north-west corner of the site stands a large water tower erected in the 1930s. Some of the features and structures which formed part of Beckford's Ride, such as an embattled gateway, now (2001) stand in the grounds of private dwellings to the south of the site.

Long views extend from the site in a south-westerly direction towards the western part of Bath city centre and surrounding hills. From the Belvedere on the top floor of Beckford's Tower a panoramic view over Bath, Bristol, and beyond can be admired, as well as a

bird's-eye view over the cemetery below. In the early C19, the views from the Belvedere reminded William Beckford of Claude Lorraine's paintings of the Roman Campagna (CL 2001).

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main entrance (listed grade II) is situated on the south side of Lansdown Road, c 15m east of the Tower. It consists of a richly decorated stone gatehouse designed by Goodridge in the Italian Romanesque style, to match the screen attached to either side of it, which formerly surrounded Beckford's tomb when it stood at Abbey Cemetery. The gateway is hung with an iron main gate and two smaller iron pedestrian gates, which give access to a gravel path (restored 2000) that leads in a north-westerly direction towards the Tower, and to the south to a grass path that runs along the north-east boundary.

A second entrance, c 50m north-west of the main entrance, gives access to a small tarmacked forecourt immediately north of the Tower. This entrance is flanked to the north by an early C19 gardener's cottage (Plan, c 1848), now (2001) in use as a private dwelling. In the early C19 James Vincent, Beckford's gardener at Fonthill, lived here.

A minor entrance, c 100m south-east of the main entrance, gives access to the south-eastern part of the cemetery and is marked by a gap in the boundary wall with an iron gate.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The site is dominated by the c 47m high Beckford's Tower (listed grade I) which occupies the north-west corner of the site. It was designed by Goodridge in 1825-7 in collaboration with William Beckford. On the north front a flight of steps from the forecourt leads to the entrance of the Tower. The design of the Tower changed and expanded as work progressed; first the Belvedere and then the lantern were added in order to increase the Tower's height. The final structure is of marked Italianate style, but with a crowning octagonal lantern derived from two Greek monuments in Athens: the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates and the Tower of the Winds.

OTHER LAND

The cemetery can be divided into three main areas: the grounds immediately to the south and west of the Tower, the central sunken area, and the land covering the south-eastern half of the site. The graves are arranged predominantly in a grid pattern on a north-west/south-east axis, with the most recent burials situated to the south-east, separated from the north-western part by a laurel hedge. The cemetery has a mixed planting of mainly laurel, yew, and cypress concentrated around the Tower. A single mature cedar stands at the north-east boundary to the south-east of the gateway. The majority of the area is left as long grass which contains a rich habitat of wildflowers originating from its former use as pasture.

The grounds around the Tower are reached via a small perimeter path leading from the wider path that leads north-west from the main entrance to the cemetery. This area contains mid to late Victorian tombstones, in both Classical and Gothic style. Amongst them are the graves of Goodridge and Beckford. The latter's tomb stands c 100m to the south-west of the Tower and consists of a pink granite sarcophagus which stands on an oval-shaped mound lined by a stone wall and surrounded by a ditch. Before the cemetery was laid out, the grounds around the Tower included a wilderness and shrubbery which formed part of Beckford's Ride (Plan, c 1848; Debois 1994).

The central part of the site has a simple layout with a grass perimeter walk surrounding a square sunken terrace with subsidiary paths extending from this walk giving access to the individual graves. The sunken terrace has a stone retaining wall on its north-west side, which carries the main grass perimeter path that runs along the boundary walls of the cemetery.

The far south-eastern part of the site is currently (2001) in use as pasture and is separated from the other part of the site by a wooden fence. Along the north-east boundary in this part of the site is a row of evenly spaced lime trees which follows the curve of the stone boundary wall. Between the line of the trees and the wall are the

DesigUID: DBN3593 **Name:** Lansdown Cemetery and Beckford's Tower (National)

remains of a path, still (2001) evident on the ground but no longer used as such, which is possibly part of the former ride laid out by Beckford (Debois 1994). In the south-east corner of the site are the remains of a grotto and archway, formerly part of Beckford's Ride (Maddox and English 1844).

Curatorial Notes

Formerly registered as Beckford's Ride.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7388 6746 (MBR: 354m by 299m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 2.61

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. GD1550

Associated Monuments

MBN10085 Ornamental Park: Lansdown Cemetery

MBN2649 Building: Beckford's Tower

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3650 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Linden (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Villa garden early-mid C19, with a number of mature specimen trees on lawn; fine contemporary greenhouse with intact heating system.

House (LB II), 1828-29, reputedly by H E Goodridge.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7352 6570 (MBR: 86m by 109m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.51

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p11

Associated Monuments

MBN10086 Ornamental Park: Garden at Linden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3650 **Name:** Linden (Local)

DesigUID: DBN3632 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Locksbrook Cemetery (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Victorian cemetery with fine specimen trees; sculptures and gates.

Pedestrian access.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7319 6526 (MBR: 360m by 352m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 7.29

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p11

Associated Monuments

MBN10028 Monument: Locksbrook Cemetery

MBN10029 Building: Lodge at Locksbrook Cemetery

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3633 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Magdalen Gardens (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Municipal park, thought to have been laid out in present form by City Council c1900-10. Informal, mixed exotic shrubs and trees; paths and steps.

Unlimited access.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7463 6409 (MBR: 230m by 102m)

Map sheet: ST76SW **Area (Ha):** 0.78

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

DesigUID: DBN3633 **Name:** Magdalen Gardens (Local)

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p11

Associated Monuments

MBN11335 Monument: Holloway Waterworks
MBN4295 Ornamental Park: Magdalen Gardens Beechen Cliff

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3609 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Memorial Park (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C20 municipal park, laid out post-World War II, and extended after Great Flood of 1968; Memorial Gates opened 1952; features include recreation areas and ornamental lake; ruins of Keynsham Abbey, mill and water-wheel, award winning Modernist bandstand demolished early 1980s.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6563 6864 (MBR: 352m by 378m)

Map sheet: ST66NE **Area (Ha):** 7.72

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Keynsham, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p38

Associated Monuments

MBN1222 Listed Building: Keynsham Abbey, Keynsham
MBN3971 Monument: Furnace Chapterhouse of Abbey

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3610 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Midford Castle (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C18 woodland garden. Laid out in c1775 when house was built as a picturesque and romantic landscape. Strawberry Hill Gothic tea-room ("the Priory") and ornamental walks survive from original layout. Early C19 Gothic greenhouse and embattled gateways and lodge. Since 1901 estate has been broken up; Priory Woods now owned by the Fullers Earth Company.

House (LB I) and Priory (LB II) 1775, possibly by John Carter, for Henry Disney Roebuck; Gothic greenhouse (LB II) 1810; gate piers (LB II) 1810; lodge (LB II) 1810, all for Charles Connolly.

Curatorial Notes

DesigUID: DBN3610 **Name:** Midford Castle (Local)

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7604 6133 (MBR: 902m by 628m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 26.99

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish South Stoke, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p38

Associated Monuments

MBN4251 Monument: Midford Castle Park

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3596 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

1555 1000567

Name: Newton Park (National)

Grade: II* **Date Assigned** 30/04/1987 **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

GD1555

ST6964

II*

An C18 park, laid out by Lancelot Brown with later advice from Humphry Repton, around a country house, now used as a college of higher education.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Newton Park was laid out on land containing the C14 keep and gateway of St Loe's Castle, a fortified medieval manor house, Elizabethan farm buildings, and various enclosed gardens. The manor was separated from the village of Newton St Loe by an enclosed park in the late C17. During the early C18 the estate was enlarged by the purchase of several neighbouring manors and land acquired through marriages. A survey of 1763 (Hinde) shows the positions of 'The New House' and 'The Old House' in a predominantly agricultural landscape divided into fields and with a few small woods, but with evidence of an extensive formal design in the form of seven avenues radiating from the core of the landscape around the mount of St Loe's Castle (Pearson Assocs 1998). The C18 house was built for Joseph Langton who commissioned Lancelot Brown in 1761 to improve the grounds. The surviving C15 stable block was enlarged, in the style of the late C17, at about the time of Brown's involvement (ibid). Langton died in 1779 and was succeeded by his daughter Bridget, who in 1783 married William Gore, of Barrow Court, Avon (qv). Gore subsequently changed his name by royal assent to William Gore-Langton. Bridget died in 1793 but William continued to improve the grounds, calling in Humphry Repton in 1796. The C19 saw little change but further improvements were carried out between 1902 and 1914 by Algernon Gore-Langton. In 1914 Newton Park became the Countess Temple Hospital for wounded soldiers and was owned by Lord Temple until his death in 1940. The estate was purchased by the Duchy of Cornwall and the core built area was let on a long lease to Newton Park College, now Bath Spa University College (Pearson Assocs 1993, 1998).

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Newton Park (120ha) is situated c 5km west of the centre of Bath on generally rising ground south of the main A4, Bath to Bristol road and the Avon Valley, between the villages of Corston and Newton St Loe. The northern boundary is formed by the A39, Bath to Shepton Mallet road between Corston and the junction with the A4, and the eastern boundary by minor roads and the village of Newton St Loe. The southern and western boundaries are less well-defined being marked by hedge and fence lines, generally at the summit of the views from the park. The central north/south axis of the park rises gently to the south but is generally flat. Parallel to the central axis, c 100m to the west, is the incised but flat-bottomed valley of Corston Brook which is joined by the valley of a stream from the west at the Lower Lake, 300m north of the house. To the east the land rises smoothly to a ridge. The land to the west rises more steeply and is more undulating around the valley of the watercourse. Despite a proliferation of buildings erected for education use in the central area the park retains its pastoral appearance.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main drive (c 1760s) from the north enters the park through an ornamental gateway next to a lodge (c 1902) 1.2km north-north-east of the house on the A39 road, 500m east of Corston village. North of this entrance is a disused 100m section of a drive cut through woodland to join the Bath to Bristol road, marked by stone gate piers, as recommended by Humphry Repton (1797). The drive heads 500m in a south-westerly direction across parkland with mature trees and clumps, and then turns south for 700m to run above, and parallel to the valley of Corston Brook to the west. It takes on a wooded character where it passes west of Workshop Covert, with views to the west over the valley to woodland beyond, and of the planting around the lower of the two lakes. The drive crosses more open parkland before emerging into the college campus, finally turning west to approach the house from the east. A second drive runs south and south-west from Newton St Loe village. It enters the park through a gateway (early-mid C19, listed grade II) next to a single-storey lodge (mid-late C19, listed grade II) 800m to the north-east of the house. The drive runs through fairly level and open parkland, its south-west half being flanked on either side by a replanted avenue of lime trees (1990s) on the line of an avenue shown on Hinde's survey (1763), and joins the north drive at the entrance to the college campus 100m north-east of the house.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Newton Park (listed grade I) is the administrative centre and music rooms of Bath Spa University College and a former country house, built 1761-5 by Stiff Leadbetter for Joseph Langton. It occupies a position in the centre of the park, overlooking the Upper Lake to the west and Lower Lake to the north and with views to the south-east of parkland rising to a tree-lined ridge c 500m away. The house is constructed of Bath stone ashlar with a hipped and mansard slate roof behind a balustraded parapet. The central block has two storeys on a basement with attics in dormers and a central pediment. There are two projecting service wings, with central pediments, which curve forwards from the south-east front. The west wing has a clock in the tympanum and the east a compass, while both have octagonal bell turrets surmounted by ball finials and a windvane. The north-west and south-west elevations of the central block are similar to the south-east front but have full-height canted bays to the centre and pediments over the central windows only. Pevsner (1958) described the house as 'one of the finest country mansions of the C18 in Somerset'.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The pleasure grounds of c 2.5ha are located principally around the Upper Lake, 100m to the west of the house. This is the second of three lakes separated by dams, weirs, and cascades made by Lancelot Brown (1716-83) in 1761. The small former top lake is now completely silted and has partially reverted to scrub. The Upper Lake, restored 2000, is 250m long and c 75m wide and is partly visible from the principal rooms of the north-west, garden front of the house. There is a gravel circuit walk, ornamented with specimen trees and shrubs, providing a variety of views across the water to features of interest. These are the Garden Temple, restored 2000, backed by clipped yews, on the west bank 200m

