

SE4041

BRAMHAM CUM OGLETHORPE  
LS23

BRAMHAM PARK

7/42

Circular pond with fountain, approx. 50 metres south of Bramham Park house, on east side of terrace

GV

II

Circular pond with fountain. Probably C18. Magnesian limestone, and composition (? Coade stone). Pond approx. 3 metres in diameter, with moulded rim; in the centre a fountain (of composition material) about one metre high, in the form of a vase pedestal, with 3 fishes twined about it.

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SE4041

BRAMHAM CUM OGLETHORPE  
LS23

BRAMHAM PARK

7/43  
30.3.66

Obelisk Pond approx. 300 metres south of Bramham Park house (Formerly listed as Obelisk Pond)

GV

I

Formal pond with 2 stone basins feeding it on the west side and cascades with 3 further basins on the south side. Probably by John Wood of Bath, 1724-5. Retaining walls and surrounds of magnesian limestone, mostly dressed with vermiculated panels and banded piers. The principal pond is rectangular, in the line of the long vista from the Chapel at the north end to the Temple and Obelisk at the south end (these 2 latter in Barwick in Elmet CP, q.v.), raised about 2 metres above the level of a natural depression in this vista, and it is fed from a large fan-shaped pond on the west side, which has a broad stem from which a small cascade channels the flow through 2 smaller interconnected ponds, waisted for a bridge between them. Outward flow to the south is subterranean, through terraces on 3 levels and 3 formal ponds of diminishing size, the topmost with a rectangular pond flanked by 2 descending flights of steps, the middle one with steps on the west side and a ramp on the east side leading to a lower grassed terrace with a segmental pond fed by 2 dragon head spouts in a wall with 3 piers; the lower terrace has similarly decorated retaining wall, broken in the centre by a smaller cascade flanked by 2 broad flights of steps. On the north side of the principal pond is a parterre (identified as "semitropical garden" on survey of garden by Detmar Blow), with sloped side walls to ramped paths on each side, and at the inner end 3 piers, with dragon head spouts between them.

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Mrs. Lane Fox showing Alfred Taylor part of the water garden.

# New life for famous garden

By ALFRED TAYLOR

A FAMOUS Yorkshire water garden will sparkle into life again now that Whitehall has granted £8,260 for restoration work at Bramham Park, near Leeds, home of Liuet-Col. and the Hon. Mrs. F. E. Lane Fox.

The money will be used to restore the park's elaborate system of water cascades and ornamental ponds, comprising, accord-

made before but the water has leaked out."

The open feeders too get overgrown with passing years, and as they become clogged the water leaks out. The new plan will involve piping the supply from the spring, a more satisfactory method.

"The walls of the ponds are in need of repair," said Mrs. Lane Fox. "This is a limestone area and the stone is porous."

The entire project of restoration could take

the family passionately loved the gardens and always intended to come back."

## Fine paintings

In the great hall where on non-visiting days Mrs. Lane Fox often sits before a huge log fire one can still see marks on the wall where ivy grew when the place was derelict.

There are some fine paintings in the hall, one of the Duke of Cumberland

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The money will be used to restore the park's elaborate system of water cascades and ornamental ponds, comprising, according to the Ministry of Public Building and Works, "possibly the most delightful ornamental water garden in England."

At present the system is not functioning. The large T-canal high in the park behind the house is empty and accumulating debris.

## Cascades dry

With their supply from above cut off the beautiful Obelisk Pond and the three cascades are dry and the park has lost one of its attractions.

"The feeding system is very elaborate," said Mrs. Lane Fox. "It starts with a spring high in the woods and works by gravity."

The idea is for the spring water to flow along channels that follow two

made before but the water has leaked out."

The open feeders too get overgrown with passing years, and as they become clogged the water leaks out. The new plan will involve piping the supply from the spring, a more satisfactory method.

"The walls of the ponds are in need of repair," said Mrs. Lane Fox. "This is a limestone area and the stone is porous."

The entire project of restoration could take several years, but it is hoped that part of the system will be working by the end of this summer. Visitors when the house opens at Easter will see signs of the work in progress.

## Strategic points

In the reign of William and Mary the land at Bramham Park was given to Robert Benson. He enclosed the park and completed the plantations.

