Historic England

Gardens

Scheduling Selection Guide

Summary

Historic England's scheduling selection guides help to define which archaeological sites are likely to meet the relevant tests for national designation and be included on the National Heritage List for England. For archaeological sites and monuments, they are divided into categories ranging from Agriculture to Utilities and complement the listing selection guides for buildings. Scheduling is applied only to sites of national importance, and even then only if it is the best means of protection. Only deliberately created structures, features and remains can be scheduled. The scheduling selection guides are supplemented by the Introductions to Heritage Assets which provide more detailed considerations of specific archaeological sites and monuments.

This selection guide offers an overview of the sorts of garden remains which are likely to be deemed to have national importance, and for which of those scheduling may be appropriate. It aims to do two things: to set these within their historical context, and to give an introduction to the designation approaches employed.

This document has been prepared by Listing Group. It is one is of a series of 18 documents. This edition published by Historic England July 2018. All images © Historic England unless otherwise stated.

Please refer to this document as:

Historic England 2018 Gardens: Scheduling Selection Guide. Swindon. Historic England.

HistoricEngland.org.uk/listing/selection-criteria/scheduling-selection/

Front cover
Kirby Hall, Northamptonshire, with the core of its Elizabethan and later gardens reconstructed after excavation. Beyond is the hollow-way marking the deserted village of Kirby.

Contents

Introduction

This selection guide offers an overview of the sorts of garden remains which are likely to be deemed to have national importance, and for which of those scheduling may be appropriate. It aims to do two things: to set these within their historical context, and to give an introduction to the designation approaches employed.

A parallel Garden and Park Structures listing selection guide treats the selection of structures in designed landscapes for listing, while four selection guides discuss the criteria for the inclusion of designed landscapes on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest under the headings Rural Landscapes, Urban Landscapes, Institutional Landscapes, and Landscapes of Remembrance.

1 Historical Summary

1.1 Prehistoric

Closes and enclosures associated with settlement sites, in some cases presumably used as productive gardens, are treated in the scheduling selection guide on Settlement Sites.

1.2 Roman

Written sources, mosaics, wall paintings and structural remains from across the Roman Empire show the range and complexity of ornamental and productive gardens associated primarily with the houses of the wealthy. The earliest evidence for designed landscapes in England has come from the excavation of Roman villas at sites including Fishbourne (West Sussex; Fig 1), Frocester (Gloucestershire) and Bancroft, Milton Keynes (Buckinghamshire). Their courtyards and immediate surrounds have revealed evidence of formal planting, pools and piped-in water.

At Gorhambury (Hertfordshire) and Rivenhall (Essex) villas have been argued to stand within deliberately designed landscapes with vistas, landmarks and avenues of trees. It has also been suggested that large urban houses, perhaps especially those set around a courtyard as found at Silchester (Hampshire), would also have had formal gardens. Pollen and seeds from a wide range of sites indicate the types of plants grown, which were ornamental as well as horticultural and agricultural. At Fishbourne it has been argued on the basis of faunal remains (animal bones) that there was an animal park or *vivarium* (apparently similar to the later medieval 'little parks') south of the palace where in the first century AD fallow deer were kept; for the moment this remains unparalled.

Figure 1
Excavations at Fishbourne, West Sussex in the 1960s revealed a large, very high-status late first-century AD Roman building, possibly the palace of Cogidubnus, the local client-king. Bedding trenches (seen here) for hedging – probably box – planting beds, paths and water pipes evidence a formal garden bisected by a broad processional way.

1.3 Anglo-Saxon and Viking

Vegetables and herbs were undoubtedly grown in the closes associated with houses, and with institutions such as monasteries. As yet, few details have been forthcoming from archaeological excavations. There are no

suggestions of any form of designed landscapes, although hunting grounds and forests had carefully-placed lodges.

1.4 Medieval

Since pioneering work by Chistopher Taylor for the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) in the 1970s and early 1980s, summarised in his *The Archaeology of Gardens* (1983), the number and variety of medieval and later sites where garden archaeology has been identified, principally from field survey and air photography, has expanded enormously, and there are now many dozen sites where medieval designed landscapes have been identified.

Medieval designed landscapes can be divided into three groups: gardens immediately around the house, castle, or institution; the zone beyond this, where a wider setting for the place might be constructed; and parks which lie at some remove from the main house. Urban gardens also merit consideration.

Gardens around the house

It has long been known from literary sources like the *Romance of the Rose* and from manuscript illuminations that castles, great houses and monasteries could have small but elaborate pleasure gardens within their walls: the *hortus conclusus* (enclosed garden), or herber. Such sources – admittedly mainly continental – indicate that in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries their features could include turf benches, trellis-work screens, tunnels and arbours, fountains, pools and rills, specimen trees and a wide range of sweet-smelling flowers and herbs in beds.

Later, in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, when more evidence is forthcoming from England itself, we see the appearance of knot gardens, where compartments overlooked from the house were divided by paths, typically into quarters, with curvilinear patterns picked out using plants like thyme and rosemary, and coloured earth and sand. By this time great gardens incorporated carved and painted woodwork such as railings and heraldic beasts, all of which are a reminder that 'the medieval garden' should not be thought of as something fixed and unchanging.

Someries Castle (Bedfordshire) is an example of a medieval site where the earthwork remains of a garden are scheduled together with the associated house-site. Both clearly evolved over their 300-year span: as so often, we still have much to learn about the nature of these changes. Woodham Walter Hall (Essex) on the other hand, is an exceptionally well preserved site of an elaborate house of the 1st Earl of Sussex. Here the scheduled earthworks of its privy and formal gardens and extensive water bodies appear to be a single concept, dating to the first half of the sixteenth century; due to early desertion, these appear to have been subject to very little later alteration. Above-ground structural remains (other than boundary walls) are much rarer; a perhaps earlier thirteenth-century ornamental pool complex at Rosamund's Well, part of the royal palace site at Woodstock, Oxfordshire (now within the Blenheim Park World Heritage Site) is one well-known example.

