

STANAGE PARK

Ref No	PGW(Po) 24 (POW)
OS Map	148
Grid Ref	SO 336723
Former County	Powys
Unitary Authority	Powys
District	Radnorshire
Community Council	Knighton
Designations	Listed Building: Stanage Park (House) Grade II*, Lodge (school) Grade II, South gateway Grade II, Stable court Grade II, North gateway and screen walls Grade II, Game Larder Grade II, Bridge in east park Grade II.
Site Evaluation	Grade I
Primary reasons for grading	Outstanding picturesque parkland laid out by the famous landscaper Humphry Repton (1752-1818). The last and most complete of his three recognised Welsh landscape commissions. Repton's picturesque parkland improvements, castellated house and enclosed garden survive almost intact and are recorded in a 'Red Book', still kept at the house. Later nineteenth-century arboretum and formal terraced gardens lie to the north and west of the house.
Type of Site	Extensive and intact picturesque park land around romantic, castellated house. Formal gardens. Victorian arboretum.
Main Phases of Construction	c. 1803, c. 1880

SITE DESCRIPTION

Stanage Park is set on a rise between two hills near the centre of an outstanding picturesque parkland. Two drives, one from the north-east, the second from the north-west approach the house through this landscape through the east and west parks. Through the natural landform and the position of the drives the house remains cleverly obscured from view until the final approaches.

The house is composed of a main, early nineteenth century, rendered asymmetrical

north block of two and three storeys high, which overlooks the gardens to the north and east, with formal later Victorian additions to the south and an attached, irregular service range on the west. The house is executed in a mixture of Gothic and baronial styles; the irregular skyline of battlemented and corbelled parapets, towers, turrets and arches adding to its romantic character. A large square tower on the east front contains the main entrance door, set in a Romanesque porch. A second splayed angle tower stands on the corner to the north. The main block contains sash-windows and the later gabled dining room and billiard room extensions: castellated and traceried bays. To the south a high stone screen wall, containing a high pointed archway, connects the house to the stable court. To the west of the house a small service courtyard is enclosed by the south wall of the main block and stone service buildings, including the old kitchens and a picturesque square dairy ventilated by louvred openings with a hipped slate roof and conical pinnacles set on corner buttresses. On the north-west of the house a modern single-storey dining room extension in a castellated style has been constructed.

The present house was built on the site of an earlier hall dating from at least 1600, of which little is known other than it was probably timber framed. By 1800, according to a sketch included in Humphry Repton's *Fragments*, the original hall, described as 'the present house', appears to have been extended by the addition of a north-east wing with a stepped Dutch-gable end. The hall belonged to the De Brampton family, before being bought by the Powell family and passing into the Knight family, from whom a cousin, Charles Rogers, a lawyer and business man, purchased the estate in 1770. Between 1803 and 1807 Rogers commissioned Humphry Repton and his son John Adey Repton to construct a new house, which incorporated part of the earlier hall, stables and barn already on site. A sketch of the Repton proposals included in Repton's *Fragments* shows the existing house to the south of an eight-arched open arcade which was constructed. The Reptons designed the main square block and screened stable court. The commission also included the landscape and garden which Repton improved with new drives, lodges, lakes and planting. J. A. Repton made further additions in 1822 to the western side of the house and in 1835/45 the house was further remodelled by J. H. Haycock of Shrewsbury who replaced Repton's arcade with a dining-room extension, added the Romanesque porch and castellated the stable courtyard. From 1845 more work was undertaken by Edward Haycock, who added a billiard room, baronial tower and a new south wing in about 1867. Inside the house the original classical early nineteenth-century interiors by the Reptons were replaced by the heavier Victorian Tudorbethan-style of the mid century by the Haycocks.

When Charles Rogers commissioned the rebuilding of Stanage in about 1803 he was apparently inspired by the picturesque estates of his nearby relations at Croft Castle and Downton Castle. Another relative of the family at Croft, Thomas Johnes, was likewise believed to have been inspired by the lay out of Stanage Park when designing his own landscape at Hafod, Cwmystwyth.

