Introduction

One of Hampshire County Council’s priorities is: ‘enhancing our quality of space. This priority is all about making the county a good place to be by protecting local distinctiveness and diversity, ensuring excellent facilities, respecting Hampshire’s heritage and planning proactively for the future’. Hampshire has a wealth of historic parks and gardens that contribute greatly to the character, diversity and distinctiveness of its landscape. Parks and gardens are very important parts of the landscape, recording cultural changes, social history and attitudes to the natural environment. They are a key part of the county’s rich and varied heritage, and their care greatly enhances Hampshire’s landscape.

Most are privately owned, and their owners take on a significant responsibility in looking after these assets for future generations.

Designed for owners, managers, users and all with an interest in Hampshire’s historic parks and gardens, this booklet:

- introduces parks and gardens
- recognises the importance of parks and gardens
- demonstrates and explains how parks and gardens may best be protected and conserved
- explains where to find more information and advice on conserving and managing parks and gardens.

Contents

- Introduction: Conserving Hampshire’s historic parks and gardens
- What are historic parks and gardens?
- Hampshire’s parks and gardens
- Research, conservation and management
- Information, advice and grant aid
- References

Front cover: Detail from Southwick Park. Drawn by Knayff and engraved by Kip (1708). The Beacon and walled garden, Staunton Country Park (Leigh Park).
What are historic parks and gardens?

Dating from the medieval period to the present day, Hampshire’s historic parks, gardens and other designed landscapes include:

- ancient remains of medieval deer parks
- earthworks as evidence of former parks and gardens
- the landscapes of country houses, including parks, pleasure grounds, kitchen gardens and ornamental woodland
- the designed gardens and grounds of houses
- plant collections
- public parks and open spaces
- cemeteries and churchyards
- designed landscapes forming the grounds of institutional or business premises.

Walled Garden, Staunton Country Park.

Parkland, Chawton House.

The Royal Hospital, Haslar.

Aldershot Military Cemetery.

Oram’s Arbour, Winchester.
Hampshire’s parks and gardens

Deer parks

In medieval times, deer parks were large enclosed areas of land used mainly for keeping and hunting deer. They were quite densely wooded, with areas of wood pasture and more open areas referred to as launds. They were surrounded by a large ditch and bank, topped with a fence known as a park pale. The right to enclose land and form a park was obtained only by the direct grant of a licence from the king. A further privilege granted by the king was the right to construct a deer leap. This was a lower section in the park pale that allowed deer to leap into the park but not out.

Many deer parks are no longer obvious in the landscape but can be identified from remains of the park pale, as at Hursley Park and Chawton Park Wood. Place names such as park, warren and lodge may also reflect their former use. Many of Hampshire’s great parks started as medieval deer parks, for example Bramshill and Hackwood Parks, evolving into landscape parks.
Medieval to early eighteenth century gardens

Gardens in the medieval period, developed from their monastic origins, were small and ornamental, enclosed within walls, with raised beds, arbours and a central pool and fountain. A garden of this period, Queen Eleanor’s Garden, has been recreated outside The Great Hall in Winchester. With the dissolution of the monasteries between 1536 and 1540, some monastic buildings and grounds were acquired to form large estates and redesigned as country houses and gardens, for example at Beaulieu, Mottisfont, and Titchfield.

Gardens of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries developed as expansive and elaborate layouts of walled enclosures, often with:

- knot gardens (designed in a square frame and sown with aromatic plants and culinary herbs)
- raised walks
- small man-made hills known as mounts from which to view the surrounding countryside.

