

**Archaeological watching briefs
at Chawton House, Hampshire,
1997-2000**

NGR: SU 709 370

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Report to Sandy Lerner and the Chawton House Library

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Summary statement

Excavations in the vicinity of Chawton House found much residual evidence of previous medieval occupation, but little that was considered to be *in situ*. Previous documentary research had suggested that the manor was of some importance during this period, being frequently visited by Henry III (1216-72) and his son, Edward I (1272-1307). The archaeological evidence suggested that either the site of this medieval manor was not excavated, or that it was destroyed in the extensive relandscaping of the post-medieval period. The only structural element of possible medieval date was a stone wall found near the furthest extremity of the excavations, 250m NW of the house. This was thought to be part of a medieval precinct wall, suggesting a large extent to the contemporary layout, presuming the manor was on or near the site of the present house.

The present house seems to have been built partly on a levelled platform, with a short valley to the north being partly infilled with materials containing residual medieval pottery and building materials that included much West Country slate, a popular roof covering on medieval buildings in southern Hampshire before the 14th century. A number of late medieval/early post-medieval rubbish pits were located at various points around the present building.

The archaeological excavations revealed large-scale earthmoving in the area around the house to create a succession of elaborate designed landscapes. Considerable evidence for an extensive formal garden was revealed extending over a number of hectares. A series of terraces were found running down the hillside in front of the house. These were approached via a series of steps, the remains of at least one set being recorded. Also recorded on the main front were a series of brick walled enclosures adjoining the late Elizabethan stables. The terraces and enclosures closely matched the layout shown on a picture of the house and grounds known as the 'Mellichamp painting'. Although this was initially dated to the period 1740-50, the fact that it showed significant differences to a plan of 1741 has now prompted the suggestion that it is possibly earlier than originally thought.

To the south of the house, the terminal of the garden terraces was found about 150m away. This was also possibly descended by steps. After a short level space, the remains of a large brick walled garden was found, with an entrance not far from the postulated position of these steps. This garden is clearly marked on an estate plan of 1741. The walls were traced over a considerable distance, confirming the large extent of this feature. At a date after 1741 the outer three walls of the walled garden were demolished, leaving the north wall to be used as a ha ha. Soil was built up to the top of this wall, thus increasing levels from the previous formal terrace by over 0.5m. This probably represented the first phase of informalising the Chawton landscape, turning it into an 'English Landscape Garden' design so often described in the novels of Chawton's most famous female resident, Jane Austen (1775-1817).

It is not known how long the old formal garden wall remained in use as a ha ha, but in the next phase of informal landscaping, an earthen slope was created from the top of the former ha ha southwards. A plan of c. 1810 shows the alignment of the wall as a staggered line,

and although it is possible that this shows the 'hidden' boundary represented by the ha-ha, it is thought it had been buried by this time. This suggests that Edward Austen Knight was probably responsible, altering this line soon after inheriting the estate in 1794. Between 1810 and the tithe map of 1839 the second outer boundary seems to have been abandoned and the present outer alignment adopted. This was probably to extend the limits of the Pleasure Grounds further to reach their present boundary. This levelled ground was later used excavated to create a swimming pool. On the removal of this feature in 1997 a clear section showing all the changes described above was revealed.

Although the excavations were limited to watching the installation of services, and the removal of the swimming pool, at least two phases of formal and three phases of informal design were revealed. This has helped considerably in understanding the development of the landscape around Chawton House from the medieval times to the present.

Archaeological watching briefs at Chawton House, 1997-2000 (centred on NGR: SU 709370)

This report has been written based on the format suggested by English Heritage in *The management of archaeological projects* (London, 1992, revised edition). The ordering of information follows the guidelines given in this document, although alterations may have been made to fit in with the particular requirements of the work. This report also pays attention to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (Birmingham, 1994).

1.0 Introduction (Figs. 1-2)

Chawton House, near Alton, Hampshire has been obtained to house a collection of early English women's writing, and to act as a research library for those studying this subject. The house had been partly empty for a number of years, following a failed attempt to convert it into a hotel and golf course, and was in urgent need of repair. In conjunction with the refurbishment of Chawton House and its associated outbuildings, new services were installed, and other associated works undertaken between May 1997 and July 2000. Intermittent landscaping works were also undertaken in the grounds. A series of archaeological watching briefs conducted by C K Currie of CKC Archaeology observed this work. This report follows on from an earlier assessment of the archaeology of the estate (Currie 1995).

The work was commissioned by Sandy Lerner and Chawton House Library (the Centre for the Study of Early English Women's Writing), the present leasee of the estate.

2.0 Historical background

The core of the present Chawton House is thought to have been built in the late 16th century by the Knight family. It replaced a medieval manor that had once been a seat of the powerful St. John family. It was once thought that the medieval house was on the site of the Elizabethan stables to the west of the present house, but this has recently been shown not be the case (Roberts & Grover 1997).

Chawton is an ancient settlement in the north-east part of Hampshire. At Domesday it was in the large hundred of Neatham, where there is the site of a small Roman town. This was subsequently divided into the hundred of Alton and Selborne. Chawton was allocated to the hundred of Alton.

The Domesday settlement appears to have been moderately well settled, with a recorded population of 33, and an assessment of 10 hides (Munby 1982, 23.25). From the 12th century, the manor was part of the large estates of the St. John family, where it remained until the middle of the 14th century. At one time it was considered that Chawton was an out-of-the-way place of little importance (Leigh & Knight 1911). Recent research has shown that during the heyday of the St. John family's ownership, the manor house was used

as a regular stopping off point for the royal court of Henry III (1216-72) and his son Edward I (1272-1307) on their journeys between London and Winchester via the royal palace at Guildford.

Henry III stayed here on numerous occasions, issuing letters from Chawton. In preparation for these visits, regular tuns of wine were sent from Southampton to Chawton (see Appendix 2), and the manor seems to have had its own private chapel and all the trappings of a high status residence. Royal visits seemed to decrease after the death of Edward I, the last recorded king to stay at Chawton being the young Edward III in 1331 (Currie 1995). On the failure of the male St. John line in 1349, the manor declined in status, and passed through a number of absentee owners, finally devolving to Elizabeth, wife of Lord de la Warr. When de la Warr died in 1554, his half-brother, Leonard West sold it to Thomas Arundel of Ewhurst. His son, William, sold the estate outright to Nicholas Knight in 1578. The Knight family had leased the site of the manor house since at least 1524 (St. John Hope & Peers 1903, 496-7).

The Chawton House estate has been inhabited by various branches of the Knight family until very recently, and has strong connections with Jane Austen, the novelist. She lived in the village in the former estate bailiffs' cottage from 1809 until shortly before her death in 1817. Her brother Edward had inherited the Chawton estate in 1794, thereafter adopting the name of Knight (St John Hope & Peers 1903, 497). The Knight family has recently sold a long lease on the estate to Sandy Lerner, for the creation of the Chawton House Library as a centre for the study of early English women's writing.

3.0 Strategy

The archaeological observations recorded in this report were made on an occasional basis over a period of over three years. The strategy followed that outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*, (Birmingham, 1994), and a brief issued by Hampshire County Council (April 1997). All the work recorded here was watched personally by C K Currie MIFA, and recorded by him. The work sought to identify and record the location, nature, extent, date, character and relationships of any archaeological deposits, which were exposed during the course of the refurbishment of Chawton House and its outbuildings. The principle aims of the work was to find evidence for the existence of an earlier medieval manor house with royal connections, and to record the development of the post-medieval manor and its adjoining designed landscape.

4.0 Results (Figs. 3-9)

4.1 Manor House (stable block) service installation, May-June 1997 (Fig. 3)

This installation was divided into three 'trenches' for convenience. Trench 1 was the section that ran along the west side of the west range of farm buildings north of the old stables (now converted to a residence, and known as the Manor House). This trench was not straight, but meandered unevenly following an approximate parallel course with the farm

buildings, but mirroring projections from that wall. Trench 2 turned at a right-angle to the south end of trench 1 behind the Manor House. It then swung NE and followed an approximate straight line to a telegraph post on the east side of the old farmyard. Trench 3 turned at an approximate right-angle to trench 2, and followed a straight line roughly parallel with the east wall of the west range of farm buildings (see Fig. 3).

4.1.1 Trench 1

This was approximately 64m in length. A number of structural foundations were located along this line. Near the north end was a brick drain (01), that appeared to run from the west into a large brick culvert (02) through which flows the Lavant stream. This drain was made of red-brown bricks. It was 0.5m wide and at a depth of 0.48m. It was not dismantled as the services passed over the top of it. It seemed to comprise of outer edges made of bricks on edge, with a covering of three courses of bricks laid flat.

A larger brick culvert (02) was located about 3m to the SE. This was a substantial structure whose dimensions normally exceeded the trench width. The section seen was at an angle to the trench, and that section seen was 0.7m wide. However, only the top of this feature was seen, and the full extent was much larger.

About 2m SE a brick foundation was encountered (03). This was a single brick in width (0.23m wide), and appeared to make a structure with a similar foundation 2m to the south. They were at a depth between 0.21 and 0.28m. Approximately 3m further south another pair of brick foundations were encountered (05, 06), 2m apart, at a depth of 0.20-0.25m. Feature 06 was cut through by the contractors. It proved to be only two bricks deep, and a single brick wide.

About 1.8m further south was another foundation of a different nature (10). This was a stone mortared foundation 0.42m wide, made of coarse uncut malmstone blocks. A section of better-made, cut stone survived as the uppermost coarse. This wall was first found at a depth of 0.25m, but was not fully excavated as the services did not intend to disturb it further. It appeared to be within a mortar-filled cut (11), but this was not easy to recognise on the north side.

