

A Review of the Kent Compendium's list of Historic Parks and Gardens for Tunbridge Wells Borough

April 2010



English Heritage Letter



ENGLISH HERITAGE

SOUTH EAST REGION

Capacity Building Grant

This is the pilot of an ambitious project embarked on by the Kent Gardens Trust to review the records of significant gardens in Kent with the intention of bringing the Compendium up to date and providing the planning authorities with reliable information about Kent's garden heritage.

Given how highly most of us value our parks and gardens, they are surprisingly poorly protected in the planning system. Even the 1600 nationally significant ones identified on English Heritage's register of *Parks and gardens of special historic interest* are not afforded statutory protection, but are rather more vaguely a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. English Heritage's register has shown that increased knowledge and awareness can offer greater protection ultimately helping to protect and safeguard these heritage assets for future generations.

In addition, the project has increased awareness amongst owners of the value and importance of their park or garden and provided greater public access to the latest and most up-to-date information on parks and gardens within the Borough.

To qualify for funding through the regional capacity building programme, the project has to further the aims and objectives of English Heritage in promoting the conservation, understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment. Emphasis is given to supporting new initiatives and those projects that make most effective use of voluntary effort. Support will normally only be given where it can be demonstrated that the activities are on top of the normal work of the funded organisation.

This project has satisfied all of the above criteria and it pre-empts the long anticipated Heritage Bill's statement on local registers.

This has been a fantastically rewarding project for all concerned, with the latest Compendium entries as testimony to the high work standards. One of the central aims of the project was to improve the capacity and skills within KGT so that volunteers could go on to carry out further survey work and identification of new sites for listing. By providing a methodology fit to be rolled out as needed to the rest of Kent and the South East region, this aim will hopefully be realised as English Heritage has agreed, in principle, to help fund the next phase of work within the Borough of Sevenoaks.

Charlotte McLean
14th September 2010

EASTGATE COURT 195-205 HIGH STREET GUILDFORD SURREY GU1 3EH

Telephone 01483 252000 Facsimile 01483 252001
www.english-heritage.org.uk

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	Glossary	3
	Executive Summary	4
■	Chapter	
1	Introduction	6
2	Background	8
3	Methodology	20
4	Results	31
5	Discussion	39
■	Appendices	
1	Site Selection Criteria	41
2	Project Costs	44
3	Project Team Meeting Agenda	46
4	KGT Letter to Owners	47
5	Privacy Statement	49
6	Launch at Bedgebury Email Flyer	51
7	Training Day at Marle Place	52
8	Documentary Sources available at the Centre for Kentish Studies	54
■	Maps	
	Figure 1: Historic Parks and Gardens of Tunbridge Wells Borough	57
	Figure 2: Other Heritage Assets of the Borough	58

Glossary

Kent County Council	KCC
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	TWBC
Kent Gardens Trust	KGT
High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee	High Weald JAC
English Heritage	EH
Local Biodiversity Action Plan	LBAP

Executive Summary

Historic parks and gardens and other designed open spaces form a quintessential part of England's landscape; they encompass aesthetic, philosophical, botanic and scientific heritage and embody shared values of landscape and place. They play a significant part in maintaining biodiversity, environmental quality and land values and so are generally considered a positive asset worthy of recognition and protection.

English Heritage's national *Register* includes 61 parks and gardens of historic interest in Kent. 16 of these (more than 25% of Kent's total) lie wholly or partly within Tunbridge Wells Borough and represent the full range of site types, including public parks, cemeteries, castles and country houses.

Policy EN11 of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan March 2006 provides for the protection of historic parks and gardens and covers not only those on the national English Heritage *Register*, but also those on the Kent list of Historic Parks and Gardens. The Kent list for Tunbridge Wells Borough, of 28 sites as updated by this report, contains a wide range of site types, including historic country house estates and parks (with a significant number of smaller, 20th century layouts, including gardens by the internationally known 20th century landscape architect, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe), as well as public parks and a few more unusual examples, such as an early 18th century pleasure ground with outdoor cold baths.

The Kent list was last updated in 1995/96 and since that time sites have been added to the Tunbridge Wells Local Plan schedule and/or Proposals Map without the benefit of formal surveys or being formally included in the Kent list. There were also a number of obvious omissions and the information that was available was in need of updating in terms of methodology, presentation and accessibility. While Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Kent County Council and the Kent Gardens Trust were keen to update the Kent list, this only became possible with grant funding and support from the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee and English Heritage. This new, broader partnership embarked on an ambitious pilot project, recruiting and training volunteers to not only update those sites within Tunbridge Wells Borough, but to establish a self-sustaining group to carry on the work of updating the Kent list across the County.

The project objectives were:

- i. Evidence base: to provide an up to date and robustly selected list of historic, designed parks, gardens and open spaces for Tunbridge Wells Borough, accompanied by well-researched and accurately-recorded site descriptions with supporting reference material. The list will form part of the schedule of designated sites within the Borough for the evidence base of the Borough's Local Development Framework that is capable of being updated and amended as and when new information becomes available.
- ii. Development Control: to provide up to date information for use in development control decisions.
- iii. E-gov: to provide information on designed historic parks, gardens and open spaces in an electronic and accessible format.

iv. Raising standards: to develop a robust methodology for the survey, description and appraisal of sites capable of endorsement by statutory and non-statutory consultees.

v. Pilot Project: to develop a methodology and project profile capable of adoption by other authorities wishing to review or assess sites in their areas; to build capacity within KGT to assist other authorities through training of volunteers in archival research, site survey and writing descriptions of historic parks and gardens.

vi. Community Involvement: to create opportunity, through the Kent Gardens Trust, for active community participation in researching and surveying the designed, historic landscape and to increase awareness and involvement of it by owners and by the public in general.

vii. Public resource: to provide a widely available and accessible source of information on the historic, designed landscape heritage of Tunbridge Wells Borough that will increase learning opportunities.

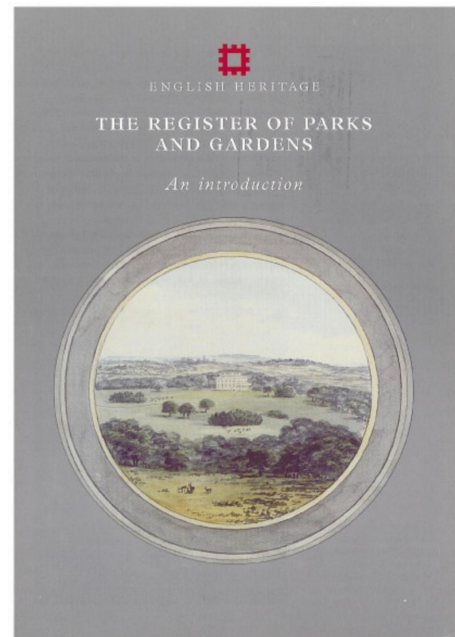
For each site covered by the project there is a research dossier retained in the Council's archives and a published pamphlet with a site description and mapping. This report sets out how the project was established and managed, what the outcomes and outputs were, what the problems and successes were and how the process can be taken forward in other areas.

Importantly, this report covers the recruitment and training of the volunteers of the Kent Gardens Trust, without whom the project would not have been possible.

Chapter 1: Introduction

"The British are and always have been a nation of gardeners. The result of centuries of this love of working the soil and moulding the natural landscape may be seen in almost every parish in the form of its historic parks and gardens which make such a significant contribution the richness of the local scene and to the diversity and pattern of the natural landscape. From town gardens and public parks to the great country estates, such places are an important, distinctive and much cherished part of our inheritance and we have a duty to care for them."

1.1 These opening words from English Heritage's introduction to the national [Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest in England](#) encapsulate the importance of historic parks and gardens to a local area's cultural heritage. Kent is no exception; still deserving its title 'the garden of England'. As Elizabeth Hall wrote in her book [Garden of England: Evolution of Historic Gardens in Kent](#) (Kent County Council 1995), she suggests the popularity of garden making arises from its warm, relatively dry climate with its high sunshine levels and its complexity and huge variety of landform and soil types. District and borough councils are encouraged by English Heritage, and now also through emerging government legislation, to prepare and adopt lists of locally important and valued parks and gardens to complement those on the national Register and, equally importantly, to treat them with the same duty of care.



English Heritage: The Register of Parks and Gardens

1.2 The [Kent Gardens Compendium](#) and its supplement **The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent** was one of the first lists or inventories of parks and gardens of local importance prepared by partnerships between county councils and their county gardens trusts. As the introduction to the **Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent** emphasises, however, it is by no means an exhaustive list. Although the research and mapping for its entries have proved of great value since first published in 1992, the increasing threats to historic parks and gardens as a finite resource demonstrate two pressing needs: to upgrade the level of knowledge through additional research and site survey to match national standards as exemplified by the English Heritage *Register*, and to investigate and assess new sites that have come to light since.

1.3 This report summarises the methodology of a nine-month project, the main body of which ran from September 2008 to May 2009, aimed at addressing those needs. Entitled **A Review of the Kent Compendium's Historic Parks and Gardens for Tunbridge Wells Borough**, 28 sites were identified within the Borough as meeting, or potentially meeting, criteria of selection for historic, designed interest.

1.4 Each site was researched and surveyed and a detailed site description written which, with accompanying documentary material, illustrations and maps, is compiled into a site dossier. The descriptions will be made publicly available during 2010, in hard copy at Tunbridge Wells Library and in electronic versions via Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's and Kent County Council's websites; key site information will be entered in the UK Parks and Gardens database, making it as widely available as possible to owners, visitors, researchers and planners. The full dossiers, which include some sensitive or personal information and detailed notes of the surveyors, will not be made available to the public but will be retained securely by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for future reference if required.

1.5 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC), the Kent Gardens Trust (KGT) and Kent County Council's (KCC) Heritage Conservation Department jointly initiated the project and soon found interest from the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee and English Heritage to form a project partnership led by TWBC and helped design and develop the project. Although the Borough Council's primary aim was an upgraded list of its own sites, the project was also managed as a pilot for devising and testing a methodology that could be rolled out as a model for potential use by other Kent local authorities and by those within the wider South East region and indeed nationally. This report sets out that methodology, explains how the partnership worked and makes suggestions for improvements for any future, similar projects.

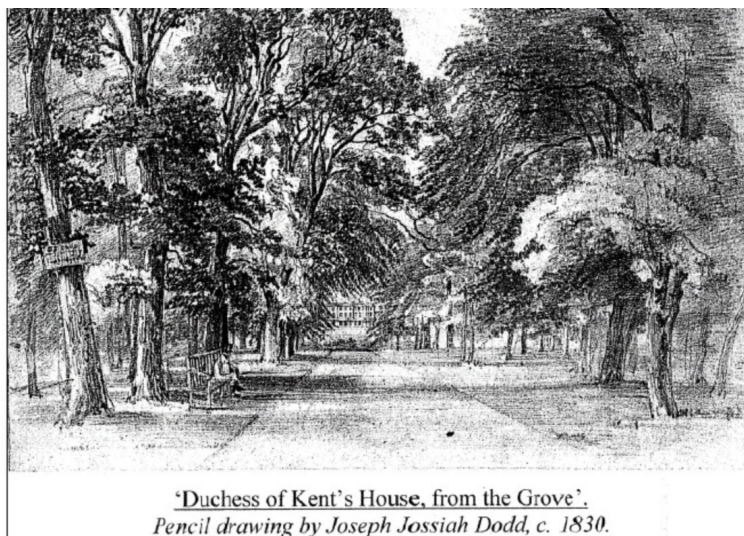
1.6 TWBC's newly-upgraded section of the **Kent Compendium's** supplement, **The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent**, will assist the Borough Council, as the planning authority, in making the best possible decisions about potential development threats affecting its historic parks and gardens and in identifying trends in those threats. The upgraded sites, with their dossiers, will be of great value to the Borough Council, English Heritage and to non-governmental organisations in identifying and targeting resources for the repair, promotion and otherwise improved and informed management of these important and often fragile sites.

Chapter 2: Background

Tunbridge Wells' Historic Parks and Gardens

2.1 English Heritage's national *Register* includes 61 parks and gardens of historic interest in Kent. 16 of these (more than 25% of Kent's total) lie wholly or partly within Tunbridge Wells Borough and represent the full range of site types, including public parks, cemeteries, castles and country houses. Among those on the English Heritage *Register* are some of the most important in the country including the National Trust gardens at Scotney Castle and Sissinghurst Castle, the Repton landscape at Bayham Abbey and the National Pinetum at Bedgebury.

2.2 This exemplary collection at national level is augmented by those in the Kent Compendium which, within its wide range of site types, includes historic country house estates (with a significant number of smaller, 20th century layouts, including gardens by the internationally known 20th century landscape architect, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe), as well as public parks and a few more unusual examples, such as an early 18th century pleasure ground with outdoor cold baths. A number of sites contribute to Royal Tunbridge Wells' own unique history as a spa and resort town, earning it the 'Royal' appellation in 1909 in recognition of the town's popularity with the young Queen Victoria.



The Grove 1830

2.3 This rich heritage of designed landscapes is in part due to the topography and distinctive semi-natural landscape in this part of the High Weald, as described in the [Borough Landscape Character Area Assessment](#) (2002), and the wealth the landscape created over the centuries through forestry, agriculture and the iron industry. The character and materials of the landscape are evident in the houses and gardens that have used the local timber, sandstone, clay and iron for buildings, and the water courses, woodland and pasture to create rock and water gardens, rolling parkland and woodland walks. The soils, often of limited agricultural value, provided excellent conditions for the exotic introductions of the 18th and 19th century plant collectors so that many gardens have excellent plant collections and fine specimen and veteran trees.

2.4 The historic parks and gardens are part of, and are interwoven with, a much wider heritage across the Borough that includes 25 conservation areas, nearly 3,000 listed buildings, 10 scheduled ancient monuments and widespread sites of archaeological interest. The Borough retains a rural character that belies its location within the otherwise populous South East. The Borough is noted for its scenic quality, with 70% of it falling within the nationally

important High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The rich combination of heritage and attractive landscape attracts a significant number of tourists and visitors to the Borough and wider area.