west of the house; the boathouse on the east bank 120m south-west of the house; and the Castle keep on its mound to the south, 200m south-west of the house. An C18 urn on a pedestal, restored 2000, is placed on the west bank, c 30m south of the Temple. The Lake circuit walk passes through the ornamental woodland of Park Wood to the south and west. The eastern arm of the circuit connects with the ruins of St Loe's Castle (late C14/early C15, scheduled ancient monument, listed grade I), c 200m south-west of the house. A walled courtyard garden north-east of the stable block (C15-C19, listed grade II*) and 280m south-west of the house is entered through the Castle gatehouse and is laid out in a simple formal layout around rectangular lawns with two circular ponds and an open summerhouse built into the north-west wall. The garden circuit proceeds north-east from St Loe's Castle to approach the south-west front of the house alongside a lawn and shrubbery 50m south-west of the house. Between the east bank of Upper Lake and the house is a 100m steeply sloping grass bank with scattered mature oak trees dating from the Brown period. Recent research (Pearson Assocs 1993) indicates that Brown retained much of the pre-existing landscape in his reworking. As well as keeping most of the radiating avenues, he preserved the Castle gatehouse and keep as eyecatchers and incidents on the circuit walk, while demolishing the rest of the Castle's outbuildings and walls.

PARK

The parkland of c 120ha runs southwards from the villages of Newton St Loe and Corston encompassing the valley of the Corston Brook, a tributary of the River Avon, on land which rises in all directions to the park's boundaries. The park consists of ten main sections: Old Park in the south; Upper Park to the south, south-east, and east of the house which is above Lower Park, south and south-east of the house; East Park to the north-east of the house; New Park beyond East Park to the north-east; Lodge Hill Park in the north, to the east of Corston Drive; Brook Park in the north, to the west of Corston Drive; Coombe Croft to the north-west of the house; West Park to the west of the house; and Lower Lake Park to the immediate north of the house and east of Lower Lake. An almost continuous but thin belt of trees marks the skyline above the Upper Park and Old Park. Old Park is undulating sloping pasture with two mature walnuts and two oak trees. Upper Park is a sloping hillside containing some mature trees and three gullies with dense scrub. The west boundary with Lower Park is marked by the line of an C18 limestone ha-ha which partially survives. Lower Park is permanent pasture 100m to the south-east of the house, separated from the drive by an iron rail fence. This area contains old oak pollards and mature ornamental trees. West Park, to the west of Upper Lake, is C20 arable fields with a few surviving trees. The northern part of the park, including Brook Park and Lodge Hill Park, is pasture but has been used for arable in the recent past (late C20) and retains only a few scattered trees, except for the southern end of Lodge Hill Park which has retained permanent pasture on the slopes. This area contains many mature trees from the C18 including beech, lime, oak, sweet and horse chestnut. East Park and New Park contain the drive to Newton St Loe village. A plan by Pryce of 1789 provides the most complete record of Brown's parkland and shows the park planted with individual, groups, and clumps of trees. The formal avenues, aligned on the Castle mount, appear to have been largely cleared around the new (1760s) mansion but remained intact beyond the house precincts. In 1796, Humphry Repton (1752-1818) was consulted and concerned himself with 'the further improvement of the beautiful scenery at Newton Park'. Despite his admission that 'it would appear presumptuous to suggest improvement in a spot which Mr Brown is supposed to have finished with great attention' (Repton 1797), he made recommendations for substantial alterations, including the replacement of a pair of entrance lodges with a single lodge, further thinning of the formal avenues, construction of a mausoleum as a focal point from the mansion, felling of conifers on the dams, construction of a third and larger lake, and realigning the approach drive to create a picturesque route from Corston across a bridge over the new lake. None of these proposals were implemented (Pearson Assocs 1993). The park, pleasure grounds, lakes, and woodlands have been undergoing continuous restoration since 1994 by the Duchy of Cornwall and Bath Spa University College with funding from the Countryside Commission, Countryside Stewardship, Forestry Commission, and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The late C18 kitchen garden lies c 500m south of the house and includes garden walls, greenhouses, and bothies, all generally intact, as well as beds and a few trained fruit

DesigUID: DBN3596 **Name:** Newton Park (National)

trees. There are also some late C20 features including greenhouses and a central garden with circular pool. An external grass area with a few fruit trees and a grass paddock follows the west and south walls. Former external lean-to greenhouses have been lost.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6952 6436 (MBR: 1907m by 2064m)

Map sheet: ST66SE **Area (Ha):** 187.00

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Corston, Bath & North East Somerset
Civil Parish Marksbury, Bath & North East Somerset
Civil Parish Newton St Loe, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. GD1555

Associated Monuments

MBN1318 Monument: Castle (remains of)
MBN4217 Ornamental Park: Newton Park
MBN5991 Monument: Fishponds W of Newton Park
MBN6567 Monument: Newton Park (House)

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3634 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Norfolk Crescent (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden for crescent built c1790-early C19. Area in front of the crescent originally formal garden; by 1848 informal layout in place.

Night-watchman's hut (LB II), C19.

Unlimited access.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7428 6492 (MBR: 157m by 121m)

Map sheet: ST76SW **Area (Ha):** 0.86

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p11

DesigUID: DBN3634 **Name:** Norfolk Crescent (Local)

Associated Monuments

MBN4281 Ornamental Park: Norfolk Crescent Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3635 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Orange Grove (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden created in the early C18 as a social walking area, with a linear tree planting and gravel surface, road macadamized 1820 and trees removed 1830; now a floral roundabout.

Obelisk (LB II), erected 1734 by Beau Nash.

Unlimited access.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7518 6479 (MBR: 28m by 28m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 0.06

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p11

Associated Monuments

MBN4293 Ornamental Park: Orange Grove Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3602 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

3450

Name: Parade Gardens (National)

Grade: II **Date Assigned** 28/06/2002 **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

GD3450

ST7564

II

Public gardens of early C18 origin which assumed their present form in the C19 and early C20.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

In the C17 the site of Parade Gardens, Bath formed part of the Abbey Orchard and lay outside the city wall (Speed, 1610). A mill, known as Monk's Mill, stood at the northern end of the enclosure with steps leading down to the river. In 1709 Richard 'Beau' Nash encouraged Thomas Harrison to build an Assembly Room for fashionable visitors to the spa. A gravelled walk lined with sycamores, known as Harrison's Walk, was laid out along the west and north boundaries of the triangular site east of the Assembly Rooms; the remainder of the site appears to have been laid out with lawns. Admission to these gardens was by subscription, ensuring exclusivity. A further Assembly Room was built by John Wood (1704-54) in 1730, while at about the same date a formal grove was laid out as a public garden with gravel walks immediately east of Bath Abbey. Named Orange Grove in 1734 in honour of a visit to Bath by the Prince of Orange, 'Beau' Nash erected an obelisk at the centre of the Grove to commemorate the Prince's cure. The Orange Grove and the subscription gardens associated with Harrison's Assembly Rooms, known as St James' Gardens, provided space for the recreation of fashionable visitors to Bath in the early C18. When John Wood began to develop North and South Parades to the south of St James' Gardens in 1738, these achieved pre-eminence among the places of fashionable resort in the city. Wood planned North or Grand Parade as a shaded summer promenade with steps descending to St James' Gardens which were to be laid out with a central circular lawn or bowling green and a sheltered spring walk below the retaining wall of the Parade. Harrison's Walk was to be retained along the north-west boundary of the gardens and a further tree-lined walk was to be created along the river. Although Wood's scheme was not fully realised, it appears from C18 and C19 plans of Bath that the layout of the gardens was carried out in accordance with his plan (Moule, 1837; Gilding 1997).

In 1824 the Royal Literary and Scientific Institution was built on the site of Harrison's Assembly Rooms and the gardens were renamed Institution Gardens. The layout of the gardens appears to have changed little during the C19 (OS 1885), but c 1895 an improvement scheme led to the demolition of houses to the east of Orange Grove and Lot Lane, and the northern extension of the gardens. The Bath architect C E Davis constructed an Italianate colonnade along the western boundary of the garden which was continued beneath the new road, Grand Parade, forming a visual link with Pulteney Bridge to the north. Further highway improvements in 1932 led to the demolition of the Royal Institution, and the appropriation of a small area of land at the south-west corner of the gardens. The following year the late C19 colonnade was extended south-west and a new entrance comprising a domed ticket office and a grand double staircase descending from Orange Grove was constructed. The layout of the gardens remains substantially unchanged from the C19, while significant elements of its design reflect the scheme devised in 1738 by John Wood as part of his development of North Parade.

Today (2002), Parade Gardens continue to operate as subscription gardens, while residents of North Parade have access to the gardens by a private gate. Parade Gardens have remained in municipal ownership since the 1930s. The gardens are particularly noted for their displays of traditional carpet and sculptural bedding.

During the C19 Orange Grove was reduced in area and replanned as a circular area of lawn and trees at the centre of a busy road junction. Nash's early C18 obelisk was retained as the focal point of this small garden which had assumed the form in which it survives today by 1885 (OS). Orange Grove is not included in the site here registered.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Parade Gardens are situated c 250m east of Bath Abbey, while Orange Grove is situated immediately north-east of the Abbey. Parade Gardens, which comprises an area of c 1.25ha, occupies an approximately triangular site bounded to the south by North Parade, to the north-east by the River Avon from which it is separated by grass banks and low late C20 metal railings, and to the west by Pierrepont Street and Grand Parade. Parade Gardens occupies a generally level site bordering the River Avon.

