

Conservation through research and recording



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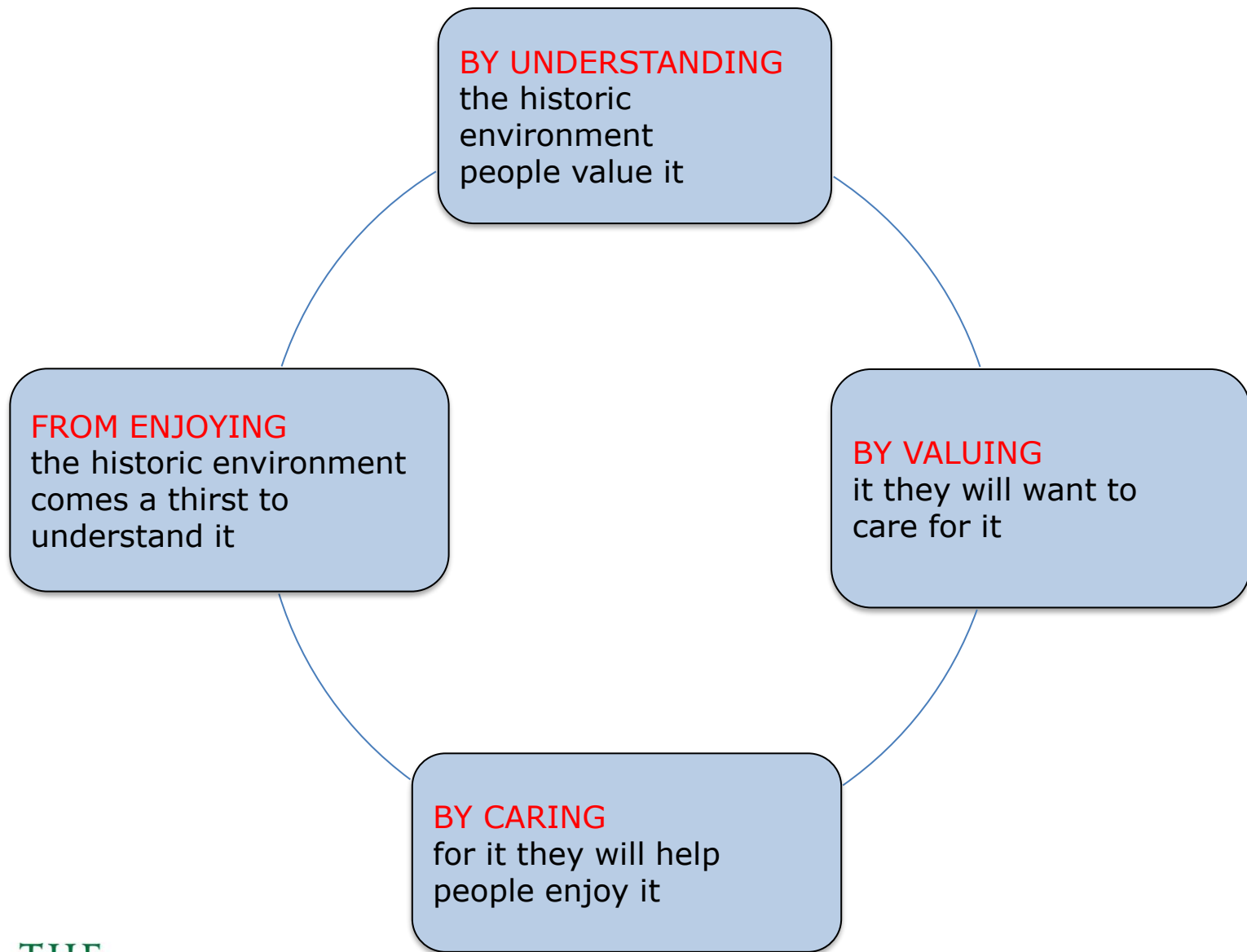
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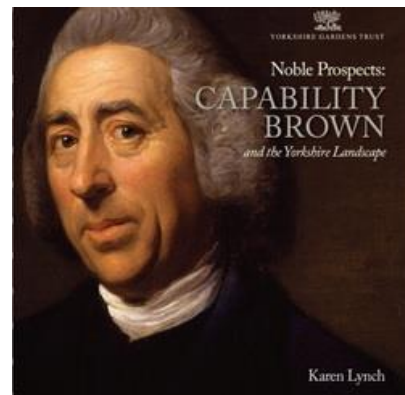
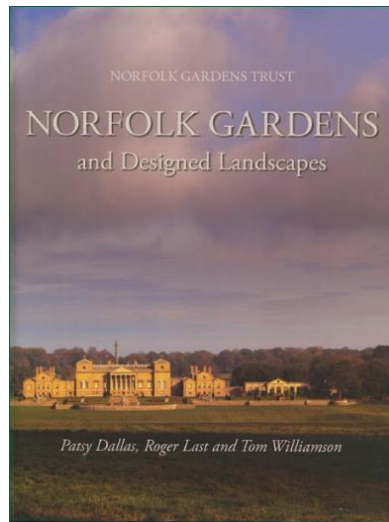


