Understanding Historic Parks and Gardens in Buckinghamshire

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research & Recording Project



Dorton Spa

October 2019



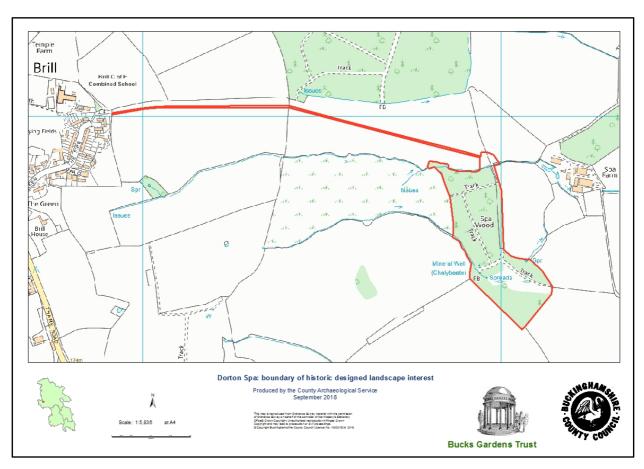


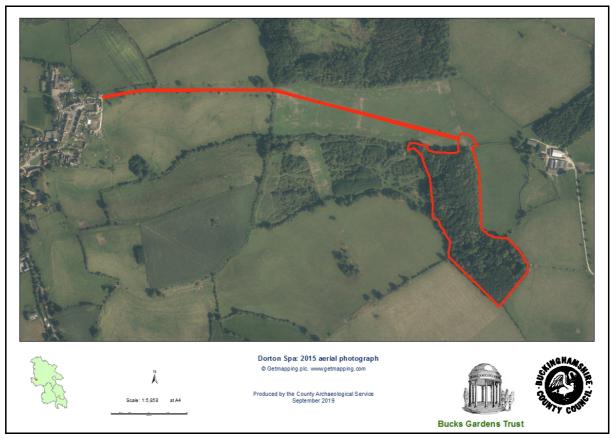
The Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust



Bucks Gardens 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 (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* 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	DORTON SPA
DISTRICT:	AYLESBURY VALE	BCC HER 0168401000
PARISH:	DORTON	
OS REF:	SP670 136	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overview

The remains of the ornamental grounds for a modest mid-C19 commercial spa, the only example in Bucks. It was developed in the 1830s to a design by James Hakewill who designed the spa building. It operated until the later C19, based on a Chalybeate spring believed to have curative qualities from the iron salts in the water. The ambitious classical spa building, which never reached the intended extent, was set in an ornamental pleasure ground in existing woodland, laid out with ponds, paths, garden buildings and an impressive gateway. It was reached from an associated hotel in Brill above via a dramatic drive into the valley with extensive views of the Vale of Aylesbury. The landform survives within the wood as hollows, banks and some masonry to indicate the major features and lines of the layout and position of the building, along with the generally dry remains of the boating lake and some mature yew. The line of the drive from Brill survives as a public footpath.

Archaeological interest

The potential exists for many spa-related features including the spa building. Evidence of lost landscape features may include pond depressions, the line of watercourses, gateways, paths, steps, fences, walls, garden buildings and the ornamental layout of other elements of the grounds evident on historic maps.

Architectural interest

The major structures have gone but surviving items of masonry such as the lower halves of two rendered brick columns and ornaments are scattered. A small circular brick building survives, of uncertain date, around the chalybeate spring itself. Stretches of spiked iron railings survive. The associated Brill Spa Hotel survives at 6-10 High Street, in mixed use, outside the historic designed landscape. The connection with James Hakewill is of interest, but it is unclear how he came to be employed for the spa building design.

Artistic interest

The spa grounds were of considerable interest as a rare type of designed landscape associated with a therapeutic function, which survives only in relict form, but these remains can still clearly be related to historic maps. The association with James Hakewill as the designer is of considerable interest. Built features have largely gone and landscape features largely survive as earthwork or buried remains but the focal boating lake, some boundary treatment and the main approach survive, with some woody planting including yew trees.

