

# Wardour Parkland Plan

*Final Report*

*September 2021*



COOKSON & TICKNER

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

## **Acknowledgements**

We are very grateful to Richard Arundell, Emily Hobbs (née Arundell) and Martin Thomas (the Client), Margaret Feneley (Lead Advisor, South Wiltshire – Wessex Area Team for Natural England) and Jo McAllistair (Landscape Architect, South West Region for Historic England) for sharing their knowledge, time and enthusiasm throughout the preparation of this plan.

## Table of Contents

1.	Introduction .....	1
	Site Background and Purpose of the Plan.....	1
	Key References & Research .....	3
2.	Landscape context .....	5
	Natural Characteristics .....	5
	Landscape Character Context .....	6
3.	Background Information & Management Context.....	13
	Ownership & Management .....	13
	Policy context and Designations .....	16
4.	Historic Development .....	21
	Phase one: before the park .....	21
	Phase two: the documented landscape of the medieval, tudor and stuart periods ...	21
	Phase three: the civil war and its aftermath .....	23
	Phase four: building New Wardour Castle and laying out of a landscape park	26
	Phase five: 19 <sup>th</sup> century.....	33
	Analysis of the designed landscape .....	48
5.	Analysis of character areas.....	51
	Woodland: 1(a) Park Copse to South Hill Copse .....	51
	Woodland: 1(b) The Hangings to High Wood.....	58
	Parkland: 2(A) Fallow Deer Park.....	68
	Parkland: 2(B) Red Deer Park.....	74
	Parkland: 2(C) Long Mead to Cow Lease .....	82
	3: The chain of ponds .....	91
	4: Ark Farm and Swan Pond .....	108
	5: Character areas outside of the study area.....	119
6.	Statement of significance.....	121
	Previous assessments of significance.....	121
	Evidential Value .....	121
	Historical value.....	122
	Aesthetic Value .....	122
	Communal value.....	123
	Ecological value.....	123
7.	Proposed management of the landscape.....	125
	Vision .....	125
	Policies.....	125
	Management actions by character area.....	128
8.	Schedule of works .....	135
	Annual Management .....	135
	Capital works .....	136
9.	References.....	153

**Appendix 1:** Hydrological review for potential works to ponds at Wardour Park (Hydreau Ltd, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021)

**Appendix 2:** Report on Archaeological Appraisal regarding Wardour Park, Wiltshire (Polyolbion Archaeology, April 2021)

**Appendix 3:** UK Habitat Classification Technical Note for the Wardour Estate, Wiltshire (Geckoella, 23/04/2021)

**Appendix 4:** Arboricultural Report for Wardour Park, Tisbury (Objective Tree Consultancy, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021)

**Appendix 5:** Condition assessment of the Rock Arch, Trapper's Lodge Arch and the ha-ha (Rees Bolter Architects, April 2021)

**Appendix 6:** Historic maps

**Appendix 7:** Proposed tree works

**Appendix 8:** Wardour Estate Bat Survey Report (Geckoella, 15/07/2021)

# 1. Introduction

## SITE BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

- 1.1 Wardour Park is a fine example of an 18<sup>th</sup> century picturesque designed landscape which extends across 342 hectares in rural Wiltshire, 3km south west of Tisbury within the Cranbourne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The park is included in the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England at Grade II\* and contains 17 listed buildings including the 18<sup>th</sup> century classical Grade I New Wardour Castle and the Grade I Old Wardour Castle, also a Scheduled Monument that originally dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

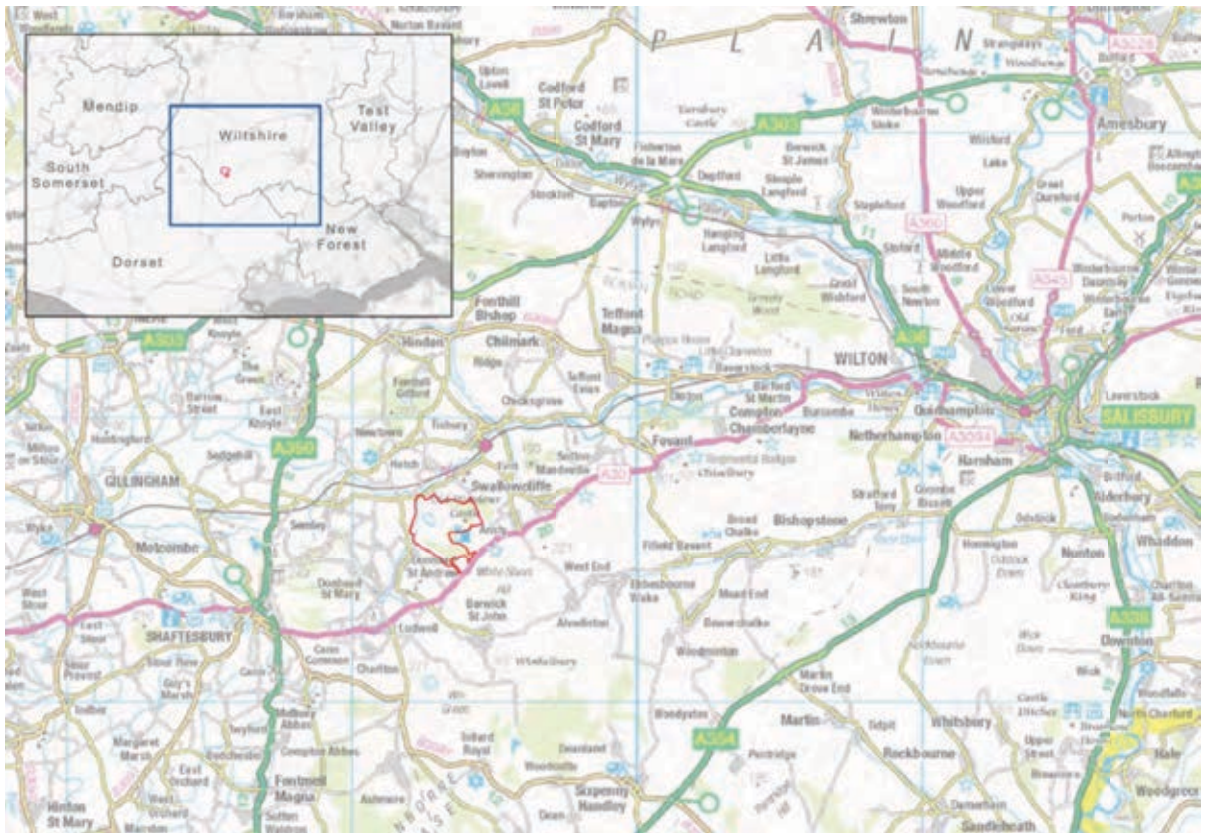


Figure 1.1: Location Map showing the whole registered park boundary

- 1.2 This study presents an holistic approach that affords proper consideration to the site’s ecological resource alongside its multi-layered historic significance, whilst also considering other factors such as access and ongoing land management. This will enable the emerging management proposals to be fully integrated to ensure delivery of the conservation and enhancement of both the natural and designed landscape at Wardour.

### Client Group and Project Team

- 1.3 This Parkland Management Plan has been prepared to inform a Countryside Stewardship application and has been part-funded by Natural England under the PA2 Feasibility Study code. The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the study brief, of 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020 in collaboration with the Client group (including Richard Arundell, Emily Arundell and Martin Thomas), Margaret Feneley (Natural England Lead Adviser, Wessex Team) and Jo McAllister (Landscape Architect, South West & Midlands Region, Historic England).



Figure 1.2: The Registered Park and Garden is outlined in green and the study area is within the red line boundary. The detailed study area excludes Pond Close, Old Wardour Castle, the Grove and New Wardour Castle and pleasure grounds/walled garden.

**Consultant team**

1.4 This Parkland Management Plan has been prepared by Cookson & Tickner with Kim Auston and incorporates specialist survey input from Hydreau Ltd (Hydrologists and Consulting Engineers), Polyolbion Archaeology (Archaeologists), Objective Tree Consultancy (Arboricultural Consultants) and Geckoella (Ecologists).

**Structure of the Plan**

1.5 The plan is divided into a series of chapters that first present an understanding of the park and its significance, followed by an analysis of the main issues facing the various features of significance, before outlining a vision for the whole property and a management approach for its component parts.

**Chapter 2:** describes the landscape context including the park’s underlying natural characteristics and the wider landscape character context.

**Chapter 3:** provides information on the current management context for the property, including ownership, current management arrangements, statutory designations and policy context and rights of way.

**Chapter 4:** summarises the historic development of the park as a whole, looking at its main phases of development starting from the early settlement in the area through to major events in its history that led to changes in the landscape.

**Chapter 5** provides an in-depth analysis of the detailed study area, providing an examination of the existing landscape according to the following: historic development, archaeology, buildings & structures, hydrology, trees and woodland, ecology, and current character & use, before providing a summary of each area's significance and key issues.

**Chapter 6** provides a summary of the overall significance of the park.

**Chapter 7** outlines a Vision and management proposals for the detailed study area.

**Chapter 8** details the proposed annual and capital management works.

**Chapter 9** lists the primary and secondary sources referred to in the Plan.

## KEY REFERENCES & RESEARCH

- 1.6 Information for the plan was gathered from a number of sources, including through site survey and analysis of existing documents. A full list of references consulted during the study is provided at the end of this report. Some of the key references used in the preparation of this plan are highlighted
- Wardour Castle, Historic Landscape Survey and Management Plan (LUC, 1993): a landscape survey that focussed on the environs of New Wardour Castle, but which also addressed the wider, designed landscape;
  - Wardour Old Castle Conservation Management Plan (Nexus Heritage, 2015) commissioned by English Heritage; and
  - Wardour Park Strategic Masterplan for the designed landscape (Dominic Cole & LUC, 2014), commissioned by Richard Arundell and Martin Thomas.
- 1.7 However, it is thought this is the first time that the history, current condition and issues relating to the *landscape park* have been assessed in such detail in a single document, and a vision for the park put forward that emerges from that analysis.
- 1.8 Where possible, the original source material has been reviewed. Documents in the collection of the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (the home of the bulk of the Arundell Papers) and in the personal collection of Richard Arundell represent the core source material. The travel diaries of picturesque tourists, later published guides intended for a mass audience, historic maps and views, and standard histories, have also been extensively consulted.



## 2. Landscape context

- 2.1 This chapter describes the underlying physical characteristics of the Wardour landscape including its geology, topography and hydrology and climate, before providing a summary of landscape character context at both national and local levels.

### NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS

#### Topography and hydrology

- 2.2 Wardour Park is enclosed by a steep sinuous escarpment that defines the southern and eastern boundaries of the designed landscape. This wooded escarpment rises from around 140m AOD up to four high points at Nower's Point (184m AOD), Flatbury Hanging (165m AOD), The Hanging (191m AOD) and High Wood (203m AOD).
- 2.3 The two main buildings are sited prominently within the landscape. Old Wardour Castle is sited on a localised premonitory at the foot of the scarp to the eastern side of the park at 140m AOD, whilst New Wardour Castle is located on a plateau at the top of a south facing slope at 130m AOD.
- 2.4 Below the escarpment the ground slopes more gently to the west, forming the main body of open parkland with two valleys cutting through the landscape. The first starts at the foot of Old Wardour Castle with the distinctive shape of Swan Pond and flows westwards through Creswell's Pond and on into a former fishpond and stone culvert that drains into the River Nadder, which forms the lowest part of the park and defines its western boundary. The second valley emerges from springs at Horwood Bottom and Privet Copse at the base of the escarpment at the southern extremities of the park. The valley drains to the north west and is defined by a string of large ponds or lakes that drain into the River Nadder at a point approximately 150m south of the first valley.
- 2.5 There are two hills that extend outwards from the escarpment; one at 150m AOD which underlies the Grove woodland to the north of the park and the other at 125m AOD at the centre of the parkland, dividing the two valley systems.
- 2.6 Figure 2.1 illustrates topography and identifies the key hydrological features that are explored in more detail later in this report and are subject to the detailed investigations undertaken by Hydreau Ltd (see Appendix 1).

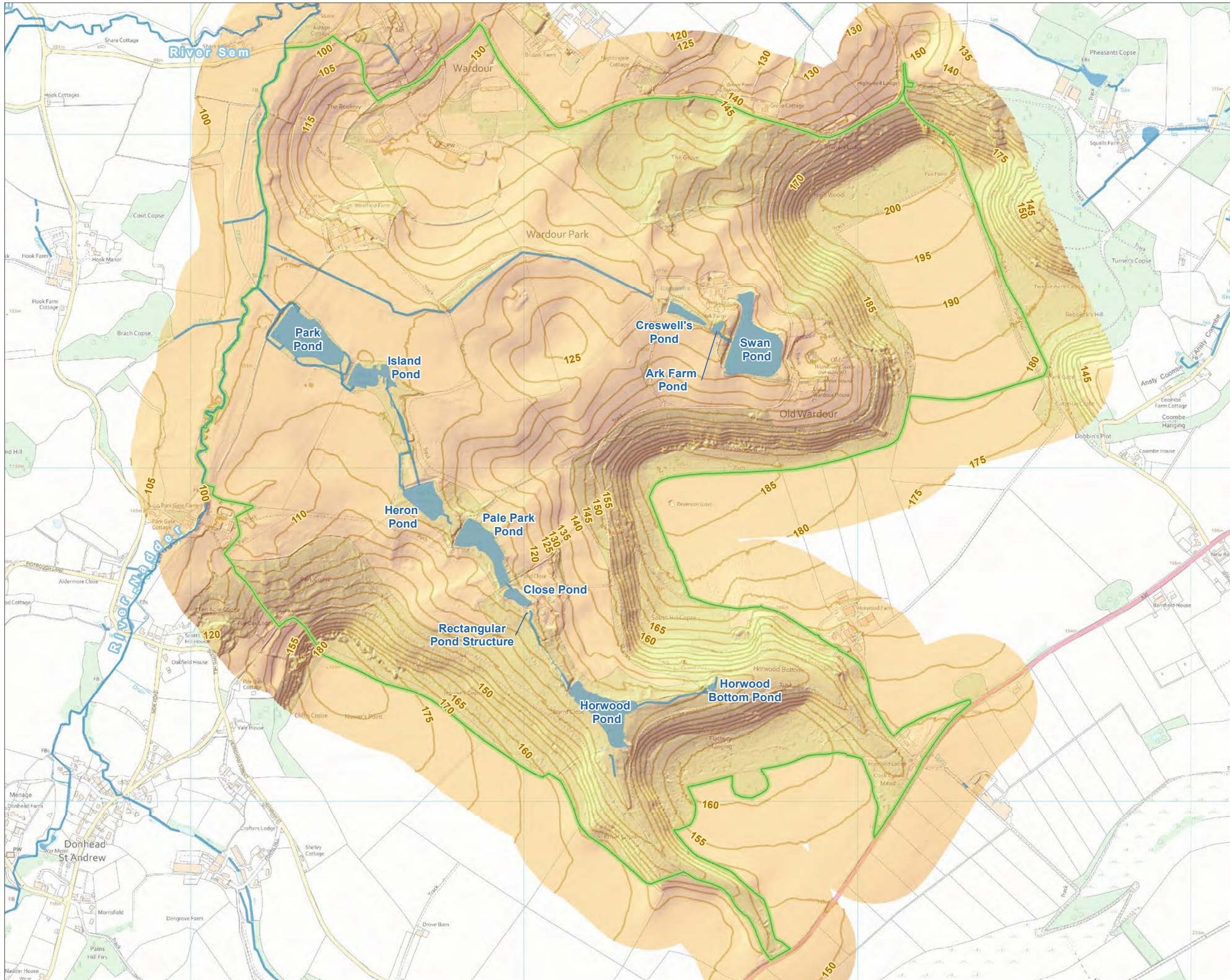
#### Geology

##### *Overview*

- 2.7 Figure 2.2 illustrates the complex geology that underlies the landscape at Wardour.
- 2.8 The steep escarpment that envelops southern and eastern sides of the park are defined by the Shaftesbury Sandstone (on the upper slopes) and the Cann Sand (on the lower slopes) of the Upper Greensand. Quarrying is evident along the escarpment (e.g. archaeological feature 007).
- 2.9 Below the escarpment lies the impermeable Gault Clay, providing the ideal location for many of the park's ponds (see below). A band of Sandstone of the Lower Greensand Group precedes the Mudstones of the Kimmeridge Clay Formation on the lower ground where the parkland meets the River Nadder. The walls surrounding Old Wardour Castle are mainly constructed in Greensand.<sup>1</sup>

---

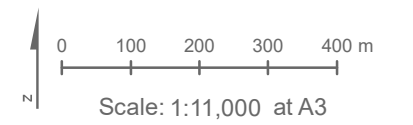
<sup>1</sup> Explore the landscape of the Vale of Wardour (Wiltshire Geology Group, 2010).

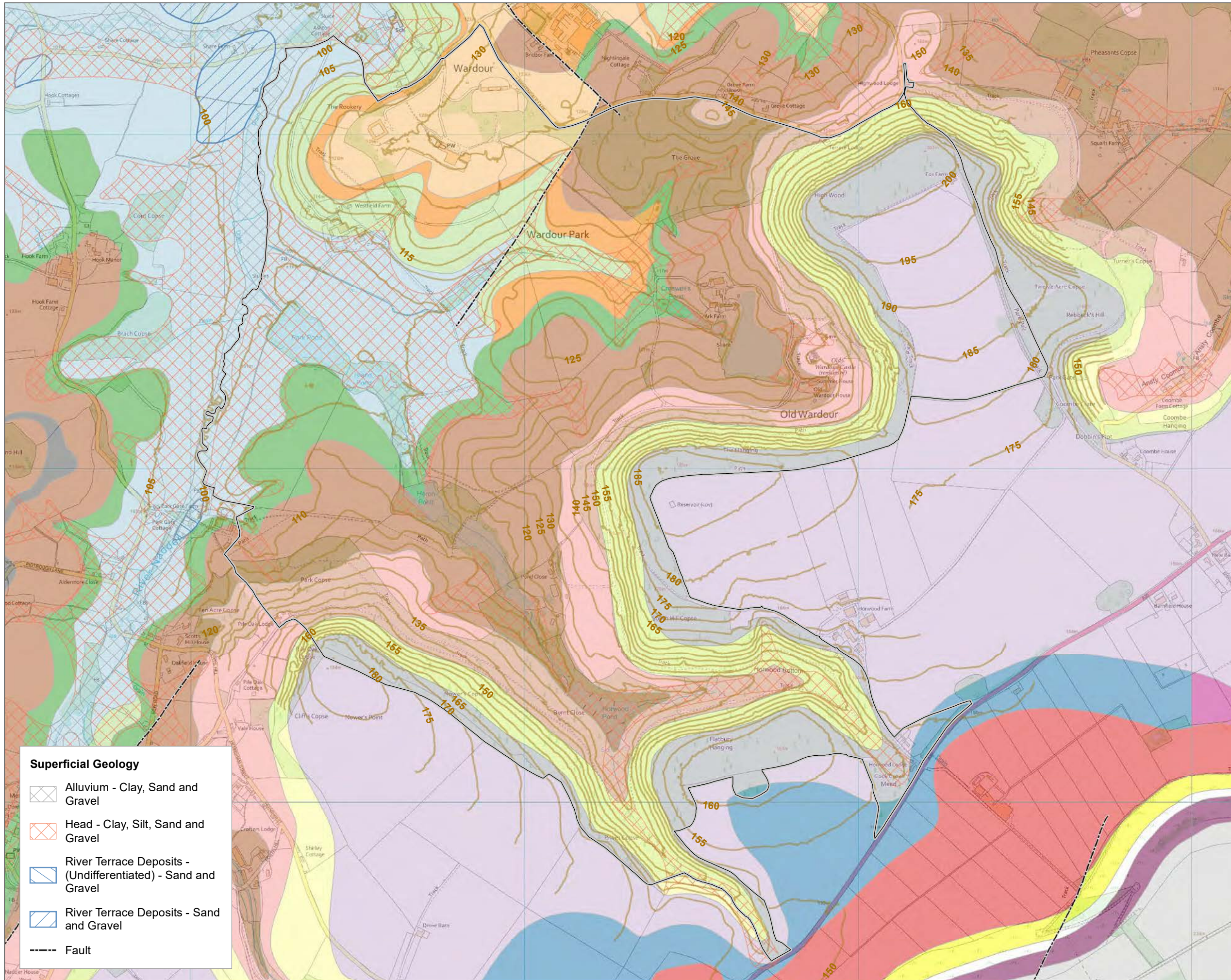


# WARDOUR PARKLAND PLAN

Figure 2.1: Topography and hydrology

- ▭ Wardour Registered Park and Garden
- ▭ Surface water
- ▭ 5m contours





**WARDOUR D5 F? @ B8 D@B**

**Figure 8: Geology (British Geologic Survey)**

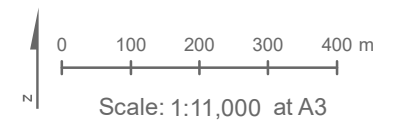
- Wardour Registered Park and Garden
- 5m contours

**Bedrock Geology**

- Boyne Hollow Chert Member - interbedded Siltstone and Limestone
- Cann Sand Member - Sandstone
- Gault Formation - Mudstone
- Gault Formation - Sandstone
- Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation - Chalk
- Kimmeridge Clay Formation - Mudstone
- Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation - Chalk
- Lower Greensand Group - Sandstone
- Melbury Sandstone Member - Interbedded Siltstone and Limestone
- Melbury Sandstone Member - interbedded Siltstone and Limestone
- New Pit Chalk Formation - Chalk
- Shaftesbury Sandstone Member - Sandstone
- Tisbury Member - Sandstone
- Tisbury Member - interbedded Sandstone and [subequal/subordinate] Limestone
- Wardour Formation - interbedded Sandstone and [subequal/subordinate] Argillaceous Rocks
- West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation - Chalk
- Zig Zag Chalk Formation - Chalk

**Superficial Geology**

- Alluvium - Clay, Sand and Gravel
- Head - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel
- River Terrace Deposits - (Undifferentiated) - Sand and Gravel
- River Terrace Deposits - Sand and Gravel
- Fault



**COOKSON & TICKNER**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- 2.10 Bands of Sandstone and Limestone of the Tisbury member extend from the base of the hill at the centre of the park and creates the projecting, slightly higher ground that defines the edge of the Sandstone plateau which provides the commanding location for New Wardour Castle.
- 2.11 The interbedded sandstone and Argillaceous Rocks of the Wardour Formation lie between the Tisbury Member and the lower lying Kimmeridge Clay Formation.

### *Geology in relation to hydrology<sup>2</sup>*

- 2.12 Much of the valley bottom in both valleys is overlain with head deposits. However, it is clear that the bedrock geology is more important in both determining the supply of water and its ability to be retained on a site. The head deposits may have been used as additional lining for some of the ponds, but where the bedrock is relatively impermeable it is likely that this will have been sufficient to retain water.
- 2.13 The following stratigraphy is notable in relation to the hydrological function:

**Kimmeridge Clay:** Park Pond (the lowest of the ponds) and Island Pond lie on Kimmeridge Clay. This is a silty or sandy mudstone of up to several hundred metres deep. It may be considered to be impermeable.

**Lower Greensand:** There are no ponds on the Lower Greensand. Whilst the outcrop at Wardour is minimal this stratum is a major aquifer in Great Britain. Lying above the Kimmeridge Clay, it is likely to yield springs and provide boggy environments. There is evidence of such typical environments immediately below (downstream of) the Heron Pond.

**Gault:** Various described as a clay or mudstone, this stratum is generally found immediately above, and confining, the Lower Greensand. The Heron Pond, Pale Park Pond, Close Pond and Horwood Ponds are all associated with the Gault, as is the Swan Pond. Note however, that the BGS survey is not fully accurate. This means that the Heron Pond may extend downslope completely over the Gault (and the plan is incorrect), or that head deposits contribute to the pond structure. The latter is unlikely. Similarly, there is on-site evidence that the Horwood Pond's upper reaches lie directly on top of the Cann Sand.

**Upper Greensand:** This is comprised at Wardour of three Members: The Cann Sand Member, the Shaftesbury Sand Member and the Boyne Hollow Chert Member. The Upper Greensand is of a permeable nature, generally, and thus at the boundary with the lower Gault spring lines develop. These springs are the major water supplies to the ponds at Wardour.

### *Soils*

- 2.14 Soils developed on the Kimmeridge Clay and the Gault are heavy and poorly drained and are mostly under pasture. However, soils on the Upper Greensand are light and well drained and given over to arable farmland. Woods, both deciduous and coniferous, occur principally on the steep scarp slope of the Shaftesbury Sandstone.<sup>3</sup>

### **Climate**

- 2.15 Annual rainfall is recorded as 35 inches<sup>4</sup>.

## **LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT**

- 2.16 Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is the process of identifying and describing the variation in the character of the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements

<sup>2</sup> As detailed in Hydrological review for potential works to ponds at Wardour Park (Hydreau Ltd, 24th April 2021) – See Appendix 1.

<sup>3</sup> British Geological Survey Technical Report WA/95/82 Geology of the Tisbury District (Bristow, C.R. 1995). British Geological Society.

<sup>4</sup> Wardour Woods Woodland Management Plan Draft 2021

and features (characteristics) that make landscapes distinctive. Landscape Character Assessment helps in the understanding of landscapes, and it can assist in informing judgements and decisions concerning the management of change<sup>5</sup>.

2.17 The following section explores Landscape Character from the national to the local scale.

## National Character Areas

2.18 At a national level Wardour Park falls within the *Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour National Character Area* (NCA 133)<sup>6</sup> and is bounded by Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs (NCA 132) to

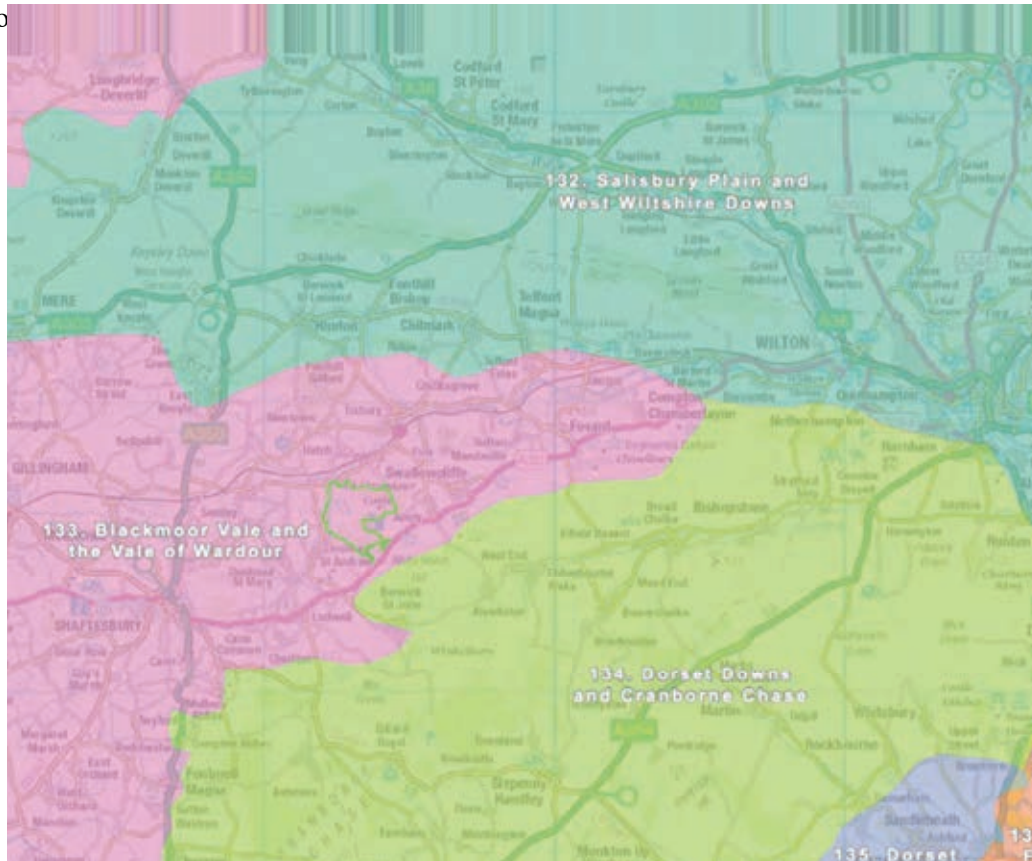


Figure 2.3: Wardour Park (shown with green line boundary) and its location in relation to the National Character Areas as defined by Natural England.

### Summary description and Key characteristics

#### Summary description of the character area

The Blackmore Vale and Vale of Wardour National Character Area (NCA) comprises both the large expanse of lowland clay vale and the Upper Greensand terraces and hills that mark the southern and eastern edges of the NCA, and an area extending northwards from Penselwood around the edge of the Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs NCA.

The Blackmore Vale, steeped in a long history of pastoral agriculture, is characterised by hedged fields with an abundance of hedgerow trees, many of them veteran. This is productive pastureland

<sup>5</sup> Tudor, Christine 2014, An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment

<sup>6</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5858996464386048>

that is often waterlogged; it is crossed by streams and several rivers that leave the NCA at all points of the compass.

The elevated, drier and fertile Upper Greensand terraces and hills are characterised by arable agriculture and are host to an impressive series of stately homes with their associated gardens, parks, plantations and woodlands. These areas afford long, wide views over the low-lying clay vale.

Sturminster Newton and Gillingham are the main towns of the Blackmore Vale, while Tisbury serves the Vale of Wardour. Shaftesbury and Wincanton sit on the edge of the area. Rural settlement is mixed, with small villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads set in landscapes of medieval and later enclosed fields.

The road pattern reflects the difference between areas of small, irregular fields and narrow lanes that are representative of early clearances, and the later, systematic, post-medieval enclosure. More recently the A303 and A30 roads have, in places, been dualled to meet increased traffic volumes.

2.19 Key Characteristics of this landscape as described by Natural England are outlined below with those directly attributable to the landscape of Wardour Park shown in emboldened text.

- **A complex mosaic of mixed farming: undulating, lush clay vales dissected by a broken limestone ridge and fringed by Upper Greensand hills and scarps.**
- Small irregular and rectilinear pasture fields with hedgerow oak trees and many scattered small broadleaved woodlands.
- Fragmented semi-natural habitats comprised mostly of damp, small grasslands and scrub, and often relict areas of common.
- Predominantly **clay surface geology (soils) leading to seasonally high water table with standing water in fields; many ditches and streams.**
- **Wooded Upper Greensand scarps and outliers, some with historic houses and parks.**
- Broken low limestone ridges with shallow valleys, and steeper valleys around the margins of the area.
- Small villages and hamlets forming nuclei within a patchwork of fields, hedges, woods and trees, mostly derived from medieval settlement and land use.
- Many villages at the foot of the scarps, at river crossing points, on the Greensand springline, along the limestone ridge and at strategic sites.
- A wide variety of **local building materials** and techniques, including half timbering, thatch, tile, Todber Freestone and **Upper Greensand.**
- **The Vale of Wardour, characterised by complex geology, rolling topography** and a landscape of irregular assorted fields and open late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century large arable fields on the Upper Greensand and dip slope terraces

#### *Statements of environmental opportunity*

2.20 Statements of Environmental Opportunity have been developed for each National Character Area. Relevant statements and Natural England's proposed methods of delivering those opportunities are highlighted below where they support the aims of this Plan.

*, limestone ridge and Greensand hills, their semi-natural grasslands and woodlands and their characteristic wildlife, and manage the simple patterns of land use maintained by the long history of culture.*

Encouraging the management and restoration of parklands and gardens

Continuing to restore areas of semi-natural woodland associated with the estates of stately homes and maintaining the momentum gained in removing non-native species

Returning plantations on ancient woodland sites to broadleaved species

Giving high regard to the guidelines contained in the Cranborne Chase AONB Landscape Character Assessments and ensuring that the relevant policies outlined in the Management Plan is implemented

***SEO2: Work with local people to raise their understanding of the way in which the area's strong landscape character, sense of place and distinctive wildlife are rooted in the continuity of agricultural land use, strong historic landscape character and legibility of historic features***

Conserving historic features in the landscape with heritage interest, including historic settlements and buildings and sub-surface archaeology, while recognizing the potential for undiscovered remains

Promoting the cultural connections associated with historic houses and parklands, literary inspiration and landscape thinking.

Developing new permissive access to historic sites, open access land and other areas of interest as part of a cohesive network of inspiring access provision.

Maintaining and enhancing the rights of way network and open access land throughout the area.

Maintaining the high levels of tranquility that can be experienced within the NCA. Additionally, enhance the 'experience of tranquility' at certain locations through, for example, the creation of semi-natural habitats and removal of eyesores.

***SEO3: Work with the local farming and land management community to maintain the distinctive landscape and natural beauty of the area, enhancing ecosystems and ecosystem services***

Explaining that the currently valued wildlife and landscape are both products of a principally small-scale agricultural system that has maintained a relatively steady state for at least the last two centuries.

Working with farmers and other land managers to positively shape the way that the land is managed into the future, innovating and diversifying to maintain the agricultural economy.

Working with owners and managers of both large and small estates to ensure that the significant positive influence they exert on the landscape is maintained while enabling them to continue adapting to changing economic and farming developments and societal expectations.

***SEO 4: Protect, manage and enhance the Vale of Wardour's highly distinctive relationship between geology, landform and land use. Protect, manage and interpret the suite of national and Local Geological Sites***

Making the links between the types and patterns of agriculture that have developed in relation to the soils and hydrological conditions that the underlying geological strata and structures have created.

Explaining the role that the geology and geomorphology of the Vale of Wardour play in maintaining the ecosystem services we value – water, food provision wildlife, sense of place and sense of history.

# Cranbourne Chase AONB Management Plan

## *Landscape character Assessment*

2.21 Wardour Park falls within three landscape character areas identified in the AONB Management Plan including 8A the Vale of Wardour (Rolling Clay Vales landscape type), 7A Donhead – Fovant (Greensand Hills landscape type) and 6A Fovant Terrace (Greensand Terrace landscape type). The assessment provides an outline of key characteristics and issues and challenges by landscape type, which are selectively reproduced in the table below, where relevant.

<b>8A the Vale of Wardour (Rolling Clay Vales landscape type)</b>	
<i>Key characteristics</i>	<i>Issues and challenges</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predominantly clay vale occupying a series of eroded anticlinal axes between the chalk downlands.</li> <li>• Varied underlying geology with many different geological exposures leading to outcrops of hard rock.</li> <li>• A mixed agricultural landscape with small scale fields of lush, improved pasture and arable with water meadows on the valley floor.</li> <li>• Wooded character, with broadleaf and mixed woodland and copses (some of ancient origin) scattered across the Vale, reinforced by bushy hedgerows bounding most fields.</li> <li>• Layout of fields, farms and villages illustrate the pattern of Medieval settlement, clearance and farming.</li> <li>• A predominantly enclosed landscape, with close views limited by hedges, and frequent ups and downs resulting from the varied geology.</li> <li>• Narrow, twisty, lanes.</li> <li>• Rivers and their tributaries meander through the vale.</li> <li>• A further sense of enclosure is provided by the surrounding upland landscapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viability of family farms and dairying.</li> <li>• Water regimes (Nadder and Sem rivers).</li> <li>• Transportation and vehicle accessibility.</li> <li>• Infrastructure clutter (e.g. telephone and electricity poles, signs).</li> <li>• Greater benefits from the railway, and associated parking needs.</li> <li>• Development pressures, particularly around Tisbury, and potential loss of character.</li> </ul>
<b>7A Donhead – Fovant Hills (Greensand Terrace landscape type)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Greensand is exposed as a band between the older clays and younger chalk between Mere and Wilton; elsewhere the hills overlook the Greensand Terraces.</li> <li>• The Greensand typically forms upstanding ridges and hills that have been eroded by tributaries of the major rivers into a series of rounded knolls and deep valleys.</li> <li>• Hills and ridges support a large proportion of woodland, both deciduous and coniferous.</li> <li>• Country houses and estates, some very large and spreading across the Greensand Terraces, are set within landscaped parkland, and contribute to the scenic beauty of the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage conservation especially in parklands with visitor pressures.</li> <li>• Infrastructure clutter (e.g. telephone and electricity poles, signs).</li> <li>• Viability of commercial forestry.</li> <li>• Livestock grazing.</li> <li>• Limited access due to narrow lanes.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient and narrow sunken lanes wind their way through the hills.</li> <li>• Small and irregular fields characterise areas of agricultural land use.</li> <li>• Meadows and wet woodland are typical of the valley floors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic and development leading to loss of tranquillity.</li> </ul>
--	--

## 6A Fovant Greensand Terrace

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat aprons of land from which the dramatic chalk escarpments and greensand hills rise.</li> <li>• Dominated by arable fields of Parliamentary enclosure.</li> <li>• Large, geometric fields and open skies contrast with the smaller scale, enclosed landscape of the adjacent Greensand Hills.</li> <li>• Upper Greensand geology giving rise to rich brown earth soils that have a high agricultural value.</li> <li>• Land use is predominantly agricultural, including cereal cropping, grass rotations, dairy farming and stock rearing.</li> <li>• Mixed woodland runs in discontinuous belts along the base of the chalk escarpment.</li> <li>• Coniferous belts shelter dispersed, and isolated, farmsteads.</li> <li>• Settlements tend to be at the interface with, or within, the Greensand Hills.</li> <li>• General absence of prehistoric earthworks.</li> <li>• Long views which are also the setting of views from the escarpments and hills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field sizes, hedge management, and intensification of farming.</li> <li>• Development pressures.</li> <li>• Visual intrusion of farm buildings.</li> </ul>
--	---



## 3. Background Information & Management Context

- 3.1 This chapter details designations, ownership and tenancy arrangements, current use and management and access.

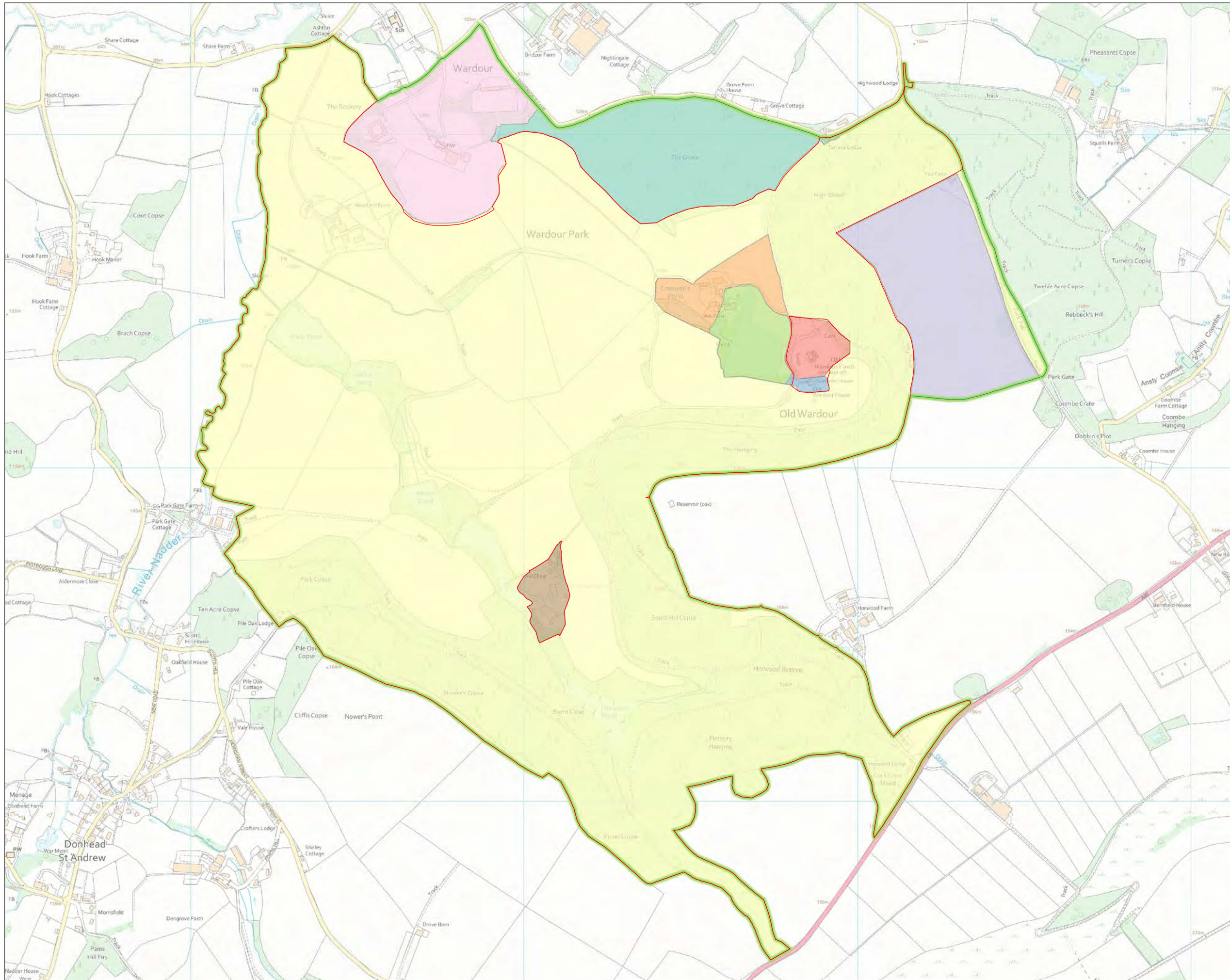
### OWNERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

#### Ownership

- 3.2 The registered park is split between several principal land owners as shown in Figure 3.1, including:
- Richard Arundell (who is the majority landowner);
  - Martin and Miranda Thomas;
  - Buker Limited (owner of Terrace Lodge, residence of Michael Hermann);
  - English Heritage;
  - Luke Hughes;
  - Mr and Mrs Tennant;
  - Neville Rolfe family at Ark Farm; and
  - Other land owners include the multiple-ownerships at New Wardour Castle and walled garden.
- 3.3 Several members of this group were responsible for the commissioning of the Wardour Park Strategic Management Plan (DCLA & LUC, 2012).
- 3.4 The detailed content of this plan and the proposed Countryside Stewardship application concerns the land owned by Richard Arundell and Martin and Miranda Thomas.

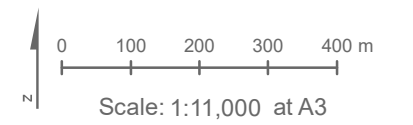
#### Management

- 3.5 There are multiple land management regimes present at Wardour Park as shown in Figure 3.2 including:
- An area subject to a Farm Business Tenancy Agreement (FBT) between Richard Arundell and Robert G MacClelland & Robert Forward trading as Wardour Farms;
  - An area subject to a Contracting Agreement between Richard Arundell and Robert G MacClelland & Robert Forward trading as Wardour Farms;
  - Woodland that is managed in hand by Richard Arundell which is subject to a Woodland Management Plan (see below);
  - Woodland that is managed by the Forestry Commission and is subject to a long lease and Woodland Management Plan (see below); and
  - Several fields that are managed in hand by Richard Arundell as permanent pasture.
- 3.6 Swan Pond and its immediate environs are managed by Richard Arundell on behalf of Martin and Miranda Thomas.
- 3.7 Old Wardour Castle is owned by Richard Arundell but is under English Heritage Guardianship (see Figure 3.3).

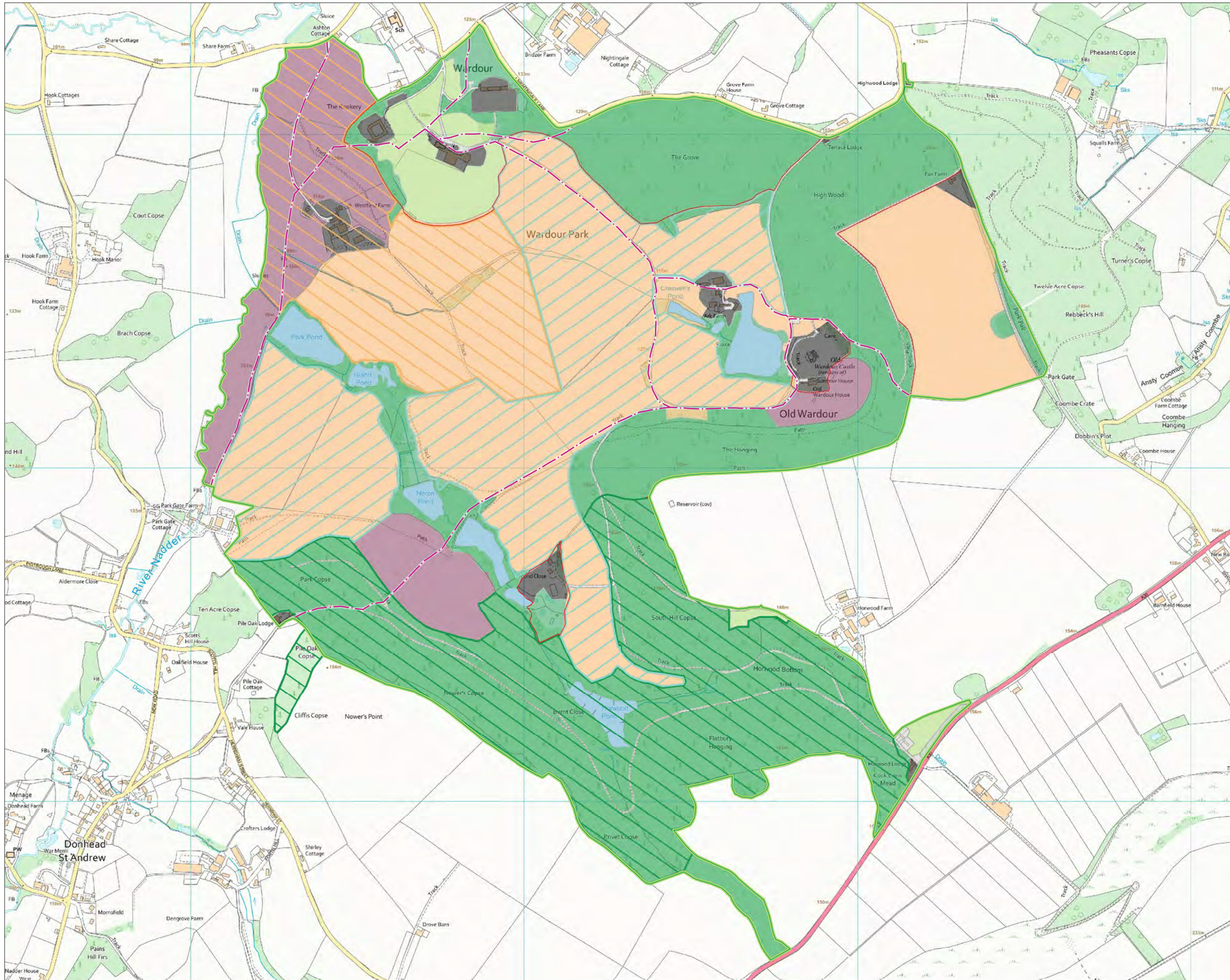


**WARDOUR PARKLAND  
PLAN**  
Figure 3.1: Land Ownership

- Wardour Registered Park and Garden
- Study\_Area
- Owner**
- Arundell
- Dalton
- English Heritage Guardianship
- Herman
- Hughes (Owners)
- Mr and Mrs Tennant
- Neville Rolte
- New Wardour (Multiple Partnership)
- Thomas



**COOKSON & TICKNER**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



# WARDOUR PARKLAND PLAN

Figure 3.2: Current Management

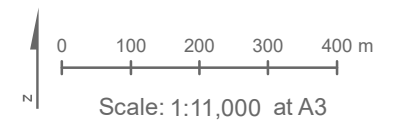
- Wardour Registered Park and Garden
- Public Right of Way
- Study Area

### Tenancy Agreements

- Land at Wardour Land Holding (Contract Agreement)
- Westfield Farm Land Holding (FBT)
- Woodland management by the Forestry Commission

### Land Management

- Farms / Cottages / Lodges / Houses / Castle
- Land that is subject to ploughing (rotation of arable and pasture)
- Pasture
- Permanent Pasture
- Track
- Water
- Woodland



### Existing Countryside Stewardship agreements

3.8 There is a mid-tier Countryside Stewardship agreement on the holding, which expires in 2025.



Figure 3.3: Area covered by the English Heritage Guardianship Agreement © Nexus Heritage (January 2015) Old Wardour Castle Conservation Management Plan.

### Woodland management plans

3.9 There are two active woodland management plans at Wardour. The woodland that is managed in-hand by the estate is shown in Figure 3.4 below. The woodland management plan states that the woodland exists on very productive forestry ground, located partly on the Upper Greensand, that supports high quality softwood timber, particularly Douglas fir. The smaller woodlands over the Kimmeridge Clay support smaller woodlands with high quality oak timber.

3.10 The long term vision for the woodlands is:

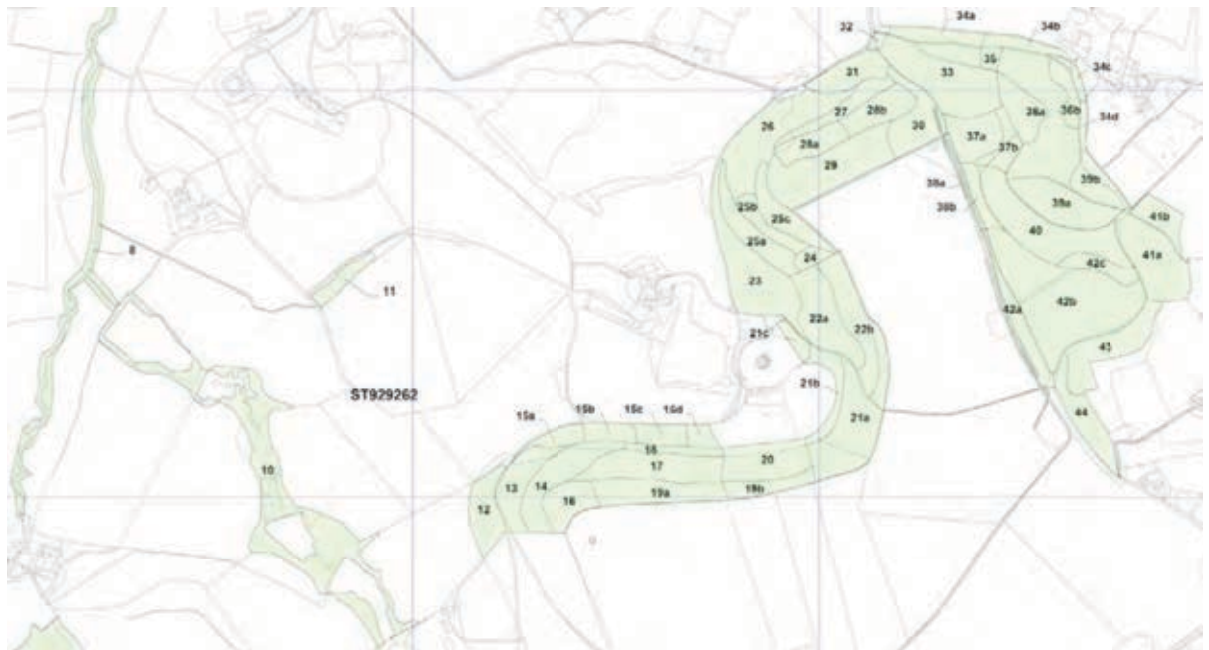
*The Wardour woods are part of a family-owned mixed estate and produce an intermittent cash dividend and long term capital growth from timber. They are prominent in the landscape of the wider Estate and so provide a heritage and environmental value well beyond their immediate contribution to commercial forestry.*

*The purpose of woodland management on the Estate is therefore to run a timber-based capital growth investment fund in such a way as to perpetuate the natural heritage of the Wardour Estate and the environment of the Wardour Vale as a whole.*

3.11 The Woodland Management Plan objectives are:

- Develop and maintain a capital reserve of high quality timber
- Generate an occasional annual income from timber sales
- Maintain a landscape with natural beauty and wildlife abundance to support other aspects of the Estate's business

- Maintain the historic structures and contribute to the landscape setting associated with the Wardour Castle Scheduled Ancient Monument and the Wardour Park
- Maintain a safe environment where the risk of trees causing harm to users of the Estate or members of the public is minimised



*Figure 3.4: Extent of woodland at Wardour Park managed in-hand by the Estate as covered by the 2021 Woodland Management Plan shown in green with compartment numbers.*

- 3.12 The Forestry Commission are the leasehold managers of 86 hectares of woodland located in the southern end of Wardour Park (see Figure 3.4 and 3.5).
- 3.13 The proposed management includes:
- Small areas of native broadleaved woodland management involving management under an appropriate shelterwood system favouring the best native trees and focussing on the production of quality timber.
  - Native woodland restoration (most of the woodland) involving management under an appropriate shelterwood system favouring the best native trees, focussing on the production of quality timber and the gradual reduction of non-native species to 20% of the canopy or less.
  - Small areas of natural reserve wet woodland where intervention only takes place if a specific health and safety or plant health issue arises.
  - Wildlife corridors maintained to provide migration routes and high-quality habitats for associated species.

