

Understanding Historic Parks and Gardens in Buckinghamshire

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research & Recording Project



Great Brickhill Manor

10 October 2017



The Finnis Scott
Foundation



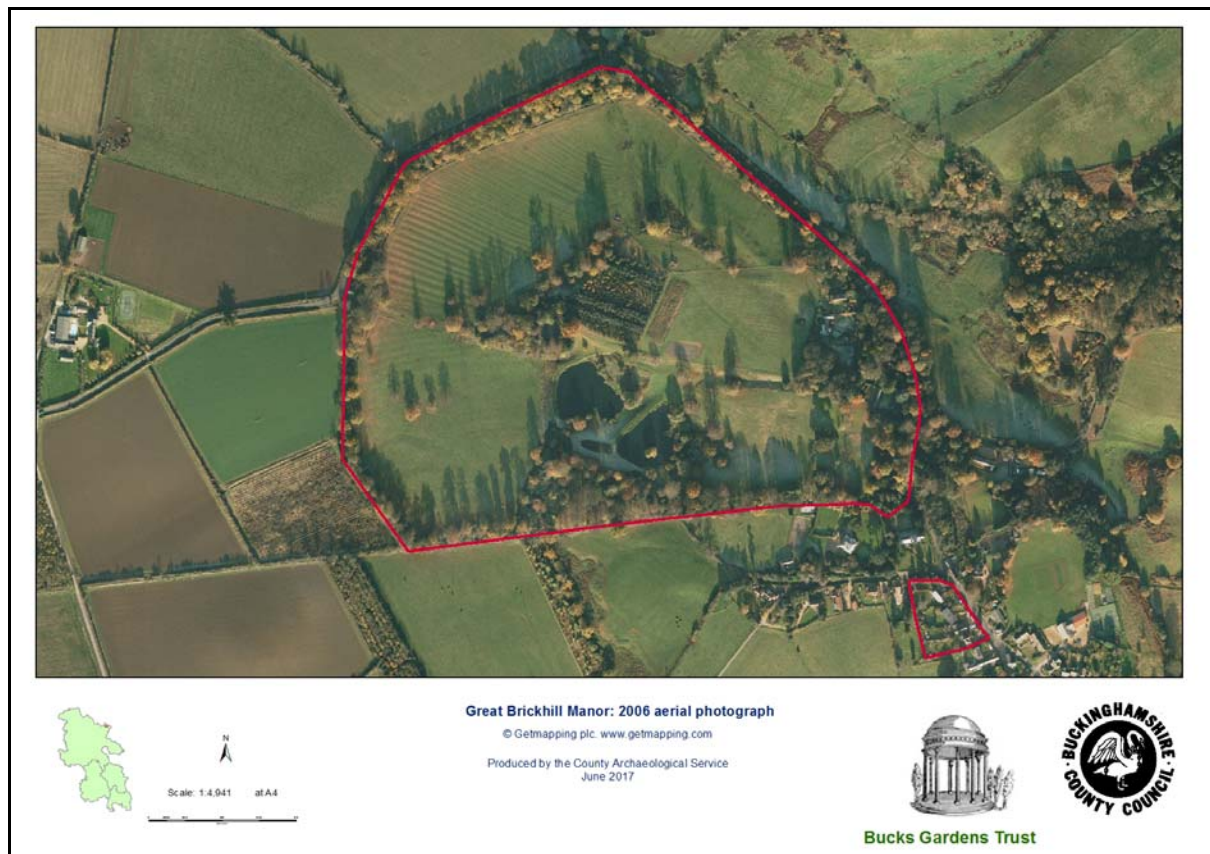
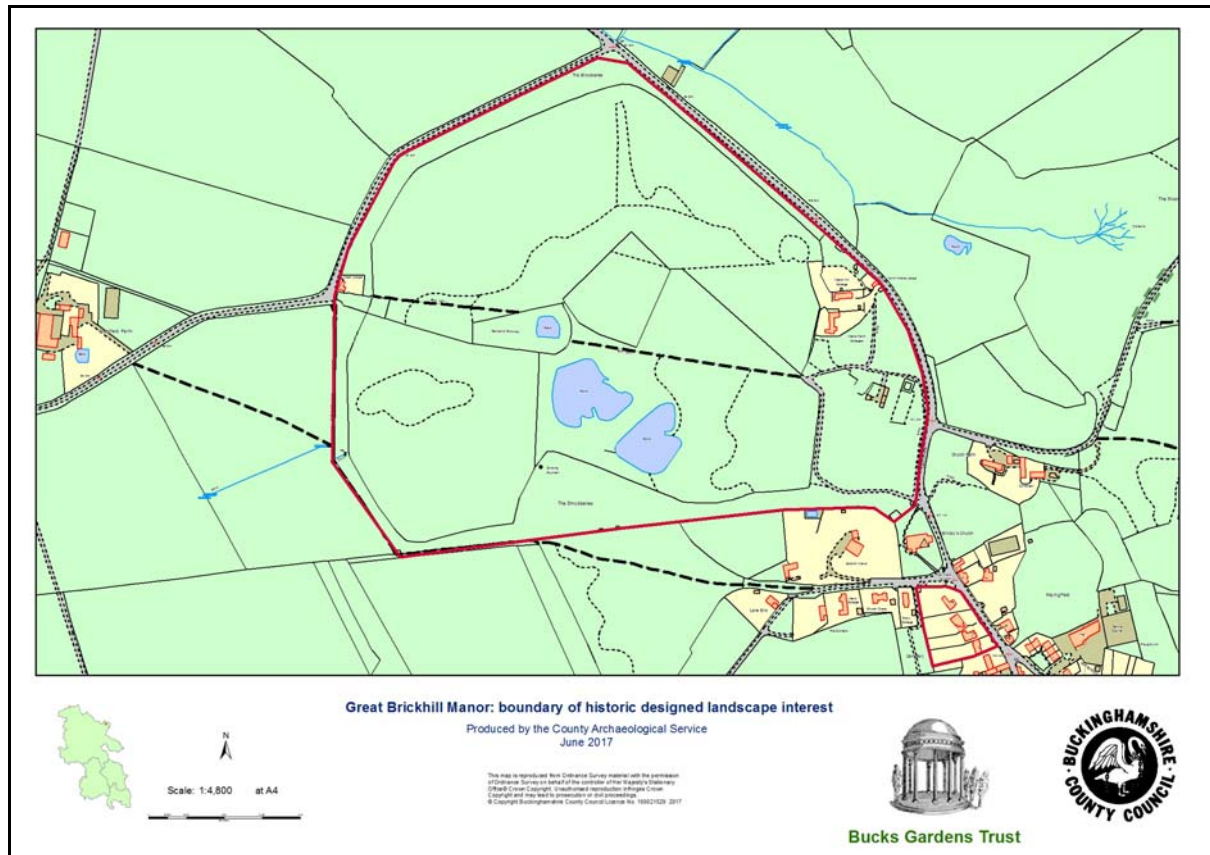
THE
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Bucks Gardens Trust