Monasteries had productive gardens, and some, at least, cultivated herb gardens for medicinal applications. At richer houses, abbots and priors typically had private pleasure gardens attached to their lodgings. Sometimes the location of such can be identified, as at Haughmond Abbey (Shropshire) where Longnor's Garden (within the scheduled area) is identified with Nicholas of Longnor, abbot 1325-46. If, exceptionally, waterlogged or anaerobic (oxygen-free) deposits survive, ecofacts (including seeds, fruit stones and pollen) can provide evidence for what was grown and consumed. Orchards for different types of fruit, sometimes compartmentalised, are frequently documented, associated with higher-status residences of all sorts.

The wider setting

It is now clear that castles and aristocratic houses often stood within extensive designed landscapes (Fig 2). There are two exemplar site-types. At Kenilworth Castle (Warwickshire) a great artificial

Figure 2
Ravensworth Castle, North Yorkshire. To the south of the castle (the middle ground in the photo) is an extensive area of scheduled earthworks, interpreted in the designation entry as defensive. It seems more probable that this was a late fourteenth-century designed landscape with terraced garden, mere and raised walks, with a deer park beyond.

dam-girt mere was created abutting the castle in the thirteenth century, at the end of which a large moated 'pleasance' (the word alludes to pleasure) or artificial island garden was created in 1417 with a timber banquetting house and corner towers. All is encompassed within a single scheduled area.

The use of views, water, and in this case carefully-planned approaches can also be seen at the second site-type, the scheduled landscape around the Grade I listed Bodiam Castle (East Sussex), built by Sir Edward Dalingridge in the 1380s. Even quite modest manorial complexes may have had surrounds or approaches designed to give pleasure and impress. The most recurrent element in such settings is water: meres, moats and millpools (all of which required sluices and channels for water management), sometimes with a prescribed, raised, approach through them to the house. The medieval abbot of Ely's scheduled palace site at Somersham (Cambridgeshire), where the watery setting was probably created in the thirteenth or fourteenth century, is one example of the latter. As in later centuries, the combination of economically productive yet also visually pleasing estate components (fishponds and orchards, for instance) within the setting of a house was a deliberate aspect of the medieval formal landscape.

A particular subset of designed landscape was the 'little park', noted especially in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries as well as later in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These were clearly something different from the usual deer park (treated below). Most stood close to the house or overlooked by it, and appear to have been semi-natural pleasure grounds which provided a pleasing setting with animals and birds to watch and hear, and probably somewhere to walk; they were perhaps akin to the idealised parklands seen in some manuscript illuminations. The existence and at least approximate locations of two dozen or more such parks have been identified, most associated with high status castles and houses like Windsor (Berkshire) and Clarendon (Wiltshire).

Deer parks and forests

Hunting remained popular in the Middle Ages and beyond. The English medieval kings had access to vast forest hunting grounds, some wooded, where Forest Law gave protection both to the deer and to the trees. The infrastructure of forests and chases (forests granted by the Crown to others) included structures such as lodges and boundary banks. Deer parks were smaller hunting grounds (most of 30-80 ha), typically areas of wood and grassland located away from settlements on economically marginal land, and (unless Crown property) all in theory were permitted by royal licence.

As the number of licences granted shows, the number of parks grew steadily in the two centuries after the Norman Conquest, park ownership spreading from the ranks of the aristocracy to wealthier manorial lords. Estimates about how many parks existed by the earlier fourteenth century vary widely; Oliver Rackham thought about 3,200, although others feel this is too high an estimate. But whatever the total, they were commonplace. After the Black Death their number declined, by perhaps 30 per cent over 150 years.

Physical evidence for parks includes boundary banks (pales, that is a ditch with an outer bank surmounted by a tall oak fence), typically now followed by later field boundaries. Some examples of pales which survive particularly well as upstanding earthworks have been scheduled, as at Tutbury (Staffordshire) and Ongar (Essex) where a deer hay (probably a hedged enclosure to facilitate management) is first referred to in a will of 1045. More rarely parks were defined by a wall (Fig 3); some are listed (see the listing selection guide on Garden and Park Structures).

Figure 3
A deer leap in the park wall at Boughton, Northamptonshire. The funnelled wall, and grass ramp, encourages deer to jump into the park beyond. The ground level and the wall prevents escape the other way.

Many parks contained a lodge (often surrounded by a moat; many examples are included among scheduled moated sites) for the parker who managed the park. Some lodges survive as standing buildings, often having become farmhouses, and can be listed. The house- or place-name 'lodge' can be indicative of a medieval site; however, it was also popular for isolated new farmhouses ('Wold Lodge') in the nineteenth century, as well as for parks' entrance lodges. Sometimes, as parks were relatively secure landscapes, fishponds and warrens (see the overview in the Animal Management IHA) were established within them.

Urban gardens

The urban houses of kings, prelates and magnates typically had gardens, usually occupying adjoining walled compartments. Especially in planned towns, house-plots (or burgages as they were known) tended to be narrow but very long. Modern property boundaries often preserve their lines even if the plot itself has been truncated, and these plan-elements contribute considerably to the 'grain' of historic places. Documents and archaeology indicate that urban gardens were used for horticulture, for keeping animals, for small-scale crafts and industries, and for rubbish and night-soil disposal. It does not appear that ordinary townspeople kept pleasure gardens.

