

THE MEDIEVAL PARKS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

L. M. CANTOR AND J. HATHERLY

The park was a common feature of the medieval landscape and was to be found in substantial numbers in every county in England.¹ It was part of the demesne lands of the lord of the manor and typically consisted of "unimproved land", almost invariably well-wooded to provide covert for the deer, and usually containing pasture. It was normally situated on the edge of the manor and, as a result, the park boundary frequently coincided with the manorial and parish boundaries. The medieval park varied considerably in size, though, in the early Middle Ages until about 1350, it was usually fairly small; in Buckinghamshire, for example, typical examples were Ditton created in 1335 out of 38 acres and Little Linford which in 1278 consisted of 40 acres.² However, in the later Middle Ages, there are many references to parks being increased in size, often as at Fingest and Princes Risborough, directly from the cultivated land.

The main purposes of the park were to provide the lord of the manor with a private hunting ground and with a ready source of meat. It was, therefore, stocked with deer, of the red, fallow and roe varieties. In order to retain the deer, the park had to be securely enclosed, usually by a combination of substantial earth bank, topped by a wooden paling fence and with an inside ditch, which together made an impassable barrier. Occasionally, the wooden fence might be replaced by a quickset hedge, or by a stone wall, and where the topography was suitable, for example just below the crest of a steep slope, the paling fence only might serve. Water seems to have been an effective barrier to the passage of deer and some parks were partly circumscribed by rivers or marshy areas, as at Cippenham whose perambulation is described below. Crawford describes other examples of rivers serving as park boundaries at Sonning and Hamstead Marshall, in Berkshire. The circumference of the park was broken by gates and, occasionally, by "deer-leaps" which were special devices allowing deer to enter the park from outside but, once in, prevented their escape.

The medieval park was therefore a securely enclosed hunting ground of a generally wooded nature and was quite different from its modern successor, the landscaped amenity park. Its secure enclosure also distinguished it from the other medieval hunting grounds – the *forest*, *chase* and *warren*. The *forest* was a large tract of country usually though not necessarily wooded, which belonged to the Crown, had its own

1. For lists and descriptions of medieval parks in Dorset, Staffordshire, and Leicestershire, for example, see L. M. Cantor and J. D. Wilson "The Medieval Deer Parks of Dorset, I-IX", *Proceedings Dorset Nat. Hist. and Arch. Soc.* 83-91, (1961-70); L. M. Cantor, "Medieval Deer-Parks of North Staffordshire I and II", *N. Staffs. Journal of Field Studies* 2 (1962), pp. 72-77 and 4 (1964), pp. 61-66; L. M. Cantor and J. S. Moore, "The Medieval parks of the Earls of Stafford at Madeley", *N. Staffs. Journal of Field Studies*, 3 (1963), pp. 37-58; L. M. Cantor, "The Medieval Parks of South Staffordshire", *Transactions Birmingham Arch. Soc.* 80, (1965) pp. 1-9; and L. M. Cantor, "The Medieval Parks, Leicestershire", *Transactions Leicestershire Arch. and Hist. Soc.*, 66 (1970-1), pp. 9-24.

2. *Cal. Chart*, IV, 342; *Cal. IPM* IV, 71. The considerable variation in the size of medieval parks is well illustrated by a detailed study of part of Northamptonshire which contained 11 parks in varying size from 30 to 1,390 acres (C.C. Taylor, *Archaeological Sites in the North-east, RCHM. County of Northampton*, I, 1975).

Forest Laws and came under the jurisdiction of forest officials. Within the county, at various times during and after the Middle Ages, there were four relatively small forests. These were Windsor Forest which spilled over from Berkshire into the southern tip of the County; Bernwood Forest which lay partly in Oxfordshire and partly in the western area of the county, extending roughly between Bicester and Thame, and which today still contains a good deal of woodland; Whittlewood Forest, which lay mainly in Northamptonshire, extended into the extreme north-western part of the county and is also still very wooded; and Salcey Forest which was also mainly in Northamptonshire and extended into the extreme north-eastern corner of the county. The relationship between forests and parks is a rather complex one. However, in general, when the restrictive Forest Laws were enforced by the Crown officials they generally excluded the creation of parks; on the other hand, once a forest area was "disafforested", that is the land was freed from the Forest Laws on payment of usually quite considerable sums of money to the Crown, then its wooded nature usually favoured the creation of parks. Certainly, the former forests of Buckinghamshire all contained a number of parks.

The *chase* was a private forest or hunting-ground which a few great nobles and ecclesiastical lords were allowed to create in their estates. The land-owners appointed their own officials and introduced their own laws so that for ordinary people there was often little to choose between living in a forest or a chase. The only chase in the county was Whaddon Chase which began life as a royal forest and became a chase in the thirteenth century when it was granted to the Giffards by Henry III.

The right of *free warren* was granted to lords of the manor by the Crown, thereby enabling them to hunt the smaller game – the fox and the hare, the rabbit and the wild-cat and the pheasants and partridges – over their estates. By the middle of the fourteenth century, such grants became so common throughout the country that the great majority of manorial lords seemed to have enjoyed them.

During the Middle Ages, which is here to be taken the period of 400 years from the Domesday Survey to the accession of Henry VII in 1485, Buckinghamshire contained at least 52 parks for which one or more documentary references exist.³ These are listed in the Appendix. However, it is almost certain that other parks were in existence during this period of which no traces, documentary or topographical, exist. These parks, not all of which co-existed at any one time, were scattered all over the county (Figure 1). However, there is marked concentration in certain regions, especially in the old forest areas in the north and to a lesser extent, in the south; in this context, it is perhaps significant that Professor H.C. Darby's study of Domesday Woodland in the county when compared with the subsequent distribution of medieval parks, reveals a distinct correlation. By contrast, the central part of the county the pastoral and arable Vale of Aylesbury, which had lost much of its woodland cover by 1086, contained very few parks. This may represent a definite attempt to safeguard parts of the remaining woodland areas in the face of the pressures of the plough and a growing population.

In the country at large, the greatest owner of parks was the Crown, followed by nobles and ecclesiastical lords. As far as Buckinghamshire was concerned, however, this was not the case, most parks being in the hands of local landowners. The Crown appears to have held at various times at least four parks, Cippenham, Fulmer, Prince's

³For the purpose of this article, we take the boundaries of the county to be those that existed before local government reorganisation in 1974.

Risborough, and Tickford which it acquired very late in the Middle Ages, in 1472. Among the great nobles of the early Middle Ages, the Earl of Cornwall was pre-eminent among Buckinghamshire park owners, holding Burnham, Cippenham, Marlow and Prince's Risborough; Another family owning several parks was the Greys, ennobled in the later Middle Ages and holding Bletchley, Great Brickhill and Water Eaton. Nor was the Church strongly represented in the county: the Bishop of Lincoln owned Fingest, the Abbey of Burnham acquired at least part of Burnham Park from the Earl of Cornwall, the Abbey of Lavendon was given part of Lavendon park by John de Bidun, and Bisham Abbey held Bulstrode Park. The great majority of Buckinghamshire Parks were held by local worthies such as John de Moleyns who in the 1330's was granted licences to impark at Ditton, Ilmer and Stoke Poges, and John Hampden who, in 1446, was licensed to create a large park of some 600 acres at Great Hampden.