The adjoining streets lie at a significantly higher level than the gardens and are retained to the south and west by high stone walls. To the south the wall retaining North Parade (nos 7-12 listed grade I) forms part of the scheme designed by John Wood in 1738. A series of arched openings set into this wall give access to service areas below the road from the gardens. The wall is surmounted by late C19 balustrades and ornamental cast-iron lamp standards which were designed c 1895 by C E Davis. The retaining wall to the west of the gardens (listed grade II) incorporates at its southern end an open-colonnaded loggia (closed, 2002) which corresponds to the site of the early C19 Royal Institution which was demolished for highway improvements in 1932. The columns incorporated into the colonnade were salvaged from Nassau House, the property in Orange Grove occupied by the Prince of Orange in the early C18 (demolished late C19) (Gilding 1997). The western retaining wall is surmounted by further balustrades, stone urns, and cast-iron lamp standards which were erected in 1933 to the same pattern as those above the late C19 colonnade to the north of the gardens which had been designed by Davis c 1895. The balustrade thus extends along the entire street boundary of the site to the west and south, terminating to the south-east at North Parade Bridge (listed grade II) which abuts the south-east corner of the gardens. The gardens are visible from the adjoining streets, while from the gardens there are views east across the River Avon to recreation grounds and Bath Leisure Centre. There are also significant views north-west along the River Avon to Pulteney Bridge, built in 1770 to the design of Robert Adam, and south-east to North Parade Bridge which was originally built in 1836 to designs by Robert Tierney Clark and was encased in stone in 1936.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Parade Gardens are approached from Orange Grove to the north-west adjacent to the junction of Grand Parade and Pierrepont Street. The entrance comprises a pair of cast-iron gates flanking a single-storey domed ticket office of neoclassical design (listed grade II). The gates are supported by tall stone piers surmounted by cast-iron lamp standards; these terminate the balustrades forming the north-west and west boundaries of the site (all listed grade II). The gates lead to a balustraded terrace from which a balustraded ramp descends south to reach the level of the gardens immediately north of the south colonnade. A pair of balustraded stone staircases aligned with the entrance descend south-east to join at a landing, from which a single broad balustraded stone staircase descends in two flights to the level of the gardens. Set at the central point of the lower flight of steps is a monument commemorating King Edward VII and his role in early C20 European diplomacy (listed grade II). The monument comprises a tall stone pedestal bearing a bronze plaque showing the king and a commemorative inscription, surmounted by a winged figure of Peace cast from a design by N A Trent. Originally placed in Milsom Street, this monument was transferred to Parade Gardens in 1933 when the present entrance, steps, and ticket office were constructed as part of an improvement scheme for Pierrepont Street, Orange Grove, and Grand Parade (ibid). In the C19 the gardens were entered from the buildings of the Royal Institution to the south-west, while in the C18 access was through Harrison's Assembly Rooms which stood on the same site.

A further double set of stone steps descends to the gardens from the junction of Pierrepont Street and North Parade. This entrance is closed by metal gates which form the private entrance to the gardens enjoyed by properties in North Parade. This entrance was constructed c 1933 as part of the adjacent highway improvements.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

Parade Gardens is laid out with informal lawns to the north, a more formal circular lawn to the south, and perimeter walks following the west, south, and east (riverside) boundaries.

The steps descending from the north-west entrance lead to a broad tarmac walk which extends c 90m south-south-east parallel to the western boundary wall of the site. This walk corresponds approximately to the line of the early C18 Harrison's Walk associated with the Assembly Rooms built in 1709. To the west the walk is adjoined by a grass verge and a rectangular formal flower bed for seasonal planting immediately below the stone wall retaining the ramped walk descending from the entrance terrace. To the east of the

walk is an area of lawn which is separated from a circular lawn at the southern end of the gardens by a curved shrubbery comprising mature evergreens and mature specimen trees. A border for seasonal planting extends along the north-west edge of the shrubbery. A sundial comprising an armillary sphere sits on an C18 marble pedestal originally intended for a fountain; this was transferred to the gardens in the mid C20 from the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath (ibid).

The western boundary walk leads south to a terrace which extends below the early C20 colonnade which occupies the site of the early C19 Royal Institution. This terrace in turn leads south to the private steps descending from North Parade, which are partly concealed by a group of conifers. To the east of the terrace, panels of lawn are divided by a walk aligned with the centre of the colonnade which leads east to join a circular walk enclosing a circular lawn forming the central feature of the southern section of the gardens. The centre of this lawn is occupied by an octagonal bandstand with a pyramidal tiled roof and simple timber supports. This structure replaced an earlier C19 bandstand on the same site in 1925 (OS 1885; Gilding 1997). The circular lawn corresponds to a circular bowling green which formed part of Wood's scheme for North Parade and St James' Gardens (1738), and which is shown on C19 plans of Bath (Moule, 1837). To the south of the circular lawn a belt of mixed shrubbery and specimen trees screens the wall retaining North Parade with its arched service entrances and a walk running immediately below it. This walk corresponds to the 'Spring Walk' proposed by Wood as part of his North Parade scheme in 1738 (Gilding 1997). Beyond the circular walk to the south-east, east, and north-east are further irregular-shaped lawns set with geometric flower beds for seasonal bedding displays. These lawns are backed by further mixed shrubberies and specimen trees. To the south-east of the circular lawn is a late C20 single-storey timber kiosk, while to the north stands a late C20 commemorative statue of W A Mozart.

From the south-east corner of the gardens a walk extends c 120m north-west parallel to the River Avon. The walk is separated from the river by a grass bank and low late C20 metal railings, and terminates at a small stone-walled bastion from which there are views north-west to Pulteney Bridge and south-east to North Parade Bridge. Beyond the bastion the walk sweeps west and north to the west of gently sloping lawns which run down to the river, to reach the southern end of the colonnade (listed grade II) which extends c 130m north-west beneath Grand Parade and parallel to the River Avon. The colonnade comprises a terrazzo-paved passage beneath the road, which is open to the east or river side with a series of columns and pilastered piers supporting a cornice and balustrade. The colonnade terminates to the north-west at Pulteney Bridge and allows views of the bridge and weir, although there is not, and was never planned to be, access from the colonnade to the bridge. The colonnade was constructed to the design of C E Davis from 1895. Some 30m south-west of the southern end of the colonnade and c 10m north-east of the entrance steps from Orange Grove, the fragmentary remains of the medieval Monk's Mill are preserved in a clump of bamboo and other ornamental planting.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7526 6481 (MBR: 172m by 225m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 1.03

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. GD3450

Associated Monuments

MBN4283 Ornamental Park: Parade Gardens

DesigUID: DBN3602 **Name:** Parade Gardens (National)

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3636 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Paragon School (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Formerly Lyncombe Spa, a complex of pleasure grounds c1730, revived in the 1750s.

House (LB II) C18.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7529 6344 (MBR: 388m by 192m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 3.32

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p11

Associated Monuments

MBN10223 Ornamental Park: Garden Paragon School

MBN11318 Monument: Manorial fishponds

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3612 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Parish's House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Small landscape park early C19, bounded by mature trees and ha-ha; C20 arboretum; walled kitchen garden; specimen trees on lawn.

House (LB II*) c1816, Thomas Baldwin for Captain Parish.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6730 5872 (MBR: 347m by 179m)

Map sheet: ST65NE **Area (Ha):** 2.94

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Timsbury, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

DesigUID: DBN3612 **Name:** Parish's House (Local)

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p38

Associated Monuments

MBN11271 Ornamental Park: Parish's House park
MBN6566 Monument: Parish's House

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3613 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Parsonage Farm (Local)
Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C20 woodland and plantsman's garden, started 1930s when farmyard and meadows were reworked as garden; continuing development post-1977. Collection of exotic trees and shrubs, planted on sloping site; bulbs, heather and bog garden.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6211 6445 (MBR: 190m by 127m)
Map sheet: ST66SW **Area (Ha):** 0.80

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Publow, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p38

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3637 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Partis College (Local)
Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal gardens in front of buildings: now lawn with shrubs, beds and young trees. Small individual private gardens, with unusual ceramic edging tiles.

House (LB I), Greek revival 1823-25, by S and P Flood Page, for Mrs Fletcher Partis, as lodgings for 30 gentlewomen in reduced circumstances, who must be members of the Church of England.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

DesigUID: DBN3637 **Name:** Partis College (Local)

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7235 6570 (MBR: 139m by 144m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 1.20

Administrative Areas - None recorded

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p11

Associated Monuments

MBN10087 Ornamental Park: Garden at Partis College

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3597 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

1041 1000144

Name: Prior Park (National)

Grade: I **Date Assigned** 30/04/1987 **Amended:** 01/10/2001 **Revoked:**

Legal Description

PG1041

ST7662

I

Landscape park, laid out in C18 with advice from Alexander Pope and Lancelot Brown, around a country house.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Prior Park originated as part of a deer park owned by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, laid out by the Norman bishop, John of Tours, who moved from Wells to Bath after he was granted the Abbey and City of Bath in 1091 by William Rufus. The western half of the park was granted to the Prior of Bath in the C13, and a grange and other buildings near the fishponds at the northern end of the area here registered constituted the Prior's county seat. The grange was reached from Church Lane on the line of an ancient track from Bath to Limpley Stoke, following the Saxon boundary of Widcombe. In the C14 and C15 the Priory suffered as a result in the decline of the woollen industry, and when Leland visited in the 1530s he found that the park walls were ruinous and that there were no deer (Bond 1998). After the Dissolution in 1534-9, the park and other priory lands were subdivided between several owners and continued in agricultural use for the next two hundred years.

In 1726 Ralph Allen purchased part of an estate between Widcombe and Combe Down, including the old priory lands. Allen was by then a leading citizen in Bath, with interests in the postal service and in the Bath stone quarries on Combe Down from which he built a railway down what is now Ralph Allen Drive to his wharf on the River Avon. In 1728 he purchased further lands including the Prior's park. Later that year he commissioned designs for a new house from John Wood the Elder (1704-54), who was already leading the renaissance of Bath as a fashionable spa town.

Between 1734 and c 1740, with advice from Alexander Pope (1688-1744) as well as Wood, Allen developed a formal landscape north of and below the house and a rococo wilderness to the north-west, with a triangular lawn north of the house descending to a formal pond and a boundary wall. The design featured a grotto, the serpentine river with a sham bridge and cascade, a statue of Moses, and the green 'cabinet' at the foot of the cascade with arti-natural winding paths around it. Wood's employment ended in 1748 before the house was complete, and Richard Jones, Allen's clerk of works at Prior Park, took over.

