

WHITTON COURT GARDENS

WHITTON, SHROPSHIRE



Heritage assessment of the gardens and parkland

May 2016

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SUMMARY OF PROJECT DETAILS

OASIS ID:	Thejesso1-241 538
TJC Project Code:	WHC16
Project Type(s):	Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
National Grid Reference:	SO 57862 73490 (centered); SY8 3AB
County:	Shropshire
District/Unitary Authority:	South Shropshire
Parish:	Whitton
Elevation (above sea level):	c.165-170m OSD
Designation Status(s):	Grade I Whitton Court (the house) No.1383591
Historic Environment Record:	Whitton Court HER No.418 – MSA313 Whitton Court Park and Garden No.7758 – MSA4205
Prepared by:	Oliver Jessop MCIfA Victoria Beauchamp PhD MA
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report is an heritage assessment of the gardens and parkland that surround Whitton Court in South Shropshire. The site is located 6km southeast of Ludlow, centered on NGR SO 57862 73490. The house is a Grade I Listed Building, the core of which dates to the 12th century. This document has been prepared to provide a greater understanding of the historic development of the gardens and parkland to inform a proposal for a new formal garden setting to the house. This will include a new access road, paths, water features and planting.

The existing gardens surrounding the house that comprise of terraced lawns with stone retaining walls, steps, lawns, shrubberies and paths, largely date to the mid-late 19th century. The lack of extant evidence for an earlier garden setting to the house is a result of this subsequent remodeling, however it would be expected that the formal south facing 17th façade would have once been enhanced by formal planting with geometric inspired parterres, walks and water features. It is suggested that the only elements of the existing layout that may date to the 17th century are the low earthwork terraces, which may have once incorporated a bowling green. Evidence for 17th and 18th century design within the wider parkland survives as two large ponds, and the steep hillside to the northwest of the house has been substantially adapted to form three linear terraces for walks, and/or for growing fruit trees.

This assessment has concluded that whilst the existing gardens around the house will be removed and redefined with new hedges, planting and walks as part of the proposals, the associated ground works will not cause excessive harm to any pre-19th century features, especially as the existing terraces will be maintained throughout the design. In regards to the wider parkland, the water features and associated sluices and management structures will be repaired thus ensuring their future preservation.

It is suggested that the terraces to the northwest of the house are an important feature of the earlier setting of the building, which prior to the later 19th century was dominated from the east by the timber framed west wing now hidden by the enclosed courtyard.

It is concluded that the proposals will have a limited adverse impact on the gardens surrounding Whitton Court, thus the adverse impact on the heritage asset is low. The proposals to adapt the access road to the house and re-locate the existing drive will enhance the western side of the property, and create a greater balance between the architectural appearance of the building and areas of new planting.

I INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

This document presents the results of a heritage appraisal and walk-over survey of the gardens and parkland that surround Whitton Court, Whitton in South Shropshire (**Figure 1**). It has been prepared to support a planning application for the redesign of the garden layout and alterations to the access road to the house that may have an impact upon the setting of the building.

Whitton Court is a Grade I Listed building. The gardens are included on the register of historic parks and gardens maintained by Historic England .

AIMS

The aim of this report has been to research the historical and archaeological development of the gardens and parkland to identify any surviving features of archaeological and architectural significance in the form of designated, or undesignated heritage assets. This has included a consideration of the impact of the proposed scheme upon the setting of the building and any heritage assets in direct proximity to the house.

PROPOSED RELANDSCAPING OF WHITTON COURT

The proposed landscaping works will remove elements of the Victorian and Edwardian planting that surrounds the house, redefining the stepped lawns into a series of interconnected garden rooms separated by hedges and pathways (see **Figure 6**).

PRINCIPAL DELIVERABLES DERIVING FROM THIS WORK:

- A** - A summary of the known historical development of the gardens and parkland;
- B** – An assessment of any potential subsurface remains of archaeological interest;
- C** – An assessment of the impact of the proposed works to any archaeological remains.

DISSEMINATION

Copies of this report will be distributed to the Client, the Shropshire Historic Environment Record (SHER) and a digital copy will be uploaded to OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS) with the reference number: **thejessoI-24I 538**.

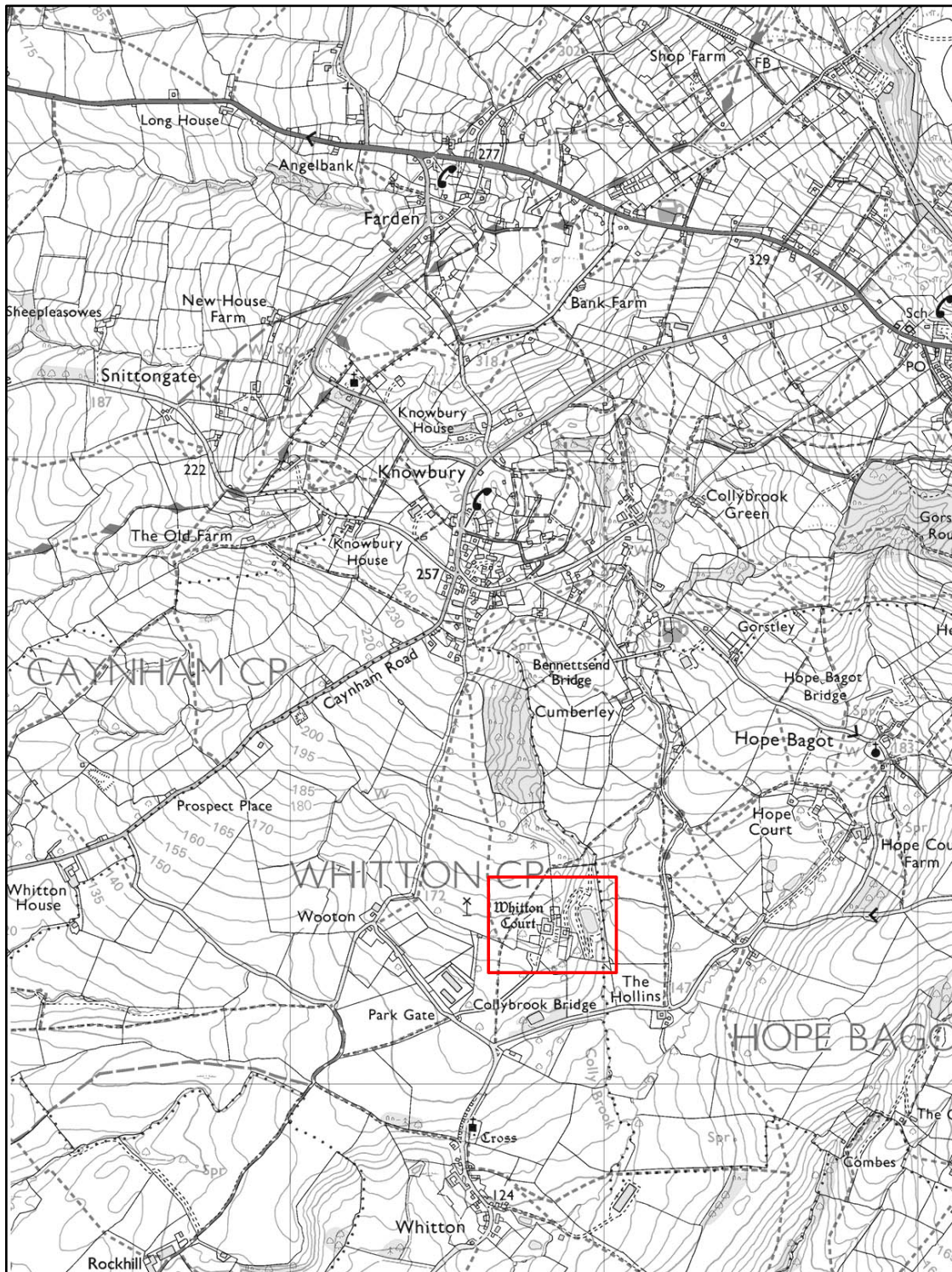


Figure 1: Location map of Whitton Court

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2 SITE LOCATION AND BASELINE CONDITION

LOCATION OF SITE AND SETTING

Whitton Court is located in south Shropshire, 1km to the south of the village of Knowbury and 6km to the southeast of Ludlow, centred on NGR SO 57862 73490. The parkland is surrounded by a rubblestone wall, which originally circumnavigated the north, west and south sides of the estate enclosing an area of c.129 ha (see **Figure 2**).

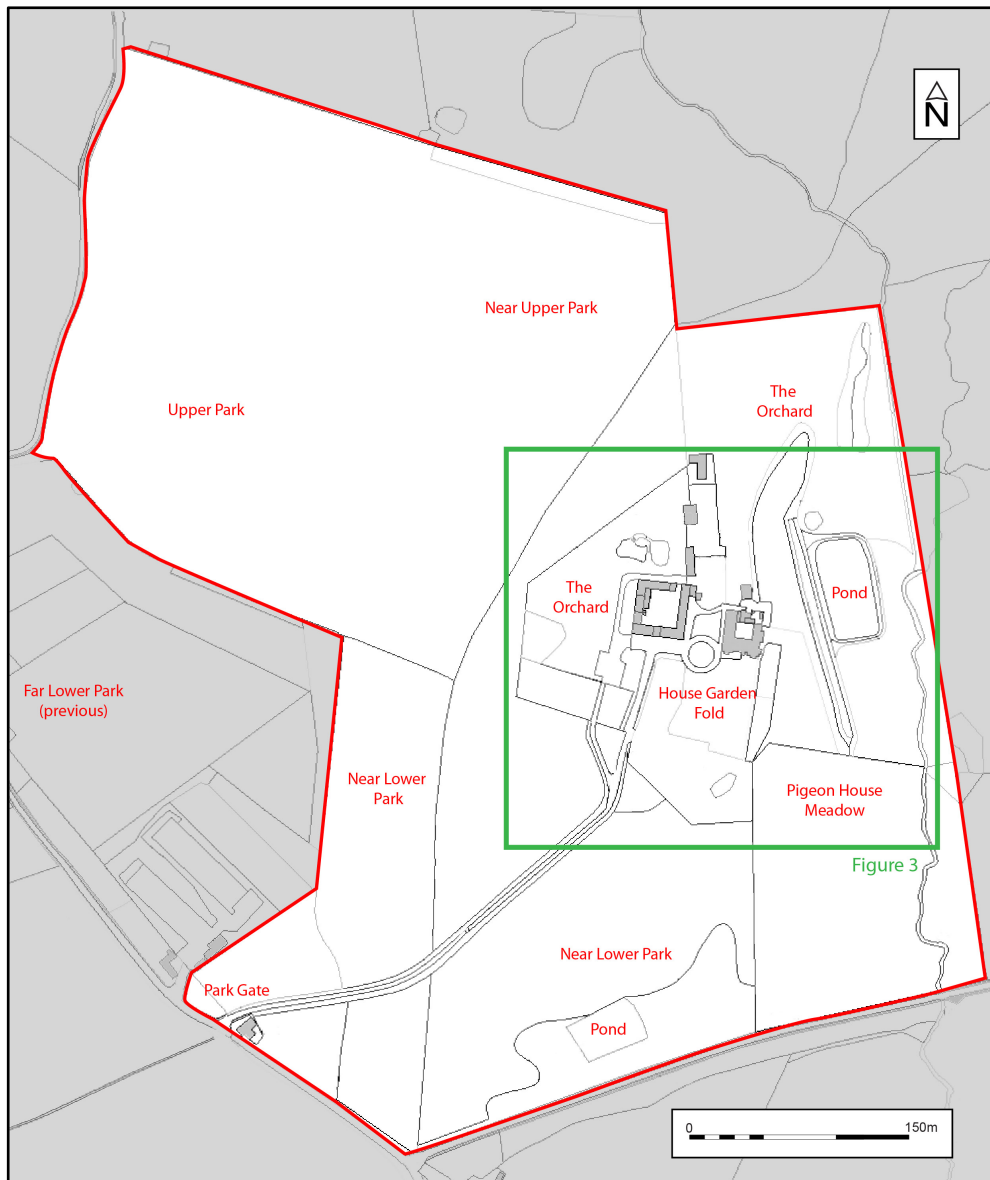


Figure 2: Outline of site boundary with 19th century field names.

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Access is via a tarmac road on a prominent embankment orientated northeast, with a gated lodge to the southwest. There is a small area of woodland immediately to the north of the entrance lodge. The land on either side of the road is pasture and falls away to the east.

There is a rectangular pond mid-way along the southern boundary, and at the junction of the road to Whitton is an access gate through the boundary wall leading to a public footpath.

The house (**Appendix 3.1**) has a prominent location on the edge of an escarpment, c.172m above sea level (asl). There is a converted 19th century stable courtyard to the west and a series of cottages to the north (**Figure 3**). To the east of the house, the escarpment drops down to c.150m asl. where it forms a series of terraces. At the base of the slope is a level area and a second large rectangular pond to the northwest. The east boundary to the estate is formed by a stream – the Colly Brook.

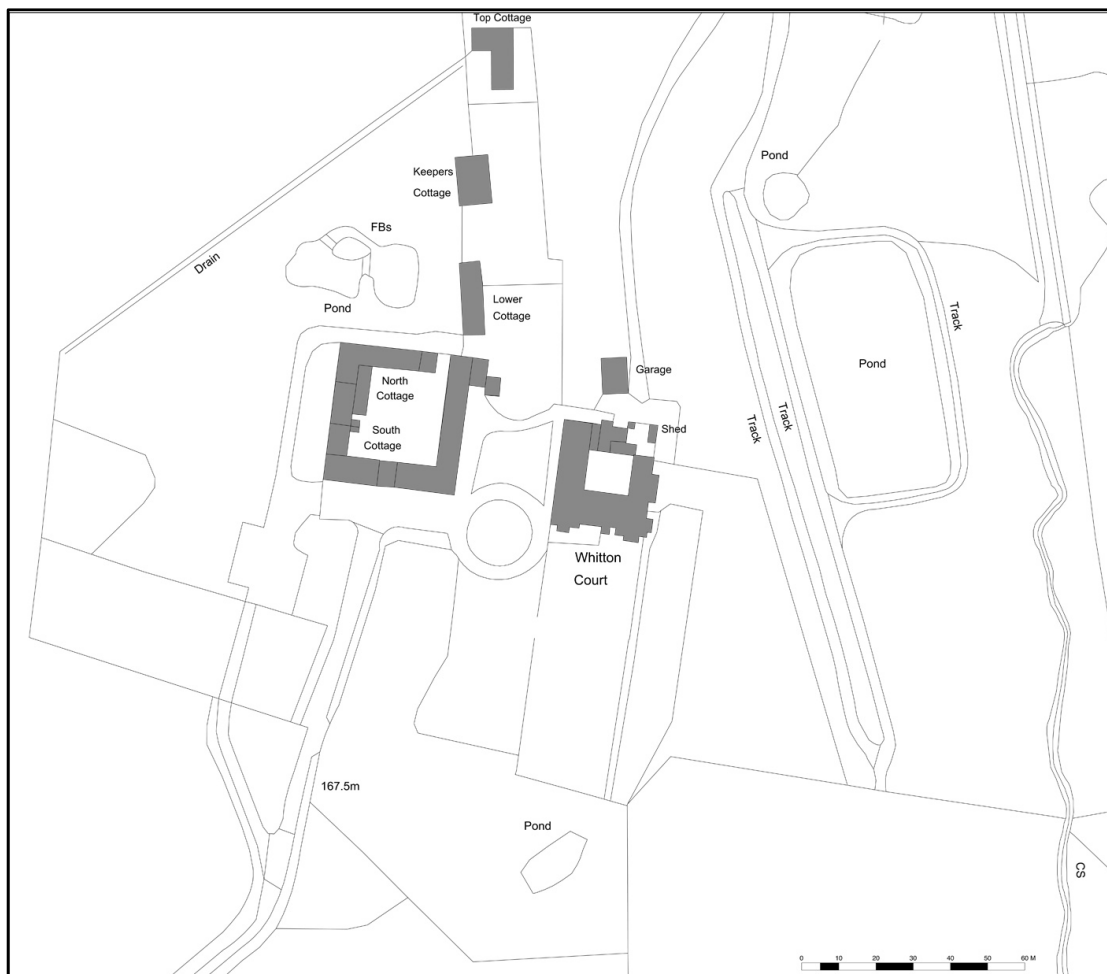


Figure 3: Plan of the house at Whitton Court and its outbuildings.