At the time of the Domesday Survey there were at least two parks in the county, at Long Crendon and at Oakley, both in the Forest of Bernwood. However, in Buckinghamshire, as in other parts of the country, most parks were created during the period from 1200 to 1350. During these years of growing agricultural population, high seignorial farming reached its apogee and the park was an integral part of that system. Thus, by the middle of the fourteenth century, at least 45 of the recorded parks in the county had been created. Thereafter, due largely to the effects of the Black Death and the subsequent labour shortage, it became more and more difficult to maintain the hunting parks and, like demesne farming itself, they gradually fell into disuse and were leased out. During the later part of the Middle Ages, a small number of parks were created but these were for the most part large "amenity parks" which were never embanked. Typical of these were Great Hampden park which was imparked in 1446 and enclosed 600 acres, and Stockholt which was imparked in 1412 and enclosed 300 acres.

The longevity of the medieval parks varied very considerably. Some of which began as hunting parks were subsequently converted into amenity parks and were consequently very long-lived. Langley Park, for example, lasted the better part of 700 years; first mentioned in 1202, it was still in existence in 1867 when it had grown to 300 acres and contained 220 fallow deer.⁴ Other long-lived parks were Bulstrode, Ditton, Hanslope, Newton Blossomville and Stoke Poges, each of which appears to have lasted some 500 years. Other parks clearly had quite a short existence, though in many cases the absence of documentary evidence makes it difficult to be absolutely certain of the process of disparkment. However, as at Cippenham, it is possible in some cases to reconstruct the decline of the park with considerable accuracy.

In contrast to other counties, licences to impark seem to have been not uncommon and there are at least 12 examples within Buckinghamshire. Although it is difficult to generalise, royal licences were not essential unless imparking might interfere with the Crown's forest rights.⁵ This was certainly the case at Quarrendon when John Fitz-John obtained royal permission in 1276 to impark within the forest, and it would also appear to have been so at Lathbury where in 1230 William de Houghton was licensed to impark and to "be quit of the attentions of the foresters, verderers and regarders", the officials in charge of the nearby forests of Salcey.⁶

4. *VCH* 2. 342; Shirley, 129

5. See *Select Pleas of the Forest*, Seldn Society, 13 (1889) p. CXIV et. seq. and D. M. Stenton, *English Society in the Early Middle Ages* (Pelican, 1959), p. 104.

6. *VCH* 4. *Cal. Chart.* 1226-57, 117.

As an integral part of the lord's demesne, the fullest possible use was made of the medieval park. Its main purposes, as we have said, were to provide the lord with hunting and venison and, to these ends, it was well stocked with deer. It is not possible accurately to estimate the size of the herds contained within the parks but they were probably considerable, if later references are anything to go by. Thus, in 1608, Ditton contained 220 deer and, in 1605, Langley held 140.⁷ Certainly, the medieval records are full of references to deer being killed and removed from parks. In addition to hunting, the land within the park bank was put to a variety of uses provided they did not preclude the presence of deer and the consequent continuity of hunting. Thus they were a valuable source of timber, cattle were pastured, horses were raised, for a few months swine were fed on the pannage from trees, and turbarry (peat) was often important. In addition to deer, the parks might also be stocked with pheasants, partridges and small game and they frequently contained fishponds. However, during their heyday, the parks must have been quite expensive to maintain. A keeper, or parker, was needed to look after the park, the park bank and paling fence had to be maintained, and winter feed might have to be provided for the deer. Parkers would often be of considerable social consequence and often lived in lodges or substantial moated dwellings within or near their parks.

The imprint which the medieval park has left on the present landscape varies considerably. In places, such as the western side of Cippenham Park, parts of the original earthwork remain, albeit much reduced in size. The same is almost certainly true of a number of other parks in the country and, as they have yet to be explored, they offer the local historian a profitable source of investigation. Frequently, the park has determined subsequent field patterns and the shape and direction of existing field patterns; most obviously, as even a cursory glance at a modern map will show, many contemporary field-names and place-names derive from medieval parks. However, as modern parks have also given their names to present-day features, it is not to be supposed that every contemporary 'Park Wood' betokens the existence of a medieval park.

Finally, to illustrate the way in which the outlines of the medieval park can be traced on the modern landscape, we give a detailed perambulation of Cippenham Park.