Historic interest

The site is the only commercial spa developed in historic Bucks. It was relatively modest in scale compared to those of towns such as Bath, Cheltenham and Leamington, and relatively remote, which probably affected its success to a major degree. Together these drawbacks contributed to its lack of commercial success as a scene to take the therapeutic waters. Springs elsewhere in Bucks became private landscape features, such as the Chaileybeate spring within the Repton pleasure grounds of Gayhurst in north Bucks, ornamented with a stone pillar. The Thames-side spring at Cliveden became a private spa retreat for successive owners from at least the C18 to the C20.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The manor of Dorton was held by Alric before the Norman Conquest but was held by Walter Gifford in 1086 (*VCH*). After 1284 the overlordship and manor were divided and passed through various illustrious families including Marshal, Stafford, de Valence, Talbot, de Bermingham, Roche, Beauchamp and Longville families. Part of the manor was sold to Michael Dormer by the Longvilles in 1541 (*VCH*). In late medieval times the discolouration of grass in the vicinity of the chalybeate spring was recognised and the improvement to the health of animals was noted: people began to visit the spring (Wikipedia). The spring was chalybeate i.e. the waters were impregnated with iron.

From 1594 John Dormer began to construct a house at Dorton which was finished by 1626 (Date on staircase soffit: LB description). A grant in 1594 of Queen Elizabeth refers to 'the well meadows and well pastures' (HER). By the early C19 road improvements led to larger numbers of visitors such that crops were destroyed and crowds were restricted to one path. The waters were rationed and 50-100 gallons sold at a fixed price (Wikipedia and P. Gulland pers. comm). By 1738 part of the holding had been acquired by the Mitchell family with another part held by Sir Clement Dormer. By 1770 the house was in the possession of 'Mitchel Esq' (Jefferys' 1770, which map does not record the spring).

Both Dormer and Mitchell portions were acquired by Sir John Aubrey of nearby Chilton in the late 1770s. In the early C19 Charles Spencer Ricketts (d.1868) became the owner of the house and estate by marriage to Elizabeth Sophia (1792-1873), the heiress to the Aubrey estates at Chilton (Aubrey-Fletcher, J).

Around 1820 Charles Ricketts determined to improve public access to the spring and hired Thomas Brande, a chemist to analyse the waters. (www.geriwalton.com/dorton-spa-chalybeate-spa-and-its-healthy-waters) He borrowed £1,300 from William Beckett of Craven Street, Bedford Square in October 1833 by indenture and then a further £2,600 from the same gentleman in November 1837 'to improve a certain landed estate' (HER transcript of Aubrey-Fletcher papers).

Thomas Knight published *The History of Dorton Chalybeate* in 1833 (also 1835 edn) with stories of cures, illustrated with a plan and an elevation of an extensive building in Greek Classical style, 'erecting from the design of Mr James Hakewill'. Hakewill (1778-1843) was an architectural draughtsman from a family of architects and was chiefly known for his architectural publications. His few executed designs include the Greek Doric lodge at Tatton Park, Cheshire (1833–4), and the pump room at Dorton Spa (1834). In 1835 he submitted a design for the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament in a C16 style based on Longleat House and Hatfield House (*ODNB* James Hakewill).

The Spa opened in 1833 with a classical Spa building along with 12 acres (just under 5ha) of gardens (referred to as The Park) with evergreen and deciduous shrubs and a serpentine lake, also designed by Hakewill. (https://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorton.spa). The contrast with the 'splendid streets and sumptuous public buildings of Cheltenham or Leamington' was noted and instead the visitor was urged to 'be content with nature in a high degree of beauty and cultivation, a fine climate and a cheap supply of the necessaries of life.' The whole site was not fully ready at this stage and this may have damaged the reputation of this fledgling business venture (P. Gulland, pers comm.). The Chalybeate spring was not in the Spa building but outside at a short distance to the south west. The bottled spring water was sold locally and in London, Oxford, Abingdon, Aylesbury and Reading (Knight). The iron salts were at one of the highest concentrations to be found anywhere, so it was reported.

The *Bucks Gazette* in June 1844 reported that the pleasure grounds and boating lake were enlarged with steps created to descend to the boats (HER).