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GEOLOGY

The underlying bedrock geology across the site (BGS 2016) comprises of the Raglan Mudstone Formation – Siltstone and Mudstone. There are no superficial deposits recorded.

3 METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

This heritage appraisal has been prepared in accordance with a guidance prepared the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and accepted best practice. Consultation has been made with the records held by the Shropshire Historic Environment Record, Heritage Gateway (Historic England online resource), the Historic England Archive in Swindon, the Shrewsbury Record Office and the map room at the British Library to ensure that the baseline data of any associated heritage assets is accurate.

LIMITATIONS

The scope of this report has been focused upon the assessment of features of archaeological significance within the immediate setting of the Site, the standing building has not been considered in detail having been the subject of a previous architectural report by Hawkes Edwards & Cave Architects (HEC 2015). None of the estate buildings have been examined in detail as part of this appraisal.

The report is limited to the following:

- Consultation with Hawkes Edwards & Cave Architects and Arne Maynard Garden Design in regards to proposed alterations;
- A review of relevant archive and documentary material;
- A Site visit in the form of a walk-over inspection of the Site and surrounding area;
- A consideration of the setting of the Site and the identification of heritage assets;
- The preparation of this report.

NOMENCLATURE

The terminology used throughout this document has been derived from existing names and descriptions associated with Whitton Court and the surrounding area. Additional descriptions are based upon an assessment of the current and historic character of the site.

SITE SURVEY

The site was inspected by Oliver Jessop MCI(A) on the 16th February 2016.

SOURCES CONSULTED

The following archaeological databases and archive repositories were consulted during the preparation of this document:

- Aerial Photographs (Historic England Archive – Swindon);
- Archaeological Data Service (ADS) – York;
- Documentary sources, including archaeological publications where available;
- Geological Mapping;
- Heritage Gateway;
- Historic mapping including relevant Ordnance Survey Maps;
- Internet Archives;
- National Archives – Kew;
- The English Heritage Archive – Swindon;
- The National Heritage List for England – Historic England;
- Shropshire Historic Environment Record;
- Shropshire Record Office.

4 PLANNING LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

PLANNING CONTEXT

The wider planning legislation that underpins planning decisions in regards to archaeological sites and designated heritage assets, is detailed within the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This legislation (relating to England) has been strengthened by the subsequent National Heritage Acts (1983; 2002).

Further legislation in the form of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, defines both a 'Listed Building' and a 'Conservation Area'. In considering whether to grant planning permission for development that affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest (sect. 66.1)

NATIONAL PLANNING GUIDANCE – NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27th March 2012. It replaces previous planning guidance as detailed in Annex 3, including Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5), which formed the basis of planning matters relating to the Historic Environment.

NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The new emphasis states that planning requirements within the planning system must be relevant, proportionate and necessary to each individual application (Para. 1). This guidance includes 12 Core Planning Principles that include promoting the different roles and character of our main urban areas and protecting the Green Belts around them. The conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is also important, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations (Para. 17).

NPPF encourages local planning authorities to identify and bring back into residential use empty housing and buildings (Para. 51), and make effective use of land that has previously been developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value (Para. 111). Section 12 of the NPPF, 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment', seeks to ensure that heritage assets at risk, through neglect or decay, should be conserved (Para. 126). The setting of any heritage asset needs to be described in a planning submission, with the level of detail proportionate to the asset's importance (Para. 128).

Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss (Para. 133). Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal (Para. 134).

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining an application, although a balanced judgment will need to be made in regards to the scale of harm, or loss, and the significance of the heritage asset (Para. 135).

NPPF does, however, encourage planning authorities to look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites and within the setting of heritage assets to enhance or better reveal their significance (Para. 137). Clear guidance is also given in regards to the requirements of developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and to make this evidence publically accessible (Para. 141).

NPPF tasks local planning authorities to have up-to-date evidence about the historic environment in their area and to use it to assess the significance of heritage assets and the contribution they make to the environment (Para. 169). Where appropriate, landscape character assessments should also be prepared and integrated with an assessment of historic landscape character, especially where major expansion options are being considered in areas of landscape sensitivity (Para. 170).

LOCAL PLANNING GUIDANCE - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

In the Shropshire Local Development Framework: Adopted Core Strategy (March 2011) it states that the strategy will ensure that the character, quality and diversity of Shropshire's built, natural and historic environment is protected, enhanced and, where possible, restored, in a way that respects landscape character, biodiversity, heritage values, and local distinctiveness, and contributes to wider environmental networks. *Key policies: CS2, CS3, CS4, CS5, CS6, CS8, CS9, CS16, CS17.*

The principal policy that applies to Listed Buildings is **CS17: Environmental Networks**. The policy is intended to ensure that development will identify, protect, enhance, expand and connect Shropshire's environmental assets, to create a multifunctional network of natural and historic resources. This will be achieved by ensuring that all development, both protects and enhances the diversity, high quality and local character of Shropshire's natural, built and historic environment,

and does not adversely affect the visual, ecological, geological, heritage or recreational values and functions of these assets, their immediate surroundings or their connecting corridors.

LOCAL PLANNING GUIDANCE - LISTED BUILDINGS

Shropshire Council seeks to preserve listed buildings, their settings and any features of architectural or historic interest. Their published guidance states that applications to demolish a listed building, to enable alterations that would involve the loss of historic parts of the building or obscure the original plan form, layout or structural integrity, or otherwise diminish the historic value of listed buildings are not normally deemed acceptable.

There is a presumption that listed buildings should be kept in their original use or, if this use no longer exists, in another use that causes least harm to the building. Many buildings can sustain some sensitive alterations or extensions to accommodate continuing or new uses, but listed buildings vary greatly in the extent to which they can be changed without harm to their special architectural or historic interest.

The legislation that applies to listed buildings addresses not only the exterior fabric, but all internal fixtures and fittings and the curtilage. The curtilage is normally considered to be the land, buildings and structures that go with or are ancillary to the principal building. Any buildings or structures which formed part of the land associated with, or belonging to, the principal building at the time of listing are considered to be within the 'curtilage' and considered part of it. Buildings or structures that date from after 1st July 1948 and which are unattached to the listed building, are not considered to be curtilage listed. Typically, structures covered by curtilage listing might include: walls, gates, railings, gatehouses, stables, urns, statues, barns, privies and cart sheds. To demolish, alter or move any such structure, the applicant would need to apply for Listed Building Consent.

HEDGEROW REGULATIONS

The Hedgerow Regulations were introduced under The Environment Act of 1995 to protect the characteristics of the countryside and planning permission is required if: over 20m of hedge are to be removed; the hedge is over 30 years old; and/or contains a historical mix of plants. Schedule 1, Part II of the Act states that a hedgerow has historical importance if it:

- marks the boundary, or part of the boundary, of at least one historic parish or township predating 1850;
- marks the boundary of a pre-1600AD estate or manor recorded as of historical or archaeological importance;
- forms an integral part of a field system predating Enclosure Acts;
- forms part of or is associated with a Scheduled Monument, or a recorded heritage asset.

5 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE – HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

This section of the report presents a summary history of the development, ownership and use of Whitton Court. The most comprehensive account of the ownership of Whitton Court was published by Henry T. Weyman in 1924, the details of which are summarised below with additional information from the Shropshire Record Office in Shrewsbury.

WHITTON COURT: A SHORT HISTORY

The De Whittons held the estate from the earliest records in 1174 until 1609. The estate was then sold to Sebastian Harvey, Lord Mayor of London 1619, and again in 1635 to Robert Charlton, a London Goldsmith. The Charltons held the estate until 1835 when it was sold to Thomas Botfield, although from the beginning of the 19th century the estate had been occupied by tenants. In 1857 it was sold to the Mills family who were responsible for the layout of the house and grounds as they are today, although they continued to let Whitton Court until the 1880s. The estate in the 20th century passed through several hands including the Woods, Rodwells, Twitchells and finally the present owners Mr and Mrs Hoosenally who purchased the estate in 2014.

THE OWNERS OF WHITTON COURT

Date	Ownership & Occupation
1174	William de Whitton. Holds Whitton from Osbourn Fitz Hugh as a serjeanty (estate held in exchange for rendering service)
pre 1185	Hugh de Whitton
1199	William de Whitton son of Hugh
1233	William and his son William both dead so passes to younger son John de Whitton
1240	Court sold for 72 marks to William le Monetarius and further land sold by John de Whitton to William le Monetarius in 1243 and 1255
1255	Henry de Whitton (son of John, a minor) inherits under guardianship of Simon de Radnor. Later part of hamlet of Stoke becomes art of the Whitton estate.
1301	John (son of Henry) granted Whitton (1330 changes name to de Whitton)
1335	John's son John inherits (Sherriff of Shropshire 1362, 1363)
1372	Thomas de Whitton granted estates (Sheriff of Shropshire 1407, MP 1390 and

Date	Ownership & Occupation
	1405)
1411	Edward de Whitton (Thomas' brother) inherits
1450	Both Edward and his son John are dead so estate passes to John's son John in 1460 proved by Inq.p.m on death of Earl of Shrewsbury
1486	John's son William inherits
1500	William's son John inherits aged 7
1546	John's son Francis inherits aged 13
1591	Land granted to Humphrey Angel for 21 years – has son called Whorwood Whitton born 1578
1600	Francis Whitton and his wife are granted Faintee and Whitton by Letter Patent to be held in captive (direct from the crown)
1604	De Whitton's are in financial difficulties as part of land mortgaged off e.g. timber to Edward Foze of Ludlow for £100
1609	Francis and Whorwood sell estate to Sebastian Harvey for £1570. Although the sale terms meant that it was not completed until Francis's death but formal possession as granted on 23rd June. Francis died 24th Feb 1610. Harvey (knighted in 1616, Lord Mayor of London 1619, refaced the southern range of the house
1621	Sebastian Harvey dies. The battle for the state between his wife and daughter, Mary Popham, is resolved by 1633. The estate was worth £400 a year
1635	Estate sold to Robert Charlton for £3,700, a London Goldsmith and his son Job. Robert continued the work on the house started by Harvey (date stone 1636 on south elevation)
1670	Job inherits Whitton Court (Sergeant at Law 1660, Chief Justice of Chester 1662, Judge of Court of Common Pleas 1686, MP for Ludlow 1659-1678, Alderman and Recorder 1659-1678). Francis appears to have lived at Whitton from his grandfather's (Robert) death
1697	Francis (son of Job) inherits (MP for the Borough of Ludlow from 1678 to 1685, and Mayor of the Borough in 1689; Sheriff of Shropshire 1699 and of Herefordshire in 1708, represented Bishop's Castle in Parliament from 1685 to 1687.) Added staircase, decorated Saloon/solar in the hall

Date	Ownership & Occupation
1729	Blunden Charlton (son of Francis) inherits
1784	Blunden died a bachelor. Estate passes to Nicholas Lechmere, son of Francis' sibling Elizabeth. Nicholas becomes Nicholas Lechmere Charlton as per the settlement clause
1807	Edmund Lechmere Charlton (High Bailiff of Ludlow in 1833, and was an MP for the Borough from 1835 to 1837)
1817	Advert in Hereford Journal showing house and farm to be let (5th March)
1826	Let by E.L. Charleton to a tenant (noted by Wright)
1830	House to let as per advert in Aris's Birmingham Gazette (22nd Nov)
1830	Estate sold to Mr Thomas Botfield (Hopton Court)
1841	Census show J Swift occupying Whitton Court with his family
1849	Thomas' nephew Beriah Botfield inherits (President of British Archaeological Association, he was also MP for Ludlow in 1840 to 1847 and 1857 until his death in 1863)
post 1844	Whitton Court farm in occupation of the Executor of the late of Mr J Swift, yearly tenant (sale particulars from tithe)
1851	Census shows John Swift still occupies the house
1857	Estate sold to Mr Samuel Mills, daughter Miss Mills improved the house and grounds 1884 (Leighton; 1901)
1861	Census shows George Mason occupies the house
1871	Census shows Charles Bates, farm bailiff occupies the house
1881	Census shows Richard Mills and his sister as well as Charles Ruck, farm bailiff are recorded as living in the house.
1891	Census data records Philip Davis, farmer, as living at the Whitton Court Farm but Whitton Court itself is uninhabited
1901	Martha Mills is recorded occupying Whitton Court in the census
1911	Martha Mills is recorded occupying Whitton Court in the census
1920	Estate sold to Mrs Wood of Henley Hall followed by her daughter

Date	Ownership & Occupation
1921-22	Land tax Assessment shows Martha Mills as owner/occupier
1961	Estate passed to cousin Major Rodwell
1983	Estate brought by Twitchells
2013/14	Estate brought by Mr and Mrs Hoosenally

MAP & HISTORIC EVIDENCE:

Whitton Court is arranged around a central courtyard. The earliest fabric dates to c.1140 and survives in the north elevation of the south range. The west range is timber framed, and is built in two phases. Oswald suggests that although this timber-work is likely to date to the late 16th century, but that it is a style that continued in Shropshire until the mid 17th century (1968, 1429); a programme of dendrochronology coupled with a detailed archaeological building survey would however, be able to refine this date considerably. The principal external façade faces south and dates to the early 17th century. The building was extensively restored and extended in 1862 by the Mills family, and again in 1883 enclosing the central area to form the inner courtyard.

Cantor in his *Gazetteer of Medieval Deer Parks* 1983 based on evidence in Post Mortem and Patent Rolls makes no mention of Whitton Court (Morris 2015, 23) suggesting the park is post medieval in date. Morris suggests establishment of parks in this period were a result of "a desire to reinstate those traditional rites and customs suppressed by the Commonwealth" (2015, 117), and unlike many of the earlier medieval parks was situated adjacent to the house pointing "to an increasing appreciation of the aesthetic qualities of the park from the end of the 16th century through to the 18th century"(Morris 2015, 120). By 1901, despite the park still being marked on the Ordnance Survey maps Leighton says that it had "long since been dis-parked"(190, 38). There is little documentary evidence confirming the date and use of the park, however anecdotal evidence includes a wall painting in the house dated 1682 showing "a stag hunt" (**Appendices 2.10, 2.11**). This scene is a graphic depiction of the killing of a stag, and it has been suggested the various characters that are depicted include Francis Charlton and his friends (Weyman 1924, 62). The prominent location of this painting above the fireplace demonstrates that the imagery was of considerable significance to the family at the time, and hence the likelihood that deer hunting was a popular pastime within the parkland.

Evidence for the gardens is largely derived from contemporary descriptions and images of Whitton Court, map evidence, documents relating to the sale of the estate and adverts in the local newspapers when the property was to be let in 1817 and 1830.

EARLY HISTORY 1174-1635

Few documents remain relating to the early history of the house and grounds other than regarding ownership described at length by Weyman (1924). A lease from 1442 suggests there was once a chapel in the original hall referring to one of the rooms as the "Chapel Chamber", possibly located at the end of the withdrawing room at the west end of the hall which has an oriel windows.

Saxton's map (**Appendix I.1**) dated in 1579 does not show Whitton Court only Whitton Chapelry.

Sebastian Harvey bought the Whitton estate from Francis and Whorwood Whitton in 1609, but due to the conditions of the sale the property remained with Francis until his death in February 1610 (Weyman 1924, 56). Particulars of the manor at the time of the sale show the estate included as well as the main a pigeon house, meadows, crofts, orchards, parks, mills, hop yard, and coal from pits in the Clee hills and was worth almost £2,300 (11/758 quoted in HEC 2015, 56).