1.5 Post-Medieval 1540-1750

From the mid-sixteenth century our knowledge of gardens increases with the proliferation of gardening texts and descriptions, estate mapping, and documentation in general. There is also much more that survives above ground, as the gardens of the upper classes became larger, and more elaborately and substantially constructed with terraces, mounts and water gardens, and studded with garden buildings of various types.

The conversion of monasteries to gentry houses after the Dissolution from 1536 was probably always accompanied by at least a measure of landscaping and garden making. New gardens, often within the former cloisters, are sometimes glimpsed in early maps and estate paintings (the bird's-eye views of houses in their settings which became popular in England in the later seventeenth century) and the archaeological potential to recover evidence of these has been demonstrated, for instance, at Haughmond Abbey (Shropshire).

In general, gardens of the sixteenth and earlier seventeenth centuries probably differed little from those of the preceding century, being contained within one or more walled compartments around a house, and with elaboration confined to straight gravel paths, knots, topiary, and clipped hedges. In the years after 1550 things began to change, and at the grandest castles and palaces Italian Renaissance ideas began to be introduced. At Kenilworth Castle (Warwickshire), the garden was elaborately renewed in the 1570s when terraces, obelisks and fountains were introduced (now reconstructed after archaeological investigation; Figs 4, 5), while a few years later at Theobalds (Hertfordshire) the enclosed courtyard gardens gained (among much else) a grotto, terraces and statuary.

Some of these great formal gardens made use of large-scale earth-moving and a few have survived, usually because the house itself fell from favour or was demolished leaving the garden fossilised. Examples include those laid out at Holdenby (Northamptonshire) by Sir Christopher Hatton after 1579; those made at Chipping Campden (Gloucestershire) by the mercer made-good Viscount Campden in the 1610s; and those made by the Paston family at Oxnead Hall (Norfolk) between the 1590s and 1630s. The Falls, at Harrington (Northamptonshire) is a scheduled example of a terraced garden on a more modest scale (Fig 6). All employed multiple terraces (some ramped, some retained by walls), probably tree-lined walks, water gardens, and also garden buildings or architectural incidents. The grotto at Theobalds, mentioned above, seems to have been the first in England. In the early seventeenth century other grottoes were constructed, some subterranean some not, but all generally featuring rock- and shell-work and often gushing water.

Figures 4 (top) and 5 (bottom)
Top: Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire. There was major investment here in 1575 before a 19-day visit by Queen Elizabeth I, of a brand-new garden, a *locus amoenus* ('place of joy and delight'). Little trace survived in modern times other than an altered terrace. Excavation prior to reconstruction located a key element, the base of its central marble fountain, seen here (scale 1 metre overall).

Bottom: The restored gardens at Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire.

