

TRENTHAM

CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL



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Section 1 Introduction

The Trentham Conservation Area was designated by Stafford Borough Council in 1995. Trentham Gardens, with almost identical boundaries, was listed on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens in 1984 as Grade II*.

A Conservation Area is an “area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”.¹ Designation of a conservation area increases control over significant or total demolition of unlisted buildings, strengthens control over minor development and protects trees within its boundaries. It also ensures that any new development maintains or enhances the character of the area.

The main purpose of placing a site on the Register of Parks and Gardens is to help ensure that features and qualities which contribute to the special interest of the landscape are safeguarded during ongoing management and when alterations are considered.

Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act imposes a duty on the local planning authority to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas. Proposals should be publicised and incorporate public comment. While insertion on the Register of Parks and Gardens does not impose additional statutory controls, local authorities are required to make provision for the protection of the historic environment in their policies and allocation of resources and registration is a material consideration in the development control process.

The more clearly the special architectural or historic interest that justifies designation is defined and recorded, the sounder will be the basis for development plan policies, development control decisions, and management plans for the preservation and enhancement of the character or appearance of an area. The purpose of the Conservation Area Appraisal is, in accordance with the methodology recommended by English Heritage,² to define and record the special architectural and historic interest of the Trentham Conservation Area. This has been used to prepare a management plan setting out actions to maintain and enhance the special character of the area. These documents will support the proactive management of the Conservation Area through the development control process, including support for appeals.

¹ Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

² *Guidance on Conservation Area Appraisals* (London: English Heritage, February 2006).

Trentham Gardens has been the subject of numerous research projects and plans. The reports include the *Topographical History and Landscape Impact Assessment* by Elizabeth Banks Associates, David Bisset's *Architectural History*, Brownhill Hayward Brown's *Architectural Masterplan and Restoration and Management Plan* and Ecoscope's *Ecological and Conservation Management Plan*. This Conservation Area Appraisal draws heavily on these sources.

Development proposals for the Trentham Estate and Gardens in the ownership of Trentham Leisure Limited were approved by the Secretary of State in 2001. The decision recognized that Trentham Gardens was an important and established leisure and recreation attraction which was not meeting its potential and was in need of upgrading. The importance of restoring Trentham Gardens as a major heritage asset was deemed to outweigh the proposed development on the Green Belt. Outline planning permission was granted but a number of conditions were attached. The development is now partly implemented and consequently the character of some areas is undergoing change compared with the detailed description documented in 1998. It is important to note that both the detailed documentation and the Inquiry only referred to that part of Trentham Gardens which is owned by Trentham Leisure Ltd. The Conservation Area includes within its boundary nearly the whole area of the historic park and the objective of this Conservation Area Appraisal is to describe and characterise the different areas of all of Trentham Conservation Area, regardless of ownership, and to consider what management proposals are appropriate to maintain its special character.



Section 2 The Planning Policy Context

The national planning policy context is the National Planning Policy Framework, with particular reference to paras 176 to 191. The local planning policy context is policy NC19 on conservation areas from the *Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan*, as well as policies E&D 18-25 on built heritage, policies E&D 43 on trees in conservation areas and policies Hou1 and 11 on housing in the adopted *Local Plan* (Stafford Borough Council 1998). It should be noted that the Stafford Borough Local Development Framework is currently under development and consultation and will ultimately replace the *Local Plan*. See Appendix 4 for further details.

The Local Plan also includes specific policies (RLT19 and RLT20) for Trentham Gardens, setting the principles against which development proposals will be assessed and recognizing its situation within the Green Belt. Additionally the Outline Planning Permission granted in 2001 sets 49 conditions pertaining to the area owned by Trentham Leisure Ltd.

Conservation Area Consent is required for the total or substantial demolition of some buildings or structures within the Conservation Area. Permitted Development Rights for householders are slightly stricter than usual, and permission is required from the local planning authority to fell or lop a tree over a certain size.

This Appraisal will be a useful contributor to future Area Action Plans or Supplementary Planning Documents for the area, and form a basis for development control decisions

Section 3 Summary of Special Interest

Trentham Park is a historic country park, the former seat of the Dukes of Sutherland, containing exceptional historic gardens and extensive parkland landscaped by Capability Brown as well as many features of special interest. The special character of the Trentham Conservation Area derives in particular from the following elements:

- The historic Italian Gardens of 1840, designed by Sir Charles Barry, the leading masterwork of nineteenth century Italianate parterre gardening in England, unsurpassed in size and complexity and set within contrasting, more informal shrubberies and gardens;
- The lake and parkland, planted and landscaped by a succession of landscape architects including Capability Brown, to provide a succession of views and a vast recreational area for walks, rides and boating;
- The large number of listed buildings and monuments of architectural and historic interest relating to the hall and park including the Grade II* listed remains of the grand entrance to Trentham Hall, the Sutherland Monument and the statue of Perseus in the Italian Gardens. The buildings also include a comprehensive set of estate buildings, mainly Italianate in style, including a large area of well-designed, mostly well-preserved service buildings, stables, smithy, brewery, laundry, estate workers' housing and Dairy House, which emphasise the scale of the estate and the hall. It should be noted that the 1808 Grade I Mausoleum built for the family by Charles Tatham but located on the other side of the A34 falls within the Stoke-on-Trent administrative area and so is not included within the Conservation Area;
- The Grade II* listed church and associated graveyard, which contain elements of the earlier priory and recall the medieval origins of the park;
- The remaining lodges, estate cottages and park walls which demonstrate the grandeur and comprehensiveness of the estate and its original identity as a deer park;
- The areas of ancient, semi-natural woodland (King's Wood and Hargreaves Wood) now classed as SSSIs, as well as the diversity of habitats including various types of woodland, heathland, farmland, fenland and parkland;
- Visual harmony resulting from the dominance of the wooded hills, lake, parkland and gardens with largely subordinate new buildings and attractions, and sympathetic planting;

- Hard and soft landscaped spaces and the retention of mature trees and grass enhancing the environment;
- Significant views up, down and across the lake including Monument Hill, as well as on other paths and tracks throughout the park, including the Golf Course, Black Lake and looking up to King's Wood;
- The history of the Trentham Park as a valued place of public recreation with an evolving repertoire of attractions, commencing with limited public access to the park on special days and evolving from the 1920s into a commercial tourist destination.
- During the Second World War Trentham hosted both the Bankers' Clearing House and some military camps. There are some remnants of the camps.

A definition of the special interest of the Conservation Area is set out in section 4 of the character appraisal.

Section 4 Assessing Special Interest

4.1 Location and Setting

Location and context

Trentham Conservation Area lies in North Staffordshire just south of the conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent and 20 km north of Stafford (centered on NGR SJ8590440690). Trentham Park is situated on the north-eastern boundary of the Conservation Area, 5 km south-south-east of Newcastle-under-Lyme and 10 km north-north-west of Stone. The western boundary of the Conservation Area mostly follows the A519 road. The M6, constructed some 50 years ago, runs inside this and constitutes the western boundary of the registered park, although part of the wall and one of the lodges lie beyond it. The northern boundary of the Conservation Area follows Whitmore Road (B5038), excluding the 1930s housing estate; the boundaries of the registered park exclude the golf club buildings and Park Drive, but include the estate ancillary buildings and the land between the River Trent and Stone Road. The eastern boundary follows Stone Road (A34) for both the Conservation Area and the registered park. The southern boundary runs along a line of field boundaries a few hundred yards north of Beechcliffe Lane.

Trentham Park evolved from a twelfth century priory and deer park which passed into the ownership of the Leveson family, who purchased the estate in 1540 following the dissolution of the monasteries. It remained in the ownership of the same family in various guises until 1979. The house, gardens and park underwent several phases of expansion and remodelling as different generations inherited the property and acquired the necessary resources. Considered one of the most celebrated and influential gardens in the country in the mid-nineteenth century, air and water pollution from the potteries diminished its attractiveness to the point where, in 1905, the owners moved away permanently and, in the absence of any other use, the house was demolished in 1911. At the same time, some of the estate was sold off. From the early 1920s a range of public leisure and entertainment amenities was added by the Sutherland Family who operated Trentham Gardens as a tourist attraction.

By the late twentieth century the structure and planting of the historic gardens were in poor condition and most of the uncoordinated collection of attractions was considered at best unsympathetic to the historic character of the site. Following their sale in 1979 to a local entrepreneur Detailed Planning Consent for significant developments was granted in 1982. However the Estate was sold without improvement in 1986 to the National Board and by the time of its sale in 1992 to Trentham Leisure, the condition of the estate and structures

had further deteriorated to a very poor condition. Approval was obtained for develop The 2001 *Local Development Plan*, recognising the park's potential to enhance the region's recreational amenities, contains specific policies to set a framework for its restoration and appropriate development.

It is now a major tourist and leisure destination bringing significant economic benefits to the Borough of Stafford and surrounding areas, attracting over 3 million visitors per annum and over 400,000 paying visitors to the Gardens. The Estate provides employment for 600-700 people and generates additional revenue for the area. Trentham Leisure is committed to maintaining the historic importance of the estate and implementing ongoing enhancements and improvements within the extant planning consents and planning framework.

General Character and Plan Form

The character of Trentham differs from that of most conservation areas in that the root of its identity is not in a settlement or township but in the park of a country estate derived from a medieval manor owned by a priory. The estate itself was originally much larger, comprising over 7,000 acres and six townships (Trentham, Blurton Chapelry, Butterton, Clayton Griffith, Hanchurch and Hanford). Ownership of the estate remained within the same family for 439 years and it was developed in line with changing trends in garden and landscape design and leisure pursuits. From the late eighteenth century the public enjoyed very occasional access and the park provided recreational facilities not only for the owners and their guests but also for public visitors. From the early twentieth century the park was almost wholly directed towards wider public usage, when it was run by the Sutherland family as a commercial tourism venture from the 1920s with a charge to enter.

The park, much of which was originally a walled deer park, includes the original priory church, the house and ancillary buildings, formal gardens and pleasure grounds, kitchen gardens, woodland, significant water features and some farmland. The park itself was expanded on several occasions and the house and other facilities underwent several phases of development over the 439 years of family ownership, involving several notable architects and landscape designers including Capability Brown and Charles Barry. By the mid-nineteenth century the gardens were recognized as some of the finest in England in terms of layout, physical structures and planting; their attraction is inseparable from the landscape setting.

Since the early twentieth century the estate has changed in character, both through the regular updating with attractions, and latterly through decline. After the Sutherland family sold the estate in 1979, it passed through two owners before the bulk of the property was bought by Trentham Leisure in 1996. The buildings on Park Drive were sold to a North

Staffordshire building and development company who undertook their restoration.

The park walls are incomplete, so that the deer herd roams a wider territory, and the boundaries have undergone alteration with the construction of the M6 to the west by the early 1970s and alterations to the A34 to the east. The deterioration and, in some places, removal of walls, lodges and entrances has lessened the impact of former boundaries. In the twenty-first century significant redevelopment has commenced in line with the adopted *Local Plan*. This, however, respects the general character of the park and retains the traditional focus on formal gardens and leisure, while the south-eastern area retains a focus on agriculture, public usage and now a large part of the Park is run as a private commercial venture.

The Trentham Conservation Area is roughly a parallelogram in shape, largely following the line of roads, except in the south, and is bisected by the River Trent flowing through its eastern half.

Landscape Setting

The land is undulating, with a ridge to the west and a slope down to the River Trent, which runs north/south through the Conservation Area, before rising again to the east. The land also rises in the southern section of the Conservation Area. Landscaping has added the long narrow lake which runs parallel to the river. Land usage includes farmland (pasture and arable), woodland and various forms of leisure which have evolved over time. The Conservation Area lies within a wider area described in the *Local Plan* as a “special landscape area” and is designated as Green Belt. To the north the urban landscape of Stoke-on-Trent emphasizes the green open landscape of the Conservation Area, as it has done since the nineteenth century, but is only visible from the high viewpoint of Tittensor Hill. To the west, despite the passage of the M6, the character remains rural and the village of Hanchurch overlooks the northern part of the Conservation Area. To the east the more developed urban and light industrial character of the landscape is again only visible from Tittensor Hill, while to the south the agricultural landscape neither overlooks the park nor is visible from it: thus in many respects the landscape of the park is a distinct and separate entity. Because of the size of the area and the contours of the land, there are few views into the Conservation Area and only from a distance.

Within the Conservation Area the lake is intrinsic to a number of key views. The Sutherland Monument on Tittensor Hill provides views up the lake to the gardens on its north shore, the remains of the house and the church (with the conurbation of Stoke-on-Trent beyond). The viewing platform located within the footprint of the house offers views to the south of the garden layout, the lake beyond and the monument on the wooded hill to the south. From the eastern and western shores at the north end of the lake views

encompass the lake itself, the gardens and mature trees and parkland. In addition to these signature views, many other picturesque landscapes are found elsewhere in the park, including in the golf course area, Black Lake (limited access) and the lakeside walk.

In general the landscape outside the park does not intrude and there are few views from the park looking out. Views from the outside looking into the park include those from Vicarage Hill south of Trentham, from Hanchurch and the M6 on the west and from the 1930s housing estate on the north.

4.2 Historic Development & Archaeology

The Origins and Historic Development of the Area

Early History

A quartz pebble hammer head was found just west of the Italian Gardens, indicating human presence in prehistoric times, and evidence of a Bronze Age barrow containing burnt bone, a flint arrow and human bones was discovered in the south of the site.³ Another earthwork mound found south-west of the current lake (but destroyed in the nineteenth century) is recorded as having contained a pottery urn of the Bronze Age or earlier.⁴ Two ring ditches have been identified in the western part of the area, indicating the possibility of Iron-Age settlement. No Roman sites have been recorded within the area and it is probable that suggestions of a Saxon nunnery at Trentham are derived from a place name misidentification.⁵

Trentham is referred to in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a royal manor valued at 115s. The settlement, thought to be by the River Trent, comprised 8 villagers, 7 smallholders, a reeve, a priest and a freeman.⁶ There are further references to a priest's holding, implying the existence of a church or chapel, and an expanse of woodland some three miles long by one and half miles in breadth. A watermill west of the Trent was also recorded, probably to the south of the current park.⁷ In about 1150-52 an Augustinian priory was founded by its overlord, Ranulf, Earl of Chester.⁸ Much of the church has been rebuilt but some late Norman arcades and twelfth century capitals from the original church were retained or reused and the remains of a Norman or early medieval cross still stand in the churchyard.

Following Ranulf's death, King Henry II appears to have assumed possession of the manor of Trentham and patronage of the priory, judged by various charters and endowments. These refer to marshes to be reclaimed as meadows and woodland lying within the King's New Forest, a royal deer park established by Henry II shortly after his accession in 1154. However, in 1204 the canons of

³ Historic Environment Record PRN No. 00595 (Staffordshire County Council).

⁴ Historic Environment Record PRN No. 01835 (Staffordshire County Council).

⁵ Brian Dix, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Trentham Gardens* (July 1998).

⁶ Historic Environment Record PRN No. 02583 (Staffordshire County Council).

⁷ Historic Environment Record PRN No. 00597 (Staffordshire County Council).

⁸ Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Topographical History* (February 1998) 4.

Trentham paid the crown one mark for permission to fence their woodland, emparking the land, although they had to provide for the transit of the king's deer, probably through use of deer leaps. In addition, the priory engaged in sheep farming, appearing as an exporter of wool in a Florentine list of 1315.⁹

Trentham Priory was dissolved in 1537 at which time it was valued at £156, 7s, 10d. In the immediate aftermath it transferred ownership a few times, but in 1540 it was bought by James Leveson of Wolverhampton, a wool merchant and member of the Staple of Calais, in return for 1,000 marks and an annual rent payable to the Crown.¹⁰ The property stayed in the family's ownership until 1979.

Post-Medieval History: First Rebuilding (1630 – 1638)

Leveson's acquisition of Trentham Priory was part of a larger programme of land acquisition. A map dated 1599 shows a church with a tower and nave, an L-shaped building to the south drawn with windows and gables (probably an adaptation of the former Priory buildings) and a cluster of buildings and a lake further to the south. To the north of the site runs a road broadly along the line of Park Drive, with occasional buildings, and to the east runs the road to Newcastle, with intermittent buildings. Tittensor is named as a settlement to the south.¹¹ The parcels of land include the Nether Park and the Over Park, south of the manor house, as well as various fields and some woodland.

James Leveson's grandson, Sir Richard Leveson, built a new hall in 1630-38. The account books from this period refer to walled gardens which included paths, a high mount and a pool, as well as an orchard outside the garden. A 1686 pair of engravings by Plot show the hall with its grand courtyard, the church tower to the north-west and extensive walled gardens to the east (but not the high mount). A contemporary description also referred to a fountain and the long woodland to the west.¹²

Second Rebuilding (1707 - 1710) and Park Landscaping (1720s)

Sir John Leveson-Gower was created 1st Baron Gower in 1703, which may have led him to aspire to a more imposing residence. He had already received proposals for

⁹ Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Topographical History* (February 1998) 4.

¹⁰ Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Topographical History* (February 1998) 5.

¹¹ *Parcell of the mannor of Trentham in the Countie of Stafford* (Sutherland Estate, Staffordshire County Record Office, D593/H/339).

¹² Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Topographical History* (February 1998) 7.

landscaping and canals in the parks from his Estate Agent in 1695. The new the house was designed by William Smith of Warwick to be larger, higher and more handsome than its predecessor. His son sought to extend and improve the parkland; he enclosed King's Wood Bank in 1720 and had the brick wall around the estate constructed between 1721 and 1724. It is possible that the landscape gardener Charles Bridgeman contributed to the design of the park and gardens.¹³

Burton's Plan of the Estate of 1722-4 shows two long canals of differing widths extending south from the house with a walk between, as well as a goose-foot arrangement of drives and rides extending west of the house, providing a range of new vistas.

Further work followed in the form of a remodelling of Trentham Hall undertaken by Francis Smith of Warwick between 1737-8, the construction of a stone bridge over the Trent at Trentham in 1721-2 by Richard Trubshaw and the removal of the walk between the canals to create a single lake in 1746-8. Black Lake (then known as Withy Bed Pool) on the west of the estate was constructed in 1749-50 and new walled kitchen gardens were reconstructed East of the Trent in 1752.¹⁴ John Harris painted two large landscapes of the house and park in 1751, one viewed from the south and one from the west. These show woodland north and east of the hall and extending to the south-west but open parkland with deer to the immediate west, and open land to the south and south-east.

Third Phase: Capability Brown's Landscaping and Third Rebuilding of Hall

In 1759 Granville, 2nd Lord Gower, engaged Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to landscape the park. Several plans of his proposed alterations remain. The lake was expanded and its shoreline altered to appear more natural, involving the damming of the meandering River Trent, the introduction of a weir near the southern end of the previous canal and the construction of an island. The parterres and walks of the formal seventeenth century gardens south and east of the house were replaced by an arrangement of shrubberies, walks, a lawn and bowling green. Beyond this, tree planting east of the Trent would conceal the buildings of Trentham village and the road. In 1765-7 the park was extended to the north and west involving rebuilding of parts of the brick wall, the creation of a ha-ha west of the hall in 1767 and some trees planting. A thatched deer barn and a hermitage were built in the newly acquired area west of the wall.¹⁵

¹³ Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Topographical History* (February 1998) 8.

¹⁴ Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Topographical History* (February 1998) 9.

¹⁵ Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Topographical History* (February 1998) 10-11.

In 1775 Brown, now in partnership with the architect Henry Holland (his son-in-law), was contracted to undertake work to the house, including re-facing the south front, adding a wing to the east and covering the whole exterior in Egyptian cement.

In 1793 Earl Gower commissioned the Coalbrookdale Company to supply castings for an iron bridge at Trentham. A bridge of single-arched design was constructed in 1794 and illustrated by Stebbing Shaw and was one of the very early iron bridges, possibly the second in the world.¹⁶

A contemporary account makes it clear that Tittensor Hill was a favoured viewing point from which to appreciate the house and lake. Other important views were to the south-west of the house along the beech planted Fir Tree Walk and to the west and south of the house.

Fourth Phase: Tatham's Changes to the Park and Hall (1800 – 1809)

Following the death of Granville, 1st Marquis of Stafford, in 1803, his son, George Granville (who was married to the wealthy Countess of Sutherland), commissioned Charles Heathcote Tatham to carry out a programme of works at Trentham. These included the primitive style mausoleum which was built in 1808 and the addition of single-storey wings to the east and west sides of the south front of the hall (comprising a dining room and possibly a conservatory). Within the park he remodelled the western drive, including a bridge over the ha-ha (which was later moved to span Park Brook, south of the Dairy House). He also submitted designs for lodges and park bridges, an ornamental fountain, a greenhouse and other garden buildings and a menagerie. In addition, a new area of shrubbery was laid out.

George Granville also invested extensively in the modernisation of the drainage of the estate, including the laying of 77 miles of underground drains and a similar amount of new ditches. The park was extended to include Hales Field and Hargreaves Wood to the north of the hall. Around this time a new entrance drive was built at the north end of Park Drive with a lodge, later used as a schoolhouse, which survives today as 14-15 Park Drive.¹⁷

Fifth Phase: Barry's Transformation of Trentham (1833 – 1850)

Following the death of the 1st Duke of Sutherland in 1833, his son (also George Granville) engaged Charles Barry for another extensive rebuilding programme combining the

¹⁶ H. Torrens and B. Trinder, *The Iron Bridge at Trentham* (Industrial Archaeology Review, 1981-2) 45-53.

¹⁷ Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Topographical History* (February 1998) 13-14.

construction of new gardens with major works on the house. Changes to the house during 1830-40 included the realignment of the western approach, adding a stone arcade and a porte-cochere, a large circular forecourt and a pair of stone lodges on the west side with a state bedroom suite above. He altered Tatham's dining room and conservatory and added a belvedere tower with loggia above the main building. In 1838-40 he was also responsible for the addition of the orangery, sculpture gallery and clock tower, the enclosure of the stable yard to the north-east of the house, and the remodelling of Trentham Church in 1842-44.

Barry created the three garden terraces: the Terrace Garden (with raised beds of wrought stone, large marble vases and bronze statues alternating with lines of flowers); the parterre or Upper Flower Garden (divided into four large compartments with a central bed and fountain, with a low wall to the east and west and balustrades to the north and south, ornamented by a line of vases); and the Italian Gardens or Lower Flower Garden at the lowest level (an area of over ten acres divided into large compartments by broad gravel walks). There was an iron trellis walk to the east (which still exists), a shrubbery to the west and a boathouse in the south-east corner of the Lower Flower Garden for three gondolas. The planting was directed by the head gardener, George Fleming.

There were other changes within the park during this period, not all by Barry. In the south of the park Tittensor Hill and Tittensor Far Hill had been emparked and planted in 1828. The column with its monument to the 1st Duke of Sutherland was built in 1834-5, providing a focal point for the view south from the house and an impressive viewing point on Tittensor Hill.¹⁸ East of the Trent some changes were made to the walled garden, including the addition of the Children's Cottage (also known as the Duchess's Cottage) in 1841, and new gardens were laid out south of this. The promontory on the eastern shore of the lake was added in 1844.

North of Trentham Hall the estate buildings were considerably altered by Barry after 1830. Some buildings are shown in this area in Brown's 1759 *Plan of Intended Alterations* but these had been significantly expanded by the time of Elliot's circa 1830 *Survey before the alterations by Sir C. Barry*. This shows buildings on both sides of a road to the south, the U-shaped layout of Trentham Court, and further farm buildings to its north-west. East of the lane is a building on the site of Peacock House but it does not extend eastwards. Barry rebuilt St. Mary's Church in 1844 in perpendicular style. Although the original chancel and tower were lost, some of the late Norman arcades of the Priory church as well as some of the monuments and screens were incorporated into his design. In 1840 he began remodelling and extending the estate and farmyard buildings, largely to an Italianate design,

¹⁸ Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Topographical History* (February 1998) 15-17.

with pantiled, broad-eaved roofs painted in yellow-ochre. The Smithy is an exception, with its massive banded stone piers and numerous plays on the nature of the work such as the horse-shoe shaped doors. Across the lane he extended the existing buildings to create a new poultry complex, also in Italianate style.¹⁹ In addition, some cottages were built to the east and the north on Park Drive.

Consolidation and Decline (1850 – 1910)

There were no significant works to the house during this period but in the park a new channel was cut for the River Trent to prevent excessive build-up of sediment in the lake. Gravelpit Lodge on the western boundary bears a date of 1859 and the Dairy House and Dairy were added during this period, as were Hargreaves Lodge and Keepers Cottage. It was reported that parts of the park were open for the amusement and recreation of the general public, especially during the so-called Stoke Wakes, but this was for occasional days only. Under a succession of gardeners, further modifications to the gardens were undertaken but these were offset by the increasing effects of pollution from the industry of nearby Stoke-on-Trent. The industrial chimneys intruded into the view from Tittensor Hill, the river was polluted and by the end of this period the Duke and Duchess vacated the estate.

Public Recreation and Protection Measures (1910 – 1996)

In 1911 the house was demolished, leaving only the portecochere and conservatory to the west and the orangery, sculpture gallery, clock tower and stable block to the east. Many of the sculptures and structures from the gardens were removed to other residences of the Duke and Duchess. The grounds were developed to provide additional public amenities. Facilities for tennis and bowling and a bandstand were introduced in what had been the Eastern Pleasure Ground.

The tradition of inviting the public to enjoy the Park and Gardens dates from the ownership of the Sutherland family, when it was opened up to the general public free of charge for a day such as during Wakes weeks. The Sutherland family first established Trentham Gardens as a tourist commercial tourist destination in the 1920s. they built the Dance Hall, which was enormous and could accommodate 3,000 dancers and 1,600 seated, also contained bars and rooms for dinners and events. A small section of the arcades of the Roman Bar has been preserved. An outdoor swimming pool and car park were built on the south-west shore of the lake in 1935

In the 1930s a golf club was created in the north-west corner of the park, expanding an earlier shorter course and utilising

¹⁹ David Blisset, *Trentham Hall and Gardens: Architectural Design Drawings* (December 1999) 37

an existing building as the clubhouse. From the 1920s the public was allowed in on a regular basis. The Gardens were open every day of the year except for Christmas. There was a great deal of redevelopment on the land east of the Trent: many of the glasshouses were dismantled and a ballroom was built in the former kitchen garden. The complex was expanded in 1964.

