NOTES

THE PROBABLE HILLFORT AT DESBOROUGH, AND A HUNDREDAL MEETING PLACE REVISITED

In *Records* 49 (2009, 235–238) the writer speculated on the size of a probable hillfort at Desborough, West Wycombe. Subsequently Frances Kerner kindly drew attention to two eighteenth-century maps held at West Wycombe House, one of c.1719, the other of 1763.

There is no doubt that the substantial earthwork known today as 'Desborough Castle' which lies in open land east of the present Castlefield Wood, is of medieval date, although it is unlikely to have ever been a castle in the traditional sense of the word. The c.1719 map shows that the 'castle' name was by that date well-established, since to the north and west of the earthwork site were cultivated fields named 'Great Castle Field', 'Middle Castle Field' and 'Little Castle Field'. The earthwork itself is not shown, but would have lain entirely within the named wood, 'Castle Wood', so this section of the wood at least must have grown up subsequent to the earthwork's disuse. The ongoing process of woodland clearance can be clearly seen a little south of the earthwork, where two obvious bites into woodland have created Great and Little Allhollands, both of which abut the curving Booker Lane (previously suggested to reflect the course of a preceding hillfort's defences). By 1763 the woodland encompassing 'the castle' had been completely cleared to form one field, 'Allhollands'. The 'castle' site at the northern end of this field, due to the size of its banks, obviously formed an unploughable island. and for obvious reasons is named on the map 'Roundabout'. Apart from the character of its substantial banks, the earthwork's present good preservation (it is a scheduled ancient monument) is due to the growth of secondary woodland, as is the case with many other medieval earthworks in the Chilterns.

The c.1719 map appears to assist with the continuing debate about the presence of a hillfort which preceded 'the castle'. The writer's note of 2009 included an aerial photograph, showing what is now a curving lynchet in grassland north of the medieval earthwork. This was trenched in 1968 by Christopher Saunders (*op. cit.*), who demonstrated the presence of two infilled ditches here. The c.1719 map distinguishes an arc of trees by a line within the wood which appears to follow exactly the same line as the surviving lynchet. It seems likely that this arc was mapped as it was a very obvious boundary feature – presumably the bank and ditch of the preceding hillfort now indicated by the lynchet.

In a report on excavations adjacent to the 'castle', Collard (1988) reviewed the origins of the name Desborough. An included contribution from Margaret Gelling suggested that the second element of the name may have originated from the Old English *beorg,* indicating a hill or barrow. Either interpretation is indeed possible here, since the location is a hill and there is a probable barrow adjacent to the 'castle'. She does not consider the option that the name could derive from *burh,* which is commonly used to indicate a defensive place. However, on both the 1719 and 1763 maps there is a relevant field name on the north-eastern slope of the hill: on the c.1719 map 'Dusbury' and the 1763 map 'Dusbury Field' and 'Little Dusbury'. In Buckinghamshire the *burh* element often indicates the former existence of an Iron Age hillfort, for instance at Padbury and Cholesbury, as is the case at numerous other locations in southern England. It can also indicate an association with an early town – as in Bourton near Buckingham – and occasionally, as is the case with Aylesbury, can indicate both on the same site. Since there is no possibility of a town on the hill at Desborough, and use of the

name certainly pre-dates the surviving medieval earthwork, the 'bury' element here adds strength to the argument for a hillfort.

Finally, the name 'Dusbury' of course clearly relates to the name of the substantial Chiltern hundred 'Desborough' or 'Dvstenberg' in Domesday Book (Morris 1978). It would now seem reasonable to suggest that the ramparts of the long-disused hillfort were probably a sufficiently prominent feature in the landscape to have provided a meeting point for the hundred, and in due course its name.

Michael Farley

'THE MEN WHO DWELL IN OPEN COUNTRY': BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NAMES WITH OE *FILDENA*

This paper examines one of the more unusual Old English words found in local place-names, one which throws some light on the way in which the landscape was perceived and organised in the early medieval period. It is a preliminary result of continuing research into the links between estates located in the Vale of Aylesbury and Thames Valley and woodland pastures and other resources in the Chilterns, and also similar links within Stotfold Hundred in the north-west corner of Buckinghamshire.

The word in question is *filde* (genitive plural *fildena*), best translated as 'dwellers in the *feld* or open country', as distinct from those living in wooded landscapes.[1] A cognate word with the same meaning is *feldware*.[2] (Compare also *[ge]filde*, 'a plain', which occurs in The Fylde, the area inland from Blackpool. Feldon, the Warwickshire district named in contradistinction to the Forest of Arden, derives from the dative plural of OE *feld*.[3]). Although it is difficult to separate occurrences of *fildena* from the adjective *filden*, 'pertaining to a *feld*', all the Buckinghamshire examples discussed here appear to be from the group-name.

Fildena occurs occasionally in Anglo-Saxon charter bounds. There are three examples from Oxfordshire: *on fildena weg* (Brightwell Baldwin 887 and Cuxham 995), and *on fildena wuduweg* (*Bynsingtun land* [Benson] 996).[4] All of these connect settlements south of the river Thame with woodland on the Chiltern escarpment and dip-slope.[5]

Although the written evidence for *fildena weg/stret* in Buckinghamshire is later, the word was archaic by the Middle English period, and these names almost certainly arose prior to 1066.

It seems likely that these various references relate to three tracks or 'bundles' of tracks. Each is now examined briefly.

Fildenestret in Biddlesden is mentioned in a grant of one virgate at Evershaw, abutting one acre lying in the east field, 'towards the field of Shalstone'. A near-contemporary grant of 18½ acres in Shalstone confirms that *Fildenastret* adjoined the west field

TABLE 1 *Fildena*-Names in Buckinghhamshire

Name	Parish	Date	Source[6]
Fildenestret	Biddlesden	1210x1220	Elvey 1975, no.459
Fildenestret	Biddlesden	1260x1268	Elvey 1975, no.503
Fildenestret	Biddlesden	1260x1268	Elvey 1975, no.441
Vildenerstrete	Shalstone	1260x1265	Elvey 1975, no.496
Uildeneweye	Westbury	13th	Salter 1935, no.885
Fidelne Strete	Ellesborough	early 13th	BRS 12, no.694
Fildenissemanwey	Missenden	1227	BRS 4, no.23
Fildenissendoreswey	Missenden	13th	BRS 12, no.884
Fildewei	Horsenden	c1210	ORS 21, no.127
Vyldenewey	Haddenham	1341	TNA JUST 3/5/7

there. Unfortunately, the relationship between woodland and open country is far from clear-cut in this area, compared with the Chiltern region. It lies on the western fringes of Whittlewood and now has little surviving woodland.[7] Until they were rationalised in the late-nineteenth century, however, local parish boundaries were often complex. A long northern salient of Shalstone separated the main part of Biddlesden from its 260-acre detached portion at Wood Green, now free of woodland. North of Biddlesden detached was a very substantial detached portion of Westbury parish, containing 1,149 acres (compare only 1,381 acres for the 'main' parish). The Westbury *Uildeneneweye* mentioned in the Oseney Cartulary lay close to the fields of Shalstone, and is clearly the track through Evershaw. Even in Domesday Book, the woodland resources in this area do not appear to be especially generous.

Turweston and Water Stratford had no recorded wood, though their inhabitants must have had access to some, given its essential role in providing fuel and building materials. Given the disproportionate

number of swine assigned to Westbury, it seems likely that its woodland also served Turweston, implying that they had once formed a single administrative entity. The Biddlesden *Fildenastret* would have provided the link between Turweston and this woodland. Likewise, Water Stratford may have had a share in the extensive woodlands in the estates within Stowe parish, to which it is directly connected by the Roman road. It seems that a belt of woodland ran from Lamport and Dadford to the shire boundary west of Biddlesden.

