# Earthwork survey at Lamport, Buckinghamshire

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

An earthwork survey and investigation was undertaken at the small hamlet of Lamport (SP 63 NE 45) at the request of Richard Jones, the archaeologist for the Whittlewood Project. The project, which is based at the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester, emanated from a detailed study of the settlement pattern and land-use of four east midland counties (Lewis *et al* 1997) and is principally concerned with the formation of differing types of settlement in eleven adjacent parishes that straddle the Buckinghamshire/ Northamptonshire border (Dyer 1999, 16-17).

The surveyed earthworks lie in three fields on the eastern side of Stowe Park. The most prominent are the settlement remains that lie on either side of a valley to the south of Lamport. On the east side are a series of shallow banks, probably the remains of property boundaries, lying at right-angles to the contours. Within these boundaries, on the lower slope, building platforms were identified. Further north there are a number of amorphous scoops, which again were probably building platforms. On the west side, three tracks converge on a central area defined by a mound. Further southwest there are two rectilinear enclosures and ridge-and-furrow cultivation. In the second field, which lies to the north of Lamport, a deep hollow way leads towards the Bourbon Tower. On either side of the hollow way there are further indications of settlement. The third field lies to the east of the second and contains well preserved ridge-and-furrow. The survey was carried out at a scale of 1:1000 as a level 3 survey, which provides a plan and analysis of the site (RCHME 1999).

Lamport (centred at SP 686 375 at *c*120 OD) lies on a bed of oolitic limestone overlain with glacial boulder clay; it is located on the eastern side of Stowe park some 3.5km north of the county town of Buckingham (Fig 1). The soils are of the Ashley Association, which is a fine loamy soil with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal water-logging (Soil Survey). The place-name is potentially of some significance. The earliest form is *Landport* and the first element, *Lang*, has been interpreted as meaning ‘long’ which, when combined with the second element *port*, may indicate a ‘long town’ (Mawer *et al* 1925, 48-9). Lamport, therefore, appears aptly named since the settlement earthworks lie on either side of a long valley.

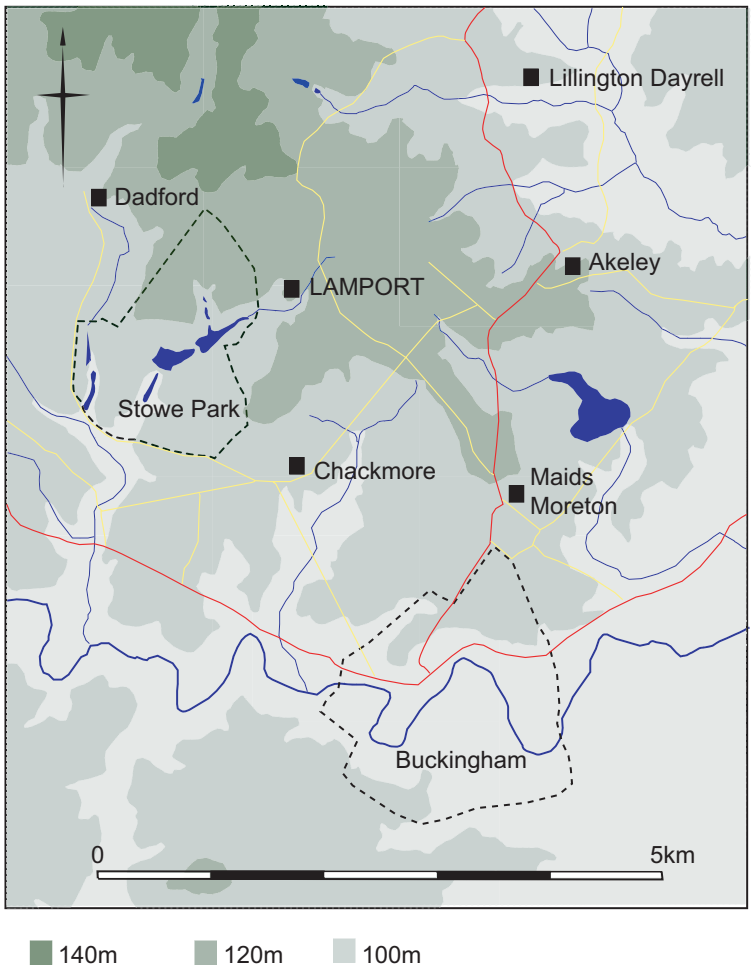


*Figure 1. Location diagram*

## 2. BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND[1]

During the Middle Ages Lamport was one of four settlements in the parish of Stowe (the others being Dadford, Boycott and Stowe itself). Although the boundaries of these settlements are unclear, Lamport lay on the eastern side of the parish with Stowe occupying a central position and Dadford and Boycott to the north and west, and west and south respectively (Fig 2).