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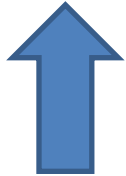
National designation

('Heritage List' – 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest', held by Historic England)



Locally listed

('Local List')



Historic Environment Record

('HER')

National Heritage List for England



Historic England

399,472 Entries:

- 377,839 Listed Buildings
- 19,851 Scheduled Monuments
- 1,664 Registered Parks and Gardens
145 Grade I - 454 Grade II* - 1,065 Grade II
- 46 Registered Battlefields
- 53 Protected Wrecks
- 19 World Heritage Sites

FLITWICK MANOR

Overview

Heritage Category:

Park and Garden

Grade:

II

List Entry Number:

1000383

Date first listed:

01-Jul-1989

Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

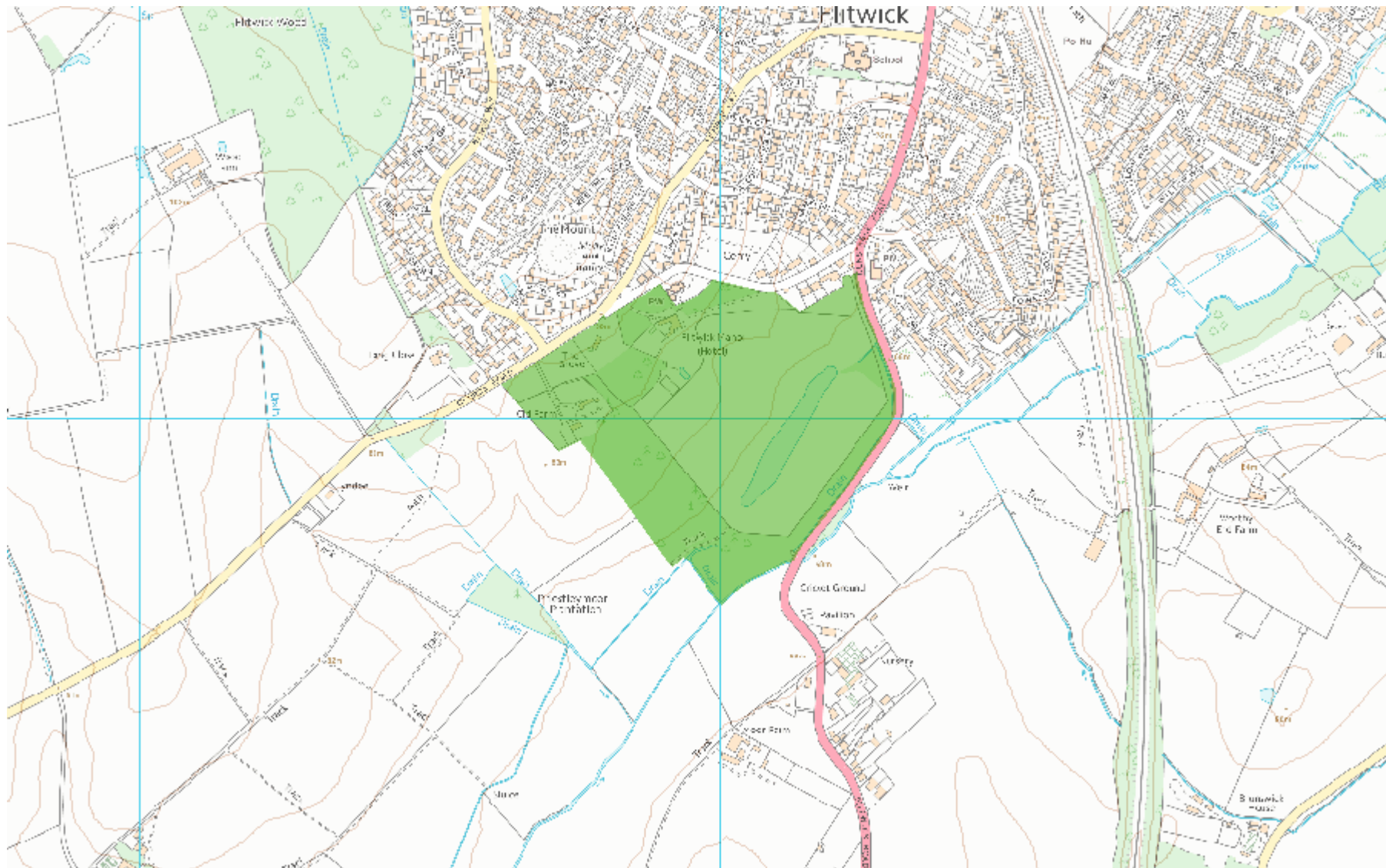
District: Central Bedfordshire (Unitary Authority)

