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**Archaeological recording of historic  
structures in War Memorial (Goldings)  
Park, Basingstoke, Hampshire**

**NGR: SU 6415 5170**

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### Summary statement

An archaeological and historical analysis of historic structures in the War Memorial (Goldings) Park was requested by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as a preliminary to restoration works to be implemented as part of work funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The client asked C K Currie of CKC Archaeology to carry out the work. The structures studied were the ha ha and gate piers, the Summer House, and the Bandstand.

Goldings Park was first laid out by William Russell, following the Basingstoke Enclosure Act of 1786. Russell had obtained the Goldings mansion in 1765, with six acres of land attached. This land became the main gardens attached to the house, and the Enclosure Act gave him the opportunity to obtain a block of the former open field called Hackwood Field to lay out a small park.

Around 1806 William Apletree became the owner of Goldings, probably through inheritance as a relation of the Russell family. After 1865 the estate passed to his daughters, the survivor selling it on to Charles Lefroy in 1900. Following the end of the Great War, the Corporation of Basingstoke purchased the estate in 1921 with the help of Thomas Burberry, a local business man, to turn it into the present War Memorial Park.

The ha ha was probably created soon after *c.* 1786, and has been much patched up since 1921. It would seem that the original revetment wall was made of knapped flint with brick dressings. Where repair work has been done the flint has been replaced by brick, with only about 25% of the original flint wall surviving.

The Summer House was previously considered to have been an original feature of the park, and had been given a late 18<sup>th</sup>-century date. However, it is not shown until Davies Basingstoke map of 1851. The 1872 Ordnance Survey 25" map, like the Davies map, shows it as a more complex structure than at present, with projecting portions on the north and south sides. The building was approached by a path coming from the south, suggesting the southern attachment may have been an elaborate porch. The Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1894 shows the building as the present hexagonal shape. This seems to suggest that the present building may have been rebuilt between 1872 and 1894. It is not known if any of the original structure survives. The present brick building is in a dilapidated condition, all the decorative window openings having been blocked to prevent vandalism. A heavy cream paint obscures much of the external structure, and this will need removing before a more detailed analysis can be made.

It is thought that the Bandstand was moved from May's Playing Field in the early 1920s to coincide with the conversion of Goldings Park into the War Memorial Park. It is first seen in a photograph of the unveiling ceremony for the War Memorial and gates in May 1923. It is a good example of its kind, although the brick base may have been made anew in the 1920s rather than re-erect the old one. The bricks do not seem to be reused, and are of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The structure in May's Playing Field seems to have been in position around 1900, and if the original base had been used on the present structure one might expect to see evidence of reuse. Since the bandstand was erected in the War Memorial Park, the roof seems to have been

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completed rebuilt to allow for the addition of the present clock turret. It is not known when this alteration was carried out.

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## **Archaeological recording of historic structures in War Memorial (Goldings) Park, Basingstoke, Hampshire (NGR: SU 6415 5170)**

This report has been written to guidelines laid down by English Heritage in *The management of archaeological projects* (London, revised edition, 1992), and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (now English Heritage), *Recording Historic Buildings. A descriptive specification*, (London, 1991; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition). The ordering of information, and the information given, follows the guidelines given within these documents. Additional guidance was taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for desk-based assessments*, (Birmingham, 1994) and *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (Birmingham 1996), where considered appropriate.

### **1.0 Introduction**

An archaeological and historical analysis of historic structures in the War Memorial (Goldings) Park was requested by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as a preliminary to restoration works. This work intends to restore Goldings Park to the designed historic landscape originally laid out at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is to be implemented as part of work funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The client asked C K Currie of CKC Archaeology to carry out the work. The structures studied were:

- i) The Summer House.
- ii) The bandstand.
- iii) The ha-ha and gate piers

A project design was prepared for this work (Currie 1999), the contents of which were approved by the client. This stated that the work would be carried out to Level 2 standard as outlined in the RCHME's *Recording Historic Buildings. A descriptive specification*, (London, 1991; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

### **2.0 Historical background and site description (Figure 1)**

#### **2.1 Historical background**

The present Civic Offices seem to have begun their lives as a pair of 16<sup>th</sup>-century timber-framed house set on the London Road leading into the market town of Basingstoke. These buildings have been much added to over the centuries. At a later date, the eastern building was converted into a brick house in a more fashionable style of the time. About 1800 the building was transformed once again, this time using the fashionable yellow brick known as 'London stocks'. It was around this time that it became known as 'Goldings', with an extensive landscaped park laid out to the south, and a brick ha-ha dividing the gardens around the house from the park itself. In 1921 the park was acquired by the local council as a War Memorial to those local people who died in the First World War. Today the park is entered from the house side through a pair of brick and stone piers set on the ha ha. These gate piers have been moved from the nearer the London Road, following the erection of further council offices.

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A brick summer house was erected on a low knoll to the SE that could be seen across the park from the house. This is still standing in the park in a dilapidated state, its windows having been blocked to prevent vandals gaining access, and its brickwork covered in a dull cream paint. There is a bandstand roughly in the centre of the view from the house. It is thought that this was moved here from another park soon after the site became council property. It is now considered intrusive, and there are proposals to have it moved elsewhere.

## **2.2 Condition of the site**

The site is typical of municipal parks in presenting a landscape of grassy spaces broken up by shrubberies, mainly intruding into the grass from the edges. It covers an area of approximately 25 acres on the SE side of the original Basingstoke town centre. The old London road ran along its northern edge in 1921. This area has since been filled with Council Offices, and the original 1920s gates have been re-erected on the line of the old ha ha. The current centrepiece of the park is a bandstand, thought to have been re-erected here in 1921 from another location. There is an old summer house on the east side of the park, on the edge of a thick belt of trees. This building is in a dilapidated condition, and is presently used as a store. Most of the buildings and other fixtures within the park show signs of vandalism, mainly through the use of graffiti images in various mediums. This is nowhere as bad as can be expected in such parks, although this is probably the result of it being close to the Civic Offices. Here any defects can be readily seen and rectified more quickly than in parks further from the town's administrative centre.

## **3.0 Strategy**

### **3.1 Background to methods used**

It is proposed to undertake an analysis of the structures to determine their archaeological and historical potential. The work entailed:

- i) Research into the historical origins and development of the structures.
- ii) An analysis of the structures to a Level 2 recording as outlined in the RCHME's *Recording Historic Buildings. A descriptive specification*, (London, 1991; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition).
- iii) Recommendations relating to the proposed restoration works.
- iv) Any other matters that the research brings to light that may have effect on the restoration proposals.

These are reported on in such a way that the archaeological implications of the development can be understood and appropriate mitigation arranged. Recommendations deriving from this appraisal are integrated into this report. These include recommendations for further archaeological work, where appropriate.

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## **3.2 Methodology**

**3.2.1** The evaluation strategy followed that outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for desk-based assessments*, in the first instance. This involved research at the Hampshire Record Office, and other local repositories holding relevant archives, into those primary documents relating to the structures and their landscape context that survive. This included recovering cartographic information from historic maps, and any estate papers relating to Goldings Park (to 1921) and the War Memorial Park (1921-present)

**3.2.2** The second phase involved the analysis of the structures. A written description of the structures is made, highlighting any structural alterations that appear to have been made. Dating of the structures and any alterations is attempted. This analysis is accompanied by a photographic survey to produce an archive of photographs in colour and monochrome. Plans of the structures were produced to RCHME Level 2 standard (see RCHME 1991).

**3.2.3** Recommendations are extracted from the above research to suggest ways to mitigate the impact of the restoration, ensuring that the structures will be dealt with in a manner appropriate to their historic character.

## **4.0 Results**

### **4.1 Historical research**

#### **4.1.1 The origins of Goldings**

Prior to the Enclosure Act of 1786 for Basingstoke (HRO 148M71/1/4/6) the area now occupied by the War Memorial Park had been part of Hackwood Field, one of the town's common fields. These had survived from the medieval period, and may have pre-dated the creation of the medieval market town. It was quite common for the market towns of England to retain elements of the rural settlements from which they originated. The survival of common fields well into the post-medieval period is known from many of southern England's medieval market towns. Many of these town fields were of considerable size, often covering many hundreds of areas. The Basingstoke common fields fell into this category, and their large extent, even just prior to enclosure, can be seen on Godson's map of the town made in 1762 (HRO 23M72/P1/1-2).

The predecessor of the War Memorial Park was an area of private parkland attached to a gentry mansion known as Goldings. This had been created by the Russell family, members of the Basingstoke town oligarchy, and relations of the Russell dukes of Bedford. The background to the family, and the origins of the site of Goldings House has been traced during this research.

The earliest building on the site of Goldings is thought to have been a timber framed building dating from *c.* 1600. It originally adjoined another similar timber building on its west side (No. 3 London Road). These buildings were on the main London road leading east out of Basingstoke, and probably represent a relatively late expansion of the medieval town. Further

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expansion in this direction was restricted by the position of the common fields, but it would appear that assarting or enclosure of part of these fields had occurred on the strips south of London Road and east of Hackwood Lane, probably in the late medieval or early post-medieval period. The land on which Goldings sits is recorded in an Abstract of Title, where it is first mentioned in 1683 as the property of William Ryme, gentleman. Here it is described as:

'All that dwelling house with the new built house adjoining thereto... and also...54 acres of arable land in the Common Fields of Basingstoke and Basing, two closes of pasture ground called Golds Plotts containing 8 acres' (HRO 67M83/18/4)

It is uncertain here if the new building described here is on Goldings' site, but if it assumed it is, then it would seem that one of the two buildings there (ie the mansion and no. 3 London Road) was newly built before 1683 and the other had been present for some time previously. It is also possible that the newly erected building refers to the White Hart, as the collection for which this Abstract refers is for the White Hart. It should be noted that the strip of land between the common fields and the London Road is referred to as two plots of pasture land called Golds Plots. Godson's map of 1762 still shows these lands as 'The late Mr Rymeses Land', although by then it had been divided into at least six plots, with the White Hart clearly existing on one of them.

By his will of 1723 William Ryme left the land to his wife Rebecca with the reversion to his two daughters Rebecca and Mary (ibid). Ryme's widow then entered into an agreement with one Joshua Foster, the exact relationship between them being uncertain. In November 1743 Joshua Foster issued a lease and release to Thomas Woodman that referred to the property as the capital messuage, garden and close called Goldsplott, with a 'new erected messuage or cottage'. This suggests that in 1743 the house on Goldings' site was of sufficient status to be considered a 'Capital' messuage. It is possible that the newly erected cottage is the White Hart. It is uncertain if the 'new built' house of 1683 is the same building, or one of the two adjoining buildings on the Goldings' plot. The term 'new built', once used in a document, is often repeated without question by subsequent deeds, and it is not unusual for the term to continue in use for almost a century, even though the building in question long ceased to be newly built. Consequently, it is not possible to be certain that we are dealing with two different newly built houses in this instance. On balance, however, the new built cottage of 1743 was probably the White Hart.

Thomas Woodman got himself into financial difficulties, having borrowed money from Wadham Wyndham, secretary to the Commissioner of Stamp Duty. His property was confiscated by decree of the Court of Exchequer in 1759, and put up for sale to the best bidder. In 1762 it was decreed that John Russell had provided the best bid and the property was put in trust for William Russell, presumably his son (op cit). By an indenture of 30<sup>th</sup> December 1765, William Russell of Basingstoke, gentleman, took up possession of the property. It was described as:

'All that Capital Messuage or Mansion with the Barn Stable Backside Garden Orchard little Plot of Ground and Six Acres of Land late Hop Ground thereto belonging called Golds Plott situate lying and being in Basingstoke aforesaid in or near a place called London Lane

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heretofore in the possession of Rebecca Rhimes Widow and Joshua Foster Gentleman late of the said Thomas Woodman and now of the said William Russell' (HRO 67M83/18/1)

A further indenture of the same date refers to another building. This is described as:

'All that new erected Messuage or Tenement, Garden and Piddle of Ground... then in Possession or Occupation of Francis Earlsman his assigns... being part and parcel of a close of Ground commonly called Golds Plott' (ibid).

This second building seems to be the White Hart, whilst the capital messuage is on the site of Goldings. The latter is clearly considered to be a gentleman's mansion at this date, and it might be assumed that the original building had been rebuilt in brick by this time. It is still uncertain if the new built building mentioned in 1683 is this mansion. On balance it might seem that the White Hart was newly built at a later date as in 1683 Golds Plotts make up eight acres, whilst in 1765 only six acres are attached to the mansion. It is possible therefore that the two acre difference represents taking a plot out to allocate to the building of the White Hart. Although this seems to be the most likely sequence of events, it is not clear evidence, and one should be aware that this interpretation might be proved false should further documents be discovered. However, if the interpretation is correct, it would mean that the accepted sequence of development for the Goldings Mansion needs to be revised. Previously it had been considered that the earlier building had been refronted in brick about 1750 (Goldings Register Office leaflet), but this new evidence suggests this may have been done just before 1683. Another publication has suggested that a timber framed building on the mansion site was reconstructed about 1700 (Hawker 1984, 55).

#### **4.1.2 The Russells and Goldings**

The Russell family was one of the more important gentry families in 18<sup>th</sup>-century Basingstoke. They were said to have been related to the Russell dukes of Bedford. A William Russell of Basingstoke appears in 1709 as an apothecary, and although this suggests that he was a mere tradesman, he seems to have built up some landed wealth by that date. He can be found holding land in parts of rural Hampshire well outside Basingstoke (HRO 70M86/W/1-2, 4-6). William had three sons, another William, Richard and John. John himself seems to have had a son of his own called John because in 1756 he is referred to as 'John Senior' (HRO 12M48/35). It is one of these Johns that purchased Goldings in trust for William Russell in 1762. John is still alive in 1775, as he is recorded involved in a land transaction at Preston Candover (HRO 16M69/16). William may have had a brother, Francis. The later is referred to as being of Westminster in London, and was not a Basingstoke resident, although he later inherited Goldings.

The exact relationship between all these Russells has not been attempted, but it would seem that the head of the Basingstoke branch of the family was successively William (*florit* 1709), John senior (*florit* 1709-1756), William (*florit* 1762, died after 1786), and then Francis (listed as owner of Goldings from *c.* 1791, died 1797). There was also a John Russell the younger, possibly a younger brother of William. This younger John is mentioned in documents between

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1756 and 1793. After Francis Russell's death, the property passed briefly through the female line, before emerging in the hands of William Apletree, who is thought to be a relation.