The Luffield charters name other tracks: *woddewey*, *rugewey* and *houergreneweye*, respectively wood-, ridge- and [over] green-way. All appear to lie wholly within Shalstone parish and derive from Old English *weg*, 'way, path, road', whereas *Fildenestret* derives from OE *stræt*, 'Roman road, paved road, road in a town'.[8] (*Weg* can of course also refer to a major routeway, for example Icknield Way, Fosse Way.). Although there is a well-known Roman road running through Stowe and Water Stratford en route from Alchester in Oxfordshire to Towcester (Margary 160a), there

TABLE 2 Stotfold Hundred (West): Domesday Woodland Resources

Estate	Hides	Ploughs		Wood	Holder 1066
		Potential	Actual	Swine	
Turweston	5	8	6	nil	Wynsige, King's chamberlain
Westbury	2½	7	7	250	Alnoth cild, thegn
Water Stratford	8	8	8	nil	Azor, son of Toti
Biddlesden 1	4¾	8	3	200	Azor, son of Thored
Biddlesden 2	¾	1	waste	nil	Alric, Alwin's Goding's man
Evershaw	1	2	2	nil	'a bandy-legged man'
Shalstone 1	5	5	4	50	Godric 3H/Wiglaf 2H thegns
Shalstone 2	4	5	5	50	Azor son of Toti
Lamport 1	3½	4	3	50	Swein Swart
Lamport 2	2½	3	2	40	Raven, bp Wulfwig's man
Stowe	5	5	1½	50	Thorgils, Herlwin's man
Dadford 1	2	4	1	200	Leofwin, Burgred's man
Dadford 2	2	4	1	200	Raven & Wulfward, thegns
Boycott#	1	3	1	4x2 furl.	Blacman
TOTAL	47	67	44½	1090+	

Boycott was a detached part of Oxfordshire, where wood is measured in furlongs, the exact significance of which is not clearer than that for the Bucks. formula 'wood for a swine'.

is no evidence for a side road passing through the Biddlesden area.[9] The alternation between *weg* and *stret* for the *fildena* track in Missenden and Ellesborough suggests that we should not read too much into the use of *stræt*. Indeed, *Fildenestret* need not have been formally paved.

Given that the 'track of the men dwelling in open country' separated the open fields of Evershaw and Shalstone in the thirteenth century, it seems likely to have been the bridle way/green road that forms the parish boundary between SP628376 and 635377, known now as Ash Furlong Lane. This commences at Turweston and runs north-east through the detached parts of Biddlesden and Westbury parishes. Further north, its continuation is less clear. It may once have reached the Roman road at the north end of Lillingstone Dayrell. The name Luffield (OE 'Luf[f]a's open country')[10], in medieval times a small extra-parochial area around the priory founded before 1133, may originally have denoted a wider tract north of the wooded area to the south. There are no *feld*-names along the Ouse valley in this region.

Although the case for there only being one *Fildenaweg* in the north-west corner of Buckinghamshire is clear, that is less apparent with the names recorded in Ellesborough and the Missendens in the thirteenth century. The OE word was probably obsolete well before the misspelled version *Fidelne strete* appeared in the Missenden Cartulary which relates to a grant of 1¾ acres in the open fields of Ellesborough, of which one rood lay north of *Akemanestrete* abutting *Fidelne strete*.[11] This cannot refer to Roman Akeman Street running through Aston Clinton several miles away. It is most likely to be a scribal error for Icknield Street, which crosses Ellesborough parish from ENE to WSW, skirting the parish church and manor house. The track employed by the 'men living in open country' therefore ran in a broadly north-south direction. There are two candidates. The first is the present road from Stoke Mandeville to the Hampdens and beyond, which has been diverted to follow the perimeter of the Chequers estate, but is shown with a straight course by Bryant (1825). A branch from this road north of Terrick leads to Stone. Between them, they would enable a substantial area lacking significant woodland to access the Chilterns. An alternative route across Ellesborough from this route at SP846057 is now a bridleway reaching Icknield Way at SP847071.

The location of the *fildena*-track mentioned in connection with Missenden Abbey is more difficult to ascertain. A fine dated 29th October 1227 concerns the abbot's right to common in Hampden.[12] Alexander de Hamden granted the abbot common for a substantial flock of one hundred sheep between *Fildenissemanewey* and Prestwood. The former name appears in the cartulary as *Fildenissendoreswey*.[13] The central element in these names is hard to interpret. The OE suffix *-nes/-nis*, with cognates in other Germanic languages, is used to generate abstract nouns from adjectives.[14] (A good example is *wilderness*, from OE *wild*+*deor*, 'wild animal', with the transferred sense of 'desolate place'). Another, which actually figures in place-names is *gemǣnnes*, 'sharing', 'held in common', which gives Minnis in Kent.[15] Although not recorded, the Missenden name could represent an OE **filden[a]nis*, meaning something like 'pertaining to those dwelling in open country'. The second part of the name is unlikely to mean 'way of the men of X', since that is inherent in the first compound. More probable would be *gemǣne weg*, 'track for communal use'. Thus the whole portmanteau could be rendered 'public way used by/pertaining to the men who live in the open country'. The variant version begins with the same two elements, then has *dores* instead of *man*. OE *dor*, 'door, gate', is used for 'entrance to a gap between hills; narrowing valley', which fits the topography of the Chiltern escarpment hereabouts very well.[16] The view from the track leading south past Terrick is aligned with the gap between Coombe Hill and Beacon Hill, known simply as [the] Coombe (OE *cumb*, a loan-word from British). Ann Cole's definition of *cumb*, 'short, broad valley, usually bowl- or trough-shaped, with three fairly steeply rising slopes' is characteristic of chalk escarpments, in contrast to the *denu*-names found on the dip-slopes (e.g. Missenden, Hampden).[17]

Further proof that these three occurrences of *fildena*- in the Buckinghamshire Chilterns refer to a single track or group of parallel routes used in gathering timber and also the seasonal droving of animals to upland pasture, is to be found in the 193-acre detached portion of Stoke Mandeville located south of Hampden Bottom (SP8601). This lies midway between Prestwood and Hampden, as stated in the thirteenth century document. There were other detached portions of Vale parishes in this area, for example two totalling 102 acres

belonging to Little Kimble, connected to their parent by a track that branches off our *Fildenawey* at Dirtywood Farm (SP845038).

The third example of a *fildena*-name is recorded in Haddenham and Horsenden in the early-13th and mid-14th centuries.[18] (The Haddenham example has the voiced initial consonant also found at Shalstone, possibly echoing local Middle English dialect). This track runs through Aston Sandford, then between Ilmer and Longwick to Horsenden, an extraordinarily-shaped parish often barely more than one or two fields wide, but almost four miles long. The northern half, including Horsenden village and church, lies in the Vale, and although rising gently into the Chilterns, lies along the edge of a significant gap linking Wycombe and Risborough. Horsenden, 'hill/valley where horses were kept', is a lowland, rather than an upland parish, with no recorded woodland in Domesday Book.[19] The woodland resources used by Haddenham and its neighbours probably lay in Bledlow or Risborough, which had woodland for 2,300 swine between them in 1086, although there are no surviving tell-tale detached portions here.

These three examples of names incorporating OE *fildena* show that access to woodland was of vital importance to early-medieval communities located in areas where such resources were scarce. It is quite likely that there were other examples in Buckinghamshire, some of which may come to light as the collection of field- and local-name material proceeds. The absence of such names for tracks linking communities along the Thames with woodland in their detached parts, for example Dorney, may indicate that other terms were considered more appropriate there.

The generic use of OE *feld*, 'open country' to describe those living in what we now call the Vale of Aylesbury echoes the well-known dichotomy in Warwickshire between Feldon and the Forest of Arden. In the case of Buckinghamshire, however, the situation is complicated by the existence of several wooded and open regions, notably Whittlewood and Yardley Chase in the north, the Chilterns across the centre and the Burnham Beeches area in the south-east.

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3. Smith, *Elements*, I 172 (Fylde); I 166–7 (Feldon).
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5. A.H.J. Baines, 'Turville, Radenore and the Chiltern *Feld*', Recs. Bucks. **23** (1981), 4–22.
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7. For Whittlewood see R. Jones & M. Page, *Medieval Villages in an English Landscape* (Macclesfield 2006).
8. Smith, *Elements*, II 161–2 & 248–9.
9. I.D. Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain* (rev. ed., London, 1967), 162.
10. A. Mawer & F.M. Stenton, *The Place-Names of Buckinghamshire* (Cambridge 1925), 45.
11. Jenkins, note 5, no. 694.
12. Hughes, note 5, no. 23.
13. Jenkins, note 5, no. 884.
14. Smith, *Elements*, II 49.
15. Smith, *Elements*, II 33.
16. Smith, *Elements*, I 134.
17. A. Cole, 'Topography, hydrology and place-names in the chalklands of southern England, *Nomina* 6 (1982), 73–87; M. Gelling & A. Cole, *The Landscape of Place-Names* (Stamford 2000), 103–9.
18. I owe the Haddenham reference, which finally prompted the present note, to the Reverend Will Strange.
19. Early forms alternate between *dun* and *denu*. Mawer & Stenton, note 9, 169, favour 'Horsa's valley/hill', but E. Ekwall, *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th. ed. Oxford 1960) preferred 'horse'.