The first documentary reference to settlement at Lamport occurs in 1086 when two manors are recorded in the Domesday Survey. The larger of the two comprised 3½ hides and was held by Berner; it formed one of forty-nine estates of Walter Giffard in Buckinghamshire (Teague & Sankaran 1978, 14.25). The population amounted to six individuals and there were three ploughs (although there was land for four) as well as woodland for fifty pigs. The

other manor was of 2½ hides and was held by Gerard. It was one of eleven manors of Mainou the Breton in Buckinghamshire (ibid, 43.6). The population was five with only two ploughs (although there was land for a further plough) and woodland for forty pigs. Compared with the other manors in the parish, Lamport appears to have more cultivated land, but with a smaller amount of woodland. The recorded population was also larger than the three neighbouring settlements in the parish.

Berner's manor was to remain in lay hands until 1268 when it was granted to Osney Abbey (an Augustinian house near Oxford, which was founded in 1129 but suppressed in 1539 (Knowles & Hadcock 1971, 142)). In 1279 the abbot held 3 hides, one of which was in demesne, the other two let to eleven tenants (one of whom was free). There were a further five tenants who each held a cottage.

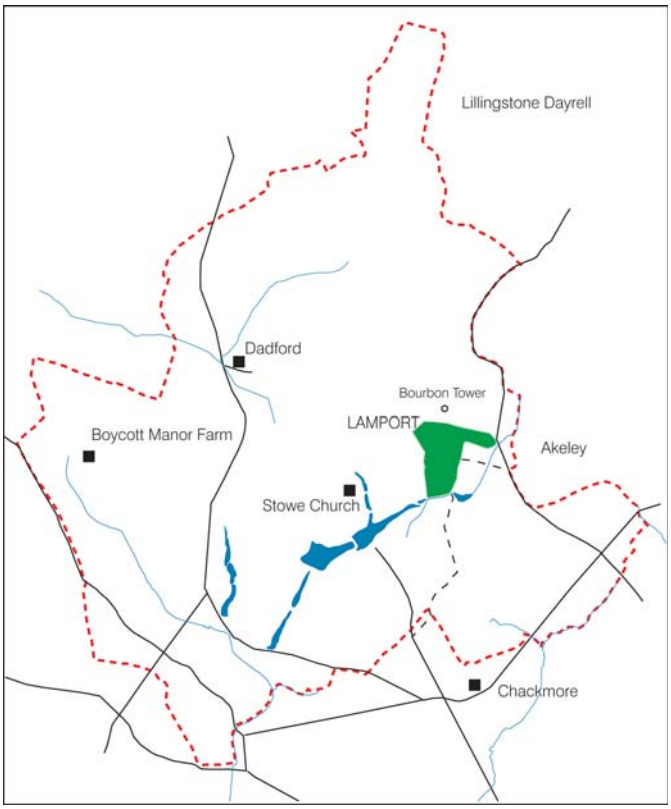


*Figure 2. Settlements in the parish of Stowe*

By the 13th century the other manor (held by Gerard at the time of the Domesday Survey) was held by Ralph de Langport. It amounted to 3 hides; of this land 3 virgates were held in demesne and a further 5 virgates were let to eight tenants. There were also ten tenants who held cottages. The remaining land of Ralph de Langport (4 virgates) was divided equally between Osney Abbey and Studley Priory. Thus the bulk of Lamport's land was in monastic

hands. The total population in the late-13th century was some thirty-four individuals and comparison with the other three manors in the parish (Boycott had twenty, Dadford forty-two, and Stowe seventeen) would suggest that these manors were also flourishing.

The inhabitants of Lamport appear to have shared their common fields with neighbouring Stowe. In the 13th century there were two fields: a ½ virgate, which had been granted to Osney Abbey, had 7 acres in one field and 8 acres in the other. One of these fields presumably included the ridge-and-furrow to the north-east of the settlement (Earthwork Description and Interpretation, below). Woodland clearance and subsequent cultivation was also occurring at this time; for example, a parcel of land called *Le Stockinge*, consisting of ½ a virgate lay between the abbey's grove and the clearing of John, son of Maurice de Langport.