Harvey, a citizen and alderman of the city of London (Lord Mayor of London in 1619) and member of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, may never have lived at Whitton. According to Weyman, Harvey already had property in Essex at the Manor of Hornchurch in Essex (Powell 1978). He does however, appear to have made several improvements to the house from 1610-1621 as well as adding to the Whitton estate by purchasing from Richard Hopton a further three houses in Whitton village for £360, as well as property from Charles Foxe in Nash, Burford, Harthill, Nurton, Titterstone and the timber which had been mortgaged to Foxe in Whitton by Francis and Whorwood (Weyman 1924, 56). Oswald believes under Harvey there may have been rebuilding of the west, north and east ranges, followed by the re-fronting of the hall in brick in 1621 as indicated by the date stone marked S.H. on the south face (1968, 1429). Harvey died in February 1621-2 and there followed a wrangle between his daughter and wife for ownership of the estate that eventually favoured Mary Popham his daughter.

WHITTON AND THE CHARLTON'S 1635-1830.

John and Mary Popham sold the estate to Robert Charlton in 1635 at around the same time as he brought the Ludford estate. Robert completed the work started by Harvey on the house. His initials appear on the east gable of the south front R.C. 1636. Oswald states that in chancery

proceedings arising from the purchase Robert had wanted to but the estate because he was a “countryman born and bred” (1968, 1510).

A settlement document dated 1646 on the occasion of Job's marriage to Dorothy Blunden names trustees of the manor as Richard Coke of Trusley, Robert's son-in-law and Walter Waring of Owlbury, Dorothy's guardian. On the occasion of the marriage Robert gave Job Ludford House and Robert continued to live at Whitton until his death in 1670 when Job's son Francis took up residency. Weyman credits Francis with the staircase leading from the Hall to the first floor, the decoration of the saloon and solar and the decoration in the old hall. However Francis moved to Ludford when Job died in 1697 (Weyman 1924, 60-61) and his son Blunden took up residence.

A document dated 1725 (SA ref: 11/367) examined in a court of Chancery makes reference to Blunden Charlton, his wife and their son Francis Charlton. The document states that it is a list of the particulars “of the manor of Whitton in the County of Salop which I intend to settle upon my son at his marriage”. Included are: a manor house, gardens, orchard, walk(s), fish pools, pigeon house and close containing 20 acres worth £20-0-0, the park inclosed with a wall and “a mill and half about” worth £100-0-0 followed by a list of tenants. The tenants included John Nenold, George Foinpkins, Geo.Mason, Geo Hoycox, Jolin Playslors, Fran Jacoks, Elinor Taylor, Rbt Bede, Anne Morgan, Wm Harper, Wm Mason, Richd Beedow, J Williams, Walter Dale and Edward Jones. (The value of £100-0-0 for Whitton compares with the park at Ludford worth £150-0-0 and house and immediate grounds, also of 20 acres worth £30-0-0). In total the value of the manor of Whitton at this date was £5554-10-0.

Hey writes that fishponds were a common feature on many manorial estates. “The high price of fish in the 17th and 18th centuries created a new interest amongst the gentry in ponds for carp as well as pike, perch and tench. Isaak Walton's *The Complete Angler* extolled the virtue of fishing as a sport for relaxation” (Hey 2010).

Whitton Court appears on maps from the 18th century. Mordon's Map (**Appendix 1.2**) of 1708 and Erran Bowen's map (**Appendix 1.3**) dated 1751 name Whitton Court, but due to the scale there are no details. Rocque's 1752 (**Appendix 1.4**) is marked with Whitton Court & Park. Three structures are shown. An L-shaped structure (the house) and two others (probably the stables) The drive is indicated to be the same width as the surrounding roads and approached from the east, joining the road to Corley rather than Wootton Road to the southwest. However this map that depicts the whole of the County is very stylistic and the accuracy of details such as the road alignments is questionable.

After the death of Sir Francis Charlton, Blunden's son in 1784 the estate passed to his nephew Nicholas Lechmore who took the name Charlton. Under the Lechmore Charltons the property appears to have been let.

An advert dated the 5th March 1817 in the Hereford Journal advertising Whitton Court was available to let described the Court and Farm as "*consisting of an excellent Farm-House, and all the necessary Outbuildings, and upwards of 200 and 30 acres of capital Meadow, Pasture and Arable Lane, in a ring fence.*"

Edmund Lechmere Charlton "rapidly ran through the property" after inheriting it (Oswald 1968, 1511) and letters in the Shropshire archive show that as early as 1822 he set about selling the estate. Charlton wrote to a Mr Baxter representing Lord (Viscount) Boyne regarding a deal to sell the estate that was called off due to a dispute over the price. Charlton, it appears, was asked to sell "his old family estate" to Lord Boyne. There seems to have been a disagreement over the valuing of the estate at c.£25,000, as Baxter seems to have inferred that "this was more than it was worth" (Shropshire Archives 11/411). Boyne eventually had conceded that he would buy Whitton for £3000 more than the valuation provided that it was not more than £20,000 however Charlton changed his mind again as land prices were "down 40%" and offered to rent Ludford to Boyne for £200 a year for two years while he was away. Boyne never did buy Whitton.

Around the time of the dispute, Thomas Wright in his History of Ludlow described Whitton Court in 1826 as "*having an extensive park, round which there is a brick wall*" (p248) (**Appendix 2.1**). He also notes that the property is let to a tenant of E.L. Charlton, which corresponding with the adverts to let.

The letting of the property seems to have lead to a period of decay. Oswald states there was a "*period late in the 18th century and during the first half of the 19th century when the Court was occupied as a farm house, and it is probably that parts of the building were allowed to fall into ruin and were eventually taken down*" (p1428-1429).

In an advert dated 22nd Nov 1830 in Aris's Birmingham Gazette, the property was once more to let and described as a:

"Mansion... for the residence of a large and genteel family. The proprietor will make any alterations or additions to suit a good tenant on the terms agreed upon. The house adjoins to a Park of about 80 acres that is walled around. A farm of about 200 acres would be let with the house, if required, and the tenant may have the privilege of sporting over the Manor of Whitton."

WHITTON COURT IN THE 19TH CENTURY UNDER THE BOTFIELDS AND MILLS (1830-1920)

The estate was sold to Thomas Botfield, of Hopton Court in 1830 and the estate later passed to his nephew Beriah Botfield, president of the British Archaeological Association and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

In 1841 the first census available records that John Swift, Farmer, aged 38 is living at Whitton Court with Rachel Swift, 70, Mary Swift 25, Elizabeth Rowley, 15, female servant, and two male servants Thomas Ketson, 25 and Francis Broom 15. There is also mention of a place called Parkgate where William Jones, 40, agricultural labourer, lives with Elizabeth Jones, 30 and Elizabeth, aged 6 and William aged 2. Charles Berington 55, a brick layer, William Berington, aged 30, also a brick layer and Mary Berington aged 40 live at a place called Park.

The 1845/6 tithe map (**Appendices 1.7, 1.8**) and apportionment indicate that the estate is in the ownership of Lucy Botfield, although her relationship to Beriah is unclear. The tithe confirms the census data as Whitton Court is occupied by a J. Swift. Plot 61 is described as House, garden, fold etc and there is an adjacent orchard [60]. On the opposite side of the drive a linear and L-shaped building are marked that represent the stables and farm buildings, with the surrounding land [62] marked as a paddock used as pasture.

We know from an inventory book (SA ref: 4752/14/76) of the belongings of John Swift, written in short hand pencil scrawl, there were at least 10 horses, six of which are named as Captain, Blackkid, Duffle, Venture, Broon and Nelly. We also know from the inventory there were 35 two-year old sheep, 23 ewes and 60 other ewes, three two-year old bullocks, nine heifers, a further 13 bullocks, four heifer calves, as well as named cows called Beauty, Blossom, Sipon, Tulip, Mottles, Cowslip, and Whiteface. The inventory also lists the contents of a dairy complete with butter churns and a brew house and goes on to list the contents of kitchen, living room, three chambers and an attic room together with the linen he owned. In the cellar there was a last cider cask. The list of rooms suggests he was occupying only part of the house.

The park is divided into four areas [63, 64, 66 & 69] Near Upper Park, Upper Park, Near Lower Park and Far Lower Park. The area south east of the house is known as Pigeon House Meadow. The lodge is mentioned is so far as parcels of land indicate its presence but no structure is shown. There are references to "gardens near entrance lodge" [73] and "lodge field" [85]. Small parcels of land on the edge of park known as slangs are occupied by Charles Berington and laid to pasture or meadow. At the entrance to the park are two plantations [67 & 68] of 2 roods 24 perches and 34 perches. These are shown as being "in-hand".

TABLE 1 - THE TITHE APPORTIONMENT RELATING TO PROPERTY SURROUNDING WHITTON COURT

Landowner	Occupier	No.	Name and description of land and premises	State of Cultivation	Staute measure a-r-p	Annual rent charge £-s-d
Botfield Lucy	Berington Charles	65	Slang west of park wall	Pasture	0-2-30	0-1-11
		71	Slang south of ditto	Pasture	1-2-0	0-2-10
		74	Slang by garden	Meadow	0-1-32	0-2-0
		75	Garden		0-0-24	0-1-0
		76	House and land in front with pt of road		0-1-0	
		77	Slang	Pasture	0-1-4	0-1-0
		80	Meadow	Meadow	3-1-25	0-14-10
		81	Close	Meadow	0-3-18	0-4-4
		82	Common piece	Pasture	3-3-28	0-10-4
				Total	11-2-1	1-18-3
Botsford Lucy	Swift J	59	Reads Bank	Pasture	5-2-18	0-12-6
		60	The orchard	Past orch	9-3-0	1-4-9
		61	House garden fold etc		1-3-4	
		62	Paddock	Pasture	2-0-34	0-5-0
		63	Near Upper Park	Pasture	16-2-30	2-1-3
		64	Upper Park	Pasture	15-3-0	1-19-5
		66	Far lower park	Pasture	14-1-38	1-17-6
		69	Near lower park	Pasture	20-1-20	2-13-2
		70	Pigeon House meadow	Meadow	5-0-36	1-2-11
		73	Garden near entrance lodge		0-1-1	0-2-6
		83	The Common	Arable	11-2-16	1-14-4
				Total	103-1-27	13-13-4
	J Swift	84	Upper Backes	Arable	103-1-27	13-13-4
		85	Lodge Field	Arable	7-2-25	1-11-6
		86	The Orles	Arable	3-1-33	0-13-8
		87	The Leys	Arable	3-0-9	0-12-7
		88	Stony Piece	Arable	4-1-34	0-18-0
		89	Lower Birches	Arable	6-1-16	1-6-7
		114	Great Chapel Field	Pasture	12-1-21	1-10-7
		115	Little Chapel Field	Pasture	6-0-20	0-13-6
		116	Ellens Bridge	Meadow	12-0-18	1-17-10
		117	Long Meadow	Meadow	8-1-22	1-9-6
		118	Old Hopyard	Pasture	7-1-25	1-1-9
				Total	181-2-32	26-12-9
	William Swift	38	Mallins Yard	Arable	9-1-25	1-18-10
	William Swift	40	Buildings and Fold		9-3-14	10-1-7
		41	Woollen Meadow	Pasture	12-2-19	1-1-10
		42	Wooletts Croft	Pasture	5-3-30	0-12-11
		43	Lower Parks	Pasture	15-2-33	1-14-10

Landowner	Occupier	No.	Name and description of land and premises	State of Cultivation	Staute measure a-r-p	Annual rent charge £-s-d
		44	Irish meadow	Meadow	8-3-35	1-6-3
		45	New Meadow	Arable	5-2-32	1-0-0
		47	Old Hopyard and Orchard	Mead. Orch	9-0-6	1-16-0
		48	The Leys	Meadow	7-7-3	1-1-5
		49	Callender Fields	Arable	3-2-23	0-12-3
		50	New Hopyard	Arable	2-3-6	0-10-0
		51	Parks Field	Arable	6-2-7	1-3-5
		52	Upper Parks	Pasture	14-0-13	1-8-0
		53	Big Meadow	Meadow	12-0-26	2-2-10
		54	Close adjoining garden	Meadow	1-0-32	0-2-6
		55	House, garden, buildings, fold		0-3-24	
		56	Part of Arnolds Close	Pasture	4-3-1	0-11-10
		57	Upper long Ground	Pasture	10-3-32	1-4-3
		58	Lower long ground	Pasture	20-2-8	2-6-2
				Total	233-0-21	28-16-0
	In Hand	67	Plantation		0-2-24	-
	In Hand	68	Plantation		0-0-34	-
	In Hand	72	Plantation		0-0-27	

In 1851 the census data records that John Swift, farmer, 57, was still living at Whitton Court. He is recorded as employing seven labourers on 236 acres. Mary, 52, is identified as his sister and housekeeper. They still kept three, although different servants, Charlotte Pugh, 17, Thomas Buch, 25 and James Lloyd, 17. At Parkgate William Benbow, Agricultural labourer, 24, is living with his wife Mary, 24 and daughter Ann, 2 and son 2 months. At Park Wall, Samuel Williams, 30 a farmer of 9 acres, his wife Ann, 36, daughter Mary, 1 and Eliza Farmer their servant, aged 16, are recorded.

When the property was sold put up for sale in 1856 the advert on the 28th Nov in the Shrewsbury Chronicle reported:

TO BE SOLD BY PROVATE CONTRACT the WHITTON COURT ESTATES... It comprises the manor or reputed manor of Whitton, and fine old Mansion in the Elizabethan style called Whitton Court, standing in an ancient park, inclosed in stone walls and commanding beautiful and extensive views over woodland and fertile county. The Estate is divided into three compact farms with suitable buildings and four smaller tenements, containing together about 711 acres of arable, meadow, pasture, cider and perry orchards and woodland, the whole of which is freehold of inheritance.

Coal and lime of excellent quality are to be had almost on the spot and the parish rates are exceedingly low. The estate affords every facility of the preservation of game and a trout stream runs through it”.

The sale plan (**Appendices 1.9, 1.10**) (SA ref: D3651/D/41/16) appears to be identical to the tithe map and shows the main house with farm buildings to the west. The property uses the tithe map descriptions and numbering so Whitton Court is described as house, garden, fold etc [61] likewise the farm buildings sit within a paddock laid to pasture. The name Whitton Court and Whitton Court Farm from this date become interchangeable as Whitton Court is held within the Whitton Court Farm portion of the estate (**Appendix 1.10**).

Other names of enclosures include pastures of Read's Bank (to the north of the enclosed park [59]), Near Upper Parks [63], Upper Park [64], Far lower park [66], near lower park [69]. There is also The orchard [60], Pigeon House Meadow to the SE [70]. The garden in the entrance lodge is mentioned [73] consisting of 1 rood and 1 perch. The lodge building is now clearly marked in the corner of the plantation [68] to the right of the drive.

The particulars note that the farm, a total of 227 acres, 3 roods and 29 perches is now occupied by Exors. of Mr J Smith, yearly tenant. Other tenants include Mr James Bill of Whitway Head Farm to the north of the estate, Miss Sarah Bill occupied Whitton Farm, in the settlement of Whitton. Parkside Cottage [76] was occupied by Samuel Williams, as in the 1851 census and who also occupied the slangs previous occupied in the tithe survey by Berington. William Benbow [78-9] occupied a cottage in Wootton, but it is unclear if this could be Parkgate as that is not mentioned by name. Richard Amos [94] occupied the blacksmiths shop. Another cottage [110] was occupied by Benjamin Town. As on the tithe map there are 8a-2r-12p of plantations across the estate, numbers 67 and 68 being near the entrance lodge as on the tithe. It is interesting to note that the estate also contained 8 parcels of land in Cainham and 3 in Hope Baggot.

The purchaser of the estate was Mr Samuel Mills “who found it in a very dilapidated state” (Oswald 1968, 1429). He brought the estate for £20,000 (Leighton 1901, 38).