In a second phase of works in the 1750s, the landscape was extended northwards and a Palladian bridge and a central cascade were introduced. Finally, a third phase can be identified after c 1760-4 when Allen employed Lancelot Brown (1716-83), who suggested removing the central cascade to make the whole of the combe a single sweep.

Allen died in 1764 and his wife in 1766, after which the estate had a succession of owners, and over the next sixty-five years little was done to alter the designed landscape.

In 1828 the estate was purchased by Bishop Baines, who founded a seminary in the house. Works were carried out to the house to designs by H E Goodridge in 1834. In 1836 there was a serious fire, and restoration costs crippled the seminary, which closed in 1856. After a period of neglect, it was bought by Bishop Clifford to found a Roman Catholic Grammar School. Works to the landscape were carried out in the 1880s. The school closed in 1904 and it was occupied by the army during the First World War and then by a series of tenants until, in 1921, the Christian Brothers took it over and founded a boys' boarding school in 1924. The school, Prior Park College, has continued to occupy the house, but in 1993 11.3ha of the park and pleasure grounds were acquired by the National Trust and have been the subject of a detailed restoration programme.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Prior Park is situated on the edge of Combe Down, a sandstone ridge that runs east/west, c 2km south of Bath. The house is located prominently, designed both to see and be seen from the city. The surviving historic landscape comprises some 22ha, and is divided between former parkland, now playing fields, to the south of the house, and the steeply sloping combe to the north, which runs down from the house to three fishponds in Widcombe at the northern extremity of the landscape.

To the west the park is bounded by Ralph Allen Drive, a public highway, formerly a private carriage drive to the house, with a wall c 1.5m high. To the south it is bounded by a stone wall c 4.5m high along the A3062. The eastern boundary follows the edge of the Free Fields, around the north side of The Priory, then follows the edge of the flanking woods of the combe northwards to the north end of the ponds.

Few trees survive of Allen's extensive planting of pines over the neighbouring downs. The ridings he laid out around his extensive holdings on Combe Down totalled some 10 miles (c 16km) in length, but only a few fragments have survived C20 building development. A rustic bridge 250m south-west of the house, which stands over the lane now known as Pope's Walk, used to carry one such drive west from the house. Some 2km to the north-east, Sham Castle (1762, listed grade II*) was built as an eyecatcher from Allen's town house in Bath.

The setting is dominated by the unspoilt view between the flanking woods to the Palladian Bridge and north over Bath.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main approach runs c 100m eastward from the southern end of Ralph Allen Drive, past a lodge designed by Wood the Elder (listed grade II) and through two stone gate piers topped with ornamental carved finials (C18, listed grade II), to the north front of the house.

Some 600m north-north-west, at the junction of Ralph Allen Drive and Church Street in Widcombe (outside the area here registered), is a second lodge by Wood (pre 1742, listed grade II) and gate piers (C18, listed grade II), which related to Ralph Allen Drive before it was made a public highway. By 1759, a new approach had been brought from Ralph Allen Drive, roughly halfway between these two lodges, that led via the Rock or Chinese Gate, southwards round the south side of the ponds, still clearly visible, then via a hairpin bend northwards up to the house along the eastern side of the combe. This was probably constructed by Richard Jones, as a means of bringing stone down to the ponds for the construction of the Palladian Bridge.

The principal National Trust approach enters the grounds 200m north-west of the house via gate piers (1830s, listed grade II). The drive was constructed in the 1830s for Bishop Baines and leads to the front of the house, although a gate 10m south of the grotto now separates the school property from the National Trust land.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The house at Prior Park was built 1735-43 for Ralph Allen, to designs by John Wood the Elder. It is located at the southern end of a steep combe leading down and north to the village of Widcombe. The house is constructed of Bath stone ashlar with a slate roof and is composed of a central corps de logis, connected by two curving galleries to a west and east pavilion. According to Pevsner (1958), it comprises 'the most ambitious and the most complete re-creation of Palladio's villas on English soil'. Under Wood, only the eastern part was completed and the finishing of the house was left to Richard Jones. A massive central staircase from the north door to the drive dates from c 1836 when it was built for Bishop Baines to designs by H E Goodridge, who also carried out other alterations to the structure of the mansion. In the west range is the church of St Paul (1844, listed grade I), designed by Joseph Scoles (1798-1863). On the south side of the playing fields, 250m south of the house is the Gymnasium (c 1830-40, listed grade II*). In 1991, the house suffered a second major fire; it was restored by the college in 1995.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

A woodland garden, formerly the Wilderness, developed 1734-40 as the first phase of Allen's landscape garden, lies 200m north-west of the house. In the south of this area is the Sham Bridge (1730s-40s, listed grade II), a stone-built structure by a circular pond 100m north-west of the house, which is all that remains of the Serpentine Lake. This originally ran along the contours westward from the pond but proved structurally unsound; it was filled in in the mid C19, probably after the new approach was constructed in 1836. The terrace on which this was constructed is clearly visible, and halfway along it an outflow feeds the Cascade which descends north into an area of woodland with some notable eighteenth-century yews, formerly a cabinet vert in the Wilderness, before being culverted to run to the top of the central cascade in the main vista. East of this area are the foundations of a gothic temple built c 1754, but demolished in 1921 and rebuilt in the grounds of Rainbow Wood House 800m north-east of the house. On the west side of the Wilderness, some 100m south of the entrance are the remains of Mrs Allen's grotto (listed grade II), inspired by Pope's grotto at Twickenham (qv Pope's Garden, Greater London), and constructed in the early 1740s. The grotto, which was cut off from the rest of the Wilderness by Bishop Baines's approach constructed in 1836, is in a ruinous condition; of the three tufa arches in its facade one remains, together with the rear retaining wall. It contained the remains of a favourite dog, given to the Allens by Pope and memorialised with an epitaph on a slab on the floor.

East of the Sham Bridge, the National Trust footpath follows the contours into an open combe north of and below the house, along an early C21 fence separating mown lawn on the school side from rougher grazing in the Trust property. By a group of C18 yews, this path turns northwards down the eastern woodland, which is bounded by a wall and ha-ha on its eastern side; a similar belt of yews marks the northern end of this woodland south-east of the dam between the middle and northern ponds. An open-sided Arts and Crafts-style summerhouse, constructed 1910, is situated c 180m north of the house, and remnants of a Victorian rock garden exist west of The Priory, a gothic house designed by Richard Jones for the head gardener in 1740 (listed grade II*). The Jubilee Walk, a short circuit walk constructed by the National Trust, loops eastwards off the main path through the boundary wall onto the open downland to the east.

The Palladian Bridge (c 1755, listed grade I) crosses the dam between the southern and middle lakes 500m north of the house, with a cascade beneath it. This formed the centrepiece of the second phase of works in the 1750s, after Wood's employment had ended in 1748. There are three linked ponds in the combe, the northernmost c 600m north of the house, immediately to the north of which is the site of the former Gibbs Mill and millpond, which were removed in 1840. A circular icehouse (built by 1781, listed grade II) is situated 10m to the west of the Bridge. A flight of steps, introduced by the National Trust, leads down from the mid C18 drive on the west side to the Bridge, which

DesigUID: DBN3597

Name: Prior Park (National)

does not appear to have been on a pedestrian or carriage circuit in the C18. A footpath leads back along the western boundary from a Chinese Gate just inside the western boundary to the 1836 entrance and the National Trust car park.

PARK

The former parkland to the south of the house is now used as playing fields by the college; tennis courts, hockey pitches, and a cricket square have been levelled here. At the top of the sharp slope that rises southward from the house, there are remnants of C19 tree planting, including horse chestnut, beech, oak, and lime. Sixty head of deer are recorded as stock in the park here and eastward at the time of Allen's death in 1764, and these seem to have been enclosed in the park to the south of the house. A medieval hunting lodge stood on Lodge Field to the east of the house until it was demolished in 1953. Traces of the medieval boundary walls appear to survive along Pope's Lane and below Rainbow Wood; the boundary as a whole is well defined along roads and existing field boundaries.

The present appearance of the combe north of the house owes much to the third phase in the C18 development of the landscape. Allen employed Lancelot Brown, who advised removing the central cascade and creating the dramatic sweep of grassland down the combe, overlooking the Bridge and the city beyond, flanked by informal planting. The National Trust has reintroduced grazing of the slopes between the school boundary to the south and their late C20 fence around the ponds.

KITCHEN GARDEN

No kitchen garden now survives; Allen's was built to the west of the house across Ralph Allen Drive, subsequently developed as Prior Park Farm.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7620 6310 (MBR: 407m by 874m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 22.85

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. GD1041

Associated Monuments

- MBN11361 Ornamental Park: Claverton Manor deer park
- MBN2681 Monument: Prior Park House
- MBN30230 Monument: Serpentine Lake (Site of), Prior Park, Bath
- MBN30231 Monument: The Canal (Site of), Prior Park, Bath
- MBN4253 Ornamental Park: Prior Park Gardens

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3638 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Prior Park Buildings (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

DesigUID: DBN3638 **Name:** Prior Park Buildings (Local)

Communal garden for terrace built c1825, to designs by John Pinch. Mill stream widened as it runs through garden to create ornamental feature, bordered by grassed area and mature trees; enclosed with wrought iron railings.

Viewed from adjoining footpaths.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7556 6408 (MBR: 67m by 103m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 0.10

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p12

Associated Monuments

MBN4286 Ornamental Park: Prior Park Buildings Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3614 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Priston Manor (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C19 garden, divided from small walled park by ha-ha. Several mature specimen trees.

House early C19.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6925 6058 (MBR: 195m by 178m)

Map sheet: ST66SE **Area (Ha):** 1.88

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Priston, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p38

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3639 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

DesigUID: DBN3639 **Name:** Queen Square (Local)

Name: Queen Square (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden, originally a formal layout by John Wood, with elaborate parterres. Now a C19 town garden with grass and mature trees.

Obelisk (LB II), erected 1738, by Beau Nash.

Unlimited access.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7479 6499 (MBR: 77m by 76m)

Map sheet: ST76SW **Area (Ha):** 0.40

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p12

Associated Monuments

MBN4290 Ornamental Park: Queen's Square

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3640 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Raby Gardens (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden for Raby Place, built early C19; gardens presumably date from roughly same time. Now informal planting with mature trees and shrubs; enclosed with wrought iron railings.

Access restricted to residents.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7568 6498 (MBR: 69m by 93m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 0.39

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p12

Associated Monuments

DesigUID: DBN3640 **Name:** Raby Gardens (Local)

MBN4282 Ornamental Park: Raby Gardens

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3641 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Royal Crescent (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden for Crescent, built 1767-75, originally overlooking common land (now Royal Victoria Park). Present garden is grass, bounded on road by iron railings and below by ha-ha (date not known).

