

◆ Petworth Park's hidden past

By Tom Dommett

From September 2012 to September 2013 a programme of archaeological survey and investigation was undertaken at Petworth Park, West Sussex, under the auspices of the Monument Trust-funded Petworth Park Archaeology Project. Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's 18th-century landscape design at Petworth House and Park has left a landscape which appears natural and timeless, but nothing could be further from the truth. The project has revealed a complex sequence of change, development and expansion over the course of 800 years, a story of changing fashions and fortunes which have left their mark on the landscape. Working with over 100 volunteers, the Petworth Park Archaeology Project has shed new light on features such as the 17th-century 'lost' North Wing of the House, the 6th Duke of Somerset's monumental stable block and the 18th-century baroque formal gardens which once surrounded the House. It has shown how the use of the Park has included the functional as well as the ornamental, with evidence for industrial activities and estate buildings, and has revealed how portions of the surrounding medieval and post-medieval landscape, including settlement and field systems, have become engulfed and fossilised within the Park. Investigations ranging from desk-based assessment to excavation have not only identified a huge range of archaeological features but have also demonstrated the archaeological potential within the Park and the need for future work to further our understanding of this complex landscape.

INTRODUCTION

Petworth House and Park, acquired by the National Trust in 1947, is located in West Sussex, approximately 10km east of Midhurst (Fig. 1). The Park extends northwest from the town of Petworth to Pheasant Copse, bounded to the northeast by the A283 road and to the southwest by the A272 and Upperton Road. It comprises 280ha of designed parkland landscape and Pleasure Grounds, principally attributed to the design of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The Park descends from a western plateau at a high point of c. 125m OD in the northwest, falling away rapidly to the northeast and east with isolated knolls at Arbour Hill and Lawn Hill, declining more gradually to towards the Grade I listed Petworth House, in the south-east corner.

Previous investigations at Petworth have largely focussed on the present House or individual components thereof (Waters 1997; Mayes 1997; Mayes 1998; Archaeology South-East 2007, 2009), and on historical research into the early descent of the Honour of Petworth (Dawtre 1910; Salzman 1927; Thompson 1986). Some excellent but isolated studies have attempted to unpick the historical development of the House and its immediate surrounds, early formal gardens and prominent features such as the 9th Earl of Northumberland's stables (Batho 1957, 1958; Aldsworth 1980). The

development of the House and Park generally has been noted in studies of Petworth as a whole (Jordan 1987; Jerrome 2002, 2006), while some specific periods of parkland development have been examined in some detail (Jerrome 1979; Leconfield 1954). However, a concerted archaeological survey of the Park as a whole has been lacking. It should be noted that this study, while taking into account the area now known as 'the Pleasure Grounds' in all investigations and in discussions of the wider historic landscape, does not aim to address their development as a discrete geographical or chronological unit within the Park.

In 2012 a desk-based assessment of the available historical mapping, aerial photography and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data was complemented by documentary research in the Petworth House Archives (hereafter PHA) and in West Sussex Record Office (hereafter WSRO), and by targeted field survey across the entirety of the Park. This work identified and recorded nearly 200 features within the Park, ranging from medieval settlements and field systems to lost formal gardens and Second World War features, comprising a remarkable record of the evolution of the Park over 800 years. These findings from the desk-based assessment formed the basis for a series of geophysical surveys, geoarchaeological surveys and excavations (Fig. 2). All these were undertaken



Fig. 1. Study area overview and commonly used place names.

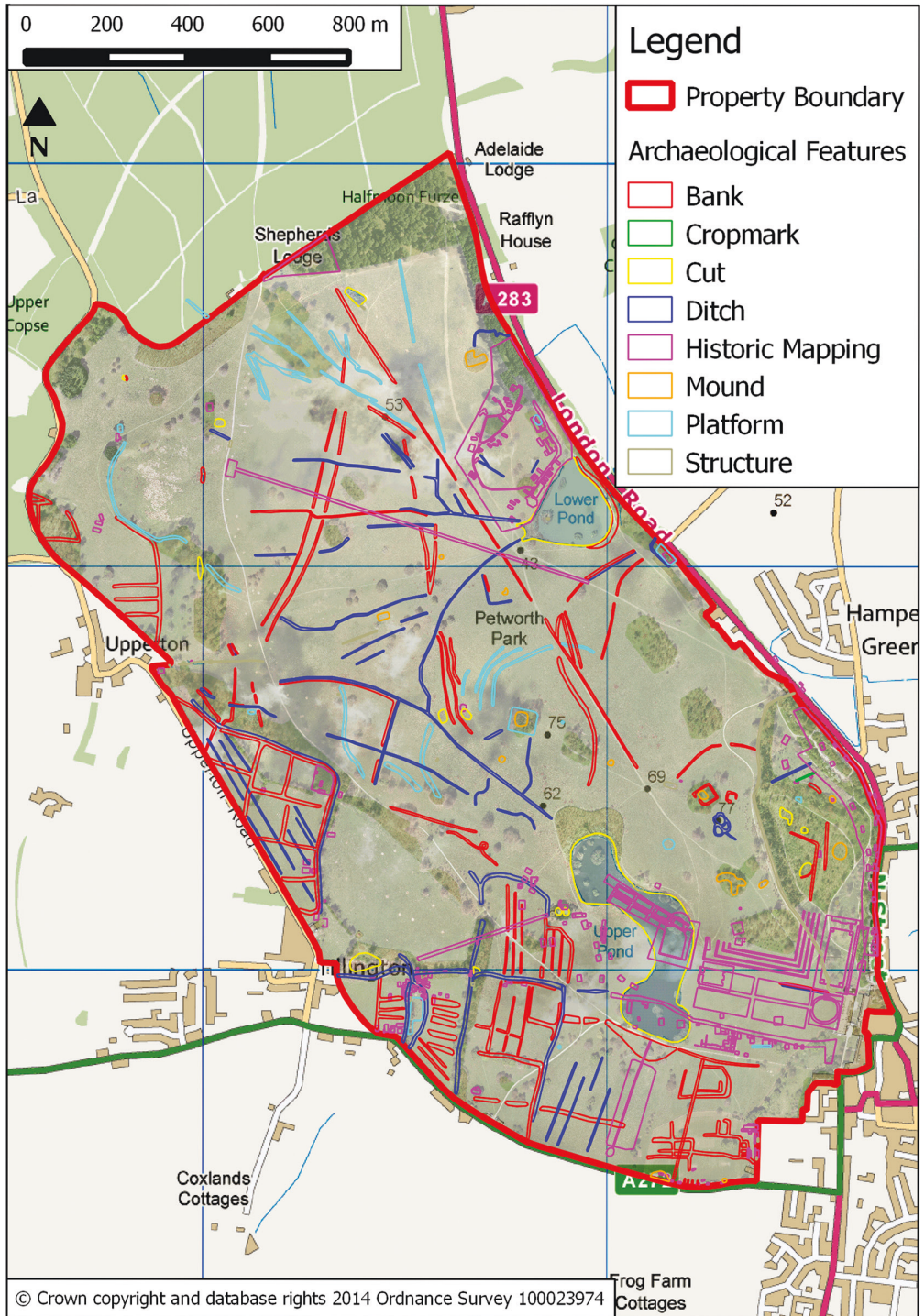


Fig. 2A. Mapping of archaeological sites.

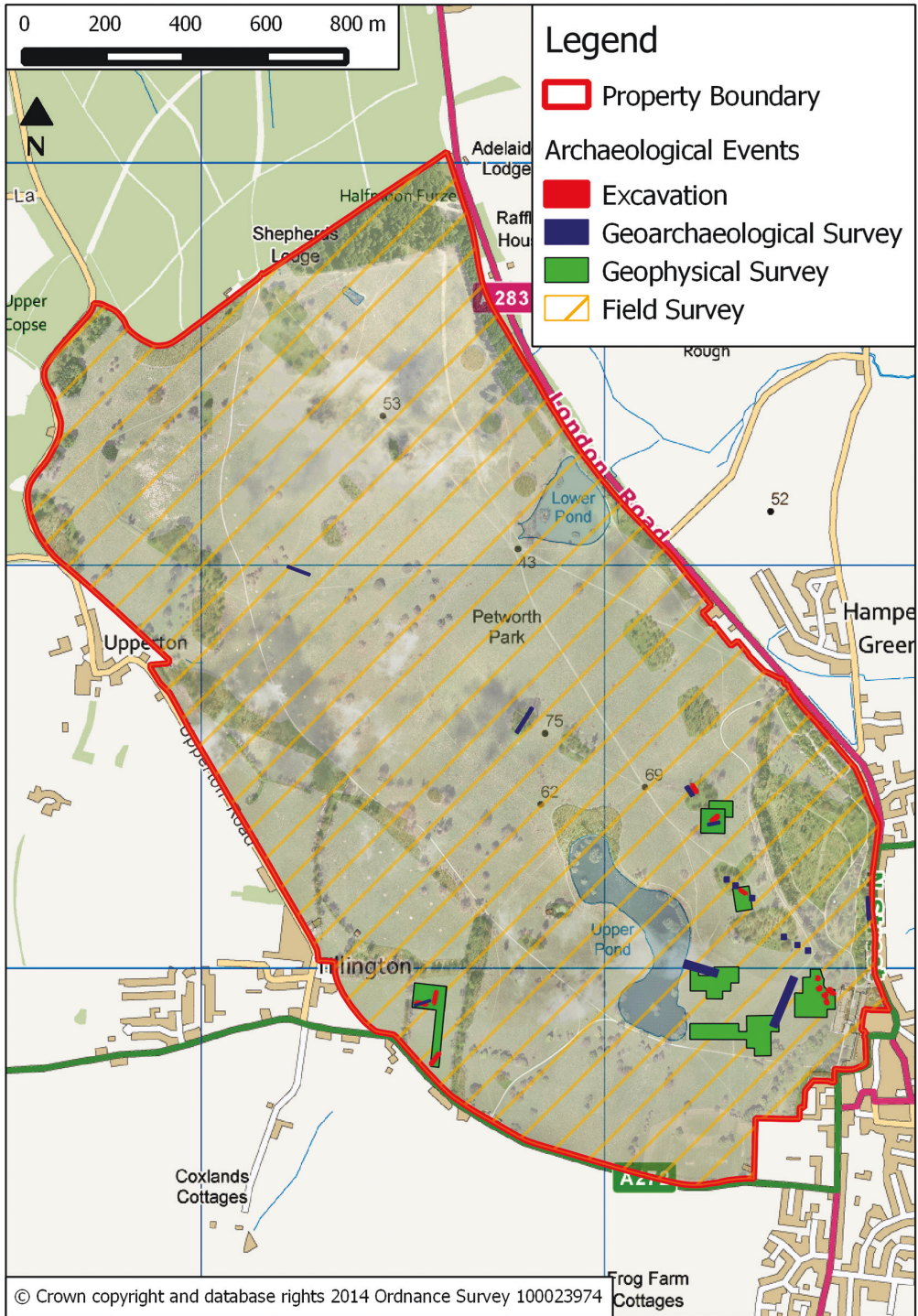


Fig. 2B. Location of archaeological 'events'.

with the assistance of over 100 volunteers drawn from local communities and archaeological societies, without whom the work would not have been possible.

800 YEARS IN THE MAKING: A HISTORY OF EXPANSION

A principal aim of the project was to unpick the complex chronological development of the Park, a history of gradual expansion and changing fashions and fortunes, which had a dramatic impact on the medieval and post-medieval landscape and consequences for the archaeological resource within the parkland.

Recorded in 1086 as comprising a significant settlement including meadow, woodland, a church and a mill (Turner 1862, 1), the manor of Petworth passed, as part of the Honor of Arundel, from Henry I to Queen Adeliza and was bestowed upon her brother Josceline, who took the Percy family name as a condition of his marriage to Agnes de Percy in 1151 (Salzman 1927, 63). The Honor was, for the most part, to remain with the Percy family from this time until the late 17th century.

The earliest Park is believed to have been in existence in the early 13th century, referred to as the Conyger (Rutherford 2008, 17) or Coney Park, suggesting it originally served as a rabbit warren. At the beginning of the 14th century Henry Percy sought, and was granted, a licence to crenellate his manor house at Petworth (Batho 1957, 2), though whether this refers to a building on the site of the present House or a separate structure in the Coney Park remains unclear.

The Coney Park appears to have been centred on the high ground known as Lawn Hill, northwest of the present House, and earthworks recorded during field survey at the base of the northern lip of Lawn Hill may be associated with the earliest phases of its enclosure (National Trust 2013, 12). This location being the historical core of the Park is supported by (and in turn supports) theories surrounding the origin of the Park. It has been suggested that Petworth could have been the site of a defensive structure built in the aftermath of the Norman invasion of 1066 (Waters 1997, 24), and Lawn Hill has been considered as the most likely location for early occupation (Turner 1862, 5).

