

# Understanding Historic Parks and Gardens in Buckinghamshire

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research & Recording Project



Gendall View of Ditton Park, published 1813

## Ditton Park Chronology and References

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The Finnis Scott  
Foundation



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## Ditton Park Chronology & References

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### 1. Introduction

The following Chronology, list of Key Design Phases, and Reference List are intended to amplify the Historic England (HE) Parks and Gardens Register description (see Section 6). The initial spur for this was the information kindly supplied by Crispin Powell, Archivist of the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust including the Boughton archive earlier in 2016, the tercentenary year of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's birth. This indicated that the attribution to Brown in the late 1760s-70s, by Dorothy Stroud in *Capability Brown* (3<sup>rd</sup> edn. 1975) was mistaken, and that although Brown did work at Ditton it was for a different Montagu client and over a different period. This arose from a misinterpretation of an entry in his account book now at the RHS Lindley Library, London. That entry referred to a different Montagu peerage, probably for previously unrecognised work at Cowdray in West Sussex. Documents in the Boughton archive and payments in Brown's Drummonds Bank ledgers (now at the Royal Bank of Scotland) confirm that Brown did indeed work at Ditton, but for the Montagus of Beaulieu and Boughton, this being from 1759, throughout the 1760s, with him paid over £300.

As a result, and as part of BGT's contribution to work on Brown this tercentenary year, volunteer researchers in the ongoing Research and Recording Project have prepared a landscape chronology to include this historic revision, references list, and overview of historic phases and interest. This document will be submitted to HE and we hope will contribute to a revised Register entry. The researchers visited various archives and the site itself to understand more about the development of the grounds and received detailed assistance from Crispin Powell on behalf of the Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust for which BGT is most grateful. The summary of historic interest is presented below.

NB the site originated in the historic county of Bucks (pre-1974 boundaries) which is covered by BGT.

## 2. Designed Landscape Chronology

Date	Detail	Reference
Pre 1066	Ditton Manor & Stoke Manor – Records owner Siret, vassal of King Harold	Lionel Rigby, <i>Stoke Poges: A Buckinghamshire village through 1000 years</i> . Ch. 1
1086	Manor assessed as 5 Hides. Given use by William Conqueror to William Fitz-Ansculf. Descendants called themselves “de Stoke” who married into de Poges family; Stoke Manor became Stoke Poges.	Domesday Book  <i>VCH ‘Stoke Poges Parish’, Vol 3, pp302-313</i>
1331	Ditton Manor passed to John de Moleyns who 1325 married Gille de Poges. Moleyns was King’s Treasurer.	<i>VCH</i>
1335	Moleyns obtained licence to make a park of 38 acres of land and wood in Ditton and Datchet in severalty in detached part of Stoke Poges parish. It was centred on the medieval moated site. Granted a licence by Edward III to fortify “his mansun at Ditton”	Cantor & Hatherly, ‘The Medieval Parks of Buckinghamshire’, <i>Recs of Bucks</i> (1977).
1338	Park enlarged by 8 acres in manor of Langley Marish of 4s.yearly.	<i>VCH</i>
1441	Sir Robert Hungerford betrothed to John’s great-great granddaughter Alianore who inherited the estate was granted control 1441. Lancastrian supporter War of Roses beheaded 1464.	<i>VCH</i>
1472	Manor returned to crown land under Edward IV & probably sublet.	<i>VCH</i>
1517-21	Crown Princess Mary at Ditton.	<i>VCH</i>
1607*	Map shows embattled house, moated formal garden or wilderness on the south outside the moat (the site of the later south wilderness), and deer park lodge to the NE.	J Norden, <i>A description of the honour of Windesor</i> Royal Coll. (copy CBS Mar38/2)
1608*	Norden survey states that the park contained “about 220 deer, 50 of antler and about 20 bucks, 195 acres of good ground but little timber in a circuit of 2 ¼ miles”. The office of keeper was one for life, paid for by the Crown. It was one on the “emoluments” granted to Anne Boleyn in 1532. In 1615 it was worth £150 yearly.	Cantor & Hatherley, ‘The Medieval Parks of Buckinghamshire’, <i>Recs of Bucks</i> (1977).
1615	Keepership of Ditton Park & Manor of Datchet granted to Sir Ralph Winwood (d.1617), Principal Secretary of State to James I, and his eldest son Richard for their lives.	<i>VCH, pp302-313</i>
1617	Ditton estate inherited by eldest son Richard , a minor (1609-1688) with his Sir Ralph’s widow, Lady Elizabeth Winwood, continuing in residence. Ref 83 History of Parliament John Chamberlan letters: “Over the next few years, Winwood’s wife rebuilt Ditton’s fourteenth-century mansion house, which she surrounded with new gardens, ponds and an orchard, achieving striking results at very little cost. <u>83</u> ”	Thrush & Ferris ed. <i>History of Parliament on line 1604-1629</i> . Reference 83 John Chamberlan Letters.  Also Lipscombe, Vol. 4.
1630	Park enlarged with land from adjacent manors of Datchet & Langley Marish & by 1630 park 218 acres. Granted to Elizabeth Winwood, Sir	<i>VCH, pp302-313</i>