Access restricted to residents.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7445 6537 (MBR: 150m by 84m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.69

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p12

Associated Monuments

MBN4284 Ornamental Park: Royal Crescent Garden

MBN7455 Monument: Ha-ha at Royal Crescent Bath

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3598 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

2272 1001257

Name: Royal Victoria Park (National)

Grade: II **Date Assigned** 26/06/1992 **Amended:** 01/11/2003 **Revoked:**

Legal Description

GD2272

ST7465

II

A public park laid out to a design by Edward Davis and opened by Princess Victoria in 1830.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Royal Victoria Park was laid out on common land belonging to the Freeman of Bath, and was initially only rented to the Corporation. It was opened by Princess (later Queen)

Victoria in 1830. The park was managed by a committee of wealthy Bath inhabitants and financed by voluntary contributions until taken over by Bath City Council in 1921. The design for its layout was drawn up by Edward Davis (1802-52), City Architect (Plan, 1829). The Upper Common to the north of the park (now, 2001, a public golf course), was originally to become part of the park and to be linked to the southern part by a viaduct under Weston Road. This part of Davis' design however was never implemented because the Freeman who owned the land and the Park Committee could not come to an agreement regarding the inclusion of this area into the park. The Royal Victoria Park Committee wanted the park to become the major arboretum of the west of England, and thus a wide variety of unusual trees and shrubs were planted. In 1839 the Royal Victoria Horticultural and Botanical Garden was formed in the park. These were redesigned and extended in 1887 by John Milburn and J W Morris to receive the plant collection donated by C E Broome. In 1857 Frederick Hanman produced his Manual for the Park, a handbook to the park's trees and shrubs, including biographies of the Bath citizens who donated them.

The park remains (2001) in council ownership and is open to the public.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Royal Victoria Park, a site of c 23ha, lies on the north-west side of the city of Bath, to the south of High Common from which it is separated by Weston Road. It occupies a gently sloping, south-facing site, edged by Park Lane to the west, a children's playground and allotments between it and Upper Bristol Road to the south, and more allotments and a row of houses fronting onto Marlborough Lane to the east. A strip of land on the eastern side of Marlborough Lane links the main body of the site with Queen's Parade. On the rising land to the north of this extension of the park stands Royal Crescent. The far north-east boundary of the extension is formed by the Gravel Walk, which runs along the rear garden walls of the houses along Brock Street, The Circus, and Gay Street. This Walk dates from the late C18 but was adopted into the park as part of Edward Davis' design. The park's railings, a few sections of which have survived since they were taken down during the Second World War, are currently (2001) being replaced. From the park there are fine and extensive views towards Royal Crescent to the north, and over the hills to the south of Bath.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

There are entrances into the site from all the public roads surrounding it, the main entrance being Rivers Gate (listed grade II) off Queen's Parade, at the far eastern tip of the site. This entrance, marked by two stone gate piers topped with lions, is flanked to its south-east by a war memorial commemorating the two world wars. From here Royal Avenue (the main approach) leads in a westerly direction across the extended eastern arm of the park to Victoria Gate (listed grade II), a pair of stone arches at Marlborough Lane.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

To the south of Royal Avenue is a lawn with a perimeter walk, planted with mature single trees. This lawn was previously fenced and was not open to the public until 1852. In the centre stands a wooden bandstand (listed grade II), made to the designs of C E Davis, son of Edward Davis, and erected in 1880. It is accompanied by a pair of large classical vases (listed grade II) which, according to the inscription on them, were presented by Napoleon to Josephine in 1805; these were brought from France by Colonel Page after the Peninsular War. To the north of Royal Avenue lies Crescent Lawn, which was first incorporated into the park in 1846. It is separated from the private lawn in front of Royal Crescent (outside the area here registered) by an C18 ha-ha. Crescent Lawn is crossed by a footpath which leads to the Gravel Walk to the east. In 1850 a proposal was published to lay out Crescent Lawn with formal gardens (Pound 1986) but this was never implemented.

To the west of Victoria Gate stands Victoria Column (listed grade II), a stone obelisk with three lions at its base, the whole being enclosed by a balustrade. The column, designed by G P Manners, was erected in 1837 to celebrate Princess Victoria's eighteenth

birthday. West of the Column the walk continues into the main part of the park, passing Park Cottages (listed grade II) to the north, a building originally known as the Gothic Farm House, probably designed by Davis and dated 1831. It now forms part of the area used by the council as a plant nursery.

The open expanse of grass which forms the main body of the park is divided by three straight, tree-lined paths which run diagonally across it. A carriage drive leads round the perimeter of the site, through a thick belt of mature trees planted along the edge of the park. It leads below the south side of the irregularly shaped lake, constructed in 1878-9 by Edward Milner in imitation of that shown in the Chinese Willow Pattern. On the small peninsula in the lake stands the Victoria Vase (listed grade II), placed here to commemorate the park's fiftieth anniversary in 1880. Milner's lake replaced an earlier body of water shown on Edward Davis' plan for the park (1829).

A number of lesser paths lead off the perimeter drive providing access to the various features within the site. One of these is the Botanic Garden, a fenced inset in the north-west quadrant of the site. Within the Botanic Garden paths wind through the ornamental plantings and rockwork which surrounds a spring-fed stream. The stream is crossed by stone bridges (the northern one listed grade II) and, with a pond, forms the central feature of the garden. From the pond views focus in a north-easterly direction on the Temple of Minerva (listed grade II), which was first erected in 1924 by Bath Corporation at the British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley; it was re-erected here in 1926. A sundial stands c 60m south-west of the pond. The east corner of the Botanic Garden is marked by a statue erected in 1988 as a Peace Pole. The design for the Botanic Garden was put in place by John Milburn under the direction of J W Morris, and was intended to display a gift of 2000 plant specimens which had been presented to the Victoria Park Committee by the widow of the amateur botanist C E Broome in 1886. Milburn, who came from Kew Gardens (qv) to work on the project, subsequently became Park Superintendent at Royal Victoria Park. He was a friend of Canon Ellacombe who contributed plants to the gardens. In 1926 the Botanic Garden was extended eastwards and again in 1987.

To the north of the Botanic Garden is the Great Dell, a wooded quarry, the planting of which, like that of the Little Dell which lies on the western perimeter of the site, was done with advice from William Beckford. Two pieces of statuary stand within the Great Dell, 'Shakespeare's Monument' (listed grade II) by C E Davis, erected in 1864 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth, and 'Jupiter's Head' (listed grade II) by John Osborn, which stands on a tall ashlar pedestal designed by Thomas Barker. The latter was already present on the site in 1839, which suggests that the Great Dell had been laid out by that date (Grant application, Bath City Council 1993).

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7424 6535 (MBR: 994m by 573m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 22.33

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. GD2272

Associated Monuments

MBN11272 Ornamental Park: Royal Victoria Park

MBN11471 Monument: Quarries in Quarry common (sites of)

MBN4208 Ornamental Park: Royal Victoria Park

DesigUID: DBN3598 **Name:** Royal Victoria Park (National)

MBN4209 Ornamental Park: Bath Botanic Garden
MBN7455 Monument: Ha-ha at Royal Crescent Bath

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3644 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Sion Hill Place (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden for terrace, built 1818-20, designed by John Pinch; garden possibly from same period; now informally planted with mature trees and shrubs with open area to north.

Access restricted to residents.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7418 6621 (MBR: 94m by 37m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.23

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p12

Associated Monuments

MBN4297 Ornamental Park: Sion Hill Place Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3645 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Somerset Place (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden for Somerset Place, laid out 1791-1820. Irregular oval garden, now informally planted with trees and shrubs.

Access restricted to residents.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7439 6602 (MBR: 106m by 41m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.30

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

DesigUID: DBN3645 **Name:** Somerset Place (Local)

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p12

Associated Monuments

MBN4294 Ornamental Park: Somerset Place Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3646 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Spa Hotel (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Garden of grandiose mansion, laid out 1836-58. Fine mixed specimen trees and shrubs survive together with temple and pool, grotto, second pool and walled kitchen garden, recently made into car park.

House (LB I) 1836, formerly known as "Vellore", for General Augustus Andrews; balustrade and steps; ashlar Doric temple with tiled floor (LB II); tufa-built grotto (LB II).

Trust House Forte Hotels.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7605 6525 (MBR: 279m by 245m)

Map sheet: ST76NE **Area (Ha):** 2.76

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p12

Associated Monuments

MBN865 Ornamental Park: Spa Hotel Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3599 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

1556 1000568

Name: St Catherine's Court (National)

Grade: II* **Date Assigned** 30/04/1987 **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

GD1556

ST7770

II*

C17 terraced gardens around a country house, overlooking a small landscape park.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

In the C13 the site belonged to the Benedictine monastery at Bath and there was a manor house in existence. In 1536 St Catherine's Court was leased to Thomas Llewellyn who retained the property after the Dissolution. The manors of St Catherine's and Kelston however were granted by Henry VIII to his tailor, John Malte, who paid £1311 and adopted Awdry, an illegitimate daughter of the king. By marriage the property passed to John Harrington whose son, also John, invented the water closet in 1596. In 1591 the Court was leased to John Blanchard of Marshfield whose family bought the property and created the terrace gardens in 1610. The estate eventually passed by marriage to the Parry family. By the C18 the estate was in decline and the house was divided, one half being occupied by a local farmer. In 1841 the Court was acquired by Colonel J H Strutt and restoration began. In 1912 Richard Strutt made additions to the house and redesigned the approach to the gardens. The property remains (2002) in private ownership.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

St Catherine's Court is located in an isolated and sharply incised valley 6km north of the village of Batheaston and 8km south of the village of Marshfield. The formal terrace gardens occupy an area of c 1ha around the house and overlook a landscape park of c 4ha. The north-east boundary of the site is formed by a very minor single-track road which winds through the valleys between Batheaston and Marshfield. Elsewhere the site adjoins woodland and agricultural land. The surrounding landform is of steep hillsides under pasture or woodland with a sparse scattering of houses and farms. The house is backed by hills to the north and west and there are extensive views to the east where a small valley makes an opening in the surrounding ridges. To the south-east the land drops away into the gently sloping park before rising again to a tree-lined ridge some 500m away.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The approach on the single-track public road from Batheaston to the south offers, on rounding a sharp bend, a sudden and dramatic view of St Catherine's Court on the hillside, silhouetted against the sky. North-east of the house is the principal pedestrian entrance, up a small flight of stone steps from the public road and through an ornamental iron gate set beneath an arch and between stone piers with flanking walls (early-mid C19, listed grade II). North-west of this entrance are South Lodge and North Lodge, two contiguous stone cottages, and the main vehicle entrance with iron gates and stone piers. A gravel drive enters adjacent to a stone tithe barn (C15, listed grade II*) and turns south up an incline which passes below and east of St Catherine's church (C12 and C14, listed grade II*). It then runs past the stone retaining wall and steps of the lower garden terrace (C17, listed grade II*) and the entrance of a former chapel, to the front door of the house. The lower terrace wall has a niche with fountain head and basin.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