No major alterations are known to have been made to the house since about 1870. From the late 1920s onwards the house and park were rarely visited by the family and during the Second World War the park and garden, at least, are known to have been

used by the Land Army. Since inheriting the site ten years ago the present owner has been carefully restoring the house as a family home and business.

The stables and service court connect to the south end of the house and are aligned north-east/south-west. From the north-east, entrance to the service court is gained from the garden underneath a high, coursed rubble, ornamental picturesque Tudor arch with a battlemented parapet. Set on the west side of the arch, denoting the pre-eminence of the west drive, is a pair of fine nineteenth-century ornamental wrought iron gates with gilded sunflowers and twists, dated 1871. The arch is set between high stone screen walls which connect the house and stable. On a south-east line from the arch, across a cobbled yard, there is a second arch of a similar style and scale from which the west drive exits. Stone screen walls link this southern arch to the stables on the south and to the service court of the house on the north. The arch has two battlement towers, the one on the north is square, on the south, round. A stone shield is set above the arch with the date 'CR MDCCCVII' (1807). The rubble and slate roofed stable buildings and stores are grouped around an inner courtyard to the south of the gateways. The range on the eastern side is of a half-timbered construction. To the west of the house, to the north of the stable/service court there is a third gateway, incorporated in adjoining screen walls, which leads into a small enclosed service/car parking area. Simple stone piers about 2m high frame this entrance with a small GR V letterbox set into the wall to the east.

These buildings are believed to be contemporary with the Repton house, dating from the beginning of the nineteenth century, with later nineteenth century additions by the Haycocks. In the early twentieth century a squash court was installed in one of the interior stable buildings.

Stanage Park lies on undulating ground to the west, east and south of the house. Two valleys, running north-eastwards (the east park) and north-westwards (the west park), are separated by a central wooded hill, Park Bank Wood. To the south sloping ground runs down from Waterloo and Cave woods into the east valley. Including plantations the park covers approximately 300 acres and is grazed. Some deer still live in the woodlands. The far west area of the park, which is enclosed to the north and south by The Knoll, Little Knoll, Lawn Nursery and Hendre Bank plantations and Baynham Covert respectively, is known as Baynham Park and the park to the south-east of the house as Finches Park. Two drives run through the park to the house from the north-west and north-east. Service tracks also occur and run to the south of the lake and north, through Park Bank Wood.

A spring in Finches Park feeds a stream which runs south into the east park where it issues into a large pond at the south-western end (the top end) of a chain which descend to the north-east, down the park, below the south side of the drive, to the north-east lodge and the Heartsease entrance. This top pond is retained by a dam, on the top of which there is an ornamental, false stone bridge. To the south of the pond a new golf green has recently been constructed.

The east drive runs along a level terrace cut out of the park and passes, about 100m

from the house, through a gateway and connecting fence, which marks an outer and inner park. About 20m to the south-west of the Heartsease entrance the drive leaves the park proper and enters a narrow lane which is enclosed on the south by a bank retained by a dry-stone wall which runs to a simple gateway, defined by square stone piers, to the east of the remodelled lodge. From the gateway the park extends for about 30m to the east to a field boundary on the south of Heartsease Farm (outside the registered area) which runs back to the north-east end of Cave Wood, around the east side of the small Cave Rough plantation.

To the north of the east drive the land rises back towards the east side of Park Bank Wood. Park planting occurs throughout the north-east of the east park - mature oaks, limes and beech planted singularly or in small groups. Native trees, including alder and thorn, grow along the banks of the stream and ponds. In the inner park there is some exotic ornamental planting which includes a young *Davidia involucrata* and a peeling bark maple. The arboretum (see Garden) is clearly visible from this area of the park and contributes to its ornamental appearance - in early summer azaleas and rhododendrons growing along the arboretum's southern edge are clearly visible from the east park.