The building as illustrated by Knight was never fully realised, the Ballroom, Reading and Billiard Rooms on either side being omitted along with their colonnaded exteriors. A contemporary article showed the truncated building (*The Mirror of Literature, Amusement and Instruction*, August 31, 1839, see front cover). There was a grand fete at the Spa, and another in 1837 at the coronation of Queen Victoria (Wikipedia and Geri Walton). Without these extra rooms the building's half round columned portico led to a reduced pump room and through further columns only to suites of bath rooms and accommodation for attendants. The 2nd edition of the *Dorton Guide* regrets that 'the Ball and the Reading Rooms attached to the Baths cannot now be added' (article in *The Times*, 18 August 1856: HER).

The Brill Spa Hotel was built to designs by Charles Brown 'architect and builder' to supplement the accommodation available at the adjacent Sun Inn in Brill. Its foundation stone was laid by Mrs Ricketts on 22 November 1842 (*Bucks Herald* 3 December 1842: transcription in Creed correspondence D/X/447/9), but by this time the spa was in decline. Mrs Ricketts was noted arriving by carriage with a cortege from the Spa which 'wound its way through romantic sweeps and tortuous drives towards Brill'. The Spa Hotel survives though in residential use and as a convenience store at 6-10 High Street.

By 1848 (Dorton Tithe Map) Spa Wood was much as it is now, consisting of a larger wooded area lying north-south and a smaller part at is southern end extending out to the south east. The tithe map sadly has no detail of the Spa, as it was not titheable (P. Gulland pers. comm). By 1878 (OS) the spa building had a lake to the south and south-east, both sited at the point where the two main parts of the wood are articulated, accessed from the north by a track from Brill to the west and running down the eastern edge of the northern part, lined with mature deciduous trees. The northern part of the wood then consisted of defined clumps of mixed deciduous and evergreen trees framing a path leading northwards from the centrally located Spa building past a circular fountain to a 'lodge' (more likely a refreshment house: P. Gulland, pers. comm.). An aviary stood a short distance to the north east from the 'lodge'. The lake was large enough to accommodate three islands and took up much of the south-eastern part of the wood which was surveyed as more consistently treed for the first edition OS.

The 'tortuous' route between Brill and the Spa was matched by the relative difficulty in reaching Brill itself from other locations in the country. Railways did not arrive until after 1900. Hopes that Queen Victoria would visit and give the Spa and the nearby village a considerable boost were dashed when she snubbed the Spa and visited *Royal* Leamington Spa and *Royal* Tunbridge Wells in preference. Brill and Dorton Spa could never have provided the range of amenities sought by fashionable society, adequately catered for and entertained as it was at the other popular English watering places.

Sheahan (1862) noting the greater attractions of other spas, records that 'though the spa has been much frequented for many years ...yet the chalybeate has of late years been little sought after'. The available rate book of the Dorton highways surveyor 1857- 1867 (CBS PR 64/20/1) (which assessed the value of properties in the Parish for contributions towards the upkeep of the roads, at a rate of 6d in the pound) may record the final years and closing of the Spa soon after Sheahan's comments were published. It lists the Spa firstly as 'Spa and land' then for one year (1860) as 'Chalebeate' and then until 1864 as 'Dorton Spa' but always at a value of £41 and with George Clapton as occupier. Thereafter the Spa disappears from the records, George Clapton being assessed at £36 11s 4d for 'House Building and land' in 1865 and as 'house and land' for the remaining extant entries, still at the same value. After the closure of the Spa, Elizabeth Ricketts took charge of the building and grounds and used them as a summer house and for picnics. (Bateson).

When Elizabeth's son Charles Aubrey Ricketts died in 1901 without issue, Chilton and Dorton together went to descendants of his cousin Sir Henry Fletcher. Sir Henry also added the Aubrey name and died c.1910.

The Spa building survived in increasing dereliction until probably c.1910 when it was demolished and had disappeared by 1920 (OS). At this time the ornamental grounds with clumps of mature planting in the northern portion were increasingly overtaken by woodland (now named as 'Spa Wood'). The base of the fountain survived to be recorded in 1920, as did the 'lodge' and the gates. The lake was shown as marshy ground.

The nearby Dorton Estate was sold in 1928 to Major Michael Beaumont, sometime Conservative MP for Aylesbury, and Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (Wikipedia and Creed). Major Beaumont put his Dorton and Wotton estates up for sale in September 1946. The Dorton portion consisted of 1036 acres (419.25 ha) including five farms, six cottages, allotment lands and a 'site of spring', this last item extending to 18 perches (455m2) (CBS Map S.C.228).

