

# Understanding Historic Parks and Gardens in Buckinghamshire

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research & Recording Project



## BAYLIS PARK, SLOUGH

07 June 2018



Bucks Gardens Trust

The Stanley Smith (UK)  
Horticultural Trust

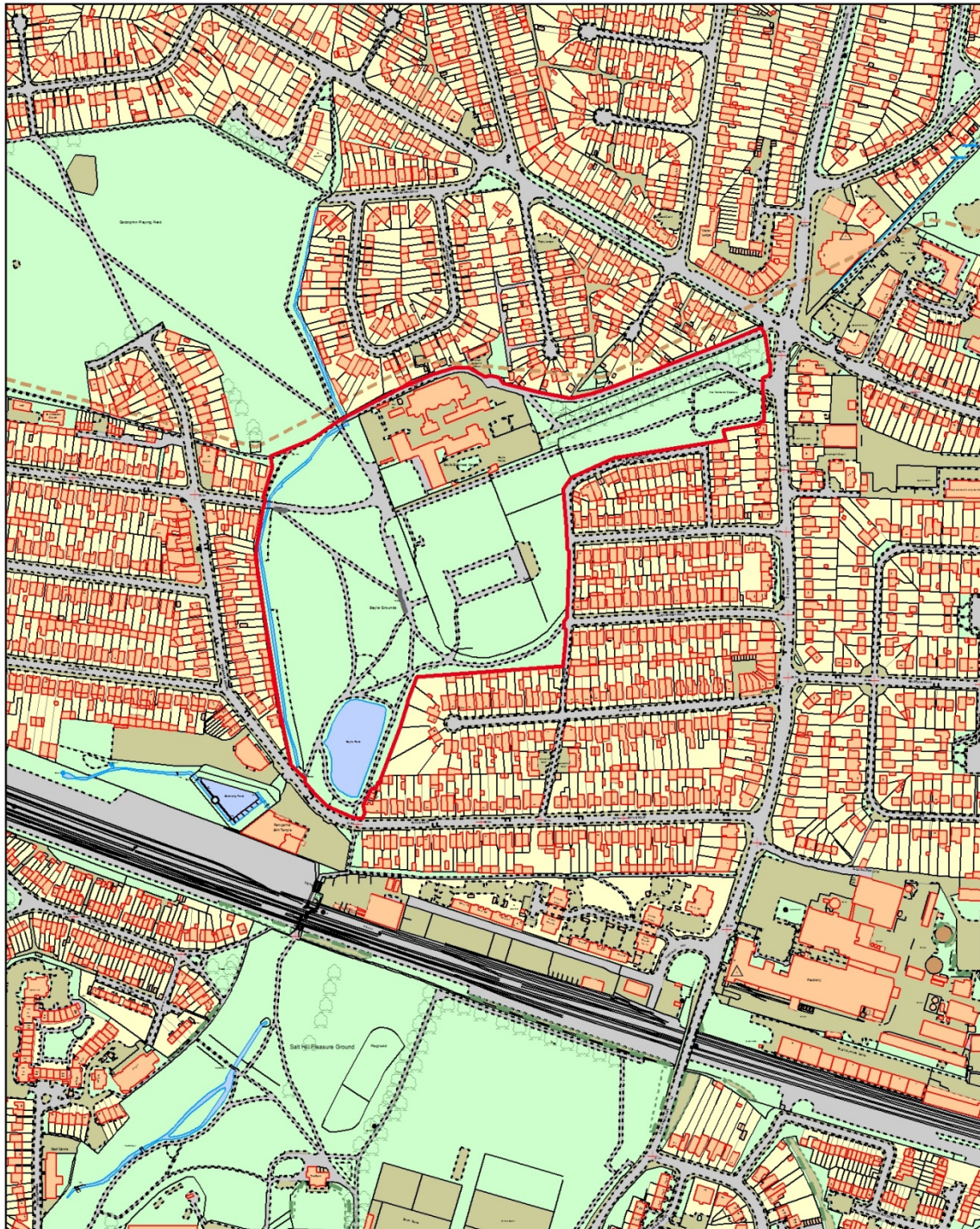


Council for  
British Archaeology  
South Midlands



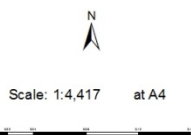


# HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY



## Baylis Park, Slough: boundary of historic designed landscape interest

Produced by the County Archaeological Service  
January 2018



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**Bucks Gardens Trust**





Scale: 1:4,417 at A4



### Baylis Park, Slough: 2012 aerial photograph

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January 2018



**Bucks Gardens Trust**



## INTRODUCTION

### Background to the Project

This site dossier has been prepared as part of The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust (BGT) Research and Recording Project, begun in 2014. This site is one of several hundred designed landscapes county-wide identified by Bucks County Council (BCC) in 1998 (including Milton Keynes District) as potentially retaining evidence of historic interest, as part of the Historic Parks and Gardens Register Review project carried out for English Heritage (now Historic England) (BCC Report No. 508). The list is not conclusive and further parks and gardens may be identified as research continues or further information comes to light.

### Content

BGT has taken the Register Review list as a sound basis from which to select sites for appraisal as part of its Research and Recording Project for designed landscapes in the historic county of Bucks (pre-1974 boundaries). For each site a dossier is prepared by volunteers trained on behalf of BGT by experts in appraising designed landscapes who have worked extensively for English Heritage (now Historic England) on its Register Upgrade Project.

Each dossier includes the following for the site:

- A site boundary mapped on the current Ordnance Survey to indicate the extent of the main part of the surviving designed landscape, also a current aerial photograph.
- A statement of historic significance based on the four Interests outlined in the National Policy Planning Framework and including an overview.
- A written description, derived from documentary research and a site visit, based on the format of the English Heritage/ Historic England *Register of Parks & Gardens of special historic interest* 2<sup>nd</sup> edn.
- A map showing principal views and features.

The area within the site boundary represents the significant coherent remains of the designed landscape. It does not necessarily include all surviving elements of the historical landscape design, which may be fragmented. It takes no account of current ownership.

NOTE: Sites are not open to the public unless advertised elsewhere.

### Supporters and Acknowledgements

The project was supported by The Gardens Trust (formerly the Association of Gardens Trusts and the Garden History Society) and funded by BGT with significant grants from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and the Council for British Archaeology South Midlands. BCC generously provided current and historic mapping and access to the Historic Environment Record.

The Trust would like to thank the volunteers and owners who have participated in this project and given so much time and effort to complete this challenging and rewarding task.

Further information is available from: [www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk)



COUNTY:	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	<b>BAYLIS PARK</b>
DISTRICT:	SLOUGH	
PARISH:	SLOUGH	
OS REF:	SU 969 808	

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Overview:** A late C17/early C18 country villa and exceptional ensemble of service and garden structures including garden pavilions, and many walls gateways, and iron gates, enclosing formal gardens developed in three main phases c.1695-1735. A number of notable architects, garden designers and builders employed at Eton, Windsor and St. Paul's cathedral were employed at Baylis by Henry Godolphin in the 1720s-30s. Thomas Ackres, a successful garden designer and contemporary of the Royal Gardener Charles Bridgeman (d.1738), laid out the surviving formal gardens c.1726-27, probably incorporating an earlier framework. The architect John James may have contributed.

The framework of the formal landscape established by the 1730s survives largely intact, including walled service areas, with west, south and kitchen gardens, the remodelled Wilderness with one of three former ponds, and an approach avenue to the elaborate walled forecourt with a pair of two-storey garden pavilions. Not only is the garden the essential contemporary setting for the house but it is a rare survival in its own right of this period, although the internal detail of the early layout has largely gone including several water features, particularly the focal canal south of the house with formal stepped terraces framing it, and little if any early planting survives.

**Archaeological interest:** Considerable potential for lost built and garden features since c.1695, such as terraces, walls, paths, glasshouses, water features, garden buildings, etc. The profile of the former south garden terraces associated with the axial former canal is outlined in the construction of the flanking walls. The former Tod glasshouse (1802) in the kitchen garden had considerable interest as a published model that had royal associations.

