

Understanding Historic Parks and Gardens in Buckinghamshire

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research & Recording Project



Winslow Hall

June 2015, updated 2021



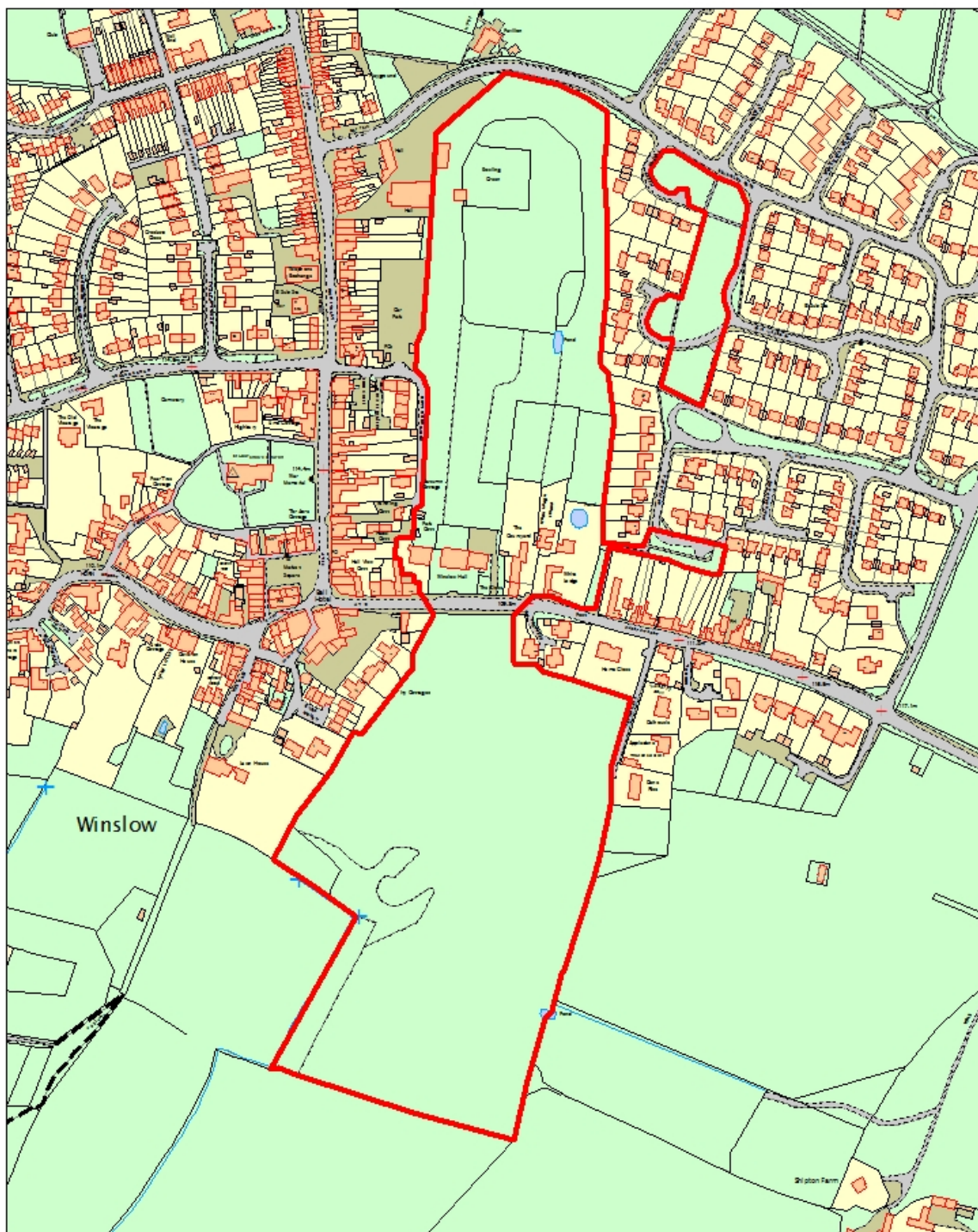
Bucks Gardens
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HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY



Winslow Hall: boundary of historic designed landscape interest

Produced by the County Archaeological Service
April 2015



Scale: 1:3,694 at A4



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Scale: 1:3,694 at A4



Winslow Hall: 2006 aerial photograph

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April 2015



Bucks Gardens Trust



INTRODUCTION

Background to the Project

This site dossier has been prepared as part of The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust (BGT) Research and Recording Project, begun in 2014. This site is one of several hundred designed landscapes county-wide identified by Bucks County Council (BCC) in 1998 (including Milton Keynes District) as potentially retaining evidence of historic interest, as part of the Historic Parks and Gardens Register Review project carried out for English Heritage (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 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 *Register of Parks & Gardens of special historic interest* 2nd edn.
- A map showing principle 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 Association of Gardens Trusts and funded by BGT with a significant grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund. 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	WINSLOW HALL BCC HER 0202001000
DISTRICT:	AYLESBURY VALE	
PARISH:	WINSLOW	
OS REF:	SP775 271	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overview: An outstanding country house for the Lowndes family of landowners and politicians, linked with Sir Christopher Wren. The associated formal gardens and park were developed c.1695-1700 with advice from prolific royal gardeners London and Wise, and some subsequent remodelling of the gardens. The framework of the early designed landscape survives largely intact, especially the park to the south of the house, parts of the kitchen garden advised upon by London and Wise, garden walls and remnants of avenues to the east and north-east, now detached. The property is associated with several influential C19 and C20 figures and has important WW2 associations. This is the essential contemporary setting for the house and is valuable as a rare survival in its own right, although the detail of the early layout has gone and its design is unclear. The 2016 designation of part of the garden as a public park and arboretum (planted with important tree specimens in the later C20) has provided Winslow with a valuable local amenity.

Archaeological interest: Ridge and furrow in the park. Potential for lost built and garden features especially since c.1700, such as terraces, walls, paths, etc.

Architectural interest: A grand country house ensemble c.1700 including a mansion, pavilions, gateway, garden walls and former stables that survives intact with little alteration. The mansion has connections with Sir Christopher Wren. The gardens associated with London and Wise include brick garden walls and a possibly contemporary walled kitchen garden surviving in part.

Artistic interest: A late C17 country house, park and gardens associated with Sir Christopher Wren and royal gardeners London and Wise, sited to make the most of the location on the southern boundary of Winslow overlooking a rolling landscape facing distant Granborough village and church (an important ecclesiastical site). The framework of the formal gardens c.1700 survives. Much of the brick boundary walls, gateways and shelter belt remain as well as tree planting from the C18 and C19 and a significant portion of the detached park. Elsewhere in Bucks London worked at Chicheley in 1700-01 and c.1704-14 at Wotton Underwood, both with notable water features. Comparable notable gardens of the period include the Marquess of Wharton's at Upper Winchendon, of which terracing and an avenue line survive within Waddesdon Manor park. Browne Willis built a new house at Water Hall, Bletchley 1707-11 with similar (but linked) pavilions, formal garden and avenues (gone, site within Bletchley Park).

Historic interest: Associations with important political figures and diplomats. William Lowndes, Chancellor of the Exchequer to Queen Anne, was responsible for building Winslow Hall and the gardens and parkland. It was an important RAF command centre during WWII.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The manor of Winslow, which did not have a manor house before Winslow Hall was built, belonged to St Albans Abbey until the Dissolution (1530s) when it passed to the Crown, and subsequently went through various hands before William Lowndes, whose family had owned property in the area since the late 1500s, acquired it in 1697. Lowndes bought up local property both before and after building Winslow Hall (in several cases demolishing houses on the site and reusing the materials) (Moss), and left a series of notebooks and accounts detailing the transactions and related expenses (CBS). These accounts show that he began planting the garden in 1695, five years before starting on the construction of the Hall.

Lowndes was Secretary to the Treasury from 1695 until his death in 1724 and gained the nickname 'Ways and Means' from being Chairman of the House of Commons Ways and Means Committee. His predecessor at the Treasury, Henry Guy, had commissioned his house at Tring Park from Christopher Wren, then Surveyor-General, probably in the 1670s. Lowndes' accounts for the house building 1698–1702 (Eland; Winslow History) contain no actual payment to Wren but he scrutinised the accounts and reduced several of the bills, implying a degree of supervision. Several of the craftsmen employed at Winslow worked for the government Office of Works, i.e. under Wren's supervision, on other sites and one was engaged on Wren's royal palaces and Marlborough House in London. Winslow Hall compares in design with Wren's other formerly attributed houses – Fawley Court near Henley, Tring Park and Marlborough House, known from engravings (Oswald) – but Winslow is regarded as the only surviving country house that can confidently be connected to Wren (Worsley).