	Ralph's widow (d.1659) "at fee farm" Sir Ralph's son Richard purchased rest of estate from the Crown and rebuilt the chapel.	Nicholas Pearson, 1993.
1659	d. Elizabeth Winwood; s. son Richard	VCH
1688	d. Sir Richard Winwood; Ditton estate inherited widow Anne Winward (d.1694).	VCH TNA Will of Anne Winward
1694	1694 Ditton Park & Winward estates passed to Sir Ralph Winwood's nephew, Ralph, Earl Montagu of Boughton (d. 1709), son of Edward 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lord Montagu and his wife Anne Winwood.	VCH Nicholas Pearson, 1993.
1695*	Detailed plan of gardens, watercourses and park: embattled mansion, formal gardens and numbered buildings (key?). Three entrances over canal, 2 tree lined; canal enclosing mansion & gardens rectangle except on north side where it has a mid-120 degree angle half way along its length, later developed into semi-circular pool (see 1742 survey).	Estate Survey. Aldersey W <i>A description &amp; Plott of Ditton Park belonging to Ralph, Earl of Montagu.</i> Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust
1705	Estate passes to nephew of Sir Ralph: Ralph, Earl of Montagu (of Boughton), who becomes a Duke (d.1709).	VCH Nicholas Pearson. 1993
1709	1709 Ralph 1 <sup>st</sup> Duke of Montagu dies. Son John, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Duke of Montagu inherits estate (d. 1749), wife Lady Mary Churchill, daughter 1 <sup>st</sup> Duke of Marlborough. 3 estate surveys show developments – 1718, 1725, 1742 (noted below)	VCH
1718*	Detailed plan of gardens: present moat shown, enclosing extensive complex formal gardens to the W, E & S of mansion; beyond to the W within the moat a wilderness with round pond. S of canal Wilderness of intersecting straight & curved paths within three rectangles; S avenue. Main axial approach from E via circle of elms leading over moat bridge to mansion. Beyond NW corner of moat a rectangular fishpond. Elm circle beyond moat aligned on E front of mansion and forecourt. Deer "Lawnes", meadows and pastures.	Estate Survey. 1960 in ownership of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. Reproduced Nicholas Pearson, 1993.
1721	John Fougoin was paid for 'new work' in the garden. Fougoin (d.1742), a Huguenot, is in the accounts as gardener as early as 1718.	Marchant accounts, NRO via C Powell who is also indebted to Julia Mottershaw from Stourhead for information on Fougoin.
1725*	The garden/wilderness layout within the moat similar to 1718. Beyond the moat the fishpond to NW enlarged into lake, island & 'fort'; southerly Wilderness simplified, leaving formal framework of walks and allees; to NE the elm circle, Walnut Tree Piece and main drive similar to 1718. Avenues cross the park N & W of moat.	Estate Survey: Reproduced Nicholas Pearson, 1993, Fig.3.
1729	February: the Duke laying out a "vista" towards the Hams; bills for trees & other plants. Work undertaken by Head Gardener, John Fougoin. Trees supplied by Peter Mason & Henry Teem.	Boughton Archives, Northampton Record Office. Box 8851.