**Architectural interest:** A grand setting c.1695-1735 for an outstanding villa with a rare, extensive ensemble of garden structures including paired two-storey garden pavilions, numerous walls and gateways with at least four fine C18 iron gates enclosing the garden compartments, and service buildings. Much of the ensemble survives intact with little alteration. The C18 structures are largely listed, most at Grade II, but the principal buildings at Grade I.

**Artistic interest:** The formal garden and pleasure ground for a late C17/early C18 country villa associated with designer Thomas Ackres (1726-27) with later informal remodelling within the framework which comprises an outstanding ensemble of garden and service structures. Much of this survives, including a pair of brick pavilions, many walls and four iron gates as well as a few C18 and C19 trees. The Wilderness was remodelled in less formal style later in the C18. The main loss is the focal formal axial canal and terraces in the south garden in the mid-C20, and a canal in the Wilderness. Garden designer Thomas Ackres (fl. 1695-1728), although obscure today, was ambitious and prolific, competing (unsuccessfully) with Bridgeman in 1716 for keeping all His Majesty's gardens. He had previously designed at Wrest Park, Bedfordshire and had worked as gardener at Cassiobury Park, Watford. His uncle, Royal Gardener and nurseryman George London, was an executor of his will. The formal layout is a rare, possibly unique, survival to this degree of his work.

It is comparable with slightly earlier gardens of the period in Bucks including Winslow Hall (1695-1700, London and Wise, q.v.), and the Marquess of Wharton's late C17/early C18 Upper Winchendon, now within Waddesdon Manor

park. Browne Willis built a new house at Water Hall, Bletchley 1707-11 with linked service pavilions, formal gardens, ponds and avenues (largely gone, site within Bletchley Park, q.v.).

**Historic interest:** The site has close associations with important late C17/early C18 clerical figures who contributed significantly both to the present house and designed landscape, including initially Gregory Hascard (d.1708), Dean of Windsor and Chaplain to the King, and then Henry Godolphin (1648-1733), Provost of Eton College and Dean of St Paul's. The surviving historic documents provide a detailed understanding of the development of the ensemble and contribute to understanding its significance.

## HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Baylis House stands on former demesne land of the Manor of Stokes Poges (*VCH*). Between 1501-1607 the manor, probably no more than a farm with fish ponds and land, passed through various hands chiefly by marriage. In 1607 Sir Edmund Coke purchased it and from that date its descent is the same as Stoke Poges Manor. In 1689 (*VCH*) the "Baylis estate" was purchased by Dr Gregory Hascard (d.1708), Dean of Windsor and Chaplain to the King, with the house built at the end of 1696, adjacent to the existing manorial farm (later known as Baylis Court Farm).

**The 1st landscape development phase c.1695-1708** produced a "simple pleasantly proportioned brick house of seven bays and two storeys" (Pevsner) with some similarities to Winslow Hall (attributed to Christopher Wren). It was conspicuous from the Bath Road over half a mile distant to the south and probably enjoyed views of Windsor Castle. The estate size is not known nor the architect. The garden layout is unclear but it is likely a formal scheme of some sort was executed at the same time as the house was built, possibly initiating some of the present layout, including the Wilderness to the west, the east and former west avenues and any formal gardens established around the three fish ponds of the manor farm. After the death of his first wife, Rachel, Hascard married her sister Elizabeth Fane in 1694 to whom in 1708 he "bequeaths Baylyes" with other messuages, lands, tenements, goods & chattels (St George's Chapel Archives 1703 Will). She continued to reside there until 1721.

In 1721 Baylis was purchased by Dr Henry Godolphin (1648-1733) the fourth son of Sir Francis Godolphin, KB, of Godolphin, Cornwall. In 1695 he became Provost of Eton College and resigned when appointed Dean of St Paul's Cathedral (1707-1726), returning to Eton in 1726. In 1730 he married his cousin Margaret, the only daughter of Colonel Sydney Godolphin. Godolphin lived mainly in London as Dean of St. Paul's, then Eton and occasionally at Baylis whilst the house was extended and gardens redesigned in the **2<sup>nd</sup> development phase, 1726-33**.

In this period, 1726-33, a number of notable architects, garden designers, builders, craftsmen employed at Eton, Windsor and St. Paul's were employed at Baylis by Godolphin. He employed Thomas Ackres, a contemporary of the Royal Gardener Charles Bridgeman (d.1738), to lay out the gardens 1726-27 for which five receipts for his work survive (CRB Duke of Leeds Papers Box 10). This suggests that considerable works to the gardens were commissioned by Godolphin and was completed before his death in 1733. Thomas Rowland, architect and Clerk of Works at Windsor Castle instructed John James (1672-1746) for the addition of the "attick story" and other alterations 1726-33 which cost £1,765, Rowland receiving £100 (CRB Duke of Leeds Papers Box 10 1300-2000). It seems that James was responsible for the stable block, forecourt walls and pavilions and possibly the curved quadrant corners in the inner forecourt (Kupferman, 2017). James as well as being an architect was also a garden designer and publisher of books on the subject including *The Theory and Practice of Gardening* (in three editions, 1712, 1728, and 1743), from Dézallier d'Argenville's original in French of 1709. John Davis of Windsor who made the kitchen block clock may have been responsible for the garden ironwork in the 1720s-30s including the many gates and railings.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> development phase, 1733-35,** saw extensive building work and refurbishment of gates, greenhouses and cold frames. In 1733 Dr Henry Godolphin died, with his wife Mary probably living at Baylis until her death in 1743. The manor passed to his nephew Francis Godolphin (1678-1766), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Godolphin, who was responsible for further remodelling of the house.

On the death of Francis Godolphin in 1766 the estate passed to Francis Godolphin Osborne, 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Leeds (1751-99). Osborne's mother was Lady Mary Godolphin, the great niece of the Henry Godolphin, who married Thomas Osborne, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Leeds. The manor remained with the Dukes of Leeds until the 1920s.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> landscape phase relates to tenants & maintenance, 1780-1920.** In late 1788 and early 1789 the Right Honourable Lady Godolphin of Baylis engaged J R Binfield to compile a survey producing a list of "Measurement of Gardens" and "Measurement of Lady Godolphins Fields at Baileys" which showed little had changed since 1735 (Northampton Archives, Duke of Leeds Estate F9 (m) G731). The gardens included the lawn and wilderness, 7 acres 1 rod and 10 perches, bowling green, 2 acres 2 rods and Kitchen Garden 1 acre 35 perches. Also listed were the Upper Ground, Nursery, Melon Ground, Orchard, The Avenue, The Front Court, The Stable yard, the Drying yard and Paddock (Northampton Archives). Fields included Home Meadow, Oat Field, Wood Close, Little Meadow and Dog Close covering 46 acres, 2 rods and 5 perches; there is no mention of a park. At this point Lady Godolphin was divorcing the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Leeds and the property was probably being prepared for a tenant.

From the 1780s Baylis was leased to a succession of tenants, including the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Chesterfield (1755-1815), Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire 1781-82. In 1802 the Earl purchased a greenhouse and hothouse from George Tod (G Todd, catalogue). By this time the Wilderness had an informal layout with a stream curving through the middle from north to south, supplying two rectangular ponds with the long narrow canal along the west side; this is shown in more detail by 1824 (estate maps). A subsequent tenant was Alexander Wedderburn, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Loughborough (1773-1805) Lord Chancellor of Great Britain 1793-1801, who wanted in his retirement to be near Windsor Castle but died on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1805. From 1805-1820 the house was leased to the widowed Mary Palmer, Marchioness of Thomond (d1820) and niece and heiress to Sir Joshua Reynolds and former ward of Edmund Burke.

In 1830 the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Leeds leased the house and grounds to the Butt family, founders of St. James Roman Catholic School. It was largely self-sufficient, farming 99 acres with its own brewery, bakery and dairy. A school history states, "Baylis House is a large and stately mansion with extensive grounds and beautiful old gardens, with mellowed walls and iron gates that were a delight to the eye" (CBS *Baylis House School History*). In 1846 William Trumper surveyed the Parish of Stoke Poges in the Hundred of Stoke and drew up a plan showing the boundaries of the estate, including the farm and farm house. Little had changed since 1824. By the end of the C19 the school started to decline and was bankrupt in 1907 and closed. In 1908 the house was leased out by George Godolphin Osborne, 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Leeds.