A right-angled foundation (07) in brick was located 5m south of the stone wall. This was a double brick on edge in width (0.24m), with the north arm at right-angles to the existing buildings. It was at a depth of 0.2m. A continuation of the brick culvert carrying the Lavant stream, here given context number 08, was located 5m to the SSW of 07. This followed the trench alignment for about 12m, before the trench swung east of its alignment.

The next feature was a mainly flint wall with some brick (13). This was about 12m south of where the culvert was last recorded, and 11.6m from the south end of the trench. A thin layer of chalk (16) butted against it on the south side. This extended southwards by about 3m. No construction cut was visible, although there was considerable brick rubble (14) over the foundation.

The most southerly feature discovered in this trench was the disturbed remains of what appeared to be a destroyed brick culvert (18). This had been broken into by recent disturbance, and had been covered over by a concrete slab. The culvert was about 1m wide, and filled with a dark organic layer. It appeared to be at right-angles to the main Lavant stream culvert, with which it was probably once connected. It seems to extend southwards under the west range of farm buildings. It did not appear to emerge on the other side of these buildings where trench 3 was excavated parallel with the east wall of the range.

4.1.2 Trench 2

This trench was 70m in length, cutting across the area now serving as the gardens of the Manor House and 'Dovecote' (both now converted to residences). There was little of interest within this trench, it being made up of largely disturbed soils to the shallow depths excavated. The foundations of a brick wall (23) were located 18m from the eastern end. This was made of frogless red bricks, and seemed to continue the alignment eastwards of a garden wall forming the north edge of the Manor House garden.

4.1.3 Trench 3

This trench was 22m in length. Like trench 2, it comprised largely disturbed ground within the Manor House garden. Two brick structures were located. The first, 14m from the south end, was made of brick and flint (20). This was three (widthways) bricks wide, and seemed to terminate in nodules of flint, giving the impression of being the end of a buttress. The second feature was 1.8m farther north, being a single brick width foundation (22). A piece of 19th-century stoneware embedded into dirt abutting the wall suggested a late date.

4.2 Removal of the swimming pool: Trench 4, October 1997 (Figs. 4 & 6)

Trench 4 was the recording work done on the removal of the swimming pool about 200m SSW of Chawton House. This had been disused for many years, became overgrown and hidden by scrub woodland. It was cut into a hillside containing traces of old garden terraces on the north and east sides, giving the opportunity to record these sections once the pool had been removed. The west and south sides were recently made ground forming earth ramps leading up to the edges of the pool. They contained no archaeology of any interest.

The remaining sections revealed that much of the hillside into which the pool was cut were old garden terrace build-ups of various dates. Only about 0.5m of gravely clay seen at the bottom of the west facing section seemed to be part of the original stratigraphy (context 36). This seemed to be largely undisturbed, although it was cut into by the construction cut (39) for a brick garden wall (38).

Nearly nine courses of this wall survived. It was four courses (0.55m) wide, with a surviving height of 0.75m. The wall seems to have been built flush against the southern side of the construction cut. On the north side this cut survived for a width of 0.2m, having brick rubble in the bottom, and a redeposited gravely clay above (context 40). The wall was aligned in a NW-SE direction, with the foundations still being visible on the ground surface

once the pool had been removed. About 4.3m from the west facing section, this wall had a built end (a gap being on the SE side of the built end, between it and the section), suggesting an entry to the walled enclosure from the NE (house) side.

About 6m NE of the wall, layer 36 was overlain by a grey-brown clay loam containing abundant small chalk fragments. This was picked up in the south facing section, having a bank-like profile (28). This was further overlain by a thick wedge of chalky clay dump material (29). This was only about 0.15m thick in the west facing section, but was up to 0.7m high in the south facing section. It was overlain by a deposit of mainly rammed chalk, being, on average 0.15m thick (contexts 26/30). This latter layer sloped evenly down to the west in the south facing section. In the west facing section, it ran approximately level for about 3.8m from the north end of the section, before dropping gently down towards the south. At the point where the layer began to drop, what appeared to be a single line of bricks was encountered.

Overlying these layers was a thick dump of further clay with chalk rubble (contexts 25/29). This was up to 1.15m thick in places. It came to an abrupt stop in line with the remains of the garden wall. This gave the impression, by the straight line of its end that the wall had survived to a greater height than the present remains at the time of deposition. About 2m north of the wall line, this layer was overlain by the beginnings of a dark grey-brown layer up to 0.2m thick (context 31).

This layer continued over the line of the wall, overlaying mainly dump layers to the south of the wall. Taking the earlier of these first, these comprised a thin layer (up to 0.05m thick) of brick rubble in a clay matrix (context 35). Next came a thick tapering wedge of gravely clay (context 34), up to 0.78m thick, followed by a layer of chalky material (context 33). The latter followed a gently sloping downward line to the south. It was immediately underlying context 31.

Overlying all these layers was a clay dump, with many large flints in its upper levels (contexts 24/32). Until it reached the line of the former brick wall, it was up to 0.5m thick. South of the wall line, it gradually thickened to a depth of nearly 0.8m. At the far south end of the west facing section, it overlay another dump layer of chalky clay (context 37). Context 37 overlay the grey loamy layer 31, the latter continuing a southwards descent beyond the end of the west facing section.

Finally both sections were topped off by the remains of the concrete surround of the former swimming pool.

4.3 Chawton House: recording during building alterations, October 1998-August 1999 (Figs. 5, 7 & 8)

4.3.1 Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

This 'trench' developed from a call-out to record a brick culvert (context 45) revealed by the demolition of a late Victorian kitchen extension in the Central Courtyard between 5th and 7th October 1998. Excavation was undertaken around the culvert to try to establish its date. This led on to further discoveries that are here recorded.

The demolished extension was a single-storey kitchen range in the SW corner of the Central Courtyard. This range was 6.64m N-S by 4.64m E-W, with a short adjunct in the SE corner 1.3m N-S by 0.67m E-W. This adjunct is said to have contained a corner chimney. The building was made of red brick, with outer walls 0.48m thick on the east side and 0.6m thick on the north side. Elsewhere it butted against pre-existing walls. There were a number of internal partition walls, and other features, such as an access to cellars. When the site was visited, much of the internal foundations were covered in rubble. A plan was made of the main walls, including what appeared to be the main internal partition walls (contexts 50 and 51).

Excavation was restricted to accessible areas to south of wall 51. A number of factors influenced the decision on where to excavate. These included the position of existing scaffold supports, and obvious later disturbance. The areas examined included the strip, 3.68m by 1.1m (maximum), between wall 50 and the brick culvert (context 45), and a small area, 1.5m by 0.85m, on the east side of wall 50. This work gave a keyhole view on the surviving archaeology beneath the demolished structure.

In the area to the west of wall 50, a rubble layer (context 46) was removed to reveal a compacted chalk layer (context 47), with lenses of clayey loam within. A number of features cut into this layer, the most obvious being the brick culvert (45). This culvert was made of thinner bricks characteristic of the Tudor or early Stuart period. It appeared to have originally been of a circular nature, although only the bottom half survived. Where the culvert went under wall 51, the sub-circular profile could still be seen. About a metre before the south wall of the extension, it had been altered to form a small brick lined sump, with a slate floor. This appeared to have been fed by a lead lined channel coming from a possible downpipe attached to the pre-extension south wall. Builders working behind this wall failed to find any trace of the culvert continuing in its projected direction, finding only the infill of what appeared to be a later cellar.

Also cutting layer 47 were two other features. The latest of these was a linear gully (context 53) at approximate right angles to the brick culvert. This contained much brick rubble, but little other dating evidence. The bricks were generally thicker, later types, suggesting an 18th century or later date. The gully was 0.4m wide and over 0.4m deep. It was not fully excavated once its late date had been established. This gully cut through an earlier cut (context 48). This cut included two rows of stone (contexts 55 and 56). The first of these (55) was aligned E-W, and formed the edge of cut 53. It was made of unmortared pieces of

malmstone and flint; the latter fashioned into rough blocks. The cut 53 had obviously respected these stones by following their southern edge. Structure 55 was associated with a second similar structure (56). This was at right angles to 55, and extended only as far as the northern edge of cut 48, a length of about 0.7m. The stones in feature 56 had later been incorporated as part of the foundation of the later brick wall 50. They may have become partly mortared together as a result of this incorporation. On the removal of the line of stones in feature 55, a piece of medieval coarseware pottery was found under one of the stones. The fill of the cut 48 was little deeper than the depth of the stones. It contained medieval pottery, but as the layer it was cut into (context 47) also contained medieval pot, these could have been residual.

Layer 47 was removed to reveal further layers of compacted chalk in varying clayey matrices (contexts 57 and 58). These continued to contain clay roof tile and West Country slate fragments, together with medieval ceramics. The layers were becoming increasingly free of artefacts when excavation ceased, but it is not thought that undisturbed levels had been reached. These layers contained pottery types that ranged from the 12th century through to the later medieval period, suggesting probable deposition in the 14th century or later.

On the east side of wall 50 similar compacted clay layers were encountered. For the most part, these had been cut into by a large pit (61) that contained a dirty fill (context 62), containing abundant inclusions of charcoal and bone. The fill became increasing cleaner and more clayey (context 65) towards the bottom of the pit. The full extent of the pit was not excavated as it continued eastwards beyond the accessible limits of the trench. The pit contained much clay roof tile and mainly medieval pottery. Two later sherds, a small piece of stoneware of possible late 15th-early 17th-century date, and a base of a tin-glazed vessel, put the dating of this pit possibly into the 17th century. However, an absence of clay pipe or any other obviously post-16th-century material suggested that the pit may have been backfilled early in the 17th century. Alternatively, the tin-glazed ware represents a later partial disturbance of the pit that was not clearly detectable during excavation, thereby making the date for the pit late 15th or 16th century.

In the far NE corner, this pit had been cut through by a later pit (context 63). It underlay wall 51. This contained much brick rubble, and was thought to be a later post-medieval feature.