As a parallel one may look to nearby Midhurst where a motte and bailey castle was built overlooking

both the town and the key communication and transport route of the River Rother (Salzman 1953, 74). The views from the plateau of Lawn Hill remain impressive (despite the intensive ornamental woodland planting around it which has characterised the last 400 years of land use), and would have offered a similarly strategic vantage point, with expansive views northwest to Black Down, northeast across the Low Weald and south to the South Downs, and including a large stretch of the River Rother (Fig. 3). The site would also have offered a commanding view of the surrounding settlement and the major overland communication routes ('North Street' and the 'Court Ditch Lane' as they stood before alteration in the 18th century) (Fig. 4). Further hints come from the documentary evidence. When the Percy estates were held by the Crown during the reign of Elizabeth I, the fees paid to the officers of the Crown under the heading of Petworth include both a 'Keeper of the House' and a 'Constable of the Castle' (Turner 1862, 6). Certainly no remains of a motte and bailey have yet been identified on the site. A sub-circular mound c. 60m diameter and 2.5m tall on the plateau (see Fig. 4) was initially thought to be related to early occupation, but subsequent geoarchaeological survey appears to suggest a geological origin (Wessex Archaeology 2013, 4). But the prominence of this natural sandstone outcrop (*ibid.*) highlights the possibility of some form of early defensive structure or complex on Lawn Hill. The Midhurst motte and bailey was abandoned in the late 13th to early 14th century in favour of Cowdray (Salzman 1953, 74): perhaps the 'licence to crenellate' granted in 1309 (Batho 1957, 2) indicates a similar process occurring at Petworth.

By 1327 there is mention of two parks at Petworth, the Coney Park and the Middle Park, including 'certain ponds' (Rutherford 2008, 17), suggesting some limited expansion probably to the south of Lawn Hill. A further 105 acres (42.5ha) were added to the northeast in 1499 (Jerrome 1979, 17). A list produced in the same year of those who had lands within the 'Conyger' (PHA 1403) may be connected with the act of expanding the Park, or may suggest that although the land was added it continued to be occupied.

The medieval landscape in which this 'Coney Park' stood (see Fig. 5) is best represented through a combination of Ralph Treswell's 1610 map and the depositions of local residents taken during

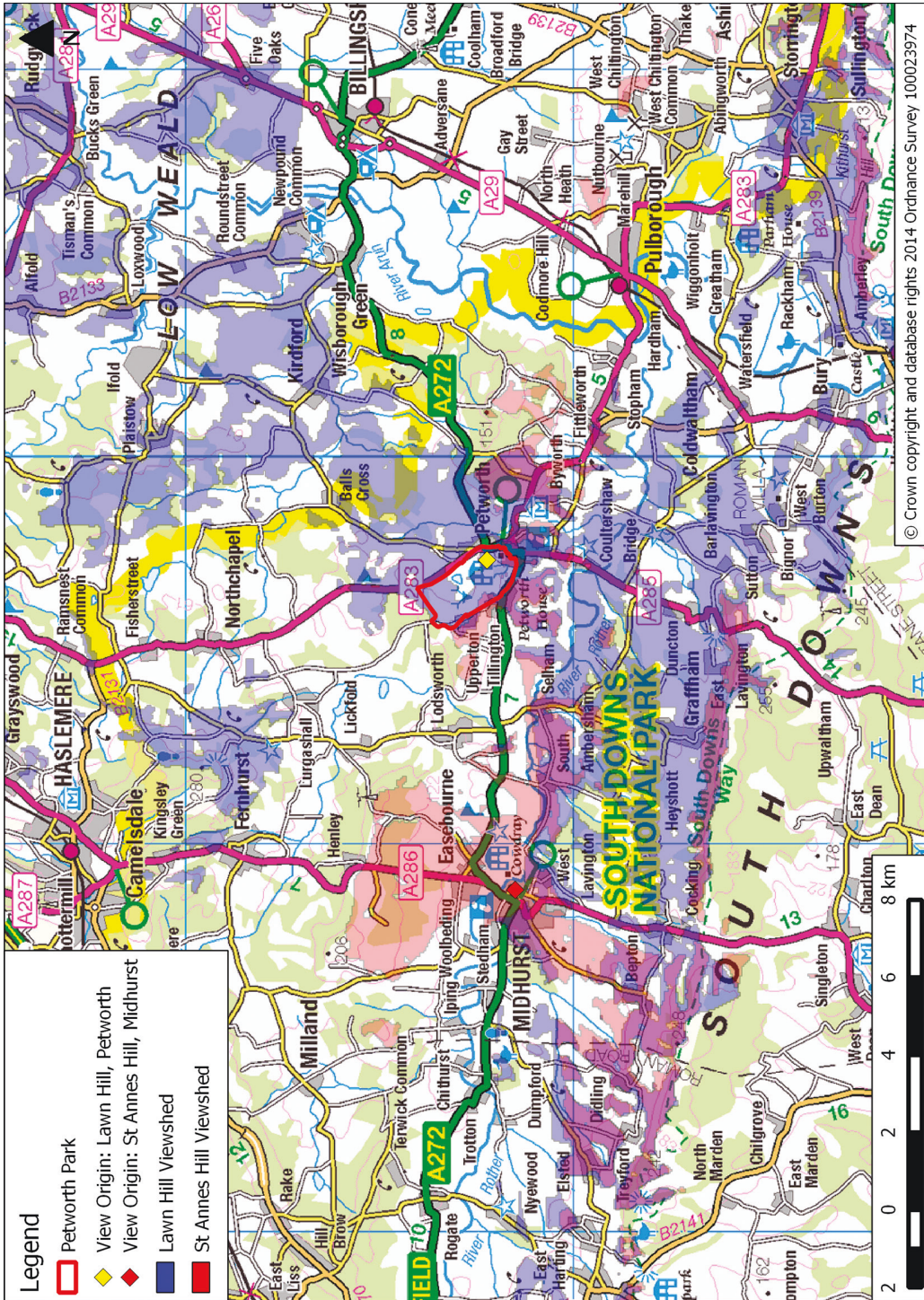


Fig. 3. Viewshed analysis comparison at the site of the Midhurst motte and bailey castle and Lawn Hill (based on transmitter height of 7m).

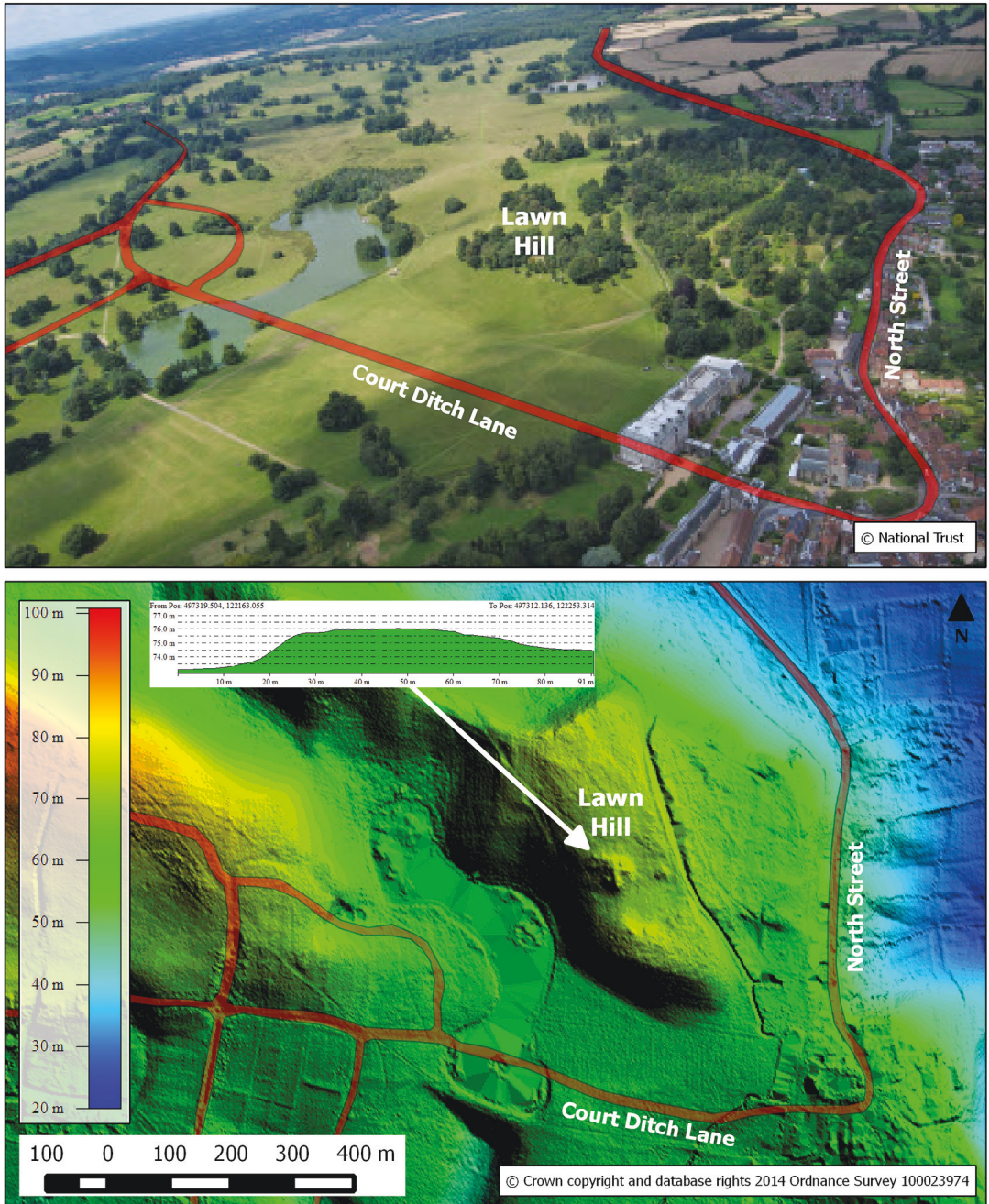


Fig. 4. Views from Lawn Hill over the medieval routeways of North Street and Court Ditch Lane (in red) shown through aerial photography (top) and LIDAR data (bottom), with a prominent mound (profile inset; 3:1 elevation scale).

legal proceedings at the end of the 16th century (see Jerrome 1979).

The Conyger Park was bounded to the east by extensive settlement running along the west side of North Street (an area now within the Pleasure Grounds) and to the south by the road known as West Street or Court Ditch Lane. The latter was a continuation of the east-west section of Church Street, running immediately south of the Parish Church of St Mary The Virgin at Petworth and through what are now the private gardens immediately south of the present House. The south side of this highway was lined with dwellings beyond which lay gardens and fields. LIDAR data have shown some earthwork evidence for field systems preserved in the area of the present sports ground, though whether these relate to the medieval settlement, or represent occupation of an earlier date, is unclear. Both field survey and geophysical survey have so far failed to identify any features associated with the original Court Ditch Lane: later landscaping has most likely removed any trace. To the west, the settlement and fields associated with Tillington extended from Tillington Church eastwards into the present parkland as far as the high ground west of the Upper Pond, joining with Court Ditch Lane. The field systems relating to the settlement are still visible as low earthworks, while the major roads associated with it – Hunger's Lane, Nightingale Lane, Primrose Lane and a number of other smaller unnamed routes – remain as prominent hollow ways. To the northwest lay Petworth Common as far as Arbour Hill, and beyond this the manorial Outwood with further medieval settlement and field systems (again visible as low earthworks on LIDAR data) in the north-west corner of the present Park at Snow Hill and Upperton.

From its earliest origins until the 16th century the layout of the Park changed very little, perhaps unsurprising given that the Park was in effect a small industrial unit, far from the expansive Percy power base in the North of England. The grant of the Honor in 1535 by the 6th Earl of Northumberland to Henry VIII (The National Archives E 40/4104; Hoyle 2004), however, marked the start of a series of extensions over the following 300 years (Fig. 6) which would gradually engulf the earlier landscape, traces of which survive in the present parkland.

From a core of around 50ha in 1530, the following 50 years saw the Park expanded to around 200ha (see Fig. 6). Depositions at the end of the

16th century (see Jerrome 1979) suggest that during the reign of Henry VIII the Park was expanded by the enclosure of Petworth Common which lay to the northwest of Lawn Hill. Sections of curvilinear banks near the Lower Pond, visible on LIDAR data and confirmed through field survey, may be related to this enclosure and/or the original boundary for the Common, or a related function such as a drove-way (National Trust 2013, 13). A possible encroachment onto the Common, now within the Park, is shown on Treswell's 1610 map and is represented on the ground by a possible building platform (*ibid.*, 16). While this enclosure was not openly challenged during the reign of Henry VIII, during the reign of Edward VI (1550–54) the pale was torn down (Jerrome 1979, 18).

With the return of the Park to the 7th Earl, the latter half of the 16th century saw attempts firstly to consolidate the land added while in the Crown's hands and later to expand even further. On regaining ownership in 1558 the Earl applied for permission to re-enclose at least a portion of the Common, the key purpose being to take in Arbour Hill (Jerrome 1979, 23). The family were subsequently confined to Petworth in 1575 in the aftermath of the failed Northern Rebellion. A survey of 1575 refers to the 'newe parke', noting that this was the new term for the Conyger Park, having been enlarged to a total of 220 acres (89ha) (*ibid.*, 17), a figure that supports the suggestion that the remainder of the Common had been incorporated into the Park.

Around 1578 the 8th Earl further enlarged the Park, taking in the manorial Outwood to the northwest. Treswell's map of 1610 (Fig. 7) provides the first cartographic evidence for this expansion, depicting what became known as Home Park. The 1610 map shows the parkland bisected by the 'Five Rails Fence', which was located north of Arbour Hill, running southwest-northeast. To the south of the Five Rails Fence the parkland had been compartmentalised, while the larger enclosure of the Outwood lay to the north with another large enclosure extending northwest of this. This was the New Park, also referred to as the Great Park or the Stag Park (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 3). A subrectangular area of the Conyger is shown as a separate enclosure, with cross-walks, namely the Birchen Walks which formed the basis for the development of the Wilderness and later the Pleasure Grounds (Rutherford 2008, 16).