**The 5<sup>th</sup> phase is the decline of the Baylis estate 1920 to the present.** The estate of the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Leeds was sold in May 1920 including Baylis House and surrounding pleasure grounds, garden and meadows with the farm to the north and its land being separate lots (Auction catalogue & plan). From 1923-36 it became a hotel run by Mr. J.B. Whaley (Slough History on line "Bricks & Mortar") with a nine hole golf course on the later site of Baylis Memorial Gardens and Leeds Road housing, and the water feature on the main lawn adapted to a swimming pool 1933 (OS 1935). The hotel shut in 1935 as the housing estates expanded and was sold to brewers Messrs Taylors Walker & Co Ltd who wanted to demolish the house and outbuildings to build a modern hotel fronting Stoke Poges Road. The application was refused. In 1938 the house was recognised as being important by the National Trust and purchased in 1939 by Slough Borough Council with 15 acres for £15,000. A further 4 acres was purchased in 1957 for £300 plus

the large water feature fronting Woodland Avenue (Slough History on Line). This comprises the present site. The OS maps for 1935, 1938, 1944 and aerial photographs of 1947 outline the three early C18 formal water features and elevated terrace in the formal garden and a wilderness as still surviving.

During World War II Baylis House became headquarters to Bucks 9<sup>th</sup> Home Guard, the Air Raid Precautions office and 163 Squadron of Air Defence Corp. In September 1950 the house was given Grade 1 listing and was home to the Middle Thames Natural History Society and a social club for Slough's Jewish community. By 1950 (OS) the formal garden included development of the Lido which was enclosed with a corner of the formal early C18 water feature part of the swimming pool and the associated elevated C18 terrace removed and changing facilities added. The Wilderness had a few trees and the large formal pond was "naturalised" and made more irregular in shape. The canal adjacent to the wall of the formal garden are a flower & shrub border. The pool was shut 1962 and rebuilt by the council with extra facilities such as diving platforms and reopened it in 1965. By 1975 (OS) only the walls and a few mature trees survived with the Lido in the formal garden. The Wilderness and its trees, had paths radiating from a corner of the "naturalized" water feature. The kitchen garden walls and paths remained. In 1988 the lido closed and the pool was filled in and the area became overgrown.

In 1954 a fire destroyed most of the 3rd story attic of the house and 1957 Buckinghamshire County Council removed it and took the house back to its C17 design. 1973 another fire gutted the roof and damaged the south-west corner of the building which was restored. In 1999 Buckinghamshire County Council sold Baylis House for £2,125,000 to the consortium "Baylis House Ltd" who built to the north east of the stable yard a conference centre and function rooms but Slough Council retained the gardens. The house remains in private ownership as a hotel including the forecourt, service yards and one walled garden, with the rest of the grounds being a public park owned by Slough Council.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

### **LOCATION, AREA, LANDFORM SETTING**

Baylis Park is situated in the north-west of Slough, 950m north of the A4 London to Bath Road, to the west of Stoke Poges Lane, within a residential area, although until the mid-C20 it was in a rural area. The 9 ha. site slopes gently down north to south (30m AOD drops to 27m AOD) giving views south and west from the house of the gardens. Prior to the C20 development of Slough views extended from the house and the terrace of the formal garden, west over the Wilderness, and south for 5km towards Windsor Castle, but now the views are internal.

The C17 service road to Baylis Farm (now known as Farm Lane and a service road to the garages of Aylesbury Crescent and Aldborough Spur), is lined by a 2m high C18 brick wall as part of a continuous boundary wall surrounding the main house and outbuildings. The eastern section is a modern 2m metal fence along the north of the driveway. Along the eastern boundary with Stoke Poges Lane is a c25m stretch of old park railings. South of the Memorial Garden modern metal railings border the C20 housing, with a C18 curved 2m high wall to the east of the kitchen garden, thence railings and modern fencing bordering the C20 housing to the south-east boundary. The south boundary to Bradley Road is breeze block walls of the garages, with a shrub border south to Woodland Avenue. The western boundary follows the stream (Farnham Brook, Rocque 1761, Jefferys 1770) which bends north east at the junction with Whitby Road (former West Avenue) to link with the footpath extension of Farm Lane. The site is set within C20 housing developments with an area of C20 park adjacent to the west.

### **ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES**

The main approach to Baylis House is from Stoke Poges Lane, 300m east of the house, at the junction with Oatlands Drive, 950m north of the A4. The main entrance formerly lay on axis with the avenue and house and was marked by a pair of iron gates (gone). The entrance was moved south to its present position in the C20. The tarmacked East



Avenue leads 210 m west to the forecourt, between mixed borders of trees and shrubs, including 3 mature Scots pine to the south and 3 mature oaks to the north. These trees mark the remains of the tree lined avenue painted in 1850 by John Gendall (Bucks County Museum), present from 1761 (Roque Map), in 1802 map (Duke of Leeds map) and also 1822 (CBS Q/4/60 Road widening map) with the avenue of trees and gates at the road junction. The former gateway may be the gates which were hit by a coach and repainted in 1729 (Kupfermann, 2017).

In 1802 a service road is shown running parallel to the north-west of the main drive leading to the service area north of the house and Baylis Court (the manorial farm). Today (2017) this road, Farm Lane, leads between Baylis Park and back gardens and garages of Aylesbury Close, Loddon Spur and Aldborough Spur. Two sealed entrances with gate piers, formerly gave access from the West and East Avenues, (Rocque, 1761; 1788/89 Lady Godolphin Estate Map Duke of Leeds Archives Northampton) to the coach and stable yard, in the 3m high boundary wall. The western end of Farm Lane becomes a footpath into the northern section of the Wilderness and Godolphin Park.

Some 90m east of the house is the entrance to the outer forecourt. The entrance is marked by modern C18 style 4m high wrought iron gates and iron railings. From the north side of the outer forecourt a spur runs north leading to the former stable yard. The gateway is marked with modern metal gates set in the c3m high red brick wall, on C18 brick gate piers and hinges.

The forecourt is in two sections, the outer courtyard, approx. 40m east-west by 22m north-south, is today (2017) used for hotel car parking. The 3m high C18 tile-topped brick walls, flanking the outer forecourt to north and south, lead west to two-storey brick pavilions with pyramidal roofs. On the north side, adjacent to the Pavilion, a 3m-wide gateway leads to the hotel and conference centre (stable yard and service area), with brick gateposts surmounted by stone with C18 hinges set on stone blocks, and modern security gates. The ivy-covered C18 wall on the south side of the outer forecourt extends c20m outside the modern metal gate and two brick pillars. Inside the gates the 3m high south wall is fronted by a hedge and concrete sets and rises 1m to c4m and a timber framed gateway with C18 hinges and a modern iron gate, leading to the rose garden, adjacent to the south pavilion.

The inner courtyard leads to the east, entrance front of the house. It measures c.45m east-west by c.22m north-south, with a central oval garden and car parking on the periphery. At the corners the walls are curved where they meet the pavilions at the east ends, and at the western ends where they meet single storey buildings adjacent to the house.

South of the main entrance on Stoke Poges Lane a gravelled pathway leads into the Memorial Park, with iron railings bordering the road. At the west end of Carmarthen Road (170m south east of the house) is a further pedestrian entrance; 60m to the west a vehicle entrance lies at the southernmost tip of the park at its junction with Woodlands Avenue (300m south of the house). 220m north-west at the junction with Whitby Road (145m west of the house and former West Avenue) is a wide vehicular entrance to Whitby Road, with a modern single bar gate.

## **PRINCIPAL BUILDING**

### **Summary History**

Baylis House was built c.1695 by Dr. Gregory Hascard, architect unknown, with alterations and additions in 1725-6 by Thomas Rowland, including a third storey and garden walls. In 1733-5 the north-west wing, forecourt walls and two pavilions were attributed to John James. Further alterations occurred in 1750, the early C19, and 1954 when the 1726 top storey was removed after a fire.