The Royal gardeners and pre-eminent nurserymen London and Wise supplied fruit trees for Winslow Hall, and Wise was paid to plant 'the largest Garden, the Kitchen Garden and the Platts before the House' (Eland). The framework of the London and Wise design survives although the layout can no longer be traced in detail, although since it was reported in 1951 (Oswald) that Lowndes' initials were engraved over a gateway in the kitchen garden wall, the walled garden was perhaps in the position it is today.

Lowndes made The Bury, Chesham his principal residence from 1712 but Winslow Hall remained in the possession of his descendants, several of whom were like him MPs. In 1772 his great-grandson inherited the Whaddon estate from Thomas Selby but was required by the will to change his name, and from then on the family were known as Selby-Lowndes and Whaddon Hall became the main family residence. Edward Selby-Lowndes built nearby Selby Lodge c.1840, now Redfield Manor, and the family then ceased to occupy Winslow Hall, although they remained in possession until the 1890s. The property was let to a school 1848–1862 and housed a lunatic asylum 1865–1868.

The estate was offered for sale in a large number of lots in 1897 (sales particulars), the hall and its grounds being bought later that year by Brigadier Norman McCorquodale, son of Sir George McCorquodale, founder of the important printing works in Wolverton (MK Heritage).

In 1901 a single-storey range was built to link the east side of the house to the detached brewhouse and laundry, thus curtailing the redundant carriage sweep from the road to the garden (north) front, and a formal garden was laid out on that front. The link contained a new entrance to the Hall on the north side, replacing the central entrance on the north front of the house.

In 1939 the Hall was bought by the United Glass Bottle Company which intended to use it to store the company's records and provide staff offices, but in 1940 it was requisitioned by the Army, then taken over by the Air Ministry and used by RAF Bomber Command. It is understood that there were as many as 300 people working at the house, controlling RAF stations all over the country. A 1942 plan shows proposed alterations to the grounds relating to the Forces occupation, although it is not known whether they were carried out.

In 1947 the property was bought by Thomas Oakley Ltd, a firm of demolition contractors, but when the Wren Society became aware of the threat to the building Buckinghamshire County Council was persuaded to step in, and it was purchased in 1948 by artist and connoisseur Geoffrey Houghton Brown, who ran an antique business there. Houghton Brown uncovered the terrace and steps on the south front, which had been buried under lawn. His intention was to divide the house into flats (Houghton Brown's obituary (Lees-Milne) said 'He would take on rather derelict great houses ... which, for he was a somewhat ruthless improver, he was wont to leave less great than he found them'), but in the event the house was sold in 1959 to the distinguished diplomat Sir Edward Tomkins (Edward Heath's Ambassador to Paris when Britain joined the Common Market). Tomkins was responsible for much of the extant garden planting, although a number of the trees are considerably older. Tomkins carried out some restoration and upgrading but the property had again deteriorated by the time it was sold in 2010. At this point the Trustees retained the Paddock (the northern half of the grounds) and conveyed it to the Town Council to build a Community centre; part of that area was designated a public park and arboretum in 2016 (Winslow Town Council). Former outbuildings to the east of the Hall and a south-eastern section of the garden including the southern half of the kitchen garden were apparently sold in the late 1940s. The Hall and its remaining grounds are in private and divided ownership.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Location, Area, Boundaries, Landform, Setting

Winslow Hall lies in north-west Buckinghamshire, in a rural area of the Vale of Aylesbury. The 13ha site lies on the southern edge of Winslow, a small market town 11 miles north of Aylesbury, 7 miles south-east of Buckingham. The property is bisected by the A413, Sheep Street, the main Aylesbury to Buckingham road. At the time of construction of the Hall (c.1700), Sheep Street was a minor road from Winslow to Shipton (turnpiked in 1742), the main route to Aylesbury being via East Claydon (Winslow History).