It appears the Mills did not move in immediately. Perhaps due to the work that needed doing. In 1861 the census records living at Whitton Court were:

- George Mason, head, 42 farmer of 227 acres with 2 labourers and a boy
- Ann Mason, farmer's wife, 26
- Mary Ann, daughter, 4
- Eliza, daughter, 3
- Richard, son, 1

- Caroline, daughter, 2 months
- Jane Guilliam servant, 70, nurse
- Catherine Wright, servant, 21, dairy maid
- Emma Jones, servant, 23, under nurse
- William Yapps? 12, carters boy.

At Parkgate Charlotte Pugh, labourer's widow, 65, most likely the mother of Charlotte Pugh recorded as a servant at Whitton Court in 1851, is recorded as living with her son George, 23, farm labourer and her daughter, Rose Hannah, 22 a "servant out of place". At Park Wall is are still recorded, Samuel Williams, carpenter, 41 with his wife Ann, 44 and their children Mary Ann, 11, Fanny, 9, Jane, 7, Ellen, 4 and William Williams, 39, his brother, a labourer.

The stables to the west of the house have a date stone of 1867 on them (Oswald 1968, 1513) and probably completed after Samuel Mills had finished restorations on the house.

Acton's 1868 *Castles and Mansions of Old Shropshire* dismisses Whitton Hall as having been passed through several hands since the Charlton family and having only been "inhabited by farmers" since (p52) which is correct as is evidenced by the census records. This account mentions that "it originally had a park attached", suggesting by this date the parkland was already of less significance than previously. A painting of the south face in 1860 by J.H. Smith (**Appendix 2.2**) (SA ref: 6009/350) shows the three gables and porch way for the main door. A wall is shown separating the drive from the gardens. There is a white picket gate giving access from the drive to a path along the front of the house to the entrance. A narrow grass verge runs along the wall. To the east the trees can be seen as coming right up to the house and include a tall ornamental conifer and mixed broadleaf trees. This depiction is very similar to Acton's drawings on 1868 (**Appendix 2.3**). Acton also illustrated the South and West of the house from the courtyard showing the much older elevations of the timber framed west façade (**Appendix 2.4**).

In the 1871 census the addresses for Whitton are less precisely recorded although Whitton Court still appears to have been let to this time to a Charles Bates, 49, Farmer, Bailiff of 480 acres with 8 men and a boy, his wife Eliza Bates, 47 and as on previous census there were three servants, Ellen Edwards, 23, Andrew Humphreys, 25 and William Waith 14. Samuel Williams, 51, carpenter is also mentioned below the Whitton Court entry, with his wife Ann and two daughters Mary Ann and Ellen but the address recorded is only Whitton rather than Park Wall as previously.

We know a little of the productivity of the land on the estate from a report in the newspaper the Eddowes's journal 1879 reporting a fire in the rick yard. The quantity of hay recorded is more than 40 tones of hay (24th Sep) and likely to have come from the meadows on the estate.

By 1881 census the repairs to the house have obviously been completed as the Mill's family have moved in. Richard Mills is recorded as the head of the household, aged 35. He is described as a landowner of 1000 acres, employing 17 men. He is living there with his sister Jane Mills, 32, two nieces Mary Theodora Slater, 11 and Janet Slater, 9 both scholars. Also recorded as living at Whitton Court are Charles Richard Ruck, 40, servant, farm bailiff, his wife Ellen, 53, as well as a farm labourer Edward Barns, 25, Ellen Barns, 24, a servant, and another Ellen Barnes 19, also a servant, perhaps siblings as all are unmarried. Samuel Williams, is recorded at Whitton Park, as a farmer of 25 acres. He was still living with his wife Anne and daughter Ellen. At Parkgate Mary Jones, 41 was living with her son, George, 15 an agricultural labourer and daughter Mary, 4, a scholar.

Leighton records that in 1884 Miss Mills had greatly improved the house and grounds in 1884 (1901, 38). Leach describes "*a portion of the buildings adjoining the house is now occupied as a farmhouse; the side looking into the courtyard is a fine example of old half-timbered work*" (1891, 160). This description perhaps fits with John Swift's inventory mentioned above where although recorded as occupying Whitton Court the inventory suggests he was only using part of it.

To the southwest is a wooded enclosed area likely to be the orchards mentioned in the 1856 sale advert (Shrewsbury Chronicle 28th Nov). Postcards By L Wilding (SA ref: PC/W/16/2) (**Appendix 2.5**) depicts the manicured lawn laid out on the terrace below the south face. The grass verge by the wall against the drive is shown as widening out into a wider law so the image post dates the alterations to the drive which added a turning circle. Stone steps lead down from an upper terrace laid to lawn to another lawned terrace bordered by flowerbeds. The house is shown covered in ivy.

In 1891 Francis Leach in his *County Seats of Shopshire* describes Whitton Court as having a gravel path of a drive from which a wall extended half way along the front of the house "*overgrown with luxuriant vegetation, and the cracks in the stones filled with stones and flowers*" (p159). The terraced lawn is described as being bordered with "*old-fashioned flowers*". The walls of the house are described as being "*covered in ivy, wild vine, clematis, jassamine and other climbing flowers*" (p159). The gardens on the east of the property appear to be less favoured at this time. Leach describes them as "*old gardens [that] may still be traced, though overgrown with grass...laid in terraces sloping to three fishponds, only one of which is now filled with water*" (p160). The photograph (**Appendix 2.6**) which accompanies the text, details the new terraces and landscaped lawns with flower beds and an ornamental conifer to the south of the house.

The census data for the same year shows Whitton Court itself listed as uninhabited, although this may be just for the day of the census. However Whitton Court Farm was occupied by Philip B

Davis, 41 farmer and his wife, Martha, 54, daughter Anne, 10 and servant Elizabeth Griffith, 27. This is perhaps the clearest evidence that the house was divided between the farmhouse and the main house. At Whitton Court Lodge Margaret Morgan, 64, domestic housekeeper lived alone while Whitton Park was still occupied by Samuel Williams, his wife Ann, daughter Jane and her husband Henry Raynolds, 37, a stone sett maker and their daughter Ellen, 10 and son Sidney, 1.

In census for 1901 shows the house is occupied by the Mills:

- Martha Mills, 69, head, living on own means
- Jame Mills, 53, sister, living on own means
- Elizabeth Sly, 53, cook
- Annie J Millward, 24, parlour maid
- Edith A Knights, 19, housemaid

The last available census dated 1911 shows for the first time occupants for Top Cottage, Henry Brown, coachman, 55, his wife Janet Brown, 55, daughter Eleanor, 25 and sons Albert, 25, Gardener and Phillip Raymond, 11, scholar. In total Henry and Janet had had 10 children, 9 of which lived. In total, excluding landings, sculleries, and bathrooms the house had 5 rooms.

At Whitton Court Martha Mills, 79 was living with 3 servants, Elizabeth Meredith, 28, cook, Ella Lucas, 36 housemaid and Bertice Annie Thomas, 27, parlour maid. The house is described as having 12 rooms.

Whitton Court Farm continued to be occupied by the Davis family Philip and Martha and employing three servants, Frederick Griffith, 25, cowman, George Pillings, 17, farm boy and Ann Thomas, 17, domestic servant.

Whitton Court Cottage was occupied by George Stead, 48, coachman, his wife Sarah Ann, 47 and 2 sons, Sidney, 18, described as a railway porter, Percy, 7 and daughters Linda, 15 and Doris, 12.

Whitton Court Lodge is described a void as the family had left and was therefore uninhabited.

WHITTON COURT IN THE LATER 20TH CENTURY

According to Weyman the estate was sold in an auction in November 1920 to a Mrs Wood's of Henley Hall (1924, 63) however the Land tax assessments for 1921-2 shows Whitton Court still occupied and owned by Martha Mills. Whitton Court is described as a house and gardens of an annual value of £223-0-0 and rated at £10-13-8 ½. Martha Mills is also listed as owning Whitton Paddocks (situated in Whitton, HER 22674), occupied by Whiteford Exors, Whiteway Head Farm,

occupied by Millington and Whiteman, Whitton Court Farm, occupied by Jas Abbey and Whitton Farm occupied by Thomas Clent. Weyman described the house in 1924 as having “picturesque terraces, old world gardens...deer park and fish ponds...blend[ing] together into a picture which appeals to the lover of old and the beautiful (p43).

In 1961 the estate was passed by Mrs Woods to her cousin Major Rodwell.

In 1968 A. Oswald wrote a *County Life* article about the house, confirming it was in the ownership of Major G.R.L. Rodwell. He described Whitton Court as sitting “on [a] spur...with its main front facing south descending down levels of lawn, while to the east there is a sharp drop where the stream has carved out a combe, now half hidden by big trees and formerly harbouring a sheet of water (p1426). A photo in part two of the article shows the east and south faces of the house. This shows a topiaried yew hedges separating the south terraces to the south and rose beds laid to the east adjacent to the house (p1968, 1510).

In 1964-5 repairs to the sandstone features, especially the windows, house were carried out costing £8000 and were supervised by the Ministry of Works (Oswald 1968, 1513). Mullions and jambs were replaced with Hollington stone.

Today the estate consists of the main house, staff cottage within the main house and 16 other cottages called: Barn Cottage, Blacksmith's Cottage, East Cottage, Gardener's Cottage, Groom's Cottage, Hunter's Lodge, Keeper's Cottage, Lower Cottage, Middle Cottage, North Cottage, South Cottage, Stable Cottage, the Coach House, The Hayloft, Top Cottage and West Cottage. These were created by converting the original farm buildings and coach houses.

The estate was sold by the Rodwells in 1983 to the Twitchells and most recently in 2013/14 to Mr and Mrs Hoosenally.

HISTORIC MAPPING

It was not until Baugh published a map of Shropshire in 1808 (**Appendix 1.5**) that the rural landscape surrounding Whitton was depicted with any detail. His map documents the road network, villages, and landforms, but individual properties such as Whitton Court are not included. The earliest mapping with any significant detail is the Ordnance Survey drawing produced by Henry Stevens in 1817 (**Appendix 1.6**). Unfortunately, Whitton Court is located on a fold in the map which has caused some damage to the cartography, but it does depict the form of the landscape. The stone boundary wall surrounding the estate, the walled kitchen garden, house and outbuildings are all marked in red, with the parkland clearly annotated with a stippled effect. The curved entrance drive is clearly marked, although there is no gate lodge. Interestingly, in the field to the southwest of the house is a row of trees which leads to an area of woodland to the east of

the house, possibly depicting an orchard. Neither of the large ponds are illustrated, although this may simply be a topographical error rather than confirmation that they post date this map.

The first edition Ordnance Survey mapping (**Appendices I.11, I.12**) dates to 1883-4. The house at this time consisted of two ranges forming an L-shape, with the farm buildings to the west forming a quadrangle with cart-passages to the south and west. The entrance drive divides with one road heading north to the stable courtyard and another that connects to the west side of the house. There is an area of woodland to the southwest of the stables, with conifers along the eastern edge. A second block of planting forms a degree of separation from the house and the stables, again this contains a mixture of deciduous trees and conifers. To the south of the house is a garden layout defined by fences, or walling with internal subdivisions representing walks and low terraces between open lawns.

The 1903 map (**Appendices I.13-I.14**) shows the changes to Whitton Court made by Miss Mills, the house plan being almost a complete quadrangle with extensions on the east and north sides. The planting to the southwest of the stable courtyard has been thinned out and new walls created. One of the most notable changes is the opening up of the western side of the gardens with the boundary walls being removed opening up the south facade. A new well has appeared to the south of the house in addition to the well marked by the lodge on the 1883-4 map. There is also a pump shown in the courtyard of the house. The footpaths passing from the centre of the north of the park to the SE corner of the house have been removed.

The 1949-53 map (**Appendix I.15**) details that the landscape has undergone limited changes, although there is a new structure to the north of the stable courtyard.

The 1967 map (**Appendix I.16**) illustrates that the entrance to the house has been altered, with a circular turning circle and that the former drive to the west entrance has been removed. The gardens to the south have also been remodelled with linear divisions inserted, representing the hedges that exist today. The fishpond to the east of the house is no longer marked, presumably silted up, although by 1993-94 (**Appendix I.17**) it has been reinstated.

6 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE – ARCHAEOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

This section of the report presents a summary of the known archaeological monuments and sites within a 1km radius of Whitton Court and its surrounding parkland. It has been compiled from a variety of sources including the records held by the Shropshire Historic Environment Record (SHER). It presents a baseline description of known recorded archaeological events and incorporates evidence from historical mapping and is intended to help assess whether there is potential for earlier archaeological remains to exist within the proximity of the house.

A total of 25 sites/events of archaeological interest have are recorded and are considered as designated heritage assets. Each is referenced in the following sections as **HAI**, **HA2**, etc. These assets are plotted on **Figure 4** and listed in the Table 2 below. In addition to these sites, previously unidentified archaeological features are referenced as **F1**, **F2**, etc. They are located on **Figure 5** and listed in Table 3 (also see **Appendix 3**).

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE ASSETS

The heritage assets that have been identified within 1km of Whitton Court largely date to the medieval and post-medieval periods, reflecting the gradual settlement of a rural landscape. One feature to the northwest of Hope Court **HA2** may have earlier origins. There is a deep Hollow Way **HAI** that survives as a prominent earthwork orientated approximately north–south and is c.955m in length. This feature is undated, but may have formed part of a prehistoric routeway that continued in use throughout the medieval period. The largest prehistoric feature is c.3.5km to the west of Whitton at Caynham Camp. This is a substantial univallate hillfort that encloses an area of c.4ha. The fort was in a commanding location and is widely attributed to be Iron Age in date.

There are no known sites from the Romano-British or Saxon periods within 1km of Whitton.

During the 10th-11th centuries settlement appears to have become more permanent within the area, with communities developing at Whitton **HA5**, **HA8** and Hope Bagot, both with churches that contain 12th century fabric. Additional evidence for substantial stone, or timber framed houses survives at Whitton **HA7**, the Hollins **HA3**, and Hope Court **HA2** may have origins in the medieval period. Additional evidence in the form of medieval field systems survives to the south of the Hollins **HA4**. Ridge and furrow earthworks from earlier fields are not widespread in the local area of Whitton, either having been removed during post-medieval agricultural improvement, or the lack of remains may be indicative of a former wooded landscape.

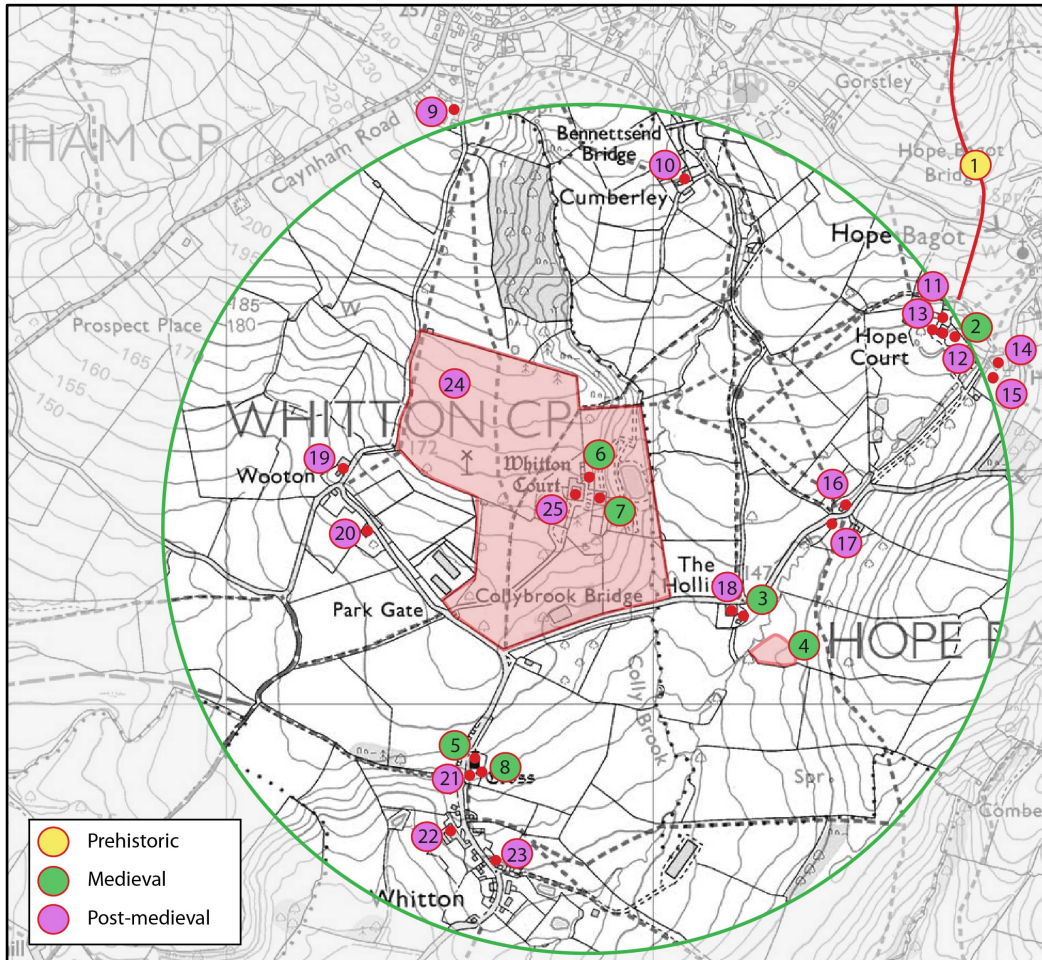


Figure 4: Location of Heritage Assets within a 1km radius of the Site.