7. Harleian MSS 3749, Table 7; Lipscomb IV, 533.

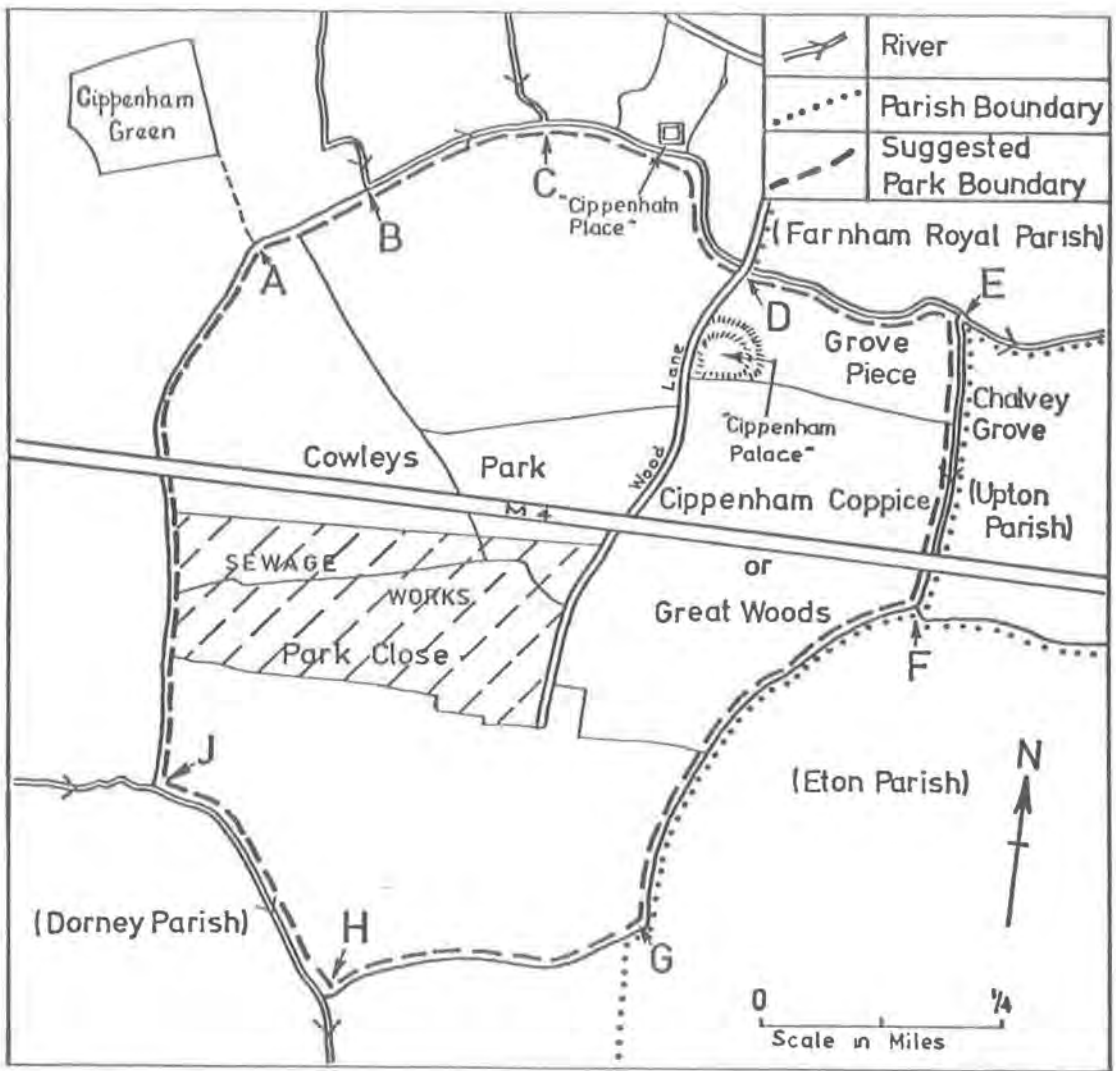


Fig. 1. Cippenham Park

CIPPENHAM PARK

The Manor or Liberty of Cippenham, within the parish of Burnham, lies at the southern-most tip of the county, scarcely two-miles north-west of the royal stronghold of Windsor. The park site can be found in the south-east corner of the Manor in its most low-lying and formerly wettest part, well away from the common arable fields in the north. It centres on 75/946795 on ground that is flat and nowhere rises even to 75 feet above sea level. In the early Middle Ages, the streams which formed much of its circuit may well have been arms of the river Thames, which now flows a mile or so to the south. This would have created a much wilder and more marshy site than we can envisage today in its drained and cultivated state. For almost half of its extent, the park boundary constituted the division between Burnham and other parishes.

Of the precise location of the park there can be little doubt. A document of 1229 (Cal. IPM III, 464) mentions a 'park by the manor' and both Binfield's Map of 1808 and the Burnham Tithe Map of 1841 show a compact oval-shaped area bounded by streams or a continuous hedgeline, strongly suggestive of a former park site. Within this area, shown on Figure 2 and Plate I, the Tithe map still recorded distinctive field names like 'Park' and 'Park Close'. Close to its north-east corner, there is a well-preserved moated enclosure, which may have been the lodge for the parker referred to in 1299. It is usually described as the site of 'Cippenham Palace', the place where Richard, Earl of Cornwall, the probable creator of the park, sealed the foundation Charter of nearby Burnham Abbey. Maps of 1742 and 1761 show most of the northern part of the park as woodland and the field names 'Cippenham Coppice' (1739 and 1808) and 'Great' and 'Little Woods' (1841) support the cartographer's accuracy. Although the lane leading into the park from the north is still called 'Wood Lane', no woodland now remains and it had certainly been grubbed up by 1841 and turned over to grassland. Woodlands frequently formed part of parkland enclosures, serving as shelter for the deer and as a timber reserve for the lord's demesne. In the fourteenth century, Cippenham Park contained both deer and horses but no surviving dividing line can be traced today (Cal. Pat., 1343-5, 368).

When Cippenham Park was disparked and converted into conventional agricultural usage it was incorporated into Cippenham Court Farm, the largest farm in the Liberty. It was still described as a park in the 1630's but a sketch map, dated 1651, described part of the area as 'Sypenham Court Lands'. The survival of the woodland as late as 1761 suggests the gradualness of the process of disparkment. It was not split up and even in 1841 the former park still formed a compact unit, with its boundaries now serving to define the limits of the farm. This probably accounts for the survival of so many clues on the ground, which are described below. In particular the hedgebank which marked the western limits persisted although it was not a parish boundary.

A perambulation can still be made of the boundaries although the M4 Motorway now running east-west across the site and a sewage works in the south hampers access to the complete course. The best approach is via a footpath running south from Cippenham Green which brings us to point A. The short distance to B is marked by a hedge without any signs of a ditch but at point B the stream which constituted the northern boundary of the park flows from the north, then turns sharply eastwards towards point C. Just to the north a still partly moated site, Cippenham Place, can be found. The

house itself probably dates from the sixteenth century, and is described as a "manor house" in a survey of about 1650. A small metalled road, Wood Lane, is crossed at D and just to the south lies the moated enclosure. The stream continues to point E then divides and the eastern limit of the park follows the arm that flows due south to F. This is also the boundary with Upton Parish, described in a Perambulation of 1739 as 'ye ditch by Sippenham Coppeice or Park'. Part of the park boundary from F to point G is defined by a deep ditch, as much as 15 ft. wide and 8 ft. deep with possible traces of a bank on the outside. To the east lay the common fields of Eton Parish and there are medieval references to strips abutting onto the park. (ECR/10.34D). In addition, the boundaries on the south and east can be traced from nineteenth century maps of the adjoining parishes showing strips of arable or meadow stopping abruptly at the boundary. Continuing the perambulation at point H, the boundary with Dorney Parish is formed by a stream, until at J the line turns abruptly northwards to join point A and complete a circuit of about 2¾ miles enclosing 310 acres (129 hectares). The line from J begins as a ditch then is obliterated by the sewage farm and then the M4. The remaining section to A is still formed by a hedge bank curving past the fields 'Park Close' and 'Cowleys', a remarkable survival which is still distinct and several feet high in places. Botanical dating applied to this hedge indicates a date close to 1600 on the basis of 100 years for each of the 4 shrubs species present. This would support the antiquity of the hedge line which was the only part of the park boundary not defined by a stream or natural feature.

Careful study of the bounds described above can still produce valuable clues as to the nature of obstacles needed to contain the beasts of the chase. For some of the distance between parts B and F, the stream ditch which defines the boundary is still nearly 8 ft. deep and as much as 15 ft. wide. In addition, there are still hedges remaining for a considerable length by the stream side, usually on the inside but also occasionally on the outside of the ditch. For much of the northern limit, this hedge contains an average of 6 varieties, which should indicate a late 14 century date if botanical dating is adopted. On the southern side between F and G and between H and I the average number of shrubs is 4-5. This could indicate that a thick hedge was used in association with the ditch to prevent animals leaving or entering the park.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks are due to Mr. G. R. Elvey, Hon. Editor of *Records of Buckinghamshire*, Dr. Michael Reed, Loughborough University of Technology, Mr. M. Farley, Buckinghamshire County Field Archaeologist, and Mrs. Judith Hunter, Class Tutor, University of Oxford Delegacy for Extra-Mural Studies, for their assistance.