The section north of Sheep Street contains the house, pavilions, stables, walled kitchen garden, pleasure garden, shelter belt, ha-ha, tree avenues, orchard, well and dipping pool. A brick wall, probably 1700, forms a section of the west boundary adjacent to Greyhound Lane, with a shelter belt forming the remaining section of the western boundary. The northern boundary is with Elmfields Gate; to the east it is adjacent to a late C20 housing development built in part of the former Lowndes landscape. An avenue of mature oak trees survives detached from the main garden in a grassed area between Pumpus Green and Fair Meadow, together with a mature avenue of Scots Pine at Copse Gate. Below the south front of the house a brick wall (C18, altered, listed Grade II) bounds the north side of Sheep Street.

The southern section of the property is grazed park with a low brick wall along the street to the north. To the west are remains of metal park fencing and mature trees, 230m to the south an area

formerly marked as a pond surrounded by trees, on the south and east boundaries a wooded hedge and clumps of mature trees.

The parkland is set in a shallow valley sloping gently to the south down to Biggin Brook before rising up Millknob Hill to Granborough c.5km from the Hall.

Entrances and Approaches

Below the south front of the house, an early C18 brick wall (listed Grade II) surrounds three sides of the 30m deep garden. A central incurved section with square plan gate piers surmounted by ornate urns was constructed c1950; a photograph (Oswald) shows a pair of wooden gates; the current wrought iron gates are dated 1959. Maps and photographs between 1900 and 1950 (Bucks CC photo phWinslow123) show that the boundary wall between the entrance to the west pavilion and the main entrance was unbroken. From the gateway a stone path flanked by panels of lawn leads via two flights of steps to the front door on a brick terrace across the south front. From the terrace there are spectacular views over the former parkland and rolling countryside beyond.

At the northern end of the east wall a c.2.5m wide gateway consisting of a pair of C18 brick and stone gate piers (listed Grade II, included with wall) capped with dressed stone balls (these are as described in the accounts for the construction of the Hall) with wrought iron gates, stands at the top of a flight of nine steps from the drive and leads into the south forecourt of the east pavilion and Hall.

Immediately east of the Hall the 5m wide main driveway runs from Sheep Street between the Hall and the former stable block. At the gateway a pair of 4m high brick pillars (1700) is linked by a decorative wrought iron arch supporting a central modern glazed lantern. Between the west side of the drive and the east front garden wall a grassed area contains a single mature London Plane tree and yew hedging. The gravel drive rises for c.100m to the north of the east pavilion into a c.50m square gravelled parking area on the north-east corner of the Hall. The first evidence of this square area is on the OS 1920s map. Prior to that a c.100m diameter turning circle lay across the area of the current terrace providing direct access to the main central doorway of the Hall. This is visible on a 1900–10 photograph (Winslow History (a)) showing the north elevation of the Hall. McCorquodale built a link between the Hall and the east pavilion in 1901 and removed the carriage drive in order to lay out a formal garden where the drive had been (Oswald). The north and west sides of the parking area are bounded by 1.5m high brick retaining walls dating from 1901 topped with 2m high clipped yew hedging. A pathway predating the parking area on the north-east corner of the area provides pedestrian access to the garden. A set of five c.3m wide stone steps, centrally positioned on the west side, leads to a stone/brick paved terrace in front of the hall. The east side of the parking area is bounded by a section of kitchen garden brick wall.

Two entrances, separated by a 10m long brick wall, give access from Sheep Street to the Courtyard (and former stable block) and to White Lodge and White Lodge Stables. The former stableyard retains areas of cobbles (referred to in the Lowndes accounts), and also a circular brick well (referred to in 1897 sale document). The 1897 sale catalogue refers to a single entrance to the Stable Yard so it is likely that the present entrances were created when the Hall was sold in the late 1940s and the previous connection between the Hall drive and the stableyard was blocked off.

A pedestrian entrance 40m north-west of the Hall gives onto the southern end of Greyhound Lane, now a cul-de-sac but at one time (possibly pre-dating the Hall) exiting onto Sheep Street at its southern end and (Reed, Fig. 12). It runs along part of the western boundary of the Hall grounds parallel to High Street. A wooden fence/gate bars the entrance to the Hall today (2015). Flanking brick pillars are later additions to the brick boundary wall. Army plans (1940) show an entrance onto Greyhound Lane at this point as does the 1873 lease map. OS 1885 shows a pathway (where Farthing Cottage is now and between 12 and 14 High Street) linking Greyhound Lane with High Street opposite the entrance to Winslow Hall and linking with the pathway to the main entrance of St Laurence's church, thus it can be surmised that this entrance was a historic 'church path' for residents of the Hall.