4.3.2 Trench 6 (Fig. 8)

This 'trench' involved the partial excavation of a small rectangular area within part of the demolished/alterd area within the Central Courtyard on 19th October 1998. It was restricted to an area approximately 1.45m square by the existence of a cellar to the west. Demolition of the later 19th-century range to the north had left it unroofed, although it is not known what is to be its final fate.

Two brick walls crossed this area. The uppermost was a relatively recent brick wall (feature 68) that crossed the area on a N-S alignment. This was probably an internal division of an

18th- or earlier 19th-century extension in the SW corner of the Central Courtyard. Below it, but on a SE-NW alignment was a second brick wall (feature 69). This was not mortared together, being three course of bricks laid widthways. These bricks were generally of the 'thin' type, being 23x11x5 cms, with occasional bricks being of 6cms width. Some of the bricks were distorted and/or glazed, suggesting possible waster material used in the wall construction. This wall seemed to butt against a stone foundation on the south side of the investigated area. On the west of the wall, the south side of the area ended in a relatively modern brick blocking of poor execution.

Below wall 69 was a dirty grey chalky clay layer (context 70). This had been cut by the construction cut for the cellar (feature 67). The fill of the cut was contaminated by fairly recent materials in the upper layers, but was otherwise of a possible 18th-century date, containing only contemporary glass as dating evidence.

Layer 70 contained some brick fragments, suggesting a post-medieval date. Other than this there was no dating evidence, although the light brown clay layer (context 72) below it seemed to be of medieval date, contained ceramics in the 12th-14th century date range. Although not excavated further, this layer may have been infill alongside a area of apparently partly mortared chalk (context 71). This latter layer was mysterious, and the restricted excavation prevented anything further being said of it apart from its unnatural appearance. It was not excavated beyond this preliminary investigation.

4.3.3 Trench 7 (Fig. 5)

This 'trench' involved the recording of soil removal and levelling works on the north and east sides of the main house in order to level the ground there. The recording was carried out on 8th December 1998.

Within the narrow gap between the east side of the main house and the outbuildings to the north (now the Manager's Office), works revealed a stone-capped drain. About 6m in length was revealed. It comprised what appear to be large, irregular, reused stone slabs [context 74] of different sizes overlying a brick-walled culvert or drain [context 75]. The brick sides of this structure were vertical, and did not appear to be particularly early, being possibly 18th century or later. Near the NE corner of the main house, drain 74/75 met another similar drain at right angles to it, coming from the outbuildings on the east [stone slabs on top - context 76; vertical brick walls - context 77].

4.3.4 Trench 8 (Figs. 2-3)

This trench was dug parallel with the east wall of a barn immediately to the north of the stable block. This barn has been used as a garage. The repair work involved replacing the foundations on the east side. A previous trench (trench 3) had followed this line only about 0.5m to the east in May 1997.

The old foundations that were removed proved to be brick for only two courses below the present ground surface [context 80]. This overlay a rubble foundation of stone and flint,

about 0.5m wide and 0.42m deep [context 79]. It was also observed that two brick walls ran at right angles to the repaired foundation. These were seen extending under the tile floor of the brick barn/outbuilding. At the south end of the foundation trench, a thin burnt layer [context 78] was observed under the rubble foundation. Below this burnt layer was further (largely) unexcavated soil that had been clearly disturbed. Fragments of glazed medieval clay roof tile were found within it.

4.4 Chawton House: service installation (Figs. 5, 8 & 9)

During May and June 2000 new services were installed to Chawton House prior to it opening as a library. This involved the digging of a number narrow trenches around the west and south sides of the house. There had been no previous work done in this area. The trenches were numbered in the continuous sequence for the site. After the services were installed further work was carried out reducing the levels that had built up in the last hundred years or so, to bring the site back as near to the situation in the first half of the 19th century as possible.

4.4.1 Trench 9 (Figs. 5 & 8)

This trench ran along the west side of the house, parallel with the dining room. Two features of note were recorded in this trench. They were a brick and stone structure [context 81], probably a cellar, and a possible ditch [context 88].

The brick and stone structure comprised three walls [contexts 81, 82, & 83], which were thought to be part of three sides of a former cellar. In between the walls was an infill containing much building rubble [context 84]. Walls 81 and 82 were bonded together, wall 82 being entirely brick, and surviving to a height of about 0.45m. This wall was the west wall of the conjectured cellar, and survived for nearly its full length of 2.8m. Wall 81 contained reused stone blocks mixed in with the brick. Wall 83 was not joined to wall 82, but this was considered to be because demolition had removed the NW corner of the structure. Unlike walls 81 and 82 it only survived for the height of two courses.

About 7m along from the north end of this trench a linear feature [context 88] was encountered. This was 1.2m wide, and cut about 0.4m into relatively undisturbed soil [context 86]. It contained a clay loam fill mixed with fragments of brick, tile and West Country slate. A fragment of bottle glass dated it to the post-medieval period.

The bulk of trench 9 comprised a much-disturbed topsoil [context 85], up to 0.4m deep. This overlay a deep layer of redeposited chalky clay [context 86] that extended beyond the depth of the excavation (about 1.2m). This was very similar to undisturbed soils further to the south that seemed to make up the natural subsoil of the area. It was clear that context 86 had been redeposited through much of the length of trench 9 because it contained occasional pieces of brick, tile, and West Country slate.

4.4.2 Trench 9a (Figs 5 & 9)

This trench was a continuation of trench 9, but, instead of continuing on a line parallel with the west wall of the dining room, it turned SE to head towards the SW corner of the house, close to the main entrance. This trench contained three features [contexts 96, 99, & 105], all interpreted as rubbish pits. It was notable that the clayey subsoils descended onto undisturbed chalky clay [context 102] within this trench after about 0.6m. This was the first time this occurred near the main house. Features 96, 99 and 105 all cut into this layer. These were only seen in the section of the trench. Their full dimensions were not seen.

Feature 96 was a pit 0.74m wide, and cut into undisturbed soils by about 0.5m. The upper fill [context 97] was a sandy silt loam containing frequent flint and mortar. Below this, in the bottom of the pit, was a thin layer of soil heavily contaminated with charcoal [context 98]. There was no material within the fills to date this feature, but it cut through a layer of flint and mortar [context 95]. This was up to 0.25m deep, and appeared intermittently across the west front of the house during the service installations. It was interpreted as a surface of some sort. Although not dated, it appeared to be beneath obviously later post-medieval layers, and may have been medieval, or, at the latest, early post-medieval in date.

Feature 99 was also a pit. This was 1m wide, cutting into undisturbed soils by about 0.5m. Its upper fill [context 100] was a mortary layer. It overlay a layer [context 101] containing much charcoal, bone and other evidence of rubbish disposal. It also contained three sherds of late medieval pottery (13th-15th century). The feature underlay a deposit [context 90] of building rubble.

Feature 105 was a further pit. This was 0.5m wide and 0.5m deep, with a loamy fill [context 106]. It cut through what seemed to be post-medieval dump layers [contexts 103, 104]. There were no finds from this pit.

4.4.3 Trench 10 (Figs. 5 & 9)

Trench 10 was a trench running parallel with the south side of the house, about 1.5m south of the south wall. It then continued to the west along the southern edge of the drive. For the most part it was disturbed near the house, with relatively shallow dumping layers (seldom more than 0.5m deep) overlying undisturbed light grey chalky clay. Cuts inwards towards the house, to pick up cables exiting from the cellars, revealed that the south side of the house was built on flint footings.

Passing the SW corner of the house along the edge of the drive, another short section of flints in a mortary layer [context 111] was observed. This was about 1.4m in length, and underlay a thin, but pronounced dump [context 110] of loam containing much roof tile, including fragments of medieval roof tiles. About 3.8m west of layer 111 there was a pit [context 114]. This was 1.3m wide and cut into undisturbed soils [context 112] by 0.4m. It contained a lens of West Country slate, a medieval building material. It was uncertain if it cut layer 110, as the layer was very thin at this point, and similar to the upper fill of 114

[context 113]. No other archaeological information of significance was observed in this trench.

About 28m west of the house (measured from the bottom step of the entrance porch) along this trench a structure [context 116] of unmortared rough chalk blocks was observed. This was covered by a thin topsoil [context 117], and cut into undisturbed soils [context 112]. The feature was 0.67m wide, and extended to 0.6m below the present ground surface. It was interpreted as a revetment to a former garden terrace.

4.4.4 Trench 11 (Figs. 5 & 9)

Trench 11 was a trench following the other (north) side of the drive to trench 10. At a point opposite where structure 116 was found a similar feature made of unmortared chalk blocks [context 118] was encountered. Here the structure extended almost to the surface, with only the thinnest layer of topsoil overlying it [context 121]. The structure was 0.52m wide in this trench, and extended to 0.74m below the present surface. It was cut into undisturbed chalky clay [context 119] on its east side, but on the west side a redeposited clay loam [context 120] had been dumped. This later soil probably represented later post-medieval levelling when the formal nature of the landscape was removed.

Further west along this trench (53.6m from the bottom step of the house entrance) dump soils [context 120] stopped abruptly against the remains of a crude flint foundation [context 132]. This comprised large flints set in a loose sandy mortar, and extended to a depth of 1.2m below present ground levels. To the west again was a series of dump soils, making up the level of the ground [contexts 129, 130]. These overlay undisturbed gravels [context 133] with chalky clays (dropping from the hillside to the east) continuing under them.

Further west again (83.2m from the bottom step of the house entrance) another flint footing was observed [context 134]. Dump soils were observed on either side of it making it difficult to decide if it had been built in a construction cut [context 139] dug into these, or whether the soils had been dumped after the wall had been built? It is possible that the wall originally revetted the dump soils to the west [context 138]. This was probably a continuation of layer 130, although there were some small lenses of brick rubble the closer one got to the flint footing. Likewise the dump soil on the west side of the footing [context 137] contained brick rubble close to the footings, but this diminished quickly towards the west.