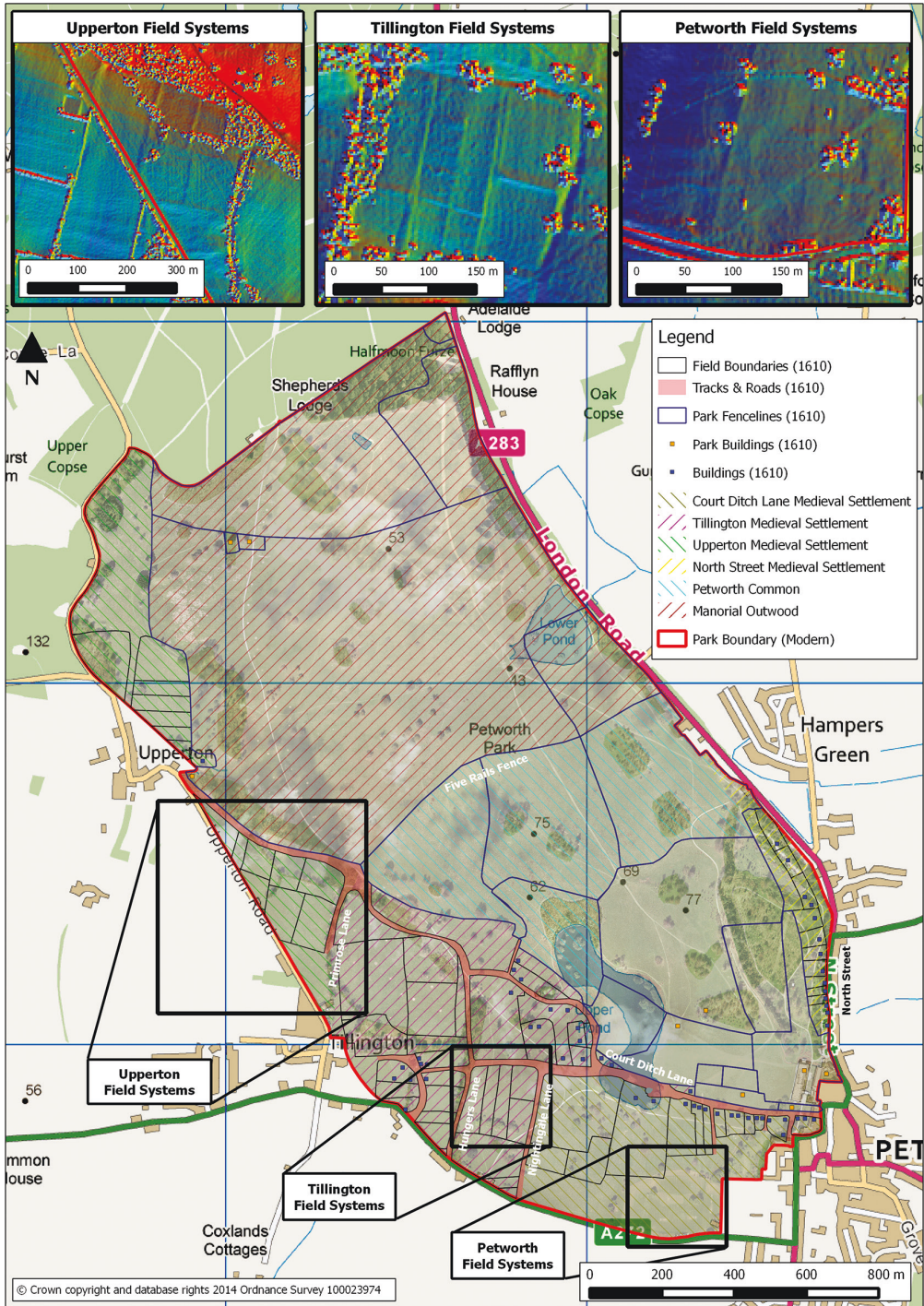


Fig. 5. Mapping of the medieval landscape, overlain on recent aerial photography, with earthwork evidence for field systems shown on LIDAR data.

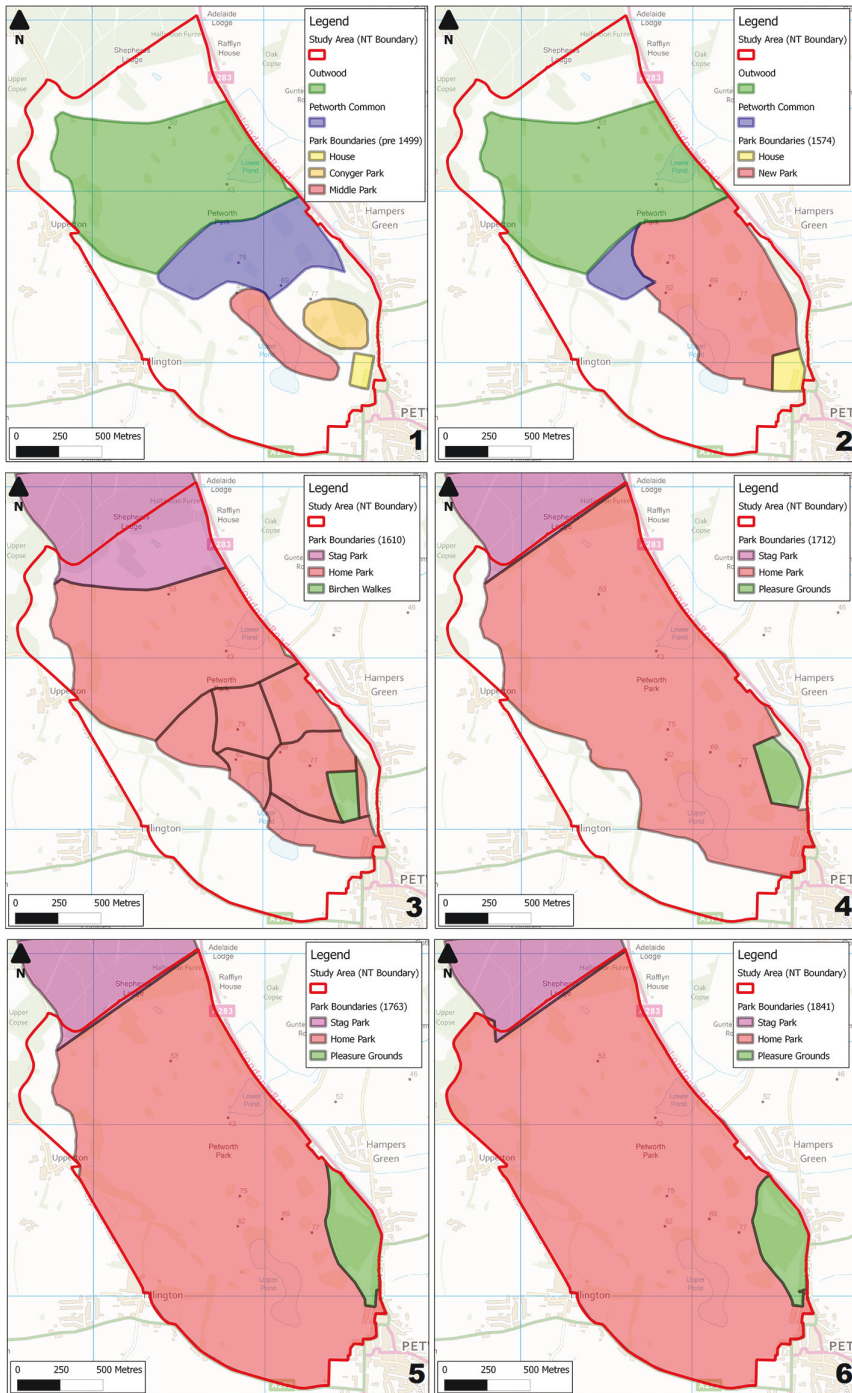


Fig. 6. Expansion of the Park. The 15th-century core (1); taking in Petworth Common under Henry VIII (2); enclosing the Outwood c. 1578 (3); expansion by the 6th Duke of Somerset c. 1712 (4); the influence of ‘Capability’ Brown c. 1763 (5); and the Park’s boundary in 1841 and today (6).

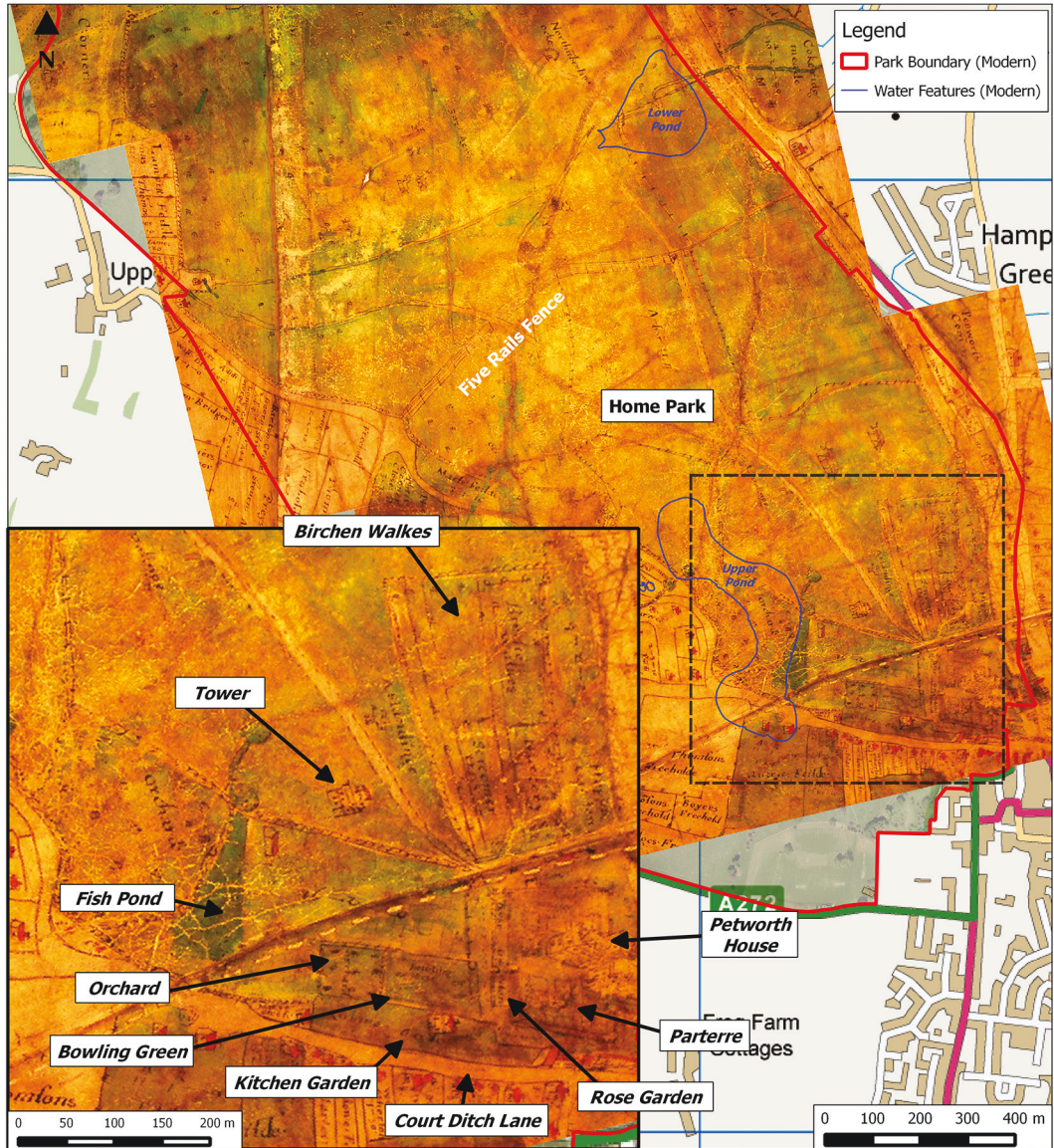


Fig. 7. Detail from Ralph Treswell's 1610 map (PHA 3574), georeferenced to modern mapping, showing the major features in the immediate environs of the House (inset).

The Park remained in this state for the next 100 years, until the 6th Duke of Somerset, who acquired Petworth by marriage in 1682, ushered in a new phase for the parkland design and undertook some small expansion. John Hutchinson's 1706 map (Fig. 8) shows the intention to move Court Ditch Lane south by some 80m so as to open up the views west from the redeveloped House, as confirmed by Thomas

Player's note in 1712 that 'His grace has turned the highway lately farther from his house, which now runs between two high walls' (Gloucestershire Archives (hereafter GA) D421/F32). This diversion must have involved a significant financial investment in acquiring property and demolishing at least 11 buildings (shown on the 1706 map) relating to the post-medieval settlement at Petworth (see Fig. 6).