The west pavilion (now a private residence) has a separate gravelled drive leading off Sheep Street. Oswald (1951) describes how both pavilions were constructed detached from the main hall. Two further pedestrian entrances from Sheep Street at the western and eastern ends of the front wall are C20 insertions. The western one leads to a path between the west side of the Hall and the west pavilion, giving access to the rear gardens.

Principal Building

Winslow Hall (listed Grade I) dates from c.1700 (date stone; Lowndes' accounts). Rectangular in plan when built, it is of local red brick with stone quoins in typical style for the period. The hipped slate roof has four prominent rectangular brick chimneys in a row along the central spine. The house has two main storeys, attic and basement, and seven bays, the central three slightly projecting and pedimented. On the south front a central flight of steps, some C20, some c.1700 of moulded stone lead from a terrace to the central front door, which is in a stone doorcase, the frieze of the segmental pediment being inscribed William Lowndes AD MDCC. The rear is similar but without the basement. The east side has a single-storey link wing dated 1901, to the former service wing, once a separate pavilion with brewhouse and laundry. The pavilion, of two storeys and two bays, has similar brickwork to the mansion, and a slate roof. At the back, the central door opens straight on to the terrace.

On the west side the 1700 former kitchen pavilion (listed Grade II), of similar materials and design to the main house, is now accommodation and garage, altered and extended in the C19 and C20. Access is via a separate driveway and courtyard. The two buildings are linked by a low brick wall topped with iron railings and pair of wrought iron gates supported on brick pillars similar in design to other gate pillars on the property.

South-east of the Hall and adjoining the drive, the C18 former coach house and stables (listed Grade II) was sold in 1949 (conveyance documents) and has been two houses since c.1950.

From the south of the house, the front door and windows, there is an uninterrupted vista across the boundary wall with Sheep Street, to Granborough Church as an eye-catcher on the horizon. This axial vista is flanked by a tree-lined ridge to the east and a tree-lined field boundary to the west. Apart from late C20 housing on the west the view is much as existed in 1700 when the Hall was constructed. From Granborough back towards the Hall the vista is virtually unchanged, with the Hall and pavilions set among trees clearly dominating the distant view.

The north side of the Hall overlooks the garden.

Gardens and Pleasure Grounds

The 2ha garden lies to the north of the Hall. A lawn/pleasure garden extends 170m to the northern boundary of the present ownership, defined by a brick ha-ha. It is unclear when this ha-ha was constructed. Beyond the ha-ha the grounds extend northwards c.200m to Elmfields Gate. In the southern half a stone and brick paved terrace built c.1900 (Oswald) fronts the 1700 rear entrance to the Hall. Along the west boundary is a 50m wide shelter belt of mixed deciduous and coniferous planting; on the east side is the walled kitchen garden and orchard. The lawn is edged by borders with majestic trees and mature specimen shrubs, some of which may date back to the original late C17 century planting.

A central mown grass path (1873 lease map, 1897 sale document and OS 1870) runs north from the terrace towards the ha-ha which is visible on a 1919 photograph (Winslow History (b)). On the east side, the 1873 lease map refers to the woodland immediately north of the Kitchen Garden bounding Fair Meadow as 'Spinney' and the 1897 sale catalogue as 'Rookery'.

A pond at the eastern end of the ha-ha, north of the Kitchen garden and west of the Spinney and shown on maps from 1870 onwards, is now surrounded by scrub.

The terrace dates from c.1900 (Oswald) associated with the former carriage approach. The 1897 sales catalogue map indicates that on the west side of the turning circle were a number of paths, one linking with the West pavilion driveway and two terminating with Greyhound Lane on the west boundary. Areas are also marked suggesting flower beds and lawn. The catalogue describes 'Beautiful lawns of rich old turf, Intersected by a broad Grass Walk, and bordered and shaded by a Plantation of Oaks, Sycamore, Scotch and Spruce Firs. One portion forms an excellent tennis lawn, and the whole is entirely secluded'.

The 1873 lease map does not show the carriage turning circle but does indicate a path across the entire width of the Hall and both pavilions, and a central path from the north entrance to the Hall which bifurcates after c.30m, each arm curving away, the west arm terminating at Greyhound Lane and the east at a 60m path running parallel with the west Kitchen Garden wall. Those paths enclose two areas of lawn each with a central circular feature.