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During the post medieval period the existing settlements grew in size. In addition, the landscape began to be more intensively farmed with new farmsteads being built. Examples include Hope Court, which comprised of a house **HA13**, a farm **HA14** with barns and outbuildings **HA11**, **HA12**, **HA14**, **HA15**. New farmsteads were also built in Whitton **HA22**, **HA235**, Wooton **HA5**, Cumberley **HA10**, Parkside **HA20** and a longbarn on the Caynham Road **HA9**. Dwellings were built at Hope Bagot during the 16th-19th centuries, including Pot House **HA16**, The Riddings **HA17**, and at the Hollins **HA18** - which dates to the 16th century and is a Grade II Listed building.

Whitton Court **HA25** was developed during the post-medieval period, with the west range built with a decorative timber frame that overlooked Hope Bagot to the northeast and agricultural buildings and stables to the west. A large park **HA24** with stone boundary walls was laid out around the house in the 17th century – most likely used for deer.

The only other designated heritage asset within 1km of the site is a timber war memorial **HA21** in Whitton that dates to the c.1930s to remember the fallen in both WWI and WWII.

TABLE 1 - HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN 1KM OF WHITTON COURT

HA No.	HER/SMR No.	Site Name	Location NGR	Monument Type/Event
1	MSA14499	Hollow Way known as Dark Lane or Monks Path, c.955m	SO 5876 7442	Earthwork
2	ESA4130	Hope Court	SO 5869 7386	Observation
3	MSA25349	The Hollins	SO 5819 7321	Farmstead
4	MSA34682	Ridge and furrow earthworks	SO 58291 73113	Ridge and Furrow
5	MSA312	Cross in St Marys Churchyard, Whitton	SO 5759 7285	Cross
6	MSA446	Whitton Court	SO 5783 7350	Observation
7	MSA313; Grade I	Whitton Court house	SO 5788 7347	Manor House
8	MSA311; Grade II*	Church of St Mary the Virgin, Whitton	SO 5759 7286	Church
9	MSA25330	Longbarn	SO 5754 7439	Farmstead
10	MSA25332	Cumberley, L-shaped farm	SO 5808 7421	Farmstead
11	MSA15306	Outbuildings at Hope Court	SO 5870 7392	Garage; House
12	MSA15305	Agricultural outbuildings at Hope Court	SO 5868 7387	Agricultural building
13	MSA25348	Hope Court	SO 5869 7389	Farmstead
14	MSA25341	Hope Court Farm	SO 5882 7379	Farmstead
15	MSA15297	Threshing barn at Hope Court Farm	SO 5881 7379	Barn
16	MSA15440	Pot House, Hope Bagot	SO 5846 7345	House; Stable
17	MSA16296	The Riddings, Hope Bagot	SO 5842 7342	House
18	MSA5556; Grade II	The Hollins, Hope Bagot	SO 58178 73214	House
19	MSA25327	3 Wooton	SO 5727 7355	Farmstead
20	MSA25326	Parkside	SO 5734 7342	Farmstead
21	MSA34698	Whitton War Memorial (oak cross)	SO 57566 72821	War Memorial
22	MSA25130	Whitton Paddocks	SO 5753 7269	Farmstead
23	MSA25129	The White House	SO 5766 7261	Farmstead
24	MSA4205	Whitton Court Park and Garden		Deer Park; Garden
25	MSA25328	Whitton Court Farm	SO 5782 7349	Farmstead

UNDESIGNATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

Within the boundary defined by the parkland wall that surrounds Whitton Court (**Figure 5**) a total of 30 features of archaeological interest were observed during the walk-over survey, and are listed in Table 3 below.

THE GARDEN FEATURES

The principal historical elements of the gardens to the south of the house comprise of two flat terrace platforms that step down 0.5-1m at each level. A third and small upper terrace forms the entrance to the house with a flight of steps **F28** (**Appendix 3.5**) down to the gardens. Each Terrace (**Appendix 3.4**) is held back by stone walling which comprises a mixture of roughly worked blocks of varying sizes, with short flights of stone steps between each level; **F27** (**Appendix 3.6**) with steps **F29** (**Appendix 3.6**), and **F23** (**Appendix 3.8**) with steps **F24** (**Appendix 3.7**). The use of a series of stepped terraces would be consistent with a garden layout that is contemporary with the 17th century phase of the house, although it is suggested that the retaining walls and steps are later, being associated with the 19th century remodelling.

To the south of **F23** (**Appendix 3.8**) are two small ponds forming water features. **F21** appears to be a modern feature, whilst **F22** to the west appears to correlate with a pond on the 1884 OS map (**Appendix 1.12**) and may have originally been intended for the watering of livestock. Approximately 10m to the southwest of **F22** is an area where the ground has been disturbed with a slight earthwork bank **F20**. The purpose of this earthwork is unclear but could be associated with an earlier approach to the house, or part of an outer section of the 17th to 18th century gardens.

The gardens are bounded by hedges and shrubberys that form a series of garden compartments (**Appendices 3.4, 3.9**). The eastern boundary to the garden follows the top of the slope and is defined by a brick wall **F25** (**Appendix 3.9**). This wall is only 1m in height and may have been lowered. It contains a single gateway (**Appendix 3.10**) and forms a return at the north ends towards the house. The historic mapping indicates that prior to the construction of these walls in the mid 19th century, that there were additional sections of walling (or fences) along the west side of the gardens.

To the north of **F25** is a short section of terrace (**Appendix 3.11**), with a flight of crude steps leading down the hill side to the east and accessed via a section of metal fencing **F26** (**Appendix 3.12**), possibly contemporary with **F18**. Cut within the slope to the east of the house are a series of three linear terraces **F15**, c. 4m in width and c.165m in length (**Appendices 3.31, 3.32**). They have the appearance of linear walks, but may equally have been used as east facing cultivation

terraces for fruit trees. Beneath the terraces is a large pond **F14** to the north, which has a large earthwork dam (**Appendices 3.33, 3.34**). This is a substantial landscape feature and represents a considerable amount of labour and expenditure in terms of its construction, hence it is more likely to be associated with the 17th and 18th development of the landscape.

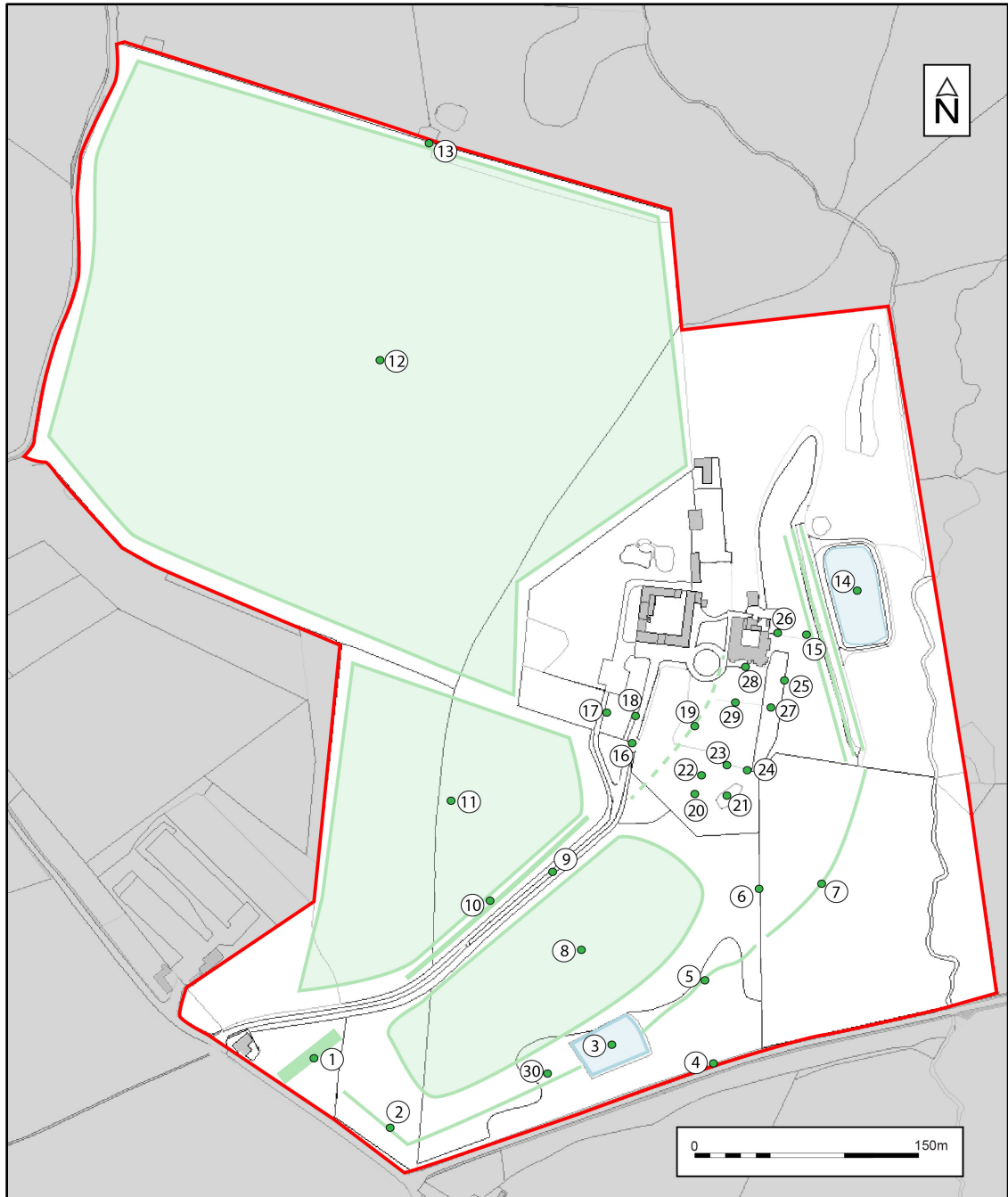


Figure 5: Location of archaeological features observed during the walk-over survey.

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To the south of the pond is an area of relatively level ground which is overgrown, but may have once been a meadow adjacent to the Colly Brook.

It is interesting to note that prior to the creation of an enclosed courtyard in the late 19th century the house was L-shaped in plan, with the timber framed west range (**Appendix 3.2**) having views to the east towards Hope Bagot and Hope Court. Whether it was possible to see the pond from the house is unclear, however when the house was viewed from the east, the terraces and pond would have formed a dramatic setting to the decorated timber framed façade.

To the southwest of the house is the remains of a walled garden **F17** with brick boundary walls. The south wall that faces the approach drive has unusual decorative detailing in the brick coursing (**Appendix 3.17**) making use of decorative brick 'specials'. The walls survive to a height of c.1.5m, which has a concrete capping similar to sections of the estate boundary walling **F4**, and may have been lowered. The gardens were remodelled during the 19th century and a large glasshouse still remains (**Appendix 3.18**). The east end of the walled garden has a metal fence **F18** forming a boundary (**Appendix 3.16**), the design of which is mid-late 19th century.

ACCESS AND BOUNDARIES

The only access up to the house is via a drive **F9** that is formed in three straight sections upon a raised embankment (**Appendix 3.19**). The drive originally continued directly to the west side of the house **F19**, but this was removed in the 1950s. There is a mid-19th century entrance lodge at the estate boundary and a set of gates. Further gates are located at the edge of the gardens **F16** (**Appendix 3.15**) leading up to the stable courtyard (**Appendix 3.14**), and have undergone some alteration. Parallel to the north of the entrance drive **F9**, is a ditch **F10** (**Appendix 3.20**) that is cut into the field **F11** and may represent the remains of a quarry scoop for the spoil to create the embankment.

At the northwest end of the drive where it changes direction to towards the entrance lodge a broad linear embankment continues in the field on same alignment **F1** (**Appendix 3.21**). The embankment has a flat profile, c.5m in width and c.70m in length where it abruptly terminates before it meets the boundary wall **F4** (**Appendix 3.22**). The purpose of this feature is unclear, but it may represent an earlier entrance to the house, however there is no evidence in the existing boundary wall for a blocked opening at this point.

Surrounding the estate is a stone boundary wall **F4**, **F13**. Along the southwest and southeast it extends for a distance of c.560m with a pedestrian gateway in the south corner, and to the north and northeast it is c.555m long. The wall is made from rubblestone and laid in rough courses (**Appendix 3.22**), with the upper courses comprising of hand made brick. The top has a concrete coping with short metal posts or stays supporting a single security wire. The walling is only c.1m in height and would not be very effective as a barrier to deer and it is likely that it has been lowered. There is a vertical construction joint (**Appendix 3.29**) along the south boundary at

the junction with **F6**. It has been suggested in the historical account of the estate (see Section 5) that Whitton Park was used for deer hunts, but as the existing walling is not suitable for this purpose the boundaries may have been substantially altered in the 19th century after it was dis-parked. There is however, one internal boundary bank **F6** (**Appendix 3.28**) that runs due south from the gardens that could have been an effective barrier to deer, comprising of a ditch and high embankment.

WATER MANAGEMENT

Within the parkland are two large ponds that would have been constructed to provide a supply of fresh fish. One is midway along the southeast boundary **F3** (**Appendix 3.27**) and the other **F14** (**Appendix 3.33**) is to the northeast of the house. Both of these ponds are retained by earth embankments (**Appendices 3.25, 3.34**), with sluices and control structures (**Appendix 3.26**). The south pond **F3** is supplied via a shallow drainage ditch **F2** that runs parallel to the south boundary of the Estate (**Appendix 3.23**). There is an outflow that runs to the south boundary wall, and a second **F5** (now silted up) that would have flowed northwards beneath the boundary bank **F6**, and then curving across the field to the north **F7** (**Appendix 3.30**) down to the level to the southeast of the terraces **F15**. The northern pond **F14** is supplied by a small header pool that is fed by a tributary stream from the Colly Brook.

To the southwest of **F3** is a raised earthwork mound **F30** of irregular form measuring c.6m x 15m x 1m in height (**Appendix 3.24**). It is likely that this represents the spoil that was excavated to create the adjacent pond. It is interesting to note that the house is just in view from the mound, a vista that is loosely reflected by the painting in the house above the fireplace (**Appendices 2.10, 2.11**). This apparent similarity between the mound and the painting may be completely fortuitous, but if they are the same feature then it increases the likelihood that the park was indeed used for deer hunting during the 17th century.