To the south of the stream the ground rises steeply into Finches Park where some very old oaks grow, as do a line of mature wellingtonias, which mark the route of an old footpath which ran east from the house to Cave House, the old Agent's house and laundry (outside registered area). The pasture continues to climb to the south towards the mixed woodlands of Cave and Waterloo woods, which form the south-east boundary of the park. Separating the two woods is the line of the old south, or Waterloo, drive. The drive is now a short service track and runs south to Reeves Lane between an avenue of horse chestnut which appear to be about 60-100 years old. To the west of the southern end of the track stands the remodelled Waterloo lodge. At the northern end of the track, where the drive enters the pasture, a continuation of the chestnut avenue runs north-east for about 100m along the northern boundary of Cave Wood. The actual line of the drive continues out from the woodland north-west across the open pasture to meet a service track which connects the stables with an isolated estate cottage, Oxmore.

The west drive leaves the stables to curve around between the south-west side of Park Bank Wood and the main pond. This drive continues to the north-west for about 1 1/2 km, running along a narrow valley between the Knoll and the west of Park Bank Wood, between a partly replanted beech and sweet chestnut avenue, to leave the site between the north-west lodge, which was the old estate school, and White Lodge down through a short, sunken lane to the A 4113 road. On the east side of this drive the land rises steeply into Park Bank Wood within the park, falling to gently sloping farmland along the northern section of the avenue.

Near the house and the south of the drive there is an ornamental pond which covers about 1 acre in area. The pond is fed by a stream which runs down from Finches Park and the Stable Plantation in the south-east, flowing underneath an ornamental arched stone bridge into a channel which leads it into a small silt pond. From the silt pond

the water issues into the pond on the south-east, any overflow running along a channel on the south-west side of the water. An ornamental timber bridge crosses the overflow channel in the west. A substantial earth dam runs along the north-west side of the pond. Unusual malus, *Malus yunnanensis*, and some rhododendrons, grow along the dam. Below the dam there is a drop of about 4m into a narrow, damp valley which runs along the south/ south-west side of the drive for about 200m to the drive to Baynham Farm. More unusual trees, including the rare *Acer geraldii* grow along this valley.

About 100m along the west drive the overflow from the pond, now a stream, crosses underneath the drive under a simple stone bridge. Augmented with runoff from Park Bank Wood the stream continues along the east side of the drive where it runs over ornamental water features, including a stone weir, which are now overgrown and decayed. The line of the stream is virtually lost beneath naturally regenerated planting, hazel and alder, and ornamental pines and poplars. The stream continues out of the park along Drybrook Dingle to the north-east, finally issuing into the River Teme to the north.

On the south-west of the narrow valley the land rises quickly into Baynham Park, which continues to rise to the south-west to Baynham Farm. This parkland is dominated by a dramatic dog-leg avenue of different species of oak - the Helen Chubb Avenue - which runs down from the north-west along a shallow valley. At the north-west end of the avenue the ground rises to the north into the steep woodland of the Knoll, which is planted up with immature conifers within an older broadwood shelter belt.

The early history of the park at Stanage Park is unclear but it appears that the park probably originated in the Tudor period, perhaps even the late medieval. Culled from ancient woodland, the area of the park would probably have been used by the De Brampton family as a deer park, similar to that of their neighbours and relations, the Harleys of Brampton Bryan. In his 'Red Book' Repton noted the 'antiquity' of the site, the presence of a deer park to the west and the existence of the east drive as a 'hollow way', but it is unclear whether these descriptions, of the drive at least, are not just poetic license.

What is evident from the 'Red Book' is that Repton did not undertake any large-scale earth-moving or tree-planting at the site but augmented what was already there; the woods, the stream, the deer park and ponds and the drive, 'the wild, shaggy genius of Stanage'. Repton noted that the park had already been well cleared of trees and that the oaks, alder and thorn were naturally regenerating. This major clearance occurred during the mid eighteenth century, when Richard Knight of Croft Castle acquired Stanage, largely on account of the value of the timber within the park, which he sold on to the Admiralty. Richard Knight, ironmaster and father of Richard Payne Knight, one of the founders of the Picturesque movement, acquired the estate through the deception of his young nephew, Richard Powell, who subsequently lost his inheritance.