"NEW" BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ANGLO-SAXON CHARTER BOUNDS II: ASPLEY GUISE

This paper discusses the boundary clause of the Anglo-Saxon charter for an estate at Aspley and Hulcote (earlier Holcot, the spelling used here) in Bedfordshire, part of which shares a boundary with Wavendon. Unlike the two Hertfordshire charters considered in Part I,[1] this document has long been known, but its perambulation has not been completely "solved", nor has it been considered from a Buckinghamshire viewpoint.

The Aspley Estate

In 969, King Edgar granted fifteen hides (*cassati*) at Aspley to his *minister* (king's thegn), Ælfwold.[2] He was the son of Æthelstan 'Half-King' and brother of Æthelwine, who both held the office of ealdorman of East Anglia.[3] Ælfwold witnessed some fifteen charters between 962 and 972, generally occupying a middle- to low-ranking position among the witnessing *ministri*.[4] Ælfwold was also was granted a ten-hide estate at Kineton in Warwickshire in 969.[5] Kineton was in royal hands in 1066, so this may only have been a lifetime grant.

Aspley remained in lay ownership, and had been divided in two by 1066, with a combined assessment of fourteen hides. The tenant-in-chief of Aspley (ten hides) was Hugh de Beauchamp, who also held neighbouring Salford. The sub-tenant was Acard of Ivry, possibly the holder of seven hides at Tyringham (Bucks.). Holcot (four hides) was held by William Speke, whose sub-tenant Ralph Passwater [Passlewe] had held Drayton Parslow after the Conquest, but had been deprived of it by 1086.[6] The last Anglo-Saxon occupier at Aspley was Leofgifu, a woman commended to Earl Waltheof of Northumbria. Alfward 'Bellrope', Alric's man held Holcot in 1066.[7] Aspley (OE *æspe*, *leah*, 'aspen-tree clearing') takes its name from a landscape feature, while Holcot is probably OE *holh*, *cotan*, 'cottages in a hollow'.[8] Cot[e]-names are characteristic of small, often secondary settlements, in this case definitely in existence by 969.[9]

The boundary perambulation commences in the north-east, at the meeting point of Aspley, *Segenhoe* (now Ridgmont) and Husborne Crawley, and proceeds clockwise. There are twenty-nine boundary features: two are described as the meeting places of named communities, eight are man-made features, and nineteen are natural features. Nine features lie along the boundary of Wavendon. Anglo-Saxon charter bounds often fit present-day parish/township boundaries more or less closely, and the majority of these landmarks are located along the boundaries of Aspley and Holcot. There is a relatively minor deviation at the northern tip [22–23], where the present Cranfield boundary lies north of a stream followed in 969. However, this charter has yet to receive detailed scholarly attention, and some of the interpretations made here may be subject to revision.

The Old English perambulation is set out below, followed by a modern translation.

Ðis synt þa langemæra to æpslea

Of hysse burnan on wendles dune eastewearde on flitan hylle þanon on þone hwitan more ond siþþan be fenne on þone heafod æcer oþ þone lytlan hlaw þonon to þære apuldre þær þa þreo landgemæru togædere gaþ wo-burn inga & wafan-dun inga & æps-lea inga; fram þam deor gete ofer þone hæþ to þam cumbe, þonon ymbe west lea; of þam lea on þone heafod æcer se is on æps-lea inga gemære & on wafan-dun inga; þonon andlang þære ealdan stræte on dunnes hlaw; þonon on þone ealden ford on þæs fennes heafod; anlang fennes up on þære dune to þære blacan þyrnan; to þam ealdan stapol[e]; of þam stapole eall onbutan fotes eige; of fotes eige inon þone blundan ford; andlang streames of þam streame on crang-feld inga dic of þære dic on þone ealdan coll pytt þær þa þreo landgemæru togædere gaþ canc-feld inga and mercs-tun inga and holan-cotan of þam þreom gemæron on
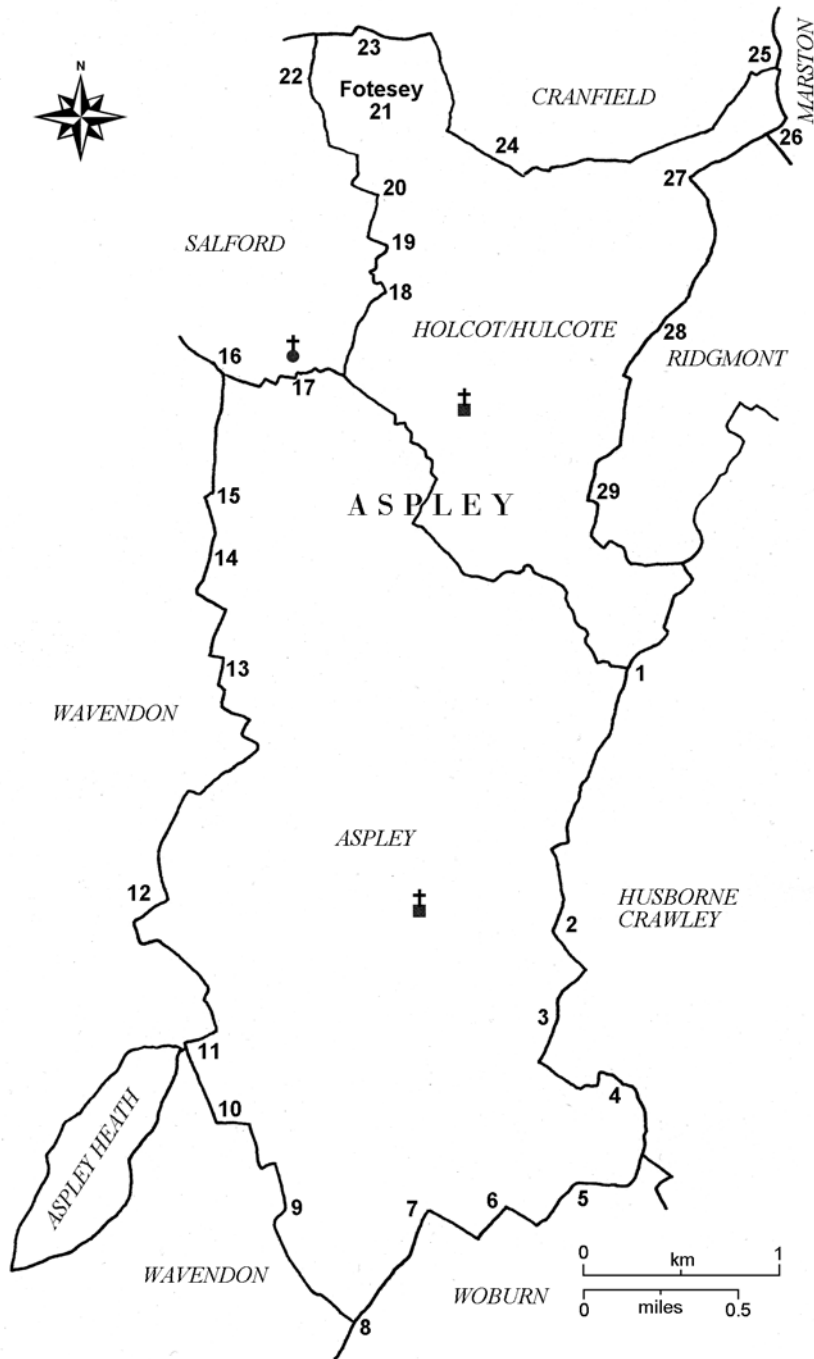
FIGURE 1 ??

þone ealdan mapuldre of þam mapuldre on þone sidan healh of þam sidan healh a be þam heh hylte inon þone langan þorn of þam þorne eft inon hysse burnan of hysse burnan eft in easteweardere wændles dune.