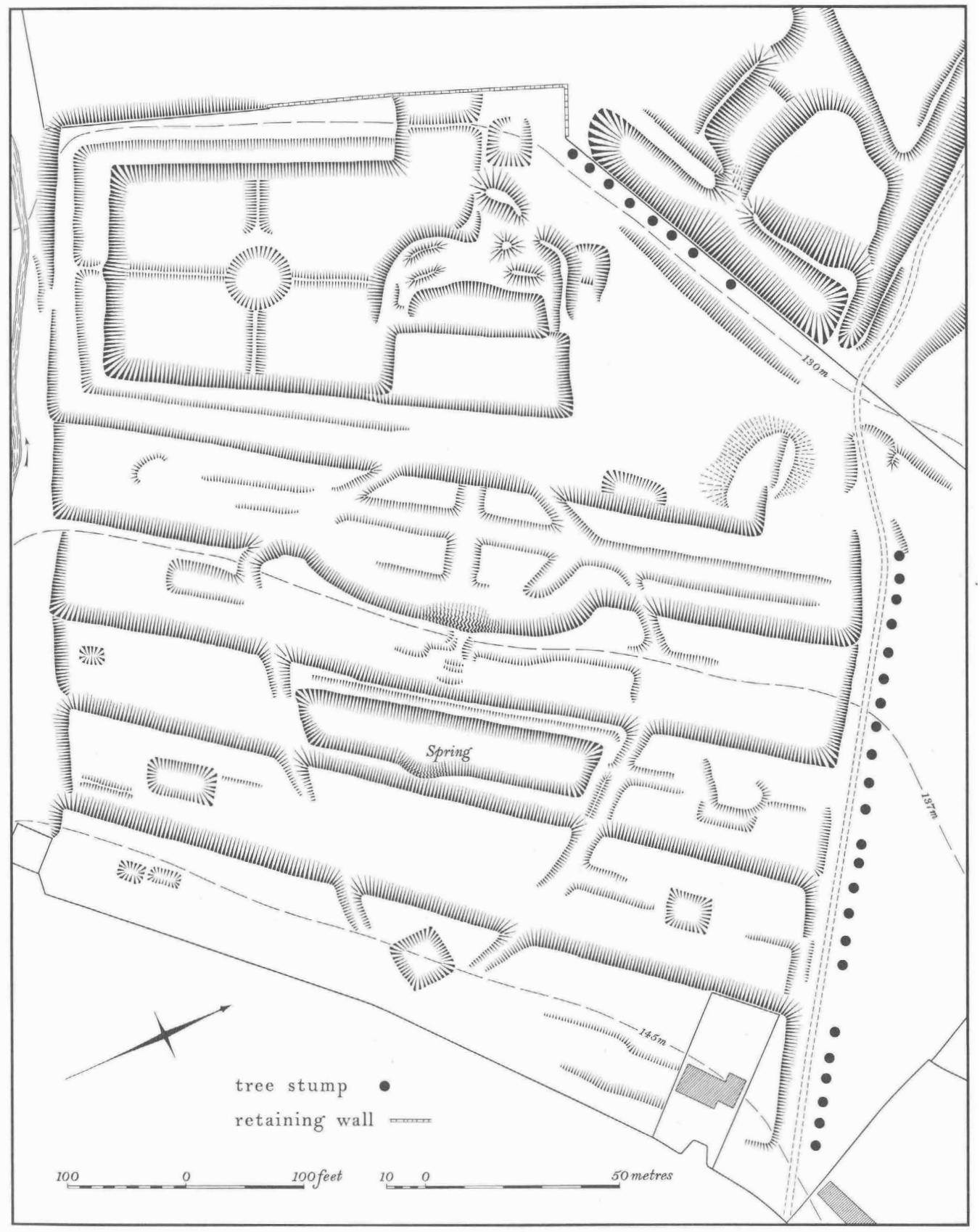

Figure 6
The Royal Commission on Historic Monuments' hachure plan of the terraced garden remains known as The Falls, at Harrington, Northamptonshire, dating from about 1700. The house-site is marked by the irregular earthworks at the top of the figure. Unusually the gardens, described in 1712 as 'a descent of Garden Walks', ran uphill rather than downhill from the house.

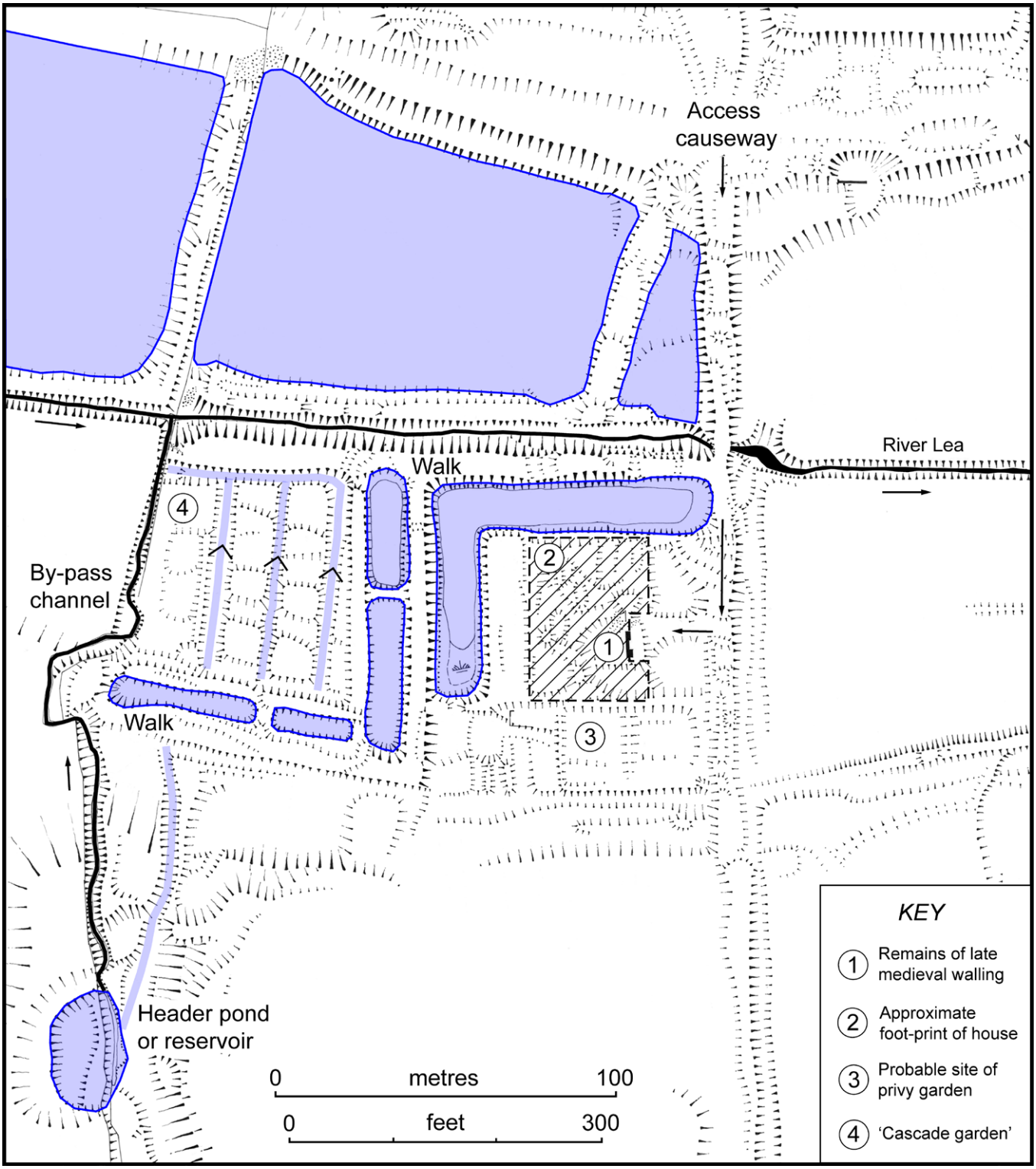

Figure 7
Madeley Old Manor, Staffordshire. Probably in the late sixteenth century a complex water, or fishing, garden was constructed around the house, part of a fashion for logically geometric settings for the gentry to engage in an activity – rod fishing – which promoted calm and thoughtful recreation. Izaac Walton's The Compleat Angler of 1653 was dedicated to its owner, John Offley.

Figure 8
One of the snail, or spiral, mounts at the corners of Sir Thomas Tresham's water garden at Lyveden, Northamptonshire, which gave views over his garden and estate. Under construction in the 1590s, personal extravagance and persecution for his Roman Catholicism meant that work was abandoned on the gardens and the adjoining New Bield banqueting house at his death in 1605.