A grant of land dating to 1439 describes in some detail the way in which it was distributed; it also gives the names of some furlongs and route-ways, as well as hints of settlement. The land was distributed mainly in units of ½ acre in the fields of Lamport and Stowe, with the demesne land intermingled with that of the tenantry. A toft lay between two tenements, one on its eastern side with the other to the west. Also *Lamport Grene* is mentioned, which perhaps indicates the presence of a communal open space. Although livestock are not enumerated the mention of a sheep house at Stowe as well as arable land would suggest a mixed farming regime. Routes are also alluded to in the charter; for example, a *Ryggewey* (perhaps a route to/along the arable fields) had arable land abutting it.

The 1439 grant was possibly made following the division of Thomas de Langport's estate of a virgate between his two daughters. Half of the manor passed to the Dayrell family who lived at nearby Lillingstone Dayrell. In the 1630s there was a dispute between the Dayrell's and Peter Temple, who had acquired Osney Abbey's land in Lamport following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the mid-16th century.

In 1633, sixteen tenants at Lamport held more than 600a (250ha) which, by this time, was divided between three fields. These fields were probably either adjacent to those of Stowe, or some may have still been shared between Stowe and Lamport. Four years later Peter Temple enclosed the commons of Stowe and Lamport (known as the *Hewings*) in order to enlarge his deer park, much to the annoyance of the inhabitants. The inevitable depopulation of Stowe soon followed and Lamport, whose fortunes were linked to those of Stowe, undoubtedly suffered from the loss of fields and commons.

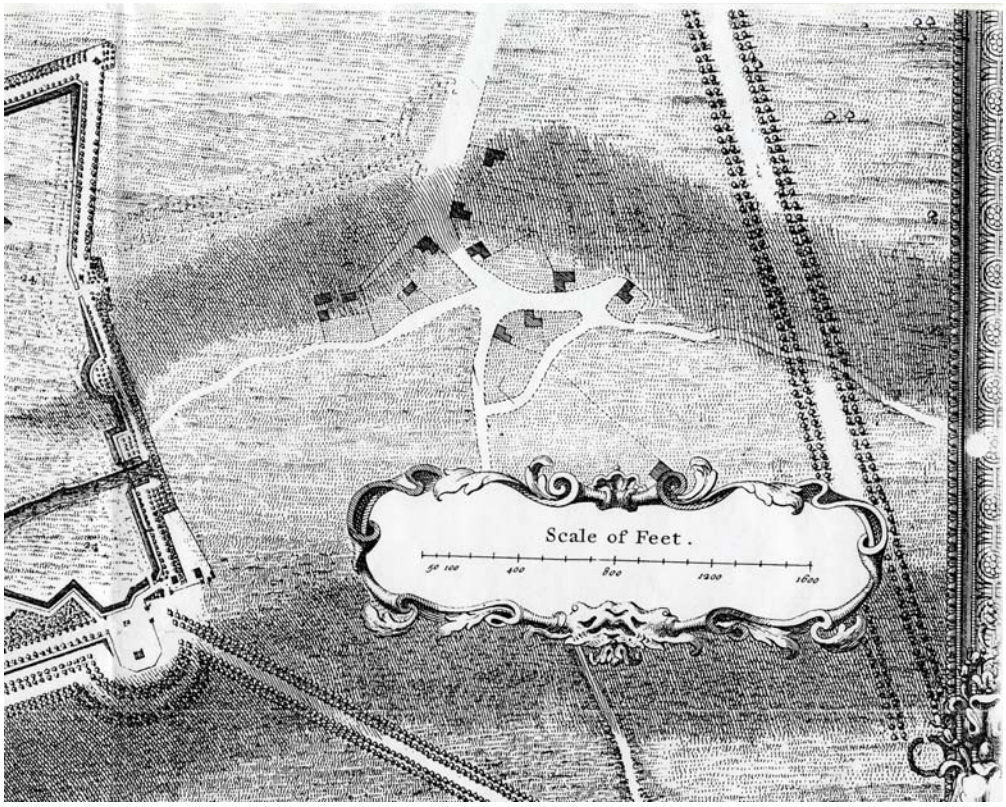


*Figure 3. Part of Sarah Bridgeman's 1773 map of Stowe Park showing the settlemnt at Lamport*

By 1739 much of Lamport appears to have been subsumed within Stowe Park; there were thirteen buildings remaining here (Fig 3) but many appear to be located beyond the surveyed area. A hundred years later, at the time of the Tithe Award survey in the mid-19th century, there was further settlement desertion; houses were confined to the area of the present settlement with perhaps a small farmstead to the east.

## 3. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Relatively little archaeological investigation has been undertaken in the area of the settlement at Lamport; however, evidence from elsewhere in the region clearly has a bearing on the potential land-use and settlement. Most archaeological investigation has been carried out by the National Trust, the Whittlewood Project, and English Heritage.