From Husborne [1] onto Wendel's hill [2], eastwards to Flitt hill [3] then onto the white moor [4] and so by the fen [5] to the head acre [6], to the little mound [7] then to the apple tree [8] where the three boundaries of the men of Woburn, the men of Wavendon and the men of Aspley meet; from the deer gate [9] over the heath [10] to the valley [11], then around the west[ern] clearing/wood [12]. From the clearing to the head acre [13] on the boundary between the men of Aspley and the men of Wavendon; then along the old paved road [14] to Dunne's mound/hill [15]. Then at the old ford [16] at the end of the fen [17], along the fen up onto the hill [18] to the black thorn bush [19]. To the old pillar [20]; from the pillar all around 'Fótr's island/dry ground' [21] to *blundan?* ford [22]. Along the stream [23] to the ditch of the men of Cranfield [24]. From the ditch to the old coal pit [25] where the three boundaries come together – of the Cranfield men, the men of Marston and Holcote. From the triple boundary to the old maple tree [26], from the maple to the wide nook or corner [27]. From the wide nook always along the high wood [28] to the long thorn [29], from the thorn into Husborne [30] afterwards eastwards to Wendel's hill [31].

The following discussion seeks to elucidate the nature and location of these features, although many were ephemeral and now impossible to identify precisely. The first and last pairs of points in the perambulation are identical. The language suggests that this is dittography on the part of the scribe, rather than indicating that the same features were encountered at different locations.

1. Husborne, a stream-name probably from OE *hysse*, *burna*, 'shoot or tendril stream', referring to some kind of trailing water plant, rather than OE *hys[s]e*, 'son, youth'.[10] Husborne was added in the 12[th] century to the two Domesday Crawleys (OE *crawe leah*, 'crow clearing/wood') to distinguish them from North Crawley (Bucks.). The Aspley-Husborne boundary follows a hedge line from SP953375 to SP950365, before ascending Wensden Hill [2]. Of the various small streams hereabouts, the most likely candidate for the *hysse*

burnan is the upper reaches of the Broughton Brook, which also forms the Aspley-Holcot boundary, and others as far as its confluence with the river Ouzel.

2. The summit of Wensden Hill is at SP949361. The name combines the personal name *Wændel* with OE *dūn*, to which the superfluous 'hill' has been added. OE has an extensive repertoire of words for 'hill'; *dūn* (modern 'down') being characterised by a flat top and relatively steep sides, like an upturned boat.[11]

3. The boundary is said to run eastwards to the next feature, Flitt Hill (c.SP949354). The name is from OE *[ge]flit*, 'strife, dispute'.[12] The direction is in fact SSE, but such discrepancies are not uncommon in Anglo-Saxon directions.[13]

4. The 'white moor', between SP952348 and 954351, denotes a tract of uncultivated ground. The soils here are well-drained, overlying the Woburn Sands.[14]

5. The 'fen' lay in the shallow valley of a stream draining from Wavendon Heath to Crawley and beyond (c.SP953348).

6. The 'head acre' or headland is still evident as four right-angled bends between SP948346 and 943346. The name is evidence of cultivation, possibly open-field agriculture with the angles reflecting the presence of furlongs on each side, indicating that agriculture had spread to the boundary between Aspley and Husborne by 969. (See also [13])

7. The 'small mound' probably lay along Aspley Lane, perhaps where it crosses the track from Birchmoor Green (SP942345). OE *hlāw* often denotes a man-made feature, such as a burial mound.[15]

8. The apple tree marked the three-way boundary between the men of Wavendon, Aspley and Woburn (SP939341).

9. The Deer Gate (c.SP937343) OE *deor* is a generic term for wild animals, whose meaning subsequently became more restricted. The use of "gate" in this context suggests some kind of

management of deer for hunting, however, within an area enclosed from the surrounding heath and woodland.

10. The boundary now crosses the heath (c.SP937343-932352). Although now substantially wooded, the area of Aspley and Wavendon Heaths appears to have been more open in the tenth century. Aspley Heath formed an oval-shaped area of 110 acres, virtually detached from the main parish. It is unclear whether that was the case in 969; the charter bounds do not appear to follow its perimeter. Boundaries in such areas were often fixed relatively late, the land originally being grazed communally by surrounding settlements.

11. Modern building around Woburn Sands obscures much of the underlying topography of the tenth-century 'combe'. Old English *cumb* ('coombe') and *denu* ('dean') occur together in many areas, including Buckinghamshire. Ann Cole suggests that *cumb* is 'mostly used of shorter, broader valleys' than *denu*, usually bowl- or trough-shaped with three fairly steeply rising sides.[16] The valley followed by the Newport Road descending to Woburn Sands crossroads is possible, though it is hardly steep-sided.

12. 'Around the west clearing/wood'; OE *lēah* has both senses, and it is impossible to tell which is meant here. OE *ymbe* has various senses, such as 'around, about, at, upon, near, along'.[17] The curved boundary between SP929363 and 931368 may indicate part of the West Ley, which probably lay on the Aspley side, although it may have stretched further south.

13. The perambulation now reaches 'the head acre on the boundary between the men of Aspley and the men of Wavendon'. There are ten right-angled bends between SP934371 and 931378. OE *hēafod* 'head, top or end', while *æcer* is 'plot of arable of cultivate land; measure of land [acre]'. The compound *hēafodæcer* occurs several tenth-century Berkshire charters, although Margaret Gelling notes that the simple *hēaf[o]d* occurs more frequently.[18] Such names are evidence of the existence of open-field systems. The open-field systems of Aspley and Wavendon still abutted the boundary here in 1745.[19]

14. 'The old paved road' is now Cranfield Road at the Lower End of Wavendon (c.SP932381). OE *stræt* often denotes surviving Roman road metalling. Unfortunately, there is apparently no other evidence of such a road, probably one of the network of minor routes serving small settlements and villas between known Roman roads and settlements.

15. 'Dunn's mound or hill', the former is more likely given the local topography. OE *hlaw* qualified by a personal name like Dunn[e] may denote a burial mound (*cf.* Taplow), including prehistoric features reused in the Anglo-Saxon period. The mound probably overlooked Salford, just north of the M1 (SP932386).

16. The 'old ford' (SP932389), close to Salford village, where the boundary turns east along the Broughton Brook.

17. The perambulation now follows the Salford-Holcot boundary. The fen was between SP934389 and 938390.

18. The boundary turns north, 'Up onto the Down'. The Holcot-Salford boundary winds around fields; the highest point is at SP940398. The gentle slope on this side is not typical of a *dun*, but there is a sharp descent from the summit at SP954398.

19. The 'blackthorn bush' was probably located on this slope, possibly where the boundary turns at SP941396.

20. The old pillar (OE *stapol*), denoting a post or pillar of used as a landmark and probably marking the turn at SP940398.

21. *Fotes eige* is difficult to interpret. The first element may be either OE *fōt* 'foot [of a stream, or hill], or the Scandinavian personal name Fótr. (This area was briefly in the Danelaw from 886–c.920.) The second element is OE *ēg* 'island, dry ground in a fen, well-watered land'.[20] This name is thus 'dry ground at the bottom of the hill' or 'Fótr's dry ground'. A map annotated with field-names by Bedfordshire County Archivist George Fowler c.1920 shows three fields named Cocksey, centred on SP945397, on the Cranfield boundary.[21] The second element of this name is certainly OE

ēg, and it is conceivable that the first element is a corruption of Fot, although *Fotesey retained its F- at least as late as the late-13th century. The boundary goes 'all around Fotes eige', so the dry ground may have comprised the whole northern salient of Holcot.

22. *Blundan ford* (probably a scribal error for *blindan ford*), 'hidden or overgrown ford'.[22] The boundary follows Cranfield Road here, and the ford was probably across the stream leading to Holcotmoors Farm (SP936404).

23. The boundary now follows a stream, between SP936405 and 943406.

24. The perambulation turns south along the 'ditch of the men of Cranfield'. The principal sense of OE *dīc* is 'excavated trench'.[23] From SP944402 the boundary follows the stream crossed earlier at Blind Ford [22] as far as its source, after which it is again man-made.

25. The 'old coal pit' (OE *col*, 'charcoal'), at SP960406, where three boundaries came together, those of the men of Cranfield and Marston, and Holcot (the latter being subordinate to Aspley.)