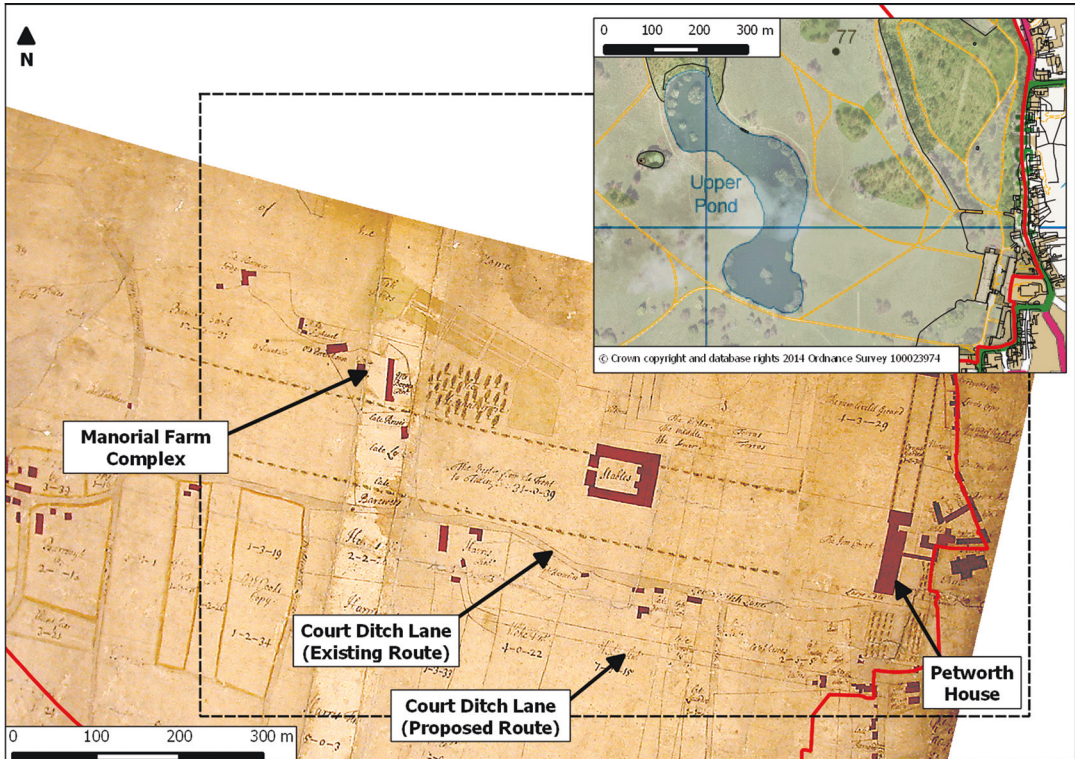


Fig. 8. Detail from a map of 1706 attributed to John Hutchinson (PHA 3580), georeferenced to modern mapping, showing major features of the early 18th-century Park and proposals for its development.

Arguably the most significant expansion of the Park took place under the influence of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, who was responsible for imposing the naturalistic designed parkland which remains today. Brown's final commission in 1763 involved moving the Petworth–Midhurst road (Court Ditch Lane) to the present line of the A272 (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 7), shifting the boundary of the Park south by over 300m and adding nearly 60ha to it. While this extension is markedly less than the expansion of the later 16th century, the implications for the archaeology of the Park are arguably of much greater significance. Near the House this new boundary formally enclosed into the Park an area identified as the Kitchen Garden on 1749 mapping, cultivation of which may have caused some disturbance to buried features. Further west the movement of the road resulted in a significant portion of the village of Tillington, as well as areas of field systems and settlement near Upperton, being incorporated into the Park (see

Fig. 6). In Brown's absence it seems little effort was made to remove these features, and James Crow's 'Rough Plan' (PHA 3605, prepared in 1779) shows the buildings and field systems still prominent within the parkland. No trace is shown on Crow's 'Fair Plan' (PHA 3606, dated to 1785); indeed, the 'Fair Plan' shows the area as an open expanse almost completely devoid of features, including major field boundaries. The lack of detail in comparison to the 'Rough Plan' which preceded it, and to the 1838 and 1839 tithe maps which followed it (WSRO TD/W 97; WSRO TD/W 127), is striking: maybe some elements in this area were deliberately omitted (see Fig. 9). That this episode of expansion marked the end of Brown's involvement, combined with the extant earthworks relating to Tillington's field systems (see Fig. 5) and the relative distance from the House, suggests there may be significant preserved archaeological remains in this area.

The 3rd Earl continued the expansion of the Park at its northern extent. Part of Upperton Common

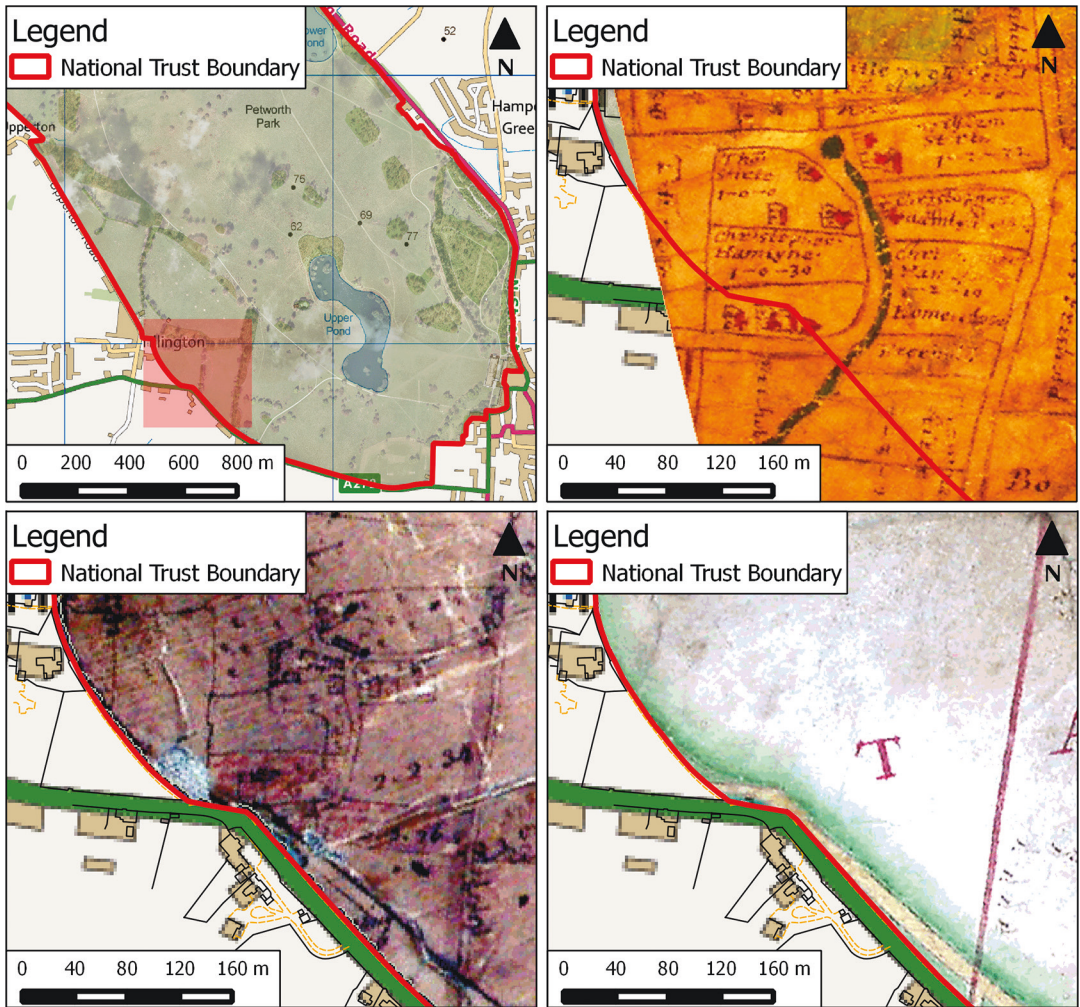


Fig. 9. Location of the site of Tillington village (top left), and maps showing the site in 1610 (PHA 3574, top right), 1779 (PHA 3605, bottom left) and 1785 (PHA 3606, bottom right).

and associated settlement were acquired in 1783 (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 14), and are shown incorporated into the Park on Crow’s ‘Fair Plan’, while the final portion of Upperton Common was acquired in 1791 (ibid.). On the 1839 tithe map for the parish of Tillington (WSRO TD/W 127), the Park’s extent is shown as it is today.

FASHIONS AND FORTUNES: THE CHANGING PARKLAND

The complex sequence of expansion outlined above has influenced the archaeology of Petworth

Park through the incorporation into the present parkland of features relating to medieval and post-medieval settlement. This expansion went hand in hand with the changing nature of the Park itself, reflecting shifting fashions and fortunes, and resulting in a wide variety of designed and parkland features. These differing approaches to the overarching design of the Park can be broadly split into three phases of ownership: the Earls of Northumberland (1572–1682), the 6th Duke of Somerset (1682–1748) and the Earls of Egremont (1750–1837).

THE EARLS OF NORTHUMBERLAND

Under the Earls of Northumberland there was a clear distinction between the area of the Park and the environs of the House. The Park was laid out as a series of enclosures as shown on Treswell's 1610 map (Fig. 7), which appears to show deer grazing north of the Five Rails Fence and cattle to the south. Contemporary accounts suggest that the 8th Earl's principal use of the Park was for hunting and entertaining visitors, with little other interest in what the land could offer (Jerrome 1979, 24). However, this area can be viewed largely in terms of a functional landscape. In particular the area of settlement around Snow Hill, on the slopes to the west of the Upper Pond, appears to have been informally incorporated into the Park during the 17th century and developed into a complex of domestic and ancillary buildings supporting the working of the estate. By 1706 these buildings included a Brewhouse, Keeper's Lodge and Dove Cote. It is tempting to see the origins of these buildings in 'A Booke of Computations of Buildings' dated 1615 (PHA 1630), an outline of the 9th Earl's plans for the grandiose development of his estate, which includes provision for outbuildings such as a barn, bakehouse, slaughterhouse, brewhouse, malthouse, granary and dairy (Batho 1958, 113). References in Brown's third contract in 1755 provide further evidence for these buildings, though in the context of their removal (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 8). The area now stands in long tussocky grass and, though no visible remnants are visible above the ground, there is potential for buried remains.

Around the House lay a series of small garden features. The garden layout was a reflection of Continental Renaissance ideas, adopted at this time by English aristocrats at gardens such as Toddington, Bedfordshire (Rutherford 2008, 17). North of the House the map shows the Hoppe Garden and Birchen Walkes, forerunner of the Pleasure Grounds, while to the west of the walled garden, across what is now the mansion's West Lawn, lay the Rose Garden, Bowling Green and adjoining orchard with a series of circular pools beyond, possibly the Stew Ponds, connected to a larger sub-oval pond in the area of the present Upper Pond (see Fig. 7). During the 17th century, the Rampires were added to this garden layout. These comprised a series of terraces laid out around the east, west and south faces of Lawn

Hill, described by Lieutenant Hammond in 1635: 'I marched along towards the chief mansion upon one of those two files of walks which are hewn and made out of the rock, of 600 foot in length (ascending each other in the midst of the same stone)' (Hammond 1936, 36).

The painting of c. 1685 attributed to Leonard Knyff (Fig. 10) indeed shows two terraced and walled rampart walks. Despite efforts to mask and remove these terraces in the later 18th century, the lines of the Upper, Middle and Lower Ramparts can be discerned both as crop-marks in aerial photography and as shallow dips in the slope ascending Lawn Hill. Geoarchaeological survey has confirmed the presence of these terraces, and supports contemporary accounts that they were cut back into the solid geology of the hill (Wessex Archaeology 2013, 4).

