

Blenheim Palace World Heritage Site Management Plan

Blenheim Palace Estate and Wessex Archaeology

Blenheim Palace was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh and built between 1705 and 1722. The estate was landscaped by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the 1760s. But the history of the estate actually goes back over 6,000 years.

Wessex Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Historic Landscape Management Ltd for the Blenheim Estate and the Countryside Agency to report on the condition of significant archaeological sites and monuments on the estate.



Blenheim Park



Bowl Barrow



Grim's Ditch



Romano-British Temple



Roman Road



Park Pale



The Motte



Fair Rosamund's Well

Wessex Archaeology Ltd is one of the largest archaeological practices in the country and unique in that it deals with all aspects of our buried, built and underwater heritage. It is a registered charity, and one of its aims is to help people find out more about archaeology.



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Blenheim's First Visitors

The archaeological record tells us that people first visited the Blenheim area as far back as the Neolithic period. Follow the time line to uncover more about Blenheim's past.

Neolithic 4000-2400BC

A Neolithic axe-head was discovered in Blenheim Park.



Saxon AD410-1066

Only a small scattering of Saxon pottery has been found on the estate

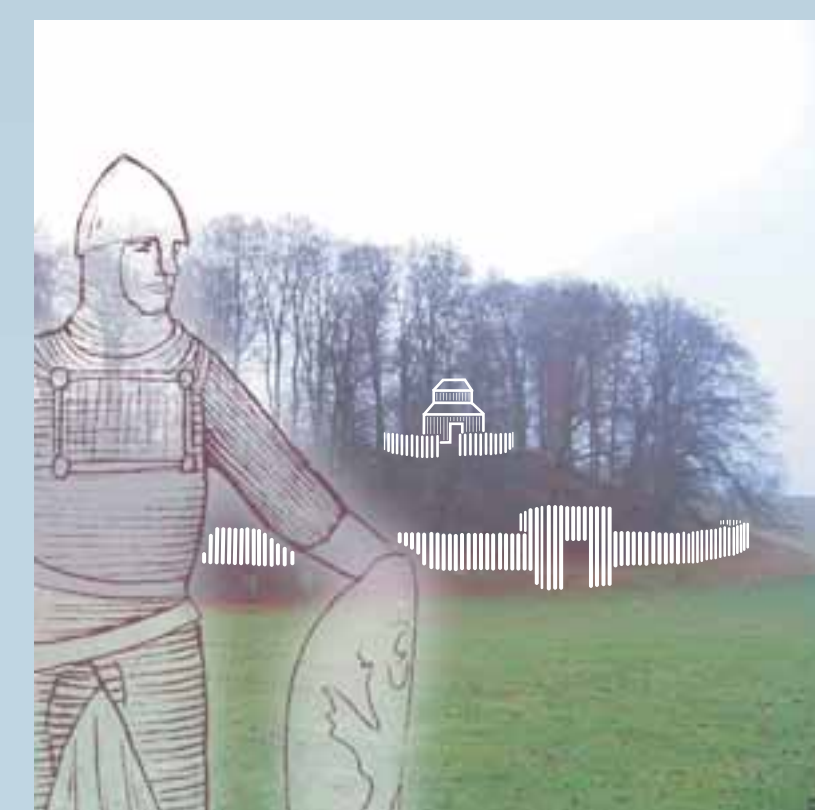
Medieval AD1066-1499

The estate became part of a royal forest when Henry I enclosed the park in the Twelfth century.



Bronze Age 2400-700BC

There is a Bowl Barrow on the estate. These are funerary monuments and it may have looked like this.



Medieval AD1066-1499

The Medieval motte is the possible location of a castle documented as being fortified for Empress Matilda in 1141.

Iron Age 700BC-AD43

A ditch and bank known as Grim's Ditch runs through the park. It is part of an enclosure that covers 5,700 hectares of countryside in north Oxfordshire.