26. The old maple tree, an ephemeral feature, probably at SP960403.

27. The broad nook or corner was where the Holcot-Brogborough boundary turns south (SP956400).

28. The boundary now runs SSW for a considerable distance along the edge of the 'high wood', descending from about 385ft to 270ft OD at SP951381. The landscape is now open, but the sinuous boundary is typical woodland edges. The field-names Heywood (OE *hēah wudu*, 'high wood') and Innings (OE **inning*, 'land taken in or enclosed') occur on the Holcot side.

29. The 'long thorn' suggests a linear feature such as a hedge, from the vicinity of Hulcote Farm (SP952382) to the Husborne boundary at SP956380, where the perambulation began.

Conclusion

The detailed perambulation of Aspley is typical of the later Anglo-Saxon period, when there was a need to define precisely the boundaries of estates created by the break-up of larger entities in an increasingly occupied landscape. Three or four cardinal points were sufficient to delimit Granborough and Wotton Underwood in the ninth century. By 969, cultivation had already reached the edges of Aspley and its neighbours in places. Ælfwold's estate was partly defined with reference to 'the men of' neighbouring territories, with Holcot occupying a subordinate place in the administrative hierarchy. The Aspley charter mentions a wide range of landscape features, from heathland to a possible Roman road, and from open-field systems to isolated trees. Natural features such as streams, marshland and hills predominate along the western and northern boundaries. Ælfwold's charter throws invaluable light on not only on the tenth-century landscape of the Aspley estate, but also on parts of north-east Buckinghamshire, about which information is otherwise lacking until Domesday Book or later.

Keith Bailey

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THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GARDENS TRUST RESEARCH AND RECORDING PROJECT, 2014–15

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust (BGT) was founded in 1997 and has been a Registered Charity since 2003. We cover the historic county of Bucks (pre-1974 boundaries). We have 183 members in the county and beyond, as well as links with other local and national organisations and authorities.

Our mission statement is "to record and conserve the gardens and parks of historic Buckinghamshire" and "to aid in the creation and restoration of gardens, parks and green spaces within the county". We do this by communicating to the public information through lectures, exhibitions, presentations and publications about Bucks historic designed landscapes. We also strive to inform decision-makers about the significance of specific sites based on our local knowledge and experience. We aim to support the conservation efforts related to historic gardens and parks for future generations. One key aspect is in training volunteers to be skilled researchers and recorders for our Research and Recording Project. Our volunteers are drawn from BGT and the wider community of similar groups including local history and archaeology societies (including BAS).

Gardens and parks are intrinsic to our national heritage. There has perhaps never been a time when there has been as much interest in them, yet with unprecedented demands and pressures for change. Garden history encapsulates an amalgamation of art, archaeology, architecture, garden design, landscape, horticulture and social history. Current and future generations will benefit from the preservation and recognition of these historical designed landscape resources. In this project we are creating a clear, rigorously reviewed and well-structured body of information including the significance of sites and their aesthetic design in order to disseminate this knowledge to the public and decision-makers who are involved in the management of and potential changes to these sites.

For the sites on which our project is focused, their history and design significance have been little recognised and poorly understood. Buckinghamshire's rich and unique share of Britain's endowment includes 37 recognized nationally important parks and gardens (included on the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest* of some 1660 sites). Rather than address nationally important sites which are generally relatively well understood, our project targets some of the 400 locally significant sites identified and adopted by Bucks County Council in 1996 in their County Register Review, prioritising those which are at risk of change. These local sites are especially vulnerable to inappropriate management and developmental change due to a lack of information about their historical significance and the extent of their survival.

Our volunteers are trained to make visual surveys, interpret maps and illustrations and make site evaluationsof the landscape design and its aesthetic. They also present written and illustrated reports on their findings. The volunteers receive plant identification training, particularly on key types of trees likely to be encountered in Bucks. The information generated by the project is being made available in printed form, and digitally to sources such as Buckinghamshire libraries (including BAS library), record offices, BCC and Milton Keynes Historic Environment Records (HER), and the web sites of BGT and UK Parks and Gardens Database.

Our methods are based on principles established initially by Historic England in their *Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest*, adapted by BGT to include 'statements of significance' in a format recognised in the National Planning Policy Framework. Thus our site dossiers are rigorously prepared and formatted to a professional standard that is well tried and tested for its purpose.

We gain our basic understanding of each site's history with structured primary and secondary research, principally in the Centre for Bucking-

hamshire Studies (CBS). CBS holds most of the archive required for the research including relevant maps, images, printed references and documentary evidence, personal and family papers, photographs, social and county histories, architectural and county guides, sales catalogues and contemporary newspapers. The volunteers also search other archives and resources on-line.

Bucks County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) has been a great supporter of this project from the outset. The HER believes that the work we are doing is a valuable addition to the County resources. The HER also provides historic and archaeological data.

Volunteers are trained to use these materials to establish the historic development of sites and to help identify surviving historic features on the sites, including historic trees and shrubs, landscape and built structures and horticultural features. Collectively this work sets the framework for each site. It also forms the over-arching structure for the project as a whole because it enhances our understanding of the historic significance of sites and reinforces the importance of their continued survival.

In the pilot phase in 2014–15, largely funded by a generous Heritage Lottery Fund grant of some £9,000, we covered around 20 sites. We intend to select and visit a further 30 'high interest' sites during the continuation project period 2015–17, for which we have been largely and very generously funded by the Finnis Scott Foundation and Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, as well from BGT's own funds.

The recording is in the form of a clearly set out and succinct report in a dossier of information including maps and images. It is available in print and digitally on our web site. Each dossier includes a brief history of the site's landscape development based on research at CBS and other sources outlined above. The dossier provides a description of the current layout and what survives of the historical garden and park. The report is based on a format established as good practice by English Heritage in their national *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic significance*. The dossier includes current maps and photographs of key aspects taken on the BGT site visits and a boundary map showing the area of surviving historic interest. A statement of significance is provided to a set format, reflecting National Planning Policy Framework guidance. In

addition maps are included to record key features, planting and views. Many notable primary documents are associated with these sites, mostly held at the Centre for Bucks Studies. The most useful, particularly manuscript plans, images and written sources are referred to within the dossiers.

A key aim is for the completed recording to provide a current assessment of the historic garden and the horticultural significance of the site's designed landscape. This perspective enables BGT and others to assess the value of each site as a heritage asset, not only within the county, but also in a national context.

Summaries of Designed Landscapes Appraised by BGT 2014–15

The following are summaries of the historic interest of 20 designed landscapes appraised by the Bucks Gardens Trust Research and Recording Group in 2014–15, taken from the individual site dossiers. Below, the sites are arranged by broad site type (although not all fit neatly into categories and some overlap several) and their key historic and surviving interest is described. A pattern of historic interest and current significance is beginning to emerge, but it is early days to start drawing conclusions. We hope we will be able to draw more informed conclusions over the coming years as the body of information swells, and we will publish these in *Records* in due course. The full dossiers are available on the BGT web site: http://www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/research-and-recording/our-research/

Villas

Alscot Lodge, Princes Risborough
(HER 1301106000)

A typical garden and pleasure ground for a small, Regency-style country villa developed in the 1830s from a farmstead with a small associated estate acquired by a local lawyer to become the focus of a Bucks hamlet. The mid-C19 2.5ha site is of a typical largely informal layout focussed on the detached villa set in the Vale of Aylesbury below the Chiltern scarp and on the Alscot Brook, widened in the mid-late C19 as a narrow lake (and since then further widened) and enclosed by a belt of mature ornamental trees. The extent

and survival of villa gardens is not well recorded and this is a good example at this scale, with an ensemble of typical features including gateways, boundary wall, a walled kitchen garden and stable yard which survives largely intact.

Key feature: lake enclosed by mature belt of ornamental trees.

Brands House, High Wycombe
(HER 1292601000)

The 16ha gardens and park for a country villa, developed in the C18 and C19 from a farmstead. The largely C19 designed landscape is extensive considering the size of the house, and makes good use of the Chiltern setting. It survives largely intact as it had developed in phases by the early C20. The property is associated with several influential figures of Buckinghamshire. The extent and survival of villa gardens is not well recorded and this is a good example at this scale, with an ensemble of typical features which survives largely intact. It is one of a group of C19 villas and country houses located on hillsides around High Wycombe, developed to take advantage of an elevated position and extensive southerly Chiltern views, others nearby including Hughenden Manor, Rayners, and Castle Hill House (Wycombe Museum).