The Russells seem to have had their main residence in Church Street before the purchase of Goldings. Town rentals show that they had a 'great house' and 'Mr Russell's own house' in the town until about 1794. The 'Great House' is referred to in a rental of 1780 as 'Taffs' (aka 'Talkes'), for which they paid a rent charge of £1-3-4d. 'Mr Russell's own house' is referred to as 'Rymers late Woodmans' and is charged only one shilling (HRO 148M71/3/2/2). After 1794 the Church Street house is abandoned by the family, a Mr Gilbert taking it on, followed by a Mr Lane. It would appear that the last Russell to occupy Church Street was Miss Lucy Russell, a spinster, and possibly the sister or aunt of William and Francis (HRO 148M71/3/2/3).

It seems to have been William Russell who began the conversion of Goldings into a more elaborate mansion (Plate 1) with its own parkland. The Russell family already owned most of the land in Basingstoke Common Fields that was to become the park. This appears to have been purchased with the house in 1762, but they did not own the entire compact block until after the Enclosure Act of 1786. Godson's map shows that a 'Mr Symes' owned a large block dividing the northern part of the park from the south. It is not known how he was removed from the scene, whether by purchase or exchange for lands elsewhere. The Russell family appears to have decided on a course of action before the Enclosure Act of 1786 was drawn up. Inserted within this document is a paragraph whereby they had obtained the right to be allocated certain land in the vicinity of their mansion. There can be little doubt that this had been engineered to give them the compact block of land necessary to make a park for Goldings. This agreement is made with Lucy, William and Francis Russell together, suggesting that the family co-operated in their mutual interests.

This agreement states:

'... be it further Enacted, that the separate and distinct Allotments of the Said Lands and Grounds, by this Act directed to be divided and inclosed, which the said Commissioners shall adjudge to belong to Lucy Russell, Spinster, William Russell, Gentleman, and Francis Russell Esquire, or so much thereof as in the Judgement of the said Commissioners may be so done without Inquiry to any other Persons having ancient inclosed Lands abutting upon that Part of Hackwood Field, and consistently with the general Plan or Design of the said Inclosure, shall be set out and allotted in One Entire Plot or Parcel of Land, in that Part of Hackwood Field which abuts Westward upon the Inclosed Lands and Grounds of the said William Russell, and so as to extend from North to South as far as the East Fences of the said Inclosed Lands extend,...' (HRO 148M71/1/4/6).

It is not known how far William had progressed with the conversion of Goldings to a parkland estate by his death at some time between 1786 and 1791. A deed relating to property in Hackwood Lane (the Horse & Jockey) dated 1793 refers to the family at this time as being represented by Jane Russell, widow, John Russell the younger, and Francis Russell of Westminster (HRO 67M83/11/1). Francis appears to have taken over the house, as he is later referred to as 'of Basingstoke', but his tenure appears to have been brief. In 1797 he appears to

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have died as an inventory of goods at Goldings 'late the property of Francis Russell deceased' is recorded (HRO 148M71/9/3). The property is then recorded for a number of years as being in the hands of his executors. This continues until at least 1803 (HRO 148M71/3/2/4). There is then a gap in the records. The Land Tax returns for Basingstoke for 1806 records the Executors of Ann Russell as holding lands in Basingstoke (HRO 148M71/3/4/4), but the town rental for Michelmas 1806 records 'Appletree' as the occupier of Goldings (HRO 148M71/3/2/5). By 1810 a more specific 'William' Appletree is recorded. He continued to hold Goldings until 1865, making him the first owner to hold the estate for any length of time.

#### **4.1.3 William Apletree and his successors at Goldings**

At this stage of the research, it is uncertain exactly who William Appletree (more often spelt Apletree) was or where he had originated. It might be assumed that he had married into the Russell family through a daughter of one of the Russells. He certainly seems to have had a family connection because his son, who does not appear to have survived him, was called Francis Russell Apletree (HRO TOP19/1/42, page 3). William appears to have been in possession of Goldings by Michelmas 1806 (op cit), but slightly before this the property may have been let out. The Land Tax Returns for Basingstoke for 1806 lists a Colonel Nynch (?) as the occupier of Russell lands in the hundred (HRO 148M71/3/4/4), suggesting that Goldings may have been leased out at this time.

The tithe survey for Basingstoke of 1840 provides the first map to show the layout of Goldings Park in any detail (HRO 21M65/F7/13/1-2). This shows the Park divided between the Park (at 15 acres) and the strip of wooded ground containing the Summer House. The later is called the 'Plantation' and comprises two acres and one rod. The map shows the distinct curve in the edge of the strip where the Summer House now sits on a raised platform. This map suggests that the platform may have existed at this date, but no building is shown. This does not necessarily mean that one did not exist, as tithe maps can often omit internal detail of designed landscapes. Beyond the plantation is a long strip of land of over 23 acres called 'Home Field'. This extends from London Road down to the southern lodge of Goldings Park on Hackwood Lane. It is possible that this is the enclosure referred to in the special clause in the Enclosure Act cited above. All these lands are listed as being owned and occupied by William Apletree, suggesting that he actually lived at Goldings, rather than leased it to others.

In 1851 another large-scale map of Basingstoke was produced by R A Davis (Plate 2). A copy hangs in the Willis Museum in the town centre. This shows the park much as in 1851, but with the additional detail of a building on the site of the Summer House. It also shows an ice house near the northern tip of the plantation, and the line of the ha ha, dividing the more intimate formal gardens by the house from the park. These gardens had been laid out over the six acres of land that had been referred to in earlier documents as Golds Plot.

Little is known about the private life of William Apletree. He made a will on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1865, and appears to have died at some unspecified time after this. He left Goldings and 40 acres of lands attached to it (plus other lands elsewhere) to his daughter-in-law Isabella Apletree and her brother, the Reverend Edmund Shipperdson, on the understanding that it should pass after their deaths to his grand-daughters Margaret and Marianne (HRO

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50M63/B12/4). These grand-daughters are probably the offspring of William Apletree's son, Francis, mentioned above. It would seem from the details given in William's will that Isabella had been Francis Apletree's wife. Their presumed daughter, Marianne, married Francis Simpson at Basingstoke on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1872, whilst Margaret died a spinster on 28<sup>th</sup> August the following year, leaving Marianne to inherit.

It is around this time that the first large-scale Ordnance Survey maps were produced at 6 and 25 inches to the mile. There was also a 50 inch to the mile plan made of the town centre. Between them, these maps give the first detailed plans of the Goldings estate. These large scale maps were amongst the most accurate ever made, and show detail that was often not attempted on later editions. For instance, the 25" maps often portrayed individual trees in their exact positions. Unfortunately the accuracy of this sort of detail was often at the whim of individual surveyors, and so it can not always be relied upon one hundred per cent. Nevertheless, the tree planting shown is often accurate in approximate numbers and disposition, and will differentiate with some accuracy between deciduous and evergreen types.

The 50" survey of 1873 only shows the mansion and the gardens immediately adjoining. It does not extend as far as the Summer House, so a large portion of the park is excluded. The detail around the house gives important details not shown on the 25" map. It shows an irregular layout of flower beds, with a more formal *parterre* south of the house. Elsewhere, on the north side of the ha ha are a typically irregular layout of Victorian shrubberies, with what appears to be a walled kitchen garden on the site of the Register Office Car Park (HRO 36M99/3).