4.4.5 Trench 12 (Figs. 5 & 9)

This trench was a continuation of trench 10 further down the drive opposite the churchyard wall. Roughly in line with the east end of the former stable block a brick structure was encountered [context 122]. This comprised two outer skins of brick, one course thick, with a gravelly fill in between. The bricks were laid stretchers outwards, with the gap between them being 0.18m wide. The brick structure was 45.5m from the bottom step of the entrance porch to the house. It was buried beneath topsoil [context 124] 0.26m deep, and extended to the bottom of the excavated trench, 0.8m below the present ground surface.

About 3m further west of 122 was another brick structure [context 123]. This was also buried beneath 0.26m of topsoil, but was itself only a further 0.22m deep. It was 0.3m thick, but at an angle to structure 122. The latter was not parallel with the house, although 123 was roughly parallel with both the house and other alignments, such as conjectured terrace revetment 116/118. Observations made on the other side of the drive (not formally recorded, but observed during general levelling of the drive) showed that these two walls converged on one another, meeting approximately under the north side of the drive. Both structures 122 and 123 seemed to be cut into a clay loam layer [context 125] that appeared to be dumping to make up former terrace levels in front of the house.

4.5 Soil stripping to reduce the levels of the present drive (Fig. 5)

Soil stripping was undertaken along the length of the present drive to reduce levels. This was thought to bring the drive back to its original 19th-century form, as it was conjectured that levels had been built up in the last 150 years or so. This required the removal of soils to a varying depth, depending on the location, although this was seldom more than 0.3m.

About 30m from the house an unmortared brick base [context 126] was observed. This was made of unmortared bricks, only a single course surviving in an incomplete form being recorded. The surviving fragment was 0.3m by 0.3m, although it is thought the original dimensions were about 0.4m by 0.4m. This feature butted against a pounded chalk foundation [context 127] set at a right angle to it. Observations suggested that these features were associated with the conjectured terrace revetment wall 116/118. On the approximate line of the drive, there was a gap in this revetment, which turned through a right angle to form 127 (on the north side of the drive) and a parallel feature of similar nature on the south side of the drive. The brick base was interpreted as a pier base, with the projecting feature formed by 127 being the side wall foundations of a set of steps ascending the terrace. The pier was one of a possible pair standing at the bottom of the steps.

5.0 Discussion

5.1 Discussion of the services to the Manor House (Stable block)

The post-medieval structures found here were mainly late 18th and 19th century brick walls. These were most common on the west side of the present N-S range of single-storey farm buildings. At least four of these walls (03, 04, 05, and 06) were interpreted as vanished pigsties butting against the present building. Other walls to the immediate east and west of this range were thought to be further outbuildings (07, 13, 20, 22). Two of these foundations were found to contain flint, as well as brick, in their construction.

There was a range of farm buildings on the line of the present range as early as the 1741 map (HRO COPY 562). The earliest large-scale Ordnance Survey maps of the 1870s show a range approximately as found today. There are no signs of any additional extensions suggested by the brick foundations found during this work. These were not present on the

early 20th-century large-scale OS plans (OS sheet 35.11; 3rd edition). It is possible they either pre-date these maps, or were constructed after 1910.

Also found running parallel with this range was the top of a brick culvert (02, 08) through which the Lavant Stream is channelled. The remains of an additional culvert (18) at right angles to this was found coming from under the present caretaker's house. This stream is a seasonal watercourse characteristic of chalkland areas although it is thought that once it appeared to a more rigid annual timetable than today. Gilbert White, the Selborne naturalist, recorded the Lavant stream as beginning to 'break', (that is to flow) on April 6th 1782 (Greenoak 1988, 402).

Near the dovecote, within 10m of the eastern terminal of these services a further brick wall (23) crossed the service trench. This was seen to be a continuation of the existing garden wall on the north side of the garden behind the building known as the Manor House (the Stables). This wall is shown in existence on early OS plans, suggesting it pre-dates the 1870s, and was not demolished until after 1910.

The only exception to these post-medieval walls was a stone wall (10) found to the west of the N-S range of former farm buildings. This wall was made of local 'malmstone', and had constructional similarities to a medieval wall excavated recently in Alton High Street (Currie 1999), although no precise dating evidence was recovered. The difference in building material is the only evidence to suggest a different date from the other features. It was found to be in approximate line with the north wall of a large barn reputedly dated to the medieval period on its timbers.

This evidence suggested that it might be the stone boundary wall of the medieval curtilage of the manor. Recent test-trenches adjoining Chawton House, suggests that the main medieval buildings may have been on higher ground near the site of the present mansion house. There was a decided lack of residual medieval ceramics anywhere along the line of these services. If the area had been with the medieval curtilage, it is possible that the area was used for gardens or orchards.

5.2 Discussion of the swimming pool sections

The remains revealed by the removal of the swimming pool were of great interest to an understanding of the landscaping/gardening sequence at Chawton. The earliest levels were those associated with the brick wall (38). This was thought to be part of the walled garden shown on garden plans of the early 1740s. Further foundations of the west and south sides of this garden had been earlier discovered by Wade (1996), and confirmed by this author. It is not possible to give an exact date for these gardens. It is known they pre-date the 1740s, and so are likely to belong to the formal phase of gardening at Chawton. However, this phase was probably of some considerable duration, beginning with the late Elizabethan gardens laid out in conjunction with the building of Chawton House. It is not possible to state if this wall was part of the earliest phase or later. The bricks do not appear to be particularly early, having the appearance of the later 17th or early 18th century. It is also

notable that the wall is not entirely symmetrical with the house, suggesting that it was added after the initial garden phases.

It can be related with the dumping of terrace build-up materials to the north (contexts 26, 27, 28 and 30). These line up with a linear earthwork still visible in the lawn to the south of the house. This lines up with the west porch, and runs across the lawn to the NE corner of the former pool. Observations suggest it is the smoothed out remains of a former formal terrace. Its position seems to suggest its flat top was the entire width of the south front of the house, making it probably the main terrace of the formal gardens. Its original profile can be clearly seen in the south facing section. About 3.8m into the site of the former pool, it took a right-angled turn ESE, to form a terrace terminal. It is possible the line of bricks observed on the edge of the southern slope was an edging defining the terrace edge.

It is of further interest that about 6m further south of the corner of this terrace, there appears to be an entrance to the walled garden. This appears to be not exactly symmetrical with the terrace. It would seem therefore that, although efforts have been made to relate the terrace with the walled garden, they are not of exactly the same phase. There is the vaguest suggestion that layer 28 made an earlier, more formal, terrace, with layers 27 and 26/30 being later restructurings of the same line. Although this suggestion is only made tentatively, it is possible that the latest terrace line post-dates the walled garden. If this is so, and the walled garden dates from the 1650-1730 period, it suggests that the terrace lines shown here may not be part of the first phase of late Elizabethan gardening at Chawton, but belong to a post-1650 phase.

It is unclear why the dumping layer over these terraces (context 29) seems to have halted on the line of the wall. It is almost certain that the loamy layer (context 31) overlying it is a former topsoil line. This probably dates from a phase of informal landscaping. It is not known when these changes occurred. They may have been as late as the early years of the 19th-century. It is perhaps too convenient to suggest that it was done when Jane Austen lived at Chawton, but the inheritance of the estate by her brother in the early 19th century may have precipitated change. An estate map of c. 1810 seems to show the south, north and west lines of the old walled garden intact only as dotted lines (HRO 39M89/E/B393), yet by the tithe map of 1839, the designed landscape of the house had been entirely revamped.

The question of the dump layer 29 ending against a seeming wall line may not be fully answerable. It seems the dump was made before the wall was demolished, leaving the wall to act as a temporary revetment. How long this remained before the wall was knocked down is not known. One suspects that a period of time elapsed because, when the wall was pulled down, the dump did not immediately slump southwards. This suggests time was allowed for the dump layer 29 to consolidate, and become stable. This may suggest why the wall line here is shown as a staggered line on the 1810 map.

It seems, therefore, that some informalising of the landscape may have been undertaken before 1810, leaving the former garden wall to act as a ha-ha retaining wall, looking out to the south. After 1810, but before 1839, this line is abandoned, the wall was removed, and the dumping that makes up layers 33 and 34 was laid down. This created a slope from the

line of the old wall to the south, and removed any traces of the walled garden that might have survived. The topsoil 31 was then laid down. Later, further dumping (contexts 32 and 37) occurred. It is not known when this was done, before the creation of the swimming pool, or as part of the works associated with it.

5.3 Discussion of the archaeology in the Central Courtyard

The archaeology recovered here suggested that the survival of early features was likely to be good in this courtyard. The most obvious feature of the archaeology was that the ground here had been built up with compacted chalk. The quantities of medieval ceramics found in this build up strongly suggested that there had been a considerable medieval presence in the vicinity at some time. Compared with the scarcity of medieval finds in the vicinity of the 'Manor House' (Stable Block), this would indicate that the site of the medieval manor at Chawton was more likely to be on, or near, the site of the present mansion than to be further west in the Lavant valley. Nevertheless, despite the presence of medieval materials in this build up it can not be excluded that the material was laid down by disturbing medieval levels during the building of the earliest part of the present house in the late 16th century. So far, an absence of definite 16th-century material makes it more likely to be medieval, although an open mind should be retained for the alternative.

The dating for the build up layers suggest a late medieval date. Although 12th and 13th-century coarsewares are present, later medieval wares from the 14th century, if not later, also seem to be present. Furthermore, clay roof tiles are also very common. These are not unknown in the 13th century, although they are much more common in the 14th centuries and later. If these dates prove to be correct, the build-up levels here were laid down after the period of the more intensive royal visits in the 13th century. The history of the site suggests that it was in decline from at least the 1330s, making the expectation for major landscaping before this date. That it may come from the period when medieval Chawton was thought to be in decline suggests a possible reinterpretation of these later periods. An alternative is that the build-up may have occurred as a result of the levelling of the area following the destruction of earlier buildings, a thesis that follows the expected history of the site more satisfactorily.

There are a number of later features cut into this build up. Pit 48, with its two crude 'walls', may be a late medieval feature, but its purpose is unknown from the small area excavated. Pit 61 was of great interest, containing much organic evidence of the contemporary environment. Its dating is problematic; early post-medieval ceramics were found in small quantities, but a complete absence of clay pipe fragments or other late 16th and 17th century materials makes a date much beyond 1600 difficult to reconcile. It is only the discovery of a single sherd of tin-glazed ware that makes a 17th-century date feasible. At present, it should be accepted as part of the pit's contents rather than as a residual piece. Nonetheless, the other evidence suggests it may date from the earliest phase of tin-glaze production in this country *c.* 1571-1620, making the pit contemporary with the earliest phases of the present house.

The brick gully running through the trench was made of early bricks, and was probably a late 16th or early 17th century feature. Following the building of small compartments to the south of the Victorian kitchen extension, part of the original culvert was destroyed. That part remaining was then probably converted to take water coming from an exterior downpipe. Following the building of the late Victorian extension, this may have fallen out of use. Nevertheless, the construction of the walls within the kitchen seems to have respected the culvert, suggesting that it continued to serve a function within this later building, possibly acting as the main drain within it.

Elsewhere evidence for continuing activity in the area was discovered, but nowhere was there any sign of extensive later disturbance. Excavation in trench 6 revealed further medieval dumping layers. Above these was a poorly built brick wall (feature 69) that was probably of 17th-century date. This had been partially destroyed by the cutting of a cellar to the west, possibly in the first half of the 18th century.

5.4 Discussion of service installation on west side of main house (trenches 9-12)

It was notable that the clayey subsoils descended onto undisturbed chalky clay within trench 9a after about 0.6m. This was different to observations recorded in trench 9, which seemed to suggest that the chalky clay soils in most of this trench were redeposited. This was the first time in the vicinity of the main house that this type of chalky soil could be identified as undisturbed. When found elsewhere, it was nearly always redeposited, suggesting that the hillside had been levelled before the house was built. This probably led to the hillside being reduced on the present south side of the house to infill a natural dell that extended along the north side. Part of this dell is still present, containing the remains of a pond. In places this infill had contained much redeposited stone, as well as medieval pottery, and it suggests that medieval structures may have existed near to where this soil had come from. This might indicate why much medieval material had been found in residual contexts, but virtually no extant contemporary features had been found.

The cut features found near the house [contexts 96, 99, 105, 114] were interpreted as rubbish pits of varying dates. Feature 99 may have been later medieval (13th-15th century), with the other pits being possibly post-medieval. A linear feature [context 88] was interpreted as a possible ditch of post-medieval date. The brick structure [contexts 81/82/83] was thought to be an early post-medieval cellar. This was destroyed either when the 19th-century wing (now demolished) was built or before.

As the work extended down the drive to the west, a number of features were recorded that seem to have been associated with early formal gardens ornamenting the post-medieval house. The latter was thought to have been built in the later 16th century, although the archaeology recorded hints that there may have been earlier 16th-century activity on its site. The exact date of the formal landscaping is not known, but one might assume that it began with the rebuilding of the house in the later 16th century.

About 30m west of the house there seems to have been a formal terrace. This was revetted with a foundation of rough chalk blocks, although it is not known if this was visible above

ground. It is possible it acted merely as a foundation for a neater structure above ground. On the line of the drive, the remains of possible steps were found. There seems to have been brick piers at the bottom of these. It is not impossible that the projecting feature found extending from the terrace revetment on the line of the later drive was a bastion of some kind. However, the preferred interpretation here is that the projecting feature represents the robbed remains of steps.

Comparison with the visual historical sources for the formal arrangements are the Randall survey of 1741 (Bodleian Library @ Ms C17:32 (54); HRO COPY 562) and the undated 18th-century Mellichamp painting (Knight family private possessions; for illustrations of these sources see Wade 1996, Figs 5-7). Both these sources contradict each other on the detail of the design to the front of the house, but this might be because they show different designs that existed at slightly different dates. Both seem to agree that a terrace line could have existed where the chalk revetment was found, and both could be interpreted as showing steps on the line of the drive. The Mellichamp painting definitely shows steps here, although there is no sign of a revetment, the terrace edges seeming to be composed of steep slopes of grass. The painting is also ambiguous over the presence of a brick pier at the bottom of the steps. It is possible that the brick base is the remains of the pinnacled feature shown either side of the steps, but the perspective is such that this is not absolutely certain.

The painting does not seem to show a brick wall on the line that feature 123 was located. There is no sign of the second converging wall to the east [context 122]. The nature of this structure, thin outer skins with gravel infill between, might suggest it may have had a drainage function, although one needs to be very cautious of this interpretation as the evidence is ambiguous. Neither the Randall survey or the Mellichamp painting seems to show an alignment here. However, about 8m west were the remains of a crude flint footing [context 132]. This appears to be in line with the brick wall shown on the painting extending from the east end of the stable across to the east edge of the churchyard. It is possible that the brick wall had a flint footing. It also needs to be considered that the perspective may be wrong, and the brick footing 8m to the east is the brick wall shown on the painting. The latter appears to be less likely as there are still parts of brick walls on the alignment of the flint footing to this day. A more likely explanation is that the flint footing is not contemporary with the brick footing, but represents two different phases of garden development.

The Randall survey is not helpful in this area. One version does not show an alignment on the line of the flint footing, whereas the Bodleian version does. Is it possible that the two versions show a 'before and after' situation, or are they both proposals of which only one was carried out? On the evidence we have it seems that the Bodleian version is possibly the more accurate. However, it should not be discounted, as Wade (1996, 24-25) discusses, that the maps and the painting show different stages in the evolution of the garden design. The presence of an unexplained brick footing supports the idea that the Chawton gardens were altered on a number of occasions, at least one of these being unrecorded on any of the surviving documents. The one thing that is certain is that these formal features were done away with later (possibly in the later 18th or early 19th century), and a western approach

drive was created. Prior to this approach was from the north. In order to facilitate the latter approach, levelling was required over the line of the dell to enable a realistic drive to be put in. Such ideas leave one puzzled where the medieval approach, and even the medieval house itself, was to be found?

A further flint footing [context 134] was found in line with the west end of the stable block. This was similar to the flint footing 132, and, apparently parallel to it. The Mellichamp painting shows a brick wall on this alignment, as it does for feature 132. It might, therefore, be concluded that these brick walls had flint footings. This has precedent elsewhere on the site as a trench dug alongside the main house showed that the essentially brick house had flint footings (see section 4.4.3, trench 10). These discoveries demonstrate the essential accuracy of the Mellichamp painting in depicting the contemporary landscape at Chawton.

5.5 Overall discussion

Despite clear documentary evidence for an important medieval manor at Chawton in the 13th and early 14th century, no remains of this complex of high status buildings was found *in situ*. Concentrations of residual building material and medieval pottery was found, mainly in certain areas. The highest of these were in the courtyard of the house, and on the built up ground to the north of the house. The latter was possibly the result of a partial infilling of the small valley, which survives as the 'Dell' to the east of the stable block.

If this infilling occurred in the later 16th century, as is believed, to facilitate the building of the Knight's late Elizabethan mansion, it would seem that much of the materials used came either from the site of the medieval house, or from nearby. The building materials are much as would be expected, chalk blocks (possibly for rubblework and internal walls), a predominately greenish type of local stone (possibly malmstone also originating from chalk deposits), West Country slate and possibly clay roof tiles. It is uncertain if the latter came from the medieval buildings or was simply builders waste from the construction of the new house. West Country slate, however, can be more readily attributed to the medieval period.

This material was widely used along the south coast from the later 11th through to the 14th century. From the later 13th century, it was gradually supplanted by clay roof tiles. The latter being the dominant roofing material in Hampshire on high status buildings during the 14th and 15th centuries (Hare 1991, 99). It is thought to have been in use at nearby Alton before 1311 (Currie 1999). West Country slate generally has a distribution pattern restricted to the south coast and its immediate hinterland (Holden 1965, Murray 1965). It becomes less common beyond a day's journey from the coast, and Chawton must be on the outer limit of that distribution. The large quantities of slate recovered in displaced soils at Chawton seems to suggest considerable use of this material on the very edge of its normal distribution range. This, in turn, suggests the medieval buildings were of a high enough status to consider going to some lengths to roof them in the most fashionable material.

Such materials might suggest that there was a royal hand in the creation of the medieval complex at Chawton. In 1224 King Henry III sent two oaks from nearby Alice Holt forest as a contribution to the manor house that William St. John was building there (St John

Hope & Peers 1903, 498). This may have been the sole reference to a verbal agreement the St. Johns had with the king to provide him with a resting place on his frequent journeys from London to Winchester via Guildford. Soon after in 1229 the first of many royal documents are issued from Chawton, showing that the king was staying there at that time (CLR 1226-40, 152). Between 1229 and 1272 the king is recorded at Chawton on 22 occasions, with at least another twelve possible visits suggested by the delivery of royal supplies (Currie 1995; see Appendix 2, this report). Edward I, although seeming to visit Chawton less often, stayed for longer. In February and March 1292 he seems to have spent three weeks moving between the neighbouring St. John manors of Chawton and Farringdon (ibid).

It may be no coincidence that Edward I visited Chawton shortly before John St John departed England to become the king's deputy in Gascony in 1292. Edward is next recorded at Chawton in May 1302. Two months later John St. John was appointed the king's deputy in Scotland. It is possible that both appointments followed negotiations at Chawton, putting the manor at the forefront of English politics. The importance of Chawton was probably the result of personal relationship between individual St. Johns and their king. After John St. John's death, there was apparently no member of the family considered suitable for high office. Although Edward II and Edward III are recorded at Chawton, the St. John dynasty was in decline, and the seat of government increasingly settled on London, requiring less travel for the kings. Following the death of the last male St. John in 1349, there are no more royal visits recorded. There are subsequently hints that the manor was not well maintained, and by the time of the Knight family at least parts may have become ruinous. This led to the impetus to clear everything away and start again.

It is not known how much of this manor survived up to the time of the building of the present house. Records from the 16th century hint that there were separate sites for the manor and the home farm at this time. A deed of 1524 from Sir Thomas West (then owner) granted William Knight a lease for 45 years of the 'site' of the manor place and the farm of Chawton, together with the West Park and all the demesne lands (HRO 18M61/Box/40/4). In 1551-2 Lord de la Warr sold to John Knight the 'site' of the manor with the demesne lands (HRO 18M61/Box/35/15). However, this sale carried an annuity of £25 per annum, which only came to an end in 1578 when the Knight family paid £720 to have it extinguished (Leigh & Knight 1911, 75-6).

Although Leigh & Knight (ibid, 78) claim there was a house existing at this time, the previous deeds only refer to the 'site' of the manor. It is possible that the Knight family, recorded as 'farmers' in the 1571 Lay Subsidy (Vick 1988, 2), only lived in the farm house (now the Home Farm). The separation of manor house and home farm on the same site is not unusual in historic times. It was possibly only after having bought up all the rights to the manor in 1578 that the Knight family felt prepared to build the present manor, and express their status as landed gentry. The Lay Subsidy of 1598 refers to John Knight as 'gent', reflecting this change in status (ibid).

The documents relating to Chawton House have given researchers a number of problems. Poor storage conditions earlier in the 20th century led many of them to be damaged by

damp, and they are now unfit for production at the Hampshire Record Office, where many were deposited in 1961. One wonders how many damaged documents were thrown away. It is therefore possible that Leigh and Knight (1911) had access to more records than are available today. Sybil Wade has also expressed this opinion (pers comm), and has drawn attention to the curious mention in Leigh and Austen to a 'moat' (Wade 1996, 99). Here they state that John Knight, the reputed builder of the present Chawton House, took great trouble to fill this 'moat' in. This John Knight succeeded to the estate from his father, another John Knight, in 1583 (Leigh & Knight 1911, 78)

The 'moat' has long been associated with a small pond in a hollow known as the 'Dell'. It is possible that this may have once been part of a longer valley extending across the north side of the house. Archaeological observation here suggested a deep layer of redeposited chalk, often containing residual medieval pottery, had been dumped in this area to build it up. This suggests that the long terraced area on which the house, and much of the south lawn sits has been artificially levelled. The occurrence of medieval pottery in these redeposited soils suggests that the levelling covered an area that contained medieval occupation. It is therefore possible that the present house site or the south lawn once formed the site of the medieval manor, with a deep, possibly water-filled, scarp on the north side. This has given rise to the tradition that the medieval house was moated. There was little medieval material noted anywhere off the main house terrace. The exception was fragments of medieval roof tile found under the outbuilding on the north of the stables. These could have been reused in original roof of the stable, and deposited here later.

In many respects the search for the medieval manor was a disappointment. There were no certain traces of earlier remains seen in the present house or its cellars. Occupation earlier than the reputed date of the house (traditionally dated from 1589) seems to be hinted at from the fill of a number of pits found, both in the back courtyard, and in front of the house.

In the courtyard, the chalky dump layers [contexts 47, 57, 58] contained mainly medieval pottery. Only the top layer [context 47] contained a single small sherd of post-medieval Borderware. Cutting into these levels was a cut [context 48] that contained medieval pot. Elsewhere, a post-medieval dump layer [context 70] seemed to have medieval layers below it. This evidence was largely inconclusive, but a large early post-medieval pit [context 61] suggested that if medieval dump layers and pits were not to be found here, they must have been early post-medieval at the latest.

A similar pattern was found in front of the house. What seemed to be post-medieval dump layers were of greater depths towards the north, possibly indicating the postulated late 16th-century infilling of the Dell. Nearer to the present entrance to the house, these layers were less deep, and at least one possible medieval pit [context 99] was found. In line with the south side of the house, a thin dump of medieval roofing material was found [context 110] that seemed to overlay a mortar and flint layer [context 111] that appeared intermittently across this part of the site. A pit that seemed to be below the roofing material dump [context 114] contained only medieval roofing material as dating.

It is not impossible that all these relatively early contexts date from the period in which the present house was being built. The predominant medieval materials could have all been redeposited from clearance of the remains of the medieval manor. This does not fit completely satisfactorily, as there seems to be little 16th- and early 17th-century material in these layers. However, a medieval dating associated with the heyday of the medieval manor does not fit either. Dumping layers containing only medieval materials seem to contain late medieval artefacts within it, as do any cuts into these levels. If medieval levels do exist here they appear to date from a period of dumping and activity within those dump layers. Although the evidence is not conclusive enough to be certain, it would seem more likely that parts of the manorial buildings used by Henry III were cleared away after the demise of the site in the mid 14th century. The contexts with conjectured medieval dates might therefore result from partial clearance of the old site in the later medieval or early Tudor period. Only pit 61 seems to be dated to the period of the building of the present house, and here it is notable that diagnostic late 16th- and early 17th-century wares were heavily outnumbered by later medieval material. It has to be suggested that the Knight family may have partly cleared and levelled the site soon after taking up tenure of the estate in 1524, putting the site to a use yet to be determined.

Other than late medieval or early post-medieval deposits there was little else near the house that could be positively dated before the late 18th century. The range of outbuildings, plus a number of extensions to the house seem to date from this late post-medieval period, thereby seeming to confirm these observations. Features from the intermediate period only seem to be present connected with the designed landscape further away from the house.

These show that formal gardens were laid out at Chawton. It is not possible to connect them positively with the late Elizabethan house, but it is certain that they were made before 1741, when they are shown on the Randell survey. Both the evidence from the swimming pool area and that to the west of the house show that formal terraced gardens existed. On the west side of the house they match the Mellichamp painting better than any other source. It has been argued above that the Mellichamp painting and the two Randall surveys of c. 1741 represent three phases of garden alterations. On balance, it would seem that the Mellichamp painting might be the earliest phase, with the Randall surveys possibly representing a 'before and after' plan of the garden associated with alterations in 1741.

It is uncertain what happened on the west side of the house after this, other than that the formal walls and terraces shown on the Mellichamp painting were removed as part of an informalising of the landscape in keeping with later 18th-century fashion. It is possible that all that happened here is that the westward slope was smoothed out in a naturalistic fashion. The archaeology of the swimming pool area elaborated considerably on this simplistic scenario. Here, the need for a naturalised view southwards led to a series of alterations that was shown up clearly in the south facing section of the hillside once the swimming pool was removed.

The first informal phase here led to the demolition of the walled garden. The terraces to the north of this were then extended to the north wall of the garden, which was retained as a ha ha. This probably occurred in the later 18th century. Subsequently, it was decided to

abandon this ha ha, and create a smooth even slope over its former line. Dating of the sequence is uncertain, but this probably occurred in the 19th century. It is possible that a new ha ha was formed further south on the line of the present boundary. The final phase resulted in further build up over this slope. It is tempting to suggest that this was done to allow for the swimming pool to be inserted about 1935, but map evidence seems to show an earlier extension of the final ha ha line between c. 1810 and 1838. There is no certainty about the dates of this chronology. The only exact date we have is 1741 when the walled garden and other formal layouts still existed.

Map evidence might throw some light on this, although it is slightly vague. A parish map of c. 1810 (HRO 39M89/E/B393) seems to show a dotted line on that of the former north wall of the walled garden. The main break in the view here is shown roughly on the line of the south wall. This might suggest that the first line of the ha ha had been abandoned by this date. By the time of the tithe map in 1839 (HRO 21M65/F7/45/1-2) it had been clearly extended to the line shown on the 1870 OS map. It has remained there ever since. From this it might be assumed that the use of the garden wall as ha ha occurred between 1741 and 1810, by which time it had been superseded by the second informal phase. The third phase may have been created between 1810 and 1839, as there is no evidence for further alterations after this date. A sequence can be postulated that makes Edward Austen Knight the most likely owner to have altered the line of the first ha ha. If this is so, then the first line was probably created before 1794. This earlier line was most likely to have been created after 1750. If the third line was created before 1839, it would seem that Edward became dissatisfied with his earlier alteration, and extended it slightly forward between 1810 and 1839, as his ownership of the property extended over the conjectured period of the two later alterations. His lengthy period of ownership (1794-1852) probably allowed for enough time for him to carry out a number of changes to the landscape, not least manipulating the southward view more than once.

6.0 Conclusions

Excavations in the vicinity of Chawton House found much residual evidence of previous medieval occupation, but little that was considered to be *in situ*. Previous documentary research had suggested that the manor was of some importance during this period, being frequently visited by Henry III (1216-72) and his son, Edward I (1272-1307). The archaeological evidence suggested that either the site of this medieval manor was not excavated, or that it was destroyed in the extensive relandscaping of the post-medieval period. The only structural element of possible medieval date was a stone wall found near the furthest extremity of the excavations, 250m NW of the house. This was thought to be part of a medieval precinct wall, suggesting a large extent to the contemporary layout, presuming the manor was on or near the site of the present house.

The present house seems to have been built partly on a levelled platform, with a short valley to the north being partly infilled with materials containing residual medieval pottery and building materials that included much West Country slate, a popular roof covering on medieval buildings in southern Hampshire before the 14th century. A number of late

medieval/early post-medieval rubbish pits were located at various points around the present building.

The archaeological excavations revealed large-scale earthmoving in the area around the house to create a succession of elaborate designed landscapes. Considerable evidence for an extensive formal garden was revealed extending over a number of hectares. A series of terraces were found running down the hillside in front of the house. These were approached via a series of steps, the remains of at least one set being recorded. Also recorded on the main front were a series of brick walled enclosures adjoining the late Elizabethan stables. The terraces and enclosures closely matched the layout shown on a picture of the house and grounds known as the 'Mellichamp painting'. Although this was initially dated to the period 1740-50, the fact that it showed significant differences to a plan of 1741 has now prompted the suggestion that it is possibly earlier than originally thought.

To the south of the house, the terminal of the garden terraces was found about 150m away. This was also possibly descended by steps. After a short level space, the remains of a large brick walled garden was found, with an entrance not far from the postulated position of these steps. This garden is clearly marked on an estate plan of 1741. The walls were traced over a considerable distance, confirming the large extent of this feature. At a date after 1741 the outer three walls of the walled garden were demolished, leaving the north wall to be used as a ha ha. Soil was built up to the top of this wall, thus increasing levels from the previous formal terrace by over 0.5m. This probably represented the first phase of informalising the Chawton landscape, turning it into an 'English Landscape Garden' design so often described in the novels of Chawton's most famous female resident, Jane Austen (1775-1817).

It is not known how long the old formal garden wall remained in use as a ha ha, but in the next phase of informal landscaping, an earthen slope was created from the top of the former ha ha southwards. A plan of c. 1810 shows the alignment of the wall as a staggered line, and although it is possible that this shows the 'hidden' boundary represented by the ha-ha, it is thought it had been buried by this time. This suggests that Edward Austen Knight was probably responsible, altering this line soon after inheriting the estate in 1794. Between 1810 and the tithe map of 1839 the second outer boundary seems to have been abandoned and the present outer alignment adopted. This was probably to extend the limits of the Pleasure Grounds further to reach their present boundary. This levelled ground was later used excavated to create a swimming pool. On the removal of this feature in 1997 a clear section showing all the changes described above was revealed.

Although the excavations were limited to watching the installation of services, and the removal of the swimming pool, at least two phases of formal and three phases of informal design were revealed. This has helped considerably in understanding the development of the landscape around Chawton House from the medieval times to the present.

7.0 Archive

The archive for this work will be deposited with the Hampshire County Museum Services (acc no A1998.2). Copies of the report were lodged with the client, the Hampshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, and the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon, Wiltshire.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are given to all those involved with this project. In particular, Adrian Thatcher who runs the day-to-day building operations at Chawton, and the staff at Chawton House. All the various contractors and their staff, too many to mention individually, are thanked for their generous co-operation and assistance. Cassie Knight and Sybil Wade, Landscape Architects on the project, Edward Roberts, the project's architectural historian, and Gilly Drummond, of the Hampshire Gardens Trust, are thanked for their intelligent discussion of the findings and comments on the interpretation of the site. The site was monitored by Ian Wykes for the Archaeology Section of Hampshire County Council.

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Appendix 1: list of archaeological contexts recorded

Context no.	Trench no.	Description	Munsell Colour
01	T/1	brick drain	
02	T/1	brick culvert	
03	T/1	brick wall	
04	T/1	brick wall	
05	T/1	brick wall	
06	T/1	brick wall	
07	T/1	brick wall	
08	T/1	brick culvert	
09	T/1	loam layer	10YR 3/1
10	T/1	stone wall	
11	T/1	construction cut for wall 10?	
12	T/1	loamy fill of cut 11	10YR 3/2
13	T/1	flint and brick wall foundation	
14	T/1	brick rubble layer	
15	T/1	clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
16	T/1	chalky clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
17	T/1	clay layer	10YR 5/4
18	T/1	brick culvert	
19	T/1	organic fill within culvert	10YR 3/1
20	T/3	brick and flint structure (buttress?)	
21	T/3	loam layer	10YR 4/3
22	T/3	brick wall	
23	T/2	brick wall	
24	T/4	clay loam layer	10YR 4/3
25	T/4	clay layer	10YR 5/4
26	T/4	chalky layer	10YR 8/2
27	T/4	clay layer	10YR 4/3
28	T/4	clay loam layer	10YR 3/3
29	T/4	clay layer	10YR 4/3
30	T/4	chalky layer	10YR 8/2
31	T/4	clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
32	T/4	clay loam layer	10YR 5/3
33	T/4	chalky clay layer	10YR 7/2
34	T/4	gravely clay layer	10YR 3/1
35	T/4	clay layer	10YR 4/3
36	T/4	clay layer	10YR 4/3
37	T/4	chalky clay layer	10YR 4/3
38	T/4	brick (garden) wall	
39	T/4	construction cut for wall 38	
40	T/4	fill of cut 39	
41	T/4	infilled cut (line of garden wall)	

		subsequently removed & infilled)	
42	T/4	brick wall (continuation of 39 broken by door or gate?)	
45	T/5	brick culvert	
46	T/5	sandy rubble layer	10YR 6/3
47	T/5	chalky clay loam layer	10YR 6/1
48	T/5	cut	
49	T/5	chalky clay loam fill of cut 48	10YR 5/2
50	T/5	brick wall	
51	T/5	brick wall	
52	T/5	sump in brick drain	
53	T/5	linear cut	
54	T/5	chalky clay fill of cut 53	10YR 6/1
55	T/5	crude flint and stone footing?	
56	T/5	crude flint and stone footing	
57	T/5	chalky clay layer	10YR 7/2
58	T/5	chalky clay layer	10YR 6/4
59	T/5	cut	
60	T/5	clay fill of 59	10YR 5/6
61	T/5	large cut (rubbish pit)	
62	T/5	clay loam fill of 61	5Y 3/2
63	T/5	cut	
64	T/5	rubble and clay loam fill of 63	10YR 3/1
65	T/5	lower clay fill of pit 61	5Y 6/1
66	T/6	rubbly sandy clay fill of 67	10YR 5/2
67	T/6	construction cut for cellar and wall	
68	T/6	brick wall	
69	T/6	unmortared brick wall	
70	T/6	chalky clay layer	10YR 5/2
71	T/6	chalky clay layer	5Y 8/1
72	T/6	clay layer	10YR 6/4
73	T/7	chalky clay layer	10YR 5/2
74	T/7	stone (reused) structure	
75	T/7	brick structure (culvert)	
76	T/7	stone (reused) structure	
77	T/7	brick structure (culvert)	
78	T/8	clay layer with charcoal	10YR 2/1
79	T/8	flint & stone structure	
80	T/8	brick structure	
81	T/9	brick & stone wall	
82	T/9	brick wall	
83	T/9	brick wall	
84	T/9	clay layer	10YR 6/2
85	T/9	clay loam layer	10YR 4/3
86	T/9	clay layer	10YR 5/2
87	T/9	clay loam fill of linear cut	10YR 3/3

88	T/9	linear cut	
89	T/9a	gravel surface	10YR 4/4
90	T/9a	clay loam layer	10YR 4/1
91	T/9a	cut of modern pipe trench	
92	T/9a	cut of modern pipe trench	
93	T/9a	clay loam fill of 91	10YR 4/1
94	T/9a	clay loam fill of 92	10YR 4/1
95	T/9a	stone & flint rubble in mortar layer	2.5Y 7/6
96	T/9a	cut	
97	T/9a	sandy silt loam fill of cut 96	10YR 4/1
98	T/9a	sandy silt loam fill of cut 96	10YR 4/1
99	T/9a	cut	
100	T/9a	clay loam fill of cut 99	10YR 3/1
101	T/9a	clay loam fill of cut 99	10YR 3/1
102	T/9a	chalky clay layer	10YR 7/2
103	T/9a	clay loam layer	10YR 5/2
104	T/9a	stone rubble mortar layer	2.5Y 7/6
105	T/9a	cut	
106	T/9a	clay loam fill of cut 105	10YR 4/1
107	T/9a	cut of modern pipe trench	
108	T/9a	clay loam fill of cut 107	10YR 4/1
109	T/10	gravel surface	10YR 5/8
110	T/10	clay loam layer	10YR 5/3
111	T/10	flint & sand layer	10YR 7/6
112	T/10	chalky clay layer	10YR 7/1
113	T/10	clay loam fill of cut 114	10YR 5/2
114	T/10	cut	
115	T/10	loamy clay fill of cut 114	10YR 4/6
116	T/10	unmortared chalk block structure	
117	T/10	clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
118	T/11	unmortared chalk block structure	
119	T/11	chalky clay layer	10YR 7/2
120	T/11	clay loam layer	10YR 4/6
121	T/11	clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
122	T/12	brick structure	
123	T/12	brick structure	
124	T/12	clay loam layer	10YR 3/2
125	T/12	clay loam layer	10YR 3/3
126	Drive	brick base	
127	Drive	pounded chalk foundation	
128	T/11	clay loam layer	10YR 4/4
129	T/11	chalky clay layer	10YR 6/1
130	T/11	clay loam layer	10YR 4/4
131	T/11	construction cut	
132	T/11	crude flint foundation	
133	T/11	clay loam layer	10YR 4/4

134	T/11	flint & mortar footing	
135	T/11	clay loam layer	10YR 3/3
136	T/11	chalky clay layer	10YR 6/1
137	T/11	clay loam layer	10YR 3/4
138	T/11	clay loam layer	10YR 3/4
139	T/11	construction cut for foundation	34

Appendix 2: royal visits to Chawton, 1229-1331

For abbreviations used see bibliography to main text.

Royal documents dated at Chawton with references:

Henry III (1216-72)

October 26th 1229 (CR 1227-31; CLR 1226-40, 152)
March 27th 1230 (CR 1227-31, 311)
November 3rd 1230 (CR 1227-31, 453)
June 1st 1235 (CR 1234-37, 96)
February 1st/2nd 1236 (CR 1234-37, 237; PR 1232-47)
December 14th 1237 (CR 1237-42, 13-14)
December 28th 1237 (CR 1237-42, 18)
July 18th 1238 (CR 1237-42, 76)
January 29th 1245 (CR 1242-47, 285)
February 20th 1245 (CR 1242-47, 289; CLR 1240-45, 291)
December 30th 1247 (CR 1247-51, 21)
January 18th 1249 (PR 1247-58, 36)
October 27th 1250 (CR 1247-51, 342)
December 30th 1250 (CR 1247-51, 394)
December 29th/30th 1252 (CR 1251-53, 299; PR 1247-58, 169; CLR 1251-60, 95)
July 13th 1258 (CR 1256-59, 247)
October 5th 1258 (CR 1256-59, 330; PR 1247-58, 652)
October 1st 1259 (PR 1247-58, 44)
August 20th 1260 (CR 1259-61, 104; CLR 1251-60, 525)
May 30th 1261 (CR 1259-61, 387; CLR 1260-67, 40)
September 27th 1269 (PR 1266-72, 366-67; CR 1268-72, 81)
July 30th 1270 (CR 1268-72, 215)

Edward I (1272-1307)

February 15th/16th 1292 (Chancery Warrants 1244-1326, 31)
February 18th/19th/20th 1292 (CR 1228-96, 220-21, 258; PR 1281-92, 477-79; FR 1272-1307, 305-06)
February 23rd 1292 (Inq. Misc. 1219-1307, no 1584)
March 1st 1292 (PR 1281-92, 478)
May 12th 1302 (Gough 1900, 213, citing Privy Seals)

Edward was at Waverley Abbey near Farnham earlier on the 15th February. He was back at Westminster on the (evening of?) 6th March 1292. In between when not recorded at Chawton, he was to be found at neighbouring Farringdon. He is recorded here later on February 23rd, 24th, 26th, 28th, March 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th 1292. This is probably the longest stay in the area by the medieval kings; a period of almost three weeks. He was briefly back at Chawton on 12th May 1302.

Both King Edward and John St. John were absent from England for long periods, so it is not surprising that less visits are recorded. King Edward conducted wars in Wales, France, and extensively in Scotland. John St. John acted as the king's seneschal in Gascony from 1293. He was temporarily in French captivity following the English defeat at Bellegarde on January 30th 1297 (Powicke 1962, 666). He was later Edward's lieutenant in Scotland from July 1302 until his death in September of the same year (Powicke 1962, 706-7). Powicke refers to John St. John as the king's 'trusted friend' (ibid.) The royal visits above may represent the few times that the king and the head of the St. John dynasty were in England at the same time? It might be some coincidence that St. John's appointment to both the above high offices occurred soon after a royal visit to Chawton.

Edward II (1307-27)

No direct record of visits, but a document of April 28th 1326 refers to a document signed by this king at Chawton on the Saturday after Hock Day (second Tuesday after Easter) 1326. The king was clearly at Chawton on this day, but the stay has gone otherwise unrecorded. This begs the question as to how many other unrecorded visits were made by the kings during the St. John family's ownership.

Edward III (1327-77)

November 19th 1331 (PR 1330-34, 216; CR 1330-33, 377)
The king was then at Guildford on November 20th
November 21st 1331 (PR 1330-33, 219; CR 1330-35, 415)
On the evening of November 21st the king was back at Guildford
November 23rd 1331 (CR 1330-35, 408)

This episode can be treated as three separate visits over the period November 19th-23rd 1331. These are the last recorded royal visits. The last St. John of any note, Hugh St. John, had died before 1335, when the manor was in the king's hands through wardship (PR 1334-38, 214). Hugh's son Edmund died a minor, and the estate then passed in the female line to the Poynyngs. With the failure of the direct line of the St. John family, the close link with the royal family died with it, indicating that the link was a personal one. Another reason for the visits stopping was that the royal court was becoming less itinerant over the course of the later 13th and early 14th century. By the beginning of the 14th century, London had become firmly established as the centre for national government, and the former capital at Winchester rapidly declined in importance.

Wine sent to Chawton 'to the king's cellars' during the reign of Henry III (1216-72)

It should be noted that the king often visited Chawton a short time after these deliveries (see above). On twelve occasions no visits are recorded after a delivery of wine. One suspects an unrecorded visit on these occasions (ie a visit made but no documents issued from the manor). For example, no documents were issued from Chawton between December 1252 and July 1258, yet during that period six deliveries of wine are recorded, mainly between April 1255 and December 1257. That the quantities delivered during this period are above the average suggests they were not merely for topping up the king's cellar (22 tuns recorded from six deliveries, average 3.7, or if one allows that the misdirected six tuns recorded for Chawton in May 1255 never arrived, 16 tuns from five deliveries, average 3.2). The average from the other deliveries is 2.14 tuns (30 tuns from 14 deliveries).

December 11th 1237, one tun from Winchester (CLR 1226-40, 301)
December 25th 1237, three tuns from Winchester (CLR 1226-40, 303)
January 22nd 1246, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1245-51, 22)
January 10th 1247, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1245-51, 102)
May 21st 1247, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1245-51, 124)
November 30th 1247, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1245-51, 154)
July 10th 1248, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1245-51, 192)
November 2nd 1248, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1245-51, 208)
February 15th 1249, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1245-51, 220)
November 19th 1250, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1245-51, 315)
May 17th 1251, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1245-51, 353)
February 22nd 1252, four tuns from Southampton (CLR 1251-60, 29)
October 30th 1252, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1251-60, 83)
April 12th 1255, four tuns from Southampton (CLR 1251-60, 206)
*May 20th 1255, six tuns from Southampton (CLR 1251-60, 220)
November 18th 1255, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1251-60, 256)
May 18th 1256, four tuns from Southampton (CLR 1251-60, 295)
November 3rd 1256, four tuns from Southampton (CLR 1251-60, 335)
December 15th 1257, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1251-60, 414)

July 12th 1260, two tuns from Southampton (CLR 1251-60, 515)

* mistakenly delivered to 'Geydinton' 'that should have been carried to Chawton'.

Appendix 3: descent of the manor of Chawton

Odo 1066, following the Norman Conquest, the manor passed to Hugh de Port

Hugh de Port *fl.* 1086

Henry de Port

Roger St. John

John de Port *fl.* 1167

Adam de Port = married

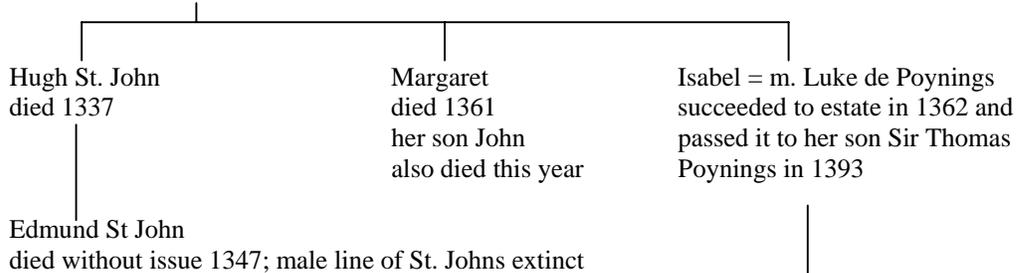
Mabel de Aureval

William de Port, took name of St. John *fl.* 1224

Robert St John *fl.* 1245

John St. John inherited 1275, died 1302, married Alice who held the manor in dower after John's death.

John St. John II inherited 1302, died 1329



Thomas de Poynings
died 1429 & left estate to his daughter, Joan

Joan de Poynings, her son John Bonville inherited

John Bonville
died in 1494 & passed estate to his daughter Florence

Florence Bonville = m. Sir Humphrey Fulford
Conveyed estate to her sister, Elizabeth

Elizabeth Bonville = m. Lord de la Warr
died 1554 leaving estate to de La Warr's half brother, Leonard West

Leonard West sold estate to Thomas Arundel of Ewhurst, died 1568

Thomas Arundel's son sold to Nicholas Knight in 1578

Sir Richard Knight left the estate to Richard Martin, the son of his cousin, Michael Martin in 1679. Martin took the name of Knight.

His brother Christopher succeeded in 1687 and also took the name Knight, but died without issue whereby it passed to his sister Elizabeth in 1702.

Elizabeth died without issue in 1737 and left it to her cousin Thomas Brodnax, who took the name Knight

His son, Edward (Brodnax) Knight died without issue in 1794 and passed it to his cousin Edward Austen, who took the name Knight.

Dates of ownership of Austen Knight branch of family as follows:

Edward Austen Knight 1794-1852

Edward Knight II 1852-79

Montague Knight 1879-1914

Lionel Knight 1914-31

Edward Knight III 1931-1987?

The manor then descended to the present owner, Richard Knight.

Archive list for Chawton House, Alton, Hampshire

Watching briefs at Chawton House by CKC Archaeology, 1997-2000

Hampshire Museum acc no. A1998.2

The archive contains:

1. Context sheets, numbers 01-139
2. Finds recording sheets, total 6
3. Photographic recording sheets, total 4
4. Drawing record sheets, total 1
5. Packs of Black/White photographs with negatives: 3.
6. Packs of colour photographs with negatives: 1.
7. Plastic sleeves containing colour slide film: 6.
8. Original permatrace drawings, total 6 sheets.
9. Report with illustrations; 39 pages, 9 figs.
10. Project brief and supporting letter, 3 sheets*
11. Correspondence and miscellaneous papers concerning site, total 23 sheets.
12. Miscellaneous plans: 4 sheets

* Please note that CKC Archaeology did not carry out the historic building recording mentioned in the brief. This was carried out by a separate contractor. Archaeological work was carried out between 1995 and 2001 by CKC Archaeology.