There are few surviving features of these gardens in Hampshire, although they can sometimes be identified using archaeological evidence. Within the remaining walls of Basing House, one of the largest private houses in the country in the sixteenth century, a formal parterre has been recreated next to a pigeon-cote tower. Derived from the earlier knot gardens, the parterre is a flat-terrace garden with geometric patterns of flower beds and low hedging. At Bramshill Park, some elements of the seventeenth-century garden survive, including the troco terrace used for bowling (troco being an old English game also known as lawn billiards).
During the seventeenth century, gardens became larger and more formal, with terraces, parterres, avenues, canals and ornamental woodland known as wilderness reflecting the style of the Italian Renaissance, and the influence of French and Dutch ideas. There is some archaeological evidence of the formal gardens created in the seventeenth century, such as at Southwick Park. There, the layout of terraces can be identified in the undulating ground, now part of a golf course. A number of tree avenues – a feature of the Hampshire landscape – for example at Lainston House, Hale Park, Bramshill Park and Hackwood Park, originated in the designed landscapes of the seventeenth century and the start of the eighteenth. Their river-valley position made parks such as Hurstbourne and Warbrook well suited to the construction of formal canals in the French style early in the eighteenth century.
The English Landscape style

During the eighteenth century, the formal French style gave way to the more natural English Landscape style, which idealised nature and emphasised irregularity, with no obvious walls or boundaries. It included classical sculpture, antiquities and landscapes inspired by the Grand Tour of Europe (a long voyage, popular among rich young men, to learn about European cultural artefacts and society). The siting and construction of the Temple or Rotunda (circular building) in Highclere Park is a good example.

Another feature that developed during this period was the ha-ha, a sunken fence or concealed ditch creating the impression that the grass sward (expanse) of the garden was seamlessly joined to the surrounding landscape, grazed by animals. Probably one of the first ha-has in Hampshire was designed by Charles Bridgeman at Westbury House, East Meon in the 1720s. There is another at The Wakes, Selborne, home of the naturalist Gilbert White.

Shrubberies being replanted in the Pleasure Grounds of Old Alresford Park, following the original design by Richard Woods.

The ha-ha at The Wakes, Selborne.
The majority of parks in Hampshire are characteristic of the English Landscape style of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They are informal parklands of grazed permanent pasture, with single trees and clumps of trees, irregularly planted. They often have serpentine (curvaceous) lakes and water features, and are enclosed by woodland belts. They were designed to be appreciated through carefully composed views from the house, garden, approach, and walks and rides through the park. One proponent of the Landscape style was Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown (1715–83), who was involved in designing a number of estates such as at Highclere Park, Broadlands, Cadland House and North Stoneham. William Emes, who worked in a similar style to Brown, lived for a while at Elvetham and is said to have done work at Dogmersfield Park. Another follower of Brown, Richard Woods, prepared a landscape design for Old Alresford Park in 1764. This was only partly implemented and the current owners are now using the design to restore the parkland.

A feature of some parks is the widening of rivers to create the appearance of a large river or lake. Brown widened the Test at Broadlands, Lord Rivers gave the Loddon the dimensions of a fine river at Stratfield Saye, and the river was dammed at The Grange in Northington to create two lakes. Many Hampshire parks and gardens, including Cadland House and Pylewell Park, exploit coastal views, particularly towards the Isle of Wight.


Old Alresford Park.
The Picturesque style

A prominent successor to Capability Brown was Humphry Repton, who published a number of books and articles on landscape design. During his career, he developed his designs to fit the Picturesque style. Popular at the end of the eighteenth century, this style was advocated by William Gilpin, who lived at Boldre in the New Forest. Dramatic scenery, contrasts of texture and vegetation, and a sense of wildness in the trees and shrubs characterise this style in gardens. Repton presented his designs in a series of Red Books that illustrated before-and-after views of the landscape. Repton is known to have been involved at Stratton Park and Herriard Park, although his Red Book proposal to move the site of the house at Stratton Park was never carried out. The Picturesque style permeated English society and culture. Jane Austen, who lived in Hampshire, refers in her novels to improvements to parkland landscapes, and to Repton himself: ‘There have been two or three fine old trees cut down that grew too near the house, and it opens up the prospect amazingly, which makes me think that Repton, or anybody of that sort, would have the avenue down…’ (Mr Rushworth in Mansfield Park).