St Catherine's Court (listed grade I) is a many gabled, three-storey house which dates from the C16 with many later alterations, particularly from the C19, in the Tudor style. It is built of Cotswold stone with a stone roof. According to Pevsner (1958), the adjacent St Catherine's church was built or enlarged by Prior Cantlow of Bath in c 1490 and the Court may contain parts of a priory grange from this period, 'especially the masonry of the Hall'. He says the Court was 'enlarged and made more monumental in the C17' for William Blanchard who probably also laid out the terrace gardens. The house was altered in the C19 and 1900 by C E Bateman and a conservatory was added in the south-east corner in the early C20. The house has undergone extensive restoration in the last fifteen years by the present (2002) owner.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The gardens at St Catherine's Court comprise a series of formal gardens on four main terraces rising c 80m up a hillside south-west of the house and a long, narrow topiary

garden extending for c 100m to the south-east on a lower level, below the house terrace. All the formal terraces are arranged about the same north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west axes as the house, with all built elements arranged to conform to the lines of the main building. The 'main part' of the structure of the gardens is, according to Country Life (1906), 'Jacobean' in origin. The terraces are built around three sides of the house, with only the main, north-east front which lets onto the entrance drive and forecourt excluded. From the south-east corner of the house, a gap between a yew hedge and the house leads to the gardens and this point provides a wide view of the surrounding countryside to the east and the small park to the south-east. A balustraded terrace runs past a conservatory, built off the south-east corner of the house. A double flight of steps leads down to a gravel path which runs for c 100m between lawns and planted beds with topiary in a south-easterly direction. The steps are aligned to the central axis of this topiary garden and to a garden seat built into the south-east front of the house below the ballroom window. The formerly wooden balustrade of these steps has recently (2002) been replaced with stone balusters and capstones to match the terraces on the south-west and north-west terraces. At the south-west corner of the south-east terrace is the bottom of a set of turf steps with stepped stone balustrade, surmounted with stone balls, which lead up and south-west for c 30m to the upper formal gardens. Until recently this was a turf stairway with the proportions of a staircase but has recently been rationalised (c 2001), in the interests of ease of maintenance, into four much larger flats with grass slopes between.

Turning to the north-west, at right angles from the foot of the turf stair, is the rest of the lower or house terrace. A path leads c 50m along the south-west face of the house to the open north-west terrace garden which consists of four grass plats arranged symmetrically around a paved cross. At the head of a flight of stone steps which lead down and north-east to the gravelled drive, are two leylandii trees which have been tied together and are being trained into an ogee-shaped topiary arch. To the north-west, on the retaining wall, are two very large yews clipped into the shape of truncated pyramids. A short half-terrace built off the north-west corner of the quadrangle leads to the loggia, a stone summerhouse with stone half-columns, containing two family gravestones. In line with, and opposite, the steps down to the drive, a flight of stone steps leads south-west and upwards to a narrow terrace, c 6m wide, and via a further flight to the upper terrace garden between balustraded walls with urns and balls (late C17, listed grade II*), backed by a clipped bay hedge between two large cylinders of clipped yews. The upper terrace garden is laid down to lawn with the lines of former straight axial paths visible in the turf. This area was formerly a bowling green (C17/C18) and, more recently, a croquet lawn (late C19/C20). To the south-east is a low terrace wall with stone scrollwork, a sundial, and urns, permitting views over the parkland to the south-east. The walls to the north-west are c 4m tall and finished in plain rubble. Those to the south-west are the same height with stone balustrades and open-grown yew trees with further flights of steps leading south-west into the higher, less formal, reaches of the garden. A compartment, 70m south-west of the house, above the upper terrace garden, contains a disused stone-built Victorian bathing pool in the north-west corner. The overflow from this spring-fed pool fills two informal ponds in the retaining grass bank beyond the south-east wall of the upper terrace. The grass bank contains a notable veteran sweet chestnut tree and other planting. A stream, ornamented with rockwork, links the two pools. One further flight of steps leads up to the orchard, an area of rough grass and fruit trees which commands extensive views over the gardens.

PARK

A small late C19/early C20 park lies to the south-east of the house and the terrace gardens, occupying a shallow dip in the land and rising to a treed ridge in the south. It is of modest proportions and is used as pasture and contains a pair of mature beech trees and assorted pines and firs, giving an ornamental counterpoint to the countryside views to the east and providing the foreground of views of the house from the south-east approach.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

DesigUID: DBN3599 **Name:** St Catherine's Court (National)

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7790 7013 (MBR: 428m by 309m)

Map sheet: ST77SE **Area (Ha):** 4.82

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish St Catherine, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. PG1556

Unpublished document: Kay Ross. 2009. Historic Building Report On The Gardens Of St Catherine's Court, St Catherine, Bath.

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3615 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: St Catherine's End House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Garden of mid-late C17 house, featuring terracing and an Irish yew hedge, 4m in height.

House (LB II*) mid-late C17; gate piers (LB II) C18.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7621 7099 (MBR: 83m by 98m)

Map sheet: ST77SE **Area (Ha):** 0.47

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish St Catherine, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p38

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3642 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: St James's Square (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden for square laid out c 1794 by John Palmer. Now informally planted with trees and shrubs.

Access restricted to residents.

DesigUID: DBN3642 **Name:** St James's Square (Local)

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7447 6562 (MBR: 52m by 85m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.34

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p12

Associated Monuments

MBN4291 Ornamental Park: St. James' Square Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3648 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Summerfield School (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Mid C19 garden designed by owner, Jerom Murch, the "prince of landscape gardeners", and featuring rose terraces centred on fountain; small arboretum; and a small park grazed by Highland cattle. Rose terraces now grassed over, and most of park built over. Good number of native and exotic trees and shrubs survive.

House (LB II), c1850 by Wilson and Fuller; small stone fountain.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7374 6611 (MBR: 331m by 254m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 4.59

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. pp12-13

Associated Monuments

MBN4316 Ornamental Park: Summerfield School Park

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3647 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Summerhill Park (Local)

DesigUID: DBN3647 **Name:** Summerhill Park (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Small estate originally laid out mid C18, extended c1808, and again c1868. Now open grassland dotted with mature specimen trees; entrances flanked by mature avenues; large kitchen garden, with elaborate walls and gateways, still cultivated. Fine views. Remains of park now maintained by Kingswood School.

House (LB I) façade moved from Chippenham to present site in 1917, possibly designed by Wood the Elder; terrace and balustrade remain from earlier house demolished early C20; gate-piers and iron gates (LB II).

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7400 6635 (MBR: 378m by 573m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 12.58

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p13

Associated Monuments

MBN30260 Landscape element: Ridge and Furrow cultivation

MBN4298 Ornamental Park: Summerhill Park

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3616 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Sutton Court (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Park and Garden C14 in origin, C16-17, and later alterations. Home of the Strcchey family 1858-1987. Site dominated by lime and chestnut avenues, thought to be late C18; other features include Victorian gazebos; ornamental woodland along stream; remains of pleasure grounds; walled garden; medieval fishponds; ornamental curtain wall.

House (LB II*) C13, additions 1558 by Bess of Hardwick and 1700, followed by reworking 1858 by T H Wyatt ("the Destroyer"); pretty lodge C19 (LB II); curtain wall and gazebo (LB II).

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 5961 6051 (MBR: 529m by 860m)

Map sheet: ST56SE **Area (Ha):** 31.78

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Stowey Sutton, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p39

DesigUID: DBN3616

Name: Sutton Court (Local)

Associated Monuments

MBN11267 Ornamental Park: Sutton Court park

MBN722 Listed Building: Sutton Court south of Knighton Sutton Farm

MBN7897 Monument: Holloway at Sutton Court

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3600

Type: Registered Park or Garden

Status: Active

Preferred Ref

NHLE UID

Other Ref

2273

1001258

Name: Sydney Gardens (National)

Grade: II

Date Assigned 25/06/1992

Amended: 01/11/2003

Revoked:

Legal Description

GD2273

ST7565

II

Late C18 commercial pleasure grounds designed by Thomas Baldwin and Charles Harcourt Masters, opened by Bath City Council as a public park in 1913.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Sydney Gardens were laid out as commercial pleasure grounds between 1792 and 1794. The initial design was by the architect Thomas Baldwin, who, after he went bankrupt, was replaced by Charles Harcourt Masters in 1794. The Gardens were funded by the sale of shares and built on land leased from the local Pulteney family. They were opened on 11 May 1795 as the Sydney Gardens Vauxhall, and rapidly became a popular place of entertainment, providing a site for public breakfasts, promenades, and galas. Jane Austen, who came to live at 4 Sydney Place in 1801, thought highly of them and attended a gala held at Sydney Gardens on 18 June 1799. The walled pleasure grounds were surrounded by a ride or carriage drive, had bowling greens laid out on either side of a central walk, and a Labyrinth (Plan, 1795). The main building was the Tavern, also known as Sydney House (the current Holburne Museum), which stood at the west end of the central walk and contained tea and card rooms, a ballroom, a coffee room, and a public house. In c 1799 a section of the Kennet and Avon Canal, adorned with ornamental bridges and tunnels designed by John Rennie, was cut through Sydney Gardens. At the time the introduction of the Canal was seen as a novelty, adding to the 'Picturesque Beauties' for which the Gardens were known (Snaddon 2000).

During the first quarter of the C19 various new attractions were introduced in Sydney Gardens. These included a Cascade (1810), an artificial rural scene with figures and water falling down a ravine, moved by a clockwork mechanism; an Aviary (1824); a Cosmorama (c 1824), where pictures of distant places or dramatic scenes were lit and then seen through convex glass windows so as to appear life-size; a Hermit's Cot including a robed puppet figure as the hermit; a Watermill or Miller's Habitation, powered by water from one of the natural springs in the upper part of the Gardens; and a Theatre. In 1834, the Bath Horticultural and Floral Society was formed and Sydney Gardens became the venue of their annual shows. In c 1836, Sydney House, a private villa with garden, was built behind an existing loggia, marking the east end of the central walk (outside the area here registered). Subsequently, the existing tavern became known as the Pulteney Hotel (ibid).