During the 1939-45 war the Bankers' Clearing House was transferred to Trentham. Temporary buildings were erected west of the house site but little or nothing remains from this period. In addition various military camps, including one for the French Army, were established in the park, with a number of concrete bases from the temporary buildings remaining. After the war Trentham Gardens returned to being a successful and popular visitor destination.

A caravan site was introduced in the 1960s in the Western Pleasure Ground; at this time the Exhibition Hall was built to the south west of the hall remains, as were a small railway, a menagerie and numerous other attractions; various parts of the gardens were also redeveloped and coniferous plantations were established in the North Park and central park. In addition to the ballroom complex, which was a conference venue, the eastern area also included two garden centres, a market garden, a bowling green and a clubhouse. A rose garden was planted in 1971 on the upper terrace and a spring garden and a rock and peat garden were introduced in the areas near the Italian Garden. The lake was stocked with fish for course fishing and was also used for water skiing, sailing and rowing. There is still a twentieth century boathouse on the eastern shore and a canoe clubhouse dating to this period.

On the western fringe the construction of the M6 motorway, which now passes through the western perimeter of the park, resulted in damage to the park wall, felling of trees and woodland and alteration of access to King's Wood and Black Lake. During the 1960s the A34 (which forms the boundary between Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent) between Trentham and Swynnerton was upgraded to dual carriageway, resulting in the removal of the nineteenth century park gates and lodge on Stone Road, built at the time of the park's extension in 1828, and sections of the wall. In 1976 a woodland fire destroyed much of the tree cover on Tittensor Hill.

In 1979 the Trustees of the will of the 4th Duke of Sutherland sold the remaining estate to John Broome (owner of Alton Towers) who intended it to be a leisure attraction to complement his existing local interests. However, due to subsidence issues, it came into the ownership of the National Coal Board (NCB). In April 1980 a number of the structures were listed by the Department of the Environment, although some of these have since been lost or moved elsewhere (with or without authorisation) probably during the 1980s. In 1984 Trentham Gardens was entered on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens. In 1985 the NCB drained

Trentham Lake and rebuilt and reinforced its eastern bank. The King's Wood and Hargreaves Wood were designated by English Nature as SSSIs in 1987. In 1995 an area broadly corresponding to the boundaries of the registered park and adding the Estate farm and service buildings to the north, was given further protection when it became a conservation area.

Towards Restoration: 1990 Onwards

In 1990 the Park Drive area was sold to a North Staffordshire developer who undertook the conversion and restoration of the former estate buildings on Park Drive, together with development of new dwellings on the east side of the road. The estate buildings on the west side of Park Drive have largely been restored: these include the former lodge/school at nos 14-15, now a pair of private residences, the former smithy, the Laundry House and nos 6-10, which have all been turned into private residences, as has No 5 and Peacock Houses on the east side of Park Drive. New houses have been built on the north of this on the east side of the road.

In May 1996 the Trentham Estate was purchased Trentham Leisure Limited, a subsidiary of St. Modwen Properties PLC. An Outline Planning Application, supported by evidence from leading landscape and historical consultants, was submitted for the regeneration and restoration of the historic estate and gardens and enabling development was submitted and Outline Planning Consent was approved by the Secretary of State in 2001, subject to a number of conditions. Since then a significant amount of redevelopment and restoration has taken place with further phases being planned.

The Upper and Lower Flower Gardens have been restored and replanted, as have many of the listed features; the Upper Flower Garden is an exact restoration of Charles Barry's and Fleming's original design and the Lower Flower Garden is an evolution of this design by an internationally renowned contemporary designer who was closely involved with the preceding historical research. The Eastern Pleasure Ground has been redesigned and a new bridge created across the Trent. South of this a small landing stage has been built and the 1970s hut refurbished as a ticket office for the next to the early twentieth century boathouse and later canoe clubhouse and the track and facilities for a small lakeside railway which runs south.

A hotel is proposed for the site of the old hall, incorporating and restoring the former conservatory and porte-cochere and the orangery, sculpture gallery and stables to the rear.

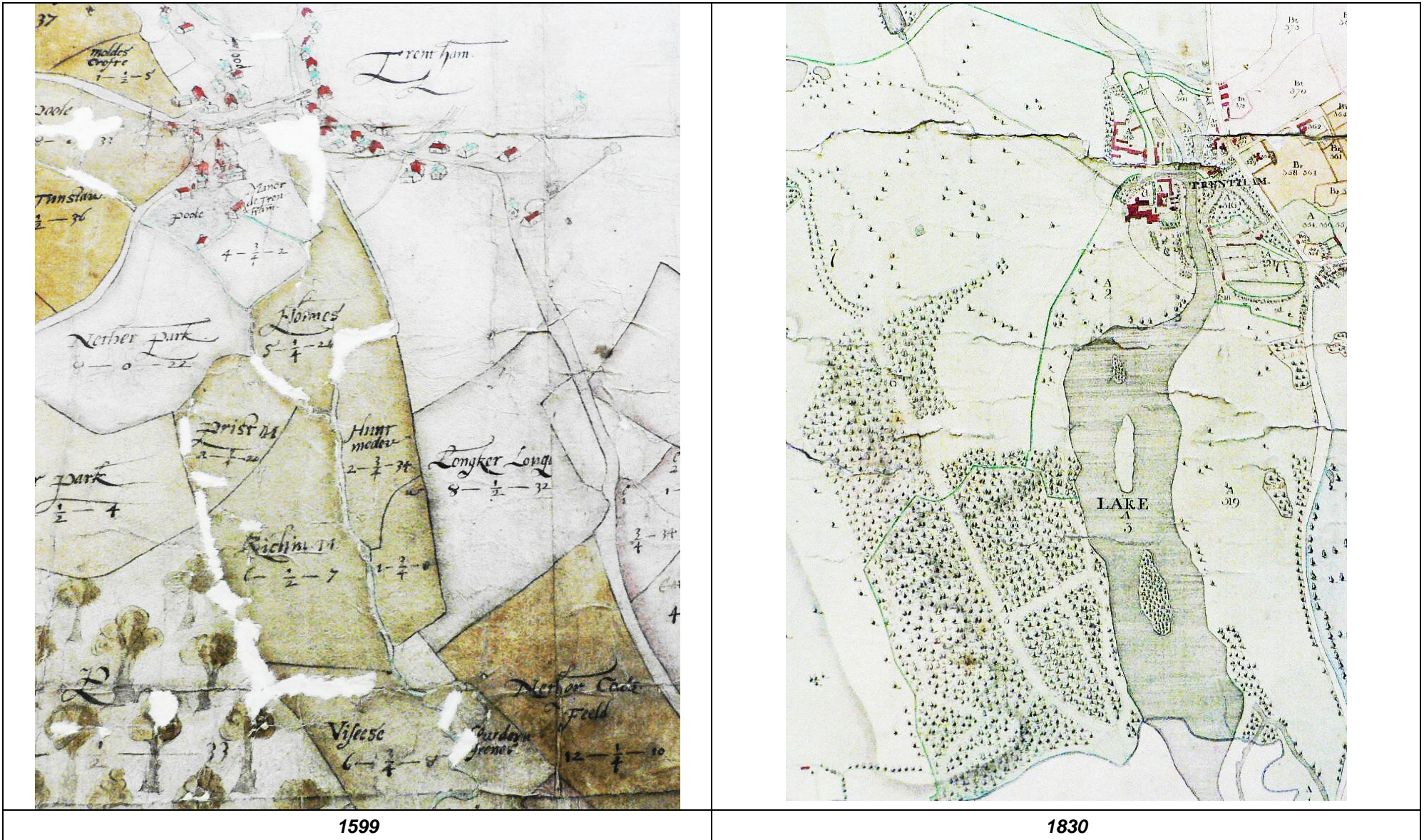
The Western Pleasure Ground includes a new lakeside café, The Italian Garden Tearoom, with an adventure playground, gardens and maze behind and a barefoot walk attraction extending into the wooded area to the south.

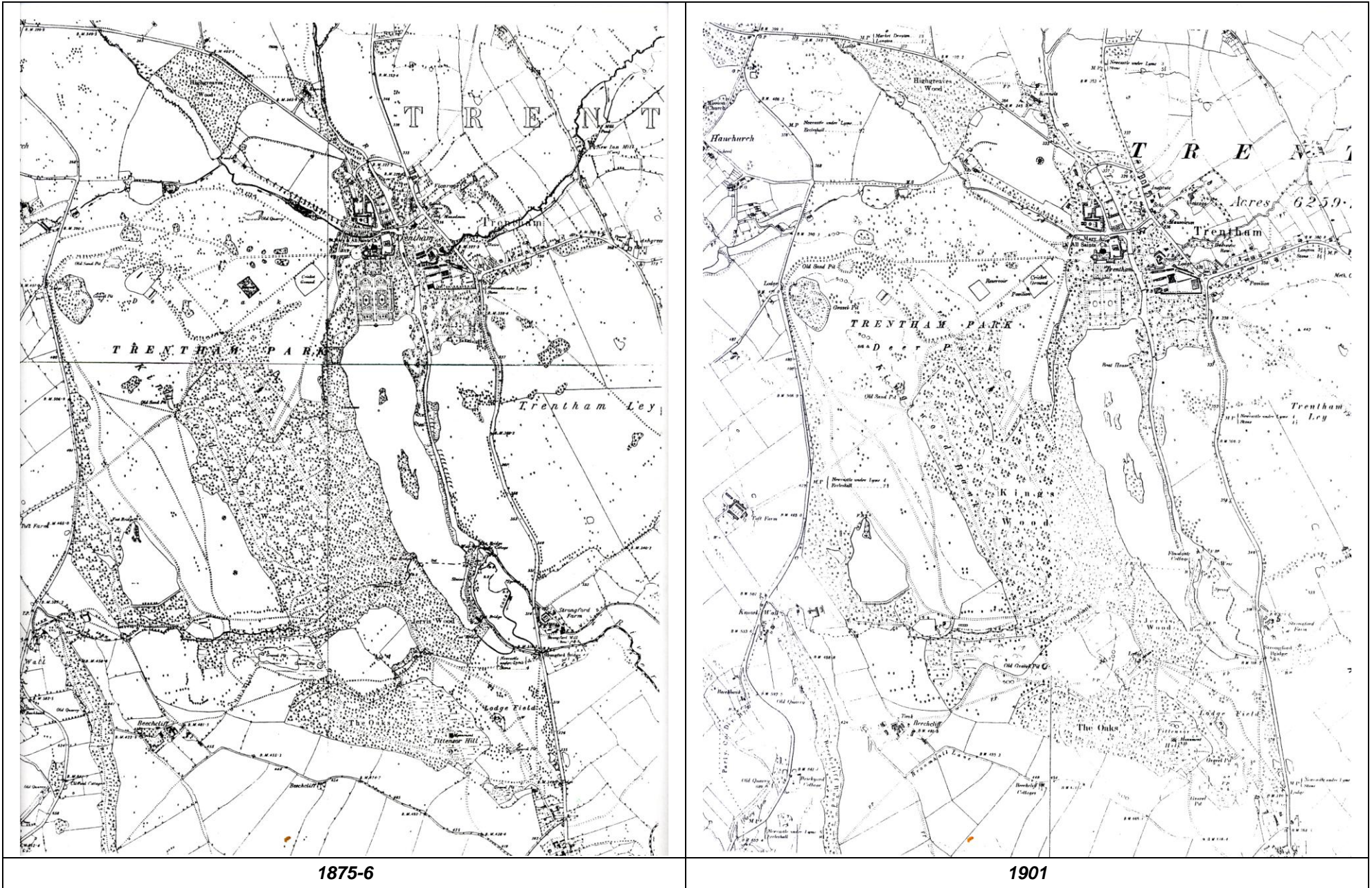
East of the Trent the ballroom has been demolished and in its place a large garden centre has been built incorporating the Children's Cottage and some other service buildings from the walled garden. South of this is a hotel on the eastern boundary, with car parking and a restaurant, and a timber chalet-style retail village adjacent to the Trent. To the south of this a large outdoor sports retail store is planned as is a pitch and putt course in the part-wooded, part-open area beyond.

At the southern end of the lake The Lakeside Café, in the former Swiss Chalet (constructed as terminus of 1930s Lakeside Railway), is adjacent to the landing stage and near this is a large new boathouse. West of this, the eighteenth century lodges have been modified to provide the entrance and facilities for the Monkey Forest. A large car park has been built to the south and additional modern amenity buildings erected north of the lodges, with the fenced area of the Monkey Forest in Ferny Bank and the south part of Kingswood. Near this, on the Oaks or Tittensor Far Hill, an aerial adventure course has been introduced.

In addition to the above areas in the ownership of Trentham Leisure, there is land within the park which is in other hands. The area to the south and south-east has been incorporated into local farms since the estate sale at the beginning of the twentieth century. This area was significantly altered through the construction of the M6 with access from the farms to the land now provided by two bridges over the motorway. Black Lake, which includes a historic weir, is let out to a local angling club.

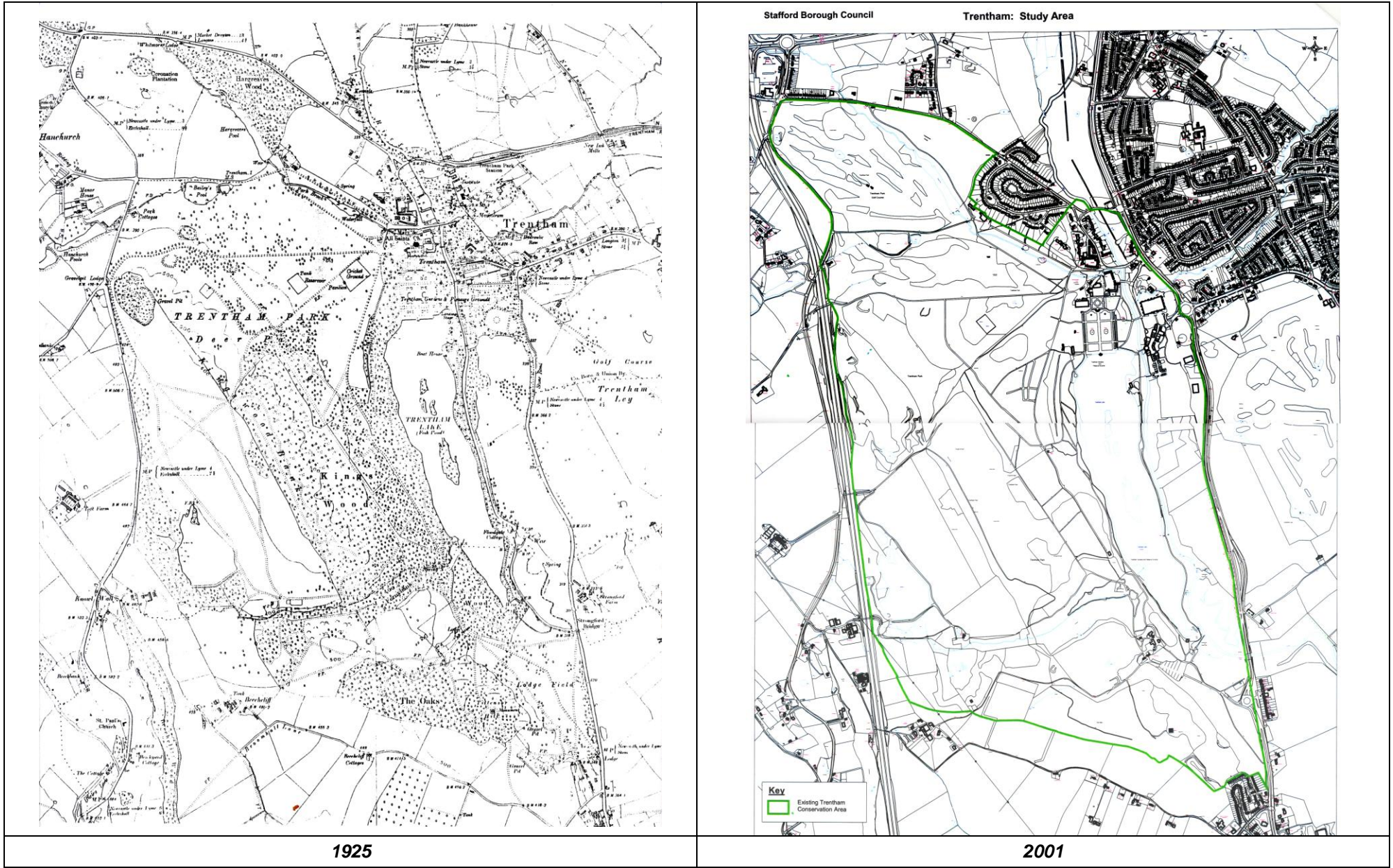
4.2.1 Maps Showing Sequential Development of the Area





1875-6

1901



4.2.2 Archaeology of Trentham

In describing the early history of Trentham reference has already been made to some of the archaeological remains and records, but no formal archaeological excavation has been documented in the park. The prehistoric barrow site on Monument Hill (PRN No. 00595), containing a flint arrow-head and some human bones, was found south-east of the summit in 1859 and subsequently destroyed. A second barrow, found and destroyed in about 1820, appears to have contained an urn, but its exact location is unknown (PRN 01835). In 1938 a looped palstave was found in a gravel pit in the west of the park (PRN 0118). Photographic evidence of ring ditches in the King's Wood and near Black Lake, in the west of the park, (PRN 04706, 04290) identified in connection with the M6 construction and widening works in 1963, possibly indicates the earlier location of either barrows or huts. Thus it is possible that other remains still exist under woodland and undeveloped land.²⁰ There are no scheduled ancient monuments.

In the area of the demolished house it is likely that there will be underground remains of the basement of this house and possibly of earlier buildings on the site. On the south-east boundary of the park an HER refers to the Domesday reference to Strongford Mill (PRN00597) while the current Strongford Bridge is built on the site of two earlier bridges, the earliest of which is thought to date from the mid-seventeenth century (PRN00596).

Sites and extant buildings identified on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) are described and located on a map at Appendix 1. However, it should be noted that this map also includes listed buildings and structures (discussed in a later section, some of them no longer present) and sites identified only by documentary evidence.

²⁰Brian Dix, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Trentham Gardens* (July 1998).

4.3 Spatial Analysis

Character, Interrelationship of Spaces and Key Vistas

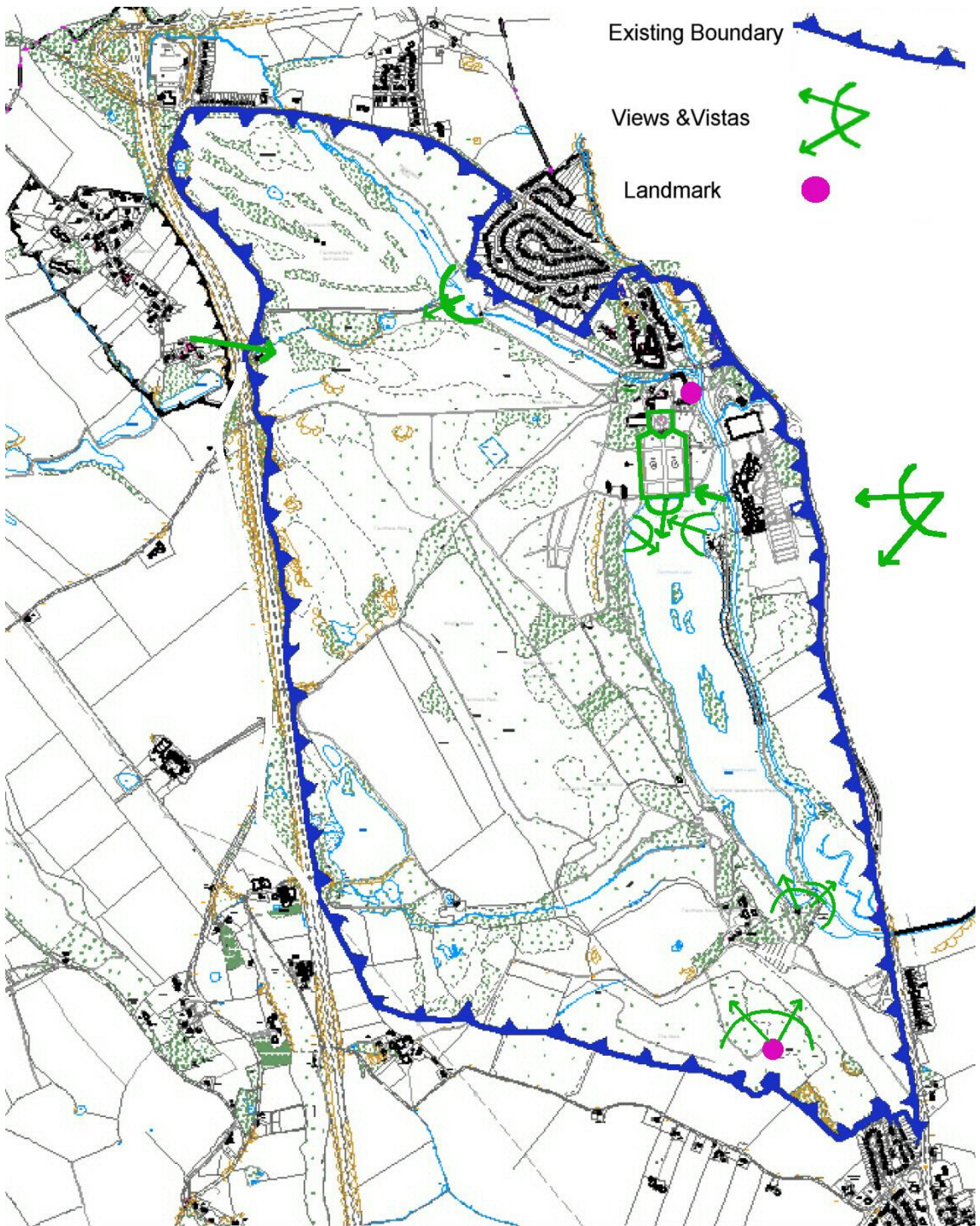
As a registered park, Trentham's spatial character is predominantly open and green, with areas of woodland of varying density. However, given its size and historical evolution, the quality and character of its spaces vary, as do the ways they were and are used. The vast majority of the space must be classed as for public enjoyment, although much of the area is run as a commercial leisure attraction. Although its historical origins were as a private park extending over the centuries, the public had limited access to some areas from the 19th century and it has been a place of public recreation, with paid entry attractions, since the 1930s.

The important views into and out of the Conservation Area, the key internal vistas and landmark buildings are identified in the Spatial Analysis map at the end of this section. One of the chief objectives of the various landscapers involved in the evolution of the park was to enhance the natural landscape and to create specific vistas. The historic vistas are detailed exhaustively in Banks' *Topographical History*²¹ and the contemporary vistas within individual sections of the park, as they existed in 1998, are identified in Banks' *Landscape Impact Assessment*.²² These are very numerous and, given that subsequent development has affected only limited areas of the park, only the chief views have been identified in the map in the present document. The map also characterizes the nature and distribution of the different spaces, differentiating between open spaces and woodland, modern and historic built areas, as well as recognizing different gradations within these categories.

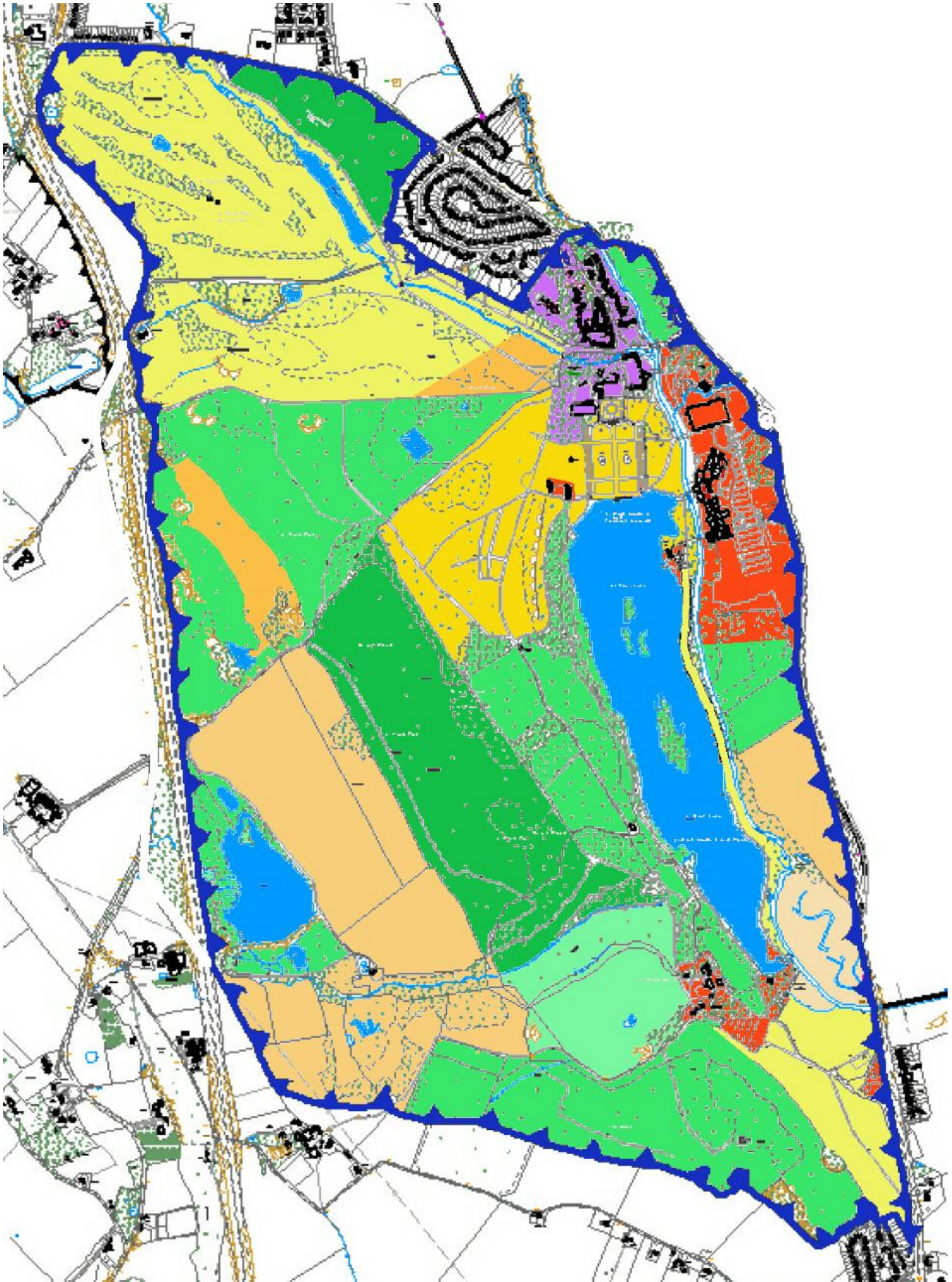
In the following section the quality of space in the various areas is discussed based on their current appearance. The discussion is perhaps more extensive than in appraisals of more developed conservation areas since the park obviously contains a large number of fundamentally important open and green spaces. It is not, however, intended to duplicate the information and the level of detail already available in the *Landscape Impact Assessment*, which breaks down the areas into much smaller units, but does not cover the entire Conservation Area. It is intended to complement the *Historic Landscape Characterisation* of Trentham Conservation Area, produced by Staffordshire County Council, which recognises some 20 categories, by focussing on the characteristics of the space.