PRE-PARKLAND LANDSCAPE

Preserved with the parkland are three areas of ridge and furrow fields **F8, F11, F12** that represent a former agricultural landscape that pre-dates the layout of the park (see **Appendices 2.7-2.9**). The features that have been observed in the northern part of the park **F12** are however, highly unusual. There are the remains of what appears to be a sub-rounded enclosure in the southwest section of the field, which is surrounded by a ditch, with a second smaller enclosure in the southwest corner, with two long parallel ditches extending to the east towards the house. These features do not respect the areas of ridge and furrow fields **F8, F11** and appear to pre-date them. A second series of unusual features are low narrow earthworks that zig-zag across the full width of the field and which do not respect the sub-rounded enclosure.

The form, extent and stratigraphy of these features is such that further archaeological research is necessary to understand their purpose and date, although it can be suggested that they appear to predate surviving elements of the medieval landscape that surrounds Whitton Court. If it can be demonstrated that they are earlier, then they will be of regional significance. However as they are beyond the area of the proposed new gardens, they are not considered to be at risk.

TABLE 2 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES WITHIN SITE BOUDNARY

No.	Description	Location NGR	Feature
1	Low linear mound 70m 5m wide x 70m long that is on the same orientation as the entrance drive	SO 57270 73352 to 57270 73352	Earthwork bank
2	Shallow drainage ditch/stream channel formed from linear sections 175m long	SO 57625 73175 to 57646 73161 to 57762 73200	Ditch (drain)
3	Rectangular pond close to the southeast boundary of the park. Raised dam along the south side. Measures c.28m x 51m	SO 57786 7327 (centered)	Pond
4	Rubblestone boundary wall along southwest and southeast of parkland, c.1.5m high, with concrete capping and sections of raised wire stay, c.560m in length; same as F13	SO 57503 73248 to 57651 7310 to 58044 73247	Wall
5	Partially overgrown stream channel forming outflow to pond F3 , 80m long	SO 57804 73227 to 57886 73266	Stream
6	Stone field boundary, c.2m in width with a ditch on the west, c.180m; deer proof?	SO 57887 73213 to 57886 73391	Field boundary
7	Curved ditch that follows the contour of the hillside. Appears to be a continuation of the stream channel F5 , c.140m	SO 57887 732271 to 57959 73395	Ditch
8	Area of ridge and furrow from former field system on southeast hill slope below entrance drive F9 – observed on aerial photographs; c.1.5ha	SO 57748 73254 (centered)	Ridge and furrow
9	Entrance drive on prominent raised embankment leading to Whitton Court	SO 57530 73219 to 57803 73213	Roadway
10	Board linear ditch parallel to the northwest side of F9	SO 57647 73259 to 57771 73361	Ditch
11	Area of ridge and furrow from former field system to the northwest of entrance drive F9 – observed on aerial photographs; c.2.6ha	SO 57660 73361 (centered)	Ridge and furrow
12	Area of extensive cropmarks and faint earthworks in the northwest part of the parkland. Depicted on aerial photographs with a possible sub	SO 57604 73686 (centered)	Cropmarks

No.	Description	Location NGR	Feature
	sounded enclosure surrounded by an earthwork bank and ditch, with a series of linear and angled V-shaped earthworks extending towards the southeast; c.12.6ha. Date uncertain		
13	Rubblestone boundary wall along southwest and southeast of parkland, c.1.5m high, with concrete capping, c.555m in length; same as F4	SO 57463 73876 to 57827 73765 to 57841 73592	Wall
14	Rectangular pond to the northeast of the house. Substantial dam along the south side. Measures 35m x 65m	SO 57949 73510 (centered)	Pond
15	Three parallel terraces cut into the hill side to the east of the house, c.165m	SO 57909 73557 to 57952 73404	Earthwork terraces
16	Brick gate piers and metal gates leading to driveway up to Stable courtyard	SO 57801 73411	Gate piers
17	Remains of a walled garden to the southwest of the house. Brick walls, c.1.5m high, laid in a decorative design with a concrete capping. Contains a glass house.	SO 57786 73431 (centered)	Walled garden
18	Metal gateway and section of iron fencing alongside driveway leading to stable courtyard	SO 57804 73435	Fence and gate
19	Route of former driveway leading to Whitton Court; removed c.1960	SO 57794 73365 to 57862 73470	Road (site of)
20	Area of low earthwork banks to the southwest of the gardens surrounding Whitton Court	SO 57823 73355 (centered)	Earthworks
21	Modern pond to the southwest of the gardens	SO 57853 73373	Pond
22	Pond to the southwest of the gardens	SO 57830 73393	Pond
23	Low terraced wall, c.31m long forming south boundary to gardens	SO 57867 73396	Terrace wall
24	Short flight of stone steps in F23	SO 57878 73394	Steps
25	Brick boundary wall along east edge of gardens, c.1m in height	SO 57904 73394 (centered)	Wall
26	Metal gateway and section of iron fencing to the east of the house	SO 57905 73475	Fence and gate
27	Low garden terrace with a stone retaining wall, c.40m long	SO 57897 73443 to 57862 73448	Terrace wall
28	Stone steps leading up to entrance terrace to south of Whitton Court	SO 57875 73461	Steps
29	Short flight of stone steps in F27	SO 57874 73445	Steps
30	Earthwork mound to the west of F3 . Measures c.6m x 15m, x1m in height	SO 57736 73194	Earthwork

7 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The impacts of the proposed garden scheme will consist of:

- The creation of new formal gardens to the south and alongside the house;
- The adaptation of the central courtyard to a knot garden;
- Alterations to the entrance drive and removal of existing drive;
- Reforming the water features;
- Removal of existing
- New planting.

The designs are intended to enhance the historic setting to the house (see **Figure 6**), and will reflect the formality of the 17th century south façade. The proposals will principally involve alterations to the existing planting such as the hedges, shrubberies and individual trees. This may involve the removal of sections of topsoil, with deeper excavations for the foundations for paths, steps and structural elements in the form of hard landscaping.

The proposal to remove the post 1950s drive and replace it with a route that is closer to the position of an earlier drive adjacent to the west side of the house will entail alteration to the existing approach, but does have a greater authenticity in terms of historic layout. The ground surface along the route of proposed road would be stripped of topsoil and a shallow excavation undertaken to establish a surface suitable for laying a hardcore foundation to remove any soft spots within the subsoil. A free draining surface such as limestone chippings would be used to form the new road surface laid upon a compacted layer of hardcore.

The repairs to the existing ponds will comprise of essential repairs to the management features such as sluices and associated stream channels, with the potential dredging of internal silts.

The planting that is proposed will largely be associated with the reintroduction of new trees in historical locations identified from the 1st edition OS map (**Appendices I.11, I.12**). Apart from the need to excavate pits for any large trees, the impact of the planting should be minimal across the wider parkland, and will contribute to succession planting for the future.

The creation of a knot garden within the central courtyard will involve the removal of the existing paving and planting which is late 20th century in date. This area is in the center of the house and may impact upon earlier archaeological deposits.

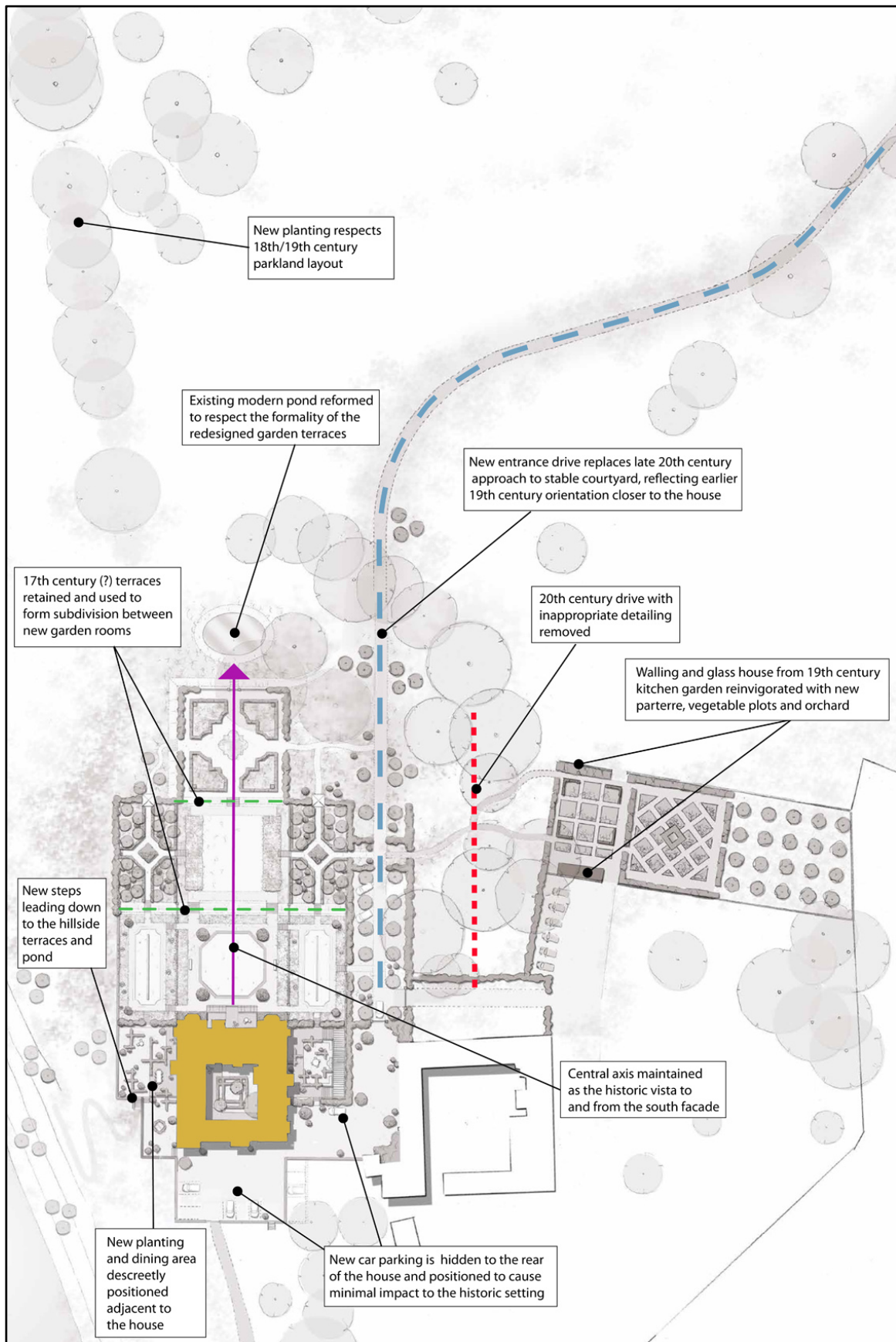


Figure 6: Concept plan of proposed garden layout with entrance drive.

Image © Arne Maynard Garden Design 2016.

PREVIOUS IMPACTS UPON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The principal impact upon the historic setting to the house, is limited to previous phases of adaptation and redesign of the gardens to the south of the house and ancillary buildings to the west. Where footings and service trenches have been excavated the impact upon buried remains is considered to be **high**. However, where former planting has occurred, the impact is assessed as **low to medium**.

The use of the park as pasture is likely to have had a negligible or a minimal impact to any archaeological earthworks and subsurface archaeological deposits and is considered to be **low**.

ARCHAEOLOGY – PHYSICAL IMPACTS

The occupation of the wider landscape beyond the boundary of Whitton Court from the late Prehistoric and into the Medieval period does raise the possibility that remains from this date may be discovered, although no previous discoveries have been made in proximity of the house. The likelihood of earlier undisturbed archaeological deposits is therefore considered to be **low**, as the impact of earlier garden associated activities will have had a negative impact upon buried remains. The excavation of the central courtyard, however may impact upon earlier archaeological deposits associated with the medieval and post-medieval use of the site.

The proposed impact of removing the existing garden layout and constructing a new garden with both hard and soft landscape elements is considered to be **low** in relation to immediate setting of the house, as the gardens have previously been redesigned and the surviving 17th century stepped terrace infrastructure to the south of the house will be retained and incorporated into the new design.

8 DISCUSSION

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS AND IMPACTS

This heritage assessment has established that the gardens and parkland that surround Whitton Court is directly linked to the growth of the house from at least the 12th century. There are significant archaeological remains in the form of ridge and furrow and parkland features that date to the medieval and post-medieval period, however these are largely beyond the area where changes to the garden setting to the house are proposed.

The lack of documentary information to inform our understanding of the development of the gardens surrounding the house prior to the 19th century is regrettable, but the two linear terraces that are orientated west-east are likely to date to the 17th-18th centuries and indicate that the house may have been intended to have been viewed from the south with a different view from each of the terraces. It is also possible that one of the terraces may have incorporated a bowling green, which was a popular pastime during the 17th century and considered to be highly fashionable. The stepped terraces down the steep hillslope to the east of the house is consistent with the creation of fruit terraces within 17th century gardens and is at present, an aspect of the gardens that has become separated from the house due to later planting and the reorientation of the house away from the medieval timber framed wing when the northeast extension was added in the 1880s.

The wider use of the surrounding parkland for deer hunting is attributed to the pictorial evidence above the fireplace in the hall of the house, however by the mid-late 18th century the landscape appears to have been opened up and was no longer suitable for maintaining a herd of deer. The creation of large ponds for fishing does suggest that this was both a popular pastime at Whitton Court, but also able to provide a regular supply of fish.

The new garden that is proposed maintains these structural elements and forms a series of garden compartments around the house, which reflects the historic pattern of private and public spaces, with interconnecting walks and paths all linked by long vistas out into the wider landscape. In addition, the proposed repair and restoration of the water features can be considered to be a positive step to maintain the historical integrity of the setting to Whitton Court.

Should the terraced hillside to the east of the house be restored in the future, then this will greatly enhance this aspect of the gardens, which it is suggested was always intended to be viewed from the east and can thus be regarded as acceptable in terms of making a positive contribution to the external appearance of the house.

9 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

AUTHORSHIP

This report has been prepared by Oliver Jessop MClfA and with archive research being undertaken by Victoria Beauchamp PhD. Editing has been provided by Manda Forster PhD MClfA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Harriet Farlam of Arne Maynard Garden Design is thanked for arranging access and for discussing details of the proposed landscape alterations. Aimee Turner of Hawkes Edwards & Cave architects provided outline mapping for the site and copies of previous reports.

The staff at the Shropshire Record Office and Shrewsbury Historic Environment Record helped locate relevant archive material, and the team at the Historic England Archive in Swindon made available relevant aerial photographs. Kate Felus has provided advice regarding the development of deer parks and parkland landscapes.