Baylis House is a red brick house in Dutch style (listed Grade I), with 7 bays and 2 storeys, hipped slate roof and coped parapet. The east entrance front and west garden front are almost identical with 7 bays except for 2 lunettes over the windows on the entrance front. Both fronts have a slight central 3-bay projection and a 3-bay pediment marked by strips of giant pilaster. The doorway to the forecourt (entrance front east) has Gibbs style rustification with a cornice above, the other a slight pediment on brackets (1725-6 or 1733-5 alterations, Pevsner) of gauged brick window heads and giant order of pilaster strips at ends and flanking slightly projecting centre 3 bays; wooden dentil eaves cornice with central 3 bay triangular pediment, parapet, lead downpipes, and 4 ridge stacks off-centre to left and right. The garden front west central door case has brick pilasters with rendered blocked rustication. The north-west wing, garden front, is red brick with hipped slate roof, 3 bays, and 2 storey with first floor blind window to left. The entrance front overlooks the long formal approach avenue and outer and inner forecourts, framed by impressive brick walls and pavilions to north and south. The garden front overlooks a walled garden with a clairvoyee at the far, west side giving views of the Wilderness beyond, terminated by C20 estate houses.

The forecourt walls and pavilions are attributed to John James, 1733-5 (CBS Duke of Leeds Box 10). The inner forecourt walls (listed Grade II) comprise two red brick walls, 2.5m high, projecting 40m north-east of house, breaking back with quadrant corners and 6 bays of blind arcading at south-west ends and 3 bays at north-east ends, with gauged brick piers, arches, imposts and keystones 6-panelled door in arch of north-west door near house, leading to the service wing and wrought iron gate surmounted by a crest in the arch of south-east wall near house. The two pavilions (listed Grade II) at the north-east ends of the forecourt walls are in red and grey brick with stone dressings and pyramidal slate roofs. Each two-storey pavilion has 3-bay blind arcading on the inner face with gauged brick piers, arches, imposts and keystones; central arch on north pavilion has been raised at a later date and an arched sash inserted. Views of the avenue and visitors, Stoke Poges Lane and fields beyond would have been visible from the east, first floor windows of both pavilions which were presumably banqueting rooms. In addition the north pavilion enjoyed views of the stable yard, service area and Baylis Court farm. The south pavilion enjoyed views of the kitchen garden, formal garden and wilderness.

The single-storey early C18 kitchen block (listed Grade I) adjoining north-east of the inner forecourt wall is of red brick with a slate roof, with triangular pedimented gables to front and back over the slightly projecting centre 3 bays with clock in each tympanum, cupola with incurved lead cap, globe finial, and weathervane. The south-east front to the inner forecourt has 9 bays; a quadrant arcade with 4 stone Tuscan columns behind the forecourt wall to left connects the kitchen wing with the house, possibly by John James. The clock in south-east pediment dated 1735 is attributed to John Davies of Windsor (Duke of Leeds Box 10).

Six listed buildings and walls enclose the gardens, with others of similar early C18 origin that are unlisted. Enclosing Baylis House the collection of garden walls, of the early to mid-C18, have iron gateways linking them on the north-west, south and south-east and north-east. Some of the iron gates are of C18 origin. The house, its service area, coach house, stables and adjoining buildings are enclosed by a continuous boundary wall with access gateways, some of them now blocked, to the gardens, main entrance front east and west driveways and formerly the farm. The walls are red brick and 2.5 m high with square gate and end piers of grey brick with red dressings and moulded stone copings. Outside this boundary the gardens, kitchen, formal, wilderness are compartmentalised with walls and gateways linking them to the house enclosure. A number of these walls are listed, a wall on Farm Road, the south, south-east wall boundary of the kitchen garden and Baylis House south east garden front wall have not been included.

All the walls are particularly important in defining the layout of the late C17/early C18 garden and its connection with the house. The extent of the walls and the number of fine contemporary wrought iron gateways is a rare

survival of this period. In addition the pavilions are a rare and impressive survival of this type of garden style and of the surviving relationship with the formal walled enclosures. As an ensemble they are of considerable rarity.

## GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS INCLUDING KITCHEN GARDEN

Leaving Baylis House by the west, garden front, the garden door leads onto a 4m wide terrace running along the width of the house. Two steps lead down to the rectangular **west garden** (c.30m x 35m). It is laid to lawn flanked by mid-C18 red brick walls c.2.5m high (not listed it seems) to the north-west and south-east, with to the west a 1m brick wall (rebuilt) surmounted by C20 metal railings affording views of the Wilderness beyond in the form of a *clairvoyee*. Formally there was access to the Wilderness via a gate in the low wall (1877 OS). Today (2017) the route of the former C18 West Avenue (Rocque 1761) formerly giving access to A4, Bath Road and Farnham Court, survives as a gravel path leading west to Whitby Road. The 1930s housing is seen from the terrace, garden and house. At the south-east corner of the west garden a gateway leads to the south garden, via an ornamental archway with wrought iron grill (not listed it seems).

Formerly direct access and views from the house and west garden to the **south garden** are now barred by a C20 c4m low wall and railings and closely-planted leylandii trees in the gap immediately in front of the south elevation of the house. A path alongside the south front approached from the West Garden and via a door in the south front leads east to an arched door into a brick pavilion, at this point an arched gateway with wrought iron gate in the inner forecourt quadrant wall leads north into the forecourt (listed Grade II). The **south garden** (c.145m north-south by 90m east-west) is flanked by c2.5m high C18 red brick walls, c.100m long (listed Grade II) with a herbaceous border to the north. The garden is laid to lawn with mature trees; concrete slabs outline the lido swimming pool (1965-1988) on the site of the former early C18 canal. In the west wall two brick-piered gateways with C18 wrought iron gates (one pair single, the other double, with overthrows) give access to the Wilderness. In the east wall are set a further two brick-piered gateways, the northern one with a wrought iron gate, and also a brick archway similar to the ones in the quadrant corners of the forecourt (listed Grade II). In each wall the pairs of gateways align on the gateways in the opposite wall, framing views across the south garden between the Wilderness and the kitchen garden. The former level of the lost C18 terracing associated with the south half of the south garden, including the canal, is reflected in marks on the brickwork of both east and west walls, showing 3 stepped levels (up to 1.75m). A laurel hedge fronted by a gravel path marks the south boundary of the south garden.

The north-west gate of the formal garden gives access to the **Wilderness**. The Wilderness is laid out with modern radiating paths, several mature trees including Oak, Holm Oak and Cedar of Lebanon. Parallel to the line of the east wall (i.e. the shared west wall of the **south garden**) is the site of the former long, narrow canal (Rocque 1761, 1802 Estate Map, 1877 OS), marked by tarmac. From here a path lined by mature oak trees leads south to a former apsidal ended formal water feature (Rocque & 1802 Estate Map) now a pond with a softened outline (c.74m north-south by c.36m east-west) with an island in the middle. Elements of the C18 shape of the pond are evident. The west boundary is marked by Farnham Brook with several mature oak trees along its bank, a weir, and C20 housing beyond. North of Whitby Road and Western Avenue the brook flows north-east through a culvert to form the northern boundary of the Wilderness, separating Baylis Park from Godolphin Park (formerly a meadow, OS 1877).

Re-entering the south garden from the Wilderness via the north-west wrought iron gate, the gravel path leads east back past the house to a matching gate with piers into the partly walled **kitchen garden** which is walled to the north, west and north-east. The wedge-shaped kitchen garden c145m north-south by 65m east-west at the northern boundary forecourt wall (listed Grade II), narrows to 16m east-west at the south. It is walled for c100m on the east and west sides (these walls not listed it seems but of similar origin and form as listed walls). On the north wall is evidence of greenhouses (1822 Stoke Poges Enclosure map). This is apparently the site of the Right Honourable Earl



Chesterfield's purchase from George Tod 1823 of a greenhouse similar to one that Tod supplied to the royal household at Frogmore). The kitchen garden is split into 2 sections to north and south by a fence, field gate and hedge boundary. The north section is laid to rose beds and fruit trees with herbaceous borders to the north and east walls, and espalier fruit trees on the northern c40m of the eastern wall. The south section is grass. A laurel hedge fronts the remaining east wall and railings continue the boundary. The former dipping pond (OS 1802, 1877, 1950) is no longer visible.