Parish: Flitwick

District: Central Bedfordshire (Unitary Authority)

Parish: Westoning

National Grid Reference: TL 02961 33974



Details

Late C18 and early C19 pleasure grounds and park, praised by J C Loudon, the setting for a small country house.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Edward Blofield purchased the manor in 1632 from the Crown and built the C17 manor house. The estate passed by inheritance and marriage through the Rhodes family in 1669, and then the Dells in 1735. The early C18 estate consisted of The Elms, a plantation to the west of the house, with a kitchen garden and orchard to the south, beyond which were Warren Close and Little Warren Close, and further south, beyond a ditch, Church End Mead which led down to The Flit.

Anne Fisher inherited the house on a marriage settlement with George Hesse and following his death she married George Brooks in 1783. Brooks was responsible for various late C18 improvements. John Thomas Brooks (1794-1858) inherited in 1817 and carried out extensive improvements to the estate. The pleasure grounds were praised by Loudon in the 1820s and 1830s, especially the high level of maintenance, the treatment of the wider estate as a ferme ornée and the exemplary arboretum, planted in a 'Natural Arrangement' (Loudon 1838). The property remained in the Brooks family until 1932 and was occupied by the Lyall family until the late 1950s. The house is now an hotel and much of the land to the north of the site is now under modern housing.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

Flitwick Manor, 22ha, is located at the southern end of Flitwick, a small town in mid Bedfordshire, c 16km south of Bedford and 3.5km east of the M1. It is bounded by Church Road to the north, Westoning Road (A5120) to the south and east, and open farmland to the west. Shelter belts and plantations screen the boundaries to the west, north and south. The ground slopes gently from north-west to south-east.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The main approach to Flitwick Manor is from the east, along an C18 lime avenue. This approach runs from Church Road, at the southern end of Flitwick, directly to the east front of the house. Further approaches from the south and north are no longer used. The northern approach from Church Road was served by Upper Lodge and the southern approach from Westoning Road was marked by the Lower Lodge, both built in 1831 but no longer extant.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS To the west of the Manor is a walled garden marked as a courtyard on the late C18 and early C19 maps. Pleasure grounds lie to the south of the Manor, occupying the site of a C17 or early C18 kitchen garden which was removed in the C19. To the west of the pleasure grounds and 50m south-west of the Manor is an C18 grotto bridge (listed grade II), constructed of clinker trimmed with red brick. The top of the bridge is grass and the west face is gothick, the east face classical. An archway room underneath is decorated with simple pebblework, with a pebble floor. The Grotto links the pleasure grounds with a plantation, marked on an estate plan of 1717 as The Elms and known by the end of the C18 as The Grove.