Jane Austen’s brother, Edward Knight, improved the park and gardens at Chawton House in a Picturesque style, using trees to frame the view and to display the house in its best setting. Other landowners also adopted this style. Picturesque parks and gardens, often overlaying older parks, remain a distinctive element of Hampshire’s landscape. Picturesque improvements were often extended to the whole estate, including lodges, farm buildings and estate cottages. At Rotherfield Park, part of the village of East Tisted was demolished and rebuilt in a Picturesque style on the east side of the road. A fine example of a Picturesque cottage orné (ornamental cottage) is Houghton Lodge, which was built before 1800, probably as a rural retreat and fishing lodge, with extensive views of the river Test.
The Gardenesque style

In the nineteenth century large houses and villa landscapes were developed, often for high-ranking navy and army officers or ex-colonials retiring to the area. Many of these properties had coastal views and there was a particular concentration in Hythe and Dibden, with views over Southampton Water. Improved transport links, following the construction of the railways, led to villas being developed on the coast and in the countryside as weekend and holiday retreats.

As a result of travel and exploration, an increasing number of new plants was introduced from Asia and the Americas during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This led to more exotic species being planted in parks and pleasure grounds, and arboretums being developed. At Stratfield Saye, Lord Rivers planted a range of exotic species. The Duke of Wellington continued this when he acquired the estate in 1817, notably planting the Wellingtonia tree (Sequoiadendron giganteum) in 1854, following its introduction to England in 1853. Other nineteenth-century arboretums and pinetums (arboretums specialising in growing conifers) include Brockwood Park, Heckfield Place, Red Rice (Farleigh School) and the Rhinefield Ornamental Drive.

The Gardenesque style celebrated the skills of horticulture, in contrast to the Picturesque. JC Loudon, the garden designer and prolific writer on gardening, proposed the term Gardenesque. He used it to describe a style of planting design in which each individual plant was allowed to develop its natural character. This led to:

- the contents of the garden and individual plants being considered to be as important as the design
- an eclectic style of garden layout, typical of Victorian gardens.

There was also a revival of formal elements in garden and park design, with avenues once again becoming popular. During the nineteenth century, Hampshire gardens earned a reputation for establishing and breeding exotic species. When he retired from the East India Company in 1820, Sir George Staunton – a knowledgeable botanist and friend of Sir Joseph Hooker, the first director of Kew Gardens – bought Leigh Park and went on to collect a wide range of plants, including many from China and America. He cultivated exotic plants, including pineapple, under glass in his walled garden, and built an octagonal extension to his main glasshouse to grow the giant water lily, Victoria amazonica. The second Earl of Carnarvon, after inheriting Highclere in 1811, similarly established a wide range of exotic trees and shrubs, creating the rhododendron and azalea gardens, and propagating well-known hybrids such as Rhododendron altarclerense.

The demand for exotic plants, trees and shrubs led to an increase in nursery businesses such as that of William Bridgewater Page, based at the Southampton Botanic Gardens. Page wasn't only a nurseryman; he was also involved in design and planting, for example at the Royal Victoria Military Hospital at Netley (now Royal Victoria Country Park). Dean Thomas Garnier also commissioned him to design a conservatory for the vicarage at Bishopstoke, where Garnier established a notable collection of plants and trees.
The Arts and Crafts style

In the late nineteenth century, architects began to take more interest in garden design. Sir Reginald Blomfield, designer of Moundsmere Manor, advocated the formal garden with hard landscape and architectural features in his book 'The Formal Garden' (1898). The Arts and Crafts style embodied the unity of the house, the interior and the garden, with the garden being treated as a series of rooms. There were several proponents of this style including Edwin Lutyens, Gertrude Jekyll, Thomas Mawson and Inigo Triggs. Examples of their work can be found across Hampshire. Amport House, Berrydown Court, Daneshill and Marsh Court are all Lutyens-Jekyll collaborations. Mawson, who worked with Jekyll at New Place, was also involved at Walhampton House. Triggs designed several gardens in East Hampshire, including his own house, Little Boarhunt, at Liphook. Jekyll, an influential garden writer known for her mixed-flower borders, was consulted for advice on planting by many Arts and Crafts architects. There are records of her being involved in the design of some 30 gardens in Hampshire, including The Manor House at Upton Grey, and Durmast House in Burley. Both have been restored using her original planting plans.
Twentieth-century gardens

A number of gardens have been created or altered during the twentieth century, including Mottisfont Abbey, where:

- Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe designed a formal garden on the north side of the house in 1936–7, including an avenue of pleached limes (in which the branches are trained and pruned to form a hedge on legs)
- Norah Lindsay designed a box parterre on the site of the cloister in 1938.