Arguably the most impressive addition to the 'garden' area by the Percys was the construction of the 9th Earl of Northumberland's monumental stable block in 1622 (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 4). Mapping from 1706 (see Fig. 8) shows the stable block shortly before its demolition, comprising a quadrangular building c. 80m long and 65m wide with a central courtyard, fronting to the west. The building dwarfed the House, and its comparative importance is emphasised in both Norton's map of 1625 and Knyff's 1685 painting of the West Front (Fig. 10). Lieutenant Hammond in 1635 wrote a most thorough description of the stables:

the like whereof I am sure not a subject in England hath to show ... 80 of my paces in length, wherein I viewed two such ranks of handsome, proper, hunting geldings, neat brave saddle nags for the road, and lusty stout coach horses, 60 in all in each rank.... All along and around it is paved next the wall and broad enough for 3 or 4 to walk abreast, with admirable stone like freestone ... wherewith this stately fabric is built and covered with white slate like the same. Between this paved walk and the horses' feet in a small channel runs (when the grooms please by turning a cock) a clear stream of fair water.... This square hath a partition wall that runs all along the midst, to which the racks and mangers are fastened, which makes it like a double stable, 60 horses on one side and as many on the other. Answerable to this are the 3 other squares every way in length, height

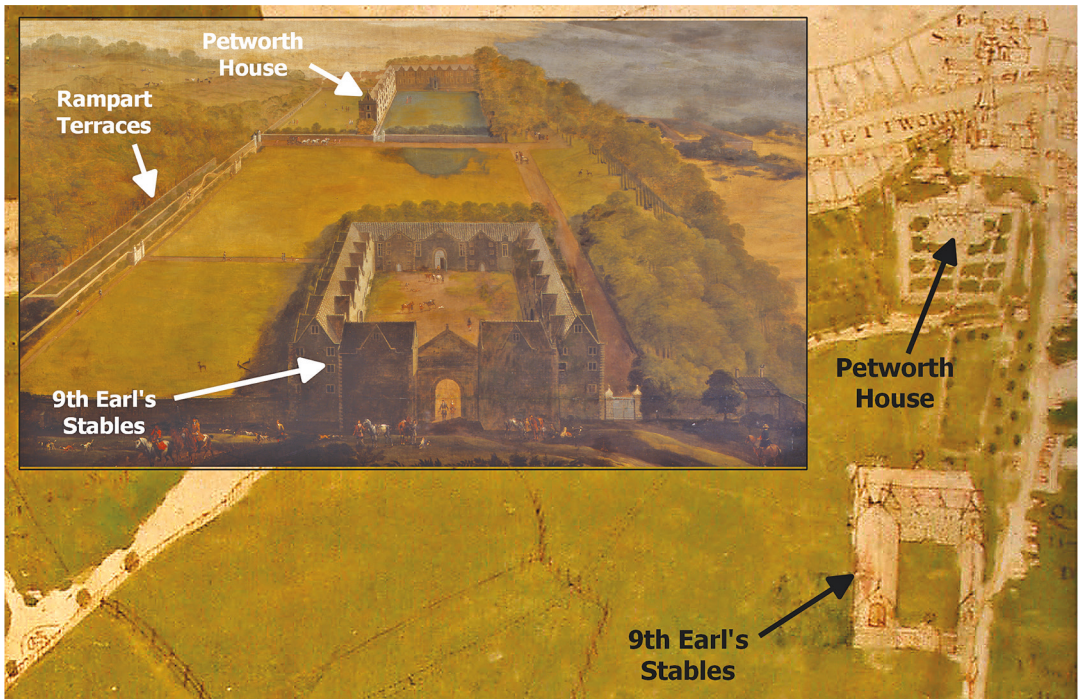


Fig. 10. Details from Leonard Knyff's 1685 painting (inset) and Robert Norton's 1625 map (PHA 3577) showing the 9th Earl's Stables, Petworth House and the Rampart Terraces. Both images facing east.

and breadth; one whereof was only built for a stately riding house for the great horse to ride in all weathers and seasons whatsoever, the other for hay and oats, and all other provisions for the stable. There are likewise very convenient and handsome rooms and lodgings for the gentlemen of the horse, the grooms, coachmen, riders, postilions, making a pretty quarter of cavalry. Here is likewise a fair large armoury both for horse and foot, and the windows of this building are very fair and high, with some smaller ones above them, made like his Lordship's coat, the crescent, half-moon wise, which is an additional grace and ornament to this brave compacted building (Hammond 1936, 36–7).

Given the size of the building it is perhaps surprising that no crop-mark evidence has been noted, and geophysical survey undertaken in April 2013 failed to identify any evidence of buried structural remains. It is likely that any trace was removed by 18th-century landscaping, for the solid and unweathered natural sandstone encountered

at just 30cm depth suggests levelling here may have involved the removal of a substantial depth of material (Wessex Archaeology 2013, 7).

THE 6TH DUKE OF SOMERSET

Following the 6th Duke of Somerset's acquisition of Petworth in 1682 on his marriage to the heiress Elizabeth Percy, there began a series of sweeping changes to the layout of the House and gardens (Fig. 11) to move towards the baroque style which had reached its height on the continent during the mid to late 17th century.

The only feature which was retained from the earlier garden layout was the rampart terraces. Indeed, the 6th Duke made a significant investment in enhancing this feature. New walling and ornamental piers, plinths and seats were added (PHA 234; PHA 1692), and the 1706 map shows a third walled terrace walk, though Player in 1712 noted only two 'large and very long terrace walks' (GA D421/F32). The view of the House attributed to Peter Tillemans and dating to c. 1730 shows the completed feature with the appearance of a zigurat



Fig. 11. Layout of the 6th Duke's formal gardens, drawn from historical mapping and supported by the painting of c. 1730 attributed to Peter Tillemans.

(see Fig. 11), as the painting seems to indicate that the walled terraces formed a complete circuit.

To the north of the House and immediately east of the rampart terraces a large area of ground was levelled to allow for the construction of a Parterre and Orange Garden. By 1749 the Parterre covered an area of c. 1.4ha between the rampart terraces and Orange Garden, a rectangular layout with cruciform paths leading to a central fountain. The levelled ground for this feature is still clearly visible, with a steep scarp slope at the northern extent within the Pleasure Grounds marking the furthest extent. Here a large and elaborate nine-bay greenhouse was constructed in 1696 spanning the length of the Parterre, shown in the background of Tillemans's painting (see Fig. 11). Although no structural evidence remains above ground, parch marks observed in the summer of 2013 suggest that foundations or drainage channels (perhaps relating to the central fountain) remain *in situ*.

Directly east of the Parterre was built an Orange Garden, on a long narrow strip aligned with the

north-south axis of the House. It is first shown on Hutchinson's 1706 map and by 1749 had a cruciform path, aligned with that of the Parterre and a similar focal point at the centre. At the northern end was an Orange House, also shown on the 1706 map. It was replaced in 1722 (PHA 6291) before being pulled down in 1779 (PHA 2195).

The 1749 Ocular Draught (Alnwick Castle Archives, uncatalogued) shows that the 6th Duke instated a Grand Avenue approaching from the north of the Park and running through the valley bottoms to align with the newly developed West Front. Small sections of this 'Lime Tree Walk' are still visible near the Shepherd's Lodge pond. Directly in front of, and spanning the length of, the House was the 6th Duke's 'Iron Court'. Player (GA D421/F32) notes in 1712 that work to complete the feature was still in progress but by 1749 The Ocular Draught indicates a single large oval turning circle with perimeter paths, presumably gravelled or paved. Excavations in July 2013 (Fig. 12; Archaeology South-East 2013, 8) uncovered evidence of this

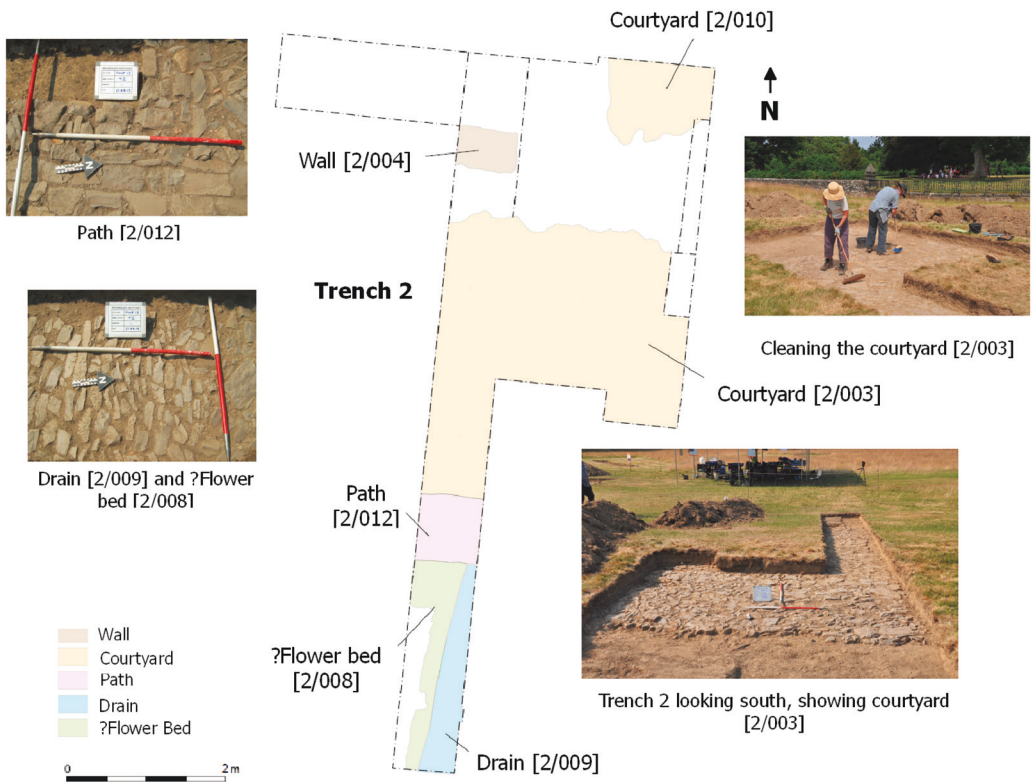
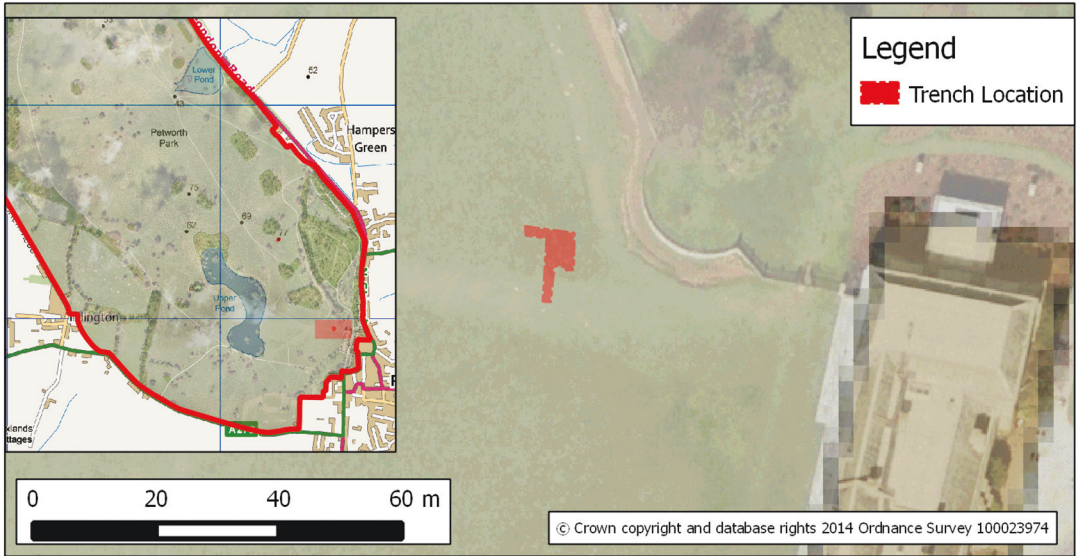


Fig. 12. Excavation of elements of the 6th Duke's formal gardens.

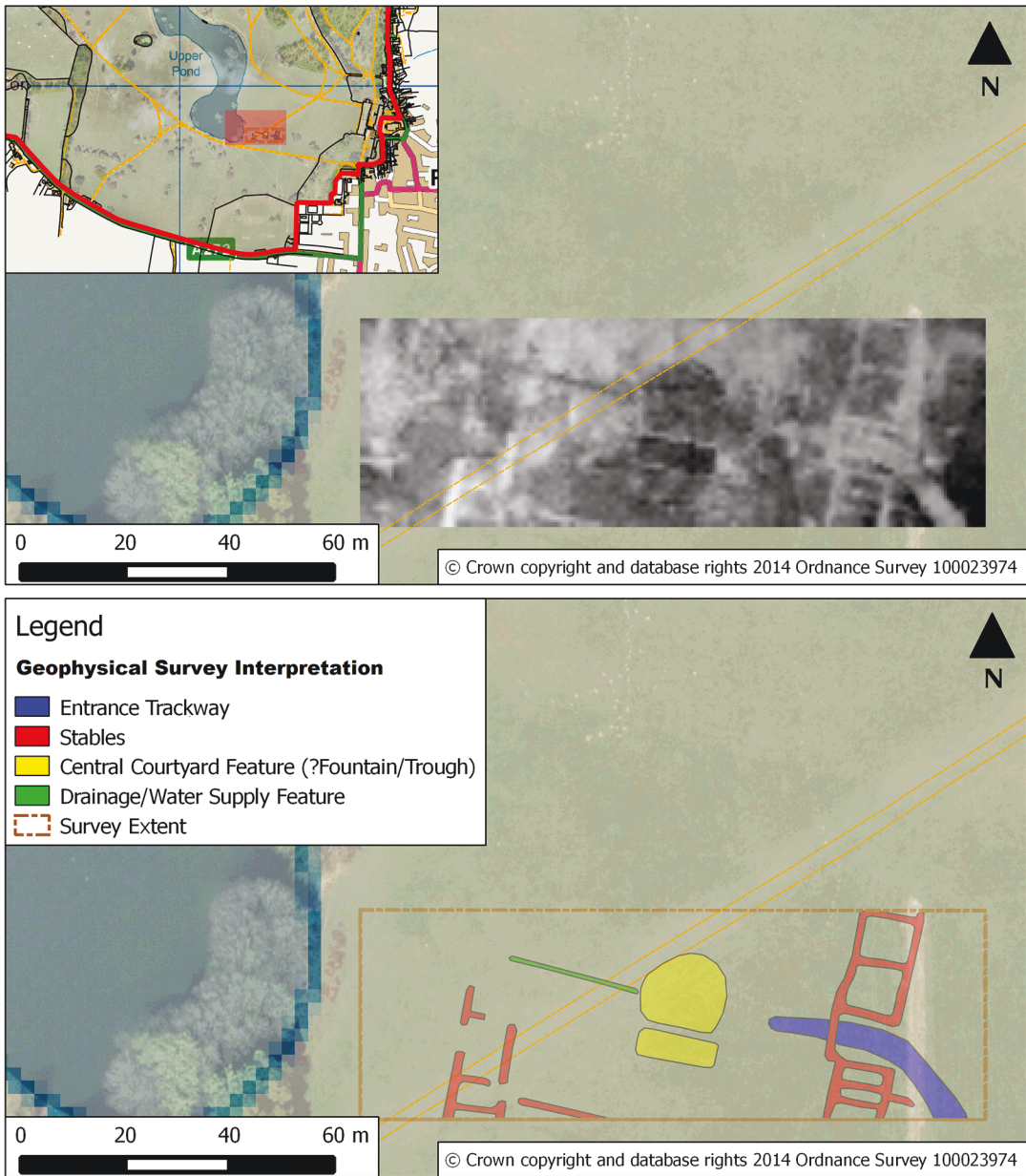


Fig. 13. Geophysical survey evidence for the 6th Duke's stables.

hard landscaping in the form of a large sandstone courtyard surface in Trench 2 (Fig. 12 [2/003]; [2/010]) with integrated pathways (Fig. 12 [2/012]), drains (Fig. 12 [2/009]) and flower beds (Fig. 12 [2/008]). Clearly then there are substantial remains of the formal gardens of this period, which suggest

a much more complex design than may be inferred simply from the documentary sources.