● Approximate position of park.

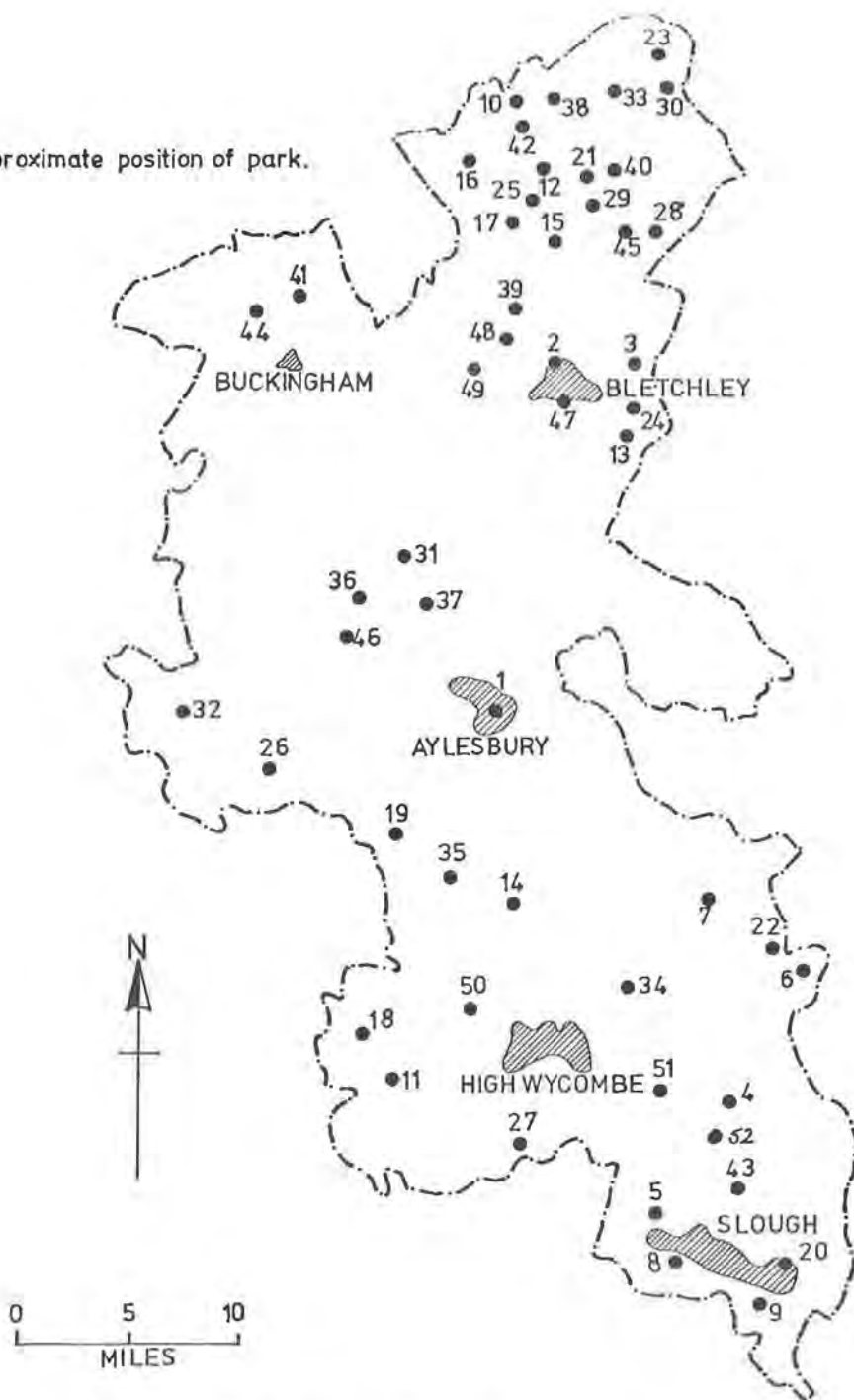


Fig. 2. The Medieval Parks of Buckinghamshire.

FIG. 2 THE MEDIEVAL PARKS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Aylesbury | 18. Ibstone | 35. Princes Risborough |
| 2. Bletchley | 19. Ilmer | 36. Quainton |
| 3. Bow Brickhill | 20. Langley Marish | 37. Quarrendon |
| 4. Bulstrode | 21. Lathbury | 38. Ravenstone |
| 5. Burnham | 22. Latimer | 39. Shenley |
| 6. Chenies | 23. Lavendon | 40. Sherington |
| 7. Chesham | 24. Little Brickhill | 41. Stockholt |
| 8. Cippenham | 25. Little Linford | 42. Stoke Goldington |
| 9. Ditton | 26. Long Crendon | 43. Stoke Poges |
| 10. Eakley | 27. Marlow | 44. Stowe |
| 11. Fingest | 28. Moulsoe | 45. Tickford |
| 12. Gayhurst | 29. Newport Pagnell | 46. Waddesdon |
| 13. Great Brickhill | 30. Newton Blossomville | 47. Water Eaton |
| 14. Great Hampden | 31. North Marston | 48. Westbury |
| 15. Great Linford | 32. Oakley | 49. Whaddon |
| 16. Hanslope | 33. Olney | 50. Widdington |
| 17. Haversham | 34. Penn | 51. Beaconsfield |
| | | 52. Fulmer |

THE MEDIEVAL PARKS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

1. **AYLESBURY.** There was a park here in 1329 which, according to the *VCH* (3,12n.), was "doubtless the park called 'Poundefold' in the town", mentioned in a Close Roll of about 1390.
2. **BLETCHLEY** was in existence by 1370 when it was held of the King by Reynold de Grey, whose family owned the manor as late as 1563 (*Cal. IPM XIII*, 22). An eighteenth-century source described a park with a "moated keeper lodge in the middle" stretching down to the great road at Watling Street Way, to the north west of Bletchley. Disparkment had taken place before 1735 (*VCH*, 4 279). The place name 'Bletchley Park' appears on the modern map (1" O.S., Seventh Series 146/8488342).
3. **BOW BRICKHILL.** A park existed here in 1220 (*Records IV*, 40), but no subsequent references to it have been found.
4. **BULSTRODE** lies just to the west of Gerrards Cross and was apparently in early medieval times, when its creation is said to have caused the diversion of an old Roman road (*Records XVIII*, 1966-1970, 367). It belonged to Bisham Abbey during the Middle Ages and passed into lay hands in 1538. Saxton shows a park around the Manor House in 1574 which was still stocked with deer in 1867, according to Shirley (p.129).
5. **BURNHAM.** This park, which belonged to the Earl of Cornwall, was in existence in 1266 when part of it may have been granted to Burnham Abbey by its owner (*VCH* 2, 166). An area, known as Abbess Park, remained with the Abbey and later passed to lay successors to its lands. This park may have been separate from Hartley Park which was first mentioned as belonging to the Earl of Cornwall's Manor of Cippenham in 1299. In 1299 the park had a parker who had an allowance of 10¼d. but its later history is more obscure. There is a surviving 2 acre moated enclosure, known as 'Hartley Court Manor', which could well have been the home of the parker. Abbess Park, which its owners claimed to include the Manor enclosure, was enclosed in about 1575 (*VCH* 3, 166). A bank and a ditch which might mark the lines of the southern boundary can still be seen on the ground.
6. **CHENIES.** There was a park here in 1335 (C 135/44/6) when it was 60 acres in extent. The next reference we have found occurs in the 1530's when Leland mentions two parks which then belonged to the Russells, Earls of Bedford, who acquired the manor in 1526. Saxton shows a park here in 1574 but it does not appear on Speed's map of 1610 which may indicate that it was disparked shortly before that time.