The property was conveyed to the National Trust in 1957; and in 1972, their garden advisor, Graham Stuart Thomas, designed a rose garden within the former walled kitchen garden. Ralph Dutton, the eighth Lord Sherborne, created a garden combining formal design and informal planting when he lived at Hinton Ampner between 1935 and 1985. In 1973, Lanning Roper began a nine-year dialogue with Sonia Cubitt, advising on her garden at Hall Place, West Meon.

Another commission for Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe in 1975 was to prepare plans for Lake House, Northington. These included a cascade, a bridge leading to a seat on the island in the lake with views to The Grange, and designs for the walled garden.

Hampshire’s Historic Parks and Gardens
Gardeners and their gardens

Hampshire has nurtured some important botanists and gardeners. In the seventeenth century, John Worlidge, the noted horticulturist, and John Goodyer, the distinguished botanist, both lived at Petersfield. Stephen Switzer was born in East Stratton in 1682 and gained experience at Stratton Park as a gardener for the Duke of Bedford before working at the famous Brompton Park nurseries of London and Wise. He became an important writer and garden designer, publishing ‘Ichnographia Rustica’ in 1718. William Curtis was born in Alton in 1746 and, after practising as an apothecary, established a botanical garden in London in 1771 and published ‘The Botanical Magazine’ from 1787 until his death in 1799.

In the nineteenth century, William Wildsmith was employed at Heckfield Place and trained gardeners who in turn became head gardeners on other estates in the county. Lionel de Rothschild developed the gardens of Exbury House between 1919 and his death in 1942. During this period, he was responsible for crossbreeding 1,210 rhododendron hybrids, of which 452 were registered with the Royal Horticultural Society.

Sir Harold Hillier created a unique collection of 42,000 plants around his home, Jermyns House, which he acquired in 1953. Hampshire County Council now manages his arboretum and garden as a charitable trust.
Public parks

Public parks and gardens are important designed landscapes in Hampshire’s urban areas, with most towns having a public park or garden providing a recreational green space. Some public parks originated in country-house or villa landscapes, such as:

- War Memorial Park, Basingstoke
- Aldershot Manor Park
- Holly Hill Woodland Park, Fareham
- Stanley Park, Gosport.

Many public parks were planned in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as civic amenities. They probably reflect the resources available: although they may have recreational facilities, ornamental beds and sometimes a bandstand, there are few parks designed in the grand style of the nineteenth-century public parks found in other parts of the country.

This may be due to the absence of large nineteenth-century manufacturing towns and heavy industry, as parks were often established in response to the problems of industrialisation and rapid population growth. Staunton Country Park and Royal Victoria Country Park are both on English Heritage’s Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest. The Hampshire Gardens Trust researched a number of public parks with an interesting history for the ‘Hampshire Urban Parks Study’ in 1996.
Cemeteries

Cemeteries are unique and distinctive designed landscapes, with their often formal layout of roads, paths, chapels, lodges, boundary walls and monuments, and characteristic planting. They also provide valuable green spaces within built-up areas. Appreciation of the importance of cemeteries as historic designed landscapes has been growing, and English Heritage has added a number to their Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest, including Aldershot Military Cemetery and Magdalen Hill Cemetery, Winchester. Others of interest in the county include South View Cemetery, Basingstoke, and Romsey Cemetery. In St Mary’s Church Cemetery, Bramshott, a Canadian military cemetery is laid out to a design by Inigo Triggs. Gertrude Jekyll prepared planting plans for Winchester College’s war memorial, designed by Sir Herbert Baker in 1924.
Institutional landscapes

Institutions such as schools and hospitals often have designed grounds and gardens that provide a setting for the buildings and an outdoor space for rest and recreation. These can date to medieval times, for example there is a series of accounts for Winchester College between 1394 and 1437 in which some entries relate to the gardens. Henry Khyght spent six months of 1398 surveying the new garden and supervising the workmen. Many schools in Hampshire continue to be the custodians of important parks and gardens.