Evidence of prehistoric activity is scarce, although recent work by the Whittlewood Project has recovered worked flints in two areas within the parish of Stowe. The first was to the

north of Stowe School, which lay some 800m west of Lamport, where six flints were found, but more significantly in the context of the work at Lamport, two further worked flints were recovered to the south of the settlement. In addition to these field-walking finds, local farmers have collected a number of worked flints; however, the provenance, type and quantity, is unknown.

The most prominent feature in the parish from the Romano-British period is the road that traverses Stowe Park in a north-east/south-west direction. This road links Alchester and Towcester and its course lies close to the Oxford Avenue. A second possible road alignment cuts through the park from the direction of Chackmore and leading towards Dadford.

A number of finds and features dating to the Romano-British period have also been identified; these include a pottery kiln dating to the 1st century AD and an adjacent pit from where two pieces of tegula and brick and tile were recovered. Further finds in the area suggest the presence of a Romano-British settlement. In the area of New Inn Farm to the south of Lamport there is a possible cemetery. The nature of the land-use precludes intensive archaeological investigation in the Stowe parkland, but nevertheless finds of pottery recovered during field-walking by the Whittlewood project provide further limited evidence of activity and if the level of settlement elsewhere within the project area was replicated here, one would expect more substantial evidence. Of more relevance as far as Lamport is concerned was the recovery of a large quantity of Romano-British pottery and traces of a pottery kiln from the sports field to the north-west of the Bourbon Tower.

A Field Investigation team from English Heritage undertook an archaeological survey of Stowe Park during 2000-2001 at the request of the National Trust. The survey was confined to the Trust's parkland but excluded the gardens surrounding Stowe House; as a consequence the earthworks at Lamport, which are in private ownership, were not investigated. However, despite this, some of Lamport's land lies within the park, including the Bourbon Tower and fields to the south and south-east of the settlement, which were surveyed (Hunt 2000; Riley 2001).

The larger area survey was carried out at a scale of 1:2,500 and all upstanding archaeological features were recorded. Additional features, which could only be identified as crop or soil marks from aerial photographs were also recorded. The main features that were identified date to the medieval period and later, such as large swathes of ridge-and-furrow and strip lynchets, particularly in the area to the south of Lamport, the area of New Park and Old Avenue Field to the south-west, and the Deer Park in the north-west. In addition, 18th and

19th century features such as park boundaries, the remains of tree planting schemes and park buildings were recorded.

A survey of the Bourbon Tower (Hunt 2000; NMR: SP 63 NE 57) was one of two smaller, but more detailed surveys undertaken by English Heritage as part of the overall survey programme. The other was at Haymanger Pond in the north-west part of the Park (Riley 2000). The

*Figure 4. The Bourbon Tower viewed from the east (NMR: 6837/8; Copyright NMR).*

survey was confined to the earthworks surrounding the tower and a pond *c*100m to the south-west (Fig 4). The tower, which was built in 1742 when it was known as the Keeper's Lodge, overlies a hollow way, although only its course to the north of the tower was visible. Two slight linear features to the north and south of the tower were interpreted as being the location of two earlier, smaller towers (Hunt 2000, 7).

# 4. EARTHWORK DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

The surveyed earthworks lie in three fields to the south and north of the small hamlet of Lamport and for clarity these have been named 'Lamport Field', 'Bourbon Tower Field' and 'East Field'. The enclosed area of buildings at Lamport was not surveyed. Letters in the text refer to letters on the plan (Fig 5).

### 4.1 'Lamport Field'

'Lamport Field', which covers an area of c6ha, lies to the south of the modern settlement and contains the remains of a settlement including building platforms, property boundaries, three track-ways and evidence of cultivation. Areas of marshy grass on the lower ground would suggest poor drainage along the valley floor. This is particularly noticeable in the north around a former small stream bed and along the southern side of the field.

Three tracks converge on an ovoid mound (a), which lies on sloping ground just above the valley floor. The first track is a hollow way (b); it extends from the north-west corner of the field with a field boundary, which respects the course of the hollow way, along its northern side. The track measures *c*135m long and is up to 7m wide and 1m deep.

The track (c) is defined by a terrace-way, which is aligned on the public right of way within Stowe Park. The scarp measures up to 1m high on its northern side. At the north-eastern end of the scarp, near the junction with the hollow way (b), is an indentation, possibly a building platform.

Within the area formed by these two tracks (b and c) there is a deep quarry pit (d) with an access ramp on the eastern side and a slighter depression in the west. The quarry measures *c*15m diameter at the top, diminishing to *c*4m diameter at the bottom. To the north of the quarry is a building platform (e) measuring 15m x 5m with its longer axis lying parallel to the hollow way. To the east of (e) is a large L-shaped platform defined by a slight bank in the south-western corner and a scarp elsewhere. This platform may have contained buildings. Further slight scarps are evident lying parallel to one another within this area.