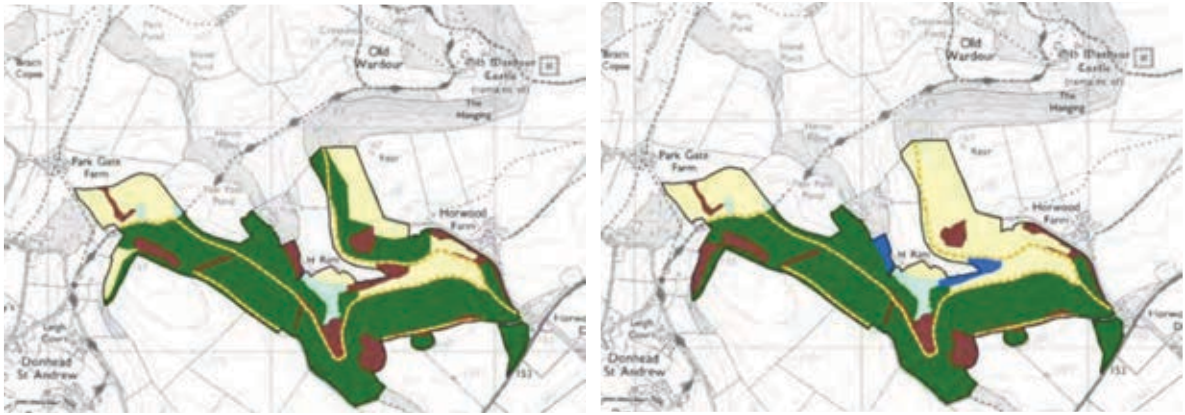


Figure 3.5: Extent of woodland at Wardour management by the Forestry Commission. The maps show the current (left) and proposed medium term structure (right). The green shading indicates predominantly conifer/non-native woodland, the yellow mixed woodland, the brown native woodland with blue being open water.

## POLICY CONTEXT AND DESIGNATIONS

### Heritage designations

- 3.14 The importance of Wardour Park and its component features is reflected in the large concentration of designated heritage features as shown on Figure 3.6 and described below.

#### Registered Park and Garden

- 3.15 Wardour Park is included at Grade II\* on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (list entry number 1000507, named Wardour Castle and Wardour Old Castle) meaning that it is of national interest and ‘*of more than special interest.*’ The summary designation citation states:

*A park and pleasure grounds surrounding an 18<sup>th</sup> century country house, including the remains of a late medieval castle surrounded by a formal garden in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and set within a medieval deer park. The landscape includes work by Richard Woods dating from the 1760s and early 1770s; Lancelot Brown gave advice on two occasions, in the 1750s and 1770s, although his proposals of the 1770s appear not to have been carried out.*

#### Scheduled Monument

- 3.16 Old Wardour Castle: a tower keep castle; 17<sup>th</sup> century stables and later garden features is designated as a Scheduled Monument as:

*‘... a fine example of a tower keep castle, constructed in the 14th century less for defence than for luxury and ostentation. Its form, unique in England, clearly takes inspiration from France. It is argued by some to have been designed by William Wynford, one of England’s finest architects. Despite the damage sustained during the Civil War, sufficient of the structure of the keep survives for the internal arrangements to be fully understood. The survival of a substantial enclosure wall defining the extensive bailey, ensures that the integrity of the overall castle layout can clearly be established. The bailey was subsequently landscaped in the picturesque manner, the ruined keep forming the focus of a scheme which includes a grotto and other ornamental features. The enclosure wall also forms the focus for stable buildings of 17<sup>th</sup> century date and a Gothick pavilion and privy of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Sample excavations have shown the present curtain wall, which dates to the 16th century, to lie on the line of the original. Excavations within the bailey have provided evidence for the raising of soil levels in the 16<sup>th</sup> and later 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, providing effective protection for underlying medieval deposits.’*

## Listed buildings

- 3.17 There are 17 listed buildings within the Registered Park including the Grade I listed New and Old Wardour Castles and Chapel. There are a further two Grade II\* listed buildings and 13 grade II listed buildings as shown on Figure 3.6.

*Table 3.1: Listed buildings (reference Figure 3.6)*

List entry	Name	Grade	List date
1146006	Camellia House and Garden Walls	II*	06-Jan-1966
1184563	Statue of St Anthony of Padua in Temple Gardens	II	06-Jul-1987
1184577	Hexagonal Annexe	II	06-Jan-1966
1300093	Wardour Castle Chapel	I	06-Jul-1987
1146005	Dairy in Temple Gardens	II	06-Jul-1987
1146004	Wardour Castle	I	25-Oct-1951
1183539	Archway on Trackway	II	06-Jul-1987
1183520	Pond Close	II	06-Jul-1987
1146007	Ark Farmhouse	II	06-Jul-1987
1184599	Banqueting House	II	06-Jul-1987
1183469	Privy opposite Old Wardour House	II	06-Jul-1987
1183506	Old Wardour House	II	06-Jul-1987
1318789	Walls of Bailey to Old Wardour Castle	II	06-Jul-1987
1146103	Grotto	II	06-Jul-1987
1334952	Rock Arch	II	22-Feb-2001
1183429	Old Wardour Castle	I	25-Oct-1951
1318790	Summer House to rear of Old Wardour House	II	06-Jul-1987

## Wildlife designations

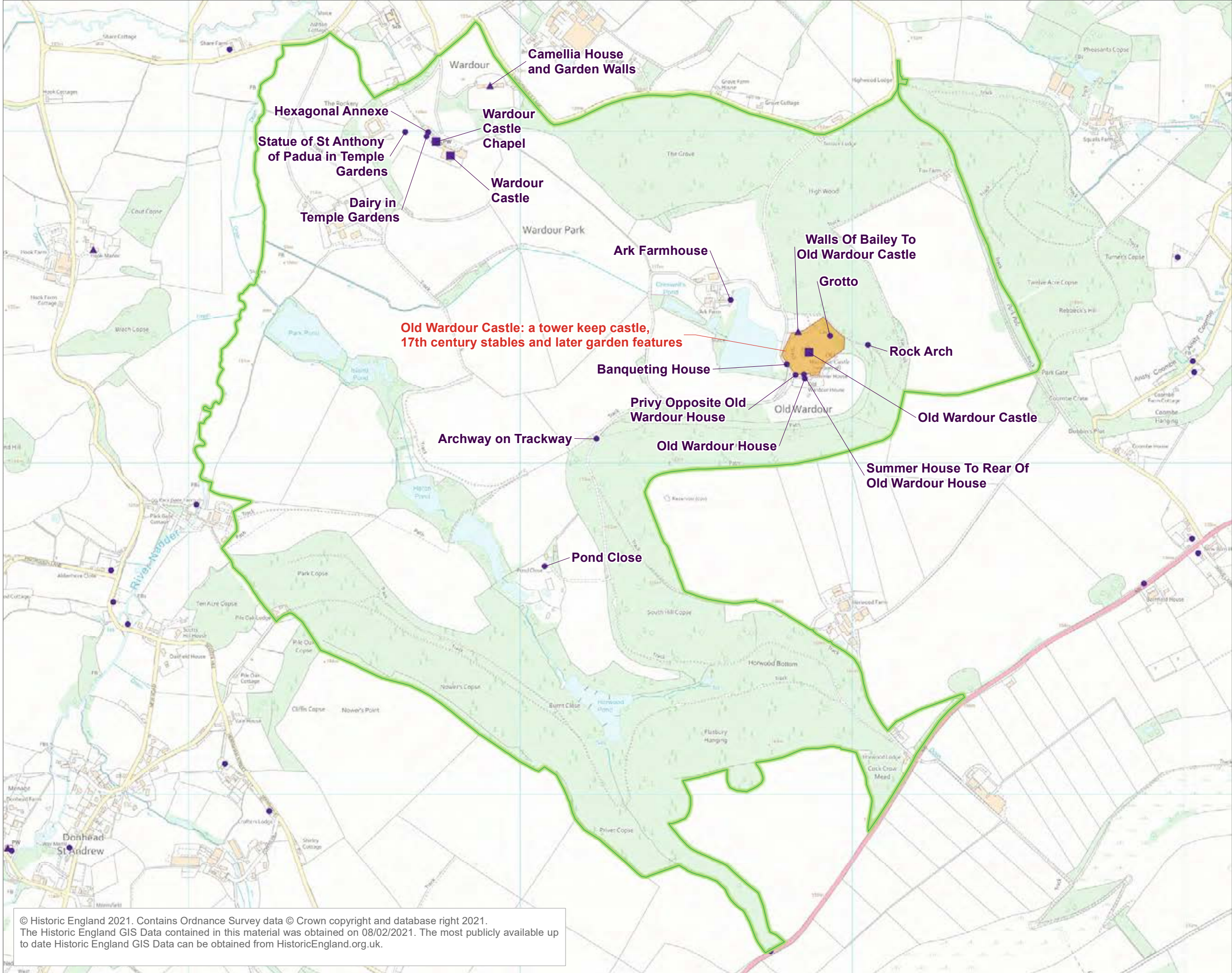
- 3.18 There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest at Wardour Park.
- 3.19 All the woodland along the escarpment that defines the southern, eastern and part of the western boundaries is categorised as Ancient Replanted Woodland (previously Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites) and several small parcels of Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland, both considered to be irreplaceable habitats that require protection from loss or deterioration. See Figure 3.7.
- 3.20 There are two County Wildlife Sites at Wardour Park – Wardour Wood covers 99.14 Ha of woodland incorporating much of the wooded escarpment to the south and east of the parkland running from and including Park Copse through to The Hanging, and Old Wardour Fish Pond primarily covering the open water of Swan Pond and its surrounds.

## Rights of Way and access

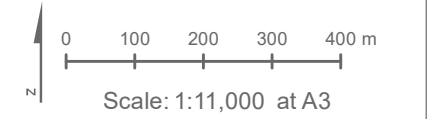
- 3.21 There are several Public Rights of way that provide circular walks within the parkland creating opportunities for circular walks including a small circuit from Old Wardour Castle to and around Ark Farm and Swan Pond, and a second that takes in New Wardour Castle, much of the body of the parkland and Park Copse. The routes are well connected to the surrounding network of Rights of

**WARDOUR PARKLAND PLAN**

Figure 3.6: Heritage Designations



- Wardour Registered Park and Garden
- Listed Building**
- Grade I
- ▲ Grade II\*
- Grade II
- Scheduled Monuments



© Historic England 2021. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021. The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 08/02/2021. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk).

Way as shown in Figure 3.8. The Rights of Way include a section of the long-distance Wessex Ridgeway.

## **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

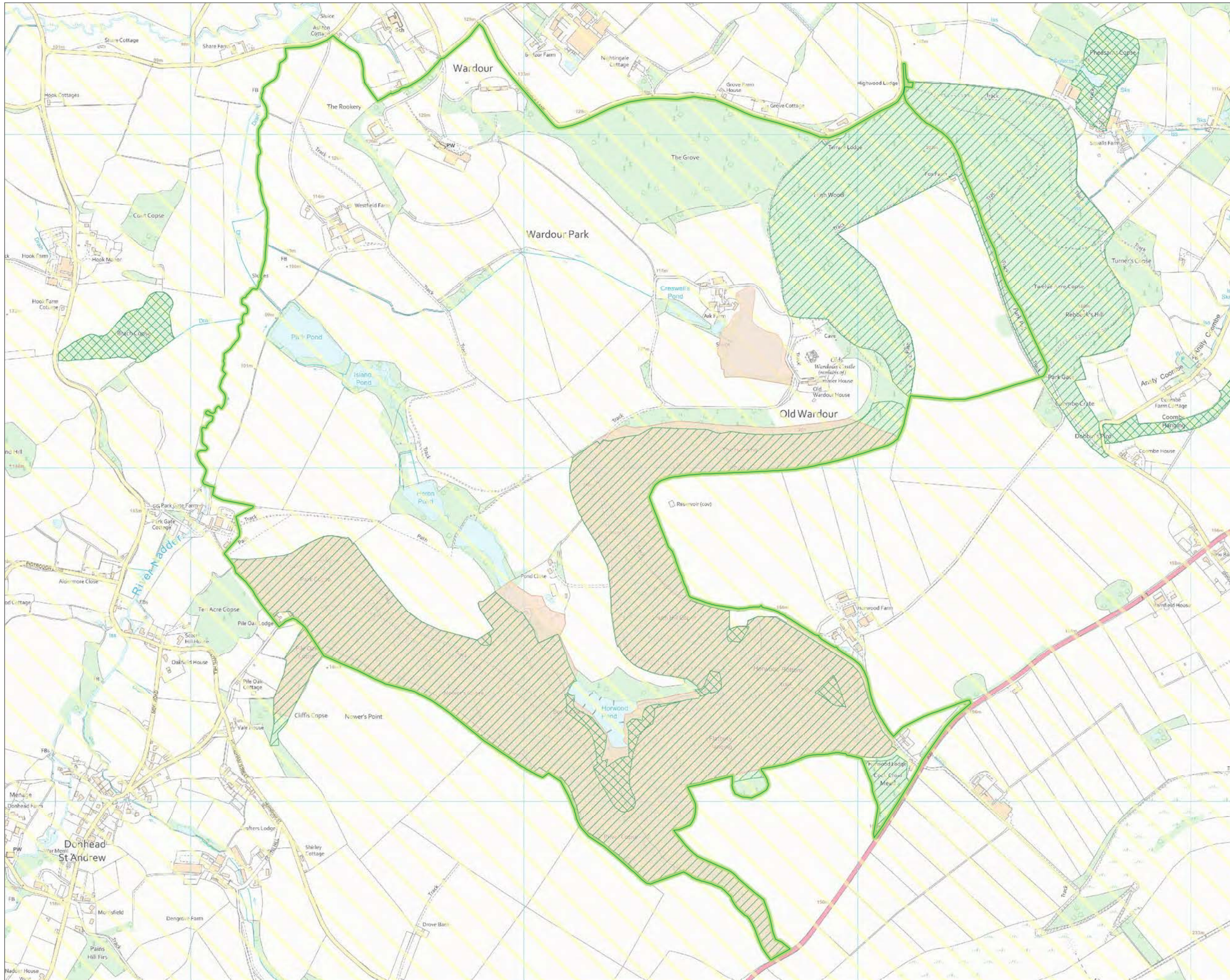
- 3.22 The park lies within Cranborne Chase AONB, an area of 380 square miles of countryside in Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset. AONBs are designated for their valuable wildlife, habitats, geology, heritage and scenic views. Cranborne Chase is a diverse landscape offering areas of rolling chalk grassland, ancient woodlands, chalk escarpments, downland hillsides and chalk river valleys each with a distinct and recognisable character.<sup>7</sup> See Figure 3.7.
- 3.23 There are 41 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and in the United Kingdom. AONBs cover 15.6% of land in England and Wales and the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest and is one of twelve AONBs in the South West Region.

### *Cranbourne Chase AONB Management Plan Policies*

- 3.24 There are several policies that support the conservation and enhancement of Wardour Park including:
- HE4: Encourage appropriate and improved identification, recording and management of the distinctive historic landscapes of the AONB through working with appropriate partners including the County HERs, farmers and partners within the Landscape Partnership Scheme to undertake action identified in the AONB Historic Environment Action Plans.
  - HE5: Facilitate future ‘agri-environment’ schemes that effectively enhance the management of historic sites and features. It is also notable that one of the indicators for the Historic and Cultural Environment is ‘changes in ES area for the management and protection of archaeological features.’
  - RLM2: Work closely with all relevant stakeholders, particularly farmers and Defra, to design New Environmental Land Management Scheme opportunities that will conserve and enhance the landscapes of the AONB.
  - RLM4: Support and encourage appropriate woodland management, encouraging skills training, reconnecting supply chains and increasing biodiversity, including PAWS restoration.
  - RLM6: Identify good agricultural practices that are appropriate to the challenges facing the farmers of the AONB and disseminate through networks, partnerships and training.
  - RLM7: Work with, and support partners such as the Environment Agency, private land owners, fishery managers, Trusts and Natural England, to deliver programmes and projects that bring environmental benefits to catchments while securing a viable future for fisheries.
  - SRC1: Utilise funding initiatives that emerge to help achieve the needs of the local economy without compromising the special qualities of the AONB landscape and environment.
  - LAN4: Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the landscape character, tranquillity and special qualities of the AONB and its setting, particularly those that are sensitive to change.
  - LAN7: Pursue opportunities to underground and remove power and telecommunications lines and poles, and other incongruous features where they detract from the Special Qualities.
  - NE1: Build and sustain a robust environmental records base for the AONB and its surrounds.
  - NE2: Develop biodiversity permeability/connectivity mapping across the AONB to identify restoration and enhancement priorities that integrate with landscape character.
  - NE3: Work with landowners, farmers, woodland managers and appropriate partners, to establish and enhance coherent and effective ecological networks at a landscape-scale through the

---

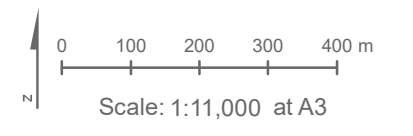
<sup>7</sup> <https://cranbornechase.org.uk/about-us/the-aonb/>



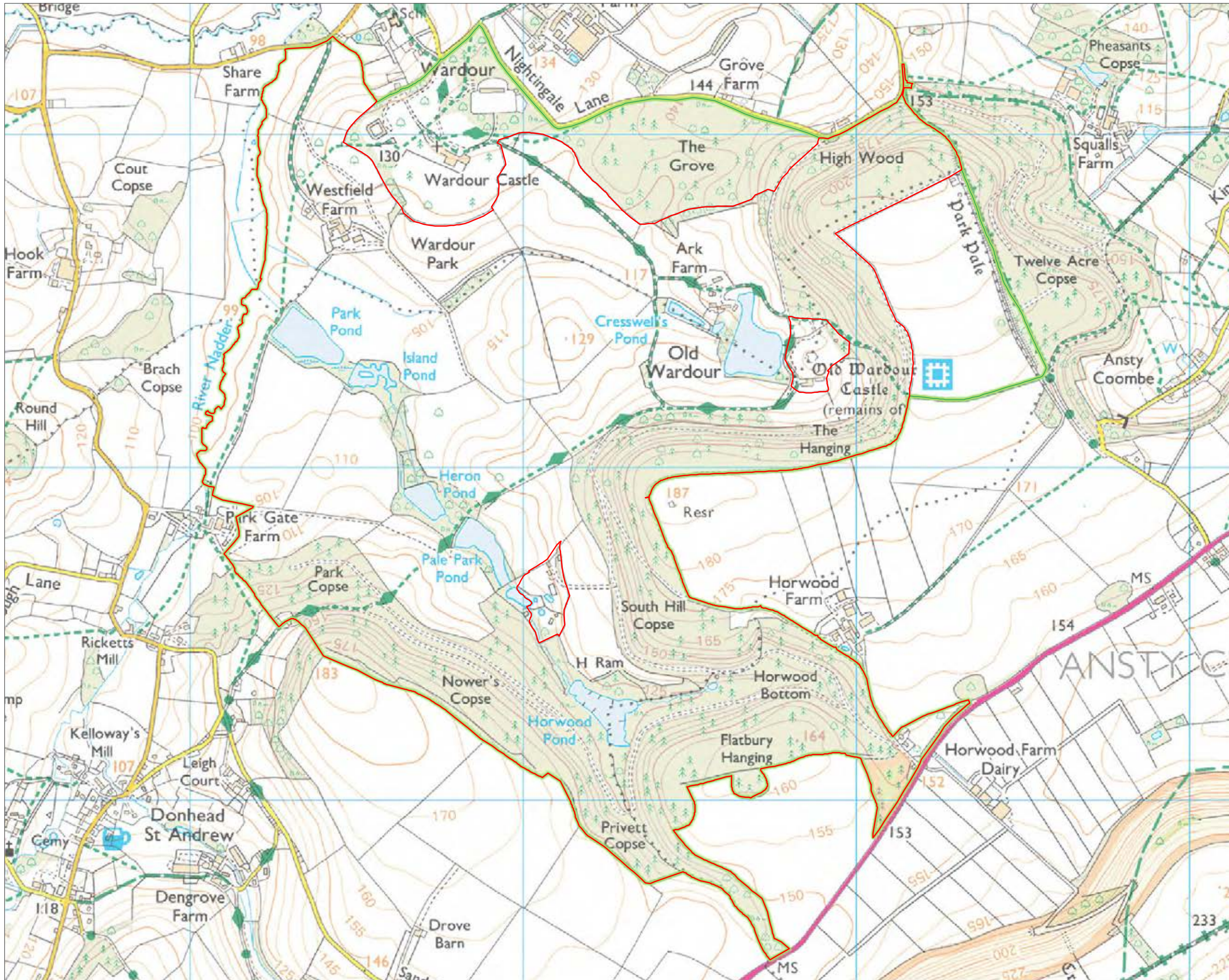
# WARDOUR PARKLAND PLAN

Figure 3.7: Nature Conservation Designations

- Wardour Registered Park and Garden
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland
- County Wildlife Site
- Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

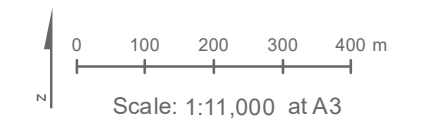


**COOKSON & TICKNER**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



**WARDOUR PARKLAND  
PLAN**  
Figure 3.8: Public Rights of Way

- Study Area
- Wardour Registered Park and Garden



**COOKSON & TICKNER**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

development of further farm / woodland clusters or through new environmental land management scheme opportunities.

- 3.25 In addition there are a number of health and well-being objectives and policies that could be addressed through activities at Wardour Park.

### **The Local Plan**

- 3.26 The Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document was formally adopted on 20 January 2015. The plan provides an overarching planning policy framework for Wiltshire for the period up to 2026. The following policies seek to protect and enhance the environment:

- Core Policy 50: Biodiversity Geodiversity;
- Core policy 51: Landscape;
- Core Policy 52: Green Infrastructure; and
- Core Policy 58: Ensuring the Conservation of the Historic Environment.

### **The Neighbourhood Plan**

- 3.27 As a result of the Localism Act 2011 local communities can now set out their views on local planning issues and have them formally accepted as part of the planning permissions process. The Parish Councils of Tisbury and West Tisbury have developed a Neighbourhood Plan that will help to shape planning decisions to better reflect local priorities until 2036.<sup>8</sup>
- 3.28 The Tisbury and West Tisbury Neighbourhood Development Plan – TisPlan, Made version November 2019 makes specific reference to the Wardour Park Strategic Master Plan, stating that the parkland is managed under the jurisdiction of that Plan.
- 3.29 The Neighbourhood Plan includes several policies of relevance to this plan including HNA1 Natural Assets and Biodiversity and action points to carry forward those policies.

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.tisplan.org.uk/>



## 4. Historic Development

- 4.1 This chapter describes the historic development of Wardour Park by exploring:
- The broad historic context for the main phases of the development of Wardour;
  - The development of the designed, sporting and other interest of the landscape park (referencing the loss and arrival of specific features);
  - The role of Wardour in the social and economic history of its immediate locality, the county of Wiltshire and beyond;
  - Changing land use and management through time;
  - Recent history, including the subdivision of the historic Arundell estate and the increasing role of Old Wardour Castle as a regional tourist attraction.

### PHASE ONE: BEFORE THE PARK

- 4.2 The earliest mention of Wardour to date is a charter of 984, drawn up for King Athelred, probably by St Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury. By this charter, Wardour was returned to the nuns of Shaftesbury. The charter mentions boundaries at Twelve Acres, the British way, Highway (wood), Wood's Flood, a ford in the south pasture, a hedgerow and the rivers Nadder and Sem (LUC 1993).
- 4.3 At the time of Domesday (1086) Wardour manor is recorded as being held by nuns of Wilton Abbey, of the King (Nexus Heritage, 2014).
- 4.4 A Great Ditch is recorded on the earliest known map of Wardour, believed to have been drawn up in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (illustrated below in Figure 4.1). The date of the ditch is unknown. Its origin may be as a park pale (in which case it is likely to be post-Norman) or possibly as a permanent record of a property dispute.

### PHASE TWO: THE DOCUMENTED LANDSCAPE OF THE MEDIEVAL, TUDOR AND STUART PERIODS

- 4.5 In the 1390s the Old Castle was built for John, 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Lovell (National Heritage List, list entry 1183429). A license to crenellate the Castle was granted in 1393 (Nexus Heritage, 2014). No record has been found, to date, of a license to empark.
- 4.6 In 1499, by an indenture of 4<sup>th</sup> July, the Earl of Ormond, to whom Wardour had reverted, in consideration of the sum of five hundred pounds, '*did bargain and sell unto Robert Willowby, Lord Brook, his Manor, Castle and Park at Wardour*' (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell).
- 4.7 In the 1530s and 1540s, a dispute arose over the ownership of Wardour involving the Willoughby and Greville families, and the Marquis of Exeter (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell). A map (or 'mapp') survives which is thought to date from the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 4.1) and may have been produced in connection with this dispute. Although the map appears not to have been drawn by a professional surveyor, the position of the Old Castle and several water bodies, more or less contiguous with several of the water bodies that survive today, assists in orientation.
- 4.8 Apart from the continuity of the water bodies, there is also continuity of woodland above and behind the Old Castle and on parts of the escarpment. A Great Ditch is marked which may be part of a park pale; alternatively, as noted above, it may be the physical expression of an ancient boundary dispute. At the time that this particular map was drawn up, there were two deer parks, one for Red Deer in the lower-lying parts of the landscape and one for fallow, roughly between the Old Castle and Horwood.

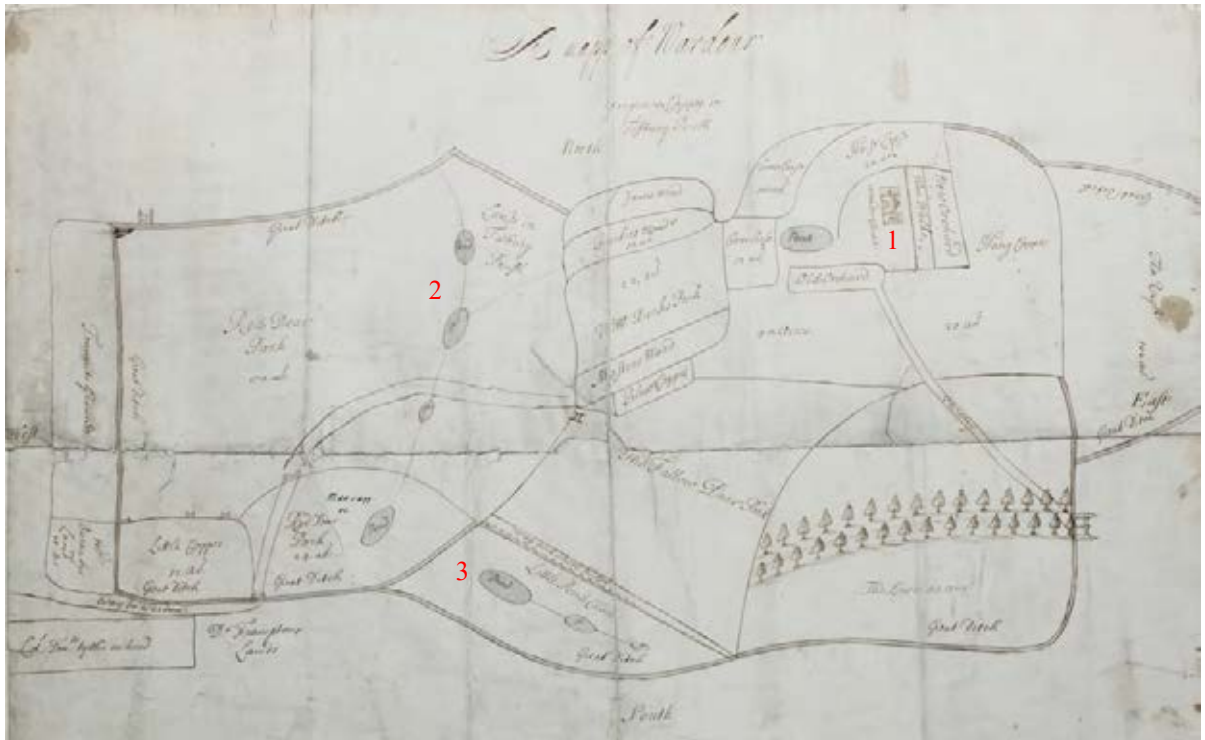


Figure 4.1: 'Mapp' of Wardour, undated but possibly 16<sup>th</sup> century. For ease of orientation, features can be identified as follows: 1, Old Castle; 2, Park Pond and Island Pond; 3, Horwood Pond (this is located in a parcel on the 'mapp' labelled Little Pond Close). Additional features to note include the separate enclosures for Red Deer and Fallow Deer, an avenue or ride on the higher downland, and a Great Ditch encompassing much (but not all) of the landscape. (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives, 2267-21-14H).

- 4.9 In 1541 Sir Fulke Greville and Elizabeth his wife, granted a lease for 41 years of the Castle and park of Wardour to William Grymston of Motcombe in the County of Dorset, at an annual rental of six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence' (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell).
- 4.10 Eventually in 1544, the Willoughbys were persuaded to release to Sir Fulke Greville '*all his right, estate, and demand in the Castle, Park and Manor of Wardour*' (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell).
- 4.11 In 1547, Sir Fulke and Lady Greville sold to Sir Thomas Arundell '*their Manor, Castle, and Park of Wardour*' (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell). Sir Thomas was the second son of Sir John Arundell of Lanherne, Cornwall.
- 4.12 In 1552, Sir Thomas Arundell was attainted and his estates forfeited to the Crown. This occurred during the short reign of the staunchly protestant Tudor monarch, Edward VI (1547 – 1553). Some of the estates were restored to Thomas's son and heir Matthew by the Catholic Queen Mary in 1554, but it appears that it was not until 1567 that any attempt was made to recover the Manor, Castle and Park, which eventually came back into the hands of Sir Matthew Arundell in 1570 (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell).
- 4.13 During the reign of Elizabeth I (1558 – 1603), 'Penal Laws' were enacted which meant that Catholics were prevented from pursuing careers in the army, law or politics, and thus several conventional routes to prosperity and status were blocked. This will have contributed to the Arundells' generally low-key presence in national life. The Penal Laws were not always rigorously enforced, particularly as the perceived 'Catholic Threat' began to wane, but they were a constant reminder of the distinction that government and society made between Catholic families and the rest of the population.
- 4.14 Sir Matthew must have soon set about improving the comfort of the Old Castle, as it is known to have been altered by Robert Smythson in the 1570s (National Heritage List, list entry 1183429).

4.15 In 1576 Christopher Saxton published the first map of the county of Wiltshire. Parks were one of the few features to be recorded, apart from settlements. 'Warder' is shown with the characteristic palisade denoting an enclosed park.



Figure 4.2: Christopher Saxton's map, 1576 (British Library)

4.16 The park, being shown as a distinct element, suggests that it was still actively managed as a deer park at this time. References to the park in deeds in the muniments room examined by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell are always in the singular but in 1584 two parks were recorded, 'respectively two miles and three miles in circumference' (E.P. Shirley, 1867).

4.17 Sir Matthew Arundell died in 1598 and was succeeded by his son, another Sir Thomas, who was a volunteer in the army of the Holy Roman Emperor, Rodolphus II. He was rewarded for his bravery in action by being made a count of the Holy Roman Empire in 1595, a title that has remained with the Arundells.

4.18 In 1605, Sir Thomas was elevated to the peerage by King James I, as Baron Arundell of Wardour. Rutter claims that Sir Thomas/Lord Arundell 'greatly improved and decorated Wardour Castle' (Rutter, 1822).



Figure 4.3: (Left) Extract of a 1618 map of Cranborne Chase, attributed to Thomas Aldwell and others, the Dorset History Centre holds a copy trace of the map (D/PIT/L6). On the right, a map by Richard Hardinge, also 1618, with amendments made in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

4.19 In 1618 a map of Cranborne Chase was produced, attributed to Thomas Aldwell. In the same year another version of this map was issued by Richard Hardinge which is of particular interest, in that it continues to show two deer parks, one for red deer and the other for fallow. It is known that the Hardinge map was amended in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but, given that there were still two deer parks at the time of the civil war (see below), it seems reasonable to conjecture that the 1618 map is accurate in relation to the existence of not one but two deer parks at that time.

### PHASE THREE: THE CIVIL WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH

4.20 The Arundells, a Catholic family, fought on the side of the king in the Civil War. The Old Castle was partly destroyed in sieges of 1643 and 1644. It is claimed, by an admittedly partial authority, that the parks were destroyed at the same time. The authority is the *Mercurius Rusticus*, written by Bruno Ryves, chaplain to Charles I. We have not seen the original document, but a transcription appears in Britton's *Beauties of Wiltshire*, 1801.

- 4.21 The *Mercurius Rusticus* (quoted in Britton), states that ‘*Without they burnt all the Out-houses, they pull up the pales of two Parks, one of Red Deer, the other of Fallow; what they did not kill, they let loose to the world for the next taker. In the Parks they burn three tenements and two Lodges, they cut down all the Trees about the House and Grounds, Oaks and Elms, such as few places could boast of the like, whose goodly, bushy advanced heads drew the eyes of Travellers on the Plains to gaze on them, these they sold for Four-pence, Six-pence, or Twelve-pence apiece, that were worth three, four, five pound a Tree; the Fruit-trees they pluck up by the Roots, extending their malice to commit spoil on that that God by a special Law protected from destruction, even in the Land of his Curse, the Land of Caanan...They dig up the heads of twelve great Ponds, some of five or six Acres apiece, and destroy all the Fish: They sell Carps of two foot long for twopence and three-pence apiece; They send out the Fish by Cart-loads, so the country could not Spend them: Nay, as if the present Generation were too narrow an object for their rage, they plunder Posterity, and destroy the Nurseries to the greater Ponds: They drive away their Horses, Kine and other Cattle...They that have the unhappy occasion to sum up these losses, value them at no less than a hundred thousand pounds*’.
- 4.22 The chaplain to Charles I is hardly an impartial observer in matters concerning the civil war and therefore the reported desecration of Wardour must be treated with a degree of caution. Nevertheless, it is generally acknowledged that ‘*During the Civil War and the Protectorate, most parks had lost many or all of their deer to cattle and horses, and almost all had suffered serious damage to the pales and a great loss of timber*’ (John Fletcher, *Gardens of Earthly Delight*, Windgather Press, 2011).
- 4.23 Although the Arundell estates had been confiscated by Parliament, they were returned to Lord Arundell in 1660 and were said at that time to be worth £35,000 (Williamson, 2011).
- 4.24 Rather than reconstruct the Old Castle, a new, quite modest house was built immediately to the south in 1686 (LUC, 1993). Sometime between 1690 and 1700, Lord Arundell began keeping a pack of fox hounds at Wardour, one of the earliest such packs (The Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury, 1864).
- 4.25 The 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Arundell, who had risen to become Lord Privy Seal under James II, died in 1696. For the next few generations, the family lived quietly and ‘*for the middle years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Arundells were living unobtrusively in London, with their principal Wiltshire residence an enlarged farmhouse beside the bailey wall at Wardour, and in rented houses in Hampshire and elsewhere*’ (Williamson, 2017). The ‘farmhouse’ was Old Wardour House, but the family also established itself at Breamore in Hampshire.
- 4.26 The 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell began the process of restoring the family fortune by, in time-honoured fashion, marrying an heiress. Elizabeth Panton brought the family property near Leicester Square, hence the names Panton Street, Wardour Street and Arundell Street in that area of London.
- 4.27 In 1732 Buck produced a drawing of the Old Castle (Figure 4.4). This shows the ruined castle, a glimpse of the farmhouse which the Arundell family used when they came to visit, formal gardens within the bailey and a background landscape which is clearly farmed and resembles neither a medieval deer park nor the kind of landscape park that was to become the norm within 20 years.
- 4.28 In 1746, on the death of Henry, the 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell, the 7<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell, also named Henry, succeeded to the title and estates. In 1739 he had married a distant cousin, the Cornish heiress Mary Bellings-Arundell. This was another advantageous marriage: ‘*The Cornish land and tin mines brought in the second largest annual income after the Wiltshire estate*’ (Williamson, 2017).
- 4.29 In 1751, the 7<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell’s younger brother Everard Arundell himself made a good marriage. His wife was Ann Wyndham, whose family’s seat was Ashcombe in the village of Berwick St John, just four miles from Wardour. Ann brought to the marriage estates in Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset, and Oxfordshire (Williamson, 2017). The Wyndham family was well-connected, the most well-known probably being Ann Wyndham’s cousins, the Earls of Egremont at Petworth in Sussex.
- 4.30 In 1753 a survey was made of the grounds and signed with the initials WD (Stroud, 2009).
- 4.31 Among the most distinctive features are the hanging woods, the étoile or star of rides cut into the Lady Grove (at that time known as Hare Grove), a main and a subsidiary avenue forming a ‘T’ shape

in the top park (the main avenue may be that shown on the 16<sup>th</sup> century ‘mapp’, above), terraces above the Old Castle and a bowling green.



Figure 4.4: Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, Old Wardour Castle, 1732



Figure 4.5: Survey of 1753. The ponds, the hanging woods on the escarpment and the ‘etoile’ of rides in the Lady Grove (at this time known as Hare Grove) are the most distinctive features, together with two great rides or avenues in the top park. (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 2667-21-9H) A full analysis of this map appears in Figure 4.23 at the end of this chapter.

- 4.32 The 7<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell and his wife considered various proposals to build a park and mansion worthy of their status but seemingly they did not bear fruit (Williamson, 1997). *‘In 1754 they instructed Capability Brown, then at the beginning of his career, to provide plans for improvements at Wardour. He was still waiting for his bill to be paid three years later. He charged £77 9s 11d for five whole days at Wardour, a general Plan and 620 acres of Land adjoining to the Castle measured clean Plann’d at 8d p. Acre’* (Williamson, 1997). Unfortunately, Brown’s plan is missing. Another plan from 1754, for a new walled garden to be built on the lawns above the hangings, is said by some authorities to be ‘possibly’ by Brown, but the evidence for this attribution is not given (LUC, 1993). A walled garden was indeed built in this location at about this time.
- 4.33 The impetus for commissioning a plan from Brown may have been the death, in 1753, of Lady Arundell’s brother and the inheritance of income from the Panton estate in London.

## PHASE FOUR: THE BUILDING OF NEW WARDOUR CASTLE AND THE LAYING OUT OF A LANDSCAPE PARK

- 4.34 Henry, 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell, succeeded in 1756. He was only sixteen and still at school. *‘He was a “great landowner” with estates in seven counties totalling over 40,000 acres and bringing in an annual income of over £5 million in today’s values’* (Williamson, 2017). In 1758 he set out on the Grand Tour, returning home in 1760, while recovering from an attack of smallpox.
- 4.35 In 1763 he married an heiress, Mary Christina Conquest, only daughter and heir of Benedict Conquest of Irnham Hall in Lincolnshire. Mary Conquest is said to have had a personal fortune of £15,000 and an income of £2,600 per annum (Williamson, 1997), which is approximately £4 million in modern values. Irnham was retained and became the Arundells’ second seat (Cowell, 2009).
- 4.36 Also in 1763, the poet, church official and gentleman gardener, Joseph Spence, is recorded as giving landscape advice to the Arundells (LUC, 1993). Spence had acquired the living of Great Horwood in Buckinghamshire in 1742. It is an interesting coincidence that the names Horwood Farm and Horwood Bottom can be found on the Wardour Estate.
- 4.37 In 1764, despite the connection his parents had made with Brown and the (assumed) existence of a ready-made plan, the new Lord Arundell instructed Richard Woods to make a plan for landscaping the park and grounds around a new house. Interestingly, the contract for the new house was not signed until several years later. Woods, like Lord Arundell himself, was a Catholic and was acquiring a reputation as a leading designer although, even at his height, he never approached the scale and influence of Brown (Cowell, 2009).
- 4.38 Woods was based in East Anglia and obtained commissions from some of the major Catholic families and provided the landscape to five houses by James Paine including Wardour. He is also known for working at smaller scale, particularly on pleasure grounds and for his use of flowers (Rutherford, 2016).
- 4.39 Woods worked at Wardour from 1764 until 1771 (Cowell, 2009). In 1764 he produced an ambitious plan covering the whole park (WSHC 2667/21/10). The area was approximately 1000 acres and included proposals for some 35 individual structures, *‘a vision comparable with only the grandest eighteenth-century landscapes such as Stowe’* (Hervey-Bathurst, 2020). It was, in fact, Wood’s *‘most prestigious, longest-running and potentially most extensive commission’* (Cowell, 2009). In addition to what may be called the masterplan, Woods produced sketches and plans for smaller areas as work progressed. It is thought that a plan for the grounds around the house, signed by James Ansell (WSHC 2667/21/11H) and dated 1770, reflects Woods’ work (Ansell was both Wood’s son-in-law and assistant).
- 4.40 The 1764 plan included the proposed house in roughly its present position, two large lakes between the Old Castle and the new house (the New Castle) and the 35 structures, among which was a grotto, a belvedere, a Chinese temple and a Palladian bridge. Woods also proposed a terrace and a two-mile drive from the main Salisbury to Shaftesbury road, designed to make the most of the descent from the

high ground to the low. Much of this work was never carried out or carried out only in part, so that the intended effect was never fully realised. The Lady Grove, for example, was proposed to be filled with ornamental buildings but only an ice-house and a temple were built, neither of them extant. Similarly, the great body of water Woods proposed in the west of the park remained unexecuted (as did a similar, later, proposal by Brown), and the park is perhaps the poorer for it.



*Figure 4.6: The Richard Woods masterplan, c.1764 (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 2667-21-10L) Appendix 6 contains detailed extracts of the plan. The plan records the following features: (A) Cold bath, (B) Boat house, (C) Stone bridge, (D) Ice house, (E) Cascades, (F) Palladian bridge, (G) Chinese Temple, (H) Lodge (not identified), (I) Decoy pond, (K) Grotto, (L) Gothic belvedere, (M) Doric alcove, (N) Subterranean passage, (O) Green house & menaziry house at back, (P) the two light Tempels out of the Castle garden, (Q) Ionic temple and (R) Obelisque (not identified).*

- 4.41 Despite this, the list of work that can be attributed to Woods is impressive. The kitchen garden, cascades to the ponds in the valley of the River Sem (the 1753 survey plan shows the ponds were already in existence), and several ‘garden’ buildings, including a Gothic temple and bath house. Woods also enlarged Swan Pond (raising the height of the dam) and added Cresswell’s Pond below it. In 1768 a ‘fantastic boat designed and built by Mr King of London’ was purchased for Swan Pond (LUC, 1993) and it is assumed that a boathouse, no longer extant, was built at about the same time.
- 4.42 The Gothic temple fell into a state of dilapidation and in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century was relocated elsewhere (see below); the bath house, located between Swan Pond and Cresswell’s Pond, is believed to have been incorporated into the larger Ark Farm with the portico re-orientated<sup>9</sup>. The two buildings are shown in the same orientation on both the Ingham 1773 and 1887 Ordnance Survey maps, suggesting that this is entirely possible.

<sup>9</sup> Martin Thomas, pers. comm.

- 4.43 Woods' outstanding achievements at Wardour remain the two-mile drive and the terrace or 'great' terrace that followed a contour along the lower section of the wooded escarpment of the downs, and both survive in part.
- 4.44 There has been a difference of view about the authorship of the design of the Great Terrace. According to Williamson (1997) '*All the references in his [Woods'] papers to the construction of the Great Terrace refer to the preparation of the ground where the new mansion was to be built. He also made a 'new Terrafs or shais road' from the castle garden to Lady Grove' ... That leaves the problem of who built the famous terrace. The probability is that it was constructed or completed much later, by the 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell and his wife*'. However, Fiona Cowell, writing ten years after Williamson, believes the Great Terrace was, as is now commonly accepted, '*a path running along the foot of the steep, wooded bank known as the Hangings*' [which] was transformed by Woods into a dramatic walk known as the Great Terrace'.
- 4.45 A close review of the historic maps perhaps adds to the uncertainty over the authorship of the Great Terrace design. The 1753 survey appears to show that the line of the terrace may have been partially in place before Woods was at Wardour. A route between the Hangings and Horse Lease (Z and G respectively) which ends at the Kitchen Gardens can be discerned, perhaps suggesting a functional rather than ornamental approach at that time. The route does not continue north of the field marked as Croft (F on the survey), but the mapping suggests that it might continue from the entrance from the east to the south following the then base of the wooded escarpment (see Figure 4.7).



Figure 4.7: Extract of the 1753 survey (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 2667-21-9H). The red dotted lines show the lines of trackways that might have been later used and incorporated into the Great Terrace.

- 4.46 The Ingman survey of 1773 (Figure 4.8) shows that the Great Terrace tapers out towards its western end and does not join up with any of the other approach drives, suggesting that this was work in progress. Woods had proposed to terminate the western end of the terrace with a Doric alcove, so that could also be why the terrace appeared unfinished.
- 4.47 The terrace was a grand feature, nearly 50 yards wide, and has been characterised as '*extended pleasure-ground planting, mixing forest trees and ornamentals*' (Cowell, 2009). Mark Laird, an expert on plants and planting in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, has examined the nursery bills that survive from Woods' commission. He concludes that, although the first bill was explicitly for '*the great Terrace*', in most cases it is unclear where the trees, shrubs and plants were destined (or how they were to be combined) and the Lady Grove is '*just as likely*' as an intended location. That said, Laird

specifically mentions English oaks, American hickories, Spanish chestnuts, pendulous weeping willows, upright cypresses, colourful roses and evergreen laurels on the Great Terrace (Mark Laird, 1999). To this we can add a backing of oak and beech, for in one of his memoranda, Woods' instructions are *'to take down all the ash from the slopes of the Hangings, except some of the finest...but to meddle with neither oaks nor beech until a further inspection'* (in LUC, 1993)

- 4.48 There is no dispute about the authorship of the new approach to Wardour, which appears to be entirely the result of a collaboration between the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord and Woods. *'The new coach road was built in two stages. The first stretch, from Stoney Stile coppice (on the present A30 road) to South Hill, was begun in 1765. Woods charged £187 10s 0d and the work involved making a 16-ft-wide road, levelling the lawn on both sides, ditching and planting clumps of spruce or Scotch fir and 'forest trees between the firs scattered about'. The second stage from South Hill to 'the place where the new house is intended' was started in 1768'* (Williamson, 1997).
- 4.49 James Paine's New Wardour Castle was begun in 1768 *'on ground which had previously been a large cornfield'* ('Oliver', cited in notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell) and completed in 1776 (the dates of construction vary; those cited here are from Rutter, 1822). Woods may well have had a hand in choosing the site of the new house. It was a grand and fashionably classical house, with the ruined Old Castle effectively used as an eye-catcher or folly. The bailey of the Old Castle was laid out as a detached pleasure garden at some remove from the New Wardour Castle (National Heritage List, list entry 1183429).
- 4.50 Lord Arundell dismissed Woods in 1771/2. It is not known why, although Cowell speculates that Lord Arundell had become convinced that Woods might be *'falling behind in terms of fashion, that the upper echelons of society in which he moved were singing the praises of Brown, not of Woods?'* (Cowell, 2009). Woods expressed his frustration at his dismissal and Shields (2016) suggests that Woods had heard that Brown's fee was apparently considerably cheaper than his stating: *'if the gentleman yr Lordship is pleased to mention had done business upon those terms, I know not how he could have raised a fortune of £2,500 (£362,500 in current values) per annum'* (Cowell, 1987, quoted in Shields, 2016).



Figure 4.8: Ingman's survey 1773, recording the landscape just after Woods had been dismissed. (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 2667-21-12H). See Figure 4.25 for a full version of the survey.

- 4.51 The landscape left by Woods is recorded in detail in a survey by George Ingman and in broader strokes on Andrews and Dury's county map of Wiltshire, both issued in 1773.
- 4.52 The Ingman map clearly shows the magnificent new approach, the disposition of clumps in the park, the use of water, including the new, rather linear Creswell Pond, which had been intended as the first of several interconnected pieces of water running down to the valley of the River Nadder, the peculiarly anachronistic – if slightly softened - 'etoile' layout of rides in the Lady Grove, and the general absence of boundaries within the main body of the park.
- 4.53 It is quite difficult to analyse the role the clumps played in the landscape design. A line drawn between the New and the Old Castles (both sited on a similar contour height) shows several clumps that would appear, if not to hide, then to baffle a view of the ruin from the new house. Perhaps the intention was to tantalise the visitor to New Wardour by providing a sense of hide and reveal...an enticement to set off towards the Old Castle in order to explore more fully the glimpsed ruins. Clumps are well spaced and, insofar as we can determine, appear placed not with the intention of framing particular views but to provide a sense of parkland, while not impeding the dramatic panorama of the hanging woods, surely the dominant vista when viewed from the south front of the house (the principal rooms in Paine's mansion were located on the *piano nobile*, to allow a view of the woods, uninterrupted by parkland trees).