Water gardens, whether around the house or around orchards, were popular in the later sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, some contrived from earlier moats and fishponds, others entirely new (Fig 7). Some, like Tackley (Oxfordshire), of about 1620, featured highly geometric arrangements of ponds and terraces where fishing and wildfowling were carried on: landscapes combining pleasure and profit. Various structures could be associated with these such as boundary walls, elaborate gateways, fishing pavilions and 'supping' (eating) rooms. Tackley was at some remove from where its creator lived; even more detached was Francis Bacon's celebrated water garden at Gorhambury (Hertfordshire), being planned in 1608, which was reached via a mile-long walk from his house.

These water gardens form part of a wider group of allegorical gardens and landscapes created in the decades around 1600, mirroring contemporary fashions in courtly building like the triangular Longford Castle (Wiltshire). The proclamations made in the 1590s by Sir Thomas Tresham of his Catholic faith via the Greek Cross-shaped New Bield (possibly meaning refuge) at Lyveden (Northamptonshire) which stood alongside a water garden with four mounts (Fig 8) and his Triangular Lodge at Rushton (Northamptonshire) are the best known examples of such fashionable garden development of this period.

A very different style of garden was created at Wilton House (Wiltshire) in the early 1630s by Isaac de Caus: three great flat compartments with

a broad central axis leading from the house to an arcaded grotto. The first compartment comprised four 'platts' with flowers and statues; the second a grove, densely planted with trees and containing fountains and statues; while the third was laid out with formal walks and ended with an imposing transverse terrace beneath which was the grotto. The central walk continued beyond this into an area of less regular groves and 'wildernesses' with an amphitheatre, triumphal arch, and statue of Marcus Aurelius.

From the Restoration (1660) large numbers of gardens, and parkland beyond, were laid out to reflect contemporary continental, especially French and Dutch, styles of gardening. Around the house elaborate parterres, formal pools and canals, fountains and statuary, lay in compartments divided one from another by tall walls with wrought iron gates and screens. Trees and shrubs were planted in complex patterns and groupings, carried out beyond the garden in further compartments and with avenues and rides extending outwards across park and wider estate. It is these landscapes, above all others, which were captured by artists and engravers in the commissioned estate paintings which became popular among the landowning classes.

The overall number of deer parks at this time is hard to estimate, in part because while many were enclosed – divided into fields and turned over to more profitable mainstream agriculture – elsewhere new ones were being created to cater for the newly wealthy and the ambitious: deer farming and hunting remained signifiers of money and status. Henry VIII was a keen hunter and made new parks, as did James I, who was said to be 'excessively fond' of hunting. Elizabeth I was also an enthusiastic participant in the hunt but typically left it to her courtiers to create parks for her entertainment. Sir Christopher Hatton's Holdenby had a garden mount designed, in part, to give a view outward to his deer park where, no doubt, he hoped to entice the queen (who in the event never came) to join him in the hunt.

New weapons, the crossbow and firearms, were employed in the ritual of the hunt, and by the sixteenth century an increasingly popular form of hunting was to wait in a stand, sometimes raised (as in the modern word grandstand), to shoot at deer as they were driven past (after a nasty fall in 1536 Henry VIII hunted exclusively from the stand). The earliest surviving example is the same monarch's 'Great Standing' in Fairmead Park (Essex). Lost examples sometimes appear on early maps, and their sites can be perpetuated in place-names like King's Standing.

One highly important development, from around the mid-sixteenth century, was the imparkment of land around great houses to give privacy and a pleasing setting; as with deer parks, a wall or pale defined the boundary.

Ordinary urban gardens probably remained largely functional, although by the second half of the sixteenth century sources like printed maps and early gardening treatises such as those written by Thomas Hill show that, especially in the suburbs of London and major provincial cities, pleasure gardens had features such as walks, trellised alleys, bowling alleys, mazes, banqueting houses (notorious as trysting places), knots, and mounts for looking over the garden wall to the countryside beyond. Such features appeared in private gardens as well as, in some cases, at commercial places of entertainment like inns and brothels. Mounds also feature prominently in David Loggan's late seventeenth-century perspective views of Oxford and Cambridge college gardens. Some, at least, pre-date 1660.

1.6 Post-Medieval 1750 to the present

The landscape park which was so in vogue from the mid-eighteenth century gave, in its most successful examples, expression to the conceit that the country house lay within an exquisite Arcadian, natural, pastoral landscape. Typically, however, this was the product of a considerable financial investment in a designer-contractor, and massive earthmoving and associated civil engineering. Dams to contrive river-like lakes are the most visible component of such landscapes, but in some cases – this was

Figure 9
Cain Hill House, Wrest Park, Bedfordshire. Thomas Archer's garden building of about 1715 was a key element in this major designed landscape, included at Grade I in the Register of Parks and Gardens. Long demolished, the building's importance has been recognised through scheduling.

one of the landscaping signatures of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716-1783)- subtle changes to parks' topographies were contrived by skimming earth from some areas, and dumping it elsewhere, to conceal and reveal views and buildings, especially from approach drives. The total tonnage thus moved could be vast, but is difficult to detect on the ground today.

Many parks gained a wide range of built structures, from lodges and gates at entrances to temples and seats – some elegant, some whimsical – at key viewpoints (Fig 9; for these see the listing selection guide on Garden and Park Structures). Especially those built of wood may be long gone, although their sites are often easily located through map research leading to the location of building platforms, especially when set on a key point on paths or drives. Kitchen gardens became larger, and were often removed from the vicinity of the house to a more discrete location; from about 1840 cheaper glass saw the proliferation of glasshouses, cold frames and the like.