The 2.2ha northern section of the pleasure gardens (known as Pike Hill in the 1873 lease and by 2015 as The Paddock) extends c.200m from the ha-ha to Elmfields Gate. In the late C19 the area was a cricket field with pavilion (now demolished) which stood on the east side of the area in the shade of the shelter belt (1897 sale particulars). It is now grassland surrounded on the west, north and east sides by mature trees, and until recently gave an uninterrupted view of the north face of the Hall. It remains open and in public use, having been leased to the Winslow Bowls Club in 1984 and transferred to Winslow Town Council in 2015. In 2016 after thinning, maintenance work and some replanting, it was designated Tomkins Park and Arboretum, and provided with a central path, seats and benches; the bowling green remains in the north-west quadrant and a petanque court has been added north of that. About a dozen of the most notable specimen trees (planted by Sir Edwin and Lady Tomkins in the 1970s) have been given labels which cross-refer to an information leaflet published by Winslow Town Council. Conifers predominate but there are also significant exotic deciduous species, the most notable being the laurel-leaved oak *Quercus laurifolia*, which is designated a Champion Tree on the National Tree Register and is thought to be the only mature

specimen in Bucks and the fourth largest in the UK. In the early 2000s a 10m belt of about a dozen deciduous trees was planted along the southern edge, which is the boundary with Winslow Hall grounds (which retain about a third of the Tomkins' planting) and was therefore unplanted when the park was designated.

The garden and pleasure grounds have undergone various stages of development since 1695. Before 1901 no documentary evidence survives to indicate a formal garden below the north front of the Hall, although it is likely that one was constructed to complement the Hall as part of the late 1690s works.

Park

The park is divided into two areas; that on the south side of Sheep Street, visible from the south face of the Hall, and remnants of the estate to the east/north-east of the Hall.

To the south the Hall overlooks c.7ha of parkland showing evidence of ridge and furrow which is currently pasture. The remnants of wooded copses remain at the south western corner with a former pond.

The south park known as Pliny's Home Close, Spring or Box Close, Paddock and Box Spinney (Lease 1873 and 1897 sale particulars) has a frontage of about 130m alongside Sheep Street. It is recorded (Eland) that Lowndes purchased a number of properties on this land and demolished them in order to have an uninterrupted vista from the Hall across the valley to Millknob Hill and Granborough including Granborough church. The vista remains largely unaltered with five tree roundels. A copse of trees stands in the south west corner of Pliny's Close with various mature trees along the west boundary. A short length of C19 iron park fencing remains on the western boundary near Sheep Street, evidence of more extensive similar fencing. The western boundary adjoins a residential development, the eastern boundary is on a ridge adjoining agricultural land which prior to the 1897 sale formed part of the estate. The ridge limits the south-east vista from the hall. The southern park boundary is hedged with at least eight roundels of mature trees. This boundary is especially visible from the first floor of the Hall. The boundary with Sheep Street is a brick wall, possibly contemporary with the hall, buttressed on the park side. It is entered via an agricultural gate to the east corner and a pedestrian gate to the west end. The westernmost end of the wall has evidence of an earlier gateway now bricked in. In the park adjacent to the wall are signs of lost buildings, possibly the cow house and other buildings referred to in the 1897 sale document and map.

The remnants of the park to the north and east of the Hall (now detached) remain undeveloped within a late C20 residential area (referred to in 1873 lease as Lower and Upper Dovehouse, Leaping Bar and 1897 sale document as First and Upper Leaping Bar Close and Meadow) known as Elmfields Gate, Pumpus Green, Fair Meadow and Copse Gate. A row of mature oak trees stands in a north-east axis between Pumpus Green and Elmfields Gate. An avenue of mature Scots Pine stands on a west-east axis at Copse Gate. The east face of the Hall is clearly visible from this avenue which runs from the east boundary. Both these avenues are shown on OS 1870.