Extending along the western field boundary, to the west of (e), is a ditch with a slight bank on its eastern side. The ditch measures *c*5m wide at the top and up to 0.5m in depth.

*Figure 5. Earthwork survey*

Although it diminishes near the quarry, it may have continued further south and be associated with the fragmentary stonework identified along the boundary (*below*). The purpose of the ditch and association with other features is not entirely clear but it is likely to be a remnant of a ha-ha (s) in 'Bourbon Tower Field'.

The third track (f) is in the form of a terrace that follows the valley floor in the south before ascending the slope to the southern side of the ovoid mound (a). The terrace measures 8m in width with scarp along the northern side measuring up to 1.3m high. On the flat ground to the south the track is marked by a slight ditch, measuring up to 0.2m deep on the western side with a slight bank on the east side. The lower terrace scarp divides at (f); the lower fork continues north along the valley bottom and merges with a narrow stream which leads to the fence boundary.

The ground between the two tracks (c) and (f) slopes to the south and south-east. Within this area there are traces of what appears to be ridge-and-furrow (g) that extends from a prominent scarp in the north to the bottom of the slope. Each ridge is straight and measures 8m in width and 65m in length. This small fragment of ridge-and-furrow may have been part of a much more extensive area of cultivation, possibly associated with the furlongs identified to the south and south-west of the surveyed area and plotted by Riley (2001).

In the south, the strips abut a scarp that defines the bottom of the slope. To the south of the scarp, and separated from it by a ditch, is an L-shaped platform (h) set above the marshy area. This platform is a potential building platform. Further south there are a series of slighter earthworks.

To the west of (g), and abutting the southern scarp, is a rectilinear enclosure (j), possibly a paddock or close, measuring 30m x 35m with a central cross division. It is defined by a bank in the east measuring *c*0.3m high and scarps on the other sides. To the north of (j) is a small sub-square platform measuring 7m$^2$, which may be a further building platform.

To the north of the ridge-and-furrow is a large rectilinear enclosure (k) measuring 75m x 25m, which is defined by a prominent scarp along its southern side and by a track in the north. Access into this area from the south was through a gap at the south-eastern corner. Within this area are two rectangular platforms, possibly building platforms, measuring 20m x 8m and 17m x 5m. To the east of (k), on ground that slopes to the east, is another rectilinear enclosure measuring 20m$^2$ with a building platform in the south-eastern corner.

On the eastern side of the valley there are a number of regular property boundaries with building platforms set within them. The most prominent are a series of three that lie in the south. The property boundaries are set *c*23m apart and extend for *c*45m towards the top of the slope where they may have been truncated by cultivation in the field beyond (the field boundary is higher on the eastern side). Common features within the property boundaries include at least one building platform and a circular depression, which is probably the site of a well. The building platforms are sited towards the bottom of the slope, with small closes, or possibly gardens, above. The best preserved is at (m); it is defined by a bank on the north side and scarps on the other sides. A level platform measuring 15m x 10m with a slight cross division on its eastern side is the probable site of a building. On the eastern, uphill side, is a rectangular enclosure measuring 20m x 15m, which may have been a garden. To the north of (m) are two further property enclosures containing similar features.

To the north of the three properties are a series of large amorphous scoops occupying the lower ground, which may have held buildings.

Set on the higher ground, near the fence boundary, are a series of linear banks and ditches. The purpose of these features is unclear; they may define larger property boundaries, perhaps close boundaries, or be associated with drainage of the higher ground to the east of the surveyed area. Some of these ditches and scarps cut a large rectilinear enclosure that is itself overlain by the field boundary. The fence and hedge-line is set at the bottom of a lynchet, which was probably created during prolonged ploughing in the field to the east.

A public right-of-way is evident in the north-eastern corner of the field (n) and its course beyond the surveyed area can be traced as a causeway measuring *c*5m wide and *c*0.2m high traversing the field; however, within 'Lamport Field' its course on the eastern side of the field is unclear but on the western side the route is reflected by the track (c) and a continuation of the public right-of-way within Stowe Park.