Towards the mid-nineteenth century there was a renewed vogue for extensive formal gardens around country houses; these remained fashionable into the Edwardian period despite an opposing fashion for informal gardening from around the turn of the century espoused by gardeners and garden writers like William Robinson (1838-1935) and Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932). Many of these formal gardens

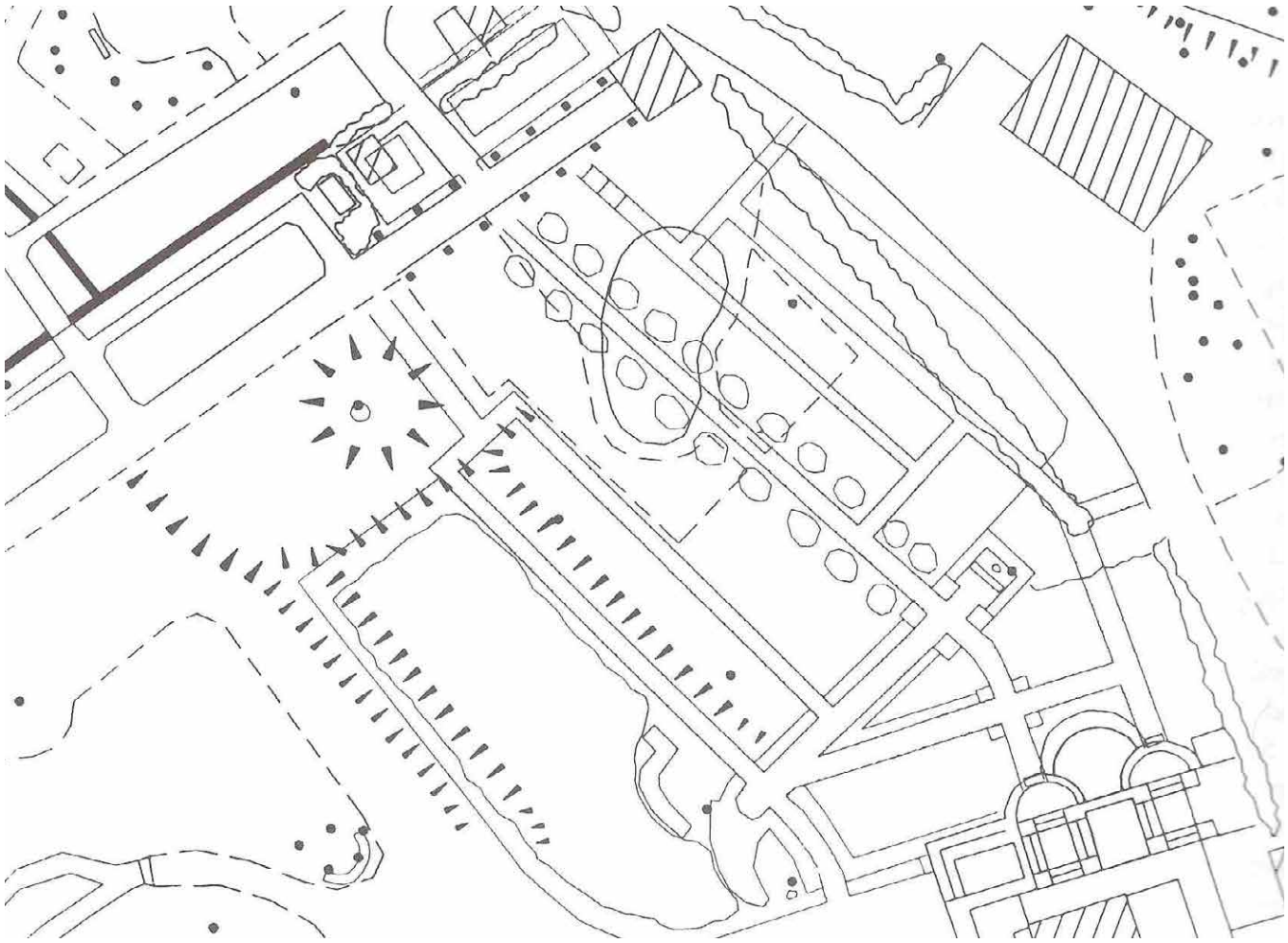

Figure 10
Munstead Wood, Surrey. Gertude Jekyll, artist, craftswoman and garden designer, moved into her Lutyens-designed house in the late 1890s, having already laid out extensive woodland gardens. 1:500 survey (not shown to scale here) by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England in 1991 informed replanting.

survive, albeit in simplified form; others, like the houses they once complemented, were given up in the mid-twentieth century (and especially in the 1950s) although substantial relict remains may survive in the form of walls, terraces and earthworks.

Even relatively recent gardens, like Jekyll's own Munstead Wood (Surrey), begun in the 1880s, can leave legible archaeological traces of lost phases of expansion and contraction, both as earthworks and as below-ground archaeology (Fig 10).

2 Overarching Considerations

2.1 Scheduling and protection

Archaeological sites and monuments vary greatly in character, and can be protected in many ways: through positive management by owners, through policy, and through designation. In terms of our designation system, this consists of several separate approaches which operate alongside each other, and our aim is to recommend the most appropriate sort of protection for each asset. Our approach towards designation will vary, depending on the asset in question: our selection guides aim to indicate our broad approaches, but are subordinate to Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) policy.

Scheduling, through triggering careful control and the involvement of Historic England, ensures that the long-term interests of a site are placed first. It is warranted for sites with real claims to national importance which are the most significant remains in terms of their key place in telling our national story, and the need for close management of their archaeological potential. Scheduled monuments possess a high order of significance: they derive this from their archaeological and historic interest. Our selection guides aim to indicate some of the grounds of importance which may be relevant. Unlike listed buildings, scheduled sites are not generally suited to adaptive re-use.