Continuing along the west-east pathway adjacent to the outer forecourt, a further double wrought iron gateway with brick piers leads into a park. This extends east for c200m to the Stoke Poges road, its width north-south being c.30m, narrowing to c25m by the road. A blocked pedestrian gate stands between the double gate and wall. A winding tarmac path leads east between shrubs and trees, including mature Holm Oak, Portuguese Laurel, Laburnum and Yew. In the eastern c70m is a Memorial Garden to those who died in World War II, established in 1950, with sweeping formal beds of shrubs and a small stone inscribed memorial. This area running parallel to the avenue was largely orchard by the later C19.

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- 1900 OS 6" 2<sup>nd</sup> edition
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- 1934 OS 24" revised edition
- 1935 OS 6" revised edition
- 1938 OS 6" emergency edition north only
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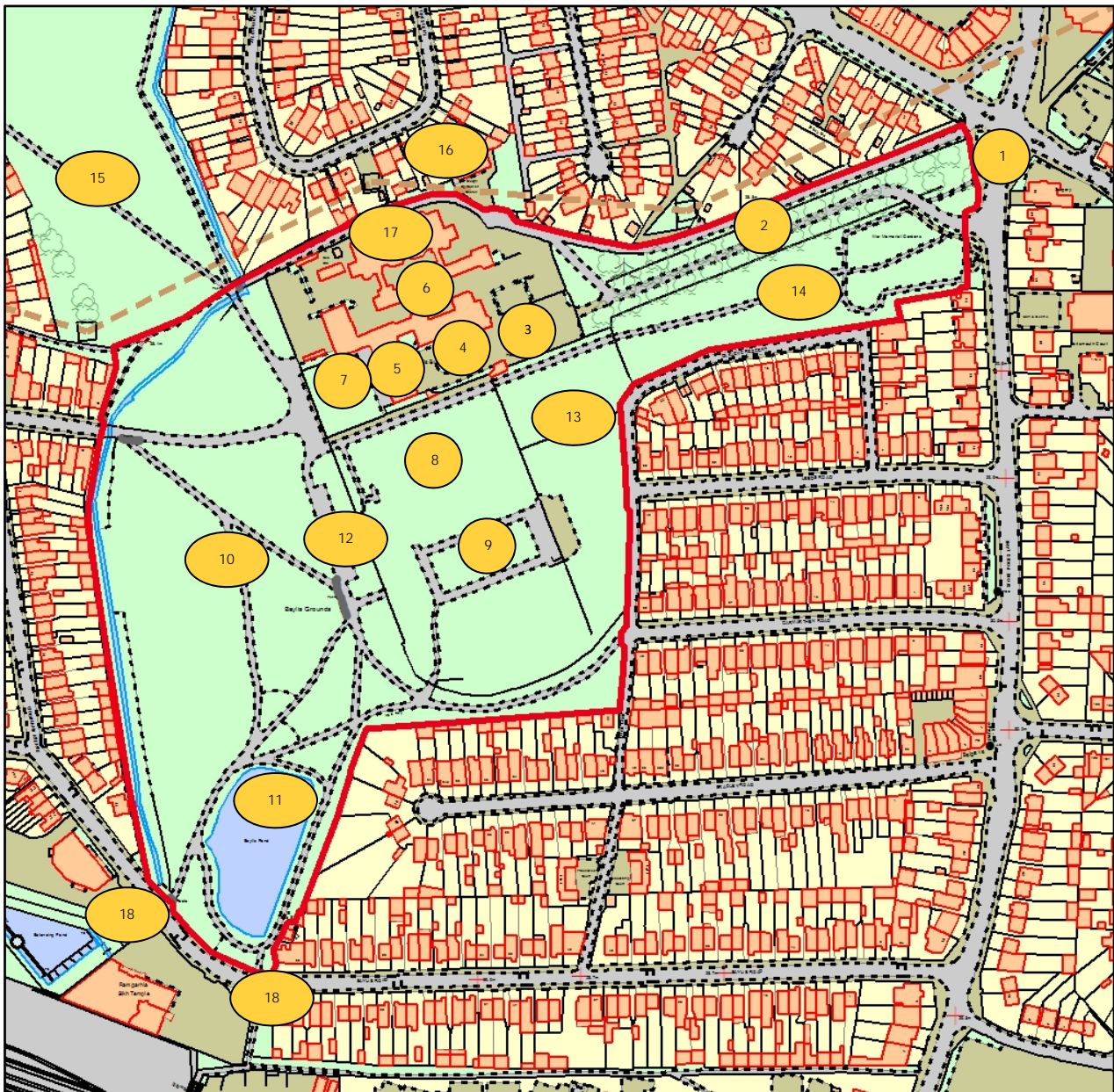
Gwen Miles and June Timms, March 2018

SR edited April 2018

Bucks Gardens Trust acknowledges the generous help of Elias Kupferman in sharing historic material used in the preparation of this dossier.