Several purpose-built hospital sites in the county have planted grounds, airing courts (walled enclosures for the patients to exercise), kitchen gardens and, in some cases, a sea view or parkland setting. The Royal Hospital, Haslar and the Royal Victoria Military Hospital (now Royal Victoria Country Park), are both on English Heritage’s Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest.
Research, conservation and management

What makes a park or garden historically interesting?
Parks and gardens are of historic interest when they:
• illustrate an aspect of the history of parks, gardens and landscape design, for instance they represent the work of a particular designer or were created in a particular period or style
• contain historic features that are of archaeological, architectural, artistic, horticultural, cultural or social interest
• have significant historic associations, for example with a particular person or event
• are part of a group of buildings or land of historic interest or significance and provide the setting for important buildings
• retain features that represent a rich tapestry of historical changes and landscape development.

Why are historic parks and gardens important?
• They are important local amenities, contributing to the character and landscape of the area.
• They are individual and specific to a locality, being associated with local people and local history.
• They are aesthetically pleasing, are valuable as places to enjoy in sensory ways, and hold great natural resources and habitats.
• They may contain historic features that are special, rare or of local interest.
• They may be open to the public, or can be seen from public roads and footpaths.

The importance of historic parks and gardens is reflected in government guidance on planning: ‘England is particularly rich in the designed landscapes of parks and gardens, and the built and natural features they contain: the greatest of these are as important to national, and indeed international, culture as are our greatest buildings.’ (Planning Policy Guidance note 15, Planning and the Historic Environment, September 1994).

What are the benefits of recording historic parks and gardens?
The benefits of recording historic parks and gardens are to:
• identify features that are rare, vulnerable or distinctive, and to inform decisions on policies to protect, conserve and manage them, and maintain local character and distinctiveness
• inform the understanding and presentation of the historic landscape
• promote interest, appreciation and participation, encouraging sites to be used for education, recreation and tourism where appropriate
• be aware, from studying historic working practices, of the practicalities and technology involved in establishing and maintaining historic landscapes
• inform accurate restoration, conservation and management
• raise awareness and understanding of the work of particular designers
• identify the significance of memories and values associated with a site or area.
What threatens the future of historic parks and gardens?

Parks and gardens are vulnerable if:

- their historic significance hasn’t been recognised
- there is a lack of funding to manage and maintain them
- the land is at risk of infill development
- poorly-sited or unsympathetic developments are built, even outside the site, affecting views and the setting
- there is pressure for major development, such as for new housing and mining
- their character and features are eroded due to changes in use of the site or the need to meet planning, engineering and security requirements
- they are split and sold to multiple owners, resulting in new boundaries, land use and planting that ignore the overall design
- buildings and other structures and features are allowed to deteriorate because they are considered to have no beneficial use, aren’t recognised as valuable, or there is no funding to repair and maintain them
- crops are grown on the land, affecting parkland landscapes, trees and surviving archaeology
- lakes and water features are neglected and silt up
- working practices change and skilled workers are lost.
How are historic parks and gardens protected?

Over the last 20 years, awareness has increased that historic parks and gardens are important and contribute to the local character and amenity of an area. A growing policy and legislative framework now protects historic parks and gardens, and is summarised in the rest of this section.

English Heritage register

In 1984, English Heritage set up a national record of historic parks and gardens, known as the Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. English Heritage maintains this national register, which now includes around 1,600 sites, divided into three grades:

- I – international importance
- II* – exceptional interest
- II – national interest.