7. CHESHAM. The first reference to a park occurs in 1264 when Hugh de Vere is said to have held his court in the park which was half a league round (C 132/31/1). In 1295 the Earl of Oxford had a 'little park' here and there is a charter of 1321 dealing with the appointment of a parker. (*Cal. IPM*, III, 229). The park lay on the west side of the town and there are still today traces of an earthwork along its southern boundary (159/955016).
8. CIPPENHAM. The park here, belonging to Richard, Earl of Cornwall, was in existence about 1250 as, according to a document of 1275, Richard had stopped up and obstructed a road which ran through the middle of the park for 20 years prior to his death in 1272 (*Rot. Hund.*, 4 Ed. I, No. 2, m. 23). An inquisition Post Mortem of 1272 refers to the park as being in Richard's possession and it is mentioned again in 1299, together with another park called 'Herteleye', which was situated in the north-western part of the manor (C 133/95, No. 22). In 1299, a "park by the manor" is included among the possessions of Edmund, son of Richard, together with 'Herteleye' park; at this time, Edmund's parker enjoyed an allowance of 10¼d. (*Cal. IPM* III, 464). In the fourteenth century Cippenham provided a deer for the Crown on at least one occasion. In 1359 there was an order to provide hay, oats, shoes and litter for 2 destriers, lent to the Black Prince to be stallions in Prince's Risborough and Cippenham and there are other references to the use of the park as a stud farm (*B.P.R. IV*) (1359), 330). Decline seems to have set in by the later Middle Ages when the park passed into the ownership of the Moleyns, whose seat and principal deer park was at nearby Stoke Poges. The park ceased to be mentioned specifically after the middle of the fifteenth century in accounts of the manor but a glebe terrier of neighbouring Dorney Parish taken in the 1630's still mentions 'Sippenham Park.' Disparkment had certainly taken place by the early eighteenth century and the lands incorporated into Cippenham Court Farm.
9. DITTON lay mainly in a detached part of Stoke Poges Parish and was created in 1335 when Sir John de Moleyns obtained royal licence to make a park of 38 acres in Ditton and Datchet, together with a licence to crenellate his manor house (*Cal. Chart. IV*, 342). By 1338 Sir John had added a further 8 acres in Langley parish (*Cal. Pat.* 1338-40, 62). Norden, surveyor of the King's woods described the park in 1608 as 'containing 220 deer, 50 of antler and about 20 bucks, 195 acres of good ground but little timber in a circuit of 2¼ miles'. (*Harleian MSS* 3749, Table 7). The park centred in the medieval moated site continued to grow, since by 1630 when it was granted to Sir Ralph Winwood's widow it measured 208 acres. A topographical map of the Bath Road in 1742 shows Ditton as a large oval shaped area to the south of the road with the mansion of Earl Beaulieu in its midst.
10. EAKLEY was one of two manors in Stoke Goldington. A park was in existence here in 1230 when Robert Saucey was granted tenure for life (*VCH*, 4 468). Another reference to it occurs in 1235. In the fourteenth century the manor was absorbed into Stoke Goldington and no further references occur.

11. **FINGEST.** In 1330 Henry Burghershe, Bishop of Lincoln, obtained royal licence to impark his woods of Tyngheirst with 300 acres of land adjoining it (*Cal. Pat.* 1330-4, 16). Tax assessments indicate that the bishop had encroached on certain common lands and this appears to have created immediate conflict, which is not surprising in a parish containing little more than 1300 acres. In 1341, the greater part of the land of the parish is described as being within the "newly constructed park" so that only four virgates of cultivated land remained outside it (*Inquisitiones Nonarum*, 334). Thomas Walsingham in his "Historia Anglicana", written in the fourteenth century, repeats a story that the bishops' ghost was doomed to walk as a perpetual parker until 'hedges were broken down and the ditches of the park were filled up and restitution was made for the suffering which his encroachments had caused.' The bishop died in 1343 and although the Manor was held by his successors until 1547 there are no further references to a park. Perhaps the bishop saw the error of his ways.
12. **GAYHURST.** In 1229 Aumary de Nouers obtained licence to impark his inclosed wood at Gayhurst, with immunity from forest rights (*Cal. Chart.* 1226-57, 99). This immunity was recognized again in 1279 (*VCH IV*, 346). In 1255, mention is made of a park at 'Le Ho' (*Rot. Hund*, I, 38) which is almost certainly the modern "Hoo Wood" (146/843455), which lies to the south-west of the village.
13. **GREAT BRICKHILL.** A park was in existence here in 1467 when it belonged to Edmund Grey, Earl of Kent. In that year, 17s. 9d. was spent on the lodge in the park and the parker, Thomas Compton, had a fee of 60s. 8d. (Jack 112). It was mentioned again in 1504 when it was granted to Richard Grey, Earl of Kent (*Cal. Close* 1500-09, 295). It may have been situated to the east of the village where the modern map shows a 'Park Farm' (146/917311).
14. **GREAT HAMPDEN.** This park was a relatively late creation and dates from 1446-7 when John Hampden, who claimed direct descent from the Domesday holders of the Manor, obtained a licence to impark and inclose 500 acres of land and 100 acres of wood. (*Cal. Chart.* Henry IV, No. 26). This large area remained with the same family into modern times.
15. **GREAT LINFORD.** There was a park here in 1283 when Ralph Pipard complained of persons who broke into his park by night and carried away his deer (*Cal. Pat.* 1281-92, 103). There are no subsequent references in later accounts of the Manor.
16. **HANSLOPE** Park lay within the Royal Forest of Salcey, close to the Northamptonshire boundary. It originated in 1203 when Robert Mauduit made fine in 10 marks and a palfrey to inclose his woods of Beuleia (*P.R.S.* 4 John, 30). In 1222 the King granted Mauduit 5 stags from Salcey Forest (*VCH*, 4, 351). In 1255, there was a park here at 'Tathall End in Hanslope' which may have been a separate park situated to the east of the village (*Rot. Hund* I, 38). The family were created Earls of Warwick in 1263 and held the Manor until the Crown recovered control in the fifteenth century. There was further Royal grant in 1278 of 15 does and 5 bucks from Whittlewood Forest (*Cal. Close* 1272-9, 400). Under the

Crown the office of keeper was combined with that of bailiff and steward of the Manor. In 1315, the park is described as 'Balney Park' (*VCH*, 4 352) and according to the *VCH* was situated partly in Hanslope and partly in Castlethorpe, a location which approximated to that of the modern Hanslope Park. Hanslope Park is shown in both Saxton and Speed's Maps and the *VCH* claims that it continued in use all through the eighteenth century. There is still a large ornamental park and mansion to the south of the village.

