BLENHEIM PALACE WORLD HERITAGE SITE
REVISED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017

APPENDIX II : BACKGROUND DATA
Appendix II - Background Data

Awards received - 2013-2016 - Heritage and Tourism
Historic information including map sequence
Registered Park and Gardens description and boundary map
SSSI citation and condition summaries
Scheduled Monuments descriptions and boundaries
List descriptions of listed buildings
Bibliography of sources consulted

Background Data

Appendix II
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES CONSULTED
Guidance on heritage and management planning for WHSs
- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, UNESCO 2015
- The Protection and Management of World Heritage Sites in England, Historic England 2009
- Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, Planning Practice Guidance 2014
- Preparing a Heritage Management Plan, Natural England NE63 (2008)
- Green Infrastructure, an integrated approach to land use, Landscape Institute 2013

Management plans for other UK WHSs
- Blaenavon Industrial Landscape
- City of Bath
- Derwent Valley Mills
- Durham Cathedral and Castle
- Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal
- Ironbridge Gorge
- Jurassic Coast, Dorset and Devon
- Old and New Towns of Edinburgh
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- Saltaire
- Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites

Published material
- J Bond and K Tiller (eds), Blenheim Landscape for a Palace (1987)
- K Chambers, Sir Henry Lee: An Elizabethan Portrait (1936)
- D Esterley, Grinling Gibbons and the Art of Carving (1998)
- L Dudley Stamp The Land of Britain - Report of the land utilisation survey (1942)
- D Stroud, Capability Brown (1975)
- J Summerson, Architecture in Britain 1530-1830 (1953)
- Victoria History of the County of Oxford Vol 12 Wootton Hundred (1990)
- Dr Ann Williams & Professor G H Martin (eds), Domesday Book: A Complete Translation (2003)

Websites
- Blenheim Palace
- Cotswolds AONB
- Environment Agency Thames River Basin District Management Plan
- Historic England - listed buildings, scheduled monuments and RPG entry
- Natural England - land based designations, SSSI views about management, NCA profiles
• Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study
• UNESCO - Blenheim information
• West Oxfordshire District Council - local plan policies
• World Heritage UK

**Specialist reports**

• Blenheim Estate Woodland Management Plan, 2013-2023
• Blenheim Palace WHS Co-Ordinator, Annual Monitoring Reports 2007-2015
• BSG Ecology, Blenheim Lake Ecological Assessment 2015
• Nick Cox Architects, Conservation Architects, Fabric Condition Report 2010
  Estate Walls Condition Report 2011
  Condition Survey for Parkland Plan 2013
• Rodney Melville and Partners, Conservation Architects Fabric Condition Report 2005
• John Moores Heritage Services, Archaeological Survey of the Blenheim Estate, 2013
• Haycock Environmental Consultants Ltd, Queen Pool Bathymetric/Silt Survey and restoration options 2016
• RGS Arboricultural Consultant, Survey and Inventory of Parkland Trees, 2013
• Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, High Park Grassland Survey 2015
• Wild Frontier Ecology Ltd, Phase 1 Habitat Survey, 2013
• The Wychwood Project, A Management Plan for High Park, 2014

**Historic maps, plans and images**

• Map of the County of Oxfordshire by Saxon and Hoel, 1637, (CRO)
• A Plan of Blenheim, drawn by Charles Bridgeman, 1709, (estate archive) (1709)
• Estate plan by an unknown hand, 1719, (estate archive) 1719
• A View of Blenheim Castle from Rosamunds Bower by William Stukely, 1724 (Bodleian library MsTopGen.d.14.f.14v)
• Drawing of Blenheim by an unknown French visitor - schematic image and plan of the park and gardens, c1728, (V&A, London Museum MSL/191/1255)
• Views of Blenheim Park by Alexander Cozens, 1748, (estate archive)
• Boydell’s views of Blenheim, 1752 (estate archive)
• A Plan of Blenheim Park and Gardens by John Spyre, 1763, (Collection Centre Canadien d’Architecture)
• A Plan of the Intended Alterations to the Water at Blenheim by Lancelot Brown, 1763-4, (estate archive)
• Estate survey plan by Thomas Pride, 1772, (estate archive)
• Ordnance surveyors drawings, 1817, (British Library Board OSD162.9)
• C W Radclyffe, various views of Blenheim, 1831, various publications
• Estate plan of the park and gardens by I Thompson and C Dean, c1845, (estate archive)
• Ordnance Survey map - 6” to the mile 1st edition (1884)
• Ordnance Survey map - 6” to the mile 2nd edition (1900)
• Ordnance Survey map - 6” to the mile 3rd edition (1922/3)
LIST DESCRIPTIONS OF LISTED BUILDINGS
Woodstock Parish

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4432516595

Bladon Parish

BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/6 Eagle Lodge (Bladon Lodge)

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

Listing NGR: SP4475215034

Blenheim Parish

BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/5 Ditchley Lodge

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

Listing NGR: SP4233118840
GV II
Gateway. 1781, by John Yenn. Limestone ashlar piers, with large ball finials set on moulded cornices, flank fine wrought-iron gates with scrolled top. Hawksmoor designed the original gateway, which was not executed and was to terminate Wise's Great North Avenue. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p474; National Monuments Record; Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4232818840

BLENHEIM

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4172617624

BLENHEIM

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4247317036
BLENHEIM SP41NW 2/3 Column of Victory

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

Listing NGR: SP4351916995

BLENHEIM SP41NW 2/13 Fishery Cottage

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

Listing NGR: SP4386617088

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

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

BLENHEIM SP41NW 2/14 Grand Bridge

GV I
Bridge. c.1706-1712. By Sir John Vanbrugh. Limestone ashlar. Semi-circular archway, with blocked voussoirs, flanked by 2-storey square projecting bays: each bay has segmental-arched opening with keystone linked to bracketed cornice and with bracketed sill, above niche. Outer bays have rusticated semi-circular arches and bands of frosted rustication beneath parapet. Canted abutments have rusticated quoin strips. The bridge was left unfinished when work on the palace stopped in 1712: Vanbrugh intended the central span to be surmounted by tall arcades within corner towers, thus making a version of Palladio’s Rialto Bridge. The bridge, which spanned virtual marshland before Capability Brown made the lake, has over 30 rooms, some with chimneypieces and dish vaulting, and was first conceived as a
habitable viaduct. The masons were Peisley and Townesend. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire: p473; National Monuments Record; K. Downes, Hawkesmoor, 1959, p282; K. Downes, Vanbrugh, 1977, pp72-3; D. Green, Blenheim Palace, 1951, pp100-102, 117, 127; Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)

Listing NGR: SP4389316414

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4424416727

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4426416716

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4427516718

BLENHEIM
SP4416NW
9/41 Woodstock Lodge

GV II
Lodge. Built 1887. Squared and coursed limestone; gabled Welsh slate roof. 2-unit plan. One storey; 2-window range. Doric porch in antis; late C19 six-panelled door. Plate-glass sashes set in eared and shouldered architraves. Doric corner plasters. Interior not inspected. Included for group value. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)
BLENHEIM
SP4416NW
9/35 Wall attached to and N of Woodstock Lodge