While being on the register gives a site no extra legal protection, local planning authorities must take this into account when deciding about planning applications that would affect a registered site. Central government requires that ‘local planning authorities should protect registered parks and gardens in preparing development plans and in determining planning applications’ (Planning Policy Guidance note 15, paragraph 2.24). To ensure that local planning authorities have access to the appropriate advice, they must consult the Garden History Society on all applications affecting registered sites, plus English Heritage on those affecting a grade I or II* registered site. The register includes 57 sites in Hampshire – just under 5% of the nation’s most significant historic parks and gardens. Two of these, Hackwood Park and Highclere Park, are Grade I.

Heritage protection white paper

‘Heritage Protection for the 21st Century’, a white paper published by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in March 2007, recommends introducing:

- a Register of Historic Buildings and Sites of England, as a single national register of historic assets
- management agreements – ‘Heritage Partnership Agreements’ – for large complex sites.

Draft South East Plan

The draft South East Plan refers to historic parks and gardens. Its draft policy BE7 requires that local authorities state how they will manage the historic environment in their local development frameworks.

Sites of local importance

Local authorities usually include policies in their local plans and development frameworks to help safeguard historic parks and gardens.

The Garden History Society encourages local planning authorities to:

- write comprehensive policies for conserving historic parks and gardens
- protect registered sites, and their settings, views and features, as well as other sites that contribute to the regional or local environment and heritage
- set up a local list in the local development document, but because this is a new subject and knowledge is incomplete, to add further sites to the list as they become known. In Hampshire, five district councils have included local lists in their local plans: Fareham, Gosport, Hart, Havant and New Forest.

The heritage protection white paper recognises the essential role of local authorities in designating historic sites: ‘Local designation provides a means for local communities to identify and to protect the buildings, sites, and spaces that matter to them. It helps to build a sense of local identity and distinctiveness, a sense of history, place and belonging.’ The white paper wants to encourage more authorities to do this.

Perhaps Hampshire’s only surviving example of artificial stone called ‘Pulhamite’, Holly Hill Woodland Park.

The Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

This database of sites of interest in Hampshire is based on surveys, research and recording done since 1981. The Hampshire Register covers over 900 sites, including all those that are now lost or of which little remains. There is full information for some sites, and little more than a site name and location for others. Research continues, much by the Hampshire Gardens Trust, and records are continually being added to the database.

You can get information on historic parks and gardens from:

- our Environment Department, Landscape Planning and Heritage Group, website http://www3.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment/parks-gardens.htm
- the Hampshire Gardens Trust in Ampfield http://www.hgt.org.uk/index.html
Conservation areas

Conservation areas are places of special architectural or historic interest, with a character or appearance that we wish to preserve or enhance. Whilst usually associated with buildings, conservation area status could be considered the single most effective way to protect historic parks and gardens from inappropriate development. The requirement that new development should preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area significantly influences planning proposals for gardens within such areas. Anyone proposing to cut down or work on a tree in a conservation area must give the local planning authority notice, so they can consider whether to make a Tree Preservation Order. This helps:

- prevent trees being inappropriately managed within parks and gardens in conservation areas
- establish new planting, as the landowner is expected to plant a replacement tree.

Planning Policy Guidance note 15 (paragraph 4.6), referring to conservation areas, states: ‘Designation may well, however, be suitable for historic parks and other areas of historic landscape containing structures that contribute to their special interest....’ There are examples of conservation areas created for a specific historic house, park, garden or landscape, such as at Cams Hall, Fareham.

Tree Preservation Orders

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are a common device to protect parks and gardens. As a precautionary measure, they could be applied to registered and local sites of interest not covered by a conservation area. The historic significance of the site and its contribution to the character of the local landscape character may be used to support the creation of a TPO. TPOs alone rarely provide adequate protection as they apply only to the trees and not to the wider designed landscape, which remains unprotected from development. This can result in intensive development that retains the mature trees but destroys the garden spaces, landscape design and setting. TPOs may also prevent original views and designed spaces being restored or recreated.