His son, another Robert Benson, started to build the house in 1598. He was the first Lord Bingley, and he planned the spacious grounds with tremendous vistas that lead the eye to buildings placed at strategic points.

The T-canal, Obelisk

the family passionately loved the gardens and always intended to come back."

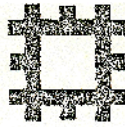
## Fine paintings

In the great hall where on non-visiting days Mrs. Lane Fox often sits before a huge log fire one can still see marks on the wall where ivy grew when the place was derelict.

There are some fine paintings in the hall, one of the Duke of Cumberland by Reynolds, and one of Queen Anne who held the first Lord Bingley in high regard.

In one part of the park it is said you may sometimes hear the sound of galloping horses, ghost horses from the battle of Bramham Moor.

"Some people claim to have heard the horses," said Mrs. Lane Fox. "I once thought I heard them myself."



## English Heritage

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15<sup>th</sup> May 1991      Our Ref: HB/PK/9970

Your Ref: YO/JWTD/EP 38R

Dear Mr Durant

RE: THE CASCADE, BRAMHAM PARK

In addition to our meeting on site on 23rd April, I made a further visit on 2nd May, having been advised by Mr Haldane that the excavation would be complete.

The evidence for the cascade is most impressive and in form not dissimilar to that recently excavated at Stanway in Gloucestershire, although the latter is perhaps five years later. It is perhaps no coincidence that John Wood was by that time involved with replanning nearby Bath. You will note from the enclosed list description for the Gardens at Stanway that the details of the construction of the cascade are virtually identical to that at Bramham.

I have discussed the discoveries with Dr Jordan of our Historic Gardens Section, who agrees that the discoveries are of the greatest interest. We very much hope that the estate is as excited by the discoveries as we are and will give consideration to preserving, repairing and displaying the remains. We feel, and I am sure you will agree, that the early 18c cascade restored would be of far greater significance both within the landscape and in historical terms, than any new creation, however well conceived and executed.

We have discussed the discovery with the listing branch of English Heritage. Initial indications are that now it has been discovered, the cascade should be considered as part of the Grade I listed obelisk ponds, to which the cascade is physically linked. Indeed, it is now apparent that the small pond at the head of the cascade is in fact the topmost portion of the cascade. If our initial thoughts are correct, a recommendation will be made to the Department of the Environment to have the list description for the obelisk ponds amended to include the cascade. Interestingly, the "remains of earth ramps below great cascade" are mentioned in the list description for the gardens at Bramham.

The legal implication of this is that although planning permission for the new cascade still stands, listed building consent for its construction may now also be necessary. I hope it will be possible therefore to fully take into account these important discoveries before further works are undertaken.



ROY FOX

▲ **UNEARTHED:** Mrs Victoria Lane Fox inspects the newly-discovered cascade

AN 18th century cascade — thought to be one of only three in the country — has been unearthed in an exciting find at a 7,000-acre Yorkshire estate.

The 140ft cascade — a series of waterfalls — was discovered at Bramham Park, near Leeds, home of Mr George Lane Fox and his wife Victoria.

They had commissioned tests

and sound testing by experts drew a blank it was thought the plans were of an incomplete project.

Later hand-digging of the site by archaeologists uncovered the remains of the cascade buried beneath rubble and soil.

The family is now taking advice from experts but hopes to restore the feature to its former glory.

only about two others in the country.

"It's in a pretty bad state and a lot of work will have to be done if it is to ever be fully functional."

She added: "On the 1710 plans the cascade was not drawn in detail so we imagined it was never built.

"One explanation is that because the cascade had a shale bottom it did not hold

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ROY FOX

▲ UNEARTHED: Mrs Victoria Lane Fox inspects the newly-discovered cascade

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17 Foster

miles round but has 6 Chapels of ease & 10 Barmes feet are within 10 miles of Rippon. After Church we dined 2 miles off at Newby in P<sup>er</sup> Blacket, where Bro has a fine seat here. 11 windows in front & 3 in rear with lofty rooms & 8 acres of good gardens & a vast plantation of Trees.

We Supped w<sup>th</sup> Dean Finch at Rippon.