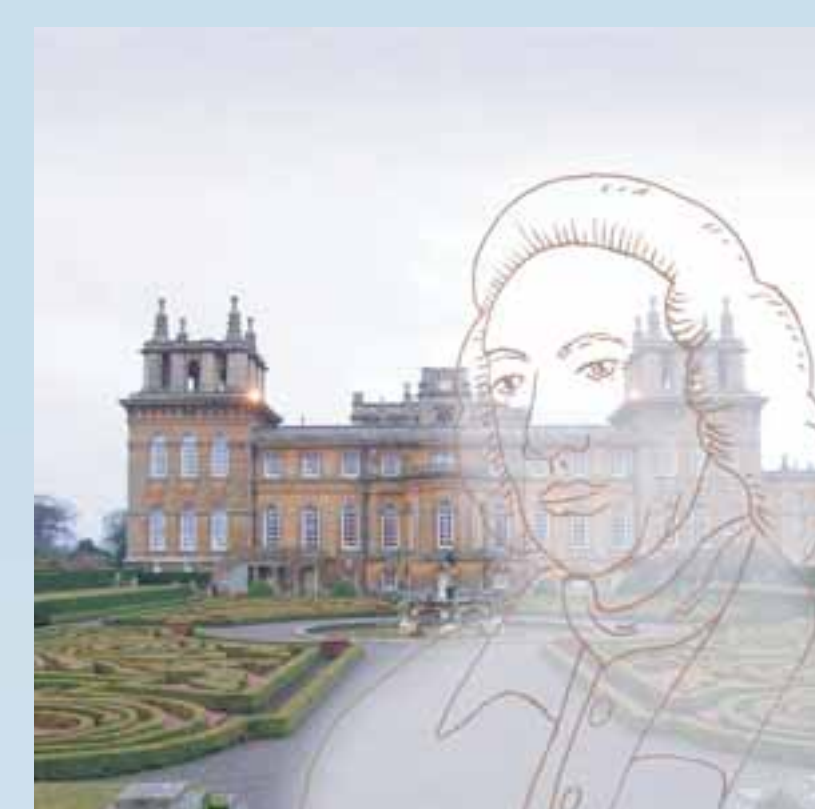
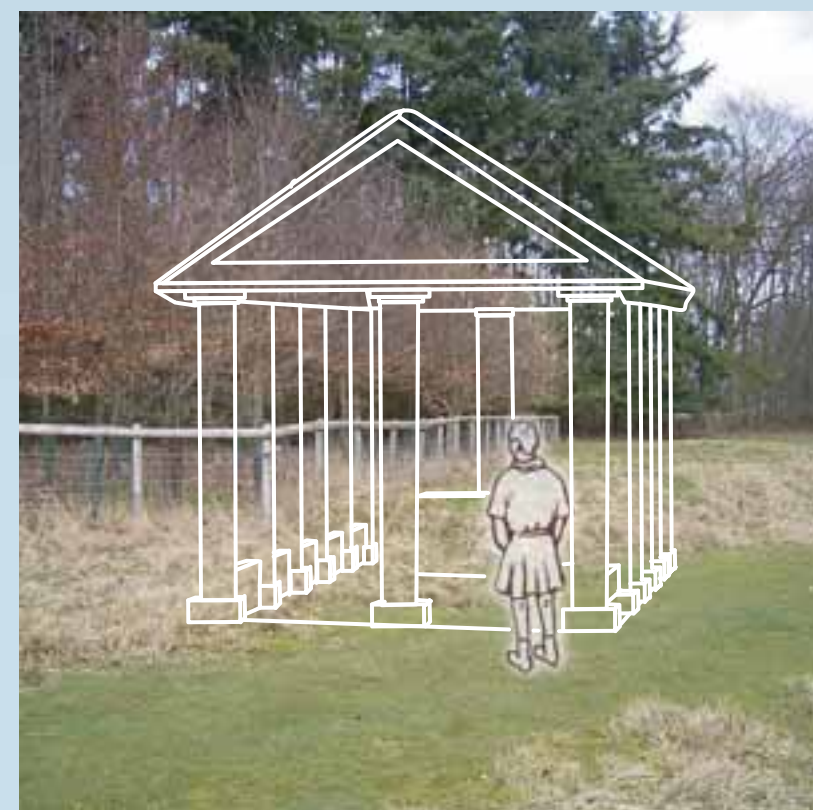


Medieval AD1066-1499

The site of Fair Rosamund's Well. In the Twelfth century Henry II had a home built for his mistress Rosamund de Clifford.

Roman AD43-410

The site of a Romano-British temple lies close to the present lake. This is one of only 150 such sites.

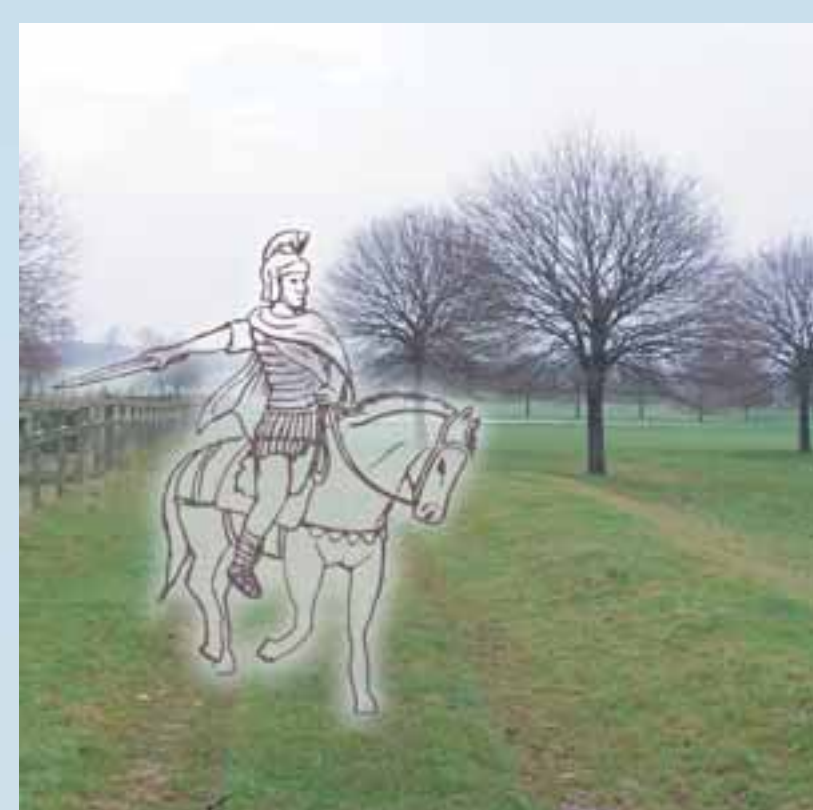


Post-medieval AD1500-1799

1705-22 Blenheim Palace built. 'Capability' Brown designed the gardens in the 1760s.

Roman AD43-410

Part of Akeman Street runs through the estate. This Roman road went from St. Albans (Verulamium) to Cirencester (Corinium).



Modern AD1800-Today

Archaeologists assess the estate.