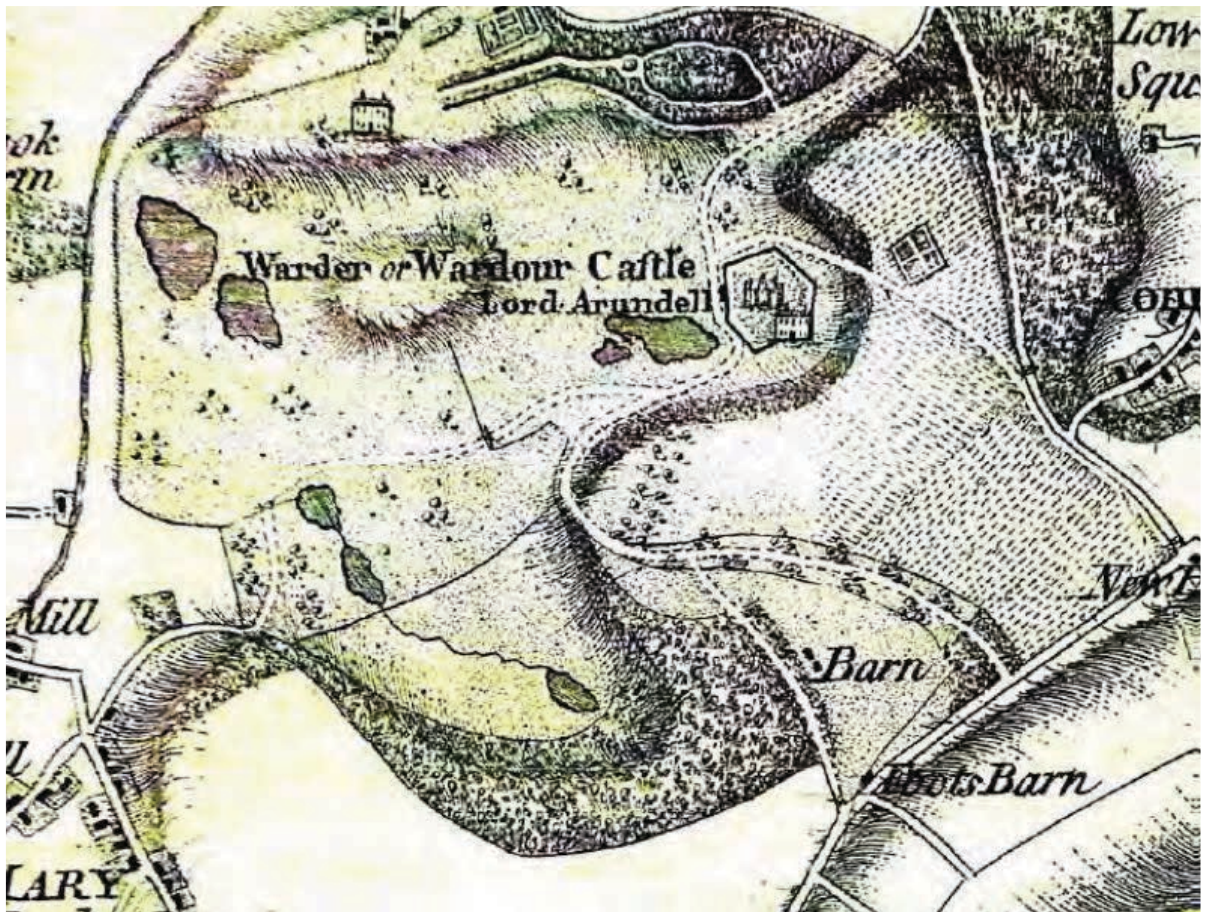


Figure 4.9: John Andrews and Andrew Dury, 1773. This shows the new Wardour Castle, the walled garden behind it, the Grove and the long approach from the Salisbury-to-Shaftesbury road. (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 367-22)

- 4.54 Andrew and Dury's simplified map of the same date (1773) shows the clumped approach from the Salisbury – Shaftesbury road, the chain of ponds and Swan Pond, the hanging woods and a large area of open parkland characterised by large clumps of trees. The boundary of the park is quite well defined to the west where a motif resembling a park pale has been used to mark its position.
- 4.55 Having dismissed Woods, in the summer of 1773, the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord wrote to the pre-eminent landscape designer of the day, 'Capability' Brown, as follows: *'as I am making improvements here, I have long thought of desiring you to come here, and having seen several specimens of yr. fine taste, I am come to a resolution of having a General Plan from you for ye grounds, water etc., and as I am infom'd you are to be some time this summer in my neighbourhood, I shou'd be glad {if} you wou'd fix a time'*.
- 4.56 The visit was delayed and Arundell was still pressing Brown in December because he was *'convinc'd it is needless to go on with anything in ye grounds till you have taken a view of it, and I flatter myself you will find room to show your fine taste'* (The Pakenham Correspondence, cited in Stroud, 1950).
- 4.57 In 1775, Brown produced a plan for the landscape (WSHC 2667/21/13), Figure 4.10, for which he was paid £80. Typically, he proposed a perimeter ride or drive around the wooded edge of the park. He also proposed a large lake to the west, just as Woods had done on a more modest scale. Park Pond was to be subsumed within the main body of the lake (there is a feint outline of the pond on Browns plan) and Island Pond was to form the eastern arm of this large body of water. Brown seems to have respected (or perhaps Lord Arundell instructed him not to alter) Wood's curving approach across the park to the New Castle, although the clumping of trees is different.
- 4.58 Whilst the proposals for a great lake, had they been executed, would have transformed the park, it is interesting that some of the other design principles appear to have been taken forward. Brown proposed an upper terrace, above the Great Terrace, a ha-ha to the south of the New Wardour Castle

and a sinuous drive from Park Copse in the west to meet the drive that runs towards Old Wardour Castle via the current location of Trapper's Lodge Arch (see Figure 4.10). All three of these features appear to have been in place by the time of the 1890 Ordnance Survey map (the ha-ha was in place by 1841 according to the tithe map), but it is not known precisely when they were implemented and therefore if Brown was involved in their creation.

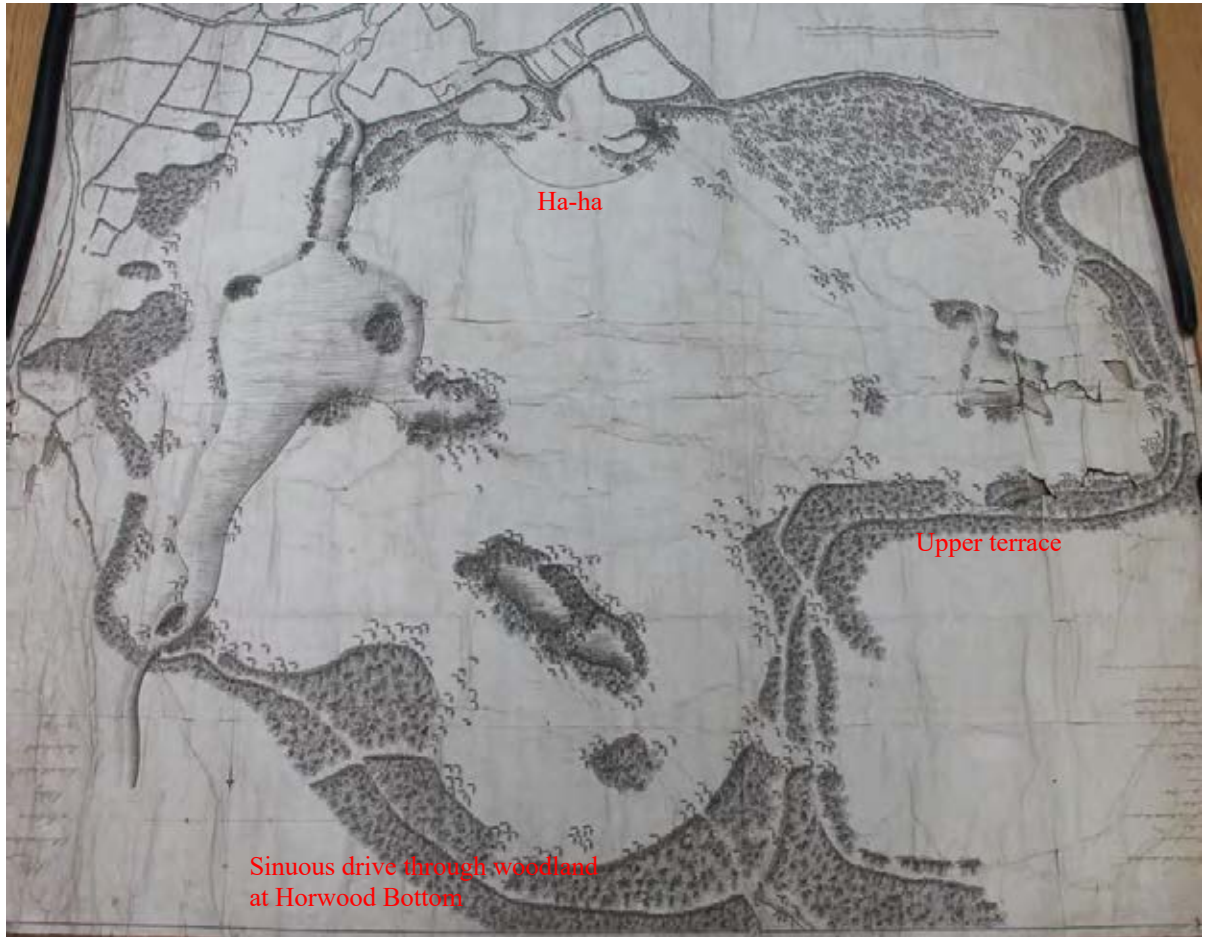


Figure 4.10: 'Capability' Brown's 1775 plan of improvements to the park (Courtesy of Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, WSHC 2667/21/13)

- 4.59 In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, a Banqueting House was constructed on the edge of the bailey of the Old Castle. Although the architect is not known, it coincides with period when Brown was engaged at Wardour and *'it is very much in his manner'* (Stroud, 1950). It has been suggested that Brown made further visits *'probably in connection with the ha-ha, drives and planting, but complained that he was not getting paid'* (Turner, 2013).
- 4.60 In 1778 the Papists' Act was passed, which aimed to reduce discrimination against Catholics. This was not universally welcomed, especially by 'the mob'. Anti-Catholic sentiment was stirred up by, among others, Lord George Gordon, leading to the Gordon Riots of 1780. Catholic property was attacked and Fanny Burney recorded in her diary of seeing a Roman Catholic chapel set on fire in Bath. The 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell apparently sent to Salisbury for a party of soldiers to protect his property (Philip Carman, 1984) but no attack materialised.
- 4.61 In 1787-1788, the road between Wilton and Shaftesbury was turnpiked (Williamson, 2011).
- 4.62 In 1791, a Roman Catholic Relief Act was passed, which allowed Catholics to worship more freely and to serve in public office.
- 4.63 In 1792, long after Woods had been sacked (in 1771) and Brown had delivered his unexecuted plan (1775), the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord was continuing to embellish the landscape in his own way. In this year, he commissioned Josiah Lane of Tisbury to build a grotto (Williamson, 2011).

- 4.64 *'In 1798, ten years before he died [Lord Arundell] faced bankruptcy. When all his debts were calculated they came to £327,673 (£31.5 million)'. His financial affairs were put in the hands of trustees and land in several counties was put up for sale'* (Williamson, 2011).
- 4.65 Bankrupt or not, the romantic ruins of Old Wardour and the fine collection of pictures owned by Lord Arundell at New Wardour, were beginning to feature in the itineraries of visitors to the West Country. This was, in part, thanks to the willingness of the family to make their domain available to 'polite' visitors. But it also reflected the fact that the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was a time of revolution and war in mainland Europe and the customary Grand Tour of the Continent, made by well-to-do young gentlemen such as the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell himself when a young man, was increasingly substituted by a tour of the more picturesque sights of Great Britain. Of the appreciators of the beauty of Wardour, perhaps none had more of connoisseur's eye than the artist William Turner, two of whose sketches from 1799, are held in the collection of the Tate. One of these sketches is reproduced below.



*Figure 4.11: Old Wardour Castle seen from the vicinity of Swan Pond, from William Turner's Fonthill Sketchbook c.1799 - 1807 (Courtesy of the Tate Gallery).*

## **PHASE FIVE: 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

- 4.66 By 1800, the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell had accumulated the largest debts of any individual in 18<sup>th</sup> century Britain (Williamson, WAM, 94). *'He owed a total of £327,673 to creditors (or £50 million by current values)'. It was perhaps inevitable that 'His affairs were put in the hands of trustees who sold all but one seventh of the family estates'*. In short, *'the family was ruined'* (Williamson, 2017).



Figure 4.12: A view of Wardour, possibly from Island Pond, in John Britton's *The Beauties of Wiltshire*, 1801 (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives ref AAA.910)

- 4.67 John Britton, writing just prior to 1801, was much taken with Wardour which had become established as one of the 'sights' of Wiltshire. He wrote: *'The seat of Lord Arundel [sic], is generally visited by all person of taste and science, who come within the vortex of its attraction. Fonthill is only five miles distant, consequently every gentleman who is travelling to see the one, will scarcely omit the opportunity of examining the other... The principal entrance to the grounds, is on the road leading from Sarum to Shaftesbury, which conducts us through a hanging wood. Having passed this, a variety of objects burst on the sight and arrest attention.*

*The house appears to emerge from the bosom of a grove, on the brow of a gentle ascent: beyond this, the new abbey at Fonthill rises from an eminence thickly covered with wood, and seems to be united with the domain of Wardour. To the right, the old castle, so intimately connected with the annals of female bravery, displays its shattered walls, and gives birth to reflections, at once solemn and interesting. The view to the left takes in a large tract of country, in which the woods of Stourhead and Alfred's Tower, form the principal objects.*

*A pleasant umbrageous path, through a walk called the Grove, leads from the house to the old castle, which is about half a mile distant, and constitutes a fine ornament to the grounds. It is situated at the end of a valley, from which rises a hill thickly mantled with wood, and forming a rich back ground in the shape of a crescent... The area within the outer walls and the castle, is a neatly trimmed pleasure-garden; and, though somewhat out of character with the ruins, is thereby rendered pleasant, and easy of access' (Britton, 1801).*

- 4.68 By coincidence, another guide book, Richard Warner's 'Excursions from Bath' was published in the same year. Warner was, perhaps, more critical than Britton, commenting that *'the present Lord Arundel [sic], about thirty years ago, removed the family seat from its old scite [sic] under the walls of the castle to a spot about a mile from it, on higher grounds in deed, but not of so favourable or beautiful a situation; it is built of free-stone, the wings projecting in a curved line from the body, and making it one heavy whole. An addition to the right wing, of the chapel, since the first design, interrupts the uniformity of the building; and a belt of trees, sweeping round a little lawn, precludes all prospect in front. To the south a wider view is given to the eye, which takes in the plains and fields of Wiltshire, and rests upon the distant hills of Dorset'*. Warner lists many of the paintings in

the house, which, notably, included landscapes by Nicolas Poussin, Claude Lorain, Salvator Rosa, as well as by Le Croix, Berghem and Rosa de Tivoli. He goes on:

*‘The ruin of the old castle is situated about a mile to the east of the house, toward the foot of a grand amphitheatrical hill, which lifts its finely wooded sides to a great height behind it. Between this edifice and the house, the ground is broken by plantations, suggested by Mr Wood, of Essex, the judiciousness of which Brown himself had the taste to admire, and fortitude to applaud, evincing his sincerity by frequent visits to the spot.*

*The path to the castle takes a serpentine direction up the ascent to the terrace, a walk carried along the side of the sweeping hill just mentioned, and shaded by the noble hanging woods which adorn its sides. Here many happy openings let in occasionally the distant country – the Somersetshire and Wiltshire hills, Glastonbury Tor, Stourhead, etc., and the magnificent objects of its more immediate neighbourhood, the new stupendous, nondescript structure of Mr Beckford and the modern mansion of Wardour.*

*But a nearer object presently engages the attention, the nodding ruin of the castle; its hoary walls strikingly contrasted by the gloomy mantle of ivy that envelopes their summits. A path, through some neat parterres, ornamented with artificial rock work, consisting of enormous blocks of honey-combed stone, conducts to the grand entrance...’*

*‘The noble owner of Wardour permits carriages to pass to the turnpike by a road that runs through the park to the north of the house, and climbs up a gentle hill for a mile, affording a beautiful view of the subjacent and distant country. It then loses itself in a wood, and shortly after opens again into the public carriage way leading from Hindon to Salisbury’. (Revd. Richard Warner, Excursions from Bath, Bath, 1801).*

- 4.69 At about the time that Britton and Warner were describing the park, the Ordnance Surveyor’s Drawing was issued (1807, Figure 4.13). This captures the park near to its zenith. The extent of the park can be gauged from the depiction of parkland clumps. Although the large bodies of water that had been contemplated by the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord had not been executed, every route crossing the park passes a water body, thereby maximising the impact of what water there was. The approach from the Salisbury to Shaftesbury road retains its regular punctuation of planting, some 30 years after Woods had designed it. A second approach from the Shaftesbury – Salisbury road is also evident, seemingly passing close to Horwood Pond, descending the escarpment and crossing the park between Park Pond and Island Pond, towards the New Castle.
- 4.70 The 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell died in 1808 (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell). He was succeeded by his cousin, James Everard Arundell (not to be confused with his father, Everard Arundell) who had, in fact, married the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell’s eldest daughter, Mary Christina (named after her mother, Mary Christina nee Conquest) (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell). Mary Christina had died in 1805 and James Everard Arundell had married again, in 1806, this time to a Protestant.
- 4.71 It was observed by William Bankes of Kingston Lacy, who paid a visit to Wardour in 1811, that the 9<sup>th</sup> Lord’s income was *‘greatly straitened by the enormous debts contracted by his predecessor in building a House quite disproportionate to his fortune’*. Bankes also commented on the eighty-two *‘thankless’* exiled French clergy that Lord Arundell generously allowed to live at Wardour (William Bankes, Dorset History Centre, D/BKL, to Mary Bankes, cited in Williamson, 2011). In 1810, the 9<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell sold about half of the London property inherited through Elizabeth Panton, the 5<sup>th</sup> Lord’s wife (Williamson, 2011). In 1814 he again sold the family’s local estate at Ashcombe. Not only had James Everard inherited the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord’s title but his debts, and it is likely that the sales were prompted by the need to raise money. If so, the 9<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell did not have many years to enjoy the proceeds of these sales, dying at Bath in July 1817 (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell). In his will, the 9<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell left *‘the whole Arundell estate in London’* to the children of his second marriage, *‘and thus the family’s one hope of solvency and even prosperity disappeared into Protestant hands’* (Williamson, 2017).



Figure 4.13: Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing, 1807. Wood's approach from the south is clearly shown. Clumps indicate the landscape park. All the mapped routes are designed so that they pass bodies of water.

- 4.72 The 9<sup>th</sup> Lord was succeeded by his eldest (Catholic) son, the 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell. He had, in fact, made what was, on paper, a good match by marrying, in 1810, the only daughter of the Marquess of Buckingham, sister of the future Duke (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell). While this was certainly a step up the social scale, it is not likely that the Marquess's daughter brought a large dowry with her. The Duke of Buckingham himself was declared bankrupt in 1847, with debts of over £1 million.
- 4.73 It seems that the 10<sup>th</sup> Lord suffered from the same financial myopia that had afflicted his great-uncle, the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord. Williamson (1997) observes that 'He built many cottages on the estate and embellished the park with various buildings'. And while he 'tried hard to pay creditors' he 'could never understand the need to cut expenditure on new building projects when there was almost no money to pay for them'. There were planting schemes for 'the Park and Castle Ditches' but it is not known if they were executed (Williamson, 2011).
- 4.74 In 1812, a guidebook to neighbouring Fonthill Abbey was published, in which the interconnectivity with Wardour is noted: 'among the most conspicuous objects discernible without the aid of a glass, is Lord Arundell's terrace, adjoining Wardour Castle; this is a fine range of wood, above which rise the bold, green eminences communicating with Salisbury Plain' (A description of Fonthill Abbey, Wiltshire. Illustrated with views. Anonymous. London, 1812).

4.75 In 1817 a map showing the Wiltshire section of the route from London to Exeter was published. It may have been based on the Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing, rather than an original survey, but it helpfully shows the extent of the park through the use of a green wash. It also highlights the key features, namely the ponds, the distinctive clumped approach from the London to Exeter (Salisbury to Shaftesbury) road, an alternative route via Horwood Pond, the S shape of Swan Pond and the great hanging woods.

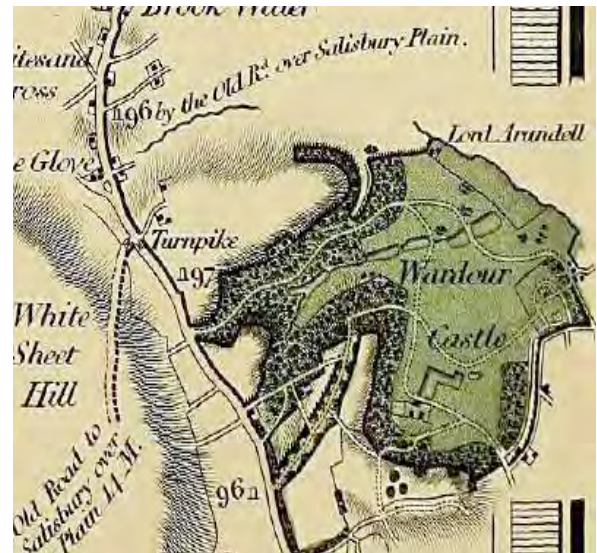


Figure 4.14: Excerpt from a map showing the road from London to Exeter. Published by Edward Mogg, 1817

4.76 In 1822, J.C. Loudon first published his *Encyclopaedia of Gardening*. This included a snapshot of the principal seats in England, county by county. Of Wardour, he wrote: 'a large magnificent mansion, by Paine in 1776, the grounds are much diversified in surface and by planting, and they contain the ivied ruins of the old castle' (Loudon, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 1827).

4.77 Considerably more detail is provided by John Rutter in his *An Historical and Descriptive Sketch of Wardour Castle, and Demesne, Wilts: the seat of Everard Arundell, Lord Arundell of Wardour*, 1822. This was intended as a guide to both the old and the new castles, and to the pictures contained in the former. It is stated that 'The regular hours of admission to Wardour Castle are from Eleven to Five, by the centre door in the north front leading into the Entrance Hall' (Rutter, 1822).



Figure 4.15: This 1820 view of Wardour was drawn by John Rutter and engraved by T. Higham. It appears in John Rutter's 'An Historical and Descriptive Sketch of Wardour Castle, and Demesne, Wilts: the seat of Everard Arundell, Lord Arundell of Wardour', 1822. The foreground pond is either Park Pond or Island Pond.

4.78 Rutter's description is detailed. It captures both the older landscape and the contributions of Woods and, possibly, Brown, some forty years after they had worked at Wardour. Their work would have been approaching maturity at this time. For these reasons, it has been decided to reproduce much of Rutter's description, *verbatim*, below:

*The principal access to Wardour is by an entrance Lodge on the great western road about six miles from Shaftesbury and fourteen from Salisbury. At this lodge a fine road commences, which leading past Harwood {sic}, a farm house lately erected in the gothic stile [sic] by Lord Arundell, continues through the woods for about a mile to a new-built lodge and arched gateway, leading immediately into the park, about another mile from the mansion. The park lodge and gateway, is an elegant structure, and forms an additional feature to the beauties of Wardour. Over the gateway of the lodge, in the centre, are the arms of Arundell.*

*From this Lodge, the visitor may proceed immediately by the direct road through the Park to the mansion, which route displays many interesting scenes. A few yards from the gate the woods seem to withdraw from the road, and again advancing, ascend the lofty promontories between which the remains of the ancient Castle are situated, and after receding once more behind a fine opening of the park, extend on the left hand towards the mansion. The aspect of the ruins and its appendages, forms a most interesting scene: the lower part of the lofty walls are partly shaded by trees, whilst the ivy-crowned turrets rise in majestic grandeur. Behind them are the encircling hills, covered with woods, and rearing in superior loftiness, their green-capt summits. The road inclining to the left, and passing a considerable piece of water, proceeds directly to the smooth lawn bounded by shrubberies and groves immediately before the north front of the mansion.*

*There are several other entrances to this extensive domain. The road from Shaftesbury through Higher and Lower Donhead, leading to the South West Lodge is too delightful and interesting to be passed over without mention. Some parts of the road are not very good for carriages, but equestrian tourists will find this route display [sic] an almost unequalled scenery. We recommend those who feel inclined to visit Wardour from Shaftesbury, by this route, to proceed along the Knoyle and Warminster road, for about a mile, and thence by a gateway on the right hand, through Donhead St. Mary and Donhead St. Andrew, to an entrance Lodge on the south western side of the grounds of Wardour.*

*On passing this Lodge the beauties of this situation are gradually unfolded, and the Mansion opens to the view upon the left, beyond a coppice interspersed with trees of various growths. Proceeding down a considerable declivity and crossing between the fish ponds which form the upper part of an extensive lake, the Tourist enters a pasture ground connected with the park, and extending to the right hand between the woods, affording a view of White Sheet Hill, etc.*

*Continuing the course by a beaten track up a gentle ascent, a point of high ground is reached, commanding a most beautiful and varied prospect. The grounds rising in gentle swells towards the house, exhibit its form and situation to great advantage.*

*The grounds and woods immediately connected with the mansion, with the further scenes of Fonthill, Pyt House, Hatch and the wooded vales on their left hand, give a still greater effect to this combination of beauties.*

*After passing this point the track unites with the road from the Shaftesbury and Salisbury Turnpike, at the New Park Lodge and Gateway, described in page 15.*

*To the Tourist who admires the beauties of nature, assisted by the hand of tasteful art, we strongly commend a walk along the Terrace, which has been completed in late years within the skirting woods of Wardour Park, and which in our estimation will amply repay the exertions of those, whose pedestrian abilities are equal to the task of walking one English mile, more especially as they will by this means, have an opportunity of inspecting the ruins and gardens of the Old Castle to more advantage than by pursuing any other plan.*

*In this case we recommend the Visitors to alight at the Park Lodge and Gateway before described, which is near the Southern entrance to the Terrace, and where a guide may be procured\**

*\*The carriages and horses should be sent on, to wait near the mansion; but should the visitor prefer first seeing the house and pictures, they will there be provided with a guide through the Terrace to the Park Lodge, where the carriages should meet them.*

*At a few yards beyond the Lodge we enter the Terrace, consisting of a level grass walk, formed upon the side of a declivity, well clothed with shrubs and trees. The loftiness and umbrageous extent of*

these, forming as it were a canopy over the Terrace, gives a pleasing grandeur to the scene; and at intervals the transient views obtained of the park and its contents together with more distant objects, are rendered delightful by the contrast which they produce with the more solemn and regular features of the woods and Terrace. Through the several openings which admit these views, the park and the distant country, the waters near the Castle, the remains of that ancient edifice partially shaded by trees and covered with ivy, the handsome modern built dwelling near it, and, the towering hills above, all variously combine to enliven the way through this delightful grove, and add new charms to its more general features of majestic greatness and privacy.

At the distance of half a mile from the lodge, the Terrace after winding to the left, conducts the visitors to a point on the right of the Ruins of the Old Castle, where they may descend and examine its remains, crossing a lawn they see it partly filled with aged and spreading cedars whose venerable appearance accords with that of the ivy-mantled towers, and on the other side of the Castle is a similar lawn, but occupied by a greater variety of trees and flowering shrubs. A fine gravel walk winds around the whole and is bordered by various productions, among which are cedars, weeping ashes, tulip trees etc.

- 4.79 At this point, Rutter embarks on a commentary on the architecture of the Old Castle, which we have omitted. He continues:

After passing through the ruins and crossing the lawn, interspersed with low and spreading trees and shrubs, the Banqueting Room next invites an entrance (text omitted). The north-west windows afford a pleasing view of the fish-ponds and surrounding park etc. On returning by way of the Rock Work, formed by James [sic] Lane, (a native of this part of the country, and who constructed the well-known grotto at Oatlands) a passage over an arched gateway leads again to the Terrace, the sides of which are thickly set with laurels of more luxuriant growth, and shaded with ornamental trees in greater variety than in the early part of the walk\*.

\*Another variation in the walk may be made by proceeding from the Ruins, up a road on the side of the garden, inclining to the right hand under the arch of rock work, leading to the upper level grounds, near a walled garden, used as a nursery for various trees etc. A road from thence, winds to the left above the woods, until it arrives at the outlet of the park.

After resuming its former course, the rich and varied prospects of the outer scenery, as they appear through the several openings of the wood, contribute to delight the eye and produce new objects to excite attention and prevent satiety.

Thus the Terrace Walk affords a continuance of varied pleasure, until it terminates at an outlet of the park on the road towards Tisbury, near another handsome lodge of recent erection called the Terrace Lodge. On crossing this outlet of the park, a gate is opened by the guide, into The Lady's Grove, which is chiefly a nursery for ornamental trees and other productions, both of indigenous and foreign origin. It was originally formed under the auspices of one of the ladies of the Arundell family, from which circumstance it derived its name. Beyond this is the American Garden, consisting of an assemblage of lawns, walks, and beds filled with flowering shrubs and plants, the whole surrounded with loftier trees, and constituting a change of features which rivets the attention of the beholder by its rarer and more obvious charms. An actual view of this garden is needful for the comprehension of its beauties, varied as they are by the several formations of its parts. The view from a rural seat under two majestic oaks is remarkably pleasing. The tulip trees in full bloom, the American plants, of varied colours, the overhanging steep of the wood-crowned height immediately bounding this delightful grove, form a scenery too enchanting to be fully described.

From this charming spot the visitor is led through a shady walk, by the walls of the enclosed garden containing several acres, into the lawn before the north front of the Mansion, from which a path leads round to Lady Arundell's Flower Garden, a considerable enclosure to the south-west of the mansion. This has been entirely formed in late years, and is tastefully laid out in a number of small borders, containing a rich and varied selection of choice plants; the inner part being ornamented by

*a circular bason of water, with a fountain in the centre. The garden is screened on the north and north-west by some spreading beeches, oriental planes and other trees in great variety.*

4.80 This passage is followed by one describing a dairy, which we have omitted. It continues:

*From the Flower Garden the ground on various points present [sic] a fine park-like appearance, and are diversified by much inequality of surface and by numerous plantations. The fine hanging wood which terminates the view to the south-east of the house, forms a very beautiful feature in the prospect; and at the base of the wood are seen the ivy-mantled ruins of the Old Castle, whose remains of grandeur form an attractive object amidst the varied scenery which this part of the extensive domain of Wardour affords.*

4.81 Williamson (1997) argues that it was, in fact, the 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell and his wife, not the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord with assistance from Richard Woods, who built the Great Terrace. As we have just seen, Rutter described the terrace as having been ‘completed in late years’ and referred to both Trapper’s Lodge at one end of the terrace and Terrace Lodge at the other, as being of recent construction (Williamson, 2017). Williamson is also sympathetic to the suggestions, seemingly made by the 16<sup>th</sup> and last Lord Arundell, that the 10<sup>th</sup> Lord had employed either Josiah or Joseph Lane (they were father and son) to build the grotto behind the Old Castle and the rock arch; also, to lay out the plantations behind the grotto, to form the American Garden and to build estate cottages in the Gothic style. It is also possible that the 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell was responsible for constructing the second higher terrace which is described by Rutter as ‘upper level grounds’.



Figure 1  
© The t

n 1825

4.82 In c. 1828 the Ordnance Survey Old Series (for which the Ordnance Surveyor’s Drawing of 1807, above, had been a preparatory exercise) was published. There is less detail on the Old Series than on the Drawing, but the graphic style brings out the key features. The chain of lakes and ponds running

south-east to north-west, the hanging woods on the escarpment, the choice of two approaches from the south and the presence of large clumps to frame views, are all clearly shown.

- 4.83 In 1829, Sir Richard Colt Hoare published his book *Modern Wiltshire*, which includes one of the views designed to show how the ruins of the Old Castle were designed to be seen from the New Castle. The effect of the dark foliage of the hanging woods setting off the pale stone of the Old Castle is evident in this view. Planting in the park appear to be relatively modest.
- 4.84 Also in 1829, the Roman Catholic Relief Act was passed (it was also known as the Catholic Emancipation Act). Among its many provisions, it permitted members of the Catholic Church to sit in the parliament at Westminster and was a tangible expression of changing attitudes.



Figure 4.17: J.B. Knight, *Wardour Castle and Fonthill Abbey* c.1825. Courtesy: Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum Ordnance Survey. Right, *Old Series*, c 1828



Figure 4.18: A drawing by P Crocker, engraved by T Higham, that appeared in *Modern Wiltshire*, a book by Sir Richard Colt Hoare of *Stourhead*, published in 1829

- 4.85 In 1833, J.C. Loudon was writing about Wardour again, although his observations were not published until 1836:

*‘Wardour Castle; the Earl [sic] of Arundell. – This place takes its name from the very fine ruins of the original castle; but the modern mansion is a plain Grecian edifice with wings, without a portico to its main entrance, and not only objectionable as a piece of architecture, but as unconnected with the grounds either by mural appendages, or sufficient woody scenery. It contains a Grecian chapel, which is much admired; but for our own taste, we have never seen a chapel either in Italy or England in that taste which can be compared with those in the Gothic manner. The situation of the house, though not marked by nature, is yet good with reference to the whole place, and the surrounding scenery as seen from it. Looking from the garden front, there is a very nobly wooded ridge, nearly a mile in length, which forms the boundary to the landscape on the left, and to the right other woods, corresponding in extent, though on less elevated ground. At the bottom of the wooded ridge is seen the ruins of the ancient castle, and, in front, a lawn of great extent leads the eye to an artificial river. The fine feature of the place is the terrace walk or drive, a mile in length, on the side of the wooded ridge. It is as fine a thing of its kind as is to be met with anywhere; and being open to the south and south-west and completely sheltered from the north and north-east, it forms an admirable winter walk or drive. It has been originally planted with oaks, silver firs, elms, beeches, hollies and some other trees, with a general under-growth of laurel; so that in the winter season it must be particularly cheerful. The views from it, down the steep grassy slopes between the trees to the ruins, the modern house, the extensive lawns and the water, (here seen to the greatest advantage), or over the trees to the distant country, with the hills in the horizon, are grand, varied and interesting. In these views, Fonthill, and the tower at Stourhead, are striking objects. The soil is perfectly dry, consisting of a mixture of sand and peat, in which every thing, especially laurels, seem to grow with astonishing luxuriance. The laurels are, indeed, too conspicuous objects, and in many places they form a line much too formal along the upper edge of the walk. An attempt has been made to remove this formality by introducing rhododendrons here and there in the margin, which is so far good; but the only effective method is to open glades of turf, and to exhibit these glades stretching far up the steep sides of the hill. The great beauty of a regular, broad, and avowedly highly artificial, walk of this sort, consists in the contrast produced by the irregularity of the scenery on each side of it. The descent from this terrace to a grotto, and thence to the ruins of the ancient castle, is fine and highly interesting’.*

*(Text omitted).*

*‘Another good feature of the grounds of Wardour Castle is the American Garden, which contains some good old specimens, especially of arbor vitae, red cedar, tulip trees and white spruce, and a hemlock spruce 40ft. high, the trunk of which is 3 ft. across at the surface of the ground. There are some very large rhododendrons and azaleas, and some of the newer varieties of them, and of other American trees and shrubs, are being added from time to time. The shrubbery walk, which leads to the American ground, contains some fine specimens of platanus, Turkey evergreens, and Luccombe [sic] oaks, cedars, Portugal laurels, etc; and here, and in a part of the American ground, a number of species of pines and firs are introduced. They are numbered with cast-iron numbers, which we regret, because, by putting the names to them at length, they would be read by the hundreds of persons who come every year to see this place; and thus a knowledge and taste for such trees might be spread throughout the country. There is nothing we dislike more about a gentleman’s seat, than to see the same forms of hothouses, and the same modes of numbering plants adopted, which are common in nurseries, excepting always the kitchen-garden, in which they are appropriate. The kitchen-garden here is divided into compartments by beautiful grass walks, as gravel is scarce and dear. The approaches to this place, both from the London and Bath road, and the road from Hindon, are remarkably good, and their commencement is indicated by very picturesque and substantial Gothic cottages, said to be built from designs by the present lord, who, with his lady, are much attached to gardening improvements. The family being at present in Rome, the place is not kept up as it is when they are at home’.* (J.C. Loudon, 1836).

4.86 The 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell died at Rome in 1834 (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell). He was succeeded by his uncle, Henry Benedict (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell).

4.87 The 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell married three times, marriages that connected the family to the Smythes of Acton Burnell in Shropshire, the Tychbornes of Tychborne Park in Hampshire and thirdly to the Stourtons, formerly of Stourhead and later of Allerton Park in Yorkshire. The marriages may have gone a little way to help secure the future of Wardour:

*‘The property was much embarrassed when he came into it, but he did a great deal towards its recovery’* (Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell). The 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell died in 1862.

4.88 In 1836, the Tithe Commutation Act had been passed. Parishioners had traditionally paid tithes to the church in the form of payment in kind, but this gradually began to be replaced by monetary payments. This was put on a formal footing by the Tithe Commutation Act. The Act required all land in the country to be surveyed, except land that was tithe-exempt. Acreage, ownership, tenancy and land use were all recorded in map form and in an accompany schedule or apportionment. The large park at Wardour straddles a number of parishes. The largest proportion of the park falls within Donhead St. Andrew, and this was assessed in 1840/1841. Unfortunately, as can be seen in the map below (a composite ‘stitched’ together from the tithe maps of neighbouring parishes), the great majority of the park is excluded from the tithe assessment.



*Figure 4.19: A composite of tithe maps for Donhead St Andrew (1841) and adjacent parishes. Unfortunately, the greater part of the park must have been exempt from tithes and is therefore a void. For purposes of orientation, New Wardour Castle has been circled. (© TheGenealogist © Crown copyright Images reproduced courtesy of The National Archives, London, England)*

- 4.89 By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the spread of railways and the growth of a prosperous middle class, meant there was a demand for tourism. County-wide guidebooks were regularly reprinted in order to keep up to date. One from 1859, describes the park as *‘large and finely wooded, and surrounded by hills...the pleasure-grounds bound it N.E., extending more than 1 m, from the house to the ivy-mantled ruins of the ancient castle...adjoining the ruins in the buildings of a farm are the remains of the mansion occupied by the family after the destruction of this castle’* (Handbook for travellers, 1859).
- 4.90 In 1862, the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord, succeeded to the title and an estate consisting of just over 6000 acres producing an income, in 1873, of £9,054, putting Lord Arundell *‘among the fifteen wealthiest landowners in Wiltshire’* (B.D.W., 1882).
- 4.91 The 1871 census records six gardeners, *‘all living near Wardour Castle and presumably employed there’*; also a gamekeeper at Grove Lodge (B.D.W., 1982).
- 4.92 In 1887, another tourist guide had this to say about Wardour: *‘The park, densely wooded and very beautiful, lies on the northern slopes of the valley of the Nadder, below the hills traversed by the main road from Salisbury to Shaftesbury, and within an amphitheatre of high ground. The charms of the scenery are appreciated on the hastiest visit. The best way from Tisbury is to pass under the railway and keep up the hill for the main entrance of the domain, making for the modern house, thence across the park to the old castle, and taking the direct road back through the gate to the keeper’s lodge. The views on the ascent to Wardour are delightful, and Fonthill may be seen in the distance among its trees. It is somewhat over 2m from the station to the park, and the round about 5 ½ m, the walk across the grounds being over a m {sic}...’*

*... Trees hem the castle about in richest luxuriance; hard by grow magnificent cypresses and cedars and grotesquely grouped ironwood; the venerable walls are shrouded in ivy; in a hollow shaded by foliage lies a placid lake; far away towards the modern house stretch the fairest lawns. Nothing is wanting to heighten the effect* (R. N. Worth, 1887).



Figure 4.20: Ordnance Survey 1:6 inches map of 1890 with Registered Park and Garden shown in green.

- 4.93 In 1890, the Ordnance Survey First Edition was published at a scale of 1: 6 inches. Comparing this with the Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing of 1807, it seems there has been little change to the main features of the park. The water bodies appear to occupy approximately the same locations and have neither been added to, nor filled in. The limits of the parkland in 1890, helpfully shown with shading, bear comparison with the area shown as parkland in 1807. Perhaps the biggest change is in the amount of land given over to woodland, particularly in the area of Horwood Farm, where the trees of Horwood Bottom and Flatbury Hanging coalesce with Woods' approach. Within the park proper, there are several large groups of trees, but what is striking is the large number of single trees. It is also clear from the 1890 map that the park is subdivided into many different parcels, many more than in the Ingman survey of 1773.
- 4.94 An additional higher terrace above the Great Terrace is recorded on the 1890 OS map, along with a greater number of drives and rides through the woodlands.
- 4.95 The family continued to entertain in some style and a report in 1891 stated that 'Lord and Lady Arundell of Wardour have been receiving a large party for the shooting at Wardour Castle, Wiltshire, including Viscount and Viscountess Folkestone, Sir Henry Tichborne, Mr and Mrs Willie Errington, Hon. E Arundell, Capt. Martin, M.F.H., Mr Walshe, and others' (The Queen, The Lady's Newspaper, Dec.12, 1891). Shooting parties appear to have been a regular part of the social round.



Figure 4.21: Left, this view of the Old Castle appeared in the *Illustrated London News* in 1895. Right, this undated photograph (c.1900?) of the Old Castle and Banqueting House from the Swan Pond. This shows many more trees and shrubs than now.

- 4.96 In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the tenants' ball was one of the highlights of the estate year. In 1891, for example, we learn that 'Lord and Lady Arundell have been entertaining a large house party at Wardour Castle, Wiltshire, for the ball which they give every member of their tenantry and servants. There was a very large attendance at the ball, and Lord and Lady Arundell and their guests joined in the dancing, during the early part of the night. The ball-room was very tastefully decorated, and supper was served in the dining hall' (The Westminster Gazette, Thursday, January 17, 1901)
- 4.97 The 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell died in 1906, in London. The body was conveyed to Tisbury station and '*all the people from miles around went to Tisbury station to meet the cortege*' and formed a great procession back to the Castle. As noted above, the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell had entertained a great deal, but after his death there '*seems to have been a big break in social activities*' including the end of the custom of holding an annual tenants' ball. In his will, the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord apparently forbade the felling of any tree in the park over 10 feet in girth (Williamson, 1997).
- 4.98 The title briefly passed to the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell's younger brother, Everard Aloysius, a priest, but by 1907 he was dead too.

- 4.99 The new 14<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell, Edgar, a distant cousin, did not reside at the Castle, although his younger brother Gerald Arundell took up residence with his family in the Castle annexe (Holloway, 2020).
- 4.100 On the death of his brother, Gerald Arundell succeeded to the title as the 15<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell in 1921.
- 4.101 In 1934 the 16<sup>th</sup> [sic] Lord Arundell ‘carried out a number of plantings, including the plantation to the west of Terrace Lodge and that north of the Old Castle’ (LUC, 1993).
- 4.102 In 1936, Old Wardour Castle and a small area of land around it was placed in the guardianship of the State (LUC, 1993).
- 4.103 Gerald Arundell died in 1939 and was succeeded by his son, John, as the 16<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell. The 16<sup>th</sup> Lord saw active service in the Second World War. Meanwhile, at Wardour, the east wing housed more than 50 evacuee children (Williamson, 2011).
- 4.104 John Arundell died in 1944 from tuberculosis, which he appears to have contracted while incarcerated in the notorious Colditz Castle prisoner of war camp (Williamson, 2011). With his death, the Baronetcy became extinct.



Figure 4.22: The eastern section of the park in 1949. [Britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EAW23179](http://Britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EAW23179). Copyright Historic England.

- 4.105 Punitive death duty taxes in 1946 lead to a significant proportion of the Wardour Estate being put up for sale, although at that time, this did not include the New Castle and the farmsteads immediately surrounding it. A great sale took place on 3 June 1948 (Williamson, 1997). It is unclear if there

- were two separate sales (perhaps one for farms and property and another for paintings and furniture), or the intention to sell was manifest in 1946 but the actual sale was delayed until 1948.
- 4.106 The sale was perhaps advantageous to some tenants, who were thereby enabled to purchase the properties where they lived or farmed. The New Castle was '*disposed of by private treaty to the Jesuit fathers*', along with 800 acres. It was anticipated that the New Castle would become a seminary although, in the event, this did not materialise (Holloway, 2020).
- 4.107 The estate passed from the Arundells to the Talbots who were related to the Arundells through the female line. However, in order to inherit Wardour, it was stipulated that the name had to be changed from Talbot to Arundell. By 1948, Mr Arundell was living at the Dower House, known as Hook Farm.
- 4.108 As late as 1949, the park remained well-treed, as the above aerial photograph shows (Figure 4.22). The hanging woods to the north of the Old Castle had been recently replanted but the mature mix of broadleaves and conifers on the slope above the Old Castle were retained for the time being.
- 4.109 The break-up of the Wardour Estate continued into the 1950s particularly under the Jesuits who, at this time, owned the New Castle and surrounding parkland. During their period, one observer describes how '*Very large quantities of timber have been cut down*' and '*devastation caused by huge tractors and cranes used to haul the wood away...I refer especially to the park between the two castles and from Old Wardour ruins to Trapper's Lodge and on through the woods to the Turnpike Road*'. The management of the Old Castle, now under the care of the Ministry of Works, also came in for criticism, '*being reinforced with new concrete and many of the old walls are putting on a newness quite unbecoming to them*' (Holloway, 2020).
- 4.110 The 'asset stripping' of Wardour was not confined to timber because another great sale took place in Wardour Castle itself on 10 September 1952. In contrast to this generally bleak picture under the Jesuit tenure, Mr Arthur Arundell and his son John, who took over the running of the estate after the Jesuits left, were energetically engaged in improving cottages and farmsteads (Williamson, 1997) and took steps to modernise farming and forestry practices.
- 4.111 According to a report in 1956 in the Catholic Standard (an Irish paper), Wardour was being used by Leonard Cheshire 'in caring for the aged and infirm' (The Catholic Standard, 1956).
- 4.112 In 1959, a lease on the New Castle was acquired by The Cranborne Chase School, an independent boarding school for girls that, at the time, was based at Crichel House in Dorset. With the necessary alterations completed, the school relocated to Wardour in 1961. Although further building and alterations were made by the school, these were focussed on the immediate environs of the New Castle.
- 4.113 A drought in 1965 led to the felling of beeches on the eminence between the open park and Horwood Farm (LUC, 1993).
- 4.114 The Gothic Temple, sited in the Lady Grove, had reached a state of dilapidation and in 1983 it was moved to Hatfield Priory in Essex, another Woods commission (Williamson, 1997).
- 4.115 In 1987, Wardour Castle and Old Wardour Castle were added, at grade II\*, to English Heritage's (now Historic England) Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. The citation summarises Wardour as '*A park and pleasure grounds surrounding an C18 country house, including the remains of a late medieval castle surrounded by a formal garden in the C17 and C18 and set within a medieval deer park. The landscape includes work by Richard Woods dating from the 1760s and early 1770s; Lancelot Brown gave advice on two occasions, in the 1750s and 1770s, although his proposals of the 1770s appear not to have been carried out*'. Inclusion on the Register is a 'material consideration' in the determination of planning applications and the National Planning Policy Framework (2012, updated 2019) now places Registered Parks and Gardens on an equal footing with other designated heritage assets.
- 4.116 In 1988, the Grove was sold to a separate owner (LUC, 1993).

- 4.117 A Great Storm of January 1990 resulted in the loss of some trees. Only the area around the New Castle (occupied by Cranborne Chase School) was inspected, the loss being described as ‘light’ (LUC, 1993).
- 4.118 Cranborne Chase left its site at New Wardour in 1990 and, in 1992, the New Castle was acquired by a property developer who converted the building into apartments and cleared away some of the inappropriate accretions made by the school.
- 4.119 In 1993, a firm of landscape architects, LUC, was commissioned by the developer (Wardour Estates Ltd) to carry out a historic landscape survey and management plan. Contrary to the fairly sanguine assessment of ‘light’ tree loss in 1990, above, LUC found evidence of *‘damage and loss of plantations and specimen trees throughout’*. The study went on to assert that *‘all the parkland trees are mature or overmature and there are now considerable gaps in the parkland planting’*. Their concern about the condition of the landscape was not limited to trees, however, and they also noted that *‘The waterbodies are generally neglected apart from temporary repairs. The ponds are silting up and reeds cover large areas. Creswell’s Pond is now dry; there are trees growing around all the margins, obscuring views of the ponds from the park. These ‘neglected’ ponds have a high ecological value. The report also observed: ‘There has been no large-scale planting to replace the lost parkland trees’*. Turning to the woodlands, LUC commented that they *‘are now largely forestry plantations of pine, larch and birch. There has been some more recent return to hardwood plantings, but the appearance from a distance is of a belt of conifers all the way round. It is good that these survive as woodland but it is sad that nothing of the original hardwood planting survives’* (LUC, 1993).
- 4.120 The New Castle was used as the setting for the Royal Ballet School in the film Billy Elliott, released in 2000. The park itself was not featured in the film.
- 4.121 In 2014, Dominic Cole with LUC was commissioned by Richard Arundell, who owned the majority of the registered park, and Martin Thomas of Ark Farm, with support of other owners, to produce a Strategic Masterplan for the landscape. This document considered the aesthetic landscape and made recommendations for refurbishment and representation of the park *‘to conserve and re-awaken the designed landscape as well as allowing it to function as a working farm’* (LUC, 2014).