Castle Hill House (Wycombe Museum) (HER 0060705000)

A Regency garden for a C16/C17 Chiltern farmhouse, remodelled and extended in the early C19 as a modest villa, with considerable significant archaeological evidence identified and varied potential. The 0.8ha garden is a typical layout focussed on a villa, which makes good use of the Chiltern setting, with formerly extensive views south and west over High Wycombe, now partially obscured by trees. The garden was previously considerably larger, including land now occupied by the adjacent C20 vicarage and the Haystacks area to the north, and south down as far as Castle Street. It is dominated by the extraordinary 10m high Mound, believed to originate as a medieval defensive structure (SAM). This was incorporated into the early C19 garden design as the most important feature, crowned by a lost Regency flint gothic folly viewing pavilion, recorded in photo-

graphs, whose site survives. The extent and survival of villa gardens is not well recorded, and this is a good example at this scale, with an ensemble of typical features, many of which survive, as well as the Mound. It is one of a group of C19 villas and country houses located on hillsides around High Wycombe, developed to take advantage of an elevated position and extensive southerly Chiltern views, others nearby including Hughenden Manor, Rayners, and Brands House.

Key feature: The mound and the site of the lost flint viewing pavilion/summerhouse on top, formerly with extensive views over High Wycombe.

Horsenden Manor, near Princes Risborough
(HER 0032303000)

The 29ha pleasure grounds and park of a Regency country villa, on the site of a medieval and later manor house. A Civil War moat has been incorporated into the pleasure grounds design, which is focussed on an unusually complex series of informal ponds and water courses, and also on the adjacent parish church. The Regency layout (c.1810) survives largely intact as it had developed in phases by the early C20, with some later alterations. The extent and survival of villa gardens is not well recorded and this is a good example at this scale, with an ensemble of typical features including the walled kitchen garden, as well as the unusual water features.

Key feature: unusual water features

Lilies, Weedon (HER 0032902000)

A small country house, informal pleasure grounds and park established in the present form in phases during the C19 following Enclosure, incorporating earlier fabric including a C16 garden wall. The layout is closely associated with its originator, Lord George Nugent, originally of Stowe, who lived here for 45 years. He apparently established the park and garden from c.1805, although the detail of some of his work is unclear. The most unusual feature is his Grove of Friendship with the last few surviving commemorative stones marking surviving tree planting by his illustrious friends including Douglas Jerrold, editor of Punch and the author, Harrison Ainsworth. Others are thought to

FIGURE 1 Horsenden Manor near Princes Risborough: the Regency layout for the villa at the foot of the Chilterns, seen in the 1840s across one of the canals *(copyright Sarah Rutherford)*

have included the Duke of Somerset, Lord John Russell, W.S. Landor, Charles Dickens, Richard Westmacott and Robert Browning. The present 40ha layout reflects closely that mapped in the 1870s in Henry Cazenove's time, when the house was rebuilt for him by the architect George Devey and the grounds were altered too, incorporating elements of Nugent's layout. A number of fine ornamental trees survive from both main periods.

Key feature: The Grove of Friendship commemorating Nugent's friends.

Stoke Court, Stoke Poges (HER 1232001000)

A pleasure ground laid out informally in the late C18 or early C19 around a paddock, as the setting for a rural cottage closely associated with the C18 poet Thomas Gray. The owners sought to create a small-scale imitation of a landscape park in the style of a *ferme ornee*, imitating a working farm with a circuit walk through a belt of ornamental trees and hedgerows around a paddock. The design makes good use good use of the Chiltern setting, including views from the elevated northern pleasure ground around the site of the former summerhouse overlooking Windsor and Eton that possibly inspired Gray's poem 'Ode on a distant Prospect of Eton College'. This layout was developed in several phases in the mid- and late C19 and early C20 as the setting for what became a substantial country house, including formal features, a maze, a chain of water bodies and extensive parkland. The most important designed elements, those present by the mid-C19, largely survive in the 11ha site, including the mounded site of the former summerhouse. The later C19 and early C20 expansion phases to the south, west and east, were of lesser importance and have been lost or fragmented. The C20 housing around the

garden has damaged the early C20 phase particularly to the south-west and south-east.

Key feature: The circuit walk, belt planting around it, former summerhouse and its mound and views.

Stoke Place, Stoke Poges (HER 1232102000)

A mid-C18 pleasure ground by the nationally renowned designer Lancelot Brown while at his most productive, as the setting for a C17 Chiltern country villa, for career soldier General Howard. The pleasure ground was enlarged and embellished in a further phase in the early C19 by Howard's grandson, adding features, enlarging Brown's lake, and creating the park to the east and south. It was unusual for Brown to design only a pleasure ground, but for his work he was paid £800, indicating a significant commission. The most important elements of the layout, those established by the mid-C19, largely survive in the 40ha site, including the essence of Brown's work of the mid-1760s, but also an extensive kitchen garden in three compartments with gardener's house, and the remains of former structures around the lake. The layout made good use of the Chiltern setting, originally including views from the pleasure ground towards Windsor and Eton, now obscured by vegetation. Two key ornamental structures present by the 1820s (orangery and rotunda possibly by Brown) have gone, but their positions are evident and their settings remain. The extent and survival of villa gardens is not well recorded and this is a good example at this larger scale, with the remains of a fine ensemble of features which survive largely intact, although the layout has been somewhat simplified.

Key features: Brown's mid-1760s pleasure ground lake altered in the early C19, associated landscaping and mature trees, and the sites of the lost rotunda and orangery.

Woodrow High House, Amersham (HER 0423202000)

A typical early-mid-C19 country villa landscape with C18 origins in a Chiltern setting comprising formal and informal gardens and pleasure grounds and a small park, including a fine collection of ornamental trees. The most notable feature is a detached pleasure ground comprising a dell, with a fine sunken grotto, leading to a Yew Walk affording views across the site. The layout of the 10ha site survives largely intact with few alterations since the 1870s, although the grotto is fragile and areas of the grounds have been adapted for a recreational centre. The extent and survival of villa gardens is not well recorded and this is a good example at this scale, with an ensemble of typical features many of which survive, its most notable feature being the grotto and dell. It is one of a group of Chiltern villa gardens including Brands House and Castle Hill House (Wycombe Museum).

Key feature: The grotto in the dell, and ensemble of trees framing the whole landscape design.

Victorian Country Houses

Bletchley Park (MK HER MMK 6085 (BP gardens) & 2554 (Water Hall Gardens))

The 16ha core of a flamboyant late C19 country house estate, gardens and park built for the Leons, a banking family, including a collection of mature ornamental trees and incorporating elements of an early C18 layout for a previous house called Water Hall. With World War II looming Bletchley Park was chosen specifically in part for this character when the site was acquired in 1938, and over the following six years developed into what became an internationally important wartime intelligence base. The recreational use of the core of the ornamental landscape was important to the Codebreakers in the success of their work. Of the domestic landscape, many of the pleasure ground features survive, but the kitchen and most of the wider park have been lost to the kitchen garden and later development. Many of the key features of the core of the wartime base survive.

Key feature: The domestic layout around the house and its adaptation for internationally significant wartime use.

Green Park (formerly Aston Clinton Park) (HER 0020402000)

The remains of a mid-late C19 garden and park for a lost country house, forming an early element of a unique cluster of seven flamboyant C19 Rothschild country house landscapes in Buckinghamshire/

FIGURE 2 Woodrow High House, Amersham: the rare and intriguing grotto set in a mound within a beech-planted dell *(copyright Sarah Tricks)*

Hertfordshire, the closest comparable of which are nearby Halton House and Tring Park. The design incorporates features from previous C18/C19 design phases and the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union canal, with mid-C19 buildings by Stokes and Devey (who both worked on nearby Rothschild sites) and extensive mature ornamental tree planting. The 75ha site is contiguous with adjacent Halton House, also for the Rothschild family. Although many features and much woody planting survives including parkland, losses and change have been sustained in the C20, including during the 1960s adaptation to a training centre, included most notably the replacement of the lost mansion with a large recreational building, and residential development around the northern periphery.

Key features: The C19 drives, pleasure ground and park planting and structures, the physical link to Halton adjacent, and family and stylistic links with the other Rothschild properties in the Vale of Aylesbury/Chilterns.

Rayners, Penn (formerly Penn School)
(HER 0641300000)

A mid-late C19 Chiltern country house, gardens and park, developed in two major phases for Philip Rose, a local solicitor who was a close business, political and personal associate of the Prime Minister and author Benjamin Disraeli throughout his career. The C19 design makes good use of the Chiltern setting and survives largely intact, including many mature trees, although with some losses to residential development. It is one of a group of C19 villas and country houses located on hillsides around High Wycombe, developed to take advantage of an elevated position and extensive southerly Chiltern views, including Hughenden Manor, Brands House and Castle Hill House (Wycombe Museum).

Key features: The C19 pleasure ground, drives, extensive planting and structures and the association with Disraeli and his nearby Hughenden Manor.

St Katharine's, Parmoor (HER 0087604000)

A late C19/early C20 Chiltern country house, gardens and park developed from a farmstead for the Cripps family of politicians on a site known to have been occupied since the C14. The 33ha site is associated with several influential C20 figures. The designed landscape makes good use of the Chiltern setting and survives largely intact.

Key features: The C19/early C20 park and pleasure ground with drives, water garden, walled kitchen garden, planting and structures and the association with the Cripps family, and their social and political milieu.

Other Country Houses

Chalfont Park, Chalfont St Peter
(HER 0085101000)

An extensive country house landscape developed in phases since the mid-C18 with contributions from nationally-known designers including Lancelot Brown (mid-C18), Nathaniel Richmond (mid-C18), Humphry Repton (late C18), Edwin Lutyens and possibly Gertrude Jekyll (early C20). It is one of several parks in the vicinity with work by Brown including Latimer House, Stoke Park, Stoke Place, Moor Park and Langley Park. It is one of several notable parks along the river Misbourne, including Shardeloes (where Richmond and Repton also advised), Denham Place (where Brown advised) and Missenden Abbey. The landscape framework remains largely intact despite some simplification of planting during the C20. Losses include the early C20 formal gardens and kitchen garden; a golf course has been inserted in the north park and the A413 dual carriageway through the west park.

Key features: The complexity of the design and connection with such a variety of architects and landscape designers of national significance and the adaptation of the design embrace and maximise to the *genius loci* (spirit of the place and its form).

Chenies Manor (HER 0167104000)

The remains of a Tudor house of palatial scale built in the C16 for the Russell family of Woburn, with the remains of associated gardens and parkland on a 35ha site known to have been occupied since the C12. The property declined from the C17 until bought by the present owners in 1955 who created gardens on the earlier site around

FIGURE 3 St Katharine's, Parmoor: the park and its Chiltern setting for a country house for the Cripps family, developed in the late nineteenth century. *(copyright Adrian Jackson)*

FIGURE 4 Chalfont Park, Chalfont St Peter. The main drive to the Chiltern country house with a massive plane tree, possibly part of 'Capability' Brown's work of the 1760s *(copyright Sarah Rutherford)*

the surviving wing. The Tudor gardens do not survive in a complete form above ground although certain elements can be traced including perhaps the remains of terracing above the Chess valley. Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the 1760s incorporated a view from nearby Latimer House and park through Chenies woodland to the church tower of St Michael, but this has since grown in.

Key features: The fragmentary C16/C17 garden and wider landscape features of a Tudor palace.

Dinton Hall (HER 0063602000)

A typical garden, pleasure ground and small park for a manor house with medieval origins, and fabric from various phases, that survives largely intact. The key surviving ornamental period is the mid- and later C18 initiated by Sir John Vanhattem and developed in similar form by his successors into the C19, including garden buildings, and a complex wilderness garden area retaining mature trees, water features and mounds. A wilderness was a garden area, based on an ornamental grove of mixed species of trees and shrubs with paths cut through it, and often water features and garden buildings. The 13ha ensemble includes a substantial Gothic folly (ruined) detached from the main site in its own pleasure ground on the ridge to the north overlooking the river Thame valley and Eythrope Park to the north, and the Chilterns to the south. The documentary evidence for the C18 and C19 landscaping activity, in the form of the 'Occurrences' memorandum (at CBS), is of particular value in identifying the development and significance of the grounds during the C18 and C19. The

FIGURE 5 Chenies Manor: the mid-twentieth-century sunken garden in front of the fragment that remains of the Russell family's sixteenth-century palace at the heart of the Chilterns *(copyright Sarah Rutherford)*

ensemble survives largely intact, although with the loss of some features such as wilderness serpentine paths and the formal boundary.

Key feature: The C18 layout particularly the Wilderness and large, detached folly outlier/ eyecatcher in its own grounds, and Chiltern views.

Princes Risborough Manor House (formerly Brooke House) (HER 0097602000)

A Chiltern town manor house garden with early origins, within the Saxon core of a medieval town, and with a close relationship with the medieval church, the former Black Prince's manor and moated deer park, and its own former farmstead. The 0.6ha site has been a domestic one since the C16 and possibly before, and contains medieval features from the town's wider history. The site survives largely intact: the site has been gardened since at least the C17 and the four surviving compartments (front garden; 'best', or walled garden; orchard; and yard) were present in the C19, but, as such compartments are typical of the C17/C18, these may be an earlier survival. It is an unusual survival of its type, and an important space within the town as one of the largest surviving garden spaces.

Key feature: The compartmentalised manor house garden with early origins.

Winslow Hall (BCC HER 0202001000)

An outstanding late C17 country house for the Lowndes family of landowners and politicians, linked with Sir Christopher Wren, with associated formal gardens and park developed c.1695–1700 with advice from prolific royal gardeners London and Wise, and some subsequent remodelling of the gardens. The framework of the early designed landscape survives largely intact, including the park to the south of the house, parts of the kitchen garden advised upon by London and Wise, garden walls and remnants of avenues to the east and north-east, now detached. The 13ha site is associated with several influential C19 and C20 figures, and has important WW2 associations. This is the essential contemporary setting for the house and is valuable as a rare survival in its own right.

Key feature: The London and Wise structural framework of the garden layout.

Cemeteries

Aylesbury Cemetery (HER 0638800000)

A typical early Burial Board cemetery for a rural market/county town laid out 1856–57, which is one of the most significant cemeteries in historic Bucks. It was designed by architects Poulton & Woodman of Reading, focussed on a largely intact group of buildings including two fine chapels that survive in good condition, with modest C19/C20 memorials. The mid-C19 gateway and lodge have gone. Along with the cemetery at Box, Wiltshire (1858), which only has a single chapel, this is apparently one of the best surviving examples of their cemetery work (*c.f.* Amersham and the more flamboyant Basingstoke, both 1859). The original c.2ha geometric layout, which survives largely intact, was developed successively during the later C19 and C20, echoing the original pattern, to cover some 7ha. It retains some notable trees from the largely evergreen C19 core planting which made a significant contribution to the ornamental cemetery character, and some from successive phases.

Key features: The 2ha mid-C19 grid-pattern layout, specimen planting, chapels and mortuary.

High Wycombe Cemetery (BCC HER 0647700000)

A typical early Burial Board cemetery opened in 1855, for a Chiltern market and furniture town, with successive extensions northwards in similar style in the later C19 and C20. The geometric C19 layout survives largely intact with the Victorian Lodge as the principal building at the town end, and a group of vaults. The 10ha site has some notable trees, including an avenue of pleached limes along the main drive. Sited on a steep west-facing slope, it makes good use of the Chiltern setting and enjoys spectacular views west over the town in the Hughenden Valley and north-west to the rural top end of the valley towards the Disraeli Monument (1862) and across Hughenden Park to the Manor.

Key features: The mid-C19 grid-pattern layout, spinal terrace path, lodge and gateway, vaults and spectacular views.

Figure 6 Aylesbury Cemetery: 1855, a fine layout and ensemble by architects Poulton & Woodman of Reading: the main axis, with the two chapels, leading to the mortuary, set in a good collection of C19 trees *(copyright Charles Boot)*

Marlow Cemetery (BCC HER 0648700000)

A typical early C20 public cemetery for a Chiltern market town, with buildings and layout designed by local architect C S Vardy, which survives very largely intact. The surviving planting of the 2ha site, advised on by local nurseryman Charles Turner, includes mature specimen trees and shrubs typical of late C19 and early C20 cemeteries.

Key features: The early C20 grid-pattern layout, chapel, and planting advised on by local nurseryman Turner.

Sarah Rutherford

LOST AND FOUND: OBJECTS RECORDED ON THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME DATABASE

The following objects are some of the more significant artefacts found in Buckinghamshire and recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database. Details of these and many more finds from all over the country can be seen on the PAS website, www.finds.org.uk. References to objects shown in the text are derived from the PAS website.

PALSTAVE

A copper-alloy primary/early Bronze Age (1500–1300BC) unlooped palstave. This is a Group III palstave with a mid-rib and shield decoration forming a trident. It falls within the Acton Park II or Taunton metalworking assemblage, and therefore can be classified further as fitting within Needham Period 5, Burgess metalworking phase VIII. The palstave has a very pronounced mid-rib descending from a stop ridge that cuts through the depression of the shield, which is delineated by raised edges. The butt is damaged and the raised side flanges which are fused to the stop ridge are exceptionally high and 'box-like'. The cutting edge has distinct flared tips which are unabraded, and the crescentic cutting edge has been hammer

FIGURE 1 Bronze Age palstave found in the Ivinghoe area

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FIGURE 2 Pair of early medieval brooches found near Quainton

shaped and sharpened. The sides show a trimmed casting flash which has not been hammered flat. The patina is unusually bright, although it has some surface corrosion, and there is pitting on one face of the axe. Such corrosion is often found within waterlogged burial environments, and the landscape around which it is found has relic pools etc.

Traces of what appear to be hammer marks are visible on the blade: this may have been done to harden the working edge. It is also possible that the worn blade was hammered to reprofile it, after heavy use (*pers comm* J. Zuiderwijk), but not ground smooth afterwards. This can be seen on a looped palstave found in West Blatchington, East Sussex in 1947 (*pers comm* N. Kalnins). Length 103mm, width across blade 58mm, weight 216g. The author is grateful for the advice of P. Reavill, FLO Herefordshire & Shropshire. PAS database reference: BUC-5CF634.

BROOCHES

Two early medieval, gilded copper-alloy saucer brooches dating to the 5-6th century AD. They are now incomplete, but are still large and highly decorated examples of this type of brooch. The lugs for the pin mountings and catchplates are present, but both pins are missing. The pair were found buried face to face, separated by about 50mm of soil. The damaged upcurving saucer edges have a height of 7.00-7.82mm. These inside walls are undecorated, but the base of the saucers each have the same, shallow chip-carved designs with very slight traces of gilding on the decorated surfaces. The central area of the saucers features a raised slightly concave triangular shape, punctuated by three incised lines. This is enclosed by a circular border divided into three sections. These are filled with curvilinear, possibly zoomorphic designs. Saucer brooches are occasionally found in pairs,

FIGURE 3 Medieval seal matrix found in the parish of Quainton

particularly in female graves. MacGregor and Bolick (Oxford 1993, 42–54) illustrate twenty-four pairs of saucer brooches from Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. When still in situ on the skeleton they often lie on the shoulders or chest, suggesting how they were worn. Sadly there was no evidence of a grave when they were found, but it may have been ploughed away. Respective sizes: diameter 50.44mm, weight 41.12g; diameter 51.39mm, weight 32.97g. PAS database reference: BUC-FD56BC and BUC–FD687C.

Seal Matrix

Medieval copper-alloy seal matrix, pointed-oval in shape, dating from c.1400–1535. It has a flat reverse with a prominent longitudinal ridge on the reverse, which tapers in profile, and has a circular perforation at its widest point. The obverse has a legend and central device. The legend, written in black-letter, reads 'S' DECANATUS DE ETON', which translates as 'Seal of the deanery of Eton'. Between the words of the inscription are sprigs of flowers, made up of three circles and a stalk.

The central device is a fish, with large teeth shown in its open mouth, and clearly drawn scales: its large head, long jaw, eye towards the top of the head and long, narrow body indicate that it is a pike. It stretches across the between the points of the oval of the matrix, interrupting the inscription and the inner beaded border between inscription and central motif. Between it and the inner border are fronds of straight-leaved foliage. An outer beaded border surrounds the entire design.

An idea which became popular in heraldry, the *rebus*, or pun on a name, could have been relevant

FIGURE 4 Framework of a post-medieval hanging purse from the Quainton area

here, if this had been a personal seal matrix. The ferocious fish shown on the seal of Richard de Lucy is a pike, also known as a *luce* (*Esox lucius* or water wolf). The seal of Richard de Lucy appears on a document of 1153–1154 (British Library, Campbell charters xiv, 24; Warner & Ellis 1903) although the black-letter script of this seal matrix dates it broadly to the 15th century. It is harder to work out how the pike relates to the deanery of Eton, although it is possible that a Lucy could have been dean of Eton in the 15th century.

The Eton or Eaton referred to is also difficult to identify. Eton, now in Berkshire, was not a deanery in the medieval period, whereas Eaton (Bedfordshire) is listed as a deanery until the Victorian period. However, a number of other Etons or Eatons across the country could equally have been the source of this matrix. The author is grateful to

Helen Geake, National Finds Advisor for PAS, for her help with this record. Length: 42.66mm, width 28.36mm, thickness 4.43mm, weight 28.25g. PAS database reference: BUC-204D4A.

PURSE FRAME

A complete post-medieval copper-alloy purse frame and loop handle in very good condition, dating from 1550–1650. The purse comprises a circular flat frame and a rotating oval loop handle. The suspension loop, before it passes through the hole in the frame, has decorative transverse mouldings and ends in a hexagonal rove. The frame narrows at the point where the loop pivot passes through it. On each side of the handle the frame is wider and has a pair of opposing angular extensions, each perforated with a circular hole. The upper surface of the frame has

FIGURE 5 Lead ink container found near Brill

cast decoration with symmetrical curling foliate scrolls, edged on both sides with a pelleted border. The recessed field appears to have been filled with a black substance which emphasises the foliate motifs. The lower face of the frame has a 2mm high central rib, which runs most of the way around the frame, giving it a T-shaped section. There are five holes through the rib, evenly spaced around the circumference, for suspension of the purse itself.

A group of nine unusual and distinctive purse bars with associated loops has previously been recorded (LANCUM-9D6657; SUR-9D48F7; SUR-AC4468; SUR-4E8851; SUR-2D4C27; NARC-B914D8; NMS-D34BB6, DENO-B28F08, BERK-F29113 and SUSS-AABBC7: *pers comm* D. Williams). None is complete and no terminals to the arms have yet been recognised. The flat wing-like bars emerge from prominent ribs either side of a simple cylindrical block and curve sharply downwards with at least one attachment hole for the bag. Uniquely, each bar has cast scrolling foliate forms on both sides. The loops are small and circular and have prominent collars and roves. SUR-9048F7 retains a separate fitting which is attached to the loop and which was hung from the belt: a similar fitting survives partially on NARC-B914D8. A small number of possible frame fragments with T-shaped sections have also been recorded which may relate to these Class H bars. One has cast foliate decoration (NMS-68A4C5) and another (NMS-AE2EF7) has what appears

to be cast devolved lettering. The author is grateful to David Williams, FLO for Surrey and East Berkshire, for his help with this record. Length 137.35mm, width 119.43mm, thickness 6.81mm, weight 105g. PAS database reference: BUC-82D836.

INK CONTAINER

A medieval hollow-cast lead-alloy container, possibly for ink. The body of the vessel is rectangular, broadening at the base and open at the top. There are two lug handles, just below the opening. These appear to be loops, but are solid or were intended to be perforated by the owner, who did not do this. Two of the faces have raised decoration between the 'loops' consisting of an uneven zigzag, bordered by two lines. Below this on one side is a privy mark consisting of cross above a circle; on the other is a cross ending in a reversed V-shape and with a line across the main vertical. There is damage to the rim and the base of the object. A similar container, with different privy marks, was found in Salisbury (Egan *in* Saunders (ed.) 2000, *Salisbury Medieval Catalogue part 3*, 99, fig. 34.83). These objects have been dated variously from late 14th to late sixteenth century. Length 81mm, width 25mm, thickness 1.5mm. PAS database reference: BUC-3803B7.

Ros Tyrrell, FLO Buckinghamshire