2.5 The parks and gardens complement other tourist attractions in the town and surrounding countryside, such as the Pantiles and Bedgebury Forest. In addition to those well known gardens on the English Heritage *Register* that are open to the public, a number of notable gardens in the Kent Compendium are also open and play an important role in the tourist industry. Finchcocks has become a musical instrument museum with an associated instrument restoration business and regularly holds recitals, concerts and events. Visitors to Hole Park play a vital part in sustaining the estate's business model, enabling the house to remain as a family home and the estate as a working landscape.



Hole Park

TWBC's aims and priorities

2.6 The Borough Council has, in collaboration with stakeholders, developed a long term vision for the Borough, setting out what it will be like in 2026:

“It will be characterised by stronger communities, who feel safer, well served, well housed and with access to excellent health services. Our residents will benefit from better education and skills development, leading to a thriving and diverse local economy. Tunbridge Wells will be a regional hub, attracting visitors and new business to the borough – both from elsewhere and from within the borough. Everyone will benefit from a range of cultural and leisure offers, in an attractive environment. Underpinning our ambitions is a key desire to ensure the borough remains sustainable, in terms of our current and future prosperity and ensuring the benefits enhance the quality of life for all.”

2.7 The Corporate priorities of the Council, based on this vision, are summarised as ‘**prosperous, green, healthy and confident**’. Under ‘**green**’, it is expected that “*Tunbridge Wells will remain a beautiful place to live, work and relax.*”

2.8 The role our historic parks and gardens play as an attractive part of our countryside, a strong part of our rural economy and as a tourist destination, supports many of the Council's priorities and underpins the 2026 vision. The additional benefits of attracting and training volunteers as part of this project, and of engaging with those who live and work on the sites, supports a number of the Council's priorities for the community.

The Planning Context

2.9 The government's [Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment](#) (1994) urges local authorities to maintain and strengthen their commitment to stewardship of the historic environment and to reflect it in their policies and their allocation of resources. Historic parks and gardens are covered under paragraph 2.24:

"Again no additional statutory controls follow from the inclusion of a site in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (see paragraph 6.38), but local planning authorities should protect registered parks and gardens in preparing development plans and in determining planning applications. The effect of proposed development on a registered park or garden or its setting is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application."

2.10 The [South East Plan](#) (published May 2009) has a general policy for the management of the historic environment that applies to historic parks and gardens:

Policy BE6: Management of the Historic Environment

"When developing and implementing plans and strategies, local authorities and other bodies will adopt policies and support proposals which protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment and the contribution it makes to local and regional distinctiveness and sense of place. The region's internationally and nationally designated historic assets should receive the highest level of protection. Proposals that make sensitive use of historic assets through regeneration, particularly where these bring redundant or under-used buildings and areas into appropriate use should be encouraged."

2.11 The adopted [Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan](#) (published March 2006) includes a specific policy for historic parks and gardens that seeks to protect both the English Heritage registered sites and those in the Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens:

Policy EN11: Historic Parks and Gardens

"Proposals which would be likely to affect a historic park or garden will only be permitted where no significant harm would be caused to its character, amenities or setting."

2.12 Core Policy 4: Environment of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Core Strategy (part of the Council's Local Development Framework) seeks to continue this protection:

"The Borough's heritage assets, including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, archaeological sites and Historic Parks and Gardens will be conserved and enhanced and positive regard will be had to their settings."

2.13 The guidance and policies outlined above show a continued and consistent support for historic parks and gardens in both the region and the Borough. In addition, many historic parks and gardens contain listed buildings, veteran trees, ancient woodland, priority habitats and protected species, all of which are subject to their own guidance and legislation and complement those for historic parks and gardens.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

2.14 The [Tunbridge Wells Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#) (LBAP) (October 2009) has identified eight priority habitats for the Borough, which includes one for Lowland Woodland Pasture and Historic Parks. The habitat description is:

"Landscape of scattered trees and pasture often associated with historic buildings and/or landscapes containing veteran trees and historic features such as ponds, ancient woodlands, banks and hedgerows."

2.15 Wood-pasture is a habitat that has derived from the traditional grazing of livestock between scattered pollards and/or stands of trees in open grassy areas or heathland. Wood-pasture is the legacy of historic land management practices of medieval times that were widespread up until the early 19th century. Many such areas were part of, or have been incorporated into, the medieval parks and/or 19th century parks and gardens. The combination of pasture and scattered and veteran trees is not only valued in terms of its historic and landscape character, but also for providing a habitat for many forms of wildlife, from communities of specialised lichens and fungi, to hole-nesting birds, bats and insects. The buildings associated with this historic landscape utilised local materials and methods, such as sandstone, timber frames and clay tiles, which have also provided important habitats for a number of species, including lichens, bats and birds.

2.16 Many of the sites on the English Heritage Register and in the Kent Compendium provide exactly this habitat type. Highly valued for their landscape, cultural and biodiversity interest, these sites are at risk primarily from poor or misguided management and, increasingly, from pressures of inappropriate modern usage and development.



Ashurst Park

2.17 The LBAP identified three objectives for this habitat that are compatible with heritage objectives for historic parks and gardens. These are to:

1. halt the loss and degradation of historic parkland and pasture woodland
2. achieve favourable conservation condition of all historic parkland and pasture woodland
3. create new areas of habitats, where appropriate, focusing on diminishing fragmentation

2.18 In addition, the LBAP set two specific actions, one of which springs directly from the Historic Parks and Gardens project. These are to:

1. raise awareness of habitats amongst owners of historic parks and gardens using data from recent Historic Parks and Gardens Project
2. identify veteran trees and raise awareness of importance of veteran trees for biodiversity and to promote good management

Background on recording and protecting gardens

The English Heritage *Register*

2.19 The value of nationally-important, designed parks, gardens and open spaces, including special areas such as squares, cemeteries or hospital grounds, is recognised by their inclusion on the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest in England* (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/> gives full details of the registration process).

2.20 The *Register* currently holds some 1,600 sites; new ones are added regularly, with priority given to those flagged up as 'at risk', or which are examples of under-represented types, such as cemeteries. English Heritage is enabled to compile the *Register* by Section 8C of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 (inserted by section 33 of, and paragraph 10 of section 4 to, the National Heritage Act 1983-4). Unlike designations covering listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments, inclusion on the English Heritage National *Register* does not bring any additional statutory protection or control, although the fact of its inclusion will be a material consideration in any planning matter.

2.21 English Heritage's *Register* Upgrade Programme (carried out 1996-2000) established and published the criteria against which sites are assessed for inclusion, or otherwise, on the *Register*. The majority of sites already registered were re-visited and re-researched to improve the robustness and quality of the descriptions and to re-confirm the boundary of the area of historic interest. Additional information was collected on key, designed views and setting and on current condition and integrity (i.e. the degree of the design's survival and change).

The future direction for the *Register*

2.22 Following wide consultation under the government's Heritage Protection Review, begun in 2003, a White Paper and a subsequent [Draft Heritage Protection Bill](#) was published in April 2008. Although the Bill has not yet been enacted, the emerging legislation proposes a single *Register* comprising all designations, to be known as the Register of Historic Sites and Buildings in England (RHSBE); this *Register* will contain both a 'national section' for nationally-important assets (including parks and gardens) and a 'local section' for sites identified as being of local value by local authorities.

County Garden Trusts, the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) and the UK Parks and Gardens database

2.23 County Gardens Trusts were first formally established in 1984 and now, in 2010, every county has one. They perform, for parks and gardens, a similar role to that of the County Wildlife Trusts for biodiversity, by conserving, protecting and promoting designed landscapes, parks and gardens. Members bring a huge range of skills and experience to their trusts, from academic research and survey, advising on matters of practical conservation and planning, to promoting public enjoyment through educational programmes, lectures and training workshops. Above all, though, they bring a deep, often personal and always enthusiastic, up to date knowledge of their local historic gardens. Trusts belong to an umbrella organisation, [The Association of Gardens Trusts](#) (AGT), formed in 1987, which coordinates

and promotes the trusts' work nationally, lobbies government and local authorities to protect sites, and works closely with other statutory amenity societies with common interests, such as the [Garden History Society](#).

The UK Parks and Gardens Database

2.24 This database (www.parksandgardens.ac.uk) is the leading on-line resource dedicated to historic parks and gardens across the whole of the United Kingdom. The key archival and survey data recorded for the 28 parks and gardens in TWBC's current project will be entered on the UK Parks and Gardens Database by Kent Gardens Trust volunteers.

2.25 The database is produced by the Parks & Gardens UK project, begun in 2005. It is led by [Parks and Gardens Database Services Limited](#) (PGDS), a not-for-profit company set up through partnership between the Association of Gardens Trusts and the University of York. The project is supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and in-kind contributions from volunteers and members of the Association of Gardens Trusts.

2.26 The web resource went live in autumn 2007 and now, in 2010, contains some 7,000 site records and 2,000 'people' records. Of these, at least 500 offer more detailed information, along with digitised maps, plans and images. As well as providing access to the database, the web resource will feature a range of educational resources on aspects of the design, social history, conservation and people involved with historic designed landscapes. These will be aimed at a variety of audiences, including academic researchers, professionals and students of all ages, lifelong learners, garden owners and tourists.

2.27 In addition to working closely with volunteers in gardens trusts across England and Wales, Parks & Gardens UK is also recruiting and training new volunteers across the UK to carry out research on historic parks and gardens that interest them and to contribute their findings to Parks & Gardens UK.

The Kent Gardens Trust

2.28 [The Kent Gardens Trust](#) was established in 1988 with the support of Kent County Council. The Trust aims to assist with the conservation of Kent's parks and gardens wherever possible and to encourage their study and appreciation. It has among its volunteer members a great reserve of knowledge and skills, which were employed in producing The Kent Gardens Compendium and its supplement The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent. These comprise one of the first comprehensive records of a county's park and garden assets beyond the national *Register*. Trust members are mostly drawn from local communities and, in volunteering to research sites, are able to contribute invaluable local knowledge outside the usual archive sources. The training elements of TWBC's project will enable volunteers to hone their research skills and gain new ones, while contributing to something of lasting and practical benefit.

The Kent Gardens Compendium and its supplement The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent

2.29 Most districts and boroughs now have local lists, these often being prepared at county level by the county gardens trust, or in partnership with the county. Counties will hold lists in their Historic Environment Record (HER), which is the new name for the old Sites and

Monuments Record (SMR). Information on sites may vary greatly in the level of detail, but counties will usually have site areas and boundaries on their geographic information systems (GISs). These will also include the nationally-designated sites. Most local plans, as fore-runners of the current local development frameworks, include a list of historic, designed parks and gardens, even if these have not been researched in detail.

2.30 The Kent Gardens Compendium was prepared by Kent County Council's Planning Department in conjunction with the Kent Gardens Trust. Published in 1992 by Kent County Council, it comprises a general record of parks and gardens of all types, including those which "*although non-historic, are of specialist or horticultural interest.*" It was revised and republished in 1995/96 following consultation with the 14 district and borough councils, with the objective of a comprehensive A to Z of parks and gardens of all types and interests. Alongside this revision, the KGT and KCC together prepared and published a supplementary volume of The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent (referred to throughout the Compendium as 'The Kent Historic Survey' or KHS). It is an inventory of the most significant, historic, designed parks and gardens, compiled through specialist research and survey, and selected according to specific criteria of period, style, importance of designer and association with historic events or personalities. Its purpose was to provide "*detailed textual descriptions of selected historic sites in depth together with site location plans.*"

Assessment of The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent and the Compendium

2.31 While descriptions of the sites included in the Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent have proved invaluable over the 15 or so years since their preparation, TWBC identified the following reasons for them to be reviewed and for the sites listed in the more general Compendium to be reassessed:

- i. Additional sites of potential historic interest (both included in the more general Compendium and newly-identified) have emerged since the last revision
- ii. Pressure from development, especially where the argument is founded on the principles of 'enabling development', has increased
- iii. The English Heritage *Register* Upgrade Programme of 1996-2000 to establish robust criteria for designation, to improve the scope, accuracy and quality of its written entries and to reconfirm boundaries, set a national standard and format which, if adopted by local registers, will improve their status, robustness and quality
- iv. Setting has increasingly become a key, relevant aspect in protecting a design's integrity; descriptions now need to record significant designed and scenic views to and from a site and the character of its surroundings
- v. The level of research and survey, and hence the robustness, of boundary definition currently varies between sites and a greater consistency is required
- vi. Information is required in electronic form, both for ease of use and public access and to meet e-gov targets; a particular need is for increased reference to historic maps and for the inclusion of these within the research material

Criteria for site selection

2.32 The criteria for designation adopted by English Heritage formed the basis of the criteria used by TWBC to select sites for review, or for assessment as potential new sites. The criteria adopted by the project is set out in Appendix 1. This means that only those sites with known, or with potential for, historic interest were eligible. The initial list comprised the 20 sites identified by the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan (adopted March 2006), only 12 of which appeared in The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent (the other eight having been added to the Local Plan after the publication of the Kent Compendium), plus a further six of known historic interest but never recorded by the partners as an historic park and garden. The project's resources and timescale did not allow for a more comprehensive scoping exercise but, as the project progressed, two further sites were identified and included, bringing the total to 28. Sites are still coming forward and are likely to continue to do so; two more in Tunbridge Wells Borough are currently (2010) being investigated by the volunteers. This report (Section 5: Discussion) based on the experience of the project, recommends ways of resourcing investigation and assessment of future sites both within Tunbridge Wells Borough and elsewhere in Kent.

Project partners, funding and management

2.33 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, the Kent Gardens Trust and Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Department jointly initiated the project and were joined by the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee and English Heritage to form a project partnership led by TWBC.