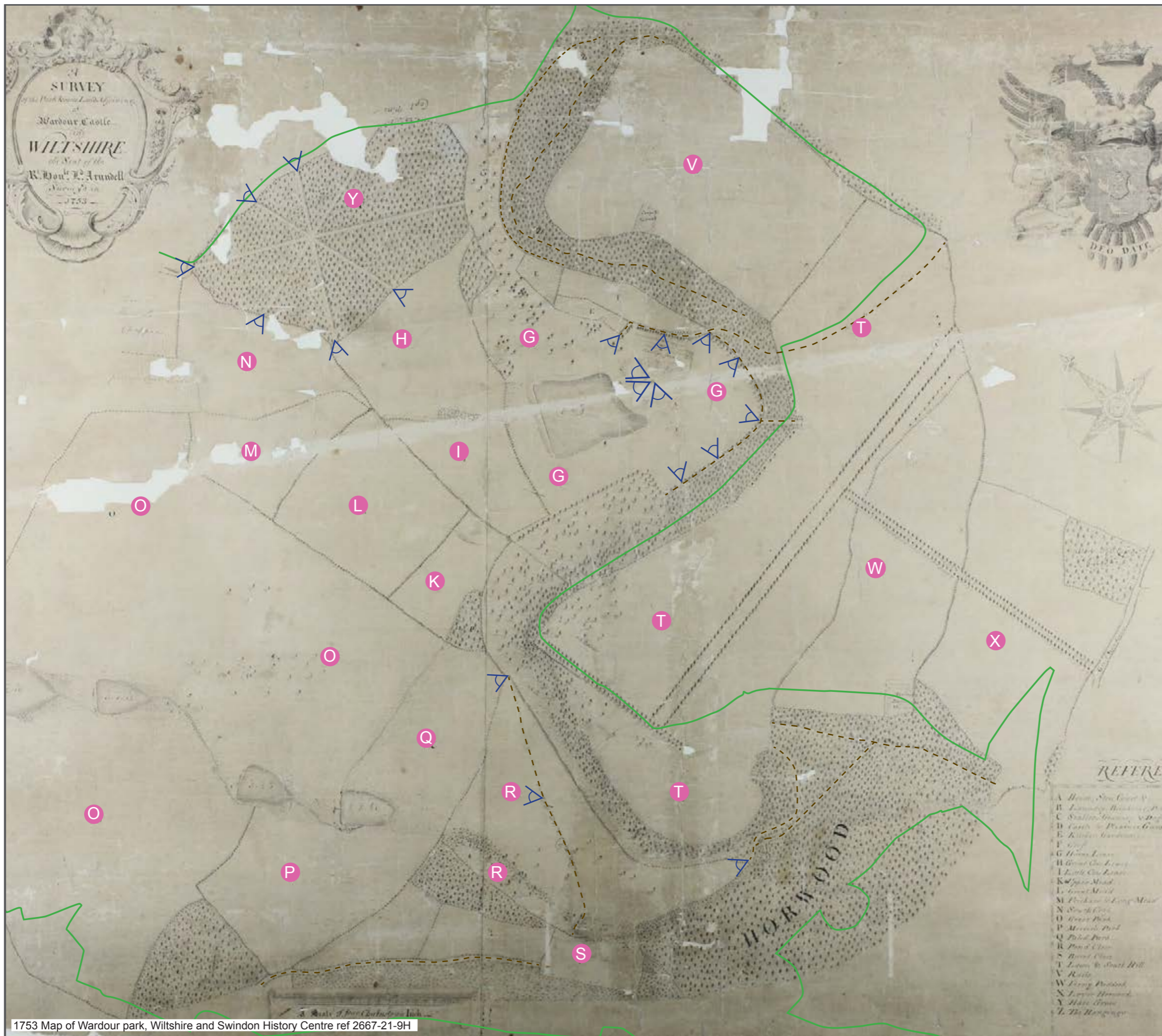
## ANALYSIS OF THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

- 4.122 A more detailed assessment of the key surveys has been completed to gain a more detailed understanding of the designed landscape over time, focusing on views and drives/tracks. The detail of planting is also clear on the surveys used so it is possible to glean where woodland and parkland planting (including specimen trees and clumps) was recorded.
- 4.123 Surveys rather than design proposals or plans have been used to ensure that only work that was implemented on the ground is being analysed.
- 4.124 The surveys analysed include the following:
- Figure 4.23: Analysis of the 1753 ‘survey of park and land adjoining Wardour Castle’ (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 2667-21-9H);
  - Figure 4.24: Analysis of the 1753 ‘survey of park and land adjoining Wardour Castle’ - detail of the area around Old Wardour Castle (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 2667-21-9H);
  - Figure 4.25: Analysis of the 1773 survey of Wardour by George Ingman (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 2667-21-12H);
  - Figure 4.26: Analysis of the 1890 Ordnance Survey map; and
  - Figure 4.27: Analysis of the designed landscape today.
- 4.125 The overall trend has been for the designed landscape to be developed and improved from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards up until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when it reaches its zenith. The analysis of the

landscape today reveals a substantial reduction in the number of drives/tracks and associated historic views, substantial reduction in the volume of parkland planting (clumps and specimen trees) and areas that were previously open parkland that have now become woodland.

- 4.126 The overall threats to the designed landscape at a broad scale have been identified by previous study (Cole with LUC, 2014) and remain today and are as follows:
- The majority of the Park has been ploughed and is not kept as permanent pasture. (It is to be noted that historically where a family were not in residence for long periods, parts of what would normally be in permanent pasture would be ploughed);
  - The woodlands are managed for commercial return and there are substantial areas of conifer - the original plantings to the designed landscape would have been predominantly deciduous;
  - Possibility of piecemeal development threats arising from multiple ownership;
  - Lack of understanding of the historic designed landscape;
  - Lack of co-ordinated land management approach between multiple owners;
  - The poor and rapidly deteriorating condition of some of the built features;
  - An increase in visitor numbers and walkers would increase vehicle traffic and wear and tear to fabric;
  - Increased reliance on motorised transport to Old Wardour Castle, with strains on the narrow roads and parking facilities; and
  - Tension between the desire and responsibility to conserve and the desire and responsibility to profit.
- 4.127 A detailed analysis of the component parts of the designed landscape is provided in the following chapter.





### Wardour Parkland Plan

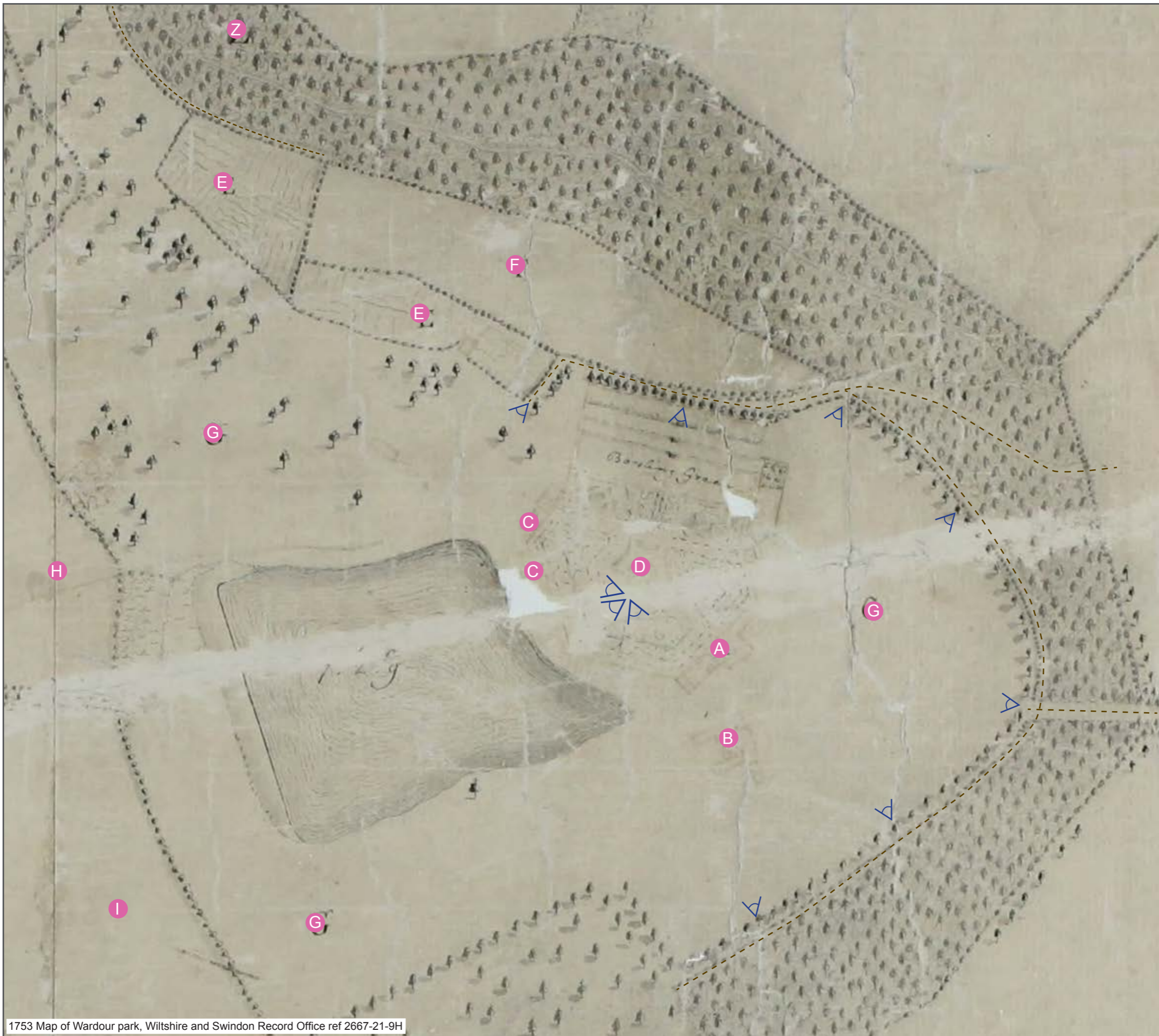
Figure 4.23: Analysis of the 1753 'survey of park and land adjoining Wardour Castle

**Key:**

- Registered Park and Garden boundary
- △ Views
- Drives/tracks

**Map References:**

- G Horse Lease
- H Great Cow Lease
- I Little Cow Lease
- K Upper Mead
- L Great Mead
- M Frikas & Long Mead
- N South Croft
- O Great Park
- P Mere r's Park
- Q Paled Park
- R Pond Close
- S Burnt Close
- T Lawn & South Hill
- V Rails
- W Ferny Paddock
- X Lower Horwood
- Y Hare Grove



## Wardour Parkland Plan

Figure 4.24: Analysis of the 1753 'survey of park and land adjoining Wardour Castle' - detail of the area around Old Wardour Castle

### Key:

- Registered Park and Garden boundary
- ∠ Views
- Drives/ tracks


### Map References:

- A House, Stew Court &
- B Laundry, Brewhouse, Poultry house &
- C Stables, Granary & Dog kennels
- D Castle & Pleasure Garden
- E Kitchen Gardens
- F Croft
- G Horse Lease
- H Great Cow Lease
- I Little Cow Lease
- Z The Hangings

# Wardour Parkland Plan

Figure 4.25: Analysis of the 1773 survey of Wardour by George Ingman

## Key:

 Registered Park and Garden boundary

 Views

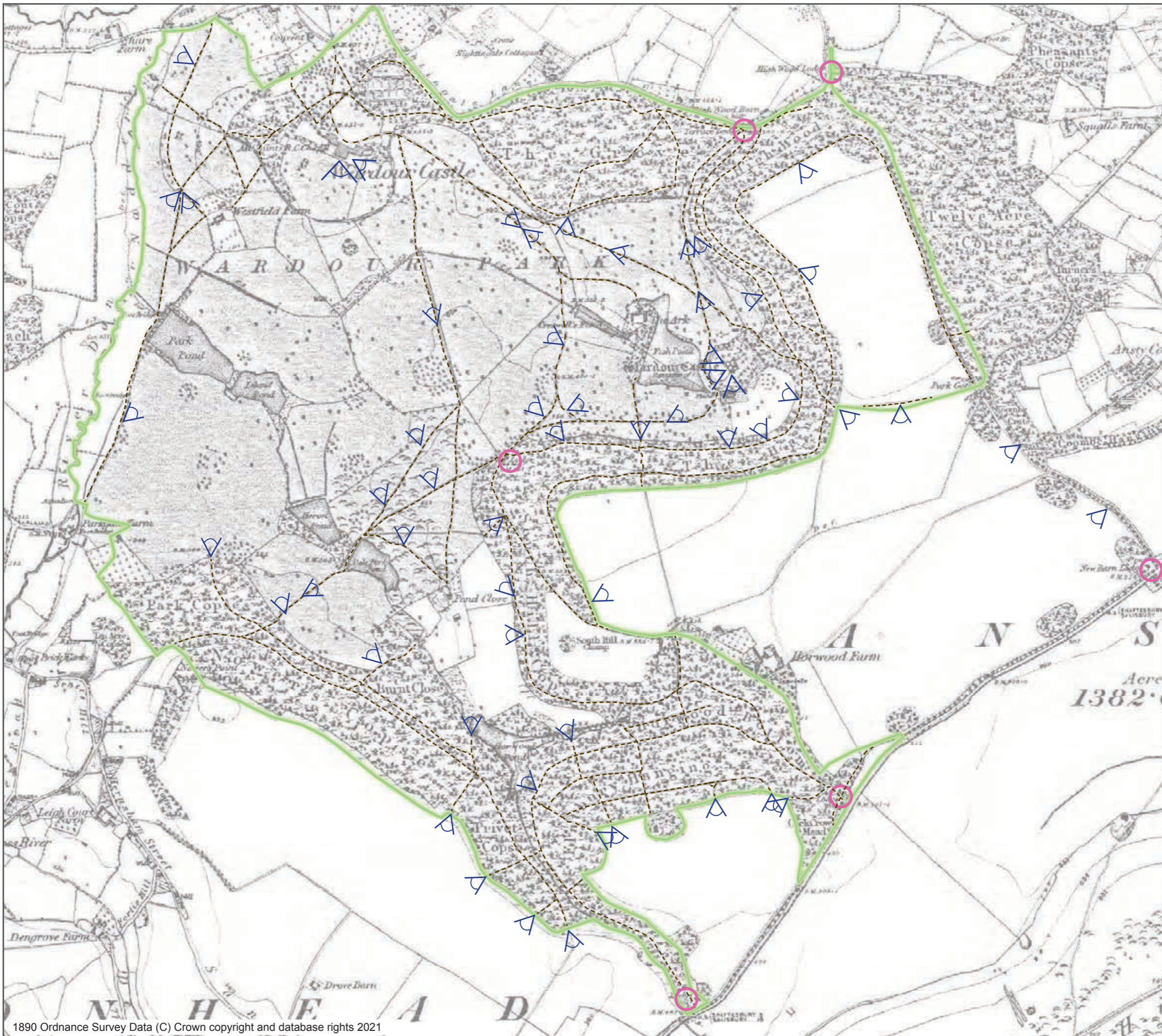
 Drives/ tracks

## Map References:

- A Cow Leys
- B Part of Rails
- C Cout Field
- D Mead
- E Cok Crow Mead
- F Horwood
- G South Hall
- H Townend Close
- I Orbs ards
- J Tollards Way
- K Great Mead
- L Rue Ditt Close
- M Brick Kiln Close
- N Stoney Lands
- O Long Mead
- P New Deer Park
- Q Far Deer Park
- R Mers Park
- S Pond Close
- T Mead
- U Stride Close
- V Little Copse
- W Craford Copse
- X Lush Copse
- Y Bourn Copse
- Z Prevett Copse
- i Common Close
- ii Hundred Acres

**COOKSON & TICKNER**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE





**Wardour Parkland Plan**

**Figure 4.26: Analysis of the 1890 Ordnance Survey 6" 1mile (1:10,560)**




**Key:**

- Current day park boundary
- Views
- Drives/ tracks
- Lodge

# Wardour Parkland Plan

Figure 4.27: Analysis of the designed landscape today

Key:

-  Current day park boundary
-  Views
-  Drives/ tracks



## 5. Analysis of character areas

- 5.1 A series of character areas have been identified for ease of analysis and description (see Figure 5.1). A character area is a geographically discrete area that shares a number of distinct features or characteristics, enabling it to be classified as an entity in comparison with an identifiable character when compared to surrounding areas. The main factors that have been used to define these character areas include land use, vegetation, built fabric and historic associations.
- 5.2 For each character area a description of archaeology and built features, trees and woodlands, ecology and the historic development of the landscape is followed by a concluding analysis of the area today.

### WOODLAND: 1(A) PARK COPSE TO SOUTH HILL COPSE

#### Historic Development

- 5.3 The 16<sup>th</sup> century map is light on detail for this character area. A Great Ditch is marked on the southern and eastern boundaries. The west end of the character area, coinciding with Park Copse (annotated P), appears to form a separate enclosure within the Red Deer Park at this time.



16<sup>th</sup> century map (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-14H)

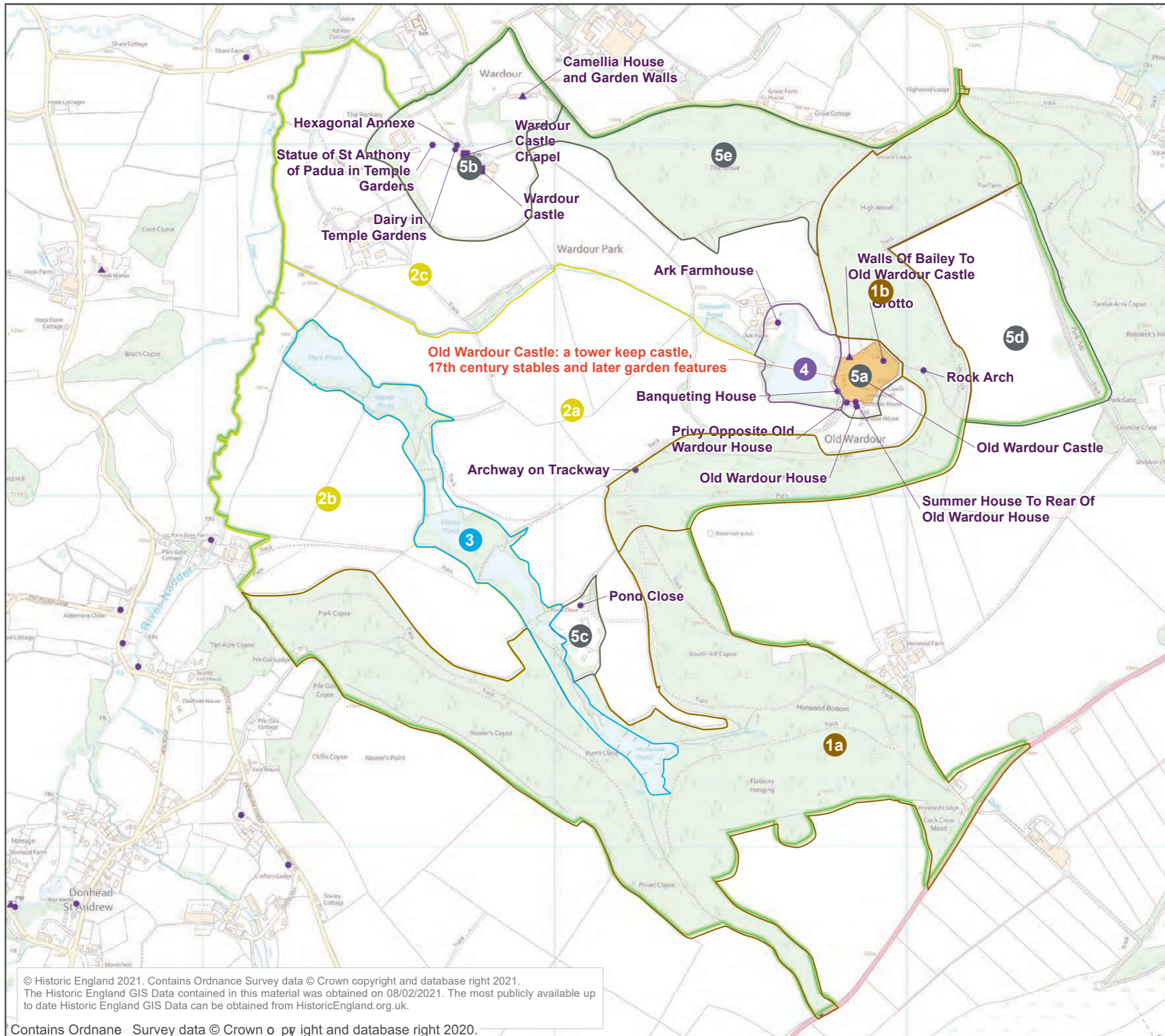


1753 survey (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-9H)

- 5.4 Greater detail is provided on the 1753 survey, where the dominant land use is revealed to be woodland, with Horwood and Park Copse (annotated P) as the main landscape features, linked by a linear strip of woodland later named as Nower's Copse. It is worth noting the presence of a suite of open, probably farmed, enclosures adjacent to Nower's Copse in the former Red Deer Park

# WARDOUR PARKLAND PLAN

Figure 5.1: Character Areas



- 1 Woodland**
- 1a** Park Copse to South Hill Copse
- 1b** The Hangings to High Wood
- 2 Parkland**
- 2a** Fallow Deer Park
- 2b** Red Deer Park
- 2c** Long Mead to Cow Lease
- 3** The chain of Ponds
- 4** Ark Farm and Swan Pond
- 5** Areas beyond the detailed study area
- 5a** Old Wardour Castle
- 5b** New Wardour Castle and Grounds
- 5c** Pond Close
- 5d** Rails and the Lawn
- 5e** The Grove

© Historic England 2021. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021. The Historic England GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 08/02/2021. The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from HistoricEngland.org.uk.

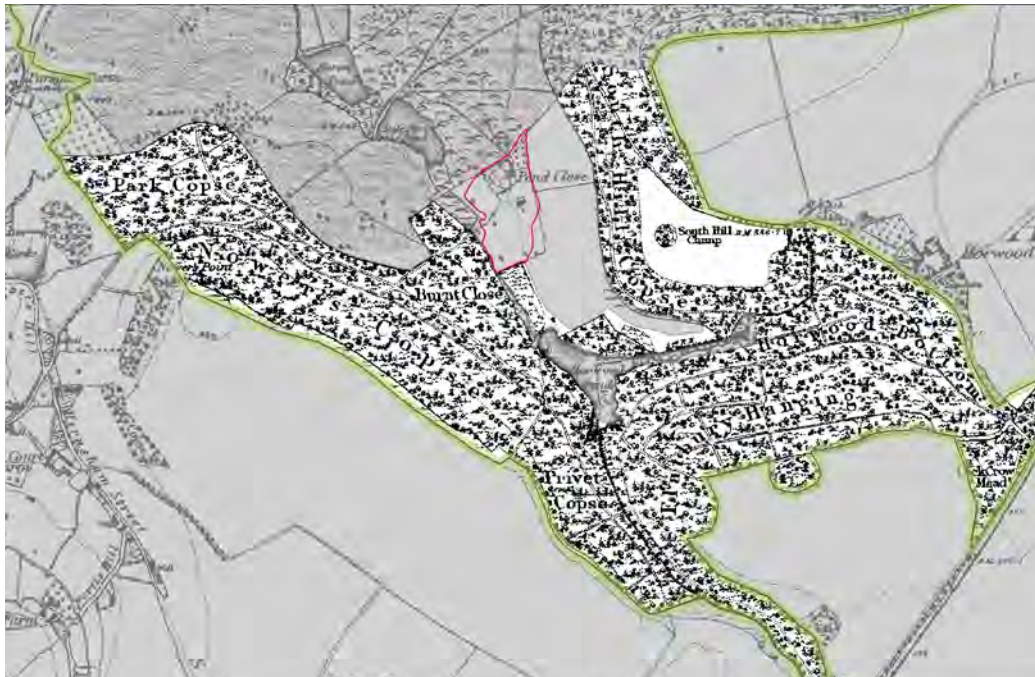
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020.

- 5.5 The Ingham survey of 1773 shows the area of woodland has expanded, so that Horwood, Nower's Copse and Park Copse (except for Horwood, known by different names at this time) form a near-continuous forest. The design of the woodland has been altered at the northern end of this character area (nearing Trapper's Lodge) to accommodate Wood's new serpentine approach over the plateau from the Shaftesbury to Salisbury road. We don't have a detailed record of species used, but Woods' memoranda mention existing mature oak, ash and beech, into which he inserted more 'exotic' trees.
- 5.6 The 1773 survey records other drive/tracks in this area which are subsidiary to the main approach, but worth noting as they were retained and extended to some extent later on. A lower drive runs along the base of South Hill joining up with Trapper's Lodge Arch to the north and the Horwood entrance to the east.
- 5.7 In this character area, as in the majority (but not of all) woodland areas depicted on the Ingham survey, a curious pattern of glades is recorded. It is unclear if the pattern of planting suggested by this motif is an accurate record or merely a surveyor's graphic technique.



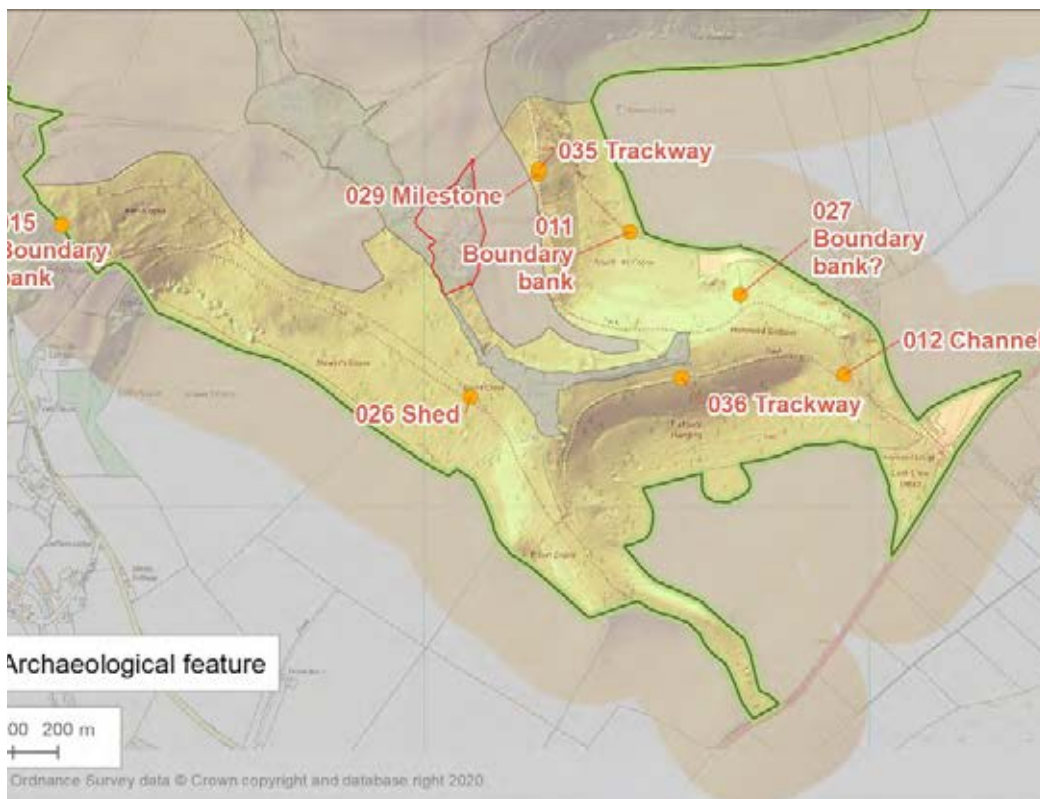
*Ingham survey, 1773 (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-12H)*

- 5.8 Most 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping is either at too large a scale e.g. the Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing or incomplete e.g. the Tithe plan, to help with interpretation of this character area. However, during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Woods' approach disappeared and a route through Horwood took over as the principal approach, its status emphasised by a lodge on the turnpike (now A30) road. The 1890 Ordnance Survey 1:6 inches mapping shows, once more, a slight increase in the area given over to woodland, with Park Copse now completely fused with Nower's Copse, which runs into Privet Copse, Flatbury, Horwood and South Hill as a continuum of woodland. A further lodge has been constructed at the end of the finger of woodland extending south to the main road. Thus, by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were three different approaches from the turnpike (current A30): Woods' approach, now defunct, the Horwood approach and the southernmost approach.
- 5.9 Since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there has been little change within the character area given over to woodland and farmland/parkland, although constituent woods have been periodically felled and restocked. In broad terms, there has been a long-term tendency towards increasing the area of coniferous plantations. The subtlety and variation of the woodland (for example, the presence of Park Copse as a single, identifiable feature), has tended to be lost over time.



Extract of the 1890 Ordnance Survey map

## Archaeology & buildings



- 5.10 Archaeological features include boundary banks, historic tracks (035 from Horwood Lodge towards Trapper's Lodge Arch, dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and 036 a trackway along the south side of the park, dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century) with an associated milestone, a channel and a 20<sup>th</sup> century corrugated iron shed used as a boathouse, which is now in a poor condition.

- 5.11 Boundary bank 015 appears to be a surviving section of the park pale as recorded on the 16<sup>th</sup> century map (see below).

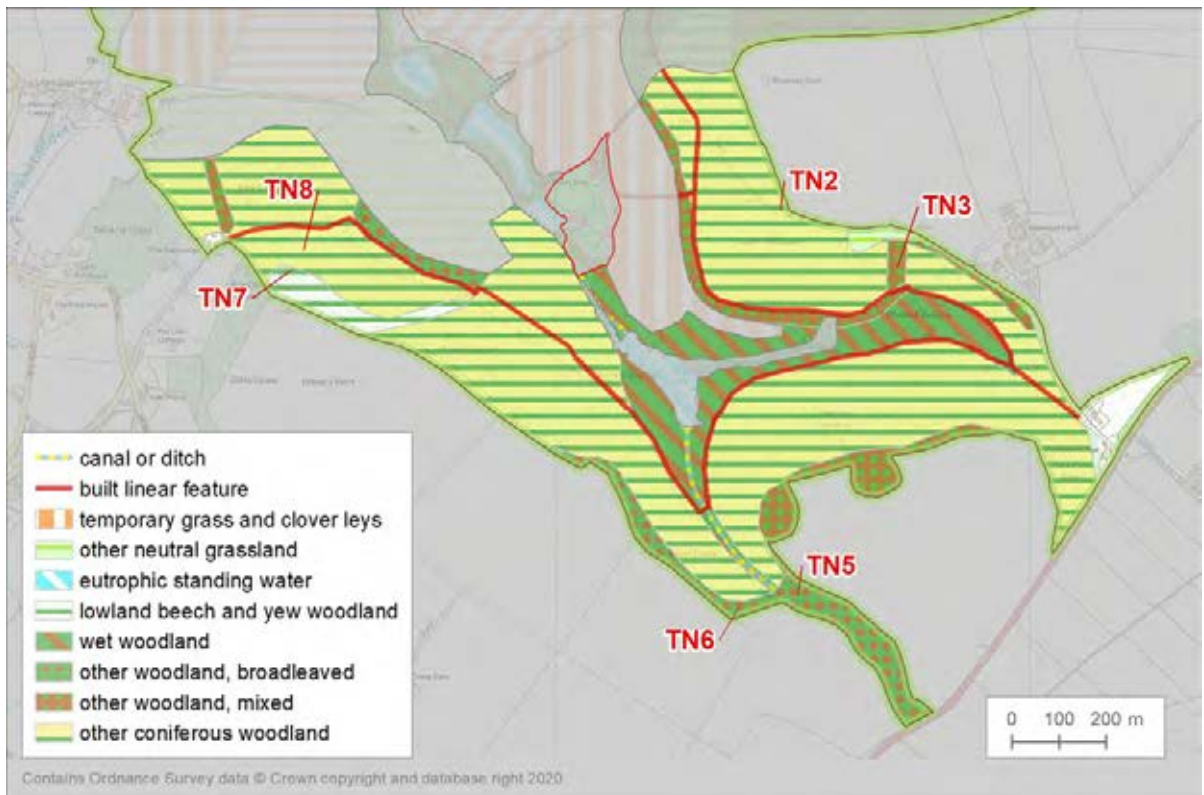


*Boathouse in poor condition (left), milestone (centre) with the inscription ‘Sarum XV to Shaston VI’ – Sarum being Salisbury and Shaston Shaftesbury and boundary bank 15 (right), a surviving section of the park pale.*

## Trees & Woodland

- 5.12 The Forestry Commission Woodland Plan notes that Douglas fir is by far the dominant species, accounting for 39% of the area, with Norway spruce covering 12% of the woodland area. A wide variety of broadleaved species are present in the woodland, including silver birch, sycamore, beech and oak among others. The age class of canopy trees ranges from 21 to over 100 years old. The majority (77%) of the woodland is aged between 41 and 60 years old, illustrating a lack of age diversity across the woodland.<sup>10</sup>

## Ecology



<sup>10</sup> Forestry Commission, 2016. Cranborne Chase & North Dorset Forest Plan – Wardour.

- 5.13 This majority of this character area is designated as a woodland County Wildlife Site. It is primarily composed of coniferous woodland (classified as Ancient Replanted Woodland) with fringes of wet woodland towards the valley bottom (classified as Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland).
- 5.14 Particular points of interest from the ecological survey include:
- Target Note 2 – Potential dormouse habitat:** Much of the woodland on site is considered to have potential for dormouse but on the border of the coniferous woodland at the east of the site was an area with a more developed understorey, which would offer greater potential to be used by hazel dormouse.
- Target Note 3 – Sloped woodland glade:** Between two sections of dense woodland lies an area of more scattered woodland with utility wires. This area has high potential for basking reptiles.
- Target Note 5 – Potential dormouse habitat:** Much of the woodland on site is considered to have potential for dormouse, however, in the southern section of the woodland lies a more ancient broadleaved woodland area. This area offers a greater potential for hazel dormouse with an abundance of hazel coppice.
- Target Note 6 – Outlier badger sett.**
- Target Note 7 – Main/annexe badger sett.**
- Target Note 8 – Main/annexe badger sett.**
- 5.15 Static bat detector surveys recorded greater and lesser horseshoe bats within the woodland along the western side of the character area (see Appendix 8).

## Current Character



- 5.16 The area today is defined by its heavily wooded character with the coniferous trees being dominant in views from the surrounding landscape. Historically the woodland was mixed as shown on the 1890 OS map, thus creating more balance between conifers and broadleaved species.

- 5.17 The lower slopes below the drives and trackways, adjacent to Horwood Pond reflect their designation as Ancient Woodland with broadleaved species dominating with a ground flora of bluebell and wild garlic.
- 5.18 Where drives survive, they follow their historic alignment, however, the addition of Forestry Commission metal barriers detracts from the historic character of the area.
- 5.19 There were impressive, designed views from the drives which have become obscured. South Hill Copse is now completely wooded, whereas historically it was an open area of pasture with a distinctive tree clump.



*View from the drive/track that encircles the southern end of Horwood Pond*



*View from the north towards South Hill Copse, Horwood Bottom and Flatbury Hanging in the distance (left) and (right) a view from the north east towards the high ground of Nower's Copse (to the left hand side of the picture) and Park Copse on the lower slopes.*

### **Significances**

- Surviving sections of historic boundary banks which evidence the park pale and other boundaries
- Surviving 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century historic drives and tracks evidencing the later
- Milestone adjacent to historic drive
- Presence of greater and lesser horseshoe bats as recorded in the bat survey (see Appendix 8)

development of the Horwood entrances to the designed landscape

- Historic designed views
- 20<sup>th</sup> century boathouse

- High habitat potential for dormouse and reptiles
- Existence of main/annexe and outlier badger setts
- Ecological values recognised by its designation as a County Wildlife Site and Ancient Woodland status

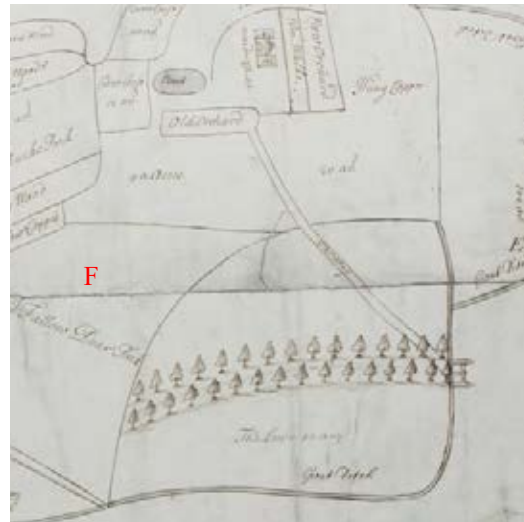
### **Issues and opportunities**

- Condition of historic boundaries and potential further threat from vegetation growth/forestry operations
- Loss of historic drives/tracks and historic views
- Loss of historic mixed woodland character
- Potential for the presence of Protected Species, including the confirmed presence of bats
- Presence of modern Forestry Commission barriers that detract from historic character
- Loss of open pasture and distinctive South Hill clump
- Public Rights of Way and associated issues and opportunities

## WOODLAND: 1(B) THE HANGINGS TO HIGH WOOD

### Historic Development

- 5.20 The 16<sup>th</sup> century map already identifies part of this character area as woodland, (e.g. 'Hang Coppice', located above the Castle, annotated H in the map extract below). However, some of the area seems to be to be farmland ('40 acres', annotated 40) and to be included within the Fallow Deer Park (F).
- 5.21 By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century (1753 survey, extract below) the Hangings and High Wood are recorded as a sinuous block of woodland that ran all along the escarpment overlooking the park, terminating in High Wood (a narrow corridor of parkland separated High Wood from the Grove).
- 5.22 Woods' work here is represented by the Great Terrace, the Rock Arch and the middle section of the main approach to Wardour from the south. This approach descends from the high plateau (Great Heath and The Lawn) through the hanging woods, emerging into the open park just beyond a Gothic Archway, where Woods had originally proposed a Gothic belvedere. In 1822, Rutter describes the Archway as newly erected. Woods altered the planting in this character area. He felled ash but retained many oak and beech, supplemented by a large number of new, exotic species.



16<sup>th</sup> century map (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-14H)



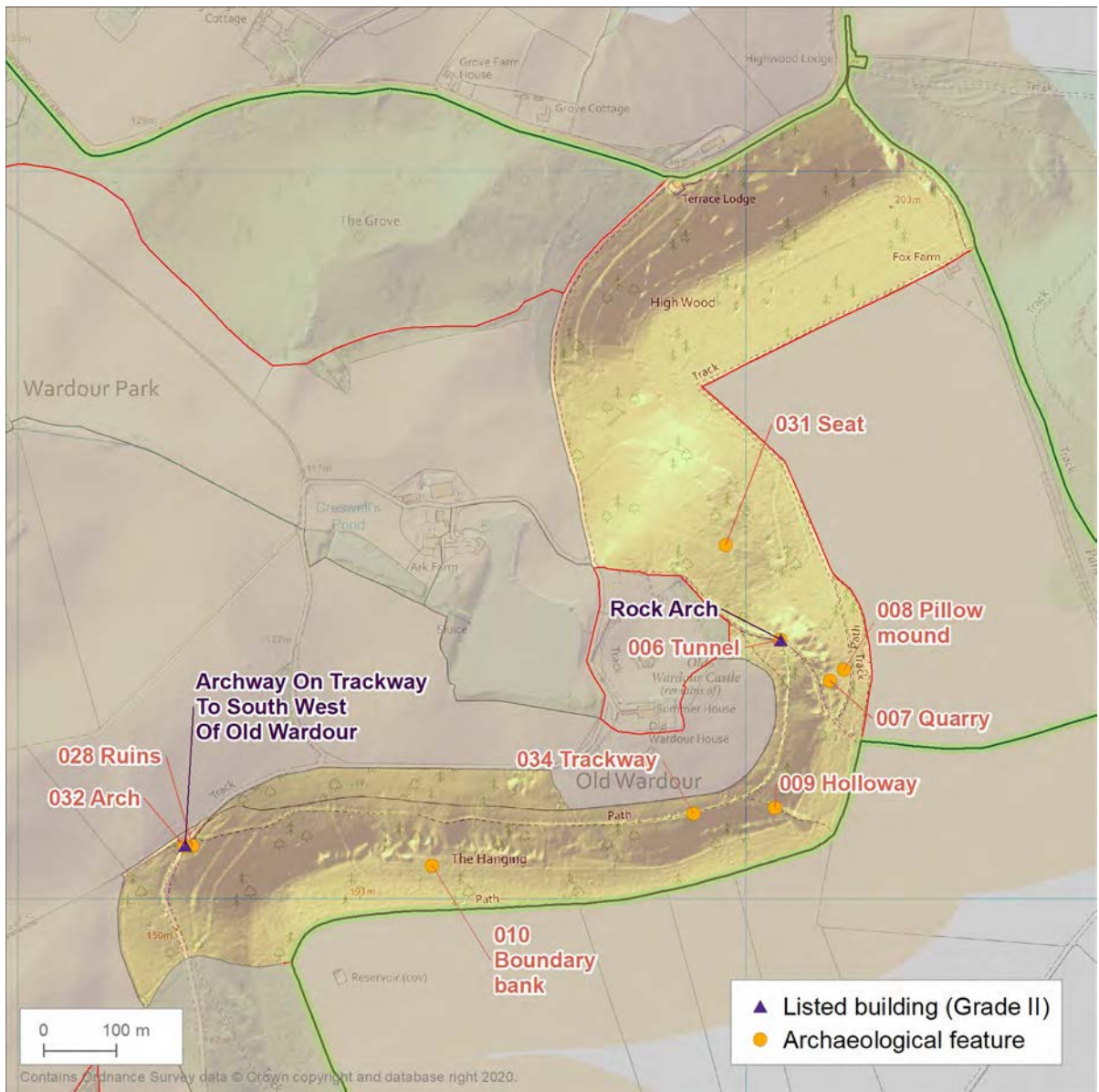
Left: 1753 survey (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 2667-21-9H). Right, Ingham survey dated 1773, reorientated for ease of comparison (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-12H).

- 5.23 By 1890, Woods' distinctive clump planting along the park-side of the Great Terrace had lost definition, possibly through self-seeded woodland coming in to fill the gap between the clumps. A lodge had been built at the Gothic Archway, known as Trapper's Lodge, and another one at the Horwood entrance (the main entrance from the south).
- 5.24 By 1890 too, the corridor of parkland between High Wood and the Grove had been filled in, so that the two woods fuse. The motif used by the surveyor suggests a fairly even distribution of conifers in what was still, overwhelmingly, a deciduous woodland.
- 5.25 Aerial photographs, supported by local records, indicate that around the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, much mature timber was felled and sold, and the area subsequently replanted, mainly with conifers.
- 5.26 Trapper's Lodge is present on an estate woodland map of 1935 and is recorded on an Ordnance Survey published in 1962 but does not survive today. The National Heritage List for England states that the OS is 'mistaken' in identifying a lodge in this location; however, it is marked on successive maps until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and archaeological survey has identified the remains of a building in this location.



*Extract of the 1890 Ordnance Survey map*

## Archaeology & buildings



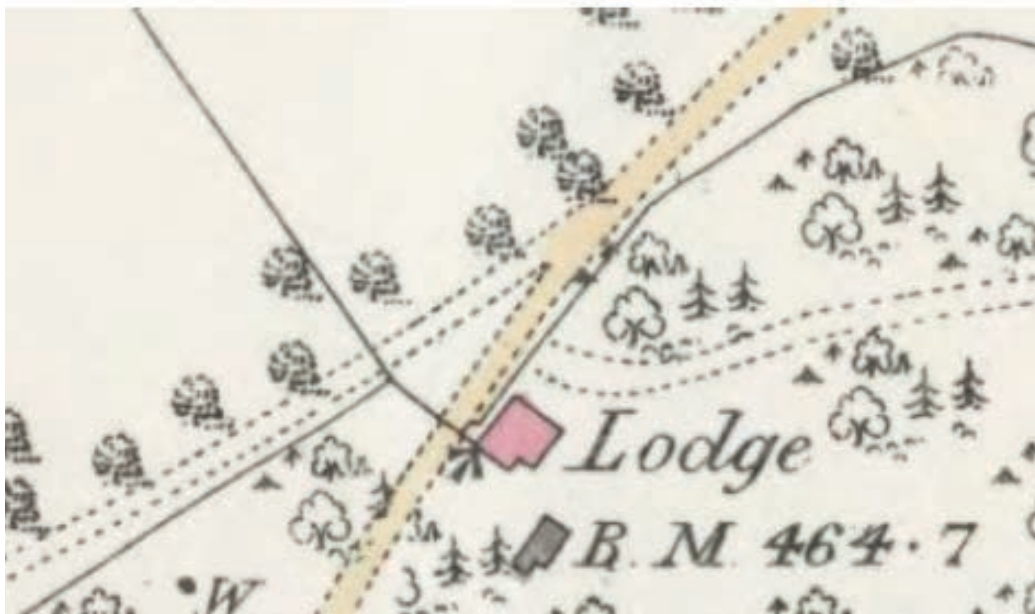
- 5.27 This area contains a number of important archaeological and built features including the Grade II listed archway (Trapper's Lodge Arch, 32) and Rock Arch (Tunnel, 006).
- 5.28 A holloway (009) appears to survive in the location of an opening in the woodland as shown on the 1753 survey and is likely to have provided a direct access between the plateau and the valley. A boundary bank (010) might be associated with an upper terrace/track that is record on the 1890 OS map. The trackway (034) is the Great Terrace which runs over the top of the Rock Arch and once continued on into High Wood. The remains of a stone seat (31) are located adjacent to the terrace.
- 5.29 Sandstone quarries are evident along the escarpment (e.g. at 007) and a small pillow mound (008) is likely to be the remains of a rabbit warren.
- 5.30 Terrace Lodge (in third party ownership) lies at the northern entrance to the parkland on the edge of High Wood.

## Trapper's Lodge Arch



*Trapper's Lodge Arch viewed from the north east.*

- 5.31 Trapper's Lodge Arch was originally part of a larger composition which included the lodge to the south east, and a 8 metre long section of wall on the opposite side stepping down the slope from the archway. The stepped wall remains but the lodge has been demolished, probably before 1980; the bases of the walls of the lodge can be still seen in the undergrowth. Standing on the edge of the woodland, the composition was presumably intended to be seen as a feature within the landscape viewed openin



*Extract from the 1:25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1886 showing the lodge to the east of the arched gateway and flanking walls. Note the boundary enclosing the Great Terrace and the lodge location at the western end of the terrace.*

- 5.32 The principal issue affecting the structure of the archway is that some of the high level stonework cappings have been lost, together with the NW corner of the structure, and that vegetation has been establishing within the core of the high level stonework. The resulting lateral thrust created by the vegetation has further displaced the stonework, opening up a tapered gap on the underside of the arch and causing the stonework to become looser and more vulnerable to further damage by vegetation and by water penetration.



*Archway capping viewed from the south east (left) and the remains of the lodge (right).*

- 5.33 Action is now urgently needed to replace the cappings on top of the archway, to kill off the vegetation and to repair those elements which have now been damaged. Without action the deterioration is likely to accelerate.

### *The Rock Arch*



*The Rock Arch viewed from the west.*

- 5.34 The trackway which rises from Old Wardour Castle to the Hanging sinks steadily below ground level, flanked on each side by retaining walls formed from stacks of rocks; the deepest section is covered by a barrel vault built from much smaller, more regular stones but supported on similar stacks of rocks, creating a tunnel about 10 metres long, 3.2 metres wide and up to about 3.4 metres high.
- 5.35 The barrel vault is formed of narrow stones set in mortar and appears to be in a satisfactory condition. The lines formed in the tunnel floor evidence water penetration through the vault. There is a distinctly muddier colour on the vault in the sections below the pathway which runs over the tunnel. One or two stones forming the vault are now recessed, having lost some material, but no action appears necessary at present.

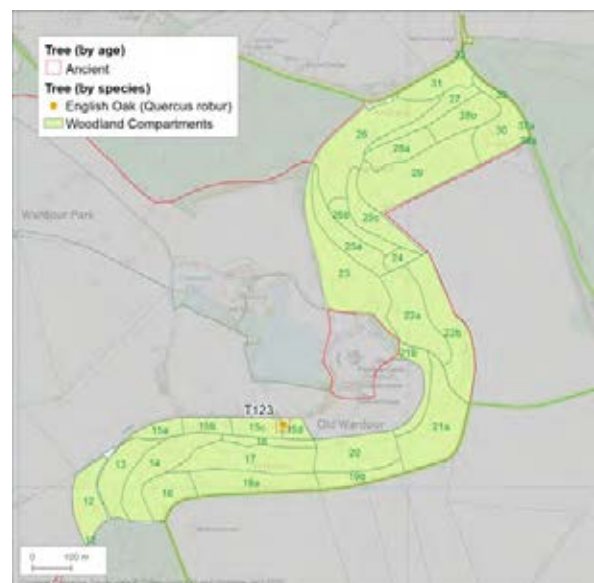
- 5.36 The main concern is the retaining walls at each end of the tunnel which should be continuations of the support walls to the tunnel vault but which have been damaged in ways which may ultimately affect the rock arch.
- 5.37 Some stones have fallen out, leaving gaps in the walling. Others have split, generally vertically; in some cases a spalled section has fallen; in others both parts remain. The mortar fill between the stones is fairly well set back and seems reasonably complete.
- 5.38 The vertical splits may indicate that there is insufficient mortar to allow an even spread of load from stone to stone, resulting in a heavily loaded point creating a fracture in what seems to be a fairly brittle, light stone.



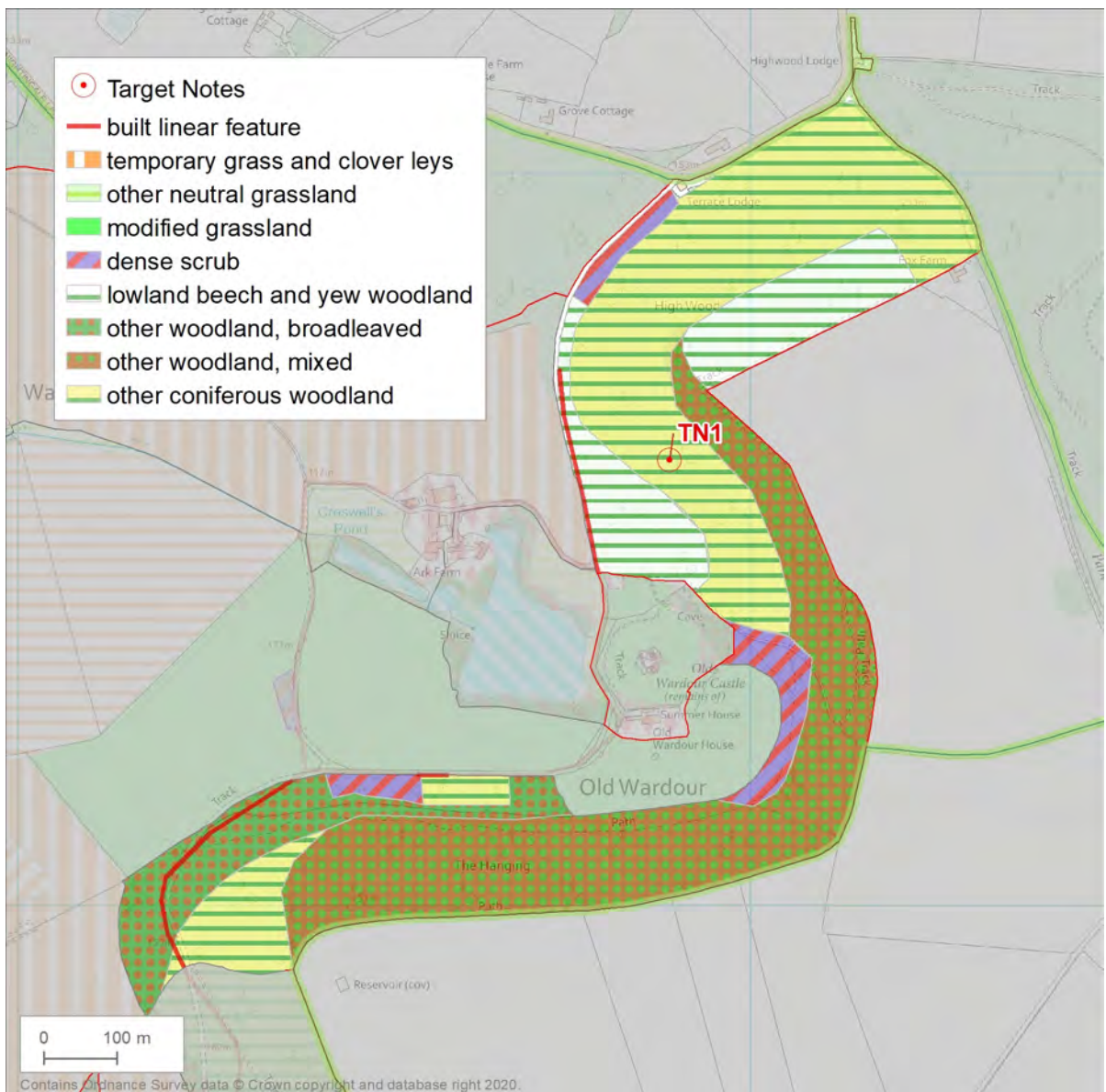
*Left: a section of the support wall on the south side of the barrel vault – note the series of vertical fractures and some adjacent voids. Centre: the west end of the support wall at the point where it should extend as a wall is now much lower – note the fractures and losses of stonework. Right: a section of the adjoining wall is considerably lower than it must have been originally and is now pushed out by a tree which had been felled by 2011.*

## Trees & Woodland

- 5.39 The majority of the woodland is plantation dating to various phases throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The species mix includes Japanese and European larch, hybrid larch, beech, Douglas fir, oak, Scot's pine and other native broadleaved species including birch.
- 5.40 One ancient oak survives on the north facing edge of the woodland, south of Swan Pond.
- 5.41 Recent woodland management works include scrub control and selective re-planting of broadleaved species below the Great Terrace to recreate some of the historic character.