Repton's tree planting proposals, which were only undertaken from 1807 on, were restricted; in fact he advocated clothing Park Bank in bracken. An existing deer park was retained in the west park, perhaps establishing the wooded character of the west park and the more open ornamental east park which was recorded on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map. The main tree planting in the west park and the park plantations including Park Bank Wood, is not believed to have occurred until after 1807 when a William Hope began to plant around 65,000 trees; larch, oak, Spanish and horse chestnut, for Charles Rogers, drawing from the inspiration of Thomas Johnes's planting at Hafod. It is unclear whether Repton's bracken proposal had been adopted prior to this planting up.

Most of Repton's proposals concentrated on the east park and the area around the house. The east park was ornamented by an apparent manipulation of the line of the drive in order to make it 'more beautiful', the ponds and streams were to be carefully managed to create 'natural stagnations', pools where water would lie for contemplation and a 'cottage' at the inner and outer east park division. All of these proposals appear to have been carried out. Today the house is hidden from view until the visitor has progressed into the inner park, a common landscape feature associated with Repton. The ponds and streams are intact and the 'cottage', an internal lodge, was built but lost earlier this century. What is not clear however, is whether Repton was actually responsible for creating the outer and inner east park. His proposals certainly included ideas for draining the land and for separating deer and sheep.

In the west park more water features were built along the eastern side of Repton's new west drive, at the north-western end of which a school and lodge were also constructed.

The planting initiated by Charles Rogers, and continued by his son, Edward, grew to include beech woods, more oak, cedars, other newly introduced trees and a beech and lime avenue along the west and east drives respectively, to such an extent that in 1832 the family was recognised by the award of a gold medal from the Society of Arts and Commerce (the R.S.A) in recognition of their planting. The main economic benefit for timber at this time was still use by the navy. The distribution of this planting within the park is, however, unclear as the tithe map of 1840 recorded no details within Stanage Park apart from the position of the house and a few outlying plantations, marking it as 'tithefree' instead.

Charles Coltman-Rogers, great grandfather of the present owner, was a great planter and a keen amateur arboriculturalist, regularly contributing articles to national journals and writing a standard text, *Conifers*, in 1920. It was he who set about creating the main part of the arboretum (see Garden) and inserting ornamental stands within the park plantations towards the end of the nineteenth century. In 1913 the family again won a gold medal for forestry, this time from the Royal Agricultural Society, only to see much of their efforts lost in a storm of 1915 which brought down about fifty trees including a group of some of the largest silver fir growing in the country at that time. The woodlands continued to be managed both as private and commercial concerns. New coverts were introduced from around 1900, reflecting the

growing popularity of shooting, but old traditional industries such as clog and pale making were still being carried on in the woodlands into the new century.

Throughout this period the land use of the park had continued as pasture. It is unclear when deer were lost from the main park but it seems that they had gone by the end of the nineteenth century. By 1900 an area to the east of the house within the east park was laid out as a golf course, a monkey puzzle tree making an unusual hazard. This feature was lost during the Second World War when American troops were stationed in the park. A new green has recently been constructed to the south of the top pond in the park but it is unclear if this is on the site of a previous green. The character of the pasture in the north-east of the east park was also noted in an article of 1900 as 'bracken-clad' with thorn trees and 'taller beeches and cedar'.

In the south of the west park an avenue of ornamental oaks was planted in the 1920s and dedicated to a family friend, Helen Chubb. The lime avenue was clear felled in the east park in about 1950, leaving only the stumps and the west avenue of beech replanted in stages, in beech and sweet chestnut, in about 1950 and 1990.