In c 1839 work started on the section of the Great Western Railway that runs through the Gardens, effectively cutting the Gardens in half. Various garden features and buildings were destroyed including a tea house, part of the Labyrinth, the Castle, and the C18

perimeter walk. Two new bridges were built over the railway to connect the footpaths in the Gardens. In the same year, the Horticultural Society split up following a disagreement and one section formed a separate society which purchased its own garden in Royal Victoria Park in Bath (qv), the current Botanic Garden. The other section remained at Sydney Gardens and in 1840 they introduced a new refreshment room, known as the Octagonal Rustic Pavilion (demolished c 1896). In 1842 the two societies merged again and held annual shows at Sydney Gardens and Royal Victoria Park alternately until 1853. In that year the Bath Proprietary College became the tenant of the former Pulteney Hotel and Gardens. Because of financial difficulties further land was leased out and a pair of private semi-detached villas with enclosed gardens was introduced along Sydney Road, covering the site of the former Labyrinth (outside the area here registered). By 1854, a lodge had been introduced at the north-west entrance, probably for use as a dwelling for a gardener (ibid), and a year later a fence was erected to enclose the College grounds separating it from the main Gardens. In 1861 a bandstand or orchestra was built along the central walk; this was demolished in 1950. During the late C19 a gymnasium and croquet, archery, and tennis lawns were also laid out; these were all cleared away after the Second World War.

In 1891, when the ninety-nine-year lease of Sydney Gardens expired, the site (including the College) was sold. By 1894 plans had been drawn up to replace the College building with a large hotel including seventy-five guest rooms, a dining room seating 150 people, and a Winter Garden overlooking Sydney Gardens. This plan was abandoned however and the Empire Hotel was built at Orange Grove in the centre of Bath instead (ibid).

In 1908 Bath City Council purchased Sydney Gardens (including the former College), which were subsequently managed by the council's Parks and Cemeteries Committee. The council opened the Gardens to the public in 1913. A year earlier the council had sold the former College and its immediate grounds and following alterations and renovations by the architect Sir Reginald Blomfield in 1913-15, it reopened in 1916 as the Holburne of Menstrie Museum (later called the Holburne Museum), housing the art collection of the late Sir William Holburne.

During the early C20 and the Second World War, some features and garden buildings fell into disrepair and were subsequently demolished. Between 1952 and 1956 a series of illuminated festivals was held at Sydney Gardens, organised by the Spa Committee who also organised the Bath Assembly, a forerunner of the Bath Festival (ibid). In the late C20, a formal flower garden, tennis courts, a bowling green, a playground, and new toilet facilities were introduced.

In the early 1990s, Bath City Council commissioned a historical survey and since then proposals have been made for the restoration and renovation of Sydney Gardens. The site remains (2001) in council ownership and is open to the public.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Sydney Gardens occupy a 4ha elongated hexagon-shaped site situated in Bathwick, a residential area to the north-east side of Bath. The site is ringed by public roads: Beckford Road to the north, Sydney Place to the south and west, and Sydney Road to the east, from which the Gardens are screened by an encircling stone wall, erected c 1880.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main entrance is situated in the north-west corner of the site on Sydney Place. It is marked by four square pillars, possibly dating from the 1880s, which formerly had gates hung between them. Immediately to the south-west of the entrance stands a ticket kiosk, introduced in the 1930s.

The site can also be entered via the entrance to the west of the Holburne Museum, situated on the junction between Great Pulteney Street and Sydney Place. This entrance is flanked by two identical late C18 watchman's boxes (listed grade II) which give access to a straight path that runs north-east to the museum, bisecting an oval-shaped lawn. The

lawn was formerly surrounded by railings of which now only the stone base remains. In front of the museum runs a coach drive which sweeps around the lawn and links up with Sydney Place to the north and south. This entrance was formerly the main entrance to the Sydney Hotel and its pleasure grounds. In the late C19 a separate gate to the pleasure grounds was added immediately west of the southern branch of the carriage drive. This entrance was closed off by 1932 (OS), and now (2001) only the late C19 ticket kiosk which flanked this entrance, and marked the starting point of the former ride, remains.

There are two additional late C19 entrances, one situated to the south along Sydney Place, flanked by two square pillars, and one to the north-east along Sydney Road, from where steps lead into the Gardens.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The main building is the Holburne Museum of Art (listed grade I), standing in the south-west corner of the site. It was built c 1796 as a tavern, to a design by Thomas Baldwin, which was amended by Charles Harcourt Masters. The alterations of 1913-15 by Sir Reginald Blomfield were mainly carried out to the rear of the building: formerly it had a loggia with a covered balcony above, from where the orchestra could play to the audiences in the Gardens below.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

A broad walk, originating from the late C18 layout, marks the main axis of the design. It runs south-west to north-east across the site, linking the Rotunda (listed grade II), which provides the entrance from Sydney House (listed grade II) in the north-east corner of the site, to the gate piers which form the entrance in the wall separating off the gardens of the Holburne Museum. The Rotunda, which is attached to the rear of Sydney House, includes the remains of a late C18 loggia which, having become unsafe, was truncated in 1938 and re-erected as the Rotunda minus its two flanking wings.

To the north side of the central walk, marking its halfway point, stands Minerva's Temple (listed grade II). This temple came from the Empire Exhibition held in the grounds of Crystal Palace (qv) in London in 1911 and was re-erected in Sydney Gardens in 1912, with a new plaque paid for by the Bath Pageant Committee. Some 8m to the west of the temple is the site of the former bandstand.

The enclosed garden to the east and south of the Holburne Museum forms a semicircular plan and is laid to lawn, with the area to the north of the Museum in use as a car park. Some 10m south-east of the Museum stands the Gothic Tea House, a former air-raid shelter dating from the Second World War that was converted in the early 1980s by the architect David Brain. The lawn enclosing the Museum is screened by shrubs and trees to the east and closed off by a stone wall, with a central gate, reinstated in 2001, once again giving access to the public gardens. Formerly, up to the late C19, this area was open to the east and linked up with the central walk. It was covered in gravel and lined by wooden refreshment boxes (see views by Nattes, 1805; Wise, c 1820; Hollway, c 1840).

The Kennet and Avon canal cuts from north to south through the eastern half of the Gardens. It is sunk below the level of the Gardens, with an iron bridge dated 1800 (listed grade II) carrying the main walk across it, and to the south of this, a single-span iron bridge (listed grade II) supporting a lesser path. Both bridges have fine decorative railings in the Oriental style and were cast in Coalbrookdale. The Canal Company built their headquarters, called Cleveland House (outside the area here registered), just off Sydney Road on top of the canal tunnel (listed grade II). The building, the rear windows of which overlook the Gardens, forms an important focus in views from the two canal bridges in the Gardens.

The Great Western Railway (started in 1839) runs to the west of the canal and is sunk in a cutting, with low retaining walls (listed grade II) on either side of the tracks. A walk runs along the west side of the track, separated from it by a balustraded section in the wall. The central walk across the Gardens forms a bridge (listed grade II) over the railway, to the south of which is a second bridge (listed grade II) with cast-iron balustrading, which carries another of the garden paths.

DesigUID: DBN3600

Name: Sydney Gardens (National)

A series of winding paths reflecting the original layout provides walks through the gardens, which are laid out as lawn and planted with specimen trees and beds of shrubs. Remains of the perimeter ride can be seen in the south-west corner of the site, near the former late C19 entrance. The ride skirted round the Gardens providing a half-mile (c 0.8km) long circuit, twenty feet (c 6m) wide. Unlike the other paths, which were gravelled, it was macadamised from the start (Colvin and Moggeridge 1993).

A tennis court, bowling greens, and a children's playground, introduced in the late C20, abut Beckford Road. At their southern end stands the former lodge (listed grade II) introduced by 1854, with immediately to its south a toilet block introduced in the late C20. Immediately south of this stands a pair of cast-iron public lavatories of c 1910 (listed grade II), now (2001) no longer used. Immediately to the east of the lodge is a flower garden covering a former tennis lawn which was again laid out on part of the perimeter ride. It is enclosed by shrubs and was laid out in the late 1960s and has subsequently been remodelled. The tennis courts along the north-west boundary were first laid out in the late C19. The bowling green and children's playground to their north-east replace a late C19 nursery established on part of the C18 ride (OS 1885). The hard tennis courts at the east end of the gardens, alongside the Sydney Road boundary, were laid out in 1924.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7578 6531 (MBR: 319m by 270m)

Map sheet: ST76NE **Area (Ha):** 5.42

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. PG2273

Associated Monuments

- MBN10045 Listed Building: Bridge Sydney Gardens
- MBN10060 Listed Building: Bridge Sydney Gardens
- MBN10062 Listed Building: Bridge Sydney Gardens
- MBN10063 Listed Building: Bridge Sydney Gardens
- MBN10151 Monument: Sydney Hotel (Holburne Museum)
- MBN4206 Ornamental Park: Sydney Gardens Sydney Place

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3624 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: The Circus (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal garden, grassed central area with group of mature trees. The Circus was built to designs by Wood the Elder, 1754-69. In the C18 it was cobbled, with a pump in the centre; documentary evidence points to a garden being laid out and trees planted between 1800 and 1808; railings surrounding central area removed 1939-45.

DesigUID: DBN3624 **Name:** The Circus (Local)

Unrestricted access.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7476 6527 (MBR: 56m by 57m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.25

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p10

Associated Monuments

MBN4288 Ornamental Park: The Circus

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3627 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: The Elms (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Small Victorian villa garden: lawns, shrubberies, mature specimen trees, driveways and paths. Kitchen garden and flowerbeds no longer cultivated; stone fountain in pool now used as flowerbed.

House (LB II), c1860, ashlar villa of picturesque asymmetrical design.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7345 6614 (MBR: 99m by 69m)

Map sheet: ST76NW **Area (Ha):** 0.38

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p10

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3672 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: The Grange (Local)

DesigUID: DBN3672 **Name:** The Grange (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C18/19 garden with recent alterations. Surviving original features include mature holm oaks and beeches, lawn bounded by ha-ha, remains of box-edged formal garden, stableyard of Victorian model farm.

House (LB II) probably C18, remodelled mid C19.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6127 6434 (MBR: 328m by 181m)

Map sheet: ST66SW **Area (Ha):** 3.04

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Publow, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p36

Associated Monuments

MBN3107 Ornamental Park: The Grange

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3661 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: The Hermitage (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C17 garden with C20 additions. Steps lead from terrace to lawn with mature trees.

House, thought to be C15-16.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7680 7086 (MBR: 141m by 71m)

Map sheet: ST77SE **Area (Ha):** 0.63

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish St Catherine, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p37

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3606 **Name:** The Little Manor (Local)

DesigUID: DBN3606 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: The Little Manor (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Fragment of former manor garden: house now in dual ownership. Garden contains sundial, formal rose garden and rock-built folly.