7 D We came to Mr Barber thro Mr Nicholas and to me the noble ruins of Fountains Abbey where the Church & Tower is standing, w<sup>th</sup> had 2 Croffes & 3 Jobs & 12 arches to the first Croff. There were 6 arches in the Hall & 15 in the Cellar besides great ruins of the Dormitory, Library &c. Here Mr M<sup>rs</sup>enger a Roman Catholic has a very large old House w<sup>th</sup> several new Windows.

We dined w<sup>th</sup> Mr Blake the Rector of Fountains where Mr Byerley has an old House & we supped at Staveborough the famous petrifying well, where the water all drops thro' Rockwork very somewhatly near the River Well.

We lay at Bramham, Lord Bingleys new stone house with a Hall of an exact cube 30 feet high & square, richly adorned with Stone Corinthian pillars & all the rooms well proportioned & perfectly well finish'd, with different kinds of Cornices, mouldings, carvings & gilding.

The House in the main & has 6 or 7 front windows & 2 colonades of Doric pillars

& P, the road to S. Whingley thro' his 3 noble woods, all cut out into most beautiful Streets & Avenues, but all of underwood. The Wilderness next the House was high, & full of Oaks, Elm, the main Avenue there is a cascade, w<sup>ch</sup> falls 30 Steps & 21 feet in height, tho' there are to be two others, the greatest a fall of 90 feet, & both on each side of an obelisk 25 feet high. The Cluster of Doric pillars at Entrance into the Court was very beautiful.

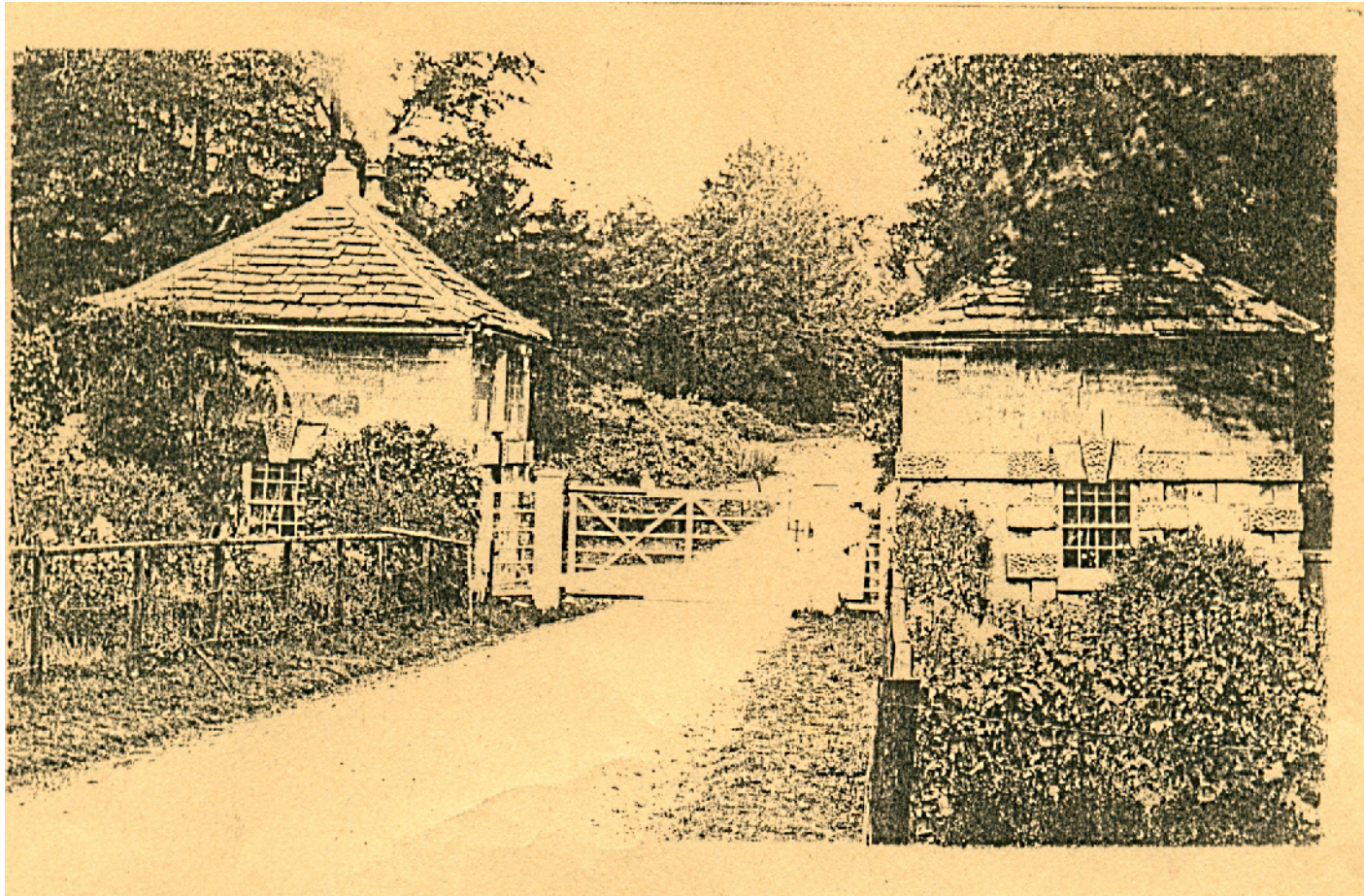
After Dinner we came 6 miles to S. John Bledly, old, but good convenient house at Rippon, which commands the view of a pleasant park 2 miles round. Near it stands Lady Betty Hastings large ancient seat call'd Mabley, upon a high Hill.

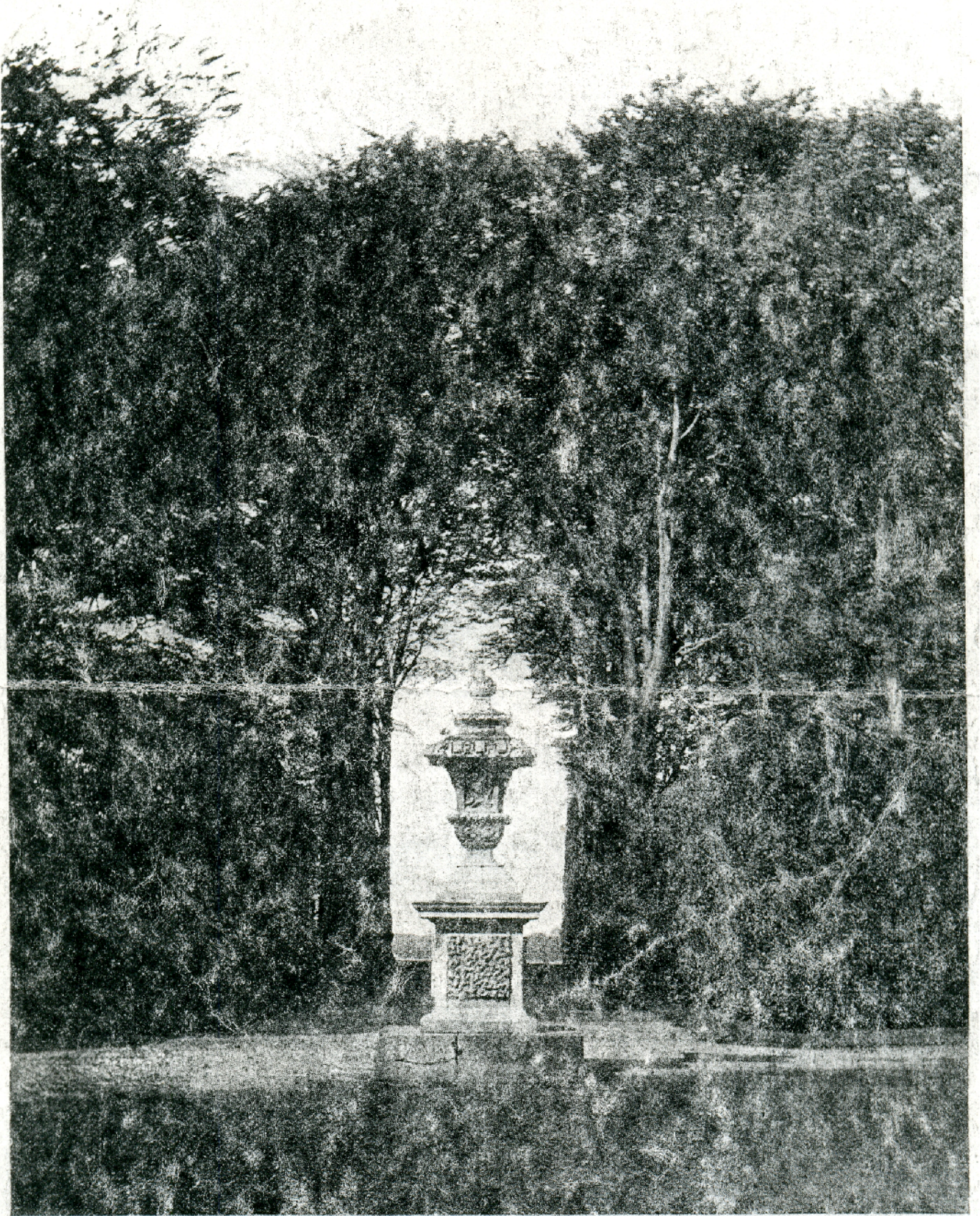
9 P After dinner we came 2 miles to Condsford near to S. W. Millner has a good old house, & is a large cleanly town.

10 We came 16 miles thro' terrible roads to Wood house, a large ancient seat of Mr Westworth w<sup>th</sup> good rooms & a long Gallery to St Charles's Palace, the D of York & Mrs Land by Vandike. L<sup>dy</sup> & Lady Nottingham by Smellor &c. a full length One Bedchamber was furnish'd w<sup>th</sup> crimson Velvet. The gardens were large, but exceeding damp, The Groves of Oak & Fir were high & beautiful. The Mount high but not finish'd. The new brick Green house, was 15 windows in front.











(By permission of G. R. Lane-Fox, Esq.)

BEECH AVENUES AT BRAMHAM PARK, YORKSHIRE



By permission of G. R. Lane-Fox, Esq.

GOTHIC GARDEN TEMPLE AT BRAMHAM PARK, YORKSHIRE

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# Historic waterfall unearthed

By NORMAN HAMMOND,  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
CORRESPONDENT

A MASSIVE eighteenth century cascade has been found during restoration work at an historic garden in Yorkshire. Although it appeared on an early plan, the feature had been demolished so thoroughly that it had long been thought never to have been constructed.

The discovery was made at Bramham Park, seat of the Lane Fox family, situated between Leeds and York. A plan of 1725 showed both the presently surviving gardens from the period, and also an elaborate set of cascades covering nearly 50 yards down a 1 in 10 slope. Amanda Clarke, the excavation director, said there was no trace of the feature, and it had been assumed that the plan was of prospective work never carried out.

Excavations revealed, however, that the cascade had been built from rusticated limestone blocks set in mortar. Ms Clarke said that only a trickle of water probably flowed down it in summer because of the porosity of the construction and the poor water supply.

The family had clearly decided to destroy the cascade within a few years, and did it so thoroughly, filling in the terraces and basins with rubble and restoring a smooth slope, that only archaeological investigation was able to show

LEEDS

BRAMHAM

SE4041

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Early geometrical layout of pleasure grounds extending into park and woods. Approx 250ha. Largely created for two successive owners. Robert Benson, d.1731, and George Lane Fox, d.1773. Initially laid out c.1670-1710 possibly by Benson with his gardener, Robert Fleming. Alterations made in 1720s possibly to designs by John Wood the Elder. Several ornamental buildings added for Lane Fox.

House completed 1710, partially destroyed by fire 1828, restored 1906-15. Forecourt with elaborate rusticated gate piers and sphinxes, central lawn with small obelisks, arcaded platform serving main door of house with ramps on either side, pleasure grounds seen through colonnades that link house to wings. Behind the house on axis, a parterre, now a rose garden, cut into rising land, bounded by ornamental stone retaining walls with Baroque ornaments on pedestals and the head of a former cascade. Wooded pleasure grounds divided by long straight walks and vistas, some lined with tall beech hedges. Adornments include Ionic Temple, 1750-62 by Paine, later converted to chapel, The Four Faces, The Open Temple, pre 1750, the 'T' shaped canal begun 1728, Gothic Temple c.1750 from Batty Langley, Gothic Summerhouse c.1845, Obelisk Pond and Great Cascade both depicted 1725 and with elaborate Baroque masonry walls and ornamentation. On the perimeter are terrace walks supported by retaining walls, some were being planned in 1727-28. Broad walk forms a main cross axis, originating at the Ionic Temple it passes between the house and parterre, through the Obelisk Pond, Great Cascade, across a narrow valley into the park, where it is continued as an avenue leading into Black Fen wood, here it meets first the Rotunda, c.1745, and then an Obelisk, c.1768. Black Fen divided by alleys and vistas radiating from rond points, includes an open temple south west of obelisk. Open parkland between woods. Wide vista from forecourt along main approach. Remains of earth ramps below Great Cascade. Anonymous plan of c.1710-13. Plan c.1725-28 by John Wood shows much of surviving layout. Some areas replanted after storm damage of 1962. Remarkably complete early C18 scheme.

'Country Life, 24 Sept 1904 p450, 20 Feb 1958 p350, 12 June 1958 p1294, 19 June 1958 p1368, 24 July 1959 p190. Hussey C, English Gardens and Landscapes 1700-50, 1967.

TEWKESBURY

STANWAY

SP0632

Medieval deer park, developed as formal landscape late C17, and C18, c.120ha.

Stanway House c.1510, enlarged c.1580, south front c.1640. Additions 1859-60 by William Burn and 1913-14 by Detmar Blow, these partly demolished 1943-49. Gatehouse to south-east, c.1630, possibly by Inigo Jones, but more probably by Timothy Strong. Tithe barn, mainly c.1370, restored 1927, 150m to north-west. Stables, 1859-60 by William Burn to north. Walled kitchen gardens to north-east. The Pyramid, 1750, 300m to east of House.

The park at Stanway extends mainly to east, north and north-west of the House. Principally open parkland, some areas now returned to agriculture, with scattered trees, geometrically arranged clumps, and small areas of woodland. Woodland of 4ha embraces the rising slope to east of House. The road from Stanway to Stanton crosses the estate from south to north, passing 150m west of the House. Cricket ground and pavilion to west. The earliest view, published in Atkyns (1712) and repeated in Kip and Knyff (1715), shows a walled geometrical garden to south, walled kitchen gardens to north-east of House, and plantations, possibly orchards, to east. A painting (held at Stanway) by William Taylor, 1748 shows lawn in place of the eastern plantations, with the the Canal (with cascade), a formal water feature of c.1730 sited 100m east of the House on a terrace overlooking the House. The cascade, 170m long, with six stone waterfalls, stone side kerbs 4m apart, and paved with limestone cobbles inserted into a puddled clay base, was fed from a pool higher to the east, behind the Pyramid, erected 1750. This pool in turn was fed by a straight, kerbed channel, running eastwards from the pool (on the same axis as the cascade) for 400m to a spring (now lost), and by a contour channel bringing water ifrom another spring 450m distant, and probably from the Paper Mill stream 700m distant. The Canal was drained pre-1850 (likewise the pool above) but the terrace retains the name Canal, and its line is marked and extended by a chestnut avenue leading north for 1 1/4km, and a lime avenue leading south for 230m. The Pyramid is set high above the House, backed by woodland which descends the slope on either side, allowing fine views to the House and far to the west. C19 dogs' cemetery, enclosed by a circle of clipped box, in woodland 250m south-east of House.

To the south of Stanway House, the late-C17 formal garden has been replaced by lawn, with shrubbery and trees on southern boundary.

The wall to west, overlooking the approach to the Gatehouse, is pierced by "six C18 'spectacles', from which visitors might be observed with 'discretion. Small geometrical garden, mid-C20, with box hedges, ;topiary and formal bedding to east of House, against the southern wall of the kitchen gardens.

Country Life, 3 Dec 1964, 1490; 10 Dec 1964, 1646; 17 Dec 1964, 11708. Harris J, The Artist and the Country House, 1979, 210. Neidpath, tJ. Stanway House, 1984. Verey D, Gloucestershire: The Cotswolds, 1970.