The 25" survey of 1872 (sheet 18.8) shows the entire park in some detail (Fig. 2). The ha ha ditch is clearly marked as an earthwork, with a wall on the inside. Tree planting, mainly evergreens (probably conifers) screen the houses along Hackwood Road from the mansion, with mainly open parkland dotted with a small number of deciduous trees between the Hackwood Road side and the 'Plantation' on the east side of the park. This plantation, also referred to by other contemporary documents as the 'wood' is entered by a path leading direct from the mansion past the inner shrubberies. This diverts around the end of the ha ha, and enters the wood by its north-western edge. The trees seem to be planted particularly densely here possibly to screen two utilitarian buildings about 50m inside the wood. This planting is mainly deciduous trees with conifers on the outer edge of the wood. The buildings this heavy planting seems to screen includes the ice house. This is specifically named on the map, and is depicted by an earthwork mound entered on the north side. To the immediate east of the mound is what appears to be an outbuilding. This structure survived until quite recently, being still shown on the 1977 OS 50" map (sheet SU 6451 NW). As one side of the building is shown as the brick wall that still exists as the eastern boundary of the park, it might be assumed this structure was made of brick. The ice house continued to be shown as a mound until the 1937 edition of the 25" OS map (sheet 18.8). There is little trace of the mound on the site today, and one should assume that the ice pit was filled in as a danger to children after this date.

The path then passes the ice house to make a complete circuit of the wood, exiting in the enclosure east of the kitchen gardens. On the tithe survey the latter is plot 39 called Little

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Meadow (HRO 21M65/F713/1-2). By 1872, some ornamental planting appears to have been done here, with a shelter belt of conifers obstructing the eastwards view of Basingstoke Common from the house. This circuit walk passes the Summer House on its east side. A short path diverts off the main path from the south, backtracking to the Summer House.

This is slightly odd as it might suggest the entrance was on the south side. The vista to the house appears to be open, with only two conifers on the west side of the mound to frame the view of the building from the house. Even more odd is the plan of the structure as shown on this map. It shows a circular or hexagonal building with protruding appendages on the south and north sides. That on the south side is the width of the approaching path, suggesting an elaborate entrance, the other is much thinner, perhaps no more than a glorified buttress. What is strange about this is that the plan depicted does not match the surviving structure. One might expect the two appendages to have been demolished to give the present plan, but there is no clear sign of scars on the surviving walls indicating that this was done.

The mystery deepens with the next edition of the 25" OS map. This was published in 1894, and it shows a circular building more grown in with trees than previously (Fig. 3). If the map is accurate one might even suggest the building is slightly obscured from view from the house. The apparent circular plan can be explained by the scale of the map, it being too small to depict a hexagonal structure. From this it can be assumed that the present building is depicted. This shape is shown again on the 1909 (Fig. 5), 1932 (Fig. 6) and 1937 editions of the 25" OS map.

There are a number of other plans of Goldings issued with the various deeds of sale and sale particulars from the period 1900-1921. Many of these are purely schematic, and do not show the Summer House at all. One shows the 'Summer House' as a square structure (HRO 50M63/B12/4; Fig. 4), but the accuracy of this can be questioned as it is not thought that the plan was attempting anything other than a general impression.

One further feature appears in the park between 1894 and 1909. This is a small circular pond near the southern tip of the park. This is not shown on the 1894 OS 25" map, but has appeared by the 1909 edition (Fig. 5). It is shown on the 1965 edition of the 1:2500 OS plan (sheet SU 6451-6551) as a 'paddling pool', but it is missing from the 1977 edition of the same sheet.

Late in the year 1900 Marianne and Francis Simpson agreed to sell the mansion and its estate to Thomas Burberry and Tom Cox for £7500. To complete this transaction Burberry and Cox were obliged to mortgage the property to raise £6000 of the asking price. They obtained this money from Robert Grenville and Francis Lazenby. The latter is described as a bank manager of Basingstoke. The description of the estate states that Goldings and the adjoining messuage on the west side was 'formerly in the occupation of Mrs Stone and then George Freeman Dunn'. This statement seems to refer to the house on the west side of Goldings as being let out to Mrs Stone, but such is the poor grammar of such documents that one needs to consider the possibility that it was Goldings that was let.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August 1901 Burberry and Cox sold the property to one William Chambers Lefroy of the Lodge, Church Crookham. By his will of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1910 Lefroy appointed his brother, Rear

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Admiral Richard Peirse, and Charles Fairfax Crowder as his executors. When he died 'at Goldings' on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1915, his executors stepped in to sell the property, the eventual purchaser being Mary Mackenzie of 'Gillots, Henley on Thames, Oxford, Spinster' (HRO 50M63/B12/4). A Sale Particular was produced for this that includes some interesting details about the property (Documents in the possession of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council).

According to this document the estate was put up for auction at the Station Hotel, Basingstoke on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1916. The estate comprised an 'early Georgian residence', 'beautiful pleasure grounds and park land of 23 acres', together with No. 3 London Road and two pairs of cottages. The 'Charming Old House of the early Georgian period' is 'partly clad with ivy' and has an approach that 'is by way of a short Carriage Drive, protected at entrance by ornamental iron gates hung on massive piers, widening to a bold sweep on the East front'. The grounds are described as possessing 'a charm which age alone can give. They are not extensive or costly of upkeep, and are in first-rate order. On the South front of the House runs a Broad gravelled walk & wide-spreading ornamental lawn for tennis and croquet, adorned by flower beds and parterres and choice shrubbery.' There are also herbaceous borders, a rose garden, two walled fruit and vegetable gardens, with an orangery, vinery, a peach house and other utilitarian garden buildings. The plot formerly known as Little Meadow is described as a 'productive orchard meadow'. The parkland is of 15 acres and 'beautifully timbered'. It is 'surrounded by spinneys and belts of oak, beech and fir trees of great charm intersected by winding walks of most romantic character.' All this seems to confirm the picture given by contemporary OS plans.

The Summer House is next described. The Particular states that:

'In the shelter of some magnificent old cedar trees, planted on rising ground, is a brick-built temple of hexagonal shape, lighted on four sides and having a fireplace. Forming a most delightful and secluded retreat'.

It is interesting to note that the accompanying plan shows the building as square, thus confirming the view given above that the plan was not accurate.

Finally in the southern extremity of the park is a 'brick and slate cottage probably originally intended as an Entrance Lodge to a proposed drive through the property'. It is not known if this is true but the building is referred to hereafter as the lodge, and it is possibly it was made for this purpose.

At some time after the Great War ended Miss Mackenzie made it known that she was prepared to put Goldings on the market. When this became known in the town, it was proposed to purchase it to provide a fitting memorial to those men and women of Basingstoke who had died for their country in the war.

#### **4.1.4 The purchase of Goldings by the Corporation of Basingstoke and its later history**

Following the end of the Great War a War Memorial Committee was formed in Basingstoke. This considered a number of alternatives of which a memorial park was initially only one. At a

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meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> May 1919 the purchase of Goldings Park for this purpose was put forward as one of five motions. On this occasion, it proved to be the least popular of those considered, but when the matter was put to a public meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, the townspeople voted quite differently. Goldings was the most popular option by a clear majority, taking 317 of the votes cast (HRO 148M71/16/1/4).

It is not known for certain when Thomas Burberry, a successful clothier of the town, first came forward with the offer to buy the park and hold it for the town until the purchasing price could be found. His intervention may have been a factor in the voting on 26<sup>th</sup> May, but this will have to remain an unknown factor at present. Burberrys were a clothing company that set up a small factory in New Street, Basingstoke, in 1868. They were reputed to have invented the gabardine material used for raincoats. The business thrived, and despite a fire in their Winchester Street store in 1905, Thomas Burberry became one of Basingstoke's most wealthy men (Pitcher n.d., 14). Thomas Burberry invested capital from his profits in land transactions, with his own country estate at Crossways, Hook. He had already owned Goldings once before, having purchased it in 1900 with Thomas Cox, a corn merchant for £7500. The following year they sold it on to William Lefroy (HRO 50M63/B12/4).

