Research for our site: Stockgrove Park

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Stockgrove Park timeline:

Pre-C15  Park situated on 3 manors – Leighton Buzzard, Stewkley & Smewnes
1792  Stockgrove Park (c. 45 acres) formed out of Stockgrove Farm lands by Edward Hanmer, new house built
1816-18  Estate extension (6.5 acres) to north east into Rammamere Heath
1828  Col. Henry Hanmer inherits from his uncle
1831  Stockgrove House remodelled and over rest of C19 estate grows to 1,700 acres
1852  More land to the west bought off Leigh Family and new carriage drive to Rushmere formed
1902  Estate sold to Joseph Trueman Mills who retired to here, added to planting along main carriage drive
1928  Sir Ferdinand Michael Kroyer-Keilberg buys estate and demolishes Hanmer's house and rebuilds new house, N & S Lodges and boathouse (by Green). New formal gardens laid out, avenue planted across The Bomes and new serpentine lake formed
1939-45  Mansion used by ATS, grounds used for practising trench and battlefield techniques. German prisoners of war dug trenches for first electricity cable
1940s  Conifer (mainly Scots Pine) planting in south-west corner of park
1949  Leslie Neville-Long buys estate and mansion sold to London C.C. for a school
1971  Beds C.C. (& Bucks) bought 3 lots of land and formed Stockgrove Country Park
1996  School closed and buildings divided into domestic units

Basic timeline from internet searches
In accordance with BARS regulations, I have not reproduced here the photos we looked at in our workshops, but the items can be easily produced on a visit to the archives for you to make your own copies or take photographs.
National Library for Scotland OS maps, online
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Stockgrove thatched boathouse photograph
Leighton Buzzard Observer – online website

Courtesy of Leighton Buzzard Observer