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

Listing NGR: SP4427616745

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4440016532

BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/16 Hensington Gate

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

Listing NGR: SP4476316567

BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/17 Hensington Lodge

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

Listing NGR: SP4476316546
BLENHEIM
SP41NE
3/31 The Cowywards and Cowywards Cottage

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

Listing NGR: SP4522916028

BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/20 New Bridge

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

Listing NGR: SP4440015244

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4460915623
BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/26 Sundial approx. 6m S of Nos.1 and 2 Bothy Cottages (not included)

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

Listing NGR: SP4464915700

BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/24 Statue of Hermes approx. 450m SSE of south front of Blenheim Palace

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

Listing NGR: SP4446315715

BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/15 Group of 6 terms and statue of 4 putti at Exedra approx. 400m SE of south front of Blenheim Palace

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

Listing NGR: SP4445915802

BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/32 Urn approx. 330m SE of south front of Blenheim Palace

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

Listing NGR: SP4441415897

BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/30 Temple of Health

II*
Shown on Ordnance Survey map as Temple of Diana. Temple. 1789, by John Yenn. Limestone ashlar; gabled Welsh slate roof. Corinthian tetrastyke temple. Dentilled pediment above Corinthian columns in antis, which have grey stone capitals. Interior: medallion of George III and Latin inscription in commemoration of his recovery from prolonged period of mental illness. (Blenheim Park is included in the
BLENHEIM
SP41NW, SP4416 2/1, 8/1 Blenheim Palace

GV I
Country house. 1706-29, by Sir John Vanbrugh and Nicholas Hawksmoor for the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough; carvings by Grinling Gibbons and interiors by Laguerre, Thornhill et. al. Limestone ashlar, with rusticated corner towers and details; lead roofs; stone stacks. House has 4 corner towers, and Great Court to north flanked by Stable Court to east and Kitchen Court to west. Baroque style. Two storeys. Sashes to all windows. North front has central 9-bay facade, articulated by giant order of Corinthian pilasters; 3-bay pedimented portico; carving of the Marlborough Arms in tympanum, figures of Britannia and chained slaves on pediment and centurions on parapet by Grinling Gibbons; huge cleft open pediment set behind portico, with derrery windows to Hall ranged to rear. Quadrants, articulated by Doric engaged columns, link facade to corner towers which have banded rustication, arched windows and bracketed cornices; superstructure to each tower has curved flying buttresses and pinacles of reversed fleurs-de-lys, piled-up cannon balls and ducal coronets. Colonnades, with engaged Doric columns and carved military achievements by Gibbons, are linked to 11 bay blocks: rusticated archways, in centre of each block and leading to Kitchen and Stable Courts, are flanked by banded Doric columns and surmounted by carvings of the Lion of England savaging the Cock of France. Clock towers behind each archway have interlocking pediments with ball finial. 7-bay end blocks have rusticated Doric pilasters to pedimented centre of north facade. East and west fronts each have central full-height bow windows, with caryatids to west, and similar corner towers to south. South front has tall 9-bay facade to centre, articulated by giant order of Corinthian pilasters progressing to columns in central portico: entablature of portico surmounted by bust of Louis XIV, taken from the city gates of Tournai after its sack in 1709. Roof has finials and military carvings by Grinling Gibbons. Kitchen Court to west: castellated parapet, and arcade to north and south with heavy open-pedimented Doric porches; east gateway, which houses water cistern, has obelisk-shaped pillars resting on cannon balls flanking cast-iron gates of c.1890 and garlands and statues in niches by Sir William Chambers, 1766-75. Orangery to south of Kitchen Court has arcade front with sashes and heavy Doric porch of 2 orders with open pediment. Great Court in front of palace remodelled by Achille Duchene in 1910: military trophies, flanking steps in front of portico, carved by Grinling Gibbons; low ashlar walls surrounding Great Court have piers with wheatear festoons over medallions, and flaming urns to piers in angles of south-east and south-west corners; wrought-iron gates to front, flanked by scrolled ironwork panels. Interior: Great Hall, with 3-tier arcades and Corinthian columns and cornices carved by Grinling Gibbons, has ceiling painted by Sir James Thornhill in 1716 which shows Marlborough presenting plan of Battle of Blenheim to Britannia. Vaulted stone corridors link Great Hall to east and west wings. Stairs to left of Great Hall has iron balustrade continued in front of gallery above proscenium arch, with arms of Queen Anne carved by Gibbons, which leads from Hall to Saloon to rear. Saloon: marble fireplace by Townesend; marble doorcases with carved shells to keys by Grinling Gibbons; walls and ceiling decorated 1719-20 by Louis Laguerre. Suite of 3 rooms to left (east) have plasterwork ceilings by Hawksmoor; and marble fireplaces by Sir William Chambers; scrols, eagles and phoeniexes in coving of ceilings of c.1890, Suite of 3 State Rooms to right, (west) of Saloon have tapestries by Judocus de Vos depicting Marlborough's victories, the remainder of the set being elsewhere in the house: fireplaces by Gibbons and Chambers; Rococo decoration of c.1890, with inset portraits set in gilt frames; First State Room has portrait of 9th Duchess by Duran, Second State Room has portrait of Louis XIV by Mignard and Third State Room has portrait of Colonel Armstrong with Marlborough by Seeman. All set in overmantles over fireplaces. The Long Library, "Hawksmoor's finest room", has plasterwork by Isaac Mansfield and marble doorcases and giant order of Doric pilasters with triglyph frieze by Pesley and Townesend; carved wood bookcases; marble fireplaces, by Hawksmoor or William Kent, have pedimented overmantels framing paintings of seascape and landscape by Wootton after Poussin and Oe surmounted by busts by Rysbrack. Statue of Queen Anne and bust of Marlborough by Rysbrack, the latter on pedestal by Chambers. At ends of Long Library are galleried bays, with consoles supporting pierced balustrades; organ of 1871 to north bay. Corridor to Great Hall has marble basin, probably by Vanbrugh. Private Apartments in East Wing not inspected: central Bow Window Room has wood Corinthian columns and marble fireplace by Gibbons; fireplaces by Chambers in Grand Cabinet and Duchess's Drawing Room. Basement noted as having fireplaces by Gibbons. Chapel: by Hawksmoor, with giant fluted pilasters and plasterwork. Monument to Duke of Marlborough, 1733, designed by William Kent and executed by Rysbrack: Baroque figure composition set in niche with medallion portraits and military trophies to plasterwork panels. Statues of Randolph churchill, 1895, and 7th Duke of Marlborough, 1883. Organ case, reredos, pulpit and benches by T.G. Jackson, c.1890. The 8th Duke, who succeeded in 1883, was chairman of New Telephone Company and installed earliest domestic phone.
system in Britain here: late C19 telephone sets in Long Library and estate office in Kitchen Court.
Amongst the notable furnishings are: in west corridor, connecting Great Hall to Long Library, C18 Flemish
statues of nymph and youth (Parodi workshop); Emperor Vespasian and Caracalla; Cardinal Delfino and
Cardinal Borromeo (C18 Italian); in Great Hall are 2 bronze statues by Soldani, removed from East
Formal Garden; early C18 statue of Bacchus by Michael Vandervoort; Alexander the Great, partly
Roman, and Roman bust of Emperor Hadrian; C18 Emperor Scipio Africanus. Woodstock Park, the site far
Blenheim Palace, was presented by Queen Anne to John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, to
commemorate his decisive defeat of the French army at Blenheim in 1704. As a "Royall and a National
Monument" (Vanbrugh) it outclasses English royal palaces and rivals the Baroque palaces of Europe in
size and splendour. Important influences were Versailles, medieval castle architecture and Elizabethan
architecture especially Wollaton Hall. Amongst the masons employed were the Peisleys and William
Townsend, who worked on other buildings in Blenheim Park. (Buildings of England: Oxfordshire:
pp459-472; National Monuments Record; D. Green: Blenheim Palace, 1951; K. Downes: Hauksmoor,
Listing NGR: SP4412416054

BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/241 Statue approx. 4m S of SW corner of Kitchen Court

GV II
Statue. Probably late C19/early C20. By the Andreoni studio of Rome. Marble. Finely carved statue of
goddess dressing her hair, probably after the antique. Stands on round marble pedestal decorated with
swags and moulding. Signed "Studio Andreoni Roma". Probably sited in 1920's as part of Achille
Duchene's work for Ninth Duke of Marlborough. Fords pair with Statue approximately 4 metres south of
east end of Orangery (q.v.). Included for group value. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of
Parks and Gardens at Grade I)
Listing NGR: SP4414316129

BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/10 East Formal Garden, steps in NW corner

GV II
Steps. 1908, by Achille Duchene. Limestone. Two flights of 5 steps each, with plain balustrades and piers
with panelled sides. Part of Duchene's layout for the East Formal Garden designed for the Ninth Duke of
Marlborough. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)
Listing NGR: SP4415516114

BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/11 East Formal Garden, steps in
SW corner

GV II
Steps. 1908, by Achille Duchene. Limestone. Two flights of 5 steps each, with plain balustrades and piers
with panelled sides. Part of Duchene's layout for the East Formal Garden designed for the Ninth Duke of
Marlborough. (Blenheim Park is included in the HBMC Register of Parks and Gardens at Grade I)
Listing NGR: SP4418316073
BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/12 East Formal Garden, fountain in centre

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

Listing NGR: SP4419616112

BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/240 Statue approx. 4 m S of E end of Orangery

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

Listing NGR: SP4420416167

BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/7 East Formal Garden, statue of Knifegrinder in NE corner

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

Listing NGR: SP4421316143

BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/8 East Formal Garden, steps to E side

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

Listing NGR: SP4422716133

BLENHEIM
SP4416
8/9 East Formal Garden, statue of Wrestlers in SE corner

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

Listing NGR: SP4423216115

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4425316106

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4398216000

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4398215972
BLENHEIM
SP41NM, SP4416
2/37, 8/37 Water Terrace Gardens, East Terrace

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

Listing NGR: SP4405315986

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4405515975

BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/28 Temple of Diana

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

Listing NGR: SP4400415834

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4394715588
BLENHEIM
SP41NW
2/29 Temple of Flora

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

Listing NGR: SP4390115478

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4380815359

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

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

Listing NGR: SP4373815186
EARTHWORK 300m SOUTH WEST OF FAIR ROSAMUND’S WELL - LIST ENTRY 1009417

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 14-Feb-1995

UID: 21815 National Grid Reference: SP 43999 16256

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

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

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

Selected Sources
1. **Book Reference** - Author: BOND, C.J. - Title: BLENHEIM: Landscape and Palace - Date: 1987 - Type: DESC TEXT - Description: With TILLER
2. **Book Reference** - Author: C.A.O. - Title: Square Enclosure - Date: 1993 - Type: SMR - Description: PRN 12740
3. **Book Reference** - Author: FAIREY - Title: 8,072 - Date: 1961 - Type: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
BOWL BARROW 350m SOUTH WEST OF FURZE PLATT FARM - LIST ENTRY
1009416

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 10-Nov-1994

UID: 21814 National Grid Reference: SP 43023 18064

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

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

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

Selected Sources
1. Book Reference - Author: C.A.O. - Title: Small circular enclosure - Date: 1980 - Type: SMR -
   Description: PRN 12, 743 Note 1
2. Book Reference - Author: C.A.O. - Title: Small circular enclosure - Date: 1980 - Type: SMR -
   Description: PRN 12, 743 Note 2
3. Book Reference - Author: C.A.O. - Title: Small circular enclosure - Date: 1980 - Type: SMR -
   Description: PRN 12, 743 Note 3
4. Book Reference - Author: FAIREY - Title: Air Photograph - Date: 1961 - Type: PHOTO -
   Description: 9.033-4
5. Book Reference - Author: Ordnance Survey - Title: Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 - Date: 1930 -
   Type: MAP - Description: SP 41 NW
TEN MEDIEVAL PILLOW MOUNDS AND PART OF AN ASSOCIATED ENCLOSURE 300m NORTH WEST OF COMBE LODGE - LIST NUMBER 1009418

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 30-Aug-1996

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

UID: 21816  National Grid Reference: SP 42343 16116

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

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

History - Details
The monument includes a group of ten pillow mounds and the northern and western sides of an associated enclosure situated 300m north west of Combe Lodge on the Blenheim Palace Estate. The ten mounds are dispersed across an area of c.150m square which is bounded to the north east and north west by two linear ditches which measure c.8m wide and 0.5m deep. The exact location and extent of the surrounding enclosure is not known on the south eastern and south western sides. The individual mounds are all oval and measure from 7.5m to 9.1m in length, 3.9m to 5.6m wide and stand between 0.3m and 1m high. Eight of them are aligned with
their long axis from north west to south east while the remaining two run south west to north east. The mounds are all flanked by narrow ditches c.0.8m wide which have become infilled with silt and leaf litter but which are visible as shallow surface features up to 0.2m deep. These pillow mounds formed a managed artificial rabbit warren for the Woodstock Manor Estate (now known as Blenheim Palace Estate) during the medieval period. The land on which it sits was originally outside the boundary of the deer park but was planted with trees after having been added to the main park at the turn of the century. The area is now known as New Park.

