

1200 mm

610 mm

WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON THIS SITE IN AUTUMN 2022

Access to both the South and East banks of Swan Pond for members of the Tisbury Angling Club is closed during the currency of the works.

All neighbours in the community, including English Heritage (which has the custody and management of Old Wardour Castle), are aware of these works, and supportive of the overall aim.

More information about the context of this project, and the history of aspects of Wardour Park may be found at www.wardourpark.org (including via the QR code below)

In the event of any queries, please contact Wardour Estate on 01747 828 423



The work is aimed at:

- * restoring the definition of the 'tail' of the swan at Swan Pond
- * opening up the surrounding bank on both sides to allow for better views of the lake and of the surrounding parkland and buildings
- * allowing for permissive public amenity access from the visitor car park to the tail, including provision for disabled access fishing

It is intended that the area will be open for all to enjoy, including access for prams, buggies and wheelchairs.

This is an artist's impression of how the immediate area will look once the works are complete.



These works form part of a larger strategy for Wardour Park, as first outlined in the Wardour Park Strategic Masterplan, June 2014 (which may be found as an appendix to the Tisbury Neighbourhood Plan) and more recently set out in the Wardour Parkland Plan, August 2021. That strategy may be summarised as addressing in the contemporary context the historic designed landscape at Wardour which is recognised as being nationally important by its inclusion on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England and Wales.

The overall aim is to conserve, restore and enhance the 18th century picturesque designed landscape, conserving earlier features, inspiring members of the public, conserving the most significant habitats, recognising landscape ecology and connectivity, continuing the productivity of the area, and ensuring a coherent approach to the management of this national important landscape.



Restoring the tail of the swan at Wardour

Farming in Protected Landscapes is helping to fund a programme of works at the Wardour Estate to restore elements of its original design, showing off some of its former glory, as The Hart discovered on a recent visit.

Wardour Park is one of the most popular attractions in Cranborne Chase AONB thanks to Old Wardour Castle which is managed by English Heritage. Lord Arundell of Wardour commissioned Richard Woods to design the Park in the 1760s and 1770s. The Park consists of a series of classic features which includes a Palladium mansion, New Wardour Castle, Old Wardour Castle, a chain of lakes, parkland trees and a Great Terrace.

Those involved in the ownership of the estate would like to see aspects of restoration of some of its 18th century designs.

Richard Arundell, who is the principal landowner, said: "This is phase two of the plan to help us restore Wardour. Phase one was possible thanks to funding from Natural England which helped pay for a comprehensive survey and includes a proposal for the management of the landscape."

Phase two of the plan came about through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme. The work at Wardour includes tree and scrub clearance on the dam and banks of Park Pond, the final pond in the chain of lakes that starts at the A30. It was designed originally to be a visible, eye-catching water feature that you would see from other areas of the Estate. The second element is the restoration of the tail of Swan Pond, the pond designed in the shape of a Swan which is at Old Wardour Castle.

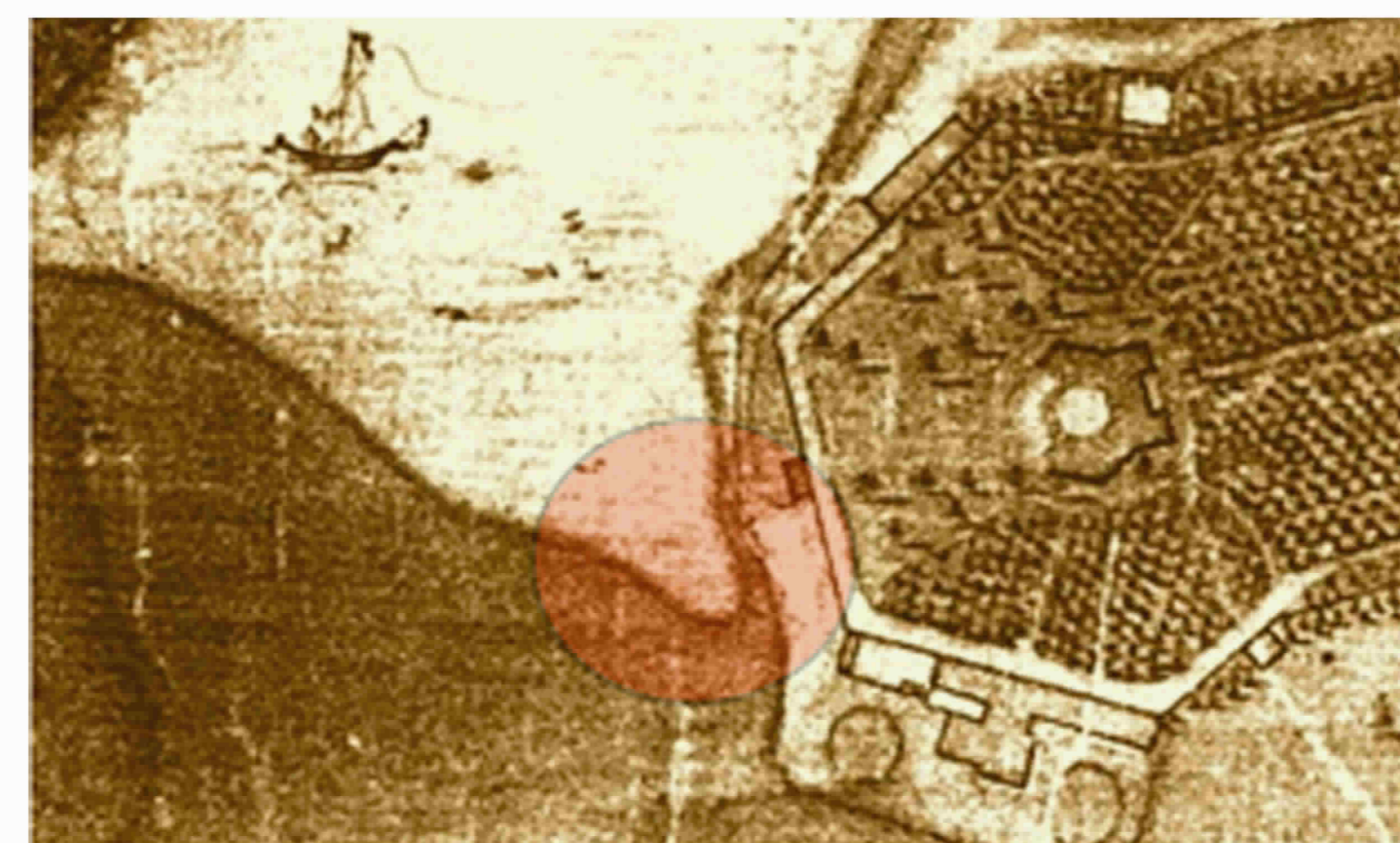
Richard continued: "When this new programme was identified to us at the end of 2021, we applied and are very happy to have been granted funding that falls within our plans."

This eastern end of the park attracts a huge number of visitors and the pond at Old Wardour Castle will be familiar to many. As a first step towards enhanced public amenity a stretch of the fence surrounding the pond has been removed so that people can sit on the benches provided and enjoy a scenic view of the lake. Over Covid, this has been incredibly popular with the public and this funding is paying for the next stage of the plans for Swan Pond which includes enhancing the shape and visibility of the lake and access to those who wish to enjoy it.

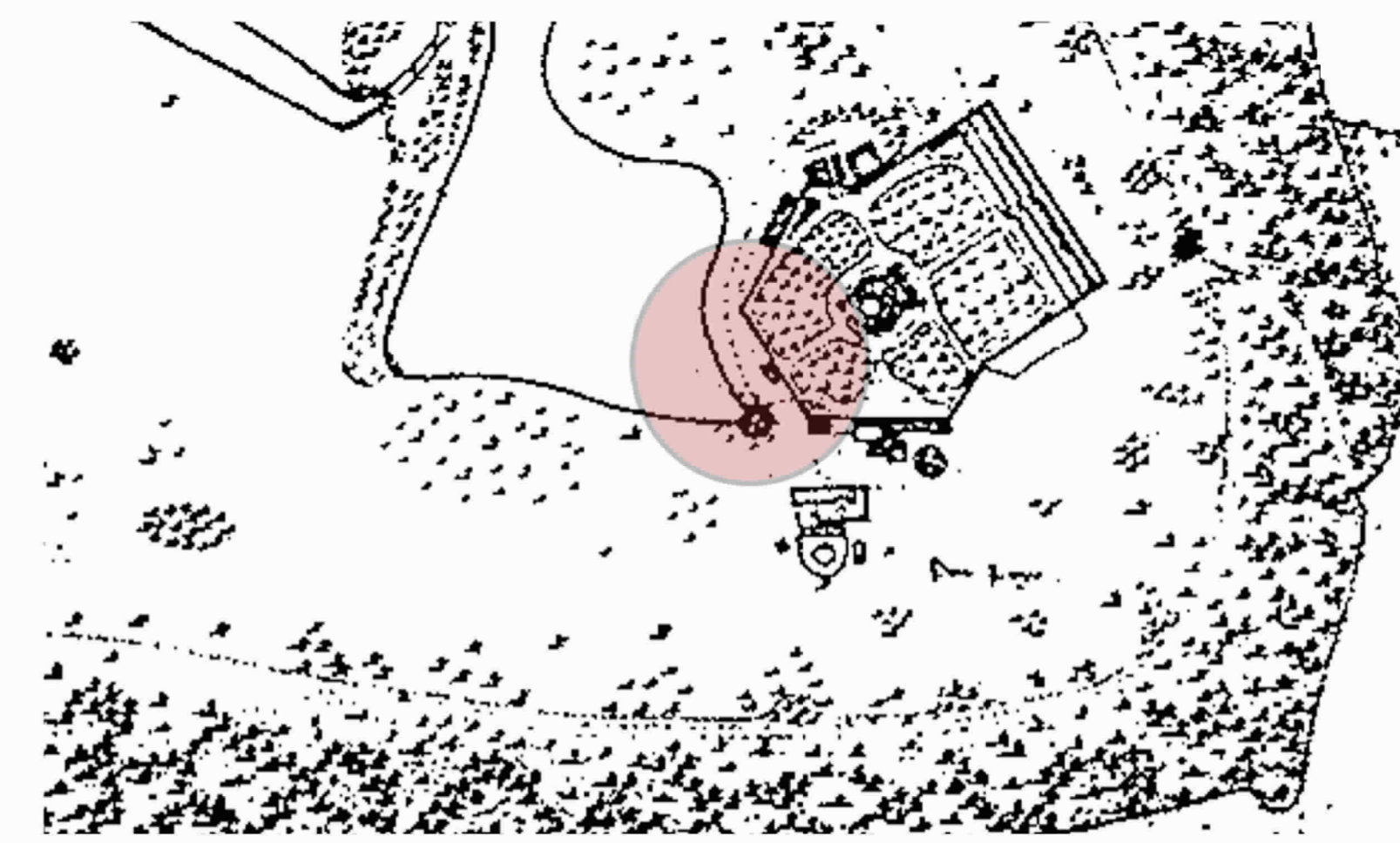
It is hoped that future funding may pay for a footpath for buggies and wheelchairs which will go along to the corner of the pond, and new benches so people can enjoy the view and see the gothic pavilion.

Farming in Protected Landscapes has also funded the creation of swales and shallow drainage channels on other Wardour land to alleviate flooding.

Read more about this project on our blog www.cranbornechase.org.uk/chalkboard



Richard Wood's Plan of 1765



Ingham's plan 1773

These maps from, respectively, 1765 and 1773, show the original definition of the 'tail' of the Swan

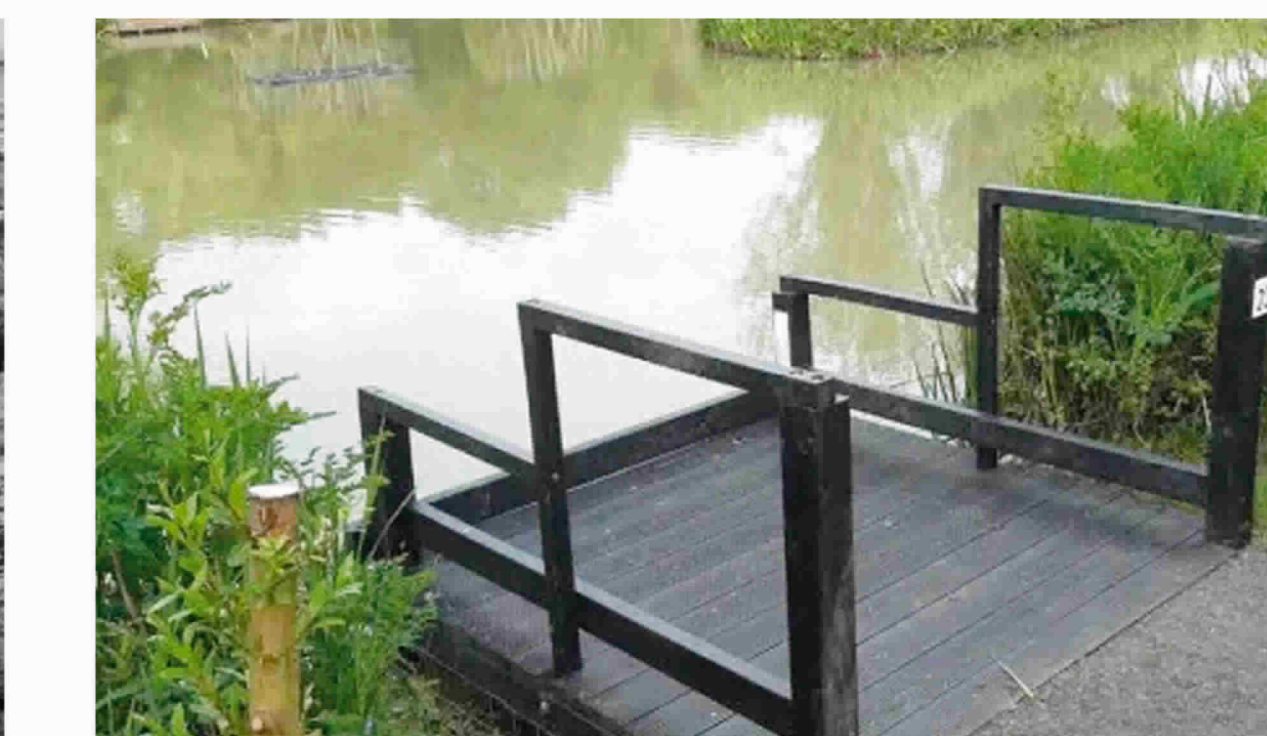


The works are being supported by Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, administered by the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

They have also been supported by Donhead St Andrew Parish Council, English Heritage, Natural England, Tisbury Angling Club, Tisbury Parish Council, and some kind donors who wish to remain anonymous.



This photo from 1949 shows Swan Pond and its surrounding banks at a time when there were far fewer self-seeding alders and undergrowth



Example of one of the accessible fishing pegs

This article appeared in the Hart Magazine, Summer 2022