17. **HAVERSHAM.** In 1207, Benedict de Haversham quitclaimed to Hugh de Haversham all common of pasture for his beasts which he had claimed in Hugh's Park (*VCH*, 4, 370). Further references were made in 1278-79 when free park and warren were claimed and in 1309 when John de Olneye complained that his park has been breached (*VCH*, 4, 370). No subsequent reference has been found.
18. **IBSTONE.** In 1281-2 there was a wood in a park, lying close to the later demesne farm (*Records* XVIII, 55). No further references have been found.
19. **ILMER** was created by Sir John de Moleyns who obtained licence to impark in 1336 by enclosing woods in Imer and La Sale (*VCH*, 4, 61).
20. **LANGLEY MARISH** is first mentioned in 1202 when the King granted Richard Montfitchet 100 live does and bucks out of his forest of Windsor to stock his park (*VCH* 2, 342). In 1285 Christine de Marisco was granted the park for life. (*Cal. Pat.* 1281-91, 164). References occur to the appointment of parkers and to the slaughter of 6 bucks in 1536 (*Letters and Papers of Henry VIII* XI, 225). Norden's survey of 1605 showed great neglect with the majority of the beech trees unfit for use as timber although there were still 140 fallow deer, about 35 of antler and about 14 bucks (*Lipscomb* IV, 533). John Kederminster, who became keeper in 1607, rebuilt the lodge and planted timber and was granted Langley Park by the Crown in 1626. Lipscomb confirms this revival and division by a pole into two parks – a rough one of heath and a bog and an inner part of grass and timber (*Lipscomb* IV, 533). In a map of 1742 the park belonged to the Harvey family, whose mansion still stands in its midst. As late as 1867 Shirley describes it as holding 220 fallow deer and measuring 300 acres in area.
21. **LATHBURY** was imparked in 1230 when William de Houghton was licensed to inclose his wood of Bungestowe and to be quit of the attentions of the foresters, verderers and regards (*Cal. Chart.* 1226-57, 117). Burnestowe Wood, presumably situated near the modern Bunsty Farm (146/839471), was part of a detached portion of Lathbury, within Gayhurst Parish. William de Houghton was a tenant of the Nouers family, who had been given permission to impark in nearby Gayhurst in 1229. Perhaps the tenant was trying to emulate his landlord.
22. **LATIMER**, in the parish of Chesham, is first mentioned in 1330 when a member of the Sifrewast family claimed that the king's escheator had denied him access to his park. This claim was rejected and in 1335 the park belonged to William Latimer who complained of intruders who broke in and stole deer and horses (*Cal. Pat.* 1334-8, 137 and Birch).

23. LAVENDON. A park is first mentioned as part of the gift of John de Bidun to the Abbey of Lavendon which he founded in the early twelfth century (*VCH* 4, 380). Further references occur in 1201 and later in the same century when it belonged to Miles de Beauchamp. Later references at Lavendon suggest that the site may have been extended eastwards towards the Castle which lay to the north of the village. The castle had vanished by the 1530's but Leland described the 'castel park' a mile from Lavendon Abbey which belonged to the Zouches and now lately sold to Lord Mourdant (*Itinerary* VII, 2). The *VCH* confirms Leland's words, since Lord Mordaunt bought the Manor in 1537 (*VCH* 4, 381). Saxton does not show a park here in 1574 and it may have been disparked by then although its site is still indicated by the modern 'Park Farm' to the north of the Castle Site.
24. LITTLE BRICKHILL contained two parks in 1307 (C133/128 No. 26). Mention is made of a park here in 1314 when it belonged to Gilbert de Clare (*Cal. IPM* V, 329). No later references have been found.
25. LITTLE LINFORD was created in 1205 when a licence was granted to Henry, son of Peter of Northampton, to enclose his wood and make a park, (*VCH* 4, 394). According to the Hundred Rolls, Thomas de Hauville had a free park in 1278-79 and at the time of his death in 1302 he held a 40 acre park with deer (*Cal. IPM* IV, 71). The Hall still stands in Little Linford Park which probably represents the medieval site (*VCH* 4, 392).
26. LONG CRENDON. At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, Long Crendon was held by Walter Giffard who had there an "enclosure (parcus) for beasts of the chase". The manor seems to have lost some of its importance when the Giffards died out in 1164 and the *VCH* in turn claims that the park suffered a similar fate when it was granted to Notley Abbey, early in the twelfth century (*VCH* 4, 38). No subsequent references occur.
27. MARLOW. The Earl of Cornwall was the owner in 1233 when the King granted three bucks out of Windsor Forest for his park (*VCH* 2, 343). No further references can be found.
28. MOULSOE. The only reference to a park here occurs in 1251 when it belonged to Fulk de Coudray (C 132/1215).
29. NEWPORT PAGNELL belonged to Roger de Somery in 1271 when complaint was made that his park had been breached and his deer stolen (*Cal. Pat.* 1266-72, 591). No subsequent references can be found.
30. NEWTON BLOSSOMVILLE. This park was in existence in 1185 when it belonged to William Blossomville (*VCH Beds* 3, 114). It lay partly in Buckinghamshire but at least 20 acres lay in the neighbouring parish of Turvey, which was in Bedfordshire. In 1386, Ralph Bassett held 20 acres in the park of the Earl of Stafford and also had 5 acres held of the King (*Cal. IPM* XVI, 384). Both

Saxton and Speed show it in their maps after which it seems to have been converted to ornamental purposes. Portions of the park walls still exist to the south of the village (*VCH* 4, 422) where the farm named 'Newton Park' is still to be found (146/931508).