Scheduling is discretionary: the Secretary of State has a choice as to whether to add a site to the Schedule or not. Scheduling is deliberately selective: given the ever-increasing numbers of archaeological remains which continue to be identified and interpreted, this is unavoidable.

The Schedule aims to capture a representative sample of nationally important sites, rather than be an inclusive compendium of all such assets.

Given that archaeological sensitivity is all around us, it is important that all means of protecting archaeological remains are recognised. Other designations such as listing can play an important part here. Other sites may be identified as being of national importance, but not scheduled. Government policy affords them protection through the planning system, and local authorities play a key part in managing them through their archaeological services and Historic Environment Records (HERs).

The Schedule has evolved since it began in 1882, and some entries fall far short of modern standards. We are striving to upgrade these older records as part of our programme of upgrading the National Heritage List for England. Historic England continues to revise and upgrade these entries, which can be consulted on the Historic England website.

2.2 Heritage assets and national importance

Paragraph 194 and footnote 63 of the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2018) states that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification and for assets of the highest significance should be wholly exceptional; ‘non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent

significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets'. These assets are defined as having National Importance (NI). This is the latest articulation of a principle first raised in PPG16 (1990-2010) and later in PPS5 (2010-2012).

2.3 Selection criteria

The particular considerations used by the Secretary of State when determining whether sites of all types are suitable for statutory designation through scheduling are set out in their Scheduled Monuments Policy Statement.

2.4 Scheduling and listing

It is perfectly possible for standing structures within scheduled areas to be listed, and many are. The presence of a standing structure (say the main house, or a garden temple), especially if listed, with a direct association with a relict designed landscape is likely to enhance the case for scheduling. The setting of a listed building affords some protection to its surroundings.

2.5 Scheduling and the Register of Parks and Gardens

Over 1,640 designed landscapes are included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, established in 1983. These include extensive sites where there are garden earthworks. If such earthworks (or other archaeological remains) are of sufficient quality, they may additionally be scheduled bringing a higher and appropriate level of protection to that part of the site.

In the past, some earthwork garden sites (such as Barnwell, Northamptonshire) were added to the Register irrespective of the fact that they were already scheduled. Henceforward such additional designation (that is, registration) will be highly unlikely, and scheduling will provide the principal test of an archaeological landscape's special interest.

2.6 Understanding and identification

Despite the very considerable advances over the last 25 years in the characterisation of garden earthworks, the identification of sites and of the potential of garden archaeology, there are few counties or areas where the search for sites of this type has been systematic. That many sites, even major ones, have probably yet to be identified is indicated by work on Northamptonshire in the later 1970s and early 1980s by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) which identified 40 sites with substantial surviving earthworks of former formal gardens (far from the whole range of site-types discussed above). Nevertheless, the sample is now sufficiently large, and well understood and published, for new sites to be accurately appraised for their special interest.

2.7 Regional diversity

Most garden earthworks will be associated with higher status houses, or institutions like monastic houses with national interests and distribution. There are unlikely to be regional variations in site-types, and this will not often be a factor in identifying sites for scheduling.

2.8 Intactness

If a site is complete, this will make it more likely to be designated than one which has lost elements. 'Complete' sites include ones, like Lyveden, where work stopped before work was concluded, allowing something of the process of construction to be seen.

If only a small part of a designed landscape survives it may still be scheduled if assessed to be of sufficient national importance. Similarly, where a landscape had an outlying element beyond (perhaps considerably so) its main site – perhaps a hilltop eyecatcher – this may still be scheduled, if of sufficient national importance, even if the main site has been lost or greatly changed.

2.9 Documentation

A site which has good documentation (which might include accounts, descriptions, pictorial representations, and also records of modern surveys or excavations leading to fuller understanding) will be more likely to be designated than one with sparse records. It will afford a better understanding of the history and evolution of the landscape, and thus increase its significance

2.10 Archaeological potential

Where a site has soil conditions – such as waterlogged ditches – which have a greater than usual potential to preserve ecofacts (seeds, nuts, pollen) relating to the cultivation of a garden, this will be a positive factor in designation assessment. So too will evidence that archaeologically–recoverable earlier phases are present.

2.11 Scheduling and gardens in active management

On some sites garden earthworks may lie partly in parkland or farmland, and partly within the surrounds of the house (perhaps a ha-ha supplying the dividing line) where the garden is under active horticultural management. In such cases it may still be appropriate to schedule the latter ground, as a standard class consent (that is, an activity on a Scheduled Monument which does not require the permission of the Secretary of State) will permit normal horticultural operations. Equally, and especially if several centuries of gardening have changed or denuded earthworks, it may be appropriate to limit the scheduled area to beyond the modern garden boundary. Overall, however, scheduling will be reserved for abandoned garden sites no longer in active use.

2.12 Urban gardens

Especially where they survive as open spaces, gardens may be included in any scheduling of a great urban (or urban-fringe) house site. However, unless it has demonstrable high archaeological potential it is unlikely that such an urban garden would be scheduled in isolation. Burgages will not normally be schedulable for their interest as gardens; for these and other urban designation considerations see the Settlement Sites scheduling selection guide. Where boundary walls have special interest in their own right, they can be listed (see the Suburban and Country Houses listing selection guide).

2.13 Other approaches

Landscape and natural environment designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Parks, Heritage Coasts and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty aim to preserve not only the natural heritage but also cultural heritage. Nationally important or scheduled monuments can benefit from these designations, and while they do not negate the need for statutory protection through scheduling, they can complement it.