2.34 The High Weald Joint Advisory Committee offered advice and support but also, crucially, provided the first major grant of £9k from their Sustainability Development Fund. This enabled the project to be established, set out an initial project plan and programme, and to embark on a launch event to attract volunteers. English Heritage provided the second substantial grant of £8k, enabling the project to consolidate the programme and expand the training opportunities for volunteers and eventually to launch the completed project. The English Heritage grant was from its 'Capacity Building' programme aimed at investing in the development of local skills and knowledge in managing the historic environment.

2.35 The involvement of Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Department was essential as publishers of the Kent Compendium and as the authority responsible for maintaining the Heritage Environment Record, of which the review forms a part. All upgraded site descriptions were therefore passed to KCC for endorsement and their involvement will be essential to any future roll-out of the project across Kent. The Heritage Conservation Department compiled available maps and other information, prepared current and historical base mapping for the project and, from information provided by the researchers, prepared the final descriptions and supporting plans in a print-ready electronic format. This significant contribution in kind (time and printing materials) was augmented by a small financial contribution.

2.36 The Kent Gardens Trust provided the greatest asset, the volunteers, without whom the project would not have been possible. Throughout the project, the KGT recruited, organised and encouraged the volunteers, creating a cohesive group that contributed to and organised site visits, training days and events. Most importantly, they took on the task of organising and carrying out the archival research necessary for the descriptions, committing a total of around 1,200 hours. Towards the end of the project, they took on increasing responsibility for writing the descriptions and, on completion of this project, will be the key personnel for this task and the driving force behind any wider roll-out.



Volunteers on a training day

2.37 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Planning Department acted as project manager and host for grant applications, as well as providing a financial contribution. As project manager, the Borough Council ensured that the project was delivered on time and on budget, through chairing the partnership steering group, providing additional administrative support and guidance to the project, organising and running events, submitting grant applications and hosting meetings. The TWBC's Copying Unit printed this report and the 28 individual site descriptions.

2.38 As project manager, TWBC was also responsible for the appointment of the two consultants, Virginia Hinze and Dr Barbara Simms. Both helped devise the methodology, write and deliver the training and contributed to events with presentations. Dr Barbara Simms was primarily responsible for contacting owners, carrying out the site visits and writing the descriptions and has written the overview of the historic parks and gardens in Chapter 4. Virginia Hinze, formerly of English Heritage, acted as editor for the descriptions and wrote a large part of the technical content of this report. Both were totally committed to the project and should receive a great deal of the credit for the success of the project.

2.39 The volunteers were assisted by the Centre for Kentish Studies at Maidstone, who provided training sessions for volunteers in using archives for this particular project and were on hand to help and assist the researchers. Invaluable help was also received from the archivist(s) at Cranbrook Museum.

2.40 Inevitably, some owners were reticent about becoming involved, but many showed great interest and provided significant archive material. Finchcocks, Hole Park, Marle Place and Bedgebury (Bell at Bedgebury) were particularly helpful and hosted a number of training days or events.

Aim and objectives of the project and its benefits

2.41 The project's main aim was to review the list of historic parks and gardens in Tunbridge Wells Borough as identified in *The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent* (KCC edition 1996), a supplement to the *Kent Gardens Compendium* (KCC 1996), with the following objectives:

- i. Evidence base: to provide an up to date and robustly selected list of historic, designed parks, gardens and open spaces for Tunbridge Wells Borough, accompanied by well-researched and accurately-recorded site descriptions with supporting reference material. The list will form part of the schedule of designated sites within the Borough for the evidence base of the Borough's Local Development Framework that is capable of being updated and amended as and when new information becomes available.
- ii. Development Control: to provide up to date information for use in development control decisions.
- iii. E-gov: to provide information on designed historic parks, gardens and open spaces in an electronic and accessible format.
- iv. Raising standards: to develop a robust methodology for the survey, description and appraisal of sites capable of endorsement by statutory and non-statutory consultees.
- v. Pilot Project: to develop a methodology and project profile capable of adoption by other authorities wishing to review or assess sites in their areas; to build capacity within KGT to assist other authorities through training of volunteers in archival research, site survey and writing descriptions of historic parks and gardens.
- vi. Community Involvement: to create opportunity, through the Kent Gardens Trust, for active community participation in researching and surveying the designed, historic landscape and to increase awareness and involvement of it by owners and by the public in general.
- vii. Public resource: to provide a widely available and accessible source of information on the historic, designed landscape heritage of Tunbridge Wells Borough that will increase learning opportunities.

Benefits of compiling a local list

2.42 Parks and gardens and other designed open spaces form a quintessential part of England's landscape; they encompass aesthetic, philosophical, botanic and scientific heritage and embody shared values of landscape and place. They play a significant part in maintaining biodiversity, environmental quality and land values and so are generally considered a positive asset worthy of recognition and protection.

2.43 Although they may not meet the criteria for national status, local parks and gardens are as much repositories of a county, district or borough's cultural history and assets as its buildings and archaeology; they are highly valued by their owners, by local communities and by visitors, the majority of owners generously sharing their heritage through opening to the public regularly or occasionally through the National Gardens Scheme. Although, as with sites on the national Register, local sites are not afforded any additional protection through being included on a local list or inventory, the very fact that a local site's history and significance is formally recorded and recognised in this way is more likely to raise its profile and assist in its conservation, or at least guide any development towards safeguarding its important aspects.

2.44 The South East of England, and Kent in particular, is especially prone to development pressures of all kinds. In the countryside, this may be from new housing estates to small-scale domestication or suburbanisation of parkland, from major infrastructure improvements such as the high-speed rail link or recreational activities such as golf. Large, historically-important estates can suffer fragmentation of their design when changing hands. Parkland is often sold

off separately from the house and gardens or the house itself divided, with the gardens, into multiple occupation where new owners have little knowledge of the site's overall design. Within developed areas of towns and villages, gardens may be classified for planning purposes as previously developed land (i.e. classified as brownfield land), making them especially vulnerable to infill development and their non-listed buildings vulnerable to replacement with larger-scale or more intensive development.

2.45 Lack of knowledge or understanding of the design of an historic park or garden can often result in inappropriate management and maintenance (or no maintenance at all), resulting in damage or decay of key features; views become blocked by self-sown trees, waterworks no longer function and structural surfaces of paths and garden buildings become subject to damp, cracking and even collapse.

2.46 A local list or inventory of historic sites, complementing the nationally-designated ones, is therefore of invaluable assistance to a local authority in understanding the heritage and character of its administrative area and what it is that makes this distinctive. The list forms part of what is referred to in the local plan or local development framework as the 'evidence base', which is used to inform planning policy.

2.47 Understanding the quality, nature and extent of our heritage is important for assessing the impact of proposed development on that heritage when consideration is given to planning applications for change. A local list also provides additional contextual information for informing the selection and/or extent of associated designations such as conservation areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments and tree preservation orders.

2.48 It is not only the local planning authority that benefits; where research and recording is undertaken with local partners such as the county gardens trust, local archive centres, local historical societies and, of course, owners themselves, the knowledge and significance of a site is both deepened and disseminated more widely and publicly, promoting a cycle of understanding, valuing, enjoying and protecting the designed, historic environment. The training elements of this project have provided members of the Kent Gardens Trust who have actively participated, an opportunity to hone their personal knowledge and skills (or gain new ones) in practical archival research, site surveys and report writing, while contributing to something of lasting and practical benefit. The completed dossiers with their site summaries entered on the UK Parks and Gardens Database provide a permanent and widely-accessible resource for learning about park and garden heritage in the Borough and potentially, over time, across Kent.

2.49 Positive landscape management and maintenance and renovation of park and garden buildings often involves traditional crafts, tradesmen and agricultural practices that bring benefits to the land-based rural economy and local construction industry. The larger houses and the more extensive grounds often employ a significant number of local people, call on local services and provide specialist events and activities, all of which help fund maintenance to sustain the properties and make a significant contribution to the local economy. For example, at Finchcocks, with its unique collection of keyboard instruments, the gardens provide an ideal setting for the extensive programme of musical events and also serve as a venue for weddings and other events. Marle Place advertises itself as 'Gardens and Gallery', hosting a number of art exhibitions by local and well known artists, as well as plant fairs and painting weekends. Salomons is a faculty of Canterbury Christ Church University advertising itself as a centre for leadership and management development, offering the site for public events, conferences and weddings and contributing to the tourism and business economy. Bedgebury Park is now home to 'Bell at Bedgebury', a boarding school specialising in international students.



Marle Place Gallery Exhibit

2.50 Many of the gardens support the National Gardens Scheme or 'Yellow Book', opening their gardens to the public on a few days a year. The increased knowledge of their sites that the project brings may encourage a greater willingness by new owners to open their gardens under the scheme and an opportunity to share their new-found enthusiasm and interest.

Chapter 3: Methodology

Overview

3.1 As described in the Introduction, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, the Kent Gardens Trust and Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Department jointly initiated the project. All three were aware of the need to upgrade the Compendium and its supplement, but none had the skills or resources to tackle it alone. Even together, resources were limited, but the wider benefits of the project enabled partners to quickly attract outside funding from the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee and English Heritage and the support of the UK Parks and Gardens Trust.

3.2 The project was designed principally to meet the needs and resources of the original partner organisations, but was then tailored to meet the objectives of the funding partners. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council initiated the project by drafting a Project Initiation Document to primarily establish the objectives for the project, and to test whether these were realistic and feasible. This was superseded by the grant application to the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee Sustainability Development Fund (SDF), which set out in more detail the objectives, timescale and resources required. The timescale for the grant was tight in that the SDF required full expenditure of the grant by the end of March 2009. The initial grant from English Heritage (EH) was less time constrained and was available up to 2009/10. The project was therefore programmed to spend the SDF grant first, with the less time-critical EH funding paying for work from March 2009 until the completion launch event in May 2009.

3.3 In designing the project, it was considered important to set clear objectives so that all funders and partners were clear about what the project could achieve. In the presentation to the High Weald SDF grant panel, part of the grant application process, the project manager set out how the success of the project would be measured in terms of success:

How will we know if we have succeeded?

- *Tunbridge Wells Borough will have a robust and comprehensive schedule of historic parks and gardens of local interest and value*
- *other local authorities will have adopted the methodology and pursued upgrading of their local sites*
- *The Kent Gardens Trust will have recruited and trained a number of volunteers to continue the work across Kent, which they can share with other Gardens Trusts through the national body*
- *there will be a greater awareness and knowledge of historic, designed sites among planners, owners and the wider community*

3.4 As the project progressed, volunteer numbers and input became clearer, as did the need to put more resources into training. The volunteer aspect of the project was of particular interest to English Heritage, who offered to increase their grant to cover additional training events, and so a further grant application was submitted and approved. The full breakdown of income and expenditure is provided at Appendix 2: Project Costs.

3.5 For the detailed methodology of archival research, site survey, dossier compilation and the structure and content of site descriptions, the project followed closely that used by English Heritage in compiling the national *Register*. Advice and guidance on this was provided by Virginia Hinze as a former EH *Register* Inspector. The EH methodology has been adapted for volunteers by Parks and Gardens UK and set out in their *Volunteer Training Manual and Researchers Resource Guide*. This comprehensive guide, compiled as part of the Parks and Gardens UK Database project, and published in 2008 (in hard copy and on-line), is an essential and invaluable tool for anyone undertaking park and garden recording. Its role and use in this project are described in more detail below.

Project team and management

3.6 The principal members of the project team and their respective roles were:

Project Manager

David Scully, Landscape and Biodiversity Officer, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Project coordination, data management and publication

Paul Cuming, Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Team

Coordination and Management of Volunteers

Elizabeth Cairns, Chairman of the Kent Gardens Trust

Project Advisor, editor of site descriptions and volunteer trainer

Virginia Hinze, English Heritage advisor/consultant

Site visits, liaison with owners, author of site descriptions and volunteer trainer

Dr Barbara Simms, consultant

3.7 The team was assisted by Ruth Childs and Samantha Nicholas of the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee, Peter Cobley of the Kent Gardens Trust and John Warde from Parks and Gardens UK. The consultant for the site research and descriptions, Dr Barbara Simms, was appointed following a process of competitive fee proposals, with the job awarded to the lowest fee submitted. Virginia Hinze initially gave her services as a representative of English Heritage but, following her retirement in June 2008, was appointed on a fixed fee basis as advisor and editor. Both Dr Simms and Virginia Hinze were contracted to devise and deliver the training of volunteers. Suitable consultants may be found through the Association of Garden Trusts, Garden History Society or the Landscape Institute.

3.8 The project team met regularly throughout to review the budget, set and monitor the programme, agree appointment of consultants, plan events and to develop and agree the methodology and final publication(s). A typical agenda is set out at Appendix 3. In its position as local authority, TWBC was able to underwrite the project and be the applicant for grants. However, there was a general concern that, if owners were approached by the local planning authority, they might be less inclined to engage with the project. It was therefore agreed that the initial introduction would be made by the Kent Gardens Trust chairman, followed up by the consultant contacting the owner to arrange the site survey. This approach appears to have worked extremely well, with nearly all owners being very cooperative.

3.9 The bulk of the work was completed by March 2009, thus meeting the funding condition required by the SDF grant. However, some further archival research, final reporting writing and editing continued for some months thereafter, with the final editing being signed off in autumn 2009. The dossiers could only be prepared once all site descriptions and boundary maps were completed; they took some time to assemble, as individual boundary maps had to be drawn and text and images combined into a print-ready document and CD. All were finally completed in January 2010, allowing each individual, publicly-available site description to be printed in February 2010. Together with this report, the descriptions will be presented to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Cabinet in April 2010 for approval for the purpose of a formal public consultation and, subject to alteration, subsequent adoption in June 2010. This final stage of the process, for the list to be considered as the formal replacement of the existing schedule for Tunbridge Wells, is essential for its formal adoption by the Council as part of the Local Development Framework evidence base.