Selected Sources
1. **Book Reference** - Author: C.A.O. - Title: Rabbit Warren - Pillow Mound - Date: 1993 - Type: SMR - Description: PRN 12,517
2. **Book Reference** - Author: C.A.O. - Title: Rabbit Warren - Pillow Mounds - Date: 1993 - Type: SMR - Description: PRN 12,517
3. **Book Reference** - Author: JEFFERY, P.P. - Title: Discussion on site with H. Coddington (OCC) and S. Lisk (RCHME) - Date: 1993 - Type: PERS COMM - Description: During field visit 01/12/1993
4. **Book Reference** - Author: Ordnance Survey - Title: Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Series - Date: 1980 - Type: MAP - Description: SHEET SP 41 NW
SECTION OF THE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE GRIM’S DITCH AND A SECTION OF AKEMAN STREET ROMAN ROAD IMMEDIATELY SOUTH EST OF NORTH LODGE - LIST ENRTY 1009425

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 10-Apr-1951

Date of most recent amendment: 18-Oct-1994

UID: 21837  National Grid Reference: SP 42728 18265

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

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

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

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

Selected Sources

1. **Book Reference** - Author: COPELAND, T. - Title: The North Oxfordshire Grim’s Ditch System - Page References: 277-291 - Type: DESC TEXT - Description: FIELDWORK SURVEY

2. **Book Reference** - Author: JEFFERY, P.P. - Title: DISCUSSION ON SITE - Date: 1993 - Type: PERS COMM - Description: With H. CODDINGTON (ACAO OXON)

3. **Book Reference** - Author: Ordnance Survey - Title: Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 - Date: 1980 - Type: MAP - Description: SHEET SP 41 NW

4. **Book Reference** - Author: Ordnance Survey - Title: Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Series - Date: 1980 - Type: MAP - Description: SP 41 NW

5. **Book Reference** - Author: OXONENSIA - Title: BLENHEIM PALACE 1936 - Date: 1936 - Journal Title: Proceedings - Volume: II - Type: DESC TEXT - Description: Excavation report

6. **Book Reference** - Author: OXONENSIA - Title: BLENHEIM PARK 1936 - Date: 1936 - Journal Title: Proceedings - Volume: II - Type: DESC TEXT - Description: Excavation reports
80m SECTION OF THE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE GRIM’S DITCH 150m WSW OF DITCHLEY GATE - LIST ENTRY 1012897

Grade: Not applicable to this List entry.

Date first scheduled: 09-Apr-1951

Date of most recent amendment: 04-Oct-1995

UID: 21854 National Grid Reference: SP 42231 18761

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

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

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

Selected Sources
1. **Book Reference** - **Author:** Ordnance Survey - **Title:** Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Series - **Date:** 1981 - **Type:** MAP - **Description:** SP 41 NW

2. **Article Reference** - **Author:** HARDEN, D.B. - **Title:** EXCAVATIONS ON THE LINE OF THE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE GRIM’S DITCH - **Date:** 1939 - **Journal Title:** OXONIENSIA - **Page References:** 76- - **Type:** EXCAVATION REPORT
Name: Earthwork 300m south west of Fair Rosamund's Well, Blenheim Park
Heritage Category: Scheduling
List Entry No: 1009416
County: Oxfordshire
District: West Oxfordshire
Parish: Blenheim

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

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

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

List Entry NGR: SP 43023 18064
Map Scale: 1:10000
Print Date: 15 April 2013
**Heritage Category:** Scheduling

**List Entry No:** 1009418

- **County:** Oxfordshire
- **District:** West Oxfordshire
- **Parish:** Blenheim

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

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**List Entry NGR:** SP 42343 16116

**Map Scale:** 1:10000

**Print Date:** 15 April 2013

Name: Ten medieval pillow mounds and part of an associated enclosure 300m north west of Combe Lodge
Name: 80m section of the north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch 150m WSW of Ditchley Gate in Blenheim Park
Name: Section of the north Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch and a section of Akeman Street Roman road immediately south-east of North Lodge in Blenheim Great Park.
SSSI CITATION SHEET AND CONDITION STATEMENT
COUNTY: OXFORDSHIRE

SITE NAME: BLENHEIM PARK

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

Local Planning Authorities: West Oxfordshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SP435167

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

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

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

Area: 225.2 ha 556.6 ac

Description and Reasons for Notification

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

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

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

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

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

Taken from the Natural England interactive 'Nature on the Map' Map 2013
### Sites of Special Scientific Interest

**SSSI units for Blenheim Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit number</th>
<th>Unit area (Ha)</th>
<th>Main habitat</th>
<th>National Grid reference</th>
<th>Nature on the Map</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 1</strong></td>
<td>65 Ha</td>
<td>Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland</td>
<td>SP432157</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 2</strong></td>
<td>61 Ha</td>
<td>Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland</td>
<td>SP432150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 3</strong></td>
<td>44 Ha</td>
<td>Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland</td>
<td>SP442146</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 4</strong></td>
<td>52 Ha</td>
<td>Standing open water and canals</td>
<td>SP438158</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Blenheim Park - Unit 1

Staff member responsible for SSSI unit:
Rebecca Tibbetts

Unit ID:
1002200

Unit area:
65 hectares

Main habitat:
Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland

Condition:
Favourable

Latest assessment date:
24 August 2011

Condition assessment comment:
Keith Kirby note from visit: a. Extent/number of veterans – no obvious threats other than natural causes; some past losses. Favourable b. Structure and natural processes. • Many of the veterans do have free-crowns and there is a haloing programme in place, as at the moment, some are being overshadowed, so in terms of current state some are unfavourable. • The mosaic of open space/scrub/trees is good, but possible could do with a little bit more openness in parts. Also the quality of the grassland would almost certainly benefit from being grazed rather than cut. So borderline favourable. • Age-structure – good range of age classes present over the site; favourable. c. Regeneration potential; good evidence of sufficient regeneration in the last 50 yrs to maintain the veteran oaks; plus more recent activity, so favourable. d. Tree and shrub composition: (overall favourable) • Predominance of oak in all age classes on the plateau which is important for the associated lichens and invertebrates. • I think however that it would be worth developing other species such as ash on the richer soils and maintaining the mature beech where practical to provide more diversity. • In what I have called the ornamental plantations sycamore is abundant but there is little sign that it is likely to spread to the plateau. The slopes have little veteran oak interest. Hence I do not see the sycamore as being any sort of a problem and it can be accepted in these stands, particularly any mature trees. e. Quality indicators. The prime ones here are the lichen and invertebrate assemblages which we were not able to assess directly. The possibly secondary feature interest of the grassland/bracken-heath communities look to be holding their own, but could be improved. Borderline favourable.
Blenheim Park - Unit 2

Staff member responsible for SSSI unit:
Rebecca Tibbetts

Unit ID:
1002201

Unit area:
61 hectares

Main habitat:
Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland

Condition:
Favourable

Latest assessment date:
24 August 2011

Condition assessment comment:
Keith Kirby note from visit: a. Extent/number of veterans – no obvious threats other than natural causes; some past losses. Favourable b. Structure and natural processes. • Many of the veterans do have free-crowns and there is a hawing programme in place, as at the moment, some are being overshadowed, so in terms of current state some are unfavourable. • The mosaic of open space/scrub/trees is good, but possible could do with a little bit more openness in parts. Also the quality of the grassland would almost certainly benefit from being grazed rather than cut. So borderline favourable. • Age-structure – good range of age classes present over the site; favourable. c. Regeneration potential; good evidence of sufficient regeneration in the last 50 yrs to maintain the veteran oaks; plus more recent activity, so favourable. d. Tree and shrub composition: (overall favourable) • Predominance of oak in all age classes on the plateau which is important for the associated lichens and invertebrates. • I think however that it would be worth developing other species such as ash on the richer soils and maintaining the mature beech where practical to provide more diversity. • In what I have called the ornamental plantations sycamore is abundant but there is little sign that it is likely to spread to the plateau. The slopes have little veteran oak interest. Hence I do not see the sycamore as being any sort of a problem and it can be accepted in these stands, particularly any mature trees. e. Quality indicators. The prime ones here are the lichen and invertebrate assemblages which we were not able to assess directly. The possibly secondary feature interest of the grassland/bracken-heath communities look to be holding their own, but could be improved. Borderline favourable.
Blenheim Park - Unit 3