West of the Iron Court lay the Quarter Piece Lawn, forming the main designed avenue approach to the house, approximately 280m long and 100m wide. The quarter pieces were formed by

cross-paths aligned with the entrance to the Iron Court (running west–east) and the steps at the centre of the rampart terraces (running north–south and terminating at the southern end in the Porter's Lodges on Court Ditch Lane). Beyond the Quarter Piece Lawn were a series of ornamental water features, including a square pond and elaborate canal gardens. Both features now lie within the extents of the Upper Pond. A prerequisite for the creation of this avenue approach seems to have been the demolition of the 9th Earl's Stables. Daniel Defoe writing not later than 1722 noted that 'the west front looked not to the parks or fine gardens, but to the old [9th Earl's] stables. To rectify this, when it was too late to order it any other way, the duke was obliged to pull down those noble buildings' (Defoe 1924, 1: 133).

The 6th Duke's Stables were erected to replace these, probably shortly after the old stables were pulled down in 1712 (Rutherford 2008, 23). The new stables were located just 70m to the south of their predecessor on land newly acquired through the movement of Court Ditch Lane (details of these acquisitions can be found in PHA 6322–6325, correspondence between the 6th Duke and his steward). Maps indicate that the stables were of a similar size and layout to those of the 9th Earl, being a quadrangular structure with central courtyard, approximately 70m long and 80m wide, with an additional wing extending from the north-western corner into the area of the Upper Pond. After standing for less than a generation, this impressive building (for which no pictorial evidence has been found) was demolished by 1758 (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 9), perhaps in anticipation of the expansion of the Park in 1763. Crop-mark evidence for these stables was noted by Aldsworth (1980), and during field survey in January 2013 slight, but upstanding, earthworks were recorded showing the eastern portion of the stables. Subsequent geophysical survey (see Fig. 13) in April 2013 identified with impressive clarity the stables' layout, including internal divisions, a probable gatehouse entrance and features within the courtyard which may represent a large trough and fountain. Evidence of substantial buried structural remains is indicated by Turner (1862, 7) who noted that in 1862 '[i]n digging to lay in a drain ... from the south end of [the Upper Pond] across the park to the dog-kennels, the workmen came down, about six feet below the surface, to a large barrel-drain, which must,

unquestionably, have been the main-drain of these celebrated stables.'

As in the 17th century, the early 18th century saw limited development of the wider parkland, which continued as a very distinct element set apart from the gardens. At the end of the 17th century in association with the 6th Duke's rebuilding of the House, a brick kiln was established within the Park adjacent to the present boathouse, though no visible features were noted during field survey in 2013. A series of large oval depressions up to 40m diameter and 1m deep recorded northwest of Arbour Hill may represent the site of Old Lime Kilns marked on later 18th-century mapping (PHA 3606). Certainly there were lime kilns in operation in the Park during the early 1700s and the farm complex established in the 17th century west of the Upper Pond continued to operate. The impression remains very much one of a functional landscape.

THE EARLS OF EGREMONT

The 2nd Earl of Egremont's commission of the English landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown marked the final dramatic alteration of the parkland, a transformation which survives today and to a large extent defines how it is perceived. Petworth was one of Brown's earlier large-scale commissions. His involvement spanned 12 years and five contracts, and cost £5500 (Rutherford 2008, 31).

Brown's naturalistic approach was the antithesis of the ordered styles that preceded it, sweeping away the geometric formality of avenues and parterres to be replaced by gentle curves and serpentine (Laird 1999, 3), and Petworth was no exception. Brown's vision for the parkland in 1752 appears to have been oriented around a single large serpentine body of water, framed by tree clumps within a naturalistic landscape. The rampart terraces were smoothed over to create a natural form, and the Quarter Piece Lawn and 6th Duke's Iron Court replaced by a wide expanse of lawn.

The focal point of the parkland, the serpentine Upper Pond, was initially constructed in 1753 as part of Brown's first contract, referred to as the Horse Pond (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 7). Further work was needed in 1755 and again in 1757 when it required alterations in 'all its parts' (ibid., 8). The Pond was formed by building an enormous pond head spanning approximately 140m across the natural valley. Over a distance of 70m the earthen

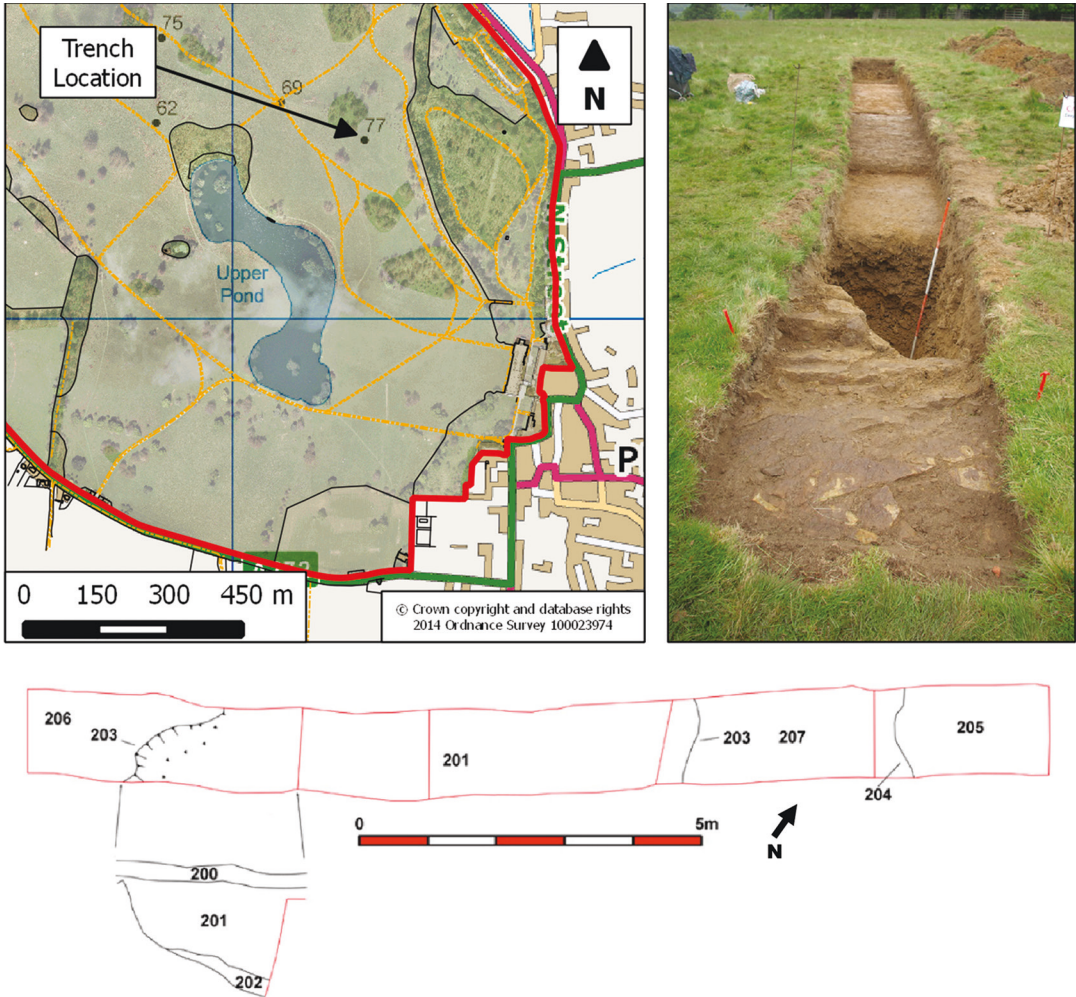


Fig. 14. Excavation (trench edges shown in red) identifying a stone quarry on Lawn Hill, most likely infilled by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown. Photograph facing northeast.

dam rises by 10m from the valley floor. The depth of the natural valley poses interesting questions whether features existing before the Pond’s construction (see Fig. 11) have been preserved, as it is unclear whether the ornamental ponds and canal gardens of the 6th Duke’s era were demolished in digging out the Pond or simply subsumed as a result of the pond head. The present pond head was created during further enlargement of the Upper Pond recorded in 1781 (PHA 12176).

There are several references in Brown’s contracts (PHA 6623) to ‘levelling’ in the Park (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 7–8). Away from the House the

extent of this work is difficult to identify. Limited geoarchaeological survey suggests a complex pattern of positive and negative landscaping near the House, while between the House and the Upper Pond a significant natural overburden appears to have been truncated by a natural hill being lowered (Wessex Archaeology 2013, 7). This could, however, be related to work undertaken in 1795–6 when the substantial sum of £3980 was paid for remodelling the south front of Lawn Hill and the West Lawn (Rutherford 2008, 37), during which it has been suggested that over 85,000 cubic yards of material was moved (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 11).



Fig. 15. Mapping for the sites of the Turkey Lodge (in yellow), the Kennels (in blue) and various outbuildings (in red), with details from the 1839 Petworth tithe map (WSRO TD/W 97).

The natural valley appears to have been narrowed to facilitate the Upper Pond's construction. This accords with descriptions from works around the edge of the Upper Pond encountering made ground to a depth of six feet, at which depth were encountered tile sherds and burnt timbers (Jumbo Taylor pers. comm. 2013), suggesting there has been considerable deposition of material over an earlier land surface. The absence of buried soils and turf lines suggests that Brown's method involved the removal of turf and topsoil before any landscaping was carried out (Wessex Archaeology 2013, 9), perhaps with these being replaced and relaid once the desired topography had been created.

Brown's influence saw the end to the division between the ornamental area of the House and gardens, and the functional area of the Park. Industrial structures, such as the estate buildings

(brewhouse, barns etc.) west of the Upper Pond, the large 18th-century brick kiln near the Upper Pond Boathouse and the lime kilns near Arbour Hill (shown on Crow's 1785 'Fair Plan' PHA 3606), were removed. Excavation on Lawn Hill also suggests significant landscaping, probably by Brown, including infilling of stone quarries (Fig. 14) and raising of ground levels to reduce the prevalence of the small summits which support clumps of trees (Anelay 2013, 10–13).

The new parkland created by Brown, both in the expansion of the parkland and in the naturalistic design which it was supposed to represent, required the 3rd Earl to reorganise some buildings. Thus the kennels, formerly situated on Snow Hill, were rebuilt adjacent to the private gardens at the south-eastern edge of the Park around 1800 (Fig. 15), before being replaced by the present Kennels on the north side

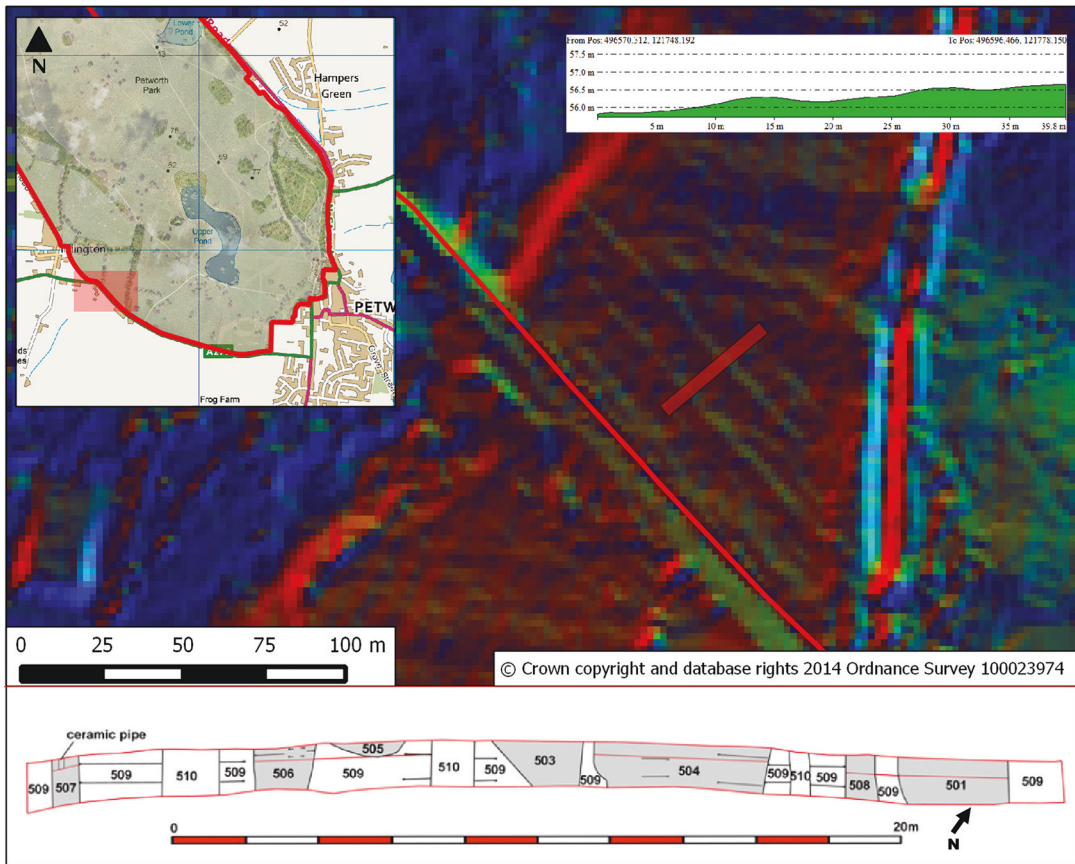


Fig. 16. Excavation in the Tillington paddocks (trench edges shown in red) investigating a pair of parallel banks visible in LIDAR data. This identified a series of surfaces relating to late 19th or early 20th-century use of the parkland.

in about 1875 (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 15). No structural features of the old kennels remain above the ground, although infilled arched doorways and windows preserved within the wall of the gardens may be associated.