Information and process

3.10 Following the initial identification of sites, the project team considered the various required tasks and broke them down into the following:

- compilation of existing available records and information
- contact with owners
- recruitment and training of volunteers
- archival research
- site visits
- site descriptions and definition of site boundaries
- content and form of dossiers
- editing
- compilation of final dossier
- publication

Compilation of available records and information

3.11 KCC's Heritage Conservation Department assembled an initial dossier for each site of current and historic maps that it held, plus all other readily available information, and printed these for the volunteers and consultants:

- Modern 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map
- Modern 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map (MasterMap)
- Location map
- 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (1862-1875)
- 2nd edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (1897-1900)
- 3rd edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (1907-1923)
- 4th edition 6" Ordnance Survey map (1929-1952)
- 1st edition 25" Ordnance Survey map (1858-1873)
- 2003 aerial photograph
- Historic Environment Record printout and map

- Map of any scheduled monuments
- Map of Ancient Woodland

3.12 TWBC provided all known details of site owners using publicly available sources, in particular previous planning applications and land searches. This latter source, however, proved too costly to be used for the many estates which had multiple land-owners. Garden trust volunteers and other local contacts provided further information and more was obtained from direct contact through the consultant calling at the property.

Contact with owners

3.13 It was not always known where sites were in multiple ownership, so the initial approach was usually to the principal residence only. In the case of Bentham Hill House, where the property is divided into apartments, a point of contact was established with one of the owners who was kind enough to circulate information and arrange visits.

3.14 As explained above, the team felt that there might be some resistance from owners to cooperate with a project instigated by the Borough Council, so it was agreed that the Council would initially have no direct contact with the owners. The initial introduction therefore was undertaken by the Kent Gardens Trust in letter form (Appendix 4), followed by the consultant requesting a site visit, usually by telephone. This approach enabled the consultant, in many cases, to build a good rapport with the owners and to be offered access to private archives. The drafting of the letter and the accompanying Privacy, Security and Access Policy or 'Privacy Statement' (Appendix 5) was surprisingly difficult and was the first real test of how the partnership would, in reality, function.

3.15 Volunteers were naturally keen to accompany the consultant on the sites visits, but the team considered it impractical at this stage, partly owing to the tight timescale and partly as the priority was for volunteers to provide the archival and research material needed by the consultant to inform her site visit. Unaccompanied visits also allowed the consultant maximum flexibility and an unencumbered approach, minimising time spent, but maximising opportunities for obtaining access and information. To address the needs and wishes of the volunteers, the team expanded the training programme to include day-long site visits for survey and report writing. These took place in publicly-accessible sites such as Finchcocks and Hole Park, where organisation was easier and owner cooperation assured. From the 28 site identified for the review, only five owners objected to being included and/or refused access. The Borough Council needs to consider how these sites will be dealt with when it comes to publishing the completed material.

Privacy Issues and Privacy Statement

3.16 In approaching owners, it was evident that the project team would need to address understandable concerns over privacy and, in particular, the use of photographs. The Parks and Gardens UK Training Manual provides useful guidance on these matters, including draft letters and statements which the team used to design its own. Before writing the Privacy Statement (Appendix 5), the team discussed and agreed what use would be made of the information collected and who would have access to it. There were many different views on the scope and content of the statement and it took some time to agree the final version, but the team felt that this was not only an essential part of the project's commitment to

safeguarding owners' information, but also in avoiding potential negative impact on the project outcomes. The main points of discussion concerned who would ultimately have control over the information gathered and how to protect the rights of the individuals while avoiding unnecessary restrictions on the project team and outputs.

Recruitment and training of volunteers

3.17 At the outset, the Kent Gardens Trust had no established means to undertake the project and so needed to form a new group of volunteers drawn from within and outside the organisation. The project team was understandably nervous about whether they could attract and retain the required number and calibre of volunteers to deliver the work within the agreed programme. The concerns included whether the work would be too dull or technical to keep volunteers interested, whether they could deliver consistent standards of work, how easy they would be to train and manage, how much funding would be required for travelling expenses, copying, and refreshments, etc. A project 'launch' event (see email flyer at Appendix 6) was held at Bedgebury Park, which attracted about 30 prospective volunteers, of which 16 actually signed up, but the degree of commitment was still untested. In order to attract the volunteers to the launch event, details were distributed through a wide range of partners organisations to interested historical, garden and landscape groups.



Launch Event at Bedgebury School, 2008

3.18 Two volunteers dropped out very quickly, but it soon became clear as the project progressed that the remaining volunteers found the project stimulating and rewarding and that concerns about an initial rapid drop in attendance was unfounded. There is no doubt that both the venues selected for training days, such as Finchcocks, and the provision of a warm lunch and an endless supply of tea and biscuits greatly added to the volunteers' enjoyment of the project. The training days initially focused on the techniques of archival research, as this material was crucial to informing Dr Barbara Simms' understanding of a site's history during her visits and in drafting site descriptions. Subsequent training developed skills in site surveys and report writing. The list of volunteer training events was:

'Launch' event	Bedgebury Park
Archival research techniques	Centre for Kentish Studies Maidstone
A visit to the National Archives	National Monuments and Records Centre Swindon
Online Archival research	Tonbridge IT Centre
Volunteer progress meeting	Tunbridge Wells Town Hall
Techniques for data input into UK Parks and Gardens database	Tunbridge Wells Town Hall
Identifying veteran trees and shrubs	Doddington Place
Site survey and report writing	Finchcocks
Site survey and report writing	Marle Place
Site survey and report writing	Hole Park
Launch of completed project	Finchcocks

3.19 Site survey training concentrated on teaching volunteers how to 'read' a landscape by confirming (or otherwise) evidence of mapped and archival information on the ground. Aspects observed included changes in ground level, blocking of views by self-sown trees, survival (or otherwise) of avenues and other mature trees, insertion of new boundaries, buildings and entrance drives. The agendas and content for the training day at Finchcocks are contained in Appendix 7.

3.20 For personal reasons, a few volunteers inevitably did drop out, while others with more free time and a greater interest were able to contribute significantly more than the team anticipated. By the end of the project, a cohesive and self-supporting (through email and local meetings) group of 10 volunteers had emerged who were committed to the project, completed the tasks to a high standard and, as can be judged by this comment from a volunteer, enjoyed the whole process:

"The project was very interesting and worthwhile. I learned a great deal about the structure and design of historic parks and gardens as well as new sources of information, research and writing up skills.

A good pilot project to extend throughout the county to educate anyone interested in gardens and to aid historic garden protection, interpretation and enhancement.

Proper funding should sit alongside careful briefing for new volunteers as well as a hands-on mentoring system. Additional opportunities for volunteers to learn from each other would assist the process - perhaps more volunteer-led group-work?"
Carole Leith

3.21 The group is now ready to undertake research into sites in other parts of Kent and it will be important to identify other sites quite quickly in order to maintain their enthusiasm and skills. The names of the volunteers are recorded in the pamphlets of the individual site descriptions that they researched.

List of Volunteers:

Elizabeth Cairns
Peter Cobley
Jane Davidson
Anne Evans
Peta Hodges
Lesley Howes
Carole Leith
Simon MacLachlan
Janet Mayfield
Barbara Piper
Judith Purssell
Wendy Rogers
Neil Smith
Stella Smith
Hugh Vaux
Liz Walker



Volunteers at Finchcocks

Archival research

3.22 Following the organised training sessions, the volunteers undertook the archival research in their own time and made their own arrangements to visit archives or do online research. The majority of information came from the Centre for Kentish Studies in Maidstone, but also from the Cranbrook Museum, the British Library, the Tunbridge Wells Library and the owners' own archives. The techniques for the recording of sources and copying of documentation was covered by the initial training; some volunteers already had some experience and so the work progressed fairly smoothly. Once completed, or substantially so, the information was sent to Dr Barbara Simms in hard copy and by email, often with useful explanatory notes from the researcher.



Christopher Saxton Atlas of England and Wales:
Kent (1575)

3.23 On average, it took volunteers around two and a half days to carry out the research for each site, but this varied considerably, as one would expect, between volunteers and between sites. For some, information was readily available and in some cases research had already been done and/or published, but for others, information was scarce and hard to find.

Site visits by the consultant

3.24 Unaccompanied visits to each site were undertaken by consultant Dr Barbara Simms on a sequential programme synchronised, where possible, with the initial results of archival research, but at the convenience of the owners. The initial telephone call and subsequent visit provided opportunities for the consultant to obtain useful verbal information from the owners, including any anecdotal evidence and to establish whether owners held, and would offer access to, any private archival material. This kind of personal information was invaluable to the project, often providing unexpected material to fill gaps in knowledge.

3.25 Using maps and other information from the initial dossier prepared by KCC, plus research material fed through by the volunteers, the consultant carried out a thorough walk-over survey of the site, making notes and taking photographs of representative and important views, objects or features. Where access was not permitted, this work was done from available public view points and publicly available aerial photographs.

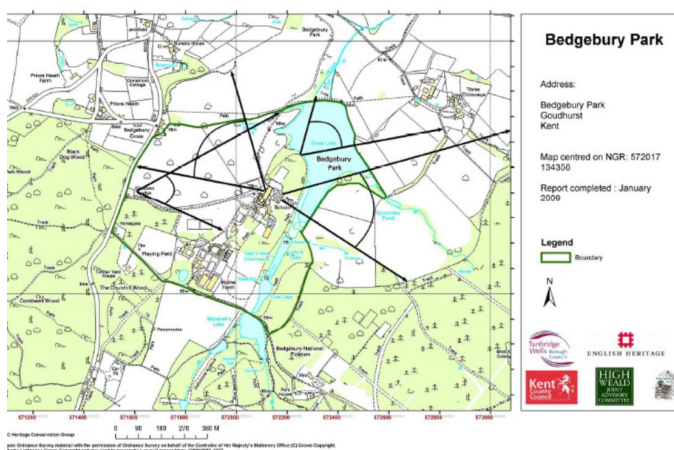


Undated watercolour of Bedgebury from private archive

3.26 It was important to record the visit and research in a systematic way and so it was decided to use English Heritage standard recording forms, which comprise:

1. Site visit information
2. Ownership details
3. Summary of historic development
4. Statutory and local designations
5. Condition analysis
6. Consultees
7. Access information

3.27 In addition to completing the forms, gathering archival material and making notes on the state of survival of the site's design, the consultant recorded the location of the photographs taken and marked key views and features on the base maps provided by KCC. All this information was assembled together with the archival material for inclusion within the full dossier for each site.



Draft description

3.28 Following her site visits, Dr Simms prepared a draft description using all the information then available to her from volunteers and her own research. The draft descriptions require a large amount of information from a multitude of sources to be condensed down into a concise report; a difficult task compounded by the tight timescale, number of researchers and large number of sites. The description followed the format of the current English Heritage model which comprises:

Key Views Map, Bedgebury

- Core data of site name, location and map reference and administrative area (e.g. parish)
- A summary of the site's historic interest

- A chronology of the sites's historic development
- A site description broken down into components:
 - Location, Area, Boundaries, Landform Setting
 - Entrance and Approaches
 - Principal Buildings
 - Gardens and Pleasure Grounds
 - Park
 - Kitchen Garden
 - References

3.29 In addition, as the individual descriptions might be used or viewed in isolation, it included a standard introduction explaining the context of the report and providing partnership contact details. As with the English Heritage *Register*, appended to the description is a map defining the boundary of the area of the historic, designed interest.

Editing

3.30 Once drafted, the reports went through a process of consultation and editing, with both volunteer researchers and owners being invited to comment. Virginia Hinze undertook the editing of each report to ensure that information was presented as a consistent and logically ordered narrative, allowing the reader to gain, with the boundary map to hand, a clear visual impression of the site's current appearance and interest *and* an understanding of its design development through time. The benefits of using a single, independent editor ensured an objective overview of the content and consistency in writing of all reports.

3.31 Sometimes there was a process of iteration between editing and site visit/research material, especially where information latterly came to light. Once the final draft was completed and edited, it was then sent to KCC for formatting, with the figures, into a print-ready electronic file and CD. The individual files were then printed as a pamphlet by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council with the CD inserts.

Dossier

3.32 The end product of the process was a dossier for each site containing original material and photocopies of all archival material assembled, including texts, articles, maps and images, an edited and approved site description and accompanying maps, site visit forms and a photographic survey. A typical contents page, this one taken from Finchcocks, is shown below:

List of Contents	
1.	Finchcocks site descriptions and images
2.	Finchcocks boundary, key views and key features maps
3.	Standard forms 1-7
4.	Extract from Tunbridge Wells Borough Supplementary Planning Guidance: Borough Landscape Character Area Assessment (August 2002)
5.	Documents at Centre for Kentish Studies
6.	Katrina and Richard Burnett, <i>Finchcocks Past and Present</i> (Goudhurst: Finchcocks Press, 2003)
7.	Christopher Saxton, <i>Atlas of England and Wales, Kent 1575</i>
8.	Phiip Symonson, <i>Map of Kent 1596</i>

List of Contents	
9.	J. Andrews, A. Dury and W. Herbert, <i>A Topographical Map of the County of Kent</i> 1769
10.	Extract from Edward Hasted, Parishes: Goudhurst (part), <i>The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 7</i> (London, 1798), pp. 64-73
11.	William Mudge, <i>A New and Accurate Survey of Kent</i> 1801
12.	<i>Finchcocks: the seat of Richard Springett, Esq</i> print c.1830 in Burnett (2003), p.11
13.	Christopher Greenwood, <i>An Epitome of County History - County of Kent</i> (1938)
14.	Trade Directory entries 1847-1930
15.	Tithe maps and apportionment (Goudhurst Parish) 1840 CKS ref IR30/17/153 (1)
16.	Mortgage document 1849 with estate map. CKS ref U1006 T46 (bundle 6)
17.	Extract from Finchcocks Estate Sales Particulars 1863 with estate map. CKS ref U363 Z26
18.	1st edtn 25" OS map 1870
19.	Map for lease to Sir James Stirling by Edward Hussey 18 June 1894. CKS ref U1006 T92
20.	Grylls Addison, <i>The Rose Walk at Finchcocks</i> c.1897, reproduced in Burnett (2003), p.22
21.	Photograph of Finchcocks in the late C19 reproduced in Burnett (2003)
22.	Finchcocks Inland Revenue valuation notebook entries and associated maps (22 April 1914). National Archives ref IR 58/52828; and 1910 ref IR 124/8 340 and 343
23.	Christopher Hussey, <i>Country Homes and Gardens Old & New: Finchcocks, Goudhurst, Kent</i> . The residence of Captain A.W.J. Cecil, <i>Country Life</i> , vol. 50 (30 July 1921), pp. 132-37
24.	Nathaniel Lloyd, 10 black-and-white photographs of views of the house 1 X 1921 English Heritage NMR ref BB008539; 9 X 19247 English Heritage NMR ref. CC000798-800, CC000851-55, CC002631
25.	Arthur Oswald, <i>Country Houses of Kent</i> (London: Country Life, 1933)
26.	Christopher Hussey, 'Finchcocks, Goudhurst, Kent - 1. The home of Mr F.D. Lycett Green', <i>Country Life</i> , vol. 99 (12 April 1946), pp. 670-73; 'The Home of Mr F.D. Lycett Green', (19 April 1946), pp. 716-9; H.L. Bradfer-Lawrence, <i>Finchcocks</i> (31 May 1946), p. 1002
27.	<i>Country Life</i> photographs of Finchcocks 1946 ref S.11901-36A to 36K
28.	Aerial photographs 1946, 1959
29.	Aerial photographs 1967, 1993
30.	Pevsner, Nikolaus and Newman, J., <i>The Buildings of England. West Kent and the Weald</i> (1969)
31.	1981/82 images and notes for Kent Compendium entry 1986
32.	Parks and Gardens UK entry
33.	Researcher's summary image sheets
34.	Volunteer pack

Tunbridge Wells Borough Historic Gardens Review Finchcocks Dossier

3.33 The full dossiers have been scanned and so are available to the Council in an electronic format. These, however are not being made available to the general public. The hard copies have been placed in the Tunbridge Wells Museum Archives and will be available to future researchers under supervision, subject to agreement by the Borough Council.