²¹Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Topographical History* (February 1998).

²²Elizabeth Banks Associates, *Trentham Park and Gardens Landscape Impact Assessment* (February 1998).











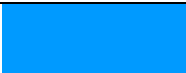


Landmarks, Views and Vistas



Spatial Analysis (for colour key, see below)

Key to Spatial Analysis Map

Woodland		
Ancient semi-natural woodland	W1	
Accessible semi-dense woodland	W2	
Managed wooded areas with some open spaces	W3	
Open Land		
Grassland	O1	
Farmland	O2	
Fen	O3	
Gardens and pleasure grounds	Y1	
Parkland	Y2	
Historic Developed Spaces		
		
Modern Developed Spaces		
		
Open Water		
		

Individual areas have been categorised initially as open spaces, woodland and spaces in built-up areas. Within each of these, a range of more specific spatial characters has been identified as follows:

- **A. Open Spaces**: gardens and pleasure grounds, parkland (managed open spaces with mature trees), open heathland and grassland, wet grassland, farmland.
- **B. Woodland**: Dense, ancient semi-natural woodland, accessible, semi-dense woodland, managed woodland with open areas.
- **C. Open Spaces in Built Areas**: historic built areas, modern built areas.

These areas and subareas are shown in the map and also described below.

A. Open Spaces

Gardens and Pleasure Grounds



Italian Gardens

The dominant characteristic of the centrepiece gardens (Terrace, Upper and Lower Flower Gardens) is of ordered formality; they constitute a large enclosed space descending in shallow stages to the lake and the enclosed character contrasts with the open views to the south. Without the house the design lacks its intended core feature and as a result is rather 'flat' in character. In addition to the symmetrical, largely rectangular planting design, the gardens feature decorative stone structures, wide gravel paths and some statuary.

The more modern design by Piet Oudolf to the east comprises Rivers of Grass and Floral Labyrinth, separated by a stand of Black River Birch contrasts with the formal Italian gardens and echoes themed gardens of earlier eras, is of structured informality with curved beds and paths and even curved wooden garden furniture; the height of the mature trees contributes to the change in character in this area. The pleasure ground to the south-east and north of this is carefully landscaped parkland. The area retains a transitional air and much of it feels enclosed with views of the orangery and tower to the north and views of the lake from the middle of the garden. The 1910 bandstand has been demolished. The south-east area provides both an important view of the gardens and lake from the grassy peninsula and a transition to the modern shopping village across the Trent; aspects of modernity include the dramatic steel and wooden footbridge and the contemporary flying swan sculptures.



Eastern Pleasure Ground



Western Pleasure Ground

In comparison, the parkland to the west of the formal gardens (the Western Pleasure Ground) is busier, with both a greater density and variety of features and more active visitors; informality is encouraged. Originally an area with an arboretum, shrubberies and a haha to the south in 1900, providing a transition from garden to park and used for walks, during the twentieth century it became a recreational area with many new attractions. It is now primarily of short open grass with occasional beautiful mature trees stretching west to the barrier boundary of the high fence. To the south the area's open aspect diminishes as broadleaf wooded glades become woodland with paths (Woodland Discovery Trail). The new Lakeside Café forms the only major permanent structure and is unobtrusive; the adventure playground and gardens are positioned behind this and are barely visible from the lake, and the maze and barefoot trail to the south can both be considered 'green' attractions. While the peninsula of the amphitheatre provides a view towards the formal gardens, the Lakeside Café offers a view across and down the lake.

Managed Open Spaces with Mature Trees

The character of the eastern lake shore is less defined and manicured than that of the gardens and pleasure grounds. The lake itself is a reservoir under the meaning of the Reservoirs Act and as such is subject to annual inspection and constraints on works and planting on the eastern embankment which constitutes the dam. It is a narrow flat open corridor offering a wide variety of views of the lake. To the east of the path the land is wooded and overgrown, descending to the River Trent. The broad path is unmade but level with a grassy border on its lake side, a stretch of which accommodates the miniature railway track and the slightly makeshift area close to it. This has been the site of a boathouse since the 1870s although the current building is twentieth century. There is also a down-at-heel canoe clubhouse and the timber ferry ticket office and landing stage area. At the southern end of the path there are views to the east of grassland and the fenland on the other side of the Trent and the A34 beyond. At this point the path both fords and bridges the overflow from the curved stone weir before rising to the stepped picnic area around the 1930s Lakeside Café (one-time Swiss Chalet), where a large boathouse shed has been constructed. This and some woodland conceal the southern entrance to the park.



Eastern Lake Shore

The road to the golf course is another slightly rougher open corridor which is widely used as a footpath (by local people rather than visitors to Trentham Gardens). The private tarmac road runs through an avenue of overgrown limes. To its north are the gardens of the 1930s Dairyfields Estate, with two footpaths through to the estate, and the narrow Park Brook running to its south.



Park Brook with Park Road to Golf Club behind



Southern Parkland

Some of the parkland in the Western Pleasure Ground and on the peninsula of the Eastern Pleasure Ground has already been described. In addition, the current southern entrance to the park

from Stone Road passes through an area of open grassland with mature trees. Unlike the flatter parkland in the northern half of the park, this slopes down from the wooded Tittensor Hill in the west towards the main road and the flood valley of the Trent. In this area there is no feeling of a park boundary on the east and south-east corner.



Golf Course

The golf course constitutes another area which can be classified as parkland, although of a later date. The overall impression standing in front of the golf club is of open land with small areas of planting on land rising to the south. There are also some larger wooded areas around Baileys Pool (where the old weir is in poor condition). There is a tall weir behind which Hargreaves Pool stretches out to the north-west, a well-maintained footpath leading over a flat stone bridge straight ahead and concealed behind the putting green to the south-east is the decorative stone bridge which is heavily overgrown. The course was not established until 1936 although part of the area had been used for a shorter course at the end of the nineteenth century. Consequently the trees are less mature and of different species; the planting is aimed at visually separating different sections.

Open Heathland and Grassland



Lower Ley Grassland from Eastern Lakeshore Path

In addition to the areas of parkland, there are open areas which are more agricultural in character. Restoration of the woodland areas of the North Park commenced in 2012, in line with the original Landscape Management Plan and in consultation with the Woodland Trust, with a view to recreating the original mix of open heathland, mixed oak woodland and parkland in the eastern area. This has been designated as a Diamond Wood, one of sixty, 60-acre woodlands being created to celebrate the Queens diamond Jubilee. Clearance of inappropriate planting was completed in 2012 and replanting of 10,000 new trees will commencing.

East of the Trent, in the southern half of the park known as Lower Ley, there is an area of grassland sloping up to the south-west. Much of this is separated off from the lake by dense overgrown trees along the Trent corridor and to its north views are also constrained by trees. This is currently not accessible to the public. To the east the land is overlooked and intruded on by the A34. There is no remaining formal park boundary.



South of Park Drive

A third, small area of open grassland, also a transitional space, lies south of Park Brook, east of the golf course and north of North Park, which rises to the south. This is extensively used by the public for dog walking and exercise. Apart from the track over the bridge, the only surfaced path is that leading to the park equipment store.

Wet Grassland



Lower Ley Fenland

The southern section of Lower Ley is open wet grassland and marsh with some stands of willow. This area being both of botanical interest and a breeding site, there is currently no public access, although there is some interpretation and there are views into the area from the eastern shore path. The eastern boundary of this section runs along the A34 and there is no formal park boundary.

Farmland



Farmland

The south-east corner of the park includes farmland which combines pasture grass with groups of trees and planted fields. Part of this area is visible from the M6 on the west. There are two bridges over the M6; the northerly one leads to a footpath up to King's Wood; the southerly bridge through Knowle Farm gives access only to private properties - a track leading to Black Lake and on to Keeper's Cottage. The higher ground and the woodland around Black Lake constitute a barrier for views out to the west and the ridge of King's Wood creates a visual barrier to the east.

B. Woodland

The woodland within the park varies in density and therefore the quality of the views it permits. Three categories of woodland have been identified on the plan: ancient semi-natural woodland, accessible woodland and managed wooded areas with some open spaces.

Ancient Semi-natural Woodland



West End of Hargreaves Wood

Trentham Park includes an SSSI, designated because of the diversity of its invertebrates, which includes two separate locations. King's Wood, which runs north/south along a ridge to the west of the lake, has some walks through it (King's Wood Walk, including Spring Valley) between Monument Wood and the North Park (informal permissive paths, closed at night for safety). From the west (views from the M6 and Black Lake) it is a dominant feature and a barrier to views further into the park. The wood slopes down steeply from the ridge eastwards to the lake. The wood is predominantly of sessile oak and birch but with other oak, beech and rowan present as well as alien species (rhododendron, Himalayan balsam). It has a mature high forest structure with a fairly open canopy; the North Park woodland area is undergoing restoration (see above).

Hargreaves Wood lies on the northern boundary between the Dairyfield Estate and the golf course, with Hargreaves Pool. It constitutes a barrier to views from the park looking north. The track up to Hargreaves Lodge is overgrown, especially at its eastern end. The woodland suffers from invasive species (rhododendron) and has dense undergrowth, especially in the eastern section.

Accessible Woodland



North Park

South of the golf course and west of the fence, enclosing the Western Pleasure Ground, is an area known as the North Park. This is a publicly accessible area used for walking on ground which rises to the south; paths are informal permissive routes only as the area is owned by Trentham Leisure. The area contains mixed broadleaf, some areas of conifer plantation and scrubland. The undergrowth is moderate. Views are patchy, given the varying density of the woodland. The area includes the fenced in area of the rectangular reservoir in the eastern corner. From here there are occasional views through the fence across the parkland to the lake. Part of this area was used for the caravan park in the twentieth century and many of the brick and concrete bases for the WW2 military camp structures.

The lakeside walk on the west shore is a broad path with woodland on either side. There are views of the lake shore to the east and through the fence to the Monkey Forest on the west. The relatively open spatial quality is sometimes diminished where there is dense cover of rhododendron. Recently a large area in the centre of this woodland has been clear-felled to create the Deer Lawn. There is an ongoing plan to remove invasive species and restore to Sessile Oak Woodland.

South of the Shopping Village is an area of woodland with some open spaces which was developed in the twentieth century as a pitch and putt course. This provides a barrier to views south from the Village and the wooded river valley of the Trent forms its western boundary.

North of the garden centre and Park Drive and east of the Trent is an overgrown area of mixed species and heavy undergrowth with some open areas. It contains three buildings on the A34 but also some poor quality garages in the pub car park. In the nineteenth century this area was planted as an arboretum but it no longer feels part of the park; the trees hinder views into the park and of the church although they provide a visual barrier between the A34 and the park.

Managed Woodland with Open Areas



Monument Hill

Monument Hill in the south of the park is partly accessible woodland and partly managed woodland with open areas. The summit of Monument Hill, with the Sutherland Monument, is the primary point offering views north up the lake to the gardens. From this point one can also see west along the ridge of King's Wood and north across the lake and gardens with Stoke-on Trent beyond. This area of woodland combines the areas traditionally known as the Oaks (planted in the early nineteenth century) and Monument Hill. The latter suffered from a forest fire in 1976, after which natural re-growth has occurred with little management and much of the area is now scrubland; however the area is covered by the Landscape Management Plan. The top of the hill around the monument is open grassland.



Monkey Forest in Ferny Bank



Monkey Forest Reception Area

The Monkey Forest occupies the area known as Ferny Bank and the southern section of King's Wood. The landscape, which slopes upwards to the west, combines open grassy glades with wooded areas of mainly mature trees. It is bisected east/west by a brook creating a dominant natural feature; the banks include rhododendron. From the upper section there are some views across the lake. The paths are wide and well-maintained, often with low barriers of logs to define the monkeys' territory. The entire area is surrounded by a high fence, to the south of which is an open grassy area where the timber buildings of the shop/café, education centre and toilet block, playground and open-sided shelters are located. Monument Lodge, a pair of lodges either side of the stone gate posts dated 1775-6, now forms the entrance to the Monkey Forest, with a modern ticket office and barrier situated between the original gate posts.



Woodland in Western Pleasure Ground

The woodland along the western edge of the lake is of varying density, with mature trees and bracken undergrowth. The lakeside walk continues through this, a wide path giving views of the lake. The woodland at the northern end of the lake lies within the Western Pleasure Ground and contains a woodland discovery trail and two bird hides. Here the paths are more numerous, including paths down to the lake. Shortly before the fence the lakeside path ascends westward through Spring Valley.

C. Open Spaces in Built Areas

Open Spaces in Historic Built Areas

Although the bulk of the hall was demolished, the space it occupied retains the feeling of a grand, spacious enclosure because of the church which stands on higher ground to the rear, the remains of the grand entrance and conservatory to the west and the service block (with stable block to the rear) to the east. These formal, mainly Italianate buildings constitute a visual boundary to adjacent areas, except to the south where there are open views to the gardens and lake. The site of the hall is grassed over, pending reconstruction of the Hall, and the Terrace Garden immediately in front of this has been restored. The clock tower of the service block to the east forms a landmark.



Park Drive Estate Building

The ancillary buildings to the north of the hall are also largely Italianate in style but smaller in scale. They are built up to the roadside but there are spacious courtyards to the rear, providing elegant spaces with setts and gravel surfaces and feature areas with Italian style boxwood planting. The Dairy and Dairy House are an exception to this treatment of the ancillary buildings, built in a large plot in cottage ornée style. The new housing on the eastern side of Park Drive differs in that it is set back from the road in extensive gardens and is suburban in feel.

Open Spaces in Modern Built Areas

With the exception of the new housing on Park Drive, which has already been discussed, the open spaces in the modern built areas within the Conservation Area are largely contemporary and recreational or commercial in feel, but the characters of the areas do differ.



Garden Centre and Car Park

The garden centre area combines a very large building with car parking to the south and east and a large outdoor retail area to the north of the building. Though spacious, with a systematic layout of plant beds and merchandise with paved paths, it has an enclosed feel with no views out or in. The contemporary commercial character is subordinate to the attractive historic elements: the presence of a narrow canal, Victorian brick workshops and the Duchess's or Children's Cottage positioned on rising ground on the eastern boundary.

The Shopping Village has north/south views along its main pedestrian thoroughfare and occasional views to the car park on the east. These public paved spaces are inwardly focussed however, despite the low-rise timber buildings, and include a number of pavement cafes and forms of street furniture.



Landscaping around Car Park

The main car park is a large open space in between the hotel on the east and the rear elevations of the shop buildings, extending to the south; the restaurant contributes to a visual barrier to the entrance/exit roundabout. The functionality of this large space is partly mitigated by beech hedges planted between parking areas as well as areas of mature trees and grass. Its western boundary is the wooded river bank of the River Trent and its eastern boundary the line of trees along the A34.

4.4 Character Analysis

Dominant Character and its Influence on the Buildings

The overriding defining character of Trentham Conservation Area is its historic identity and the physical evidence of its existence as a grand country house and park at the heart of a large country estate for several hundred years. As the Leveson family grew in importance and wealth, so did their vision of Trentham Hall and Park and their commitment to investing in its enhancement and expansion, commissioning leading architects and landscape designers. Nevertheless the public were welcomed into Trentham Park from the nineteenth century onwards and from the twentieth century it has been a popular destination for an ever-changing range of recreational activities. Although most of Trentham Hall was demolished and the remaining buildings are in very poor condition, their scale and grandeur, together with the newly restored Italian Gardens, is the focal point within the wider, carefully designed landscape of the park. The Conservation Area also contains a comprehensive range of estate buildings, cottages, lodges and sections of the brick wall which once encircled the park.

The dominant characteristics of the historic built environment of the Conservation Area are its grand scale, the unity of design, materials and colour and the importance of formal landscaping, including the use of evergreens. While a grand scale is to be anticipated in relation to a country house of this importance, Trentham is distinguished by the way the large scale extends to the gardens and lake, the service and stable blocks, the estate buildings and the lodges and monuments. Despite its long history and various building phases and the absence of the focal building, the remaining buildings achieve a remarkable unity of design, with the Italianate motifs and a planned massing to create a variety of shapes, levels and enclosed spaces. Overhanging eaves, string courses and plinths, together with turrets, loggias, louvered ventilation openings, chimney stacks and pyramidal roofs emphasise the different levels and the three-dimensional effect of the massing. The unity is emphasised by the materials: extensive use of stucco, especially where the ochre limewash has been retained or restored, pantile roofs and stone decorative elements. Finally the gardens, remains of the hall and estate buildings are characterised by the importance and grand scale of the landscaping, with open spaces, low evergreen hedges, eye catchers and contrasting green and ochre colours.

The character of an area is determined by several factors: its spatial qualities; its prevailing and/or earlier dominant use and how this is physically expressed; the qualities of the buildings and the prevalent materials used and how they contribute to the area. The character analysis also provides the appropriate context for identification of unlisted buildings or structures of interest and those which detract from their surroundings. Given the importance of Trentham Park as a leisure attraction, the presence and quality of interpretation has also been noted. Appendices 1 and 2 contain an audit of the information contained in the *Historic Environment Record* and the listing descriptions for the listed buildings and structures in the Conservation Area.

Local details

The buildings of the Trentham Estate were constructed in a highly distinctive architectural style, favouring the Italianate and cottage ornee styles. This gives the Estate buildings a unique identity that sets them apart from the surrounding local vernacular.

Two factors combine to minimise the contribution of local details to the conservation area: firstly the relatively undeveloped character of the total area, in keeping with its identity as an historic park, means there are few buildings; secondly the importance of the family and their ambition to create a residence equal to the best in the land resulted in them engaging architects of national standing who were not predominantly concerned about utilising local sources. However there are examples of the use of local brick both in the original park walls and in many of the estate buildings and cottages.

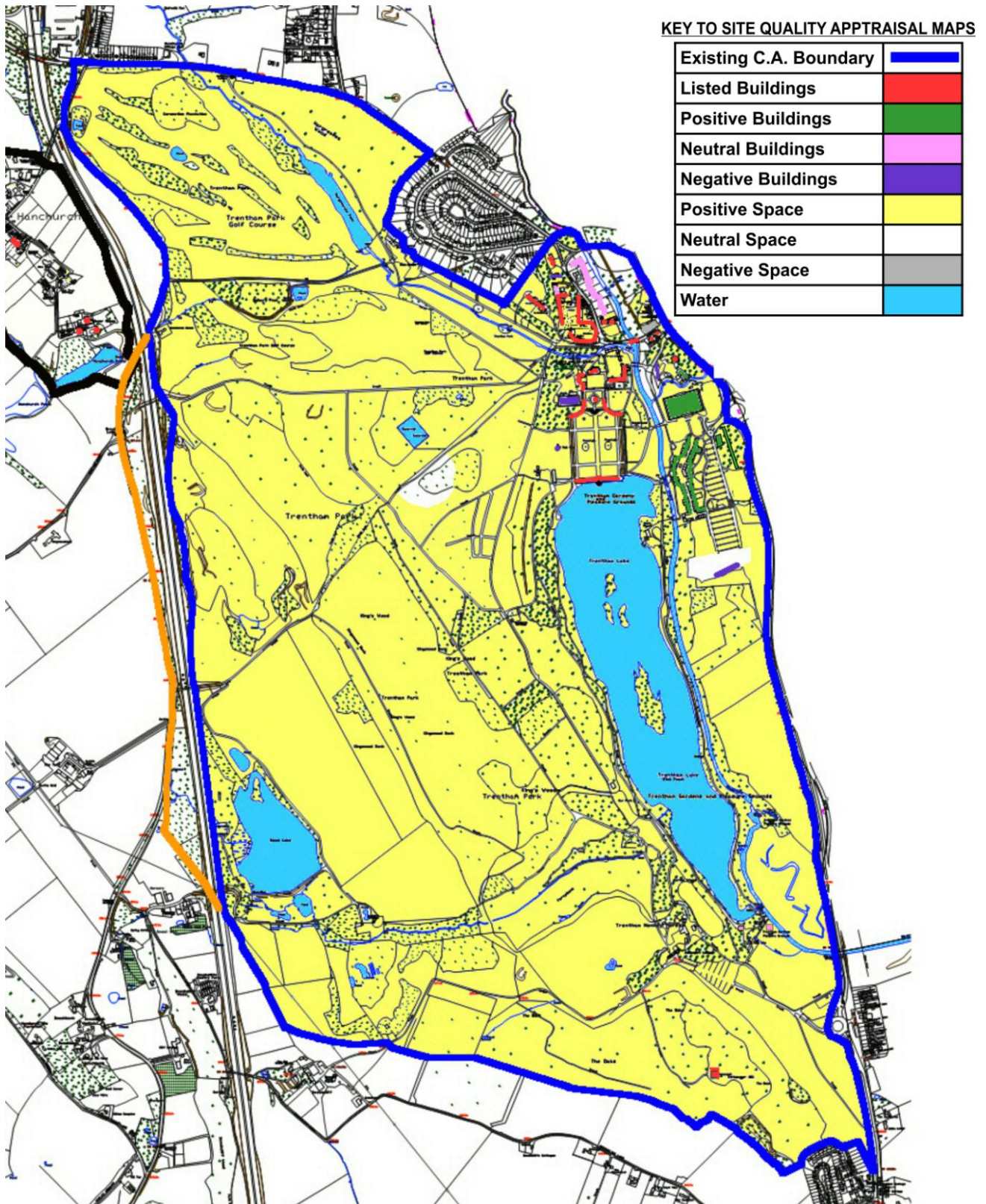
Green Spaces and Biodiversity

The boundaries of Trentham Conservation Area are almost identical with those of the registered historic park. As a result, and unusually for a conservation area, much of the area is in fact a green space. This fact is the pre-eminent determinant of the overall character of the Conservation Area. Both its spatial qualities and its biodiversity were described in the previous section which recognises the variety of both within the park. The *Landscape Assessment and Ecological and Conservation Management Plan* provide a detailed assessment of individual elements which contribute to the landscape character and biodiversity and a plan to manage these. The Deer Study and Resource Centre is also based at Trentham and, while its remit is to deer conservation in general, they provide advice on the maintenance of the habitat and deer population at Trentham.

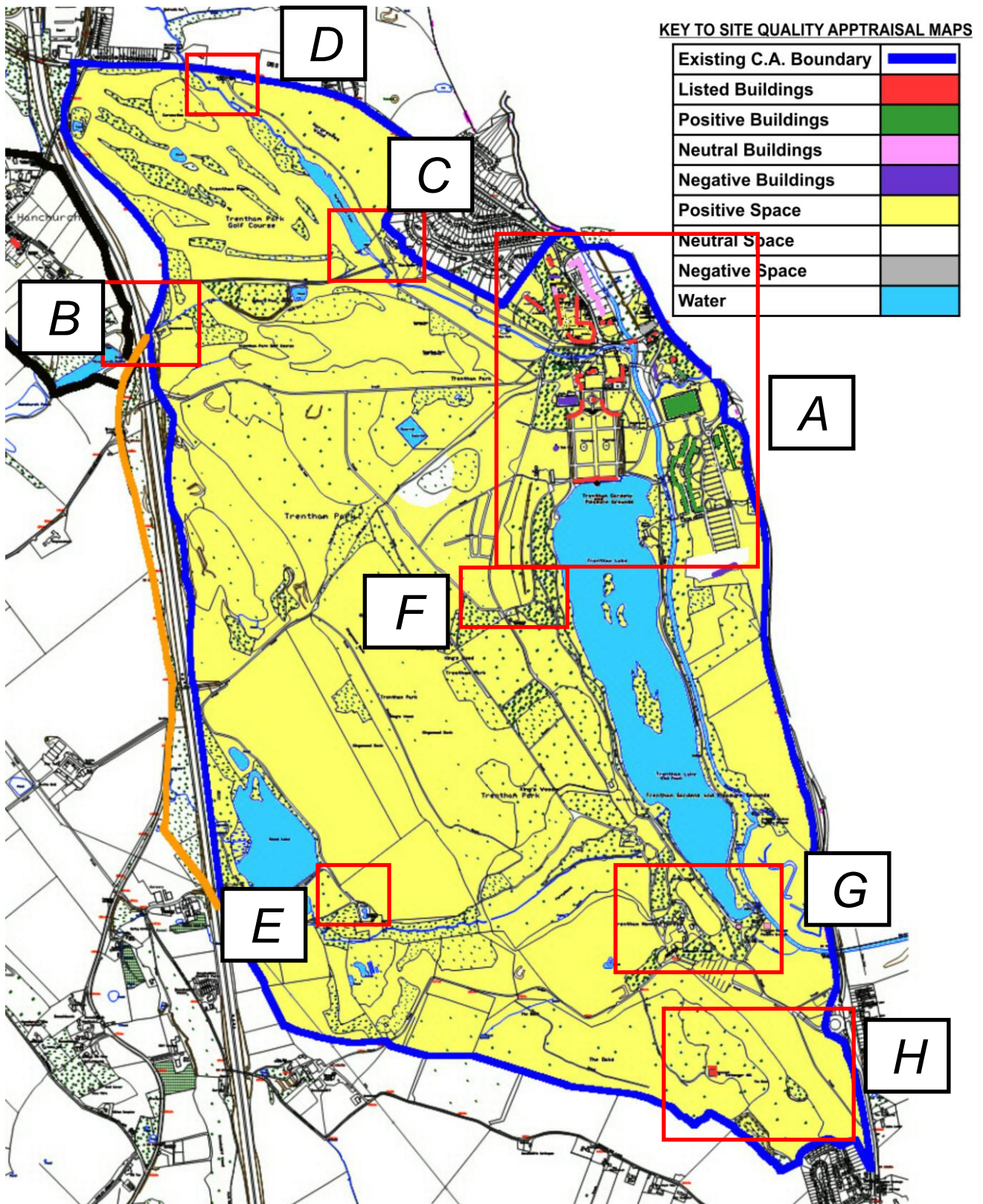
4.4.1 Definition of Character Areas

In view of the variety of character and landscapes found within Trentham Park, sub areas have been identified to assist detailed analysis of the built and designed historic landscape. The definitions are somewhat arbitrary however, and there are gradations of character within each area. The areas are shown on the 'Character Areas Map With Site Quality Appraisal' map on page 38, and a brief summary of the dominant character is provided at the beginning of each section. The review of usage, building qualities and an identification of buildings or structures of special interest follows. Positive buildings and areas as well as Issues relating to condition and the identification of neutral and negative areas or structures are discussed under 4.5 Evaluation, as are problems, pressures and capacity for change.