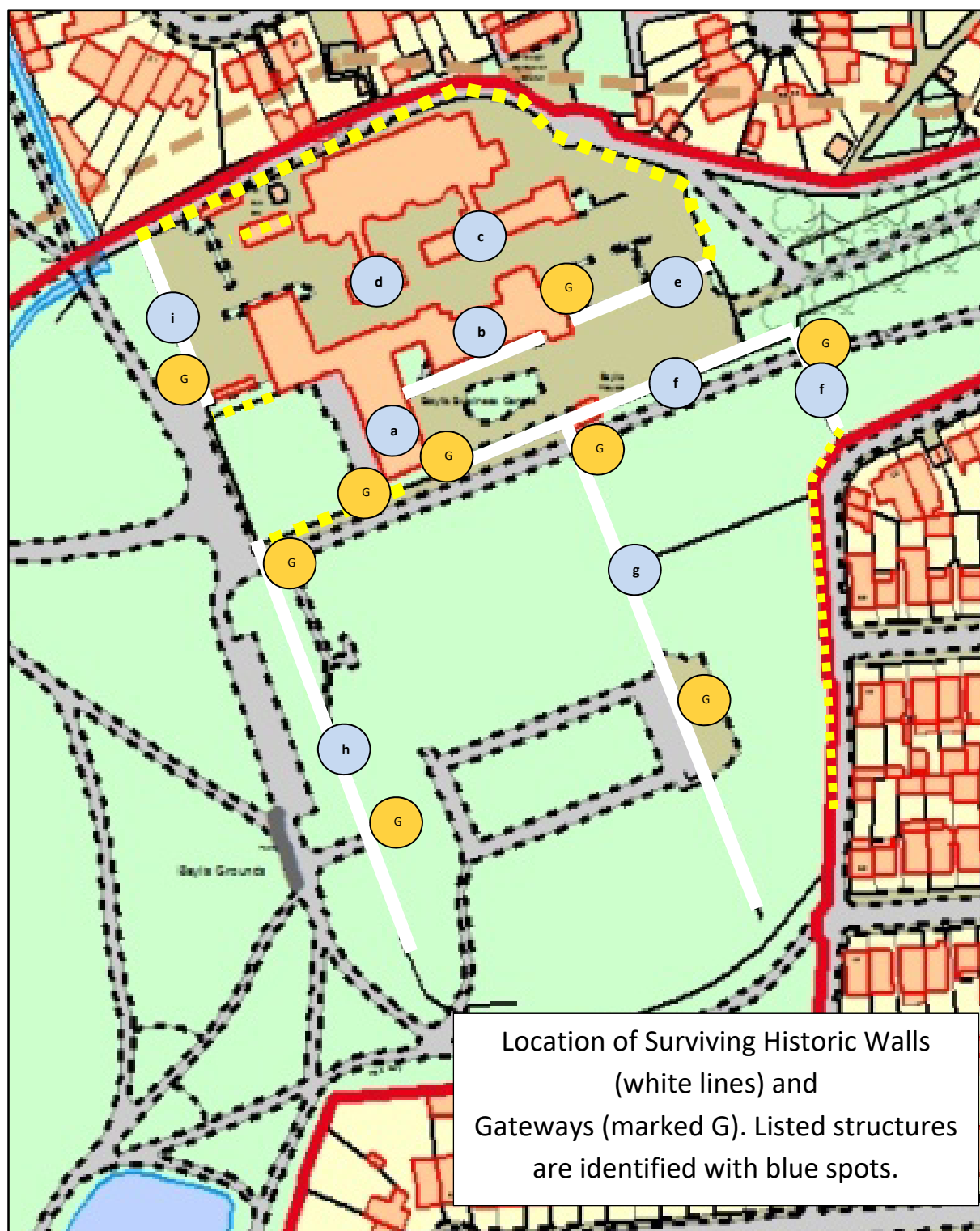


## KEY HISTORIC FEATURES



### Key to Features

1. Main entrance from Stoke Park Road	2. Main drive and avenue
3. Outer Forecourt (walls & pavilions listed)	4. Inner forecourt with quadrant walls (listed)
5. Baylis House (listed)	6. Service yard with Service and Stable Blocks and other service buildings (listed)
7. West Garden (walled) (S wall listed)	8. South Garden (W & E walls listed)
9. Site of C18 canal and mid-C20 lido	10. Wilderness (E wall listed)
11. Wilderness pond	12. Wilderness canal (site of)
13. Kitchen garden (N, E & W walls listed)	14. War Memorial Garden, formerly orchard
15. Godolphin Park	16. Former Baylis Court Farm (site)
17. Modern conference centre	18. South gateways



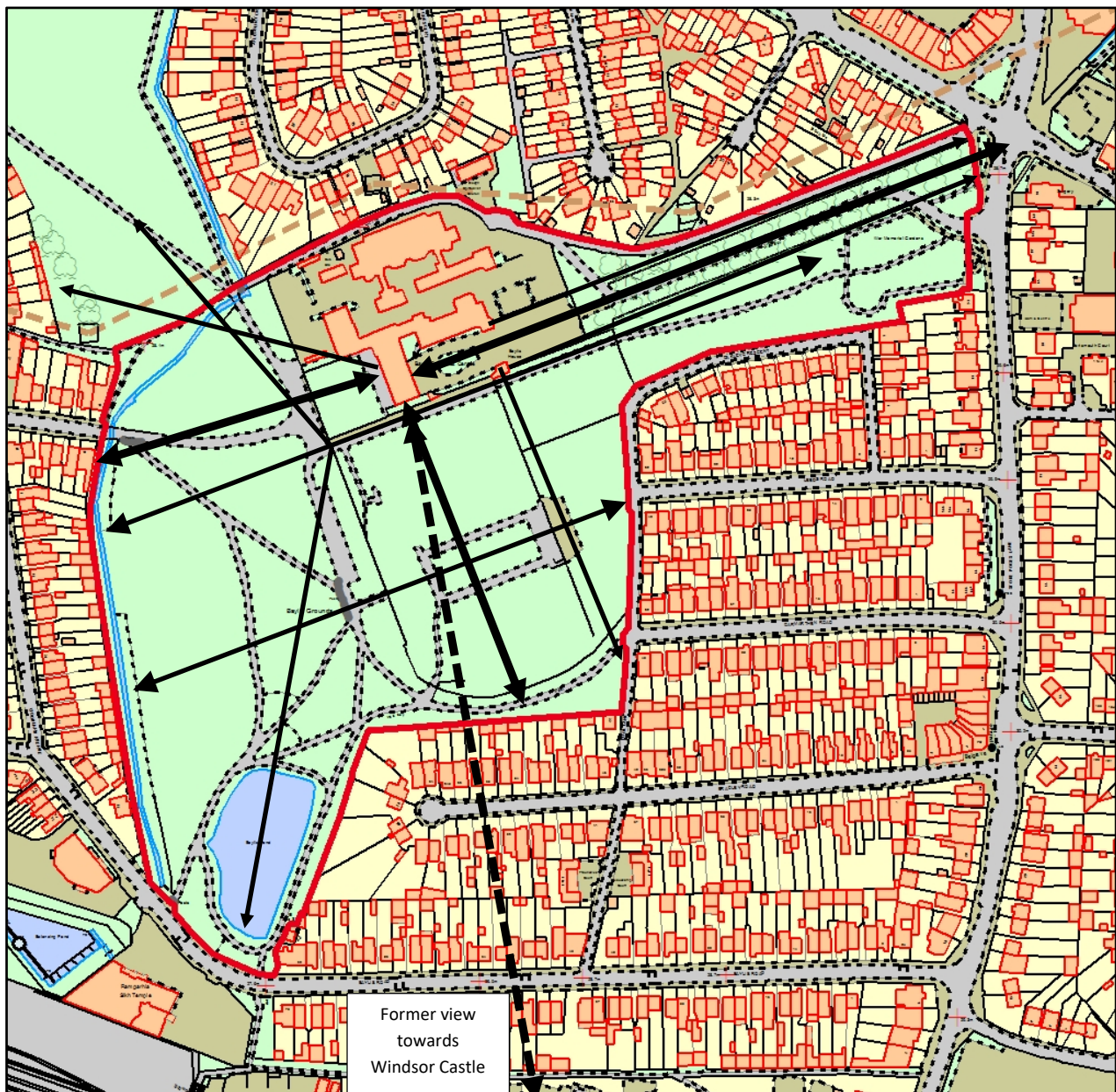
### Listed Structures – indicated by white solid lines

a) House, forecourt walls and pavilions (I)	b) Service block (I)
c) Godolphin Court 40m N of house (former stables) (I)	d) Coach house 10 NW of house (II)
e) Wall and piers adjoining NE forecourt wall and north pavilion (II List UID: 1251492)	f) Wall adjacent to SE forecourt wall and south pavilion (II List UID: 1251375)
g) Wall, piers, gates adjacent to SE forecourt wall (II List UID: 1251496)	h) Wall, piers, gates adjacent to house to SW (II List UID: 1251376)
i) Wall and gate piers adjacent to the house to the NW (II List UID: 1262730)	

NB Several C18/C19 walls are not apparently listed including the long wall around the north half of the main enclosure, and other stretches, also a small structure west of the coach house (probably a brew house). These are indicated by yellow dotted lines.