REFERENCES

Local Lists



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The Kent Compendium of Historic Parks and Gardens
for Tunbridge Wells Borough

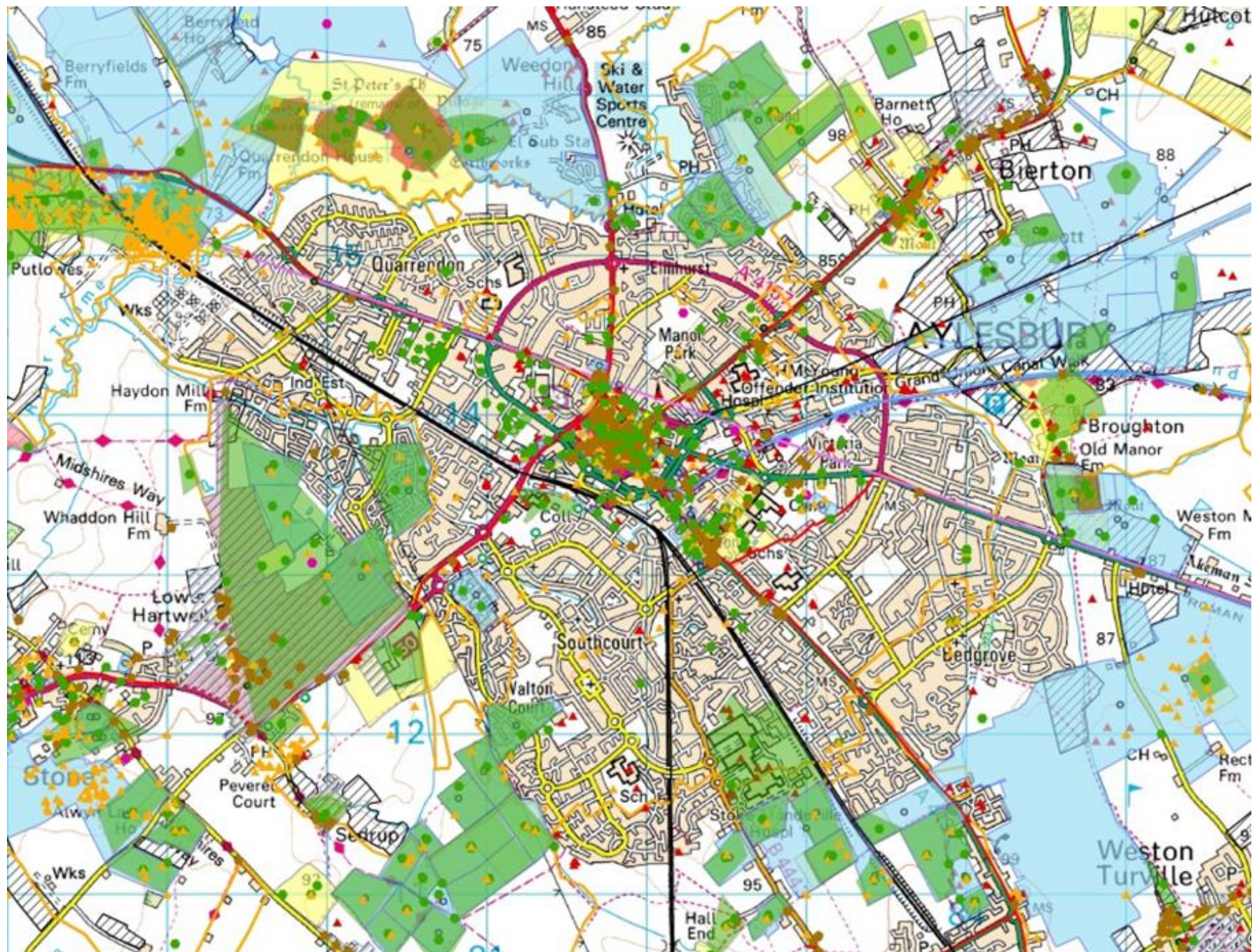


Broomlands, Speldhurst



February 2009

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wicksteed park conservation management plan



prepared for the Wicksteed Trust
by Sarah Couch Historic Landscapes
with Land Management Services

August 2011; issued February 2012



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