The boundary enclosing 'Lamport Field' is of some note. In the west, it is defined by a brick wall that extends from the south-western corner for *c*110m. The wall stands 1.5m high. A former access to the field from the park was provided through an abandoned metal gate (p), with brick pillars on either side. From the northern pillar the field boundary continues as a fence-line on top of a scarp to the field corner in the north. Fragmentary sections of exposed stonework and brick at the base of the scarp indicate the presence of a former wall or ha-ha. At the field corner there are two further brick gate-posts, which appear to be contemporary

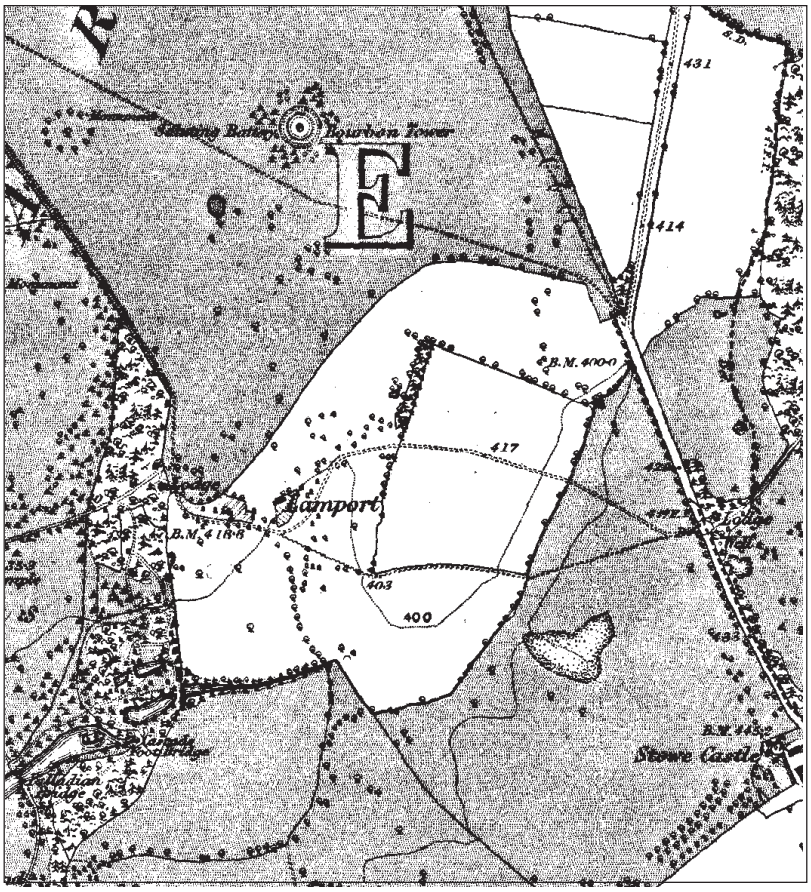


*Figure 6. Extract of the 1st edition OS map showing the area of Lamport. Note the communication pattern through the settlement. The course of the east/west track today survives as a public right of way. The north/south curving tree-line on the map preserves the course of the track along the valley bottom.*

with the wall along the western side of the field. The remainder of the 'Lamport Field' boundary is defined by a fence-line which, in the south, follows the course of a stream.

On the western side of the boundary wall (beyond the surveyed area), in an area of dense tree-cover and vegetation, are two deep hollow ways measuring up to 1.5m deep that lie parallel to the wall. These hollow ways extend from the bottom of the slope in the south (from near the field corner) and continue for a further 60m beyond the metal gate but gradually diminish in depth. A cutting through the bank of the easterly hollow way (i.e. the one closest to the wall) enabled access to the gate (p) and 'Lamport Field'. A track is shown on the 1st edition OS map on the same alignment as the hollow-ways leading towards the lodge in the north-west corner, beyond 'Lamport Field' (Fig 6).

### 4.2 'Bourbon Tower Field'

The 'Bourbon Tower Field' is undulating, with a narrow valley continuing from 'Lamport Field' in a northerly direction to its head near the Bourbon Tower. Few earthworks survive in the field since it has been cultivated for a number of years. The most prominent feature, however, is a deep linear depression, or hollow way, that extends along the valley floor as far as the fenced enclosure surrounding the Bourbon Tower. The hollow way measures up to 15m wide at the top and diminishes to *c*8m wide at the bottom; it is up to 3m deep. It is slightly offset from the alignment of the track that follows the valley bottom in 'Lamport Field' and is remarkably straight for much of its course. At (q) the hollow way opens out as it crosses an area of transverse low ground. In the west, from this point, the valley leads to a sub-circular pond which is cut by a modern fence boundary. On the eastern side of the hollow way a scarp leads to the southern side of the ridge-and-furrow in 'East Field'. This east/west feature was probably a former route. Within the Bourbon Tower enclosure, the hollow way's course can be traced as a slight earthwork for a further 45m (not surveyed); however, it is likely that it continued beyond this point and is overlain by the Tower since it is aligned on another hollow way on the northern side. This hollow way was surveyed by English Heritage (Hunt 2000). Its course is also reflected in the alignment of the plantation bordering a school sports field beyond the Bourbon Tower enclosure. Neither this route, or the hollow way, or the east/west route crossing the hollow way, is depicted on the OS 1st edition OS map, suggesting that they had gone out of used by the later 19th century (Fig 6).