The western and south-eastern areas of the park are known, respectively, as Baynham and Finches, but the origin of these names is unclear. It is also unclear when the third drive, the south or Waterloo drive, was created and abandoned. The drive in the woodland, and its continuation inside the west boundary of Stable Plantation, the present service track, is recorded on both the 1889 and 1905 Ordnance Survey maps, but not the connecting section. Its name suggests that it dates from the early nineteenth century.

According to the Ordnance Survey map the area of the park contracted between 1905 and the 1960s. This appears to have been a gradual process, coupled with the gradual tree clearance in the west park since about 1905 and perhaps affected by other land sales outside of the park area during the 1930s. The woodland would certainly have been partly felled during the two World Wars and, as the then owner was largely absent, replanting and management probably suffered. Over the last ten years replanting has taken place, bluebells and other woodland plants marking lost woodlands.

The gardens and wooded pleasure grounds of Stanage Park lie to the east and north of the house and are separated from it by a wide gravel forecourt area on the east and a walk on the north. In total the gardens (excluding the utilitarian garden) and arboretum cover about 10 acres. The garden is composed primarily of two large areas of lawn which are separated by the east drive which enters the forecourt from the north-east. The east lawn advances into the south-west of the east park on a raised level terrace enclosed by an ornamental crenellated stone wall on the south and east. To the south-east of the house the terrace extends for about a further 50m as a raised croquet and tennis lawn, one below the other. Near the house a particularly fine cedar of Lebanon, which dates from about 1800, grows on the lawn. In the south-east corner of the east lawn there is a stone summer house with an irregular stone-tiled roof, which faces north-west.

To the north the second lawn sweeps up towards the southern edge of Park Bank Wood, from which it is separated by the eastern extension of the walled kitchen garden. The sloping north lawn originally descended the ground slope in a series of terraces but these have been lost and survive only as undulations in the ground. The wall along the eastern edge of the east lawn continues up the east side of the north lawn in a series of steps to reach a wide raised terrace that runs along beneath the south red brick wall of the kitchen garden extension. The south face of the wall is studded with nails and nail holes. The steps in the east wall imitate the six wide steps of a wide formal walk which runs up the garden, parallel to the wall, from the south-east of the east lawn. Small yew trees stand at equal distances apart along the entire length of this walk on its west side. Recessed seating alcoves also occur along the east wall at regular intervals.

On the west side of the north lawn a high red brick, stone-capped wall, containing a central stone doorway, screens off the main kitchen garden beyond. Regularly spaced, full-height, narrow stone buttresses support the wall on its east side dividing the wall up into sections, each of which contains a clipped box pillar. The brick wall runs south, from the west end of the terrace, back down the slope to connect with a screen wall which, in turn, connects to the north-west corner of the house. A second wide walk descends the slope on the garden side of the west wall. A horizontal walk runs across the northern part of the lawn below the terrace to connect the west and east walks. Near the centre of the lawn the walk is intersected by a straight box-edged path with steps that runs down from the upper terrace above, opposite an archway in the rear wall. On the western side of this path the lawn is planted with magnolias and other shrubs. The archway above is screened by a semi-circle of young yew planted within and by the mature incense cedars (*Calocedrus decurrens*) which grow one on either side. On the terrace a small ornamental gravel and box garden has been laid out around a central urn. A low stone wall, ornamented with planters, runs along the southern edge of the terrace and, on the east, a simple doorway leads through the wall into the kitchen garden extension behind. At the west end of the upper terrace a half-span greenhouse survives against the wall.

Near the east end of the terrace a gravel path continues uphill towards the arboretum to the north-east. To the west of this path a young beech hedge hides a modern bronze sculpture of a horse. Set in the south of the north lawn, near the house, there is a dry, circular nineteenth century fluted stone fountain basin containing a stone fountain.