3 Considerations by Period

3.1 Prehistoric

Enclosures and paddocks associated with settlements which may have been used as productive gardens are treated in the Settlement Sites selection guide.

3.2 Roman

Roman gardens will sometimes already be scheduled as part of villa or urban-area designations. With unscheduled villas, were the evidence to indicate a garden or other designed setting this would increase the likelihood of designation.

3.3 Anglo-Saxon and Viking

As with prehistoric sites, the scheduling of settlement sites will generally extend to enclosures in close association with dwellings.

3.4 Medieval

As noted above, the sites of many ornamental gardens associated with high-status sites such as castles, great houses and monasteries will already be included in the schedulings for those sites. However, many older schedulings include only the main buildings, and garden areas may have been excluded. If these can be accurately located, and especially where there is demonstrably high archaeological potential (notably because of a lack of later disturbance) serious consideration should be given to their inclusion through a revision of the scheduled area. Haughmond Abbey (Shropshire), Hailes Abbey (Gloucestershire) and Jervaulx Abbey (North Yorkshire) are good examples of where modern survey and research by Historic England have led to a more inclusive understanding of monastic precincts.

Wider designed landscapes lacking constructed features (such as earthworks of ponds or causeways) would generally lie beyond the legal scope of scheduling which is reserved for 'works' as defined by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, although many would lie within (or partially define) the setting of a scheduled monument or listed building and have a measure of protection thereby. Features within them (fishponds, say, or any defining wall or pale) would, however, be eligible for designation; their contribution to the overall layout of the designed landscape would be a factor when assessing their significance.

Deer parks in their entirety will generally be too extensive and lack the 'works' needed to qualify for scheduling. However, specific features such as lengths of pale will be eligible for designation, although given the number of parks that existed and of which traces survive, careful discrimination will be needed. Positive factors are likely to be the quality of the earthwork, and whether this forms part of a park with otherwise good survival of landscape and buildings. Short lengths of pale divorced from other surviving associated features are unlikely to be scheduled, although these will certainly be of local interest.

3.5 Post-Medieval (i) formal gardens to the mid-eighteenth century

Nearly 400 noblemen held titles between the mid-sixteenth and mid-seventeenth centuries, and with polite society in a typical English county numbering between twenty and eighty gentry families it has been estimated that by the mid-seventeenth century there were some 5,000 or so country houses at any one time. It is thought that in the 250 years from the early sixteenth to the mid-eighteenth centuries the number of formal gardens created around such houses may comfortably have exceeded 2,000. How many survive is unknown; as noted above, in Northamptonshire some 40 sites, mostly from this period, have been identified.

Given the potential number of candidates, there will need to be discrimination when selecting examples for scheduling. Factors which will weigh in favour of designation will include:

- Quality: good earthworks or other hard landscaping.
- Extent: where a whole garden complex survives it is more likely to be designated than where there is only partial survival.
- Rarity and elaboration: gardens with simple linear terracing are relatively commonplace, and gardens selected for designation which survive only as earthworks will generally have additional elements such as raised walks, viewing mounds, bowling greens, waterworks.
- Individual features: exceptionally, even where an important garden has been largely degraded or lost, surviving individual features or groups thereof – say a viewing mound, water features or building – may be scheduled. A good example of the last is the site of Thomas Archer's lost Cain Hill garden house of about 1715 , a key element in the Grade I registered Wrest Park (Bedfordshire).
- Documentation: where there is good documentation, whether financial accounts of construction and management, or visitors' descriptions, or modern records of excavations and the like, this again will be likely to increase the interest of the site.
- Diversity of period: as with gardens of all periods, evidence of more than one phase is likely to add to a site's interest.
- Archaeological potential: work at sites like Kirby Hall (Fig 12; Northamptonshire) has demonstrated that simple earthworks or lawns can conceal complex and/or well-preserved structural and stratigraphic remains and sequences which can reveal much about a site's development. Where such archaeological potential can be demonstrated, or reasonably assumed, this will similarly increase the interest of a site.

3.6 Post-Medieval (ii) landscape parks

The extensive nature, and character, of landscape parks makes them largely unsuited to scheduling. Mostly parks with special interest will be designated via inclusion on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, with buildings and other structures within them protected through listing or scheduling, as appropriate.

Exceptionally, individual constructions, or groups of them, may be of sufficient significance to merit designation and be best suited to scheduling if their archaeological potential is very high. A water supply or drain system, with a mixture of earthwork remains and built conduits or drains, might be an example. Another might be structures built for recreation or amusement: Castell Brogyntyn, in Brogyntyn Park (Shropshire), is an example – supposedly a medieval ringwork (fortification), this was adapted and probably reconstructed in the eighteenth century with a bowling green and garden in the interior, and with a tunnel beneath.

Figure 11
Hestercombe, Somerset. An extensive designed landscape was laid out up a wooded valley in the later eighteenth century. Opposite the Great Cascade is the site of the Rustic Seat, seen here under clearance.

3.7 Post-Medieval (iii) nineteenth-century and later gardens

If of exceptional quality, a nineteenth-century formal garden might have sufficient national importance to be scheduled: the criteria would essentially be those defined above for early post-medieval formal gardens. Designation would be unlikely other than where the house has been lost and the site abandoned for horticultural purposes.

Figure 12
Kirby Hall, Northamptonshire. Aggrandisement of the designed landscape in the early seventeenth century included the construction of tall terraces around the Great Garden; that opposite the house was converted late in the century into a grass-covered bank. Excavation revealed the complex structural sequence.

4 Select Bibliography

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Acknowledgments

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HEAG244
Publication date: May 2012 © English Heritage
Reissue date: July 2018 © Historic England
Design: Historic England