	Henry Banning and Golding Street enlarged the moat <i>at the corner next to the great pond</i> February 1729.	
1734	Letter from Sir John Chardin who had been a guest at Ditton and hoped to be invited back in the summer " <i>for that enchanted island, fortification, tents, cabins, drawbridge, ferry boat, and ferryman never to be forgot.</i> " "Vouchers" in archive show drawbridge by the pavilion built in 1727.	Boughton Archives, Northampton Record Office. Ref Archivist notes 2016 to BGT
1742	Topographical map of the Bath Road shows Ditton as a large oval area to the south of the road with the mansion of Earl Beaulieu in its midst.	Mentioned in Cantor & Hatherly (1977).
1742*	Plan shows similar layout to 1718, with detail of core within moat. Layout still based on a formal arrangement of avenues and walks. N arm of moat (canal) enlarged to include semi-circular pool. South 'Wilderness' beyond moat retains simple layout with avenue leading from SE summer house & drawbridge with boundary of shrub/trees. Building/summer house & fountain on SE (possibly shown in 1718). Island layout shown in more detail including round building "fort". Walnut-Tree Piece NE adjacent to The Elms circle & drive.	Estate Survey: Reproduced Nicholas Pearson, 1993, Fig 4.
1749	1749 John, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Duke of Montagu dies; estates divided between 2 daughters: Lady Isabella (?-1786), by then styled as Dowager Duchess of Manchester. In 1743 she m. Edward Hussey who took the surname Montagu, became 1 <sup>st</sup> Baron Beaulieu, and was cr. Earl Beaulieu in 1784 (1721-1802). 2 <sup>nd</sup> daughter was Lady Mary Montagu m. George 4 <sup>th</sup> Earl of Cardigan. Both the daughters inherited the Ditton estate but they agreed that Isabella and her husband take a lease as their country seat.	VCH
1759	September: Ditton leased to Sir Edward (Montagu) and his wife Isabella the Duchess (Dowager of Manchester) as main country seat.	VCH
1760	Lancelot Brown engaged by Edward, Baron Beaulieu (now tenant at Manor). Intention to transform park caused dispute between sisters & brothers in law. It seems that little beyond some preparatory clearance was carried out as part of this work. Letter from S Montagu, steward at Ditton, to Lady Cardigan ref. work by Brown. Notes changes inc. "grubbing up yew trees", "Fruit walls to come down". January: 3 Affidavits regarding dispute between Lady Cardigan & sister Isabella, Duchess Dowager of Manchester.  Reference to 40 acres arable land in the park grassed over by Lord Beaulieu in about 1760.	Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust, Boughton Archive.  Boughton Archive. 1844 Letter from Henry Lord Montagu re: purchase of Ditton Lodge estate, east of Ditton Park. Archivist notes to BGT 2016
1761*	Similar layout to 1742 Survey: Wilderness south of moat based on 3	Roque J. <i>Topographical</i>