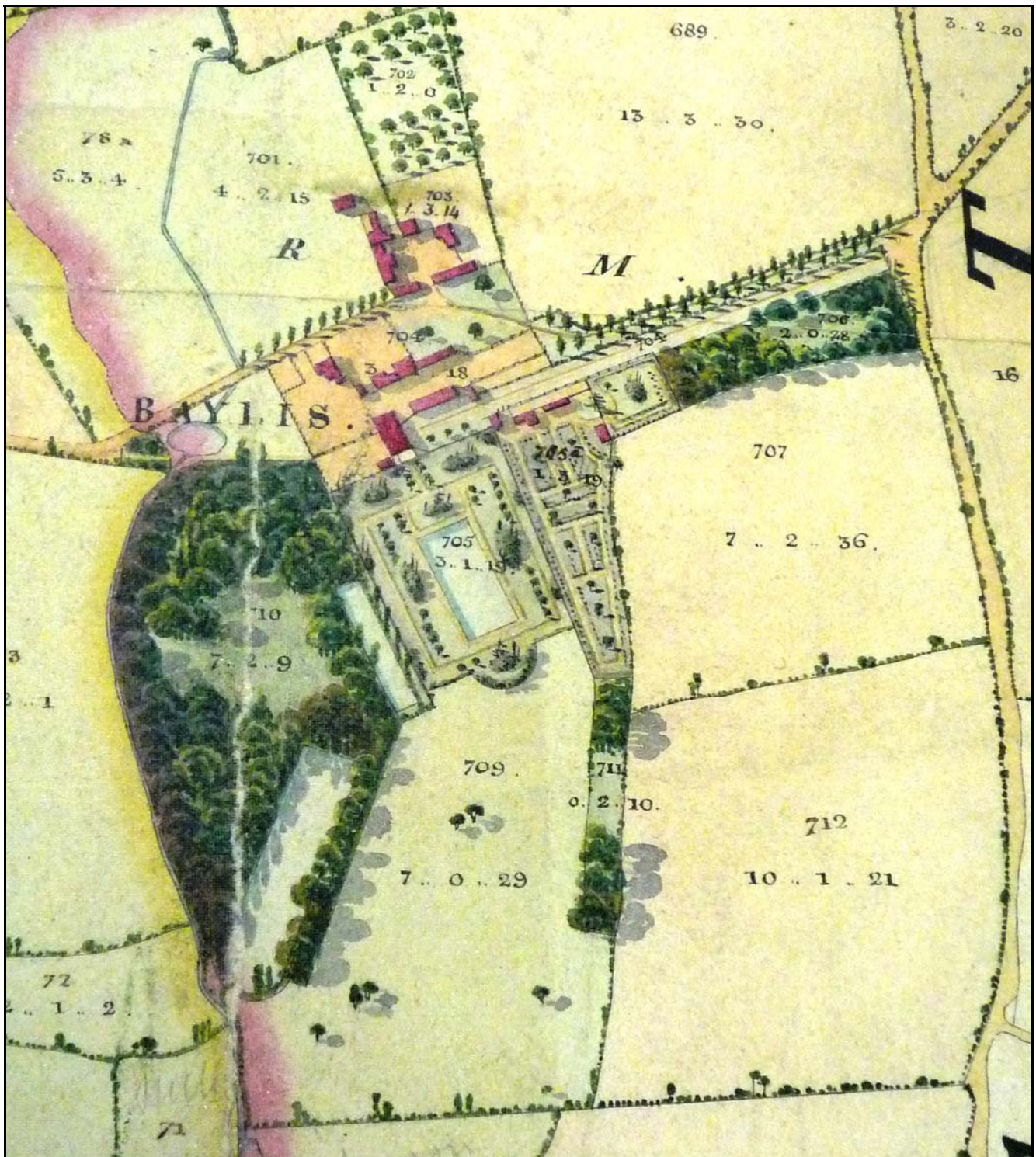
## KEY HISTORIC VIEWS



The thicker lines indicate the most important views; dotted lines indicated obscured views.



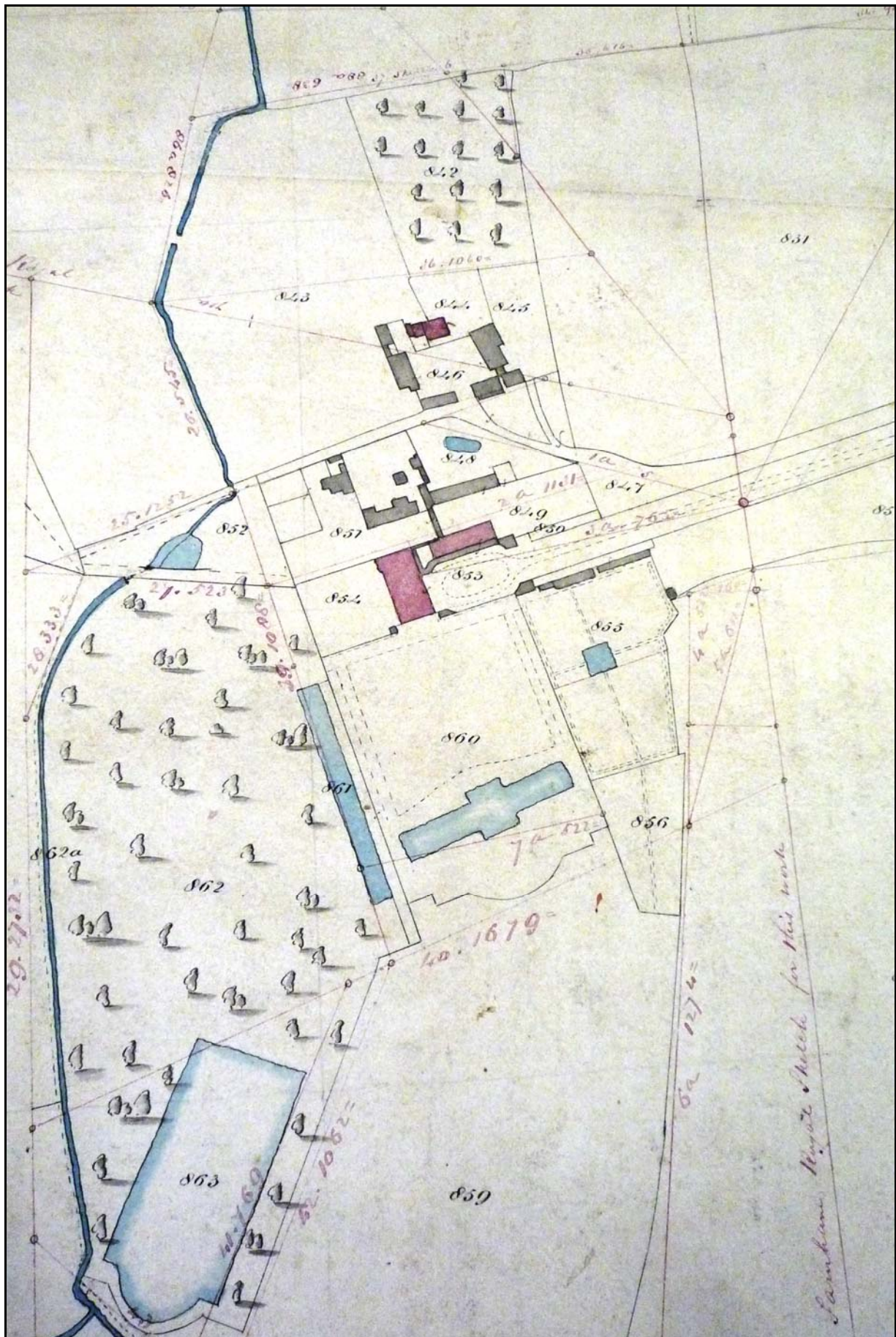
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NB the depiction of the shape of the canal south of the house seems to be wrong as maps pre- and post-dating this show it as per the following map (1846). Otherwise it does seem to be accurate.





1846 Tithe Plan of Parish of Stoke Poges, W. Trumper (CBS PR/198/28/8R).



## CURRENT KEY VIEWS



Baylis House, east front from the avenue, with pavilions and inner and outer forecourts and flanking walls.



Inner forecourt and north pavilion (left), inner forecourt (centre), inner forecourt, south-west quadrant wall (right).



Outer forecourt and south pavilion (left), south pavilion and wall dividing outer forecourt and kitchen garden (centre), wall dividing outer forecourt and kitchen garden with site of Tod greenhouse and east gateway (right).



Kitchen garden: south pavilion and wall dividing outer forecourt and kitchen garden with site of Tod greenhouse.





Service yard: Coach house in NW corner (left), stable block on north side (centre), kitchen block on south side (right).



Yard west of service yard, possibly brew house?



South front of house: west archway to south garden (left and far left), east archway (right), gateway to inner forecourt (far right).



South garden (left and centre); gateway (blocked) for former west drive from to west yard (right).





West garden from Wilderness: west drive gateway to left, and south garden gateway to right.



South garden: east and south fronts of house (obscured by conifers) (left); view from south front of house over site of former canal/ lido in direction of Windsor Castle (centre), north-east gateway from kitchen garden (right).



South garden: gateways in west wall: north (left) and south (centre), view west from kitchen garden across site of former canal/lido to Wilderness (right).



South garden, view east from Wilderness gateway across site of former canal/lido to kitchen garden.





South garden, outline of lost terraces against the west wall.



Wilderness, pond, view south. The formal shape survives in part.



Wilderness, Farnham brook (left); site of former canal against east wall with south garden (right).





## APPENDIX

### ADDITIONAL HISTORIC INFORMATION

Between 1726-33 building materials were delivered daily with invoices and bills for bricks, coping, lime, “rub” and “dohurd” to create the present layout of garden walls and terracing. Other receipts include a 1729 bill for painting of a gate broken by a coach (probably the main east avenue entrance) and in 1732 a bill from John Davis, a Windsor family based locksmith, blacksmiths, ironmongers, clockmakers and bell hangers for a range of garden and household tools for Dr. Godolphin. Davis supplied Eton College, 1725-1729, with a large amount of iron work, including gates, banisters, structural work, clocks and locks and was supplier to Baylis (CBS Duke of Leeds Papers. Box 10). Between June 1726 and August 1727 detailed bills and receipts signed by Thomas “Ackris” or “Ackres” were presented for a total of £671.19.00 for work commissioned by Provost Henry Godolphin to lay out the gardens with “fruit trees, greens, and shrubs these planted by me” (Duke of Leeds Papers Box 10). The majority of his garden work was probably completed by 1727-28 as there are no further receipts. “Greens” were tender evergreens, kept in a greenhouse or hot house indicating that Baylis had these in the kitchen garden.