SOURCES AND REFERENCES CONSULTED (OR CONSIDERED AS PART OF THIS PROJECT)

PRIMARY SOURCES CONSULTED: MAPPING

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- 1646 Blaeau Comitatus Salopiensis
- 1708 Morden, R. Map of Shropshire 1708
- 1751 Bowen An Accurate map of Shropshire
- 1752 Rocque map of Shropshire
- 1808 Baugh map of Shropshire
- 1877 Walker J & C Map of Shropshire (Part of The British Atlas)
- Ordnance Survey Mapping: 1883-85, 1902-4, 1949-53, 1967, 1993-94, 2016
- 2016 British Geological Map of Britain (digital data)

PRIMARY SOURCES CONSULTED: SHREWSBURY RECORD OFFICE

- 11/758 18th century particulars relating to Whitton Court, although referred to in Hawke, Edwards and Cave as relating to the 1609 sale
- 11/367 1725 Particular of the manor of Whitton (and Ludford) on marriage of Francis Charlton

- 11/411 Copies of letters from E. Lechmere Charlton, in connection with the sale of Whitton 1822
- PF 49/1/1 Whitton Tithe Map (Burford 2nd part)
- 345 Whitton Tithe Apportionment (Burford 2nd Part)
- PF 55/1 Cainham Tithe Map
- 4752/14/76 Inventory book of livestock, grain, furniture, linen, dairy and brewing belonging to the late J Swift Whitton Court
- D3651/D/41/16 Sales Particulars & map 1856/7 of Whitton Estate
- 6009/W/350 J.H. Smith painting of Whitton c1860
- PC/W/16/1&2 Postcards by L. Wilding of Whitton Court (20th C)
- LT2030/6/31 Whitton Land Tax Assessment 1921-22

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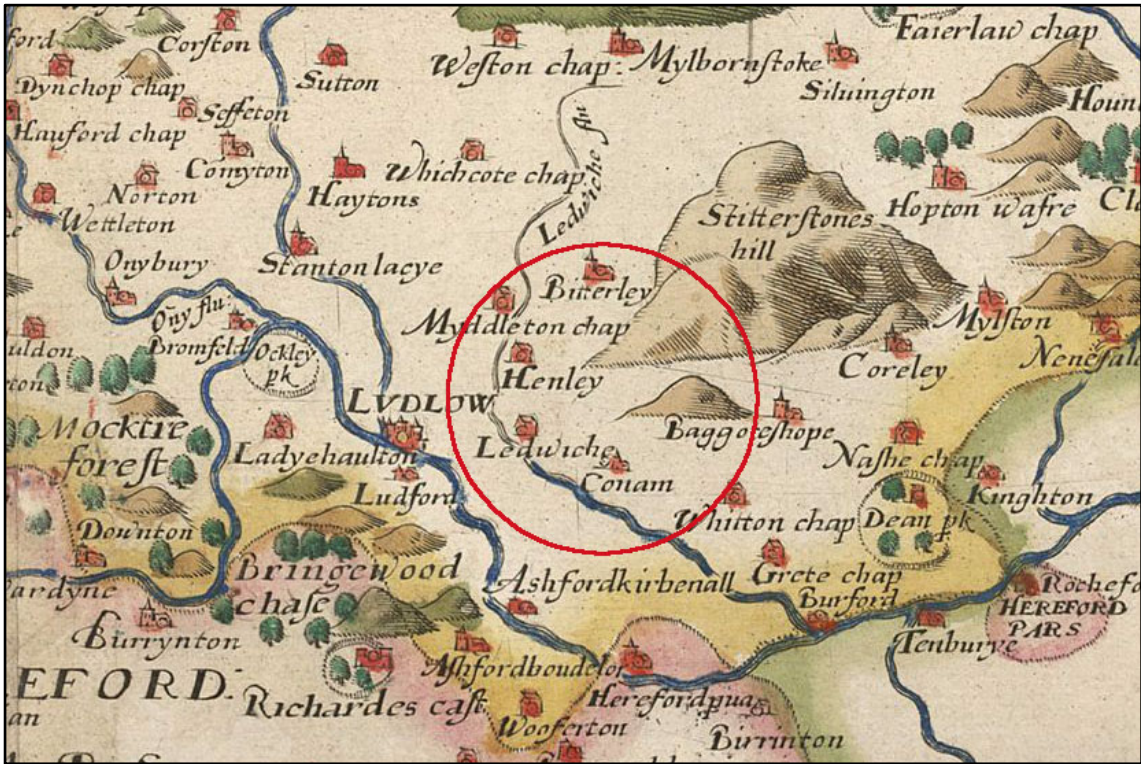
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- British Geological Survey: www.bgs.ac.uk
- British History online: www.british-history.ac.uk
- British Newspaper Archive: www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk
- Heritage Gateway: www.heritagegateway.org.uk
- National Archives: www.discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- Historic England – the List <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>
- National Monuments Records www.pastscape.org.uk/
- Shropshire County Council: www.shropshire.gov.uk

Appendix I:
Historic Mapping



Appendix I.1: Extract from 1579 map of Shropshire by Saxton



Appendix I.2: Extract of 1708 map of Shropshire by Robert Morden



Appendix I.3: Extract from 1751 map of Shropshire by Bowen



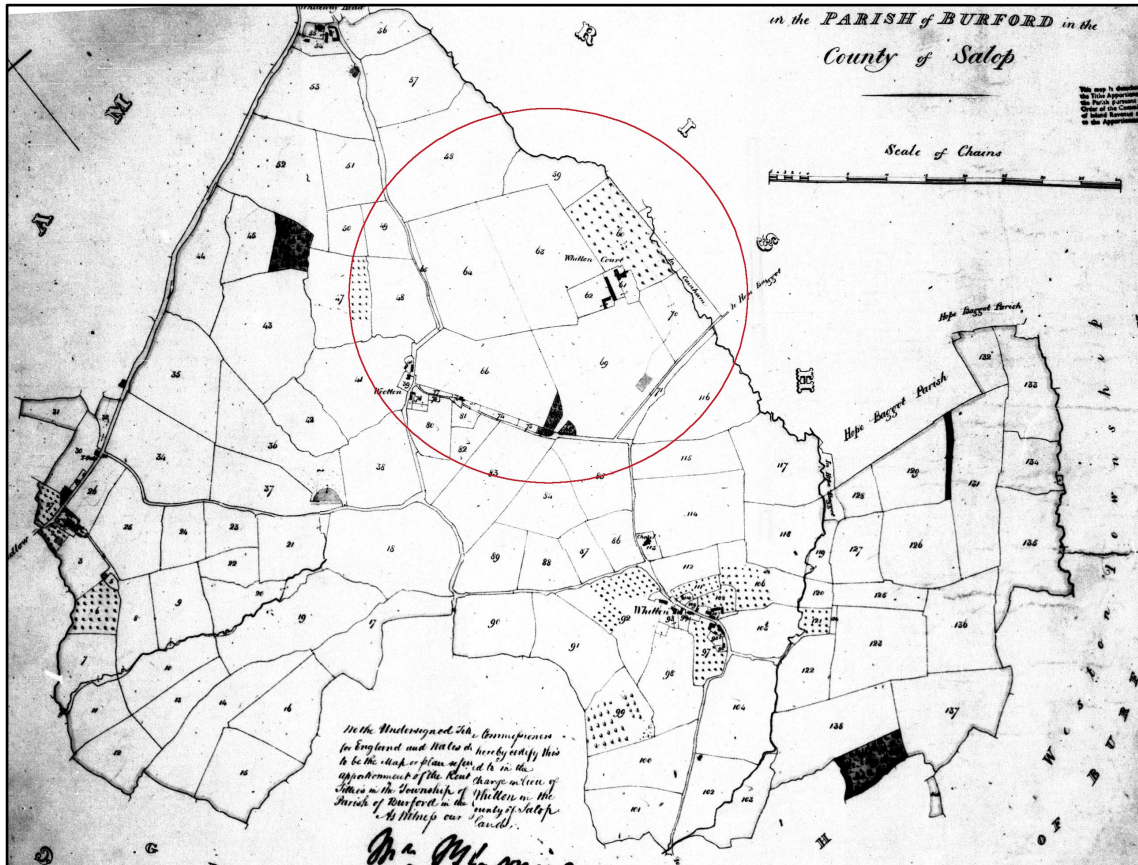
Appendix I.4: Extract from 1751 map of Shropshire by Rocque
Shropshire Record Office ©.



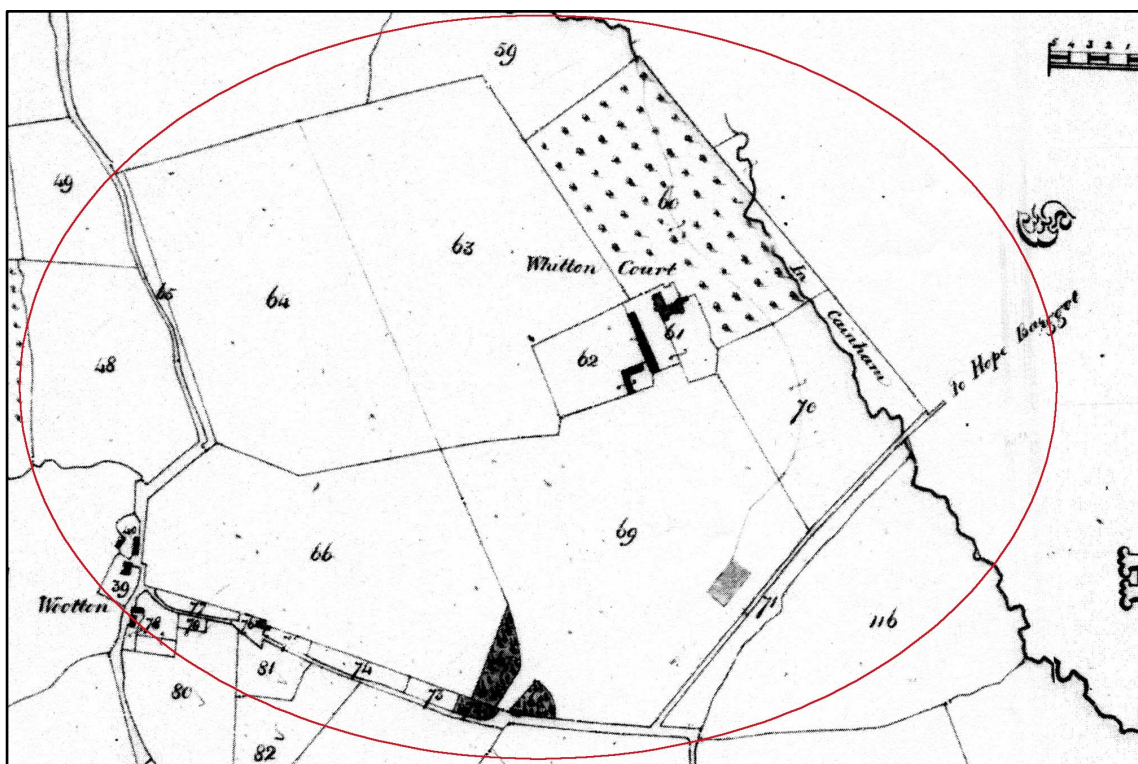
Appendix I.5: Extract from 1808 map of Shropshire by Baugh



Appendix I.6: Extract from 1817 OSD map by Henry Stevens
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Appendix I.7: 1844 tithe map of the parish of Whitton
Shropshire Record Office © PF 49/1/1 apportionment 345.



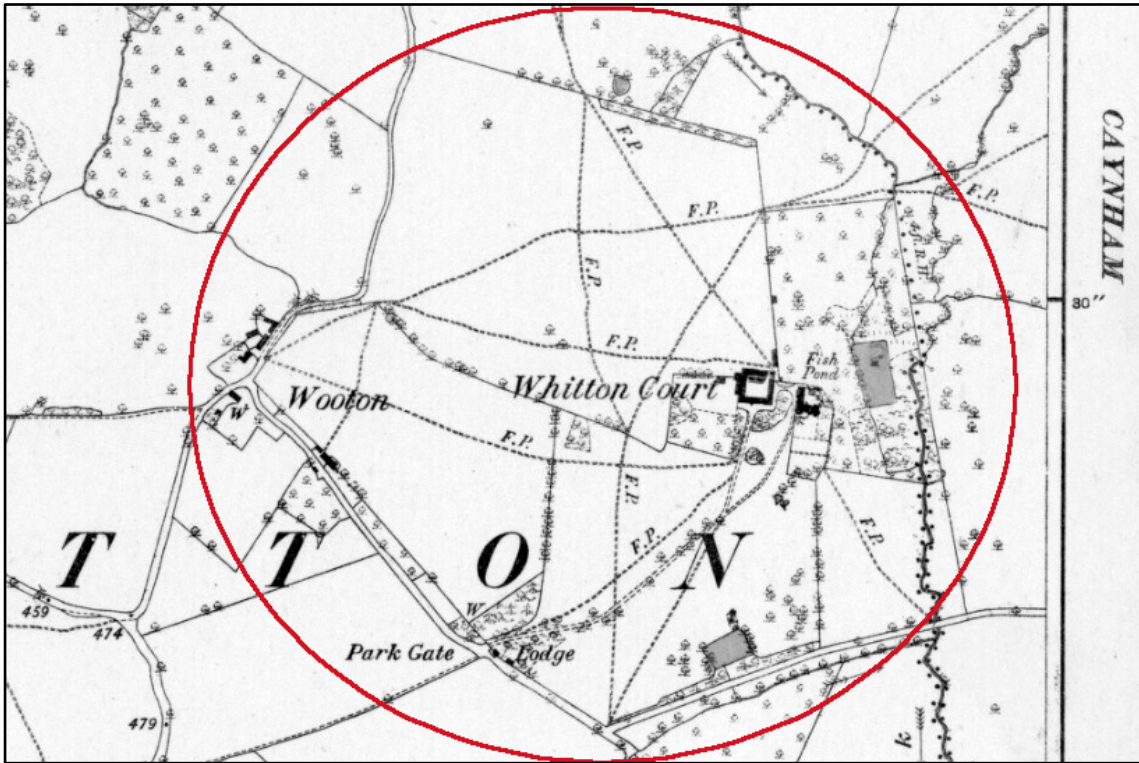
Appendix I.8: Detailed extract from 1844 tithe map of Whitton Court
Shropshire Record Office © PF 49/1/1 apportionment 345.



Appendix I.9: 1857 Sale Plan of Whitton Court
Shropshire Record Office © 1856/7 D3651/D/41/16.



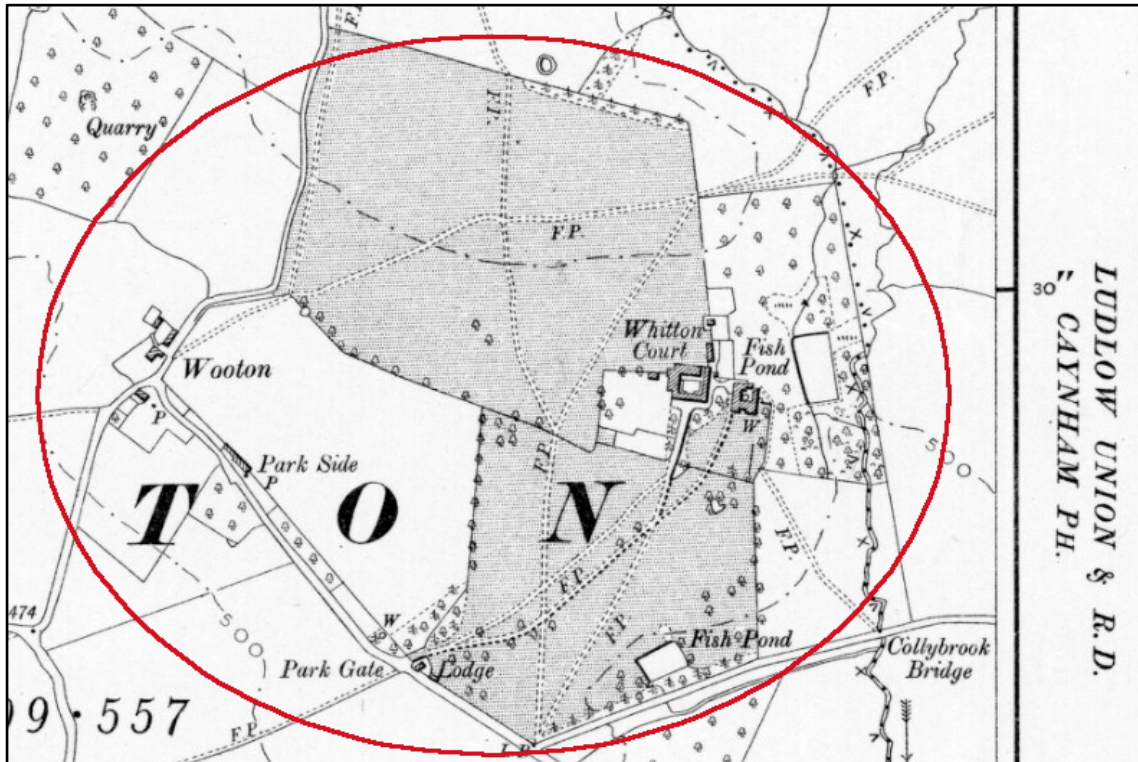
Appendix I.10: Detailed extract from 1857 Sale Plan of Whitton Court
Shropshire Record Office © 1856/7 D3651/D/41/16.