	rectangular areas; NW of moat lake and island; pool on north arm of moat. Boundary of estate shown and paths/drives.	<i>Survey of the County of Berkshire. 1<sup>st</sup> sheet RC.</i>
1760s	Continuing work by Lancelot Brown. Drummond's Bank ledgers show entries for payments by Baron Beaulieu, Edward Hussey Montagu to Brown: 1762 (£100), 1763 (£200) & 1770 (£21.9.7). These are relatively modest sums.	Willis, P. 'Capability Brown's Account 1753-1783' <i>Arch Hist.</i> Vol. 27 (1984); Drummond's ledgers at RBS.
1802	d. Edward Montagu, 1 <sup>st</sup> Earl Beaulieu. Ditton Manor inherited by Elizabeth (d. 1827), only daughter of George Earl of Cardigan; m. Henry Scott, Duke of Buccleuch. Elizabeth was niece of Isabella Dowager Duchess of Manchester. Elizabeth inherited her mother's share when her father died in 1790, and inherited her aunt's share when Lord Beaulieu died in 1802.	<i>VCH</i> Lipscombe, <i>History of Buckinghamshire</i> , Vol 4 p.570.
1811	The layout simplified and softened, perhaps seen in a transitional phase. Park perimeter surrounded by narrow belt of trees, river, and in part by tree lined road. Less formal layout within the moat, the north arm/'canal' slightly serpentine; formal forecourt still below E front of mansion. Two new curving drives from the SW and NE across the park lead to the east entrance. New narrow 'river' beyond lake to NW, crossed by SW drive. Park avenues softened in lines.	Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing 2" to 1 mile (BL)
1811	Kitchen garden formed around now, according to the Head Gardener Mr Anderson, in 1833.	<i>Gardener's Magazine</i> vol. 9 (1833), 650.
1812	d. Henry Scott, Duke of Buccleuch (husband of Elizabeth). Mansion destroyed by fire with jewels, furniture, family plate.	<i>VCH</i> Lipscombe, p.570.
1813-17	House and chapel rebuilt 1813-17 by Elizabeth, Dowager Duchess of Buccleuch, replacing de Moleyns' old tower. Architect William Atkinson incorporated NE wing of old house.	
1817	Henry James, Lord Montagu of Boughton (d. 1845) (2 <sup>nd</sup> son of Elizabeth, Duchess of Buccleuch), moved into mansion.	<i>VCH</i>
1825*	Outline of estate, canal, lake & island, perimeter belt, mansion on moated rectangular site; Chapel in informal park; network of serpentine drives.	Bryant, Map of Bucks, surveyed early 1820s
1827	d. Elizabeth, Duchess of Buccleuch s. 2 <sup>nd</sup> son Lord Montagu of Boughton	<i>VCH</i>
1833	Head Gardener Mr Anderson, a pupil of Mr M'Donald of Dalkeith, who had been in this post for 27 years (i.e. since c.1805). Kitchen garden formed 22 years ago (i.e. c.1811). A brief account of fruit trees given and note of other trees.	<i>Gardener's Magazine</i> vol. 9 (1833), 650-51.
1836*	Detailed plan of the layout at its most fully developed. Within moat formal gardens replaced with informal paths, lawns and planting. Moat and pond banks softened in lines, incorporating stream formerly running through meadows. New rectangular fishpond in park to S connecting via spur N to SW corner of moat. New rectangular kitchen garden & orchards in park to E beyond chapel. S Wilderness retains N/S avenues, now enclosed by curved paths, crossed by drive parallel to S arm of moat. West park created	Estate Survey- Fig.7 Reproduced Nicholas Pearson, 1993.

	from Datchet Lawn and adjacent meadows; avenue along park pale retained. Park enclosed by copses & belts.	
1836	JC Loudon visited in autumn. Mr Hutchinson was Head Gardener. Majestic trees in the park. Orangery, flower garden in the 'Dutch style', recently opened vista to statue of George III (Copper Horse erected c.1831), in Windsor Great Park, 5 miles away.	<i>Gardener's Magazine</i> vol. 13 (1837), 1-2.
1845	d. Henry James Lord Montagu of Boughton s. nephew Walter, 5 <sup>th</sup> Duke of Buccleuch	
1846*	In S wilderness lines of 2 N/S avenues not evident (but are seen on 1870s OS). Scattered trees in park, S wilderness and moated gardens.	Tithe Plan: Ditton Park in the Parish of Stoke Poges (CBS PR 198/28/8R) Notes: Nicholas Pearson, 1993, p 15.
1859	d. Henry, Lord Montagu of Boughton's widow Ditton devolved to nephew Walter Francis Montagu Douglas Scott, 5 <sup>th</sup> Duke Buccleuch (d 1884).	<i>VCH</i>
1868-75	1 <sup>st</sup> detailed map of estate. Moated area little changed. Park: SE circular walk, cricket ground, sports area/ dairy edged by woodland with intersecting paths. North Park additional planting of sweeps of trees. South wilderness the two avenues shown with some gaps and planting of individual parkland trees between the formal avenues.	Ordnance Survey 1 <sup>st</sup> edition 6" & 25" scale, surveyed
1884	d. Walter Francis, 5 <sup>th</sup> Duke Buccleuch. 2 <sup>nd</sup> son, Henry Scott, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu inherited (d 1905) Ditton became dower house for his mother Charlotte Anne, Duchess of Buccleuch (d. 1895).	
1899*	Little change.	Ordnance Survey 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition 6" & 25" scale
1905	d. Henry Scott, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu s. son John Walter Edward.	<i>VCH</i>
1913	Leased to Lord & Lady Wolverton. Head Gardener Mr Foakes. Queen Victoria (d.1901) was a frequent visitor and used to drive around the grounds. Moat looking rather shaggy. List of mature trees. Flower garden with focal rose garden. Bedding displays. Large island planted with Atlantic cedar, Taxodium, etc. Varied ornamental and fruit crops indicate an extensive, fully functioning typical country house kitchen garden.	<i>Gardeners' Chronicle</i> vol. 54 (1913), 176 & supplementary illustration of moat opp. p.180.
1917	Admiralty requisitioned Ditton from Henry Scott's grandson.	Nicholas Pearson Assoc. 1993
1918	At a cost of £20,000 for Manor House & Moat (Ditton Park Island) Admiralty purchased park from John Walter Edward for £24,000.	
1923	Little change, fewer trees on the perimeter and avenues. "Wireless Experimental Stations (Radio Research Board)" in place.	Ordnance Survey 6" & 25" scale
1925	Mansion occupied by Lord Wolverton; park occupied 260a. C17 outbuilding present.	<i>VCH</i>
1938	Little change; further masts in west half of park.	Ordnance Survey 6" scale