The indenture for the sale of the estate was dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 1920. The sale price was given as £9583-8-6d (ibid), although there were odd bits of the original estate omitted from this purchase. The purchase of the South Lodge does not appear to have come until later. Having bought the mansion and park, Burberry was content to wait until the War Memorial Committee raised the money to buy it from him. The intention to buy was clear, and Burberry allowed the Council access to the park prior to the official purchase to begin laying it out as a public park. The park was sold on its own to begin with, the conveyance being dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 1921 at a price of £4500, to which Burberry personally donated part of the costs (op cit). The park was opened to the public on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1921 by Major-General Seely.

Work continued trying to raise further funds to provide a memorial statue and gates to the park, and for the purchase of the mansion itself. In June 1921 an appeal for funds for the gates was issued showing a picture of the proposed gates (HRO 148M71/16/1/5). This was by the architect, J Arthur Smith, and it was far more elaborate than the actual gates as erected. From this one might assume that the projected figure was not raised, and a scaled down version of the gates had to be adopted. It also seems that plans for the memorial statue may have cost more than expected, and the shortfall in funds resulted in a simplified gate being erected. The statue and gates were not unveiled until 24<sup>th</sup> May 1923, when they were opened by Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice (HRO 148M71/16/1/8-9). A photograph of the opening ceremony shows the present Bandstand in place in the background, and the gates on the north side of the memorial (HRO 148M71/16/1/4). These have since been moved to sit on the line of the old ha ha, following the building of the new council offices. In the meantime, the town council raised the money to buy Goldings mansion. Burberry sold this to the council on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1922 at a cost of £3500 (HRO 148M71/1/5/159).

In its early days the park was frequently used for gatherings, and the Bandstand served its original purpose as a raised platform for performing music. Old photographs at the Willis Museum show crowds of people being entertained around the bandstand in the 1920s and

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1930s (Willis Museum photo numbers, 3.57-3.63). The 1932 Ordnance Survey 25" scale map (sheet 18.8; Fig. 6) shows the altered layout from the days when it was a private park. The icehouse is still shown as an earthwork, but one would assume it had been abandoned by this time. The woodland walks on the east side of the park were much as before the War, the only notable exception being that a set of steps had been put into the west side of the mound leading up to the Summer House. These were still show in 1965 (OS 50" map, sheet SU 6451 NW), but had gone by 1977 (OS 25" map, sheet SU6451-6551). The area to the immediate SE of the memorial was a bowling green, and remained so even until after 1965, although they have since been removed. Between the ha ha and the bandstand were a set of tennis courts. These have now gone, but they remained there until after 1977, with a putting green being placed on their east side between 1965 and 1977. The small pond at the south end of the park became a paddling pool, and other children's amenities, including a sand pit were erected around it, but this seems to have been a post-1945 development. In the inter-war years, this pool seems to have served only an ornamental purpose.

The Bandstand and the Summer House are the only two early structures still standing. The ha ha has been much repaired, and only fragments of the original flint and brick wall seems to have survived. In some respects the park has declined over the last thirty years or so. The Bandstand is rarely used for musical entertainment, and the sense of community that was so obvious in its early days has faded. Although the park is still popular with local people, it has become used far less for official functions than in its early days. Attempts to rectify this resulted in the Council applying for lottery funding to restore the park. They received notice of their successful bid in 1999. Prior to the restoration being implemented the Council initiated a study of the standing historic structures as an aid to future management decisions. This report is one of the outcomes of this initiative.

## **4.2 A description of the standing historic structures**

### **4.2.1 The memorial gates and the ha ha (Plates 3 & 4)**

The present Memorial Gates have been reset in their present position across the original ha ha in Goldings Park. They are made of red brick with stone dressings. The main piers average 3.56m high (not including the ball finial) from the bottom of the ha ha ditch. They are symmetrical with stone bases (0.81m wide), surmounted by slimmer brick piers (0.68m wide) divided by a course of stone and surmounted by ball finials The pedestal containing the balls oversails the pier, and has denticulated decoration under. The gates are made of wrought iron painted black. The width of the opening for the gates is 3.37m.

On each side of the main piers are subsidiary piers. They are set 1.54m either side of the main piers. They average 3.02m high (not including the ball finial) from the bottom of the ha ha ditch, with a wider stone base (0.59m wide) than the slimmer brick and stone pier (0.45m wide). These subsidiary piers are of similar design to the main piers and are surmounted by ball finials. The pedestal, however, is not oversailing, but flush with the brick pier and has no denticulated decoration as on the main piers. There were wrought iron railings between the main piers and the subsidiary piers (Plate 3).

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The ha ha on the west side of the gates has been entirely rebuilt in modern brick. This side is considerably shorter than the length on the east side, having been partly built over by more recent council offices. The eastern ha ha is a confusing mix of rebuilds and possible original materials. This length is about 52m in length, the ditch averaging about 0.8m deep (Plate 4). It was recorded as follows, working from the eastern end towards the gates. The measurements given are only approximate as the ha ha curves considerably. The measurements were taken from a straightened 50m tape fixed at the east end:

1. The first 3.2m was made of brick and ended in a straight joint.
2. From 3.2m to 5.95m it was made of knapped flint with a single course brick capping. The west end of this section was again terminated in a straight joint.
3. From 5.95m to 7.3m the wall was made of brick.
4. From 7.3m to 8.6m was a short section of flint with a brick capping as in (2), but the flint was repointed with concrete mortar.
5. From 8.6m to 12.15m the wall was made of brick, seemingly a fairly recent repair.
6. From 12.15m to 14.6m the wall was made of brick, but apparently older than (5).
7. From 14.6m to 24.1m the wall was made of relatively modern brick.
8. From 24.1m to 29.5m the wall was made of knapped flint with a single course brick capping. This was one of the longer lengths of flint wall, and it showed evidence of having brick dressing set the full height of the wall approximately every 1.5m. It is considered that this was probably the design of the original ha ha.
9. From 29.5m to 33.2m the wall appeared to be a relatively modern brick replacement.
10. From 33.2m to 42.7m the wall was made of flint with brick dressings as in (8). The last few metres were obscured by ivy.
11. From 42.7m to 44.2m the wall was made of brick.
12. From 44.2m to 45.7m there was a short section of flint walling.
13. From 45.7m to the gateway (approximately 6.5m), the wall was made of brick.

#### **4.2.2 The Summer House (Plates 5-8, Fig. 7)**

The Summer House is a six-sided (hexagonal) building made of brick with a clay tile roof. It sits on a piece of raised ground about 1.5m higher than the park level to the west. The external brickwork was painted a dull cream. The door is on the north side, set in a heavy wood frame and painted green. It has faded lettering above the opening reading 'GENTS'. This lettering is said to have been put on during the making of an unknown film some years ago. The building does not seem ever to have been used ever used as a gentleman's toilet.