With the demolition of the early 18th-century Porter's Lodges (sited next to the 6th Duke's Stables) which provided access onto the old Court Ditch Lane, a new lodge entrance was required from the recently created (now A272) route. The Turkey Lodge was built around 1783 at the southern edge of the Park (Colvin and Moggridge 2004, 14; Fig. 15). A complex of small outbuildings developed around the lodge, as shown on the 1838 tithe map for Petworth (WSRO TD/W 97). By 1897, however, the area had been completely cleared. The avenue leading north from the lodge into the parkland is

still visible as a low linear earthwork, while a large rectangular mound recorded at the point where this avenue meets the Park wall may represent its demolition.

Between the 3rd Earl's death in 1837 and the 1940s, few changes were made to the Park. Between 1839 and 1875 a thousand-yard volunteer rifle range was constructed, from a firing point directly south of the Lower Pond, west-northwest to the butts at the centre of the Concave. The butts have been bulldozed flat within the last 50 years (Wakeford pers. comm. 2013), but expended ammunition is still found in the area (National Trust 2013, 38).

Excavations in the Tillington paddocks in May 2013 appear to have identified some activity within the Park in the later 19th or early 20th century. A single trench was dug to investigate a pair of banks



Fig. 17. The Second World War camp near the Lower Pond, shown on aerial photography from 1947 (SU 92 SE). Some built elements remain at the site (inset).

adjacent and parallel to the Park wall, revealing a series of surfaces (Fig. 16 [TIL3/501], [TIL3/503–8]) composed of a mix of crushed chalk, clinker and burnt material, representing a cambered roadway (Fig. 16 [TIL3/504]), lengths of drainage (Fig. 16 [TIL3/506], [TIL3/507]) and areas of hard standing. It is possible that these features were linked to a fair or show (Anelay 2013, 24), or to the Remount Depot which was known to have been located in the Park in 1914–15 (PHA 11485–11487).

Much more extensive military use occurred during the Second World War. In 1941 a camp for

Canadian troops was built in the Park, on the north side of the Lower Pond, covering c. 6.5ha and shown on RAF aerial photographs of 1947 (Fig. 17). The Home Guard is known to have undertaken exercises within the Park, and in 1944 the 27th Armoured Brigade's 'swimming Shermans' were stationed here before D-Day (Readman 2012, 11). After the war the camp was retained to house displaced Poles who continued to live there into the 1950s. Photographs from the collection of George Garland (a professional photographer working in Petworth and West Sussex between 1922 and 1978) showing

'Polish children playing in Petworth Park' in 1957 suggest it continued long still. Robert Johnson recalled living in the camp as a child:

I was eight in 1951.... It was the first, and only, time I lived in a Nissen hut.... Unusual as they were with their semi-circular shape in corrugated metal, they seemed quite roomy with a large area containing kitchen with butler sink plus dining/living room and maybe a couple of bedrooms and bathroom. The one striking thing I remember is that when it rained the curved metal huts leaked like a sieve and many receptacles were laid out to catch the water. The winters were icy cold and we made good use of the free standing coal fuelled stove in the large area.... My Mother, Stepfather and I used to go to Leconfield Hall for the local hop. There were usually plenty of other kids there to play with while the parents jived and jitterbugged (Johnson nd).

The huts were demolished as they became empty, and subsequently the area seems to have been deliberately planted in order to conceal any other remains of the camp. Field survey in this area revealed a number of brick structures and earthworks possibly related to the camp's drainage system or to the remains of hut bases (see Fig. 17).

THIS BRAVE AND PRINCE-LIKE HOUSE: THE NORTH WING

As the culmination of the fieldwork element of the project a nine-day excavation was undertaken to coincide with the Festival of Archaeology in July 2013. Up to 20 volunteers assisted with the excavation each day, receiving training in all aspects of archaeological excavation, recording and finds processing. Local school groups visited the site to take an archaeological trail through the Park and get hands-on experience with excavation, finds washing, soil sieving and planning; and visitors were engaged with the work through guided tours of the site. Full details of the excavation and specialist reports can be found in the associated ADS Supplement.

These excavations focussed on the area of significant archaeological potential on the West Lawn, the site of the former North Wing of Petworth House. The proposed sequence of development of Petworth House (Waters 1997) suggests its origins

lie in a simple three-bayed hall in the 13th century, constructed in the area of the present Carved Room (Phase 1 in Fig. 18). During the 14th century a defensive tower (Phase 2 in Fig. 18) and the present Chapel (Phase 3 in Fig. 18) were added. By the late 14th century a new hall, the beginning of the North Wing, was built (Phase 4 in Fig. 18). Redevelopment took place during the 16th century (Phase 5 in Fig. 18) when the 8th Earl of Northumberland undertook extensive renovations to the house. According to the parish register he 'began in 1577 to repair the [mansion house] of Petworth ... and brought the water into every office of the said house', at a cost of nearly £7000 over the next five years (Turner 1862, 7). At this time the building comprised an 'L'-shaped layout, the East Wing occupying areas of the present House (the Carved Room, Red Room and Chapel) and the North Wing extending out into what is now the West Lawn.

Seventeenth-century cartographic (Fig. 7 Treswell's 1610 map) and pictorial (Fig. 10 Knyff's 1685 painting of the West Front) sources suggest the North Wing was further expanded (Phase 6 in Fig. 18). Indeed, the 9th Earl's intention, based on plans drawn up in 1615 (WSRO Add. MS. 18284; Fig. 19), appears to have been to undertake significant development, adding two further ranges to create a quadrangle with inner and outer courts to the north, though this plan seems not to have been executed, at least not in full.

The North Wing was demolished in 1692 as part of the extensive redevelopment by the 6th Duke of Somerset (Phase 7 in Fig. 18). A degree of preservation was indicated through crop-marks visible on aerial photography and a section of exposed masonry and brickwork noted during field survey in 2013 in the Ha-Ha ditch (Fig. 20). Geophysical survey undertaken with the assistance of Liss Archaeological Group in April 2013 recorded a series of adjoining rectilinear compartments arranged in two rows, each approximately 8m wide and up to 20m in length, extending c. 67m west-northwest from the north end of Petworth House (see Fig. 20).

Three of the four trenches (Fig. 20 Trenches 3–5) encountered surviving elements of the 'lost' North Wing, including the remains of floors, external and internal walls and drains (Fig. 21). *In situ* evidence of floors was uncovered in Trenches 3, 4 and 5, comprising the mortar bed with clear impressions of where tiles had been laid and subsequently

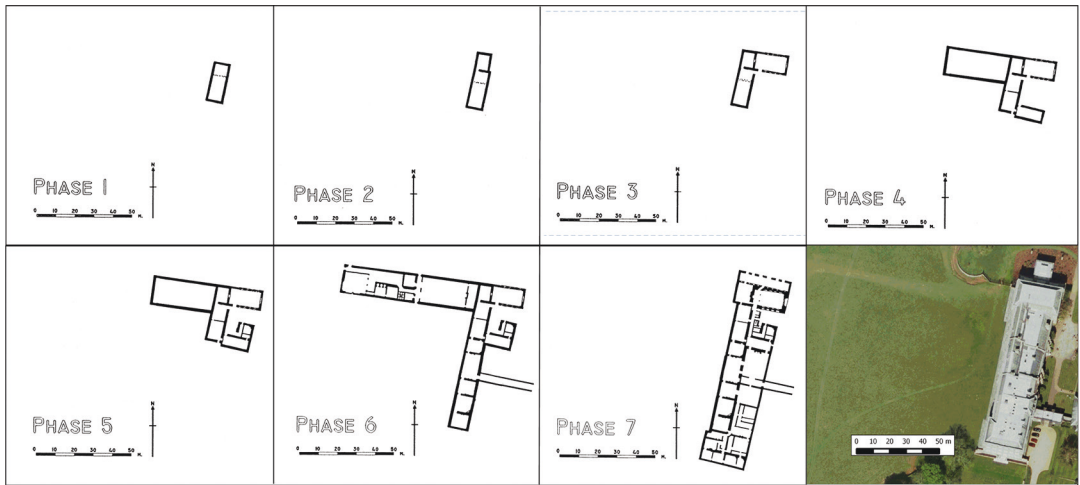


Fig. 18. Proposed sequence of development of Petworth House, showing the 14th-century development (Phase 4) and 18th-century demolition (Phase 7) of the North Wing (Waters 1997).



Fig. 19. The 9th Earl's plans of 1615 for development of the House complex.

removed, presumably at the time of the demolition (Fig. 22 [3/006]; Fig. 23 [4/009]; Fig. 24 [5/005] and [5/008]). Some evidence for tile-built drains beneath this flooring (Fig. 22 [3/014]) was also identified (Archaeology South-East 2013, 6).

External walls, up to 1.1m wide, built of local sandstone and bonded with an off-white, chalky mortar were encountered in Trenches 3 and 4, surviving in places up to 450mm height (Fig. 23

[4/008] and [4/003]), though elsewhere the walls had been completely removed to their footings (Fig. 22 [3/010]). This provides an internal width of the North Wing at 12.6m. The masonry [3/003] encountered in Trench 3 (Fig. 22) post-dates the North Wing and is most likely a path or, given its adverse camber, a drain associated with the period of the 6th Duke of Somerset's formal gardens. Excavation further to the west (Trench 2 in Fig. 21) failed to identify the continuation of the North Wing, possibly because for lack of time the trench was not dug deep enough to expose it (Archaeology South-East 2013, 32). Excavation further east (Trench 5, Fig. 24) was unable to identify the southern wall of the North Wing, as projected from the footings recorded in Trench 3 (see Fig. 21).

Several phases of drains were excavated in association with the wall in Trench 3. Brick and stone-built drains (Fig. 22 [3/012], [3/013], [3/015]) extending from (and built into) the wall footings were recorded cutting through a tile-built drain parallel to the wall (Fig. 22 [3/011]). This earlier tile-built drain incorporated floor tiles re-used as drain covers, both glazed (likely to date to the later 15th century) and unglazed (probably 1600–1700). These materials and the quantity of Transitional (1450–1575) wares recovered, constituting nearly 20% of the assemblage by both weight and sherd count, offer a glimpse of earlier occupation, a building which may have been largely replaced/rebuilt

in the later 16th century, being recorded as it was in a state of decay in 1576 (Batho 1957, 4).