Kitchen Garden

The C18 kitchen garden is situated 25m north-east of the Hall and on the east side of the lawn and pleasure gardens. An orchard lies to its east of it. A high brick wall (early C18, listed Grade II) bounds the west and north sides; on the north side a pair of brick gate piers flank later wrought iron gates. A

lower wall defines the east side of the garden, with the southern boundary open. Until the late 1940s/early 1950s heated greenhouses lined the southern boundary between the garden and the stable yard. Sales particulars of 1947 describe a greenhouse, vinery, peach house and a range of cold frames. Some evidence of those structures is visible on aerial photographs (Aerofilms EPW036310) and pre-1950 maps; the 1897 sale catalogue lists 'a Forcing House in the garden and a greenhouse outside, both heated'. That catalogue also describes the Kitchen Garden as being 'extensive and completely walled in. Very productive and stocked with fruit trees of all kinds'.

Records indicate the making of the garden 1699–1702 with a strong connection to royal gardeners George London and Henry Wise in October/November 1695 (Lowndes Roll and Notebook). William Lowndes paid London and Wise for fruit trees 'to plant the garden then made now next ye new house' (Eland). Fruit trees and greens were purchased for the same garden in February/March 1695/6 with further purchases in 1701. Michael Bough (recommended by Mr Wise) was employed as a gardener in 1702. The Lowndes accounts indicate that the remaining garden walls date to this period: in 1702 payments were made for the foundation of the orchard wall and a number of bills were paid for iron work, one specifically for the garden, as well as many payments to workmen for making the new garden and for sundries such as manure and seeds (Winslow History).

Until c.1950 the garden was laid out as four quadrants divided by paths linking gateways. None of the paths survive. In the north-east corner is a depression and damp area where 1873 and 1897 maps show a circular pond, probably a water supply for the garden. In the north-east quadrant are numerous mature fruit trees. The north-east and north-west quadrants remain within the grounds of Winslow Hall and are rough unmanaged grass, while the southern half is in multiple ownership of the Courtyard (Stables) and White Lodge Stables. Brick walls of cold frames survive (2015). The area is mainly rough mown grass.

The orchard ran the length of the east side of the kitchen garden; it is shown on the 1873 lease map with the Spinney at the northern end and a field called Leaping Bar on the east boundary, while the south boundary adjoined the Stable Yard/Paddock. The 1897 sale catalogue describes it as 'a capital orchard'. Both these documents show and describe a 'good size pond' which survives in the grounds of White Lodge. Leaping Bar was developed in the 1960s and the back gardens of nos 2–14 Copse Gate now form the east boundary. In the late 1800s the orchard was altered and a tennis court constructed (1897 sale catalogue; Army 1940 plan). This has been replaced by a new orchard.

London and Wise

The early layout of Winslow Hall, c.1700, is connected with the renowned partnership of George London (c.1640–1713) and Henry Wise (1653–1738), who formed one of the greatest garden design practices in the history of gardening in Britain. The relative stability of the reign of William and Mary ushered in an explosion of new garden making and the Brompton Park Nursery which London co-founded in 1681 took advantage of this by offering an entirely novel comprehensive service of garden design and construction along with supplying the plants. By 1689 London was royal gardener to William and Mary and sole partner in the firm with Wise. Working in partnership or individually, they designed formal gardens in the grand continental Baroque tradition for some of the greatest estates in the country. Among those designed in collaboration were Chatsworth, Badminton, Hampton Court, St James's Park, Chelsea Hospital and Kensington Park.

London is known to have worked at Cassiobury Park in Herts and Chicheley in Bucks among many other sites, and after London's death Wise, who became royal gardener to Queen Anne and George I, continued to design with great success on his own account, for instance at Windsor Castle, Blenheim Palace and Bulstrode, Bucks. Little of their work survived the landscaping movement of the later C18.

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1873 Lease D182/34

1897 Sale D/WIG/2/2/461q

1940 Army plan, 1939 and 1947 sales D/WIG/2/8/413

1942 Army plan WH/7332/42

Photographs:

BCC phWinslow123

Winslow History (a) http://www.winslow-history.org.uk/winslow_winslow_hall.shtm

Winslow History (b) <http://www.winslow-history.org.uk/images/gallery/Peace1919-sack%20race.jpg>

Maps:

OS 1870 1st edn 25in

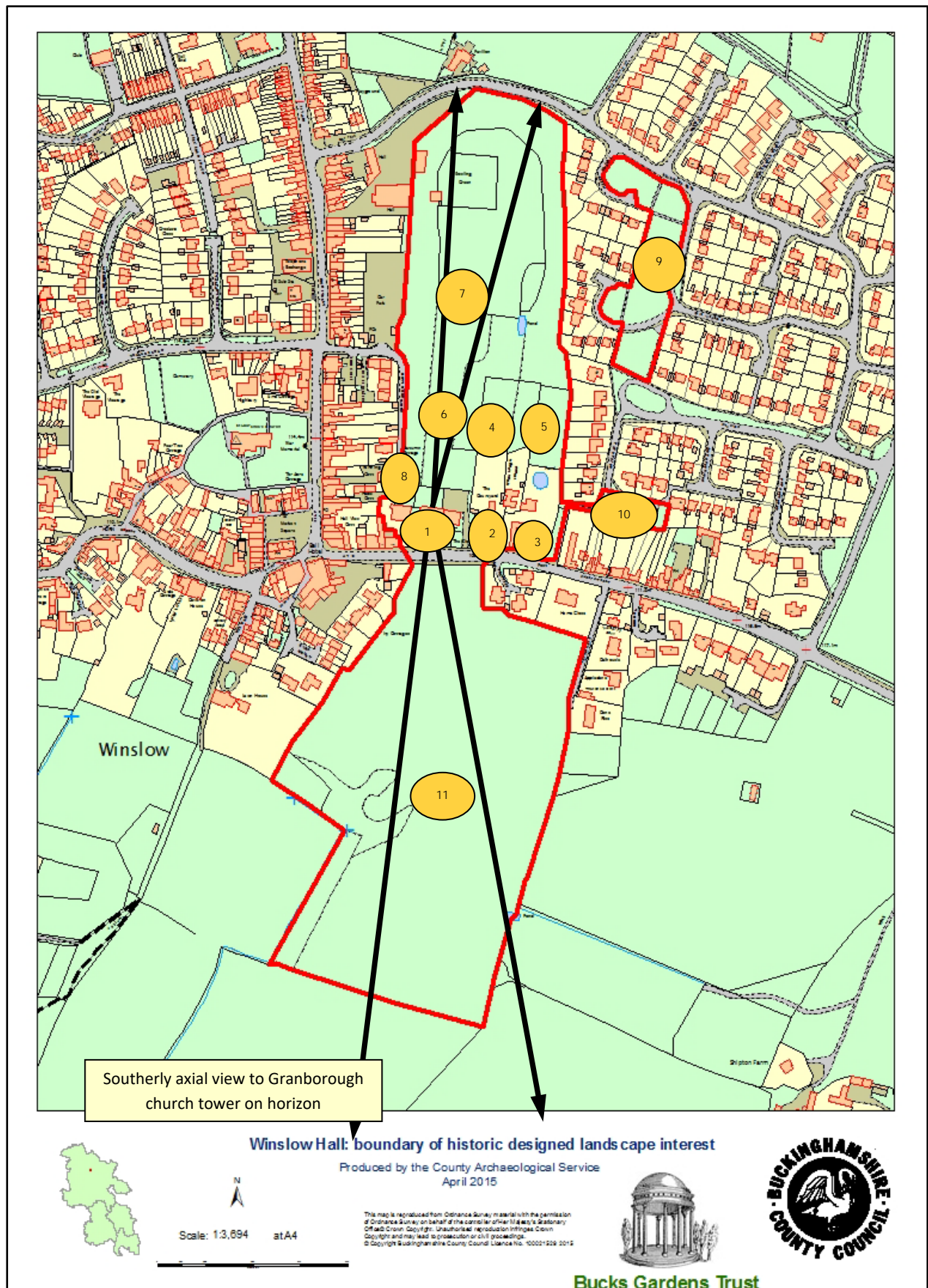
OS 1885 1st edn 6in

1873 Lease CBS D182/34

1897 Sale CBS D/WIG/2/2/461q

C Butler, A Jackson April 2015, edited SR 15 May 2015, updated CB 26 October 2018, 28 Dec. 2021

KEY HISTORIC VIEWS AND FEATURES



Key to numbered features

1. Winslow Hall and main entrance off Sheep Street	2. Coach house
3. Stable block and yard	4. Kitchen garden
5. Orchard	6. Pleasure ground
7. Ha-ha	8. Greyhound Lane gateway to church path
9. Line of oaks in former park	10. Avenue
11. Pliny's Home Close parkland	