The wood is part of the Chilton Estate and is the location of a facility for the rearing of birds for shoots. For the last hundred years the Spa site has gradually been taken over by woodland.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Dorton lies 8.5 miles west of the centre of Aylesbury and 5.5miles north of Thame. The site occupies low-lying level ground below the northern end ('Dorton Hill') of the substantial ridge (138m. OD) on which stands the village of Chilton. It lies between the taller hills to the west and east on which Brill (184m AOD) and Ashendon (158m AOD) respectively sit. This is the reason for the village name, 'Dorton' deriving from the Old English meaning 'settlement in a pass' (Ekwall). The land is chiefly clay on Kimmeridge Clay and Portland Beds (*VCH*). The Chalybeate well on which the Spa was founded is situated below Brill and is located 1 mile south-west of Dorton and 1 mile east-south-east of Brill.

The 7ha. Spa Wood, today equates to the grounds of the former Dorton Spa. It consists of two halves, a northern half aligned roughly north/south, some 257m along its longer axis and 154m at its widest point near the northern perimeter, the southern half being aligned north-west/ south-east 186m along its NW/SE axis and c.160m wide at its mid-point. These two parts of the Wood are joined at a narrower 'waist' 112m wide. The boundaries of the Wood are secured by post and wire fencing. A few stretches of iron railings survive with pointed pales.

Dramatic views extend from the drive from Brill, eastwards over the Vale of Aylesbury. The now wooded site of the pleasure ground overlooks surrounding rolling hillsides and agricultural land and woodland.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

The main approach was from the west via Brill. It was the route for guests staying at the Spa Hotel in the centre of Brill, leading as a metalled road c.1600m east down a steep hillside into the Dorton valley and it largely survives. The route is as follows, as recorded on the 1898 OS.

A track left the eastern end of The Green in Brill. At this time there was no direct route across The Green. The track then hugged the mixed tree belts around the western and northern boundaries of a first field (266m. approx.) entering the next field through a small mixed spinney. It then proceeded eastwards parallel to the northern

boundary of this second field (which had a mixed belt of trees along part of it) (c.500m) and continued east-south-east across a third field between Chinkwell Wood to the north and what is now Spa Wood to the south (c.550m).

Approaching the north-east corner of Spa Wood the track entered a small triangular enclosure projecting northwards from this corner, and turned southwards some 250m down the east side of the Wood within an avenue of trees, entering the Spa grounds and delivering the visitor in front of railings, gates, stone piers and steps leading westwards across a short forecourt to the Spa itself (photo D215-1-3) (310m. approx.). The track had dropped 280ft (85m.) in height during the 1600m route from The Green in Brill. This route was visibly metalled until the 1980's or 1990's, when the field was put down to pasture (P. Gulland pers. comm.)

Today the exit from The Green is via a more direct diagonal route along The Firs, the street serving the houses that have since been built on the first field described above. The second field has lost the mixed belt of trees on the northern boundary but has gained individual trees of mixed deciduous species forming an informal and discontinuous avenue on either side of the public footpath, the successor to the earlier track. The public footpath continues across the third field on the same route as the former track and continues eastwards past Spa Farm rather than turning southwards. The small enclosure at the north eastern corner of Spa Wood has disappeared as has the avenue. The track formerly on the eastern side of Spa Wood has had a field boundary added on its eastern side, from the entrance to a modern transverse track, southwards to the former location of the Spa building. The track enters the wood and reaches the site of the gates on its right hand side through which the Spa building was accessed.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS

The Spa building was demolished c.1906 and survives only as footings. The central portion was in classical Greek style. It comprised a single-storey rectangular building enlivened by a semi-circular columned projecting portico topped by a dome on a drum. The surviving remains show that the building and its columns were built of red brick and were rendered and detailed with stucco. By c.1906 shortly before its demolition (photo CBS D215-1-3) a photograph shows that the drum supporting the dome was constructed of rendered timber.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS - HISTORIC FORM