4.4.2 Site Quality Appraisal Maps



Trentham Conservation Area Site Quality Appraisal Map

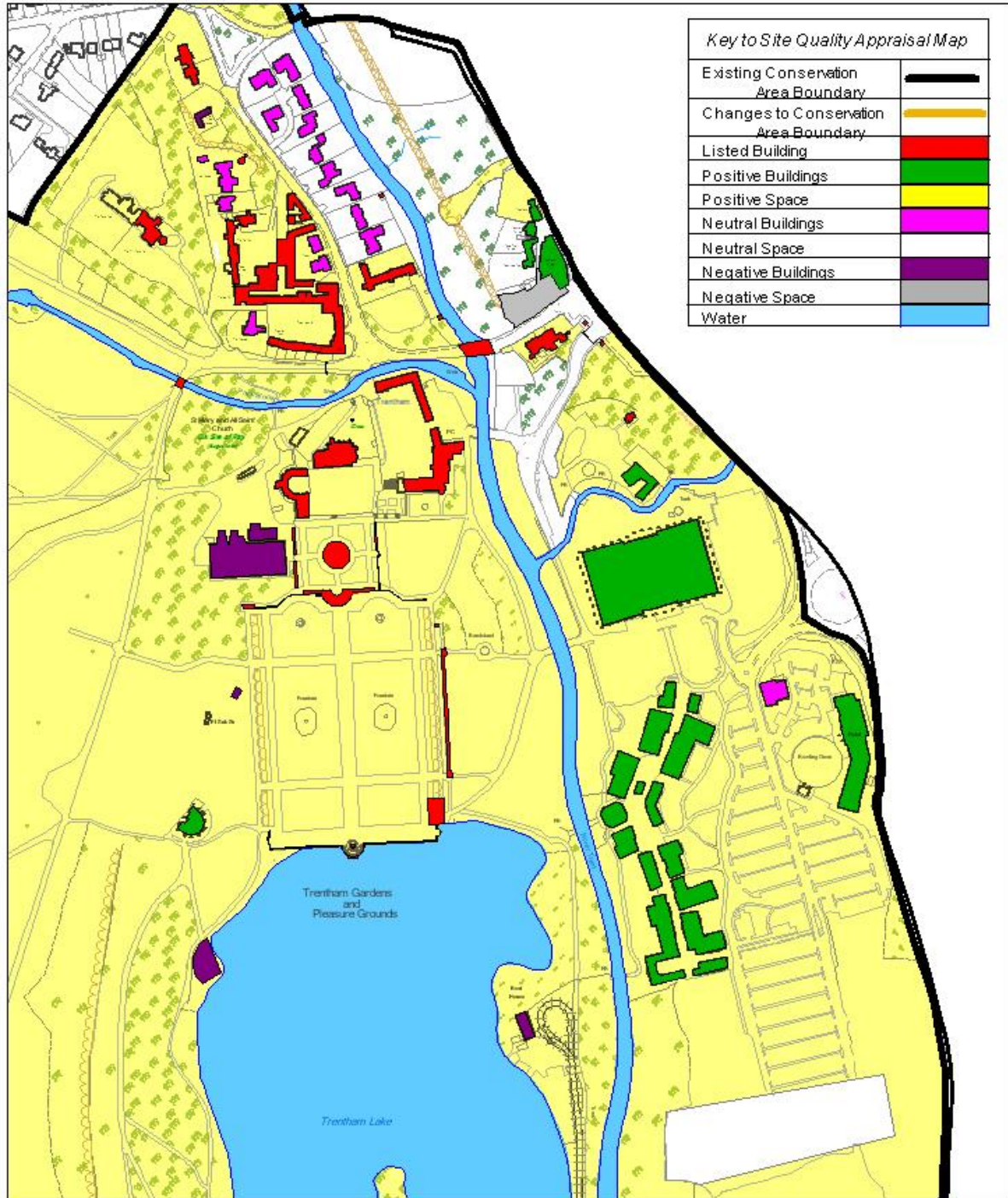


Site Quality Appraisal: Key to Inset Maps

A: North East Corner, including principal Buildings; B: Hanchurch House (formerly Park Cottage); C: Golf Club House; D: Hargreaves Lodge; E: Keepers Cottage; F: Woodgate Cottage; G: Monkey Forest and Lake Shore; H: Monument











	Stafford Borough Council Civic Centre Riverside Stafford ST16 3AQ Tel No. 01785 619000	Not to scale Date: Nov 2012	
	© Crown copyright and database rights (2012) Ordnance Survey (100018205)		

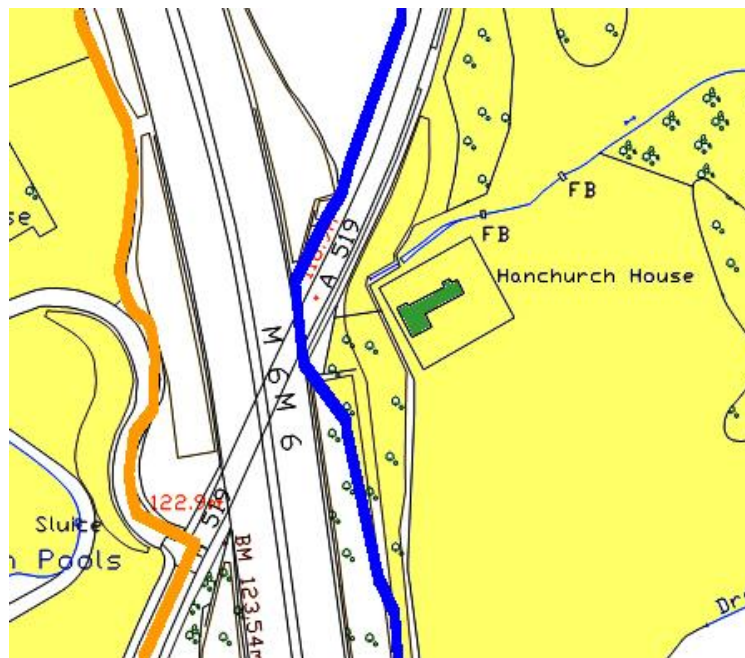
Trentham Site Quality Analysis



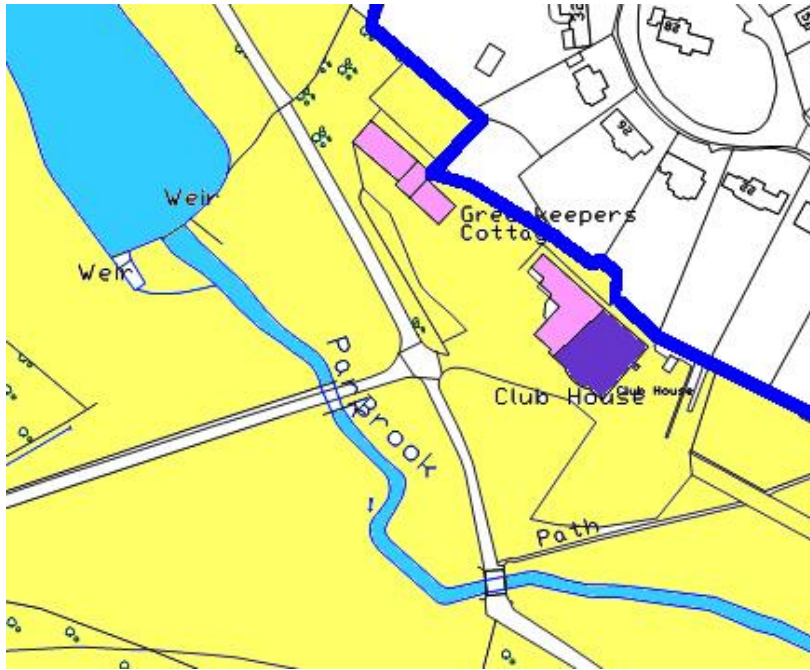
A: North - East Corner of Conservation Area, including Principal Buildings

A: North-East Corner of Conservation Area, including Principal Buildings

Key to Site Quality Appraisal Map	
Existing Conservation Area Boundary	
Changes to Conservation Area Boundary	
Listed Buildings	
Positive Buildings	
Positive Space	
Neutral Buildings	
Neutral Space	
Negative Buildings	
Negative Space	
Water	



B: Hanchurch House – formerly Park Cottage



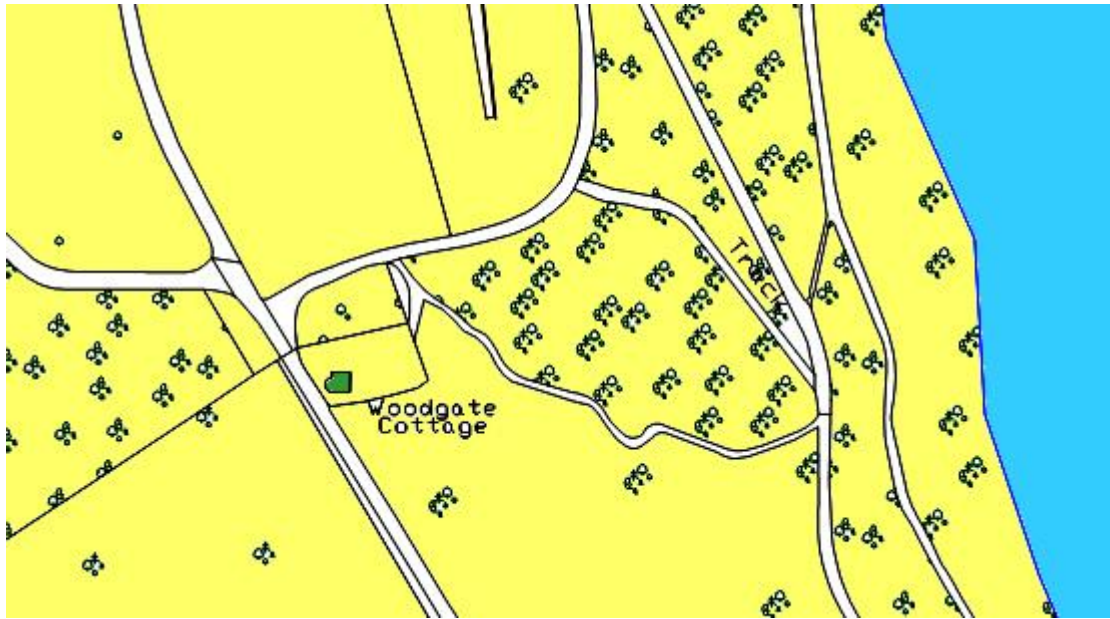
C: Golf Club House



D: Hargreaves Lodge



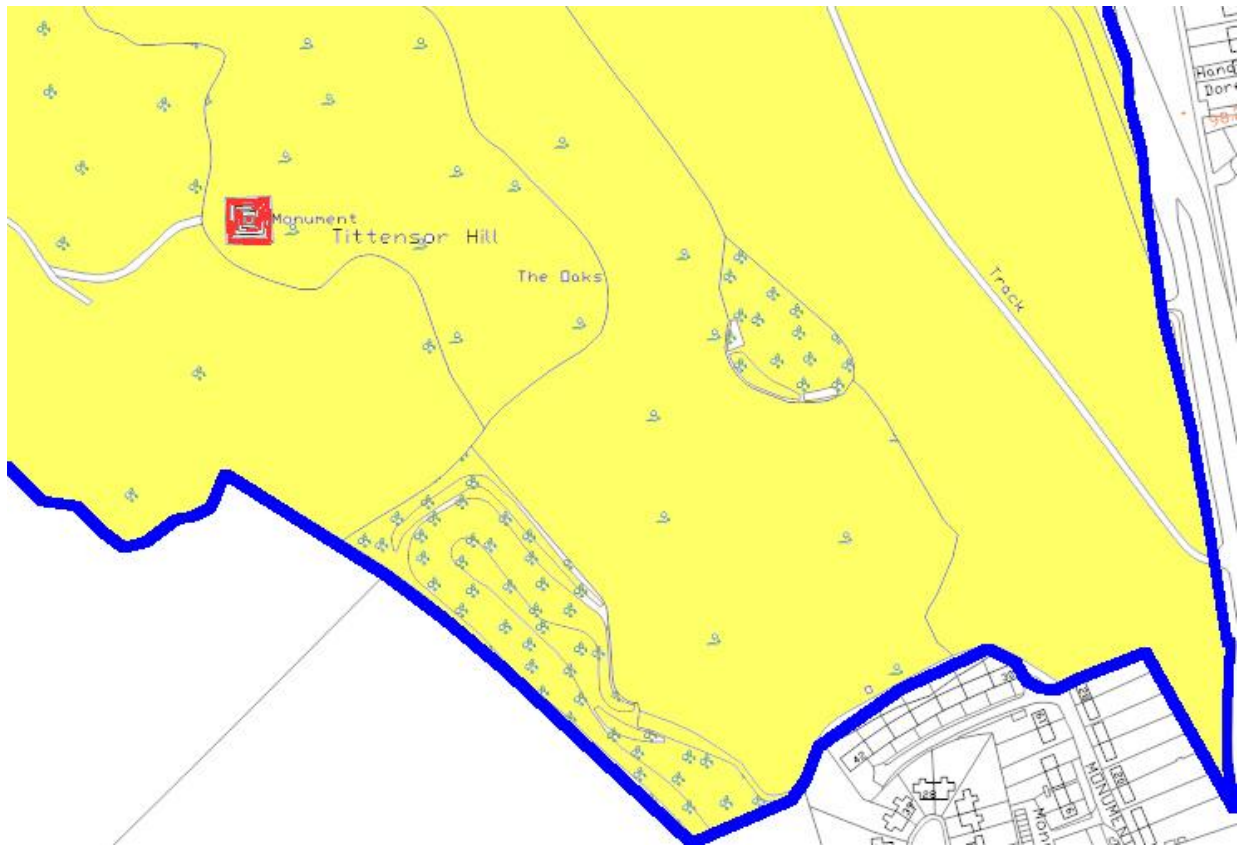
E: Keepers Cottage



F: Woodgate Cottage



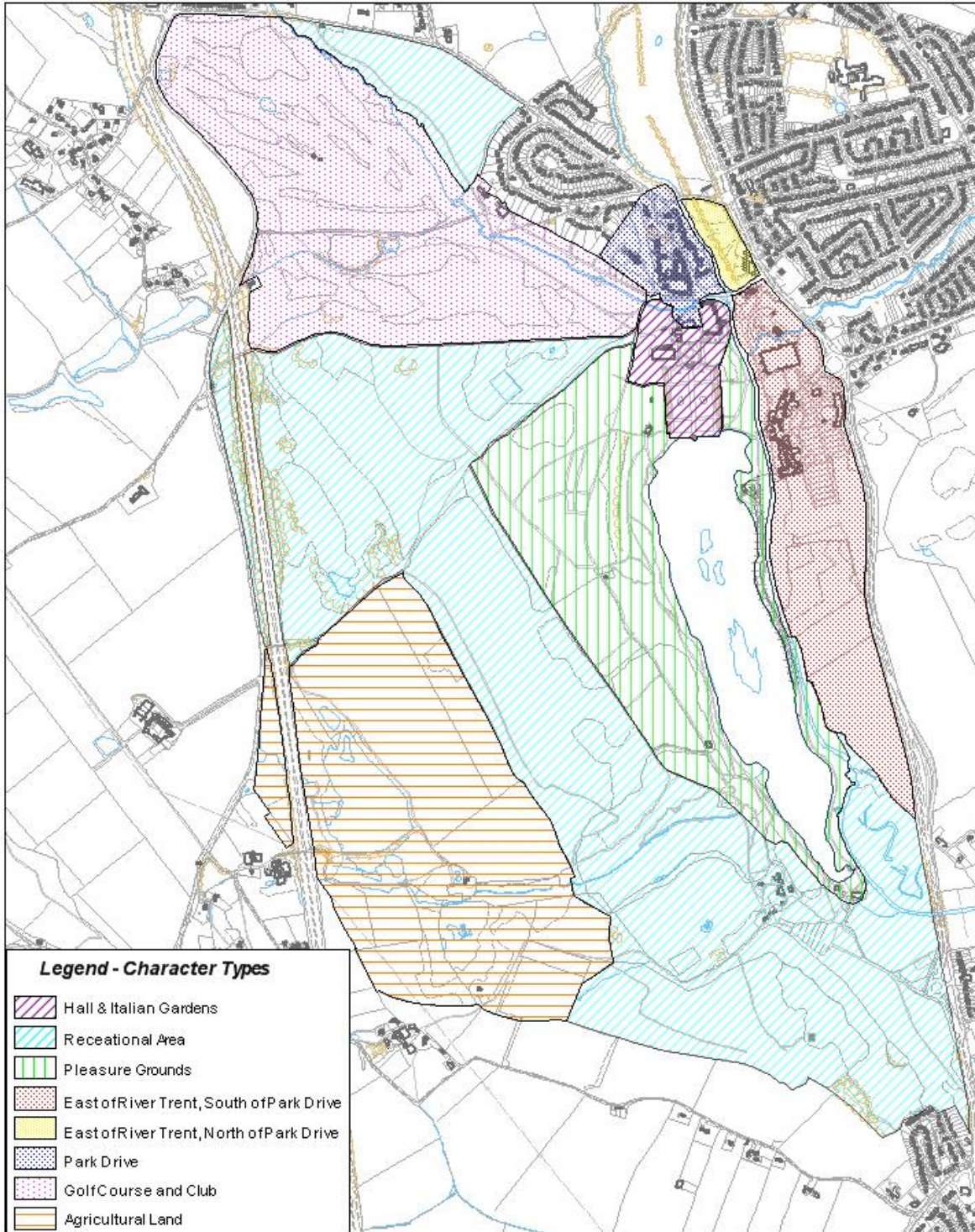
G: Monkey Forest and Lake Shore



H: Monument

 <p>Stafford BOROUGH COUNCIL</p>	<p>Stafford Borough Council Civic Centre Riverside Stafford ST16 3AQ</p> <p>Tel No. 01785 619000</p>	<p>Scale: 1:15000</p>	
		<p>Date: Nov 2012</p>	
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Trentham Conservation Area Appraisal - Character Areas



4.4.3 The Hall and Italian Gardens



Formal Character of Historic Italian Gardens

This broadly rectangular area is located north of the lake, in the north-east of the Conservation Area. It contains the Italian Gardens and the remains of Trentham Hall, comprising the grand entrance and orangery on the west and the former stable block and part of the service block on the east. The dominant character of the combined house and garden is grand and formal, echoing the ambience, if not the scale, of European palaces such as Schonbrunn and Versailles.

Prevailing and Past Uses and their Influence on the Buildings

Historically the hall was used for living and entertaining on a lavish scale. The size and appearance of the hall and gardens served to communicate the family's wealth, status and aesthetic taste. The gardens provided both an area for aesthetic pleasure and formal promenading and the immediate setting for the house.

Today the hall no longer exists and those elements that remain are closed to the public and awaiting restoration and a new use. The gardens have been restored and are open to the public. The Upper Flower Garden is a restoration of the original design and planting and the Lower Flower Garden largely retains its original layout but the planting is an evolutionary interpretation of the earlier scheme.

Qualities of the Buildings, Form and Materials



South Elevation of Former Service Block

The remaining buildings are largely mid-nineteenth century and contemporary with the Italian Gardens. Like the gardens and garden structures, they are Italianate in style. The remaining buildings lack the height of the previous building. The highest existing feature is the clock tower of the former service block, rising above a two-storey building; the demolished house had a belvedere with a loggia on the top floor. The grand entrance is a single-storey semi-circular range, ornamented with ionic columns and a balustrade above the cornice. The stable block and the former service block are both L-shaped and two storeys high, forming three sides to a courtyard (the retaining wall of the churchyard forming the fourth). The service block is enhanced by the porte-cochere and clock tower and a more ornate south elevation with sash windows, an arched colonnade and balustrade above. The buildings of the hall are of rendered brick with extensive ashlar detailing and the stables and sculpture gallery have tiled roofs.



Upper Flower Garden

The gardens are characterised by their grandeur and formality, an impression created by their size and layout in three descending terraces with a symmetrical design of wide gravel paths and rectangular planted areas. Earlier pictures and photographs indicate much more statuary and more planted urns than are present today. The structures and decorative features, mainly but not exclusively of stone, (the garden walls, balustrades, arbour, Perseus statue, triple arched pavilion, urns and fountains) draw the eye and give depth and definition to the design.

Buildings and Structures of Special Interest

The remains of the hall and the gardens contain a number of buildings and structures of special interest. It has been noted that three Grade II listed features in the garden are no longer present.

- Grand entrance with porte-cochère, incorporating Tatham's 1808 conservatory (Grade II*);
- L-shaped orangery and sculpture gallery with porch and clock tower (Grade II);
- L-shaped stable block (Grade II);
- Bronze statue of Perseus (copied from an original by Cellini) on a stone pedestal (Grade II*);
- Semi-circular steps descending into the water, flanked by the retaining wall and balustrade above the lake with the small boathouse at the eastern end (Grade II);
- Eastern and western stone walls, including seating (Grade II);
- Balustrade and steps between the Lower and Upper Flower Gardens (Grade II);
- Cast and wrought iron arbour trellis running along the eastern edge of the Lower Flower Garden (Grade II);
- Triple arched pavilion at the west end of the balustrade (Grade II) was formerly one of four, the other three having been dispersed to other family properties;
- Original oval stone planter near the Arbour (not listed);

Open Spaces and the Public Realm

The Italian Gardens are a major open space. The characteristics of the space were described in the previous section on Spatial Analysis under "Open Spaces: Gardens and Pleasure Grounds". The quality of interpretation is good.

4.4.4 The Eastern and Western Pleasure Grounds and Lakeside

The Eastern and Western Pleasure Grounds are located on either side of the house and Italian Garden at the north end of the lake and extend south into the Lakeside walk. This character of the area is dominated by its proximity to the Lake, views of the Lake from different perspectives and a more active usage.

The Western Pleasure Ground is enclosed by an open green wire fence on its west boundary. It is an area of parkland with managed woodland in the south and less well-maintained woodland further west. It contains two original structures (the eighteenth century boat shelter and Woodgate Cottage, rebuilt on the site of a building which appears on the 1876 OS map, contemporary with the open air swimming pool), and the new Italian Garden Tearoom and Amphitheatre, as well as the adventure playground and other new attractions.

The Eastern Pleasure Ground contains the new gardens and extends to the River Trent on the east and south down the lakeside. The area contains a combination of gardens and parkland. In the north it abuts the edge of the service block. It contains four bridges over the River Trent, including the 1930s bridge which connected the Dance Hall to the gardens, built on the site of the former Iron Bridge, only small sections of whose abutments remain. The Lakeside to the south of the Pleasure Gardens combines relatively open land on the east with more wooded landscape to the west however both are dominated by views of the lake. Buildings include the 20th century boathouse, ticket office and associated structures, the stone weir and at the south end the new boathouse and the Lakeside Café, in the 1930s Swiss Chalet.

The dominant character of the Western Pleasure Ground is that of a large recreational area for all ages combining open areas and some woodland, active and educational attractions and refreshments, within the context of the dominant adjacent historic gardens. The dominant character of the Eastern Pleasure Ground is an informal garden, contrasting with the formal character of the Italian Garden, but more restful and discreet. The character of the Lakeside area relates both to the changing views of the lake and activities associated with it.

Prevailing and Past Uses and their Influence on the Buildings

The Western Pleasure Ground, to the west of the Italian Garden, was traditionally an area of walks and was partly planted as an arboretum and had a cricket ground in the late nineteenth century. In the twentieth century more recreational attractions were located here and this trend has been retained in the twenty-first century. The current structures are all recent (the Italian Gardens Café, the adventure playground and small gardens, the maze, amphitheatre, barefoot trail and hides) but are in the tradition of earlier attractions. They generally blend in with the grass and parkland (unlike their predecessors) without distracting attention from the focal importance of the adjacent Italian Gardens.



Play Area in Western Pleasure Ground

The western lakeside was the site of the 1930s lakeside swimming pool which has now been completely demolished but Woodgate Cottage dates from this period (see below).



Italian Gardens Cafe

The Eastern Pleasure Ground, to the east of the hall and Italian gardens, was historically used for walks and included additional rubberies and gardens. In the twentieth century the bandstand is located here. This use remains unchanged and contributes to the discreet and calm character of this area. Further south the area around the 20th century boathouse, at a greater distance from the lake, is associated with lake usage and viewing (boat trips, lakeside picnic, etc.), as is the walk alongside the lake to the Lakeside Café in the south.