Flower borders run along the inside of the garden wall on the south of the east lawn, the north side of the north terrace and along the east side of the west garden path. At the southern end of the west walk the path continues back to the east, on the north side of the screen wall through a new garden area composed of a rose and clematis planted arches with box-edged flower beds beneath. A doorway in the screen wall leads down into a private area of garden to the west of the house where informal flower beds surround an area of lawn, screened off from the north-west drive and kitchen garden by high clipped yew hedges. At the east end of the covered path two steps lead down to a second pointed arched doorway which also leads into the private garden from the

west end of the gravel walk.

The pleasure grounds lie within Park Bank Wood, the hill above the house to the north. The lines of old rides and walks, which survive as forestry tracks, run around the hill. Near the centre of the wood, on the west of the main track which runs north from the kitchen garden, there is a late nineteenth century feature, the Labyrinth; an overgrown rectangular maze of beech and yew laid out around a central oak. Above the Labyrinth, on the north-west side of the hill, some mature broadleaf planting survives among the younger conifer stands marks the position of the Ladies' Avenue, where the ladies used to come to enjoy the views out over Knighton and the Teme valley and nearby is Jubilee point where a beacon was lit to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. Back down the track on the east there is the entrance to an extensive Victorian arboretum or wood garden which lies on the south-east side of the wood. A pair of yews mark a grass footpath which leads into the area.

The arboretum, or woodland garden, was laid out by the Rogers, then Coltman-Rogers from about 1840. Mown grass paths wind beneath a mixture of mature conifers, many of which are numbered, old native oak and beech and young, naturally regenerated ash and birch. Underneath the trees rhododendron, azaleas, viburnums, Japanese acers and other introduced shrubs grow. Near the south-east boundary of the area, above the east park, low dry-stone walls and, what appear to be small areas of rock garden, run alongside the paths. In the south-west of the area a wicket gate to the north-east of the horse sculpture leads into the arboretum passing beneath an enormous wellingtonia which is enclosed by a wood picket. In the spring the area was known for primroses and spring bulbs, which still appear.

The earliest record of any form of garden existing at Stanage Park occurs in Repton's proposals which recorded the existence of a cherry orchard to the north-west of the old house. A sketch of his proposals, included in *Fragments* shows a sweeping curving drive approaching the house through a barred gate in the south-east running around to the stables and the main block of the new house on the north. Level lawns appear to stretch from the drive to the garden/park boundary wall in the east. The sketch also records one substantial tree on lawn to east of stable arch and old house which appears to be an oak. A tree in this position is also clearly marked on the plans. It is assumed that these proposals for drive and lawn were undertaken by Repton, possibly remodelling an existing layout. What Repton did propose in the Red Book and associated plans was to create a flower garden immediately to the north of the house with a new kitchen garden beyond. The flower garden was to be screened from the east drive by a shrubbery. The proposals and the sketch which appears in *Fragments* contain few details but the two lengths of surviving red brick wall, on the north and west could date from this period, as could the part stone wall which encloses the north and east sides of the east kitchen garden. The north wall of the garden (south wall of the eastern kitchen garden extension) was certainly constructed as a heated wall as flues and stoke holes survive along its northern side. The layout of the main kitchen garden to the west and its extension to the north was formalised later by the building of additional stone and brick walls (see Utilitarian garden). The position of a productive garden so close to the house would have been

unusual by the early nineteenth century, when designers, including Repton, preferred to site productive gardens at a distance from the house. Perhaps at Stanage Park the expense of the modifications to the house and the lack of a similarly good south facing slopes, prevented this.

If Repton's kitchen garden was built it appears that it had a relatively short life. By the mid nineteenth century the main kitchen garden appears to have been laid out to the west and the flower garden extended to the north in a series of grass terraces. The walls on the east of the garden may well date from Repton, but it is possible that they were subject to remodelling in the mid-nineteenth century in line with that of the house. Unfortunately no formalised plans or designs for a garden at Stanage Park are known to exist from this time, so the actual development of the area during the first half of the nineteenth century is unclear. (The tithe map of 1840 fails to provide any information concerning the park or gardens at this time as Stanage Park was recorded simply as 'tithefree'). Improvements to the hard landscaping could have possibly been carried out under the guidance of the Haycocks of Shrewsbury while they were working on the house in the 1840s.