Thomas Ackres (d.1727-8) had connections and was ambitious in his attempts to become the Royal Gardener and succeed Henry Wise by undercutting maintenance costs to “half”. In the Home Counties between 1695-1727 Ackres was creating and landscaping parks and gardens. One of his first jobs in 1695 was at Cassiobury Park, near Watford at 90 shillings for half a year’s salary and Head Gardener by 1700; he was paid £140 for work on the “Wilderness” creating a more naturalistic area. His uncle George London (nurseryman) was also working at Cassiobury. His commission in 1703 at Wrest Park, Bedfordshire (*Wrest Park 1686-1730s: exploring Dutch influence* Garden History, 40/1 (Summer 2012), 34-35), where he constructed two canals. In 1706 he was at Montagu House (the site of the British Museum), paid £140 per annum to maintain the garden; he planted cypresses, junipers in tubs and created a central water feature possibly. In 1710 he was employed by Lionel Cranfield Sackville, (Kentish Studies U269/A218) at Knole and was responsible for laying out a parterre and circular Bowling Green and in 1711 a melon ground and canal adjacent to the Wilderness. 1714 he returned to Wrest Park to add the “Atlas Pond” and tree planting. Of particular interest was creation of a series of terraces, similar to those at Baylis for Mount Diston (now Woodcote Grove) as part of a new garden for the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England (Kupferman, 2017).

The mason was John Merryman of Windsor (CBS Duke of Leeds Papers. Box 10 - bills for paying, checked & signed by John James for Francis Godolphin). John James’ forecourt walls are connected to the house by two blind-arched quadrants, and terminated by two pyramid roofed pavilions with the same arcading. The walls screen the kitchen block which has a pretty lantern (the clock is dated 1735) which is connected to the house by a Tuscan colonnade at the back of the quadrant wall, and quite a stately range of mid-to late C18 stables and contemporary coach house. Stiff Leadbetter was principal carpenter, John Bosom the carver who worked with Wren on his rebuilding of the churches after the Great Fire. The refurbishment included items for the Kitchen Garden and Wilderness; oak stakes

for a 5ft hurdle for the Wilderness, wheelbarrow, stepladder for the gardener's wife with a box on top, and the painting of gates, garden frame bars and greenhouses. For the "melon ground" a run of 5 foot close oak paling, "hot bed" to be repaired and for the cold frames "buttons of oak to keep frame from slipping", also the provision of a dog kennel on wheels (CBS, Duke of Leeds Box 10).

The earliest mapping is the 1761 Roque Map of Berkshire. The grounds are formal in layout with tree-lined west and main east avenues. The walled garden south of the house was rectangular with an apsidal end to the south and walls as boundaries. There was a rectangular water feature in the centre with a rill/narrow canals east through the wall to the north- south canal and west through the wall to a rectangular pond. Paths border the garden and water features. To the west was the Wilderness in a formal cruciform layout lined with trees and shrubs with a large rectangular apsidal end water feature to the south and Farnham Brook as the west boundary. The gardens were surrounded by meadows. There was never a park. By 1770 (Jefferys) "Lord Godolphin Baylias" had Farnham Brook as the boundary of Stoke Place and Baylis.

By 1802 (Duke of Leeds map) the area between the kitchen garden and the road, was a garden with a small separate area at each end. The area adjacent to the road was a formal garden, the central area was 'Upper Ground'. By 1824 only the western c20m was shown, as a melon ground, whilst the rest was wooded. In 1735 there was an invoice for "run of close oak panelling 5ft high in the melon ground with a spur to each post....£8-2-1" and also "Bars to melon glasses painted three times over at 1½ each...£1-0-6" (Duke of Leeds papers, box 10). By 1877 (OS) the central section of this garden was orchard, with trees in the melon ground and a footpath going through to the kitchen garden. By 1922 (plan of Baylis House Estate) a boundary divided the melon ground and the rest of the garden. By the 1950 (OS) there is only a marked boundary for the Memorial Garden close to the road.

In 1802 Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, the Duke of Leeds commissioned John Raine to survey all his estates in Farnham Royal, Stoke Poges and Slough. There were two parallel avenues, one to the main house the other to Baylis Farm. Two walled gardens are shown, the smaller with a rectangular dipping pond in the kitchen garden, the larger south east formal walled garden with apsidal end.( Northampton Archives 1802 Duke of Leeds Survey) , has a formal water feature east-west and garden divided into four compartments by pathways. A canal follows the line of the south-west wall (not shown in the Roque) with a more naturalised wilderness and water features/ponds to the west bounded by the brook. The 1810 OS Surveyor's Draft is similar in detail with the outline of the walled gardens, water features, avenue and footpath west and footpath east, house and farm buildings, the wilderness is not detailed. The 1822 Stoke Poges and Wexham Inclosure Map outlines the main areas of the estate, including the formal gardens, water features, house and farm house (in red) and outbuilding in grey (Berkshire Record Office Inclosure Map 1822). An 1822 plan shows plans to widen part of the highway, Stoke Poges Road, and shows the two roads to Baylis with a gate. (CBS Q/H/60)

The 1824 *Plan of Several Farms Manors and Other Property within the parishes of Stoke, Wexham, Farnham Royal, Upton cum Chalvey and Burnham in the County of Bucks* surveyed by Richard Binfield of Eton for the Right Honourable Francis Godolphin Osborne, Duke of Leeds (CBS Ma/198/IR) is very detailed. The Baylis Estate shows the house and related building including Baylis Court, the farm. Entrance is from the tree lined east avenue, footpath & farm access, drive and gardens, shrubbery and square garden on the north east(perhaps formerly the croquet lawn or bowling green). The kitchen garden of geometric beds, glasses houses and outbuildings extends to a long rectangular south spur parallel to the large water feature in the Wilderness with the meadow( Dog Close) of 7 acres 29 perches planted with parkland trees. In the south east walled formal garden the water feature is enlarged and rectangular, paths and terracing of the apsidal end edged with trees. The canal walk is lined with fruit trees on the wall with the Wilderness showing a central clearing, curving pathways, dense woodland and the south west



rectangular water with an apsidal end and tree lined. The canal is separated from the wall by fruit trees along the length of the narrow canal. It also shows glasshouses, and outbuildings on the north walls of the kitchen garden. (CBS Ma/198/IR).

The 1846 William Trumper map of the Parish of Stoke Poges details the kitchen garden layout is less elaborate with a square dipping pond, the formal garden no longer showing the four compartments but with pathways around its borders, and a cross shaped water feature, the wilderness and water features little changed. Greenhouses, outbuildings as in 1924 but more of the buildings shown for use as accommodation. There is an extensive Field Book giving details of the estate (CBS PR198/28/9b). 1850 John Gendall paints a watercolour of the pine lined drive and house from the avenue (Aylesbury Museum). The OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1877 shows an increase in the number of trees with orchards in the garden of the main drive, formal and kitchen garden. There is an increase in boundary trees but in the Wilderness there is no clear area but the water features remain. 1883 OS shows the formal garden overgrown with trees and the terrace and water feature becoming difficult to distinguish. The Wilderness is still present with two water features.

By 1911 ( CBS L574.27 article by M.F. Nalder *The Country Home* June 1911 p10) the house was approached via a "long straight avenue of stately pine trees, dark and sombre"... "the approach to the house widens into a courtyard flanked on either side with square – built lodge surmounted by a stone ball..." "in the grounds there are four handsome pairs of pierced iron gates, each surmounted by the Godolphin crest. They are in excellent preservation... High walls surround most of the garden, and trained against one, in a sheltered corner near the house, there is a fig tree still flourishing from which George IV used regularly to have the fruit." The 1910 OS show mixed planting trees and thinning of the trees in the Wilderness and the two water features as they were. The formal garden terrace is less distinct and two areas of trees. Greenhouses and garden outbuildings no longer visible