Eastern Pleasure Gardens



Landing Stage on East Shore

Qualities of the Buildings, Form and Materials

The buildings of the Western Pleasure Ground vary in character and age. The eighteenth century boat shelter is below ground level, with steps leading down to three arched openings to the lake, and is built of brick. Woodgate Cottage, of rendered brick, is a two-storey 1930s cottage with a semi-circular bay, a band of windows and a flat roof; its garden is surrounded by a wooden fence. The new Italian Gardens Café is a large building overlooking the lake of coloured render and tinted glass with a sloping roof projecting over the front patio. There is also a late twentieth century brick electricity substation.



New Watersports Building



Twentieth Century Bridge

There are no buildings in the Eastern Pleasure Ground; the only structures are four bridges over the River Trent. The most northerly is a 20th century construction. The second from the north is a 1930s concrete structure with iron railings built on the site of the earlier Iron Bridge, of which only very small sections of the abutments remain; the 1930s bridge was to connect the Dance Hall to the Gardens. To the south is a modern steel and timber asymmetrical cabled stay bridge and there is an iron and concrete bridge near the 20th century boathouse.



Lakeside Café

On the east shore the boathouse is a corrugated metal shed with possibly an asbestos tiled roof, probably from the 1930s. An adjacent metal container is used as storage for the railway engine. The canoe clubhouse is a small 1960s or 1970s timber shed with a flat roof and inserted double glazed sliding doors. Adjacent to this is the ticket office which is a contemporary single-storey timber garden house structure with overhanging roof.



Stone weir on Lake shore

At the south of the lake the Lakeside Café is a timber framed structure on a brick plinth with a tiled gabled roof, timber panelling on the two long walls and weather-boarded gables, dating from the 1930s. The toilet block to its rear is a functional square building of brick with a flat roof. The new water sports facility is a large building of modern construction with a low-pitched metal roof, clad in timber, with large glass doors facing the slipway. Though designed to suit its purpose, the 21st century mass and detail of the building do not harmonise with the historical characteristics of Trentham Park.

Buildings and Structures of Special Interest

There are two original structures in the Western Pleasure Ground and one bridge in the Eastern Pleasure Ground, none of which are listed.



1930s Bridge on site of former Iron Bridge

- The eighteenth century boat shelter is of particular interest, both for its architectural form and as evidence of early recreational boating. The triple arches of brick can be seen from the lakeside and the land entry down steps is surrounded by railings (not listed).
- Woodgate Cottage, built after 1925, is one of the few structures remaining from the twentieth century. Rendered brick with art deco details.
- A bridge over the Trent is of historic interest. Part of the foundation dates to an earlier structure which was one of the earliest iron bridges in the world (see. Page 14) (not listed).
- The weir at the southern end of the lake is a wide curved stepped stone structure, with stepped stone walls on either side, from which the higher level lake water returns to the Trent and flows under Strongford Bridge;



Remains of Eighteenth Century Boat Shelter



Open Spaces and the Public Realm

A large section just north of the lake has been redesigned as a “River of Grass” and “Floral Labyrinth” themed garden characterised by curved beds, gravel paths, areas of grass and mature trees, giving a calm, more informal feel; it provides a pleasing counterpoint to the parkland to the north and south (and to the more formal character of the adjacent Italian Gardens). The occasional benches are of timber, in keeping with the informal keynote. The garden contains a lake sculpture of a flight of swans. Occasional unobtrusive interpretation boards provide limited but well-targeted information, but there is no interpretation of the eighteenth century boat shelter.



Bench in River of Grasses



Open area and contemporary bridge in Eastern Pleasure Garden

4.4.5 Park Drive

This area is located on the northern boundary of the Conservation Area, west of the River Trent and east of the Golf Club; it is not part of the registered park. The area is approximately triangular in shape, with a southward extension which includes the church. Park Drive itself is an inverted T-shape, running west from the A34 to the golf

club and also north from the rear entrance of Trentham Hall to Whitmoor Road, the northern boundary of the Conservation Area. It contains the church and churchyard, a large number of the estate buildings of Trentham Hall and some modern housing. It is the only residential area within the Conservation Area, as the estate buildings have been restored and re-developed for residential use and some infill building has been permitted.

Prevailing and Past Uses and their Influence on the Buildings

Although the church was originally part of the medieval priory, it was significantly rebuilt in the nineteenth century and now has the character of a parish church. It is no longer integrated into the site of Trentham Hall. To accommodate the needs of the current church community a small modern parish building has been constructed in the north-west corner of the churchyard and a vicarage has been built west of the estate buildings.

The estate buildings include a number of cottages built for estate workers which are on a domestic scale and set in gardens (1-4 Park Drive, which functioned as a school for girls and infants at the end of the nineteenth century, 11, 12, 14 and 15) as well as larger buildings dedicated to particular functions (the Malthouse, the Brewery, the Bakery, the Agent's House at 6-10 Park Drive, the Laundry House, the Smithy, the Dairy House and Dairy and Peacock House, as well as the Ice House and the buildings of the Home Farm). The latter have a more unified aesthetic style communicating their collective connection to Trentham Hall and its Estate. These have all been converted to residential usage. Additionally, there is some modern infill housing in the area.

Qualities of the Buildings, Form and Materials

The church is built of stone with a tiled roof. It is perpendicular in style, largely rebuilt in 1844 by Sir Charles Barry, with the nave, aisles and chancel in one. A twentieth century yellow brick community building has been added discreetly in the west corner of the churchyard. The churchyard is surrounded by a high retaining wall of sandstone.



Church of St Mary and All Saints

The majority of the main estate buildings is early nineteenth century, Italianate in style, of yellow lime-washed brick with pantiled roofs and strongly projecting eaves. They are built close to the road, which dates from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century; close to Park Brook there are some low walls of heavy rough-faced stone and there are squared stone surrounds to the Agent's house; elsewhere hedges have been added at a later date. The estate buildings are generally of two storeys and have a low-pitched roof and sometimes pyramidal roofs with a stepped outline thanks to the addition of square towers (louvered ventilation for the maltings) and chimneys. The group comprising the Malthouse, Brewery, Bakery and Agent's House is of three wings ranged round a rear courtyard with a semi-circular carriage arch of rusticated stone at the centre. The cement windows are set in plain stone surrounds and the doorways have moulded stone architraves with rectangular fanlights.



Malthouse, Brewery, Bakery and Agent's House

The rectangular Laundry House, now converted to three houses, lies north of this group. The former Smithy is triangular in plan with high brick walls. Single-storey, the entrance is of rusticated stone with a range of painted brick to the rear. Its main entrance has an inverted horseshoe shaped doorway and two massive round stone gate piers closed within a brick wall. Peacock Houses comprises 5 Park Drive, a rectangular Italianate building of two and three storeys with a square tower, on the east side of Park Drive and 1-3 Peacock Houses, a single-storey building with a central carriage arch. Both are of painted brick with tiled roofs and set in gardens.



Former Smithy with Rear Access Road



Peacock Houses



Dairy and Dairy House

The Dairy House and the Dairy are late nineteenth century and set within gardens. The former is irregular in plan with two cross wings and a rear range and the smaller dairy, positioned to the east of the main house, is octagonal in form. Both have a black and white timber frame on a red brick plinth, plastered panels, moulded finials, ornaments and barge boards and a clay tile roof with gables.

Most of the former outbuildings of the Home Farm are two-storey, of brick with slate roofs and have been converted into housing, set on to access roads. In contrast the estate cottages, which are generally two-storey brick with slate roofs, are set within gardens. 14-15 Park Drive is built as a pair of one-storey painted brick cottages with a slate roof.



14-15 Park Drive



1997 Housing

The modern housing is varied. The 1970s vicarage is two-storey rendered brick. The infill housing to the west of Park Drive is mainly of brick and of varying heights and designs; the large block adjacent to the Laundry House echoes some of the original architectural detail with a stone string course but is on a larger scale and is brick rather than lime-washed. The 1997 housing on the east of Park Drive is two-storey, detached, of brick with stone window surrounds and detailing, with tiled roofs and projecting gables varying the roofline. These houses differ from the estate buildings in that they are set within gardens and are clearly modern; however they acknowledge the character of the immediate area with pantile roofs and stone dressings and variation in their massing and rooflines. There is a large three-storey block on the east.

Buildings and Structures of Special Interest



***Eighteenth Century
Single-span Bridge***

- The Grade II* listed church stands within an ancient churchyard on high ground, surrounded by retaining sandstone walls. It contains elements of the eleventh century priory church but was rebuilt in 1840 by Sir Charles Barry;
- The churchyard contains the remains of a Grade II listed cross (Grade II);
- An eighteenth century ashlar single-span bridge over Park Brook, north-west of the church, which once provided access to the west entrance of Trentham Hall (Grade II);
- The late nineteenth century Dairy House and Dairy north-west of the Church (Grade II);



**Laundry House on
Park Drive**



Ice House



Three-span Bridge

- Two pairs of gate piers and railings, the outer pair early eighteenth century of stone with moulded caps and ball finials, the inner pair mid-nineteenth century of cast iron with panelled sides and cornices (Grade II);
- 6-10 Park Drive, the early nineteenth century Malthouse, Brewery, Bakery and Agents House, and the Laundry House (Grade II);
- The early nineteenth century Smithy (Grade II);
- The Ice House, possibly dating from the 1840s (Grade II);
- 12 Park Drive, a former estate cottage in a very poor state of repair;
- 14-15 Park Drive, a pair of early nineteenth century estate cottages (Grade II);
- 5 Park Drive and Peacock Houses, circa 1800 (Grade II);
- Two small square garden houses, early nineteenth century, of stone, located north-west and south-west of Peacock House (both Grade II);
- Stone bridge north-east of church, of three spans with cutwaters on both sides and simple stone parapet (incorporated into walls on either side of the road) (Grade II);
- 1-4 Park Drive, four early nineteenth century former estate cottages in a dilapidated condition south of Park Drive (Grade II).

Open Spaces and the Public Realm



**Park Drive and Church Car
Park**

Some of the internal and rear spaces have been used for access, others have been attractively gravelled and landscaped with box tree planting to provide formal public spaces, echoing the character of the Italian Gardens (behind 6-10 Park Drive and around Peacock House). The church car park on the east side of Park Drive is well maintained with a gravel surface and some mature trees. Its slightly higher surface is set behind low retaining walls of stone which are similar to those outside the Malthouse and on the parapet of the bridge east of the church.

The northern section of Park Drive has a tarmac surface with low pavements on either side. To the west Park Drive is of tarmac and

runs through an avenue of mature lime trees as it approaches the golf club. Private traffic management measures have been introduced along Park Drive, including bollards, painted road markings and speed bumps. These have an unfortunate cluttering effect on an otherwise high quality of the historic environment.

There is an opportunity for provision of interpretation here as this is an area of historic interest.



Courtyard of estate Building



Condition of Trees on Park Drive

4.4.6 East of the River Trent/North of Park Drive



Harvester Pub on Stone Road

This is a small rectangular area lying east of the River Trent and north of Park Drive, with the A34 forming its eastern boundary. It contains three buildings: the Harvester Pub with car park and two cottages. The rest of the land is overgrown woodland. It is not part of the registered park.

Prevailing and Past Uses and their Influence on the Buildings

Historically this area was part of the estate and was planted as a minor arboretum in the nineteenth century. Three estate cottages were built in the south-east corner in cottage ornée style with gardens, similar in style to those elsewhere on the estate and in nearby Trentham. Two of the cottages are still in residential use; the third has been converted into a pub and extended, the garden turned into a car park.

Qualities of the Buildings, Form and Materials

The two-storey buildings are of painted brick, with steeply pitched, decorative local clay tiled roofs, gables and dormer windows. Decorative elements, in keeping with the cottage ornée style, include timbered porches, carved finials and bargeboards, modillioned eaves and headmoulds over the ground floor windows.

Buildings and Structures of Special Interest

- Yew Tree Cottage, to the rear of the pub, and Cranberry Cottage on Stone Road are largely unchanged in form and are good examples of estate cottages within the grounds of the original park. The pub retains original features, though dominated by a flat roof extension on the road side.



Cranberry Cottage



Yew Tree Cottage

Open Spaces and the Public Realm

The pub car park may be considered public realm. This has a tarmac surface without any landscaping. Most of the rest of the area is overgrown and what could be accessible woodland with open spaces is only accessible with difficulty. Neither car park nor woodland currently contributes to the character of the Conservation Area and this area is at a distance from and not integrated into the main axes of the estate and park.

4.4.7 East of the River Trent/South of Park Drive



Duchess's or Children's Cottage



Remains of Ballroom Arches Incorporated into Car Park



New Garden Centre



New Hotel

This is a long rectangular area running south from Park Drive, with the River Trent forming its western boundary and the A34 its eastern boundary. In the north it contains an open area and the original drive to the mausoleum, now closed off with iron gates and a pair of stone lodges. South of this is the rear service yard for the garden centre and the garden centre itself, whose outdoor retail area contains the Duchess's Cottage and some brick workshops, named in a sale catalogue as the Butcher's House. The central area is largely car parking and access from the A34 but also includes a stone arch, a remnant of the arcading from the 1930s ballroom building and the new Frankie and Benny's diner. The retail village is on the south-west side of the car park and the hotel on its east. The unsurfaced ground south of the village is used for temporary attractions such as circuses, as well as for overflow parking.

Prevailing and Past Uses and their Influence on the Buildings

Historically this area contained the walled kitchen gardens and numerous glasshouses which supplied the hall; it also contained a number of structures including the small black and white cottage known variously as the Children's Cottage or Duchess's Cottage, the Butcher's House and the Garden House. To the north and south of this area were gardens. The 1924 OS map shows a large number of tennis courts and a bowling green.

Between 1929 and 1932 the entire area was redeveloped with the addition of the ballroom complex on the former kitchen garden and, to the south, two garden centres, a market garden area and other attractions, as well as parking. This recreational and horticultural (rather than commercial) focus has been continued in the twenty-first century with a major garden centre, a retail centre, hotel and other facilities. There are only two original buildings left, both of which have been incorporated into the garden centre. The contemporary buildings are appropriate for their recreational use and largely subordinate and sympathetic to the adjacent historic buildings and gardens.

Qualities of the Buildings, Form and Materials

The majority of the building is modern and includes considerable variety in terms of scale, materials and form. The hotel on the eastern boundary is rectangular in plan but its elongated form, stepped roof line of three to five storeys and the use of brick and yellow ochre coloured render with stone features provides a visual link to the Italianate style of other estate buildings and avoids being inappropriate in scale. The garden centre building is a very large single-storey rectangular building with a restaurant terrace on its western side. The extensive use of dark green glass and coloured composite stone with a rusticated facing and the green roof allow it to blend in. The diner and the shopping village are in the style of single-storey rectangular log cabins of differing sizes, built of rust coloured timber, with sloping wood shingle roofs. The larger diner-style restaurant has to the east of the shopping village diverges from this

established house style, with a sloping roof rather than the shingled pitched roof of the adjacent village.

In addition there are some structures from the former period, detailed below.

Buildings and Structures of Special Interest



Pair of Stone Lodges



Victorian Workshops

- The pair of 1808 stone lodges by Charles Tatham moved to the A34 in 1926 (Grade II);
- The Duchess's Cottage, early nineteenth century one-storey cottage ornée of painted brick and sham timber frame (Grade II);
- The Butcher's House, brick Victorian workshops within the garden centre outdoor retail area, illustrating the intense estate work that was once carried out here;
- Remnants of the park walls; on the A34 the brick park walls provide a visual boundary to the park;
- Remnants of the arcading, possibly dating from the 19th century glass structure, incorporated into the 1930s ballroom complex and stone arch, one of the few pieces of evidence of the twentieth century importance of Trentham Gardens as a venue for social events.

Open Spaces and the Public Realm



Entrance Roundabout with Contemporary lighting

At the vehicular entrance from the A34 there is a large entrance roundabout with very contemporary street lighting and car parking. This is of good quality, the tarmac surfaces being broken up by hedges and some areas of grass and mature trees preventing the creation of an overly urban feel.

The shopping village south of the garden centre is still contemporary but is more intimate and inwardly oriented due to the dominant building form of single-storey wooden chalets built around paved pedestrian streets with extensive contemporary street furniture and numerous pavement cafes.



Rear of Shopping Village



Shopping Village



Land to South of Car Park

To the west of the garden centre is an open grassy area overlooking the River Trent. The access road to the rear of the garden centre leads north to a service area, an open green area and the road to the Tatham lodges.

Overall the developed area east of the River Trent has created an attractive recreational environment with good quality buildings. It will be important to maintain this in the future and to ensure that all new development respects the design principles of the *Architectural Masterplan* and avoids potential pressure arising from commercial success to over-develop or clutter the area and blur the distinct agreed design styles.

To the south of the developed area is an area of woodland and grassland. The *Ecological Conservation Management Plan* has analysed the qualities and biodiversity of the different areas and has identified little of value in the woodland and grassland compared with the much richer habitats to be found elsewhere in Trentham Park. There are no structures within this area and its character is as discussed under Spatial Analysis. Strongford Bridge is located on the eastern boundary opposite Strongford Farm but the current structure is a modern bridge; there are no remains of the earlier bridge identified in the HER. Although undeveloped, it has been included in this character area because of its geographical location east of the Trent.

Conversely, however, the fen at the southern tip of this area east of the Trent accommodates a number of different species. The plan is to manage this as a wildlife area; there is currently no public access, with viewing and information boards only on the eastern lakeside path. For this reason this space has been considered part of the Trentham Park recreational area.

4.4.8 Trentham Park Recreational Area



Grassy Area and Scrubland on Monument Hill

This area includes: the area to the south of the lake stretching to the south boundary of the park at the village of Tittensor, including Monument Hill and the Oaks woodland; the Monkey Forest, the woodland on the west shore of the lake, including King's Wood; Gravelpit Lodge, currently just outside the boundary of the Conservation Area but part of the historic park; and the area west of the fence of the Western Pleasure Ground including Hargreaves Wood but excluding the Golf Club.



Varied Landscape of the North Park

The extensive area combines a number of different landscapes and gradients but is predominantly wooded. In the past it was used recreationally for walking and riding, in addition to being a source of timber; today it is still used for walking, in addition to other attractions appropriate to the woodland environment, such as The Monkey Forest and the aerial rope course. These mainly, but not exclusively, attract families and groups of children. While they have retained and enhanced the historic natural landscape, they are also commercially-oriented recreational attractions offering information guides, refreshments, playgrounds and other facilities.

Structures in the area include the 1775-6 Monument Lodges, now forming the entrance to the Monkey Forest which has other associated modern buildings, the Sutherland Monument on Tittensor Hill, Gravelpit Lodge just beyond the western boundary, Hargreaves Lodge to the north on the edge of Hargreaves Wood and the old reservoir.

Prevailing and Past Uses and their Influence on the Buildings

As has been discussed elsewhere, Trentham Park was extended on a number of occasions, absorbing land which had previously been used for farming or forestry, with the objective of creating a large park with varied landscapes and vistas for the recreation of the family and their guests. Thus over time different lodges were built. The Monument Lodges preceded the lodges on the west and north of the park, evidence of the need to mark entrances and provide accommodation for estate workers. The modern buildings have been designed to accommodate the new activities of the Monkey Forest and to fit in with both the historic lodge and the woodland environment.

The area is now a popular leisure area offering a number of different attractions, including:

- the Monkey Forest and an aerial rope course, paid attractions which attract visitors from a considerable radius;
- more strenuous walks up and around Monument Hill, King's Wood and Spring Valley, the North Park and Hargreaves Wood;
- nature observation: the wet grassland at the south-east of the lake can be observed from the shore path as can the heron colony on the islands and other wildlife in the woods;
- dog walking for the local population, with pedestrian access to the park from Tittensor in the south and housing near Park Drive in the north.

The outline planning permission acknowledged that in time some holiday accommodation might be sited within the woodland on the western lake shore.

Qualities of the Buildings, Form and Materials

The buildings of the Monkey Forest are all modern and of differing sizes. The exception is the historic pair of small rectangular-plan lodges on either side of the drive of painted ashlar with painted brick extensions. The new buildings are predominantly of timber in the style of log cabins. The modern ticket office, with its transparent canopy and metal turnstiles, contrasts with the traditional materials and style of the lodges but is subordinate in height and could be removed at a later date without damage to the historic structure. To the east, behind the refreshment building, are a service yard and shed of green metal; these are screened by fencing and planting.



Monument Lodge



Buildings at Monkey Forest

To the north-west, the two lodges (Gravelpit and Hargreaves Lodge) are on a small scale in cottage ornée style, with steeply sloping gabled slate roofs, black and white timber work with moulded bargeboards, finials and pendants. Hargreaves Lodge is built on a brick plinth with two black and white timber-framed storeys. There is no park wall or gates. Gravelpit Lodge, within a proposed extension to the conservation area, is constructed of stone on the ground floor and timber and brick on the first floor; it is within the historic park boundary wall and has decorative stone gate piers.



Hargreaves Lodge



Gravelpit Lodge

Buildings and Structures of Special Interest

- Hargreaves Lodge is one of the historic park lodges and an attractive estate building in cottage ornée style;
- Gravelpit Lodge and its stone gate piers are both listed (Grade II);



Large Nineteenth Century Reservoir



Sutherland Monument

- The Sutherland Monument celebrates the achievements of the 1st Duke of Sutherland and was built by his son (Grade II*);
- The large rectangular reservoir in the north-west of the park is a nineteenth century construction which formed part of the estate water management system.

Open Spaces and the Public Realm

The common character of this area is one of open space and varied natural landscape. Paths and woodland tracks make public access possible but without altering the natural character. The path on the east shore is roughly surfaced but other paths are of earth; all are wide and, with the exception of those in the northwest of the area, sufficiently flat to make wheelchair access a possibility.

The occasional buildings and structures are subordinate to the landscape, with the exception of the Sutherland Monument, which was designed to be an eye-catcher within the landscape, and the pair of lodges which communicate the grandeur of the family and the park. In comparison with the gardens and pleasure grounds it is less manicured and more informal and the uncommercial, recreational character contrasts with the shopping village. It is a place for active leisure participation rather than passive consumption and, with the contrasts offered by woodland of different density, different gradients and open spaces, encourages a spirit of adventure.

In terms of the public realm and furniture, there are occasional timber A-frame picnic tables. The southern car park is unsurfaced but well-organised, with simple log barriers between rows. Paths are mainly unsurfaced and can be muddy in winter. At the south of the lake the area around the slightly dated Chalet Café is more developed and has recently been refurbished; it has a landing stage for the lake cruises, picnic tables, toilets and is the site of a new water sports building, of an unfortunate functional mass and design.



Path through woods



Nesting Boxes on Lakeside Walk



South Approach and Car Park



Path through Monkey Forest

4.4.9 Golf Course and Club



Golf Course

The north-west corner of the park now accommodates Trentham Park Golf Club. It is approximately triangular in shape with vehicular access along Park Drive; a footpath runs due west to the park boundary. Apart from the golf club buildings the area contains a historic stone bridge just south of the golf club, the remains of a seventeenth century weir just north of Bailey's Pool off the footpath to west and Park Cottage on the western boundary.

Prevailing and Past Uses and their Influence on the Buildings

Previously this was open parkland with few trees but it includes an area of possible ridge and furrow, identified in aerial photography, indicating medieval or post-medieval earthworks.



Path and Brook through Golf Course with Old Fence Posts

In the nineteenth century the area included a short golf course which was extended and then redesigned to the current 18-hole golf course in 1936. A significant amount of planting has occurred in connection with this.

An older brick house has been adapted and extended for the golf clubhouse and additional buildings for administration, retail and maintenance have been built to purpose. This area of parkland clearly now accommodates a very specific leisure activity and some planting and landscaping have been undertaken to facilitate this but the overall character of open parkland is retained. Park Cottage in the grounds is an estate cottage which is still in residential use.



Golf Course and Car Park



Golf Club Offices and Maintenance Building

Qualities of the Buildings, Form and Materials



Park Cottage

The clubhouse is a nineteenth century two-storey brick building with a gabled overhanging roof and brick chimney stack. It has been significantly extended to the north and east, to provide a single-storey dining room with a flat roof and a single-storey pro-shop with a gabled roof. There is a red brick house with tiled roof to the west used as an office and a metal shed for maintenance equipment adjacent to this.

Park Cottage is an extended, rendered brick cottage with tiled roof situated on the edge of the golf course on low lying ground below the eastern park wall.

The listed bridge to the south-east of the clubhouse has a single span with a segmental arch and has a parapet of moulded stone balusters.

Buildings and Structures of Special Interest

- Early nineteenth century stone bridge south of golf club (Grade II);
- Park Cottage, nineteenth century estate cottage, just within the historic park wall.

Open Spaces and the Public Realm

The large tarmac car park is set slightly above the level of the golf course and below the 1930s Dairy House housing development. There is a bronze statue of a stag set on a stone plinth on the grass overlooking the golf course at the south edge of the car park. Elsewhere it is enclosed with a tall hedge of leylandii, suggesting a suburban character.

The golf course is intersected by a public footpath which runs west from the end of Park Drive to the park boundary just north of Park Cottage. This is well-maintained and partly runs alongside a tributary to Park Brook where examples of much earlier fence posts have been left. Baileys Pool and the remains of a historic weir are in a wooded and overgrown area to the south of the path. The pool appeared much smaller than its representation on the map, although this may be seasonal, and the weir is in poor repair.

Northwest of the clubhouse there is a weir behind which Hargreaves Pool extends, forming the southern boundary of Hargreaves Wood. This appears to have been rebuilt or restored recently.

4.4.10 Agricultural Land



Agricultural Land

This area lies in the south-west corner of the Conservation Area, between the ridge of King's Wood on the east and the M6 on the west. The northern boundary is the historic track running to Toft Farm and the southern boundary lies along the north field boundary of the fields on the northern side of Beech Lane. The land here slopes upwards to the east and contains fields used for crops and grazing and areas of woodland. The area contains Keeper's Cottage as well as Black Lake and its weir. It is accessed via two bridges over the M6 and the land is owned by farms lying outside of the Conservation Area.



Keeper's Cottage



Black Lake

Prevailing and Past Uses and their Influence on the Buildings

This was part of what was known as the New Park acquired by the 2nd Baron Gower in the early 1720s. The northern part of this character section originally lay within the historic deer park and some parts of the 1720s wall are still visible, although in poor repair and possibly having been rebuilt in places. Black Lake was the focus for favoured rides from the hall (Fir Tree Walk, later planted with beech) and around the perimeter of the lake. The area is currently used primarily for agriculture although Black Lake is leased out to an angling Club. The area is also used by walkers who use the northern M6 bridge crossing to access walks to and in King's Wood (this is the only public footpath in the area). Keeper's Cottage was a typical cottage provided for estate workers; it is now in private ownership and has been adapted for contemporary residential use with the addition of a conservatory.

Qualities of the Buildings, Form and Materials

Keeper's Cottage is a two-storey cottage with a steeply sloping tiled roof. It has dormer windows, a tall brick chimney stack, and black and white timber framing and detail on the gables. A modern conservatory has been added.

Buildings and Structures of Special Interest

- Keeper's Cottage, a traditional estate cottage.

Open spaces and the Public Realm

Due to the height of the ridge of King's Wood there are no views into the eastern area of the park and it feels removed from the developed north-west of the park. This south-east corner of the estate is now integrated into local farms and is in mixed usage, with some planted fields, some grazing and some woodland.



Looking west from Kingswood over Black Lake

4.5 Evaluation

The overall quality of the majority of the buildings and spaces of the Conservation Area is positive. There are a number of issues of condition in relation to historic structures and buildings; these are identified and described in the following section, which has been structured by character areas. Separately negative or intrusive buildings and elements have been identified in this section and on the corresponding Conservation Area Site Quality Appraisal Map where possible (some, such as the lighting on the balustrade of the Italian Gardens, cannot be superimposed on the map for technical reasons), as have areas considered neutral; listed buildings and unlisted buildings which are nevertheless considered positive (some of which are modern). There are also some structures which are temporary (and therefore should not be relevant to this appraisal) which are discussed in the text but not marked on the map. Due to the overall aesthetic of the landscape which, as stated above, is considered predominantly positive, specific positive spaces have not been noted on the map.

4.4.11 The Hall and Italian Gardens

General Condition

The remains of the grand entrance are on the English Heritage 2008 Heritage at Risk Register, with their condition rated as poor. The former stable block and service block are on the Stafford Borough Council's Buildings at Risk Register as being vacant and in deteriorating condition. The courtyard which they surround is also affected by their condition. It is understood that there are currently plans for restoration and redevelopment of this area.



Grand Entrance in Poor Condition



Damage to Side Entrance of Boathouse



Rear Courtyard in Poor Condition



Stable Block and Rear Courtyard

The boathouse underneath the balustraded wall has not been fully restored; the doorway to the east is missing stone blocks and needs re-pointing.

While the balustrades have been restored, some earlier restoration by previous owners work was of poor quality and used poor quality materials. It has been agreed that these will be replaced when structurally necessary.



Early Restoration of Balustrade

Intrusive Elements, Neutral and Negative Areas

The replacement urns on the balustrade are of similar construction (concrete) and style to the originals but are currently devalued by the inclusion of intrusive stainless steel lighting features and electric cables.



Replacement Urn with Intrusive Modern Lighting



Shed West of Hall and Estate Yard



Boat Shelter

The large shed immediately to the west of the site of the hall and garden is visually intrusive. Its functional nature and low-quality materials are inappropriate in an area which was historically the main approach to the house and the beginning of an important vista to and from the west.

The yard in which the shed is situated is considered negative; its functional character, including intrusive containers (estate maintenance equipment), is not in keeping with the grand historic character of the immediate area. In the longer term this area is destined to be re-landscaped with the construction of the new hotel.

4.4.2 The Eastern and Western Pleasure Grounds and Lakeside

General Condition

Generally this area is in good condition, recognizing that some structures and areas were still under construction at the time of survey.

The eighteenth century boat shelter is in poor condition with plant growth in the deteriorating brickwork

Positive buildings

The new building for the Italian Gardens Café is considered positive, due to the imaginative selection of materials and building style and their successful subordination to the nearby historic structures.

Intrusive Elements, Neutral and Negative Areas

The close-boarded fencing around Woodgate Cottage is considered intrusive as it is out of keeping with the open nature of the surrounding parkland; metal railings might be more appropriate.

The lack of a barrier between the paths and the edge of the lake makes health and safety an important consideration. However, the colour and position of the lifebelt on the shore of the Eastern Pleasure Ground, just in front of Sea of Grasses Garden, is intrusive in one of the identified key views from the promontory on the east shore of the lake. In the Eastern Pleasure Ground the security fencing adjacent to the service block is considered intrusive.



Eastern Pleasure Ground with Swan Sculpture and Intrusive Life Belt



Negative security fencing adjacent to listed service block and Church



20th Century Boathouse



Canoe Club Building

The twentieth century boathouse on the east shore is considered intrusive due to its incompatibility with the historic character of the Conservation Area and the poor quality materials (metal walls, asbestos roof). The adjacent container used for the storage of the train is also considered intrusive.

The small pre-fabricated building for the canoe club with flat roof and large glazed sliding doors, which is particularly visible from the lake, is also considered intrusive.

The open area on the east shore, which includes the above two structures as well as the lake cruise ticket office, is considered neutral. There is a large expanse of open surface with little landscaping or interest. It is very close to the gardens and, while it is not visible from the gardens (being on the other side of the promontory), it is visible from the Western Pleasure Ground.

The new watersports shed at the south of the lake is of a different scale to other structures on the lake. Though designed to suit its purpose, the 21st century mass and detail of the building do not harmonise with the historical characteristics of Trentham Park. Efforts have been made through planting to soften its impact.

The temporary ice rink on the amphitheatre site on the west shore is an intrusive white structure that is visually distracting in views across the lake from a number of vantage points.



Intrusive temporary ice rink



New Watersports Building

4.4.3 Park Drive

General Condition

Although most of this area is in good condition and restoration and conversion have been carried out to a high standard which maintains

and enhances its cohesive Italianate character, there are several areas of concern. Access to the listed ice house is poor and very overgrown and the adjacent derelict 12 Park Drive is an obvious opportunity for enhancement of the area through sensitive repair, as is the derelict state of listed 1-4 Park Drive.



1-4 Park Drive, a Derelict Listed Building



Derelict Cottage next to Ice House (12 Park Drive)

The two sets of listed gate piers on Park Drive are badly overgrown with ivy, especially the southern-most pair, which is causing structural damage. The cast-iron pier on the north side of Park Drive is cracked and rusting. The single-span bridge on the west side of Park Drive is badly overgrown and vegetation is causing damage to masonry. The Garden House in the grounds of Peacock House is overgrown with ivy which may cause damage to its attractive pyramidal roof. The bridge to the east of the church is also in poor condition.

Many of these structures are covered by the *Architectural Masterplan* and the *Restoration and Management Plan 2003*, however, in the interim they are continuing to deteriorate and it appears that the detailed work has not yet been undertaken.



Garden House Overgrown with Ivy



Condition of Bridge

Intrusive Elements, Neutral and Negative Areas

- In front of the derelict 1-4 Park Drive there is a temporary metal security fence which is intrusive.
- The eastern section of Park Drive is considered neutral. It is closed to traffic at the east end by an iron barrier and has become overgrown and offers an opportunity for enhancement.

- Private traffic control measures have been carried out along Park Drive, which in addition to tarmac, include bollards, speed bumps, and yellow and white painted lines defining parking bays. This detracts from the qualities of the listed buildings and gives the area an unwelcome urban appearance.
- Fencing and railings at Nos.1-3 Peacock Houses subdivide the unity of the designed building, and are out of character with the historical themes of the area.



East End of Park Drive and fence to 1-4 Park Drive



Road markings to Park Drive

4.4.4 East of the River Trent/North of Park Drive

General Condition

The three houses are in good condition, but the undeveloped area is overgrown, especially near the banks of the River Trent.

Positive Buildings

As traditional estate cottages, the two cottages and the original building of the pub make a positive contribution to the character of the area.

Intrusive Elements, Neutral and Negative Areas



Pub Car Park with Poor Quality Garages

The car park of the pub is of tarmac, surrounded by palisade security railings and lacks any landscaping; the fencing on to Park Drive is of poor quality including concrete posts as well as further palisade railings. And also contains poor quality modern garages which are intrusive. For these reasons this area is considered negative.

The prominent brick pier and railing construction of the boundary at Pear Tree Cottage is inappropriate to the more modest vernacular qualities of this part of the Conservation Area.

Close to the river and to the north of the buildings the land is heavily overgrown and is considered neutral. In its current state it contrasts poorly with the character of the Conservation Area and offers an opportunity for enhancement.



Overgrown Banks of River Trent



Intrusive Concrete Fencing

4.4.5 East of the River Trent/South of Park Drive

General Condition

The overall condition of this area is good, particularly in the central areas. However, the condition of the listed Tatham lodges at the northern end is poor. The southern lodge is badly overgrown with ivy which is likely to be damaging the masonry, most of the joints require re-pointing and the door and window access is boarded up. The stone is also badly discoloured.

The remnant of arcading in the central area is also deteriorating, with fragments of render becoming detached.



Remnant of Ballroom Arcade

Positive Buildings

In addition to the listed structures and the unlisted buildings identified as being of historic interest, other buildings which make a positive contribution to the Conservation Area include the new garden centre, the shopping village and the hotel. The garden centre has utilised originality in its roof form and glazing, as well as the choice of materials, and the enclosed layout of the outdoor retail area incorporating the historic buildings recreates the character of the walled garden. The shopping village provides a distinctive low-rise contemporary design while incorporating natural materials and simple roof forms. The hotel, with its stepped roof line and irregular elongated plan, echoes the Italianate character of the estate buildings and successfully avoids appearing out of scale with the surrounding structures.

Intrusive Elements, Neutral and Negative Areas

To the north and rear of the garden centre is a neutral area. This is the concluding section of the circular walk, which comes over the bridge past an open green area with two portakabins which are considered intrusive. Beyond this the overgrown drive leads up to the dilapidated pair of lodges, overlooked by the derelict Park Cottages. There is a gate giving vehicular access to the rear of the garden centre.

To the south, beyond the car park (which has recently been extended), is an unsurfaced area. It is currently used for overflow car

parking and the housing of temporary attractions such as visiting circuses.

Pressures for additional units, external display areas and advertisements within the shopping village could lead to visual harm to the well-designed unity of this area.

4.4.6 Trentham Park Recreational Area

General Condition



Gravelpit Lodge

With the exception of the structures discussed above, this area is generally undeveloped; thus issues of condition relate primarily to the woodland, which has been neglected latterly but is now receiving attention. The decline of Gravelpit Lodge has been arrested with the erection of scaffolding. Its condition is threatened by the increasing amounts of heavy traffic on the adjacent road, which have caused cracks to the masonry. There is a modern brick perimeter wall to the garden on the side of the new track leading down from the bridge.

The western lakeshore path has areas of dumped earth containing yellow drainage tubes on its north side. King's Wood contains remnants of fencing from the twentieth century which are in poor condition. The north-west of the park contains the remnants of the brick bases of wartime buildings. The clear-felled deer lawn has not yet been replanted and re-growth of rhododendron from the roots is occurring throughout the area.



Base of Wartime Building



Clear-felled Deer Lawn

Positive Buildings

Monument Lodge, Hargreaves Lodge and Gravelpit Lodge, as historic lodges of the estate, both make a positive contribution to the area, as do the buildings of the Monkey Forest.

Intrusive Elements, Neutral and Negative Areas

The area of the earlier caravan park still contains brick and concrete remains of the platforms of static caravans which are intrusive.

4.4.7 Golf Course and Club

General Condition

The early nineteenth century bridge is very overgrown and in poor condition and is no longer part of a main path or means of access. Vegetation is growing out between the stonework of the segmental arch and the bridge and parapet.

The stone weir within the Bailey's Pool area is also very overgrown.



Historic Bridge in front of Golf Club



Bailey's Pool and Weir

Positive buildings

Park Cottage, as a traditional estate cottage, contributes to this area.

Intrusive Elements, Neutral and Negative Areas

The extensions to the Golf Club, in particular the section containing the dining room, might be considered intrusive due to their prominent position, the single-storey, flat-roof structure and the use of a dark brick and painted timber finish. In contrast the rear extension with the shop has a gable roof.

While the maintenance building is a metal shed, it is to the rear of the site and concealed by trees and the weir. Furthermore it is relatively low in height (less than the height of the adjacent brick office) and its green colour is relatively unobtrusive.



Golf Club Extension with Dining Room

4.4.8 Agricultural Land

General Condition

This area includes a number of remnants of the brick park wall which are in poor condition and overgrown with ivy.



Remnants of Park Wall



Conservatory of Keeper's Cottage

Intrusive Elements, Neutral and Negative Areas

While the M6 damaged the western edge of the park and forms its current western boundary, as it runs in a hollow it is not as intrusive as might be assumed from examination of the plan.

The addition of the large conservatory to Keeper's Cottage is not in keeping with the historic character of an estate cottage. The size of the enclosed plot around the cottage exceeds that of traditional estate cottages; the fencing and hedges are well-maintained and have become necessary to prevent predation by deer, which are growing in numbers. There is a brick barn which has been re-roofed with corrugated metal (the original roof structure originally supported a thatch roof and will not support the weight of tiles). These make it a neutral area.

Problems, Pressures and Capacity for Change

It has been accepted that there will be development at Trentham Gardens within the parameters of the outline planning permission and *Architectural Masterplan*. This is in response to its importance as a major recreational resource and its historic special interest. The improvements to Trentham Park in the last ten years are testimony to the area's potential for beneficial change. Significant restoration has been undertaken and many rundown areas revitalised and upgraded. However, the site of the former Trentham Hall remains in need of change, many of the listed structures are in need of repair and other areas (neutral areas and areas of overgrown woodland) detract from the historical character of the Conservation Area.

It is planned that this development should address the issues of much of the heritage at risk within the Conservation Area. However, the rapidly deteriorating state of the grand entrance in particular may require intervention if the restoration does not proceed soon. The restoration and management of this and most other buildings and structures of special interest within the park are detailed in a *Restoration and Management Plan* but there may be a need to monitor progress, given the large number of structures and the complexity of the estate.

In view of the special interest of many of the historic buildings within the Conservation Area it may be appropriate to require additional controls to prevent erosion of special interest. These might include the listing of further structures and the serving of Urgent Works Notices.

The future of the Trentham Conservation Area is closely linked to that of Trentham Leisure Ltd, which is responsible for the largest and historically most significant section of the historic park. Since no public funding is involved, the realisation of the plans for the restoration and future maintenance of the buildings, structures, gardens and landscape will depend on Trentham Leisure's ability to generate sufficient profit from its activities.

Section 5 Community Involvement

Although Trentham Conservation Area has a small number of residents, there is a strong level of interest in conservation issues relating to Trentham Park within the wider local community, both amongst elected representatives and the public, as evidenced by the demand for and level of interest in the earlier Public Inquiry into the future development of the park. It was therefore essential that preparation of the Appraisal and Management Plan involved those with an interest in the Trentham Conservation Area.

Consultation was carried out in line with the principles set out in Stafford Borough Council's approved *Statement of Community Involvement*. A six week period of public consultation was carried out between 18 September 2012 and 2 November 2012. The owners or occupiers of all properties within or adjacent to the Conservation Area, and other key stakeholders, were consulted by letter and invited to respond on the appraisal and proposed revised boundary. The consultation was advertised in local newspapers and on the Council Website, and the full appraisal was made available via the Council Website. A public exhibition was also held at The Church Centre, Trentham Parish Church on 16 October 2012.

Elements of the Appraisal were adapted in the light of responses received, and responses were reported to the Council's Cabinet and taken into consideration in their decision to adopt the Appraisal and revise the Conservation Area boundary.

Section 6 Suggested Boundary Changes

Suggested Conservation Area boundary changes are detailed in Appendix 3. Trentham Conservation Area was designated after the construction of the M6 on its western perimeter which actually runs through part of the historic park. At this time boundaries were often drawn very tightly. It is now recognised that conservation area boundaries need to be seen within a wider context. Designated areas should provide protection to buildings and areas which were perhaps not previously considered to be of architectural merit or which lay beyond significant physical boundaries. Structures which might now be considered for inclusion in a conservation area include good quality twentieth century buildings, spaces between buildings, such as streets and neutral areas, and areas or structures which are intrinsic to the identity of the conservation area such as the boundaries of burgage plots or historic properties. It is also the case that further information can come to light about the historic importance of buildings and spaces.

As a result of a detailed survey of the Trentham Conservation Area, it is suggested to extend its boundary to include an area of the historic park previously excluded. The area of the extension includes one lodge, entrance piers and part of the park wall. These previously formed the boundary of the park and share the character of the park areas within the current Conservation Area.

Section 7 Local Generic Guidance

The consequences under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for a designated conservation area are:

- Conservation Area Consent is required for works of total or substantial demolition of :
 - any building within a conservation area exceeding 115 cubic metres in volume;
 - a boundary wall or fence over 1m in height adjacent to a highway, or 2m in height elsewhere.
- The alterations and extensions that can be made to a domestic property without needing planning permission are more limited in a conservation area than elsewhere.
- The local authority has a duty to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a conservation area and its setting in the exercise of its planning functions.
- Special provisions also apply to trees within Conservation Areas. Six weeks notice in writing to the local planning authority are required for work on trees which are greater than 7.5 centimetres in diameter (measured 1.5 metres above the ground) or 10 centimetres if thinning to help the growth of other trees.

Stafford Borough Council has published very good generic guidance on both conservation areas and listed buildings, which can be accessed on its website.²³

Stafford Borough Council has published Supplementary Planning Guidance for *New and Old Shop Fronts*²⁴ and *Extensions to Dwellings*.²⁵ There is little residential accommodation within the Conservation Area (only that in the Park Road area and isolated estate lodges and cottages) but some original doors and windows have been replaced with modern materials. Most but not all commercial development and enterprises are controlled by a single body (Trentham Leisure Ltd) and while commercial signage is currently discreet this has not always been the case. Additional guidance on the repair and replacement of doors and windows, boundary walls and the external treatment of building walls, such as pointing, would be helpful.

²³Stafford Borough Council, *Guidance Notes: Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings* (Stafford Borough Council).

²⁴Stafford Borough Council, *New and Old Shop Fronts – Good for Business Boroughwide* (Stafford Borough Council, adopted May 2000).

²⁵Stafford Borough Council, *Extensions to Dwellings* (Stafford Borough Council, adopted October 1998).

Section 8 Summary of Issues

Overall great progress has been made in recent years in enhancing the identity and character of Trentham Conservation Area and in conserving and restoring the historic structures and making them attractive and accessible to the public. Modern development has generally been sympathetic and discreet within the overall context of the park. Future development of the buildings and the landscape within the area owned by Trentham Leisure is circumscribed by the outline planning permission. In addition the *Architectural Masterplan* and *the Restoration and Management Plan*, which have been and are supervised by English Heritage, set the parameters for the restoration of listed buildings. The *Ecological and Conservation Management Plan* directs the work on the wider park and landscape.

The following issues should be seen against this context:

- Loss of identity of the historic park through loss of park walls and boundaries over time and the deterioration and loss of function of most of the park lodges. This was despite a grass roots campaign to preserve the western wall;
- Need for consideration in any future road schemes on the perimeter which may impact on the historic identity of the park boundary; the 1960s road enhancement schemes badly damaged boundaries;
- The current traffic scheme to direct traffic south down the A519 rather than the wider A34 has increased the speed and volume of traffic on this relatively narrow road to the detriment of local residents and those viewing the western section of the area. Furthermore this is an area where deer are common, constituting a risk to wildlife and traffic.
- Loss of the historic hall which was the focal point of the designed landscape;
- The poor quality and lack of access to the house perimeter areas containing the remaining listed buildings of Trentham Hall;
- The temporary lighting and cabling in the urns in the Italian Gardens on the listed balustrade;
- The poor condition of the land entrance to the nineteenth century boathouse incorporated into the balustrade of the Lower Flower Garden;
- The poor condition of the eighteenth century boat shelter in the Western Pleasure Ground;
- The poor condition and overgrown state of some of the listed and historic structures in the Park Drive area and the lack of interpretation in this historic area; some are owned by Trentham Leisure and are covered by their *Restoration and*

Management Plan, others are in private ownership. The service of Urgent Works or Repairs Notices may be necessary if other avenues do not achieve results;

- Loss of historic street surfaces on Park Drive which have been replaced by tarmac and recent private highway control works, resulting in considerable diminution of character and appearance;
- Loss of views of the hall and estate buildings from the north-east due to overgrown trees on the banks of the Trent;
- Negative impact on views from the gardens across the Trent to the garden centre service area and on views of the lake of neutral areas with poor quality buildings;
- Intrusive structures: estate maintenance shed in vicinity of Trentham Hall entrance, electricity sub-station in West Pleasure Ground, container and sheds on east lakeshore;
- Views out of the north-west part of the Conservation Area affected by intrusive twentieth century highway adjacent to the Conservation Area which also severs connections to the historic park's hinterland and some of the historic park itself;
- Alteration of the character of some of the historic estate cottages through addition of modern fencing and boundary treatments;
- Dilution of quality of new development within the retail area and for isolated new structures, with divergence from initial established design principles.

Section 9 Management Proposals

The Conservation Area Character Appraisal has provided the basis for developing management proposals for the Conservation Area.

Suggested Conservation Area Boundaries

Action 1

The boundary of the Conservation Area will be amended as shown on the proposals map:

- To include the land to the west of the M6 but east of the A519 up to the boundary of the original western park wall, including Gravelpit Lodge. The northern limit of this boundary change should be the small triangle of woodland just north of the access road to the bridge over the M6 at the rear of Gravelpit Lodge. The southern limit of this boundary change should be the field boundary running diagonally north-west to south-east and meeting the M6 at the point of the bridge over the M6 to the rear of Knowle Wall Farm.

Best practice guidance contained in English Heritage guidance²⁶ states that the boundaries of existing conservation areas should be kept under review. Parts which are no longer special should be excluded. Where drawn too tightly, the boundaries of conservation areas should be extended to include more recent phases or plots associated with buildings of historic interest.

The Trentham Conservation Area Appraisal recognised that the current boundaries need to be revised to take into account a wider context of development. Designated areas should provide protection to buildings and areas that were perhaps not previously considered to be of architectural merit or lay beyond significant physical boundaries. Structures which might now be considered include good quality twentieth century buildings, spaces between buildings, such as streets and neutral areas and areas or structures which are intrinsic to the identity of the Conservation Area such as the boundaries of burgage plots or historic properties. It is also the case that further information can come to light about the historic importance of buildings and spaces.

It is therefore considered appropriate to protect the part of the historic park lying west of the M6. The wall, where it still exists, is in poor condition, but it constitutes a visible historic boundary to the park and evidence of the enclosed historic deer park. Although the M6 is a major feature, its route is partly elevated and partly in a hollow so that it is less intrusive in the landscape than it appears on plan. The A519 constitutes the historic road outside the boundary of the park and carries a steady flow of traffic from which the boundary is highly

²⁶English Heritage, *Guidance on the Management of Conservation Areas*, (London: English Heritage, 2006).

visible. Bridges over the motorway provide physical connections between the land within the suggested boundary extension and the existing Conservation Area. Protection of this area will ensure that any proposed work on or demolition of Gravelpit Lodge is monitored and more care may be given to the historic park boundary walls.

Suggested Renaming of Conservation Area

Action 2

The Council will consider altering the name of the Conservation Area from Trentham Conservation Area to Trentham Park Conservation Area.

It is considered that the identity and character of the Conservation Area is intrinsic to and inseparable from that of the historic park which stretches from Trentham in the east to Tittensor in the south and Hanchurch in the west. Whereas the estate covered a much wider area and many of the houses within Trentham and the other villages were originally built and owned by the Trentham estate, the boundaries of the Conservation Area broadly follow those of the historic park, including the estate buildings which were directly related to the operations of Trentham Hall. Recognising this within the name of the Conservation Area may avoid misunderstandings and focus attention on its core identity.

Protection of Heritage

Action 3

The Council will request of English Heritage that the listing descriptions of buildings and structures in Trentham Conservation Area be updated to reflect which garden structures, urns and statues are no longer present.

Currently the listing descriptions relating to Trentham Park include three Grade II listed items that are no longer present. These are the pair of urns flanking the steps to the rose garden, the statue of a female in the centre of the rose garden (the Lady of the Sea) and the lead urn at the north-east parterre.

Action 4

Opportunities to secure the preservation and enhancement of buildings and structures of special interest in the Conservation Area will be pursued. The Council will encourage appropriate maintenance of historic buildings. The Council will continue to monitor the condition of its listed buildings on a regular basis and consider using its powers to serve Urgent Works or Repairs Notices where necessary. Particular attention will be given to the following buildings or structures at risk of further deterioration:

- The remains of Trentham Hall, the grand entrance and orangery;
- The stable block, service block and clock tower with the courtyard between them;
- The cottages at 1-4 Park Drive;
- The ice house on Park Drive;
- Gravel Pit Lodge;
- The three listed bridges within the park;
- The Garden Hut;
- The Tatham Lodges.

Heritage-led regeneration has a key role to play and funding of historic building repair and restoration would assist in achieving wider aims for the area while preserving and enhancing the special local character. Possible sources of funding would include the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and Advantage West Midlands.

A 'building at risk' is defined as one in a poor state of repair and often vacant and redundant from its original use. The buildings are at risk of loss or further deterioration unless action is taken to arrest the neglect and decay.

The remains of Trentham Hall is Grade II* listed and classed in poor condition in the English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk. It is owned by Trentham Leisure and the outline planning permission foresaw its restoration in the context of a redevelopment of the site as a conference hotel. Trentham Leisure also own the Stable Block, Sculpture Gallery and Clock Tower, 1-4 Park Drive and the listed bridges. A Restoration and Management Plan for these and other listed structures was prepared in 2003. Some of the work identified within the Plan under phase 1, for completion in spring 2004, has been completed. There is no time frame for completion identified within the Plan for the restoration of many of the structures. The preparation of a detailed Conservation Management Plan for the remaining structures may be an appropriate next step.

Gravel Pit Lodge and the Ice House are listed structures believed to be owned by other private parties,

It should be noted that the Grade I listed mausoleum of the family, located across the road but not within the area of Council control, is also on the Heritage at Risk Register and classed in fair condition.