Staff member responsible for SSSI unit: Rebecca Tibbetts

Unit ID: 1002190

Unit area: 44 hectares

Main habitat: Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland

Condition: Favourable

Latest assessment date: 03 November 2011

Condition assessment comment: This part of the site is included in the SSSI because of the presence of veteran trees scattered through mixed broadleaf and conifer plantation. The veteran trees across the site as a whole support a very high diversity of invertebrates. The range of habitat types in which the veteran trees occur at the site help to give rise to this high diversity. In this part of the site the veteran trees are mostly in shady, humid conditions which is in contrast to the veteran trees in the open parkland setting in other parts of the site. Key targets for the feature are met and there is much evidence of sympathetic management of veteran trees throughout the site. However, there are some issues of concern. Veteran trees across the site are catalogued and monitored, and are retained and protected during forestry operations. There has been no significant reduction in the number of veteran trees at the site in recent years. There is plenty of evidence of planting and protection of replacement standard trees to provide a new generation of veterans in the future. There is frequent standing and fallen dead wood throughout the unit. There is no evidence of potentially damaging activities close to veteran trees which might have adverse impacts. Indeed, there is active control of grey squirrels to help protect future veterans. However, there is a risk of overtopping and excessive shading of some of the veteran trees as surrounding trees develop. Intervention may be required in due course. In addition, laurel is frequent in places and may pose a threat to veteran trees through excessive shading and competition.
Blenheim Park - Unit 4

Staff member responsible for SSSI unit: Rebecca Tibbetts

Unit ID: 1002197

Unit area: 52 hectares

Main habitat: Standing open water and canals

Condition: Unfavourable declining

Latest assessment date: 09 January 2012

Reason for adverse condition: Siltation

Condition assessment comment: The unit is suffering from siltation and water quality issues. A survey undertaken in 2007 supports the accumulation of silt across the lake. Algal blooms were recorded May 2012.
Kielder note from visit a. Extent/number of veterans - no obvious threats other than natural causes, some past losses. Favourable. b. Structure and natural processes. Many of the veterans do have fine crowns and there is a balance programme in place, as at the moment, some are being overshadowed, so in terms of current state some are unfavourable. c. The mosaic of open space/scrub/tress is good, but possible could do with a little bit more openness in parts. Also the quality of the grassland would almost certainly benefit from being grazed rather than cut. So borderline favourable. d. Age structure - good range of age classes present over the site, favourable. e. Regeneration potential, good evidence of sufficient regeneration in the last 50 yrs to maintain the veteran saps, plus more recent activity, so favourable. f. Tree and shrub composition (overall favourable) g. Performance of saps in age classes on the plateau which is important for the associated licnas and invertebrates, so I think however that it would be worth developing other species such as ash on the richer soils and maintaining the mature beech where possible to provide more diversity. h. I have called the ornamental plantations sycamore a. abundant but there is little sign that it is likely to spread to the plateau. The sycamores have little veteran sap interest. Hence I do not see the sycamore as being any sort of a problem and it can be accepted in these stands, particularly any mature trees. i. Quality indicators. The prime ones here are the licnas and invertebrate assemblages which we were not able to assess directly. The possibly secondary feature interest of the prebendal/brocken health communities look to be holding their own, but could be improved. Borderline favourable.

This part of the site included in the SSSI because of the presence of veteran trees scattered through mixed broadleaf and conifer plantation. The veteran trees across the site as a whole support a very high diversity of invertebrates. The range of habitat types in which the veteran trees occur at the site help to give rise to this high diversity. In this part of the site the veteran trees are mostly in shady, humid conditions which is in contrast to the veteran trees in the open parkland setting in other parts of the site. Key targets for this feature are not met and there is much evidence of symptomatic management of veteran trees throughout the site. However, there are some issues of concern. Veteran trees across the site are catalogue and monitored, and are retained and protected during forestry operations. There has been no significant reduction in this number of veteran trees at the site in recent years. There is plenty of evidence of planting and protection of replacement standard trees to provide a new generation of veterans in the future. There is frequent standing and fallen dead wood throughout the site. There is no evidence of potentially damaging activities close to veteran trees which might have adverse impacts. Indeed, there is active control of grey squirrels to help protect future veteran trees. However, there is a risk of overlapping and excessive shading of some of the veteran trees as surrounding trees develop. Intervention may be required in due course. In addition, beech is frequent in places and may pose a threat to veteran trees through excessive shading and competition.

The unit is suffering from silting and water quality issues. A survey undertaken in 2007 supports the accumulation of silt across the lake. Algal blooms were recorded May 2012.
REGISTERED PARK AND GARDEN DESCRIPTION AND BOUNDARY
This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest.

Name: BLENHEIM PALACE

List entry Number: 1000434

Grade: I

Date first registered: 01-Jun-1984

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

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

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

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Blenheim lies c 12km north-west of Oxford, adjacent to the south-west side of the
village of Woodstock, within the confines of the medieval Forest of Wychwood. The c 10 sq km site is bounded largely by a c 14km long stone park wall (masons William Townesend and Bartholomew Peisley Junior, c 1720s, listed grade II), apart from a stretch along the south boundary west of Bladon, with to the east the A44 Oxford to Stratford-upon-Avon road and to the south the A4095 road to Witney. The village of Bladon straddles the valley adjacent to the south boundary, the parish church tower being prominent in views from the south front of the house. The park lies at the foot of the Cotswold dip slope, the Great Park in the north half being situated on a high plateau, dropping down to the undulating Lower Park to the south, with the flooded Glyme valley separating the two. The setting is largely rural and agricultural, with the C18 town of Woodstock against the east park wall, its church tower prominent from various points in the park. Numerous other views extend beyond the park from within.