The history of the arboretum, however, is clearer. It is believed to date from about 1840, being planted up by the Rogers, then Coltman-Rogers family. The family were in the position to be able to buy seeds from many of the eminent plant collectors and nurseries. A friend supplied the family with seeds from India of *Abies Webbiana*, *Picea Gerardiana*, *Picea excelsa*, *Cedrus Deodar* and the rare *Cupressus Torulosa* (1927 nomenclature), which was planted on the northern lawn in about 1842 - since lost. Surplus plants from the arboretum were planted in the parkland. By 1900 the planting had been developed by Charles Coltman-Rogers, great grandfather of the present owner, following his retirement from politics. Coltman-Rogers became a knowledgeable arboriculturalist, contributing articles to journals and magazines. He also received more seeds and plants - some of which came from his Cornish relations, the Williames of Caerhays Castle, who had sponsored some of the Asian plant hunting expeditions of George Forrest.

The first clear record of the gardens come in a *Country Life* article of 1900 which recorded a well established late Victorian garden of densely planted borders, formal walks and a tennis and croquet lawn. The accompanying photographs include a wide herbaceous borders included running along the central path across the north lawn, described 'as a joy' and a bedded out border on the east of this path filled with pansies and spring bulbs. The central borders and upper terrace appear 'Jekyllesque' in composition with daisies, roses and delphiniums in bloom. In the south-west corner of the north garden, on the site of the new pergola a previous timber pergola was recorded, planted in a similar fashion with honeysuckle and roses. The fountain was also photographed, in use and reference made in the text to an 'Italian sundial'. However, the summer house in the south-east corner of the garden was not yet built, the accompanying photographs showing only a circular bastion.

From the late 1920s the house was rarely visited by the family and although the structure of the gardens was probably maintained they also probably started to decline.

During the Second World War the north terraced lawn was dug up by the Land army and used to cultivate potatoes. Trees from within the arboretum and garden area, including the *Cupressus torulosa* were lost at this time, probably felled for firewood. Since inheriting in the early 1990s the present owner has been restoring the gardens.

The walled kitchen garden and its eastern extension lie to the west and north of the north garden and house on south sloping ground below Park Bank Wood. The walled kitchen garden covers about 1 1/2 acres and is surrounded by a rubble stone wall which rises to about 1.5m high along its south and west side, with higher, stone capped red brick walls on the east (the west wall of the north garden) and north. A nineteenth-century ornamental iron gate is set near southern end of the west wall. At the southern end of the east wall the line of the wall continues to the south as a yew hedge into the private family garden on the west of the house. Inside the east wall a 1.5m wide hard core path runs down the east side of the garden, separated from the wall by a wide border edged in cutting flowers. Simple timber steps set into the path accommodate the changes in ground level along the path. To the west of the path there is a cultivated strip about 10m wide which is the family vegetable plot. Three mature, ornamental fruit trees survive in and near the eastern edge of this border. About half way down the eastern wall a doorway opens into the kitchen garden from the north garden beyond. From this doorway the line of a narrow path is discernable across the centre of the kitchen garden to the west as a raised line. The centre of the kitchen garden is not in use, the path has grassed over, and the ground around is maintained as rough mown grass. A small area of orchard survives in the south-west area of the garden. Near the north-east corner of the garden there are three recently planted apple trees. Glasshouse footings survive along the south side of the entire length of the north wall which rises to about 4m in height. Raised brick and concrete platforms between 2-4m wide stand abandoned. On the wall there are the remains of lead roof lines and whitewash. Towards the north-east corner three overgrown peach trees survive, one of which was, in September, bearing fruit. New peaches have been planted on the west face of the east wall. Fragments of iron heating pipes and other debris lie in the grass around the greenhouse bases. At the western end of the wall a pair of concrete gate piers about 1m high and 2m wide mark the position of a service access. In the north-east corner of the kitchen garden there is the head gardener's house. This is a simple red brick, two storey, tile roofed house with two roof dormers, facing south. The house houses the present gardener. A small area of private garden lies to the north of the house, enclosed by an evergreen hedge.