1939-45	Development in SW corner of park for the Admiralty.	
1965	SW corner of park and a lodge lost to the construction of the Chiswick to Langley Special Road Scheme, in early 1970s upgraded to the M4.	Historic England Register Description (2000)
1972	West Park sold to Science Research Council – Appleton Laboratories with 55 acres. West Park sold to Calor Gas & renamed Appleton Park	Nicholas Pearson Assoc. 1993.
1970s	Sections of the park were sold into divided ownership. Loss of many trees to Dutch Elm disease including Elm tree circle. Queen Mother Reservoir built S of M4 presenting steep grass embankment. Tree planting altered character in some areas, such as West Park, but new western belt is in same location as shown in 1836.	Nicholas Pearson Assoc. 1993.
1987	South Park tree belt destroyed by October storm	As above
1997	Computer Associates purchased Estate. Building occupies west side of Ditton Park with Ditton Manor at the centre of the 200a estate.	

### 3. Key Phases in the Landscape Design Apparent from the Chronology

#### Medieval

Probably a small garden in the environs of the medieval moated house, set within the wider deer park of c.200a.

#### Sixteenth Century? (see 1607 Norden survey)

House embattled, moated formal garden/wilderness on the south outside the moat; surrounded by park with 'Lodge' to NE. Origin of layout unclear, apparently post-medieval.

#### 1615-1688 Seventeenth Century, Sir Ralph Winwood, then his wife Elizabeth & son Sir Richard (see 1695 estate map)

**Major phase(s).** Development of formal gardens, orchards, while mansion rebuilt. Park maintained.

(Chamberlan - Houses of Parliament notes)

#### 1709-49 John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Montagu (see 3 estate maps, 1718, 1725, 1742)

Further modifications to gardens and park. By 1718 moated area had extensive formal gardens and wilderness to W of house. South wilderness beyond moat contained complex layout of woodwork; scattered trees in park and avenues. By 1742 the south wilderness much simplified except for main framework avenues; lake created from canal to NW of moat; network of formal avenues crossing the park.

#### Later Eighteenth Century, Edward, Baron (later Earl) Beaulieu (see OSD 1811)

Lancelot Brown paid over £300 during 1760s. Detail of contribution unclear.



Planting softened; new 'river' NW of lake; two new serpentine drives across the park.

Many formal features, particularly avenues retained.

**Early Nineteenth Century by 1836 (see estate map)**

**The landscape design at its most fully developed.** Little major alteration occurred after this.

Moated gardens/pleasure grounds now largely informal with lawns, paths, woodland pleasure ground; park enclosed by belts and plantations; new kitchen garden E of chapel in park; formal avenues survive in places.

## 4. Summary of Historic Interest

### (Berkshire HER 00004) Registered Grade II

The extensive garden, pleasure grounds and park for a moated country house in the Thames Valley, developed in phases from the medieval period to the early C19 with advice in the 1760s from Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The layout and planting survive largely intact as completed by the 1830s, based on elements of successive formal and informal C17 and C18 phases within an earlier framework. Elizabeth Winward whilst rebuilding the house in the C17 created formal gardens, ponds, an orchard, and enlarged the park. In the early-mid-C18 John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Montagu, developed this layout in the pleasure ground and park, which was naturalised to some degree by Lancelot Brown in the 1760s as part of Edward, Baron (later Earl) Montagu's works of the later C18. Little change occurred after the 1830s, but a remote section of the west park has been lost to office development since World War II.

**Key feature:** The large moated garden with associated water features, simplified remains of the south wilderness, and parkland of medieval origins, developed formally and informally in the C17, C18 and early C19.