By the time of the first 25" OS (1878: probably some 13 years after the Spa's closure) the shortened Spa building faced east at the narrow waist between the two main portions of its grounds. To the south lay a long boating lake with three islands which filled a large part of the southern portion extending almost to its south eastern extremity. A path from the entrance ran south-east close to the northern bank of the boating lake. This path joined the entrance drive down the east side of the northern portion. A spur branched through the main gates and ran diagonally across the short space in front of the Spa building missing the north-east corner of the building. It continued north-west past a circular fountain to a 'lodge'/refreshment room with a rectangular aviary a short distance to the north-east (of which nothing now survives). Apart from perimeter planting and a separate enclosure extending from the north-west corner of the grounds the northern part of the grounds was not densely planted, mixed deciduous and evergreens being arranged in groups around the path. The southern part of the grounds was more consistently filled with mixed planting. A stream entered the northern portion roughly halfway down the west perimeter and continued along the west boundary before running into the grounds, emptying into the boating pond.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS - TODAY

Access is from the drive of Spa Farm and across a field (across private land by kind permission of the owners) running south-west to the south-east extremity of the Wood, rather than formerly when the Spa was in operation from Brill via the entrance avenue down the east side of the northern portion. The woodland track follows the route of the track noted on the c.1878 OS. Immediately to the south the extensive boating lake survives, its depression c.5ft deep

and clearer from vegetation at its outer (south eastern) end than at the centre, dry at the time of the visit for this report although it can be 'impassably boggy' at other times: P.Gulland, pers. comm.). The track curves slowly to the north through mixed planting of various ages. The ground is level on the northern side of the track but falls noticeably away towards the northern boundary of this half of the wood.

The stumps and bases of two former circular columns (respectively 4ft and 3ft high - 1.2 and 0.9m - with their square bases) stand some 3.5m apart just north of the track about halfway between the site of the Spa building and the south-east entrance. The columns display the standard classical torus (large half-round) moulding at the base. These two relics have been moved from the site of the spa building.

A track branches north eastwards towards the original entrance to the wood as the track approaches the central waist of the wood. It passes the piers and gates of the forecourt to the Spa building to the east, where meagre red brick foundations are still in place, probably evidence of the former piers and railings evident in the CBS photo and the August 1839 view of the Spa building. Various trees in the vicinity have strange bases as if they have commenced growing around masonry features. These elements are roughly in line with the original eastern boundary of the pleasure grounds of the Spa. This arrangement can be clearly seen by 1920 (OS), by which time the Spa building had disappeared and the former lake was indicated as a marshy expanse.

The track continues northwards (150m) along this east boundary which with a ditch displays patchy evidence of three boundary treatments: (a) worn and decayed large timber posts pierced for heavy rails and reused as supports for the other systems; (b) panels of slender round section iron palings with tall spikes. Even slenderer dog bars are in place lower down all set in thin rails; (c) panels of modern timber fencing. Either (a) or (b) could be original to the Spa development. This boundary would have been an important element of the character of the entrance to the Spa, helping to create first impressions among clients. The metal railings (b) have been in place for a considerable time such that the lower third of one panel has become buried. We know that finance must have been tight for the Spa from the failure to complete the intended building, but these metal panels appear too plain and spindly to impress customers. Nevertheless, this metal fencing is visible immediately to the right of the gates in the photo of the spa building shortly before demolition (photo CBS D215-1-3) and must be taken as the original boundary feature. The track continues with its own field boundary on its eastern side until it approaches the north eastern corner of the northern part of the wood and it turns westwards across the wood. Two thirds of the way (90m approx.) across the wood this modern transverse track meets an earlier track that bisects the northern portion. A short distance (40m approx.) south of this junction stands the remains of the lodge/refreshment room which is located to the west of the north-south track (the spine track in 1878 ran directly to or through it). This building survives only as two brick walls with rendered faces. The spine track continues south (160m approx.) and runs through a game pen across it in the centre of the northern portion of the wood. South of the pen, the track approaches the northern end of the former boating lake and turns to the east to connect with the track in the southern portion. At the bend, wheeled traffic has exposed the south eastern exterior corner of the Spa Building which is a one-and-a-half bricks thick with evidence of an exterior coat of stucco. About 4ft (1.2m) of the southern elevation is exposed across the track. A further approx. 5ft (1.5m) of the eastern front elevation can be explored by the side of the track running up and ending with a thicker pier. The bend in the track also drops down, roughly in line with the line of the former gate and steps leading to the Spa building from the original entrance.