Listed buildings

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 controls work on listed buildings. Planning Policy Guidance note 15 advises local planning authorities on how to apply this law. Most parks and gardens associated with a listed building have some protection through the law on preserving listed buildings, since it covers:

- the setting and curtilage (land, including boundary walls)
- any object or structure fixed to the building
- any separate supporting structure within the curtilage, constructed before 1948.

Sites are sometimes listed inconsistently and important features – for example kitchen gardens, greenhouses, bothies (garden workers’ huts), and other structures such as steps, paths, walls and statues – may not be individually listed and so may be neglected or even removed.

Enabling development

English Heritage has become increasingly concerned by the loss of, and damage to, historic parks and gardens caused by developments proposed for the repair and maintenance of associated historic assets. As a result, in June 1999, they issued a policy statement, ‘Enabling Development and the Conservation of Historic Assets’. This sets out stringent tests that may help defend historic parks and gardens from inappropriate development. Another publication, ‘Rescued or Ruined? Dealing with Enabling Development’, was produced by a number of societies in 1999.

Boundaries and settings

Sites on the English Heritage Register have a designated boundary. But the boundaries of other sites may not have been delineated, although they are usually evident from changes in character, walls, planting or the extent of parkland, as shown on the historic 6-inch Ordnance Survey maps. Other features such as walled gardens, woodland walks, designed belts and clumps of trees can also be identified on historic maps. Field names and land use, as shown on tithe (old tax) maps and sales particulars, can also guide us on the area the designed landscape used to cover.

The current boundary should usually follow that of the historic landscape. However, in some cases it may be appropriate to draw a smaller boundary, taking account of new development or redevelopment that has encroached on the original park or garden. The setting – the land outside the site boundary – can also be very important, particularly if the historic estate extended beyond the park or garden boundary.
Views of the wider landscape, such as unspoilt farmland, a hill, a river or coastal scenery, may have been significant to the site; or particular features, such as a church spire or a designed eye catcher or folly, may have been the focus of the framed view from the site. Because social status may have been judged by the extent of the park, views of the surrounding landscape may have been borrowed or ornaments added, to give the impression that the park was larger or that its owner owned the landscape too.

This is best addressed by preparing a landscape conservation and management plan, based on site surveys, historical research and an understanding of current management practice.

**Why do site surveys and historical research?**

Historical research is fundamental to establishing and understanding the development of any site. It has a wide range of practical uses, such as helping us to:

- understand the history and development of the park or garden, and see how the organisation and management of the landscape has changed over time
- raise awareness, and show the historical importance of the site and its association with people and events
- identify significant and sensitive features, such as ground archaeology, views and the wider setting
- record the condition, and the need for repair and conservation
- decide how best to manage the site and help us draw up accurate proposals to plant and restore the site
- identify appropriate areas for change
- collect an archive of historical information and stories about the site
- recognise links with other sites through past owners and connections (such as with plant collectors and families)
- identify where further survey and research may be helpful.

Any form of intervention will change a site; it is vital that before any work is done, we understand both the original design and the way it may have evolved.

**What are the benefits of a conservation and management plan?**

A conservation and management plan:

- puts together the history of a site, and relates this to the present-day landscape
- reveals and explains the designed features and essential characteristics of a site
- identifies clear conservation objectives – both for the overall site and for individual areas and features
- addresses any potential conflicts, say in using the land, or between managing the historic landscape and conserving nature, and recommends how they can be resolved
- guides us on caring for, conserving and managing the landscape in the long term
- identifies areas or features of particular sensitivity or significance
- pinpoints and prioritises where repair and conservation are needed
- safeguards the future of the site and helps us make decisions about it
- can help us apply for grant aid and raise funds.

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*The Walled Garden, Staunton Country Park.*

*Managing historic parks and gardens*

Historic parks and gardens often have special, multifaceted characters, representing a complex mixture of overlapping features, events, and design objectives developed over time. They are dynamic environments that grow and change; if humans don’t continue to design, manage and maintain them, then nature will take over. To manage the historic landscape effectively and so ensure its character survives and evolves satisfactorily, we must:

- understand and record what is there
- identify what is significant, valuable and particularly sensitive
- pinpoint areas needing repair
- recognise those areas that are vulnerable and those which change won’t damage
- develop a long-term strategy for repairing, conserving and managing the landscape.