## Ecology



- 5.42 The area is a matrix of mixed, broadleaved and coniferous woodland across an area classified as Ancient Replanted Woodland. There are several areas of scrub which are found in areas that have been subject to recent woodland management works which has included clearance.
- 5.43 **Target Note 1** records a rock pile which has the potential to act as a reptile or amphibian refugia. This is likely to be the remains of the Stone Seat (archaeological feature 031).
- 5.44 Static bat detector surveys recorded lesser horseshoe bats within the woodland along the western side of the character area. Five Natterer's bats were also found using crevices in the Rock Arch and one barbastelle and two *Pipistrellus* species were found in crevices in Trapper's Lodge Arch. Bechstein bats were found in the beech and yew woodland north of Old Wardour Castle during trapping surveys. Numerous bats were seen emerging from around the edge of the coniferous woodland block and commuting directly across pasture towards the Swan Pond. Full details are provided in the bat survey in Appendix 8.

## Current Character

- 5.45 The character of this area is defined by the steep sinuous wooded escarpment that encloses Old Wardour Castle at the head of the valley. The Shaftesbury Sandstone (on the upper slopes) and the

Cann Sand (on the lower slopes) of the Upper Greensand underlies the dramatic landform which enables long views across the landscape, where these are not concealed by woodland.

- 5.46 The mixed woodland is of a relatively young age, which was a result of the widespread felling during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The absence of mature woodland, associated ground flora and historic trees is conspicuous within its historic context.
- 5.47 Two large areas of former parkland/wood pasture are now managed as woodland (compartments 23 and 15a - d) which detracts from the historically open character of the areas that flank Old Wardour Castle to its north and south. These areas of woodland also obscure historic views.
- 5.48 The declining condition of the built features including the Rock Arch and Trapper's Lodge Arch, together with the lack of clarity/loss of some of the historic terrace walks and associated views has served to weaken historic character and significance of the designed landscape. The Great Terrace is unsurfaced and along surviving sections appears to correspond to its historic width. Sections of the Great Terrace, the upper terrace and other tracks have been lost to plantation woodland or removed/damaged during forestry operations.
- 5.49 Tantalising glimpses of views from the terrace walks that incorporate both Old and New Wardour Castles can be gained in winter but would have been more apparent historically.





*Left: a section of the upper terrace walk obscured by forestry planting. Right: Panoramic long views from the Great Terrace over Terrace Lodge to the north into the surrounding landscape.*



*A view from the upper terrace with the Great Terrace viewed in the foreground. Historically this view would have been more open - the full extent of Swan Pond would be visible and clearer views of Old and New Wardour Castle would be possible (circled in red for clarity).*



*A view from the Great Terrace looking west with Old Wardour Castle in the foreground. The importance of the wooded escarpment is emphasised in this view with the Hanging framing the left side of the view and Round Hill visible as the wooded hilltop in the distance. New Wardour Castle and Swan Pond should also be visible from the Great Terrace.*

## Significances

- Grade II listed 19<sup>th</sup> century Trapper's Lodge Arch and Rock Arch tunnel
- Remains of the 18<sup>th</sup> century stone seat which also has potential as a herptile refugia
- Extant sections of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Great Terrace and other historic terrace walks
- Kinetic views across the designed landscape incorporating Old and New Wardour Castles and the intervening parkland
- Ancient oak T123
- Other archaeological features including the pillow mound (rabbit warren), boundary banks and quarries
- The area provides the direct and dramatic setting to Old Wardour Castle (Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building), New Wardour Castle (Grade I listed building) and Trapper's Lodge Arch
- The Holloway that dates to at least the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is likely to be an earlier feature
- Presence of bats throughout the area including greater and lesser horseshoe, barbastelle, *Pipistrellus*, Bechstein, and other bats, as recorded in the bat survey (see Appendix 8)

## Issues and opportunities

- Loss of two sections of historically open parkland to woodland
- Declining condition of the Rock Arch and Trapper's Lodge Arch and recorded presence of bats within these structures
- Loss of clarity/damage to some sections of the Great Terrace and other historic terrace walks due to modern forestry operations/planting
- Potential for the presence of Protected Species, including the confirmed presence of bats
- Loss of historic planted character to modern forestry
- Loss of historic views
- Condition of 18<sup>th</sup> century stone seat
- Ongoing management of scrub below the Great Terrace
- Presence of overhead cables

## PARKLAND: 2(A) FALLOW DEER PARK

### Historic Development

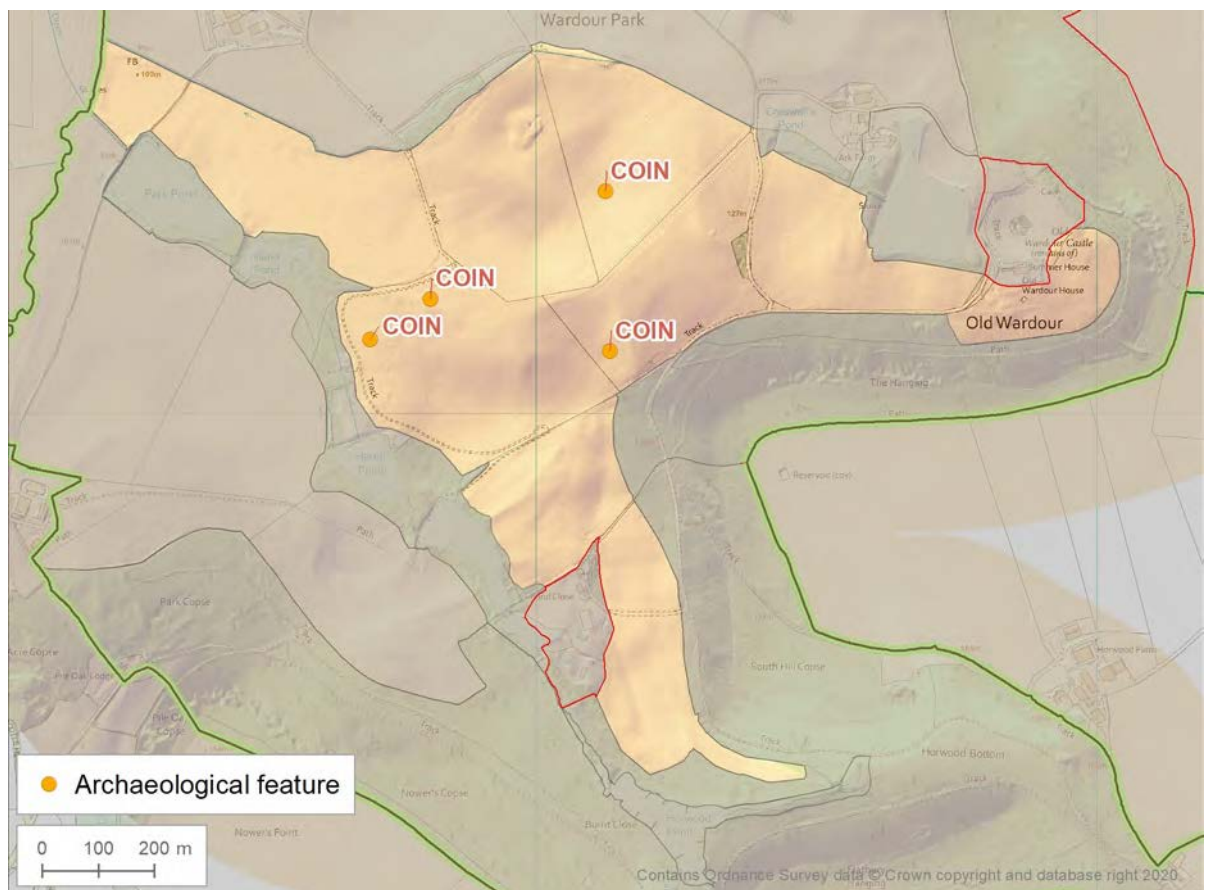
- 5.50 Marked on the earliest known (16<sup>th</sup> century) map of Wardour, one of two deer parks (the other being for red deer). Its limits are difficult to determine from the hand-drawn map, but it appears to have lain more or less in the centre of what was to become the landscape park, between Old Wardour Castle and the chain of ponds running from Horwood to Park Pond. A number of linear parcels running west from Swan Pond into this character area, share the name Mead.
- 5.51 The Fallow Deer Park was almost certainly a victim of the English Civil War, when destruction of park pales and dispersing deer herds was commonplace.
- 5.52 The 1753 survey shows a great number of individual trees and these are likely to date from the era of the former deer park. Ingham (1773) shows two parcels within this character area: the Near Deer Park and, to the north of it, Meads (possibly a perpetuation of the name recorded on the 16<sup>th</sup> century map). No planting is shown in the Near Deer Park (although undoubtedly the scattering of single trees shown in 1753 was retained). However, the Meads, through which ran a section of the approach to New Wardour, is characterised by large clumps, which can reasonably be attributed to Woods and the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell.
- 5.53 The desire to create an all-encompassing landscape park is further evidenced by the fact that there are very few internal boundaries (a number of Wood's memoranda refer to grubbing up hedges). Woods' main approach across the park ran through this area in a graceful curve towards New Wardour.



Extract of the 1890 Ordnance Survey map

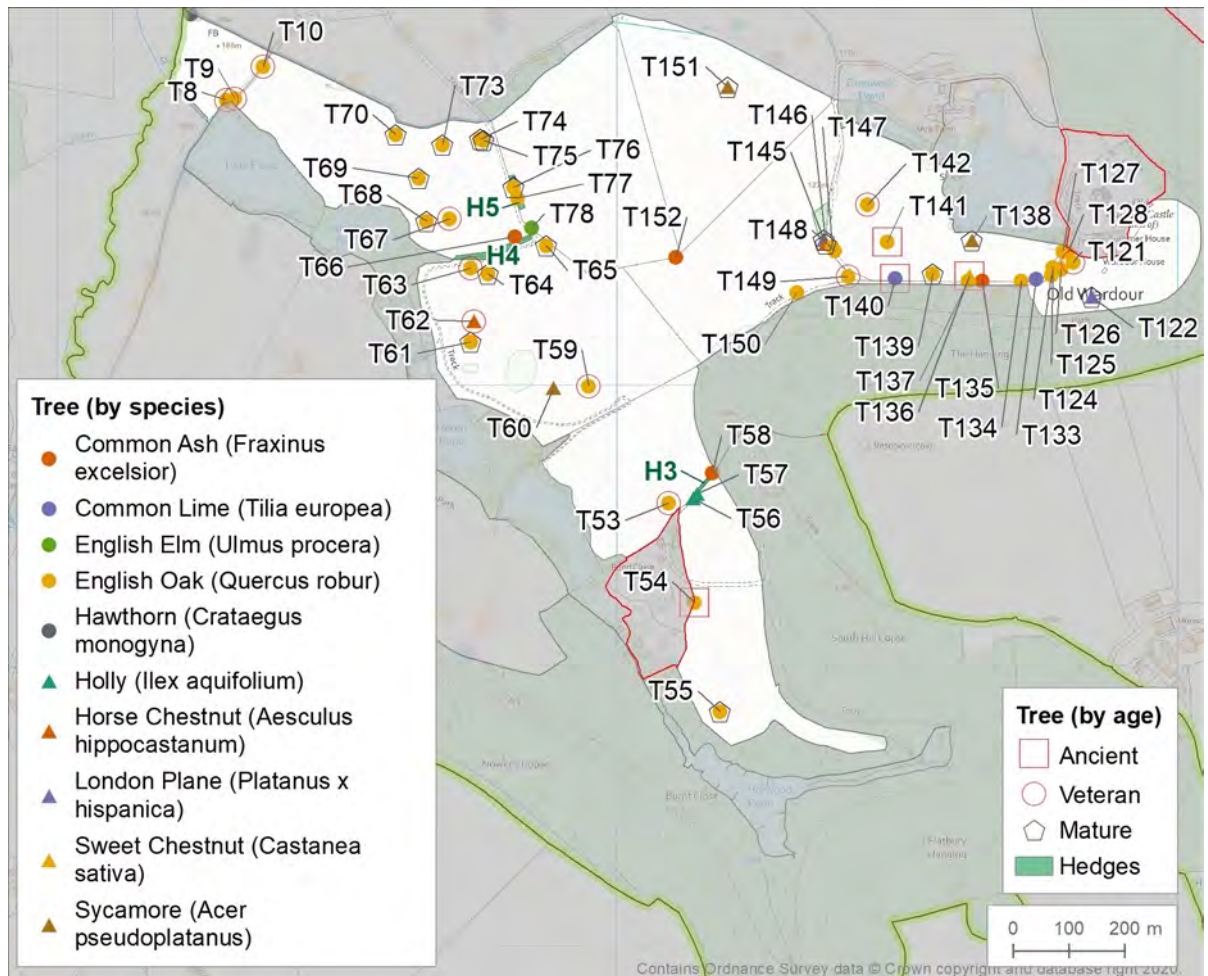
- 5.54 The Ordnance Surveys of 1890 and 1901 reveal little change to the tree cover but a much greater subdivision of the 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape park. It is conjectured that this reflects the number of different tenancies now established within the park.
- 5.55 The Fallow Deer Park remained remarkably well treed until after the Second World War, when various timber sales took place. It is said that during the period when the New Castle (and a portion of the park) was occupied by the Jesuit Brothers, many hundreds of trees were felled.

## Archaeology & buildings



- 5.56 An historic drive/trackway runs through this area and is a continuation of feature 002 recorded in character area 2c below. This feature connects the drive that runs from Trapper's Lodge Arch with the drive that passes adjacent to Cresswell's Pond and onto New Wardour Castle. A small section of a western arm of triangular arrangement that enabled easy carriage sweeps from both Trapper's Lodge and Old Wardour Castle directions is no longer surfaced, but appears on historic maps and is faintly visible on the LiDAR.
- 5.57 Metal detecting within the park in 2011 produced post-medieval coinage of Elizabeth I from four locations recorded in the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database: a silver sixpence dating to 1573 ( WILT-566FF1), a further silver sixpence from the London mint with a lion initial mark for 1567 (WILT-E15C7), a third sixpence again of the London mint, with an eglantine mark of 1575 (WILT- E0A241) and a silver half groat from the London mint, with an escallop initial mark from the mid-1580s (WILT-E1EA58). The archaeological survey suggests that this scattering of coinage reflects hunting activities by the elite within the park.

## Trees & Woodland



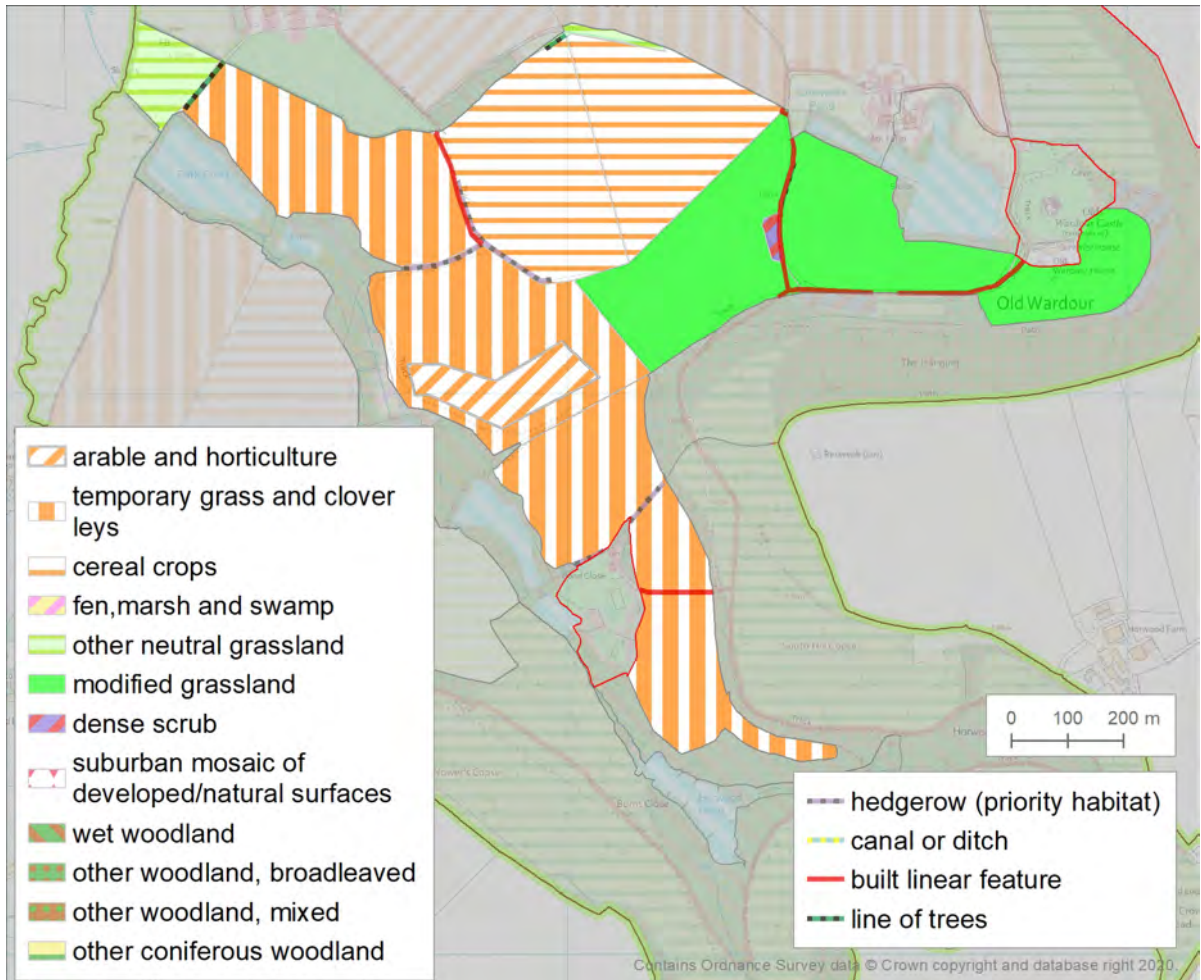
- 5.58 There are many historic trees within the Fallow Deer Park including three ancient trees (oak, lime and sweet chestnut) and 11 veteran trees (oak, lime and horse chestnut). Other notable mature trees include some good specimens of London plane and sycamore.



*Ploughing is taking place very close to many trees in the Fallow Deer Park causing damage and threatening the longevity of several specimens in the area including a number of ancient and veteran trees.*

- 5.59 There are several trees that have been identified within this area as requiring conservation management measures and many are being adversely affected by ploughing damage and vehicle compaction.

## Ecology



- 5.60 Much of the area reflects the current management regime which involves ploughing for temporary grass cover or arable production. At the time of survey there was modified grassland present to the east of the area around Ark Farm and Old Wardour Castle. A small patch of neutral grassland was recorded to the north west of Park Pond, which is an area that is managed as permanent pasture.
- 5.61 The ancient, veteran and mature trees all provide valuable habitats (e.g. invertebrates, birds, bats, fungi and lichen) and there are a number of hedgerows across the area that enhance connectivity for wildlife.

## Hydrology

- 5.62 A culvert running between the Swan Pond and Island Pond follows the bottom of the Swan Pond Valley and joins Island Pond at its eastern end.

## Current Character

- 5.63 The Fallow Deer Park stretches across the central section of the designed landscape, lying at the foot of the wooded escarpment from Old Wardour Castle to Horwood Pond. It is bounded on the west by the Chain of Ponds character area and to the north the parish boundary which is marked by a ditch.

- 5.64 The ground is gently undulating and generally falls towards the north west towards the River Nadder. A small rise in the topography occurs near to the centre of the area.
- 5.65 Views of New Wardour Castle are afforded from a variety of locations within and across the area. Boundaries are a mix of barbed wire fences with timber posts and a limited number of hedgerows.
- 5.66 The newly sown grassland and ploughed land, combined with an electricity pylon and relatively low tree numbers detract from the historic character of the area, which today does not readily present itself as parkland.



*View from the south near to Pond Close towards Old Wardour Castle (circled in red) in the north across the Fallow Deer Park. Note the presence of overhead electricity cable pole in the view.*





*View from the drive close to Trapper's Lodge Arch looking north west towards New Wardour Castle across the Fallow Deer Park. The newly sown grassland and ploughed land, combined with the electricity pylon and relatively low tree numbers detract from the historic parkland character of the area.*

- 5.67 The area is crossed by a Public Right of Way which follows the line of a route recorded on the 1890 OS map.

### Significances

- The historic driveway (feature 002) leading to New Wardour Castle
- The historic trackway that links to the historic driveway (feature 002) and is now a Public Right of Way
- Historic designed views from within and through the area
- Long history as a deer park and designed landscape as evidenced by surviving ancient and veteran trees which have significant values for wildlife

### Issues and opportunities

- Loss of some sections of historic driveway
- Ploughing and cultivation compaction affecting trees, impacting on the archaeological resource and denuding historic landscape character
- The need to balance agricultural productivity with conservation and enhancement of the historic designed landscape and ecological values
- Potential for the presence of Protected Species (noting the proximity of the adjacent Chain of Ponds, Long Mead to Cow Lease, Park Copse to South Hill Copse, The Hangings to High Wood and Swan Pond character areas that are used by bats)
- Hedgerows are generally considered intrusive within a parkland setting, however, the small sections present enhance connectivity for wildlife
- Intrusive electricity pylons
- Loss of historic trees over time, particularly following widespread felling post WWII
- A number of trees require management intervention to enhance their longevity

## PARKLAND: 2(B) RED DEER PARK

### Historic Development

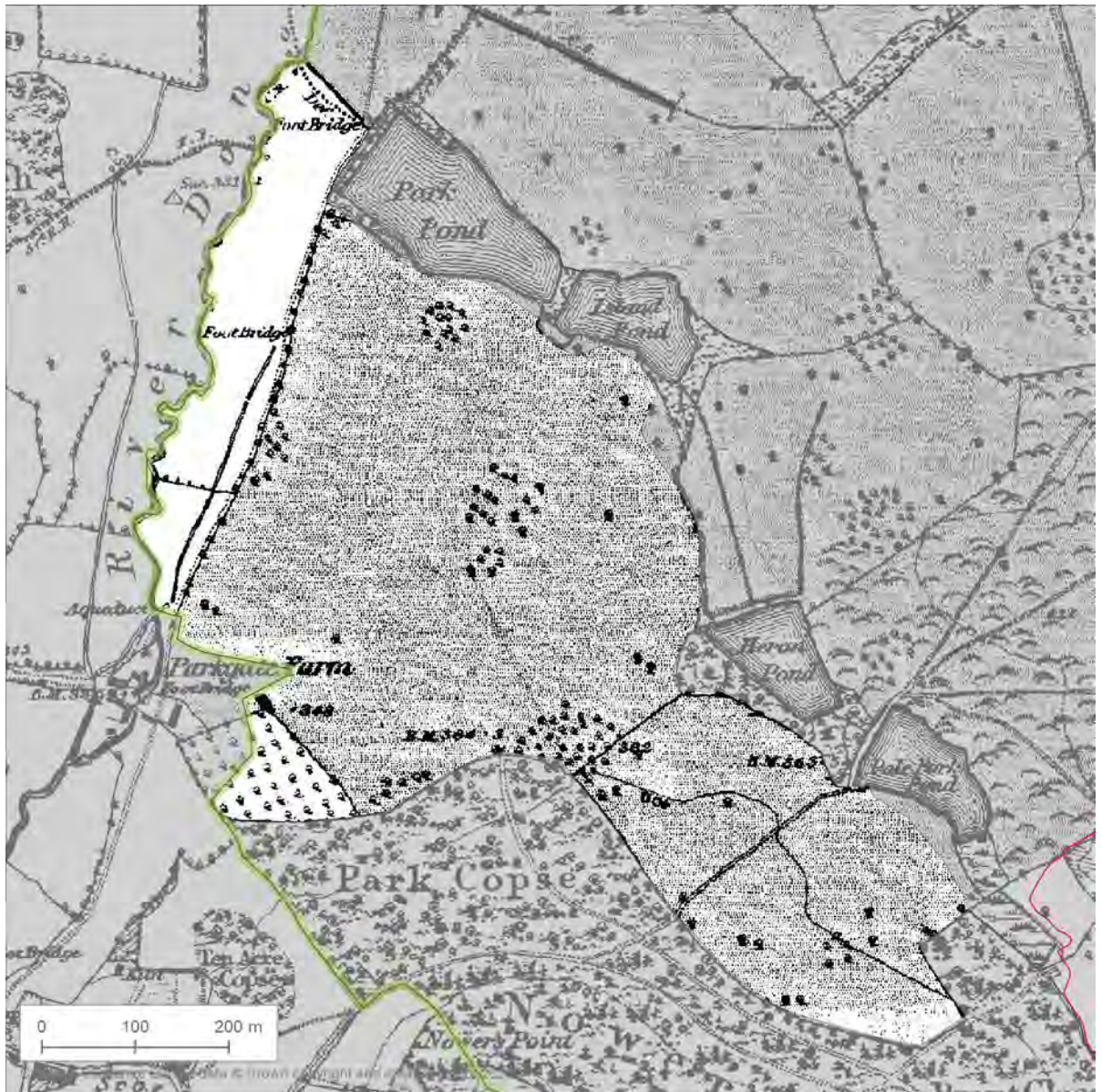
- 5.68 The Red Deer Park is shown as occupying the most south-westerly part of Wardour in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (roughly between Park Copse on the escarpment and Park Pond in the valley below), its western boundary being formed by the ditch shown on the 1890 Ordnance Survey (archaeological feature 17).
- 5.69 In common with the Fallow Deer Park, it is likely to have been disparked during the English Civil War. The Arundells were not in permanent residence at Wardour for about a century thereafter and there was probably little interest in restoring the deer park.
- 5.70 The 1753 survey shows a scattering of trees across this character area, which must represent a vestige of the tree cover in the former deer park. Woods' efforts to create a landscape park for the 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell are recorded on the 1773 survey, where the area is labelled as the Far Deer Park. No planting is shown in much of this area, although the individual trees shown here in 1753 are likely to have been retained. A number of the characteristic parkland clumps of Woods design were concentrated to the south of Heron and Pale Park Pond in an area marked on the survey as 'Mercers Park'.



*Ingham, 1773 (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-12H)*

- 5.71 By 1890 the large fields recorded in 1773 had been subdivided and the separateness of the Red Deer Park from the rest of the park increased, both by the fusing of Park Copse with Nower's Copse to form a continuous wooded enclosure on the high ground to the south, and by the increasing amount of woody scrub enclosing Pale Park Pond, Heron Pond, Island Pond and Park Pond to the north.

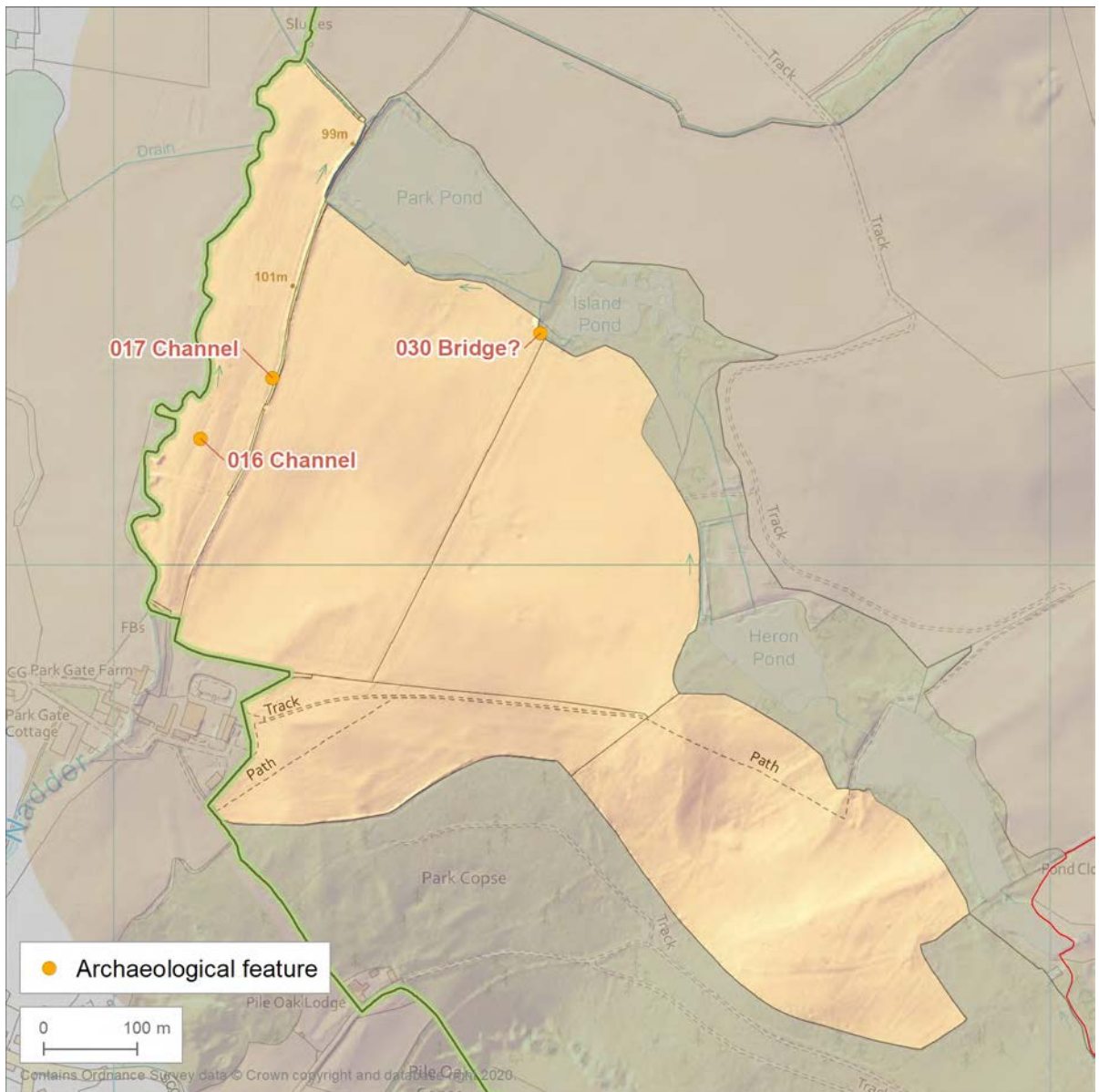
- 5.72 A drive is shown running through Park Copse and entering this area of parkland on the 1890 OS map (and pencilled in over the 1773 survey). The location would have provided impressive views of New Wardour Castle.
- 5.73 An orchard is recorded on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map within an area of the parkland between Park Copse and Parkgate Farm to the south west of the area.
- 5.74 The area remained well treed until after the Second World War.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2021 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

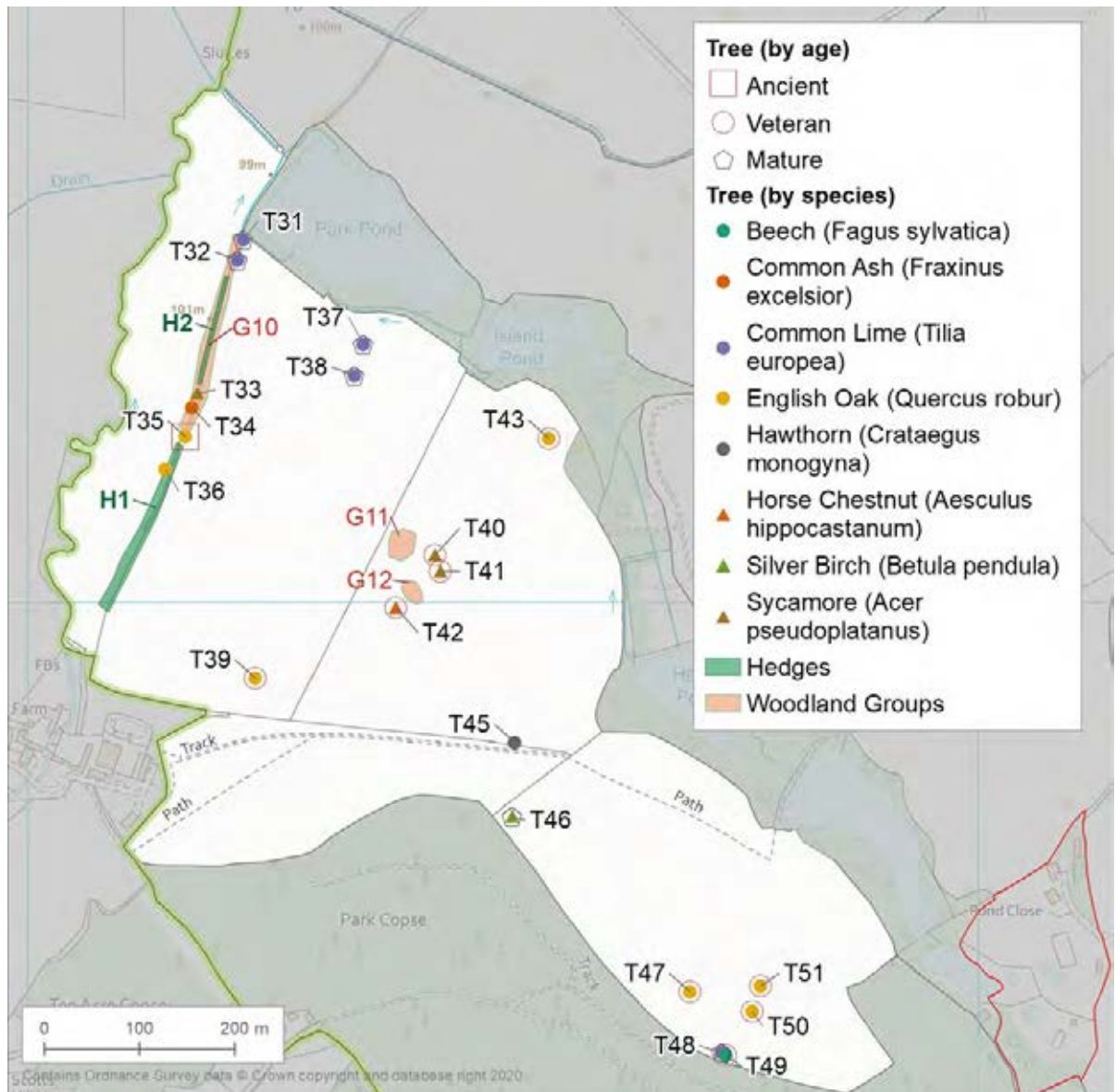
Extract of the 1890 Ordnance Survey map

## Archaeology & buildings



- 5.75 Channel 017 (a drain from Park Pond) runs north – south parallel to the course of the River Nadder and defines the western boundary of the area mapped as parkland on the 1890 OS map. The ditch is maintained and in active use today. A second channel (016) is identified to the west of channel 017 and is recorded as a such on the 1890 OS map. It is possible that these channels were formerly related to water meadows or a mill leat.
- 5.76 The possible site of a bridge (030) is formed of stone and concrete debris below an outflow from Island Pond. A little below the outflow to the Island Pond was an area of debris that contained concrete and the broken sections of a large concrete pipe, however, there were also large blocks of stone tumbled in the mix and it is possible, especially given that a drive/trackway crossed the valley at this point in the eighteenth century, that these may be the remains of culvert below a causeway or even a small bridge.

## Trees & Woodland



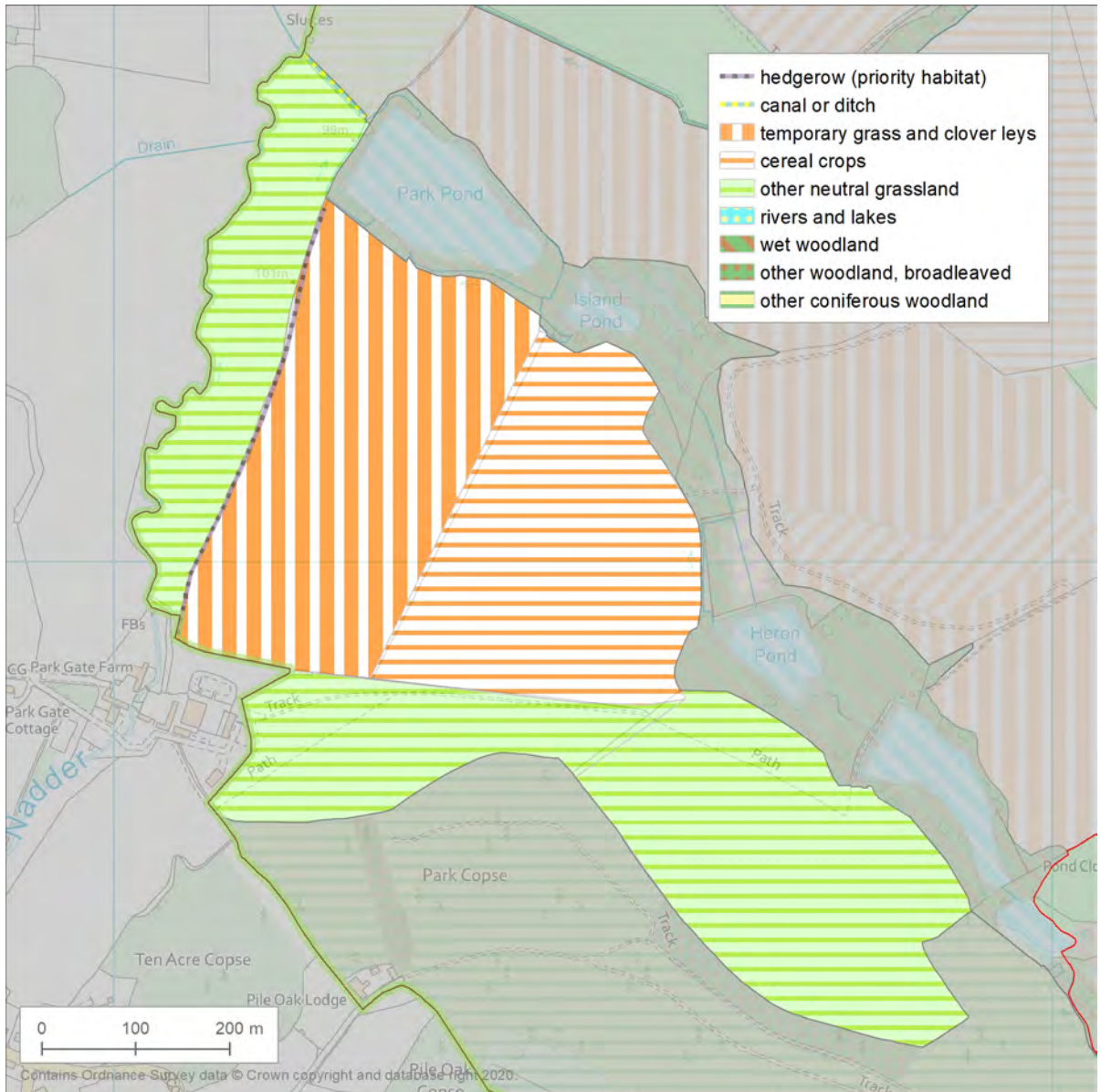
- 5.77 There are several historic trees within the Red Deer Park including one ancient oak and nine veteran trees (oak, beech, horse chestnut and sycamore). There are several mature lime trees and two groups that are formed of veteran sycamore and lime and mature horse chestnut. A hedge runs along the edge of the parkland as shown on the 1890 OS map (archaeological feature 017) and is formed of elm, hazel and blackthorn.



*Ploughing is taking place very close to trees in the Red Deer Park causing damage and threatening the longevity of several specimens in the area including veterans*

- 5.78 There are several trees that have been identified within this area as requiring conservation management measures and many are being adversely affected by ploughing damage and compaction by farm machinery.

## Ecology



- 5.79 The southern and western fields within the Red Deer Park are managed as permanent pasture and are categorised as neutral grassland. Temporary grassland and arable cultivation limit ecological values within the central body of this area.
- 5.80 The ancient, veteran and mature trees all provide valuable habitats and a hedgerow with adjoining ditch linking Park Pond with the River Nadder enhance connectivity for wildlife.

## Current Character

- 5.81 The Red Deer Park occupies the south-westerly part of Wardour lying between Park Copse on the south west and the Chain of Ponds in the valley below. The western boundary is formed by the River Nadder in the lower lying ground.

- 5.82 Today the area is read as a discrete parcel of parkland due to the surrounding woodland associated with the Chain of Ponds, Park Copse and Nower's Copse and the hedgerow to the west. Many trees have been lost in comparison to the 1890 Ordnance Survey map.
- 5.83 The ploughing of the central part of the area detracts from its historic character, whilst the fields to the south impart a more timeless parkland character of permanent pasture studded with veteran trees.
- 5.84 Distant views of New Wardour Castle are gained from the Public Right of Way within Park Copse and towards Pale Park Pond.
- 5.85 Modern barbed wire fences with timber posts divide the field parcels throughout the area.





*View from the western end of Park Pond to the south towards Park Copse and the highpoint of Nower's Copse.*



*View from Park Copse to the north to New Wardour Castle using a zoom lens for clarity. Note that the Chain of Ponds at the centre of the photograph is completely obscured from view due to woodland and scrub growth.*

### **Significances**

- Archaeological remains of channels that might related to previous water management systems such as a mill or water meadows
- Possible site of an 18<sup>th</sup> century bridge or crossing
- Historic designed views from within the area
- Long history as a deer park and designed landscape as evidenced by surviving ancient and veteran trees which have significant values for wildlife
- The historic trackway that links to the historic driveway (feature 002) and is now a Public Right of Way

- The opportunity for members of the public to experience this part of the designed landscape via the Public Right of Way

## Issues and opportunities

- Loss of some sections of historic driveway
- Ploughing and cultivation compaction affecting trees, impacting on the archaeological resource and denuding historic landscape character
- The need to balance agricultural productivity with conservation and enhancement of the historic designed landscape and ecological values
- Potential for the presence of Protected Species (noting the proximity of the adjacent Chain of Ponds and Park Copse to South Hill Copse character areas that are used by bats)
- Hedgerows are generally considered intrusive within a parkland setting; however, the small sections present enhance connectivity for wildlife
- Loss of historic trees over time, particularly following widespread felling post WWII
- A number of trees require management intervention to enhance their longevity

## PARKLAND: 2(C) LONG MEAD TO COW LEASE

### Historic Development

- 5.86 The 16<sup>th</sup> century map shows only the east end of this character area, where a pond (the precursor of Swan Pond) is shown, with a number of linear fields running away from it to the west.
- 5.87 In 1773, the Ingham survey shows this character area straddling several different parcels, running from the River Nadder in the west to Swan Pond in the east. Reading west to east, the parcels are named Long Mead, Rue Dutch Close, Brick-kiln Close, Stoney Lands, Court Field and Cow Leys/Swan Pond.
- 5.88 Since the 1753 survey, large clumps have been planted, particularly on land forming the foreground to the New Castle, and also between the New Castle and Swan Pond/the Old Castle. At the far east end of this area, in Cow Leys (north of Swan Pond) a fringe of individual trees is shown, merging with High Wood, above.
- 5.89 By 1773, Cresswell's Pond was created below Swan Pond. A drive is shown crossing the west end of Cresswell's Pond and running alongside Lady's Grove to approach the New Castle from the east.
- 5.90 In 1807, the Ordnance Surveyor's Drawing continues to show the whole of this character area as parkland, with the environs of the New Castle separated by a fence or ha-ha from the park proper. A secondary approach from the turnpike road is now apparent, keeping to the far western side of the park and crossing the dam between Park Pond and Island Pond, before running alongside the west side of the pleasure grounds and then turning south-east to approach the New Castle on its north side. The earlier Woods approach survives but no longer crosses over Cresswell's Pond, but takes a course slightly further west.



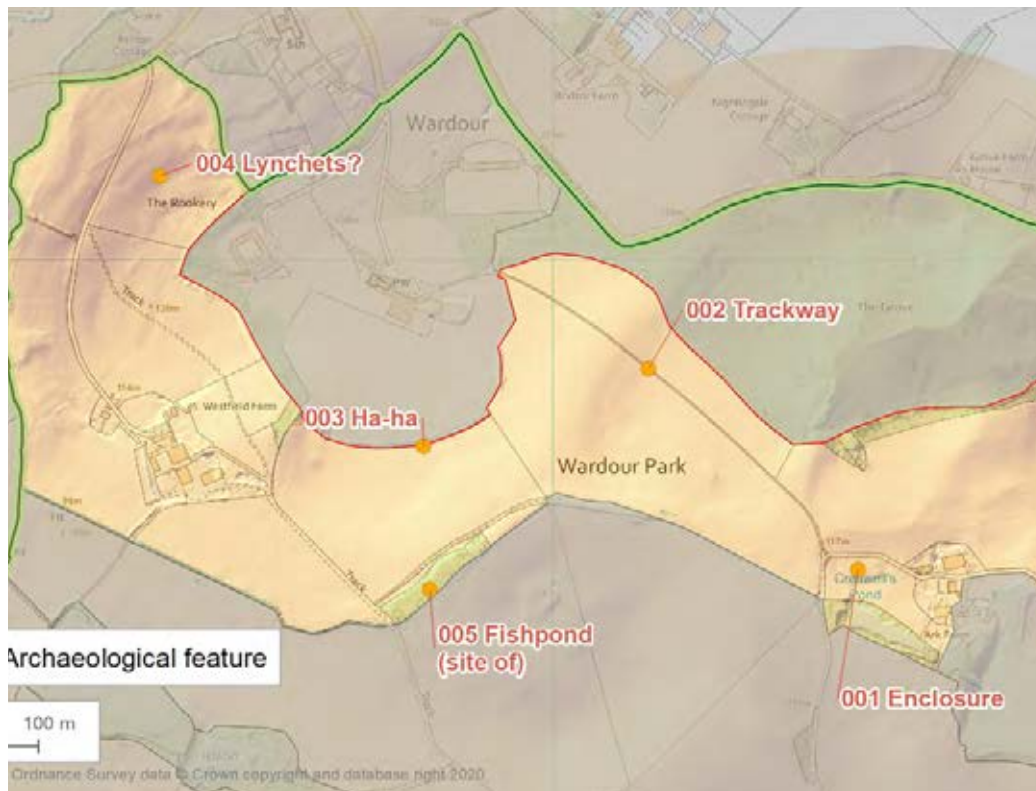
*1820 view of Wardour by John Rutter, engraved by T Higham*

- 5.91 Early and mid-19<sup>th</sup> century views of the New Castle give a hint of what this character area looked like, but caution must be exercised, as the focus was on the house and the landscape rendered schematically.
- 5.92 By 1890, a curving ha-ha separates the pleasure grounds from the park. This is quite different from the angular boundary shown on earlier maps and surveys, such as Ingham 1773. Woods' clumps have become less distinct, and Westfield Farm has become established on Brick-kiln Close and adjacent parcels, with some reorganisation of boundaries. The presence of the farm may be the reason why a wing of (screen) planting has appeared on the south-west edge of the lawn in front of the New Castle.
- 5.93 Westfield Farm lies on, or very close to, the secondary approach, noted above, which by 1890 is no longer extant. A second internal – probably estate – road or track now parallels the main approach across the park. In 1901 this track links the New Castle with the newly constructed pheasantry and kennels behind Pond Close.
- 5.94 This character area continued to be managed as parkland and, as late as 1949, was well treed. Since 1949, the loss of parkland trees has accelerated and probably three quarters of those present in 1949 have been lost



1949 aerial view of the parkland with Old (right) and New Wardour (left) Castles circled in red. [Britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EAW23179](http://Britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EAW23179). Copyright Historic England.

## Archaeology & buildings



- 5.95 The ha-ha (003) was a major feature that defined the boundary between park and garden. It consisted of a dry ditch up to 7m wide and 2.5m deep with a stone wall originally lining it on the house side. Its condition is poor and has, in places, been partially filled in and subject to dumping of unwanted building materials.
- 5.96 The east end survives as a deep overgrown ditch with occasional traces of stonework) and the outer scarp had been quite badly disturbed by badger setts. Tree and scrub growth is evident along much of the feature and has caused considerable disturbance and continue to pose a threat to the feature.



Views of the ha-ha taken during the archaeological survey. Left: the ha-ha south east of New Wardour Castle, looking north east. Right: the ha-ha with a surviving section of stone facing to the south west of the New Wardour Castle, looking north west.



Details of the ha-ha taken during the archaeological survey. Top left: the ha-ha west of New Wardour Castle looking to the north east. Top right: LiDAR imagery of the ha-ha showing the location of surveyed profiles. Bottom: profiles of the ha-ha at four locations to demonstrate the varied survival and condition of the ha-ha.

- 5.97 Trackway 002 was the main approach to the house across the park from the south and was shown on the 1773 survey. It branched off the track (035) entering from Trapper's Lodge crossed the valley just below Cresswell's Pond and then climbed the hill to approach the house from the south east. The section within this character area exists as a shallow rutted holloway that may have previously been ploughed over.
- 5.98 Within the base of the valley south of New Wardour Castle and leading west from Ark Farm is the site of a former fishpond (005). This feature was roughly 30m wide and 250m long tapering towards its eastern end. The sloping sides suggest it was just over 1.5m deep. It was drained along its south eastern margin by a well-constructed stone conduit that in places had collapsed. The conduit had an arched top and was about 60cm wide and 60cm high. This former pool, very similar in its proportions to Cresswell's Pond, is not shown on any of post-medieval mapping and may well be a surviving feature of the medieval park possibly drained as part of 18<sup>th</sup> century improvements. It is

interesting to note that the Woods plan (Figure 4.6) shows a proposal to create a string of ponds along this valley.