Publication

3.34 The final publication comprises a series of individual pamphlets, one for each site, plus this project report. The pamphlets contain an introduction, the site description (as described above) and a series of illustrative figures. Only a limited number of figures are included as paper copies; the rest are contained on a CD in the back of the pamphlet. The pamphlets are being distributed to the relevant owner and volunteer researcher for each site, the Kent Gardens Trust, Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. The pamphlet, including all the figures on the CD, will be made available on-line to the public via TWBC's and KCC's websites.

3.35 Appropriate extracts from the pamphlet will be uploaded by the Kent Gardens Trust onto the Parks and Gardens UK website to make the information more widely available. This final project report, once approved, will be made electronically available via the Borough Council's website. Relevant extracts will also be added to the County Historic Environment Record.

The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens
for Tunbridge Wells Borough



Bentham Hill House, Southborough



March 2009

**Front Cover: Site Description,
Bentham Hill House**

Chapter 4: Results

Overview of the historic parks and gardens by Dr Barbara Simms

4.1 The 28 properties identified for the review were varied and included the characteristic Wealden timber-framed buildings of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries (for example, Marle Place), the picturesque villas designed by the architect Decimus Burton (1800-81) (for example, Bentham Hill House), the eclectic later Victorian houses (for example, The Grange) and a lone 20th century country house designed in the 1930s by Geddes Hyslop (1900-88) (Oak Hill Manor). The gardens laid out around these houses over the centuries were also varied and reflect not only contemporary fashionable garden design and planting, but also the interests of their owners. Also included in the review were three gardens/parks close to the centre of Tunbridge Wells that were designed for public access.



Oak Hill Manor, 1939

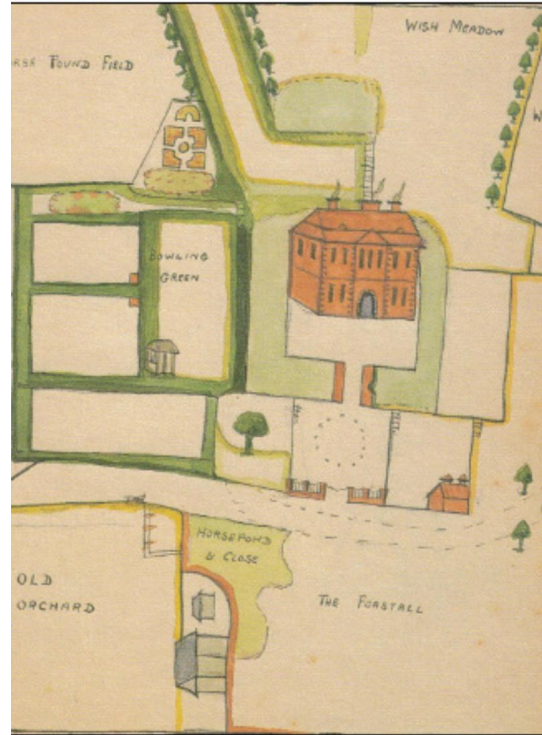
4.2 The relationship of a house to its gardens is key to understanding the history of a garden's creation and development and was summarised in the chronology section of an individual garden's report. This was compiled by reference to the historic maps, paintings, written descriptions, sales particulars and photographs sourced by the researchers. The review focused on recording evidence of the historic layout, features and planting of the 28 designed gardens and landscapes visited between November 2008 and February 2009. The generosity of owners in allowing access to their gardens and sharing their archives, memories and (in some cases) that of their gardeners, has contributed significantly to the success of the project.

4.3 The historic interest of a garden primarily rests on permanent features such as landform, built structures, walks and rides, water features and structural plantings of shrubberies, hedges and trees. Other criteria taken into account include its association with important people or events and, in some cases, its plant collections. The combination of these elements has created 28 gardens of diversity, interest and beauty, but also some common themes. These include formal enclosures, villa gardens, woodland, water and rock gardens, kitchen gardens and glass, modern designs (after 1950), and pleasure gardens or public parks.

4.4 There is scant documentation on the early Kent gardens of the 15th and 16th centuries, which were typically layouts of a number of enclosed gardens around the house. Their interest lies more in the extant features of the gardens, such as moats, bastions or garden walls, and their incorporation into later gardens, for example, the moated garden at Glassenbury Park. On that site, in addition to the importance of the moat feature itself, a 1748 estate plan shows the division of the grounds around the house into formal enclosures. This layout still survives. A house of a similar period is Sprivers, a National Trust property in Horsmonden, which also

has a garden of formal enclosures and what has been described as a '*feature resembling a moat*' (English Heritage *Register* entry). The 'moat' is clearly shown on an 18th century estate map, but it is thought that the present formal enclosures were laid out in the early 20th century by the Courthope family.

4.5 Formal garden enclosures continued to be laid out through the centuries, but saw a rise in popularity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the architect Edwyn Lutyens and the plantswoman Gertrude Jekyll began to create gardens with a formal layout and exuberant planting; the characteristic Edwardian garden. Features included 'green architecture', the emphasis being on form with neatly clipped yew hedges and plants trained as standards and topiary; garlands of wisteria, roses and laburnum tumbling over walls and pergolas; and irregular masses of plants and vertical layering in the herbaceous border. This rich planting was taken forward by a number of passionate amateurs, such as the wealthy American Lawrence Johnston (1871-1958) at Hidcote Manor, Gloucestershire, and later by Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962) and her husband, Harold Nicolson, at Sissinghurst Castle, Kent. The beguiling combination of formal architectural design and informal luxuriant planting seen in their gardens can also be seen at Hole Park, Sissinghurst Place and Marle Place.



Glassenbury Park, 1748 Estate Map

4.6 The Regency period is sometimes referred to as the time of a 'return of the garden', as ornamental features around the house were reintroduced in a way not seen in the 18th century landscape garden. The houses were often referred to as villas and were small country houses, such as those designed by Decimus Burton at Blackhurst Park (1828) and Bentham Hill House (1830). Villa gardens were characterised by 'dressed grounds' and included flowerbeds, trelliswork, ornamental ironwork, garden seats, conservatories and, most characteristically, sinuous shrubberies. Also described as being in an Italianate villa style is the mansion at Ladham House, which was enlarged by the Jessels when they bought it in 1895. The ornamental gardens are thought to have been laid out by the celebrated Edwardian designer William Goldring at the same time, but the parkland enclosed by a ha-ha still retains the picturesque appearance described in 1870: "A beautiful miniature park, studded with oaks and other thriving timber" (Sales Particulars). Similarly, the early 19th century villa at Broomlands stands in a ha-ha-enclosed parkland with magnificent stately oaks.



Hole Park, 1930s

4.7 The undulating woodlands, rivers, natural springs and rocky outcrops of the High Weald have encouraged the development of woodland, water and rock gardens. These have sometimes included the use of medieval fish ponds and former hammer ponds and marl pits. At Marle Place, in a newly planted arboretum, a lake has recently been developed from an existing pond, which is thought to have been a 19th century marl pit; and at Crittenden House a hammer pond is now the centerpiece of a 1950s water garden.



Ladham House (Jessel Jessel)

Similarly, at Ashurst Park in the early mid-19th century, three existing ponds were incorporated into an ornamental garden. From 1919, the horticulturalist and plant hybridist, Collingwood Ingram, incorporated an existing pond into a newly laid out informal woodland and shrubbery with a notable Japanese cherry tree collection, some of which survive. More extensive water gardens were created at the end of the 18th century at Bedgebury Park, where Sir John Cartier extended an existing small body of water to create a chain of lakes. In 1854, the Italian architect Alexander Roos was commissioned to build terrace gardens to take advantage of views over the lakes. Similarly, in the mid-19th century, Sir David Salomons, at what was then Broom Hill, enlarged his house and built a monumental terrace with views over two lakes and woodlands. The majority of gardens with natural woodlands also have winding paths laid out within them and many have exotic trees planted among native species, as at Hole Park. Rock gardens were also popular features in the 19th and early 20th centuries and a number of gardens in the project retained rock gardens from these periods.

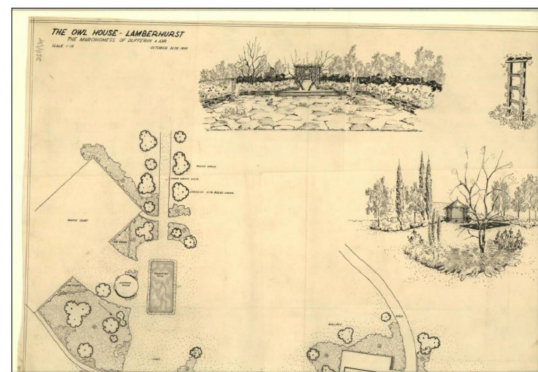
4.8 Nearly all the gardens in the review had had kitchen gardens laid out at some period in their history. Many were walled and some were used as orchards, at least until the 19th century, from when Ordnance Survey maps show that glasshouses had been built either against the garden walls or in separate frame yards. These kitchen gardens are now used in a variety of ways, the majority being ornamental rather than productive gardens.

4.9 The majority of gardens in the review were laid out in the 19th or early 20th centuries, although many retain features from earlier designs. There is little information on whether any named designers were involved and in many cases the owners were the inspiration behind the garden layout. In contrast, four gardens were designed from the 1950s by celebrated designers and in all cases there is good archival material on their layouts. At The Postern, a formal garden is divided into compartments by yew and copper beech hedges laid out in 1952 by the landscape architect Anthony du Gard Pasley (1929-2009) around an 18th century house. Unfortunately, the plans are lost, but the designer, who, until his recent death lived in Groombridge, was able to provide some information on his design concepts. The extensive and informal water and woodland gardens surrounding the 16th century The Owl House were laid out from 1954 to the designs of James Russell. The owner was Maureen, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, who opened the gardens to the public from their completion in 1960. Russell was a plantsman and much of the archived correspondence between them discusses the ordering and cultivation of plants and a plan has just been found by the owners of the planting for the whole garden.



Crittenden, 1966 (Leslie Elgar Pike)

4.10 More recently, at Danemore Park, an early 19th century house set in parkland with mature oak and beech trees, new gardens and lawns were laid out on its north and west sides. The landscape architect was Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe (1900-96), who was commissioned to design a raised terrace garden in 1986, although the plans were not implemented until 1991. At Brattles Grange, a 16th century Wealden timber-framed house (with 19th century additions), the water and woodland gardens laid out from the 1930s were re-modelled in 2003 by garden designer Ryl Nowell to include a rill with fountains and an ornamental grass meadow.



Owl House Planting Plan, 1954 (Borthwick Institute)

4.11 Tunbridge Wells' development as a spa town and resort began in 1606 when it is said that Dudley, Lord North, discovered a chalybeate spring there. In 1708, a Mr James Long provided further diversions for visitors when they were not taking the water at the Wells by building a cold bath (or plunge pool) and waterworks set in an ornamental garden on land leased from the Abergavenny estate. Its surviving features were incorporated into a tea garden in the early 19th century and, subsequently, into the private garden of an 1894 house (Rusthall Beacon). In 1703, a few years before Mr Long's entertainments were opened, the Duke of Buckingham donated a small wooded area in Mount Sion as public open space "to be continually preserved for a grove and shade, and walks, for all the inhabitants" of Tunbridge Wells. It was formally laid out with walks in the 19th century and survives intact. In the late 19th century, a second piece of land further up the hill towards Southborough was donated for Tunbridge Wells' first municipal park. It was laid out in 1889 as Grosvenor Recreation Ground, by the Scottish landscape gardener Robert Marnock, with lakes, grottoes and winding walks. The swimming pool was on the site of the disused Calverley Waterworks. It was extended to its north and east by the addition of Hilbert Recreation Ground in 1931 and 1937. King George's Playing Field was created within the latter between 1938 and 1948.



The Grove

4.12 These examples demonstrate the wealth of historic gardens in Tunbridge Wells Borough and recording their development can ensure that we understand their significance and afford them the protection of inclusion in the Kent Compendium.