The only feature of the Spa pleasure landscape not investigated was a circular pool with a fountain evident on both the 1878 and 1920 OS maps. It lay half way between the Spa building and the lodge/refreshment room and is now situated inside the breeding pen (approx. 100m north of the site of the Spa building.)

18m approx. south-west of the Spa building was the Chalybeate spring, now marked by a small circular brick enclosure some 5ft (1.5m) tall to the eaves with a timber door. The conical roof was recently restored with clay tiles by the Chilton Estate (Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, pers. comm) but the tiles and laths have since been stolen. The enclosure surrounds a shallow circular well shaft, dry at the time of the visit with no sign of the spring. The enclosure is shown on the first edition OS (1878) as a square building with another, rectangular, structure close by to the north west (possibly a small building with a covered verandah towards the Spa building).

22m approx. south of the spring enclosure, the brook feeding the boating lake is bridged by planks, beyond which are two yews symmetrically placed either side of the track on the west side. Nothing of this or any surrounding layout was mapped in the C19 (e.g. OS, 1878).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust is most grateful to the following for their assistance with the production of this dossier:

Matt Benn - keeper of the pheasant breeding establishment in the wood on behalf of the Chilton Estate. Peter Gulland - a member of BGT and local historian who has made his extensive researches into the Spa readily available.

Mrs Anne Sprinz of Spa Farm – owner of the fields to the east of the Wood.

REFERENCES

Books and articles

Aubrey-Fletcher J., 'Sir John Aubrey Fletcher Sixth Baronet of Llantrithyd 1739-1826' (1998).

Bateson F.W. 'Brill a short history' The Brill Society (1966).

Ed. Croydon D., 'Brillenium: 1000 years in the life of a Buckinghamshire village' Brill, Hilltop publishing 1999.

Denbigh K., 'A Hundred British Spas' (1981), 143-7.

Ekwall E., 'the Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names' 4th Edn, OUP, Oxford, 149

Knight, T., 'The History of the Dorton Chalybeate' Brill, Ham (1833). Online at

https://archive.org/details/historydortonch00kniggoog/page/n9

Lipscombe, G., 'The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham' (1847).

Sheahan J., 'History and Topography of the County of Buckingham' (1862).

Pevsner, N. and Williamson, E., 'The Buildings of England – Buckinghamshire' (1994), 287.

Victoria County History 'Buckinghamshire' Vol 4 (1927), 45-48.

Bucks Herald (3 December 1842).

Maps

1770 Jefferys' map of Buckinghamshire 1825 Bryant's map of Buckinghamshire

Ordnance Survey

1st Edition 25" published 1878

2nd Edition 25" published 1898

OS 25" Edition of 1920 revised 1919

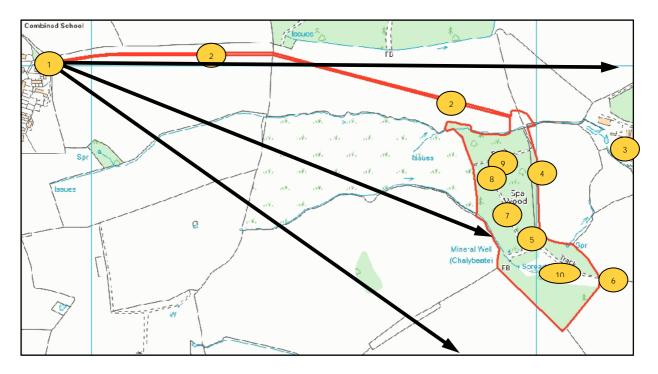
Photographs

Entrance elevation of the spa Building taken through the frontage gates and steps c1906 (CBS photo D215-1-3) Images on line at https://www.geriwalton.com/dorton-spa-chalybeate-spa-and-its-healthy-waters)