House (LB II) 1637 with C18 and C19 additions and alterations.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6329 5554 (MBR: 175m by 176m)

Map sheet: ST65NW **Area (Ha):** 2.04

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Farrington Gurney, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p37

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3608 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: The Manor (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C19 walled gardens and small park on older site. Main feature is C19 wall/arcade; C12 archway over entrance to garden, presumably made an ornamental feature in the C19. Garden walls incorporate ecclesiastical fragments.

House (LB II) C16 with additions C18 and C19; arcade (LB II) C19; archway (LB II) C12.

Curatorial Notes

GIS polygon estimated only. Extrapolated from 1888 OS map.

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6337 6695 (MBR: 205m by 161m)

Map sheet: ST66NW **Area (Ha):** 1.72

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Compton Dando, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p38

DesigUID: DBN3608 **Name:** The Manor (Local)

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3607 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: The Manor House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Predominantly C19 garden. Picturesque riverside walk entered via stone gatepiers and iron gate, still retaining much ornamental planting; avenue of horse chestnuts to house; many specimen trees on lawns, and C20 "Dutch Garden".

House (LB II*) C16, virtually rebuilt 1860s by John Norton for William Adlam.

Sacred Heart Convent School.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 5705 6324 (MBR: 175m by 268m)

Map sheet: ST56SE **Area (Ha):** 3.77

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Chew Magna, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p38

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3611 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active
Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: The Old House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C18 terraced garden. Extensive garden walls, and roofless Gothic orangery survive; a classical summerhouse formerly part of the garden survives in a neighbouring property. House and garden now in divided ownership.

House (LB II) mid-C18 remodelled 1910; garden walls and gate piers (LB II) mid-C18 and C19; orangery (LB II) mid-late C18.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7907 6012 (MBR: 74m by 82m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 0.30

DesigUID: DBN3611 **Name:** The Old House (Local)

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Freshford, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p38

Associated Monuments - None

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3649 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Widcombe Crescent (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Communal Gardens for crescent built 1805, probably by Thomas Baldwin; garden possibly contemporary. Now informal planting, with mature trees and shrubs.

Access restricted to residents.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7575 6406 (MBR: 46m by 52m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 0.11

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p13

Associated Monuments

MBN4285 Ornamental Park: Widcombe Crescent Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3601 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

1559 1000571

Name: Widcombe Manor (National)

Grade: II **Date Assigned** 30/04/1987 **Amended:** 01/05/2003 **Revoked:**

Legal Description

GD1559

ST7563

II

Formal early C18 villa garden, with 1930s overlay.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The manor of Widcombe was held by the abbots of Bath from Saxon times, with a brief interruption at the time of the Norman Conquest. The present garden may occupy land formerly part of the priors' deer park, while the house is built on the site of a former large farm or manor house probably dating from medieval times. After the Dissolution in 1534-9, Widcombe Manor and grounds were acquired by Richard Chapman, a wealthy cloth-merchant, former mayor, and MP for Bath. Fragments of stonework in the cellar of the present house, and an elaborate cobbled pavement in the forecourt, together with a notable dovecote and a garden house east of Church Street (outside the area here registered) suggest a house and garden of some substance. A drawing by Thomas Robins (c 1750s/60s) of the early house which post-dates its demolition and is therefore presumably a copy of an earlier image, confirms this, showing a rectangular axial design on the south side, with what may be the present dovecote standing to the west.

In 1702 Jane Chapman, daughter of Scarborough Chapman of Widcombe House, married Philip Bennet of Maperton, Wiltshire and after their deaths in 1722, their son, also Philip, inherited and began rebuilding the house a few years later, between c 1727 and 1730 (Pearson Assocs 1995). A small landscape garden was laid out at the same time. Bennet was MP for Bath between 1742 and 1747 and was a close friend of Ralph Allen of Prior Park (qv), whose house was located on the high ground south of Widcombe. Bennet almost certainly met Alexander Pope (1688-1744) on one of his long sojourns at Prior Park during the 1740s and may have benefited from his thoughts on garden design. By 1749 however Bennet was in financial difficulties and he let the house to Lord Hamilton. Although the family later returned to Widcombe, Bennet's son dying there in 1774, it was sold by Philip Bennet IV in 1812. Thus little was changed in the designed landscape during the C18 after its initial construction phase.

In the early part of the C19 the house was owned by General Clapham to whom are attributed alterations to the house including a bay on the west front overlooking the valley. Later in the century, c 1890s, Lord Weymouth, later Marquis of Bath, occupied the house. Sir John Roper Wright, who acquired the Venetian fountain in the forecourt, was the owner in the 1920s. He in turn sold it to Horace Annesley Vachell in 1927 and made significant alterations to the garden layout near the house, advised by Harold Peto (1854-1933). Since that date the house and garden have had a number of different owners; they remain in private ownership. The present owners (2002) acquired the property in 1994 and started a programme of garden restoration in 1997.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Widcombe Manor is in Widcombe village which adjoins the south-east side of the city of Bath, 1km from the city centre. Widcombe Manor is located near the foot of Widcombe Hill which ascends the east side of a limestone combe to Combe Down. The grounds cover c 3.4ha. The eastern and most of the southern boundary of the property are formed by a 3.5m high stone wall on Church Street, Widcombe, which curves round the combe. The north-west boundary is defined by properties in a modern housing development. The south-west boundary is formed by Prior Park Drive. The whole of the landscape is enclosed by a belt of trees but there are long views south up the valley to Prior Park on a hillside 1km away.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

A forecourt on the south side of the house is entered by a gateway with rusticated gate piers, topped by heraldic beasts, and iron gates from Church Street, Widcombe, to the south-east. The forecourt is separated from Church Street to the east by a 3.5m high stone wall, possibly dating back to the earlier house. On the west side is a stone Victorian balustrade separating the forecourt from the top terrace of the garden, with a central flight of stone steps down onto the terrace (forecourt walls, balustrade, gate piers and gates all listed grade I). In the centre of the forecourt is a bronze fountain

(listed grade I), thought to be late C16 Venetian and installed in the 1920s.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Widcombe Manor (1727-30, listed grade I) was built for Philip Bennet, probably to a design by the Bristol mason and architect Thomas Greenway. It is a two-storey classical design of seven bays with a central pediment over the slightly projecting central three bays, constructed of Bath stone ashlar with a hipped Cotswold stone roof. It occupies a level platform on the east side of the site here registered. The south entrance front has a forecourt with a central fountain and the west, garden front, which has a C19 bay, overlooks falling ground to the west and south-west.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The gardens at Widcombe Manor lie to both north and south, but principally on falling ground to the west which contains terraces and a central meadow. The west, or garden front of the house opens onto a broad gravel walk (1727-30) which runs for some 100m north-west to south-east between grass strips planted with topiary cones of yew backed by herbaceous borders. There is a 1.5m high stone retaining wall along on the west side of the terrace. At the southern end of the terrace, 80m south of the house, is a garden house, of knapped flint with Bath stone dressings, re-erected here in 1975 from a site in Wiltshire, replacing an earlier structure at this location in the late C19. At the northern end of the terrace, 20m north of the house, a swimming pool (late C20) has been constructed behind a clipped yew hedge. Below and some 15m north-west of this is the keyhole-shaped paved surround of a former plunge pool (C19), now infilled, reached by a flight of stone steps. Below and west of the broad walk is a grass terrace bounded by clipped yews. Centrally placed is a semicircular stone-lined pond reached from the broad walk by central stone steps, both part of the early C20 improvements for H A Vachell. Either side of the pond, curving stone steps descend via late C20 timber pergolas to a third terrace with beech-hedged enclosures to either side, the northern containing a lawn and the southern containing a tennis court. In the centre of this terrace is a late C20 parterre edged with box topiary and lavender, with a curved stone retaining wall on the west side overlooking a meadow.

A winding gravel path leads from the southern end of the broad walk into a perimeter belt of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees which encircles the site. The path descends behind the garden house, passing some C18 lime trees, into woodland where there is an C18 well constructed of tufa, some 10m south of the garden house. This appears to have had an inflow from the site of the garden house as a structure on its site is shown on the OS map of 1885. Some 20m south of this is an arrangement of small pools and winding watercourses, presumably 1930s in origin, laid out under the trees in the perimeter planting.

The perimeter path continues round the garden with views northwards across a meadow, to approach a cascade and top pond located axially west-south-west of the house across the meadow. Immediately west of the pond stands a well-preserved C18 mount, ascended by a spiral path and surmounted with two C18 yews. In the C18 a chinoiserie pavilion also stood on the top of the mount (Pearson Assocs 1995), and a statue of Neptune was located on the original axis, overlooking the pond. North of this pond, and fed by a cascade is a second pond, which in turn feeds via a second cascade into a now dry stone-lined canal. In the early C18 this canal fed a corn mill and later in the C18 was used as an adjunct to commercial pleasure grounds known as Bagatelle, located on the west side of Prior Park Road (Avon Gardens Trust Newsletter, 1996). The path then winds c 120m up the north-west boundary of the garden, which is contained by thick perimeter planting of horse chestnuts, beech, yew, and laurel, backed by a 2m high rubble-stone wall.

The lower, western part of the site is grassland with flanking plantations to the north and south which are encroaching upon the open grassland. It is shown as grazing land in mid C19 engraved views (eg Westall, 1830), with railings to protect the flanking plantations. The perimeter path was designed to command views across the grazing land in the manner of a ferme ornée, while from the broad walk the park formed the setting for views to the mount.

DesigUID: DBN3601 **Name:** Widcombe Manor (National)

In the current layout of garden, the axis through the steps, pond, and parterre is out of line with an original axis which ran from the west facade of the house, through the cascade to the mount. A Thomas Robins drawing of the house and garden (1750s/60s) shows a grand flight of steps leading down and west axially from the house but there is no evidence that this was ever constructed.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 7584 6385 (MBR: 233m by 223m)

Map sheet: ST76SE **Area (Ha):** 3.24

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Bath, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Historic parks register: English Heritage. Register of Parks and Gardens. GD1559

Associated Monuments

MBN4256 Ornamental Park: Widcombe Manor Garden

Additional Information

DesigUID: DBN3617 **Type:** Registered Park or Garden **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE UID** **Other Ref**

Name: Woodborough House (Local)

Grade: **Date Assigned** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

C18 parkland, featuring extensive avenues and tree-planting. Site now broken up, and house (late C17/early C18) demolished; lodge survives.

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation:

Location

Grid Reference: Centroid ST 6967 5641 (MBR: 650m by 656m)

Map sheet: ST65NE **Area (Ha):** 12.08

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Peasedown St John, Bath & North East Somerset

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources

Monograph: Harding S & Lambert D. 1991. A Gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in Avon. p39

Associated Monuments

MBN5186 Monument: Woodborough House

MBN5793 Monument: Fishpond SE of Woodborough House

Additional Information