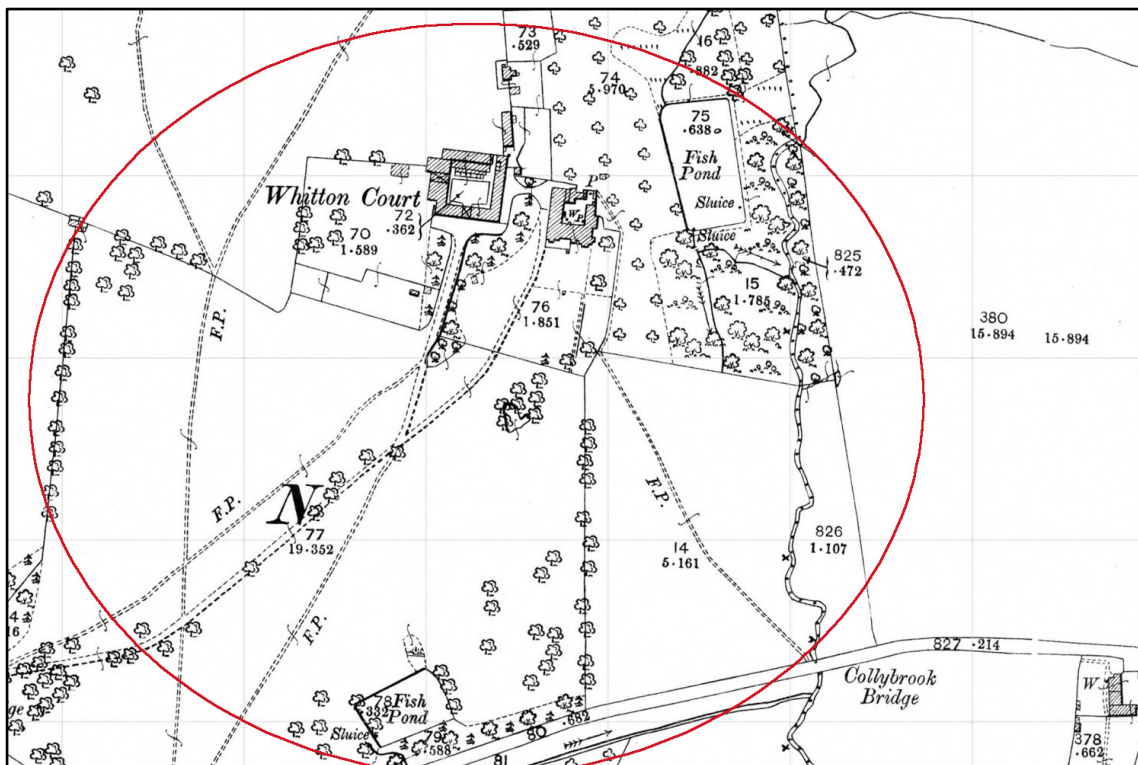
Appendix I.11: Extract from 1883-4 OS map 6" to 1 mile
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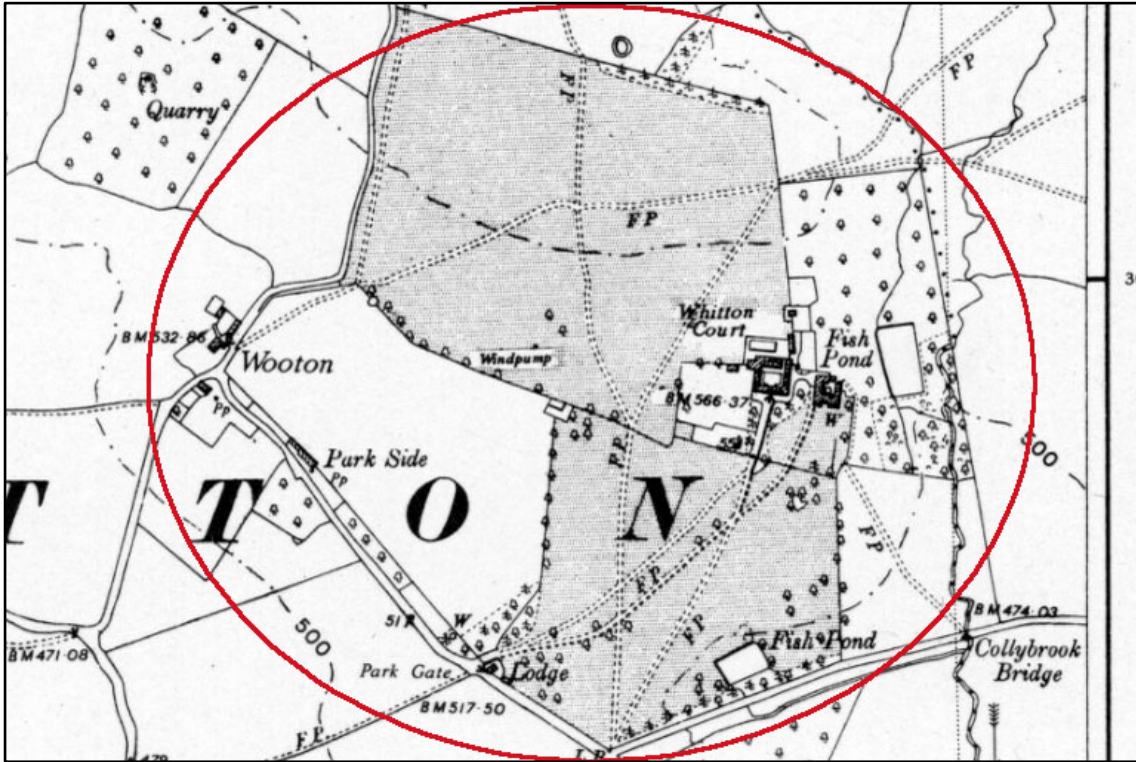
Appendix I.12: Extract from 1884-85 OS map 1:2,500
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Appendix I.13: Extract from 1902-04 OS map 6'' to 1 mile
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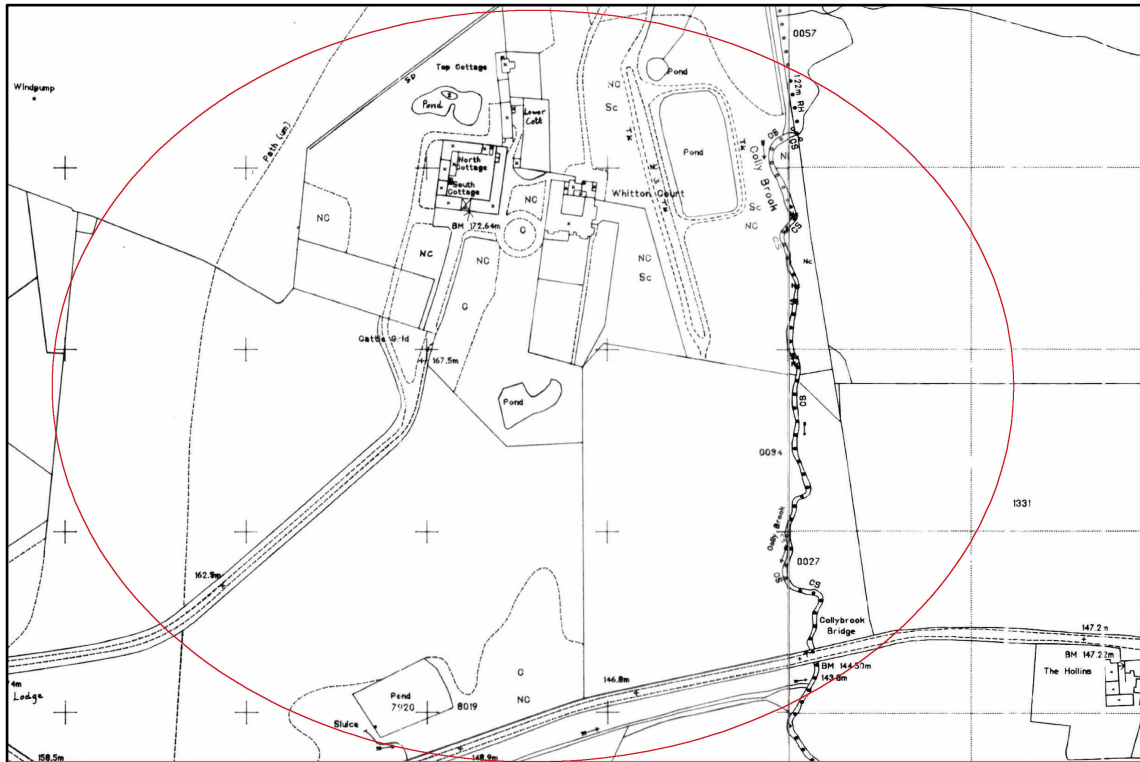
Appendix I.14: Extract from 1903 OS map 1:2,500
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Appendix I.15: Extract from 1949-53 OS map 6'' to 1 mile
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Appendix I.16: Extract from 1967 OS map 1:2,500
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Appendix I.17: Extract from 1993-94 OS map 1:2,500
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Appendix I.18: Extract from 2016 OS Mastermap
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Appendix 2:
Historical Sources



Appendix 2.1: View of the south elevation of Whitton Court, c.1826 after Wright



Appendix 2.2: View of the south elevation of Whitton Court, c.1860 after J.H.Smith



Appendix 2.3: View of the south elevation of Whitton Court, c.1868 after Acton



Appendix 2.4: View of the south elevation of the courtyard of Whitton Court, c.1868 after Acton



Appendix 2.5: Photograph of the south elevation of Whitton Court by Wilding, c.1880



Appendix 2.6: Photograph of the south elevation of Whitton Court by Leech, c.1891



Appendix 2.7: Aerial photograph of Whitton Court taken on 28th May 1947

© HE RAF CPE/UK/2095 1173.



Appendix 2.8: Aerial photograph of the north parkland, looking north (16th February 1991)

© HE 14/13396 So5773/1.



Appendix 2.9: Aerial photograph of the north parkland, looking east (16th February 1991)

© HE 14/13396 So5773/2.



Appendix 2.10: Detail from the hunting painting above fireplace in the house – note depiction of Whitton Court



Appendix 2.11: Detail from the hunting painting above fireplace in the house – note mound and killing of stag

Appendix 3:

Site Photographs



Appendix 3.1: View of south elevation of Whitton Court.



Appendix 3.2: General view of central courtyard, looking northwest.



Appendix 3.3: General view of gardens looking north.



Appendix 3.4: General view of garden terraces, looking south.



Appendix 3.5: General view of steps to entrance terrace **F28**, looking northwest (1m scale).



Appendix 3.6: General view of steps **F29**, looking north (1m scale).



Appendix 3.7: General view of steps **F24**, looking north (1m scale).



Appendix 3.8: General view of terrace wall **F23**, looking north (1m scale).



Appendix 3.9: General view looking south of eastern part of garden, brick wall F25 to the left (1m scale).



Appendix 3.10: Detail of gateway in wall F25, looking east (1m scale).



Appendix 3.11: General view looking north along east side of house (1m scale).



Appendix 3.12: General view looking east of gateway F26 (1m scale).



Appendix 3.13: General view of concrete statue and plinth in western area of gardens (1m scale).



Appendix 3.14: General view of stable courtyard buildings, looking west.



Appendix 3.15: General view of gateway **F16**, looking northeast (1m scale).



Appendix 3.16: Detail of gateway into walled garden, view west **F18** (1m scale).



Appendix 3.17: Detail of decorative wall surrounding walled garden, looking north F17 (1m scale).



Appendix 3.18: General view of glass house in walled garden F17, looking northeast.



Appendix 3.19: General view of entrance drive looking southwest F9 (1m scale).



Appendix 3.20: General view looking southwest of ditch F10.



Appendix 3.21: View looking southwest along the embankment **F1** (1m scale).



Appendix 3.22: General view looking northwest along boundary wall **F4** (1m scale).



Appendix 3.23: General view looking northeast along drainage ditch F2 (1m scale).



Appendix 3.24: Detail of earth mound F30, looking north (1m scale).



Appendix 3.25: Detail of embankment around the south side of pond **F3**, looking east (1m scale).



Appendix 3.26: Detail of sluice culvert through the western embankment of pond **F3**, looking south (1m scale).



Appendix 3.27: General view of pond F3, looking northwest (1m scale).



Appendix 3.28: General view of field boundary with ditch F6, looking north (1m scale).



Appendix 3.29: Detail of vertical joint in estate boundary wall **F4**, looking south.



Appendix 3.30: General view looking along curved ditch **F7**, looking north (1m scale).



Appendix 3.31: General view looking north along terraces F15 (1m scale).



Appendix 3.32: General view looking south along terraces F15 (1m scale).



Appendix 3.33: General view of pond **F14**, looking southwest.



Appendix 3.34: Detail of dam forming southern edge to pond **F14**, looking north (1m scale).

Appendix 4:

Aerial Photographs (list of images examined)

Vertical Photographs

Sortie number	Library number	Frame number	Centre point	Run	Date	Scale 1:
RAF/CPE/UK/2095	667	1173	SO 578 740	28	28 MAY 1947	9800
RAF/CPE/UK/2095	667	1174	SO 573 739	28	28 MAY 1947	9800
RAF/541/524	1086	4030	SO 571 741	5	13 MAY 1950	9360
RAF/541/524	1086	4031	SO 577 742	5	13 MAY 1950	9360
RAF/58/710	1185	3312	SO 574 734	11	02 JUN 1951	10000
RAF/58/710	1185	3313	SO 581 734	11	02 JUN 1951	10000
RAF/58/751	1197	3212	SO 578 745	4	21 JUL 1951	11000
RAF/58/751	1197	3213	SO 585 745	4	21 JUL 1951	11000
RAF/58/751	1197	4211	SO 570 725	9	21 JUL 1951	11000
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RAF/543/1507	2048	405	SO 584 738	32	03 NOV 1961	10000
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OS/66075	9408	24	SO 580 729	3	28 MAY 1966	7500
OS/66075	9408	25	SO 573 728	3	28 MAY 1966	7500
OS/66074	11230	16	SO 575 742	2	28 MAY 1966	7500
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OS/66074	11230	26	SO 583 730	3	28 MAY 1966	7500
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OS/89111	13458	1	SO 587 743	1	03 MAY 1989	8900
OS/90054	13678	90	SO 575 730	5	09 APR 1990	10600
OS/90054	13678	91	SO 575 739	5	09 APR 1990	10600
OS/99582	15325	107	SO 580 734	3	18 JUN 1999	8200
OS/99582	15325	108	SO 575 734	3	18 JUN 1999	8200
ADA/056	26074	99	SO 572 744	8	30 JUL 1981	10000
ADA/056	26074	100	SO 572 734	8	30 JUL 1981	10000
ADA/570(Y)	26816	125	SO 587 738	1	07 JUN 1993	12000
ADA/570(Y)	26816	126	SO 575 737	1	07 JUN 1993	12000
ADA/762	26978	168	SO 578 736	3	12 OCT 1999	12000
ADA/762	26978	169	SO 565 736	3	12 OCT 1999	12000

Oblique Photographs

Photo reference (NGR Index No.)	Film and frame number	Date	Film type	Map Reference (6 figure grid ref)	
SO 5773 / 1	GXB 13396 / 14	MR91/01/BW	16 FEB 1991	35 mm	SO 576736
SO 5773 / 2	GXB 13396 / 15	MR91/01/BW	16 FEB 1991	35 mm	SO 576736
SO 5773 / 3	GXB 13396 / 16	MR91/01/BW	16 FEB 1991	35 mm	SO 576736
SO 5874 / 1	NMR 15179 / 12		05 AUG 1994	35 mm	SO 581743
SO 5874 / 2	NMR 15179 / 13		05 AUG 1994	35 mm	SO 581743
SO 5874 / 5	NMR 15156 / 62		05 AUG 1994	70mm,120,220	SO 581743
SO 5874 / 6	NMR 15156 / 63		05 AUG 1994	70mm,120,220	SO 581743
SO 5874 / 7	NMR 15156 / 64		05 AUG 1994	70mm,120,220	SO 581743
SO 5874 / 8	NMR 15156 / 65		05 AUG 1994	70mm,120,220	SO 581743
SO 5874 / 12	NMR 15156 / 69		05 AUG 1994	70mm,120,220	SO 583742