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

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

The Palace is flanked to the east by the Italian Garden (Duchene c 1910, steps listed grade II), containing box-hedged knots with Waldo Storey's central Mermaid Fountain (1900-10, listed grade II), and to the west by the Water Terraces (Duchene 1925-30, listed grade II), based on the Parterre d'Eau at Versailles. The upper terrace contains a series of linked pools within a framework of box hedging, whilst the lower terrace contains two rectangular ponds with central obelisks and fountains (the northern one called the Bernini Fountain, late C17, listed grade I) the whole overlooking the Lake, the hillside beyond, and, glimpsed at the top of the hillside, Brown's remodelled gothic High Park Lodge. South of the Palace, flanked by informal, wooded pleasure grounds containing three stone garden temples, lies an open, level lawn, formerly the site of Wise's Great Parterre (early C18), removed by Brown in the 1760s. Views extend south from the south front and lawn across the Glyme valley to Bladon and its church tower, with distant hills beyond. The east arm of the pleasure grounds leads to the kitchen garden. The west arm of the pleasure grounds leads south to Brown's Cascade, lying c 1km south of the Palace, at the south end of the earth dam retaining the Lake. The large, rocky Cascade, hidden from the main body of the Lake, conducts water back into the enlarged Glyme.
riverbed as it runs east, crossed by the three-arched New or Bladon Bridge (Sir William Chambers 1773, listed grade I), standing 850m south of the Palace, before curving south and west to leave the park west of Lince Bridge. Laurel Bank, south of the river, seems to contain the remains of pleasure grounds which may have been linked with the former rock and flower gardens lying closer to the south side of the Cascade.

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

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

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


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

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

Map showing the extent of the EH Grade 1 registered park at Blenheim Palace and the extent of the WHS.
HISTORIC MAP AND OVERLAY
SEQUENCE AND TIMELINES
Inset box to the left highlights in red the boundary of High Park shown in 1709 and indicates considerable extension to the park in the 18th century.

See also 1760 overlay.

OVERLAY 1: 1709 MAP OVERLAID ON MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

Not To Scale August 2013

Parkland Management Plan
Blenheim Estate, Oxfordshire
Earthwork features remain on site for a number of the bastions associated with the formal garden. Patch marks on the south lawn also show the orientation and width of the main axial walk.
Inset image shows a detailed overlay of the High Park area with the red line indicating the boundary of the park in 1763. This indicated that two areas of the current park lay outside the park wall in the mid 18th century.

OVERLAY 3: 1763 MAP ON A MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

Not To Scale  August 2013

Parkland Management Plan
Bienheim Estate, Oxfordshire
High Park boundary had achieved its modern extent by 1961 - 63
OVERLAY MAP 8: OS 1900 MAP OVERLAID ON MODERN AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

Not To Scale  August 2013

Parkland Management Plan
Blenheim Estate, Oxfordshire
Good correlation between the current character of the park and that shown in 1922-23. The Grand Avenue is clearly arranged in a different form and there are more trees in Lower Park.
The map extract to the top left shows part of Combe Bottom on the OS 25" edition of 1922.

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

The overlay shows considerable change to the woodlands surrounding and on the tops of the valleys.
The map extract to the top left shows part of High Park and the palace as shown on the OS 25" edition of 1922.

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

The overlay shows a number of changes in the landscape but the key issue as far as the view from High Lodge is concern (see light purple arrow line) is that it is clearly modern (post 1922). The current ride lies to the south of the gap in the tree planting shown in 1922. As a result of this analysis the current vista from High Lodge has been shown to be relatively modern and of much less significance than has been previously assumed. It would, therefore, be entirely acceptable on historic grounds to allow this vista/ride to change or indeed be blocked up if the Estate thought this was appropriate.
MAP TIMELINES
OF KEY FEATURES AND AREAS
The 1709 map, which is partly a proposal, shows the North Park as a partially open landscape typical of Speaker parks of the time in England. The Great Avenue of the domain’s features with big Clumps of trees. Buildings are shown at North Lodge and in the approximate position of Park Farm, but these are probably not the earliest structures on these locations. There are no boundary developments in the park.

The 1763 map shows the North Park in even more detail in years around 1763. Several important changes are the development of the landscape since 1709. The actual layout of the Grand Avenue is different, with the gap to the north that is not shown on the 1763 map. The eastern part of the park is shown, including the western side of the park.

The 1772 map shows the layout of Blenheim after the changes for the 4th Duke of Marlborough. The western part of the park has been developed with the Grand Avenue leading to the central area. Buildings are shown along the western side of the park.

The 1811 OS map captures the late 19th century changes. The Grand Avenue has been completed and the alignment of the drives and roads is shown. The trees and buildings are shown in more detail, including new buildings along the western side of the park.

The 1833 map shows the further development of the park, with the Grand Avenue completed and new roads and driveways added. Buildings and new landscaping are shown throughout the park.

The 1890 map shows the development of the park in the early 20th century. The Grand Avenue is shown as completed, and new buildings are shown along the western side of the park. Landscaping is shown in more detail, with new driveways added.

The 2020 map shows the current layout of the park, with the Grand Avenue completed and new buildings added along the western side of the park. Landscaping is shown in more detail, with new driveways added.

The North or Great Park Timeline Analysis
Not To Scale
August 2013
Parkland Management Plan, Blenheim Park, Oxfordshire
1799
The deciduous woodland partially left the west valley open with one large round
clump on the high ground in the North Park.

1803
The 1803 map shows magnificent plans on a reasonably well developed heath
but the valley runs across two planted edges in the shape of large clumps. The
North Park has not yet been planted and the Belze Wood has established a series of
perpendicular clumps.

1772
The 1772 map shows the alignment of drains is shown through the valley to the
west of Wytham Wood. The permissive track runs from the established woodland
at the north of the valley to near the edge of the Belze Wood towards the
south to join the open heathland.

1811
By the early 19th century, the landscape character of the western valley had
already undergone radical modification. The fold of Belze Wood towards
the south to join the open heathland.

1823
This 1823 map shows the line of the Belze Wood parallel with the southern
edge of the valley to join the open heathland. Pleasure Park is marked
with a large clump of trees.

1883
The 1883 map shows the line of the Belze Wood parallel with the southern
edge of the valley to join the open heathland. Pleasure Park is marked
with a large clump of trees.

1884
The 1884 map shows the line of the Belze Wood parallel with the southern
edge of the valley to join the open heathland.

1900
The atmospheric landscape features. A former line of wooded belt is shown
and the Belze Wood has been planted around the southern edge of the valley.

1923
This 1923 map shows the line of the Belze Wood parallel with the southern
edge of the valley and the line of Pleasure Park is marked.

THE VALLEYS - WEST TIMELINE ANALYSIS
Not To Scale August 2013
Parkland Management Plan, Blenheim Park, Oxfordshire
1709

1763

1772

1811

1863

1884

1900

1922/3

The first Duke's central park planting. The series of domes in the park is probably the result of the Duke's central planting. The dome's arrangement is well maintained, and the domes are surrounded by large trees.

The central park's layout has been slightly altered. The domes are no longer central, and some trees have been removed. The central park is now surrounded by a larger number of trees, and the domes are no longer visible.

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1709
The earliest known map of the park shows the topography in a romantic form. The area north of the Palace and the Great House is detailed, but the rest is largely depicted as a series of hills and valleys. The western part of the estate is marked by a series of small lakes and streams that continue to exist today. The eastern part of the estate is depicted as a series of meadows and fields, with the River Thames flowing through it. The map also shows the location of the main roads and paths that were in use at the time.