The garden summerhouse (Crispin Powell).

## 5. References

\* = items seen by Researchers

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[Entries for Baron Beaulieu, Edward Hussey Montagu 1762, 1763, 1770]

## MAPS

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- \*1607 Norden John, *A Description of the honour of Windesor*. Royal Collection & CBS Mar38/2.
- 1695 Aldersey, W., *A description & Plott of Ditton Park belonging to Ralph, Earl of Montagu*. Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust, Boughton Archive Parcel: Ditton Box 1, Part11. [Plan of gardens and watercourses.]
  
- \*1718 Estate Survey: *The Manor of Ditton Belonging to John, Duke of Montagu* Lord Montague of Beaulieu Collection 1960. Reproduced Nicholas Pearson Associate, Fig 3 draft 1993.
- \*1723 Estate Survey (probably at Beaulieu, Hants). Reproduced Nicholas Pearson Associates, 1993, Fig.3.
- \*1742 Estate Survey (probably at Beaulieu, Hants). Reproduced Nicholas Pearson Associates, 1993, Fig.4.
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- \*1825 Bryant, Map of Buckinghamshire, surveyed early 1820s.
- \*1836 Estate Survey (present whereabouts unknown). Reproduced in Nicholas Pearson Associates, 1993, Fig. 7.
- \*1846 Wm Trumper, Tithe Plan of Parish of Stoke Poges, with inset plan of Ditton Park (CBS PR/198/28/8R).
- \*1877 OS 25" to 1 mile 1<sup>st</sup> edition
- \*1881 OS 6" to 1 mile: 1st edition surveyed 1868 published 1881
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- \*1925 OS 6" to 1 mile published
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- \*c.1935 OS 25" to 1 mile revised edition
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- \*1960 OS 6" to 1 mile National Grid revised provisional
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- \*1980 OS 1:10,000 National Grid revised edition
- \*2016 OS 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Ditton Park Main building, courtyard walls, stable & gatehouse blocks, Admiralty Compass Observatory Historic England TQ 0003977920 1:25

## **ARCHIVAL MATERIAL**

### **Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust Archive, Boughton House, Northamptonshire:**

\* 1760, three affidavits regarding the dispute between Lady Cardigan and her sister, Isabella, Duchess Dowager of Manchester.

### **Northampton Record Office, Northampton, Montagu Archive:**

\* 1711-1796 Steward's Correspondence (M(B)2/3)

1727 "vouchers" show drawbridge by the pavilion built. Notes supplied to BGT by Archivist August 2016.

\*1729 February: Duke laying out "vista". Bills for trees & other plants. Moat enlarged. Notes supplied to BGT by Archivist August 2016. (box 8851)

1734 Letter from Sir John Chardin describing his visit to Ditton. Notes supplied to BGT by Archivist August 2016.

\* 1760 Letter from Samuel Montagu, steward at Ditton for 30 years, to Lady Cardigan. Letter with reference to the work of Capability Brown. (box 8855)

1760 Reference by Lord Beaulieu that 40 acres of arable land in the park grassed over. Notes supplied to BGT by Buccleuch Living Heritage Archivist, August 2016.

### **Centre for Bucks Studies:**

\*1822 Inclosure Award, Stoke Poges Parish (CBS IR 138C)

### **National Archives:**

Will of Richard Winwood of Ditton Park, Buckinghamshire 24 August 1688 (PROB/11/390/416)

Will of Ann Winwood of Ditton Park, Buckinghamshire 4 May 1694 (PROB 11/420/52)

Will of Right Honorable Edward Earl Beaulieu of Ditton Park 16 May 1806 (PROB 11/1442/206)

### **Royal Bank of Scotland, Drummonds Bank Account:**

Ledgers for Lancelot Brown, online at RBS Heritage Hub: <http://heritagearchives.rbs.com/subjects/list/lancelot-capability-brown-bank-accounts.html> [password required; see also Willis above]

### **Beaulieu Archive, Brockenhurst, Hants**

No response received to enquiry (September 2016), but is likely that relevant items are held.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

\*Aerial photographs 1945 RAF, 1974, 1985 (Bucks HER)

\* Buckler, John, (1770-1851) South west view of Ditton Park. Ink & watercolour. March 1818.