G Huntingford

Edited SR October 2019

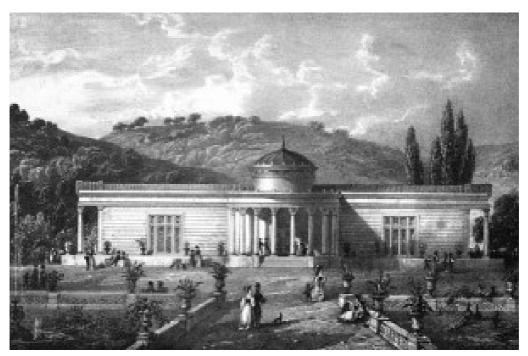
KEY FEATURES & VIEWS



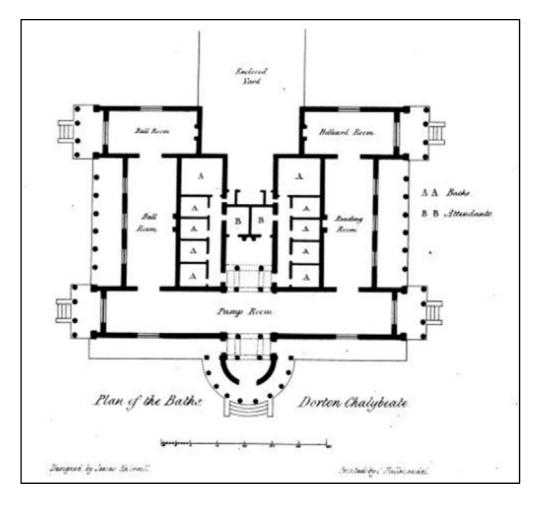
Key to numbered features

	1.	Modern entrance to the approach drive from Brill (public footpath)	2.	Approach drive
	3. Spa Farm		4. Former avenue and approach drive to main entrance	
	5.	Main entrance to pleasure ground & site of former Spa building (remains of)	6.	Current main entrance from Spa Farm
7.		Fountain on main path	8.	Lodge on main path
9.		Aviary	10.	Boating pond

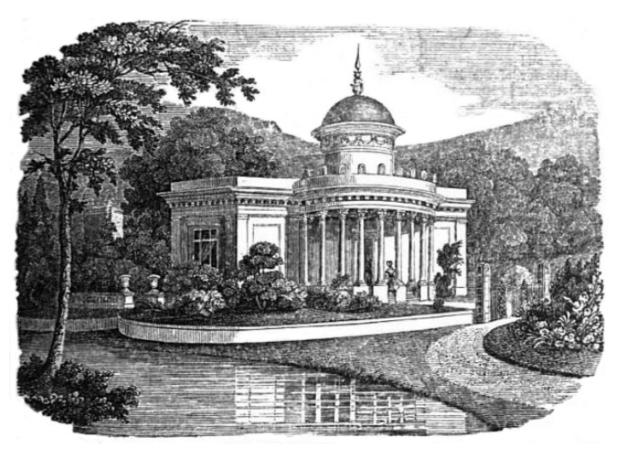
HISTORIC IMAGES



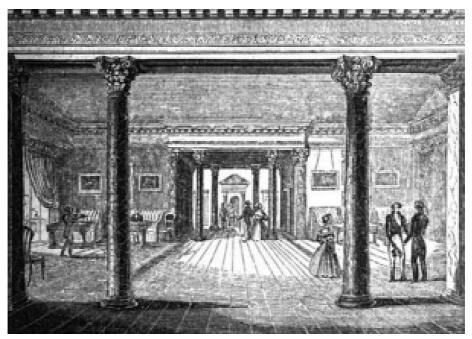
The Dorton Spa building as designed by Hakewill in 1833 (Knight)



1833 intended layout of Dorton Spa building (Knight)



The completed, and truncated, spa building next to the boating pond with highly manicured grounds.



The interior



Photograph in dereliction, 1906, Centre for Bucks Studies (CBS photo D215-1-3).

CURRENT IMAGES





The Green, Brill looking north east (left); The track as it leaves the modern estate built over the first part of the original approach (right)





The approach running east from Brill (left); The first view of Spa Wood from approach (in middle distance) (right)





The view towards Spa Wood from the final field traversed by the approach (left); the approach down the east side of Spa Wood (right)





The woodland track in the southern portion of Spa wood, looking south east (left); the southern portion of the boating lake (right)





The surviving stumps from the portico of the Spa building left by the side of the southern woodland track (left); the boundary treatments to the west of the original approach (right)





The ruins of the lodge/refreshment room from the east (left) the footings of the Spa Building - outside south east corner of building at bottom right (right)





Chalybeate spring building exterior (left) and interior (during a notably dry summer) (right)