A path, which runs between the north-east corner of the kitchen garden and the gardener's house, leads into the eastern area of the kitchen garden which lies behind the north garden, separated from it by the north red brick wall of the terrace. This garden covers about 1 acre and lies on a steep south facing slope, similar to the main kitchen garden. The east garden is enclosed on the north and east by stone and brick walls which rise to about 2m and contain, in the north-east corner, an ornamental late nineteenth-century arched gateway that leads into the woodland behind and above. On the south the garden is enclosed by the red brick wall of the terrace. This is a hollow wall, once heated by the line of flues and stokeholes which run along its north side. On the south side of the wall the brick face is studded with nails and nail holes

and at the west end of the terrace there is a Victorian half-span greenhouse. The glasshouse is about 12m long and appears to have been recently renovated. Brick arches at floor level suggest that it may have been a vine house. About 6m to the east of this glasshouse a wide archway, screened off by young yew, leads from the terrace into the east garden, as does a second, simple doorway to the east.

On the north side of the south wall, to the rear of the glasshouse, there is a single-storey brick bothy and storeroom which once held a boiler. To the north of this there is a derelict frame yard; various brick frames and pits survive without glass lights in a poor condition. A few are now used as rudimentary cold frames for house plants. The central area of this garden is overgrown and abandoned. No paths remain. In the centre of the area, set up the hillside there is a large, renovated detached greenhouse backed by a high red brick wall. This is used as a general greenhouse but it is no longer heated by the pipes within it. To the rear of the greenhouse there is a terraced path or track which runs from west-east. Between the greenhouse and the terrace wall there is a small area of mature orchard containing about a dozen standard fruit trees.

The actual position of an early productive garden on site is unclear but the early history of the area suggests that the position of the present kitchen garden were partly due to Humphry Repton. In his Red Book he proposed keeping an old cherry orchard to the north-west of the house and creating a kitchen garden to the north of the house, beyond a flower garden. The cherry orchard lay within the area that was later developed as the main kitchen garden. It appears that Repton's kitchen garden could well have been laid out on the north of the site of the present north garden; thereby dating the north and west walls to the early nineteenth century. What is confusing, however, are the walls in the north and east of the east garden which have stone bases topped with later brick courses. The brick work, and archway, appear to date from the late nineteenth century - the date of the stone walls beneath, which could originally have been of a dry-stone build is unclear.

By the mid nineteenth century it seems that the main kitchen garden had been established, and any work by Repton in the north garden, partly replaced with an ornamental layout. By 1889 the two parts of the kitchen garden, which were recorded on the Ordnance Survey map, were laid out in quarters, divided by internal and peripheral paths, which were lined with tress. The glassrange was in place, running along the entire length of the south face of the north wall and a central, circular feature - possibly a dipping pond - in the main kitchen garden. By 1905 the cruciform paths had been lost from the eastern garden, but the frameyard remained, and many of the trees in the main garden had been lost. However, in 1900 the gardens still appear to have been in good condition and productive as an article in *Country Life* described the peach houses and vegetables in the main kitchen garden. About four gardeners were employed in the gardens, including the kitchen garden, at the turn of this century.

The kitchen garden probably began to decline between the World Wars. The entire garden area, including the kitchen garden, was cultivated by the land army during the second world war and any ornamental plantings or arrangements within the kitchen garden, if they existed, were probably lost at this time. The great north glassrange was

also dismantled during this period. The frames in the eastern garden were probably kept in use, to produce crops, but the coal-fired boilers, and heated frames and houses, would probably have been abandoned.

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