There are blocked windows on four sides, and a projecting brick chimney stack, 1.00m wide and projecting 0.35m from the external wall (Plate 6). The blocked windows are of two different types. On either side of the door, they are tall rectangles, averaging 1.23m wide. On the south and SW sides they are octagonal, averaging 1.01m wide externally. All the windows have been blocked in with breeze blocks. There is some slight discrepancies in each of the two window types that makes them not exactly symmetrical. The NE 'rectangular' window has an axed arch at the top, with a slight lip about 0.2m below it forming a square edge. The total height to the top of the rounded head is 1.82m, the width 1.23m. The NW rectangular window has a squared head with an blind axed arch above. The total height of this window is 1.84m,

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the height to the squared head, 1.73m. Both are rectangular internally. Of the octagonal windows, that opposite the door (the south wall) is 0.90m high by 0.90m wide internally (Plate 7). The window in the SW wall next to it is 0.95m high by 0.95m wide internally. These internal measurements do not match the external widths of 1.01m, but the blocking masks how this additional width is lost internally. The reader is referred to figure 7 for a measured plan of the building.

There is a plaque attached to the blocking of the rectangular window on the NE side. It is of brass, with dimensions 0.255m long and 0.155m high. It reads:

'Tree Planting Ceremony  
24<sup>th</sup> November 1990

The Worshipful The Mayor Councillor C B Evans together with the Councillor M W R Frost Leader of the Council and Councillor K G Chapman The Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee planted trees in Memory of Aldermen and Councillors who died whilst in Service.

The following made donations and took part in the planting of trees and shrubs to replace those lost in the gales of 1987 and 1989.

Basingstoke and District Beekeepers Association  
The Harrow Way Social Club  
Miss E Wells'

The external brick bonding pattern is difficult to determine, the short sides being much broken up by windows etc, and obscured by a thick layer of paint. They appear to be set in courses made up of a two stretchers and a header repeating in alternate courses. There are traces of a slight brick plinth, no more than one course showing above ground level on the NW side. This has been buried by the higher ground level elsewhere.

The roof is pyramidal, with a double pitch section brought up over the door so that the entrance has a gable over it. The roof is covered in plain clay tiles, with raised ridges at the angles covered by semi-circular tiles. In the space between the top of the door and the gable's eaves is a blocked semi-circular window. The eaves have denticulated bricks underneath, except on the door side, where the eaves line is continued across the gable for a short distance (three 'teeth' on each side) before being broken to allow a space for the blocked semi-circular window. The door itself has a slightly curved hood, with the top of the wood frame being brought out at the sides as a slight overhanging 'porch' (although this is so simple that the word 'porch' seems to amplify the reality; see Plate 5).

The external measurements of the sides are not exactly even, but range between 2.85m and 2.89m, with 2.87m being an average. The sides, starting from that containing the door, and moving clockwise, measure 2.87m, 2.85m, 2.87m, 2.89m, 2.87m and 2.86m. The height of the external walls is not even as the building does not stand on completely flat ground. The heights (from ground level to eaves) range from 2.58m on the SE side to 2.90m on the NW side.

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Internally the building is floored with bricks laid flat side up. There is a fireplace in the SE side 0.81m wide overall with an opening 0.42m wide, and simple brick surrounds. It is possible that the surrounds could have been elaborate once. The present brick surround of the fireplace looks like it might be a fairly modern replacement. There is a simple wooden bench seat against the NE wall. The walls have been successively plastered and painted, and it is not possible to determine the original colour scheme. At present the latest covering is in a similar dull creamy yellow to the outside wall, although this is much faded and is rapidly peeling off. Underneath this are traces of a green painted plaster. All around the bottoms of the wall are traces of a darker green band, for up to 0.35m above the floor. There are also traces of a grey plaster or render underneath, possibly as an undercoat. There are also the remains of a wooden skirting board around some of the sides.

Inside the roof appears to be lined with felt, and the roof timbers seem to be modern softwood replacements. The roof consists a single tiebeam crossing the structure on an approximate E-W alignment. The pyramidal roof is supported by a king post with valley rafters under the main ridges of the roof. Each roof segment formed between the valley rafters has one full-length horizontal rafter to the apex of each segment, with two horizontal cut-off rafters either side of the central full-length rafter (Plate 8). This repeats on five sides. The roof over the door is treated differently, with what might be described as a double valley rafter construction.

At the time of first recording this structure (January 2000; Plates 5 & 6), there was little serious graffiti on the external walls. On the final visit in early February 2000, the whole external structure had been heavily vandalised by graffiti.

#### **4.2.3 The Bandstand (Plates 9-10, Fig. 8)**

The Bandstand is an octagonal structure, built on a brick base. The height of the base varies, as the site is not exactly flat. The height of the base is at its greatest, at 0.82m, on the NE side. From here it decreases in a clockwise direction until the side with the steps (the west side) is reached, where the height is 0.48m. It then increases relatively quickly to the north side at 0.8m. The entire base is covered in a layer of concrete. The bonding pattern of the base is stretcher bond, with a single course of headers at the top.

The base also has traces of a rough external concrete base around its outside edge. The edges of this are very uneven, with seemingly no attempt having been made to tidy them up. It is uncertain if this has occurred through wear, whether this was once covered by earth, or simply left. All around the exterior of the Bandstand (except on the steps side) there was a wide plant bed containing low shrubs. It is possible that this was supposed to screen this poor finishing.

The steps leading up onto the platforms are three in number, being concentric platforms of concrete sitting one on the other. The concrete possibly conceals a brick core. The steps are not spaced centrally in the west side, the outer edges being 0.47m from the south corner and 0.39m from the north (Plate 9). Likewise the lengths of the Bandstand's eight sides was not exactly even, showing some minor variation. Measuring from the steps side, and moving

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clockwise, the sides were 2.74m, 2.78m, 2.75m, 2.77m, 2.77m, 2.77m, 2.77m and 2.70m. The reader is referred to figure 8 for a measured plan of the building.

The roof is supported on eight octagonal posts, each 0.2m wide. These are of wood, but with the thick bottom portion encased in an iron sleeve. The overall internal width of the Bandstand is 6.72m. The wrought iron railings forming the sides of the stand are set on a wooden cill 0.15m wide. There is decorative iron scrolling under the eaves, with wrought iron brackets at the top of each side of the posts. The roof itself is set so that there is an overhang of about 0.8m beyond the edge of the brick base (Plates 9-10). The colour scheme for the iron work was red with brown posts. There were traces of green paint underneath, but no traces of any other colour scheme beneath this.

The roof appear to be of felt externally (the roof was only examined from below) with leaded (?) ridges, surmounted by a square wooden clock turret with four faces, each approximately facing the four cardinal points of the compass. The clock face displayed Roman numerals, which were gilded. The underside of the roof was lined with wood planks, with a trap door entrance leading into a loft in the roof space. At the time of the recording, the trap door appeared to have been removed or forced open (that is pushed over inside) by vandals. No other major damage was noticed, apart from some minor graffiti, mainly in black felt pen.

## **5.0 Discussion**

### **5.1 The ha ha**

The evidence given above suggests that the ha ha was created at the same time that Goldings Park was made. It acted as a hidden fence between the gardens adjacent to the house (taking up the six acres of the former Golds Plot), and the parkland proper. The original revetment wall appears to have been made of flint with brick dressings. The latter comprised a single course of headers on the top of the wall, with a staggered horizontal band approximately every 1.5m. In 1923 a set of gates was put up on the London Road frontage, with a War Memorial surmounted by a bronze angel, between the gates and the ha ha. Since 1977 new Council offices were constructed within the former gardens, and the gate was relocated on the ha ha wall. The latter was reported to have occurred early in the 1990s (Frank Dowling, pers. comm.)

The wall shows signs of many different repairs over the years. Nearly all of these have replaced the flint wall by brick. This has been done in a very piecemeal manner, with no discernible pattern.

### **5.2 The Summer House**

The historic research and analysis of the Summer House has raised a number of important questions, although some of them can not be answered at present. In particular, the heavy paint covering the outside brickwork may be concealing important information about the structure.

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The most important question about this building is to answer if it is an original structure or not? Before this work was carried out, it was generally thought that the Summer House dated from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. However, comparisons between the plans of the building on the 1872 and 1894 Ordnance Survey 25" plans show what appear to be different buildings. The 1872 plan shows a structure with additions on both the south and north sides. A similar plan is shown for the Summer House on R A Davies map of Basingstoke for 1851 (copy in Willis Museum). The fact that a path leads up to the structure in 1872 from the south suggests that the addition on the south side was an entrance porch. By 1894 both additions had gone, and the plan shown is possibly that of the present hexagonal building.

This evidence seems to suggest that the 1872 building was different from that of 1894. In particular the entrance seemed to be on the opposite side (the south), and the overall plan was quite different. It is possible that the attachments on the north and south side were demolished, and the core of the building retained and adapted to the present form. If this was the case, one might expect to find scarring on the north and south sides. None can be seen clearly at this stage, although it is possible that the present heavy external paint conceals vital evidence. There does, therefore, seem to be a distinct possibility that the original building was replaced by the present simplified building between 1872 and 1894.

Frank Dowling, Conservation Officer for the Borough, inspected the building on hearing of the above discovery, and thought he could detect scarring for a former structure against the south wall. There is evidence of disturbance here, but the author is not sure if it represents the remains of the relatively substantial structure shown on the 1872 OS map. The only way that this can be determined for certain is to remove the paint, and examine the structure further.

As the building is currently in a rather dilapidated state, and the external treatment seems inappropriate, it can be recommended that this should be carefully removed to reveal the structure underneath. This removal should be watched by an archaeologist to record if there are any traces of earlier treatments. The restored Summer House should either be left in bare brick, or given a less garish colourwash covering. However, the latter should only be attempted if good evidence for a similar treatment can be found prior to the present painting.

Further work is also recommended to solve this mystery further. A small-scale archaeological excavation on the site of the attachments shown in 1872 would help immensely in determining whether the present building has been adapted from the earlier structure, or is a complete rebuild. Examination of the joints between the attachments and the present/earlier building would help determine this problem, provided that the alterations in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century did not destroy all the evidence.

### **5.2.3 The Bandstand**

The Bandstand appears to be a good example of its type. The brick base seems to be made of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century brick, possibly built from new in the 1920s. The iron work hints at a building slightly earlier than the date of the park. This could be because there is a tradition that the structure was moved to its present site from May's (Fairfields) Playing Field (now May's Cricket Ground), about half a mile to the west. A photograph in the keeping of Basingstoke

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and Deane Borough Council seems to show this same bandstand about 1900 (in the care of Mr Ian Harris).

If the present Bandstand was re-erected from one at May's, the photograph shows that the brick base was much lower on this previous site. This confirms the view that the present base was built from new when the upper part of the bandstand was moved to the War Memorial Park.

A photograph of the May 1923 ceremony to unveil the War Memorial and gates shows a structure very similar to the present Bandstand in the park in its present position. However there are a number of significant differences. The earliest Bandstand at Goldings is shown without the clock turret on top of the roof. The roof has been altered to accommodate this addition. Photographs in the 1920s also show a decorative iron frieze around the edge of the roof. This was probably removed when the roof was altered to take the clock. There are also other differences on the roof. Both the photographs of the bandstand at May's and at Goldings seems to show a more elaborate roof structure than at present. Today there are far less ribs in the roof than originally, the present roof structure only having ribs that extend from above each supporting post. On the original roof there seems to be at least four further ribs within each segment of the roof. This evidence suggests that the roof was completely replaced, probably when the clock turret was erected. The date when this was done is not known.

A photograph of the Bandstand, accurately dated to January 1926 (Willis Museum photo 3.57), seems to suggest that the bandstand is in its original position, and has been since soon the park opened.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

Standing structures within the historic Goldings Park have been examined, and their history researched. This has determined that the park was first laid out by William Russell, following the Basingstoke Enclosure Act of 1786. Russell had obtained the Goldings mansion in 1765, with six acres of land attached. This land became the main gardens attached to the house, and the Enclosure Act gave him the opportunity to obtain a block of the former open field called Hackwood Field to lay out a small park.

Around 1806 William Apletree became the owner of Goldings, probably through inheritance as a relation of the Russell family. After 1865 the estate passed to his daughters, the survivor selling it on to Charles Lefroy in 1900. Following the end of the Great War, the Corporation of Basingstoke purchased the estate in 1921 with the help of Thomas Burberry, a local business man, to turn it into the present War Memorial Park.

The ha ha was probably created soon after *c.* 1786, and has been much patched up since 1921. It would seem that the original revetment wall was made of knapped flint with brick dressings. Where repair work has been done the flint has been replaced by brick, with only about 25% of the original flint wall surviving.

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The Summer House was previously considered to have been an original feature of the park, and had been given a late 18<sup>th</sup>-century date. However, it is not shown until Davies Basingstoke map of 1851. The 1872 Ordnance Survey 25" map, like the Davies map, shows it as a more complex structure than at present, with projecting portions on the north and south sides. The building was approached by a path coming from the south, suggesting the southern attachment may have been an elaborate porch. The Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1894 shows the building as the present hexagonal shape. This seems to suggest that the present building may have been rebuilt between 1872 and 1894. It is not known if any of the original structure survives. The present brick building is in a dilapidated condition, all the decorative window openings having been blocked to prevent vandalism. A heavy cream paint obscures much of the external structure, and this will need removing before a more detailed analysis can be made.

It is thought that the Bandstand was moved from May's Playing Field in the early 1920s to coincide with the conversion of Goldings Park into the War Memorial Park. It is first seen in a photograph of the unveiling ceremony for the War Memorial and gates in May 1923. It is a good example of its kind, although the brick base may have been made anew in the 1920s rather than re-erect the old one. The bricks do not seem to be reused, and are of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The structure in May's Playing Field seems to have been in position around 1900, and if the original base had been used on the present structure one might expect to see evidence of reuse. Since the bandstand was erected in the War Memorial Park, the roof seems to have been completed rebuilt to allow for the addition of the present clock turret. It is not known when this alteration was carried out.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

Further work needs to be done on the Summer House to determine its relationship with what appears to have been an earlier building on the site. Differences in the plans of 1872 and 1894 seem to suggest either part of the original structure had been removed, or the entire building has been rebuilt. Further observations need to be made:

1. The north and south sides, where attached structures seem to be in 1872, need to be examined by archaeological excavation. This should attempt to find traces of the foundations of these structures, and to determine their relationship with the present building.
2. The external paint needs to be removed to examine the brickwork for traces of other structures abutting the present building, and also any earlier surface treatments. The structure then needs to be re-examined by an archaeologists with experience of recording standing structures or a suitably experienced building historian.

The order in which this work is done is not important, although the best chance of new information is likely to come from (1). It is thought, therefore that this should be undertaken first.