Online at <http://gac.culture.gov.uk> [accessed 20/06/2016]

[http://www.buckscountymuseum.org/museum/collections/item-details/?modes\\_query=%7Bsearch%7D%3D%2A%7Bditton%20park%7D&start\\_collections=3](http://www.buckscountymuseum.org/museum/collections/item-details/?modes_query=%7Bsearch%7D%3D%2A%7Bditton%20park%7D&start_collections=3)

\* Gendall, W.W.J., View of Ditton Park house from across the moat, in Britton J & Brayley EW *Topographical and historical description of the County of Buckinghamshire*, 1813 (BAS 2/32)

Online at [http://www.buckscountymuseum.org/museum/collections/item-details/?modes\\_query=%7Bsearch%7D%3D%2A%7Bditton%20park%7D&start\\_collections=2](http://www.buckscountymuseum.org/museum/collections/item-details/?modes_query=%7Bsearch%7D%3D%2A%7Bditton%20park%7D&start_collections=2)

Neale, J.P. View of the Moat and House at Ditton Park, published Sept 1818

Online at [http://www.buckscountymuseum.org/museum/collections/item-details/?modes\\_query=%7Bsearch%7D%3D%2A%7Bditton%20park%7D&start\\_collections=6](http://www.buckscountymuseum.org/museum/collections/item-details/?modes_query=%7Bsearch%7D%3D%2A%7Bditton%20park%7D&start_collections=6)

\*Photograph 2002: Images of England – 40655. *Main building, courtyard walls, stable and gatehouse block, Admiralty Compass observatory at Ditton Park, Ditton Park Road (west side)*

<http://imagesofengland.org.uk/details/default.aspx?id=40655> [accessed 20/06/2016]

\* Ditton Park Entrance Gate, in *The History of Windsor* (1813), in The DiCamillo Companion Ltd collection [accessed 20/06/2016]

Hakewill, J., Ditton Park Gatehouse, Moat & Bridge, 1813, Bucks County Museum. Online at

[http://www.buckscountymuseum.org/museum/collections/item-details/?modes\\_query=%7Bsearch%7D%3D%2A%7Bditton%20park%7D&start\\_collections=19](http://www.buckscountymuseum.org/museum/collections/item-details/?modes_query=%7Bsearch%7D%3D%2A%7Bditton%20park%7D&start_collections=19)

## 6. English Heritage Parks and Gardens Report: Ditton Park

**Unitary Councils:** Slough Borough, Windsor and Maidenhead Borough

**County:** Berkshire **English Heritage File No.** GD 2312

**Grade:** II **Date Registered:** 30 December 1993

**Grid Ref:** SU 999 780

A moated country house surrounded by the remains of formal early C18 gardens and a wilderness, within a landscape park laid out by Lancelot Brown, 1762-74.

### Historic Development

Sir John Moleyns, treasurer to King Edward III, inherited the manor of Ditton c 1330. The following year he was granted permission to embattle his house and, in 1335, was given licence to impark c 17ha. In the mid C15, the estate reverted to the Crown, Princess Mary, later Queen Mary I, spending part of her early life at Ditton (1517-21), Cardinal Wolsey residing there in the late 1520s, and it being one of the emoluments granted to Anne Boleyn.

In 1607, when surveyed by John Norden, the park occupied c 90ha, had little timber, and was stocked with deer. On his map, the house is shown as being moated with a formal garden laid out to the south. In 1615, the estate was granted to Sir Ralph Winwood, then Secretary of State, who rebuilt the mansion using the existing site. Sir Ralph died in 1617 and work presumably continued under his wife Elizabeth, and son Richard (d 1688). The park was enlarged at this time and by 1630 occupied c 100ha. The estate passed to the nephew of Sir Ralph, Ralph, Earl Montagu of Boughton, cr. Duke of Montagu in 1705 (d 1709), then to his son, John, whose wife was Lady Mary Churchill, daughter of John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough.



Between 1762 and 1774, Lancelot Brown (1716-83) was involved at Ditton, at a cost of some £3450, using Cornelius Dickinson as foreman and working for 'Lord Visct. Montague', the estate then being in the joint ownership of Sir Edward Hussey Montagu, created Lord, and later Earl, Beaulieu, and George, Duke of Marlborough, fourth Earl of Cardigan. Brown had previously (1763) been employed by the fourth Duke of Marlborough at nearby Langley Park (qv), prior to his involvement at Blenheim (qv).