The Stanley Smith (UK)
Horticultural Trust

HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY



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 (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* 2nd 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 Finnis Scott Foundation. 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

COUNTY:	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	THE MANOR HOUSE GREAT BRICKHILL HER 0097305000
DISTRICT:	AYLESBURY VALE	
PARISH:	GREAT BRICKHILL	
OS REF:	SP 900 309	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overview

The remains of a park, garden and pleasure grounds laid out in the early and mid-C19 around a now lost C18 and C19 country house, probably on the site of an earlier manor house. The framework of the site survives largely intact, particularly the boundary, entrances, park features including The Shrubberies, an extensive belt, and elements of the garden layout, but the principal buildings and some of the drives and paths have gone. Even so, the site of the former house remains as the focus of the landscape. A detached approach from Watling Street to the north-east through Duncombe Wood survives, terminated at either end by two sets of lodges.

Archaeological interest

Archaeological potential is high for the site of the lost C18/C19 features associated with the country house estate, including the house, stable yard, gas works, conservatory and lodges, together with the drive and path system. The park retains evidence of earlier uses including ridge and furrow cultivation in the north-west quarter.

Architectural interest

The former C18/C19 house, stable yard and freestanding C19 conservatory were a group of considerable architectural note. Although they have gone, their site remains open and still forms the focus of the landscape design. The group of boundary features, including lodges, gateways, walls, including the park wall, and eye-catcher are of considerable interest for their contribution to the ornamental design.

Artistic interest

The site is a typical country house park, garden and pleasure grounds laid out in the early and mid-C19. Although the main park drive from the west has gone, and the grounds been neglected, much of the layout remains largely intact, still focussed on the site of the house, and the design is still evident in outline, with many mature trees surviving including in the pleasure ground and in The Shrubberies boundary belt. The garden retains a raised platform that terminated the terrace along the south front of the house. A detached approach from the north-east survives with lodges at either end.

Historic interest

The site was associated with a notable Bucks family for several centuries, and with Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, who may have been influenced in his choice of architect E.B. Lamb for remodelling Hughenden Manor near High Wycombe c.1863. The survival of books from the elder

Philip Pauncefort-Duncombe's library (see Appendix) indicates influences on his taste in his development of the landscape in the 1790s-1830s.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The earliest artefacts found in Great Brickhill date to the Bronze Age. Evidence has also been found of Roman occupation. The Domesday Book recorded that the manor belonged to Hugh Earl of Chester and was assessed at 9 hides. By 1265 it was held by Sir John de Grey, his family held land around Milton Keynes and in Bedfordshire (History of Milton Keynes). They are described as a 'power in the land'. A medieval park was in existence in Great Brickhill in 1467 (*Records of Buckinghamshire*, 1977) and in 1504 when it was granted to Richard Grey, Earl of Kent (Cantor & Hatherly). Although the site is described as identical probably with the park of the C13 (VCH) the medieval park was probably 1km east, where Park Farm is now situated. In 1520 the manor passed to William Duncombe who was Bailiff of the manor of Ivinghoe and his son, Thomas Duncombe, formalised the purchase from Sir George Somerset (VCH).