31. NORTH MARSTON. There was a park here in 1202 belonging to Nigel de Marston (*Rot. Ob. et Fin.*, 49). No further references have been found.
32. OAKLEY. In 1086, the Domesday Survey recalls that Robert de Oilgi held at Oakley 'woodland for 200 swine, except that it is in the King's preserve (*parcus regis*)'. Like Long Crendon, the park at Oakley lay within the royal forest of Bernwood. No subsequent references occur.
33. OLNEY was imparked by Ralph Lord Bassett in 1374 by royal licence (*VCH* 4, 432). Ownership had passed to the Crown by the sixteenth century and a survey by the Duchy of Lancaster records that the park was paled and that the 45 acres north of the lodge were known as 'Great Grove'. According to the Parliamentary Survey of Bucks, made under the Commonwealth, there was still a lodge but the deer had gone and only rabbits valued at £10 remained (*VCH* 4, 432). The modern civil parish of Olney Park, 206 acres in area, and lying to the north west of the village probably marks the site of the park, which was said to have existed north of the common arable fields.
34. PENN. The only reference to a park here occurs in 1325 when it contained a 'capital messuage' and a dovecote (C.134/97/4).
35. PRINCES RISBOROUGH was first mentioned in 1272 when it was held by Richard Earl of Cornwall (*Cal. IPM* 1, 274). In 1299 there is a reference to a park lying near the manor house, which was stocked with deer. (*Cal. IPM* III, 463). In the fourteenth century the park at Risborough came under close royal control and developed along the same lines as Cippenham as both deer park and stud farm (*Cal. Pat.* 1343-5), 368. The eldest son of King Edward III held the park at this time and the Black Prince's Register contains a wealth of material on Risborough park. In 1347 the bailiff of Byflete was ordered to deliver the Prince's mares which were fit for foaling to John de Geytford, Keeper of the stud and his grooms were ordered to drive the mares from Byflete to Risborough park (*B.P.R.* Pt. 1, 56). The park had evidently been expanded, since in 1354 the reeve paid 18 shillings for a certain plot of land which the Prince had enclosed in his park, and another plot of land was given in compensation (*B.P.R.* Pt. 4, 122). The parker was permitted to sell fallen wood from the park for his own profit in 1363 and in 1364 a lodge was constructed from timber and other materials (*B.P.R.* Pt. IV, and Pt. IV, 541). Thereafter, the park seems to have declined and Henry VIII granted an enclosure, called 'Risborough Park', to Sir Edward Don, whose family had been parkers under the Crown (*Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*, XV, 733). Saxton did not show a park in 1574 but the *VCH* suggests that it continued in use until at least 1660. Field names like 'Park Field' and 'Park Meadow' on modern maps suggest that the park lay just to the west of the town.

36. **QUAINTON** Robert Malet had a park here in the 1240's but a survey of lands of the same family in 1295 show no reference to it and no subsequent mentions have been found. (*Early Bucks Charters* Bucks Record Soc. (1939), no. 4).
37. **QUARRENDON**. The only reference to a park here occurs in 1276 when John FitzJohn was licensed by Henry III to make a park within the forest bounds. Quarrendon is now a deserted medieval village and the park site may lie close to the manor house earthwork, south of the church ruins (146/805155).
38. **RAVENSTONE**. There was a 'Great Park' in existence here about 1270 (*VCH* 4, 439), but no further references occur. The existence of a modern 'Park Field Farm' to the west of the village (146/838512) suggests that the park may have been located here.
39. **SHENLEY**. John FitzEustace held part of a wood called 'Howepark' in 1371 which is still marked as a compact wooded area (146/834343) in the extreme south of the parish of Shenley Brook End (*Cal. IPM* XII, 338), whose southern edge forms the boundary with Tattenhoe parish. Howepark was returned at 88 acres in the seventeenth century (*VCH* 4, 445). A sixteenth century survey of the Manor mentions Shenley Park as being 50 acres in size consisting of woods all set with young oaks. There is still a house called Shenley Park and a nearby moated site to the west of the village of Shenley Church End which may represent the site of a medieval park, distinct from Howepark.
40. **SHERINGTON**. In 1278 Jon Dakeney claimed warren and a new park at 'Le Hoo' (*VCH* 4, 456). This small manor lay within Sherington parish to the east of the village (A. C. Chibnall, *Sherington* (1965), map p.3).
41. **STOCKHOLT**. Imparkment was licensed in 1412 when Thomas Linford was given permission to inclose certain woods and lands totalling 300 acres (*Cal. Pat.* 1408-13, 425). The same document mentions Stockholt park as part of the area to be inclosed, perhaps implying that some form of park had already been in existence before the official grant in 1412. No subsequent references can be found.
42. **STOKE GOLDINGTON** was created in 1214 when Peter de Goldington was licensed to impark his wood (*VCH*, 4 467). In 1276, free warren was claimed in the 'new park' by virtue of an earlier grant. In the late fifteenth century Robert Nevill held part of a wood called 'Stoke Park' which can still be seen on modern maps lying to the west of the village, close to a moated site which may have been related to it. (*Cal. IPM*, II, Henry VII, 502).
43. **STOKE POGES**. Royal licence was obtained by Sir John de Moleyns in 1331 to impark three woods in his newly acquired manor (*VCH* 3, 307). In 1340 he was given further permission to impark the woods of Syward's Hill and Wynard with 300 acres adjoining, so creating a large park close to his manor house (*Lipscomb* IV, 545-6). Reference is made in 1341 to "new imparking" of fifty acres

(*Inquisitiones Nonarum*, 332). The park continued in use after the Middle Ages and in the late eighteenth century, the Penn lords of the manor replaced their old mansion with a new house, a quarter of a mile to the west, in the middle of Stoke Park. The ornamental park was landscaped by Capability Brown and others and now serves as Stoke Poges golf course. The western limit of the park is marked by a stream which forms the boundary with Farnham Royal parish.

44. **STOWE.** There was a park here at the beginning of the thirteenth century (*Cal. Chart.* 1257- 1300, 67) which was probably still in existence in 1414 when a conveyance of Sir John Chastillon mentions parks of the parishes of Stowe and Westbury called 'Royes' or 'Royesia' and 'Makelines' or 'Malcolm's' (Shirley, 127-8). A lease of 1572 included a reference to a small area called 'Old Park' (Gay, 367-390). The present park round Stowe house dates from 1651.
45. **TICKFORD** is first mentioned in 1472 when it was granted to the Duke of Clarence (*Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, 345). It had not always belonged to the Crown, since there is a reference to 'Tickford Park', a mansion in the south east part of Newport Pagnell parish standing in what was once the deer park of the Paynels and of later lords of Newport (*VCH*, 4, 411). It still functioned in 1620 when it was sold to Henry Atkins "with its deer and stone walls enclosing it". (Close R., 18 James I, Pt. XXV, No. 54). It had been disparked by 1757.
46. **WADDESDON** is first mentioned in 1374 when it belonged to the Earl of Devon (*Cal. IPM XIV*, 14). In 1477 there was a chief mansion and land which included a park and in 1616 Lord Dormer was granted liberty of park (*VCH* 4, 110). No further references occur but it is likely that the ornamental park surrounding the Rothschild's Waddesdon Manor stands on the medieval site.
47. **WATER EATON** was one of two manors in Bletchley, the other being Bletchley itself. It contained two parks in 1308 when Lord de Grey held "a park in which there are deer and another of great wood containing 20 acres" (*VCH* 2, 279). Reynold de Grey held it in 1370 (*Cal. IPM XIII*, 22). There are further references to these two parks throughout the fourteenth century. Water Eaton lies at the southern end of Bletchley.
48. **WESTBURY.** A park is first mentioned here in 1218 (*Cal. Pat.* 1216-1225, 135) when Ralph Hareng received a licence to impark his wood of Westbury towards the Abbey of Biddlesden. In 1278-9 Joan de Somery held the Manor, including 10 acres of wood and 4 acres of park (*VCH* 3, 264). By 1280 the park had come into the possession of the Chastillon family who still held it in 1440 (*Ibid.* 265).
49. **WHADDON.** A park was first noted within the area of Whaddon Chase in 1279 (*VCH* 3, 438). The Chase had been a royal forest until Henry III granted it to the Giffards in 1242, the family which held it until the fifteenth century. The area was an important wooded hunting centre and there are frequent mentions of claims within its bounds, which enclosed 22,000 acres even in the seventeenth century (*VCH*, 2, 138). The park belonged to the owners of the chase and its keeper was