The author has published articles discussing the general ethics of restoration of historic landscapes and gardens, with particular relevance to the use of archaeological methods, which

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can be used as guides to the type of problems the management may encounter (Currie 1992, Currie and Scholz 1996)

## **8.0 Archive**

The archive for this work will be deposited with the County Museum Services. Copies of the report were lodged with the client, the Hampshire County Council County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in The Planning Department, The Castle, Winchester, Hants, and the National Monuments Record Centre at Kemble Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

Sincere thanks are given to all those involved with this project. In particular, Frank Dowling, Conservation Officer for Basingstoke Council, and his staff. Thanks are also given to the Parks Department for giving the author access to the buildings, and the staff of the Hampshire Record Office and the Willis Museum for providing documents relating to the history of the site.

## **10.0 References**

### **10.1 Original sources in the Hampshire Record Office (HRO):**

#### **Maps and plans:**

HRO 23M72/P1/1-2 Godson's map and survey book of Basingstoke, 1762  
HRO Q23/2/7/1 Basingstoke Enclosure Map, 1788  
HRO 21M65/F7/1-2 Tithe map & award for Basingstoke, 1840

#### Ordnance Survey plans:

50" scale

HRO 36M99/3 OS 1873 edition  
Sheet SU 6451 NW 1965 edition

25" scale (1:2500)

OS sheet 18.8 (1872, 1894, 1909, 1932 & 1937 editions)  
OS sheet SU 6451-6551, 1977 edition

#### **Original documents:**

HRO 12M48/35 Russell family property transaction, 1756  
HRO 50M63/B12/4 Collection of papers relating to purchase of Goldings, including Abstract of Title, 1865-1921  
HRO 16M69/16 Russell family property transaction, Preston Candover, 1775

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HRO 67M83/11/1 Russell family property transaction, (Horse & Jockey, Basingstoke)1793  
HRO 67M83/18/1 Sale of site of Goldings to William Russell, 30<sup>th</sup> December 1765  
HRO 67M83/18/4 Abstract of title to Golds Plots (Goldings and the White Hart), from 1683  
HRO 70M86/W/1-2 Russell family property transaction, 1709  
HRO 70M86/W/4-6 Russell family property transaction, 1716  
HRO TOP19/1/42 Typescript article, 'War Memorial Park. A history of a designed landscape',  
produced by Landscape Section of Hampshire County Council, May 1990

HRO 148M71 Basingstoke town records:

HRO 148M71/1/4/6 Basingstoke Enclosure Act, 1786  
HRO 148M71/3/2/2 Basingstoke Town Rentals, c. 1780-89  
HRO 148M71/3/2/3 Basingstoke Town Rentals, c. 1790-99  
HRO 148M71/3/2/4 Basingstoke Town Rentals, c. 1800-05  
HRO 148M71/3/2/5 Basingstoke Town Rentals, c. 1806-10  
HRO 148M71/3/4/4 Basingstoke Land Tax Returns, 1806  
HRO 148M71/1/5/159 Agreement to sell Goldings, Thomas Burberry to Basingstoke  
Corporation, 17<sup>th</sup> August 1921  
HRO 148M71/9/3 Inventory of goods of Francis Russell of Goldings, deceased, 1793  
HRO 148M71/16/1/4 Hand written book by A G Wood, 'Record of the War Memorial and  
Peace Celebrations at Basingstoke'.  
HRO 148M71/16/1/5 Appeal for donations for War Memorial gates, June 1921  
HRO 148M71/16/1/8-9 Printed invitation for unveiling of War Memorial gates, 24<sup>th</sup> May 1923

### **In the Willis Museum, Basingstoke**

R A Davies' Map of Basingstoke, 1851  
Photo numbers 3.57-3.63 Photographs of the Memorial Park and bandstand from c. 1925-70

### **Records with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council:**

Abstract of title to Goldings Park, 1867-1921  
Letter from Thomas Burberry agreeing to allow council to begin laying out park prior to  
completion of sale, 8<sup>th</sup> December 1920  
Indenture, 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 1922, for sale of Goldings and the South Lodge to Basingstoke Corporation

Photographs:

The bandstand at Fairfields Recreation Ground (May's) about 1900  
The bandstand in the Memorial Park, mid 1920s

### **10.2 Secondary sources**

C K Currie, 'The restoration of historic gardens: the role of archaeology', *All natural things: archaeology and the green debate*, Macinnes, L. & Wickham-Jones, C. (eds.), Oxbow monograph 21, Oxford, 1992, 181-89

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### **Appendix 1: catalogue of record photographs taken**

All the photographs listed below were taken in monochrome and colour slide. The monochrome photographs are marked GP/M/\*, \* relating to the number in the list given below. The colour slide shots are marked GP/S/\*, \* relating to the number in the list given below.

1. Bandstand from the north, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2000
  2. Ditto
  3. Bandstand from the west
  4. Ditto
  5. Bandstand from the south
  6. Ditto
  7. Bandstand from the east
  8. Ditto
  9. Bandstand from the east, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2000
  10. ditto
  11. Summer House external from the NW, showing entrance and blocked window sides
  12. Ditto
  13. Summer House external from the north showing entrance side
  14. Ditto
  15. Summer House external from the NE showing the chimney stack
  16. Ditto
  17. Summer House internal showing south wall
  18. Ditto
  19. Summer House internal showing fireplace
  20. Ditto
  21. Summer House internal looking up at roof
  22. Ditto
  23. View of Goldings and gate from the Summer House (from SE)
  24. Summer House, brass plate commemorating 1990 tree planting
  25. Ditto
  26. The ha ha and gates from the east
  27. Ditto
  28. The ha ha from the west
  29. Ditto
  30. The gates and the War Memorial from the north
  31. Ditto
  32. Goldings Mansion from the south
  33. Ditto
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## Appendix 2: glossary of archaeological terms

**Archaeology:** the study of man's past by means of the material relics he has left behind him. By material relics, this means both materials buried within the soil (artefacts and remains of structures), and those surviving above the surface such as buildings, structures (e.g. stone circles) and earthworks (e.g. hillforts, old field boundaries etc.). Even the study of old tree or shrub alignments, where they have been artificially planted in the past, can give vital information on past activity.

**Artefacts:** any object made by man that finds itself discarded (usually as a broken object) or lost in the soil. The most common finds are usually pottery sherds, or waste flint flakes from prehistoric stone tool making. Metal finds are generally rare except in specialist areas such as the site of an old forge. The absence of finds from the activity of metal detectorists is not usually given much credibility by archaeologists as a means of defining if archaeology is present

**Desk-based assessment:** an assessment of a known or potential archaeological resource within a specific land unit or area, consisting of a collation of existing written or graphic information, to identify the likely character, extent and relative quality of the actual or potential resource.

**Earthwork:** bank of earth, hollow, or other earthen feature created by human activity.

**Evaluation:** a limited programme of intrusive fieldwork (mainly test-trenching) which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified land unit or area. If they are present, this will define their character, extent, and relative quality, and allow an assessment of their worth in local, regional and national terms.

**Hedgebanks:** banks of earth, usually with a ditch, that have been set up in the past on which is planted a stock-proof line of shrubs. There is written evidence that they were made from at least Roman times, but they are suspected as existing in prehistoric times.

**Period:** time periods within British chronology are usually defined as Prehistoric (comprising the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age), Roman, Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval. Although exact definitions are often challenged, the general date ranges are as given below.

**Project Design:** a written statement on the project's objectives, methods, timetable and resources set out in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

**Site:** usually defined as an area where human activity has taken place in the past. It does not require the remains of buildings to be present. A scatter of prehistoric flint-working debris can be defined as a 'site', with or without evidence for permanent or temporary habitation.

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