On the western side of the hollow way is a quarry pit (r) measuring 10m diameter and *c*2m deep. To the north of the pit are a series of slight linear earthworks that extend from the hollow way to a point just below the top of the slope. It is not entirely clear what these earthworks represent, but since they are of similar width to the three prominent property boundaries in 'Lamport Field', it is possible that they are also property boundaries.

On the eastern side of the hollow way are two large, spread depressions measuring up to 1.5m deep. They are sited near the bottom of the slope in a similar manner to the amorphous scoops in 'Lamport Field' and may be further building platforms (possibly one of those shown on the Tithe Award map). To the east, on the top of the slope, is a large pond surrounded by dense vegetation and mature trees (not surveyed), with spread linear scarps to the north. These were probably associated with the building scoops.

Extending along much of the western side of the field is a ha-ha (s). The inner face (the west side) is defined by a stone wall (although in places it has collapsed) and measures 1.2m deep and 5m wide. In the north its terminal is marked by a brick pillar; however, traces of stonework continue for *c*2m beyond the pillar. The terminal is 23m short of the field corner. The ha-ha is again evident some 7m north of the field corner but in this case its

terminal is not marked by a pillar. Given that the intervening area is slightly ramped, it suggests that it was probably one continuous ha-ha which later became an entrance into Stowe Park.

### 3.3 **'East Field'**

The 'East Field' is dominated by a swathe of slightly curving ridge-and-furrow. Despite dense, course grassland along the southern side of the field and across the centre, and thick tree cover along the eastern side, the extent of the cultivation could be determined.

Two distinct blocks, or furlongs, share a common east/west orientation and judging by the alignment of the furrows they may have formerly been one continuous furlong. In the west there are fourteen strips measuring 120m long and varying in width between 6-8m and standing up to 0.5m high. The strips are contained in the east and west by a scarp, or headland, and in the north by a scarp that stands up to 1m high which diminishes further along the field boundary. The southern side is bounded by a scarp which appears to lie along the trackway that extends from 'Bourbon Tower Field'.

The eastern block is separated from the western one by an area of dense grass, forming a balk *c*12m wide. Fourteen strips extend eastwards from a headland towards the field boundary and road. No headland is visible along the eastern side, although there is a boundary scarp along the south-eastern side. The ridges measure 70m in length and are up to 0.5m high. The short lengths of the strips in the north would suggest that the field boundary has been truncated and that it probably extended east as far as the Akeley road.

## 5. DISCUSSION

The survey and investigation of the surviving earthworks at Lamport has identified a range of features to the south and north of the hamlet.

There appear to be two main settlement foci: the first is a pattern of regularly spaced properties along the east side of the valley in 'Lamport Field' with more amorphous scoops further north. This regular pattern is repeated on the west side of the hollow way in 'Bourbon Tower Field' where a further five boundaries were identified. The second focus lies to the west and is defined by a cluster of earthworks near the junction of the three tracks, and set along the tracks, in 'Lamport Field'.

*Figure 7. Aerial photograph of Lamport from the north (NMR: SP 6837/14; Copyright NMR).*

The earliest cartographic evidence of Lamport is Sarah Bridgeman's estate map dating to 1739 (Fig 3). It shows nine properties spaced between 30m and 120m apart along tracks, with a small cluster of three buildings on the western side within what appears to be a fenced or hedged enclosure. These buildings may depict the principal farm, perhaps the manor farm. Another building lies detached from the settlement and is some 245m to the south-east of the main settlement (just above the scale bar and partly obscured by the cartouche).

By comparing Bridgeman's map, the earthwork plan, the Tithe map, and the 1st edition OS map, some of the buildings can be identified on the earthwork plan and therefore dated to at least the post-medieval or modern period. It should be noted at the outset that the broad track leading north on Bridgeman's map should not be confused with the hollow way leading towards Bourbon Tower since it is oriented towards the avenue and is, therefore, more likely to mark the course of the track in 'Lamport Field', or perhaps the fence boundary to the east (marking the edge of the surveyed area). As far as the buildings are concerned, it is

probable that the cluster of three properties on Bridgeman's map is located in the area of the track (c) since it is on the same alignment as the survey plan and also matches the alignment of track (f). Another building is situated about 100m to the east of the cluster, at the track junction, while another lies to the south. To the south of this latter building is a more sinuous feature on Bridgeman's map (it also cuts the avenue in the east), which is either a track or, more likely, a stream. On the eastern side of the settlement, the two

northern properties on Bridgman's map may be represented on the survey plan by the amorphous scoops in 'Lamport Field' and possibly (but less likely given the orientation of the hollow way) in 'Bourbon Tower Field'. The remainder of the settlement depicted on the map lies to the south-east, beyond the surveyed area.