Assessment of the gardens against the adopted criteria

4.13 There are nine criteria (see Appendix 1 for full criteria) used as a basic guide in the assessment of sites for inclusion in the *Register*:

- i. sites formed before 1750 where at least a proportion of the original layout is still in evidence
- ii. most sites laid out between 1750 and 1820 where enough of the layout survives to reflect the original design
- iii. important sites laid out between 1820 and 1880 which survive intact or relatively intact
- iv. the most important sites laid out between 1880 and 1939 which survive intact
- v. post-war sites of exceptional importance and which are more than 30 years old
- vi. sites which were influential in the development of taste, whether through reputation or reference in literature
- vii. sites which are early or representative examples of a style of layout or the work of a designer of national importance
- viii. sites having an association with significant persons or historical events
- ix. sites with strong group value

4.14 A site might be of historic interest primarily for one, or several, of the standard criteria. The 28 sites in Tunbridge Wells Borough that comprised the 2008-09 Review are listed below with the criteria they fulfil.

Site	Age-related Criteria (i) to (v)	Other criteria (vi) to (ix)
Angley Park	(iii)	(vii) lodge by Mervyn Macartney (1853-1932)
Ashurst Park	(iii)	(vii) lodges by George Devey (1820-86)
Bedgebury Park	(iii)	(vii) 1838 terraces by Alexander Roos; C19 Coalbrookdale fountain; C19 Warwick vase
Bentham Hill House	(iii)	(vii) 1830s house and garden by Decimus Burton (1800-81)
Blackhurst Park	(iii)	(vii) 1830s house, lodge and garden by Decimus Burton (1800-81)
Brattles Grange	(iv), (v)	(vii) 2003 redesign of the garden by Ryl Nowell
Brenchley Manor	(iv), (v)	(vii) 1970s redesign of the garden with guidance from Rosemary Alexander
Broomlands	(iii)	
Crittenden House	(v)	(vii) laid out by owner/ plant collector Ben Tompsett (1915-2000)
Danemore Park	(iii), (v)	(vii) 1980s terrace garden by Geoffrey Jellicoe (1900-96)
Finchcocks	(ii), (iii), (iv)	
Glassenbury Park	(i), (iii)	
Grosvenor & Hilbert Recreation Ground	(iv)	(vii) Grosvenor Rec by Robert Marnock
Hole Park	(iii), (iv), (v)	(vii) 1832 lodge by T. R. Hunt; 1851 Coalbrookdale bronze statue; early C20 loggia and vineyard by W. D. Carøe; C20 borders by Christopher Lloyd; 2008 plantations by Anthony du Gard Pasley (1929-2009)
Ladham House	(iii), (iv)	(vii) 1890sgardens restyled by Sir George Jessel with advice from William Goldring
Lillesden	(iii)	
Marle Place	(iii), (iv), (v)	
Oak Hill Manor	(iii)	
Old Wilsley	(iv)	
Owl House	(iii), (v)	(vii) 1950s garden by James Russell (viii) 1952-1998 owned by Maureen, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava
Rectory Park	(ii), (iii), (v)	
Salomons	(iii)	(vii) 1894 stable block by William Barnsley Hughes
Sissinghurst Place	(iii), (v)	
Sprivers	(i), (ii)	
The Grange	(iv)	(vii) 1919 garden by Collingwood Ingram
The Grove	(i), (ii), (iv)	
The Postern	(iii), (v)	(vii) 1954 garden by Anthony du Gard Pasley (1929-2009); 1950s garden pavilion by Claude Phillimore

4.15 These sites therefore met the selection criteria and should therefore be included on the revised Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens for Tunbridge Wells Borough.

Benefits of the project

4.16 The project has produced the following benefits for the sites included in the study:

- A revised list of the *The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent* within Tunbridge Wells, which will greatly assist TWBC in:
 - making well-informed decisions on any planning matters related to these sites
 - meeting both national and local policies on managing the historic environment locally *and* the requirements of emerging national government legislation for the establishment of lists of locally-important heritage assets
 - targeting, to the most 'at risk' sites, potential resources from public and private bodies at both local and national levels for repairs and guidance on improved and informed management
 - better understanding the extent of contribution that parks in particular make to the Borough's local biodiversity
- Site descriptions that reflect the best possible current knowledge of each park and garden and that are researched and written in the format approved and used by English Heritage for the national *Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest in England*
- A comprehensive dossier for each site, comprising documentary and survey material, including historic maps, illustrations and photographs and an accompanying boundary map confirming the current area of historic interest
- Site descriptions that record the increasingly relevant and significant information on key views, site settings and character areas
- A tested methodology that:
 - follows national guidance and format for best practice in assessing local sites now and in the future for their potential historic designed interest and consequent inclusion on the TWBC revised list of *The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent*
 - is sufficiently robust (through application of 'lessons learned') to roll out to other Kent local authorities and to others both regionally and nationally
- Site information recorded in an electronic format that:
 - contributes to TWBC's development of government 'e-gov' requirements through input of material into both Kent County and Tunbridge Wells Borough HERS and/or GISs
 - enables the widest possible access to material for life-long learning by both professionals and the general public through local authority and Kent Gardens Trust websites and input of summarised data into the internationally-accessible Parks and Gardens UK database
- The opportunity for TWBC to develop close, productive and potentially longer-term cooperation between the national and local partners taking part in the project
- The opportunity to build capacity into the Kent Gardens Trust through targeted training and mentoring, to enable them both to continue to work on additional sites identified for assessment within Tunbridge Wells Borough and to offer a similar service for extending and upgrading the *The Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent* and *The Kent Compendium* independently or in partnership with other local authorities in Kent
- The establishment of a core group of volunteers who now have the capacity and confidence to undertake a complete site assessment, from research and survey, to a full site dossier, to the standard required

- Engagement with owners, receiving generally their sound support for the project and, in many cases, raising their level of knowledge and understanding of their sites and of the implication of national and local designation
- The opportunity, through project launch and completion events, to promote historic parks and gardens as highly-valued contributors to Kent's landscape, culture and economy to all participants, including local press, and to encourage new volunteers to join the KGT

Chapter 5: Discussion

Lessons learnt

5.1 One would expect that a pilot project such as this would have problems and, certainly, the tight timescale, number of partners and use of volunteers as part of the project delivery while undergoing training makes it all the more likely that things would go horribly wrong. While things did not always go smoothly, the project made good and steady progress and the partnership grew stronger as it did so. The reason that things didn't go horribly wrong is down to the commitment and professionalism of all involved, including, and especially, the volunteers. Professionals are often reluctant to rely upon volunteers in the belief that it will slow them down and have a negative impact on quality. This was certainly not the case with this project, where the volunteers rose to the challenge of the tight programme and provided very high quality outputs. The main lesson learnt from this project, then, is that, in this area of work at least, volunteers can be an extremely valuable asset that we should use more.

5.2 Key to recruiting and retaining the volunteers is the quality of the training. The archive training was fairly straightforward, but a more comprehensive and imaginative scheme of training was needed to develop both the skills and confidence in volunteers to build up gradually to report writing. We learnt as we went along, but now recognise that at least four, and possibly up to six, site visit training days are needed to practise and develop this skill. It must also be recognised that not all volunteers will be able or willing to undertake all aspects of the project. Some may be more interested in archive research and some more capable of report writing, but the abilities and wishes of all need to be accommodated. Some preferred working alone, many worked in pairs, but all enjoyed and valued the group sessions in order to be able to share experiences and learn from others.

5.3 It sounds petty to mention the tea and cakes, but there is no doubt that providing an attractive and interesting location such as Finchcocks for training days, with ample refreshments, greatly added to the success of the project for all concerned.

Key Points

5.4 Although the volunteers are now well versed in archive research for parks and gardens, they will need some form of continued training support, both for existing and new members, much of which they will be able to organise themselves, although outside encouragement and guidance will be greatly beneficial.

5.5 In preparing for a project on a wide scale such as this, it is important to set a realistic timescale for preparation, volunteers/training, research, site visits and final report writing and editing. Key points to consider under these headings are:

- Scoping: especially for large-scale projects so that you know how many sites you will need to include at the outset
- Volunteer involvement: once contacted, volunteers should be engaged as soon as possible and given very clear information on what is required and when, whether they will be reimbursed any costs, where and when training will be, what resources they will be given and what they are expected to do
- Funding: applications can take some time and may be time constrained, so apply early

- Preparation: contacting owners can be time consuming and may need persistence and has to be handled sensitively. Collating existing information on each site is also time consuming and requires access to Historic Environment Records and Local Authority OS mapping and other information
- Organisation of volunteers: communication, arranging meetings, paying expenses, etc. must all be put in place before the project gets under way to avoid early problems that might put volunteers off
- Venues: friendly venues, both as hosts for meetings and training grounds for volunteers, greatly ease project delivery
- Project Management: good project management, with regular project meetings, is essential to ensure partners, volunteers and consultants stick to the project brief and deliver on time and on budget. Some degree of financial and programme flexibility does need to be built in, but needs to be tightly controlled
- Capacity: partners must make sure that they have sufficient capacity to support the volunteers and the project, whether this is time for preparation, meetings, training or final dossier compilation, to avoid disappointment

The Way Forward

5.6 This project can be replicated in terms of scale and scope either in Kent or elsewhere, but it was not necessarily the intention that this should be the case. The volunteers can now work at their own pace, or as and when sites arise, or according to a more relaxed programme agreed with one or more authorities. The benefit of setting out and agreeing a more comprehensive programme would be that grant funding was more likely, but now that the initial training is completed, costs will be greatly reduced. Kent County Council has agreed to support the work of the KGT by continuing on an ad hoc basis to provide initial dossiers of sites they wish to revise, and to prepare, in electronic form, the completed site descriptions and dossiers.

5.7 The Kent Gardens Trust volunteers can now research and prepare dossiers unaided and are currently completing their training in site visits and report writing. It would be perfectly acceptable for any Council to accept any new reports completed by KGT prepared in accordance with the methodology set out within this report as a replacement or new entry on the Kent list. It is, however, highly recommended that all such reports are reviewed and edited by a recognised professional for reasons of consistency and robustness. This could be a conservation architect within the Council or a recognised external professional. In this way, even where engaging a professional for editing and providing some assistance to the KGT volunteers, local authorities can review or add individual sites at minimal cost.

Appendix 1: Site Selection Criteria

Site Selection Criteria

The project has adopted the English Heritage Register Criteria but applies the criteria at the local or regional scale rather than the national scale. This can be particularly important where sites although not exceptional at a national level are a rare example for the area or where sites are associated with an important local historical figure or event. Consequently the inclusion of a site is not a recommendation that the site should be on the English Heritage Register. As with the application of the English Heritage Criteria expert and extensive knowledge is required of the country's historic parks and gardens to ensure a consistency of application but in addition some local knowledge is required to ensure any local significance is not overlooked. Set out below is the full English Heritage Criteria with explanatory notes.

The English Heritage Register Criteria

English Heritage registers only those sites which it considers to be of special historic interest. As a guide to the level of historic interest required to make a site "special" nine criteria have been drawn up against which assessment and decisions whether to register a site are made. Their application, however, must be accompanied by expert and extensive knowledge of the country's historic parks and gardens as a whole, to ensure that decisions are consistent.

The criteria are based on the assumption that the older the surviving features of a site, the rarer that type of site is likely to be, although added to this premise are other factors for consideration. Thus, types of site likely to prove of sufficient historic interest to merit inclusion on the Register are:

- i. Sites with a main phase of development before 1750 where at least a proportion of the layout of this date is still evident, even perhaps only as an earthwork.
- ii. Sites with a main phase of development laid out between 1750 and 1820 where enough of this landscaping survives to reflect the original design.
- iii. Sites with a main phase of development between 1820 and 1880 which is of importance and survives intact or relatively intact.
- iv. Sites with a main phase of development between 1880 and 1939 where this is of high importance and survives intact.
- v. Sites with a main phase of development laid out post-war, but more than 30 years ago, where the work is of exceptional importance.
- vi. Sites which were influential in the development of taste whether through reputation or references in literature.
- vii. Sites which are early or representative examples of a style of layout, or a type of site, or the work of a designer (amateur or professional) of national importance.
- viii. Sites having an association with significant persons or historical events.
- ix. Sites with strong group value.

These criteria are not mutually exclusive categories and more than one of them may be relevant in the assessment of any particular site.

Age and registration

The first five criteria are a set of date bands, which broadly mirror the main trends in the history of the development of gardening and landscape design. Parks and gardens where the design and layout is particularly old (for a park or garden that means of the early 18th century or older) are rare, and having a set of features that is old is likely in itself to make a site sufficiently 'special' to be registered. Broadly, the more recent the structure of a garden, the more likely it is to have survived and the more common that type of site is likely still to be, so the selection process operates more selectively. For more recent sites to be of sufficient importance to be given national recognition, they have to have something in particular that makes them 'special' , and here the last four criteria come into play.

Influential sites, major designers, and good standard examples

The added 'extra' could be that the park or garden has been laid out by a nationally famous designer, that it became famous or well-regarded in its day, or that it had a strong influence in changing fashions. It could also be just that the site is a very good example of its type.

Associations

Close and direct associations with nationally important people or events can make a site of more historic interest than its layout alone suggests. Both the importance of the person or event, and the importance of the park or garden in relation to the person's life and work, or in relation to the event in question, are considered.

To be of relevance to registration, there must be a direct link between a site and a person or event, and this must be reflected in the actual layout of the site itself.

Group value

When a park or garden is of historic interest, but not quite of sufficient importance in its own right to merit registration, it may still be eligible for inclusion on the Register if it provides strong group value with buildings, with other land, or with a group of other registerable sites, providing this link is in itself of special historic interest. The setting of a major historic building might, for example, be carefully designed to form a piece with that building; alternatively, a garden might form an important element within a fine example of town planning. A leading designer might have laid out a set related of sites within an area, most of which are clearly of registerable quality but one of which is not so clearly so: it might still prove registerable as part of the set.