1763
The map of 1763 shows the landscape becoming more structured and regular. The area north of the Palace and the Great House is still detailed, but the rest of the estate is now shown as a series of large gardens and formal parkland. The River Thames is depicted as a series of meanders, with the water flowing through a series of lakes and ponds. The map also shows the location of the main roads and paths that were in use at the time.

1772
The map of 1772 shows the landscape becoming more structured and regular, with the area north of the Palace and the Great House still detailed. The rest of the estate is now shown as a series of large gardens and formal parkland. The River Thames is depicted as a series of meanders, with the water flowing through a series of lakes and ponds. The map also shows the location of the main roads and paths that were in use at the time.

1811
In the late 19th century, further alterations to the landscape were made, with changes to the drives taking place. The area to the north of Queen Wood now contains a large pond, known as the Queen's Pond, which was created by damming the River Thames. The map also shows the location of the main roads and paths that were in use at the time.

1884
The 1884 OS map provides a detailed plan of the landscape, with the water body shown as a series of lakes, ponds, and streams. The map also shows the location of the main roads and paths that were in use at the time. The area to the north of Queen Wood is now shown as a series of large gardens and formal parkland, with the River Thames flowing through a series of meanders.

1900
The 1900 OS map shows a series of changes to the landscape, with the water body shown as a series of lakes, ponds, and streams. The map also shows the location of the main roads and paths that were in use at the time. The area to the north of Queen Wood is now shown as a series of large gardens and formal parkland, with the River Thames flowing through a series of meanders.

1923
The 1923 OS map shows further changes to the landscape, with the water body shown as a series of lakes, ponds, and streams. The map also shows the location of the main roads and paths that were in use at the time. The area to the north of Queen Wood is now shown as a series of large gardens and formal parkland, with the River Thames flowing through a series of meanders.
1762 Henry Wise's formal landscape design for Lower Park was still intact in 1769 prior to Brown's arrival at Blenheim. There is little or no change between the 1769 survey and this one by Sayle, except that the formal avenue south of the walled garden had been removed.

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

1811 The formal landscape survived into the 19th century, as shown above. However, an early change had taken place by 1811 with the addition of a small house south of the House. The creation of the Cowyards.

1863 By the late 19th century there had been domestic landscape change in Lower Park. Selective planting by the 3rd and 4th Dukes removed the formal landscape and created an informal parkland. The formal estate avenue has been truncated, although the 4 southern rows remain. Some elements in the network of drives was put in place which seems to have been associated with the construction of the Cowyards in the 1860s. Eagle Lodge is shown for the first time on an estate map.

1884 By 1884 further changes to the landscape had occurred. The southern rows of the east avenue had all but been removed. A new lake had been established around the Cowyards and an avenue had been planted along the Eagle Lodge drive. The landscape is shown for the first time, but is depicted in stylied form on the Thomas Pride map of 1779.

1900 Further changes to Lower Park occurred under the 6th Duke. A series of paddocks were established along the eastern boundary, a fence and new drive were laid out south west of the Cowyards and a significant amount of planting was established north of the walled garden. The Cowyards have increased in size since 1884.

1923/9 Further changes had occurred in Lower Park by 1923, with the addition of more paddocks south of the Cowyards. A double row of the east avenue from the Palace has been removed, but the avenue planting south of the walled garden and along the Eagle Lodge drive has been thinned.
1709
The 1709 map of High Park records the presence of a castle on the site of the later palace. High Lodge is shown very clearly in the north-west corner of the park. An enclosed area is shown on the north of High Lodge which was probably an entrance to the park on the west. It is not New Park. The land on the north of High Park is shown as open ground.

1763
The main 18th century survey report of the landscape substantially evolved from 1708. The Tommy Map of the park is the said map above without a current plan and not appropriate for determining the layout of the park. The 18th century plan shows the layout of the park and reveals that the features are on a different and separate manner.

1772
The Thomas Pilk map shows little change from the previous survey although the arrangement of the lake in its place and the down to the fire through Lodges is also shown.

1811
In the first 19th century, the 4th Duke expanded High Park by using it land from New Park. Further maps show the lake to be an example, although this is a separate point. The 1811 map, together with maps of 1772, shows the expanded High Park with new landscape features such as the New Park and the settlement of New Park. Further areas in New Park have also been incorporated into the parkland and are shown on the 1811 map. The area is shown in red on the map and is a series of areas. A substantial change has also been established in New Park, particularly shown on the top of the above image.

1863
The 1863 map of High Park shows the developing landscape of High Park. The New Park is clearly shown for the first time in the north of which took two and a half years to be completed in 1863. The OS map shows two large ponds close to High Lodge, although these may simply have been filled in as well as the land shown as open ground.

1884
Changes in High Park and the area around it in the 19th century include the construction of a new road in the north-west of High Lodge and the entrance at a nursery to the southern side of the park. The OS map shows two large ponds close to High Lodge, although these may simply have been filled in as well as the land shown as open ground.

1900
Between the 1880s and 1900, the new roads were laid out on the tree planting in High Park, indicating the north of High Lodge. Some woodland planting has since been established in the area to the south of High Lodge, and the nursery appears to be located at the southern end of the meander area.

1920s
The 1920s map shows a series of plantations in High Park in its last 150 years. The 1920s OS map shows a series of plantations established south of High Lodge. North of High Lodge, the tree planting appears to be located in the area to the south of High Lodge. It should be noted that there is no clear view of the OS map between High Lodge and the Palace.
The 1718 map shows the formal waterworks occupying almost all of the Sheep Walk, with an area extending from the ditch with a small moss area below the walled garden. A second area runs parallel to the Sheep Walk on the east side of the walled garden. The park to the west of the Sheep Walk was enclosed by a boundary wall or stone wall, with a series of agricultural plots visible.

The 1763 Spier's pre-fortress map reveals Bladon Park with a very similar characteristic to the area shown in the east of the park. The area shown in the north of the park is marked as Rough Plane, and the area shown in the south of the park is marked as Rough Plane. A single section of water is illustrated in the south of the walled garden.

The 1772 Thomas Pilling's survey map is the first to show the excellent natural extension to the park created by Leonard Bridge & the 6th Duke. The area has been changed in the early 18th century, with the Sheep Walk now seen as a more pleasant and less formal park. The garden is shown in the north of the park, with a series of water features visible.

The 1811 map shows a detailed landscape plan of 1772. The area shown is divided between the park and the open fields, with the Sheep Walk now seen as a more formal park. Bladon Park is shown in the north of the park, with a series of formal gardens visible.

The 1884 old 19th century map shows a landscape largely similar to the earlier maps. Bladon Park is shown in the north of the park, with a series of formal gardens visible. Rough Plane is shown in the south of the park, with the Sheep Walk now seen as a more formal park.

The 1900 map shows a slowly evolving landscape picture from the late 19th century. The area shown is divided between the park and the open fields, with the Sheep Walk now seen as a more formal park. Bladon Park is shown in the north of the park, with a series of formal gardens visible.