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*Illustration of a Stove or hot house. The Universal Gardener and Botanist by Thomas Mawe and John Abercrombie, (1797).*
You can get advice on conserving and managing historic parks and gardens, and on possible sources of funding, from the organisations listed below.

**Department of Culture, Media and Sport**
This is the government department responsible for identifying and conserving the historic environment in England.
Website: www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Historic_environment/

**District councils**
Most district councils have landscape, conservation and tree officers who may be able to give general advice on conserving and managing historic parks and gardens, and on any available grants.

**English Heritage**
The National Monuments Records centre can provide entries and maps for sites on the English Heritage register.
Tel: 01793 414600
E-mail: nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk
Further information on the Register is available on the webpage:
www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1410
The regional office can advise on conserving parks and gardens on the register, and may be able to offer grants for repairing grade I and II* sites.
South East Region Eastgate Court, 195-205 High Street, Guildford GU1 3EH
Tel: 01483 252000
Website: www.english-heritage.org.uk/

**Forestry Commission**
The Forestry Commission may be able to advise on, and give grants for, woodlands and shelterbelts within historic parks and gardens.
South East England Conservancy
Alice Holt, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LF
Tel: 01420 23337
Website: www.forestry.gov.uk/

**Garden History Society**
The government appointed the Garden History Society as the statutory consultee (in England) for parks and gardens. The society has produced a series of Planning Conservation Advice Notes available on the web.
Garden History Society
70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ
Tel: 020 7608 2409
E-mail: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org
Website: www.gardenhistorysociety.org/ (for Planning Conservation Advice Notes, go to www.gardenhistorysociety.org/whatwedo/conservation.html#pcn)

**Hampshire County Council**
Our Environment Department, Landscape Planning and Heritage Group can provide general advice and information about sites on the English Heritage Register, Hampshire Register, and Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record.
E-mail: landscape@hants.gov.uk
Website: www3.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage.htm

**Hampshire Gardens Trust**
This trust has a research group that researches and surveys historic parks and gardens. It also provides specialist advice and support through its conservation committee, which sometimes offers small grants.
Hampshire Gardens Trust, Jermy’s house, Jermy’s Lane, Ampfield, Romsey SO51 0QA
Tel: 01794 367752
Website: www.hgt.org.uk/

**Historic Environment Local Management (HELM)**
HELM is a partnership project led by English Heritage. It aims to share best practice, and build the confidence of those dealing with the historic environment, by providing information and training. You can download a lot of useful publications from their website.
Website: www.helm.org.uk/

**Natural England**
Rural development advisers can advise about grants for managing environmental land, including the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme for conserving historic parklands and their features.
Natural England, Customer Support Unit, PO Box 2423 Reading, RG1 6WY
Tel: 0845 6024092
E-mail: BDCSE.Genesis@naturalengland.org.uk
Website: www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/es/default.htm

**The Heritage Lottery Fund**
This fund may provide funding to help restore, regenerate and improve access to historic parks, gardens and green spaces. It also gives guidance on preparing management plans.
Tel: 020 7591 6000
E-mail: enquire@hlf.org.uk
Website: www.hlf.org.uk/English/

**Unitary Authorities**
For information on sites within the unitary authorities of Portsmouth or Southampton contact the relevant local authority or the Hampshire Gardens Trust.
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Michael Symes
A Glossary of Garden History (Shire Publications, 2006)

Anthea Taigel
Historic Designed Landscapes: Planning and conservation guidance (Essence Gardens Trust, 2003)

Other publications on Hampshire’s historic environment

• Historic Farm Buildings in Hampshire
• Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas
• Historic Buildings: A guide to Owners
• Earth Structures (cob buildings and walls)
• The Conservation of Water Meadows Structures
• Re-pointing, mortars and pointing of historic walls
• Thatch in Hampshire

You can get these publications from:
• the Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) e-mail: historic.environment@hants.gov.uk

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