Multi-phased sites

The Register criteria can be rather misleading in suggesting that parks and gardens were usually laid out within a given date-band and changed little after that. The reverse is in fact the case. The majority of parks or gardens will have developed as a series of additions or alterations as needs and fashions changed, with each phase of development varying in its impact on the landscape and its degree of interest. With such sites, it is the sum of the

developments as seen in the landscape today which is considered. The value of a site can rest in the very fact that its present form is the outcome of a series of phases of development or of a more or less continuous sequence of change.

Documentation

The development of some sites is particularly well recorded in archives and published material. Where such records have survived they add to our understanding of the site and can contribute to its interest.

Condition and registration

While the Register seeks to discover sites of special historic interest, it is today's landscape that it is concerned with, rather than any lost landscape of the past. No matter how important a site once was, if it no longer exists, for example having been lost to irreversible development such as housing, it will not be registered. Sadly, many sites are now in poor condition, with flower beds grassed over and borders neglected in gardens, and with parkland having been ploughed up and features within ruinous. Such a state will not necessarily render a site unregistrable if its overall design or layout remains sufficiently intact.

Plants and the Register

For many people, the mention of the word garden conjures up a vision of floral beauties or culinary possibilities. Yet English Heritage, while appreciative of good gardening, when compiling the Register looks at the more permanent elements in the landscape such as landform, built structures, walks and rides, water features, structural shrubberies, hedges and trees, and not at the ephemeral, shorter-lived plantings of herbaceous perennials, annuals, roses, and most shrubs.

Appendix 2: Project Costs

Item	£
Invoiced works	
Consultant Dr Barbara Simms	14,888.00
Garden Visits and Descriptions	
Training and Project Meetings	
Consultant Virginia Hinze	3,674.55
Methodology and report writing.	
Editing garden descriptions	
Training and Project Meetings	
Volunteers and Archive costs	235.18
Archive material	
Photocopying	
Expenses	
Events	990.00
Start up meeting: Bedgebury	350.00
Visit to National Archives	394.90
Training event : Finchcocks	300.00
Training event: Marle Place	293.25
Training event: Hole Park	1634.73
Launch event: Finchcocks	
Total Costs	22,760.61
Grants and Funding	
High Weald AONB Joint Advisory Committee Sustainable Development Fund	9,375.00
English Heritage Capacity Building Grant	8,000.00

Item	£
Balance of funding came from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council	5,385.61
Works in kind	
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	2,500.00
Officer Time 25 days @100/day*	672.00
Printing 168 copies @4.00	
Kent County Council	3,000.00
Officer Time 30 days@100/day*	
Volunteers	7,752.00
1,196 hours @ £6.25*	
Total Project Value	36,684.61

*Rates based on SDF grant rates.

Appendix 3: Project Team Meeting Agenda

PROJECT TEAM MEETING 03

2.00pm 17 November 2008

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council – Committee Room B Town Hall

Project Team

David Scully TWBC

Alan Legg TWBC

Paul Cummings KCC

Virginia Hinze Consultant/EH Advisor

Elizabeth Cairns KGT

Peter Cobley KGT

Ruth Childs AONB Unit

Samantha Nicholas AONB Unit

Barbara Simms Consultant

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Project Update
 - TWBC – Funding, Project Management, Reporting, Privacy Statement.
 - Virginia Hinze – Information Requests, Programme.
 - KCC – Information Requests, Programme
 - KGT – Information Requests, Programme
 - Barbara Simms – Information Requests, Access to Properties, Programme.
5. Programme
6. Budget
7. Communication
8. Volunteer Events - detailed arrangements
9. Volunteer Events – monitoring and record keeping.
10. AOB
11. Date of next meeting.

Appendix 4: KGT Letter to Owners

Name
Address

Dear

A REVIEW OF THE KENT LIST OF HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS

During the last few decades there has been an increasing public interest in historic landscapes and garden design. Many counties including Kent have a County Gardens Trust with the aim of encouraging the recording, and conservation of our garden heritage. English Heritage has produced a Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest in England listing nationally important sites and some Local Authorities have produced a list of Historic Parks and Gardens of local importance. Such a 'local list' was produced for Kent between 1992-1996 (The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens). Other sites have been added to the 'Local List' over time through being identified by the Local Planning Authority and a number of further sites have come to light which are candidates for the 'Local List'.

The Kent Gardens Trust is keen to update the Compendium and bring the historical research up to date. Consequently we have joined with Kent County Council, English Heritage, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit to carry out a pilot project in Tunbridge Wells Borough that will review around twenty-five gardens to ensure historical information is properly recorded for each of them.

Your garden NAME is included in the Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens and is included in the project.

Or

Your garden NAME is not in the Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens but is included in the Tunbridge Wells Local Plan as a Historic Park and Garden and so has been included in the project.

Or

Your garden NAME is not included in Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens but has been identified as a Historical Garden worthy of further investigation and is therefore included in the project.

Many owners have a detailed knowledge of the history of their site and may have useful historical information such as plans and photographs. Even recent work carried out or planned by you as the current owners will add to the evolution of the site and its development.

The Kent Gardens Trust would welcome your support in researching the history and development of your garden. As a first step, I would ask you to agree to meet our professional researcher on site. This will provide an opportunity to explain the project more fully and allow you to query any concerns you may have.

To progress the project and confirm your support, can I ask you to fill in the attached form and return it in the prepaid envelope or alternatively, to contact me direct on the number above to discuss the visit and project in more detail.

I should like to emphasise that achieving public access is not an objective of the project and that every possible consideration will be given to personal privacy and security. We hope that the completed project will result in an increased understanding of the historic landscape within Tunbridge Wells Borough. As part of the process, advice on the management of the site may be possible and you may also be eligible for enhancement grants to improve the management of your site from Tunbridge Wells Council and other organisations.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Cairns
Kent Gardens Trust

Form

Name

Address

Telephone numbers

Contact e.g. Agent/Manager/owner

Are you willing to let our researcher visit site?

Are you willing to meet with our researcher?

Would you like to be kept informed of the projects progress?

Would you like to receive a copy of any research material that the project collates on your site?

Appendix 5: Privacy Statement

PRIVACY, SECURITY AND ACCESS POLICY

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Project recognises the need to assure owners of property included in the Project that it has properly addressed the concerns they might have on issues of security, privacy and trespass. Our Privacy, Security and Access Policy is as follows:

2.0 General

2.1 It is of great importance that, where properties are not open to the public, owners are not disturbed by trespassers as a result of the Project.

2.2 Any information of a sensitive or confidential nature, for example details of statuary or rare or valuable plants, which is recorded in the survey, will not be made available to the public without the express written permission of the property owner.

3.0 Data Collection

3.1 All those collecting information and photographs for the Project will be instructed not to trespass on private land and this will be built into the instructions given to all staff and volunteers. If researchers wish to visit a property or feature, other than via a public road or footpath, they will always write to the owner in advance.

4.0 Access to Data & Data Security

4.1 The full information collected by the researchers will be compiled into a dossier for each participating property. This will primarily consist of photocopies of old maps and archive documents, copies of old prints, photographs, etc. The dossier will be reserved for use by those concerned with managing the Project and on completion copies will be held by Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. It will not be made available for general public access, either in hard copy form or online. From time to time, gardens researchers may wish to view the dossier. Other than those accredited by the Kent Gardens Trust such enquirers will be required to apply to the Kent County Council, who will consult the property owners before releasing any information. Even those researchers granted permission to view the material will be instructed not to release or publish any details likely to jeopardize the security of the properties.

4.2 Using the site dossier and information gathered from the site visit, the researcher will write a concise Site Description, which will become the new Kent Gardens Compendium Report. The Site Description will provide basic details of location, explain the historic significance of the site, give a chronology of its development and provide a detailed description of remaining features. All references will be listed and the Site Description will be supported by a present-day Ordnance Survey map. The Site Description will be published in electronic and paper formats. It will be made more widely available, including by incorporation into the

County Historic Environment Record and by publication on the UK Parks & Gardens database. Relevant information from the Site Description may also form the basis of future publications, educational packages, tourism leaflets, etc.

4.3 A final draft of the Site Description will be sent to owners prior to any publication for factual correction and comment.

5.0 Public Access and the Kent Gardens Compendium Reports

5.1 The new or revised Compendium entries will say clearly and prominently whether any particular property is open to the public or not.

5.2 There will be a clear statement on any material resulting from the Project that identifies the property, that users should refer to each individual entry to see whether a property is open to the public or not. Users of the Compendium should not attempt to visit a property that is not open.

5.3 Where a property is regularly open for a substantial part of the year, the Compendium will state that it is “open during advertised hours” and contact information will be provided where possible for visitors, including a link to any website belonging to the property. Potential visitors should check with the property’s website or directly with the property for opening times.

5.4 Where public access is restricted, for example only to members of a County Gardens Trust, or by appointment, wording will be agreed on a case by case basis directly with the property (for example, “Open occasionally under the National Gardens Scheme, see www.ngs.org.uk” or “Open by written appointment, contact x”).

6.0 Data Protection

6.1 The Project will comply fully with the Data Protection Act 1998 and it will follow all of the requirements of that Act in how personal data is handled, in particular:

- Any personal data held will be processed in a lawful and fair manner
- Personal data will only be used for the purpose for which it is collected
- Personal data will be kept secure to prevent any unauthorised access by third parties
- Personal data will not be sold or passed on to any other organisation without express consent
- Personal data may be disclosed if required to by law, or as a result of a lawful request by government or a law enforcement authority

END

Appendix 6: Launch at Bedgebury Email Flyer



Understanding Old Gardens



The Tunbridge Wells Historic Park & Gardens Project Study Day

21 October 2008

9.30am to 3.30pm

**In the Hollington Rooms
Bell Bedgebury International School,
Goudhurst, Kent**

This study day is aimed at volunteers who wish to actively support the updating of the 1992-6 comprehensive register of historic parks & gardens in Kent (The Kent Gardens Compendium).

If you would like to attend please return the attached booking form to paul.cuming@kent.gov.uk or contact Paul Cuming on 01622 696918.

Please book by 10 October 2008

The Tunbridge Wells Historic Parks & Gardens project is seeking volunteers to train in historical research and recording techniques for parks and gardens. The study day will give you an introduction to the project, details of the training to be given and an overview of Historic Park and Garden assessment techniques. The day will include a practical site visit and workshop utilising the grounds of Bedgebury House.



Bell Bedgebury International School is situated on the B2079 half a mile from Bedgebury Pinetum. From the A21 the B2079 turning is after Lamberhurst and before Flimwell on the dual carriageway section. From Goudhurst village (A262) take the B2079 by the duck pond in the centre of the village. For other directions please look on the website: <http://www.bedgeburyschool.co.uk/>

Provisional Programme

- 09:30 **Coffee & Registration**
- 10:00 **Welcome & Brief Overview of the Day**
- 10:15 **Introduction to the Project**
- 10:30 **The role of the Kent Gardens Trust**
- 10:50 **English Heritage - Historic Parks & Gardens/Heritage Protection**
- 11:15 **Guest Speaker**
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 13:00 **Overview of research and assessment process**
- 13:30 **Site visit to Bedgebury House Gardens led by Virginia Hinze, formerly of English Heritage**
- 14:30 **Workshop in groups-analysing results of site visit**
- 15:00 **Discussion and sign up of volunteers**
- 15:30 **Close**



*Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in partnership with the High Weald Sustainable Development Fund
Kent Gardens Trust, Kent County Council & English Heritage*

Appendix 7: Training Day at Marle Place

GARDEN RECORDING TRAINING DAY AND FUTURE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITY

MARLE PLACE SEPTEMBER 11TH 2009

List of attendees:

Anne Evans
Carole Leith
Hugh Vaux
Stella Smith
Peter Cobley
Peta Hodges
Neil Smith
Janet Mayfield
Jane Davidson
Elizabeth Cairns
Barbara Simms
Virginia Hinze
David Scully

Dear Kent Compendium Volunteers!

I hope that you have all enjoyed the summer and managed to get out and about to see interesting things including some gardens! In response to your request at Hole Park for additional training, we have arranged a further day, to which you are cordially invited, to tackle two aspects, as follows:

1. The writing of a site chronology: An accurately researched and written chronology underpins any garden description – it provides a time line for both the writer and the reader to appreciate and understand the sequence of the various phases of a garden's development.
2. A general 'refresher' forum on researching and writing a description followed by a discussion on how you think the project has worked and how the group might operate in the future. We hope that you will come armed with views and ideas to share!

The chronology-writing exercise:

Building on the site description exercises we undertook at Finchcocks and Hole Park, we would like you to tackle a chronology, following the examples of the ones which Barbara Simms wrote for Finchcocks and Hole Park. This is the format you should follow for Marle Place (if you don't still have a copy of one or other of these, let me know and I will email you one).

For the training day, you will receive a set of the documents from Kent County Council (maps, extracts from Hasted etc.) that were assembled for the dossier for Marle Place. These should arrive with you by post by 1st September. If you can manage it, it would help the day

enormously if you could come with your chronology written up – it can be in note form. We will then do as before, with some volunteers reading out their work. Again as before, it's not a test but an opportunity for us all to see how different writers have understood and approached the exercise – and how easy (or otherwise) it has been to compose a coherent chronology. Marle Place has relatively limited archival material so it would be useful for you to consider what information is missing and where you might search for this.

Marle Place programme:

You will receive from either David or Elizabeth (she is on holiday until 4th September) details of the practical arrangements (directions, parking, refreshments etc.) for the day.

The proposed programme will be to walk around the garden and park on arrival (after coffee). We will then go through your chronologies until lunchtime. After lunch we will have an open 'refresher' forum on some of the issues and problems of researching and writing a description such as the purpose of the description, what facts are relevant to include in a description and how you as individuals have approached your research.

As at previous training days, Barbara and I (and possibly David Scully for part of the day) will be on hand to facilitate and help as needed. Copies of Barbara's finished report for Marle Place will be given out towards the end of the morning session for you to see - and to comment on the chronology if you wish!

We are looking forward to another stimulating and interesting day with you all - and the chance to get to know another Kent Compendium garden.