Ditton was inherited by George's daughter, Lady Elizabeth Montagu, who married Henry Scott, Duke of Buccleuch (d 1812). In 1812, the house was almost completely destroyed by fire, and the following year a new house was started to the designs of William Atkinson. It was completed 1817. Ditton Park remained in the Montagu family until 1917 when it was sold by Baron Montagu of Beaulieu to the Admiralty. In 1993 the Admiralty left the place, which in 1999 was in the process of becoming a company headquarters.

## **Description**

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

Ditton Park lies to the south-east of Slough in the hamlet of Ditton. The site is defined by residential development to the north, open farmland to the west, Ditton Park Road to the east, and to the south by Riding Court Road and Farm, the adjacent research station (built on part of the former parkland) and the M4. The construction of the motorway in the early 1970s caused the loss of the south-west corner of the park and the lodge associated with the south drive.

### **ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES**

The main approach to the house is the drive through the double lime avenue which leads west from the lodge on Ditton Park Road. It crosses the iron-railed bridge (listed grade II) over the east arm of the moat and runs through the stuccoed, turreted and crenellated gatehouse (C18, listed grade II) leading to the rectangular walled forecourt (walls listed grade II, those to north and south C17, brick), a remnant of the early C18 layout, on the east front of the house. The stable block and offices (C18, listed grade II), and a

number of new buildings, stand to the north and south of the forecourt. The circle of elms which led to the bridge across the east arm of the moat, first shown on the 1718 survey, was lost to Dutch Elm disease in the early 1970s. A second drive, Conduit Lane, leads in from the northern boundary; the line of the drive from Windsor and Datchet has been obscured.

#### PRINCIPAL BUILDING

Ditton Park house (William Atkinson 1813-17, listed grade II) stands towards the centre of the site. It is built in early Gothic Revival style, of cement rendered over brick, with turrets and crenellations, and retains some remnants of the earlier house destroyed by fire (1812). The south, garden front has a full height octagonal bay window, with a gothic cast-iron balustrade around a balcony on the first floor.

#### GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

The house stands set within a 6ha rectangle of pleasure grounds enclosed by a moat. The present moat is first shown on the 1718 survey, at which date the land within was laid out with complex formal gardens. At its north-west corner the moat is extended as a pool with an island, formed between 1718 and 1725 from an earlier fishpond. This is dammed at Gibraltar Bridge, perhaps named in commemoration of the end of the Siege of Gibraltar in 1783, west of which is a long informal canal extending across the park to Longmead Bridge.

Below the south front of the house is a lawn, while the western half of the area is laid out with wooded walks. A brick-walled garden which survives from the early C18 scheme (walls listed grade II) occupies the south-east corner of the moated enclosure. On the outer face of its west wall is a brick-built summerhouse (listed grade II).

#### PARK

Until the late C18, when the area was enclosed by a system of perimeter belts, the park was divided into a number of closes. The south park, occupying the area between the moat and the motorway, is now an

open area dotted with park trees including some survivors from the early C18 avenue; this is the site of the early C18 wilderness. The southern shelter belt has been replanted following damage during the 1987 storm. An icehouse, now ruinous, is situated on the walk around the southern perimeter, at a point roughly south of the house.

The western edge of the south park is defined by a fishpond, which would appear to date from the early C19; to the west of this is a late C20 industrial complex. Otherwise, like the north park from which it is divided by the extension to the moat, this area is level, open parkland. An open area in the north park, between Conduit Lane and the east drive, is associated with the old dairy, and is now used as a sports ground.

The area to the east of the moated enclosure currently houses (1999) new development including a car park, temporary huts and hard standings, and new buildings. The south-west corner of the park and a lodge were lost through the construction, in 1965, of the Chiswick to Langley Special Road Scheme, later (early 1970s) upgraded to the M4.

#### KITCHEN GARDEN

The kitchen garden lies to the east of the house, outside the moat and adjacent to Ditton Park Road. It presumably dates from the mid to late C18 when this area was taken in as part of the grounds.

#### References

Heritage Survey: Ditton Park, (Nicholas Pearson Associates, August 1994)

N Pevsner and E Williamson, *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire* (1994), p 279

#### Maps

J Norden, *A description of the honour of Windesor*, 1607 (British Library and Royal Collection)

Estate surveys, 1718, 1725, 1742, 1834