The 1920 map shows some minor changes to the landscape, although the overall appearance remains unchanged. Rough Plane is shown in the north of the park, with the Sheep Walk now seen as a more formal park. Bladon Park is shown in the north of the park, with a series of formal gardens visible.
1772
The Lince was not mentioned in both maps of the park surveyed in 1772 as both the two maps show the park in Blenheim Park and shows the park as a large green space without any significant structures.

1811
In the late 18th century, the 5th Duke and Duchess lived in a house in the park. The Lince was included in the 1811 map and shows that it was established on the north side of the river. It is shown as a straight line running parallel to the river, with a rectangular area shown on the map. The Aincourt survey map shows a spurious line running near the river, which was later named as the Lince.

1863
The 1863 map shows that the Lince had been improved and extended. It is shown as a straight line running parallel to the river, with a rectangular area shown on the map. The Aincourt survey map shows a spurious line running near the river, which was later named as the Lince.

1884
In the early 19th century, the Lince was extended and improved. It is shown as a straight line running parallel to the river, with a rectangular area shown on the map. The Aincourt survey map shows a spurious line running near the river, which was later named as the Lince.

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

1923
The 1923 map shows little landscape change, although the river is shown with areas of moor along the banks suggesting a cut off in the late 19th century as a result of commercial management activity arising and after World War I.

Modern Aerial Photograph
The general character of the Lince remains, although the river side cheneys or along the river bank has been cut off. Residential property and service buildings are located within the park on the southern boundary, but are not visible on the aerial photograph.

THE LINCE TIMELINE ANALYSIS
Not To Scale August 2013
Parkland Management Plan, Blenheim Park, Oxfordshire
1709
First depiction of the avenue shown in schematic form on a proposal plan. Avenue is drawn in the street layout.

1783
Survey map showing the avenue as planned by White-Gordon's survey in the proposal of 1783 but with a gap in the route couse & the Column in place.

1772
The Avenue after Years' Initial phase of work demolished essentially as planned by White.

1811
The OS map shows the Grand Avenue broken off following down & back motion of the landscape park. A new drive from the mile to the mile but the Column of Victory remains.

1863
By the 1860s the avenue for Grand Avenue survived as a series of lateral lines with open parkland in between.

1864
The OS (1867) OS depicts the broken up avenue in the street sections and most details. The expanse of the original avenue remains and formal planting around the track.

1900
In the late 19th century the Great Divide which marked out the road's route in the landscape area is shown on the 1900 OS map. The UL's alignment with central avenue is shown.

1937
In 1937 the first Dale was constructed the corridor planting. This alignment shown on the 1937 OS map. This alignment of the main avenue with central avenue is shown.

1922
By 1922 the first Dale's corridor planting. This shows alignment shown on the 1922 OS map. The corridor's alignment with central avenue is shown.

GRAND AVENUE TIMELINE ANALYSIS
Not to Scale  August 2013

Parkland Management Plan, Blenheim Park, Oxfordshire
1709
A small group of buildings together with enclosed gardens are shown in the
distinctive outline of Park Farm in the early 18th century. Farm is a
precipice for the buildings here was a walled garden beside the medieval inner
park, but not all the buildings survived.

1716
Park Farm is not shown on the 1715 map but it's image does show a walling
encircling a large, North Park suggesting this Park Farm was, in some way,
devoted to the open parkland landscape.

1763
The 1763 survey shows a residential property with the farmstead to the
right. There are a small enclosures around the house which is located in approximately
the same position as present Park Farm house. Apart from the small annexe of barns
behind the main building, there is no landscape concern in Park Farm at this time.

1811
The 1811 map shows the construction of house and the estate wall around Park
Farm. Blenheim House is positioned at a junction of two roads at Park Farm which
appears to have been built in the 17th century. Park Farm house is shown with buildings
of the north and north east. The house farmstead is encircled by a narrow sheltered
shrubbery.

1884
During the course of the 19th century Park Farm, which had already the 1860s
was known as Blenheim Farm. Most of its garden space. The
farmhouse and stable form range is in place with the carriage returning the southern
shrubbery

1900
No substantial landscape change.

1922/3
No substantial landscape change to the farmstead, although the Sir D. Duke had
established a new main drive for the residence.

Modern Aerial Photograph
In the late 20th century Park Farm has seen the addition of a number of large scale modern
buildings and barns. This development has encroached on the landscape to the east and the house
has added a substantial screen around the estate.

PARK FARM TIMELINE ANALYSIS
Not To Scale August 2013
Parkland Management Plan, Blenheim Park, Oxfordshire
1705
Furze Platt appears to be shown on the earliest map of Berkshire as a triangular piece of woodland or possibly scrub. The Great Avenue is located to the west with the line of the avenue being seen wrapping around Furze Platt in the west and north.

1783
This map depicts the Furze Platt complex in its pre-Victorian layout of 1783. The manor house is shown to the north of the moat and the south side of the moat is faced with a wall.

1811
In the late 18th century at least two other buildings were added to the Furze Platt complex and these are shown in schematic form on the 1811 OS map. South of the moat appears to have been bar and not the beech hedge of the area has been retained.

1862
In the mid-19th century, Furze Platt Park shows without any buildings near the tree. The formalised topography and the area is dedicated enough to be pure that the name of the existing farms are in place. A flood boundary was built to the north-west of the manor to the south west.

1884
By the end of the 19th century, there had been little change at Furze Platt. Some estate roads are shown in the south of the landscape but the area is otherwise devoid of planting. The 1884 OS map shows the present arrangement of the park and lack of any buildings.

1900
There is little change in the landscape character of Furze Platt at the turn of the 20th century. However, the surrounding land use has changed dramatically. Fields and small parishes have been established on the north and south east of the hamlet and south west of the manor but few buildings have been developed.

1923/5
By 1923 the banks had changed at Furze Platt since the late 18th century; the formal arrangement of the moat has been retained and the open nature of the landscape remains unchanged. A small mill pond possibly the existing remains of the mill is shown on the north east corner of the area while the flood channels of the 18th century have been removed.

1923
Modern Aerial Photograph
This modern aerial view of Furze Platt (last before the Fords) shows the outstanding result more or less in place. The formalised topography and the area is dedicated enough to be pure that the name of the existing farms are in place. A flood boundary was built to the north-west of the manor to the south west.

FURZE PLATT TIMELINE ANALYSIS
Not to Scale: August 2013
Parkland Management Plan, Blenheim Park, Oxfordshire
LIST OF AWARDS RECEIVED
2013-2016
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Title</th>
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<td>Winner</td>
<td>Living In Oxford Awards</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Innovation</td>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>Hudson’s Heritage</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Tourism</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Green Tourism Scheme</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>VisitEngland</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>Winner</td>
<td>Cotswold Life Family Business Awards</td>
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<td>Excellence</td>
<td>Trip Advisor</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Eating Out</td>
<td>Highly Commended</td>
<td>Hudson’s Heritage</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Historic House and/or Garden for Groups</td>
<td>Winner</td>
<td>Group Travel Organizer</td>
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<td>Heritage Venue</td>
<td>Winner</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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