usually surveyor of the whole wooded area. From the late fifteenth century and until the death of Jane Seymour in 1548, the manor belonged to various Queens, hence it became known as 'The Queen's Chase and Park of Whaddon'. In Norden's survey of 1608, there were 126 deer and 1906 trees in the park and 480 deer and 6660 trees in the chase. In 1614, it passed to the Duke of Buckingham who held it through the difficult Civil War period. There was severe destruction of wood by soldiers in the 1640's and the debts and persistent royalism of the Duke led to much neglect. Even after the Restoration there was little relief and the park was converted to tillage and grass (*VCH*, 4, 437).

50. WIDDINGTON. This park which lay in West Wycombe parish was named after the Wydington family who lived in the parish in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries (*VCH*, 3, 138). The first mention was in 1350 when pasture for a park occurs in a rent roll and in 1540 there were summons to repair hedges on the east side of the park. A park was also referred to in land transfers as late as 1706. The probable site in the extreme south of the parish is marked on modern maps by the name 'Widdington Park Wood'.
51. BEACONSFIELD. A park is mentioned here in the early thirteenth century when Duncan de Lascelles and his wife Christina included 'a moiety of the park of Walter de Windsor' in a grant of land in Beaconsfield (Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, I, 3). Walter died in about 1204 so that the park may well have been in existence in the late twelfth century. G. R. Elvey, the historian of Beaconsfield, believes that the park may have been situated in the northern part of the Hall Barn Estate, just to the south of the town, centred on 159/944895.
52. FULMER. There was a park here by 1324, when £30 was spent on behalf of the king to dig a ditch round the manor house and to enlarge the park (Colvin, *History of the King's Works* (1963), 942). The Pinkney barony had been surrendered to Edward I in 1301 (Sanders, *Baronies*, 94), and it is likely that the park existed at that time. In 1655 there was a park of 40 acres which may have been the original one (*VCH*, 3, 277).

In addition to the above parks which were definitely in existence in the county during the Middle Ages, there are a number of others which may have existed during this period but to which there are no definite attributions. They are as follows:

1. BRADENHAM. A park is shown here by Saxton in 1574 and by Speed in his map of 1610 but no firm proof of its earlier existence has been found, although Shirley describes it as "ancient" (p. 129). There is a 'Park Wood' to the north of the village marked on modern ordnance survey maps (159/827985) and the County Field Archaeologist has recently been sent evidence of earthworks which could well mark the ancient course of the park.
2. FAWLEY and HANLEY (in Beachampton). According to the *VCH* (2, 60), there were "inclosed parks" here in the Middle Ages. However, neither precise

dates nor references are given.

4. LA VACHE park was situated in Chalfont St. Giles parish. Its precise date is unknown but Shirley (p.129) described it as the site of an ancient park of the La Vache family who according to the *Red Book of the Exchequer* (p.314), flourished from the twelfth century onwards. It is shown on Saxton's map of 1574 and Speed's map of 1610.
5. PARLAUNTE (in Langley Marish). There was a park here in 1523, called 'Plaunte or new park', to which Henry VIII appointed Henry Norris as keeper (*VCH* 3, 295). This may have been the same 'new park' as the one referred to in 1280 (*Ibid.*). It may have centred on a former moated house shown as 'Parnham Farm' on the early nineteenth century enclosure map, which lay to the south of the modern Langley Park.
6. THORNTON. According to a modern book on Roman Roads, the modern road at Thornton is diverted round a medieval park, at the east end of which "its medieval embankment is prominent going downhill to the river" (*The Viatores, Roman Roads in the South-East Midlands*, 1964, 329). However, the only definite reference to a park here is the modern one which was created in 1558-9 by George Tyrell who was licensed to impark 500 acres of meadow and wood (*Shirley*, 127). Both Saxton and Speed show this park on their maps.
7. WOLVERTON. The park may have been a late creation of Sir John Longville, who in 1501 had increased its size by enclosure (*VCH* 4, 565, quoting Domesday of Enclosures 1517). According to the (*VCH*, the park lay south west of the town of Wolverton and may have been still further enlarged at the time of the general enclosure of the parish in 1654. The topographer Baskerville noted a park in 1681 and in 1713 there was a park of 20 acres, together with a 'Low Park' of 30 acres (Add. MSS. 5839, 434).

APPENDIX

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

B.P.R.	<i>Black Prince's Register.</i>
Birch	C. Birch (Ed.), <i>The Book of Chesham</i> , 1974.
C. 132	Public Record Office, <i>Chancery Inquisitions Post Mortem</i> , Henry III.
C. 133	<i>Ibid.</i> , Edward I.
C. 134	<i>Ibid.</i> , Edward II.
C. 135	<i>Ibid.</i> , Edward III.
<i>Cal. Chart.</i>	<i>Calendar of Charter Rolls</i> (Public Record Office).
<i>Cal. Close</i>	<i>Calendar of Close Rolls</i> (Public Record Office).
<i>Cal. IPM</i>	<i>Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem</i> (Public Record Office).
<i>Cal. Pat.</i>	<i>Calendar of Patent Rolls</i> (Public Record Office).
Crawford	O.G.S. Crawford, <i>Archaeology in the Field</i> , Dent, 1953.
ECR	Eton College Records.
Gay	E. F. Gay, 'The Rise of an English Country Family, Peter and John Temple, to 1603,' <i>Huntingdon Library Quarterly</i> , 1, 1937-8.
Jack	R. I. Jack, <i>The Grey of Ruthin Valor</i> , Sydney U.P., 1965
Lipscomb	G. Lipscomb, <i>The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckinghamshire</i> , 1847, 4 vols.
<i>P.R.S.</i>	Publications of the Pipe Roll Society (1884 onwards).
<i>Records</i>	<i>Records of Buckinghamshire</i> Journal of the Architectural and Archaeological Society, (1854-present).
<i>RCHM</i>	<i>Royal Commission on Historical Monuments.</i>
<i>Rot. Hund.</i>	<i>Rot. Hundredorum</i> , 2 vols., 1812.
Shirley	E. P. Shirley, <i>English Deer Parks</i> , John Murray, 1867.
<i>VCH</i>	<i>Victoria County History of Buckinghamshire.</i>