On the Tithe map, which dates to the mid-19th century, settlement is confined to the present area, with other properties near the north/south tree-belt (this belt can be seen on fig 6 and is also shown on the earthwork survey as being the fence-line to the north of n (Fig 5)). This latter area is probably represented by the scoops and pond on the east side of the hollow way. There are also two properties in the area of the scoops in 'Lamport Field', which have already been identified on Bridgman's plan. These three properties, two of which appear to

*Figure 8. Aerial photograph of Lamport (NMR: HSL UK 69 869; © Crown copyright NMR).*

have been in existence in the later 18th century, were abandoned by the end of the 19th century.

Bridgeman's map shows a dispersed settlement pattern, which is at variance with the earthwork plan since it shows a nucleated pattern of regularly spaced properties on the eastern side of the north/south route in 'Lamport Field' with (although less convincing) further properties on the western side of the hollow way to the north of Lamport. These two elements are separated by a grouping of amorphous earthworks of probable post-medieval date and it is tempting to see them as overlying a more regular pattern, particularly since a property boundary extends up the slope from one of the scoops. This regular pattern is, therefore, earlier than the dispersed pattern and probably dates to at least the medieval period. Finds of medieval pottery on the east side of the hollow way, in 'Bourbon Tower Field', tends to support this. Further rectilinear platforms are evident on the eastern side of

‘Lamport Field’, which abut the fence-line and are overlain by a lynchet that marks the edge of the field. The relationship between these features and those to the west is unclear, but they may be associated with the regular settlement pattern and are either further properties, or perhaps closes.

The communication pattern has altered radically, even in the last 100 years. The First Edition OS map (Fig 6) shows that the modern track leading from the Akeley road to Lamport was not in existence at this time; instead the principal route through the settlement was the east/west track that follows the course of the hollow way (b) along the side of a small copse and then northwards to the ha-ha. All the other tracks identified on the survey are depicted by tree-lines and were probably abandoned by the late 19th century. The exception, however, is the deep hollow way in ‘Bourbon Tower Field’, which is not shown on any of the available maps and was therefore probably abandoned by the early 18th century. The north/south track in ‘Lamport Field’ is shown on the Tithe map, and extends south beyond the surveyed area in a curving fashion to meet the Chackmore road. The later 19th century, therefore, appears to have been the final stage of abandonment at Lamport leaving a small cluster of buildings within the wooded enclosure.

Lamport appears to have developed as a regular settlement pattern along the major north/south valley. Its genesis may have been in the late Anglo-Saxon period and, bearing in mind the ‘port’ element in the place-name, it may have developed as a small market centre along a major route. Its prosperity continued; at the time of the Domesday Survey it had a larger population and greater amount of cultivated land than any of the other three settlements in the parish. Even in the late 13th century it was still the largest settlement, although the parish church was at Stowe. Much of the land at Lamport, which was divided between two manors, was in monastic ownership, but what immediate effect the Dissolution of the Monasteries had is unclear. By the mid 17th century there appears to have been a hiatus in the settlement history of the region related to the activities of Peter Temple at Stowe and Lamport, which may be linked to the morphological changes evident on the earthwork survey.

# 6. METHODOLOGY

The survey was carried out over a period of nine days by Graham Brown, Richard Jones, Chris Dyer and David Field. It was undertaken at a scale of 1:1000 using a Trimble 5700 Global Positioning System and a Trimble 5600 Total Station theodolite. This equipment was used to survey the more prominent archaeological features and topographic detail such as some of the fence-lines. It was also used to establish a control framework of points which were subsequently used as base-lines from which finer archaeological detail was measured using taped offsets. The data was processed using Geosite Office, Trimble Geomatics and Key Terra Firma software.

Documentary evidence was supplied by Mark Page of the Centre for English Local History. The report was written by Graham Brown; however, it has benefited from discussion with colleagues at English Heritage and the Centre for English Local History. The illustrations were drawn by Graham Brown.

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**(Footnotes)**

1 Unless otherwise stated, this section has been largely written from notes supplied by Mark Page and Richard Jones or downloaded from the Whittlewood Project web-page.