- 5.99 An oval earthwork enclosure (001) was recorded immediately west of the Ark Farm complex and overlooking the now silted Cresswell's Pond. This feature presented itself initially as a terrace, however, following careful examination it was revealed to be surrounded by a low bank, a feature seen on the LiDAR except on the north side where it is cut by a trackway. It is likely that this represents a much earlier phase of occupation of the park with surface indications suggesting it may be an Iron Age enclosure or medieval ringwork. It lies on one of the few unploughed areas of pasture and is also close to the Ark Farm developments and may be viewed as potentially at risk.
- 5.100 Features that have been previously interpreted as cultivation terraces (004) are now considered to relate to underlying rock strata.
- 5.101 Westfield Farm (a farm was first recorded in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century) and Westfield Farm Cottages (added c. mid-20<sup>th</sup> century) lie at the western end of the character area.

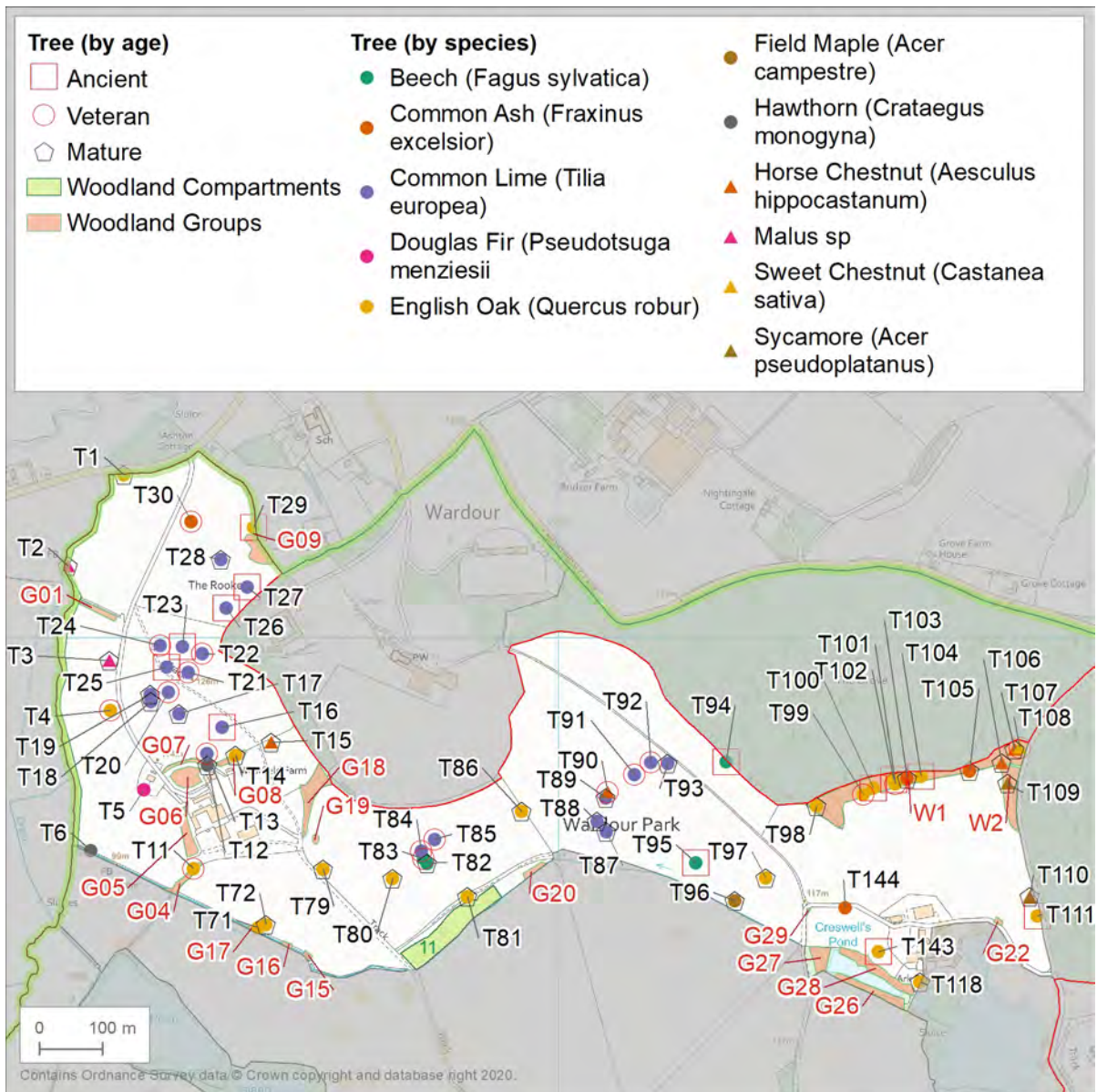


*View of Westfield Farm Cottages from the south with Westfield Farm just visible beyond the trees on the right-hand side of the photograph.*



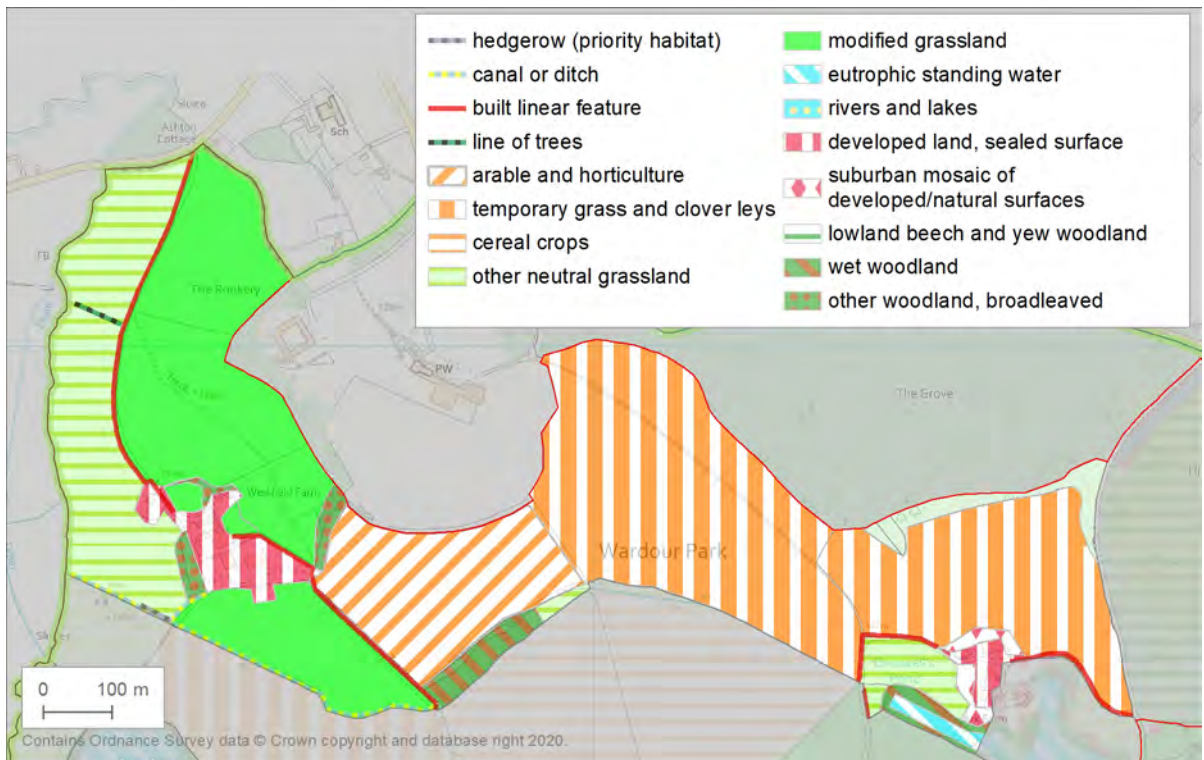
*View of Westfield Farm with its modern barns from the south east.*

## Trees & Woodland



- 5.102 There are several historic trees throughout Long Mead to Cow Lease with oak and lime being particularly visible in the mix. There are 13 ancient trees (oak, beech & lime) and 17 veteran trees (oak, lime sweet chestnut, ash, beech, & horse chestnut).
- 5.103 G4 & G5 are young ash dominated groups planted to form a cohesive feature that links the trees within Park Pond to the farm outbuildings. This may provide connectivity for bats and birds but with the onset of Ash Dieback, any connectivity may become fragmented. The screening value of G5 to the modern agricultural buildings may also be lost temporarily.
- 5.104 G20 is a single group of hybrid balsam poplar which were notable during survey due to their striking golden winter twigs.
- 5.105 Woodland W11 is a mix of native broadleaves in the location of the former fishpond (see feature 005 in the description of archaeology above).
- 5.106 There are several trees that have been identified within this area as requiring conservation management measures and several are being adversely affected by ploughing damage and vehicle compaction.

## Ecology



- 5.107 Neutral and modified grassland occupies the west of the area whilst the central section is under arable cultivation and the eastern side is under temporary grass cover.
- 5.108 The valley bottom influences the habitats present along the southern boundary of the area including the eutrophic standing water and surrounding wet woodland at Cresswell's Pond, the ditch along the parish boundary and the wet woodland occupying the site of a fish pond (see feature 005 in the description of archaeology above).
- 5.109 Badger setts were noted in the ha-ha during the archaeological survey.
- 5.110 Static bat detector surveys recorded greater and lesser horseshoe bats within the woodland along the western side of the character area (see Appendix 8).

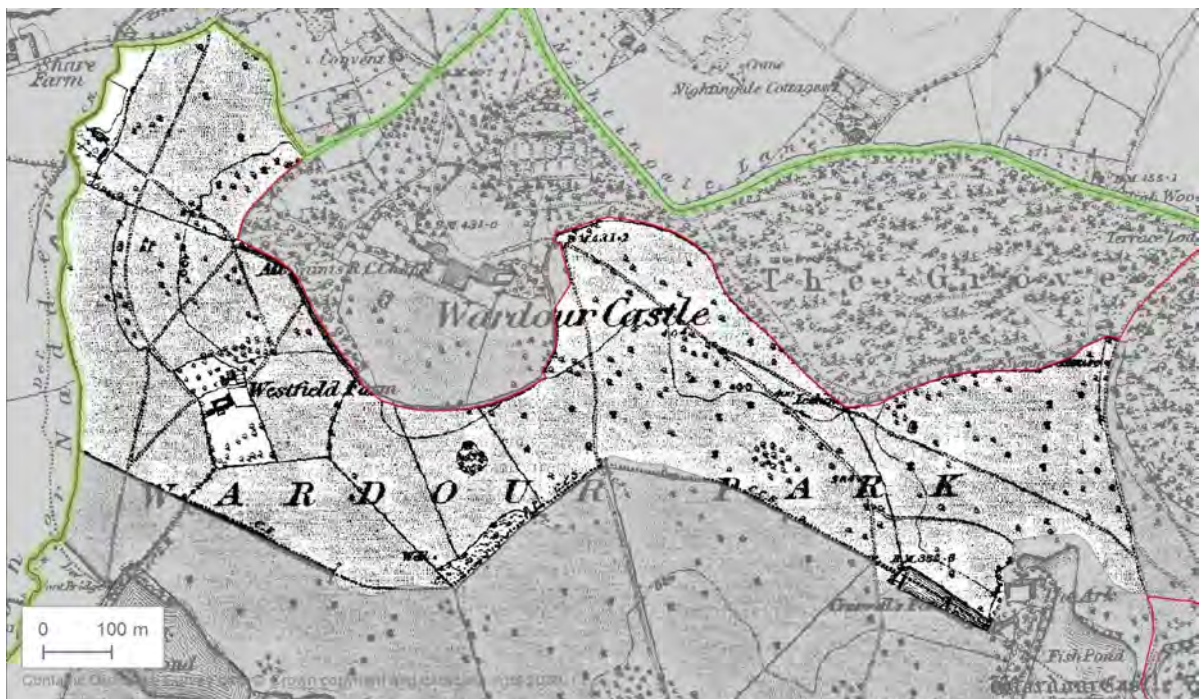
## Hydrology

- 5.111 Cresswell's Pond is a near linear (trapezoidal) pond, extensively covered in vegetation. The outfall or the bank leaks though it was not possible to access the area at the time of the site survey (this area is under separate ownership).
- 5.112 The upstream part of the pond has been lost owing to the lowered water level with much build-up of blackthorn and hawthorn etc. scrub. There appears to be laid a geomembrane as a weed suppressant over much of the unconsolidated above-bed build up.



*Creswell's Pond embankment. Low water level and extensive vegetation both reedbeds and woody scrub/trees*

- 5.113 Creswell's Pond is downstream of Swan and Ark Farm Ponds, draining into the stone lined culvert that follows the parish boundary via the former fish pond and on into the River Nadder.



## Current Character



- 5.114 The Long Mead to Cow Lease character area occupies a band of parkland on a south facing slope that stretches from Ark Farm in the east to the north western edge of the Registered Park and Garden. It provides the immediate setting to New Wardour Castle and is separated from its pleasure grounds by a ha-ha. The Grove woodland rises gently to the north east of the character area.
- 5.115 Whilst there are some fine parkland trees in the centre and west of the area, the field to the east end, north of Ark Farm is now a separate land parcel under cultivation and has lost all its parkland trees.



*View from the historic driveway looking east towards Ark Farm with the modern farm buildings in the middle ground. The wooded escarpment provides the backdrop to the parkland which historically possessed a far greater number of trees.*

- 5.116 Woodland has started to encroach into formerly open parkland adjacent to the southern boundary of the Grove and a group of hybrid balsam poplar appear incongruous in the parkland setting.

- 5.117 Two sets of agricultural buildings located at Ark Farm and Westfield Farm are intrusive modern structures in the context of the historic parkland.
- 5.118 Historic designed views from within and through this area are important including the reciprocal views from Wardour Old and New Castles; views to and from New Wardour Castle across the ha-ha to the south and views from the approach drive that runs through this character area on its final approach to the New Castle.

### Significances

- Archaeological features that evidence the 18<sup>th</sup> century designed landscape including the ha-ha (003, possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century or early 19<sup>th</sup> century) and the approach drive (002)
- Archaeological features that evidence the early (pre-18<sup>th</sup> century) history of the site including the former medieval fishpond and possible Iron Age enclosure or medieval ringwork
- Presence of greater and lesser horseshoe bats as recorded in the bat survey (see Appendix 8)
- History a designed landscape as evidenced by surviving ancient and veteran trees which have significant values for wildlife
- Historic views from within and through the area
- The 18<sup>th</sup> century Cresswell's Pond
- Possible 18<sup>th</sup> century stone lined ditch/conduit that links Creswell's Pond with the former medieval fishpond and follows the Parish Boundary to the River Nadder

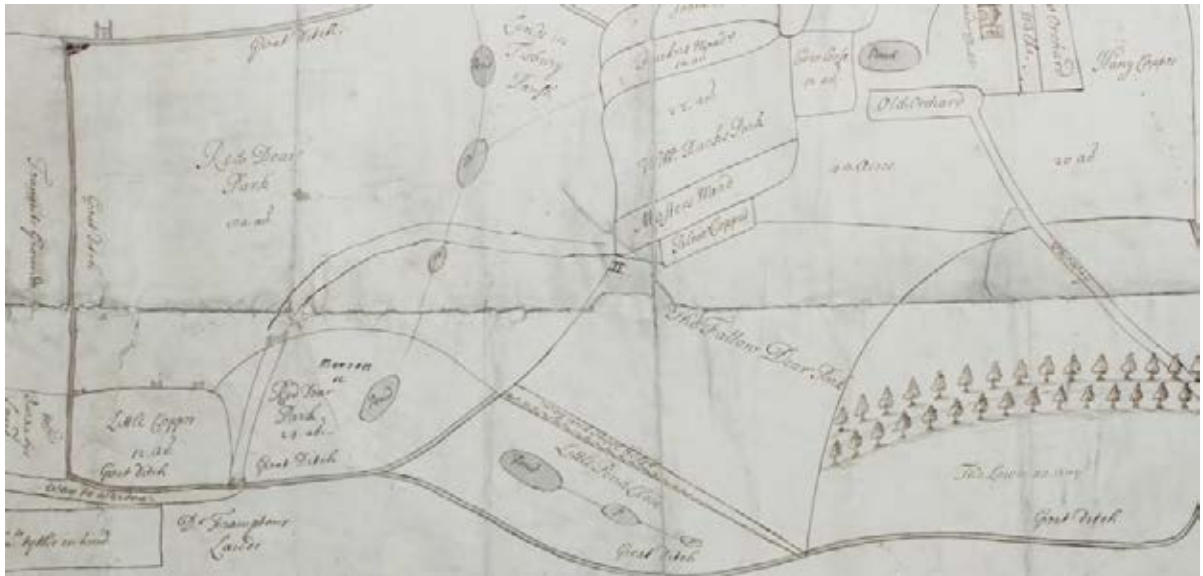
### Issues and opportunities

- Ploughing and cultivation compaction affecting trees, impacting on the archaeological resource and denuding historic landscape character
- The need to balance agricultural productivity with conservation and enhancement of the historic designed landscape and ecological values
- Loss of a small section of historically open parkland to woodland to the south of the Grove which also impacts on ancient, veteran and mature trees
- Potential for the presence of Protected Species, noting the confirmed presence of bats
- The poor and declining condition of Cresswell's Pond
- Loss of historic trees over time, particularly following widespread felling post WWII
- A number of trees require management intervention to enhance their longevity
- Intrusive planting of hybrid balsam poplar along the southern boundary
- Visual impact of the modern farm buildings and the ongoing resilience of the young ash tree plantation that provides a partial screening function
- Partial loss of historic reciprocal views between New and Old Wardour Castles
- The poor and declining condition of the ha-ha

### 3: THE CHAIN OF PONDS

#### Historic Development

- 5.119 It appears that the majority of the ponds that are extant today can be identified on the 16<sup>th</sup> century map of Wardour, provided that allowance is made for the fact that it is hand-drawn.



16<sup>th</sup> century map (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-14H), each of the lozenge shapes is a pond. The lowest pond (at the top of the map) is likely to coincide with Park Pond and one of the upstream ponds (at the bottom of the map) is possibly Horwood Pond. One of the problems of interpretation is that records indicate that the pond dams were breached during the Civil War and so the ponds, when reinstated, may not have been formed precisely on their previous footprint.

- 5.120 The 1753 survey records the lowest four ponds more or less in their final design form and similar to that which survives today. Horwood Pond is smaller than that shown on the 1773 survey.

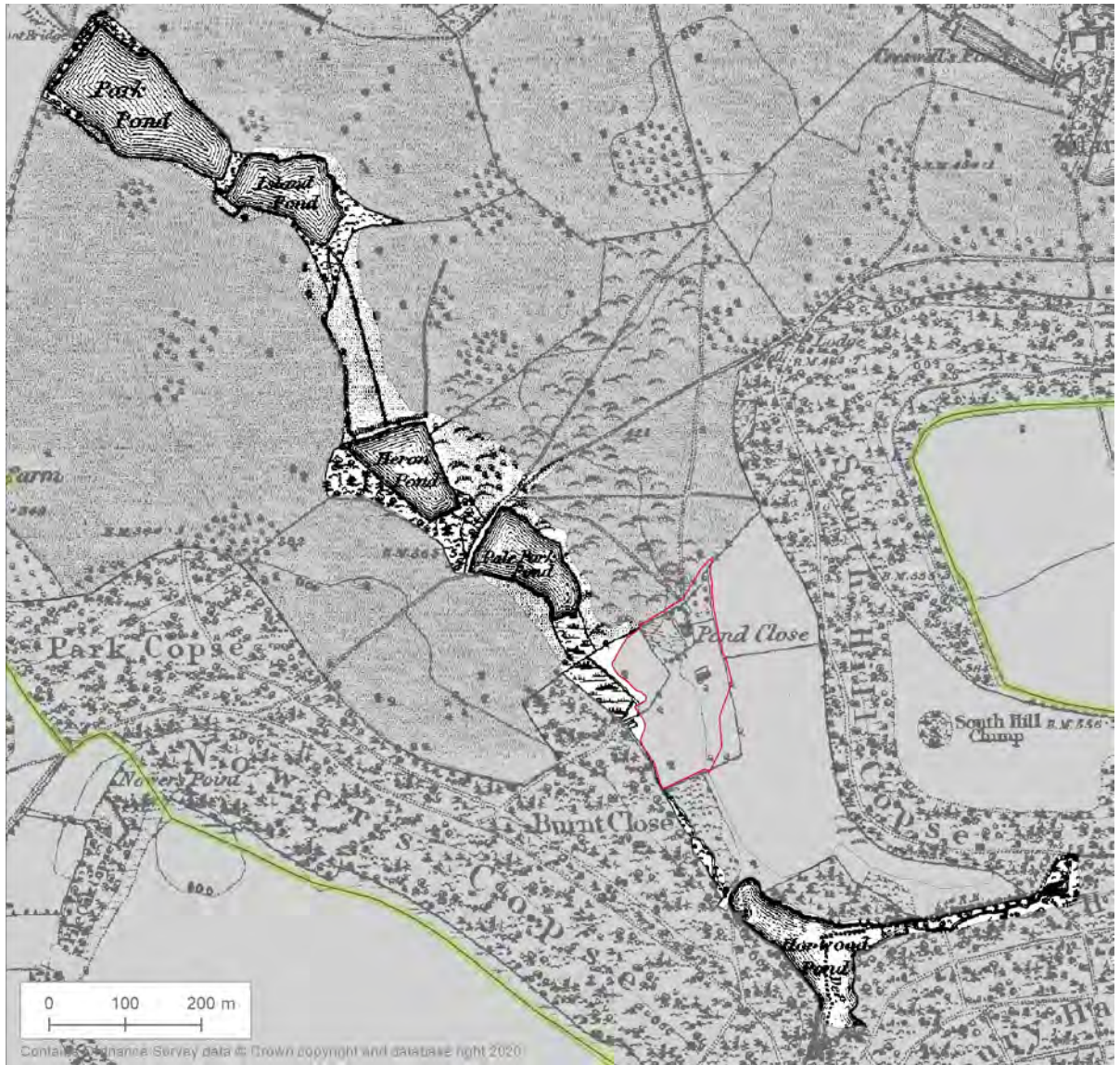


1753 survey (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-9H)

- 5.121 The 1773 Ingham survey shows a similar layout to the 1753 survey, with the exception of Horwood Pond which is shown as more elongated. It is likely that Woods added cascades to some of the ponds. The dams between Park Pond and Island Pond, and between Heron Pond and Park Pale Pond, were utilised to carry tracks, possibly new approaches across the park, which would have allowed a glimpse of water and views of the New Castle.

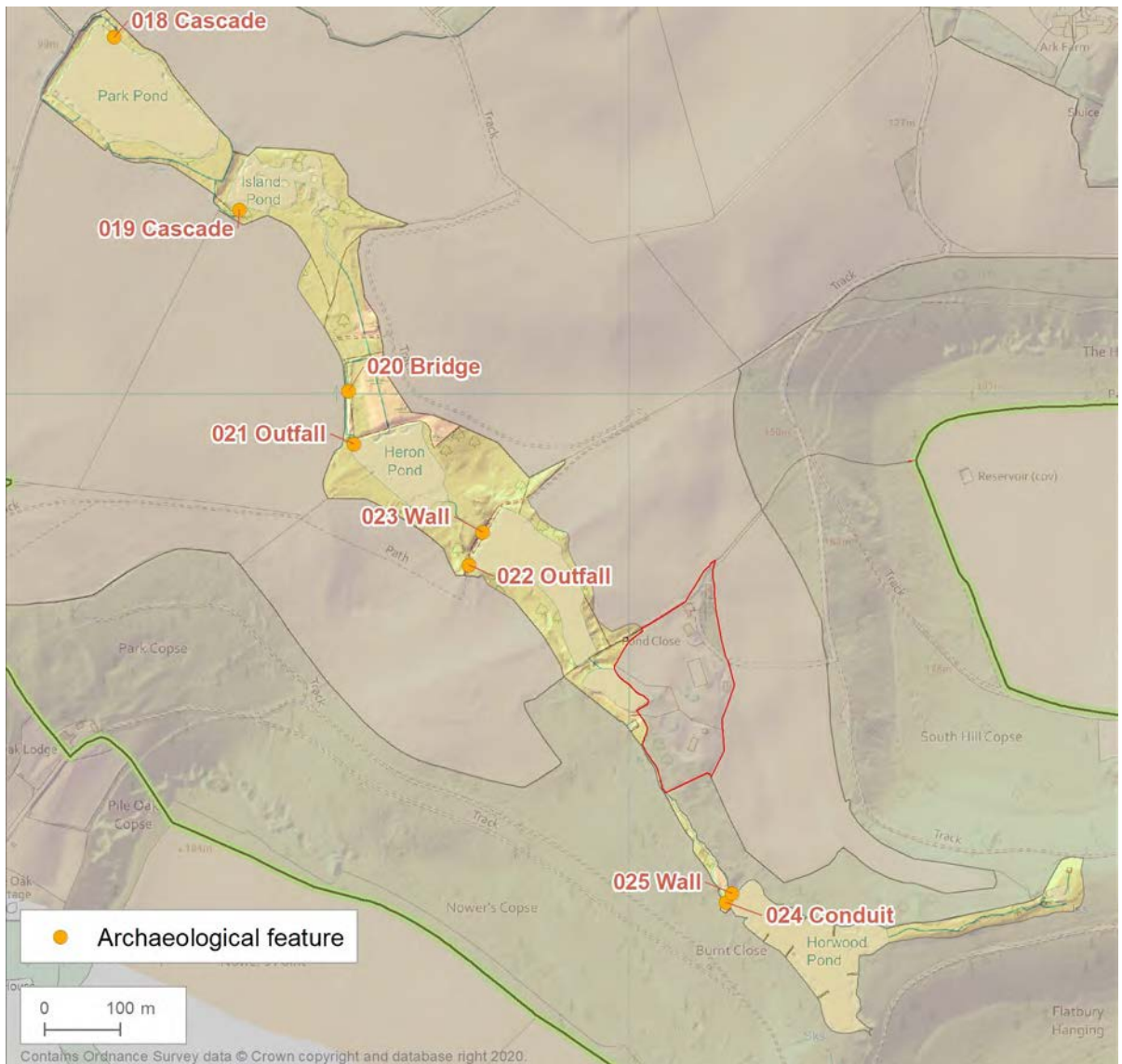


*Extract from the 1773 Survey showing the chain of ponds (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-12H)*



- 5.122 By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Horwood Pond had been enlarged and a hydraulic pump (a ‘ram’) installed. The picturesque routes across the park utilising the dams of the lower ponds had fallen out of use. The new enlarged form of Horwood Pond appears to have been developed in line with the creation of the adjacent drive, the two making the most of the landform and increasing the visibility of water in the landscape.
- 5.123 Until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the ponds – particularly Park Pond and Island Pond, were visible from the New Castle, but self-sown scrub on the margins of the ponds has gradually hidden the water from view.

## Archaeology & buildings



- 5.124 There are constructed outlets to each of the ponds including two cascades to Park Pond and Island Pond (018 & 019), two outfalls to Heron Pond and Pale Park Pond (021 & 022) and a conduit to Horwood Pond (024), which are illustrated below.



Left: cascade 018 from Park Pond looking north west. Right: cascade from Island Pond 019 looking north.



*Left: bridge between Heron and Island Ponds 020 looking south east. Right: cascade and spillway to Heron Pond looking south east (021).*



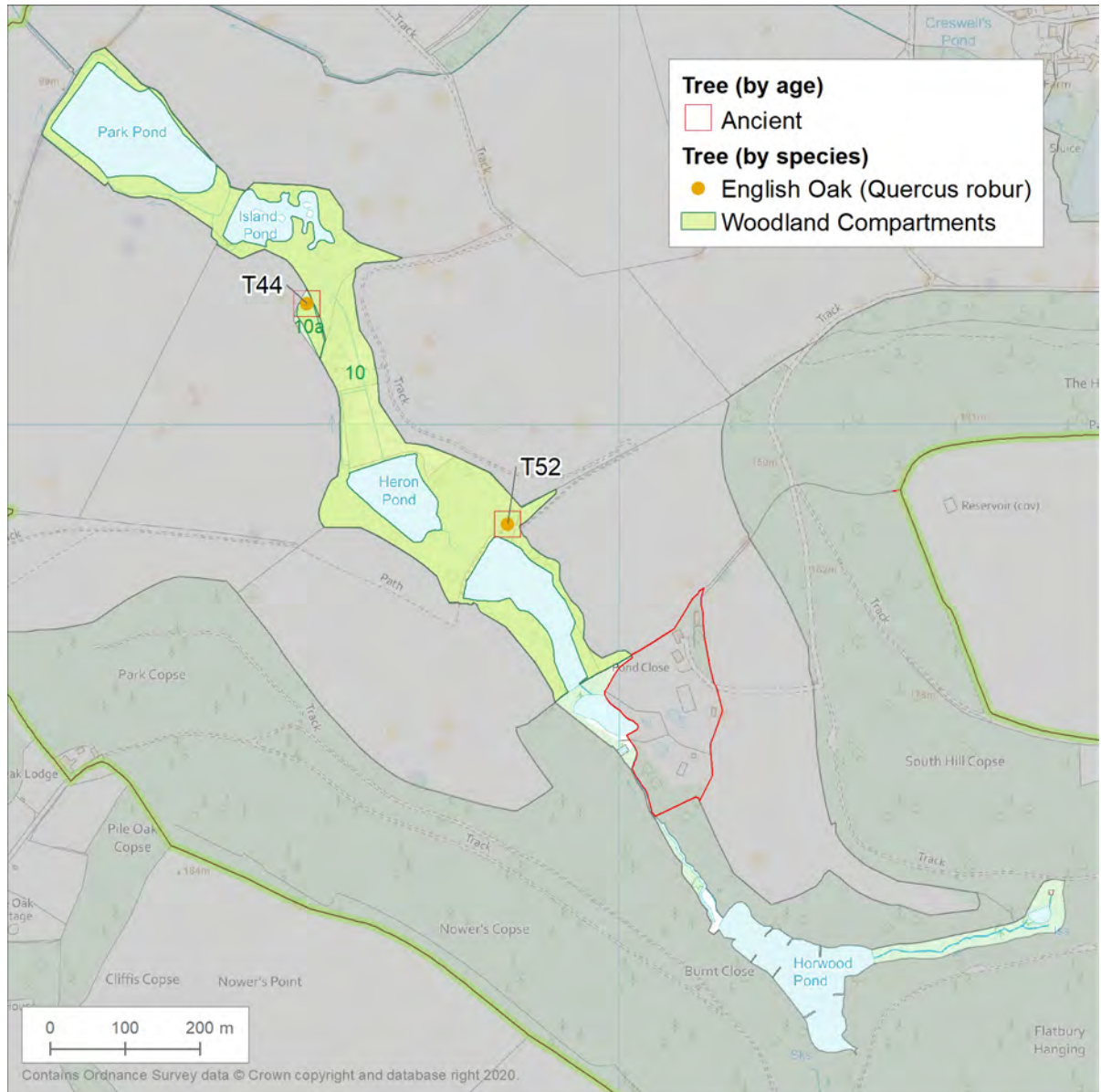
*Left: outfall to Pale Park Pond 022 looking south east. Right: retaining wall 023 to Pale Park Pond looking south east.*



*Left: conduit 024 to Horwood Pond looking south east. Right: retaining wall to Horwood Pond looking west.*

5.125 A bridge structure was recorded between Heron and Island Ponds (020). Additional details of these and additional structures are included under hydrology below.

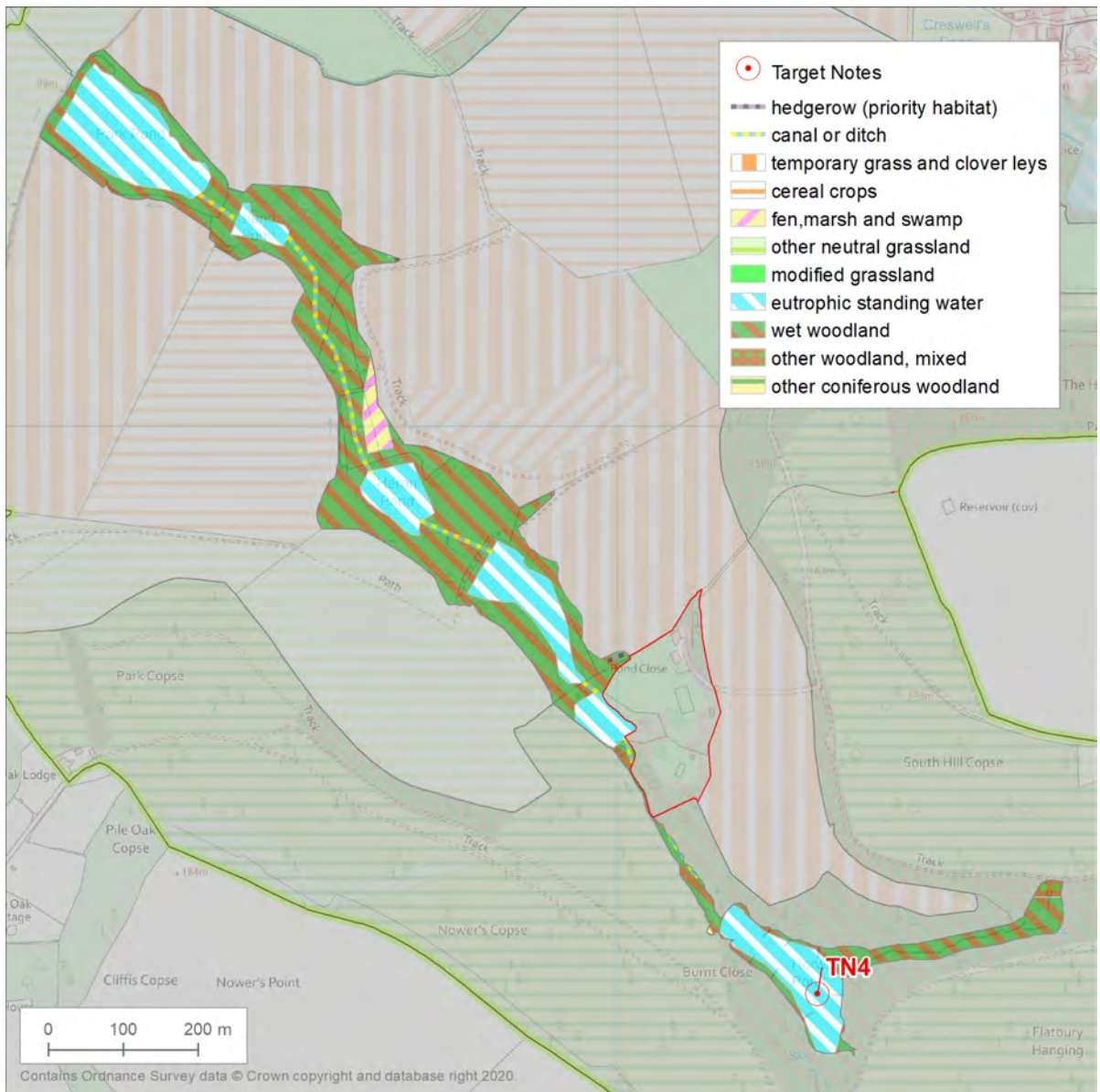
## Trees & Woodland



5.126 Woodland compartment 10 is recorded in the woodland as mixed native broadleaved trees. Compartment 10a has been added as the area was excluded from the compartment 10 and is important in the context of this Plan as it is an area dominated by ash with a risk of damage to an ancient oak tree (T44). T44 is also at risk from ploughing damage and vehicle compaction.

5.127 Another ancient oak (T52) was recorded to the north east of Pale Park Pond.

## Ecology



- 5.128 The Chain of Ponds are identified as eutrophic standing water and are entirely surrounded by wet woodland.
- 5.129 The wet woodland in the central and southern sections of the site was likely the most floristically diverse habitat observed on-site. The tree species noted included willow, alder, cherry *Prunus sp.*, birch *Betula sp.*, hawthorn; Blackthorn. The dominant tree species was alder. Other species noted included nettle, marsh thistle, silverweed *Argentina anserina*, docks *Rumex sp.*, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosa*, lords and ladies *Arum maculatum*, honeysuckle *Lonicera sp.*, snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*, colt's-foot *Tussilago farfara* and a variety of rush species *Juncus sp.*, and sedge species *Carex sp*
- 5.130 Downstream of Heron Pond there is a waterlogged habitat classified as fen, marsh or swamp. This habitat bordered a stream connecting Heron Pond with Island Pond and was waterlogged at the time of survey but is likely to be fully inundated at other times of the year. Species within this habitat comprised goat willow *Salix caprea*, reed species, lesser bulrush *Typha angustifolia*, meadowsweet, alder, cleavers *Galium aparine* and nettle.
- 5.131 At Target Note 4 (TN4) an otter spraint was observed on a collapsed tree in Horwood Pond. It is likely that otter use all of the ponds on site as they are well connected to the River Nadder.

5.132 Static bat detector surveys recorded greater and lesser horseshoe bats within the woodland along the western side of the character area (see Appendix 8). Bat trapping surveys in this character area caught many individual bats foraging around the water edge habitat and ancient wet woodland with numerous Daubenton's and soprano pipistrelles but also whiskered and Natterer's, highlighting the importance of wet woodland habitat for bats.

## Hydrology



5.133 There are a total of eight ponds in the Chain of Ponds character area as described below.

### *Horwood Bottom Pond*



- 5.134 Horwood Bottom Pond lies within the Cann Sand Member of the Upper Greensand or the Gault. Water exits as a spring from the Upper Greensand and is immediately protected and pumped as a water supply, historically supplying Wardour Castle. It would appear that water arises in much of the area and thus either ponds on the Gault to form a pond and larger bog, or the pond is excavated into permanently saturated Cann Sand.

### *Horwood Pond*



*View of Horwood Pond from the north west on the dam.*

- 5.135 When compared with the 1887 OS 1:25 inch map the total water surface of Horwood Pond appears not to have changed a great deal, with the exception of the two upstream arms, which are each supplied by separate sub-catchments. Therefore, the loss of the historic water surface is likely to be due to vegetation succession rather than a lowering of the water level.
- 5.136 Evidence of direct spring flow into the Horwood Pond was seen during the survey but the bulk of the lake lies atop the Gault.
- 5.137 The pond is heavily silted and requires dredging, with an estimated 6000 tonnes of silt requiring removal.
- 5.138 Water quality appears to be generally good but with a proliferation of filamentous green algae within the upper part of the pond, and with floating scums to leeward. These scums may be algal or protozoan but are unlikely to be blue-green algae at the time of the survey (April 2021). They do indicate conditions leading towards eutrophication, which given the elevation of the pond in the catchment is likely to be due to a combination of ground-baits, shallow water and possibly the Horwood Farm settlement.
- 5.139 Additional issues to be addressed include the toe drains at the base of the valley sides where the valley meets the pond structure. To the south side, the drain is blocked with timber, which requires removal. On the other side of the dam, an incoming stream appears at times to run into the pond, and at times – especially of high water level – run down the embankment together with pond water. This potential breach should be addressed with the ditch being re-excavated and, if possible, the dam structure being raised.

5.140 A hydraulic ram pump remains in situ below the dam of the pond and is linked to it.



*Left: the culvert in the dam is in reasonable condition, but traffic over the dam should be restricted and the bulging wall monitored or repaired. Right: Lake seepage through the dam in and around the scour outlet head wall.*

### *Rectangular Pond Structure*



*Stone rectangular pond behind stock fence which encloses the Pond Close site*

5.141 The rectangular structure appears to be constructed of local stone and is approximately 5.5m long by 2.75m wide with an unknown depth. It is not shown on modern surveys but lies within or close to the original valley invert and was fed, at least in 1887 by the stream from the Horwood Pond upslope. The stream's route has been changed since the pond was last in use, but the old channel is still visible. This pond's function is unknown; however, it could be part of an eel trap, a sheep dip, a watering place for livestock, or for the kennels which were previously sited close by.

### *(Pond) Close Pond*

5.142 This pond is situated in a relatively level area on the Gault, previously surveyed as 'marsh'. It is not thought to be part of the potential restoration works. The pond has been constructed as a wildfowl refuge together with nearby smaller ponds to the north. Its dam appears to over-top regularly. This is notable as any works to the Pale Park Pond should consider the proximity of this weak dam.

5.143 The design overflow, a DN750 concrete culvert still flows at the northern part of the dam.



*The impounding structure of Close Pond with the immediate upstream part of the Pale Park Pond to the left. Multiple leaks and evidence of regular over-topping.*

### *Pale Park Pond*



*Pale Park Pond appears to have a high water level.*

- 5.144 The water level within Pale Park Pond appears to be too high. In April 2021 the water level had dropped which may be because the inflow rate is greater than the ability of the outfall to handle – leading to over-topping – and/or the bank leaks.
- 5.145 The Pale Park Pond is shallow, generally a metre and a half in depth or less and it is feasible – as is not uncommonly done – that the water level has been raised to maintain water depth rather than dredge the lake.
- 5.146 The water surface area of this pond has increased towards Close Pond when compared with the 1887 OS map, further suggesting that the water level has been lifted beyond the design level.
- 5.147 The outfall discharge point is a relatively new construction of an ‘agricultural’ nature, with a simple box culvert being constructed with a concrete slab above. There is evidence of failed drainage in the

dam top but this may be imported rubble fill material. There is also an iron rail fence removed to the external bank. A decision should be made on the level of this pond, but it would be preferable to dredge it and lower the water level to better reflect its historic design. This existing outfall is in the original position. On the top of this outfall structure was an OS Benchmark – at 363.5’ – but this is unlikely to have been to the Newlyn datum used now.

- 5.148 The high water level and the variation at times of stream spate caused by the small overflow, or by its being blocked at times, is evidenced by damage to the internal crest of the dam, and clear overtopping in at least one place.
- 5.149 The scour outlet is being damaged by tree root heave. The Pale Park Pond is shallow owing to the topography on the Gault being similar to that of the Close Pond, i.e. relatively level. The shallow valley is likely to have been scraped to create the dam structure and the pond is likely to be no more than 1.5m deep.
- 5.150 The pond is heavily silted and requires dredging, with an estimated 6500 tonnes of silt requiring removal.



*Left: the outfall (the flowing water) of Pale Park Pond is too high and/or too small. Right: evidence of overtopping on Pale Park Pond Dam.*



*Scour outlet headwall at Pale Park Pond has moved, most likely due to root heave.*

### *Heron Pond*

- 5.151 Despite the geological record showing that the dam of the Heron Pond lies on the Lower Greensand, this is unlikely. The land immediately downstream of the Heron Pond lies wet but as the Gault lies

above the Lower Greensand it is not realistic to consider a sand footing to the impoundment, irrespective of lining. Head deposits are also of varying thickness and texture and a competent engineer would likely design the pond in a single substrate.

- 5.152 The water surface of Heron Pond is somewhat reduced compared to that shown in the 1887 OS map with vegetation encroachment on the south and east sides. The pond is heavily silted and requires dredging, with an estimated 4000 tonnes of silt requiring removal.
- 5.153 There are numerous trees on the dam structure which require removal and the dam potentially shored. The scour outfall leaks as well as other parts of the dam and will require substantial repairs. The existing scour outfall is a DN300 TwinWall pipe and constantly leaks.
- 5.154 The cascade appears to have had at least three iterations with the latest resulting in a potential reduction in water level of the pond, which can only be verified with a detailed topographic survey. If the water level has been lowered the reasons for this must also be investigated and it is likely that this was to reduce leakage.
- 5.155 Downstream of the Heron Pond is a marsh associated with surface water from the Lower Greensand. Whilst it is possible that this wet area may indicate that a pond existing here between the Heron Pond and the track below, it is more likely that construction on the Lower Greensand of a pond has not been attempted, and that the track, with culvert beneath is a causeway over this boggy area. None of the historic mapping records a pond in this marshy area.

### *Island Pond*

- 5.156 Water enters the Island Pond from the south from Heron Pond, from the Lower Greensand supply, and from a source in the south-east possibly from the Swan Pond.
- 5.157 The Island Pond is considerably smaller than its design (that shown on the 1887 OS map used as a baseline) and it is likely that much of the re- shaping is by relatively recent changes. The pond is relatively shallow, at least at the margins with the maximum dam height being no more than c. 1.8m above original invert. As with the Heron Pond water level appears to fluctuate and this on its own would indicate potential leakage and/or insufficiently sized outfall. The southern part of the Island Pond has much scrub reed-bed, and the alder line in the east has encroached several metres, effectively creating good carr conditions.



*View of the extensive reed-bed in the south east corner of Island Pond looking north west.*

- 5.158 The pond is heavily silted and could be dredged, with an estimated 4000 tonnes of silt requiring removal, however, ecological considerations might determine that the reed beds and carr should be retained and managed as found.
- 5.159 The banks and dam are heavily wooded and over-topping and leakage is evident in many places. Irrespective of the final management plan determined for this pond, the trees on the dam should be removed and the leakage addressed. Evidence of badgers or rabbits were seen in the dam structure.

- 5.160 The cascade in the east corner of the dam currently functions well, showing a good flow of water from the above ponds and the Lower Greensand. It has been disturbed significantly by tree roots and erosion and much water bypasses it. It is probable that dry-spell low water levels relate to the leaking cascade (as opposed to the weeping dam) and higher than design levels are caused by blockage of the outfall via floating wood and other vegetation.
- 5.161 The pond, like others upstream has been neglected. A concrete culvert downstream of the cascade has in recent years been destroyed by a tree fall and there are many fallen trees on the dam.



*The cascade to Island Pond is functional but leaking.*

### *Park Pond*

- 5.162 Park Pond is the largest lake in the Horwood system. Water quality appears to be good despite the coarse fishing and obvious wildfowl numbers. It is likely, owing to its position to have the most water flowing through it of all of the ponds reviewed and appears to be relatively deep – possibly 3m or more.



*Park Pond with reed-beds in the foreground.*

- 5.163 The present shape of the pond, all be it with marginal encroachment is well-defined and appears to be similar to the 1887 OS map, which, it is also presumed, is close to the design plan.
- 5.164 Encroachment of reed-beds typically starts on the shallowest water, hence the south, east and west infill. There is an (unfound) historic outfall shown on the middle of the west side but water now emerges on this side further north. There was no obvious construction to this newer outfall visible, but it may have been modified in recent decades when the dam wall was fitted with a concrete edge. Alternatively, it may be a tree-fall hole.
- 5.165 The water level seems to be correct, or possibly marginally high, and there is clear evidence of over-topping in places. This is probably caused by blockage of the main outfall in the east owing to lack of monitoring or maintenance. Elsewhere there are holes in the bank caused by rodents or tree roots. All such 'holes' require inspection and possible repair. Following tree removal on the dam structure, this may result in extensive sheet-piling being recommended.
- 5.166 The pond is heavily silted and could be dredged, with an estimated 10,000 tonnes of silt requiring removal.
- 5.167 The scour outlet headwall seeps very slightly and there are two 3" clay drains associated with it. It is possible that these are tell-tale drains, to detect bank saturation or low level seepage. It is also possible that they are merely land drains from an extensive dam top – but this seems unlikely, and headwalls are not normally designed as retaining walls with integral drainage.
- 5.168 The outfall shown has been disturbed by tree roots with the rubble walling dislodged and leaking, especially around the outside of the structure. This is causing detrimental erosion and should be repaired as a matter of urgency. As with other upslope outfalls, woody matter drawn to the outfall exacerbates side erosion by raising the water level. Such erosion is likely to accelerate in time.

### **Current Character**

- 5.169 The Chain of Ponds occupies a valley that runs from Horwood Bottom in the south east and drains to the River Nadder in the west. From a distance the Chain of Ponds reads as a band of woodland that defines the boundary between Fallow Deer Park and Red Deer Park, which is contrary to their historic role in the designed landscape as visible sheets of open water.
- 5.170 The naming of the water bodies as 'ponds' belies their scale as they can reasonably be considered as lakes. Once through the curtain of trees and scrub, the sight and sound of water greatly enhances the experience of the historic landscape. The high degree of enclosure imparts an intimate and tranquil character throughout the character area. The ancient trees and long history of water management create a sense of timelessness, which is enhanced by the abundance of wildlife that has colonised this peaceful part of the park.
- 5.171 The dense tree and scrub growth along the entire perimeter of the ponds means that the design intention of seeing open water in views is no longer achieved.
- 5.172 The drives that once crossed through the area are no longer in use, however, one 19<sup>th</sup> century trackway remains in use as a Public Right of Way where it crosses to the north of Pale Park Pond.



## Significances

- The suite of natural stone water management features associated with the ponds including cascades, spillways, culverts/outfalls, stone walls/scour outlets and bridge, many of which are 18<sup>th</sup> century
- The valuable habitats including the open water, wet woodland and fen/marsh/swamp
- The contribution of open water to the parkland aesthetic
- The fauna that the area supports including otters
- The two ancient oaks T44 & T52
- Presence of bats throughout the area including greater and lesser horseshoe, Daubenton's, soprano pipistrelles, whiskered and Natterer's bats, as recorded in the bat survey (see Appendix 8) highlighting the importance of the wet woodland habitat for bats

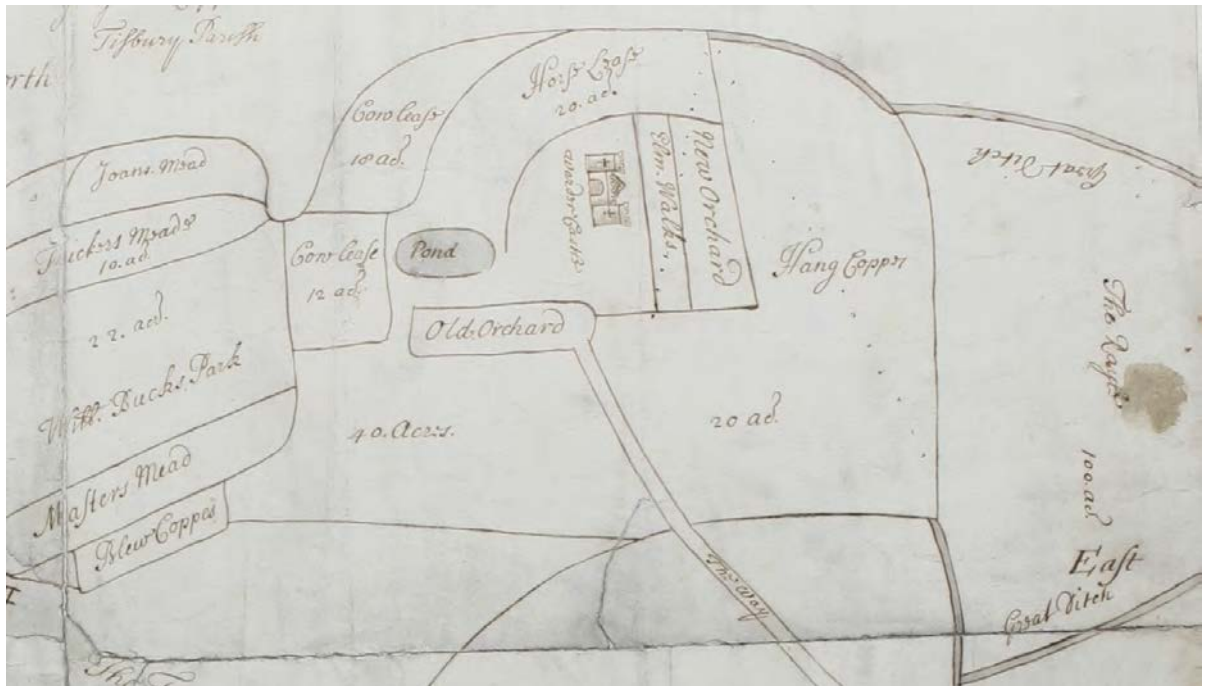
## Issues and opportunities

- The poor and declining condition of the ponds and associated water management structures
- The complete visual enclosure of the ponds by trees and scrub that detracts from the parklands historic character and interest in views, but noting their use by bats
- Ploughing and cultivation compaction is affecting tree 44
- Potential for the presence of Protected Species, noting the confirmed presence of bats
- The high levels of silt in all of the ponds and the historic lack of management and maintenance
- The need to balance ecological interests with designed landscape objectives in developing restoration and management proposals
- Implications of not maintaining the ponds

## 4: ARK FARM AND SWAN POND

### Historic Development

- 5.173 It is not known when Swan Pond was formed, but it may possibly have originated as a fish pond to supply Old Wardour Castle. If so, it may be 14<sup>th</sup> century. A 'pond' is marked in front of the Old Castle on the 16<sup>th</sup> century map.



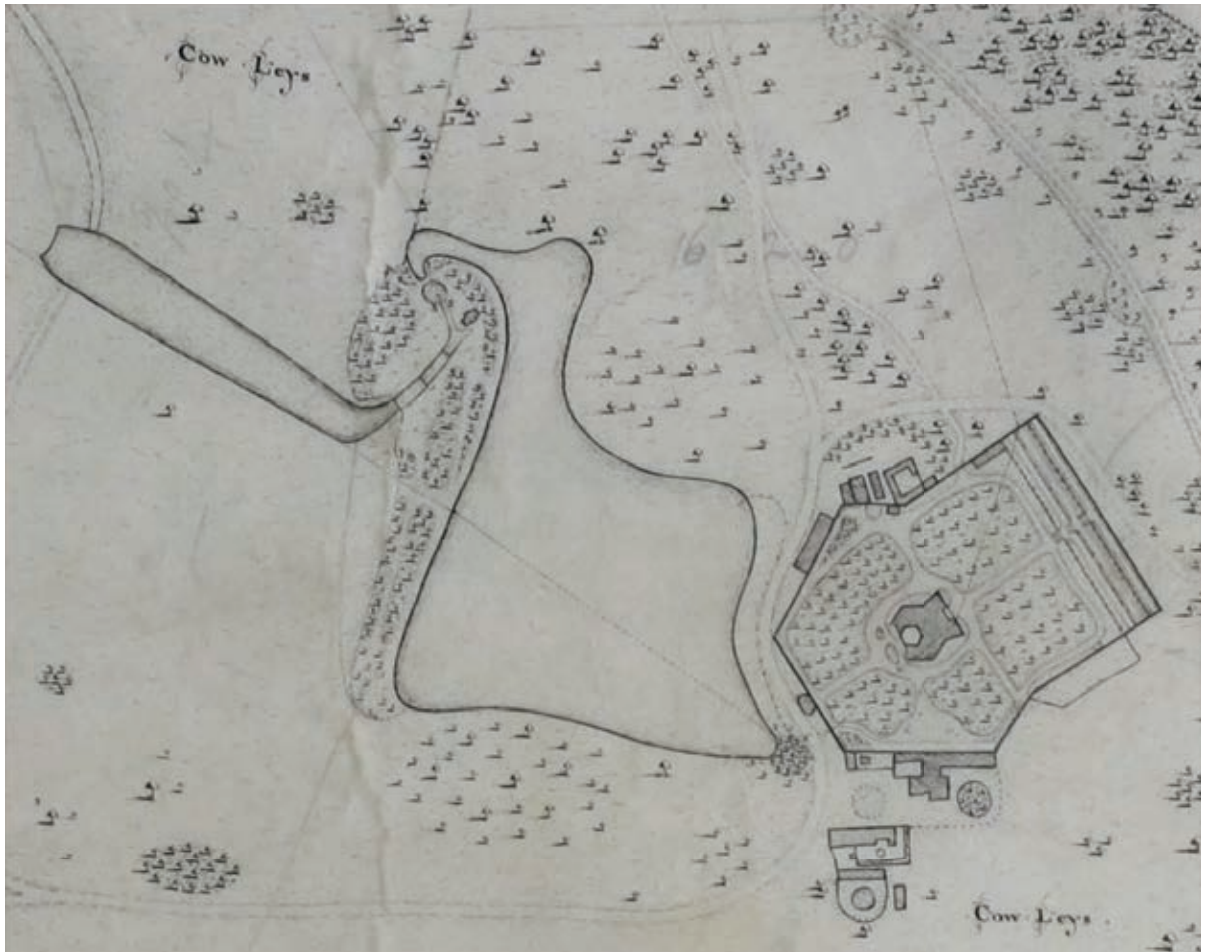
16<sup>th</sup> century map (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-14H) recording a pond west of Old Wardour Castle in its current location, but in a different form. To the west of the pond is Cow Lease, to the north Horse Lease and to the south Old Orchard.



1753 survey (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-9H).

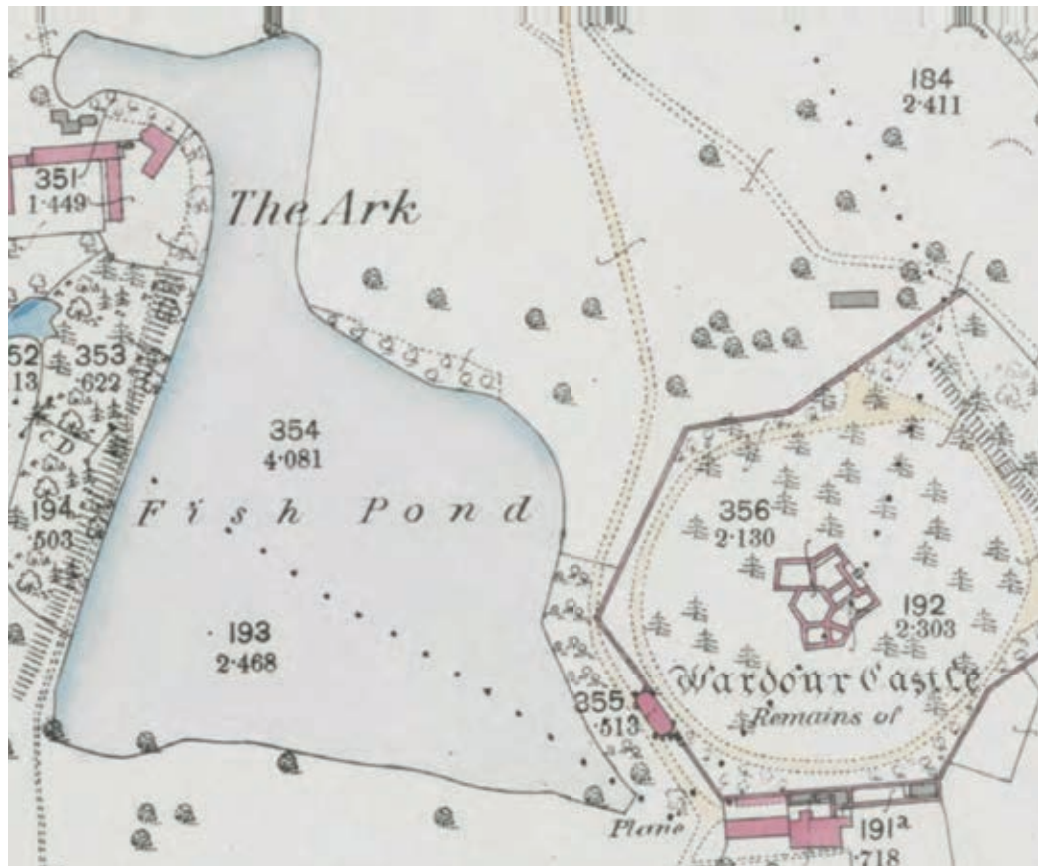
- 5.174 Woods is understood to have raised the dam of the pond, thereby enlarging it and certainly the outline of the pond is more sinuous in 1773 than in 1753. Woods also created the linear Cresswell's

Pond below it, as a kind of riverine extension, and built a Bath House between the two, the portico of which is now attached to Ark Farm.



*Ingham survey dated 1773 (Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre 2667-21-12H).*

- 5.175 Ark Farm itself is believed to date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and that the bath house was incorporated into the farmhouse building that survives today. It is likely that the structure marked close to the dam of Swan Pond on the 1773 survey is the Bath House. An order was placed for a boat to sail on Swan Pond and what may be the remains of footings for a boathouse are present in the south-east corner of the pond, nearest the Old Castle.
- 5.176 Turner's sketches, made early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, show vernacular buildings near the Old Castle, possibly Ark Farm. The 1890 Ordnance Survey, however, labels Ark Farm simply as The Ark. Farm buildings now occupy the site of a chute/weir/cascades, shown on the 1773 survey, which took water from the higher Swan Pond to the lower Cresswell's Pond.
- 5.177 Swan Pond, like the other ponds in the park, is recorded as being open to view (with few trees on its banks), the exception to this being the dam side which, in 1887 is shown with a mantle of trees and shrubs. Tree cover increased during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, possibly partly as a response to the increasing presence of the public after 1936. In that year, the Old Castle was put into the guardianship of the State, and the residents of Ark Farm may have wished to ensure greater privacy.



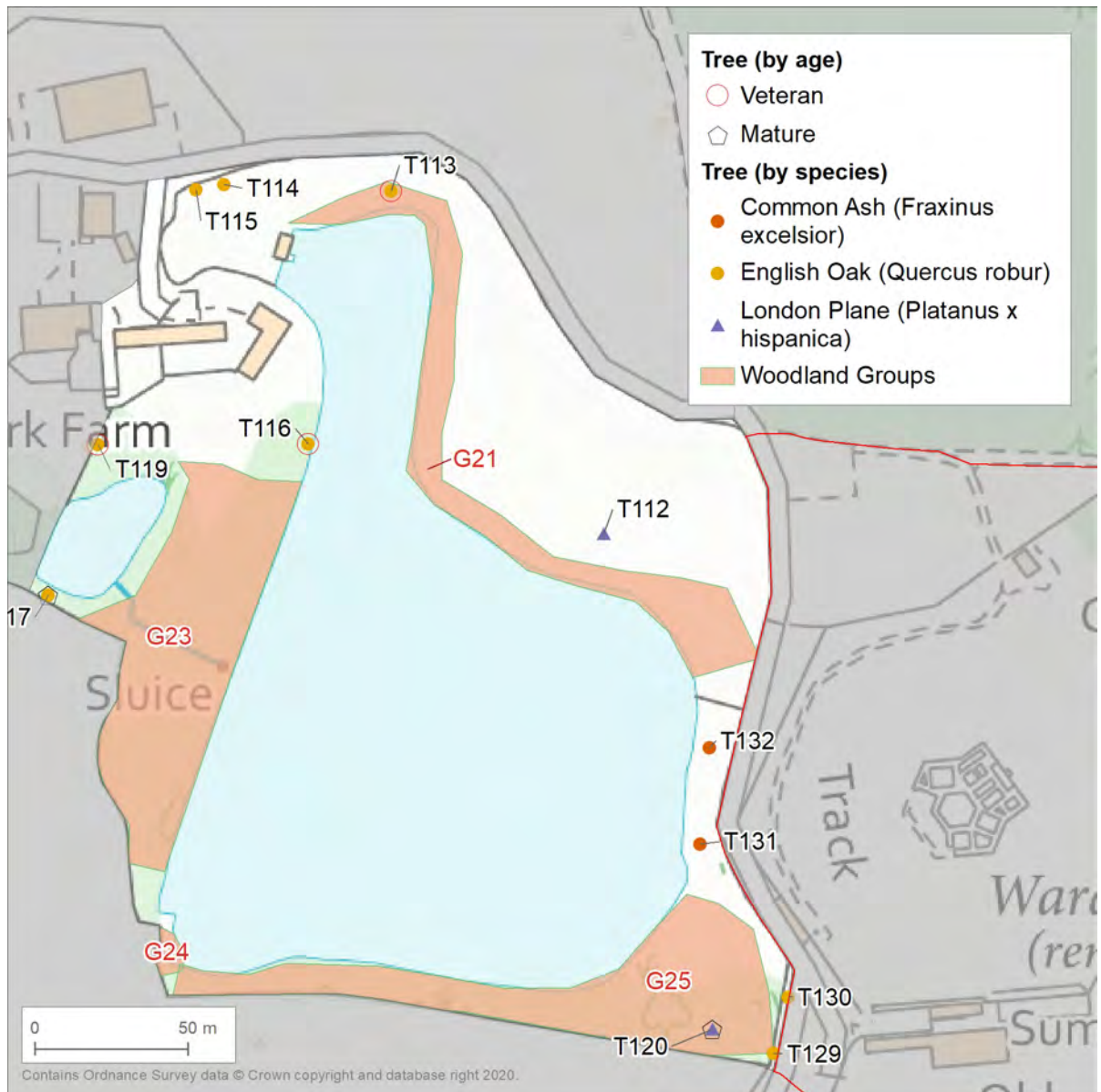
Extract of the First Edition Ordnance Survey 1:25 inch map of 1887

## Archaeology & buildings



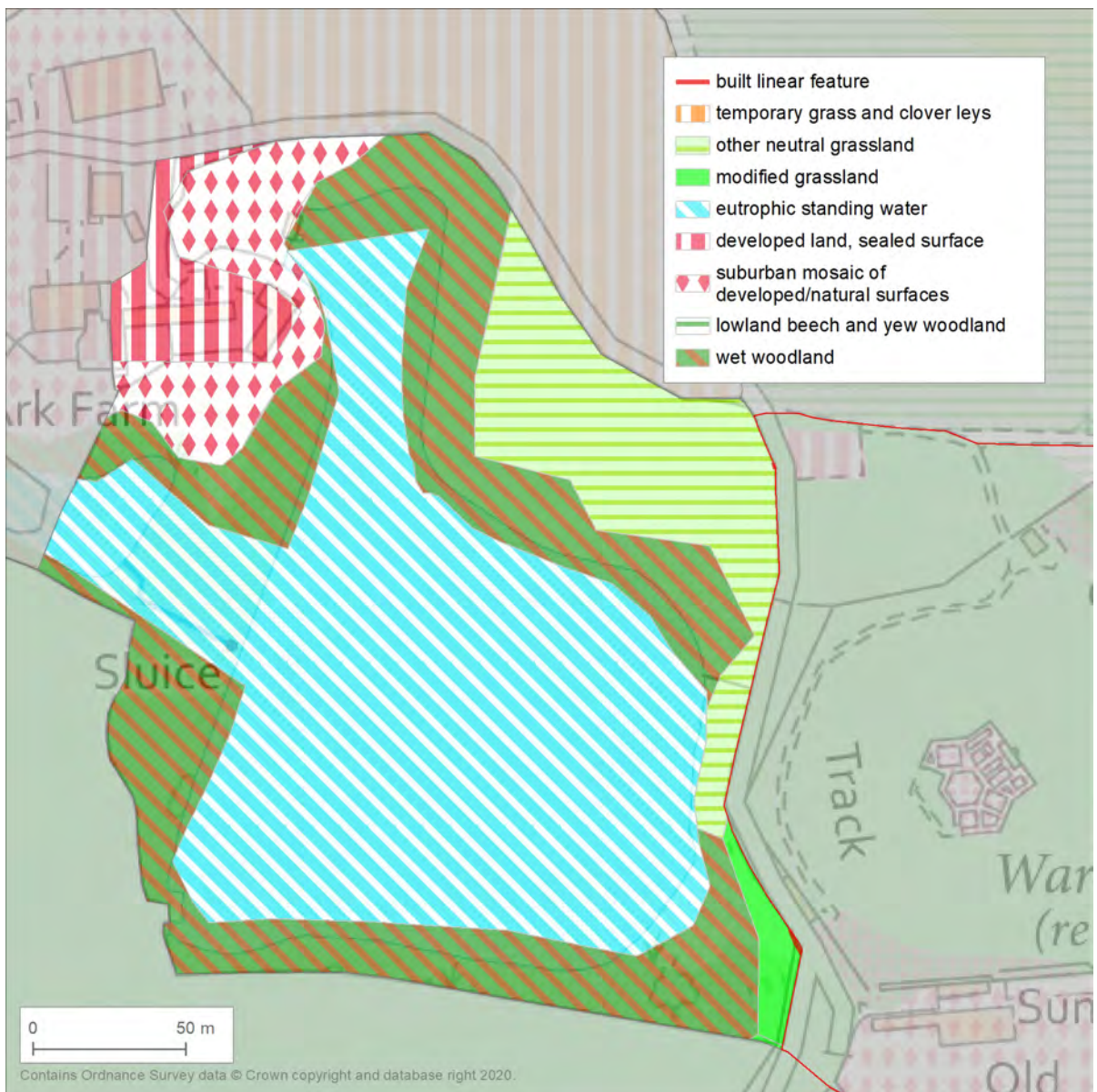
- 5.178 There is a stone dam (038), historic sluice (037) and a modern emergency overflow sluice (039) located along the western side of the Swan Pond.
- 5.179 Ark Farmhouse is a grade II listed building and the pond provides the immediate setting to the farmhouse and the Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed Old Wardour Castle.

## Trees & Woodland



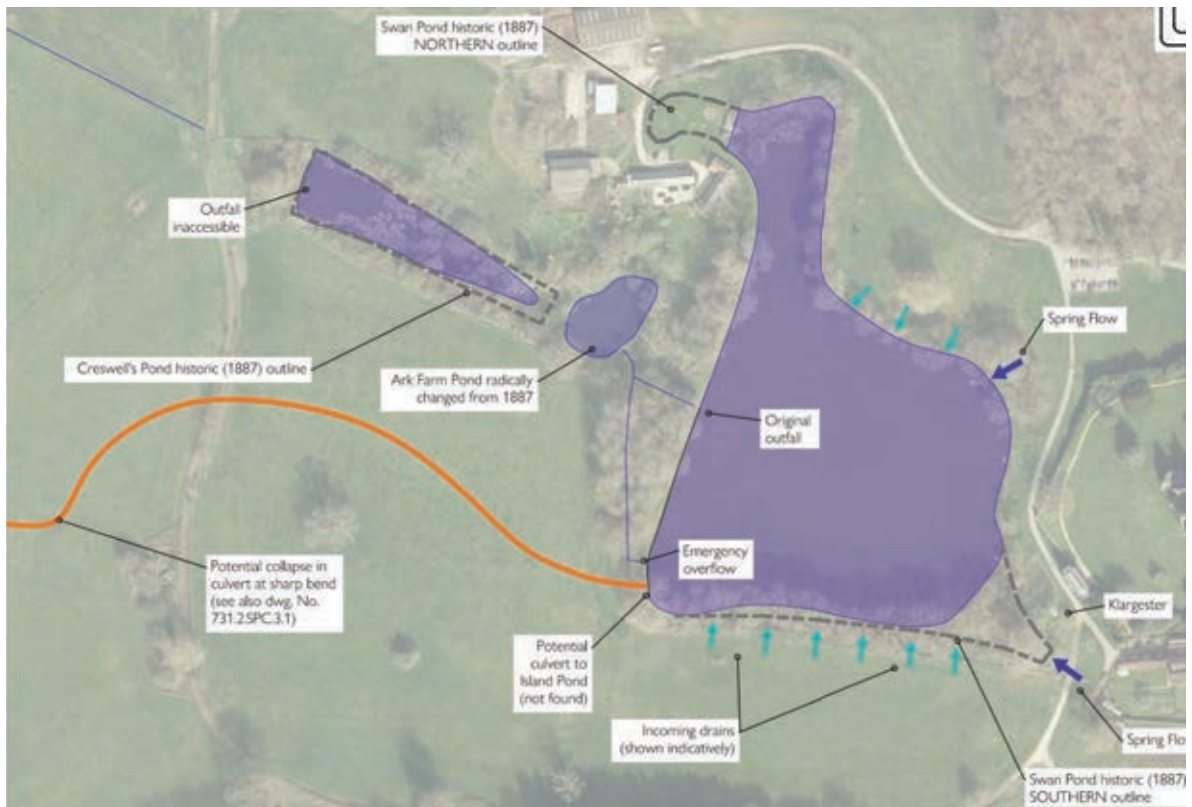
- 5.180 Swan Pond is enclosed by several tree groups including G25 (alder and ash), G24 (London plane specimens), G23 (beech, ash, sycamore, English oak, holly, English elm, hazel, hawthorn, poplar) and G21 (alder, ash and London plane).
- 5.181 There are also several London plane, ash and oak specimen trees. The area includes three veteran oaks, one mature oak and one mature London plane.

## Ecology



- 5.182 The area is dominated by Swan Pond which is classified as eutrophic standing water and is bordered by wet woodland. Contiguous areas of modified and neutral grassland lie along the eastern boundary of the area whilst the garden, Ark Farm and associated hard standings lie to the north west of the area.
- 5.183 Bat trapping surveys at Swan Pond recorded a large population of bats including Bechstein, Daubenton's and soprano pipistrelle bats, which were noted using the pond and woodland/scrub banks to forage.

## Hydrology



### *Swan Pond*

- 5.184 The Swan Pond is a feature of major importance in the landscape below Old Wardour Castle. It is supplied with water from two springs as shown in the drawing above. Whilst the catchment is relatively small, water supply appears to be near constant.
- 5.185 Most water entering the lake from upslope is base flow as opposed to surface flow. The natural attenuation of the sandstone means that it is unlikely that the water level will rise quickly. The lake is also supplied with drains from the field to the south that appear at a spacing of approximately 20 yards (18.28m). Water drains to the lake from the north in a similar manner and any works to the Swan Pond should reflect the necessity for drain repairs – which will include the outfalls - as a minimum, but a completely new field drainage may be considered. The present outfalls are of 3” clay tile drains in a brick headwall. It is likely that the line of these outfalls reflects the design margin of the lake in the south. There is an option to take the pond outline back to these drains. It is unlikely that (predominantly) bankside alders were part of the original design. In the south-eastern corner there is much infill which could be removed as part of the dredging works.
- 5.186 On the east side, there are some road gullies and intercept drains that discharge to the lake. The checking of these should be included as part of any contractor works as there are no obvious issues with them. A Klargester tank sits close to the Banqueting House and is supplied with foul water from the toilets. The condition of this tank, and its effectiveness at treating sewerage to a modern standard is not known. Discharge sampling should be carried when the site opens up fully (post-Covid19) though it is likely that a discharge permit exists (this should be verified).
- 5.187 The Tisbury Angling Club fish on the lake. The number of anglers using the lake is not known but the water quality appears not to be too impacted by fishing. However, the water does appear to be turbid throughout and some algal scums were noticed in the lee of the southern bank. Restrictions on the use of ground baits may be considered to improve water quality, especially prior to any dredging.



*Alder trees have encroached the southern edge of Swan Pond.*

- 5.188 The dam structure seems intact and has been fitted (within the last 10 years) with a 2m deep bentonite core along much of its length. This appears to work well but there is still evidence of some (minor) leakage – of clear water – into the Ark Farm Pond. No work is proposed in this regard, and the presence of trees on the dam should be monitored, though no removal need be considered as an imminent requirement.
- 5.189 The stonework to the dam wall is in a state of collapse. The depth of stonework is not known but it may be assumed that in some form – likely compacted ragstone - it meets footings of firm Gault with the dam structure built up either side of it at depth. The depth of the lake would appear to be c. 4m in front of the centre of the dam.



*The collapsed and slipping dam wall stonework viewed from the north.*

- 5.190 A DN300 TwinWall outfall is connected to the inside of the lake with level control at the lake. At the time of survey, water level was high owing to this outfall being closed (and not visible), with water exiting via the ‘emergency’ overflow. The emergency overflow and the bentonite core were installed in 2008. The TwinWall outfall appears to have been installed in a relatively secure manner, but long term will need more support and preferably being reconstructed and hidden. Ideally, the

original outfall should be repaired and a completely new culvert installed. The original culvert is not visible, but a previous restoration had used 12” concrete pipes, some of which lie at the base of the external bank.

- 5.191 Whilst it was not clear that there was any seepage in this part of the bank, there is an exposed scar on the external batter, close to the TwinWall with evidence of recent removal of material downslope. This should remain constantly monitored and any major works to the embankment should include new shoring.
- 5.192 The new overflow channel and the original channel meet south of Ark Farm Pond. No works appear necessary here.
- 5.193 The pond is heavily silted and could be dredged, with a possible 12,000 tonnes of silt requiring removal. To accurately assess the quantity and nature of the material within the lake to be removed, an external topographic survey, followed by a bathymetric / sediment thickness survey should be carried out.

### *Ark Farm Pond*

- 5.194 Ark Farm Pond has been extensively modified from its original design (see below). It is not proposed to return the Ark Farm Pond to an earlier shape. At present its water level is raised by a simple concrete weir, probably to an elevation higher than the original design such that the pond’s freeboard is minimal, and the confluence of the two Swan Pond channels are flooded.
- 5.195 In addition to water from the Swan Pond, water enters the Ark Farm Pond via seepage drainage from the south and north, and via the Swan Pond embankment toe drains. Seepage of water from the Swan Pond appears, at Ark Farm, to be minimal and much improved since the bentonite core was installed in the dam.
- 5.196 The Ark Farm Pond is shallow, possibly no more than 1.2m deep, and requires dredging. A rough estimate at the time put the in-situ volume 550 tonnes.
- 5.197 There is a geomembrane evident behind the campshedding that surrounds the margin of much of the pond. It is not clear whether this geomembrane is for weed suppression or water retention, but it appears to be a weed suppressant in the upper part of Creswell’s Pond, immediately adjacent. If installed as a water barrier it may have been part of the works to raise the water level.
- 5.198 Works to the Ark Farm Pond could involve dredging, recompaction of the bed and banks, possibly lifting the clayey material at the same time, and replacement of the campshedding.

### **Current Character**

- 5.199 Ark Farm and Swan Pond is situated at the head of a valley nestled within the backdrop of the wooded escarpment to the east. Its long historic associations, both functional and aesthetic, with Old Wardour Castle are now somewhat detached through separate ownership and the visual barrier of the enclosing tree groups that surround Swan Pond.
- 5.200 Despite increasing numbers of visitors to Old Wardour Castle, the Ark Farm and Swan Pond character area is a deeply tranquil location of great picturesque significance as celebrated by Turner in his sketches.
- 5.201 Whilst the area and elements of the historic layout has been adapted for modern residential use, the essential form of Swan Pond remains intact.
- 5.202 The area provides the essential setting to both Ark Farmhouse and Old Wardour Castle, however, historic views are either prevented or denuded through the presence of self-sown tree groups.



*Exceptional views are gained from the west looking over the open water towards Old Wardour Castle demonstrating the water's reflective quality. The self-sown tree groups either side of the pond detract from the historic character and quality of picturesque view – upsetting the balance of open space in the middle ground.*



*View of Old Wardour Castle from the historic approach drive looking east. The open water of Swan Pond can be glimpsed in the bottom left and the intrusive alder tree group lies in the middle ground, preventing the intended picturesque composition of open water and castle ruins in front of the wooded escarpment.*



### Significances

- The open water of Swan Pond provides the essential setting to the Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed Old Wardour Castle
- The grade II listed Ark Farmhouse
- Presence of bats including Bechstein, Daubenton's and soprano pipistrelles
- The suite of natural stone water management features including the outfall sluice and the stone dam wall
- The area is used by anglers to fish
- The great aesthetic value of the area

### Issues and opportunity

- The poor and declining condition of the ponds and associated water management structures
- The near complete visual enclosure of the pond by trees and scrub that detracts from the parkland's historic character and

- The high levels of silt in the ponds
- Potential for the presence of Protected Species, noting the confirmed presence of bats
- Poorly documented history of the boathouse associated with Swan Pond
- significance of views/setting, but noting their use by bats
- Negative visual impact of the adjacent car park

## 5: CHARACTER AREAS OUTSIDE OF THE STUDY AREA

5.203 The following character areas lies outside of the current study area:

- 5(a) Old Wardour Castle
- 5(b) New Wardour Castle and Grounds
- 5(c) Pond Close
- 5(d) Rails and the Lawn
- 5(e) The Grove



## 6. Statement of significance

- 6.1 Wardour Park is of outstanding national significance as a designed landscape with myriad significances and numerous features evidencing its long and varied history. This importance is reflected in its inclusion at Grade II\* in the *Historic England Register of Parks & Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England*.
- 6.2 It is a picturesque 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape park, developed from the remains of two medieval deer parks. It provides the setting for a large Palladian mansion and has the unusual distinction of incorporating a medieval castle as an eye-catcher or folly. It is of further interest in belonging to a prominent Catholic family and in being the Catholic landscape gardener Richard Woods' most prestigious commission. Throughout recorded history, it has been celebrated as a place of great natural, as well as man-made, beauty. Its ecological value is recognised by the existence of two County Wildlife Sites and that much of the woodland is designated as Ancient Replanted Woodland and areas of Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland.
- 6.3 This statement of significance is set out under four main values in accordance with Historic England's 2018 *Conservation Principles* (evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal), with the additional category of nature conservation appearing at the end of the chapter.

### Previous assessments of significance

- 6.4 The significance of Wardour has been assessed by each of the three main studies undertaken to date: LUC 1993; Dominic Cole with LUC, 2014; and Nexus Heritage (with a focus on the Old Castle), 2015.
- 6.5 All of these consider the significance of the landscape and, in the case of the 1993 and 2014 studies, evaluate it in some depth. The current plan has the advantage of being able to draw on these studies but unlike either the 1993 and 2014 studies, presents significance with explicit reference to Historic England's *Conservation Principles*.

### Evidential Value

- 6.6 Evidential value is defined by Historic England as '*the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity*'. Evidential value is generally considered to be represented by tangible remains.
- 6.7 In the park at Wardour are to be found: the remains of the Great Ditch, first shown on the 16<sup>th</sup> century map but undoubtedly much older (from these remains it is possible to trace the probable form of the medieval deer park); most of the ponds that are recorded on the same map; and ancient and veteran trees, the very oldest of which may date to the same era; parkland trees from the great landscaping campaign of the 18<sup>th</sup> century; Woods' terrace, traces of his approaches, drainage channels and related earthworks; his built structures, including ha-has, cascades, the rock arch (Grade II listed) and the portico of the Bath House (now attached to Ark Farm, Grade II listed); at the perimeter of the park, entrance lodges including Trapper's Lodge Arch (Grade II listed), mostly constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.8 What is perhaps unusual about the park is that, although much has been removed over time, including historic boundaries, some structures and many historic trees, very little of the park has been developed. Construction is potentially very harmful to heritage assets but even in the Second World War (Longleat, for example, housed a large prisoner-of-war camp) and during its time as a school, building work was limited in its scope and extent, and the park was left largely untouched. Conversely, it is believed that many parcels within the park have been ploughed, even if only intermittently, and it is likely that evidential value has been lost as a consequence.

## Historical value

- 6.9 Historical value is defined by Historic England as ‘the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present’.
- 6.10 A succinct definition of the historical value of the landscape park at Wardour can be found in the 2014 masterplan document, which describes Wardour as ‘a fine example of C18th picturesque designed landscape incorporating the classical ideal, New Wardour (Grade I listed), with the pre-existing Antiquity, Old Wardour (Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed), as a picturesque eye-catcher in the idealised Arcadian Landscape’. Quoting Christopher Hussey, comparative examples are given at Belsay in Northumberland and Scotney Old Castle in Kent.
- 6.11 In general terms, the park is an exemplar of an English landscape park. Because, in England, we are used to seeing such parks, it is easy to forget how ground-breaking (literally) they were at the time, and how influential. As Kenneth Clark wrote in his seminal book *Civilisation*, they ‘were the most pervasive influence that England has ever had on the look of things in Europe’ (Clark, 1969). It is as a ‘landscape park’ that Wardour is included at grade II\* on Historic England’s Register of Parks and Gardens.
- 6.12 Nexus Heritage (2015) highlights the time-depth or ‘layering’ of ‘extraordinary, successive structures and designed landscapes as a contributor to Wardour’s significance: a late medieval distinctive concentric tower keep and curtain-walled castle set within an extensive hunting park; late Elizabethan Renaissance family-residence-cum-‘pocket palace’, in a fully designed gardens and parkland setting; eighteenth-century ‘Gothick ruin’ set in a Picturesque [sic] landscape park as counterpoint to a massive neo-classical mansion’. This interrelationship between buildings and landscape is a characteristic of both Old Wardour ‘the proximity of such a large park for hunting as well as the aesthetic pleasure of the prospects that took in the possibility of the chase’ (Nexus Heritage, 2015) and New Wardour, Viscount Palmerston expressing it as well as any: ‘the whole scene is beautiful from the House’. And here, it is not just beauty that is aimed at, but the typology of parkland, without which any substantial country seat would be incomplete. The huge extent of the park at Wardour, together with the lengthy approaches by Woods and later via Horwood, were designed to convey wealth, power and status just as much as the palatial house.
- 6.13 A number of important names are associated with the park at Wardour: Richard Woods, for whom it was his most prestigious commission; Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown who proposed the ha-ha, an upper terrace and a driveway along Horwood Bottom, which were either implemented by him or realised at a later date, are of great academic interest; and James Paine, whose mansion commands the prospect and draws a number of historic approaches to it. Additionally, within the historic estate (but outwith the study area) contributions by Vanburgh, Sir John Soane, Robert Smythson and Josiah Lane have been identified, as well as advice from the poet Joseph Spence.
- 6.14 Cole with LUC 2014 has identified the survival of a good documentary record as contributing to Wardour’s significance. Plans by Brown and Woods survive plus useful site surveys from late 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards.
- 6.15 It may also be said that while the Scheduled Old Castle, the numerous listed buildings and structures, and the registered park at Wardour, are individually of national significance, they possess an additional value because of their interrelationships, often expressed by the term ‘group value’. The juxtaposition of, and intimate connections between, the ‘heritage assets’ makes Wardour of even greater significance than any of its component parts considered in isolation.

## Aesthetic Value

- 6.16 Aesthetic value is defined by Historic England as ‘the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place’.
- 6.17 LUC 1993 described the Wardour landscape as one ‘of great natural beauty’. The Nexus Heritage Conservation Plan for the Old Castle (2015), describes the Old Castle as a ‘hidden gem, that is

remarkably beautiful in its form and setting: the very epitome of what, in many people's minds, a romantic ruined castle should be'.

- 6.18 The Old and New Castles became a destination for 'polite' tourists and visitors in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Although not always complementary about the external appearance of New Wardour, there was universal enthusiasm for the picturesque setting of the landscape. Rutter and the occasionally acerbic Loudon are much quoted, but for an example of this appreciation of the aesthetic qualities of Wardour, we turn to the less familiar passage in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount Palmerston's 1787 travel diary: 'The present house is new but the remains of the old Castle stand at one end of the Park rising out of the Trees and backed by an Amphitheatre of Hills cover'd with rich Woods, and the whole scene is beautiful from the House'.
- 6.19 The interrelationship between the Old and New Castles is a key component of the aesthetic charm of the place...the ruin of the Old Castle being 'incorporated into a particularly striking and affective [sic] Picturesque landscape of the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century' (Nexus Heritage, 2015).

### Communal value

- 6.20 Communal value is defined by Historic England as '*the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it*'. This somewhat opaque definition is generally understood to encapsulate, quite simply, what a place means to people. Those people may work there or be transitory visitors; they may be local or come from further afield.
- 6.21 It is perhaps more difficult to identify Wardour's communal value than any other value. Historically, the Wardour Estate employed a local people as domestic and estate staff, and a number of published reminiscences testify to the importance of Wardour in their lives. When the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell died in 1906, '*all the people from miles around went to Tisbury station to meet the cortege*'. Inevitably, when the family left New Wardour, these ties loosened.
- 6.22 From 1540 – 1944 the Arundell family at Wardour provided a focus and refuge for local Catholic focus, with at least one Jesuit priest in their household<sup>11</sup>. A strong catholic tradition continues today with the Arundell family acting as Trustees of Wardour Chapel.
- 6.23 As a visitor attraction, Old Wardour Castle is widely known, at least at a regional level. Within the park, public footpaths are well signed and include a section of the long-distance Wessex Ridgeway. In recent years increasing unofficial public access to the park in areas beyond the confines of Public Rights of Way has not been prevented by Richard Arundell and Martin Thomas, providing additional public benefit.
- 6.24 Perhaps, to the majority of people, Old and New Wardour castles are best known (although not necessarily recognised) through films such as the 1991 film *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves* and the 2000 film *Billy Elliot*. However, such films do not generally capitalise on the park or the natural setting that so many previous visitors commented on. With the rise in the use of the internet and social media Wardour has become an iconic image of Wiltshire. The 2020/21 pandemic has resulted in a huge increase in visitor numbers to the park.

### Ecological value

- 6.25 Wardour Park contains a mosaic of habitats including neutral grassland; ponds; modified grassland; lowland beech woodland; wet woodland; mixed woodland; coniferous woodland; dense scrub; fen, marsh and swamp; hedgerows (priority habitat) and ditches and canals connecting waterbodies. The collection of ancient, veteran and mature trees greatly enhances the biological interest at Wardour and provide important habitats for saproxylic invertebrates, bats and birds.

---

<sup>11</sup> <https://taking-stock.org.uk/building/wardour-all-saints/>

- 6.26 The two County Wildlife Sites at Wardour Park – Wardour Wood covering much of the wooded escarpment to the south and east of the parkland running from and including Park Copse through to The Hanging, and Old Wardour Fish Pond highlight its ecological importance at a regional scale.
- 6.27 The woodland along the escarpment that defines the southern, eastern and part of the western boundaries is categorised as Ancient Replanted Woodland and there are several small parcels of Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland at Wardour Park further underpins its regional significance.
- 6.28 Bat surveys carried out as part of this Plan (see Appendix 8) confirmed the presence of a bat assemblage of high value. This includes Bechstein’s bat, barbastelle bat, and greater and lesser horseshoe bats, all of which comprise species listed on Annex 2 of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017. Chilmark Quarries Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is designated for greater horseshoe bats, barbastelle and Bechstein’s bats and lies just over 5km to the northeast of the Wardour Estate; bats using the Wardour estate are likely to include those associated with this SAC.
- 6.29 Static bat detector surveys confirmed that greater and lesser horseshoe bat activity was greatest in areas close to New Wardour Castle (where there is a known lesser horseshoe maternity colony present). However, these species were also found using much of the rest of the site, with high levels of activity recorded around the Chain of Ponds.
- 6.30 Species confirmed during bat trapping survey sessions included Bechstein’s (peak count of 7), Natterer’s, Daubenton’s whiskered, Brandt’s, brown long-eared and common and soprano pipistrelle bats. Serotine bats were also recorded foraging in woodland. Wet woodland was found to be a particularly important habitat for foraging bats within the site. However, the trapping surveys did not find lactating female Bechstein bats, and the presence of a maternity roost within the areas selected for trapping is considered unlikely.
- 6.31 The bat survey recorded the use of historic built structures by bats including the Rock Arch and Trapper’s Lodge Arch.

## 7. Proposed management of the landscape

- 7.1 This chapter sets out the overall conservation strategy or vision to guide the management of Wardour Park in a way that recognises its multiple significances. The vision is supported by a series of management policies, which address the full range of significances found within the park.
- 7.2 The chapter then provides a series of management actions to address geographically specific issues that affect the key significances of the property as identified in earlier chapters of this Plan.

### VISION

*The overall aim for Wardour Park is to conserve, restore and enhance the 18<sup>th</sup> century picturesque designed landscape that reached its zenith in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Earlier features including the medieval hunting parks and castle will be conserved to reveal the rich sense of antiquity at Wardour. The parkland will continue to inspire members of the public who are able to enjoy this deeply rural landscape through a network of freely accessible Public Rights of Way and beyond.*

*The most significant habitats will be conserved and enhanced to maintain their regional importance and the European Protected Species they host. Wardour's important role in terms of wider landscape ecology and connectivity will be recognised, monitored and enhanced.*

*The landscape will continue to be productive, reflecting its long history as a managed parkland and the multiple landowners will continue to work together towards this common vision to ensure a coherent approach to the management of this nationally important landscape.*

### POLICIES

- 7.3 The management policies that support this vision are set out below.

#### The designed landscape within the study area

- 7.4 The historic character of the Grade II\* registered designed landscape will be conserved, restored and enhanced:
- Restore the ponds throughout the landscape and restore their visibility to ensure they fulfil their design purpose;
  - Restore the most significant elements of historic circulation including the Great Terrace and the upper terraces, along with other historic routes where possible. Lost views from historic drives and tracks will be restored and existing views both within and beyond the park conserved;
  - Explore opportunities to restore historic planting associated with the Great and upper terraces;
  - Restore the setting of Old Wardour Castle through tree removal and restoration of open parkland;
  - Conserve and restore historic views that focus on the intervisibility between Old and New Wardour Castles;
  - Explore opportunities to rationalise the number of fenced boundaries throughout the parkland to enhance historic character;
  - Aim to remove or mitigate visually intrusive elements in the landscape e.g. modern farm buildings/overhead cables to enhance historic character; and
  - Conserve and restore the historic built fabric throughout the park.

- 7.5 Key points of reference for restoration proposals will be the Ingman survey of 1773 and the Ordnance Survey map of 1890.

## **Trees and woodland**

- 7.6 The historic tree and woodland resource will be conserved and enhanced:
- A policy of minimal intervention to ancient, veteran and mature specimens should be followed, with work only being carried out where absolutely necessary to extend the life of trees, or if there is potential that the tree may cause damage or injury (e.g. where a tree is adjacent to a public route way);
  - Monitor the condition of ancient and veteran trees and control land management activity to prevent stress from compaction, overcrowding or structural failure (e.g. through ploughing, vehicular use, fire or stock damage). Trees should be actively protected where there are particular threats;
  - Conserve and enhance the historic trees and woodland throughout the park through ongoing management including selective thinning and replanting where appropriate. Tree clumps will be favoured in replanting to reflect the historic design and work with current agricultural practice.
  - Monitor signs of tree disease (ash dieback, acute oak decline, horse chestnut bleeding canker, phytophthora, massaria) shown by trees at the site and take action as appropriate, whilst also making sure site managers/operatives are aware of any new tree pests or diseases;
  - Explore opportunities to remove trees and woodland considered intrusive and/or visually obstructive, where compatible with other policies within this Plan;
  - Minimise impacts of the use of any fertilisers, herbicides, wormers and muck spreading which can have detrimental impacts on trees; and
  - Replanting is to be informed by historic research and contemporary forestry practice, the current tree population and external influences such as climate change and species affected by pests and diseases.

## **Nature conservation values**

- 7.7 The nature conservation values of the County Wildlife Sites and the wider parkland will be conserved and enhanced, whilst ensuring that proposed measures are compatible with other objectives within this plan:
- Adhere to any legislation concerning protected species and habitats encountered through capital work or maintenance;
  - Conserve and enhance key wildlife habitats paying particular attention to the protection and enhancement of bat roosts, ancient and veteran trees, ponds/wetland, woodland and parkland;
  - Explore options to expand areas of potential priority habitats including orchard and wood pasture and parkland; and
  - Conserve deadwood in situ as a key habitat for invertebrates and to allow nutrient recycling except where it presents a safety risk.

## **Archaeology**

- 7.8 The above and below ground archaeology found across the park will be conserved:
- To meet all statutory obligations in relation to the management of heritage assets and ensure that archaeological constraints imposed by designations are fully adhered to; and

- Land management activity (farming/woodland management/drainage/events) should ensure that no potentially damaging operations are carried out in areas of high archaeological sensitivity.

### **Adjacent historic parkland and wider landscape setting**

7.9 The adjoining areas of parkland and immediate rural setting of Wardour Park will be conserved and enhanced in line with the 2014 DCLA and LUC Plan:

- Monitor planning proposals and other developments, which may affect the landscape's setting;
- Development of a setting study could be considered to map and provide narrative on 'sensitivities' to enhance protection of the setting of the heritage assets at Wardour and to conserve, and enhance and restore the landscape character and quality of views;
- Encourage surrounding landowners to follow similar management objectives to enhance ecological connectivity on a landscape scale; and
- Steer collaborative working with adjoining landowners, land managers and organisations such as English Heritage and private individuals to maximise opportunities for park-wide landscape and ecological enhancement.

### **Public access**

7.10 To maintain and enhance the rich experience provided by the Public Rights of Way:

- Capture the opportunity currently available to open the East flank and south east corner of Swan Pond to public access and amenity; and
- Maintain the Public Rights of Way and work with the Forestry Commission and English Heritage to interpret the significance and historic interest of the designed landscape.

## MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY CHARACTER AREA

- 7.11 Management actions are listed by character area (see Figure 5.1) and are allocated a priority rating. High priority items are those which should be addressed in the short term as key elements of high significance in the designed landscape that require urgent management action to address vulnerability issues and halt decline in condition.
- 7.12 A rationale is included below each high priority item in italics within the tables below. Additional notes are also provided where relevant.

<b>Character Area 1(A): Park Copse to South Hill Copse</b>	
<b>Management actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
a) Conserve historic boundaries and manage potential further threat from vegetation growth/forestry operations	Ongoing management
b) Restore historic views throughout the area	Medium
c) Manage the woodland to better reflect the historic mixed character	Medium
d) Consider the restoration of the open pasture and South Hill clump	Low
e) Explore opportunities to restore historic circulation throughout the area	Medium
f) Explore opportunities to replace the modern Forestry Commission barriers with more appropriate gate or barrier design	Medium
g) Work with the Forestry Commission to interpret the historic designed landscape and wildlife values	Low

<b>Character Area 1(B): The Hangings to High Wood</b>	
<b>Management actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<p>a) Explore opportunities to restore current areas of woodland that were historically open parkland/wood pasture (woodland compartments 15(a) – 15 (d) inclusive and 23)</p> <p><i>The current woodland management plan identifies these areas to be thinned and the aim should be to establish a more open and graded edge to the woodland to restore views from the Great and upper terraces and enhance historic character.</i></p> <p><i>This action will enhance the setting of the Old Wardour Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building and the associated grade II* and grade II listed buildings. It will also restore the historic character of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest.</i></p>	High

<p>b) Restore the Rock Arch as a significant feature of the 18<sup>th</sup> century designed landscape</p> <p><i>This action will restore a grade II listed building and enhance an approach to and setting of the Old Wardour Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building and the associated grade II* and grade II listed buildings. It will also restore a significant historic feature of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest.</i></p> <p><i>This action will deliver significant public benefit as the structure is on and in part covers a Public Right of Way, providing a unique opportunity to enjoy and appreciate an 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape feature.</i></p> <p><i>This action will conserve a structure that is an important bat habitat.</i></p>	High
<p>c) Restore Trapper's Lodge Arch as a significant feature of the designed landscape dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century</p> <p><i>This action will restore a grade II listed building and enhance an approach to and setting of the Old Wardour Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building and the associated grade II* and grade II listed buildings. Trapper's Lodge also lies on the historic approach to the Grade I Wardour New Castle. The restoration will restore a significant historic feature of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest.</i></p> <p><i>This action will deliver significant public benefit as the structure is on a Public Right of Way, providing a unique opportunity to enjoy and appreciate an 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape feature.</i></p> <p><i>This action will conserve a structure that is an important bat habitat.</i></p>	High
<p>d) Restore the Great Terrace, upper terrace and interconnecting historic tracks</p> <p><i>This action will restore a significant historic feature of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest.</i></p> <p><i>The current woodland management plan identifies the woodland to be thinned and this action is considered appropriate as it will enhance and restore rides within the woodland which can benefit wildlife.</i></p>	High
<p>e) Restore historic views and planting associated with the Great Terrace and upper terraces</p> <p><i>This action will restore significant historic views within the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest.</i></p> <p><i>The current woodland management plan identifies the woodland to be thinned and this action is considered appropriate as it will create pockets of open space within the woodland which can benefit wildlife.</i></p>	High
<p>f) Manage the woodland to reflect the historic mixed character of the planting</p>	Medium
<p>g) Investigate the 18<sup>th</sup> century stone seat with a view to restoring the structure</p>	Medium
<p>h) Develop a maintenance plan to manage the lower slopes below the Great Terrace</p> <p><i>The current management which provides a scrubby, graded edge is considered to be ideal from an ecological perspective. This approach should be maintained, whilst ensuring that views are maintained as the new tree planting begins to establish.</i></p>	Medium
<p>i) Engage with the electricity distribution company to explore options to bury the power lines below ground</p>	Low

<b>Character Area 2(A): Fallow Deer Park</b>	
<b>Management actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
a) Explore opportunities to establish additional areas as permanent pasture to restore historic character, conserve the archaeological resource and protect ancient, veteran and historic trees  <i>Review once mid-tier scheme complete in 2024.</i>	Medium
b) Establish root protection zones that will not be ploughed to conserve ancient, veteran and historic trees  <i>This action will conserve significant historic planted features of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest. The ancient and veteran trees are significant habitats that provide for a great diversity of wildlife and their conservation will ensure continuity of an essential component of the parkland ecology.</i>	High
c) Engage with the electricity distribution company to explore options to bury the power lines below ground	Low
d) Restore historic tree planting patterns to enhance historic character and establish the next generation of trees to diversify the age range of the population  <i>Review once mid-tier scheme complete in 2024.</i>	Medium
e) Carry out management works to individual trees to enhance their longevity	High

<b>Character Area 2(B): Red Deer Park</b>	
<b>Management actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
a) Explore opportunities to establish additional areas as permanent pasture to restore historic character, conserve the archaeological resource and protect ancient, veteran and historic trees  <i>Review once mid-tier scheme complete in 2024.</i>	Medium
b) Establish root protection zones that will not be ploughed to conserve ancient, veteran and historic trees  <i>This action will conserve significant historic planted features of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest. The ancient and veteran trees are significant habitats that provide for a great diversity of wildlife and their conservation will ensure continuity of an essential component of the parkland ecology.</i>	High
c) Restore historic tree planting patterns to enhance historic character and establish the next generation of trees to diversify the age range of the population	Medium

d) Carry out management works to individual trees to enhance their longevity <i>This action will conserve significant historic planted features of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest. The ancient and veteran trees are significant habitats that provide for a great diversity of wildlife and their conservation will ensure continuity of an essential component of the parkland ecology.</i>	High
---	------

**Character Area 2(C): Long Mead to Cow Lease**

<b>Management actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
a) Explore opportunities to establish additional areas as permanent pasture to restore historic character, conserve the archaeological resource and protect ancient, veteran and historic trees <i>Review once mid-tier scheme complete in 2024.</i>	Medium
b) Establish root protection zones that will not be ploughed to conserve ancient, veteran and historic trees <i>This action will conserve significant historic planted features of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest. The ancient and veteran trees are significant habitats that provide for a great diversity of wildlife and their conservation will ensure continuity of an essential component of the parkland ecology.</i>	High
c) Restore historic tree planting patterns to enhance historic character and establish the next generation of trees to diversify the age range of the population <i>Review once mid-tier scheme complete in 2024</i>	Medium
d) Carry out management works to individual trees to enhance their longevity <i>This action will conserve significant historic planted features of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest. The ancient and veteran trees are significant habitats that provide for a great diversity of wildlife and their conservation will ensure continuity of an essential component of the parkland ecology.</i>	High
e) Remove the intrusive hybrid balsam poplars to restore historic character	Low
f) Explore opportunities to restore the open section of parkland which is now woodland (woodland compartments W1 & W2) <i>Review once mid-tier scheme complete in 2024</i>	Medium
g) Encourage the third party landowner to restore Creswell's Pond	Low
h) Restore the stone lined ditch/culvert that links Swan Pond and Creswell's Pond with the River Nadder	Medium/ Low
i) Encourage third party owners to restore the ha-ha and seek to control scrub growth to halt further decline	Medium
j) Explore options to rationalise the modern farm buildings or develop a planting scheme to mitigate their impact on historic character	Low

<p>k) Manage and enhance reciprocal historic designed views between New and Old Wardour Castles</p> <p><i>This will be in large part addressed by the restoration of views along the Great and upper terraces. Any requirements for further work should be reviewed upon completion of that phase 1 works.</i></p>	<p>High/ Medium</p>
--	-------------------------

### Character Area 3: The Chain of Ponds

Management actions	Priority
<p>a) Restore the ponds including de-silting and restoration works to banks and outflow structures/cascades</p> <p><i>Restoration of the whole chain of ponds is likely to be a very expensive exercise, therefore it is important to be realistic about what can be achieved with available resources and recognise that such work will require significant external funding. Park Pond would be a priority given its importance in historic views – an open sheet of water in the fore and middle ground in parkland views to and from New Wardour Castle.</i></p> <p><i>This action will restore a significant historic feature of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest and enhance the setting of the Grade I listed New Wardour Castle.</i></p> <p><i>Park Pond's proximity to a Public Right of Way also provides the opportunity for members of the public to enjoy a rare glimpse of a classic 18<sup>th</sup> century English landscape parkland scene.</i></p> <p><i>The restoration of this single pond will ensure the continuity and integrity of an important open water habitat in the overall chain of ponds, whilst maintaining the biodiversity provided by the remaining ponds.</i></p> <p><i>Should a greater amount of funding become available it is recommended that any restoration works across multiple ponds should either be phased or carefully planned to conserve the integrity of the wildlife value of the ponds.</i></p>	<p>High</p>
<p>b) Develop a sensitive programme of tree clearance/coppicing to restore historic views to, from and across the ponds, especially where there is proximity for public access and enjoyment, particularly Park Pond and Pale Park Pond.</p> <p><i>This action will restore visibility to significant historic features of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest and enhance the setting of the Grade I listed New Wardour Castle.</i></p> <p><i>This work will be compatible with the conservation and enhancement of wildlife values if carefully planned and implemented.</i></p> <p><i>This action will provide the opportunity for members of the public to enjoy a rare glimpse of a classic 18<sup>th</sup> century English landscape parkland scene from the Public Rights of Way that run close to or directly adjacent to the ponds. This work will also restore and enhance views enjoyed by members of the public from a wider circular parkland route on Public Rights of Way.</i></p>	<p>High</p>

<p>c) Establish root protection zones that will not be ploughed to conserve ancient, veteran and historic trees</p> <p><i>This action will conserve significant historic planted features of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest. The ancient and veteran trees are significant habitats that provide for a great diversity of wildlife and their conservation will ensure continuity of an essential component of the parkland ecology.</i></p>	High
--	------

#### Character Area 4: Swan Pond

Management actions	Priority
<p>a) Restore Swan Pond including de-silting and restoration works to banks and outflow structure</p> <p><i>This action will restore a significant historic feature of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest and enhance the setting of the Old Wardour Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building and the associated grade II* and grade II listed buildings. Swan Pond provides an important designed feature in middle ground in views from the Great and upper terraces to Wardour Old and New Castles.</i></p> <p><i>Swan Pond lies directly adjacent to a circular pedestrian route from Old Wardour Castle along a Public Right of Way providing the opportunity for members of the public to enjoy a rare glimpse of a classic 18<sup>th</sup> century English landscape parkland scene.</i></p> <p><i>The restoration of this pond will also ensure the continuity and integrity of an important open water habitat in the matrix of parkland habitats.</i></p>	High
<p>b) Create additional permissive public access to the south and south east perimeter of Swan Pond to enhance understanding and enjoyment of the Old Castle and its setting</p> <p><i>This action would add value and public benefit to the restoration of Swan Pond.</i></p>	High/ Medium
<p>c) Restore the boathouse at Swan Pond</p>	Medium
<p>d) Carry out felling/coppicing to the band of self-sown alders that surround Swan Pond to restore historic views and character</p> <p><i>This action will restore visibility to a significant historic feature of the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest and enhance the setting of the Old Wardour Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building and the associated grade II* and grade II listed buildings.</i></p> <p><i>Swan Pond lies directly adjacent to a circular pedestrian route from Old Wardour Castle along a Public Right of Way providing the opportunity for members of the public to enjoy a rare glimpse of a classic 18<sup>th</sup> century English landscape parkland scene.</i></p>	High
<p>e) Engage with English Heritage to explore options to reduce negative visual impacts and impacts on historic character/setting arising from the visitor car park</p>	Medium



## 8. Schedule of works

- 8.1 This section outlines the proposed annual and capital management works. A current Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship Scheme is in place for much of the parkland until January 2024 so many of these items could be taken forward when the current scheme ends.
- 8.2 The proposed works are shown in Figure 8.1.
- 8.3 There are also a number of priority works that could be taken forward in a separate application.

### ANNUAL MANAGEMENT

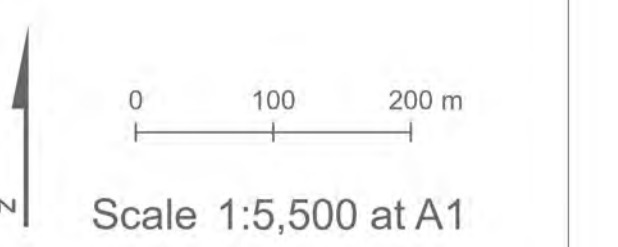
#### *Tree protection*

- 8.4 Many of the parkland trees are within soils which are cultivated by ploughing. This is an activity which has been ongoing and is resulting in impacts to the soils, tree roots and ultimately tree health and longevity.
- 8.5 In various studies of root depth based on excavation, typically 90% of tree roots are found growing within the upper metre of soil. A further study by Jackson et al (1996) demonstrated that temperate broadleaf trees have 82% of their roots in the upper 50cm of soil.
- 8.6 The Ancient Tree Forum (ATF) has undertaken a different approach to calculating the protected area for the care of soils around our veteran and ancient trees. The ATF states ‘The Root Protection Area (RPA) should ideally extend in all directions from the tree stem to a distance equal to 15 times its diameter, or five metres beyond the canopy, whichever is the greater (Read, 2000)’. No upper limit or cap is presented within this methodology. The ATF have undertaken field studies and have demonstrated that tree roots extend much further than we typically consider and cater for within our land management practices.
- 8.7 The following actions should be taken:
- Set out root protection areas at 15 x diameter or 5m beyond the canopy spread (whichever is the greater) for all veteran and ancient trees;
  - Stop cultivation in root protection areas;
  - Soil compaction is avoided in root protection areas;
  - Retain or add deadwood to root protection areas to assist with the marking out of root protection areas, natural decay and nutrient recycling;
  - Retain lower branches and deadwood on stems/branches;
  - Use of herbicide should be targeted if in use and in combination with lower plants forming barriers to potential spray drift;
  - Muck spreading undertaken outside root protection areas only;
  - Stock access restricted following worming until period of optimum efficiency of the worming treatment has passed;
  - Stock excluded from root protection areas by fencing or use of dead hedges /deadwood retention; and
  - Allow tree canopies to extend to ground level – particularly with hollow or partial stems at risk of collapse e.g. T49.
- 8.8 Such protection could be funded as part of the WD5 Restoration of wood pasture and parkland option, which would pay £244 per hectare per year for a period of 10 years.

**WARDOUR CASTLE AND OLD WARDOUR CASTLE**

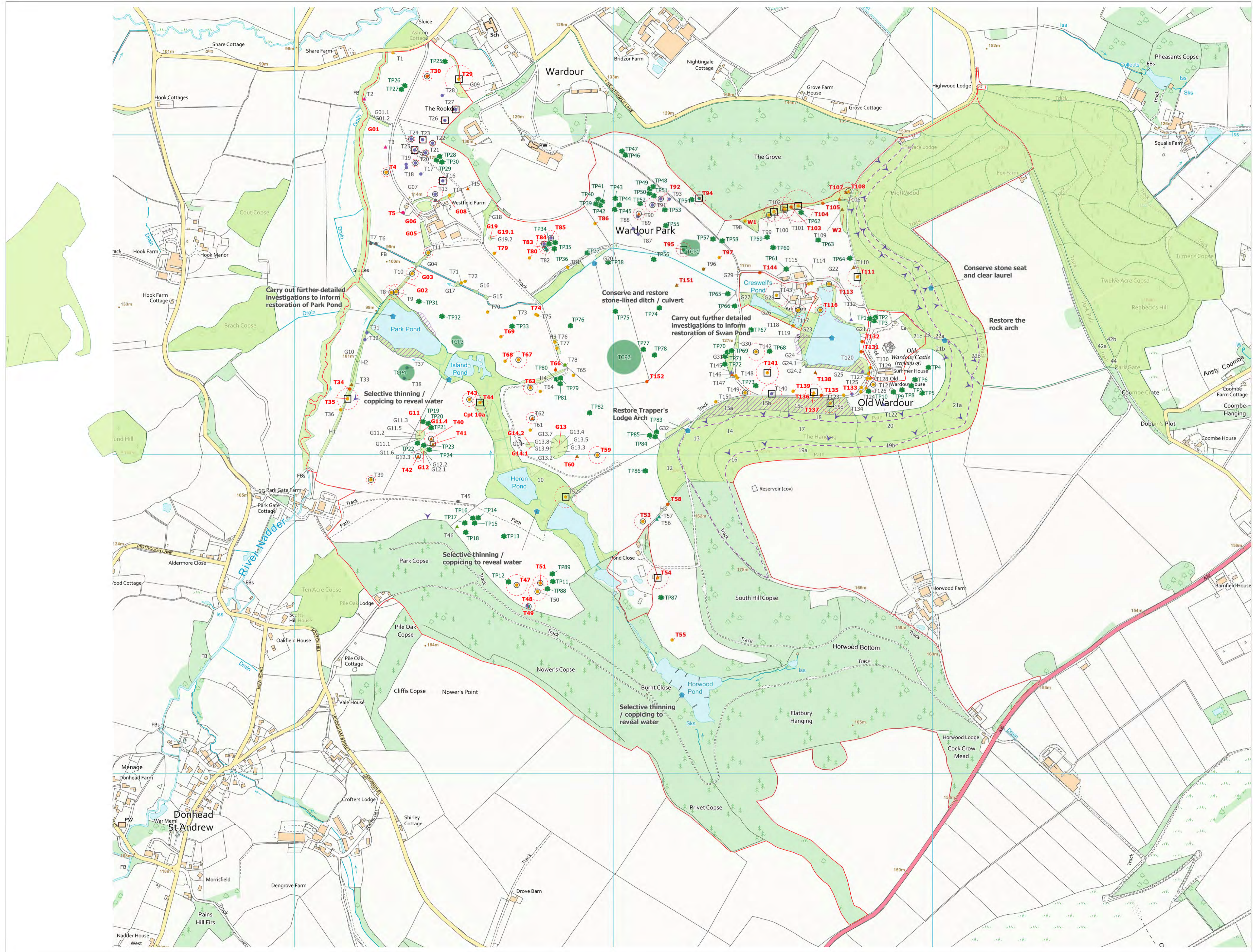
**Schedule of Works**  
Figure 8.1

- T1 Tree / Tree Group or compartment
- T1 Tree / Tree Group or compartment with proposed work
- Viewpoint
- Proposed tree planting (TP1, TP2, etc.)
- Action required
- Maintain / clear historic terrace path
- Proposed tree clump planting (TCP1, TCP2, etc.)
- Thinning / felling to restore historic parkland and views
- Indicative tree root protection zone to be 15 x tree stem diameter or 5m beyond the canopy spread, whichever is greater
- Tree (by age)
  - Ancient
  - Veteran
- Tree (by species)
  - Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)
  - Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
  - Common Lime (*Tilia europea*)
  - Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
  - English Elm (*Ulmus procera*)
  - English Oak (*Quercus robur*)
  - Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
  - Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
  - Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
  - Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
  - London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*)
  - Malus sp
  - Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)
  - Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)
  - Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
  - Hedges / Woodland Compartments / Woodland Groups
- Study Area
- Wardour Registered Park and Garden



**COOKSON & TICKNER**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Date Saved: 10/08/2021



## CAPITAL WORKS

### Tree planting

- 8.9 Tree planting should be carried out in line with the recommendations set out in the Natural England guidance notes for CS management option WD4 Management of wood pasture and parkland or WD5 Restoration of wood pasture and parkland:
- space out newly planted trees (or patches of natural regeneration) so they are wide enough to grow an open crown;
  - pick trees that are suitable as eventual replacements for mature or veteran trees;
  - select tree species appropriate to the historic parkland design but consider varieties or provenances that are resilient to local climate change; and
  - on wood pasture or a site with veteran trees maintain the genetic stock of the veteran trees on site - choose varieties that provide the same ecological wood decay conditions as mature or veteran trees already on the site.

#### *Planting palette*

- 8.10 The tree survey has identified trends in species distribution within what is essentially a pastoral, planted landscape dominated by oak, lime, beech and sycamore. Exotic species e.g. horse chestnut, London plane have also been used as a result of availability at a period of time and trends in planting.
- 8.11 Future tree planting will need to respond to the ecological value of the veteran and ancient trees as these habitats may contain invertebrate and saproxylic insect communities which have become isolated. Planting to enhance and secure the ecological value of these habitats will be critical in ensuring their viability.
- 8.12 New tree planting within the parkland needs to be guided by the current tree population and historic records, but also needs to adapt to the ecology of the landscape. The current use of the estate for agricultural production also has a significant influence on where planting can feasibly be accommodated without being detrimental to viable production.
- 8.13 Tree planting proposals should also be informed by climate change, with current thinking being to use seed sources from warmer drier ranges as part of climate adaptation.
- 8.14 The use of local provenance trees seed sources may be desirable for providing continuity in genetic resources and proven suitability to the local environment. New trees may also be established through changes in land management, managed or low-intervention natural regeneration and supplementary planting within natural regeneration.

<b>Planting palette</b>	
<i>Tree species</i>	<i>Notes</i>
English oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> )	Recorded on site
Common lime ( <i>Tilia europea</i> )	Recorded on site
Beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> )	Recorded on site

Sweet chestnut ( <i>Castanea sativa</i> )	Recorded on site, but in very low numbers
London plane ( <i>Platanus x hispanica</i> )	Recorded on site
Sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> )	Recorded on site
Hawthorn ( <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> )	Recorded on site
Field maple ( <i>Acer campestre</i> )	Recorded on site (one only)
Hornbeam ( <i>Carpinus betulus</i> )	Native tree used in parklands
Scot's pine ( <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> )	Native tree used in 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century parklands, various pines recorded by Loudon as being at Wardour in early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
Weymouth pine ( <i>Pinus strobus</i> )	Introduced early 18 <sup>th</sup> century by Lord Weymouth of Longleat, Wiltshire
Lucombe oak ( <i>Quercus x hispanica</i> 'Lucombeana')	Tree often used in 18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup> century parklands, recorded by Loudon as being at Wardour in early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
Cedar of Lebanon ( <i>Cedrus libani</i> )	Found in New Wardour Castle pleasure grounds, frequently used by Brown
Hungarian oak ( <i>Quercus frainetto</i> )	Thought to be introduced in 1838 (English Heritage, 2007), but Shields (2016) notes that examples survive from Brown's planting at Peper Harow in Surrey and that Hungarian oak must have arrived from Livorno for Knowsley in 1776
Small leaved lime ( <i>Tilia cordata</i> )	Native tree considered to be a good substitute for the English Elm (Stuart Thomas, 1983), often used in 18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup> century parklands
Broad leaved lime ( <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> )	Native trees often used in 18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup> century parklands

### *Proposed planting*

- 8.15 The current mid-tier Stewardship agreement and approach to land management will limit the opportunity to plant extensively so priority has been given to areas under permanent pasture and to the establishment of tree clumps rather than individual specimen trees. It is expected that the tree planting will take place after the current Stewardship agreement expires in January 2024.
- 8.16 All future tree planting needs to be resourced with proper aftercare including:

- Staking & guarding – installation and removal
- Weed control – aiding establishment
- Formative pruning
- Thinning (applicable to groups and woodlands)

8.17 Proposed planting is summarised in the table below and in Figure 8.1. It is recommended that all trees are planted as feathered whips and protected in timber tree guards. Tree clumps will be planted at final spacings to enable grazing between tree guards and avoid the requirement for subsequent thinning operations.

<i>Plan reference</i>	<i>Species/number</i>
<b>High priority planting</b>	
TCP1	<i>2 no. Fagus sylvatica, 3 no. Quercus robur, 2 no. Quercus frainetto, 3 no. Tilia europea, 2 no. Carpinus betulus &amp; 2 no. Acer campestre and 3 no. Crataegus monogyna.</i>
TCP2	<i>9 no. Fagus sylvatica, 12 no. Quercus robur, 8 no. Quercus frainetto, 6 no. Tilia europea, 9 no. Carpinus betulus &amp; 6 no. Acer campestre and 10 no. Crataegus monogyna.</i>
TCP3	<i>2 no. Acer pseudoplatanus, 3 no. Tilia europea and 2no. Quercus robur.</i>
TCP4	<i>3 no. Acer pseudoplatanus, 3 no. Tilia europea, 3no. Quercus robur, 2 no. Quercus frainetto, 2 no. Tilia cordata and 3 no. Quercus x hispanica 'Lucombeana'.</i>
TP1	<i>1 no. Tilia platyphyllos (as small group with TP2 &amp; 3)</i>
TP2	<i>1 no. Tilia platyphyllos (as small group with TP1 &amp; 3)</i>
TP3	<i>1 no. Tilia platyphyllos (as small group with TP1 &amp; 2)</i>
TP4	<i>1 no. Platanus x hispanica</i>
TP5	<i>1 no. Platanus x hispanica</i>
TP6	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP7	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP8	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP9	<i>1 no. Platanus x hispanica</i>

TP10	<i>1 no. Platanus x hispanica</i>
TP11	<i>1 no. Tilia cordata</i>
TP12	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP13	<i>1 no. Carpinus betulus</i>
TP14	<i>1 no. Tilia platyphyllos (as small group with TP15 &amp; 16)</i>
TP15	<i>1 no. Tilia platyphyllos (as small group with TP14 &amp; 16)</i>
TP16	<i>1 no. Tilia platyphyllos (as small group with TP14 &amp; 15)</i>
TP17	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP18	<i>1 no. Carpinus betulus</i>
TP19	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP20	<i>1 no. Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
TP21	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP22	<i>1 no. Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
TP23	<i>1 no. Castanea sativa</i>
TP24	<i>1 no. Castanea sativa</i>
<b>Priority succession planting (noted as S) and additional replanting opportunities (noted as R)</b>	
TP25 (S)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP26 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia platyphyllos</i>
TP27 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia platyphyllos</i>
TP28 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica</i>
TP29 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica</i>

TP30 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica</i>
TP31 (R)	<i>1 no. Quercus x hispanica 'Lucombeana'</i>
TP32 (R)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP33 (S)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP34 (S)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP35 (S)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP36 (S)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica</i>
TP37 (R)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP38 (R)	<i>1 no. Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
TP39 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica (as small group with TP40, 41 &amp; 42)</i>
TP40 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica (as small group with TP39, 41 &amp; 42)</i>
TP41 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica (as small group with TP39, 40 &amp; 42)</i>
TP42 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica (as small group with TP39, 40 &amp; 41)</i>
TP43 (R)	<i>1 no. Cedrus libani</i>
TP44 (R)	<i>1 no. Carpinus betulus</i>
TP45 (R)	<i>1 no. Carpinus betulus</i>
TP46 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP47 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP48 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP49 (R)	<i>1 no. Carpinus betulus</i>
TP50 (R)	<i>1 no. Carpinus betulus</i>
TP51 (S)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>

TP52 (S)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP53 (S)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP54 (S)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica</i>
TP55 (R)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP56 (R)	<i>1 no. Acer campestre</i>
TP57 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP58 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP59 (S)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP60 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea</i>
TP61 (R)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP62 (S)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP63 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica</i>
TP64 (S)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP65 (R)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP66 (R)	<i>1 no. Platanus x hispanica</i>
TP67 (R)	<i>1 no. Platanus x hispanica</i>
TP68 (S)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP69 (R)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP70 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica</i>
TP71 (R)	<i>1 no. Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
TP72 (R)	<i>1 no. Platanus x hispanica</i>
TP73 (S)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>

TP74 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia cordata</i>
TP75 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia cordata</i>
TP76 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia cordata</i>
TP77 (R)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP78 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica</i>
TP79 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea (as small group with TP80 &amp; 81)</i>
TP80 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea (as small group with TP79 &amp; 81)</i>
TP81 (R)	<i>1 no. Tilia europea (as small group with TP79 &amp; 80)</i>
TP82 (R)	<i>1 no. Castanea sativa</i>
TP83 (R)	<i>1 no. Pinus sylvestris</i>
TP84 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica</i>
TP85 (R)	<i>1 no. Fagus sylvatica</i>
TP86 (R)	<i>1 no. Castanea sativa</i>
TP87 (S)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP88 (S)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>
TP89 (S)	<i>1 no. Quercus robur</i>

## Tree surgery and other tree works

- 8.18 Work to ancient and veteran trees should generally be kept to a minimum (e.g. to avert a serious mechanical failure). If a tree shows a good capacity to survive by natural retrenchment or by other processes such as layering then it should be allowed to do so. Therefore, the works outlined below are the minimum required at Wardour Park to ensure the longevity of the tree population.

### *Tree T29 English Oak classified as Ancient*

- 8.19 Crown reduction to T29 to be implemented in accordance with the following specification:
- Crown reduction as indicated on the photograph below:
  - Timing of works - summer months June – August inclusively 2021 (unless a drought year);
  - Works only to be undertaken if the tree exhibits typical crown vigour compared to other trees in the immediate area;

- No live growth is to be removed from the western side of the crown;
- No greater than 30% of the leaf bearing volume is to be removed from the crown in this operation;
- Crown reduction must comply with Section 7.72 of BS3998:2010 Tree Works – Recommendations; and
- The crown must retain a fine tracery of small diameter branches which will sustain and promote future regrowth.



*First phase of crown reduction works indicated by red lines*

- 8.20 The growth response of the tree should be reviewed in the summer of 2023 and further crown reduction works specified to reduce the loading on the western side of the stem base.

### *T42 Horse Chestnut classified as Veteran*

- 8.21 Remove ascending crown area which is weakly attached via a single branch to thin shell wall on primary stem to prevent further loss of stem wood. Works to be undertaken in June – August 2021 when tree in full leaf. MEWP required for arborist access – unsuitable for SRT / DRT rope access methods.
- 8.22 Finishing cuts should be carried out to replicate natural fracture patterns. Top cutting branches allowing tear wounds to develop (as the branch fails) could be employed to ensure the works have a natural appearance consistent with branch failure. Coronet cuts can look artificial when fresh and should be avoided if the arborist has limited experience of applying this technique.



*Crown reduction to T 42 indicated by red arrow*

### *T141 English Oak classified as Veteran*

- 8.23 The existing iron stock fence is clearly fulfilling a function of excluding stock from the stem but is inadequate in terms of tree root protection. Poaching of the soils from livestock sheltering around the base of the fence has led to compaction damage, poor porosity and waterlogging. A new stock-proof fence must be installed at the edge of the root protection area. Once installed, manual decompaction using a garden fork with tines inserted 100 – 150mm into the soil at 300mm centres should be undertaken 1 within 10m of the base of the tree. The soils once fractured and loosened should drain more freely and allow organic materials to enter the soils through earthworm activity.

### *Trees T135 & T141 – preventing public access to hollow stems*

- 8.24 Tree 135 has sustained fire damage within the hollow stem. The hidden and enclosed stem of T141 is at risk of fire damage following vegetation management within the fenced area.
- 8.25 Various techniques for effectively closing open stem cavities / openings to deter public access / risk of fire can be used but are specialist and require further input and access to professional crafts-persons.
- 8.26 Closing the large external stem voids to prevent access by arsonists is required. This should be achieved by using large cut slabs of durable Oak or Sweet Chestnut heartwood, fixed into place using a series of internal cables, rods and bolt fixings. Timber may be cut on site to ensure it fits the existing stem voids and is fit for purpose. Gaps to allow small mammals and bats to enter the stems should be factored into the timber fixings.
- 8.27 Fig 3.16 within “Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management” shows how stem cavities may be enclosed using this technique. Whilst there is no method statement, the form of enclosure should be immovable (without tools) and use galvanized or stainless-steel fixings where attachment points into the trees are required e.g. screw-eyes.

### *Other tree proposed tree works*

- 8.28 A full list of proposed tree works is identified in Appendix 7.
- 8.29 The following options might be applicable:
- CS option BE6: Veteran tree surgery, which pays £221 for each veteran tree.

- CS option TE11: Tree surgery, which pays £96.50 per tree where cutting limbs up to and including 20cm in diameter and £200 per tree when cutting limbs over 20cm in diameter.

## Tree and scrub removal/thinning

### *Tree clearance and coppicing around ponds*

- 8.30 The ponds are hidden from view due to a lack of management over a sustained period of time. Low level intervention, introducing coppice management and clearance around the planted specimen or veteran / ancient trees would help to restore visibility of the ponds within the landscape. Any future management operations would need to take into account the ecology of the ponds and any protected species which are highly likely to be present. The bat survey (see Appendix 8) has identified the importance of the wet woodland to bats.
- 8.31 Park Pond has sustained larger numbers of tree failures and possible management interventions compared to the other ponds within the survey area. The elevated banks which contain the western section of the pond are profiled and potentially at risk in the event of whole tree failure with root-plate shear. Management of trees and vegetation within Park Pond may be required to manage risks to the structure and fabric of the pond.
- 8.32 Island Pond and the wet woodland which connects to Heron Pond becomes more natural towards the east. Heron Pond appears much more organic in terms of species composition, age structure and visual appearance. Lower plants appear visually more diverse and distinct compared with Park Pond.
- 8.33 G25 is comprised almost entirely of Common Alder which is even aged and multi-stemmed. The linear alignment of the group in combination with its even age creates a significant barrier to wider views from Ark Farm looking south and from Old Wardour Castle looking west/south west. Reintroduction of a phased coppice cycle would be an advantage, subject to ecological advice on protected species issues e.g. bat flight and forage lines.
- 8.34 The following works are proposed around the ponds:
- Selectively fell trees around Swan Pond to enhance historic character, restore historic views and enhance the setting of Old Wardour Castle. The main clearance will be focussed on the south side to benefit the ecology of the pond and avoid opening up views to the Wardour Old Castle car park. The retained trees should be those that are set back from the water's edge; clearance should focus on those that have encroached into the water.
  - Selectively fell trees around Park Pond to restore views to enhance historic character, restore historic views and enhance the setting of New Wardour Castle. The larger section of clearance will be on the southern side of the pond to benefit the ecology of the pond.
  - Gradually fell trees growing on dams to conserve historic fabric and maintain important open water habitat by avoiding dam breeches and damage/collapse of water management systems e.g. outfalls. This work could be carried out over a two – three-year period.
  - Establish a coppicing regime around the perimeter of the ponds. The aim should be to open up views to open water whilst maintaining the integrity of the wildlife corridor. This should be possible by conserving large tree canopies and coppicing the vegetation below on a cyclical basis (e.g. between 7 – 12 year cycles) to create pockets of open space.
- 8.35 To compensate for the loss of linear woodland habitat which may be used by bats, buffer strips of wildflower/species rich grassland (e.g. 6m either side of the culvert/ditch that connects the River Nadder with Swan Pond along the valley bottom and in other locations in the parkland) could be established to enhance connectivity. This strip could be managed as long grass, to be cut or grazed annually to prevent scrub growth. The above works would be subject to further ecological advice and may be tied in with wider pond restoration works.

### *Tree thinning along The Great Terrace*

- 8.36 Woodland compartments 15a – 15d are within an area that was historically open parkland and the long term aim should be to create more open space to enhance historic character, establish a halo around the ancient oak (T.123) and to restore views from the Great and Upper Terraces. This area has been found to have value for bats so a phased approach to works will be required and the installation of bat boxes would help maintain the existing roosting value in response to targeted woodland management works.
- 8.37 The woodland management plan proposes to thin these areas of woodland which includes compartment 15a (sweet chestnut, Norway spruce and mixed native broadleaves), compartment 15b (open ground), compartment 15c (Norway spruce) and compartment 15d (mixed native broadleaves). It would be advantageous to select any good quality broadleaved specimens to create a scalloped edge to the woodland and reflect its historic character as parkland. Conifers should be replaced with broadleaved species to enhance the habitat value for bats.
- 8.38 Historic woodland compartments 13 (beech, European larch & pedunculate oak), 14 (species as per compartment 13), 18 (beech, hybrid larch & pedunculate oak), 20 (species as per compartment 18) and 21b (beech, pedunculate oak and Scot's pine), 21c (beech, pedunculate oak on the Scheduled Monument) and 23 (beech and pedunculate oak) are all identified for thinning in the woodland management plan. This is compatible with the restoration of historic views and in all cases the native broadleaved species should be favoured for retention over larch. Ideally an irregular edge to the woodland should be established to reflect historic character and allow views from the Great Terrace as shown below in the extract from Ingman's survey of 1773.



*Extract of the Ingman survey dated 1773 showing a combination of clumps and scalloped edges below the Great Terrace affording views to the Old Castle, Swan Pond and to the parkland beyond.*

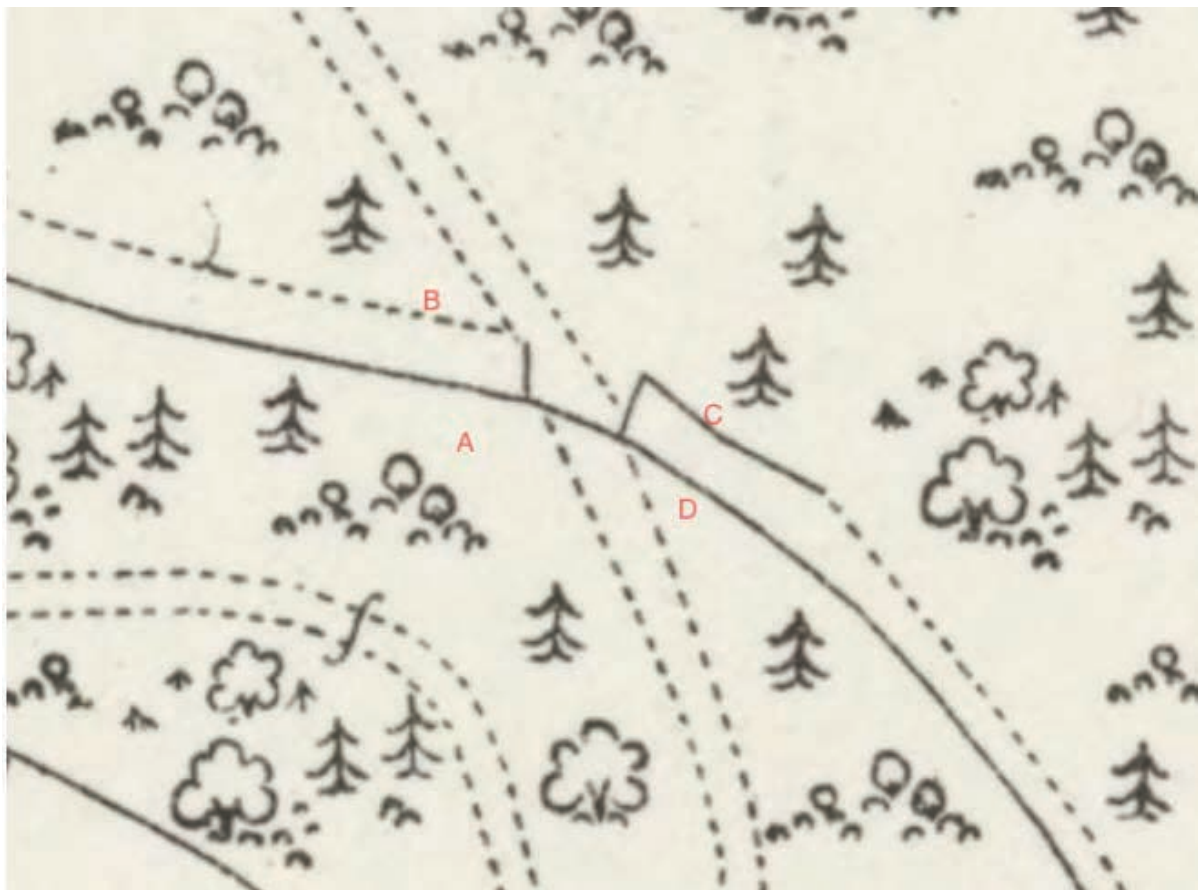
- 8.39 The line of the Great Terrace is generally well defined and this should be maintained free of vegetation. There are some sections where laurel is encroaching and this should be cut and treated to avoid re-growth and if replacement is required could be planted with hazel.

### *Tree thinning along the Upper Terrace*

- 8.40 Historic woodland compartments 16 (beech, hybrid larch & pedunculate oak), 17 (beech, hybrid larch & pedunculate oak), 19a & b (ash, pedunculate oak, Scot's pine and mixed native broadleaves), 21a (beech, pedunculate oak, Scot's pine and ash), 22b (beech, pedunculate oak, Scot's pine), 22a (Douglas fir), 24 (mixed conifers), 25a (Douglas fir) and 26 (beech, hazel, Japanese larch, Douglas fir, and Norway spruce) are all identified for thinning in the woodland management plan. This is compatible with the restoration of historic views and in all cases the native broadleaved species should be favoured for retention over larch. The woodland was mixed historically so the coniferous element should be retained including Douglas Fir and Scot's pine.
- 8.41 The line of the Upper Terrace is less well defined and this should be cleared and maintained free of vegetation. There are some sections with encroaching laurel and this should be cut and treated to avoid re-growth and if replacement planting is required could be planted with hazel. There are also a number of mature coniferous trees directly on the line of the terrace and these should be removed as part of the thinning operations.
- 8.42 The woodland management could be carried out under the WD2 woodland improvement code.

## **Restoration of built features**

### *A. Restoration of the Rock Arch*



- 8.43 Following a condition survey of the Rock Arch the following restoration works are proposed:

#### **Immediate works**

- Petrographic analysis of stone to confirm the most suitable available stone to use.
- Clearance of vegetation to allow assessment of the quantities of stone that can be reused
- Killing the big root growths in wall D

- Killing off vegetation in the walling generally
- Trial excavation into the retaining walls to confirm that there are no separate retaining structures behind the rock facings.

#### **Further works**

8.44 Undertaking these works will require closure of the path through the tunnel.

#### ***Walls A and B***

- Prop the west end of the barrel vault. Carefully take down the remains of the retaining walls A and B for, say, 5 metres (a distance sufficient in connection with the stabilization of the rock arch, but similar works could probably continue for a much greater distance along wall A).
- Cut back earth behind, to allow correct repositioning of the walls, removing remains of stumps and roots.
- Rebuild retaining wall in set aside stones and new matching stones. Build up no more than about 600mm before sealing joints and solidly grouting behind in a semi dry hydraulic lime concrete mix. Leave for 48 hours before raising the wall further.

#### ***Wall D***

- Shore the adjoining stonework and open up the missing area. Cut back the earth behind as needed and remove roots.
- Rebuild the missing wall in new matching stone. Build up no more than about 600mm before sealing joints and solidly grouting behind in a semi dry hydraulic lime concrete mix. Leave for 48 hours before raising the wall further.

#### **General**

- Outside the areas already covered by works to walls A, B and D, insert new stones to replace losses and fill the deep joints around fractured stones. This work should then extend to those areas of deeply recessed jointing where similar fractures might be expected to develop.
- Allow for the replacement of 6no. missing stones and 10no repair areas, each of say 1 square metre.

#### ***B. Restoration of Trapper's Lodge Arch***

8.45 Following a condition survey of the Trapper's Lodge Arch the following restoration works are proposed:

- Vegetation should be left in place and treated with a systemic weedkiller as soon as possible, with repeat applications, perhaps every 4-6 weeks, until growth is stopped. At that point, if it seems unlikely that permanent repairs can be undertaken for some time, the vegetation should be cut back to the face of the stonework and temporary cappings added to weather the sky facing surfaces. Slates bedded on a fairly weak hydraulic lime mortar might be appropriate.
- The area around the archway should be cleared and any fallen masonry should be identified and stored safely until permanent works can be undertaken.
- Petrographic analysis should be undertaken of the stone to identify the most appropriate available stone to use in the repair works.

8.46 Suggested scope of works for the permanent repairs:

- Scaffolded access on both sides. It would be preferable for the gate to be closed to traffic during the works.
- Take off all remaining copings. Refix sound existing copings, sound copings discovered on the ground and new copings

- Rebuild the NW corner of the structure using sound stonework discovered on the ground and new stonework.
  - Rake out and repoint both faces of the arch above springing level.
  - Cut out and replace about 60 no ashlar blocks which have significantly weathered back and no longer protect the blocks below.
  - Grout up the rubble core of the wall
- 8.47 There are other deterioration issues; if a major repair is to be undertaken to the high level stone of the archway, it would be prudent to consider the inclusion of the these less urgent items.
- 8.48 The hinges of the gates are grouted into the stonework with lead. Cracks in the stonework can be seen radiating from the middle hinge on the NW side. This is presumably caused by rusting and expansion of the embedded ironwork. The other fixings appear satisfactory.
- 8.49 The wall which linked the lodge with the archway was only roughly cut away leaving the former abutment open, with loose stone and pointing. The setting of the archway would be improved by the extension of a symmetrical flanking wall to the south east, or by the reconstruction of a lodge.
- 8.50 The stepped flanking wall to the north west is in fair overall condition but would benefit from removal of vegetation and resetting of copings, to minimise the water penetration into the head of the wall
- 8.51 The wrought iron gates require further specialist assessment. They are constructed with an unusual, laminated construction, appear to be in surprisingly good condition despite the lack of any paint protection, have a few missing components and have been badly damaged on their leading edges.
- 8.52 Works to the structures could be carried out under the HE1: historic and archaeological feature protection.

#### *Next steps for restoration of the Rock Arch and Trapper's Lodge Arch*

- 8.53 The following steps will be required in advance of the works being completed:
1. Further ecological input and possible preparation of European Protected Species Licence due to the structures being used as bat roosts.
  2. Vegetation clearance works to structures, trial excavation to the Rock Arch and storing/labelling of fallen material. Any fallen stone should be retained close to each site, but avoiding any risk of theft.
  3. Petrographic analysis. The analysis will include sourcing the best currently available source of replacement stone. This will be included in the scope of works and specification along with details of quantities and mortar mixes etc.
  4. Additional site visit by a Conservation Accredited architect to finalise the scope of works and specification. This will also need the input of the ecologist in terms of a method statement.
  5. Listed Building Consent and (if needed) Planning permissions (N.B. continued liaison with the Conservation Officer is recommended).
  6. Commission specialist metalwork assessment - this can be arranged by the architect.
  7. Tender to 3 - 5 building firms that have experience in conservation and restoration.
- 8.54 A contribution to this next phase of professional work could be provided through the PA1: implementation plan or PA2: Feasibility Study stewardship codes.

#### *Restoration of the stone lined ditch/culvert*

- 8.55 The stone lined culvert/ditch that marks the parish boundary and forms the low point of the valley from Swan Pond to the River Nadder through the centre of the parkland requires conservation and repair as an historic feature.

- 8.56 Works to the structures could be carried out under the HE1: historic and archaeological feature protection.

### **Restoration of ponds**

- 8.57 It is likely that the restoration of all of the ponds would be a very costly undertaking given their scale and complexity. Therefore, it is proposed to prioritise the work to focus on features and areas that will deliver the most environmental, historic and community benefits.
- 8.58 The parkland plan has examined the feasibility of restoring the ponds and has explored the works required which are likely to include:

#### *Restoration of Swan Pond*

- 8.59 Works required to restore Swan Pond are likely to include:
- Reconfiguration of stream entry to south east of pond/restoration of the outline of the ‘tail’ of the Swan.
  - Definition of the water’s edge on the south side in line with the tree felling.
  - Re-establishment of spring flow pipe work in the north east.
  - Dredging works (ideally placing arisings over field to the south).
  - Replacement of drainage headwalls in new bank definition throughout the pond.
  - Modifications to the Klargest system to minimise its visual impact/re-siting in a less prominent position.
  - Restoration of the dam crest stone wall.
  - Close the scour outlet, restore historic outfall and pipework.

#### *Park Pond*

- 8.60 Works required to restore Park Pond are likely to include:
- Removal of trees from dam embankment.
  - Dredging works (ideally placing arisings over field to the north or south).
  - Sheet piling to reinforce the dam.
  - Rebuilding of the scour outlet headwall.
  - Restoration of the dam crest stone wall.
  - Restoration of eastern outfall and cascade.
  - Restoration of western outfall.
  - Construction of emergency overflow.

#### *Other works*

- 8.61 Further detailed study could also investigate other priority works to other ponds which might include repairs to outfalls and culverts, selective or partial dredging and construction of emergency overflows.

#### *Next steps for restoration of Swan Pond and Park Pond*

- 8.62 Further detailed study will be required to carry out further investigations and survey, develop a detailed approach to restoration that balances historic, ecological, landscape and engineering objectives and prepare drawings and specifications suitable for tendering to appropriately qualified

and experienced contractors. This work would be potentially funded by the PA2 Feasibility Study Stewardship code. The following investigations for each pond would be required:

- Ecological surveys to cover potentially present European Protected Species (see below).
- Measured topographic survey.
- Sediment sampling analysis.
- Bed depth/shape/material survey and sediment thickness.
- Lower water level and investigate dam top and outfall.
- Check Klargesten function, appearance and discharge quality (Swan Pond only).
- Geotechnical investigation of dam structure (Park Pond).

## Protected species

8.63 A number of species known or likely to be present at Wardour are partly or fully protected by legislation. Examples of the most common protected wildlife include:

- All wild birds and their eggs and nests that are in use or being built are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- Bats, otters, dormice, great crested newts, and other European protected species (including plant species) of more restricted distributions are protected by Part 3 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. These European Protected Species are protected, in the case of animal species, from disturbance and damage to the places they use to rest and shelter (for example, bat roosts and otter holts); in the case of plant species from collecting, uprooting or destruction.

8.64 Wardour Park has the potential to contain multiple protected species as outlined earlier in the plan and as set out below. It is essential to meet the requirements for protection which apply to those species before carrying out any management activities. More information is provided at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wildlife-licences>.

### *Tree and woodland works including thinning, felling and coppicing*

8.65 Trees and woodland at Wardour have the potential to support the following species:

- Individual parkland trees: bats and birds
- Tree lines or groups of trees: badger, bats, birds, dormouse, great crested newt and hedgehog.
- Wet woodland: badger, bats, birds, dormouse, great crested newt and hedgehog, otter, potential botanical interest, reptiles, water vole and white clawed crayfish.
- Mixed woodland: badger, bats, birds, great crested newt, hedgehog, potential botanical interest and reptiles.
- Coniferous woodland: badger, bats, birds, great crested newt, hedgehog and reptiles.
- Beech/deciduous woodland: badger, bats, birds, dormouse, great crested newt, hedgehog and reptiles.
- Dense scrub: badger, bats, birds, dormouse, great crested newt and hedgehog and reptiles.

8.66 Any works likely to directly or indirectly affect features suitable for breeding birds should be timed to avoid the main nesting bird season (March to September inclusive) or trees, shrubs, scrub and built features should be checked thoroughly first by a suitably qualified ecologist for evidence of nests before any works are undertaken.

- 8.67 All trees subject to tree works should be checked for potential bat roost features by a suitably qualified ecologist, which might include an aerial inspection. A European Protected Species Licence from Natural England may be required if a bat roost will be directly affected by works.
- 8.68 Felling and thinning works should refer to the following guidance to ensure protection of the species identified above:
- Dormice: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/806960/PROTOCOL\\_Dormouse\\_May\\_2019\\_v4.0\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806960/PROTOCOL_Dormouse_May_2019_v4.0_FINAL.pdf)
  - Bats: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/697600/England-protected-species-bats.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/697600/England-protected-species-bats.pdf)
  - Reptiles: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/697604/england-protected-species-snake.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/697604/england-protected-species-snake.pdf)
  - Great crested newts: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/697602/england-protected-species-newt.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/697602/england-protected-species-newt.pdf)
  - Otter: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/697603/england-protected-species-otter.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/697603/england-protected-species-otter.pdf)
- 8.69 A field guide to European protected species in woodland (Forestry Commission, 2020) also provides guidance: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/888982/EPsw\\_A6\\_booklet\\_2020\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/888982/EPsw_A6_booklet_2020_web.pdf)

#### *Restoration of the Rock Arch and Trapper's Lodge Arch*

- 8.70 During survey work in 2021 as part of this parkland plan Natterer's bats were recorded in the Rock Arch and Pipistrelles and Barbastelle were found in Trappers Lodge Gate. The latter find is particularly significant as it is rare to find Barbastelle bats in man-made structures. Due to the presence of bats roosts in both structures a European Protected Species licence may be required for the proposed works. The licence may require additional survey and an ecologist should be involved in the development of the final scope of works/specification.

#### *Restoration of the stone lined ditch/culvert*

- 8.71 This linear water feature has the potential to support the following species: badger, bats, birds, great crested newt and hedgehog, otter, reptiles, water vole and white clawed crayfish. Any works to this feature should be subject to further ecological survey to confirm the presence/absence of these species in advance of any works.

#### *Restoration of ponds*

- 8.72 The ponds have the potential to support the following species: bats, birds, great crested newt, otter, reptiles, water vole and white clawed crayfish. It should be noted that an otter sprout was recorded during the ecological walkover survey on a log in Horwood Pond and it is likely that all the other ponds are also used by otter as they are well connected to the River Nadder.
- 8.73 Ecological survey for these species should be completed as part of the detailed feasibility study for the restoration of Swan and Park Ponds.

## 9. References

### *Maps and plans*

Various 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century plans of Wardour Park. Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (2667-21-14H)

1610 Speed Map of Wiltshire. Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre

1753 Map of Wardour Park. Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (2667-21-9H)

1764 Map of Wardour Park by Richard Woods. Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (2667-21-10L)

1770 Map of Wardour Park. Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (2667-21-11H)

1773 Coloured reprint of Andrews and Drury map of Wiltshire. Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (3676-22)

1773 Map of Wardour Park by George Ingman. Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (2667-21-12H)

1773 Revised 1810 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Andrews and Drury map of Wiltshire. Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (A1-524-2MS)

1840 Tithes of Donhead St Andrews, Semley and Tisbury, Wiltshire. The Genealogist

1884 revised 1924 6" survey. Richard Arundell

1884-85 revised 1900 6" survey. Richard Arundell

1887 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey. Ordnance Survey via know your place

1890 Revised Ordnance Survey. Emapsite

1935 Plan of the Wardour Estate, Wiltshire. Richard Arundell

### *Previous surveys and studies*

Land Use Consultants (1993), Wardour Castle Historic Landscape Survey and Management Plan

Alan Cathersides, English Heritage (1999), Wardour Park: summary of historical importance in support of Countryside Stewardship Application

Dominic Cole Landscape Architects (2014), Wardour Park Strategic Masterplan

Nexus Heritage, for English Heritage (2015), Old Wardour Castle Conservation Management Plan

### *Books, published articles and other sources*

Stroud, Dorothy (1950), *Capability Brown*

Laird, Mark, Flowering of the English Landscape etc

Britton, John (1801), *The Beauties of Wiltshire, Vol. 1 and 2*, London. (Wiltshire and Swindon records office AAA.910)

Rutter, John (1822), An Historical and Descriptive Sketch of Wardour Castle, and Demesne, Wilts: the seat of Everard Arundell, Lord Arundell of Wardour.

Shirley, E.P. (1867), *Some Account of English Deer Parks*

Loudon, J.C. (1827, first published 1822), *Encyclopaedia of Gardening*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition,

- Longmans, Green & Co (1916) *Notes by the 12<sup>th</sup> Lord Arundell of Wardour on the Family History*, Edward Doran Webb (ed)
- Williamson, B (2001), *The ruin of a great Wiltshire estate*, Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine vol 94, 56 -67
- Williamson, Barry (ed) (2017), *The Account Books and Papers of Everard and Ann Arundell of Ashcombe and Salisbury, 1745 – 1798*, Wiltshire Record Society, Volume 70.
- Holloway, Wilfred John with Holloway, Adrian John (2020) *Wardour, Never heard of it?*, self-published
- Williamson, Barry with Ballard, R C, Bristol, (1997) *Lord Arundell's Park at Wardour*,
- Loudon, J.C., Notes of a Garden Tour, 1833 (1836), in *The Gardener's Magazine and Register of Rural and Domestic Improvement*,
- Caraman, Philip (1984), *Wardour, A Short History*, Plausible Publishing
- Arundell archives, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, WRO 2667
- Williamson, Barry (2011) *The Arundells of Wardour...from Cornwall to Colditz*, The Hobnob Press
- William Bankes, Dorset History Centre, D/BKL, to Mary Bankes, 1811
- Hervey-Bathurst, Frederick (September 2020) *Wardour Castle in the Eighteenth Century: building an Anglo-Catholic identity*, *Architectural History Dissertation*
- Warner, Revd. Richard (1801), *Excursions from Bath*
- Cowell, Fiona (2009) *Richard Woods (1715 – 1793), Master of the Pleasure Garden*, The Boydell Press
- Rutherford, S (2016) *Capability Brown And His Landscape Gardens*
- Turner, R (2013) *Capability Brown And The Eighteenth-Century English Landscape*
- Shields, S (2016) *Moving Heaven & Earth Capability Brown's Gift Of Landscape*
- The Lincoln, Rutland, and Stamford Mercury, Friday, December 2, 1864
- The Catholic Standard, June 15, 1956
- The Westminster Gazette, Thursday, January 17, 1901
- A description of Fonthill Abbey, Wiltshire*. Illustrated with views. Anonymous. London, 1812
- Laird, Mark (1999) *The Flowering of the Landscape Garden, English Pleasure Grounds 1720 – 1800*, University of Pennsylvania Press
- Fletcher, John (2011) *Gardens of Earthly Delight*, Windgather Press
- Murray, John (1859) *Handbook for travellers to Wiltshire, Dorsetshire and Somersetshire*,
- B.D.W. (1982), *Wardour and the Arundells, Not So Long Ago*, privately printed.
- Worth, R. N. (1887) *Tourists' guide to Wiltshire: its scenery and antiquities*. London