Across the site these remains were overlain by a layer of debris up to about 0.50m deep, relating to the

demolition of the building and subsequent levelling. The debris contained a range of structural materials, such as tile, stone, lead from the roof and significant numbers of large nails to hold the roof timbers in

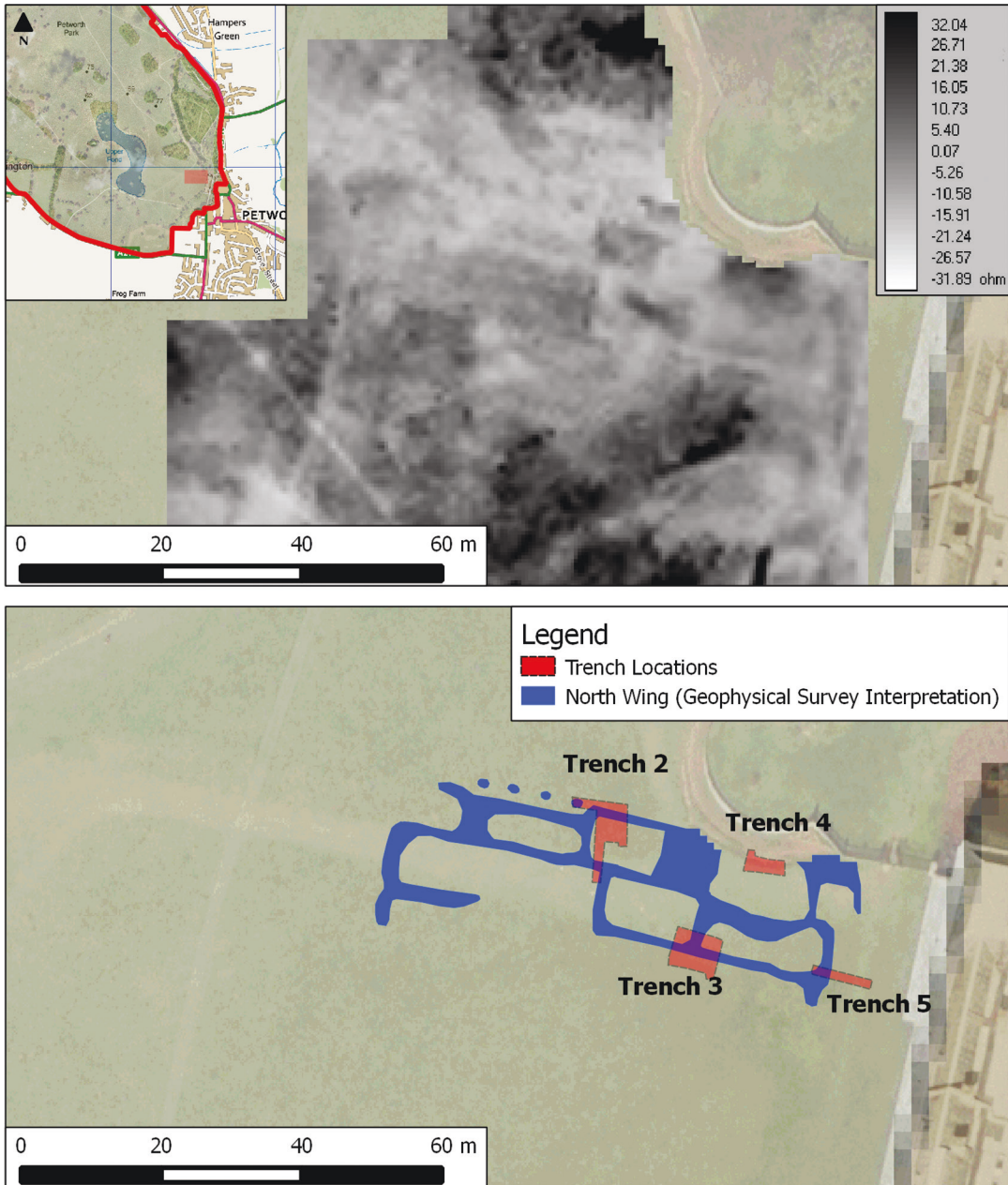


Fig. 20. Geophysical survey evidence for the 17th-century North Wing of Petworth House (top), and interpretation of related features in blue and trench locations in red (bottom).

place. Plasterwork, still adhering to *in situ* walls (Fig. 23 [4/008]) and as fragments within the debris, offers an insight into both the aesthetics and the construction of the building. It appears that much of the wall plaster was painted in strong colours, and that there were a variety of intricate mouldings

mostly of floral or foliate designs. Interestingly, one example had been remoulded, perhaps as an attempt to follow a changing fashion (Archaeology South-East 2013, 32). Decorative runs in the form of narrow ribs would have formed a patterned lattice over walls or ceilings, enclosing further decorative elements.

The impressions on the reverse of some fragments that the wall plaster was applied directly onto brickwork, although the majority show lathe impressions of between c. 20–40mm in width on the reverse, perhaps suggesting timber partitions. At least one piece of flat wall plaster shows a probable wattle impression (ibid., 20).

Further insights into the décor of the North Wing included decorative lead mounts, elaborate moulded plaster cornices and dark green glazed ‘fish-scale’ roof tiles. Lead window came and fine tracery hint at expensive patterned windows, and the presence of a cross-shaped piece of came is suggestive of a diamond pattern to the leaded lights (Archaeology South-East,

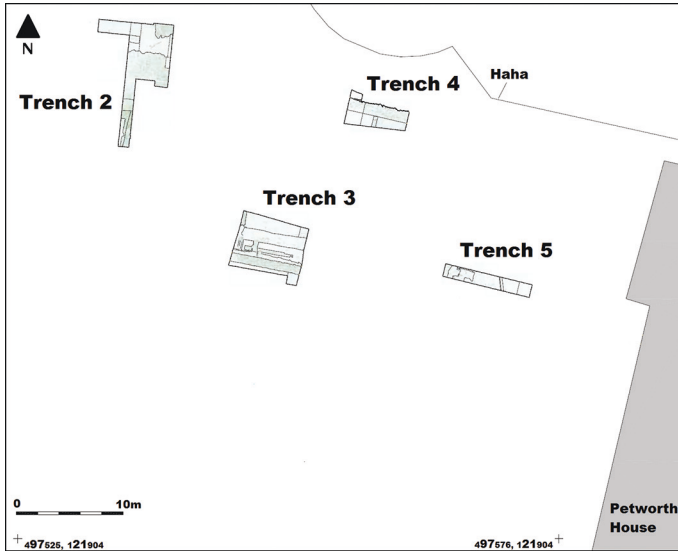


Fig. 21. Overview of North Wing trenches.

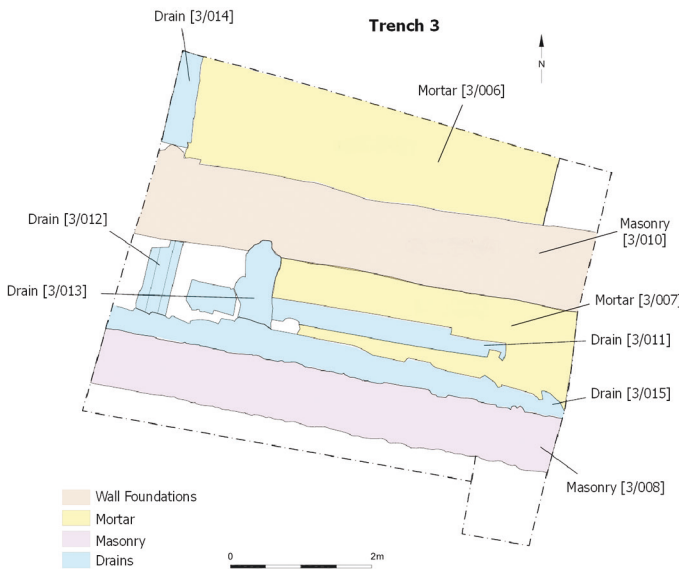


Fig. 22. North Wing excavations, Trench 3. Photographs looking west (top) and east during the excavations (bottom).

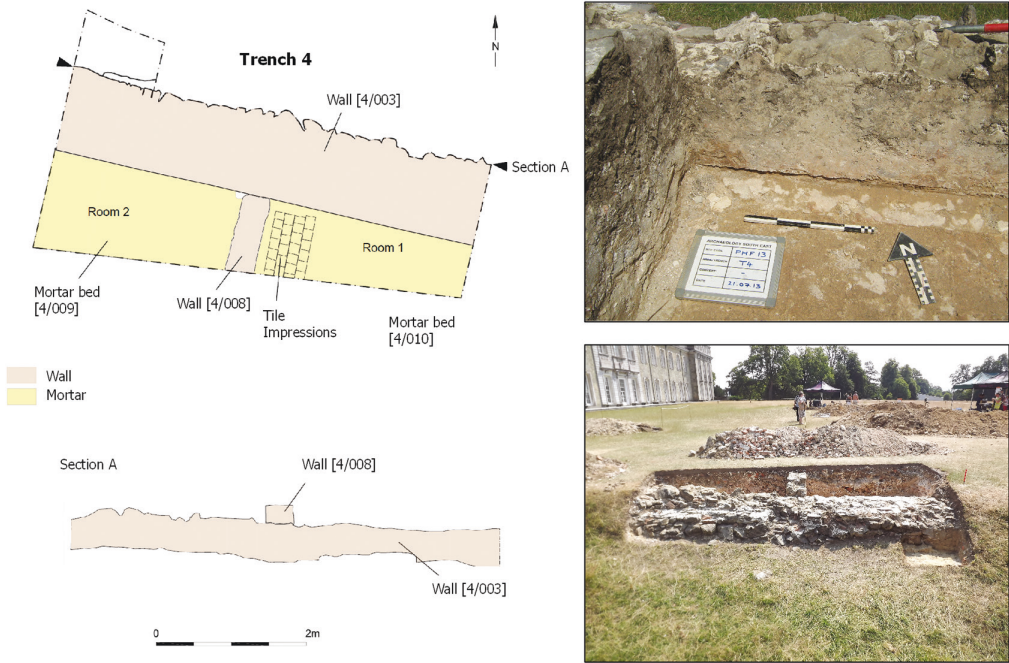


Fig. 23. North Wing excavations, Trench 4. Photographs showing 'Room 2' (top) and Trench 4 looking south (bottom).

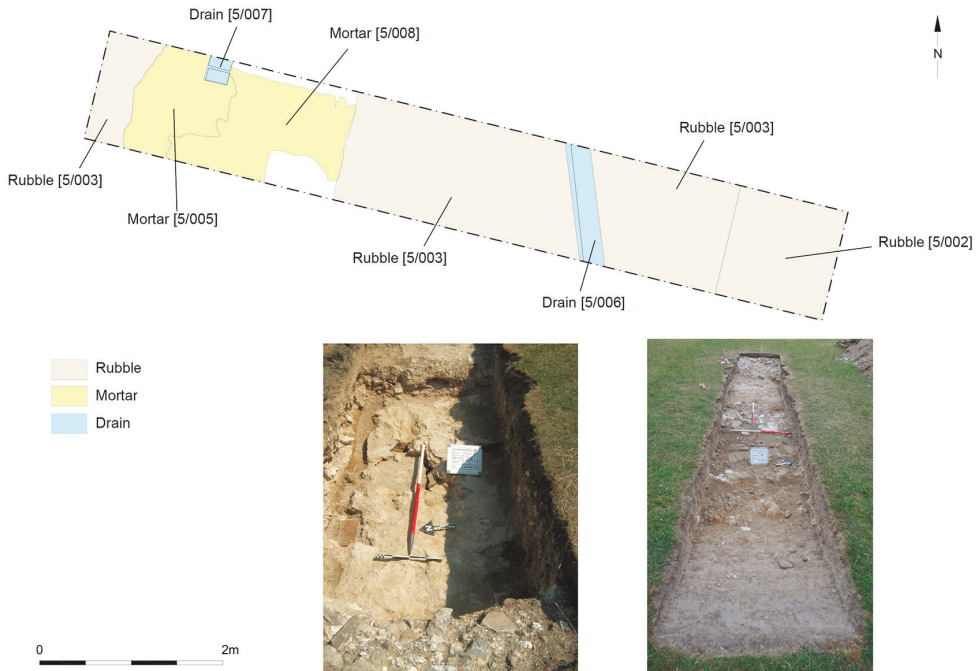


Fig. 24. North Wing excavations, Trench 5. Photographs showing mortar [5/005] looking east (left) and Trench 5 looking west (right).

30). Imported pottery (11.5% of the assemblage), fragments of glass goblets and jars (including 12 high-quality turquoise fragments likely to be from an *albarello*-type jar) and clay pipes were recovered, as well as adornments such as dress pins and a fragment of a glass vessel bearing an applied seal with the Percy family arms dated to 1650–82 (ibid., 8; Fig. 25).

The demolition of the above-ground elements of the structure appears to have been very thorough. Clear evidence of the recycling of structural materials was encountered: a lump of lead bearing the impression of the inner base of a vessel or crucible may indicate lead retrieved during the

demolition was melted down (ibid., 30). Although the site produced much in the way of building rubble, cut ashlar blocks and other well-worked stone were rare, suggesting wholesale dismantling of the North Wing to provide building stone for renovations to the House itself which were in progress at the end of the 17th century (ibid., 32).

CONCLUSION

The project has demonstrated the extensive archaeological resource within the Park and the need for archaeological fieldwork, combined with archival research, to enhance our understanding of its complex development. Several specific sites and broader themes have emerged which merit further archaeological study through both non-intrusive and intrusive investigation. The nature of the origins and early development of the Park to the 16th century remains largely the subject of conjecture, while the scale and implementation of Brown's landscape designs are only partly understood. The below-ground survival of elements of the 6th Duke of Somerset's stables, the 18th-century formal gardens, the medieval settlement at Tillington and the estate buildings around Snow Hill, all merit further targeted investigations with the potential to enhance our understanding of how the Park once functioned and its impact on the wider landscape.

Moreover, the project has shown the efficacy of undertaking such work as a community archaeology initiative. The project owes much of its success to the hard work and dedication of the team of volunteers. While many were seasoned members of local archaeological societies, for others it was their first exposure to archaeology. The project has allowed a range of groups to engage directly and indirectly with the archaeology of the Park, including over 200 children from local schools



Fig. 25. Reconstruction of a wine bottle based on a fragment of a glass vessel bearing an applied seal with the Percy family arms, recovered during excavation.

during the excavations. It is hoped that this level of interest will contribute to securing a lasting legacy for the project and further investigations to delve deeper into Petworth Park's hidden past.

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Author: Tom Dommert, Regional Archaeologist (West Sussex and South Downs), Wisley Hub, 1–2 The Courtyard, Wisley, Surrey, GU23 6QL

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ADS SUPPLEMENT CONTENTS

Archaeology South-East 2013. Festival of British Archaeology 2013. Community excavation at Petworth House, Petworth, West Sussex. Full report.