Action 5

Existing visually or archaeologically important gardens, parkland, woodland and areas of open grassland will be preserved and managed by Trentham Leisure and the Golf Club. The area within the Conservation Area owned by Trentham Leisure will be managed in line with the *Ecological and Conservation Management Plan* covering this area. Hargreaves Wood will be enhanced through clearance of alien species as proposed by English Nature.

The Conservation Area Appraisal identified that woodland and trees make a significant contribution to the setting of the Conservation Area. These landscapes should be respected and the key features retained. Many of the landscape and tree management proposals are covered in the *Ecological and Conservation Management Plan*. While the rest of the area is covered by policies and legislation relating to Green Belt and appears to be well-managed, it may be appropriate to set a similar framework for the management of the farmland including Black Lake and the golf club and course.

Action 6

Action may be considered under Section 215 of the Planning Act 1990, and/or Sections 48, 54, and 76 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to secure the repair of listed and unlisted buildings within the Conservation Area, and to ensure that untidy lands and sites are addressed where appropriate.

Buildings within the existing and proposed extensions to the Conservation Area were identified in the Appraisal as being at risk. Urgent works and repairs notices can be very effective in helping to secure the future of historic buildings and sites. Local authorities should make full use of their statutory powers if listed buildings, or unlisted buildings that contribute positively to the special interest of a conservation area, are falling into decay.²⁷

²⁷English Heritage, *Management of Conservation Areas* (London: English Heritage, February 2006).

Development Control

Action 7

The following boundaries will be protected from further alteration and deterioration wherever possible within the scope of the planning legislation:

- Boundary, including lodges, walls and entrance to Park Drive, on west side of A34;
- Boundary on south side of Whitmore Road including planted triangle at north entrance to Park Drive and entrance to Hargreaves Lodge and Wood;
- Boundary on east side of A519, including Gravelpit Lodge.

Trentham Park was originally part of a royal forest and when it was emparked a requirement was that the deer should be able to enter and leave the park freely. In 1721-4 John, 2nd Baron Gower had a brick wall erected around the park using locally produced bricks. Stretches of this wall, partly rebuilt, survive today and constitute a visual reminder of the historic park identity.

Action 8

Important visual axes will be preserved and enhanced including:

- The north/south vistas up and down the lake, including Monument Hill;
- Views towards the gardens and the house from the east and west shores of the lake;
- Views across the lake from the east and west shores.
- Views from King's Wood, westwards across Black Lake.

Trentham Park's landscape, especially the form and size of the lake and the planting around it, has undergone many changes, all aimed at enhancing the views from and of the site of the former Trentham Hall as well as views within the park. These views can be negatively affected by inappropriate development and also by the colour, materials, or location of temporary structures where this deflects attention from the historic landmarks and features. Views can also be negatively affected by poor forest management.

New Development

Action 9

Any new development should ensure that new buildings are appropriate to the historic character and aesthetic qualities of the landscape of the Conservation Area. In this, recognizing that the character of the Conservation Area varies considerably, the character of the immediate context will be a factor.

The Conservation Area is not homogenous in built form and larger buildings currently within it include the remains of the historic hall together with the stable block, the church, the modern garden centre and the new hotel. The majority of new development has been carefully designed so as to be sympathetic to and not detract from the character of the historic core. With regard to the restoration and redevelopment of the historic hall, the previous building acted as a focal point in the designed landscape which is now missing. Any new development needs to consider this additional function of the building. New buildings in other areas need to be sympathetic and subordinate to the historic core and surrounding landscape.

Action 10

Opportunities for the improvement of the neutral areas and intrusive buildings or other intrusive elements identified within this Appraisal will be sought, should an application for planning permission be submitted on those sites.

Opportunities to improve the neutral areas and intrusive buildings and elements should be sought to ensure the preservation or enhancement of the character and appearance of the Conservation Area in accordance with Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation areas) Act 1990.

Action 11

Opportunities to restore the traditional appearance of Park Drive will be sought. The County Council will consult with the Borough Conservation Officer on future enhancements to the pavements and footpaths in the Trentham Conservation Area in its ownership.

The Conservation Area Appraisal identified a loss of historic street and pavement surfaces which are now exclusively tarmac and have a negative effect on the character of the area, and unsympathetically designed traffic management measures.

Action 12

The Council will seek to work in partnership with the County Council over new schemes to improve the control of traffic flow around Trentham Park. It will seek to ensure that new and existing hard surfaces and road signage will preserve the special character of the Conservation Area.

In the past the identity of the historic area (prior to its designation as a conservation area) was negatively affected by the widening of the A34 and the construction of the M6; these schemes were under the control of Staffordshire County Council. More recently the diversion of traffic down the A519 rather than the A34 is having a detrimental effect on this part of the conservation area. Any future public works to the carriageway should take full account of the potential effect of the development. Pavements and crossings must be suitably maintained and improved in order to facilitate their use by pedestrians.

Monitoring and Enforcement

Action 13

A mechanism for monitoring change on a regular basis will be developed.

English Heritage guidance recommends the development of procedures²⁸ for monitoring change in conservation areas on a regular basis, such as photographic surveys and recording.

Action 14

The Council will continue to take enforcement action within the Conservation Area where appropriate.

English Heritage guidance also recommends that the special character of conservation areas is protected and enhanced by enforcement of the controls applied. In March 1998, the Cabinet Office, in partnership with the Local Government Association, published the Central and Local Government *Enforcement Concordat*, a voluntary non-statutory code setting out best practice.²⁹

²⁸ English Heritage, *Guidance on the Management of Conservation Areas* (London, English Heritage, 2006).

²⁹ Cabinet Office and Local Government Association, *Enforcement Concordat* (London: Cabinet Office and Local Government Association, March 1998).

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Maps and Plans

Maps, Plans and Prints

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(Copyright Trustees of the William Salt Library, Stafford,
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- 1875-6 Ordnance Survey
- 1901 Ordnance Survey
- 1909 Estate Sale Plans
- 1925 Ordnance Survey
- 1938 Ordnance Survey
- 1979 Estate Sale Plan
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- 2009 Historic Environment Record Map (GIS data)

Archives and Libraries Consulted

William Salt Library, Staffordshire
Staffordshire Record Office, Stafford

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APPENDICES: SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Appendix 1: Sites of Archaeological Interest

Sites of Archaeological Interest recorded by the Staffordshire County Council Historic Environment Record Monuments Record.

Hall

PRN07818 Stable Block, Trentham Hall, Trentham Gardens
The listed L-shaped former stable block to Trentham Hall, built between 1833 and 1842 by Sir Charles Barry.

PRN07817 Trentham Hall (Service Wing), Trentham Gardens
The listed two storey, L-shaped service block at Trentham Hall, built 1833-42 by Sir Charles Barry.

PRN07816 Trentham Hall Grand Entrance
The Italianate style grand entrance at Trentham Hall, built between 1833-42 by Sir Charles Barry. Incorporates the remains of Heathcote Tatham's earlier orangery of 1808.

PRN07831 Lodges, Trentham Gardens
A pair of listed entrance lodges built circa 1808 and designed by C. H. Tatham. The lodges originally flanked the former south entrance to Trentham Gardens but were taken down and re-erected in their current location in circa 1926.

PRN07803 Church of St Mary and All Saints / Trentham Priory
A listed mid-nineteenth century church by architect Sir Charles Barry, built on the site of a medieval Priory. The church is of stone construction and although the original chancel and tower have been destroyed the church does retain late Norman arcades with late 12th century capitals and medieval shafts which were probably re-used from the priory church.

PRN07804 Remains of Cross, St Mary and All Saints Churchyard
The listed remains of a Norman or early medieval cross in the cemetery of St Mary and All Saint's Church.

Garden

PRN14221 Boathouse, Garden Walls and Steps, Italian Gardens
The listed garden retaining wall, balustrade, steps and boathouse located at the south end of the Italian Gardens, built 1834-40 by Sir Charles Barry for the Second Duke of Sutherland.

PRN07819 Pavilion, Trentham Gardens
A listed early nineteenth century triple arched stone pavilion in Trentham Gardens.

PRN14225 Arbour, Italian Gardens, Trentham Gardens
A listed arbour trellis forming part of the Italian gardens at Trentham Park, which were designed by Sir Charles Barry and W.A. Nesfield in circa 1834-40.

PRN07820 'Perseus' Statue, Trentham Gardens
A listed mid-nineteenth century bronze replica of the celebrated statue by Benvenuto Cellini in the Loggia dei Lanzi, Florence. An inscription records that the replica was made to the order of the second Duke with permission of his friend the then Duke of Tuscany. It was originally erected here on the reconstruction of Trentham Hall in 1840 but later moved to Sutton Place, Surrey before being restored to Trentham by Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland in 1966.

PRN14227 Garden Walls, Trentham Gardens
The listed ashlar walls on the east and west sides of the formal flower gardens at Trentham Park. The walls probably formed part of the re-landscaping undertaken by Sir Charles Barry and W. A. Nesfield, for the Duke of Sutherland between 1834 and 1840.

PRN14228 Balustrade, Retaining Wall and Steps, Trentham Gardens
A listed mid-nineteenth century retaining wall with balustrade and steps which divides the Flower and Parterre Gardens at Trentham. The features probably form part of the re-landscaping by Sir Charles Barry and W. A. Nesfield, for the Duke of Sutherland.

PRN07823 Urn, Trentham Gardens (no longer present)
A listed lead urn in the form of a lotus flower, set to the north-east of the parterre at Trentham Gardens. The urn is of probable eighteenth century date.

PRN07821 'The Lady of the Sea' Statue, Trentham Gardens (no longer present)
A listed nineteenth century bronze statue known locally as 'The Lady of the Sea'.

PRN07822 Urns, Trentham Gardens (no longer present)
A listed pair of identical nineteenth century decorative bronze urns sited in Trentham Gardens. The urns are probably copies of eighteenth century originals.

Ancillary Buildings (Park Drive)

PRN07851 14-15 Park Drive, Trentham
A listed pair of early nineteenth century estate cottages of painted brick with slate roofs.

PRN14223 Ice House, Trentham Park
A listed mid-nineteenth century brick and stone built ice house at Trentham Park, which was built for the Duke of Sutherland

PRN07850 Smithy, Trentham Park
The listed early nineteenth century former smithy to the Trentham Park Estate. The smithy building is roughly triangular on plan and enclosed on the front and return side by brick walls on a stone base with rusticated stone piers.

PRN 07841 6-10 Park Drive / Laundry House / Trentham Court, Trentham Gardens

A listed early nineteenth century three winged range of houses of brick construction with a courtyard to the rear, which formerly comprised the Malt House, Bakery, Brewery and Agent's House for the Trentham estate.

PRN14220 The dairy house and dairy, Trentham Park

A listed former lodge and dairy to Trentham Hall, of probable late nineteenth century date. The lodge and dairy are of timber framed and brick construction with tiled roofs.

PRN07837 Peacock Houses / The Aviary, Trentham Gardens

A listed row of early nineteenth century estate houses associated with Trentham Park with The Aviary being the keeper's house. The houses are of painted brick with tiled roofs.

PRN07833 1-4 Park Drive, Trentham

A terrace of listed early nineteenth century estate cottages to Trentham Park Estate. The cottages are of painted brick with tiled roofs.

Park Borders, Lodges & Cottages

PRN14226 Entrance Gates, Trentham Park

Two pairs of gate-piers and railings to the north of the Church of St Mary and All Saints in Trentham Park. The outer piers are probably not in situ and are probably dated to 1707-10, while the inner piers were likely to have been built in the mid-nineteenth century for the Duke of Sutherland.

NOTE: Kathryn Sather & Associates believe the outer piers are in situ, currently covered in vegetation.

PRN07827 The Duchess' Cottage / The Dolls House, Trentham Gardens

A listed early nineteenth century cottage or nee within the grounds of Trentham Gardens. Also known as 'The Dolls House'.

PRN14224 Park Cottages, Trentham Estate

A listed pair of estate cottages of limewashed brick with tiled roofs, possibly built in the 1840s by Sir Charles Barry.

PRN07869 Hargreaves Lodge, Trentham Estate

A listed late nineteenth century former lodge to the Trentham Estate. The lodge is of sham timber-framed construction.

PRN4219 Monument Lodges, Near Jervis Wood, Trentham Park

A listed pair late eighteenth century entrance lodges by Joseph Pickford of Derby, which flank the south carriage drive to Trentham Park. The associated screen walls, gate piers and wrought iron gates.

Other Park Buildings/Structures

PRN07825 Bridge, Trentham Gardens

A listed eighteenth century stone bridge spanning Park Brook in Trentham Gardens.

PRN07826 Bridge, Trentham Park

A listed early nineteenth century brick and stone built bridge spanning Park Brook to the south of the golf course club house in Trentham Park.

PRN07828 & PRN07829 Garden House, Trentham gardens

A listed early nineteenth century stone-built garden house with pyramidal, tiled roof.

PRN07824 Bridge, Trentham Gardens

A listed eighteenth century stone bridge spanning the River Trent in Trentham Gardens.

PRN07832 Sutherland Monument, Trentham Park

A listed stone column supporting a colossal bronze statue by Chantrey of the first Duke of Sutherland, built 1836.

Prehistoric Remains & Documentary Records

PRN00595 Monument Hill Barrow, Trentham

The approximate location of a round barrow, within which a stone cist containing burnt bone was found. A flint arrow head and some human bones were also recovered from the mound. No earthwork now survives in this area, and the remains of the barrow have presumably been quarried away.

PRN01188 Looped Palstave Findspot, Trentham Park

A ribbed and socketed looped Palstave found in a gravel pit in Trentham Park in 1938.

PRN01835 Earthwork Mound, Trentham Park

A round, earthwork mound, recorded as being destroyed during the construction of a road in Trentham Park in the early nineteenth century. An urn is also recorded to have been found during the work.

PRN04706 Ring Ditch, King's Wood, Trentham

A small ring ditch, seen as a cropmark on aerial photography from 1963.

PRN04707 Ring Ditch, Black Lake, Trentham

The incomplete remains of a ring ditch, identified as a cropmark on aerial photography.

PRN04708 Trackways, King's Wood, Swynnerton

A series of possible trackways identified on aerial photography from 1963.

PRN04709 Ridge and Furrow, Trentham Golf Course

An area of possible ridge and furrow, identified from aerial photography. Despite the construction of a golf course over the area the ridge and furrow earthworks still survive.

PRN00596 Strongford Bridge / Tittensor Bridge, Swynnerton

The site of a stone-built bridge from at least the early-mid 17th century. The stone bridge was later replaced by a horse bridge and then a cart bridge. The extant nineteenth century structure is said to have been built by Thomas Telford.

PRN 00597 Strongford Mill, Trentham

The possible site of watermill mentioned in Domesday Survey.

PRN01836 Deer Park, Trentham

Documentary evidence for a deer park at Trentham. Of probable medieval date.

PRN01942 Hammer Head Findspot, Trentham Gardens

A quartz pebble hammer head found in Trentham Park, which was reputedly donated to Newcastle Museum.

PRN02583 Trentham / Trentham (Settlement)

A settlement recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086.

PRN03709 Hargreaves Pool / High Greaves Pool, Trentham

A large, later eighteenth century pool, in existence before the emparking of Hargreaves Wood into Trentham Park in the early nineteenth century.

PRN50693 Mill Race, Strongford Mill, Swynnerton

A mill race feeding Strongford Mill (in Stoke on Trent), dating from at least the late eighteenth century. The race ran between the lake in Trentham Park and the River Trent, but is now no longer extant.

PRN40086 Trentham Park, Swynnerton

A Registered landscape park associated with Trentham Hall, which had been established by the mid-eighteenth century. The park was remodelled by Lancelot Brown from 1759 onwards and further alterations were made by Sir Charles Barry in the 1830s. Although the hall was demolished in the early twentieth century the gardens continued to be maintained as a public park.

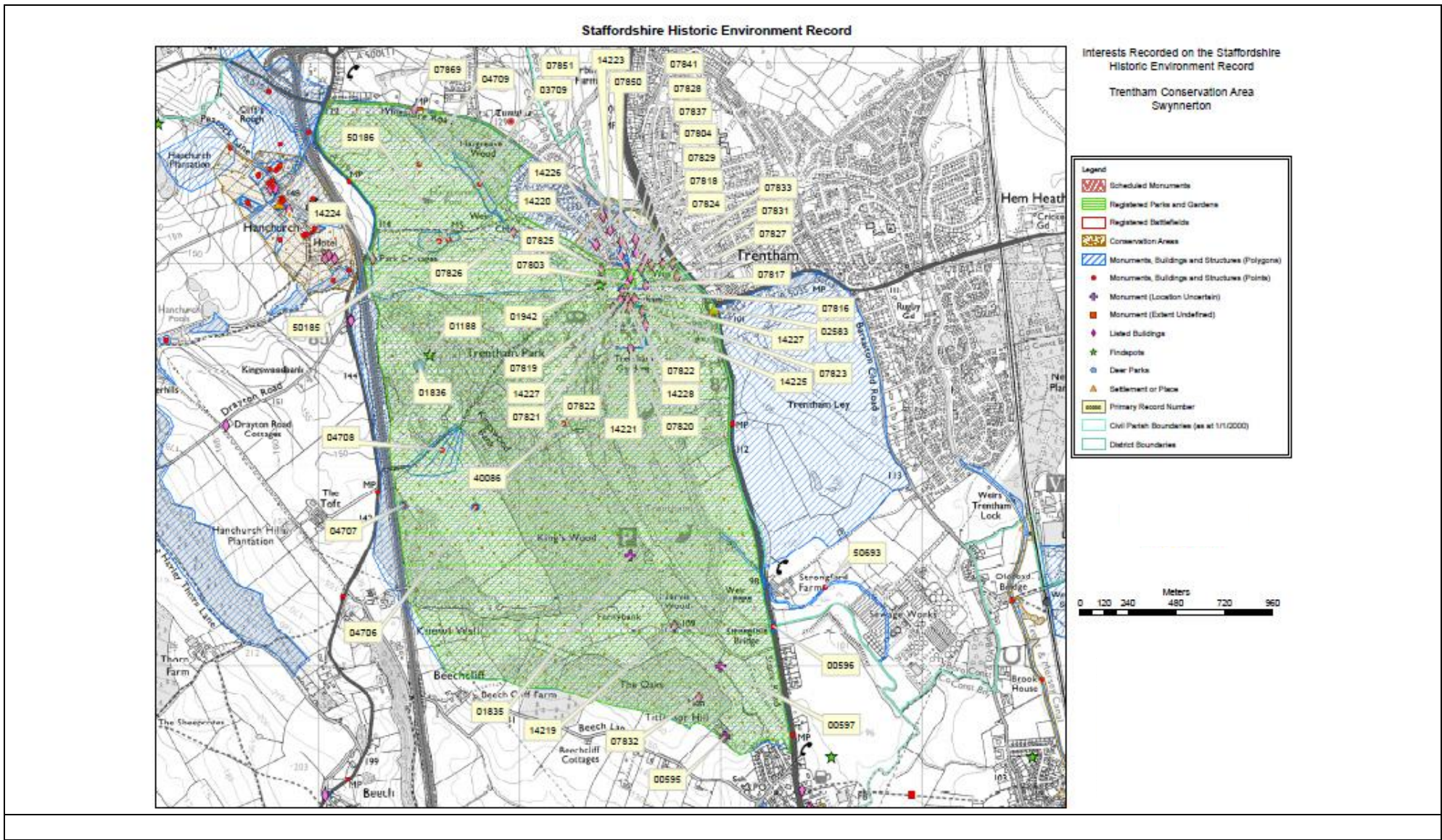
PRN50185 Bailey's Pool, Trentham Park

Two named pools, which are possibly a continuation of a drainage system on the former Trentham Estate.

PRN50186 Weir, Bailey's Pool, Trentham Park

A disused weir in Trentham Park, which separated two ponds shown on William Yates' map of Staffordshire.

Trentham Conservation Area, Stafford: Conservation Area Assessment



Appendix 2: Listed Buildings

There are 29 listed buildings within the Conservation Area, of which four are grade II* and the remaining are grade II:

Hall

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE (OFF) Trentham Gardens Trentham
Remains of Trentham Hall: Former stable block
SJ 84 SE 2/4 II GV

1833-42. Architect: Sir Charles Barry. L-shaped range on north and east sides of yard. Stucco; 2 storeys; generally renewed or modern; casement windows in plain architraves semi-circular headed carriage arch on east side; doorways generally altered; square terminal bay at north-west with pyramidal roof; bracketed eaves; slates. Included for group value.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE (OFF) Trentham Gardens Trentham
Remains of Trentham Hall: Part of service block (formerly listed as Remains of Trentham Hall)

SJ 84 SE 2/10 24.1.67 II

1833-42. Architect: Sir Charles Barry. Italianate. Plastered brick and ashlar. L-shaped on plan; 2 storeys. The south side has a range of sash windows above an open colonnade of 12 arches with balustrade above and, on right-hand side, a square raised pavilion; colonnade on north side with Ionic columns and tall stone campanile with ball finial and clock.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE (OFF) Trentham Gardens Trentham
Remains of Trentham Hall: The Grand Entrance and Orangery
(formerly listed as Winter Garden at Trentham)

SJ 84 SE 2/13 24.1.67 II*

1833-42. Architect: Sir Charles Barry. The approach to Trentham Hall was originally from the west and this Grand Entrance formed part of the west front. Italianate. Plastered brick and ashlar. Single-storeyed arcaded range with unfluted Ionic columns defining bays and balustrade above cornice. Centre is semi-circular on plan with side wings, that on right-hand side incorporating Heathcote Tatham's Orangery of 1808. Impressive porte-cochère projects at centre with massive carved coats of arms above the 3 arched entrances.

Gardens

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM PARK Balustrade, Retaining Wall and Steps between Flower and Parterre Gardens

SJ 84 SE 953-0/2/10028 GV II

Retaining wall with balustrade and steps. Circa 1834-40; probably by Sir Charles Barry and W.A.Nesfield, for the Duke of Sutherland. Ashlar retaining wall between the Flower and Parterre Gardens, with balustrade, radiused back at the centre with semi-circular flight of steps. It formerly linked four pavilions, of which only the west pavilion survives and is listed, ref 2/12.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM GARDENS Trentham Triple arched pavilion (formerly listed as Triple Arches). in garden at Trentham SJ 84 SE 2/12 24.1.67 II 2
Early C19. Classical garden pavilion. Stone; round arches on Corinthian columns; parapet with urn finials; saucer domes within.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM PARK Arbour Trellis
SJ 84 SE 953-0/2/10025 GV II
Arbour trellis. Circa 1834-40; part of the Italian gardens designed by Sir Charles Barry and W.A.Nesfield. Cast and wrought iron set on stone plinths. Series of round arches over which wires are stretched to form the arbour. The principal arches have scroll-shaped brackets at their bases. SOURCE: Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener; October-December 1863.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM PARK Flower Garden East and West Walls
SJ 84 SE 953-0/2/10027 GV II
Garden walls. Circa 1834-40, probably by Sir Charles Barry and W. A. Nesfield, for the Duke of Sutherland. Two ashlar dwarf walls, on the east and west sides of a formal garden. The walls have panelled sides alternating with piers and they have moulded plinths and coping. The east wall has a semi-circular alcove at the centre containing a seat; the seat on the west side has been removed.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM PARK 953-0/2/10021 Retaining Wall, Balustrade, Steps and Boathouse
SJ 84 SE GV II
Garden retaining wall, balustrade, steps and boathouse. 1834-40, by Sir Charles Barry, for the Second Duke of Sutherland. Rusticated ashlar retaining wall with a balustrade on top, at the south end of the Italian Gardens; semi-circular steps at the centre down to the lake and at the east end a boathouse underneath, with a segmental rusticated arch with iron gates.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM GARDENS Trentham 'Perseus' Statue
SJ 84 SE 2/5 II*
Circa 1840 bronze replica of the celebrated statue by Benvenuto Cellini in the Loggia dei Lanzi, Florence. Sited by the lake at the end of the central axis of the parterre the statue stands on a stone pedestal with large 3-stepped base. Inscription records that the replica was made to the order of the second Duke with permission of his friend the then Duke of Tuscany, was originally erected here on the reconstruction of Trentham Hall in 1840; later moved to Sutton Place, Surrey but restored and replaced here by Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland in 1966.

Listed but not present (3):

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM GARDENS Trentham A pair of urns flanking steps to Rose Garden
SJ 84 SE 2/7 II
C19. Bronze and probably copies of C18 originals. An identical pair of urns with animal masks and lionhead ring handles, each surmounted by a cherub leaning over the urn rim.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM GARDENS Trentham Statue of a female in the centre of the Rose Garden ('The Lady of the Sea')
SJ 84 SE 2/6 II

C19. Known locally as 'The Lady of the Sea'. Bronze and probably a copy of a lost or unknown original. The sculpture, in Renaissance manner, is a lightly draped female figure leaning back against a pedestal decorated with aquatic motifs.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM GARDENS Trentham Urn at north-east of parterre

SJ 84 SE 2/8 II

Probably C18. Good lead urn in the form of a lotus flower. Female masks and curved 'stirrup' handles.

Park Drive

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE (OFF) Trentham Gardens Trentham Church of St Mary and All Saints

SJ 84 SE 2/2/24.1.67 II*

1844. Architect: Sir Charles Barry. Stone. Perpendicular style. Nave with aisles and chancel in one, the original chancel and tower having been destroyed. Incorporates late Norman arcades of 4 bays with late C12 capitals, and mediaeval shafts which probably came from the priory church. Good screens, largely C17. Georgian west gallery. Reredos painting of the Entombment by William Hilton, circa 1810-20. Fragment of the effigy of a Knight, circa 1215, in the north aisle. In the south chapel: alabaster monument to Sir Richard and Lady Leveson-Gower, 1559 and 1591; statue of the first Duke of Sutherland; 1838, by Chantrey. Monuments to the Duchess of Sutherland, 1868, A S Leveson-Gower, 1874. Florence Chaplin, 1881; Eldest son of the third Duke, 1888 - all by Matthew Noble. In the south aisle, monument to the fourth Duke of Sutherland, by Tinworth, 1917. As the work of a major Victorian architect, and for intrinsic value, the church is star graded.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE (OFF) Trentham Gardens Trentham Remains of cross in churchyard of Church of St Mary and All Saints

SJ 84 SE 2/3 II

Fragment of a late Norman or early mediaeval cross-shaft set on a circular stone base with a 3-stepped stylobate.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE Trentham Nos 1 to 4 (consec)

SJ 84 SE 2/20 II

Early C19. Estate cottages of Trentham Park Estate. Cottage ornée style terraced farm; painted brick; one storey plus gables; a gabled bay at either side; casement windows in plain stone keyed surrounds; cast iron diamond pattern glazing bars; ground storey windows, and those to outer bays, with hood moulds; 4 plain doorways in plain stone surrounds, No 2 having a wood gabled porch; 4 gabled dormers breaking above eaves; finials to gables; tiles.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE Trentham Nos 6 to 10 (consec) with outbuildings of Trentham Estate, together with Laundry House Nos 1 to 3 (consec)

SJ 84 SE 2/22 II

Early C19. Painted brick with stone dressings; 2 storeys. Of 3 wings ranged round a yard at rear. Symmetrical wing to road, which formerly comprised the Malt House, Bakery, Brewery and Agent's House, has stone rusticated semi-circular carriage arch at centre; sides each have 3 casement windows in plain stone surrounds; doorways in moulded stone architraves with rectangular fanlights, small cornice hoods and 6-panelled divided doors; lantern over archway with tiled pyramidal roof and wind vane. Rear wings, which are mainly disused, each have a central carriage arch. The Laundry House is a 5 window (2 blocked) wing on right-hand side fronting road, with doorway to right in plain stone surround. Boldy projecting eaves; Roman tiles.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE Trentham Former Smithy of Trentham Park Estate

SJ 84 SE 2/23 II

Early C19. Roughly triangular on plan and enclosed on the front and sharply angled return side by brick walls on a stone base with rusticated stone piers; angled entrance on right-hand side with opening in the form of a horse-shoe in stone surround with bands of heavy rustication; a massive stone buttress at either side; heavy cornice surmounted by a raised stone bowl with wrought metal flambeau. A pair of massive rusticated stone gate pillars on left-hand side.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE Trentham No 5 and Peacock Houses (Nos 1 to 3 (consec))

SJ 84 SE 2/21 II

Circa 1800. Later alterations. Estate houses of Trentham Park Estate originally the Aviary, No 5 being the keeper's house. Painted brick. Single-storeyed centre block comprising the Peacock Houses, altered and converted to 3 dwellings, has semi-circular carriage arch at centre, and casement windows in plain stone surrounds. Raised wings at either side, that to west being No 5 and of 2 and 3 storeys with casement window to road surmounted by Sutherland monogram and plain doorway with modern wood porch. Roman tiles.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE (OFF) Trentham Gardens Trentham Garden house 75 yds to north of No 5 Park Drive and Peacock Houses (Nos 1, 2 and 3)

SJ 84 SE 2/17 II

Early C19. Small square stone building with quoins to angles, a doorway in dog-eared architrave and pyramidal roof of Roman tiles with stone finial.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE (OFF) Trentham Gardens Trentham Garden house 75 yds to south of No 5 Park Drive and Peacock Houses (Nos 1, 2 and 3)

SJ 84 SE 2/18 II

Early C19. Small square stone building with quoins to angles, a doorway in dog-eared architrave, and pyramidal roof of Roman tiles with stone finial.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE, Trentham Park (West side)
SJ 84 SE 953-0/2/10023 Ice-house GV II

Ice-house. Circa 1840s; for the Duke of Sutherland. Brick with stone entrance. Built into a bank with rustic drystone retaining wall with cambered arch doorway to brick-lined passage; the passage has a cambered brick vault, is cut from the rock and has three doors. The brick chamber is ovoid in shape and of cavity wall construction and is now partly filled in at the bottom, but it is complete.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE Trentham Nos 14 and 15
SJ 84 SE 2/24 II

Early C19. A pair of Trentham Park Estate cottages in ornée style. Painted brick; single storey. Each has a raised projecting bay (one window) with nipped slate roof, a 2 window wing at either side and a 2 window centre bay with 2 plain doorways set back under roof projecting on plain wood columns; bold eaves; slates.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM PARK The Dairy House and Dairy
SJ 84 SE 953/2/10020 GV II

Lodge and dairy at country house. Circa late C19. Black and white timber frame on red brick plinth; plastered panels. Gabled clay plain tile roofs with moulded bargeboards, finials and pendants. Brick axial and lateral stacks, the top courses missing. PLAN: Irregular plan with cross-wings to left and right, a range at the back projecting on the left side and the entrance on the right side facing the octagonal dairy, on the right, which is attached by a covered way. Picturesque black and white half-timbered style. EXTERIOR: Close-studding with decorative bracing to small square panels above. 2 storeys. 3-bay SW front with gabled cross-wings to left and right, jettied on the first floor; the right cross-wing projects further and the first floor is supported on a bay window and large curved brackets; the left gable has a shallow jetty on small carved console brackets; wall-plate ends and first floor oriels on similar consoles; pentice at centre between the cross-wings and half-dormer above. Left-hand [NW] return projecting gable on left and gabled first floor oriel on right with similar console brackets. 1,2,3 and 4-light mullioned casements without glazing bars. Right-hand [SE] return has lateral stack with blue brick diapering and porch to right with low balustrades to sides and gabled canopy on consoles with finial and pendant. To right, on east corner, the covered way to the Dairy, which is similarly decoratively timber-framed, octagonal on plan with tiled steep roof with small lantern at the apex; the dairy originally had a verandah, but most of it has been removed. INTERIOR: The house is reported to have a panelled room and a balustraded staircase and the dairy lined in plain white ceramic tiles, now boarded over.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM PARK Two pairs of Gate-piers and Railings N. Church of St Mary and All Saints
SJ 84 SE 953-0/2/10026 GV II

Drive gate-piers and attached railings and gates. Early C 18, possibly 1707-10 by William Smith of Warwick for the First Lord Gower; and circa mid C 19 for the Duke of Sutherland. Two pairs of gate-pier with railings and foot-gates between. The larger early C 18 ashlar piers have large moulded caps and ball finials. The circa mid C19 cast-iron inner piers have panelled sides, dentilled cornices and small ball finials, one of the balls is missing. The iron railings between the inner and outer piers have scroll decoration and foot-gates. The stone

outer piers are probably not in situ, but represent one of the last vestiges of William Smith's 1707-10 house at Trentham. The cast-iron piers were made by MacFarlane of Glasgow.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE Trentham Gardens Trentham Bridge
150 yds to north-east of Church of St Mary and All Saints

SJ 84 SE 2/16 24.1.67 II

C18. Of stone and of 3 spans with segmental arches; cutwaters on both sides; plain parapet.

SWYNNERTON PARK DRIVE (OFF) Trentham Park Trentham
Bridge 150 yds to north-west of Church of St Mary and All Saints

SJ 84 SE 2/14 24.1.67 II

C18. Of ashlar and of one span with rusticated segmental arch; massive heavily moulded parapets terminating at each end in a round pillar; block entablature in centre of each parapet surmounted by wrought iron standard.

Lodges & Cottages

SWYNNERTON STONE ROAD Trentham Gardens Trentham
Entrance lodges to Trentham Gardens

SJ 84 SE 2/19 II

Circa 1808, once flanked a former entrance to south, but taken down and re-erected here circa 1926. Designed by C H Tatham. Square on plan and of heavily rusticated ashlar. Each lodge has a semi-circular headed doorway and an arched window on each remaining side, all with keyblocks; heavily moulded cornice with block entablature above on a stepped base and surmounted by a lamp standard.

SWYNNERTON WHITMORE ROAD Hargreaves Wood Hargreaves
Lodge

SJ 84 SE 2/30 II

Dated 1896. Former Trentham Estate lodge. Sham timber frame and painted plaster; one storey plus attic. L-shaped on plan with projecting gabled bay on left-hand side; over-sailing gabled dormer on right-hand side; plain casement windows and plain doorway having shaped panel with date, and ledged door; ornamental finials to gables; sprocket eaves; tiles.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM PARK Monument Lodges, gate-piers
and screen

SJ 83 NE 953/5/10019 II

Entrance lodges to park of country house. Circa 1775-6; by Joseph Pickford of Derby, for the 2nd Earl Gower; extended circa mid C19. Painted ashlar, extensions in painted brick. Slate roofs with lead-clad coping to the pediments, which have small squat stacks. PLAN : Pair of small rectangular-plan lodges on either side of the drive entrance with very large gate-piers linked to the lodges by short screens with foot-gates. In the C19 small wings were built flanking the original lodges. Palladian style. EXTERIOR: 2-storey 1-bay lodges with dentilled pediments, large round-arch recesses with 12-pane sash on ground floor with blind oculus above and string course at first floor level running around the lodges and through the short screens and large gate-piers between the lodges; the string courses act as coping to the screens and are raised over segmental-arch foot-gateways;

large gate-piers with niches, panelled above with moulded caps and buttressed sides; small porches in the angles of the lodges and screens with parapets ramped up to the lodges. The opposite [NW] elevation facing inside the park is the same, but without the porches. The circa mid C19 2-storey wings to left and right have casement windows with glazing bars and single-storey outshuts on the end walls. INTERIOR not inspected. SOURCE: Colvin, H., A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840 [1978], page 635. Country Life, 25/01/1968.

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM GARDENS Trentham The Duchess's Cottage

SJ 84 SE 2/9 II

Early C19. Also known as 'The Dolls House'. Cottage ornée of painted brick and sham timber frame; one storey plus gables; casement windows; doorway on north side with gabled porch; ornamental bargeboards; finials; stone diagonal stack; tiles.

SWYNNERTON DRAYTON ROAD (OFF) A519 Hanchurch Gravel Pit Lodge

SJ 84 SE 2/25 II

Dated 1859. Two storeys, the ground storey stone rubble and the first storey sham timber frame and plaster; gable on left-hand side and small projecting gable below on rounded stone base. South side has gable with overhanging oriel window above stone mullioned canted bay window; leaded lights; plain doorway at rear under projecting hipped bay; massive stone and brick chimney on west side; tiles.

SWYNNERTON DRAYTON ROAD (OFF) A519 Hanchurch Gate piers adjoining Gravel Pit Lodge

SJ 84 SE 2/26 II

Probably early C19. Flanking a former entrance to Trentham Park. A pair of plain stone gate piers with moulded cornice caps and ball-head finials.

Other Park Structures

SWYNNERTON TRENTHAM PARK Trentham Bridge 75 yds south of Club House (Trentham Park Golf Club) (formerly listed as Bridge near Golf Club)

SJ 84 SE 2/15 24.1.67 II

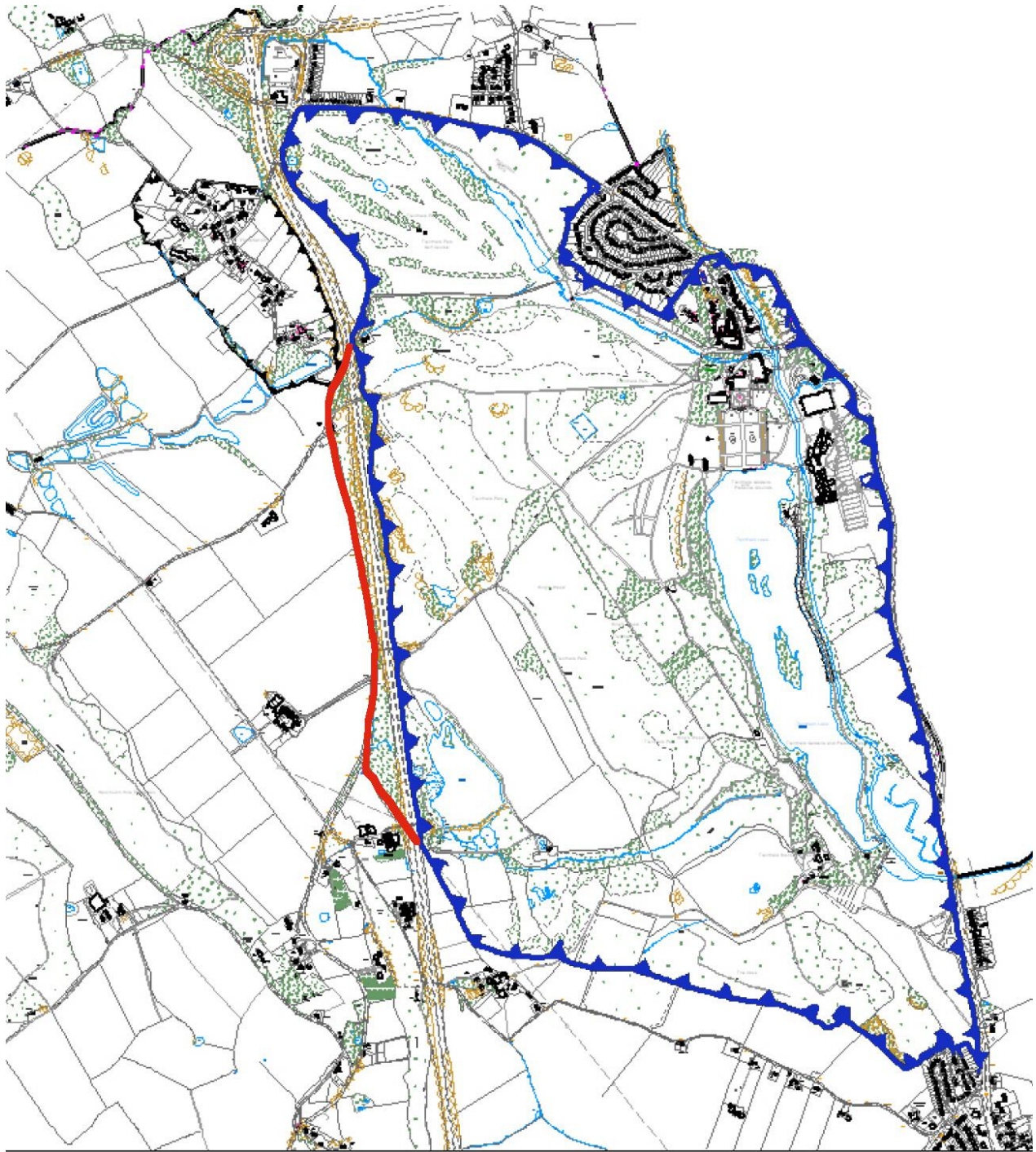
Early C19. Brick and stone. Of one span with segmental arch; balustraded parapets.

SWYNNERTON TITTENSOR HILL Trentham Park Trentham Sutherland Monument (formerly listed as Column to the First Duke of Sutherland (in Trentham Park))

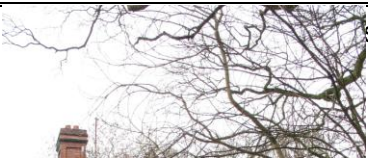
SJ 83 NE 5/24 10.1.53. II*

1836. A lofty plain stone column on a drum pediment surmounted by a colossal bronze statue by Chantrey of the first Duke of Sutherland. Prominently sited on a hill at the south end of Trentham Park.

Appendix 3: Boundary Changes



Map of Trentham Conservation Area, showing Existing Boundaries in Blue and Extension in Red





Gravelpit Lodge

There is only one extension to Trentham Conservation Area. It is proposed to include the land to the west of the M6 but east of the A519 up to the boundary of the original western park wall, including Gravelpit Lodge. The northern limit of this area should be the small triangle of woodland just north of the access road to the bridge over the M6 at the rear of Gravelpit Lodge. The southern limit of this boundary change should be the field boundary running diagonally north-west to south-east and meeting the M6 at the point of the bridge over the M6 to the rear of Knowle Wall Farm.

It is considered appropriate to protect the part of the historic park lying west of the M6. The wall, where it still exists, is in poor condition, as is Gravelpit Lodge, but it constitutes a visible historic boundary to the park and evidence of the enclosed historic deer park. The character and identity of this area are therefore closely associated with that of the rest of the Conservation Area. Although the M6 is a major feature, its route is partly elevated and partly in a hollow so that it is less intrusive than might be imagined from examination of the plan. The A519 constitutes the historic road outside the boundary of the park and carries a steady flow of traffic from which the boundary is highly visible. Bridges over the motorway provide physical connections between the land within the suggested boundary extension and the Conservation Area.



Woodland North of Gravelpit Lodge



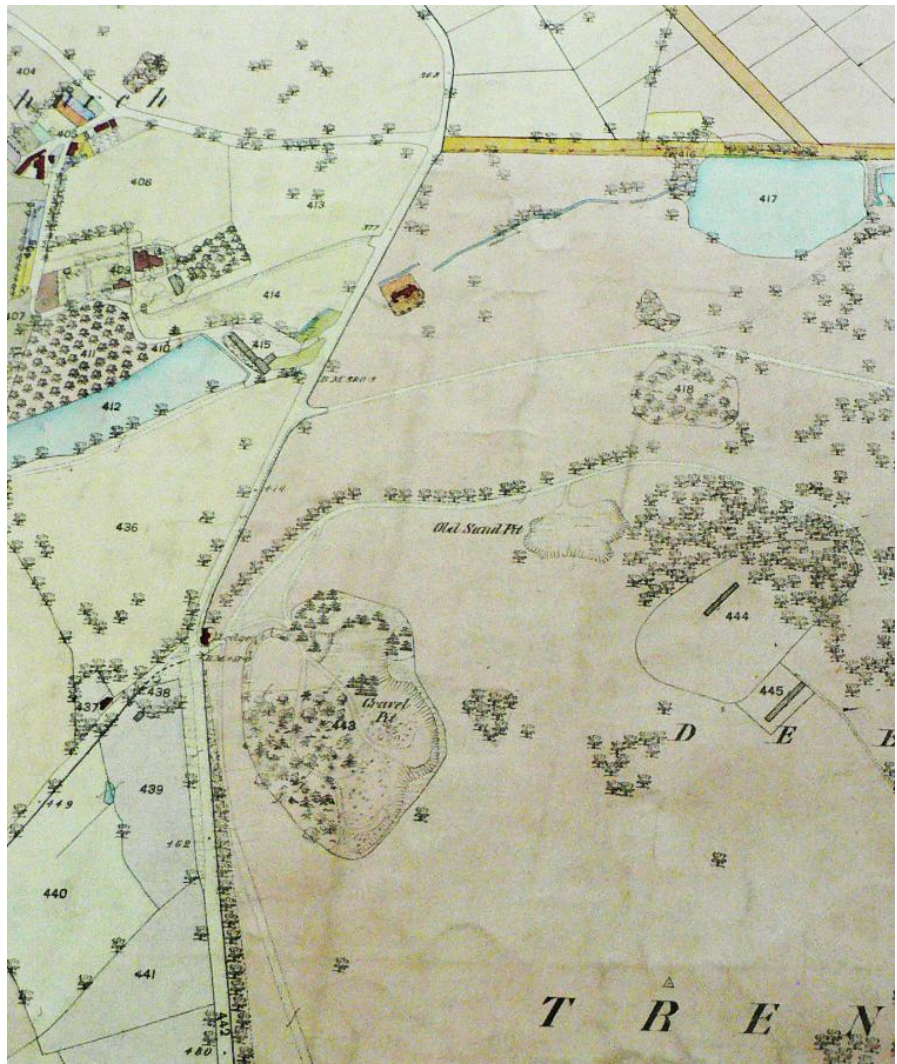
Woodland South of Gravelpit Lodge



Part of Wall near Knowle Wall Farm



Part of Boundary Wall



1877 OS Map showing Park Boundary and Gravelpit Lodge

Appendix 4: Trentham Conservation Area Local Plan Policies

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan 1996-2011³⁰

Conservation Areas

Policy NC19. Areas of architectural or historic interest will be designated as Conservation Areas. There will be a presumption in favour of retaining and enhancing buildings, groups of buildings, or other features, including open spaces and views through, into or out of the areas which contribute to their special character, appearance or interest. New development within or adjacent to Conservation Areas should respect, protect and enhance their character and appearance with respect to its height, scale, intensity and materials, and only generate levels of activity which will support their preservation and economic viability. Proposals which would result in over-development, undue disturbance and traffic movement detrimental to the character of the Conservation Area will not be permitted.

Stafford Local Plan³¹

Areas of Designated Landscape Value

Policy E & D29. planning permission will only be granted for proposals within areas of designated landscape value, (Cannock Chase A.O.N.B., designated Special Landscape Areas, historic landscapes, historic parks and gardens), where the proposals impact on the landscape is minimal and the proposed landscaping treatment will conserve and enhance the character of the local landscape.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Policy E&D35. Proposals within or likely to affect historic parks and gardens will be accompanied by a detailed historical evaluation of the park and a survey of the existing landscape.

Proposals should take account of that evaluation and:

- i. safeguard the historic park or garden and its landscape setting;
- ii. retain, manage and, where appropriate, restore the surrounding gardens or parkland, boundary features and surroundings;
- iii. conserve any other facets of interest in the area e.g. archaeological, architectural, nature conservation".

Development proposals which would damage the character, setting or appearance of a park or garden of historic interest will not be granted planning permission.

Accommodating New Development at Trentham Garden Estate

Policy RLT19. The Trentham Gardens Estate as defined on the Inset Proposals map is identified as a recreation, leisure, tourism, and visitor attraction.

All applications for development at the site will be assessed against the following criteria:

³⁰Staffordshire County Council, *Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan 1996-2001* [online] (Adopted May 2001).

³¹Stafford Borough Council, *Stafford Borough Local Plan 2001* [online] (Adopted October 1998).

- (i) Conservation of the historic buildings, gardens and landscape.
- (ii) Conservation of the natural environment including flora and fauna.
- (iii) The enhancement of recreation/leisure facilities within the district/region.
- (iv) Impact on the highway network.
- (v) Effect on the purposes and objectives of Green Belt policy.
- (vi) The scale of economic benefits to the district.
- (vii) Consistency with other policies in the plan.

In considering applications for development the Local Planning Authority will carry out an assessment against the above criteria and expect a balance of advantage to be demonstrated.

Appropriate infill uses at Trentham Gardens Estate

Policy RLT20. Subject to assessment against the criteria set out in Policy RLT19 development and appropriate infilling will be allowed within the northern area of the estate as defined on the Trentham Garden Estate Inset Proposal Map, for the following range of uses:-

- Outdoor sport and recreation.
- Indoor leisure and entertainment facilities.
- Hotel-Conference Centre.
- Exhibition facilities.
- Heritage/recreation/craft related retailing.
- Garden Centre.
- Visitor facilities.

Policy E&D 18 Development Likely to Affect Conservation Areas

All new development proposals within, or likely to affect Conservation Area will only be granted consent where the proposal preserves or enhances the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. Those existing buildings, and features such as open spaces, trees, gardens and gaps between buildings, which are considered to contribute to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area will be retained.

Policy E&D19 Accommodating New Development Within Conservation Areas

Within a Conservation Area:

- (a) the location, scale and detailed design of any new building and/or extension to an existing building should relate harmoniously to adjoining buildings and the character of the area;
- (b) a high standard of design and the use of appropriate materials will be required. Special regard will be paid to the bulk, height, materials, colour, vertical or horizontal emphasis and design, in the context of the proposals setting. Elevational drawings and plan showing this relationship may be required before an application can be considered;
- (c) paving, kerbing, boundary walling, fencing and railings will be subject to careful scrutiny, as will all types of street furniture, to ensure that proposals are sympathetic to the historic character;
- (d) all new utility services should normally be laid underground and/or ducted within buildings.

Policy E&D20 Demolition Of Buildings In Conservation Areas

Demolition of an existing building or part of a building within a conservation area, will not normally be granted consent.

Where demolition is considered acceptable, the Borough Council will need to be satisfied that:-

- (i) detailed plans for the redevelopment of the site have been approved, and there is a contract guaranteeing the implementation of those plans in the near future;
- (ii) there will be adequate measures to ensure the structural stability and safeguarding of the remaining building(s) or part of building(s).

Policy E&D21 Advertisements In Conservation Areas:

Within a Conservation Area and on listed Buildings proposals for signs and adverts that they are appropriate and complementary to the historic character of the area/building. These will include proposals that are:-

- (a) sign written fascia boards or individually applied letters on fascia signs;
- (b) sympathetically designed, scaled and positioned projecting and hanging signs that respect and complement the proportions and detailing of the whole building facade. They should not obscure the details on the building, or a projecting sign on adjoining premises.
- (c) illuminated advertisements of a restrained and traditional form i.e. using indirect illumination or backlighting of individual solid letters.

Policy E&D22 Proposals For Blinds, Canopies And Shutters

Within Conservation Areas and on Listed Buildings, consent will not be given to:-

- (a) proposals for the erection of shop blinds and canopies, unless they are historically authentic;
- (b) proposals for the erection of solid external shutters.

Policy E&D23 Development Proposals Affecting Listed Buildings

Development proposals within or likely to affect a Listed Building will only be granted planning permission where the proposals will protect and enhance the character, architectural features and historic features of the listed building. Proposals will be expected to:-

- (a) respect and not adversely affect the building's character in terms of the setting, design, scale, detail, material and fittings. Wherever possible existing detailing and features which contribute to the character of the building should be preserved, repaired or if missing replaced;
- (b) avoid physical damage;
- (c) avoid detriment to their setting and structural stability;
- (d) retain them in their original use or a use which safeguards their character; and
- (e) make full and efficient use of all available accommodation.

Policy E & D24 Demolition/Partial Demolition Of Listed Buildings

Listed building consent for the demolition or partial demolition of a listed building will not be acceptable unless it can be demonstrated that:-

- a. all reasonable efforts have been made to sustain existing uses or find viable new uses and these efforts have failed;
- b. preservation in some form of charitable or community ownership is not possible or suitable;
- c. redevelopment would produce substantial benefits for the community which would decisively outweigh the loss resulting from demolition;"

Policy E&D25 Proposals To Convert Or Extend A Listed Building

Proposals to extend a listed building will only be permitted if they relate sensitively to and are in keeping with the original building, in all aspects of their design, location, mass and material. Extensions will normally be subservient in scale to the original building.

Policy E&D43 Trees In Conservation Areas

Within a Conservation Area, if notice is received by the Local Planning Authority to carry out works on any trees, the authority may, within six weeks of receiving the notice, place a Tree Preservation Order on the tree(s) if it feels the unaltered presence of the tree(s) is vital to the character amenity and enjoyment of the Conservation Area.