In 1701 the last male Duncombe died and the estate was settled on the three daughters, one of whom had married the vicar of Great Brickhill - Rev Philip Barton (History of Milton Keynes). By 1770 a house stood to the south of the existing buildings, 120m north-west of the church, but the park (based on a plateau) was not yet enclosed (Jefferys). A public road crossed east to west north of the house directly linking the village to the Stoke Hammond to Fenny Stratford road.

The Rev. Philip Barton, sole lord of Great Brickhill died in 1786, leaving the manor in trust for his godson Philip Duncombe Pauncefort provided he took the name of Duncombe on inheriting. This was done in 1805. In 1849 Great Brickhill descended from the elder Philip to his son of the same name (cr. baronet 1859). He was succeeded in 1890 by his son Philip Henry Pauncefort-Duncombe, whose son and heir Sir Everard Philip Digby Pauncefort-Duncombe, bart., inherited in 1895 (VCH).

During the C19, the family became very wealthy, partly due to the sale of land for the Grand Junction (now the Grand Union) canal (opened 1805) and the London and Birmingham railway (opened 1838), providing the means for the elder Philip Pauncefort -Duncombe (d.1849) successively to initiate, in the early C19, and then complete, in the mid-C19, the landscape park.

By 1813 (OSD) the elder Philip Pauncefort -Duncombe was undertaking major works to the estate, including proposals for the house, and clearly had pretensions to fashionable improvements. He owned a book of John Soane's designs for estate buildings into which were pasted working drawings and Pauncefort -Duncombe's own designs for the buildings and grounds, indicating that this publication was guiding works to the estate 1802-11(*Sketches in Architecture, Containing Plans and Elevations of Cottages, Villas, and Other Useful Buildings with Characteristic Scenery* (1793), see Appendix below). Middle Lodges (dated 1835), which are Soanian in style may have been built as a result. Pauncefort -Duncombe also owned several architectural books by John Plaw which may also have influenced his works at Great Brickhill (see Appendix below).

By 1813, the public road across the new park had gone. The park was enclosed with a belt of trees around three quarters of the perimeter (lacking trees on the south-west quarter of the perimeter) enclosing buildings including the manor house and farm. It seems that when the public road was closed between 1780 and 1813 it was replaced in part by a public footpath around the south park

boundary as the westerly route from the village, now marked by a public footpath (2017), and also by the present, more circuitous road (Mill Lane) around the north-west edge of the park, linking Galley Lane to the Fenny Stratford road (Jefferys 1770; OSD 1813).

In 1835 the attractive brick manor house was enveloped in a High Victorian mansion by architect E.B. Lamb (Halmos). It was furnished from the Great Auction at Stowe in 1848 (Halmos). In 1835 a section of castellated garden wall was built of red brick as an eye-catcher set in the south pleasure ground boundary. Three sets of gateway lodges were built at various times (Middle Lodges, West and Top Lodges). Benjamin Disraeli was a visitor in April 1857, after he acquired Hughenden Manor near High Wycombe in 1847 but before he became Prime Minister in 1868, when he wrote 'among these one of our greatest Bucks squires, a Mr Pauncefort Duncombe whose home was really radiant, and contrasted very much with Woburn Abbey' (Markham, vol. 2).

In 1862 the estate was described as including 'a large handsome mansion of brick stuccoed, most delightfully situated on an imposing site, and commanding a splendid prospect. The house has recently been thoroughly repaired. The park is extensive, and the pleasure grounds are laid out in all manner of devices, and planted with the choicest shrubs and flowers' (Sheahan).

By the 1880s (OS) the landscape was largely complete. Gardens lay south and east of the house including a free standing conservatory, with pleasure grounds through the south section of the perimeter belt named 'The Shrubberies' leading to a 'Drinking Fountain' (OS 1880s and 1898). The house was approached across the park from the west, the serpentine drive entering from the lane 1.25km east of the Water Eaton to Stoke Hammond road. The Shrubberies park belt had been completed including a circuit ride taking in the extensive views across the park and outwards.

In 1911 extensive alterations were made to the house, then described as an elegant mansion commanding a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside (Kelly 1924). The grounds remained much the same as in the later C19 (OS 1923). Most of the contents including the iron furnace, cistern and hot water pipes, as fitted to the conservatory and an aviary were sold by auction in 1919 (sale particulars). By 1923 the site of the conservatory had become a swimming bath (OS 1923). By 1924 it was occupied by Stretton Park School. The school left in 1933 (Domesday Book Reloaded) and the house (save for a service wing to the north east) was demolished in the mid-1930s.

The family initially moved into the stables but then moved to the Rectory, renamed Great Brickhill Manor. By 1978 the stables had been demolished leaving two farm buildings subsequently converted into houses. The site remains in private ownership.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, LANDFORM SETTING

The 31ha. site lies near the north-east boundary of Bucks with Bedfordshire, on the north-west edge of the village of Great Brickhill. It lies 10km south-east of Milton Keynes, 6km north-north-west of Leighton Buzzard and one mile from the Roman road, Watling Street (now the A5) to the north-east.

The site is bounded to the east by Galley Lane, the main route from Great Brickhill to Bow Brickhill to the north, and to the north-west by Mill Lane which runs west from Galley Lane, encircling the north boundary of the park, to meet the road from Stoke Hammond to Fenny Stratford (B4146). Both

boundaries are marked by a local sandstone wall, missing in part, also by post and wire fencing, and in other parts, mainly near to lodges or former lodges, some spear-headed ornamental iron railings. The site is enclosed by a belt of trees c.60m wide called The Shrubberies.

Adjacent to the south-east of the site is the C13 parish church of St Mary (listed Grade II*) and the current Brickhill Manor (formerly The Rectory). West of these two buildings the boundary is marked by a sandstone wall (higher than that on the eastern boundary and more complete). It includes a castellated eye-catcher garden wall (listed Grade II) north of The Rectory (now Brickhill Manor) built in 1835 (LB description). The tall central section has battlements and buttresses each with cross slits, with flanking battlements and towers with similar slits. This apparently gave direct access between the former Rectory and the manor house. The boundaries to the south-west and south abut agricultural land.

The site lies on the top of a hill 136m AOD above the Vale of Aylesbury affording panoramic views to the north, south and west across the Vale of Aylesbury including over Milton Keynes and Bletchley. The soil is free draining sandy and acidic. The hill marks the south end of the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge which runs north-east to Gamlingay in Cambridgeshire.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main entrance to the site from the village was formerly from the former Top Lodges immediately adjacent to the church, 75m south-east of the house. The Top Lodges (named in *Brickhill in the 1800s*) (gone) stood 75m south-east of the site of the house, on the boundary adjacent to the church, flanking the south drive (OS 1880). They were Italianate style single-storey with porticoes, flanking piers supporting iron gates linking to iron railing (*Brickhill in the 1800s*). They were very different in style to the other lodges. The main drive led west for 40m and then turned north for 100m to the west front of the house before continuing north to the stables. A second arm led 70m north-north-west past the east front of the house then around the servants' wing, joining the north drive which approached from the Middle Lodges to the house (Estate Map 1863).

The main park entrance is at West Lodge, off Mill Lane c.600m west of the former house at 91m AOD. North of the entrance the two-storey red brick lodge is in mid-C19 Picturesque style with ornamental bargeboards. Two outer brick gateposts flank the gateway. Of the former pair of inner gateposts, the northern one remains, with one of the main iron gates with spearhead ornamentation both top and one quarter height. Between the inner and outer gatepost is a smaller pedestrian gate (present both sides). The main gate is now a wooden five bar farm gate.

Leading east from here the former west drive has gone. Formerly it crossed the park roughly eastwards leading to the west front of the house. It swung 145m east through an avenue of trees round a small spinney with a fish pond on higher ground and then towards the centre of the park, 400m north-west of the house, turned south-east to the rectangular forecourt below the west elevation of the house. From here it continued south to meet the belt, turning east to leave the site at the Top Lodges (*Brickhill in the 1800s*).

Middle Lodges (listed grade II), a pair of brick two-storey lodges dated 1835, flanks the gateway 250m north of the house near Manor Farm. While relatively plain otherwise, each has an arched window in the gable end facing the road set within an elegant arched recess in the late C18/early

C19 style of Sir John Soane. They are apparently the work of the elder Philip Pouncefort –Duncombe, influenced by the pattern book he owned by Soane (see Appendix below).

The gateway to Middle Lodges is flanked by open-work iron box gate piers and standards with pineapple finials (listed Grade II with the lodges). The attached decorative iron railings have spearhead finials similar to those at the West Lodge gate. The gateway provides access to Manor Farm and ancillary buildings. A further entrance with broken wooden gates gives access from Galley Lane, some 225m north-north-west from the site of the house.

At various points along the boundary wall are further ornamental gateways including one 150m west of the battlemented eyecatcher, now bricked up. This ornate gateway, 300m west-south-west of the house, comprises two 2m high stone piers topped with stone ball finials. Set into the wall flanking the gateway are semi-circular headed niches and the remains of a small brick building. The gateway served a drive north for 100m into the pleasure ground, linking to the pleasure ground/park circuit carriage ride.

The north-east drive (outside the historic boundary) gives access to the site from the London direction off Watling Street and was present by 1813 (OSD). At its north-east entrance is Wood Lodge and gateway, standing 0.5 mile south-east of Little Brickhill and 1 mile north-east of the site on the A5 (Watling Street). Wood Lodge stands on the north side of a gate flanked by 2 pairs of rectangular brick piers and iron railings set into a 1m high wall flanking the gateway. From here the north-east drive runs 730m south-west through Duncombe Wood to Redgate (Enclosure Award), then crossing agricultural land for a further 750m to 2 lodges, one named Houghton Lodge, at John Horncapps Lane. At this point the route becomes unclear, but it seems that it continued 100m north along the lane, turning west along Old John Caps Lane (now a footpath) to meet Sawpit Lane to meet Galley Lane 160m north of the Top Lodges.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING

The former house stood near the south-east corner of the site with stables, ancillary buildings and Manor Farm to the north but was demolished in the mid-1930s. Nearby two private houses, formerly the laundry and a game larder/shooting box, remain as main residences. The entrance front was to the west, overlooking the park, with the main garden front to the south overlooking a terrace and lawns wrapping around the east side to reach the conservatory. A service yard was attached to the north. The site remains open and part of the garden lawns.

By 1778 the house was a Georgian box with a front bay on the west, two storeys and 4 chimneys (Gouache Great Brickhill CAS 0973). By 1806 trees flanked the house with flower beds adjacent (Buckler). This building was probably erected in the mid-late C18 on the site of former manor houses (VCH).

In 1835 the architect Edward Buckton Lamb redesigned the house. Lamb later redesigned Hughenden Manor near High Wycombe for writer and Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli in 1862. Disraeli visited Brickhill Manor on at least one occasion and commented favourably on the design. Lamb has been described as ‘one of the most perverse and original mid-Victorian architects’ (Oliver Garnett, *Hughenden Manor* guide book for the National Trust, 2009). He enveloped the Georgian house in the Gothic style. Two storeys high, the west, entrance elevation had a central bay with

porch, both with stone balustrades topped by stone balls and two symmetrical wings. The doors and windows at the lower level were decorated using brick and stone. The south garden elevation also consisted of three sections including large bay windows on the lower level, topped by balustrades. The servants' wing adjoined to the north-east.

In 1911 the house was leased by Stratton Park School. The school left in 1933 and in c.1935-38 the house, then described as derelict, was demolished.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS

By the early C20 the gardens and pleasure grounds surrounded the former house to the south and east. A pleasure ground walk/carriage ride ran west from the garden lawns along the south boundary leading out to the boundary belt circuit route through The Shrubberies. Much of this, as described below, survives in relict form. By 1868 the 'gardens were laid out in all manner of devices, and planted with the choicest flowers and shrubs' (Sheehan).

By the late C19 (OS) the garden was laid to lawns with specimen trees including Cedar of Lebanon (*Brickhill in the 1800s* photographs). A broad garden terrace ran along the south, garden front of the house, linking the forecourt to the west with the path to the conservatory to the east. 30m north-east of the house stood the square conservatory, approached from the south by a wide gravel path from the main terrace south of the house. North of the conservatory a pinetum was laid out with lawns, shrubbery and paths leading past the stable block to the Middle Lodges. The eastern walls of the stable block and farm buildings were concealed behind a shrubbery.

A raised platform terminated the garden terrace at the east end, approached by a flight of steps flanked by balustrades topped by urns, by a low wall with a semi-circular seating set into the east wall, the corners of the walls being topped by more urns. The area remains open with some stonework, framed by an evergreen (?yew) hedge (*A History of Brickendon: Stratton Park School*). North of the farm building stood a gasometer to manufacture gas for the house (OS 1880).

Paths threaded through the lawns and wooded pleasure grounds around the house, eventually leading west along the south boundary belt to a drinking fountain 400 m west of the house. This enjoyed a panoramic view west and north over the park and marked the west end of the pleasure ground. From the west end of the pleasure ground the route continued as a circuit ride around the park boundary through 'The Shrubberies' (OS 1898), a woodland belt which was largely laid out by 1813 (OSD) and completed by 1880, returning past the Middle Lodges and stables to the former conservatory and thence the house.

PARK

The park extends 600m west and north-west from the gardens and pleasure grounds. It is laid largely to pasture with scattered mature trees, and enclosed by The Shrubberies, a narrow belt of mixed deciduous trees and conifers, initiated in the early C19 and complete by the later C19 (OSD, OS). By 1813 (OSD) the belt stopped 400 m west of the south-east corner of the site and turned north for 100m. Fishpond Spinney and pond lie towards the centre of the park, 350m west of the house and may be of medieval origin. In 1985 two fishing ponds were dug, one south-east of Fishpond Spinney over the site of an existing spring and the second to the south-east.

OTHER LAND

Duncombe Wood lies 1.5km east of the site (outside the historic boundary), and contains the north-east drive (both present by 1813 OSD). It is laid out with a network of rides converging on a central pond present by at least the late C19 (OS). The coniferous wood, which formed part of the medieval deer park, was deciduous until at least 1950.

KITCHEN GARDEN

The former kitchen garden lies south of Church Lane 200m south-east of the house. It has been developed with several houses and gardens. Only two of the red brick walls (2m high) remain complete, to the north and west. Part of the wall to the east survives near the corner on Church Lane. An entrance in the east wall has a wooden door. It was present by the late C19 (OS).

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Maps

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Jefferys, T. *Map of the County of Buckinghamshire surveyed in 1766-1768* (1770)

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OS 25": 1 mile s. 1880, 1898, 1923

OS 6": 1 mile 1st edition surveyed 1880, published 1884

2nd edition surveyed 1898, published 1900

3rd edition surveyed 1923, published 1926

Edition published 1940(provisional)

Revised edition, surveyed 1950, published 1952

1960s

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Photographs

1946, 1947, 1954 Aerial photograph RAF (HER)

1985,1988,1995,1999,2003,2006 Aerial photographs, Buckinghamshire CC (HER)

Aerial photo Farley, M. 1987

BB72/1780 on photo 268/16 Historic England Archive

BB90/4030 on photo 286/22 Historic England Archive

Record 30 Bucks County Museum Collection

Record 83 Bucks County Museum Collection

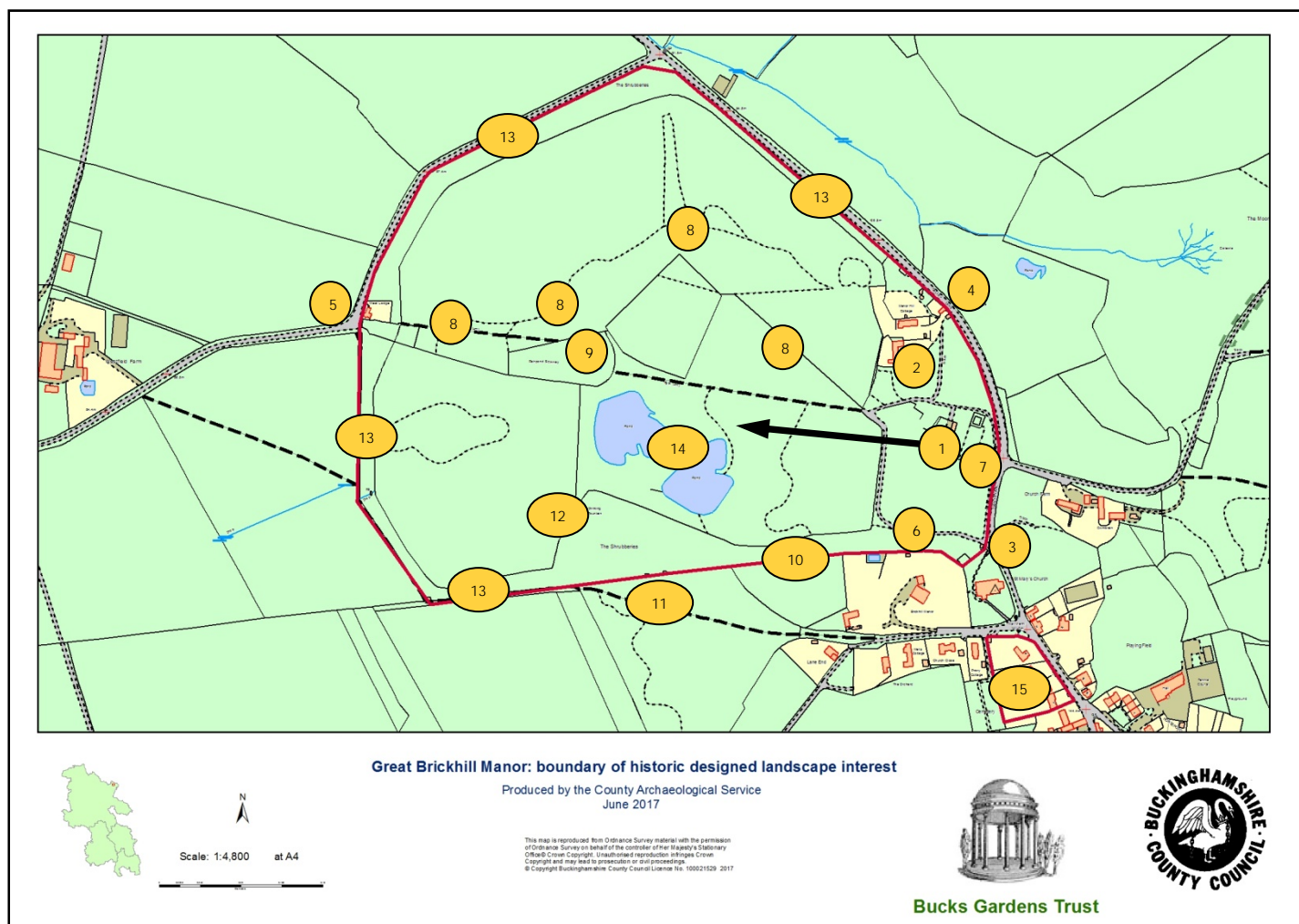
Websites

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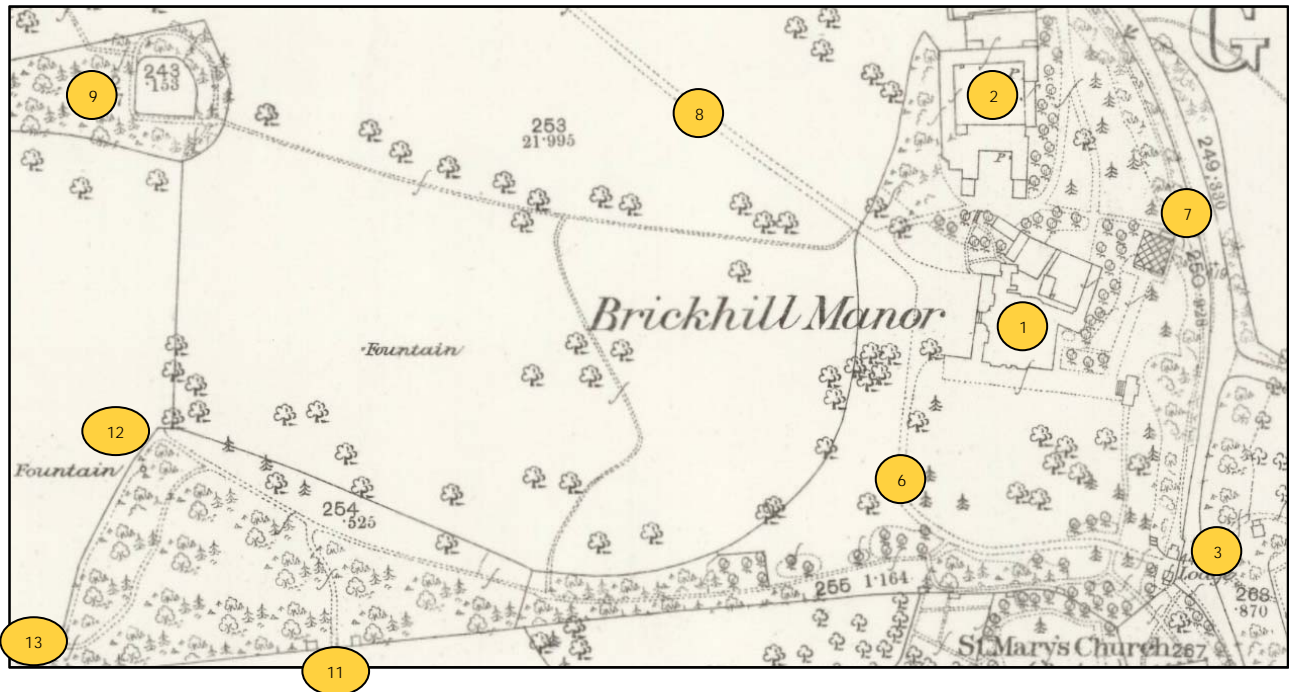
ST Edited SR June 2017

KEY HISTORIC VIEWS & FEATURES



Key to numbered features on maps above and below

1. Site of house	2. Site of stables
3. Site of Top Lodges and south-east gateway	4. Middle Lodges & north gateway
5. West Lodge and gateway to west drive.	6. South drive
7. Site of conservatory	8. Line of west drive.
9. Fishpond Spinney and pond	10. Battlemented eye-catcher in boundary wall
11. Pleasure ground entrance in boundary wall	12. Fountain in pleasure ground
13. The Shrubberies boundary belt	14. Two later C20 ponds
15. Former kitchen garden	



The Core of the Site in the late C19/early C20, Ordnance Survey map 25" scale, surveyed 1880

(numbers refer to the Features table above)

CURRENT IMAGES



Middle Lodges



Lodges at south-west entrance to Duncombe Wood drive.



The kitchen garden wall against the churchyard (left); Galley Lane gateway (right).



West Lodge and gateway, Mill Lane



Ornamental gateway in south boundary leading to the pleasure ground belt.

Appendix

Below are details of two architectural books owned by the elder Philip Pauncefort–Duncombe (d.1849) in the early C19 that may have influenced the buildings he erected at Great Brickhill.

These books were put up for auction by Bonhams in March 2012 as follows:

<https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/20135/lot/80/?category=list&length=10&page=8>

Lot 80*

SOANE (JOHN)

Sketches in Architecture, Containing Plans and Elevations of Cottages, Villas, and Other Useful Buildings with Characteristic Scenery... To Which are Added Six Designs for Improving and Embellishing of Grounds, with Sections and Explanations by an Amateur [George Isham Parkyns], FIRST EDITION

Sold for £3,250 inc. premium

SOANE (JOHN)

Sketches in Architecture, Containing Plans and Elevations of Cottages, Villas, and Other Useful Buildings with Characteristic Scenery... To Which are Added Six Designs for Improving and Embellishing of Grounds, with Sections and Explanations by an Amateur [George Isham Parkyns], 2 parts in one vol., FIRST EDITION, 54 plates and plans (26 uncoloured aquatints, the others engraved, EXTRA-ILLUSTRATED BY THE INSERTION OF 22 ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND DIAGRAMS in pen and ink (2 hand-coloured), and a contract to build an inn (see footnote), all pasted-in on endpapers or blank versos of plates), 4 pages of publisher's advertisements at end, some spotting, bookplate of "Pauncefort Duncombe, Brickhill Manor, Bucks" on upper cover, untrimmed in contemporary half calf, covers detached [Harris 844], folio, I. and J. Taylor, 1793

FOOTNOTES

The *Sketches* contains small scale designs "consisting of cottages for the laborious and industrious part of the community and of other buildings, generally calculated for the real uses and comforts of life, and such as are within the reach of moderate fortunes" (introduction). Eileen Harris notes that *Sketches*, primarily relating to small rural buildings "in 'characteristic scenery', engraved in aquatint so as to achieve picturesque effect, was modelled on John Plaw's *Rural Architecture*... 1785 (see lot below)."

This copy, which belonged to the Pauncefort Duncombe family of Brickhill Manor in Buckingham, has bound in a series of pen and ink plans and elevations (dating from 1802 to 1811) for improvements to the house, an inn, stable and outbuildings designed very much in the style and scale of the buildings depicted by Soane. It includes a 4-page Articles of Agreement document (dated 1802) between Henrietta Pauncefort and "John Cheslyn of Newport Pagnell in the County of Bucks, stone mason and builder... to find and provide good brick stone, lime timber and all other material necessary and proper... to erect and build on a certain plot of ground in great Brickhill... a good and substantial... tenement to be used as an inn...", together with 10 elevations and groundplans. Also, **seemingly designed by P.D. Pauncefort, elevations and groundplans of a farm house, stables, an extension to the main house, and garden layouts for Brickhill** or neighbouring properties owned by the family at Bourne, Lincolnshire. The two largest (385 x 470mm.) are hand-coloured with green, grey and red washes. Also bound in is a fine pen and wash design of a grand fire-place with ornamental clock on the mantle-piece, with pencil inscription "Workington Hall, Cumberland. J.C. Curwen Es.". Howard Colvin notes that John Carr (1723-1807) carried out extensive renovations (now mostly destroyed) for John Christian Curwen in c.1777-82. See illustration overleaf.

<https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/20135/lot/70/>

Lot 70*

PLAW (JOHN)

Rural Architecture; or Designs, from the Simple Cottage to the Decorated Villa; including Some Which Have Been Executed

Sold for £2,125 inc. premium

PLAW (JOHN)

Rural Architecture; or Designs, from the Simple Cottage to the Decorated Villa; including Some Which Have Been Executed, third edition, aquatint frontispiece and 61 plates (31 aquatint), 4pp. publisher's advertisement at end, 1794; *Ferme Ornée; or Rural Improvements. A Series of Domestic and Ornamental Designs... Calculated for Landscape and Picturesque Effects*, FIRST EDITION, 38 aquatint plates [Abbey, Life 48], 1795; *Sketches for Country Houses, Villas and Rural Dwellings; Calculated for Persons of Moderate Income... also Some Designs for Cottages*, FIRST EDITION, 42 aquatint plates, 1800; LUGAR (ROBERT) *The Country Gentleman's Architect; Containing a Variety of Designs for Farm Houses and Farm Yards of Different Magnitudes*, FIRST EDITION, 22 engraved plates (8 double-page), 1807, 4 works bound in 2 vol., EXTRA-ILLUSTRATED WITH PEN AND INK DESIGNS AND RELATED EPHEMERA (see footnote), bookplate of "Pauncefort Duncombe, Brickhill Manor, Bucks" on upper covers, contemporary half calf, worn, one cover detached, spines with some loss, 4to, J. Taylor (2)

FOOTNOTES

The three works by Plaw "were among the earliest of the cottage and villa books which became so popular during the first quarter of the nineteenth century" (Howard Colvin, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects*, 1978), as was *The Country Gentleman's Architect* by Lugar, "a skilful practitioner of the picturesque, exploiting the fashion for *cottages ornées*".

These copies belonged to the Pauncefort Duncombe family of Brickhill Manor, Buckingham [see John Soane lot above], who were very much the audience at which the books were aimed. Pasted-in, or loosely inserted, are approximately 15 original pen and ink designs, comprising ground plans and elevations (a circular lodge house; a property as "part of Eaglehurst on the borders of the New Forest"); 5 watercolour designs for balcony awnings and fences; 8 manuscript receipts or notes, including a 2-page "estimate for the two front rooms of a House Building for Mrs. Pansford [sic] according to the plan by me John Andrews" (1806) with detailed pricing from "foundation digging... brick flooring... deal window boards.. [to] scaffolding ladders", totalling £132.19.00.