Kind regards

Virginia Hinze

Tel: 01273 844819

Appendix 8: Documentary Sources available at the Centre for Kentish Studies

Documentary sources available at the Centre for Kentish Studies

Maps:

• Ordnance Survey

Small scale series, quarter inch to one inch series: 1801 onwards.

Two and half inch series: c.1948 onwards.

6" series: 1860s / 1890s / 1909 / 1930s / 1960s / 1980s.

25" series: 1860s / 1890s / 1909 / 1930s / 1960s.

50" series: 1950s to 1970s.

Town plan series: 1860 to 1870s (Coverage incomplete not all Kent towns surveyed).

- **County historic printed maps:** 1400 onwards.
- **Land Utilisation maps:** 1930s & 1950-1960s.
- **Agricultural Classification maps:** 1950s-1960s.
- **Wildlife Habitat maps:** c.1994.
- **Geology maps:** 1863 – 1998, with accompanying memoir books.
- **Soil maps:** various dates within 1805 – 1980s.
- **Archaeology maps:** (based on OS 1:10,000 1960s maps) plus accompanying notes.
- **Hop maps:** (based on OS 25" 1909 & 1930s maps).
- **Royal Air Force Aerial Mosaic maps:** 1940s.
- **Estate maps & plans:** c.1590 – 1840, layout of gardens shown.
- **Tithe maps:** 1837 – 1848 with accompanying tithe award books.

[Most parishes covered but tithe maps for the following areas do not exist: Canterbury City parishes, Dover Castle, Dunkirk, Harty, Poulton, Queenborough, Rochester Cathedral, Stelling Minnis and Stonar].

- **Enclosure maps:** 1809 – 1880.
- **Parish and local maps:** 1500 onwards.
- **Transport Surveys:** c.1800 onwards, maps associated with highways, railways and canals.
- **Inland Revenue maps:** 1910 survey of land values plus accompanying books.
- **Manuscript Material:** other types of manuscript and records with potential to throw extra light on the design of a garden, revealing information not represented on maps and plans.
- **Manorial Records** c.1300 – 1920s (surveys of manorial lands in parishes and and rents. Some details of landownership and tenancies given).
- **Estate Records:** c.1500 onwards. Estate papers including including private correspondence of landowners, accounts, inventories, drawings, maps and other documents relating to the running of an estate.
- **Diaries and Notebooks:** (various dates).
- **Garden Bills** (particularly seed merchants' and nurserymen's bills).

- **Tradesmen's Account Books:** c.1830 (various dates).
- **Land Tax Returns:** (1780-1831) name of house and garden given with extent.
- **Title Deeds:** c.1400 onwards.
- **Parish Records:** 1550 onwards, include parish registers, parish magazines, glebe land and parsonage gardens.
- **Diocesan Records:** c.1600 – c.1800 (mostly glebe terriers, with occasional maps)
- **Wills:** 1300 – 1858 all held on microfilm.
- **Probate Inventories:** 1600 – 1842 (those that accompany wills often itemise agricultural & gardening implements such as ploughs and spades).
- **Quarter Session records:** c.1600 – 1889 diverse range of records including licensing of gamekeepers, licensed victuallers, insolvency records.
- **Sewer & Drainage records:** c.1700 onwards (include some maps).
- **Rate Books:** (Parish and local authority) 1650 – onwards (basic information re: extent of holding, whether a garden exists or just a house) .
- **Kent County Council Records:** range of material within collections, Kent Farmstead Survey, Files on historic buildings, Footpath & Rights of Way details.
- **Rural & Urban District Records:** planning and building records for individual properties c.1880 – 1974.
- **Charity Records:** Cottage Gardener's Societies 1884 -1919.
- **Horticultural College Records:** some papers for Swanley College.
- **Insurance Records:** Limited coverage.

Books & Articles from Journals

- Publications providing general background information on Kent and garden history eg. Victoria County Histories, DNB, county and local histories, antiquarian book collection including contemporary guidebooks.
- Books on specific gardens and parks, fruit farming, herbs and biographical information on gardeners.
- Books written by Kent horticulturalists on gardening.
- **Pamphlet collection:** includes nursery & plant catalogues.
- **Trade directories:** 1784 – 1974 (county and individual towns)
- **Electoral registers:** 1832 – present day
- **Sale particulars & Auction catalogues:** 1870 onwards.
- **Census returns:** 1801 – 1891 (held on microfilm).

Illustrations

- **Print collections:** including some watercolours and pen and pencil drawings.
- **Photographs and postcard collections:** including aerial photographs (mostly 1970/1980s).
- **Glass Negative collections.**
- **Engravings in antiquarian books.**
- **Photo Albums.**
- **Slide collections.**

Ephemera Collection

Posters and leaflets: mostly for garden open days and flower shows.

REFERENCE & LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARIES

Local history collections are held in main town libraries and in the main their coverage is the immediate locality ie. The district / borough area.

Typical resources include: topographical indexes and a book collection containing local histories and some antiquarian books. Maps, prints and photographic collections, specific to the locality, are also held along with local newspapers; useful for obituaries and accounts of marriages, and advertisements for trades and auctions. Most newspapers are held on microfilm, whilst local directories are held on microfiche. Some libraries have collections of ephemera including cutting files.

Examples from CKS collections:

Garden book with list of plants 1816, (U310 E18)

Linton Place, including bills for seeds and plants, 1840 – 1844 (U24 E25)

Garden at Parsonage House at Chalk, 1822 (Drb/At 13/4)

Cultivation of pineapples and grapes at Waldershare, 1760 – 1766 (U471 C9)

Loose Cottage Gardener's Society, 1884 – 1929 (Ch79)

Agreements with estate gardeners, 1706, 1711 (U269 E21)

Layout of garden at Barton Court, Canterbury, c.1850 (U236 P6)

Folkestone flower show, 1954 (K/Folkestone)

Garden wisdom from the writings of Marion Cran, 1947 (KB CRA)

Guide to Great Comp Garden, 1989 (K/Borough Green)

Illustrated Guide to the Botanical Garden at Rosherville, Gravesend, 1843 (K/Gravesend)

Figure 1: Historic Parks and Gardens of Tunbridge Wells Borough

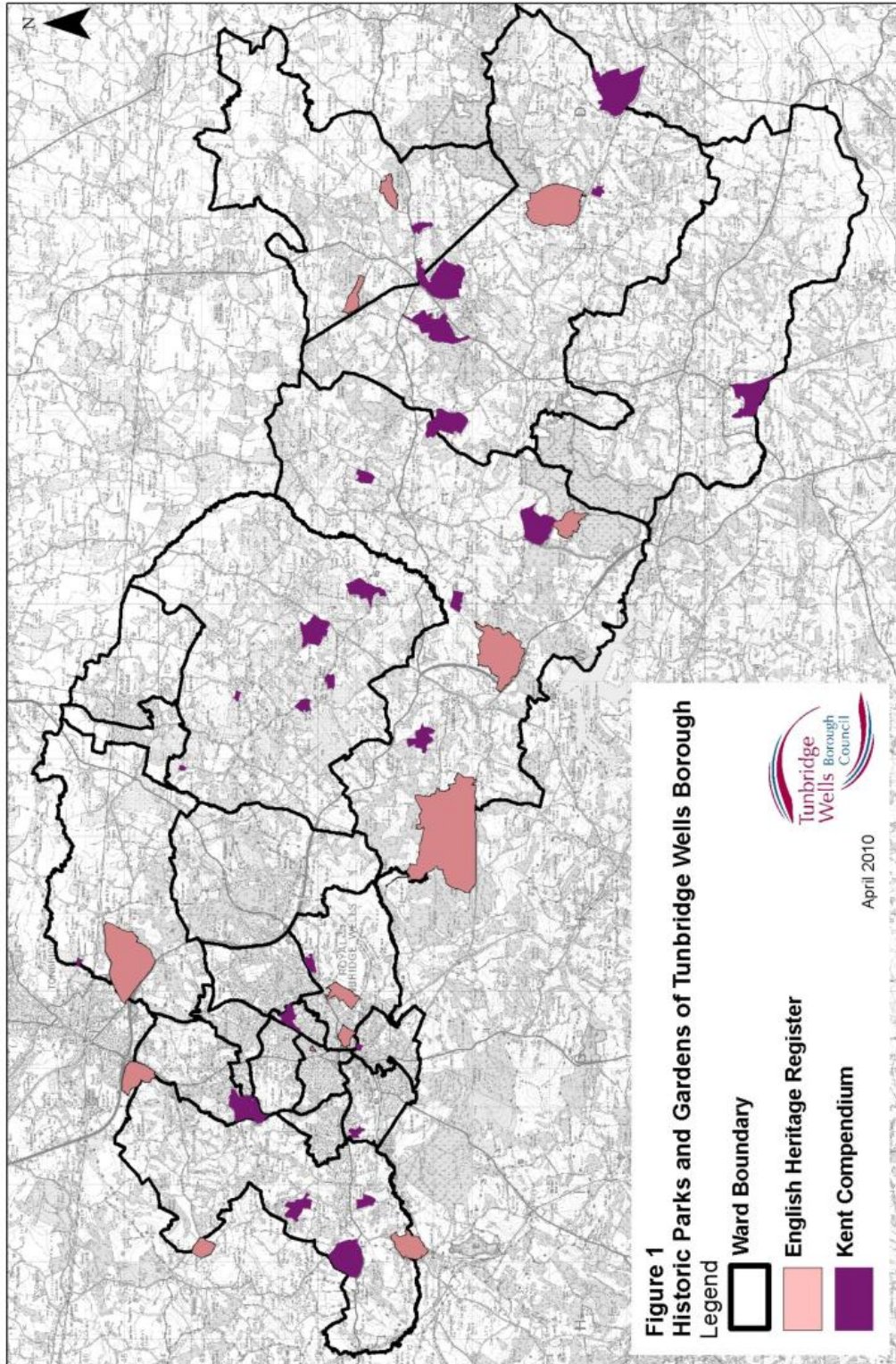
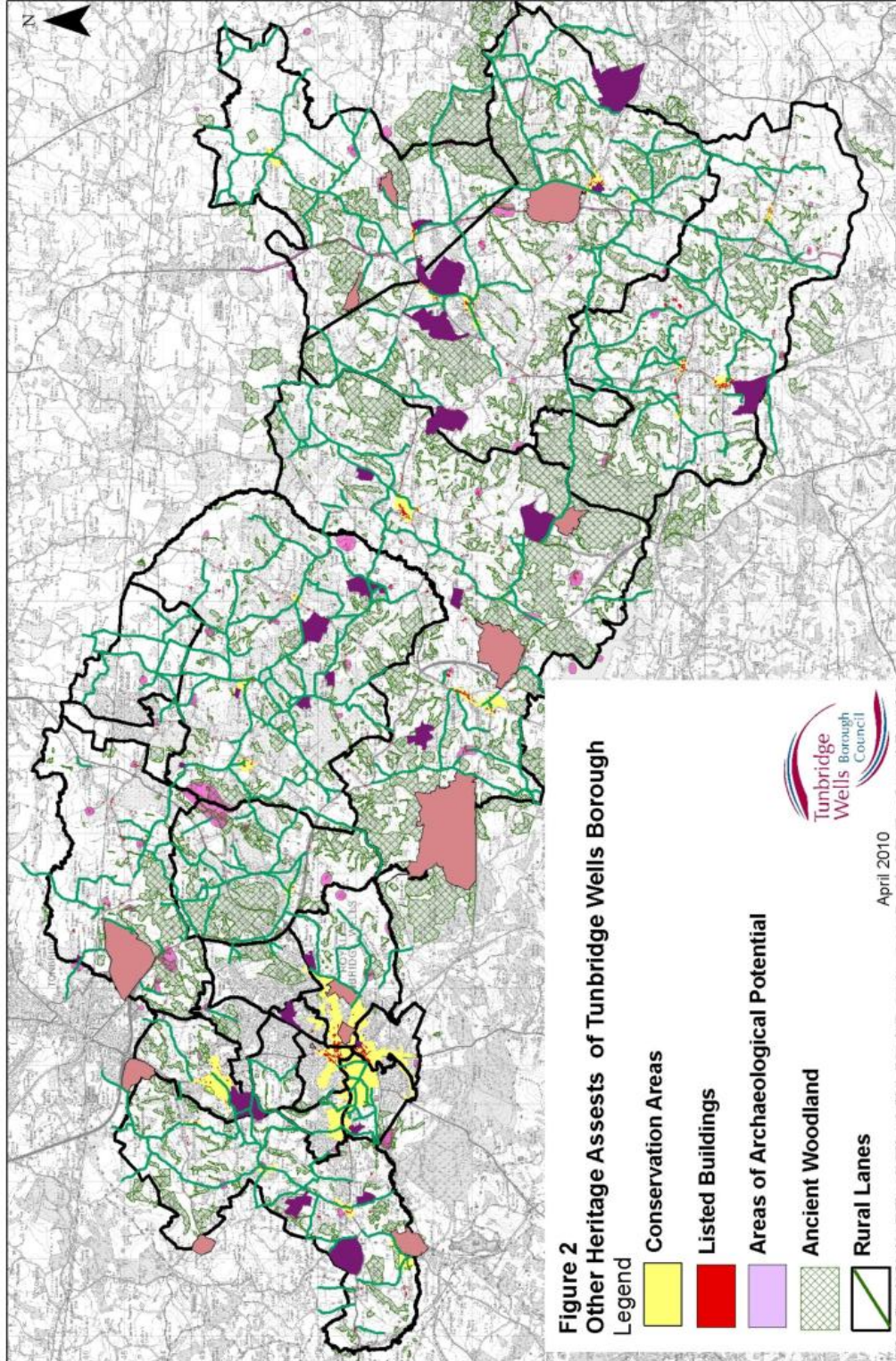


Figure 2: Other Heritage Assets of the Borough



**If you would like further information, or
require this document in another
format, please contact:**

**The Landscape & Biodiversity Officer
Planning Services
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS
Kent TN1 1RS**

Tel: 01892 554072

Email: planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk