Wessex Archaeology

Swallowfield Park
Berkshire

Landscape and Building Study

Ref: 66120.01

July 2007

SWALLOWFIELD PARK

BERKSHIRE

Landscape and Building Study

Prepared on behalf of:

Sunley Group
20 Berkeley Square
London
W1J 5LH

By:

Conservation Management
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

Report reference: **66120.01**

July 2007

Contents

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures

Plates

Summary

A study of the buildings and landscape of Swallowfield Park, Berkshire, has been carried out to inform the preparation of a Conservation Plan for the long-term management of the estate. The purpose of this study was to provide, through documentary research and site investigation, a baseline level of information on each of the historic components of the estate, and an assessment of their significance.

The estate is included in the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, Grade II, and contains eight listed buildings and structures; the main house complex being listed Grade II*, while the others are all Grade II.

The location of Swallowfield Park appears to be a continuation from the manor listed in the Domesday survey, and elements of the overall form of the park, and of individual features may survive from this period. The landscape design of the park appears to have reached its zenith in the 17th century, when it was enthusiastically described by John Evelyn, and the ornate layout of its gardens survives in the cartographic record.

The existing house was designed, on behalf of the owner Lord Clarendon, by the architect William Talman, Comptroller of the King's Works, and one of the most important and influential architects of his time. The brick house, together with it's attached service wings and stable block was constructed in 1689-91 in the robust style of the English Baroque. The internal layout included one of Talman's 'signature' features, the oval vestibule, and much of the plan form of his house still survives. Some of the best craftsmen in the land were employed in the decoration of the house, including the wood carver Grinling Gibbons, and the plasterer Edward Goudge, and limited elements of their work survive.

A phase of alteration predominantly of the interior of the house, was carried out for the banker Sylvanus Bevan during his limited period of tenure in the late 18th century. This work is considered to have included the transfer of the main entrance of the house from the north front to the south, and the associated re-design and decoration of the new entrance hall. During this period, the redesign of the landscape setting of the house changed it from the formal 17th century layout, to the more informal, natural English landscape style pioneered by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Although further altered during the 19th century, it is this informal landscape design that provides the essential character of the estate today.

A more significant phase of alteration to the house was carried out between 1823 and 1826 by the architect William Atkinson, on behalf of the owner Sir Henry Russell. The exterior was rendered with Roman Cement; the roof removed, together with the loss of the timber eaves cornice, and replaced with lower slopes set behind a parapet; the carved door surround moved to the walled garden to facilitate the enclosure of the courtyard between the north wings of the H-plan house. Alterations to the interior were also significant, with much of the late 17th century architectural detail being replaced in both the principal ground floor rooms, and those of the first floor. While the main house was thereby given a more Regency character, the service wings and stable block retained their authentic late 17th century brick character.

A further significant phase of alteration to the buildings took place in the 1960's, when the estate was bought from the Russell family by the Mutual Householders Association, and the buildings restored and converted into self-contained private apartments. In general, this work was carried out sensitively with respect to the authentic plan form and detail of the buildings, but has fundamentally altered the internal layout, particularly of the service wings and stable block. An ongoing programme of internal decoration seeks to maintain the high quality of the interiors, and the principal ground floor rooms remain in communal use and accessable.

Acknowledgements

This study was commissioned by Barton Willmore Partnership, Reading Ltd., on behalf of the owners of Swallowfield Park, the Sunley Group, and Conservation Management would like to thank Nigel Booen of Barton Willmore for his help during the preparation of this study. Thanks are also due to the staff of the Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record, the Berkshire Records Office, The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Drawings Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the RIBA Library.

Particular thanks are due to Mark King, House Manager of Swallowfield Park, for all of his help during the site investigation of the buildings and parkland, and for the provision of documentation and historic photographs of the house.

Historical research, site assessment and reporting on the landscape was carried out by Katharine Barber. Assessment of the fabric of the buildings and structures of the parkland and walled garden, and preparation of the phased plans of the main building complex was carried out by Matt Rous. Historical research, site assessment and reporting on the main building complex was carried out by Anne Upson. The illustrations were carried out by Elizabeth James, Matt Rous, Gareth Owen and Will Foster. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Anne Upson.

SWALLOWFIELD PARK
BERKSHIRE

Landscape and Building Study

SECTION ONE: BACKGROUND

1.1 Project Background

Conservation Management, a specialist division of Wessex Archaeology, were commissioned by Barton Willmore Partnership Reading Ltd, on behalf of their clients and the owners of the site, Sunley Group, to carry out a study of the landscape and buildings of Swallowfield Park, Berkshire.

1.2 Site location

Swallowfield Park is situated to the south of Reading, in the Parish of Swallowfield, immediately to the north-west of the village of Swallowfield (Fig. 1). The former estate is centred on national grid reference (NGR) 4733 1654.

Although the former estate is no longer in a single ownership, it was considered important for the purposes of the landscape study, that the extent of the historical estate was used as the study area for the work.

The former estate is bounded along its north-western side by the River Loddon. Church Road, Swallowfield forms the south-western boundary of the estate; the furthest extent of the Great Wood marks its north-east limit; and the south-eastern boundary gives way to farmland (Fig. 1).

1.3 Aims of the study

The programme of research and analysis of the landscape and buildings of the Swallowfield Park Estate was considered necessary in order to:

- Provide information to feed into a potential Conservation Plan and any new application for listed building consent
- Better articulate the significance of the site
- Inform any programme of proposed works of repair (in association with an existing fabric inspection report)

1.4 Scope and method of the study

The scope of work required in order to satisfy the aims of the study was set out in a letter prepared by the Barton Willmore Partnership Reading Ltd. This identified four main categories of work to be included in the study, which are:

- Background research
- Site gazetteer (including room data sheets)
- Phasing
- Assessment of Significance

Essentially, the work was carried out with the aim of providing detailed baseline information towards two of the principal sections of a Conservation Plan as defined in English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund guidance, that is:

- Understanding the Asset, and
- Assessing Significance

Background research

A comprehensive programme of documentary research was carried out in order to provide a secure understanding of all of the components which combine together within the overall Heritage Asset which is Swallowfield Park.

Reports on a number of previous studies exist, including two archaeological desk-based assessments. These were consulted and their contents appraised to provide the basis for the early history of the site.

Further primary research was carried out of the holdings of the following archival sources:

Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record
Berkshire Records Office
Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Drawings Collection (held at the V&A museum)
Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Library

Site gazetteer/room data sheets

In order to allow for the preparation of a site gazetteer, the estate was broken down into its constituent 'components', which were then grouped into a hierarchy, set out in Section Three of this report.

This hierarchical grouping was to allow the understanding and assessment of significance of 'components' of different levels of complexity, from the overall level of 'the landscape' (component 2.0), through groupings at the level of the 'walled garden' (component 2.3), down to the level of a simple feature within the walled garden, eg the 'gardener's cottage' (component 2.3.3).

With respect to the assessment and reporting on the main house; it was agreed that only six of the principal ground floor rooms would be subject to reporting at the level of individual room data sheets (components 1.1.1-1.1.6). However, an entry in the gazetteer is made for the main house as a whole, allowing an understanding of the significance of the house in its entirety. Entries in the gazetteer for the Service Wings (component 1.2) and Stable Block (component 1.3) are at the level of the whole building.

Phasing

The major phases of evolution of the landscape and the main building complex have been dealt with differently. Survival of constituent elements of historical phases of evolution of the landscape were not considered sufficiently intact to allow graphical representation, and they are therefore outlined descriptively in Section Four of the report.

In the case of the main building complex, however, the available information was considered sufficient to allow the preparation of a detailed phase plan of the fabric of the buildings, and to indicate the scope of principal phases of internal decoration in the main house.

Assessment of Significance

The assessment of significance has been carried out at each level of component within the gazetteer hierarchy, enabling an understanding to be gained of those minor components which contribute most to the significance of the component group to which they belong. These are combined to produce an overall statement of significance of the site as a whole.

SECTION TWO – UNDERSTANDING THE ASSET

2.1 History of the Swallowfield Estate

Early History

Sparse evidence for prehistoric activity in the Swallowfield locality is documented to date. The topography of the location on the low lying river plain at the junction of the Blackwater and Lodden rivers in itself holds an increased archaeological potential. Waterways historically served as routeways, territorial and defensive boundaries and ritual sites. In addition river banks, beds and flood plains may contain archaeological features such as fording and bridging sites and evidence for waterside industry including mill sites (A mill is known during the medieval period to the west of Swallowfield [Fig.4]) and tool production. Furthermore, there is an increased potential for the recovery of individual finds within proximity to a riverine environment including those discarded by accident and those deposited by design for example as votive offerings. Alluvial soils along the river flood plain would have provided fertile lands suitable for early farming and potential for the consequent evolution of settlement.

Several cropmarks (including rectangular and possible hut circles) recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record have been identified through aerial photography within 1km of the park centre although outside the parkland boundary. The date, provenance and extent of these features is undetermined.

Medieval (1066-1499)

The name Swallowfield is derived from 'Svalefelle' or 'Sualewfeld' meaning 'open country by the River Swale' (Ekwall 1960, 455). 'Swale' is an old English name for swirling river.

Swallowfield is recorded as three manors in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The main manor was retained by the King in Charlton Hundred and comprised land sufficient for seven ploughs, eight villeins, eight smallholders and two slaves. A mill worth 50d and five fisheries worth 40d are also recorded, the location of which is lost in the present day. Twelve acres of meadow and woodland assessed at twenty pigs are also recorded (Morgan 1979, 1.17). The inclusion of the mill and fisheries suggest a concentrated settlement perhaps representing the location of the central manor.

Speculation concerning the location of the medieval manor includes the current site of Swallowfield House (as suggested in the 1607 estate map) and an alternative location in proximity to the All Saints church situated at the south-east corner of the park The church now exists in isolation and it is possible that it was once associated with a settlement.

The second smaller manor was assessed at one hide in the Kings hands in Reading Hundred comprising four villeins and two smallholders with land for three ploughs. This manor is likely to represent the medieval manor at Sheepbridge to the west of Swallowfield House known from documentary sources dating from the 13th century (Oxford Archaeological Unit 2000, 3). A medieval moated site lies approximately 450m to the south-west of the park at Sheepbridge, this probably represents the site of the second medieval manor.

The third manor belongs to Stephen son of Erhard, assessed as one hide with land for 2 ploughs, five freeholders and one smallholder (Morgan 1979, 64.2).

The first reference to a Medieval park associated with the manor dates from 1316 when an inquisition undertaken following the death of John de St John was undertaken. At this time the manor contained a capital messuage (substantial manor house) with a garden worth 10 shillings per annum, 250 acres of arable land, 20.5 acres of meadow and 44 acres of pasture farmed by 56 tenants of various status. A park, watermill and several fisheries are also listed as part of the manor (Russell 1901, 30)..

After 1342, Roger St John conveyed the manor to one Thomas de Colney. Between 1353 and 1357, the rights to the manor were surrendered to King Edward III who undertook work on the property including enclosure of the park within a pale and instructions to buy stone and lime to repair the mansion and lodge (Patent Rolls 1354-58, 38, 56). This record gives a significant insight into the scale and influence of the manor. Firstly, reference to stone repairs implies a stone built mansion implying high status and associated prosperity. The use of stone is particularly significant given the wooded nature of the surrounding landscape which would have provided a cost effective and easily accessible building material. Secondly the association of the manor with the King asserts an important building, indeed, the King himself is known to have visited the manor in 1361. A manor house of considerable size and means would be necessary to accommodate a Royal entourage. Thirdly, the use of the term 'Mansion' in the patent rolls entry indicates a high status property. In 1354, the reeve of the manor also records a dovehouse at Swallowfield (Russell 1901, 49). At this dates rights concerning dovecotes were reserved for the lord of the manor. A dovecote survives at Swallowfield to the present day.

In 1355, the manor was granted to the Kings daughter Isabel. The manor continued as a gift of the crown throughout the medieval period when it was granted to various royal relatives.

Post Medieval Period (1500-1799)

Royal ownership of Swallowfield continued into the 16th century. In 1542, the manor was leased to Christopher Littcott by King Henry VIII. This grant was repeated in 1553 at which time, the Patent Rolls record:

'the lodge or dwelling house of Swallowfield with meadows, pastures, woodlands and lowlands then enclosed in "le Parke" of Swallowfelde…now in exchange for £783-8s-23/4d paid to Edmund Peckham knight to the king's use…the revision of the lodge and its associated lands are granted to Littcote and his wife.' The entry goes on to list various aspects of the design of the park, these include waters, fisheries, heath dovecote, apple garden and enclosed land called Courte Gardeyn'.

This asserts the idea of a manorial complex and introduces the knowledge that the manor was set within a designed landscape from medieval times. This is significant in the subsequent evolution of the site inferring that the documented post 17th century and later layout of formal gardens and parkland was based on the footprint of preceding formalized garden design.

To illustrate this point, apple gardens (referred to in the above extract) are documented to have had an ornamental and practical significance in medieval/post medieval times. Comparative examples commented upon by Piero de Crescenzi in the 14th century describe apple orchards as important in large scale royal and aristocratic designed landscapes (Calkins 1986). Observations by John Evelyn in the late 17th century illustrate that apple trees remained an intrinsic part of garden design at Swallowfield.

In 1582 the property was acquired from John Litcott by the Backhouse family in whose ownership it remained for almost a century. It is from their phase of ownership that the earliest cartographic representation of Swallowfield is known. The Map of Windsor Forest dating from 1607 shows the manor as a cluster of four buildings at a road junction probably representing separate service buildings set apart from the main house. The structures are set amid a patchwork of field divisions which occupied land within the curve formed by the rivers Lodden and Blackwater. Aerial photography reveals the location of these field boundaries to the west of the modern Swallowfield House between the dovecote and the River Blackwater (SMR entry).

From the mid 17th century, ownership and development of the estate begins to come into focus. In 1649, William Backhouse, an alchemist, translator, inventor and Rosicrucian philosopher succeeded to Swallowfield. He is known to have invented the 'Way wiser', an early pedometer. Upon his death at Swallowfield 30th May 1662, the estate passed to his daughter Fleur.

Late 17th Century - The Earls of Clarendon and William Talman

The marriage of Fleur Backhouse to Henry Hyde, Viscount Cornbury, (later to become the second Earl of Clarendon) in 1666 marks a significant turning point in the development of Swallowfield Park.

In 1689 Hyde employed William Talman, Comptroller of the King's Works one of the most renowned architects and landscape designers of his time to undertake the renovations. While largely hidden from view by later modifications, his design occupies the core of the current house (see 2.2 below)

Various garden improvements were also undertaken by Talman at this time. A fascinating insight into what Lord Clarendon and Talman achieved is given in the writings of John Evelyn who visited Swallowfield on 22nd October 1685 shortly before the Talman rebuild.

An extract from Evelyn's diary gives the impression of an elaborately designed landscape around the house featuring ponds and canals, noting that it:

'is after the ancient building of honorable gentleman's house when they kept up ancient hospitality, but the gardens and waters as elegant 'tis possible to make a flat by art and industry and no mean experience, my lady being so extraordinarily skilled in the flowery part and my lord in diligence of planting so that I have hardly seen a seat which shows more tokens of it than what is found here, not only in the delicious and rarest fruits of a garden but in those innumerable timber trees in the grounds about the seat to the greatest ornament and benefit of the place, There is one orchard of 1000 golden and other cider pippins, walks and groves of elms, limes, oaks and other trees. The garden is so beset with all manner of sweet shrubs that it perfumes the air. The distribution of the quarters, walks and parterres is also excellent. The nurseries. Kitchen garden full of the most desirable plants, two very noble Orangeries well furnished, but above all the canal and swift river, so well and plentifully stored with fish, that for pike, carp, bream and tench, I never saw anything approaching it….There is also a certain sweet willow and other exotics, also a fine bowling green, meadow, pasture and wood (de Beer 1955, iv, 481-82).

Evelyn's involvement at Swallowfield is not limited to his primary documentation of the park. He also had a significant input in the physical formation of the park being responsible for the planting of Yew Walk which survives today leading from the services quarters west of the house to the walled garden. The walk is suggested by Rocque on his map dating from 1761 and clearly defined in the estate map dating from 1809.

The canal and watercourse system referred to by Evelyn is otherwise only known from mapping evidence. It is not documented in the same way as the original commission for the house and its later modification. There is no historical evidence of who commissioned or designed the canal and other watercourses. It is quite likely that the scheme, which is most clearly seen on the Sweetzer map of 1809 (Fig.6), utilised existing ponds and feeders originating in the medieval period.

Given the rectilinear nature of the main canal to the east of the house, the two largest ponds and many of the smaller channels it is likely that the scheme depicted in 1809 originated along side the formally designed gardens recorded on Rocque's map of 1761. Rocque shows an elaborate system of radiating avenues to the south of the house. The main entrance appears to be on the north side of the house through a courtyard formed between the 2 wings (CHA undated, 8).

This layout reflects the 17th century fashion for ornamental planting and building set out using straight lines including water features such as pools and canals.. Generally this formality was later modified in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The second Lord Clarendon died in 1709 and was succeeded by his son, Edward, Lord Cornbury, who inherited his title property including Swallowfield.. The Third earl of Clarendon became a Tory member of parliament for Wiltshire from 1685-1696 and for Christchurch

1695-1701 and was Page of Honor to King James II at his Coronation whom he later deserted in 1688. He went on to become Governor of New York and New Jersey (1701-1708). His reputation was flawed and at the time of his father's death he was imprisoned for debt. It is likely that a consequence of his increasing debts that Swallowfield was sold in1718.

Early 18th Century

In 1718, the Swallowfield estate was bought by Thomas 'Diamond' Pitt from the proceeds of the sale of a single diamond. With the money Pitt received for the single diamond, he began to consolidate his properties including his favorite residence, Swallowfield Park where he died in 1726.

Pitt's alterations at Swallowfield are not documented and his contributions may only be suggested from correspondence and the fabric of the building. Renovations are known to have taken place during Pitt's time at Swallowfield as he alludes to work himself in his diary entry for August 16th 1718 where he states:

"I went on Thursday to Swallowfield….We ordered many alterations which will, I fear, put me to vast expense….The house has been made more cheerfuller by the cutting down of trees" (Lady Russell 1901, 212).

He further refers to the building of the 5 arched bridge over the River Blackwater in November 1722 in a letter to his son Robert, 'I *hear that the villains at Swallowfield are making more small arches to the bridge towards the house*" (Lady Russell 1901, 212

Pitt is credited with the construction of the extant walled garden. In the mid 18th century, many formal parks were transformed into the English landscape style championed by Lancelot Capability Brown which dissolved the visual separation of the garden and park using features such as ha has showing the house to rise naturally out of the landscape. While ha has are not used at Swallowfield, cattle are allowed to roam freely across the approach to the house creating a sense of uninterrupted space. However Rocque's Map dating from 1761 shows that the gardens still display the 17th century preference for formal, linear design.

The arrangement of trees and clumps, naturalistic water bodies ornaments buildings and the reshaping of the land created an idealized landscape which could be appreciated through carefully composed views. Pitts architect is believed to have been John James (Rodney Melville & Partners 2003, 9).

The house was sold by Thomas Pitt's grandson (also Thomas) to John Dodd who was MP for Reading in 1737.

Late 18th Century

John Dodd's son (also John) sold Swallowfield to Sylvanus Bevan, a founder of Barclays bank in 1783. He held the estate briefly until 1788 and is speculated to have made alterations to the house and grounds at this time.

Little is known of the modifications undertaken by the family at Swallowfield. Following their brief time at Swallowfield, they moved to a larger estate at Riddlesworth Hall near Thetford in Norfolk where they are known to have undertaken a large scale rebuild of the mansion house and grounds. His land improvements at the park (now part of Knettishall Heath Country Park) included the planting of beech trees (of which he planted over 1000; Wade Martins, S, Williamson, Tom 1994), land enclosure and the development of floating meadows. It may be that some of the skills he implemented here were honed and developed at Swallowfield.

During Bevan's time at Swallowfield, a picturesque style of gardening championed by Humphrey Repton prevailed concentrating on controlled snapshot views rather than large scale sweeping views. The emphasis was placed on ornamental architecture eg. Dovecotes. With more formalized gardens close to the house (such as walled gardens). Planting became increasingly more exotic incorporating single trees or clumps set in open grassland informal woods, perimeter belts and rides. Also a range of building styles and natural looking water

bodies were introduced. Designed views are often blocked by new planting or growth. It is clear by the time of the 1809 estate map that a major transformation of the grounds has been undertaken, it is possible that this development was instigated by Bevan. The geometric planting to the south of the house has been replaced by the sweeping lawn visible today and a pond to the south of the house has been infilled.

The 1809 map clearly shows the system of watercourses and their depiction there is not easily reconciled with what is shown, with limited detail, on the Rocque map of 1761. However as stated above the design is consistent with 17th century fashion so it can be suggested that the scheme shown in 1809 was extant in 1761 and is not a late 18th century creation.

19th Century

In 1788, Bevan sold Swallowfield to Timothy Hare Earle whose son sold it to Sir Henry Russell in 1820. Russell employed the architect and landscape designer William Atkinson to extensively remodel the house between 1824 and 1826. In 1831, John Claudius Loudon the prolific horticultural and landscape design writer remarked upon renovations at Swallowfield.. The fact that Swallowfield was worthy of comment by Loudon is significant in its own right. Loudon was a key figure in the development of landscape design publishing *The Encyclopedia of Gardening* in 1822 and *The Encyclopedia of Agriculture* in 1825. He founded the *Gardener's Magazine*, the first periodical devoted solely to horticulture, in 1826. He remarks of Swallowfield in 1831 that *'The situation is nearly flat, with a stream passing through it. The house is a large plain building, lately put in thorough repair; and the gardens and grounds are undergoing essential ameliorations'* (www.wikipedia.org).

A substantial corpus of primary and secondary documentation regarding Atkinson's modifications survives to the present day. Key to our understanding are Atkinson's renovation plans and the correspondence of Sir Henry Russell contained within the collections of the RIBA. It would appear that Atkinson largely kept his build within the Talman footprint, constructing a corridor linking the two service wings. Having said this Pevsner concludes that little visibly survives of the Talman build citing only the Talman Gate, part of the oval vestibule on the garden side and the remains of one staircase as Talman's work (Various references including Atkinson's renovation plans 1825 and CHA Undated, 7).

The system of watercourses shown in 1809 had been drastically reduced by 1840 as shown in Readwin's map (Fig 7), with only the main canal to the east and the decoy pond retained. Again this change is undocumented but it would seem likely that this was part of Russell's works. By 1877, as shown on the OS map (Fig. 6) the main canal has been filled in too.

A memorandum generated by Sir Henry Russell chronicles the proposed changes to the house at Swallowfield (see 2.2 below). (RIBA file no. PB UNCAT/3).

During the 19th century garden design incorporated a continuation of 18th century precedent for space and long distance views with a reintroduction of more formal design avenues once popular in the 17th century. There was also a revival in the use of glass houses and kitchen gardens.

Significant 19th century additions included the installation of cheap iron estate railings which made a distinctive contribution to the landscape character and the planting of woodland walks and wild gardens in a 'hands on' Arts and Crafts Style which encouraged wealthy owners to become involved in the physical nurturing of their estates.

Also of note is the widespread planting of Rhododendron which can be seen in large clusters across the gardens and parkland particularly to the north of the house.

Late 19th and 20th Centuries

The last era of large scale park creation and development came to an end with agricultural depression of the late 19th century and was compounded by the impact of World War I on communities local to large houses and the aristocratic families themselves. During World

War II estates were often utilized in the war effort for example at Enham Alamein in Hampshire where the estate leant itself to the development of a rehabilitation centre. Many large estate houses were demolished in the post war period and the estate lands parceled off for development.

The estate continued to be held by the Russell family until 1965 when it was sold to the Mutual Householders Association. Since the second half of the 19th century, little alteration took place to the estate. In 1965, the building was in a poor state of repair and underwent a major programme of repair and adaptation for use as residential units.

2.2 Chronological Development of the Main House complex

Little information survives relating to the houses on the site dating to before the late 17th century. A single early cartographic source - John Norden's Map of Windsor Forest, dating to 1607 (Fig. 4) - indicates a group of four buildings on the site. These are presumed to represent a dwelling house, together with detached service buildings such as kitchen, brewhouse, stables or laundry.

The Talman House

In March 1689, Henry Hyde, who later became the second Lord Clarendon, went to live at Swallowfield, and on April 11th summoned William Talman (see appendix) to design a programme of renovations at Swallowfield. It is likely that Talman came to the attention of Hyde through one Thomas Apprice, who was a member of the second Earl of Clarendon's household, when Talman and Apprice worked together and shared a customs post in the Port of London in 1678. It is certainly known that Talman lent money to Clarendon before 1685. It is also possible that the Swallowfield commission came to Talman through his close collaboration with the garden designer, George London, for whose gardens he designed *"all major architectural episodes"* (Harris, 1982) and who was, in 1689, carrying out works at Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire, the ancestral home of the Earl of Clarendon.

Plans for the new house must have been agreed by June of that year, when Clarendon wrote in his diary that he had met with tradesmen from Reading *"about pulling down the old glass and wainscot" at Swallowfield"*. The new building appears to have progressed rapidly, as, by the time Lord Clarendon visited the house in August of the same year, he found *"the house almost pulled down, and the foundation of the building towards the garden laid and brought 3ft above the ground"* (Lady Russell, 1901, p169).

The exterior

No drawings of Swallowfield directly attributable to Talman appear to survive. However, *Elevations, in Indian ink, of the two fronts of Swallowfield in Berkshire, a seat of John Dodd* are held by the British Library (Plates 1 & 2). Although attributed loosely to between c.1660-1825, their dating to the period of the house's ownership by John Dodd (1737-1788) indicates that they date to the mid 18th century, and are two of the very few views to survive of Talman's house prior to the radical alterations to its exterior made by William Atkinson c.1825.

The drawings – '*View of front towards the basin'* (north elevation) (Plate 1) and *'View of front towards the park'* (east elevation) (Plate 2) – show two elevations each comprising 11 bays. The north elevation shows a seven bay central range, with projecting wings of two bays each at either end. As built, the configuration is actually five central bays, with three-bay wings at either end. The east elevation is again incorrect, showing three central bays projecting forward, flanked by two bays on an intermediate plane to either side, with two bays on the main wall plane at either end. In reality, there is only a single bay width in the intermediate plane, giving a nine-bay elevation in total.

Although somewhat crude in their execution, the drawings provide some information about the form and appearance of the exterior of Talman's house. The brickwork of its elevations would appear to be set above a stone plinth, with contrasting quoins used only to frame the forward projections of the wall planes of the east elevation. This suggests that the quoins at the main corners of the building were of brick rather than stone, and that stone was used only on the east elevation to accentuate the classical motif. The east elevation also shows a huge triangular pediment over the central seven bays of this front, rising above roof ridge level to the height of the chimneys. Both elevations show a deep eaves cornice, though this seems only to be of a particularly decorative nature on the east elevation. Interestingly, the north elevation shows a line of 11 dormer windows, only three of which are shown in Atkinson's later drawings. Of more interest, this elevation also shows an ornately carved door surround, whose flanking pilasters bear comparison with the Talman gate surviving on site (component 2.1.1) (Plate 3), though its vertical dimensions appear considerably less than that executed.

Both the mid 18th century drawing of the east elevation (Plate 2), and a crude sketch of the house apparently dating to 1812 (Plate 4), show a central doorway with segmental pediment supported on what appear to be Ionic columns. The 1812 sketch also shows a porch in the centre of the south front supported on attached pilasters at the rear and two columns only to the front.

Although early plans do not survive, it would appear that the footprint of the main body of the house is largely as designed by Talman, i.e. an H-shape, with wings projecting further to the north than to the south.

There is some disagreement with regard to whether the construction of the service wings forming the courtyard to the west of the house, and the stables are contemporary with the construction of the main house, and can therefore be attributed to Talman. Opinions even differ as to whether they might pre-date or post-date Talman's house. Approaching the issue from a pragmatic point of view, it is clear that the main house could not function in isolation, as it does not contain space for even the minimal service functions. The two most likely scenarios are therefore that either the three detached service buildings shown on the 1607 map were retained, and continued in use in conjunction with a new dwelling house by Talman, or that the main house, the service wings and the stables were all designed by Talman and built at the same time. The external render on the main house prevents any clues being found within the fabric of the two connecting elements, and, stylistically, the service buildings could easily date from either the late 17th century, or the first quarter of the 18th century.

A study of other country house schemes by Talman indicate that he favoured the inclusion of the service ranges within the overall symmetrical layout of the complex; whether they were in the form of wings attached to either side of the main house, as at Hackwood Park, Hampshire(Harris, 1982, Fig. 5), or as pavilions attached by means of short arcades, as seen in one of his unexecuted designs (Harris, 1982, Fig. 13). The service wings at Swallowfield effectively incorporate these two typically Talmanesque features, and, as Pevsner asserts, in his description of the service wings and stables that *"All this looks late C17"* (Pevsner, 1966) there seems little reason to doubt their contemporaneity with the house (though see below).

The interior

In the absence of surviving floor plans and other architectural drawings of the interior of Talman's house, it is only possible to identify those elements of the plan form and architectural detail of the interior which can be attributed to Talman by means of comparison with his other projects. However, he has been described by Colvin as "a disconcertingly eclectic designer whose work shows no consistency of style, nor any clearly discernible chronological development" (Colvin, 1995) with the result that he does not have a single, easily recognisable architectural style, and is described by John Harris as a *'Maverick Architect'* (Harris, 1982). There were, however, certain elements of his house plans which were easily recognizable, and he is known to have established working relationships with a number of leading craftsmen of the time; the quality of whose work can be recognized at Swallowfield.

One of the most recognizable features of Talman's layout is the oval niched vestibule, situated centrally to the north side of the house, and originally forming the main entrance vestibule. This plan motif appears in a great number of his works, including Kiveton House, Yorkshire, and most notably, the oval niched 'Tribune' in his designs for the Trianon project at Hampton Court. More mundane room forms, such as are to be found throughout the rest of Swallowfield, are less easy to attribute with certainty, but the good survival of floor plans from c.1823 and 1825 at least indicate the layout prior to Atkinson's re-modelling (see below).

Only limited elements of the interior architectural features and decoration of Talman's house survive. Talman and Lord Clarendon are thought to have used the master carver Grinling Gibbons (see appendix) at Swallowfield. The full extent of his contribution to the interior décor is not known, but Lady Russell, who lived at the house at the turn of the 19th/20th century,

states that the alterations carried out at the house by Atkinson in 1825-6 (see below) included the removal and destruction of the carved oak cornice to the former main staircase, executed for Lord Clarendon by Grinling Gibbons at the instigation of John Evelyn.

The main staircase itself survives (see component 1.1.5), though it has been altered through being moved from its original location in the anteroom to the east of the garden vestibule to the former butler's bedroom in the opposite room to the west (Fig. 13). Other original features include the plaster ceiling moulding in the Drawing Room (Fig. 13 component 1.1.4) by Edward Goudge (see appendix) and the re-located oak doorcase in the stair hall (Fig 13, component 1.1.5).

18th century alterations

Unfortunately, the scope and detail of any alterations which took place at Swallowfield during the 18th century remain unclear, due largely to the lack of available documentary evidence.

In 1718, the third Earl of Clarendon sold Swallowfield to Thomas Pitt (see appendix). A Mr James is known to have visited Swallowfield Park with Thomas Pitt in 1718, and it is assumed that this refers to the architect John James (see appendix), an architect who had worked for George Pitt at nearby Stratfield Saye. The scope of the work discussed is alluded to in Pitt's diary entry for August 16th 1718 where he states: *"I went on Thursday to Swallowfield…We ordered many alterations which will, I fear, put me to vast expense…The house has been made more cheerfuller by the cutting down of trees".* (Lady Russell, 1901, p212). James involvement on the estate as a whole is clear, but the extent or nature of any works to the house itself is not known.

Some have inferred that a major element of this work was the construction of the service wings to the west of Talman's house. Certainly, they incorporate certain elements of James's early, somewhat unadventurous architectural oeuvre; most notably the use of the giant order on both the south elevation of the southern service wing, and the east elevation of the stables. However, in 1711 *"James made a statement which suggests some sympathy with the Palladian revival then imminent"* (Colvin, 1995), which suggests that by 1718-20, when he was working at Swallowfield, his style would have moved on from the more robust Baroque tradition displayed in the service wings.

The main entrance is thought likely to have been transferred from the north side to the south front of the house during the occupation of Sylvanus Bevan (Country Houses Association, undated), implying a date between 1783 and 1788. It is possible that this provides a likely date for the re-location of the Talman door surround (Talman Gate, component 2.2.1) from the former main entrance to the house on its north front, to its present location as an entrance to the walled garden (component 2.3) (see discussion below).

The re-location of the main entrance of the house from the north to the south front, instigated by Bevan, is also thought likely to have led to the comprehensive re-decoration of the former Hall, to provide a fashionable new entrance hall to the house. It is therefore likely that it was at this date that the former five-bay Hall was sub-divided to provide a Study occupying the western two bays. The fireplace in the new entrance hall is known to have been introduced at this period as it bears the Griffin of Bevan's arms, and this is located centrally within the three-bay room.

There are other features of the interior which one would suggest an 18th century date, though these are limited (see individual room data sheets in Section Three below).

A ground floor plan of the buildings made by William Atkinson in 1823, is held within an un-catalogued group of drawings and papers held by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Drawings Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A). This records the layout and room functions of the house prior to his major programme of alteration carried out c.1825-6 . How closely these conform to the house as designed by Talman is not known, but it is assumed that rooms fitted out for specific functions; such as the brew house and the wash

house, would be unlikely to have been changed. The plans therefore provide a useful document of the room functions in the later 18th century, and document the scope of the changes made by Atkinson.

The 1823 plan indicates that the principal rooms used by the family were confined to the south front and eastern cross wing, with circulation via the oval vestibule and a main stair in the ante room to its east. The butler's and housekeeper's rooms occupied the north-west wing of the main house, connecting through to the main service ranges to their west, with a large servants hall adjacent to the spacious entrance from the covered arcade, which was still open around all three sides of the court between the archways through the north and south ranges.

The two-storey service ranges were effectively sub-divided into four units by central archways. The functions of the four units were:

North-west = wash house and bake house
North-east = kitchen and scullery
South-west = brew house and slaughter house
South-east = dairy and churning room

William Atkinson's alterations

The scope of the alterations to the main house, the service wings and the stable block, made by William Atkinson for Sir Henry Russell between c.1825-6 are also well documented by the catalogue of drawings held at the RIBA Drawings Collection.

An undated memorandum written by Sir Henry Russell (see appendix xx), but probably dating to c.1820, sets out the *"Works to be done at Swallowfield House"*, and presumably constituted a 'brief' for the work from client to architect. This memorandum sets out his requirements including the re-location of the great oak staircase, the replacement of partitions with masonry walls incorporating new chimney breasts, the construction of a corridor connecting the two north wings of the house, the re-modelling of the servants hall and housekeeper's room, and the re-location of the large oak doorway from the former Billiard Room.

Externally, Atkinson's alterations to the house were limited in number, but radical in effect. They are clearly illustrated by a set of three original elevation drawings retained in the house, and displayed within Staircase 2 (component 1.1.6), reproduced here as Plates 5-7.

The entire roof of the main house was replaced. The two spans over the central range were replaced by three, necessitating the introduction of large beams to carry the rafter ends in the valleys, as they could no longer bear on the intermediate wall. This allowed a reduction in the overall height of the roof; Talman's eaves cornice was removed, and a brick paneled parapet was constructed.

The central three bays of Talman's east front, which already had two offsets, was given a fashionable classical appearance by the application of a giant Ionic order of four flat pilasters (Plate 7). Atkinson created a small covered porch on the south front by means of the addition of two pairs of Tuscan columns, as shown on his 1825 plan and elevation (Plate 5). These columns were later re-located further to the south, and a small enclosed porch created. A lead plate suggests that it was not until 1839 that this was extended out to form a *porte-cochere* (Plate 1.1 – P4), (Country Houses Association, undated, p8).

The extent of the structural alterations carried out to effect Russell's required internal changes are shown on the phased ground floor plan (Fig. 13). The internal remodeling created a new Dining Room at the north end of the west cross wing, and Atkinson, at the instruction of Sir Henry Russell, created a single storey glazed corridor linking this to the Drawing Room at the north end of the east wing, thereby enclosing a small open court (Plate 6, Fig. 13).

The family accommodation at first floor occupied a similar zone of the house, providing seven bedrooms, each with its own dressing room.

It is assumed by many that it was at this point that the large carved stone Talman door surround was removed from the north elevation to its position at the entrance to the walled garden. However, no alteration in this area is shown on Atkinson's plans, and it is also surprising that such a significant item of work was not mentioned in Russell's memorandum to Atkinson. It is considered possible, therefore, that the stone door surround had been removed when the main entrance to the house was transferred from the north front to the south front (see xx above).

Two sets of ground and first floor plans survive, setting out the plans of the building in 1823, prior to the alterations by Atkinson, and in 1825, showing his proposed alterations to the interior of the house, the service wings and stables. (The information provided by these plans has been incorporated in the phased building plans presented here as Figs. 13 & 14).

With the notable exception of the removal of the main stair from the anteroom to the east of the oval vestibule, to the former butler's bedroom to the west (component 1.1.5), and the replacement of the partition between the library (component 1.1.3) and the former stair hall with a solid wall and chimney breasts, Atkinson's alterations within the higher status areas of the house (the central and east wings) were confined largely to their interior decoration.

The majority of Atkinson's structural alterations comprised the remodeling of the north-west wing of the main house together with the offices along the east side of the west court; with some minor additions within the northern service wing. The aim of the re-modelling appears to have been to create a Dining Room in the north end of the west wing, previously occupied by the Butler's pantry, a bathroom and a servant's stair. The advantages of this would be to move the Dining Room much closer to the kitchens than its former location at the south-east corner of the house, and to free up the latter room for use as a Breakfast Room, following the conversion of the former one into a Billiards Room.

As noted above, Atkinson's alterations within the majority of the principal family rooms was largely confined to the updating of their interior decorative schemes. Although certain earlier elements and decorative features were retained or relocated at the instruction of Russell, the interiors of the principal reception rooms were comprehensively replaced (see individual room data sheets in Section 3 below).

The stables were also significantly remodeled by Atkinson. A letter from Sir Henry Russell to Atkinson in September 1826 refers to a conversation between Russell's brother and the architect, in which the latter appears to have suggested the reversal of the layout of the stables and stable yard, such as to hide the stable yard to the rear (west) of the stables, thus removing it from adjacent to the main entrance to the house. Russell agrees that *"Your plan for the distribution of the stables I do not think could be improved…",* and admits that it would *"get rid of the noise, and dirt, and litter, and all the unseemly appearance of the stable yard on the principal front of the house, where these nuisances now stare you in the face every time you drive up to the door."*

The stables were therefore effectively reversed in layout, with one of the main alterations to the exterior of the stables being the blocking of the former large doorways in the east face of the coach house at the south end of the block, and opening up of the west wall at the north end to provide the same function. The transfer of the coach house from the south to the north ends, also led to the moving of the coach horses from the south range of stables to the north, swapping with the saddle horses.

The rear (west) wall of the stables was originally blind, and Russell notes that *"The windows, both above and below, will remain in the old front as they are now"* suggesting that despite the reversal of the stables, he did not intend to open up the blind windows on the west, or to block the existing ones on the east.

Later Alterations

As the fortunes of the Russell family went into decline, it is understood that their living quarters receded until they were living predominantly in the south-east service unit, which had previously been the dairy. Certain internal alterations appear to have been carried out to enable them to live comfortably within the Dairy House (Fig. 13), including the replacement of the original windows with sliding sashes.

The house was sold in 1965 to the Mutual Householders Association (later re-named the Country Houses Association); a recognized charity founded with the main objective of *'saving for the benefit of the nation, buildings of historic interest and architectural importance together with their gardens and grounds'* (Country Houses Association, undated).

Due to their stated objective, the works carried out during their conversion of the house, the service wings and the stable block into self-contained private apartments has generally been carried out very sympathetically, with minimum impact on the layout and early fabric of the building, except where essential such as for secondary means of escape.

Alterations at ground floor of the main house are limited to the installation of a lift in the north-west wing and a new stair in the north-east wing. More extensive sub-division was carried out in the north-west and south-west units of the service wings, and throughout the stable block.

At first floor, the alterations in the main house were again relatively minor, generally taking advantage of the pairings of bedroom and dressing room to create one bedroom apartments with small kitchens and bathrooms. As with the ground floor, alterations in the western service areas are more extensive; as are those in the stable block.

All of these alterations are well documented by a set of architects plans dating to 1965. The information from these has been incorporated into the phased plan (Figs. 13 & 14). Descriptions of the buildings as they survive now can be found in the gazetteer in Section Three below.

SECTION THREE: GAZETTEER OF COMPONENTS

HIERARCHY OF COMPONENTS

The individual components of the Swallowfield Estate have been rationalised into a hierarchy as set out below. This structure has been adopted for the grouping of minor components into more comprehensive components, which are reported in a more synthetic manner below.

SWALLOWFIELD PARK	**1.0 – Main Building complex**	1.1 – Main House	1.1.1 – Entrance Hall 1.1.2 – Garden Vestibule 1.1.3 – Library 1.1.4 – Drawing Room 1.1.5 – Staircase 1 1.1.6 – Staircase 2
		1.2 – Service Wings	
		1.3 – Stable Block	
	2.0 - Landscape	2.1 - Parkland	2.1.1 – Ice house 2.1.2 – Decoy pond 2.1.3 – Bridge over R. Blackwater 2.1.4 – Driveways 2.1.5 – Red Lodge 2.1.6 – All Saints Church 2.1.7 – Great Wood and pleasure walks 2.1.8 – Dovecote 2.1.9 – Dovecote House
		2.2 - Gardens	2.2.1 – Talman Gate 2.2.2 – Yew tree walk 2.2.3 – Woodland garden 2.2.4 – Estate railings 2.2.5 – Pet cemetery 2.2.6 – Rear gardens 2.2.7 – Front gardens 2.2.8 – Fountain 2.2.9 – Modern garages
		2.3 – Walled Garden	2.3.1 – Garden walls 2.3.2 – Internal layout and planting 2.3.3 – Gardener's cottage 2.3.4 – Buildings north of gardener's cottage 2.3.5 – Walls of former glass houses 2.3.6 - Building adjacent south-east wall

Component 1.0 – The Main House complex

3.1 THE MAIN HOUSE (component 1.1)

Origin/History

The house was designed and built for Henry Hyde, who later became the second Lord Clarendon, by the architect William Talman (see appendix) between 1689 and 1691. Evidence of earlier fabric in the cellars suggests that it is at least partially on the site of the earlier house which it replaced.

Documentary references to alterations to be carried out on behalf of the new owner, Thomas Pitt in 1718-20 specify neither the nature of these alterations, or even what proportion of the work was to affect the house rather than the wider estate. The architect for this phase of work is thought to have been John James (see appendix), but only the bridge over the River Blackwater (component 2.1.3) can be securely attributed to him.

Further alterations were carried out on behalf of the owner, Sylvanus Bevan (see appendix) during his short tenure between 1783 and 1788, and it is considered likely that it was during his ownership that the approach to the house, and its main entrance was transferred from the north front to the south.

The most significant phase of alterations was designed and implemented on behalf of Sir Henry Russell by the architect William Atkinson between 1823 and 1826. The scope of these works radically altered the external appearance of the house, and the character of its interior decoration.

Following its sale to the Mutual Householders Association (later the Country Houses Association) in 1965, the majority of the house (and its service buildings) was converted into private, self-contained apartments. Alterations since that date have been relatively minor, but have included the comprehensive re-decoration of the principal rooms.

Description

Exterior

The house is of two principal floors, with cellars and attic storey. The original brick house, designed in the late 17th century English Baroque tradition, was rendered in 1825-6, and now has the appearance of a rather plain Regency house.

The rendered external walls sit on a shallow stone plinth, but the rest of the walls, including any original quoins, and the first floor string, have all been rendered over. The appearance of the exterior of the house is largely as it was following Atkinson's alterations, with the exception of the removal of the triangular pediment from the east front, and the reduction in height of the parapet to allow better views from the attic storey dormers (P1-P3).

The house is H-shaped in plan, with wider, more extensive projections to the north of the central range than the south, effectively creating a small northern court (now named Fountain Court) (P3). The main entrance to the house was originally on this north side, and would have been entered through the impressive oval niched vestibule, which gave access to the main staircase in the anteroom to the east. The main entrance was later transferred to the south front where a small porch was created into the former Great Hall, and was later extended to form a *porte-cochere* (P1 & P4).

Cellars

The cellars beneath the main house demonstrate a number of phases of construction. The earliest fabric was generally located in the area beneath the present dining room and ante-room to its south, and extending south along the passage to the location of a former staircase removed by Atkinson, which descended from the original servant's hall. The wall fabric was of

thin red brick laid in English bond (P5). The relationship between these early walls and the superstructure of the house above, if it had survived Atkinson, has been removed by the insertion of a substantial concrete beam and plank floor system in the area of the lift inserted in 1965. The early cellars appear to have included the two wine cellars (P6) beneath Dining Room 2, and appear to predate the late 17th century Talman house (Fig. 11).

Three larger cellars, accessed from staircase 3, originally the small beer cellar and two ale cellars (P7), and which now house the plant room and central heating boilers, were also extant before 1823. The main plant room retains four timber posts supporting substantial timber floor beams above (P8). These posts are interestingly detailed, with octagonal shafts, transferring by means of ogee chamfer stops into square heads (P9). The octagonal shaft base sits on a square timber pad, in turn set on a square stone pad (P10). They appear to be set on a surface of brick on bed, but are respected by a later herringbone brick floor. Evidence suggests that these timber posts have been re-used, and the clear axe marks at the base of their shafts suggests that they were rather crudely reduced in length for use in their present location. Stylistically, they are relatively ornate, and their detail on all sides indicates that they were originally in a free-standing context, perhaps supporting a gallery. They could be 16th or 17th century in date.

Ground floor

Authentically, the principal ground floor rooms, situated in the centre, south and east of the house, remain interconnected, though they now connect to the service wings to the west by means of a corridor. Following the current alterations to extend apartment 20 into the former Russell Room/TV lounge, the communal reception rooms on the ground floor will be limited to the Entrance Hall (1.1.1), Drawing Room (1.1.4)and Library (1.1.3) in the south-east of the house, and the two Dining rooms in the north-west corner. Other circulation areas such as the garden vestibule and the two staircases also remain communal. The south-west and north-east corners of the H-plan are within private apartments.

The decoration of the principal public rooms is described in detail in the individual Room data sheets in Section 3 below.

First floor

With the exception of the fire doors which have necessarily been introduced to enclose the staircases within fire protected compartments, the circulation at first floor level is very much as it was following Atkinsons alterations. He had introduced the corridor at the east end of the central range of the house following the removal of the stair hall, and is responsible for the division of bedrooms and dressing rooms along the east wing. Openings through the main structural walls in the circulation areas are round-headed arches (P11).

The rooms of the first floor, together with those of the first floor of the northern service wing with which it interconnects, are all now grouped into private, self-contained apartments. The principal bedrooms and dressing rooms were all re-detailed by Atkinson, and have been recently redecorated since their conversion to apartments.

Second floor

The second floor is accessed by either the original stair 6 in the north-west corner of the house, or a 1965 staircase at the centre of the east range.

The layout of the second floor following Atkinson's alterations to the house is suggested by the plans for the conversion in 1965. Unsurprisingly, this largely echoes the structural layout of the first floor, though shows areas of partitioning to provide small kitchens and bathrooms for the new apartments. The 1965 plan indicates that the south and east fronts of the upper floor were previously lit predominantly by sky lights, presumably so as not to impact upon the clean lines of the parapet and roof when viewed from the two principal frontages. Dormers were, however, already in situ on the north and west sides of the building; the rear and

service sides. New dormers were introduced to the south and east fronts at this time, and the parapet lowered to allow occupants of these second floor apartments a better view of the landscape beyond.

Roofs

As we know, the high hipped roofs of Talmans house were comprehensively replaced by Atkinson, and no structure relating to the former roofs were observed within the roof voids. The stacks of chimneys reduced in the 1960's do, however, survive in situ.

In order to reduce the height of the roofs in 1826, the two previous pitched roofs running east-west across the central range of the house were replaced by three parallel roofs. This necessitated the introduction of huge timber beams to support the rafter ends in the valleys, which could no longer be supported on the central structural spine wall (P16-17).

Integrity

Although the fundamental form and layout of the house retains much of Talman's layout, the authentic external appearance and interior decoration has, with only a very few exceptions, been entirely lost.

The external character of the house is now predominantly that of a simple rendered Regency house, rather than the robust brick of English Baroque. The architectural features which would have told of its late 17th century Baroque origins, such as the high hipped roofs, the brick or stone quoins and the elaborate timber eaves cornice, have all been lost.

Internally, with the exception of the oval vestibule and individual elements of interior decoration, the house is again largely of late Georgian or Regency character, with modern facilities and interior décor introduced into each private apartment. Atkinson's decorative schemes are unexceptional for their time, with most elements being traceable to the standard pattern books of architectural details.

Significance

The significance of the house complex, including the service wings and stable block, is discussed in Section Four below.

ROOM DATA SHEET

Room ref. **1.1.1**

Room function **Entrance Hall**

Former functions

Late 17th C	Great Hall
Pre 1823	Entrance hall
Post 1825	Entrance hall

Description Rectangular room occupying three bays on the south front of the house.(P1-P2) Entrance doors in the western bay giving access to enclosed porch with stone flag floor, with inset panels of tiles painted in imitation of Roman mosaic. Entrance doors and door leading to west corridor surmounted by Adamesque spoked fanlights

Architectural detail

Walls & ceiling Plain ceiling and rendered walls

Cornice Robust decorative cornice with egg and dart and carved acanthus leaf detail. While it could be a survival of the original Talman scheme, it is considered more likely to date to a sub-division of the volume in the later 18th century (see discussion below) (P3)

Floor Stone paving in the *carreaux d'octagones* pattern, popular throughout the 18th century (as in 1.1.2 and 1.1.5) (P1-P2)

Fireplace Chimneypiece put in 1783, bearing the griffin of Sylvanus Bevan
17th century cast-iron arched fireback, bearing the Clarendon arms (P4-P5)

Doors & windows Doors to the west corridor and to the Drawing room (1.1.4) are of oak, and to the standard design with six fielded panels as elsewhere throughout the principal ground floor rooms (P). Paired entrance doors are half-glazed, and have painted wood grain effect (as that to former Russell Room)
Windows are tall, 9 over 6 timber sashes, and have timber shutters of similar design to those in the Drawing room, and the former Russell room, with thin raised beaded inner frame on front, and flat panelled rear.
Georgian spoked fanlights in 'Adamesque' style over entrance doors and doorway to west corridor. (P6)

Other Bas relief over chimney piece thought to be a copy of a della Robbia medallion, probably contemporary with the plasterwork in garden vestibule (1.1.2). Moved from Library in 1825-6 at the instruction of Sir Henry Russell who insisted *"it must not be taken down till Mr A is on the spot when he will fix upon the exact situation".* (P7)

Discussion Although there is no documentary evidence to confirm this, it is considered likely, in view of the symmetry of plan form demonstrated in most of Talman's work, that this room was originally part of a more extensive volume which occupied the central five bays on the south front of the house, so as to have been symmetrical to oval former entrance vestibule (1.1.2) and with a central doorway to the garden. The exact function of this postulated original room is not known, but its central position in the south front, overlooking the formal gardens shown on Rocque's map of 1761, indicate that it was a principal reception room such as a Great Hall or Parlour, leading directly from the oval entrance vestibule to its north.

The date at which it was sub-divided is not known, but it is considered likely that it dates to the transfer of the main entrance to the house from the north to the south front of the house, which is thought to have been during Sylvanus Bevan's tenure during the 1780's. The chimney-piece which bears Sylvanus Bevan's *motif* was introduced centrally to the three bay room at this time, and the existing dimensions were certainly established prior to 1823. The theory regarding the later sub-division of the former 5-bay room is further supported by the fact that the door into the Russell room from the west corridor differs from all others to principal ground floor rooms in that it is softwood with painted woodgrain effect, rather than oak, as are the paired entrance doors.

ROOM DATA SHEET

Room ref. **1.1.2**

Room function **Garden Vestibule**

Former functions

late 17th	Entrance vestibule
pre 1823	Garden vestibule
post 1825	Garden vestibule

Description Oval niched vestibule, originally the entrance vestibule to the late 17th century house. A very distinctive feature of Talman's work. Symmetrical plan with doors positioned centrally to either end and each side, with four semi-domed oval niches in the angles between them. (P1)

Architectural detail

Walls Divided into four curving sections by doors, and each section having a curved niche with shell pattern semi-dome.(P2) Low dado at base of niches, with horizontal fielded panels below, and tall, single panels between niches and doors.

Cornice Panelling surmounted by uncut cyma reversa modillion cornice at base of dome. (P2)

Ceiling Ornately plastered shallow dome with vertical semi-circular panels bearing bas relief medallions above each of four doors. Dome is sub-divided into eight framed panels (P3), tapering towards the crown of the dome which bears Clarendon's shield carried by four birds of prey (P4). Panels ornamented with foliated scrolls, coronets, plaques, shells and ribbons, and linked by swags which overlap the panel borders.

Floor Stone paving in the *carreaux d'octagones* pattern, popular throughout the 18th century (as in 1.1.1 and 1.1.5)

Doors & windows Doorways to stair halls to either side have robustly articulated architraves and broken pediments; that to the entrance hall (1.1.1) has no doors, but a full-height, fielded paneled reveal. Replacement doors to garden, glazed and with glazed fanlight above which does not conform to the level of the cornice.

Discussion This is the only room in the house that survives almost in its entirety from Talman's scheme.

Some are of the opinion that the neo-classical, and somewhat filigree plaster ornament of the main panels of the dome suggests it as being later that the deeply carved plaster ceiling moulding of the Drawing Room. However, the coronets within the four major panels are identical to those on the cast iron fire backs in Library and Entrance Hall which also bear Clarendon's shield, and it is therefore considered certain that the decoration of the dome is all authentically of the Talman phase, and may also, therefore, be attributable to Edward Goudge. Certainly, there is documentation noting that he was likely to be at Swallowfield for twelve months.

ROOM DATA SHEET

Room ref. **1.1.3**

Room function **Library**

Former functions

late 17th	The Gallery
pre 1823	Salon
post 1825	Library

Description Rectangular room occupying four bays of the east front, though off centre with respect to the external elevation (P1). Prior to Atkinson's alterations, the room had a doorway to the south of the chimney breast which led through to the main staircase, and another opposite leading to the garden (Fig. 13). The fireplace was originally situated in the north end wall, but this was replaced by the existing one during Atkinson's remodeling of the room. The room interconnected with the Drawing Room to the south, and the former Drawing Room to the north.

Architectural detail

Walls & ceiling Papered walls and flush painted ceiling with plaster ceiling rose in shape of open flower (P2). Walls lined with bookcases (see below).

Cornice Cornice designed by Atkinson 1825; full size drawing in RIBA Drawings collection (P3)

Floor Modern fitted carpet

Fireplace Simply detailed, Regency style marble surround; dark grey with pink and grey marbling (P4).
17th century cast-iron fireback bearing the Clarendon arms (as in 1.1.1) (P5)

Doors & windows Doors at north and south ends of room are paired to provide flush plane in each room. Oak doors in six-panel design common to all principal ground floor rooms (P6). Fielded panels, and attractive 'waisted' wooden finger-plates.
Windows are tall, single-paned sliding sashes, set in splayed reveals. Due to two offsets of external face of wall, reveals are of different depths, and detailing of shutters therefore changes to accommodate depth of shutter box in reveal. Shutters have fielded panels on front and have flat panels on reverse.

Other The long west wall and two end walls have built-in bookcases, while there are two large, free-standing bookshelves between the windows of the east wall. These are thought to be by a cabinet maker called Bullock who regularly worked with Atkinson. The bookcases are of rosewood, and the linear runs are divided into bays each with a letter of the alphabet above. Those bookcases on the end walls have cupboards beneath, while those on the long wall have deep shelves. The line of the shelf at the top of same is continued in the short lengths of dado rail and panelling to either side of the fireplace.
The third bay from the south on the long wall conceals a hidden door originally connecting to the ante-room to the west, which is masked by false leather bound volumes. (P7)

Discussion The library is a total Atkinson creation, removing all trace of earlier detail, with the plaster bas relief being relocated in the entrance hall.

ROOM DATA SHEET

Room ref. **1.1.4**

Room function **Drawing Room**

Former functions

late 17th	The Eating Parlour
pre 1823	Dining Room
post 1825	Breakfast Room

Description Rectangular room occupying south-east corner of house. Three window bays on east front, single blind bay on west wall, and two blind bays on south front, now with false fenestration.
Access from entrance hall (1.1.1), and on to library (1.1.3). Fireplace set centrally in west wall.(P1)

Architectural detail

Walls Timber skirting and low dado rail, painted below. Above dado, walls are panelled with plaster mouldings framing panels; damask finish to panels.

Cornice Elaborate neo-classical plaster cornice, with egg and dart and Greek key motifs. Design not included in Atkinson's drawings in RIBA collection, and possibly dates to late 18th century decorative scheme. (P2) Alternatively, the sharpness of the detail could suggest that it is a more recent replacement.

Ceiling Deep cove at perimeter, whose junction with the flat of the ceiling masked by elaborately carved naturalistic plaster moulding, with fruits, flowers and acanthus leaves, of which it is said that no two flowers or fruit are the same (P3). Thought to be by Edward Goudge, a master plasterer of the late 17th century, who Talman had worked with at Hackwood in 1683, and at Blyth Hall, Notts in 1689. It is almost identical in detail to a similar moulding by Goudge in Melton Constable Hall, Norfolk, dated to 1687. It is assumed that this moulding is all that survives of a once more comprehensive plasterwork ceiling.
Plaster ceiling rose with stylized acanthus leaf design.

Floor Modern fitted carpet with classical styling.

Fireplace White marble fire surround with Adamesque detail. Grecian urns at top of pilasters, and swags and ribbons along the beam. (P5)

Doors & Windows Oak doors with six fielded panels as elsewhere on ground floor principal rooms.
Windows are two over one sliding sashes. Shutters are of same design as in entrance hall (1.1.1). Flat panels have ogee moulding at perimeter and raised bead detail forming secondary frame. Reverse of shutters are plain.

Discussion This is one of the few rooms in the house which retains any architectural detail dating to the Talman scheme. Unfortunately, however, the ceiling moulding survives in isolation, though it is likely to have been a single (though important) element of a more extensive decorative scheme across the flat of the ceiling and the deep perimeter cove. Remainder of scheme thought likely to date to late 18th century, for Sylvanus Bevan.

ROOM DATA SHEET

Room ref. **1.1.5**

Room function **Staircase 1**

Former functions

late 17th	Unknown
pre 1823	Butler's bedroom
post 1825	Main stair hall

Description

Prior to Atkinson's alterations, this volume contained the Butler's bedroom at ground floor level, with a fireplace in the south-west corner and a door through to the service wings at the north-west corner. The room above is assumed to have been the dressing room to the bedroom above the domed vestibule.
In 1826, a new staircase was built in this space (P1); a doorway opened up to the main west corridor, and another in the north-west corner giving access to the new 'room for serving dinner' which had been created from the former housekeeper's room.
At the request of Sir Henry, a warm air stove was built under the staircase, with its stove under the back staircase to the west.

Architectural detail

Walls & ceiling Walls and ceiling plastered and painted.

Cornice Simple coved plaster cornice at first floor (P2), Atkinson's drawing for which survives in the RIBA drawings collection.

Floor Stone paving in the *carreaux d'octagones* pattern, popular throughout the 18th century (P2) (as in 1.1.1 and 1.1.2). This must have been introduced to this room in 1826, and was probably lifted and relocated from the identically sized former stair hall to the east of the vestibule.

Doors & windows Sir Henry Russell's memorandum of c.1820 states that *"A large oak doorway in present Billiard room to be taken down carefully as it is proposed to be put up in staircase. It can be put as temporary in the place for Mr A to see before it is fixed".* (P3)
This tall oak doorway now frames the doorway through to the oval vestibule in the east wall of the stair hall. The door itself is of the same dimensions and detail as others to principal ground floor rooms, ie with six fielded panels. The round head which appears to be part of the door is, however, fixed. The outer frame has pilasters and capitals at the spring of a tall round arch which has an elaborately carved keystone (P4). This, and the carving in the spandrels (P5) is of high quality, and it is tempting to suggest that this is a survival from Grinling Gibbons work at Swallowfield, following the loss of the ornately carved oak cornice which was originally located in the main staircase.
The door frames and blind niche at first floor appear to have been designed by Atkinson to echo the form and detail of the relocated oak door, with pilasters, capitals and round heads.

Staircase Open string staircase in oak with square newels (P2), a wide handrail and turned balusters, two per tread (P6).

Discussion In the robust detailing of the handrails and balusters, the staircase bears comparison with the survival of an original Talman stair between first and second floors in the north-west corner of the house (with the exception of its open strings in place of the closed string of the original) and it is tempting to suggest the Atkinson used the latter as a reference to ensure it was in keeping with the contemporary oak doorway.

ROOM DATA SHEET

Room ref. **1.1.6**

Room function **Staircase 2**

Former functions
late 17th
pre 1823
post 1825 Secondary stair

Description
The earlier use of this space is unclear from Atkinson's plans, and it is not known if this was always a secondary stair to the first floor, when the principal stair was to the east of the oval vestibule.

Architectural detail

Walls
The walls are generally painted plaster. However, a small area of painted paneling survives beneath the staircase, at the top of the stairs to the cellar. Stylistically, this small-square paneling could comfortably date to Talman, and further panels of it (though unpainted) survive on the adjacent cellar stair.

Staircase
The staircase is an open string stair, with curtail step, ramped handrails, which rises through four short flights separated by half landings (P1). That which occurs midway along the central rise appears to have been subject to considerable alteration, as the joints in the handrail are clearly evident. This section also demonstrates a curious 'scoop' in the handrail which is an unusual detail. The decorative brackets on the tread ends have a foliated scroll (P2), identical to one recorded elsewhere and accurately dated to 1734 (Hall, 2005). The newels are in the form of fluted columns with ornate capitals (P3). It is clear that only certain elements of the original stair have been retained and relocated, including the tread ends, the newels and the handrail. It is suggested that the other exposed elements of the stair were replaced during its reconstruction.

Discussion
This is assumed to be the staircase to which Sir Henry Russell alludes when he refers to the *"Great Oak staircase to be carefully taken down so as to put up again in the situation shown on plan".* Certainly, it bears evidence of having been moved, with joints in the handrail clearly evident at the half landing. There are, however, certain elements which suggest that it does not date back to the late 17th century.
The Queen's Stair at Kensington Palace (1691) is generally considered to be revolutionary in having been one of the first open string stairs in the country (Hall, 2005). However, if dating to Talman, this one at Swallowfield would predate it by 2 years.
Also, the slender square stick balusters are out of keeping with a former main stair of 17th century date, but these may have been introduced when the stair was re-located.

3.2 THE SERVICE WINGS (Component 1.2)

Origin/History

As discussed in section 2.2 above, opinions differ as to the attribution of the service wings. However, it is considered most likely that the service wings were designed by Talman as part of his scheme for the rebuilding of Swallowfield Park in 1689. They are certainly contemporary with the stable block (component 1.3) to their south-west.

Prior to 1823, the staff quarters and service functions of the house occupied not only the two-storey north and south range of the service court, and the single storey east range, but also both floors of the north-west element of the H-plan of the main house.

They were subject to significant remodeling by Atkinson in 1825-6; in particular, the range of rooms along the east side of the service court, and adjoining the main house. Here, rooms previously occupied by staff or 'offices' were converted to additional accommodation for the Russell family. The former Butler's bedroom became the main stair hall, the Butler's pantry and adjacent stair and servant's bathroom were converted to a Dining Room, and the housekeeper's room was converted to a 'room for serving dinner'. This necessitated knock-on changes within the service wings, including the relocation of the Servant's Hall, and the creation of a replacement service stair. The opportunity was also taken to create a strong room, for which drawings survive in the RIBA Drawings collection.

Despite these changes to the east range of the service area, the functions of the four principal two-storey units of the north and south ranges remained largely unchanged, with the laundry and wash house in the north-west, the kitchen and pantry in the north-east, the brew house and slaughter house in the south-west, and the dairy and churning room in the south-east.

It was at this time that the first enclosure of the former open arcade around the service court took place, to allow the creation of a new Butler's pantry. The area of former arcade involved was that to the north of the entrance from the east side of the court.

Following the 1825-6 works, a day nursery with nursery bedrooms is shown above the laundry at the west end of the north range, though this may represent a continuation of function from before.

The 1965 works to convert the north and south service ranges into self-contained apartments, and the east range into the administration suite have resulted in the complete enclosure of the former open arcade around the court.

Description

The service wings wrap around three sides of a central service court - West Court. The north and south ranges are of two storeys, and were originally both divided in two at ground floor level by a central archway; while the east range is of a single storey only. The smaller archway in the north wing, formerly separating the laundry to the west and the kitchens to the east, has now been blocked, but that in the south wing is retained and provides the main access into the court. The three sides of the court to the east of the archways were originally designed as an open arcade connecting all the service functions, but the entire arcade has now been enclosed, with large glazed units.

While the north range connects internally with the main house, the south range is physically separate from it, with the single storey element of the east range extending forward to the line of the main house front.

The brick elevations have escaped later render, and survive in relatively authentic appearance. The walls are set on a shallowly-offset brick plinth, which forms the simple base for the giant order of Tuscan pilasters to either side of the main archway through the south wing; single on the south elevation, paired to the courtyard. North and south wings have shallow plat bands at first floor and eaves levels, and are surmounted by paneled brick

parapets. With the exception of the simple Tuscan stone capitals to the pilasters and the stone parapet coping, the only decorative element in the fabric of the service ranges is the use of vitrified, or 'flared' headers. These are used to provide a chequered effect in the plat bands, and in alternate outer headers in the segmental arches of the windows, but are also used randomly in the main wall planes.

The scale of the former internal volumes are still discernible on the exteriors of these wings. The double height volume of the kitchens, still extant, is demonstrated by the height of windows on the north elevation. The former double height volume of the brew house at the south-west corner is also demonstrated by the fenestration on its western elevation.

Several of the first floor windows, and a few ground floor windows retain their original fenestration; timber casements with leaded lights and a central timber mullion. Elsewhere, these have been replaced with 6 over 6 sliding sashes.

The slate roofs are largely hidden behind the brick parapets. All chimneys and the bell tower on the north wing were removed in the 1965 conversion, but the clock tower survives above the archway in the south wing, and retains its rare 17th century single handed clock.

Despite having been enclosed, two sections of the former arcade at the south-east corner of the court retain their stone flag floor. This, together with the robust timber staircase to the east of the archway (staircase 11) provides some feel for the original materials of the building's interiors.

A small group of cellars is situated beneath the south-east element of the service court. These now provide the plant room for the south service range and stable block, and handle the heating supply from the boiler house under the main house. Two elements of the main cellar network are situated beneath the north end of the eastern service range, and are discussed above.

Integrity

With the exception of the infilling of the former open arcade around West Court, the exteriors of the Service Wings survive in remarkably authentic appearance; particularly on their external north and south facing fronts. However, the enclosure of the arcade is considered to have had the most significant impact on the appearance of the wings.

Internally, the conversion into apartments has resulted in the introduction of additional internal partitions, rather than the removal of original walls. Although this has removed an understanding of the scale of the authentic spaces, it has retained the physical fabric.

The conversion to modern apartments has removed all internal fixtures and fittings relating to the original diverse service functions that were located here. It has also led to a standardization of room scale and volumes, again inhibiting the potential to appreciate the authentic configuration and functions.

Minor losses include the bell tower on the north wing, the doorway to the garden in the west end of the north range

Significance

The service wings are included in the Grade II* listing of the main house complex, and are therefore considered, as an integral part of a late 17th century country house, to be of considerable national significance.

The significance gained through their association with the architect William Talman, one of the most influential architects of his day, is as addressed with respect to the main house (component 1.1) above.

The loss of all physical evidence of the former functions of the different zones of the service wings, and their inclusion in the same residential function as the rest of the complex, reduces the contribution they can make to an understanding of the day to day functioning of Swallowfield Park in its heyday as a gentleman's country house.

3.3 THE STABLES (Component 1.3)

Origin/History

Considered most likely to be contemporary with the main house and therefore part of Talman's scheme of 1689, the stable block is certainly contemporary with the service wings to its north.

When originally constructed, the main approach to the house was from the north, and therefore the stables, and more significantly the stable yard which was originally located to their east, would have been hidden from public view behind the service ranges around west court. Essentially, the coach house was in the south cross wing, with stables for coach horses to its north, and stables for saddle horses to the north of the archway and in the north cross wing. The southern half of the first floor held the granary and three haylofts, with the coachman's bedroom above his mess room, while the northern half was occupied by the carpenter's shop, and, interestingly, a 'Gentleman's workshop'.

Once the main entrance to the house had been transferred to the south front, the stable yard with all its mess was openly visible on approach to the house, and Sir Henry Russell commissioned Atkinson to effectively reverse the building; including all of its internal functions, and its external yard. He did not, however, choose to reverse the fenestration from the east elevation to the west. The displacement of the various functions of the stables following their reversal by Atkinson indicates that the coach house had been moved to the north cross wing, with coach horses to its south, with saddle horses to the south of the archway and farm horses in the south cross wing.

By the 1930's, the disused stables had fallen into neglect (P1-2), but, following the purchase of Swallowfield Park by the Country Houses Association, they were restored and converted into private apartments.

Description

Long I-shape in plan, orientated roughly north-south; two-storeys with hip-roofed cross wings at either end. Attached to the south-west unit of the service wings (1.1.2) at the north end, to which it now connects internally at first floor level.

Constructed of warm red brick, the elevations are largely unadorned apart from simple four course plat bands at first floor level and eaves, and a giant order of flat Tuscan pilasters to either side of the central archway, and adjacent to the entrances at either end of the central range, on the east front only (P3). The only other attempt at ornament is the use of flared, or vitrified headers to form a regular chequered effect in the plat band, and in the window arches, and more randomly within the brickwork of the wall planes.

Regularly spaced window openings at ground and first floor. Most are now glazed, with the exception of two on each elevation at first floor; those on the west elevation where later internal partitions have been sited. Windows are 12 over 12 timber sashes at ground floor and 8 over 8 at first floor. The arched entrances at either end of the east elevation of the spine have been infilled with glazed doors and fanlights.

Three former hay loft loading bay doors in west elevation survive, with modern glazed doors inserted. Chimneys and ridge ventilators shown in the 1930's (P1-2) have since been removed.

The long central range is covered with a simple pitched roof, with hipped roofs over the end wings. The simple eaves detail comprises a plain brick plat band and boarded eaves soffit.

Internally the building bears little evidence of its former function. Each of the large stable volumes at ground floor have been converted into a self-contained apartment, with a single apartment in each end wing. At first floor, a corridor has been created along the east side of the building, with apartments along the west, and at either end. With the exception of the

brickwork in the entrance and staircase vestibules and the internal face of the east wall at first floor, all internal walls have been rendered, and the apartments fitted out with modern residential fixtures, and modern finishes.

The character of the former building function does, however, survive within the entrance hall and staircases at either end of the central range. Here, Atkinson's robust timber staircases, the plank and batten door and the stable paviors retain the character of the former stables.

Integrity
Although retaining their fundamental original form, the stables have been subject to two phases of significant alteration, one in 1826, the other c.1965.

Although radical in the changes to the displacement of functions within the block, the necessary alterations to the fabric of the stables was limited; the most major being the blocking of the coach house doors in the east end of the south cross wing, and the opening up of new ones in the west elevation of the north wing.

The 1965 works to convert the stable block into self-contained apartments has had a more significant impact upon the interior spaces, though have been largely carried out within existing structural volumes. Works in relation to the conversion of the stable block have included:

- Loss of ridge ventilators
- glazing of last openings on east side
- glazing of window reveals on west side
- retention of former hayloft door openings
- retention of 1826 staircases and stable paviors in communal spaces
- replacement of coach house doors with sympathetic large windows, retaining timber structure

The setting of the west side of the stable block has been significantly compromised by the construction of several blocks of concrete brick garages, although the original front elevation of the stables, facing towards the main house, remains clear of intrusion, and survives relatively unaltered since 1826.

Significance
The stable block is included in the Grade II* listing of the main house complex, and is therefore considered, as an integral part of a late 17th century country house, to be of considerable national significance.

The significance gained through its association with the architect William Talman, one of the most influential architects of his day, is as addressed with respect to the main house (component 1.1) above.

Unfortunately, the present building retains little of its original internal character, and little evidence of its original function. Externally, however, the building survives well, and a combination of its form, and its location with respect to the main house and service wings makes its original function clear, despite the loss of either the original, or re-located stable yard.

The setting of the stable block survives well as viewed from the east, and the main entrance to the house, however, its setting to the west has been compromised by the proximity of a group of modern garages.

3.4 PARKLAND (component 2.1)

The locations of the components described below are shown on Figure 1.

3.4.1 Ice House (component 2.1.1)

Origin/history
The Grade II listed icehouse at Swallowfield comprises a large conical brick structure of 18th century date. Ice-Houses are a common feature of large country estates in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were used to store ice collected locally (and from the 19th century imported from Scandinavia) which was available for use throughout the year. Most domestic Ice-Houses were comparatively small with a single sunken circular chamber approximately 1Oft in diameter and about 10 ft deep, with a domed roof. Loading was normally through a hatch in the roof and the ice was removed through a horizontal tunnel with double doors. Melt water was discharged through a drain from the lowest part of the base. They were built mainly below ground or into the side of a bank and were covered with earth to increase insulation.

A structure is first suggested cartographically at the site of the ice house in 1809 on the map of the estate of Swallowfield and Arbourfield belonging to T. H. Earle esq. by Geo Sweetzer. A mound set amid a cluster of trees is shown. A similar footprint is reflected on the 1817 Enclosure Map. Readwin's plan of Swallowfield undertaken in 1840 shows two rectangular structures at the site. The northernmost of which is likely to represent the subterranean ice house. The Tithe Map dating from 1847 shows a tree cluster but does not indicate a structure the icehouse is also not identified on an estate plan dating from 1872.

It is not until the event of Ordnance Survey mapping that the ice house is named as evidenced on mapping dating from 1877, 1900 and 1913 (Figs. 8-10). The Listed Building entry concerning the structure attributes an 18th century origin. The structure is Grade II Listed for historical reasons

Description
The icehouse consists of a domed conical red brick structure, circular on plan and measuring approximately 3.5m wide and 7m in height (P1). The structure is hidden mostly below ground level and appears as a grassy knoll adjacent to some mature oak trees (P2).

A single entrance doorway is located on the northern side of the building which suggests that the icehouse is of 18th century construction (P3). The location of the doorway on the north side was so that the passage, doors and any porch always faced away from the sun. During the 19th century it was thought that the porch and door should face south-east so that the morning sun would dispel any damp patches. The entrance to the main chamber is reached by a once covered semi-circular passageway measuring 2.3m long and 0.8m wide which has collapsed leaving short sections of wall measuring 0.8m on either side.

At the entrance to the main chamber the remains of the segmental brick arch reveal that the walls of the passageway were 4 bricks thick and this is also likely with the main body of the icehouse. Such thickness of brickwork would have enabled the icehouse to maintain good insulation. No other entrance hole is apparent for loading and unloading which is also consistent with other icehouses of this era. The entrance is currently blocked by a modern gate which would formally have been attached to two modern concrete pillars set away from the entrance. The base of the icehouse was not visible due to debris covering the area although some form of drain would have existed to take meltwater away from the building.

The mound is partially visible from the eastern driveway behind barbed wire fencing on rising ground under tree and shrub coverage. The mound is covered and camouflaged by grass, shrubs, nettles and mature trees. Cartographic information suggests that the location has historically been wooded, the location possibly initially chosen because of the cooling shade offered by the trees.

Setting
The ice house is situated on former estate land approximately 420m south-east of the house, now privately owned farmland. The field currently comprises unmanaged pasture. The mound is situated on rising ground south-east of the main house and estate. The site is not visible from the house and gardens due to tree growth. The location is however visible as an irregular mound from the now disused east driveway. It would therefore have been historically visible on the approach to the house.

Cars traveling along the western driveway are visible from the mound although the driveway itself is not.

Integrity
The site inspection noted the icehouse to have been disused for a considerable period of time. In spite of this, limited access to the interior (protected from the elements by its subterranean nature) suggests that the interior fabric has survived reasonably well.

The exterior is still visible as a mound but its integrity is compromised by its overgrown nature. There was no visible evidence of a hatch or other access points. The integrity of the mound is further compromised by modern intrusion in the form of barbed wire fencing to the east and the concrete pillars north of the entrance.

As a result of disuse and changes in the use and function of the estate the ice house has become disassociated from the main estate. Developments in refrigeration would have resulted in the natural decline of an obsolete feature.

It is likely that the icehouse was accessed via the driveway entering the estate from the east. This driveway is no longer in existence. The historic setting of the icehouse is therefore compromised by the demise of this access route, and as the ice house is situated on land no longer owned by the estate, its association with the estate proper has therefore been severed.

Significance
The icehouse is Listed Grade II. It is culturally and socially significant as evidence for the historic function and prosperity of the country estate.

Given the decline and breaking up of the historic country estate, relatively few ice houses survive in direct association with the larger estate. While the land upon which the icehouse is located is no longer owned by the estate, it has been retained as pasture and therefore the intended setting is largely preserved.

3.4.2 Decoy Pond (component 2.1.2)

Origin/History
A decoy pond comprises a pond or pool with arms covered with nets into which wild birds are lured and then caught. A pond is shown outside the north-west corner of the rear garden as early as 1761. Rocque's map of Berkshire (Fig. 5) shows a sub-rectangular feature with an extension at the north-west corner. The 1809 map shows the same rectangular footprint (minus extension), the footprint is depicted unchanged on subsequent mapping to the present day to the present day. This suggests that this part of the estate was not modified during major alterations to the house and grounds. It is possible that the pond was excavated or improved from a previous state during landscaping improvements made during the Talman rebuild in the late 17th century. The Windsor Forest map dating from 1607 does not show the pond, but the map depicts a limited number of landscape features. It is of interest to note that fishponds were a common feature of medieval manor sites. They were used to breed and store fish for sustenance particularly on feast days. In addition to the decoy pond, Rocque's map shows additional ponds to the north and west of the house and Evelyn refers to the ponds in the 17th century, it may be that these ponds including the decoy pond survive from the medieval period, or that it represents an enlargement of an earlier pond.

During the post medieval period, ponds formed part of the designed landscape optimizing views and leisure walks. Prior to the establishment of the Fire Brigade in the early-mid 19th century, it was common for a large water source to be available in close proximity to mansion houses in case of fire. Many are known by name as 'fire ponds'.

Description/setting
The decoy pond survives as a sub-rectangular pond flanked by mature tree growth with reed beds encroaching onto the water (P1). There is a tree cluster forming an island towards the centre of the pond. Views of the pond are restricted to the north, east and west by established trees and rhododendron planting. The pond is flanked by designed walks on all sides and has a more wilderness feel than the more designed rear garden to the south east. Historically the pond would have been passed on the way to the walk leading northwards to the former boathouse (no longer *in situ*).

Integrity
The authenticity of the pond has been retained to the present day as indicated by the consistent footprint recorded on 18th-20th century mapping. Tree and shrub coverage around the perimeter is of an established nature reflecting consistency of form.

Significance
It is possible that the decoy pond, or a forerunner at the same location, may survive from the medieval period when ponds formed a central role in the running of the manor. If so, it would derive significance from the fact that no other visible element of the medieval manor survive.

The pond is also significant in its use as a decoy pond and therefore its association with the hunting tradition of country estates. Again this association could have its origins in the medieval period.

The pond is also significant in terms of landscape development and its role in the recreational aspects of parkland design.

Cartography shows that the pond has been a consistent, feature of the parkland estate. Few other elements of the designed landscape have survived unchanged to the present day. Its significance therefore lies in its longevity of use.

3.4.3 Bridge over the River Blackwater (component 2.1.3)

Origin/history
The five arched bridge over the River Blackwater was designed by the architect, John James, and built in 1722, when the estate was owned by Thomas 'Diamond' Pitt (see appendix). The bridge is not shown by Rocque but is visible on Thomas Pride's map of 1790 angled south-west to north-east across the river.

This orientation requires a large span to cross the river. At first glance a more directly aligned bridge would perhaps appear more viable, but its angle is to lead towards the present east drive which would have formed the primary approach to the house. This approach would have made the most of impressive views of the house and across the parkland estate.

It is likely that the early 18th century bridge replaced an earlier crossing although there is no archaeological or historic evidence for this. The 1607 estate map shows a north-south aligned road running southwards from the core Swallowfield settlement. The track stops short of the river but it is likely that it continued southwards to cross the river.

Description
The Grade II Listed road bridge is constructed from red brick in Flemish bond with 5 semi-circular arches, supported by piers and brick cutwaters (P1). Above are solid brick parapet walls capped by rectangular coping stones with evidence of several recent replacements - all appear to be of limestone with some later concrete replacements. The coping stones are linked by iron cramps set into lead lined sockets to prevent being knocked off into the river below. The bridge spans the Blackwater River and is aligned ENE - WSW. As the main road bridge into Swallowfield the bridge is surfaced in tarmacadam.

The top 2 - 3 courses on downriver side (north-north-west) appear recently rebuilt in places suggesting damage caused by motor vehicles (P2). Other repair episodes from similar damage are visible on the upriver side (south-south-west) especially on the splayed approach walls. A brick buttress has been added on the downriver side to reinforce the parapet wall (P3) and seven steel ties running through the body of the bridge for extra stability (P4).

The bridge is of good solid construction although plain with little ornamentation. A pier supporting the parapet wall towards the centre of the south-south-east side of the bridge is decorated with an eroded stone carving of a sundial (P5). Beneath it and above the central arch is a limestone date stone set in the wall with faintly visible inscription: '*1722 T.D.P*' (Thomas Diamond Pitt)

Integrity
The bridge survives in reasonable condition to the present day, there are some small areas of crumbling brick on the exterior west facing side of the bridge and the stone carving on the stone coping is somewhat eroded.

Significance
The bridge is listed Grade II, and is considered to be significant by association with its benefactor and the associated inscription, and with the architect John James (see appendix). The bridge has been carefully designed to make the most of the approach to the estate.

The structure of the bridge is significant as a result of its unusual orientation and span.

Bridges commonly mark the site of earlier crossings and as such hold an increased archaeological and historic potential. Fording points and bridge sites are common findspots for stray archaeological finds and often served as significant foci of trade and transportation routes and meeting place**s.**

3.4.4 Driveways (component 2.1.4)

Origin/history
Historically, the park has been accessed from three entrances to the south, south-east and east of the estate grounds. The west drive enters the park north of Swallowfield village before crossing the five arched bridge, sweeping northwards through the estate grounds, passing the former farm buildings (Dovecote House) to the west before turning eastwards to pass under an arched entrance in the stable block to the front of the house. This driveway is used as the main approach to the house in the present day.

The east driveway approached the house from the north-east of Swallowfield village east of All Saints Church. This was the original approach to the house, when the main entrance was in the north front of the house. The driveway can also be reached from the five arched bridge via a sweeping road running south-west to north east to join the east drive half way along its length. It is likely that this approach to the house was favored for important visitors as the approach optimises views of the house and parkland without the visual interruption of the domestic and farm buildings visible from the western driveway. The line of this driveway appears to be marked on Pride's Map of 1790 (Fig. 6). However the post dating estate map (1809) shows one driveway approaching the house from the bridge and the west side of the estate via the farm buildings (Dovecote House). The line of the driveway which approaches the estate from the east is also shown entering the front gardens by a bridge crossing the line of a stream which ran along the southern boundary of the front garden to join the canal to the east. This line may represent the medieval road shown on Norden's map of 1607 which runs eastwards from the estate towards Farley Hill.

The 1840 map (Fig. 7) shows that, following the re-location of the main entrance to the house from the north front to the south, and after the alterations to the house by Atkinson, the river crossing branches off into two driveways leading westwards to the farm and a more formal approach which sweeps eastwards to the front of the house. The now defunct driveway which approaches from the east is shown along the north side of a fence which forms the southern boundary of the front gardens and the northern boundary of the 'field' containing the icehouse. A track also branches off from the drive north of the bridge crossing the canal and passing east of the church. Part of this line was amalgamated into the eastern approach which joins the road east of the church by 1872. This line is still in occasional use today for large vehicular access, so as to avoid impact on the five arched bridge. The pattern set out on the 1872 estate map reflects the pattern of the road as they survive today with the exception of the now defunct approach from the east.

Description
The surviving driveways approach the house from the east and west sides. They survive as single-track tarmaced roads (P1). They are retained as intend unenclosed by ditches, hedges or fencing so as to retain unimpeded views across the park. The western approach is the main drive today; historically this would have represented the approach to the farm and service quarters.

The eastern approach is less used but clearly defined running east of the church to the house (P2). This would have formed part of the main drive joined to the bridge by a south-west to north-east running arm stretch of road which is discernible in the modern day as a grassy track.

The line of the far eastern approach was discernible only in the line of the land boundary defining the northern boundary of the ice house field. Other than a gateway along the projected line of this drive entering the inner estate outside the south-east corner of the front garden and a surviving footpath exiting the road at the former lodge site, there is no surviving evidence for this driveway.

Setting/Integrity
The original formal approach to the house appears to have been from the east, though the integrity of this former approach has been completely eroded through time and is no longer discernible to the untrained eye.

The south-eastern and south-western approaches to the house survive largely as depicted on the 1872 estate map although one stretch survives as a grassy track only. The eastern approach was designed to capture impressive views of the house and parkland and this visual impact is retained, while the currently favoured modern driveway to the west would have formed a secondary approach via the farm and service areas. The integrity of the surviving driveways has been retained as designed unbound by fencing or ditches.

The current use on the western approach to the house compromises the integrity of the east whose historical importance is downplayed by lack of use. It also means that the primary approach to the main house complex now leads between the former home farm, the modern concrete garages and the original rear side of the stable block. The majority of traffic now enters through the stable block from the rear, and turns directly into the west courtyard of the service wings, thus never engaging with the main entrance elevation of the house itself.

Significance
The driveways are significant in understanding and appreciating designed views of the parkland estate. The importance of approach and initial impact cannot be underplayed in terms of landscape design particularly during the late 18th century era of estate landscaping, when the dual approach reflected today was laid out.

The current predominance of the western approach to the house means that the visitor to the house fails to appreciate any of these designed views, and enters the complex through the service areas.

3.4.5 Red Lodge (component 2.1.5)

Origin/history
Grade II Listed gate lodge known as Red Lodge is an example of high Victorian Gothic style dating from the mid to late 19th century.

Cartographic evidence has shown that at various times there have been three gate lodges at Swallowfield at the western exit (Red Lodge, extant), east of the church (site built over by modern house) and on at the far east of the estate on the now obsolete driveway (see component 2.1.4 above). The entrance at the site of Red Lodge has, since the late 18th century, been the main entrance giving access to both the east and west drives across the five arched bridge.

Prior to the laying out of the east-west road to the north of Swallowfield village (set out c.1828), the 1809 estate map (Fig. 6) shows the footprint of a building on the east side of the driveway where it joins the road junction north of Swallowfield village. Given the scale and representation of the map it is difficult to determine whether it occupies the same footprint as the extant lodge. The architectural style of the surviving lodge dates it to the mid to late 19th century and it is therefore possible that the building represented on the 1809 plan represents an earlier lodge. The RIBA archive at the V&A holds a plan and elevation of a gate lodge attributed to Swallowfield Park. There is no proof that the pair of lodges depicted were ever extant at the estate. The drawings reflect a neo-classical design comparable to lodges noted at the nearby estate at Stratford Saye.

The 1809 map does not show a lodge at the entrance to the east of the church, a lodge is visible at this location in 1872. In 1877 and 1900 lodges are shown at all three entrances.

Description
19th century former lodge house, now occupied as a dwelling. In muscular Gothic style. Cross gabled in plan with one and a half storeys and a large central four shafted chimney (P1). The brick work includes diaper patterning with dark brick dressings and the old tile roof includes bands of shaped tiles. Windows comprise two and three light leaded casements with toothed brick cills. One bay projecting gable with a carved ornate bargeboard, west of this, a small gabled dormer with a two light casement with a large panel of decorative projecting brickwork with raised pilaster springing from plinth level. The entrance is located in a large projecting gabled porch with a carved bargeboard and open fretted wood dado panels on a brick plinth with a planked door.

The walls and piers of the Red Lodge are also of interest. They comprise lengths of wall comprising pierced panels of moulded bricks set on a plinth and with weathered copings, between brick piers. Gate posts are octagonal brick with buttresses and moulded stone copings with cusped lancets.

Setting /Integrity
The 19th century lodge survives in good condition and is in use as a private dwelling. The driveway which would have originally met the road to the west of the lodge has been diverted during the 20th century to meet the road approximately 20m east of the lodge. The former entrance to the estate is now in use as a private entrance to the lodge house and does not extend beyond the southern boundary of the property. The historic and aesthetic setting of the gate lodge and its relationship with the greater estate have been severely compromised as a result of the rerouting of the driveway. The removal of the historical function of the building (ie as a gate lodge) further compromises the integrity of the setting. The setting of the lodge from its northern exiting the park has been compromised as a result of the re-routing of the driveway. The section of former driveway is visible only as an overgrown track.

The driveway which would have entered the estate on the west side of the house is no longer in use and acts only as an entrance to the property.

Significance
Both the lodge building itself and its walls and gate piers are listed Grade II. The former role of the building as a gate lodge is retained in the name of the property , although it is now a private house, disassociated with the estate.

Its significance is compromised by the removal of the driveway from its original path away from the lodge. The lodge is now privately owned and not in use as a gate house, this again impacts upon the significance of the property.

The building itself is significant in elements of its design comprising a muscular gothic style and is representative of a phase of development at the estate which includes late 19th century modifications to the gardeners cottage.

In spite of its disassociation from its intended context, the lodge is the only surviving lodge at Swallowfield, it is therefore of considerable significance.

3.4.6 All Saints Church (component 2.1.6)

Origin/history
This church is said to have been erected by John le Despenser (lord of Beaumys) around the middle of the 13th century, but the 12th-century detail of the north doorway shows that a building existed before that period. It is probable that the chancel and nave were originally of late 12th-century date and were subsequently lengthened.

Norman churches were commonly sited in proximity to a settlement; it may be that the church was associated with early settlement at Swallowfield or settlement predating the manor within the park. It is also possible that a now defunct settlement was located in closer proximity to the church.

Pevsner records monuments in the church dedicated to various Swallowfield owners including a monument to Christopher Littcott (1554) in the chancel, to John Backhouse (1649) and other family members (1669) and a funeral helm for Sir Henry Russell (1852) (Pevsner 1966, 238).

Description
The extant church represents various stages of improvement and repair. The surviving nave and north and south doorways are Norman in date (P1), the east wall is Victorian (P2) and the timber supports of the bell tower late medieval (P2) (Pevsner 1966, 238).

The porch retains a little 15th-century woodwork in its traceried bargeboard and perhaps a few other timbers, and some of the framework supporting the modern wood bell-turret may date from the same period; none of the original lights now remain.
The transept was added by the Russell family in 1836 and covers their vault. In 1871 the building underwent a general restoration. The east wall was taken down and rebuilt, a large window being replaced by the present three round-headed lights and the 'bull's-eye' over, the authority for which is said to rest on certain stones found in the walling; the stonework of other windows was replaced, the walling was refaced with flint.

Setting/Integrity
The setting of the church is well maintained and the church is still in use to the present day. The enclosed nature of the church sheltered from the road to the south and the parkland to north adds to its integrity.

Significance
In terms of Swallowfield Park the church is significant as a result of its strong association with estate residents as displayed in the dedications recorded within. The physical location of the church within the park boundary adds to its significance. The presence of a church suggests that a community has resided in close proximity to Swallowfield from at least the Norman period when the church was first built. It is likely to have had strong connections with the medieval manor site.

3.4.7 Great Wood and Pleasure Walks (component 2.1.7)

Origin/History
Historically this area would have been covered by large swathes of woodland interspersed with clearings of unenclosed pasture. This landscape would have been exploited during the medieval period as a food source and as a hunting ground. Great Wood is a surviving remnant of this landscape. Norden's map of 1607 shows an area of enclosed land around the core medieval manor with woodland to the north.

The 1809 estate map (Fig. 6) shows the extent of Great Wood and the strip of woodland north of the decoy pond. No paths are shown. The two are separated by the line of the canal which joins the river at the northern extent of the woodland strip. A crossing appears to be marked linking the two areas.

The estate map of 1840 reflects the same land designation with the bridge crossing the canal joining the two woodland areas. A path is marked running along the eastern side of the woodland strip but again paths are not marked in the interior of the woods.

By 1872, the canal has been filled in with the exception of a pond at the northern extent of the woodland strip. Again the path through the strip is marked although no paths are marked in Great Wood. However the 1877 OS edition shows a series of paths criss-crossing the interior. Woodland walks are again marked in 1900 and 1913 (Fig. 10).

Woodland walks and rides are popular and common features of estate land from the 18th through to the 20th century and were designed beyond the formalised aspects of the garden to form leisure grounds.

Description
Great Wood comprises a sub-rectangular pocket of woodland at the north-eastern corner of the estate. The wood is bound to the south and west by parkland and to the north and east by enclosed pasture lying beyond the historic estate. The wood is visible in the distance from the estate garden and is reached via the woodland walk which runs north-eastwards along towards the river from the decoy pond. The wood comprises a mixture of mature evergreen and deciduous trees. The woodland walk north of the decoy pond is visible as a grassy track following gaps in the tree planting including yews, and limes. The walk ends where it meets the north-west corner of Great Wood beyond the site of the boathouse which no longer survives. The walk passes the west side of a silted up pond towards its northern extent, the pond lies along of the early 18th century canal filled in by the 1870's. The path which continued across a footbridge into Great Wood was not visible at the time of the site visit.

Setting/Integrity
These areas of woodland have been retained unencroached in their present form since at least the early 19th century. Their intended parkland setting is therefore retained in tact (P1-P2).

Significance
Woodland pockets across the estate are significant examples of managed woodland used as pleasure grounds particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Significantly, the woodland is likely to have been used as an estate hunting ground during the medieval period, and is likely to have been exploited as such by the medieval manor.

3.4.8 Dovecote (component 2.1.8)

Origin/history
Traditionally, dovecotes are believed to have been introduced to Britain by the Normans (eg. 12th century example at Rochester Castle, Kent) primarily to provide young fresh meat and eggs for the manor throughout the year. During the Medieval period free standing dovecotes were often built on manors and overseen by the lord. A dovecote is specifically referenced at Swallowfield In 1354 in a detailed account recorded by the reeve of the manor (Russell 1901, 49).

Doves and pigeons were also bred for manure and saltpetre (a component of dung) in the 16th and 17th centuries which was used in gunpowder manufacture. During the 17th and into the 18th centuries the relative abundance and stability of corn prices meant an increased surplus available for bird feed, hence an increase in the number of dovecotes. By the mid 18th century, when the extant Swallowfield dovecote was built, the fashion for rearing doves and pigeons was in decline although dovecotes continued to be built for more decorative purposes. Such examples are more often than not associated with parkland estates and are commonly sited in proximity to the manor farm as is the case at Swallowfield.

It is also common for dovecote structures to have, or to be a secondary use. At Swallowfield, the dovecote situated in the farm yard doubles as a cattle byre. Elsewhere, more decorative examples have also been noted as part of garden structures eg. incorporated into a Conservatory roof.

The Dovecote consistently appears in the cartographic record as far back as the 1809 estate plan (Fig. 6). Rocque suggests a building in the vicinity of the farm in 1761 but the scale is insufficient to show the dovecote.

Description
Typologically, the dovecote and animal shed can be dated to the mid 18th century. Construction comprises brick, slate and old tile over a timber frame (P1). The structure is octagonal in plan with an arcaded glover. The animal shed which surrounds the dovecote is supported on timber posts with shaped brackets with an octagonal hipped old tile roof rising up to below the eaves of the dovecote. The dovecote rises to a peak crowned with a ball finial.

Setting
The siting of the dovecote retains some modified elements of its original setting. The estate farm barn situated to the south of the dovecote has been converted into a dwelling (Dovecote House). The former farmyard in which the dovecote stands now forms part of the garden, but the general footprint and layout of the property is retained. In spite of the loss of the barn yard setting through conversion the dovecote retains its setting amid a collection of buildings of attractive vernacular style.

The private dwelling and garden now enclosed by a low wall restricting full visibility. The dwelling and dovecote are removed from associated aspects of the estate such as the service wing and walled garden by this wall and the concrete garages occupying the area to the north.

Views of the dovecote are restricted from the east by the perimeter wall defining the western extent of the front formal gardens, views from the driveway approach from the south are restricted by Dovecote House. However these views of the dovecote were never intended.

When the house was originally designed, its main entrance was located in the northern front, and the house was approached from the east, which would have meant that the dvecote and associated farm buildings would have been hidden from view behind the house and service wings. Even when the main entrance was transferred to the south front, but the approach was from the south-east, the dovecote would still not have been a feature in the views on the approach. Now that the vehicle access to the main house complex runs between the

dovecote and the stable block to its east, however, this structure has become much more significant in the views on the approach to the house, which was never intended.

Significance

The dovecote is listed grade II. It is significant in terms of its fabric and style and by association with its farmyard setting, and makes a significant contribution to the group value of the service buildings of Swallowfield Park. Its significance is increased by the documented existence of a dovecote at the site from the 14th century and therefore is arguable the most enduring aspect of the surviving estate. In spite of the mid 18th century date of the extant structure, the concept is by association medieval. As with the possible medieval origin of the decoy pond, the dovecote is associated with food production and celebration on important occasions.

3.4.9 Dovecote House (component 2.1.9)

Origin/history
Dovecote House incorporates the former estate barn and farm buildings and is related to the farmyard and dovecote by association. An operational farm would have been central to the running of the medieval manor and later estate. Historically farming of estate lands would have been on such a scale necessary to supply, feed and heat the estate year round with surplus stock sold for profit. As such the estate farm is central to the function and longevity of the park.

Rocque's Map of 1761 shows the footprint of a structure at this location although its plan is not discernible. The 1809 estate plan shows an L-shaped structure orientated on the same footprint as today. Ancillary structures are noted to the south, east and north. The location of dovecote north of the barn is also recorded. A ditch or field canal is noted running north – south on the western side of the barn. The canal joins a pool further to the west. Waterlogging was noted in this area at the time of the field inspection. By the event of the 1840 estate plan these ditches have been in filled. The footprint of the barn has also been extended to incorporate 2 jutting wings on the northern face of the barn. By 1872, an extension has been added to the barn to the west joining the main barn to previously extant outbuildings along the southern boundary of the site compound. By 1899, the western most of these structures has been removed, the footprint reflects that extant in the present day.

Description
The fabric of the main barn dates from the late 17th century with 19th and 20th century alterations, it survives as a Grade II Listed dwelling. Its construction may be contemporary with the original Talman build. The pre-existing farm associated with the medieval manor is likely to have been insufficient for the requirements of a growing country estate.

Construction comprises a timber frame with part brick infill/part brick overlaid in places with weatherboarding. The roof is gabled and half hipped and protected with old tiles (P1). The structure is L-shaped in plan and comprises 5 framed bays over one and two storeys. Most of the casement windows date from the 20th century with horizontal glazing bars. Some predating sash windows do survive (P2).

As part of the functional aspect of the estate, the barn is shielded from the house by the stable block and garden wall to the south. It is grouped with the service buildings and facilities on the west side of the house. Access to the farm and service buildings would have been via the bridge and the west drive

Setting/Integrity
The building survives in a good state of repair although its intended function and appearance is compromised by change of use and fabric alterations. The building was sold into private ownership in the 1960's compromising its association with the estate and masking its intended function as a farm building. The Sub division and sale of parkland into different and multiple owners leads to fragmentation of parkland and the disassociation of individual elements from the greater estate.

Significance
Dovecote House is listed Grade II, and is significant as a surviving element of the estate farm which is likely to have been associated with the manor from medieval times.

The fabric of the building is significant as a listed example of 17th century barn construction. The construction date of the property is contemporary with the Talman build. Various aspects of the late 17th century estate have been masked by later development. The converted barn is a significant survivor of this era.

3.5 THE GARDENS (component 2.2)

The locations of these components are identified on Figure 2.

3.5.1 Talman Gate (component 2.2.1)

Origin/history
This architectural feature was designed by Talman c.1689 as the door surround for the main entrance to the house within the small north courtyard, where it gave access to the elaborately detailed oval vestibule (1.1.2), a typical feature of Talman's designs. Although no drawings survive showing the exact design as executed, an elevation drawing dating to c.1783 shows a similar feature surrounding the doorway in the north front (Plate 1).

The date of its move to its present location in the east wall of the walled garden is not securely known. It is considered by many to have been moved during the major alterations to the house carried out for Sir Henry Russell by the architect William Atkinson in 1825-6. However, the date at which the main approach to, and entrance into the house was transferred from the north front to the south front is thought to have been during the tenure of the banker, Sylvanus Bevan, between 1783 and 1788. This would have provided a stimulus for the re-location of the elaborate doorway, so as not to compete in status with the new entrance on the south front. It is also the case that the works of alteration ordered by Russell in the 1820's were identified in a surviving memo to Atkinson, which makes no mention of the door surround. It is considered that a feature of such significance as this would have been mentioned had it been a part of those works. It is therefore considered most likely that it was moved in the late 18th century.

Description
The Talman Gate consists of a monumental carved stone door surround set in a supporting archway of Flemish bond brickwork. The surround has an elaborately ornate architrave with garlands, a broken-bed segmental pediment with richly carved swags and drapes and fruits extending down from the tympanum and supported by scrolled brackets with acanthus leaves, instead of capitals. Either side of the doorway are pilasters richly carved with a guilloche pattern of garlands with fruits and flowers (P1).

The gateway is supported by a short section of wall with a brick plinth four courses high and moulded stone coping slabs above. It is reinforced by two brick pillars topped with decorative moulded stone finials. The gateway is supported on the rear (west-north-west) elevation with two shorter brick and slate buttresses. Straight joints suggest these were probably added for extra stability when the gateway was re-located to the walled garden *c.*1820.

The entire gateway has been painted in cream coloured masonry paint except for the coping stones and finials. A 20th century photograph (*undated*) shows the former door surround prior to painting (P2) and this unfortunate episode may have occurred when the walled gardens was repaired during the late 20th century. The gate appeared recently repainted at the time of the site visit on 6th June 2007. Set within the gateway is a 20th century door with wooden frame and thin cast iron vertical bars.

Within the south-east wall of the walled garden, the Talman Gate is situated off-centre and has been orientated so that it faces east-south-east. This curious arrangement enables the gateway to be viewed 'square on' from the yew-tree walk (2.2.2) leading from the house rather than at a slant which would be the case if it sat flush within the present north-east - south-west wall alignment. This solution has been enforced due to the alignment of the walled garden. A short section of wall on the south side of the gateway has been constructed which links back to the main north-east - south-west garden wall (P3).

Setting/Integrity
This important architectural feature has been moved from its original location, where it was a significant feature of the Talman house (1.1), and led into Talman's oval vestibule (1.1.2). Its removal from this location has severed this association, and the structure now provides an

over-elaborate entrance into the walled garden (2.3), where it can only be seen from the service wings of the house.

Significance

The Talman gate is individually listed Grade II. Had it remained in its original location, as the entrance to the main house, it would be included in the Grade II* listing.

The significance of the feature has been reduced by its re-location, and, more significantly, through its being painted; which is likely to be irreversible without serious damage to the stonework.

It remains a very significant feature of the estate, however, and retains the detail of its elaborate, late 17th century design, and its association with the architect Talman.

3.5.2 YEW TREE WALK (component 2.2.2)

Origin/history
John Evelyn (1620-1706), the late 17th century diarist, landscape designer and writer, visited the gardens at Swallowfield in 1685 and planted the Yew Walk. The treeline is suggested by Rocque in 1761 and clearly defined on the estate map dating from 1809.

Evelyn's interest in garden design began when he moved to Sayes Court in Deptford, in south-east London in 1652. In 1671, he encountered master wood-worker Grinling Gibbons (who was renting a cottage on the Sayes Court estate) and introduced him to Sir Christopher Wren and Talman who used his craftsmanship to complete the now removed cornicing around the staircase at Swallowfield. Evelyn's interest in gardens led him to design pleasure gardens, such as those at Euston Hall in Suffolk, Albury Park in Surrey and Yew Walk at Swallowfield.

Description
Yew tree walk comprises two lines of six yew trees which form an impressive corridor leading westwards from the service quarters of the house to the entrance of the walled garden now defined by the Talman Gate (P1). The trees are set approximately 3m apart along the edge of the lawn which flanks a pebbled path way approximately 2-3m wide (P2).

Setting/Integrity
Yew Tree Walk is maintained in perfect condition. Looking along the walk from the house to the Talman Gate and vice versa, the tree lines provide a major visual focus channeling the eye towards the gate and house. This view forms the primary intended sight line of the component and its integrity is retained as intended. Views from the north and south approaching the sideways line of the trees are not blocked by the tree line given their generous spacing. Long distance views of the walk are somewhat hampered by trees to the north and the 20th concrete built structures to the south. Historically this area would have been open ground to the farm. The 1809 estate map shows a pond at this location. It is probable that views of the walk form the north and south were never a priority in the planning of the feature. The tree line to the north has blocked long distance views of the walk from at least the early 19th century (1809 estate map) and indeed cartographic material suggests it may have been planted contemporary with Talman's modifications. Given the positioning and nature of the farm buildings to the south of Yew Walk, it is unlikely that the walk was ever designed to be viewed from this direction.

The retention of the walk during the early 19th century rebuild reflects the continuing importance of the feature and the walled garden.

Significance
Yew Walk is historically significant as an example of 17th century geometric garden design. This style of landscaping was often applied to gardens, walks, ponds and avenues though the 17th century. Changing fashions in landscape design in the 18th century meant that many of these early linear garden features were incorporated into less formal, naturalistic garden designs. As a result of this, few 17th century geometric avenues survive in their original design. The Yew Walk at Swallowfield is historically significant in terms of its relative rarity.

The walk is considered to be historically significant in terms of its association with John Evelyn, a well know figure in 17th century life Evelyns diaries for example are contemporaneous with the diarist Samuel Pepys, both men witnessed and chronicled the Great Fire of London (1666), there survives much correspondence between the two. Furthermore, Evelyn presented one of several plans (Wren produced another) for the rebuilding of London following the fire. Evelyn was also a major contributor to modern understanding of the era, particularly in terms of landscape design.

The design if the walk is aesthetically significant in its framing of historically significant views and the artistic flow of the garden leading from one component to another. It now forms an important feature in the setting of the grade II listed Talman Gate, though this is not an authentic association.

3.5.3 Woodland Garden (component 2.2.3)

Origin/history
The woodland or 'Wilderness' garden which surrounds the walled garden to the north, south and west is enclosed by a perimeter fence defining the extent of the inner estate. The wooded garden is likely to date from the 19th century. Tree coverage along the northern side of the walled garden is notable in the cartographic record from the first edition of the Ordnance Survey undertaken in 1872.

The development of the arts and crafts garden style in the mid 19th century gave rise to certain precedents including the planting of naturalistic areas of wild planting in proximity to enclosed gardens as is the case here. Other parkland features identified within this woodland belt also reflect garden fashion during the Victorian era, these include the estate railings and the Pet cemetery (components 2.2.4 & 2.2.5).

Further woodland walks are located across the park, to north of the decoy pond following the line of the river northwards and into Great Wood.

Description
The woodland garden survives as a narrow sparsely wooded belt of land on the north side of the walled garden. Even though this area is situated in close proximity to the formal gardens, it is removed from the formal estate by its narrow plan, tree coverage and the walled garden which gives the area an intended wilderness feel. The woodland is planted in clusters largely along the exterior garden wall with semi open views northwards towards the decoy pond.

Setting Integrity
The intended setting of the wooded garden is retained largely due to its removed and peripheral location. Consequently it has not been subject to largescale modification.

Significance
The woodland garden is a representation of Arts and Crafts gardening style and the assimilation of earlier landscape components to reflect changes in landscape style. However, the state of its survival means that it is not clearly read as such in the landscape today. The style is represented in a series of related components in the locality, these being the estate railings, informal woodland planting and the pet cemetery.

3.5.4 Estate Railings (component 2.2.4)

Origin/history
The inner estate is enclosed by a perimeter fence which incorporates the walled garden, wilderness garden, Gardener's Cottage and associated outbuildings, the rear gardens, decoy pond and walk which leads northwards from the decoy pond. The estate railings are likely to date from the mid 19th century and are associated with other elements of Victorian garden design such as wilderness planting and the pet cemetery.

The enclosure of the rear garden at its northern extent is not recorded until the 1877 edition of the Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 8). The date of this enclosure is likely to be contemporary with the introduction of the estate railings. The preceding map dating from 1872 shows the rear garden open to parkland, dating the construction of the estate railings to some time between 1872 and 1877.

Description
The estate railings enclose the inner estate running along the east side of the garden, along the ride past the decoy pond to the north returning on the west side of the pond and encompassing the walled garden and woodland garden to the north (P1).

The estate railings survive along the majority of its intended length although supplemented in various places by barbed wire and wooden fencing. The surviving fence comprises simple flattened uprights supporting five rows of round cross bars to a height of approximately 1m. The fence is delicate in style and does not impede views across the outer estate.

Setting Integrity
The intended setting of the estate railings is retained due to the minimal use of repair fencing. The estate railings also mark the extent of lands that remain in the ownership of the estate to the present day.

Significance
The estate railings are a common feature of 19th century country estates. They are significant only in terms of their relationship with other components of the contemporary landscape design such as informal woodland planting and the pet cemetery.

The estate railings are also significant as they define the historic extent of the inner estate, a land parcel that survives in the ownership of the estate to the present day.

3.5.5 Pet Cemetery (component 2.2.5)

Origin/history
The Swallowfield Pets' Cemetery includes the grave of Charles Dickens' Newfoundland dog 'Bumble', which was given by Dickens to Sir Charles Russell (1826-1883) following his inheritance of the estate in 1852. Pet Cemeteries became increasingly popular during the Victorian era, reaching a peak in the late 19th century. Queen Victoria herself buried various pets in the grounds of Windsor Castle. Pet cemeteries are commonly found in association with large parkland estates.

Description
The pet cemetery is located in a quiet and discreet location in the woodland garden on the north side of the north wall of the walled garden (P1). The surviving cemetery comprises two - three rows of small gravestones facing northwards towards the decoy pond and estate grounds. Among the stones is one in commemoration of 'Bumble' (P2).

Setting/Integrity
The pet cemetery survives undisturbed in its intended setting and its setting comprises further elements of contemporary design such as the wooded garden and perimeter fence.

Significance
The pet cemetery is culturally significant as an element of 19th century sentimentality incorporated into garden design and through its association with the famous Victorian author, Charles Dickens.

3.5.6 Rear Garden-Walks and Planting (component 2.2.6)

Origin/history
The current style of planting in the rear garden at Swallowfield reflects modifications made during the Victorian period. In the early 19th century, the garden was occupied by a pond (west of the western Walk) and defined on the east side by the long line of a canal noted on the 1809 estate map. The area north of the canal was maintained as open parkland, a continuation of the formal 'natural' landscaping to the front of the house. The western part of the garden comprised the pond set amid wooded grounds which led to the decoy pond. The 1840 estate map shows that the pond has been filled in and the introduction of planting and design which makes the east/west division of the garden less obvious. The canal is still *in situ* at this date. The pathways follow similar lines as today, but there is no enclosure of the garden area to the north, the eastern path continues northwards through parkland beyond the modern garden boundary. The same is depicted on the 1872 estate map. The enclosure of the rear garden is not noted until the 1877 edition of the Ordnance Survey Map by which time, a more formalised programme of planting has been implemented. This enclosure is likely to be contemporary with the estate railings datable to a time between 1872 and 1877.

19th century planting across the garden includes pines, yews, holly, laurels and rhodedendron. These elements retain some aspects of the preference for open landscape design of the preceding century but all traces of more formalised planting of 17th century flower beds and parterres have been eradicated.

Description
The rear garden is situated on a raised rectangular plateau above which the house is elevated at the southern extent and reached by stone steps (P1). This slightly raised position allows views across the outer estate to the east and west. The eastern and north eastern extents of the rear garden are less formally landscaped comprising parkland trees and cluster of rhododendron planting. Two gravel pathways lead approximately north to south towards the northern end of the garden passing though a rhododendron tunnel on the eastern path (P2). These two paths are linked by a third path which branches off the eastern path in a north-westerly direction to merge with the western path where it continues as a grass track past the decoy pond and into the wooded belt beyond.

Where the two paths merge, there is a stone sculpture of the head of a ram set on a shaped pedestal (P3). The two parts do not appear to have been originally designed to be together and the head appears, on the basis of the condition of the stone, to pre-date the pedestal. The sculpture faces towards the decoy pond and no comparable stylistic examples are recorded in association with any landscape feature or building across the estate. It may be that the sculpture was placed at this location following landscaping works in the late 19th century.

The flow of the garden is designed to be walked in. The ride past the decoy pond (2.1.2) and through the wooded belt is not a retained pathway but more a route suggested by the planting. This part of the wooded garden has similarities with the wilderness garden on the north side of the walled garden and appears to have been maintained as a walk from at least the early 19th century (1809 estate map). The main lawn is dotted with large mature trees, spaced so as not to hamper the long distance views.

Setting /Integrity
The 19th century setting of the rear garden is retained, there is little evidence for 20th century intervention (other than the formalised croquet lawn which may well reflect a historic garden past time). The walk ways and planting are largely retained in their 19th century format. The belt of more naturally planted land along the eastern boundary of the garden may reflect an earlier phase of landscape planting when the rear gardens were unclosed and flowed into the parkland to the north.

Significance

The rear gardens are significant in terms of their retention of historic planting patterns and garden design. The informal aspect of design (compared to the landscaped front gardens) reflects leisure use as opposed to the more ornamental purpose of the front gardens as the formal setting of the house from the approach. The walkways, seats, lawns and strategic planting are designed for walking.

The gardens have historically formed a significant view from principal rooms to the rear of the property, this aspect has been retained to the present day.

3.5.7 Front Gardens-Landscaping (component 2.2.7)

Origin/History
The current gardens to the front of Swallowfield House retain their early 19th century character and represent the least modified aspect of garden design of the inner estate.

The 18th century layout is depicted on John Rocque's Map of 1761 which shows a radial design comprising a series of avenues running from a central circular courtyard covering an extensive area to meet the River Blackwater to the south and the canal to the east. The majority of this area is now occupied by open parkland, only the northern portion to the front of the house is retained as landscaped garden. This radial design may be have been implemented around the time of the Talman build.

The 1809 estate map shows that the radial design has been replaced with open parkland as in evidence today. This genre of landscape design came to prominence in the late 18th century under the influence of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The modern southern limit of the front gardens is defined in 1809 by an east-west running watercourse which joins the canal to the east. The now defunct canal formed the eastern boundary of the gardens. The line of the canal is visible in the modern landscape as a shallow waterlogged dip running along the eastern extent of the modern parkland, south of the front garden boundary.
While the exact date of the transition from the formal radial design to landscaped planting is unknown, cartographic evidence and study of changing fashions in landscape design points to a date in the late 18th century.

By 1840 the southern boundary of the gardens is delineated by a fence and the general planting of mature woodland trees is depicted.

Description
The front gardens at Swallowfield survive as a sweeping lawn interrupted only by mature tree planting and occasional rhododendron clusters (likely to have a mid-late 19th century date) (P1). The trees are strategically planted to make the most of views of the house framing it rather than sheltering it from view from the approaching driveways. Tree growth has somewhat impeded the views but the design is still apparent.

The eastern extent of the garden is occupied by more intensely clustered trees and rougher grass coverage (P2). This area corresponds with the line of the former canal. The western boundary is defined by the stableblock and garden wall which separates the formal garden from Dovecote Farm to the west (P3).

Setting/Integrity
The late 18th/early 19th century parkland planting and views are is retained to the present day. The southern fence as indicated on the 1840 estate map is replicated today providing an unintrusive boundary which allows views southwards across the parkland. The integrity of the mid 18th century garden design has been completely lost as a result of later landscaping measures.

Parkland tree growth has had a detrimental effect on some of the designed views of the house impacting upon the intended setting of the house

Significance
The front gardens as they survive are of considerably less significance, though have some interest as an example of late 18th/early 19th century landscape design with its emphasis placed on naturalistic planting around designed views. These represent the least altered late 18th/early 19th aspect of the garden.

The front gardens are one of the most visually significant aspects of the estate in terms of views on the approach to the site and framed views from the house looking out.

3.5.8 Fountain (component 2.2.8)

Origin/history
Fountains have been associated with parkland estates from at least the mid 17th century when they were introduced to the country by Renaissance ideals. Although pre-dating its present location in the Fountain Court, it is not known where in the gardens this small fountain was originally located.

Atkinson's plans for modernization at Swallowfield dating from 1824 (Plan A2, J1 RIBA) show proposals for the open area currently occupied by the fountain. These proposals include the addition of a corridor joining the east and west wings with an open court to the rear accessed from the vestibule. This corridor is thought to have been removed in the 1930's, and the re-location of the fountain to its present position may have taken place then; or more probably, when the major restoration of the house took place in 1965.

The Register of Parks and Gardens listing notes that the courtyard was set out in the late 20th century (English Heritage Register site reference no. 1520). It may be that a pre Atkinson fountain was located at the site but this is speculation.

Description
The fountain is set within the three sided courtyard (open to the north) created by the recess of the north side of the H-Shaped house (P1). The area forms part of the gravel terrace which runs along the north elevation of the house. Given the Registered Parks and Gardens reference that the fountain was placed at the location during the late 20th century, it is probable that it was moved from another location. There is no evidence for a fountain at any other location across the site.

The fountain comprises a shallow cross-shaped pool with rounded edges defined by low shaped brick coping. The centre piece incorporates a waterspout mounted on a shaped pedestal with decorative bowl. The design incorporates a brick path which leads north/south to the fountain and to the French doors which enter the house beyond.

Setting/Integrity
The fountain at this location is a modern addition to the landscaped gardens. The recessed courtyard was not designed to accommodate this feature and Talman's intended design for the courtyard does not survive. Atkinson's pre alteration plans of the house do not include this area as it stands outside the structure at this time. Atkinson's early 19th century alteration plans show that the courtyard was divided and enclosed. The fountain does therefore not reflect the intended setting of the area from at least the turn of the 19th century. It is possible that a pre Atkinson fountain occupied this location, but the theory is merely speculative.

Significance
The fountain is a modern addition to the courtyard however it may be that the site was formally occupied by a similar structure. Its significance lies in this possible historic association and its high visibility in the landscape.

3.5.9 Garages (component 2.2.9)

Origin/history
The garages are assumed to have been constructed sometime during, or shortly after 1965 when the main house was converted into luxury apartments in order to provide parking and storage facilities for the tenants.

Description
After the grandeur of the main house and historic gardens and surrounding landscape, the location and appearance of the garages is disappointing (P1). The garages are seemingly randomly arranged into four blocks containing between 6 & 8 individual units. The construction is simple with concrete brick walls roofed over with a flat concrete roof deck with bituminous covering and up-and-over painted steel doors.

Setting/Integrity
Although recent efforts have been made to screen the garages from view with vegetation, the appearance of the garages is not considered complementary to the historic setting of Swallowfield. The unsympathetic appearance of the garages is particularly unfortunate considering their proximity to the rear of the stable block, and to the present main route to the house. They also impact negatively on the setting of the important 17th century Yew walk.

Significance
The significance of the garages is considered low, taking into account their recent construction date, utilitarian use and unfortunate location.

3.6 WALLED GARDEN (component 2.3)

The locations of the components described below are identified on Figure 3.

3.6.1 Garden Walls (component 2.3.1)

Origin/history
The Grade II Listed garden walls survive in plan as an offset T-shape. The majority of the extant walls date from the early 18th century, erected during the residence of Thomas 'Diamond' Pitt who purchased the Park around 1717. The 'T-bar' encloses the western end of the garden and the projecting arms represent a later phase of 19th century building.

Enclosed land named as a court garden and an apple garden are referred to in a land grant dating from 1542 showing that an enclosed garden existed at Swallowfield from at least the mid 16th century. The means by which this garden was enclosed is not known. The continuous survival of an enclosed garden highlights the importance of the relationship between the house and walled garden in terms of historic setting.

Rocque's map of 1761 shows the sub-rectangular walled garden at its extant location. This footprint is repeated on Thomas Pride's map of 1790 and the 1809, 1840 and 1872 estate maps. None of these maps record access into the garden other than at the location of the Talman gate.

By the advent of the 1840 estate map buildings adjacent to the interior west wall of the garden are noted, the existence of which are visible in the socket holes on the wall to the present day.

The projecting arms at the western extent of the garden which form the 'T-bar' is first mapped on the 1899 25" OS edition giving these alterations a date between 1877 (date of the preceding map) 1899 under the successive ownership of Sir Charles and Sir George Russell. buildings along the west wall are set out in a formalized symmetrical manner with additional free standing structures positioned in each projecting arm.

A plaque on the exterior east wall, north of the Talman gate commemorate a 1980 phase of restoration.

Description
The walls survive in an offset T-shaped formation, the 'T' being formed by two later projecting arms added at the south-western and north-western corners of the garden. The majority of the wall consists of red brick in Flemish bond with occasional burnt headers. The height varies across the elevations with a standard approximate height of 3m (a typical height for walled gardens) with higher sections up to 5.3m on the north-west and north-east walls where lean-to garden buildings/greenhouses were once situated. The early 18th century wall consists of relatively soft bricks and pale buff lime mortar which have decayed in places due to weathering and former plant growth. This is particularly evident on the external south-west facing wall where fruit trees would originally have been trained. Evidence of one former fruit tree growth was observed with the varietal name of an early cultivated peach tree (*Gross Mignonne*) stamped on a lead tablet which was nailed into the mortar of the wall (P1).

Evidence of at least three repointing episodes is apparent although, with the exception of recent repairs to the top and plinth, this appears to have occurred some time ago. One large-scale repointing episode is evident throughout. However, in this instance no attempt has been made to match the existing mortar with the application of a hard, grey pozzalanic mortar with penny-struck joint pattern (P2). Much of this material has already fallen out or now stands proud of the damaged softer bricks with numerous blown faces apparent (P3).

In many areas the top 2 - 3 courses have been rebuilt recently (possibly in 1989). This has been achieved with new brick with moulded coping bricks above. A plinth measuring 4 - 5 courses high exists at the base of the wall on both the exterior and interior elevations. This

has been rebuilt or repointed in sections particularly on the south-east and south-west external elevations (P4). The walls are supported internally by brick piers spaced approximately every 5.5m. Many of these piers are severely eroded with loose and missing bricks evident on the south-west wall (P5).

The north-west extent of the walled garden has been extended to the south-west and north-east during the late 19th century forming an offset T-shape in plan. The brickwork here is English Garden Wall bond with buff lime mortar. The new wall is of the same height as the earlier 18th century wall with moulded coping bricks, external brick piers and an external brick plinth measuring 8 - 9 courses high (P6).

The north-west wall rises in height to 5.4m in the central section (P7). This has been raised in two phases from the original 18th century wall height of approximately 3m. Initially the wall was raised by 8 courses in Flemish bond with a brick-on-edge course forming the top of the construction phase. At some point after the wall was raised a decision was made to raise the height again by 6 courses in English Garden Wall bond with moulded stone coping stones above. The differing heights of the wall are likely to be associated with the construction of larger lean-to buildings on the north-west and/or south-east side of the wall.

The wall presently supports climbing roses, however, fragments of pale coloured plaster and paint, as well as empty joist sockets cut into the interior face of the wall in the central section, is evidence of lean-to buildings (most likely glasshouses) which, from historic mapping evidence, are shown in this location from the early 19th century onwards. Blocked doorways and pipework cut through the wall is evidence of access and service from support buildings on the opposing side of the wall (P8).

A section of the north-east wall rises in height at the south-east end to an elliptical curved top with a dentil course. This section also contains three square recesses panelled at high level and with segmental brick arches at low level (P9). A map of 1809 shows this area as the location of a building which appears joined or adjacent to the exterior of the wall. No evidence was discovered of any lean-to structure on the exterior wall.

At least four original 18th century doorways survive on the south-east, south-west and north-west walls. These entrances are utilitarian in design with segmental brick arches above a single doorway. Following the late 19th century extensions to the garden a later inserted doorways exists on the south-west elevation and a gateway has been inserted into the north-west elevation. A terracotta plaque above a doorway in the south-east facing elevation of the north-east extension bears the initials ‘G R’ and the date ‘1885’ (P10).

Setting/Integrity
The garden walls survive in a variable state of repair. The integrity of the wall was noted to be compromised by decaying brick particularly along the exterior of the southern wall.

The role of the walls in a kitchen garden would have been to shield the interior. Consequently, the setting of the walled garden is largely self contained. Views across the interior are likely to have been impeded by functional planting. It is likely that views within the walled kitchen garden were never formally designed with particular views in mind.

Exterior views into the garden are restricted by the walls. The garden is located west of the service quarters away from the formal gardens to the front and rear of the house as is usual for a functional kitchen garden, views across the interior are hampered by random planting reflecting the current informal layout of the garden.

Significance
Historically and socially significant in terms of changing role and function of walled gardens in the country estate.

Aesthetically, the asymmetrical design of the walled area appears unusual in terms of its unusual layout in relation to the main house. However, other walled gardens e.g. Highclere

Park, Hampshire and Lydiard Park, Wiltshire, also appear not to respect the setting of the main house indicating that walled gardens, often established for fruit or exotic plant growing, were orientated to best capture the sun, i.e. with as large an area as possible facing southwards, and to avoid the worst of any inclement weather.

3.6.2 Internal Layout and Planting (component 2.3.2)

Origin/History
Rocque's map of 1761 shows the sub-rectangular walled garden divided into 6 plots. This layout repeated on the 1809 estate map with an additional wooded area to the east This layout reflects the park commented on by Evelyn.

The 1840 estate map repeats the six plot pattern, clearly defined by pathways one of which gives a clear site line of sight from the stable block through the park gate towards the buildings located along the western wall. This sight line suggests these buildings may have had some recreational rather than maintenance significance implying a more social and formal aspect to the walled garden beyond that of a practical kitchen garden.

A slight change in the internal division is illustrated on the 1872 estate plan when an arched pathway is shown at the south-western corner of the garden likely to serve the approach to and views from the structures against the western wall. This detail is not however reflected on the first edition of the 25" OS map published in the same year.

The 1899 25" OS edition shows the new wings added to the walled garden at the south western and north western corners constructed between 1877 and 1899 under the successive ownership of Sir Charles and Sir George Russell. The internal divisions of the garden are not shown and the buildings along the west wall are set out in a formalized symmetrical manner with additional free standing structures positioned in each projecting arm. Again this layout reflects a possible formal use for the garden at this time. These structures are cross hatched on the plan intimating their use as glasshouses. Early 20th century mapping Ordnance Survey mapping shows only one division in the interior, that being the line dividing the woodland to the east from the more open area to the east. This line is currently defined by a row of felled evergreen tree stumps, perhaps representative of a former hedge line.

Description
The interior of the walled garden is currently occupied by a range of informal areas of differing function. The eastern portion of the garden is occupied by wooded ground through which a pathway traverses from the Talman gate towards the centre of the garden. It would appear that this line formally ran the length of the garden to reach the structures formally extant against the eastern garden wall. Towards the western extent of the garden this line is retained in a short sunken linear feature now covered by grass set between an avenue of trees (P1). The sight line to the west wall is however impeded by a mature tree, presumably planted (or grown to maturity) since the removal of the buildings and leading pathway.

The north side of the garden is occupied by a small recently planted orchard, perhaps reflecting a historic use of the garden (P2). The majority of the area is occupied by a lawn dotted with occasional trees. Climbing roses are planted along the north wall. A low, rectangular raised bed survives within the north-east wing comparable with the site of the glasshouse noted on the 1889 25" Ordnance Survey mapping. It appears to be constructed from re-used bricks which are likely to have come from the walls of a greenhouse (P3).

The west side of the garden has a more functional role being occupied by vegetable plots, modern greenhouse and a modern gazebo.

Setting/Integrity
The role of a walled garden would have changed over the centuries as illustrated by the changing interior layout. The setting of a kitchen garden would have different emphasis to that of a more formalised garden as such the setting of the garden would have changed to accommodate these fluctuations in use.

The garden walls mean that the interior is visible from aspects inside the walls. Any designed views within the garden are likely to have been impeded by successive phases of planting. The evolution of the late 19th century Victorian Kitchen garden is likely to have impacted on designed views and settings created during the more formalised setting in the 18th and early

19th centuries. Elements of this earlier form of formalised design are retained in the pathway leading from the Talman Gate to the structures along the west wall. This avenue may be contemporary with the relocation of the Talman Gate, moved to the garden around 1820.

Given the changing function and status of the walled garden it is difficult to assess its integrity. However management and exploitation of the garden retains an intrinsic historic precedent represented in the continuing occurrence of an orchard, vegetable plot, flower beds, trees and pathways.

Significance
Historically and socially significant in terms of changing role and function of walled gardens in the country estate from kitchen garden to leisure garden.

The retention of certain features within the walled garden represents an historic continuity of use. This is particularly true of the replanted orchard. An Orchard is documented in association with the garden from at least the late 17th century. Orchards are often found in association with medieval manors.

3.6.3 GARDENER'S COTTAGE (component 2.3.3)

Origin/history
A building is shown at this location on the west side of the garden wall from 1840 at which date it formed the southern extension of an elongated building (partially surviving although derelict) running along the majority of the length of the exterior of the western garden wall. The enclosure map dating from 1817 does not show a structure at this location suggesting an initial phase of construction between 1817 and 1840.

The footprint of the Gardeners Cottage as it appears today straddling the west wall of the walled garden is first notable on the Ordnance Survey Map dating from 1899. Preceding maps dating from the 1870's do not show the eastern extension of the building inside the walled garden. It may therefore be asserted from typological and cartographic evidence that modifications to the main structure in a vernacular gothic revival style were made between 1877 and 1899, coinciding with the tail end of the peak of Gothic revival in England (1855-1885).

This expansion of the footprint to its present size coincides with the first depiction of the southern and northern wings of the walled garden which form the current T-shaped plan. It is possible that modifications to the building were undertaken at the same time as extensions to the walled garden in the vicinity.

The building may have originally been constructed for storage of garden tools or have served a function associated with the kitchen garden suggested by the non-residential structure partially surviving along the remainder of the exterior western wall. The existence of a Gardeners Cottage reflects the importance and status of the gardener on a large country estate. While the house is removed from the formal aspect of the estate being tucked away behind the walls, Late 19th century modifications to the property allowing visibility into the interior of the walled garden were a common development during this era. These developments coincided with the rise of the kitchen garden and the status of the head gardener at this time.

Description
The building survives in a good state of repair and continues in use as an estate dwelling. During the late 19th century the house was extended and gentrified. This included adding the south-east extension, porch and bay windows. Construction is of red brick in Flemish bond with many burnt headers and diaper pattern on the two bay windows, porch walls and north-east elevation gable end. The building is 'T'- shape in plan and sits astride the garden wall with the south-east extension protruding into the garden with the main house extending north-west of the garden wall (P1). The front (north-west) elevation comprises three bays with a late 19th century added central brick porch and entrance into the property. A bay window has been constructed on the south-west elevation (P2). The front elevation has four-light sash windows with rubbed brick headers. Elsewhere four and two light sashes are evident within the new extensions.

The southern extension comprises a ground and first floor bay with half turreted roof. The eastern extension protrudes into the interior of the walled garden and comprises a gabled façade with a bay window at ground floor and sash at first floor level both with views into the walled garden. To the north the rear of the main body of the house has two small irregularly placed apertures allowing light into the building. The rear of the structure comprises red brick faced with straight edged and rounded red and dark red tiles at first floor level. Several walls including the southern extension are decorated with bricked diaper patterning in neo-gothic style. While this characteristic is shared with the Red House gate lodge, the gothic revival style here is much more diluted, localised and vernacular in style.

The roof is of pitched, gabled and red (old tile) tiled construction. The roof is decorated with ornamental ridge tiles and finials at the peak of the eaves.

There is currently no entrance to the house from the walled garden. A doorway into the garden from the north-east elevation of the later extension has been blocked with brick (P3). Access to the walled garden is via a later inserted doorway in the wall situated on the south-west side of the cottage.

The north-east side of the house is presently abutted by a small lean-to outbuilding associated with the property although the scars of a pitch roof and blocked doorway confirm the mapping evidence that a larger single storey outbuilding once abutted the property (P4).

Setting/Integrity
The building retains its function as an estate building to the present day and continues to be occupied as a dwelling. Its intended location removed from the more formal aspects of the estate is intact. The house is contained within the inner estate by the perimeter fence but retains views across the outer estate lands westwards towards the River Loddon. The dwelling is approached by its own driveway which runs parallel with the southern side of the walled garden, this driveway is clearly shown in 1872 but is likely to have existed as an unmarked track prior to this date. The lack of planting and the fact that it is accessed from the former farmyard suggests that it was designed to be functional in nature to serve functional elements of the estate. This function and setting is retained to the present day.

The integrity of the Gardeners Cottage is somewhat compromised by the deterioration of the adjacent estate structure which run along the exterior length of the western garden wall. This building partially survives as a derelict overgrown lean-to building which has lost its status and function as a building. It is likely that it was associated with the Gardener's Cottage in fulfilling a garden maintenance related role.

Significance
The building is significant in terms of the changing role and status of the gardener and the development of garden management in estate history.

The building itself is significant as an example of vernacular neo-gothic design.

3.6.4 Buildings North of Gardener's Cottage (component 2.3.4)

Origin/history
A series of derelict structures were noted along the west side of the western wall of the walled garden at the time of the site inspection. Also notable west of these along the east side of the perimeter fence were a series of evenly spaced low level walls. Cartographic evidence notes the footprint of small scale structures along this boundary in 1872, 1899, 1900 and 1913. Such buildings were commonly known as the 'back sheds' and often included a boiler house, fuel bunkers, work rooms, potting sheds and storage places as well as the head gardener's office. The northerly aspect of the range is ideal for storerooms with the need for places to be kept dark and cool.

Description
The buildings consist of a single range of derelict or demolished linked units on the north-west wall of the kitchen garden. The surviving units are all single-storey red brick structures with the remains of a lean-to tile covered roof (P1).

Construction is of shallow-frogged red brick in stretcher bond and lime mortar. Where surviving, the roofs consist of timber frame lean-to structures with joist holes cut into the garden wall. The roofs are covered in red tile with later inserted skylights visible on the most south-westerly surviving unit. The presence of skylights, the remains of lath and plaster ceilings and wall plaster in the more south-westerly units of the range suggest that these buildings were used as offices (P2), whereas the units to the north-east appear to be decorated internally with painted brickwork throughout suggesting that these were more likely used as storerooms or potting sheds. Windows are present on the north-west elevations with moulded stone sills and segmental blue brick arches which also appear above the doorways. Wooden frame 6-light casements are present throughout (P3). Where doors survive these appear as diagonal pattern solid timber 2 panel doors with latches. The surviving units are derelict and potentially hazardous to visitors. Access to the interiors is currently via areas overgrown by brambles and other vegetation including well established Japanese knotweed.

Brick foundations of a further structure along the western boundary of the Site are discernible in the undergrowth surviving to height of approximately 50cm. In their current state of repair, it is difficult to determine whether they represent the footings of a building or a series of brick lined terraces used for gardening.

Setting/Integrity
The integrity of these structures has been jeopardized by their degenerated state of repair. Their setting in proximity to the Gardener's Cottage, hidden away from the formal aspects of the estate, reflects their previous functionality is however retained.

Significance
Given the poor condition of these former buildings, their function and location and vernacular construction, their physical significance is considered to be minimal.

The structures are however significant by association in terms of the historical development and maintenance of the historic garden.

3.6.5 Walls of Former Glass Houses (component 2.3.5)

Origin/history
Structures on the east side of the western perimeter wall, west of the walled garden are first noted on the 1872 Ordnance Survey Map. Here, two small scale rectangular structures are marked as glass houses. These features are associated with the gardener's cottage and ancillary structures on the exterior of the western garden wall. They almost certainly had a use associated with the nurturing and upkeep of the estate gardens either as glasshouses or glass covered terraced beds. It is possible that they may have been used as a fernery, popular in the late 19th century.

By the time of the 1899 Ordnance Survey map, these structures would appear to have been demolished and replaced with two further glass houses positioned further to the south-west in closer proximity to the house. The footprint of the northernmost structure is extended northwards on the 1913 OS edition.

Description
One of these buildings survives as a series of 6 parallel walls of differing heights spaced at regular intervals within an overgrown wooded setting. Construction is of shallow-frogged red brick in English Garden Wall bond and lime mortar (P1). The walls are topped with moulded coping bricks with later repairs in Portland cement. The map evidence suggests these were low plinths for glasshouses with associated walkways in between. Similar surviving examples (e.g. West Dean, West Sussex) suggest that these structures may have been provided with underground heating for the raising and propagation of exotic fruit e.g. pineapples and melons. Other suggested uses for the structures including the preparation of young plants before transplantation into the walled garden.

The site of a second structure to the south-west is occupied by a large overgrown pile of building rubble which (judging by the occurrence of stone coping identified on the adjacent extant remains) is likely to represent debris from the structure. Due to the overgrown nature of the site it was not possible to establish the extent and orientation of any surviving structures.

Setting/Integrity
The remains of these structures have retained their setting in so much as they still form part of the dilapidated gardener's complex. The integrity of the structures themselves has been completely lost given their poor survival and the subsequent lack of fabric to explain their construction. The setting of the gardener's complex is severely compromised by the poor state of repair of the buildings (other than the gardener's cottage).

Significance
Given the poor condition of the minimal surviving elements of this feature, it is considered that their significance is negligible. Their role would have been in the functional running of the estate, but given the derelict nature of these and nearby structures, there use is now obsolete.

3.6.6 Building adjacent South-East Wall (component 2.3.6)

Origin/history
There is an ancillary building along the exterior of the eastern wall of the walled garden. The function of the structure is likely to be associated with maintenance of the estate. Given its proximity to the previous estate farm buildings (Dovecote House), it may also have served an agricultural function at some time. A structure is marked at this approximate location on the 1817 enclosure map. There is no building marked on the estate map dating from 1809. While the basic structure originates from the early-mid 19th century, the piecemeal nature of the building suggests 20th century repair.

Description
A single-storey ancillary building aligned north-east - south-west and adjoining the southern corner of the south-east exterior wall of the kitchen garden. The building is divided into three sections with an open fronted central section. A single brick built unit with construction in Flemish double-header bond is situated at the south-western end of the building (P1). A single 6-light wooden-frame window with internal horizontal steel bars is located on the south-east elevation. The north-east unit is constructed from timber posts set onto concrete pads with later applied weatherboarding and re-used corrugated iron sheeting. 20th century inserted wooden framed awning windows are present on the south-east elevation. Access is via a doorway on the north-east elevation.

The roof is gabled on the north-east elevation with small hip on the south-west elevation. It is dilapidated with a badly failed ridge and covered in red tile. Internally the roof frame is of timber with cast iron straps. Re-used timbers are in evidence suggesting 20th century repair and re-use. Presently the roof is being supported by Acro-props (P2).

Setting /Integrity
The building is still functional although in a dilapidated state of repair. The roof is sagging with tiles missing in places. 20th century modifications including windows and corrugated sheeting threaten the 19th century integrity of the structure. The building retains its garden setting and function.

Significance
Given the degenerating condition of this building in conjunction with its function, location and vernacular construction, its physical significance is considered to be minimal.

The structures are however significant by association in terms of the historical development and maintenance of the historic garden.

SECTION FOUR: ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 OVERALL STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (SWALLOWFIELD PARK)

Swallowfield Park is included in the English Heritage *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens*, and is therefore considered to be of national significance. However, its Grade II listing indicates that it is not of the highest level of historic interest, and this is due to the erosion over time of the earlier, and more historically significant, schemes of landscape design. While there is evidence that isolated elements of the estate landscape may survive, or represent a continuity of form or function dating back to the medieval period, they are limited in number, and their role within their authentic wider landscape can no longer be read. Similarly, only one feature can be securely attributed to the important 17th century scheme described by Evelyn (see 2.1 above and 4.3 below). The landscape as it currently survives is essentially late 18th /early 19th century in character, with isolated earlier survivals. This period of landscape design is well represented throughout the country, with the result that the landscape of Swallowfield Park cannot be considered to be of high national significance.

The former estate retains a number of listed buildings and structures:
Main house complex including service wings and stables - Grade II*
Bridge over River Blackwater – grade II
Ice house – grade II
Dovecote – grade II
Dovecote House – grade II
Talman gate – Grade II
The Red Lodge – grade II
Walls and piers to Red Lodge – grade II

While the listing of the main house complex indicates that the group are of considerable national significance, the standard grade II listing of all other features reflects their piecemeal survival from different phases of development of the estate, reducing their potential group value.

As discussed in 4.2 below, the main house as it currently survives is essentially early 19th century in character, and is therefore in keeping with the essential character of the designed landscape which forms its setting. Although neither are of the potential level of significance as would have been the case had the external appearance of Talman's late 17th century house survived in its elaborate 17th century landscape setting, the fact that the house and its present setting are of a contemporary character enhances their otherwise reduced interest.

4.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MAIN HOUSE COMPLEX (component 1.0)

The main building complex at Swallowfield Park including the house, the service wings and the stable block is Listed Grade II*, and therefore deemed to be of considerable national importance.

The main house (component 1.1), the service wings (component 1.2) and the stable block (component 1.3) are all attributed to the architect William Talman (1650-1719), and were designed and constructed between 1689-91. While this would suggest Swallowfield Park as a potentially important survival of an English Baroque House, the scope of later alterations have seriously compromised the integrity of the house, both externally and internally, such that the house which survives to this day is essentially early 19th century in character, with only a few important survivals from the late 17th century original.

The exterior of the main house was radically altered in 1825 through its being rendered with Atkinson's 'Roman Cement', which has proved impossible to remove without damage to the underlying brickwork. The exterior therefore survives essentially in its early 19th century appearance, with the exception of the subsequent removal of the triangular pediment from the

east front. Internally, however, the plan form of the upper floors, and of certain areas of the ground floor of the househas been further altered in the later 20th century, as a result of its sub-division into self-contained apartments.

With the exception of the introduction of fenestration into the arcading around the West Court, the exteriors of the service wings and the stable block survive relatively well, and retain much of their late 17th century appearance. Internally, however, the plan form of the stables and service wings have (like the main house) been altered in the later 20th century as a result of their sub-division and conversion into self-contained apartments.

Contributors to significance

- Association with the architect William Talman, former Comptroller of the King's Works and one of the most influential English architects of the late 17th century
- Survival of much of the fundamental structural form and internal layout of Talman's house
- Survival of significant elements of Talman's design, in particular the oval niched garden vestibule, the original staircase, and former door to the Billiard Room
- Survival of the original carved stone door surround to the main house entrance designed by Talman (though now relocated)
- Survival of late 17th century decorative plasterwork attributed to the master craftsman Edward Goudge
- Survival of carved oak door surround attributed to Grinling Gibbons
- Survival of elements of interior design specific to the Earl of Clarendon, including the plaster crest in the centre of the oval vestibule dome, and the cast iron firebacks in the entrance hall and library
- Survival of elements of interior design specific to the former owner Sylvanus Bevan
- Association with the architect William Atkinson
- The extensive survival of Atkinson's architectural drawings and other items documenting the early 19th century scheme of alteration
- The survival and public accessibility of the principal ground floor rooms
- Good survival of the authentic external appearance of the service wings and stable block

Detractors from significance

- Comprehensive loss of the external appearance of Talman's house
- The concealment of the late 17th century brickwork behind a damaging 19th century cement render
- Loss of the pediment on the eastern front
- Replacement of the original roof profile, removal of eaves cornice and construction of parapet
- Loss of much of the internal layout and architectural detail of Talman's house, including Grinling Gibbon's richly carved oak cornice to the original main staircase
- The removal of the late 17th century main entrance door surround (now referred to as the Talman Gate) to the walled garden, and its subsequent painted finish
- Lack of primary documentation relating to the original 17th century house and its architectural detail
- The loss of landscape views of the house and service buildings from the surrounding parkland
- Loss of use of the designed approach to the south front of the house and its substitution with an approach through the stable block and service court
- Loss of utilisation of main entrance door to the house and its substitution with entrance through the service range

4.3 PHASING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LANDSCAPE

Introduction

Historic parks are a major feature of the English countryside and commonly comprise a variety of features including woodland, strategic planting, water features, buildings (such as lodges, model farms, stables, dove cotes, orangeries), kitchen and formal gardens and designed walks. It is rare for a parkland estate to survive in its originally designed layout, as changes in fashion, technology, financial status and national and continental influences result in a continuously evolving landscape. This is certainly true of Swallowfield.

The following assessment attributes identified components of the historic park to specific chronological eras. In forming this timeline, a series of phases of landscape design and alteration can be identified. Also considered are obsolete parkland components identified during the course of this study, which serve to identify and corroborate development phases. The identification of lost components also affects the relative integrity and significance of their associated phase of landscape development.

The main phases of development of the landscape outlined below have been identified through research of primary and secondary documentation, cartographic and fabric analysis and through a series of site visits and comparative study.

Phase 1 Medieval

A manor is listed at Swallowfield in the Domesday survey of 1086 at which time land, a mill and fisheries are recorded. Little in the way of upstanding remains survive from the medieval park. However there are surviving estate components that may have associated medieval origin.

Medieval deer parks exploited as hunting grounds are generally characterized as mixed wood (ancient woodland) and pasture or as individual blocks of wood and pasture managed by grazing and coppicing. This landscape is true of Swallowfield and components such as Great Wood represent the medieval landscape.

Cartographic evidence shows ponds to the north and west of Swallowfield House during the late 18th century (Rocque 1761). Fish ponds are a common element of medieval manor sites and indeed, a park and 'five fisheries' are documented at Swallowfield in the Domesday Book in 1086 and it is possible some of the ponds mapped by Rocque originate with the medieval manor at Swallowfield.

The documentary record also records a court garden and apple garden at Swallowfield in 1542, while the location and enclosure of this garden is not known, its existence reflects the continuous presence of gardens at the site from the medieval period.

Also of note is a dovecote at Swallowfield documented in 1354 (Russell 1901, 49). Dovecote Farm is representative of the medieval site in its former role as estate farm barn. A working farm formed the core of a medieval manor. While the extant building originates from the 17th century, it is likely that there were medieval farm buildings predating this structure. Norden's map dating from 1607 shows a cluster of 4 buildings at a comparable location and it is possible that one or more of these had a farm related purpose.

Norden's map of 1607 suggests that a bridge is likely to have crossed the Blackwater in the vicinity of the extant 5 arched bridge. A road leads southwards towards the river from the manor site. This line is again reflected on Rocque's map of 1761. While the extant bridge is early 18th century in construction, it has increased significance by association with a likely earlier river crossing in this vicinity.

One further feature of the medieval manor has been identified through cartographic analysis. It is probable that the line of the defunct eastern driveway (which joins the south-east corner of the present garden) corresponds with the medieval road leading to Farley Hill on Norden's map (1607). The significance of this route way is lost as the track is no longer discernible other than in the alignment of field boundaries.

Significance and Integrity
The integrity of the medieval park has been masked and compromised by the subsequent development of the parkland estate. While components of the medieval park can be identified through archaeological and historic interpretation and where represented by later components, they are largely invisible in the modern parkland estate. However, there is the possibility for evidence of these features to survive in a buried archaeological context, and should be given consideration in the preparation of any future development proposals which might affect them. There are few indications at present of the location and quality of archaeological evidence for the medieval period.

Medieval parkland components (surviving and documented) are significant in that they form the basis for later parkland development.

Phase 2 Late 17th century-Talman and Lord Clarendon

The historic record indicates that the house at Swallowfield underwent major alterations undertaken by the architect William Talman for Lord Clarendon in the late 17th century, and it is likely that this major programme of work extended across the park and gardens. Much of what we know of the late 17th century parkland comes from Evelyn's commentary dating from 1685, 4 years prior to the Talman rebuild, as many of the features dating from this period have been subsequently obliterated or assimilated into later landscape designs.

Surviving elements
A limited number of components of late 17th century date are represented in the modern parkland landscape. The Yew walk is the only element of the 17th century design to survive to the present day in its intended form. The walk is reputed to have been laid out by Evelyn in the 1680's. It is significant in being a survival from this phase of development, but this significance is reduced by the loss of all other formerly associated components of the landscape described by Evelyn.

Evelyn refers to a kitchen garden in 1685; it is not known whether this garden was enclosed, but it may have been situated in the same location as the walled garden which survives to the present day.

The fabric of the Talman gate (component 2.2.1) formed part of Talman's late 17th century house. Its current location represents a late 18th/early19th century move from the north face of the house to the east side of the walled garden. While the gate is highly significant as an example of late 17th century craftsmanship, its significance in terms of landscape design is attributable to Phase 4.

17th century garden design is likely to have included creation of or improvements to the Decoy Pond situated to the north-west of the house. Rocque's map of 1761 (Fig. 5) shows it to be an integral part of the post Talman landscape.

Elements of the extant Dovecote House also contain elements of 17th century design and fabric representing the building during its time as an estate farm.

Non surviving elements
Cartographic and documentary research identified additional features of the 17th century park that do not survive in the modern landscape.

Rocque's map of 1761 (Fig. 5) depicts a formalised 'Patte Doie' radial design (EH Registered Park and Garden listing 1987) to the south of the house. Stylistically this design is datable to the late 17th century. Pride's map of 1790 shows that by this date the whole park had been landscaped in 18th century English landscape style removing all traces of the 17th century radial design.

Ponds to the north and west of the house as identified by Rocque are also incorporated into the 17th century design, as previously outlined it is possible that they are of medieval origin.

In 1685, Evelyn described a canal, fish ponds and 'two noble orangeries' at Swallowfield. These features pre date the Talman rebuild of the house, but the canal and orangeries are likely to be of 17th century origin. The canal which defined the eastern boundary of the garden ran from the river Blackwater to the south to the Lodden in the north.

It is possible that Talman's contribution to the wider estate included twin gatehouses on the north side of the River Blackwater. A pair of structures are shown on the 1809 estate map (Fig. 6) flanking the line of the driveway. Pride's map of 1790 and an unattributed map dating from 1820 also suggest twin features at this location. The scale and quality of these two maps does, however, make it difficult to assert their presence with any certainty. There was no extant evidence for these structures at the time of survey.

Significance and Integrity

The integrity of the 17th century parkland has, to a large extent, been eroded by subsequent development. While components of the late 17th century park can be identified through archaeological and historic interpretation, only a limited number of extant features survive.

It can be anticipated that extensive evidence will be present across the estate for the 17th century landscaping and watercourse system in the archaeological record. However at present there are no indications as to the quality of that record.

17th century parkland components (surviving and documented) are significant in that they represent the first phase of the establishment of a true country estate at Swallowfield. Their significance forms the basic layout for later parkland development.

Phase 3 Early 18th century-The Pitt Family modifications

Thomas Pitt undertook various alterations to the house and estate in 1718. His modifications appear to be focused on specific elements rather than on garden and parkland landscaping which continued to exist unchanged in their 17th century design.

Certain components dating from this period survive within the modern park. These include the majority of the fabric of the extant walled garden erected during the 1720's and the five arched bridge over the river Blackwater built in 1720. These features largely survive in their early 18th century form with the exception of smallscale extensions to the western end of the walled garden, the introduction of later entrances and minor repair works to the walls and bridge.

The icehouse located in parkland identified by Rocque on the east side of the front gardens east of the canal is likely to be of early 18th century date (Grade II Listed Description SMR ref.41596). Cartographic evidence shows that the mound was in situ in 1809.

The dovecote situated in the former farmyard can be dated typologically to the mid 18th century and it is possible that it was built by the Pitt family who resided at Swallowfield until1737.

The garden design incorporating ponds and the 17th century radial 'Patte Doie' to the south of the house was retained within this phase of landscape design.

Significance and Integrity
Identified parkland elements attributed to this phase survive well in the modern park, indeed they form key stand-alone components (eg. Walled garden, five arched bridge) whose importance and visual impact has continued in spite of subsequent development (with the exception of the icehouse).

However, their survival is generally that of isolated components, rather than as elements of a surviving designed landscape, and the loss of associated components, and of the overall designed landscape to which they once belonged has reduced their potential significance. They are, however, of significance because of their survival and their successful incorporation into subsequent landscape design.

Phase 4 Late 18th/Early 19th century - the laying out of the landscaped park

Landscaping
By the mid to late 18th century, many formal 17th century parks had been transformed into the English landscape style championed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown which dissolved the visual separation of the garden and park to create a natural landscape with designed views and naturalistic features. Pride's map of 1790 reflects this dramatic transition at Swallowfield by which time the 17th century radial design shown to the front of the house by Rocque had been replaced by open landscaping. This natural landscaping is retained unaltered to the present day in the front gardens. The only impact upon its initial integrity is the impact of tree growth on intended views for example views of the house from the front gardens and parkland to the south are impeded by a single large evergreen to the south-east of the façade.

Modifications in landscaping within gardens to the north and west of the house are also notable between 1809 and 1840 these include the filling in of ponds to the west of the house, west of the dovecote and south-west of the house at the site of modern garages and to the north-west of the house running along the western garden boundary.

Other watercourses across the park are also noted to have been infilled between 1809 and 1840 as part of landscaping measures. These include a large pond west of the west drive fed by an artificial tributary off the River Lodden. This pond is visible as a waterlogged linear dip following heavy rain in the present day. Local tradition has it that this is a World War II bomb crater, cartographic analysis has disproved this theory.

A stream running westwards from the canal defining the southern boundary of the front gardens was also filled in between these dates. The line is retained in the fence line defining the modern extent of the front gardens. Several fields to the north, South and west of the walled garden are also defined by watercourses, again these were removed by 1840. These developments may represent landscaping activity or drainage efforts associated with the low lying park. In 1840 the canal traversing the eastern boundary of the inner estate is still in situ.

The naturalised landscape park ethos incorporated free roaming livestock unhindered by visible boundaries into the open design. Significantly this principle endures in the present day when cattle are allowed to roam freely across parkland to the front of the house,

Walled garden
There was an emphasis on more formalised gardens closer to the house during this period and this precedent is reflected in changes within the walled garden at this time.

The Talman Gate was moved to its present location set in the south-eastern wall of the walled garden and by 1840 (Fig. 7) a series of structures (possibly glasshouses) were located against the interior of the north-west wall of the walled garden. These modifications suggest a formal use for the garden in this period. A building is also depicted at the site of the ancillary structure currently extant at the exterior south-east corner of the walled garden.

Technological innovations are also represented at the house with the introduction of a pump house c.1820 outside the north-east corner of the walled garden just beyond the garden boundary. The single storey brick building with pyramid roof was demolished in 1986 CHA 12 and SMR entry).

Significance and Integrity

Phase 4 represents the most dramatic visual overhaul of the parkland estate, eradicating numerous components of medieval and 17th century origin and along with Victorian developments represents the most visually prominent landscape era. In the present day, the landscape style is obvious at Swallowfield particularly in gardens and parkland to the front of the estate where the integrity of this phase of development remains largely uncompromised. The late 18th/early 19th century integrity of the walled garden is however altered by subsequent High Victorian development. Evidence of changing use of the walled garden can be expected to survive in the archaeological record but this would be confined to evidence of layout rather than planting.

This phase of development is significant as an expression of late 18th/early 19th century landscape design and significant in terms of its obvious retention in the modern landscape. In terms of landscaping, this period represents the most visible phase of evolution.

Phase 5 Mid to late 19th century - Victorianisation of the Park

Mid-late 19th century development across the estate reflects a continuation of certain precedents set up in the late 18th and early 19th century and the re introduction of a more formal Victorianised design. For example, a revival in the use of glass houses, kitchen gardens and designed wilderness walks and rides.

Landscaping

Across the gardens and parkland the development of an emphasis on rides and walks is reflected in the laying out of pleasure walks on the north side of the walled garden and the creation of pleasure grounds in association with the Great Wood to the north of the decoy pond. The introduction of exotic trees and shrubs was a key element of Victorian landscape design, planting such as rhododendron and limes can be identified across the rear gardens and wilderness walks. In the front gardens there has been limited introduction of rhododendron planting, the line of the current driveways are also consolidated in this period and noted *in situ* by 1872.

The canal had also been filled in by 1872. A portion of the canal is retained as a silted up pool at the northern extent of the park (English Heritage 1998,3), and the line of the canal is still visible at the outside the south-eastern corner of the garden as a waterlogged linear depression. The eastern extent of the modern gardens to the front and rear of the property are also characterised by less formal and more intense planting, perhaps a reflection of a change in sub surface soils with the deposit of imported infill soil.

Other garden components which originate from this time include the pet cemetery, the woodland garden along the north side of the walled garden and the typically Victorian estate railings erected during the 1870's. These serve to enclose the previously open garden from parkland to the north and represent a distinctive contribution to the landscape character.

Additional components dating from the high Victorian era include the gate lodge (including walls and gate piers) west of the modern driveway and alterations made to Dovecote House.

Cartographic analysis noted the existence of a boathouse at the northern extremity of the park on the east bank of the River Lodden in 1899 and 1913. There is no surviving trace, documentation or oral tradition regarding the existence of this feature, though the boathouse would have been significant as a feature of the Victorian parkland.

Walled Garden

A shift in use is also apparent within the walled garden during the late 19th century. The rise in popularity of the kitchen garden meant that walled gardens took on a more functional role and adaptations at Swallowfield reflect this transition. Wings were added at the north and west corners of the walled garden in 1870's and 80's and glass houses were set within these wings by the turn of the 20th century. Glass houses along the north-western wall had been extended throughout the 19th century and it may be that by this date they had evolved from their role as more formal orangeries to serve as functional greenhouses.

The ancillary buildings on the exterior of the south-eastern garden wall and the Gardener's Cottage are also in evidence by 1872. These buildings again reflect the functional aspect of the walled garden at this time designed as they were for garden maintenance. The Gardener's Cottage underwent a secondary phase of development by 1899 involving the construction of a wing extending into the interior of the garden.

Significance and Integrity
The majority of components dating from this phase survive unchanged within the modern parkland as such represents a significant stage of the surviving park. Its visibility in the modern park is high.

This phase of development is significant as a expression of Victorian ideals and adaptation and revival of landscaping precedents. Of particular significance is the change in role attributed to the walled garden during this period.

Phase 6 20th century

Large scale park creation and development came to an end with agricultural depression of the late 19th century compounded by the impact of World Wars I and 2 on communities local to large houses and aristocratic families themselves. Many estates were utilized in the war effort and large numbers were demolished in the post war period.

In this way, the integrity and significance of various parkland estates was dramatically compromised. The integrity of Swallowfield has been impacted by the sale of outlying parkland into private hands disassociating the core of the estate from its wider parkland setting. However parkland to the west of the Decoy Pond and south of the house is laid to grazing pasture and in this way the intended parkland setting is retained. The rest of the park is now laid to arable again compromising the form of the landscape. This is also true of fallow pasture as represented by the ice house field south-east of the main house.

During 1989 while in the ownership of the Country Homes Association, the walled garden underwent a phase of restoration, prior to this the interior was heavily overgrown. The interior was partially cleared replanted with traditional precedents in mind including a wild garden to the east, a laburnum walk, an apple orchard and flower and vegetable beds. (CHA undated, 14).

Further 20th century modifications include the selling off and conversion of Dovecote House into a private residence compromising its association with the house and its intended function, the construction of concrete garages west of the stables, the breaking up of the main house into individual apartments, the erection of a 20th century building on the lodge site east of the church serving the south-eastern driveway, the loss of the green houses against the interior western garden wall and the erection of several temporary garden structures within the walled and rear gardens.

While all these adaptations ensured the survival of the estate in a somewhat altered form they have had a considerable impact upon the overall integrity of the historic park.

Significance and Integrity
20th century development at Swallowfield has to a certain extent led to the fragmentation of the parkland environment. This is as a consequence of the selling off of historic parkland into

separate ownership and the resulting loss of the estate as a family seat in the 1960's. The 20th century change in use of the house and estate buildings and the abandonment and lack of maintenance of certain ancillary structures further compromises the integrity of the historic estate.

The visual integrity of the park has been compromised to some degree by unsympathetic development (eg. garage construction) to the east of the stableblock and the division of the main property into private apartments. That said, 20th century development is significant as a physical representation of the decline and fragmentation of the country estate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Publications

Beard G, 1975, *Decorative Plasterwork in Great Britain*

Beard G, 1979, *Edward Goudge: 'The Beste Master in England'* National Trust Studies, 1979

Brushe J, 1994, *Some designs by John James,* Georgian Group Journal 1994

Calkins, R, G. 1986, *"Piero de Crescenzi and the Medieval Garden,"* in Elisabeth B. MacDougall (ed.), *Medieval Gardens, Dumbarton Oaks/Trustees for Harvard ...*

Colvin, 1995, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects, 1600-1840*

Country Houses Association, undated, *Swallowfield Park: A Brief History*

Country Houses Association (CHA) c.1996. *Swallowfield Park: A Brief History.* Banbury.

Country Life, Oct 12 1951, *Edward Goudge: A Renaissance Plasterer*

English Heritage *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens* Reference Number GD1520, 1987.

English Heritage 2007. Understanding Values and Assessing Significance in *Principles Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment. London.*

Harris, John 1969 *The Diana Fountain at Hampton Court* in The Burlington Magazine Volume 111, no. 796.

Harris J, 1982, *William Talman: Maverick Architect*

Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) Undated. Farming the Historic Landscape: caring for Historic Parkland. English Heritage internet publication.

Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessments.*

Jourdain M, 1926, *English Decorative Plaster of the Renaissance*

Lees-Milne J, 1970, *English Country Houses: Baroque, 1685-1715*

Pevsner N, 1966, *Buildings of England: Berkshire*

Russell, Lady Constance, 1901, *Swallowfield and its Owners*

Victoria County History 1923 *A History of the County of Berkshire, Volume III.*

Wade Martins S, Williamson T, 1994 *Floated Water-Meadows in Norfolk: A Misplaced Innovation* in Agricultural History Review 42: 20-37 Part 1.

Whinney, M.D. 1955. William Talman in *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, Vol. 18, No. 1/2 (Jan. - Jun., 1955).

Unpublished reports

Collier W O, 1982, *Swallowfield Park, near Reading, Berkshire,* unpublished report for Historic Buildings Commission
Currie, Christopher 2000 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of a proposed development at Swallowffield Park, Berkshire*.

Oxford Archaeological Unit, 2000, *Proposed development at Swallowfield Park, Wokingham.*

Rodney Melville and Partners, 2003, *Swallowfield Park: Fabric Inspection Report,* unpubished client report

Internet resources

www.lbonline,English-heritage.org.uk	English Heritage Listed Buildings website.
www.berkshirehistory.com	Swallowfield history
www.collectionspicturelibrary.com	Photographic archive
www.magic.gov.uk	Geographical information system
www.helm.org.uk	Historic Environment Local Management
www.thepeerage.com	Peerage website

Cartographic Sources

Maps highlighted in **bold** are included as figures in the report

John Norden's Map of Windsor Forest, 1607 (Tracing).

John Rocque's Map of Berkshire c. 1761

Thomas Prides map of Reading and ten miles beyond, 1790

Map of Estate in Swallowfield and Arbourfield belonging to T.H.Earle esq. by Geo. Sweetzer, 1809.

Enclosure Map for the Parish of Swallowfield, 1817.

Unattributed map dating from c.1820 (Provided by client).

Map of Swallowfield by Thomas A Readwin, Wokingham, 1840.

Tithe Map and Apportionment for Swallowfield Parish, 1847.
Altered Tithe apportionment for Swallowfield Parish, 1848

Plan of Swallowfield Estate Property of Sir Charles Russell Bart, surveyed by James Saunderson, 1872

First edition of the 25" Ordnance Survey, 1872.

First Edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey Map (Sheet 45), 1877

Second Edition of the 25" Ordnance Survey Edition, 1899.

Second Edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey Map (Sheet 45), 1900

Third edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey Map(Sheet 45), 1913

Primary documents

Berkshire Record Office
The Russell Papers (D/ERU)

Miscellaneous Correspondance regarding Swallowfield Estate 1806-35.
Legal papers Consent by Sir Henry Russel Bart to the making of a new highway through his lands in exchange for an old road (Now incorporated into Swallowfield Park) being vested In him with plan attached 1828.

RIBA Drawings and Archive Collections
Miscellaneous papers relating to alterations to Swallowfield Park, Reading, Berkshire by William Atkinson (PB UNCAT/3) including:

Russell, Sir Henry 1826 Letter from Sir Russell to William Talman, Reading September 14th 1826.

Russell, Sir Henry undated (c. 1825) Memorandum written by Sir Henry Russell outlining schedule of development works.

Reading Mercury 1933

Appendix One: Significant Associations

William Atkinson (1774/5-1839) - Architect and landscape designer
William Atkinson was born in Durham and started life as a carpenter, he became a pupil of James Wyatt entering the Royal Academy schools in 1796 where he won a gold medal in 1797. In 1813, he became architect to the Ordnance Office.

He was primarily a country-house architect, though usually specialized in the design of picturesque Gothic houses, though he was not a very sensitive architect, and his Gothic detail was said to have lost the elegant charm of the 18th century, without achieving the scholarship of the 19th. (Colvin, 1995). Of his few classical works, the interiors of Broughton Hall, Yorks., are said to be the most successful, and show that he could rival some of the best Regency designers.

His work includes Castle Eden, Durham for Rowland Burdon, Bretton Park in Yorkshire, the central tower of Durham Cathedral in 1809-12 and the Ordnance Offices at 86 Pall Mall, London. as well as his Gothic reconstruction (1803–12) of Scone Palace, Abbotsford (1816–23) for Sir Walter Scott. He is known for his introduction of 'Roman cement' (known as Atkinson's cement) as used on the exterior of Swallowfield House, his use of stucco and the invention of a system for heating conservatories with hot water. Atkinson also had a passion for horticulture and often planted rare species.

Sylvanus Bevan (Owner of Swallowfied 1783-1788) - Banker
Sylvanus Bevan was the son of Timothy Bevan and Elizabeth Barclay, daughter of linen draper and banker David Barclay. Sylvanus' uncle of the same name was an influential London based Quaker apothecary. The pharmacy was passed to Timothy on his brother's death and Sylvanus was involved in the business for a short period of time. In 1766, Sylvanus left the pharmacy to become a partner in his mother's family banking firm later known as Barclays. At the beginning of the 19th century, the bank was known by the names of its owners Barclay, Bevan, Tritton and Co.

Sylvanus' second marriage was to Louisa, daughter of another London Banking family and controversially not a Quaker. The family including 7 sons moved to Swallowfield in 1783 where they resided for 5 years.

John Evelyn (1620-1706)
John Evelyn the renowned late 17th century diarist, landscape designer and writer was a commentator on various subjects including architecture, social affairs (*Fumifugium* or *The Inconveniencie of the Aer and Smoak of London Dissipated-addressing the problems of pollution in London*), politics and gardening. He was a key figure in seventeenth-century intellectual life in England. He left an immensely rich literary heritage, which is of great significance in terms of garden history. He is perhaps best known for *Sylva or Discourse on Forest Trees* (1664), a compilation of thoughts on practical estate management, gardening, and philosophy, and the first book published by the Royal Society in London which he helped to establish in 1660). It was written as an encouragement to landowners to plant trees to provide timber for England's burgeoning navy.

Evelyn's interest in garden design began when he moved to Sayes Court in Deptford, in south-east London in 1652. In 1671, he encountered master wood-worker Grinling Gibbons (who was renting a cottage on the Sayes Court estate) and introduced him to Sir Christopher Wren and Talman who used his craftsmanship at Swallowfield (See below). Evelyn's interest in gardens led him to design pleasure gardens, such as those at Euston Hall in Suffolk, Albury Park in Surrey and the Yew Walk at Swallowfield.

Grinling Gibbons (1648-1721)
Gibbons who originated from the Netherlands came to England in about 1667 and soon gained a reputation as a master wood carver. John Evelyn wrote of him:
"I saw the young man at his carving, by the light of a candle. I saw him to be engaged on a carved representation of Tintoretto's "Crucifixion", which he had in a frame of his own making" (www.wikipedia.org).

Evelyn went on to describe what he had seen to Sir Christopher Wren who introduced him to King Charles II from whom he received his first commission which survives in the dining room of Windsor Castle. He was further employed by Wren to work on St Paul's Cathedral and in 1680 was appointed as 'King's carver' to George I. Many fine examples of his work can still be seen in the churches around London - particularly the choir stalls and organ case of St Paul's Cathedral (Ibid).

Gibbons was responsible for the intricately carved oak cornicing associated with Talman's central staircase, which is now lost.

Edward Goudge (l.17th – e.18th C)
Goudge was one of the most important plasterers at work in the late 17th century, yet he did not owe his fame to any connection with the Office of Works, or with Sir Christopher Wren. He seems to have had an early connection with Hawksmoor, but, from the early 1680's was principally employed by the architect William Winde (?-1722).

The unpublished correspondence between Winde and his cousin Lady Mary Bridgeman provides a good idea of Goudge's commissions. He commended him to her, saying that *"he is now looked on as ye beste master in England in his profession…".* It is from correspondence that it is known that Goudge *"is employed by ye Earle of Clarendone att his house at Swallowfield where I believe hee will have above a 12 monthes worke"* (Beard,) and that some of the work was delayed by Goudge's illness.

Henry Hyde, Second Earl of Clarendon
Henry Hyde (1638-1709) was a prominent figure in late 17th century political and royal circles and by association contributes to the cultural and historical significance of Swallowfield Park. He was influential in the courts of Charles II (1660-85) and James II (1685-88), his sister married James II and was mother to Queen Mary (1688-94) and Queen Anne (1702-14) making him maternal uncle to the Royal household. In 1685, King James II, appointed Lord Clarendon as Lord Privy Seal and a few months later, he was made Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. In 1687, Henry and his brother, the Earl of Rochester, fell from the king's favour and were dismissed.

In December 1688, Henry and Lord Rochester joined the party of William of Orange during the Revolution of 1688. The following year, however, Henry refused to swear an oath of allegiance to William, and was imprisoned as a Jacobite for six months. It was in the months leading up to his arrest that Hyde embarked a remodeling of Swallowfield House and grounds.

John James (1672-1746)-Landscape Architect
James was apprenticed to Matthew Banks, Master Carpenter to the Crown from 1683 to 1706 and lodged with him at Hampton Court from 1689 until 1697. He is known for his skills as a bricklayer. He was architect for the rebuild of the nave of St Mary's Church, Twickenham which collapsed in 1713, and the brickwork reflects James' skilful use of that material. He was involved in the design of various country homes including Standlynch (now Trafalgar) House, Wiltshire for Sir Peter Vandeput. He eventually succeeded Sir Christopher Wren as Surveyor to St Paul's Cathedral.

His influence extended beyond the architecture of buildings into garden design, he wrote *The Theory and Practice of Gardening* in 1712. He is credited with the introduction of Baroque Continental practice in architecture, decorative painting and formal garden planning available to English patrons and craftsmen.

Thomas 'Diamond' Pitt (1653-1726) - Merchant Trader

Thomas Pitt, the East India merchant and Governor at Madras was born in Dorset on 5th July 1653. In 1674, Pitt went to India, where he worked as an "interloper", trading in defiance of the British East India Company's legal monopoly on Indian trade. Upon his return to England he gained a seat in the House of Commons. His eldest son, Robert, was father of William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham, often called "William Pitt, the Elder" who went on to become Prime Minister.

With the money Pitt received for a famous single diamond, he began to consolidate his properties including his favorite residence, Swallowfield Park where he died in 1726.

Sir Henry Russell

Sir Henry **Russell**, the first Baronet of Swallowfield. was born before 1776. He held the office of Lord Chief Justice of Bengal (www.thepeerage.com).

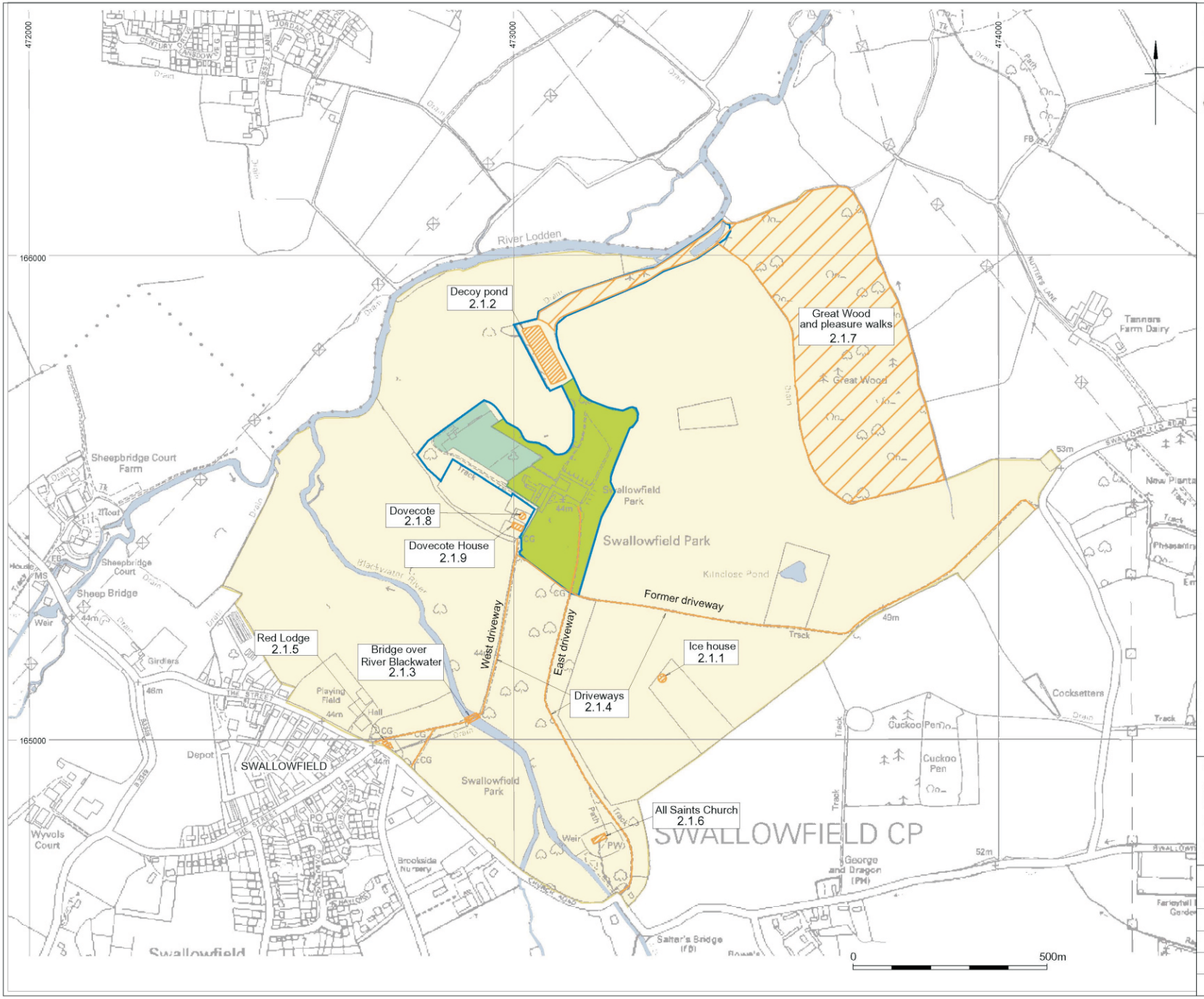
William Talman (1650-1719) - Architect

In 1678, Talman obtained the office of King's Waiter in the Port of London. It was here that he shared a customs post with his uncle Thomas Apprice, who was a member of Clarendon's household, and he is known to have lent Clarendon £800 by 1685. He was a close and frequent collaborator with the garden designer George London, regularly designing "all of the major architectural episodes" in London's gardens, such as greenhouses, bowling greens and orangeries. Interestingly, London was working for the Earl of Clarendon at Cornbury in 1689, and it is possible that this was another connection which led to Talman's appointment at Swallowfield.

Talman was appointed Comptroller of the Kings works on May the second 1689, and continued in this post until the death of King William in 1702. At the same time, he was also the Earl of Portland's deputy as Superintendent of the Royal Gardens, and became involved in extensive works at Hampton Court.

Talman enjoyed a considerable reputation as a country-house architect, until he was eclipsed by Vanbrugh, though the list of his fully authenticated works amounts to only eight or nine buildings; most notably, Stanstead Park, Sussex, for the Earl of Scarborough, Chatsworth House, Derbyshire for the 1st Duke of Devonshire, Drayton House, Northants and Kiveton Park, Yorkshire for the 1st Duke of Leeds. He was also responsible for the interiors of the state apartments at Hampton Court for William III.

He was a pioneer of the Baroque style in private buildings, though he was also an eclectic designer, whose work shows no consistency in style, nor any clearly discernible chronological development (Colvin, 1995), a truly "Maverick Architect" (Harris, 1982).



Conservation Management

Wessex Archaeology

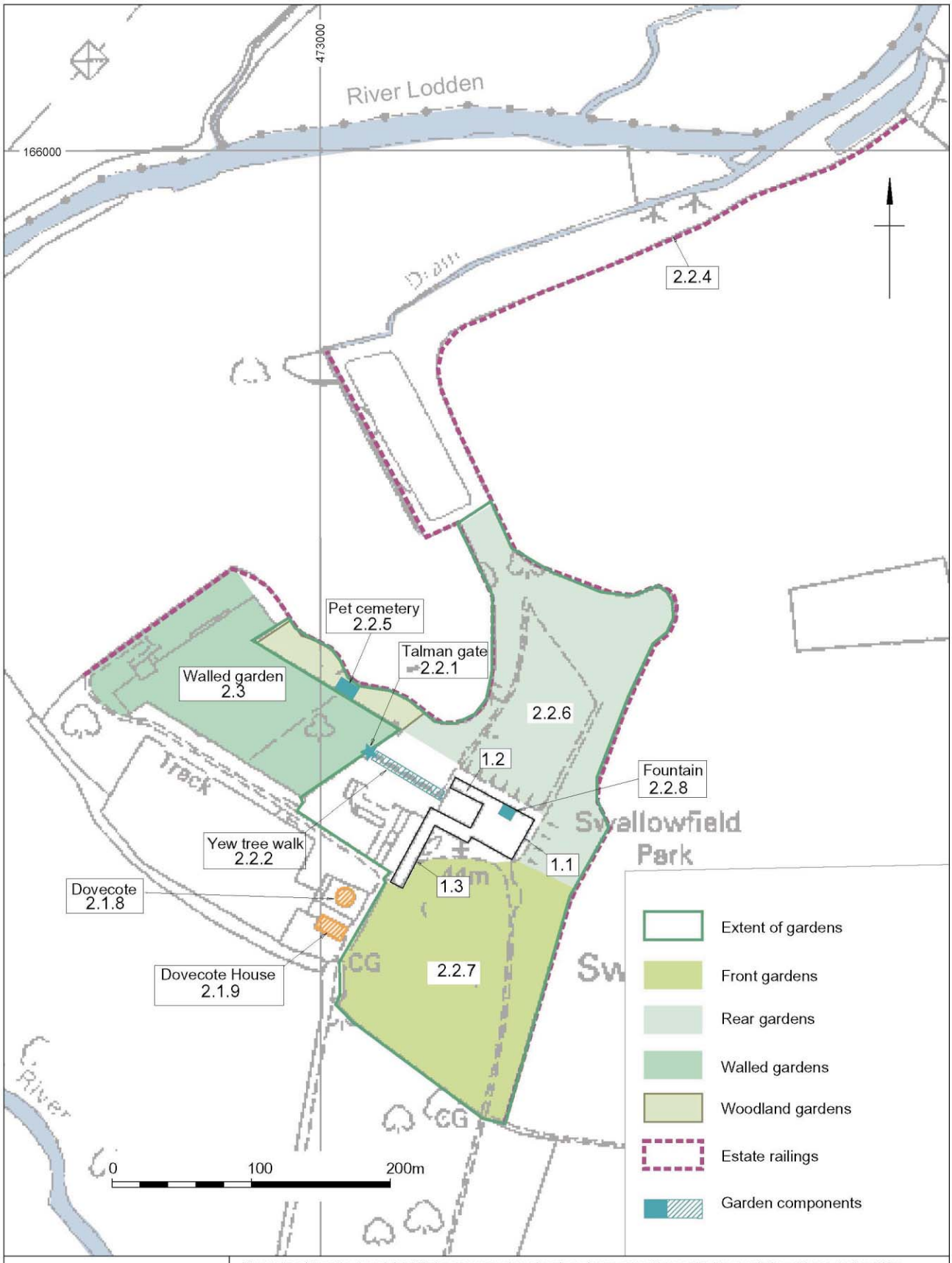
- Modern extent of estate (Land still retained within the House)
- Extent of former parkland (Area covered by Registered Park and Garden Status)
- Named parkland components
- Gardens
- Walled gardens

Revision Number:	0
Illustrator:	SEJ
Date:	5/7/07
Scale:	1:8000
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\66120\Drawing Office\

Report Figures (y-m)\Cons DBA\07_07_05\ Sitebase.dwg

Site location maps

Figure 1



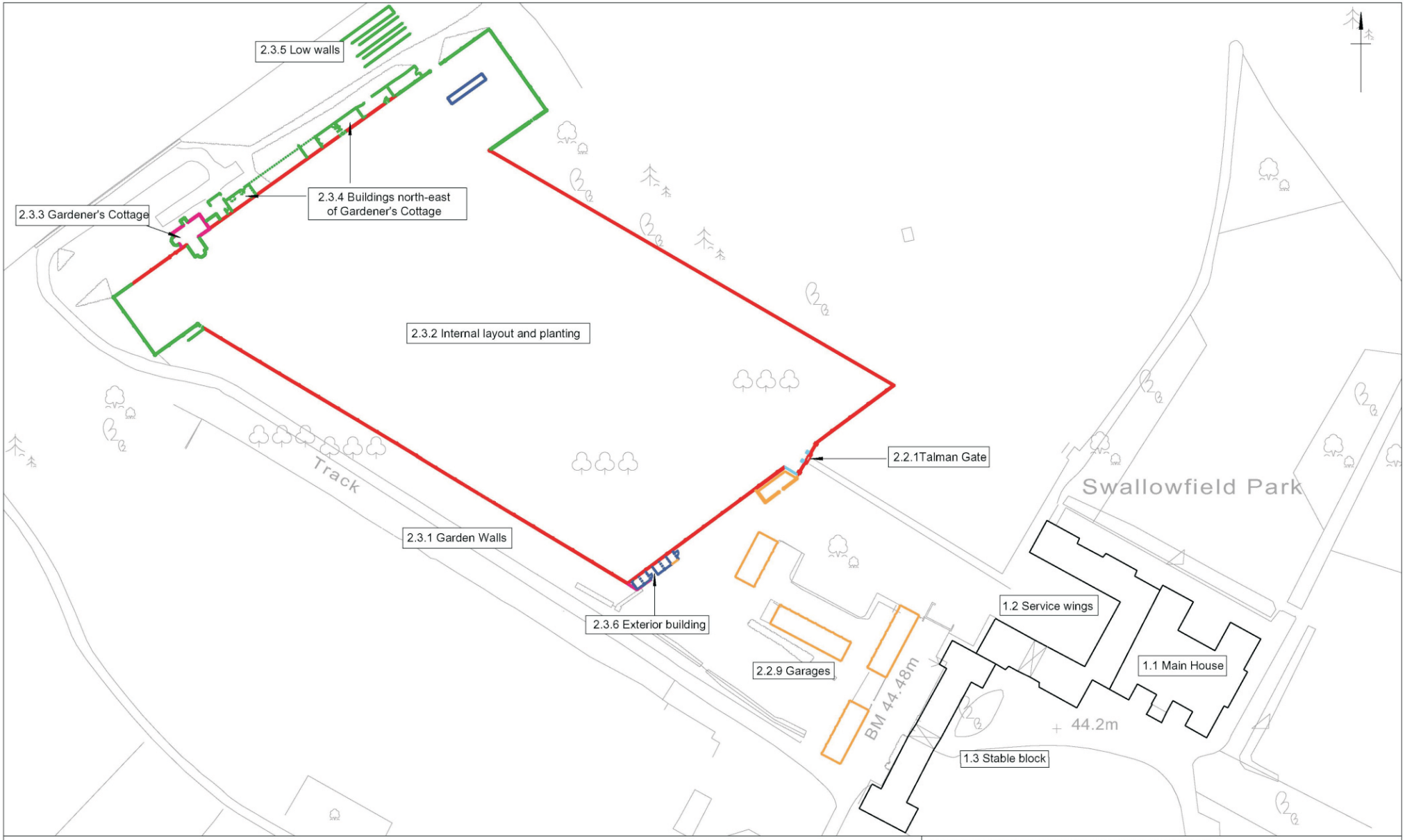
Conservation Management

Wessex Archaeology

Date:	13/7/07	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:4000	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\66120\Drawing Office\Report Figures (y-m)\Cons DBA\07_07_05\ Sitebase.dwg		

Plan showing garden components

Figure 2

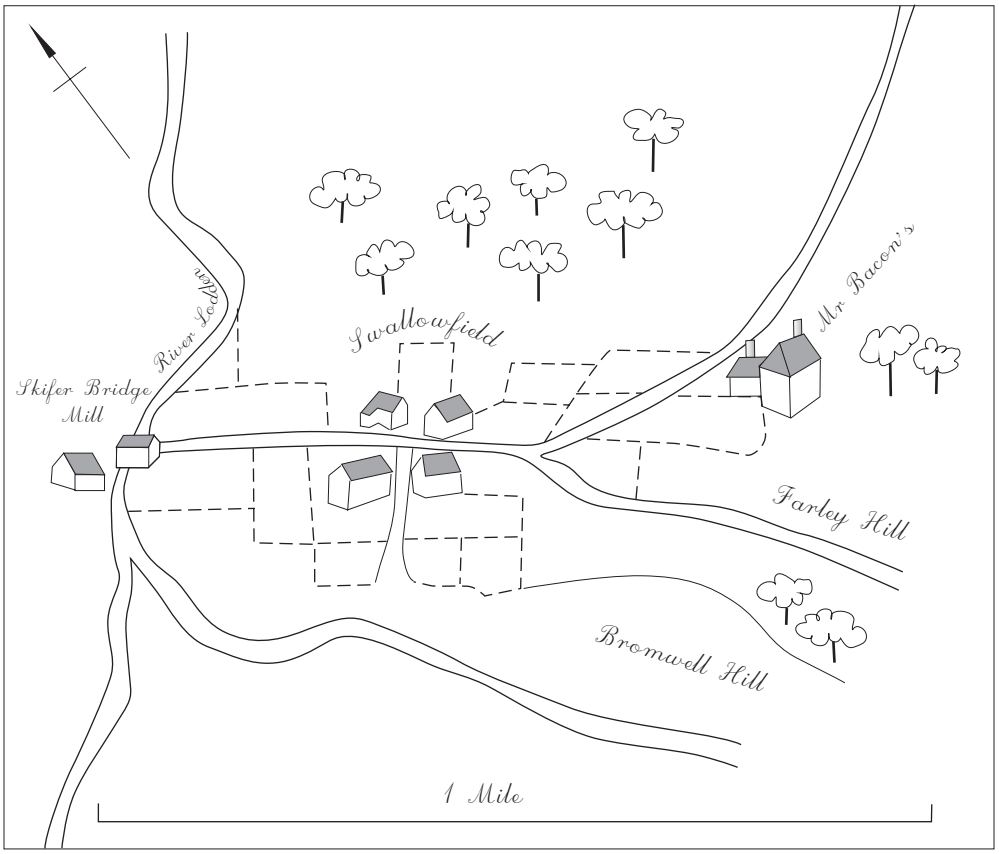


Conservation Management
Wessex Archaeology

Date:	13/07/07	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	MJR
Path:	Y:\Projects\66120\Report Figs\Cons DBA\07_07_05\Garden phase.dwg		

Key to Main House complex and Walled Garden (phased)

Figure 3



Conservation Management Wessex Archaeology	Date:	6/07/07	Illustrator:	SEJ
	Path:	Y:\Proj\66120\DO\RepFigs\Cons DBA\07_07_05\A4fig4.cdr		

Extract from John Norden's Map of Windsor Forest, 1607 (drawing taken from a tracing of the original) Figure 4

Conservation Management Wessex Archaeology	Date:	6/7/07	Illustrator:	SEJ
	Path:	Y:\Proj\66120\DO\RepFigs\Cons DBA\07_07_05\A4fig5.cdr		

John Roque's Map of Berkshire, 1761

Figure 5

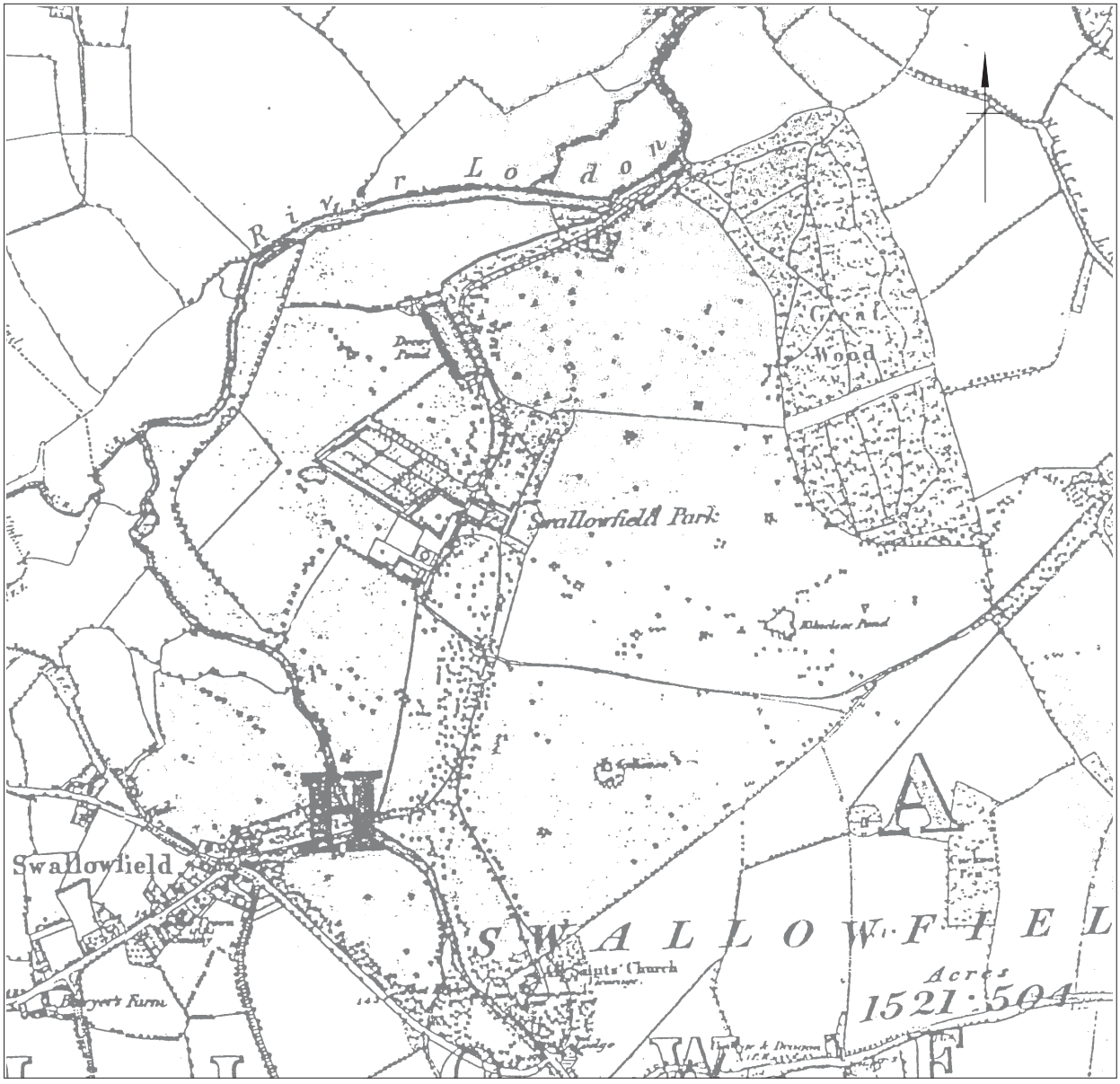
Conservation Management Wessex Archaeology	Date:	6/07/07	Illustrator:	SEJ
	Path:	Y:\Proj\66120\DO\RepFigs\Cons DBA\07_07_05\A4fig6.cdr		

Map of Estate in Swallowfield and Arbourfield belonging to T.H.Earle esq. by Geo. Sweetzer, 1809 Figure 6

Conservation Management Wessex Archaeology	Date:	6/07/07	Illustrator:	SEJ
	Path:	Y:\Proj\66120\DO\RepFigs\Cons DBA\07_07_05\A4fig6.cdr		

Swallowfield Estate Map by T.A. Readwin, Wokingham, 1840

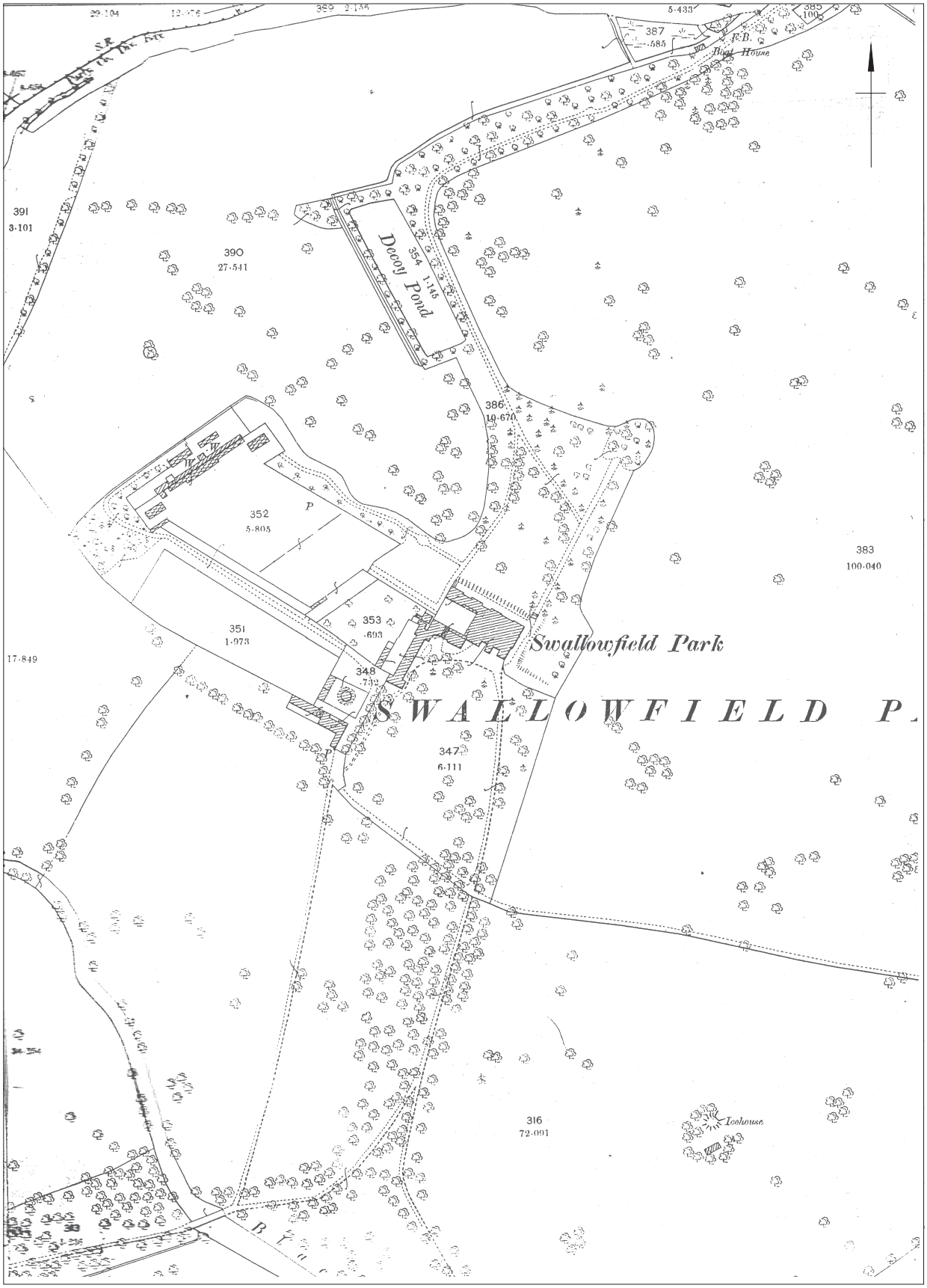
Figure 7



Conservation Management Wessex Archaeology	Date:	6/07/07	Illustrator:	SEJ
	Path:	X:\Proj\58160\DO\RepFigs\HBR\04_10\A4fig4.cdr		

First edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey Map (Sheet 45), 1877

Figure 8



Conservation Management Wessex Archaeology	Date:	6/07/07	Illustrator:	SEJ
	Path:	X:\Proj\58160\DO\RepFigs\HBR\04_10\A4fig4.cdr		

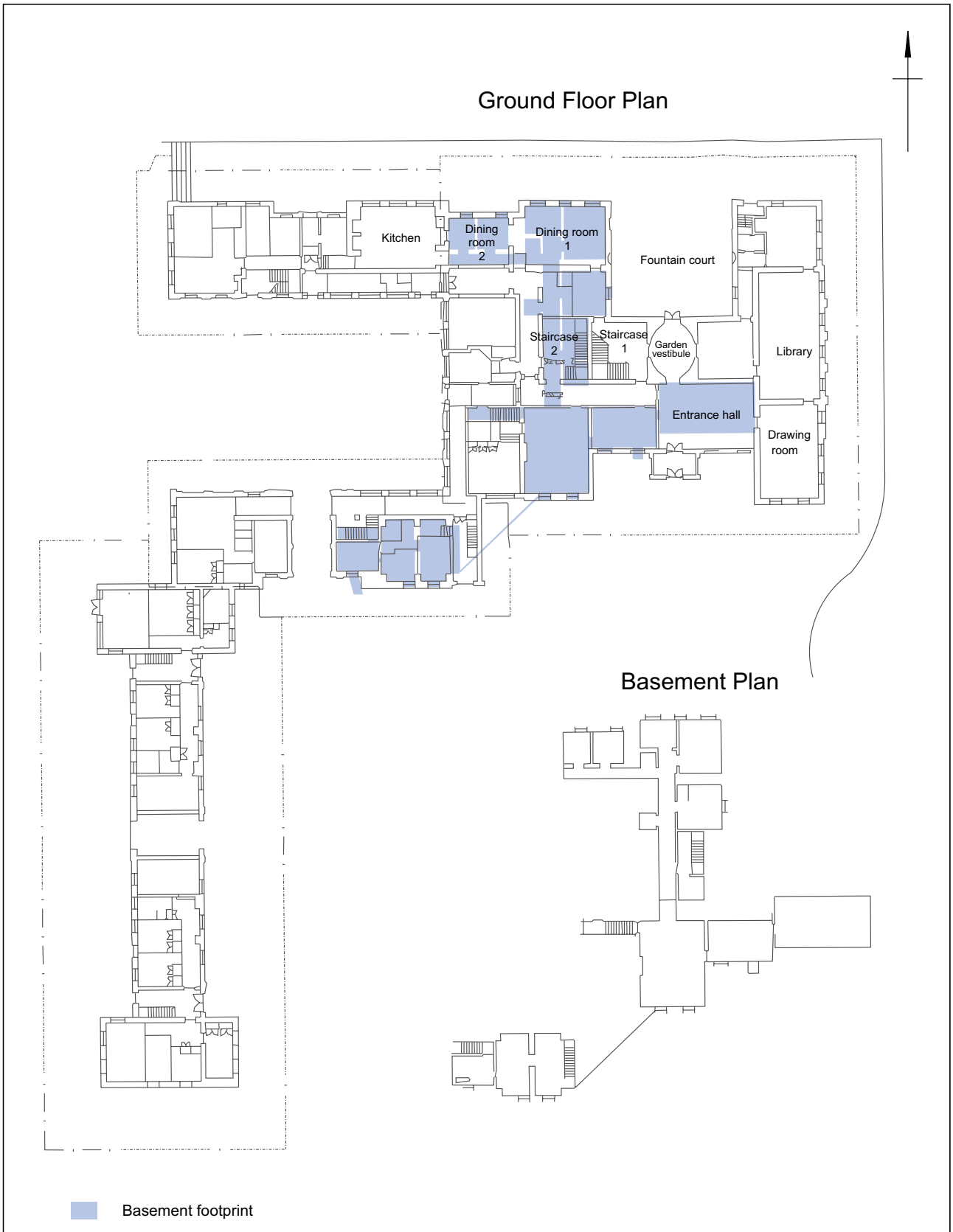
25" Ordnance Survey Map, 1899

Figure 9

Conservation Management Wessex Archaeology	Date:	6/07/07	Illustrator:	SEJ
	Path:	X:\Proj\58160\DO\RepFigs\HBR\04_10\A4fig4.cdr		

Third edition of the 6'' Ordnance Survey Map, 1913

Figure 10



Conservation Management

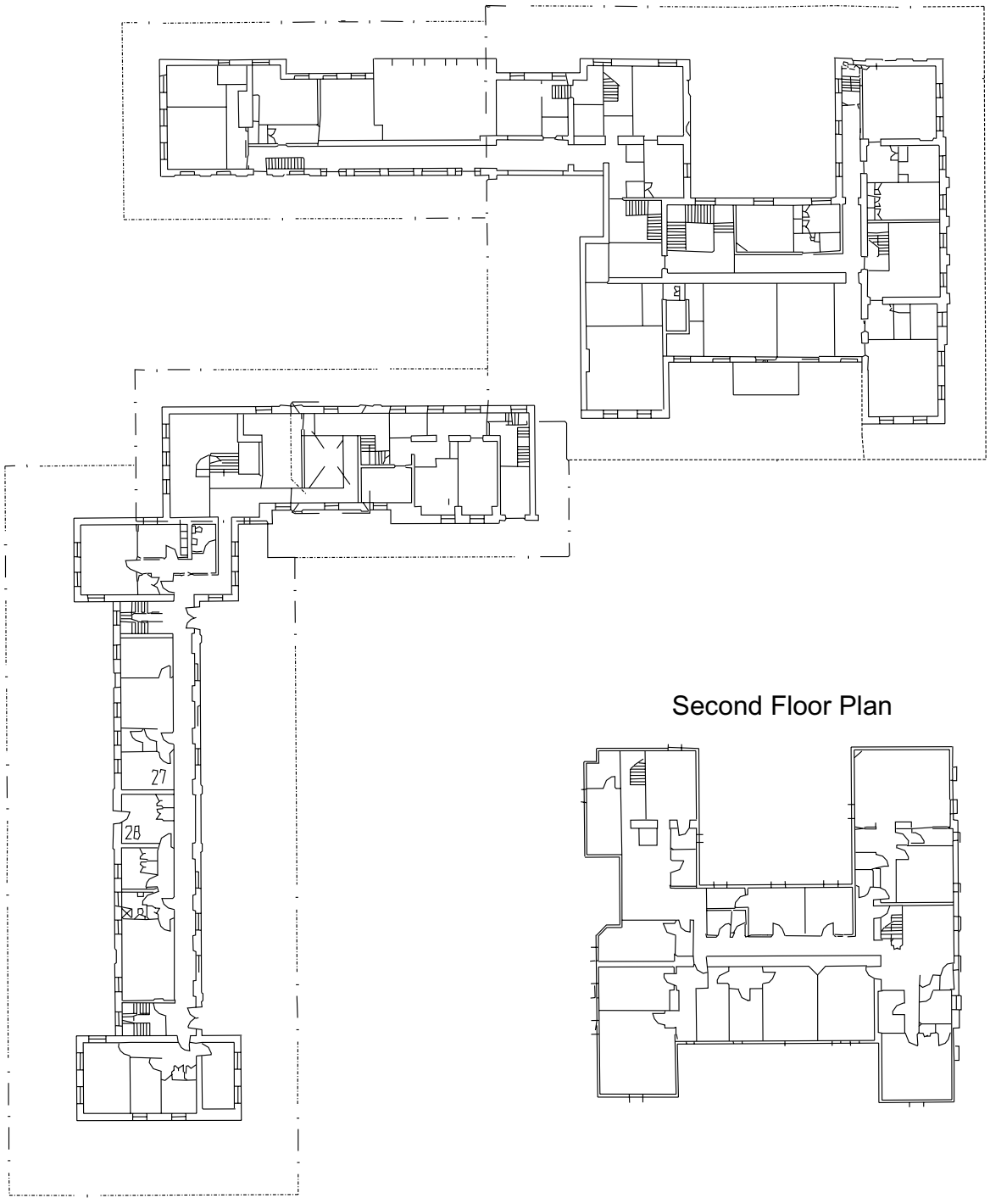
Wessex Archaeology

Date:	13/7/07	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	NTS	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\66120\Drawing Office\Report Figures (y-m)\Cons DBA\07_07_05		

Basement and Ground floor as existing

Figure 11

First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

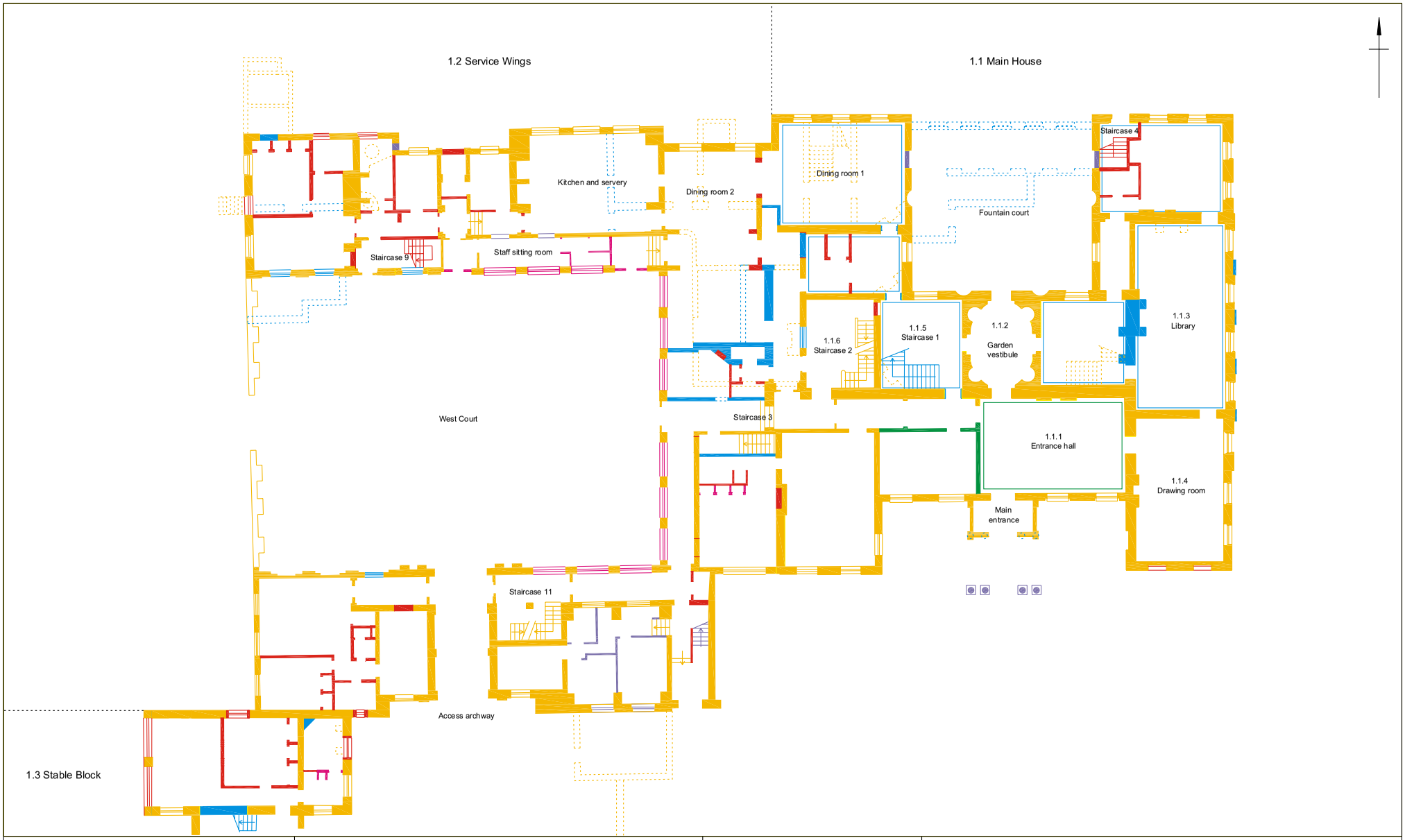
Conservation Management

Wessex Archaeology

Date:	13/7/07	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	NTS	Illustrator:	SEJ
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\66120\Drawing Office\Report Figures (y-m)\Cons DBA\07_07_05		

First and Second floors as existing

Figure 12



FABRIC

- Talman 1689 - 91
- For Bevan 1783
- Atkinson 1825 - 26
- Fabric removed by Atkinson
- Atkinson fabric lost
- 1825 - 1962
- 1965
- Late 20th century

INTERIORS

- Interiors redesigned by Atkinson 1826
- Interior dating to Bevan 1783

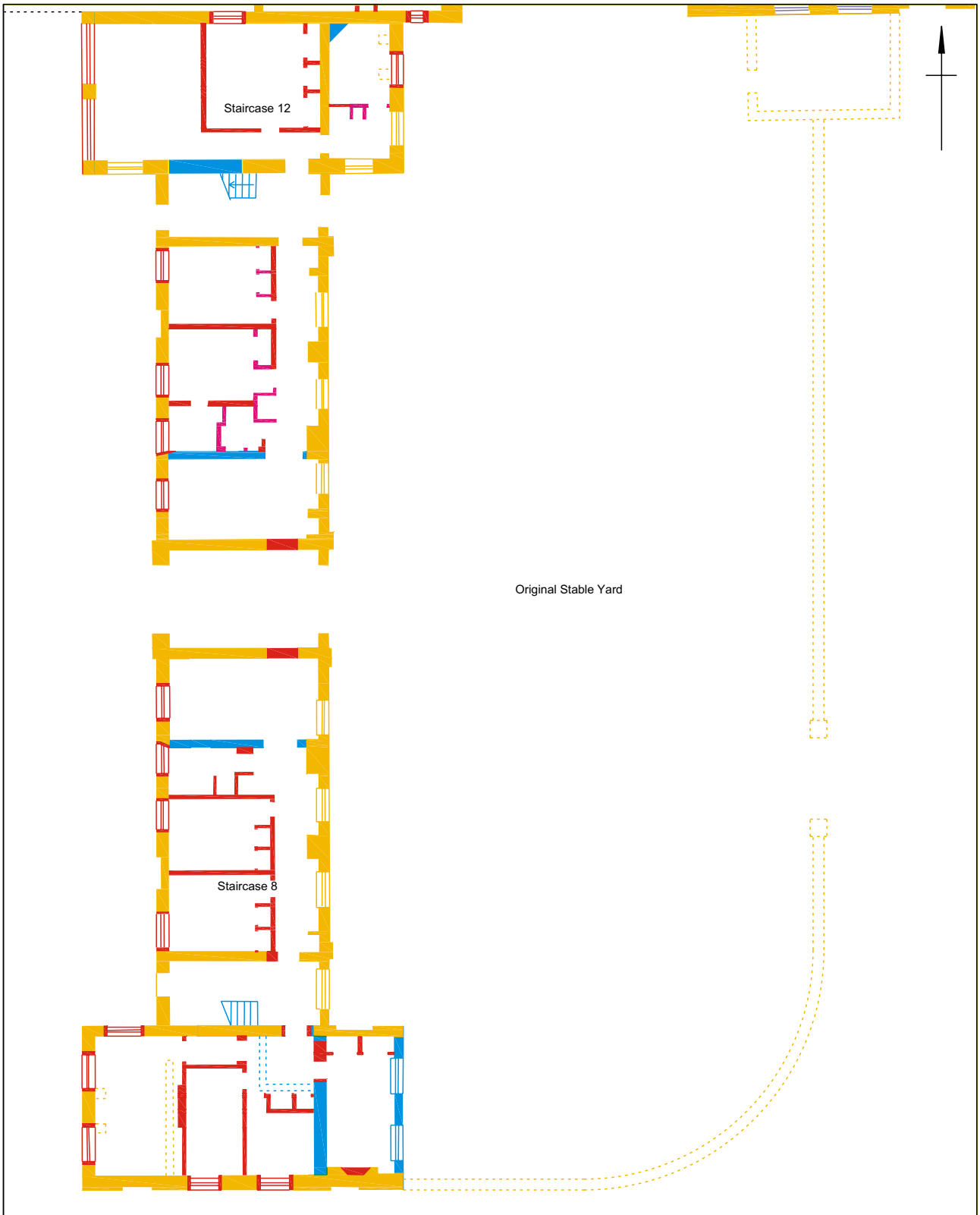
Conservation Management

Wessex Archaeology

Date:	10/07/07	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:250	Illustrator:	MJR
Path:	X:\Projects\66120\ACAD\Swallowfield phase.dwg		

Phased Ground floor plan of Main House (1.1) and Service Wings (1.2)

Figure 13



FABRIC

Talman 1689 - 91	Fabric removed by Atkinson	1965
For Bevan 1783	Atkinson fabric lost	Late 20th century
Atkinson 1825 - 26	1825 - 1962	

Conservation Management

Wessex Archaeology

Date:	10/07/07	Revision Edition: 0	Checked by: OOO
Scale:	1:250	Drawn by: MJR	
Path:	X:\Projects\66120\ACAD\Swallowfield phase.dwg		

Phased Ground floor plan of Stable Block (1.3) Figure 14

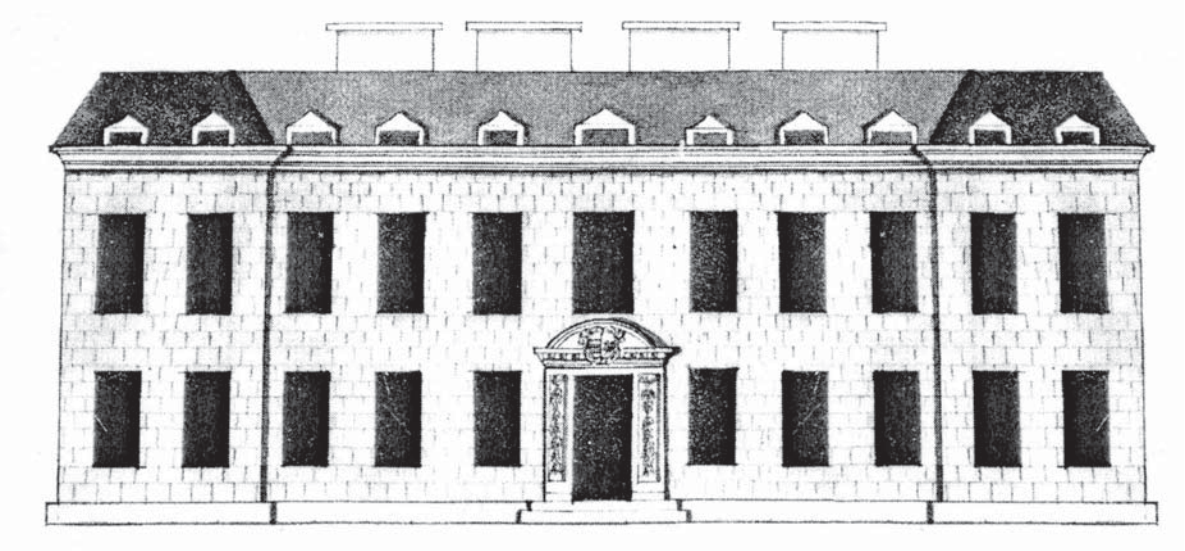


Plate 1: Mid 18th century “View of the front towards the basin” (north elevation)

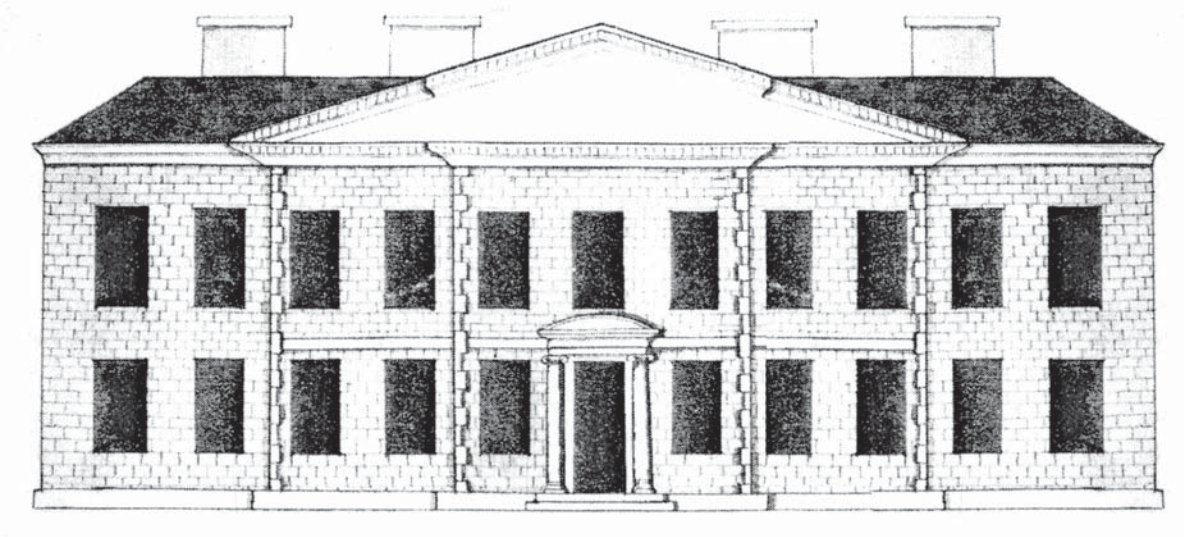


Plate 2: Mid 18th century “View of the front towards the park” (east elevation)

Wessex Archaeology	Date:	13/07/07	Revision Number:	
	Scale:		Illustrator:	WAF
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\66120\Drawing Office\Report Figures (y-m)\Plates\07_07_13\Plates 1_2.ai		

Plates 1 and 2

Plate 3: Pre-1965 photograph of the Talman Gate

Wessex Archaeology	Date:	13/07/07	Revision Number:	
	Scale:		Illustrator:	WAF
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\66120\Drawing Office\Report Figures (y-m)\Plates\07_07_13\Plate 3.ai		

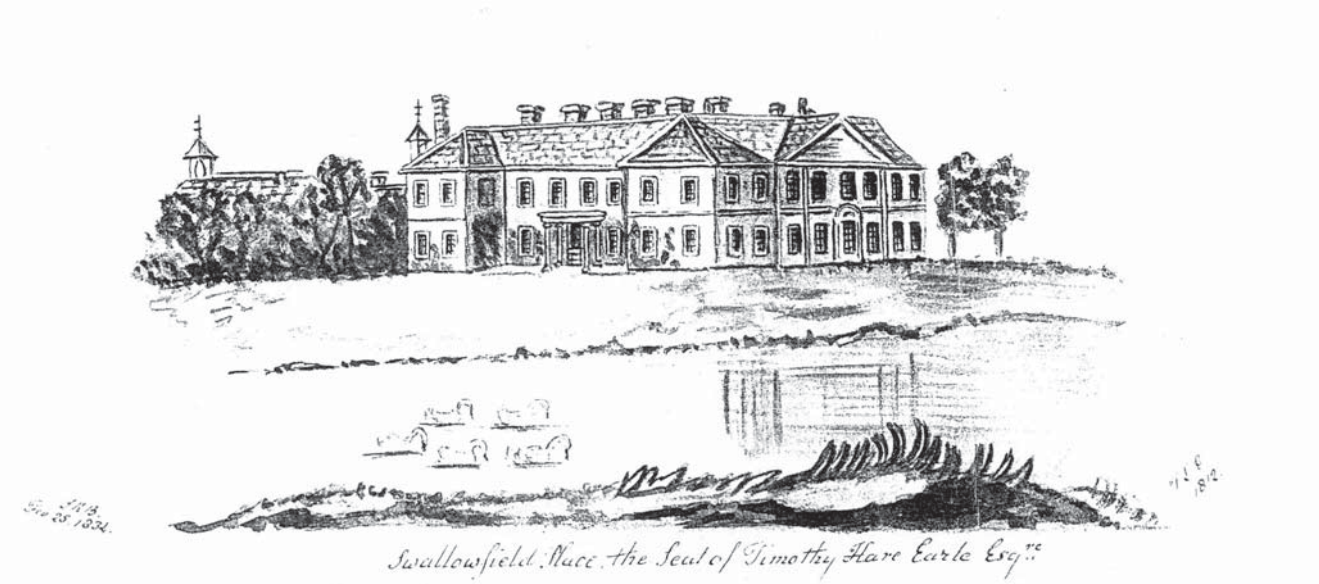


Plate 4: Early 19th century sketch of the house from the south-east

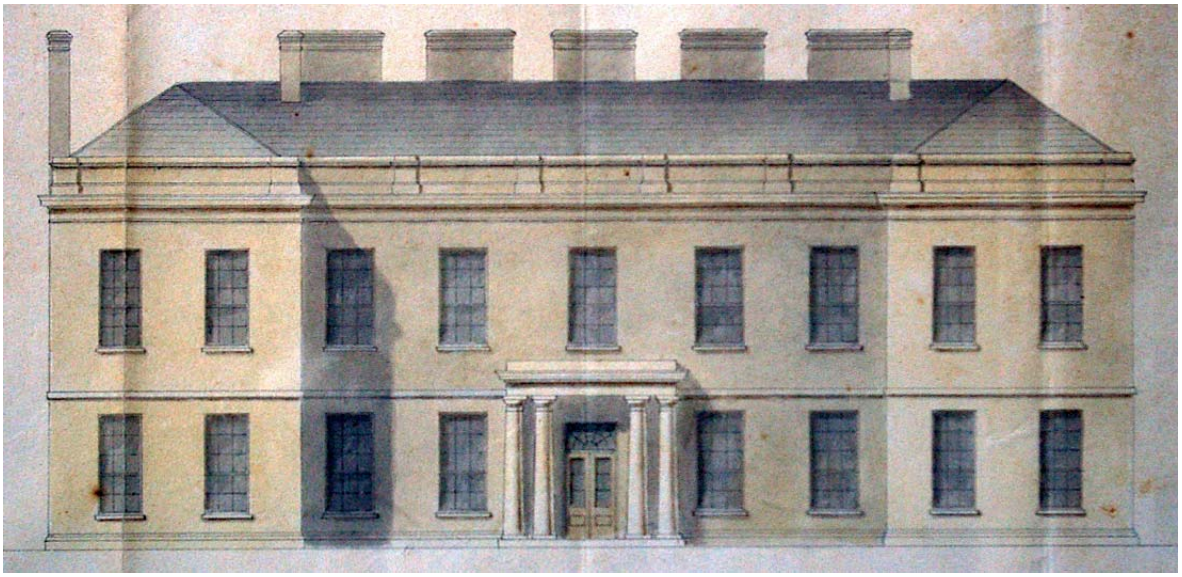


Plate 5: South front of the house by William Atkinson (original in house)

Wessex Archaeology	Date:	13/07/07	Revision Number:	
	Scale:		Illustrator:	WAF
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\66120\Drawing Office\Report Figures (y-m)\Plates\07_07_13\Plates 4_5.ai		

Plate 6: North front of the house by William Atkinson, showing glazed corridor (original in house)

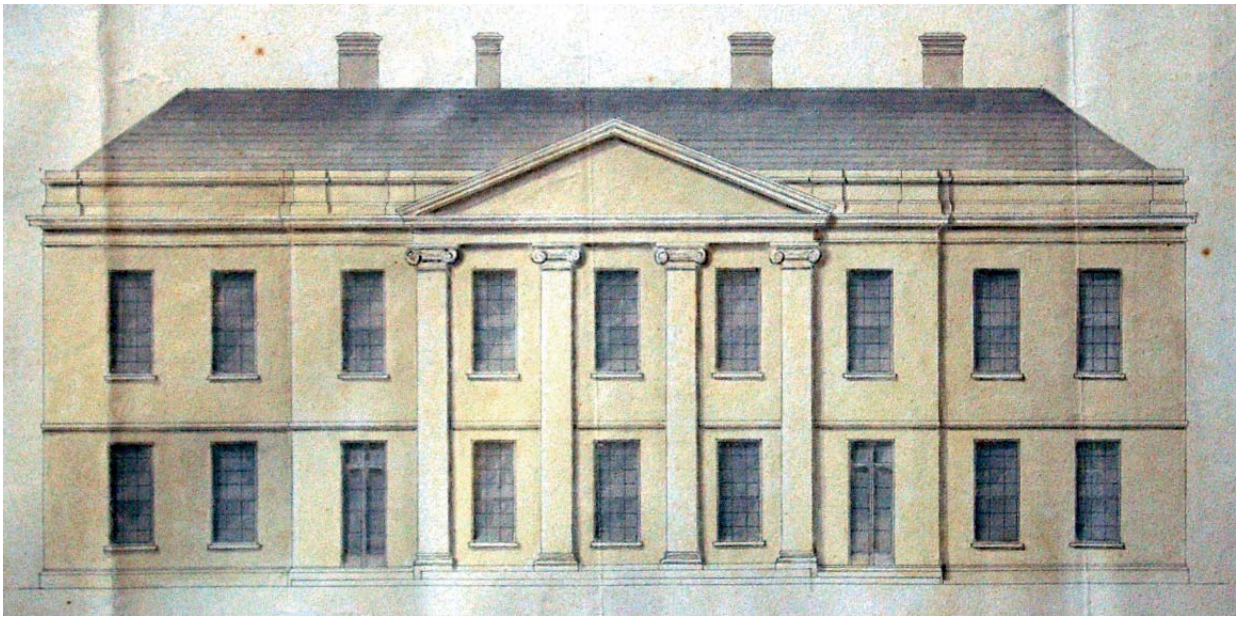


Plate 7: East front of the house by William Atkinson (original in house)

Wessex Archaeology	Date:	13/07/07	Revision Number:	
	Scale:		Illustrator:	WAF
	Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\66120\Drawing Office\Report Figures (y-m)\Plates\07_07_13\Plates 6_7.ai		

WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.
Registered Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk
Maidstone Office: The Malthouse, The Oast, Weavering Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5JN.
Tel: 01622 739381 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk